

Stars of the Week -Class 4a-

Amelia
Bates

Elin
Steiner

Maizie
Cole

Kean
Howard

Leah
Hackett- Kane

English

We started the half-term by exploring explanation texts. We used the fantastic book *Until I Met Dudley* to inspire us. In it, a young girl imagines how things work, but is then put right by her super-smart wonder-dog, Dudley - and we were particularly taken by Dudley's explanation of how toast is made, convincing the girl that it involves electricity, not tiny dragons! We put this explanation to the test (and learnt lots more about this tricky genre) by making lots of toast of our own, and



Eli and
Tayla
enjoying
their
toast



Feeling the heat
from the toaster

then used our knowledge to write Dudley-style explanations of other everyday experiences - just like Mitchell has done below:

How a paper airplane flies

Have you ever wondered how a paper airplane flies? Well, read on to find out how.

A volcano's air makes the airplane fly. When you throw the paper airplane, mini-ants run along the wings, making it move forward. When the ants get tired, the plane will crash into the ground!

By Mitchell O'Reilly

Dudley explains:

A paper airplane flies because of the force behind it, which you give it when you throw it. The air helps to keep it up, because if there was no air, the airplane would fall straight to the floor.

Once we had finished our explanations, the most peculiar thing happened - we seemed to have a visit from Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf! We were really excited to look in our woodland area and discover a ripped red coat, a basket on the floor with food nearby and a police notice - from which we managed to piece together the story and work out who had visited us! We used all this to begin exploring quest tales in our English, writing character descriptions for the wolf, collecting descriptive similes and looking at how these stories are structured, and will be continuing with this topic after half-term.

We have also continued to work really hard during our Read Write Inc spelling and phonics sessions this half term, and have been focusing in particular on adding suffixes to change words into plurals and the past tense.

Maths

This half term, we have focused on measurement, learning to read scales on a wide range of equipment and develop our understanding of units of length, mass, capacity and time. We began by measuring the length of everything we could think of in cm and metres, and then moved on to look at more complex scales when we measured the mass in grams



Mitchell, Elin, Tayla and Ruby measuring capacity

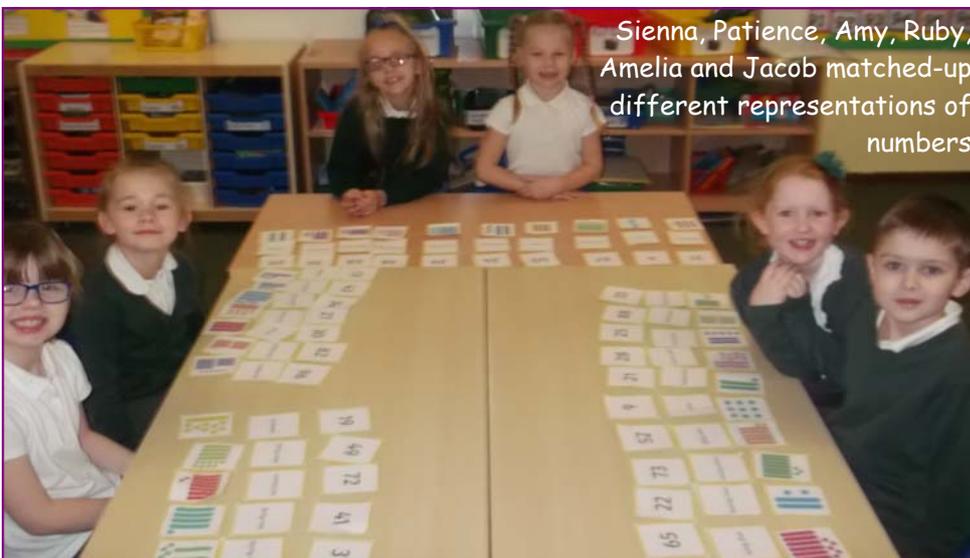
and kilograms. We made our own clocks, which we used to cement our understanding of the key vocabulary: *half past*, *quarter to*, *quarter past* and *o'clock*. With practice, we then learnt to tell the time with increasing accuracy, with all of us working on aiming to be accurate to the nearest five minutes and many of us extending to tell the time to the nearest minute. Throughout the term, we have also continued to develop our knowledge of tables facts, and it has been fantastic to see many of us receiving our *Star* and *Superstar* awards in Monday assemblies.



Jake Amelia and Jacob measuring in g and kg



Kye, Kean and Maria investigating mass



Sienna, Patience, Amy, Ruby, Amelia and Jacob matched-up different representations of numbers

Stars of the Week -Class 4b-

Amy King

Frankie Bradbury

Eli Moulton

Diary Dates

12th-16th February
Half-term

21st February
Year 5/6 Sportshall
Athletics

2nd March
Inset day - school
closed

23rd - 25th March
Year 6 PGL trip

29th March
End of Spring Term

17th April
Start of Summer
Term

14th - 18th May
Y6 SATs Week

21st - 25th May
Y2 SATs Week

28th May - 1st June
Half-term

20th July
End of Summer Term

Science

Our Science topic this half term has been 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We began by looking at what it means for something to be 'alive', sorting between living things, dead things and things which have never been alive and identifying the seven life processes (movement, breathing, sensing, growing, eating, excreting and reproducing). We have explored different habitats around the world, identifying the types of animals which live in them and starting to think about the reasons why certain animals are more suited to particular environments (as you can see Amelia and Harry doing below). Building on this, we wrote fact files about some of our favourite animals, describing their habitat and their food chain.



Harry and Amelia matching animals to their habitats

PE

In PE this half-term, class 4A have focussed on basketball, while class 4B have been working on their gymnastics skills. In 4A, we have learnt different ways of moving a ball, including chest passes, overhead passes and dribbling. We have then begun to apply these skills to game situations, which has involved lots of work on our shooting skills, learning to throw the ball first through hula-hoops and then (once we'd built up our arm strength) through proper basketball hoops. In 4B, meanwhile, we have developed our balance and core strength through gymnastics. First, we learnt a series of key balances, making sure we could hold these positions with poise and control, before starting to combine them to create simple routines. By developing the way we travelled between these balances (using different types of steps, jumps and rolls), we then worked in small groups to make these routines increasingly complex, ready to perform to the whole class.