

Weekly Newsletter



6th November 2020

Here we go again...another lockdown. The school has absorbed the most recent guidance and adapted practice as appropriate. One big change is to after school clubs which I know you have been notified about. Unfortunately, we have been advised to put our Breakfast Club on hold, again – we will get there, though! Staff had just had their Health & Safety training in the kitchen this week, too! However, I'm sure you will agree that your's and your children's safety is the most important factor in the immediacy and this next month.

We are proud of how diverse we are for such a small school, with just under 25% of our pupils being registered as being from different ethnic backgrounds. When we dug a little deeper in Banksy class, we were especially interested to learn more from our fellow peers about the backgrounds of some of our families and their relatives, establishing that just in Banksy class alone, we have connections with at least 13 different countries across the globe, spanning the majority of continents. For example, pupils from or with connections to countries like Hungary, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, India, Germany, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Scotland, Jamaica and even Japan! In geography next week, we will be learning about immigration versus emigration and some of the motivating factors why people decide to immigrate to different places. Some of the children in class are really keen to talk about their own, and their family's experiences. This would be superb as it will really help us hook our learning onto a real-life context. If your child starts asking you lots of questions about this over the weekend, then that's probably my fault! If you are happy for your child to say a few words on Monday, or bring in anything interesting to share, we would love to give them the opportunity to discuss this further with the class. The class were interested in the amount of nationalities that are present in the United Kingdom and we enjoyed rewriting our own version (linked to our class) of Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'The British' which has an underlying message of tolerance and unity across cultures.

The children were interested in my own experiences, one of which was living and working in a multicultural city like Leeds where, in my team, three of my best friends of different religions: one Muslim; one Catholic and one Jewish. We discussed why we worked so well as a team, considering how the colour of our skin or what we believed in as individuals played absolutely no part, other than a positive part – asking each other questions and feeling inspired by each other's experiences and wanting to learn more. Our success as a team was founded on common interests, mutual respect and then love for each other.

We are an inclusive school, proud to be part of the newly-established East Anglian Anti-Racist Education Collective which, one of the many aims is about schools raising children's awareness of people from different backgrounds.

The Arrival – a powerful picture book, with a link to immigration, by Shaun Tan has been the focus of Banksy's studies this week; pupils writing in the role of the characters with a focus on verb and adjective use. On a completely different 'note', Grime music has been the focus in music this week, in preparation to learning a rap in forthcoming weeks. Maths work has centred around equivalent, and simplifying fractions and in French, designing our own bedrooms and labelling the furniture in French with Madame Ray. Linked to Black Lives Matter and Black History Month, pupils have learnt some powerful new vocabulary as well as touching on issues like slavery and racial segregation. In art, we have learnt how to cross hatch; we will be using this skill and applying it, building on previously learnt knowledge, to portrait work – linked to The Arrival



**Great artwork
display on Andy
Warhol**

Picasso travelled back in time on Monday as part of their History unit. They learnt about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot and then acted out the events in small groups. There were some very convincing plotters as well as King's guards, Lord Montague and King James I himself.

Pupils continued the week with a Bonfire Night theme; using descriptive words to write firework poetry and sharing experiences of bonfire night and fireworks.

The class created a bonfire in the classroom after gathering sticks and twigs into a pile and adding tissue paper, coloured cellophane and flame-coloured autumn leaves, agreeing it would not be a good idea to light it!

In art, pupils explored printing techniques with a variety of resources including cotton buds, rollers, forks and cardboard tubes to create firework pictures.

Tuesday afternoon stayed dry enough for pupils to take part in outdoor PE, starting a new outdoor adventurous unit based on team building, problem solving and developing gross motor skills. Children were set the challenge of crossing a 'river' using only two pieces of equipment and ensuring they didn't get wet feet!

Not wanting to let their class pumpkins go to waste, pupils developed their hand-eye coordination skills and transformed them into Autumn 'hedgehogs' using wooden mallets and matchsticks.

Pupils continued with the firework theme in Computing, using a paint program to create fireworks in the night sky.

