

Year 1 Newsletter 14.1.22



Happy New Year

With resolutions made, and tinsel back in the box in the loft, it's a Happy New Year to one and all. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind gifts and cards last term—they were very much appreciated.

We are so impressed with how all of the children have returned to school after the Christmas break. We are especially proud of how well they have adapted to our new routines which include whole class tasks where everyone is working at their tables at the same time. The children have shown a great deal of independence and produced some wonderful work already. Well done, Year 1!



Faith and Diversity Day



On Friday we explored the faith of Sikhism as part of this whole school celebration. We linked everything we learned about the religion to one of our core values, 'Kindness' and enjoyed a range of activities including creating a beautiful mosaic tile which incorporated the Sikh symbol, the khanda.

Curriculum

This week we launched our new history topic 'Great Explorers'. We used our enquiry skills to discover who Ranulph Fiennes is and why he is in the Guinness Book of Records. The children were amazed to learn that he was the first person to travel by foot to the North and South Pole and the only person to reach the North and South Pole and the summit of Mount Everest! We discussed the challenges he might have faced and the qualities he needed to make him successful, such as courage, bravery, resilience, persistence and determination. We talked about how these qualities could help us in our everyday lives.



In maths we have been using balance scales to measure and compare the mass of different objects in the classroom. We learned about the standard units of measure, kilograms and grams and made estimates of whether different items were heavier or lighter than 50g. We also used bathroom scales to weigh ourselves and recorded our weight in kg.

In English we have enjoyed listening to the story, 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. We thought about the characters and discussed how they would feel and what they might say to each other when they first met. The children also wowed us with an extended piece of writing where they retold the whole adventure as if they were the boy in the story.



Our computing unit this half term is 'Exploring Digital Art' and we were all very excited to be in the computing suite this week to have a go at creating a piece of art. We used the software package '2 simple' to explore using different tools to create a piece of art. The children enjoyed trying out the different paint effects, creating different shapes and using the filling tool to produce a digital picture.

Upcoming visitors

We are looking forward to Zoolab visiting us this term where they will be sharing a fantastic range of African beasts for the children to see and touch. In the past these have included hissing cockroaches from Madagascar, a Royal Python and an enormous snail! The children are encouraged to ask questions and demonstrate their best behaviour. Please do not worry, no-one has to touch the animals!



Reading

Now that we have completed our assessments, the children have been given their new reading day and have settled well into their new groups.

We started our reading challenge again this week so remember that to win a Golden Ticket with a chance to be a 'boss of the week', the children must have had their Reading Diary signed at least 3 times at home. We love to know if the children are enjoying different books at home so please feel free to write this in their Reading Diaries too!



Dates for your Diary

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch—28th-30th January

Zoolab visit—4th February