

Year 6 News

February 2017

Elsewhere in School...

- Our Penny Line raised over £180 for new Golden Time resources throughout the school.
- Year 3/4 were visited by professional artist Michelle Reader for three days, producing amazing sculptures from recycled materials.
- Foundation Stage organised a brilliant tea party as part of their *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* topic, complete with scones, tea and lots and lots of cake!
- Year 2 watched a family of chicks hatch and begin to grow in their classroom to support their work on lifecycles.
- Our Year 3/4 Cricket Team finished third in the Stevenage Rapid Fire Cricket Festival.
- Year 1 and 2 were confronted by a massive porridge explosion when they were introduced to the story of *the Magic Porridge Pot!*

What we've been doing this term...

Trampolining Reward

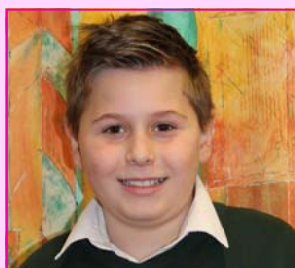
In return for our hard work so far this year, those of us who had achieved our Silver Merit Award by the start of February were rewarded with a bonus trampolining session, run by coaches from Rising Stars. Almost half of the class were able to take part, showing how much effort we've put into making maximum progress and producing our best work already this year, and thoroughly enjoyed their treat. Following positive feedback from across the school, School Council have now decided that those of us who achieve Platinum level by the end of the year will get to take part in another reward session - something that we'll all be working extra hard to secure.



Stars of the Week



Taskia Comas



Noah Thulborn



Trey McDonald

Sport On Tour

Earlier this term we had the chance to take part in *Sporting Futures On Tour* - a sports workshop session run by coaches from the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team, which involved a series of ball skills, drills and stacking-cup games. Working in pairs, we kept a careful score of our results in each activity, as these all counted towards our overall school score, which will be compared with every other school in town to decide the overall Stevenage *On Tour* champion.



Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who donated gloves, scarves and hats for the refugee children based in Greece. We collected hundreds of items which made it to the school just in time for the winter snow, and were delighted to receive photos from the refugee children, showing just how much the clothes were valued.



Our penny line was also a great success in the last week before half-term, with the line of change stretching all around the school by the end of the week thanks to everyone's generous donations - this really was a case where every penny counted! We collected up all the coins on Friday, and, once they'd all been through the change machine at the bank, we were delighted to discover that we'd raised £185 to go towards new Golden Time resources.

SATs Booster

We've made some great progress already this year, particularly in our core subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths, but with our SATs Tests now just three months away, we've definitely stepped-up our preparation this term. While we don't want to get too worried about the tests or make them sound more important than they are, we are keen to do our best - and know that our new secondary school teachers will get to see our results, too, so they're a good way to make a positive impression before we even start.

To help us do all of that, we now have Maths Booster sessions every Monday afternoon, working in small groups on old test questions, looking at a different subject each week. We work with others at a similar level to us, so we can focus on how to work out what maths we need to do to answer each question (which isn't always obvious) and revise key strategies. We also have Reading Booster sessions each week, working with texts and questions from previous tests and looking carefully at what we needed to include in our answers to achieve maximum marks. All of this also means that we will have more homework to complete each week as we head towards our tests, so any help and support we can have with this at home would be hugely appreciated by all our teachers.

Stars of the Week



Michael Stone



Mark Wells



Mahie Begum

English: Exploring the text

Our focus in the first half of the term was story writing. We were introduced to a mysterious room, overlooking the streets of Paris, with bars on the windows and a rope made out of sheets that had been tied together which disappeared out of the window - and we began by trying to work out what could have happened here, as you can see in the pictures on the right...

The following day, our questions began to be answered when we were introduced to the story of *The Last Princess*, which described how the narrator (a young girl called Claudine Lafayette) had been kidnapped, locked in the room and then, over the course of eight months, had planned and executed her escape. We learnt the story by heart, using pictures and actions to support us, and then used this text as the base for our work in English throughout the term, building up to writing our own versions - examples of which you can see over the next few pages...

The Last Princess



Trapped

I am scared,
As a teenager lost in a murky alleyway,
Getting chased by a murderer with a razor sharp knife,
As the moment you wake up in the middle of the night,
Realising there's a stranger somewhere in your house
As visiting the dentist,
And being told you need to have four teeth ripped out.

I feel lonely,
As if everyone hates your,
Leaving you all alone for the hundredth day in a row,
As when you get ditched by your true love,
The day before your wedding.

by Ashley Ottery

Helpless

I am terrified,
As an injured gazelle getting chased by a lion,
As a family trapped in a crumbling house in the middle of the Blitz,
As a four-year-old lost in an alleyway, convinced they're being followed,
As a parent who's just been diagnosed with a terminal illness,
As a child being torn away from their family.

by Ellie Adams

Locked In

I am angry,
As a man who's lost his dream job,
After just two days,
As breaking-up with your best friend,
On the day of your Granddad's funeral,
As my Mum,
When I dropped spaghetti bolognese on our brand new white carpet!