On Thursday, children watched a firework display in the classroom. As a class, they thought of lots of words to describe the fireworks in the sky, using these adjectives to write their own firework poems (Y1) or labels and captions (YR) to accompany their drawings. Teachers suggested how pleasing it was to see lots of children apply their phonics knowledge to spell these unfamiliar words.



In Dali class, the children have been using adjectives to describe a teddy bear. They shared their descriptive words with the class and together we sorted the words into categories. For example, words that describe the size of the bear, words that describe the condition of the bear and so on. Following this, the children wrote descriptive sentences using a variety of adjectives. They then used their skills on adjectives to describe Goldilocks before creating wanted posters.

In Maths, pupils began the week by working on subtraction using a number line to find how many are left (Y1) and to show our working out (Y2 and Y3). We have then look at subtraction word problems before a range of addition and subtraction calculations and word problems for the children to identify which calculation was needed and when.

A fantastic PE lesson was had on Monday. The children practised different ways of sending a ball – rolling, bouncing, throwing. They then worked in pairs to create a game using these skills. It was wonderful to see collaborative learning: children discussing their ideas, trying out games and then adapting them to make them more challenging.

In Computing, pupils explored 2Create, to create a story with the aim of applying images, text and sound together. We listened to the different sound effects and discovered how to record some their own. They will be using these later in the term.

In Music, children have been focussing on pitch by playing different sized boom whackers or chime bars and using the glockenspiels. They found out that the shorter versions made a higher sound. In the coming weeks, they will be using what they know about pitch to help select instruments to represent the different characters in Goldilocks. Pupils have also looked at the reasons behind Bonfire Night, retelling the story of the Gunpowder plot and creating some lovely firework art.



With lots of families hosting their own firework displays at home, in their bubbles, we urge you to keep yourselves and the children safe – not to mention your pets, too! Information about this is published by the Fire Service and could make for some excellent reading and useful conversations alongside your child.

<https://www.fireservice.co.uk/safety/fire-work-safety/>

Bikeability 2021

for Year 5 & 6



If you would like your child to take part in the Bikeability course please complete the consent form by 30th November

Thank you, FOES!

Lots of exciting orders being made by teachers to improve the resources we offer children at breaks and lunchtimes. If it wasn't for FOES and you generous parents, these little extras would not be possible so I will endeavour to give you a flavour of what's new in stock when I can:

On behalf of Dali class this week, thank you for the new wooden construction blocks and pieces. We have loved playing with these (me included) at lunchtime. We have built houses; other weird and wonderful shapes; made multi-storey garages/car parks for our toy cars and chalked out racing tracks, using these pieces as tunnels and ramps – cool! We even have a handy mnemonic to remember how to put them back in the box during pack-up time...toilet, toilet, toilet, semi-circles, triangles, semi-circles...don't ask!



We have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant.

If you would be interested please apply following the link on our website

<https://www.earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/school/vacancies>

Head Lice

We have cases of head lice in school, please check your children's hair regularly and treat if present.

Safety

Please do not ride your bikes and scooters when on the school grounds.

Attendance

The winner of the attendance cup for w/e 23.10.20 was:

Picasso and Banksy – 100%

Whole School ~Attendance 96.36%



Diary Dates

12 th November 18.00	Open session for New Parents 2021 CANCELLED
12 th November	Diabetes Day – wear blue
13 th November	Children in Need
16 th – 20 th November	Anti-Bullying week
30 th November	Christmas Production
1 st December	Christmas Production
18 th November	Flu Immunisation
10 th December	Hilltop meeting
17 th December	Christmas Dinner
18 th December	Christmas jumpers, carols around the tree, Heads Awards, Christmas parties, last day of term.
5 th January	Spring Term opens
7 th January 16.00	Open session for New Parents 2021

Please see Sid The Cygnet on his website page

<https://www.earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/sid-the-cygnet>

Also the weekly Celebration Assembly, with Head Teacher Awards

<https://www.earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/coronavirus/assemblies>

