

# Year 2 News

March 2017

## Elsewhere in School...

- Year 5/6 had a brilliant weekend away at PGL, trying out zip wires, raft building, giant swings and a very muddy 'challenge course'.
- Year 5 visited the Church of St Andrew and St George to learn about the Easter story.
- The Year 5/6 Athletics team finished in 3rd place in the Stevenage Indoor Athletics Festival.
- Year 1 organised a brilliant *Superhero Day*, creating superhero characters and costumes, and sharing their work with their families.
- Foundation were visited by a travelling farm, complete with sheep, pigs, hens, ducks a goat and even a donkey!
- Year 1 loved taking part in an Indoor Athletics Festival organised by Rising Stars.
- We raised over £300 for Comic Relief through our non-uniform day.

## What we've been doing this term...

### Explorers!

Over the past half term we have continued learning about some of the greatest explorers throughout history. We have now covered most of the earth; learning about Ibn Battuta's travels around Africa and the middle East, Captain Cook's journey around Australasia, Roald Amundsen reaching the South Pole and Columbus exploring the Americas.

We have also enjoyed looking at some modern day explorers, like the astronaut Tim Peake and the Deadly 60 presenter Steven Backshall. It has been fascinating finding out about how difficult exploration was in the past, with people having to pack so many important items needed for survival. We have been inspired by these adventurous individuals and we each chose our favourite explorer to award a medal to at the end of the topic. Many of us have been planning our own exotic travels and explorations for when we are older... watch out world!

### Paper Making

We were lucky enough to have a visit from a professional artist earlier this term, who spent the afternoon showing us how to recycle old unwanted paper into new, beautiful paper. We all had a go at the process of paper making, as you can see in the pictures below - and we were so pleased with the results that we decided to proudly display our creations by the school office. Check them out whenever you get the chance!



Tommy made new paper from scraps



Bianca sifts her paper



Our recycled paper

### Our new teacher!

We have been really excited to meet Mr Leicester, who will be taking over from Ms Rose when she goes on maternity leave next term, and have really enjoyed our first lessons together. We will be really sad to see Ms Rose go, but all wish her the very best for the arrival of her new baby - and we hope she'll come back and see us, along with her new arrival, as soon as she can!

## Stars of the Week -Class 4a-



Brooke Green



Alessia Calin



Tiarna Forde



Mitchell Taylor



Amelia Wolczyk

## English

We couldn't believe it when we came into school at the beginning of term and found that a mountain had grown out of the ground in our courtyard area, complete with flying crows and a broken tortoise! We had to use our imaginations to try and work out what had happened overnight and we came up with some amusing theories!

Eventually we were introduced to the story *How Tortoise got his Shell* which explained the strange scenario. We had a great time learning the story and retelling it as a class using actions and expression to add interest. We then explored these types of stories in greater depth, learning *How Tiger Got His Stripes*, *How Snake Lost His Legs* and *How Cheetah Found His Spots* amongst others.

Finally, we used the text we had learnt as inspiration to independently write our own stories, imaginatively explaining how other creatures developed their distinctive features. While writing, we focused in particular on adding verbs and adverbs to explain how the animals behaved, for example stomped *rudely*, laughed *ridiculously* and slithered *sneakily*, and also spent lots of time evaluating, editing and improving our work, to make it the very best it can possibly be.



Our mysterious mountain



Repairing the tortoise's shell

## Maths

This half term in maths we have focused on problem solving techniques, looking at a question and choosing the best method to help us work out the answer. We have used graphs to present and interpret data and have begun to look at 2d, 3d shapes and telling the time more accurately. Each Thursday we have continued to enjoy our Booster sessions where we tackle example test questions and discuss how we can use our prior knowledge to help us to find the answer, all of which will help us to be as ready as possible for our SATs tests, which will take place at the end of May.

In Miss Hodson's group, we have been thinking really carefully about multiplication and division, aiming to fully understand what these terms mean and what is happening when we start to work out answers to questions involving these operations. From there, we have explored ways in which we can represent our thinking and working out on paper to help us to get to the correct answer, even when dealing with larger numbers.

Throughout the term, weekly times tables tests have continued, and as a result we have been making good progress with learning our tables facts - in particular our key 2x, 5x and 10x tables facts, which we should know by heart by the end of the year. Regular practice makes a huge difference to our ability to learn and memorise these facts, so we have all been encouraged to try to work on our facts at home for a few minutes each day.



Marika  
making a graph

## Stars of the Week -Class 4b-



Therese Gaetos



Max Lambert



Aziz Cadir



Tristan Rama

## Science

Over the past term we have had a visit from three babies, all of different ages, to help us learn about the way that humans grow and develop as they get older, and how we have changed since we were babies ourselves. We have learnt that all animals have young which grow into adults, and we also had lots of fun discovering our pulse and carrying out experiments to discover how our heart rate changes during exercise. As a result of this, we all now understand why we need to exercise, the importance of eating a balanced healthy diet and ensuring we remember to keep ourselves clean.

## Diary Dates

### 19th April

Start of Summer Term

### 1st May

May Bank Holiday - school closed

### 8th–12th May

Year 6 SATs Test Week

### 19th May

Stevenage Year 3/4 Football Tournament

### 29th May - 2nd June

Half-term

### 8th June

Year 4/5/6 Athletics Festival at Ridlins Stadium

### 15th June

Stevenage Lacrosse Festival

### 16th June

Year 5/6 Chessington trip

### 19th - 23rd June

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

### 29th June

Year 3/4 Legoland trip

### 11th & 12th July

KS2 end-of-year production (afternoon & evening on 11th, evening only on 12th)

### 21st July

End of term

## Clay Eggs

As part of our work on explorers and the journeys of Ibn Battuta, we learnt about the symmetrical geometric patterns of Islamic art earlier this term, and were then inspired to have a go at creating our own symmetrical egg shaped designs to decorate for Easter. We found it quite tricky to roll out and cut an egg shape without sticking the clay to the boards, but in the end perseverance paid-off, and we were really pleased with our finished results!