I feel determined,
As a teenage gamer,
Who won't sleep until he's completed the next level.
As a seagull chick learning to fly,
While the wind and waves threaten to drown it,
As Lionel Messi,
Stepping-up to take the winning penalty in the World Cup Final.

by Joe-Lee, Edy, Tommy and Ruby

English: Character poems

We began our *Last Princess* work by exploring the way the main character, Claudine, feels at key points in the story. We discussed the reasons for her changing emotions, plotted graphs of her feelings and identified the way the author shows all of this, using clues in action and description. This also fed into our comprehension work, as we asked and answered questions on Claudine's thoughts and actions, improving the way we back-up our responses with evidence from the text.

Building on all this, we collected ideas for similes to describe Claudine's emotions, thinking about ways to show the strength of her feelings and the effect they might have on her behaviour. We then picked out the strongest of these similes and drew them together to create poems, first as a class and then independently. You can see a few examples of our finished pieces on the left...

English: Innovating on the story

Finally, after exploring the text through poetry, letter writing, action scenes and drama, and doing lots of work on the effect of complex punctuation and varied sentence length, we were ready to write our own stories. Our first task was to innovate on the original, sticking to the basic structure (including changing feelings, flashbacks, attempted escapes and a final warning of revenge), but changing the setting and creating a different reason for the kidnapping.

Over the course of the next week, with support from a model text and lots of shared writing, we all produced high-quality stories, which we presented using our very best handwriting, ready for display in the Hall. Our stories were quite long, so there's only space for Taskia's finished piece here, but we hope you'll agree that it's a fantastic example, including every grammar and storytelling feature that we've worked on this year...

The Last Innocent

As I stared out of the window, I imagined once again the life I had somehow lost. Looking over the beach, I saw dolphins swimming in the shimmering sea, while the sun glinted high above, almost seeming to reach the wispy clouds... However, all this was out of reach, shut-off from me by the titanium bar that trapped me in this solitary, isolated, horrific existence.



On that late summer afternoon, I was dashing around Heathrow Airport, waiting for my flight to be called and my holiday of a lifetime to begin. Just a week earlier, the tickets had arrived in the post - with a letter that said they were the first prize for a competition I couldn't even remember entering. I felt like I was being watched - a feeling that only seemed stronger now I was in the airport... Still, the sun was out and the airport was crowded - surely nothing could hurt me here? How wrong could I be! In a flash, someone shoved a bag over my head and (before I could call for help) everything went black. The next thing I knew, I was in this room.

That was 207 days ago.

In the long days since, I haven't once left the dim and dusty room, haven't even spoken to a single soul. Confusingly, no answers have been given to me, no ideas as to who my captors are. Nothing. How could anyone want me? Why am I here? Why me...? Of course, I have tried to smash the door down. I have pleaded for help, however I received a letter in return and I was mystified to discover that it said, "If you ever try to escape again, the windows and doors will be bricked up!" The faceless power terrified me.

After that, I figured out that the only way to escape was to work in secret - and I had to discover my own way out. Sadly, no saviour was coming to my rescue; no dashing hero in shining armour would glide through the door. I was completely isolated. Checking up on me every second of every day, with cameras positioned in every room, I would never get any privacy. Every day I felt more disgusted, abused and helpless.

Which brings me to today. 207 days of trying to violently smash the cameras with a heavy book. 207 days of secretly digging out a mammoth hole under my bed. Ten minutes from now I will dig the final layer of mud away and I will have fresh air on my face for the first time in eight months. Eleven minutes after that I will finally step foot on the ground. After eight months, my life will be my own again.

And, to whoever finds this letter, whoever stole 207 days of my life: don't ever expect to catch me off-guard again. Next time we meet, it will be on my terms.

by Taskia Comas

No choice but to marry...

As I peered out of the minute hole in the wall, I felt like I was going to fall, before I eventually reached the bottom. I suddenly heard a bellowing sound, saying, "Come here you diminutive rat!" I sprinted as fast as a cheetah, heading away from the building ...

As I ran, I remembered reading my Dad's will all those months before. Shockingly, it said that I had to get married within a year, otherwise my Dad's enemy would be able to marry my Mum and control the entire family!

Heading back to my mum's house I suddenly heard a raucous sound. Surprisingly a car came out from nowhere. I knew it was coming for me. Consequently I ran for my life. I sprinted into an alley to try to escape, however I got trapped at a dead end!

