

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

February 25

Winter Newsletter

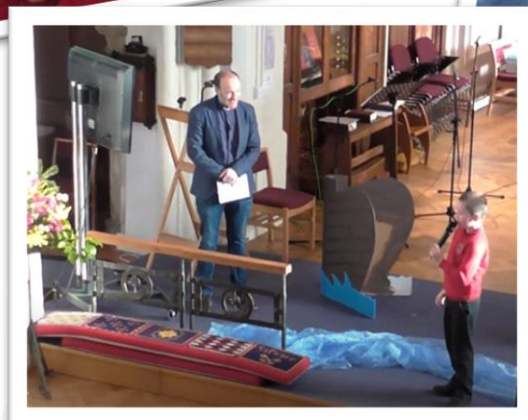
from St Peter's
Primary School



Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the mid-point of another school year and have had another busy and productive term of learning and enrichment. Everyone has been working especially hard on developing their writing skills as it is a whole school focus. I have been privileged to see excellent teaching and learning taking place in classes and have enjoyed reading the work of eager writers from reception to year 6. I know that you will be extremely impressed with your child's efforts and progress when you come to parents' evening at the start of next term.

We have once again had some fantastic community events at school, including a very special first for our worship leaders. Together with Reverend Mark & Miss Taylor, the children planned, and delivered, a Sunday service at St Peter's church. They shared one of our favourite stories of St Peter through drama, song, 'paper aeroplanes' and prayers! It was incredible to see how courageous and confident these children were, and I know that the St Peter's congregation really enjoyed this somewhat different Sunday morning worship! We are all really proud of the children involved and it was lovely to have so many of our families at church too.





It has also been wonderful to see our year 5 pupils engaging in 'Bikeability' this term. As a community, we all have a responsibility to consider how we get from A to B, and learning to ride a bike safely, on our roads, is a skill that will set children up for lifelong healthy and environmentally friendly habits. I wanted to share some feedback that I have received from the instructors as they told me that the year 5 pupils here have been the most conscientious, respectful and polite children that they have worked with, and they are thoroughly enjoying the sessions with them. The children are clearly showing what excellent St Peter's citizens, and community citizens, they are and I am sure you will be as proud to hear this as I was.

Finally, we have had a fabulous family day to end this term. Family days are such a special part of the enrichment offer at St Peter's and, once again, today has reminded us all why we enjoy them so much! Even before the day's activities began, it was a real joy to see children moving around to their groups so sensibly and greeting their peers from other year groups with smiles, hugs and arms round shoulders! It is such a great opportunity to experience being a part of our school community in a different way and to build new friendships as the children move through school. We were proud to see our older pupils taking responsibility for supporting younger peers with the activities - you will see some photos below of the creative outcomes of this collaboration.

Without a doubt, our annual community day is one of our favourites and this year was no exception as we centred the day around the long-awaited return of the Portishead carnival. We spent the first session of the morning finding out about famous carnivals across the world and, perhaps most importantly, learning about the history of the Portishead carnival. It may surprise some of you to know the first carnival took place here in 1902 and St Peter's school entered its first float in 1990! The highlight of the morning had to be the big reveal of this year's theme, which was done in style by some members of our carnival committee. The costumes and music soon gave it away and we are excited to reveal the theme of 'The Circus: The Greatest Show in Portishead' which will be a colourful and vibrant spectacle! I would like to thank everyone on the committee who worked so hard to organise and deliver such an inspiring launch in front of 630 pupils and staff and get our carnival campaign on the road!





Our budding engineers and designers spent the rest of the morning designing float and costume ideas and designs will be shared with our creative team! Build nights will be starting in term 5 and we welcome all volunteers. Details of how to be involved in the float and the walking party will come out in due course but please do save the date (Saturday 14th June) and let's make this a carnival comeback to remember! If there are any talented jugglers, stilt walkers or unicyclists amongst you, please make yourself to known us: we would love to showcase your talents!



Wishing you all a great half term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 24th February

Kind regards,

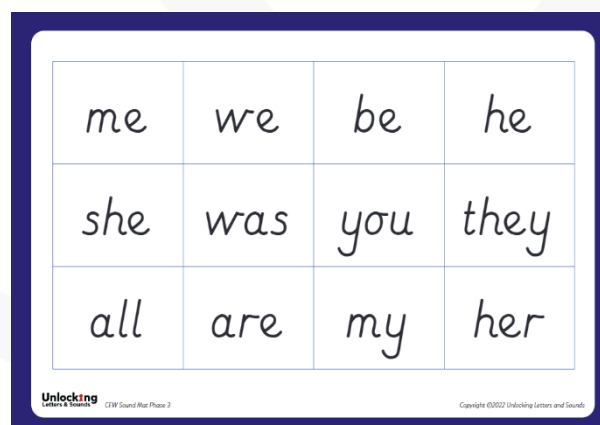
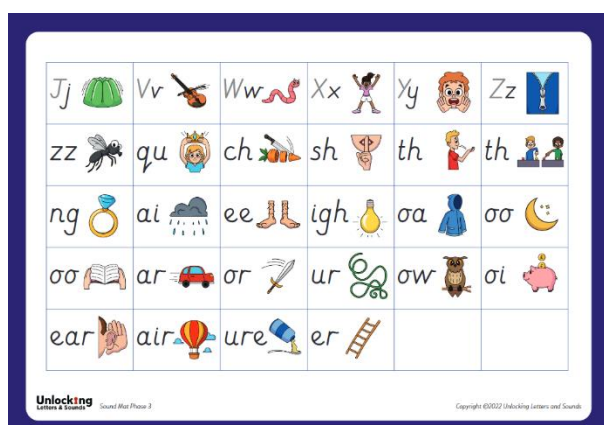
Catrin Battista