Leaping out of the car, the gang charged towards me. I dived under a pile of crates, in an attempt to hide from these villains. They ran past me, giving me the opportunity to sneak back and steal their car.

Finally I got to my mum's house to explain my adventure to her. "...So that means I have to get married!" I finished. She was confused but eventually understood. "There's only one thing to do," I said, "We need to get to Ibiza, and we need to leave NOW!"
by Sheanika Thomas-Dawkins

Seeing The Impossible

Running out of the door, I found a passageway. I didn't want to go through it, however I had no choice. Swiftly I ran down the murky hallway, and luckily I saw the brightly lit exit. I ran as quickly as I possibly could, however my kidnappers blocked the way. I thought that I was doomed! They seemed to disappear (maybe it was my imagination), so I ran out of the door and kept running...

As I was walking through the forest, I saw that the football stadium wasn't there. I thought that it was impossible. How on earth could a mammoth building disappear into thin air? As I was going to my Dad's house for safety, I heard squeaking tyres coming towards me. Cunningly I decided to run into an alley - I seemed to be running for what felt like an eternity, however I eventually came to a dead end. I had to think of a plan quickly.

As the car got closer and came to a halt, I ran and slid under it. When my captors got out of the car to look for me, I courageously got in the vehicle and drove off at top speed to my Dad's house.

When I got to his house, I knocked on the door. He was surprised, in addition to being filled with glee at seeing me with a car, so I asked him if he could help me to find out what had could possibly make the stadium disappear and reappear...
by Tommy Mikiel

English: Inventing Chapter Two

We finished the unit with an 'invention' task - a much freer, more independent piece, where we were asked to write Chapter 2 for our stories. The aim was to build on the events we'd already described, thinking about what might happen when our characters escaped from their rooms - which could involve going on the run, seeking revenge, heading to the police or getting caught once again by the kidnappers. We all tried to include flashbacks in our stories, as well as incorporating the complex punctuation and varied sentence structure that we've worked on this term, as well as hitting our own personal targets.

As you can probably tell, there was an awful lot to think about and balance as we were writing, so it's a great credit to Sheanika and Tommy that the examples on the left came out as well as they did, hitting all these targets and adding lots of individuality too. We certainly hope you'll agree...

Diary Dates

4th March

Year 4 Speed Stacking Competition

10th March

Inset day - school closed

13th March

Year 6 High-5 Netball Festival

16th March

Year 4 High-5 Netball Festival

23rd March

Year 5 visiting St Andrews Church

24th - 26th March

Year 5/6 PGL Trip

19th April

Start of Summer Term

1st May

May Bank Holiday - school closed

8th—12th May

Year 6 SATs Test Week

29th May - 2nd June

Half-term

19th - 23rd June

Sports Week 2017 (including Foundation, KS1 and KS2 Sports Days)

21st July

End of term

Sports Latest

Football

February saw our Year 5/6 Boys Football team getting back into action after their winter break, with tough games against Woolenwick and St Margaret Clitherow. On Thursday 2nd February the boys took on league leaders Woolenwick - and, thanks to some great defence from Connor and Bradley and some brilliant saves from Man-of-the-Match Michael, the game stayed very tight in the first half, with the boys unlucky to be 1-0 down at half-time. In the second half, however, we made a lot of substitutions and, with players being pulled out of position and some of our key players off the field, the game slipped away, eventually seeing us lose 6-0.



A week later, however, we took on St Margaret's in the Stevenage FA Cup with a smaller (and more confident) squad. Noah, Joe-Lee and Cristiano put in tireless performances, winning the ball back all over the field, and the boys never let their heads drop, despite going 1-0 down early on. Hard work (and some great play from Man-of-the-Match Joe-Lee) pulled it back to 1-1 at half-time, with Noah scoring after being played-in by an excellent pass from Harvey - only for a messy goal to put us behind again early in the second half. Once again, however, the boys upped their work rate, levelling again thanks to a thumping drive from Connor and, with just 5 minutes left, finally going ahead 3-2, with Noah scoring from a corner. The last few minutes were really tense, with the ball flying from end-to-end, but we held on and the boys therefore made it through to the Quarter-Finals of the Cup for the second year in a row.

Table Tennis

Our table tennis team were delighted to be able to take part in a second tournament this year, having been invited to take part in a Rising Stars event organised by our coach, Mr Butler, at the Leisure Centre. Edy, Connor, Cristiano, Taskia, Honey and Aanshi played in a mix of singles, doubles and triples matches (playing on some interestingly shaped, six-player tables), against schools from across town - and, thanks to some excellent teamwork and a lot of time spent on the practice table, they won almost all their games. Eventually, they reached the final, where another confident display saw them win through, securing gold medals and an impressive trophy to bring back to school, which they proudly shared in assembly.