Reception



The learning in Reception has been out of this world this term! We have now completed Phase 3 of our Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme and have started to master all the new sounds and Common Exception Words. All of these can be found in your child's reading record. If you need help with any of the sounds, there is a very useful video which can be accessed through a QR code towards the back of the record.



This term the children were very excited to begin our 'Mystery Readers'! Every Friday each class were treated to a special visitor, who's identity was kept as a surprise, these visitors then read one of their child's favourite books. We have loved being able to welcome parents and carers into the classroom and cannot wait to continue this in Term 4!



This term we have delved into all things space! We have:

- Learnt all about Neil Armstrong, who he was, what he did and when he was born.
- Listened to stories from astronauts in space
- Created our very own rockets with junk modelling





- Learnt how astronauts brush their teeth, make a sandwich and sleep in space (and why having no gravity in space makes this tricky!)
- Learnt some space songs that we then performed to our buddies in Year 5
- Learnt space facts from encyclopaedias
- Learnt about light, dark and shadows and explored how to make shadows of different sizes

And much more! We can't wait to celebrate our space topic during our Wow Day at the end of term



From everyone in Reception, we hope you have a lovely break over the half term!

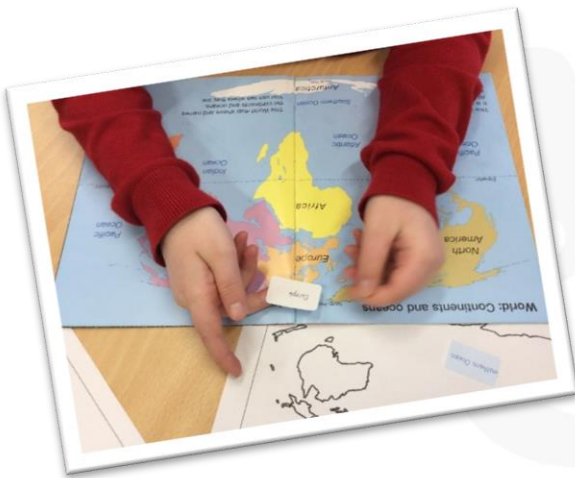


Year 1

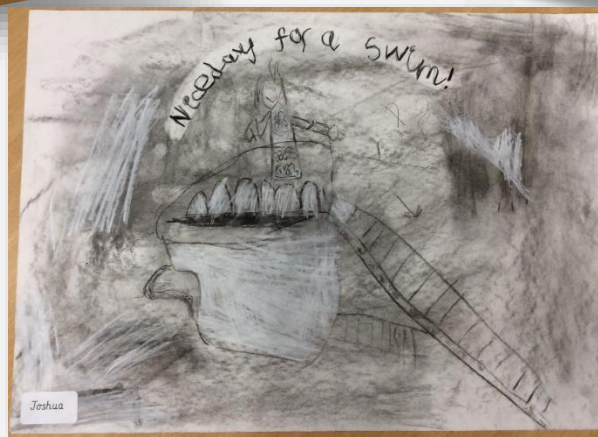
We are geographers!

This term, we have shown curiosity and fascination as we have been learning about the world we live in. First, we discovered the 7 continents of the world; we enjoyed learning these as a song! Next, we found out more about the 5 oceans of the world, including which is the biggest and which is the warmest! Finally, we learnt about the equator and why those countries nearest the equator are always so warm.

As part of this learning, we enjoyed working with our friends to label a world map using an atlas to help us.



Also, this term, we have been developing our skills as artists. Our artwork this term was based on the theme '**Drawing Stories**'. In these lessons, we used charcoal to explore different types of marks and lines, and began to understand how to make light and dark tones to show shadows and light. We are so proud of our final creations!



Finally, we have been learning about creation in our RE lessons this term. This learning has helped us to think about the things in our world which we are most grateful for and the things we can do to keep our world healthy. We hope you like the prayer we wrote:

Dear God,

Thank you for the Northern Lights, water to drink, hot volcanoes, food to eat and our beautiful world.

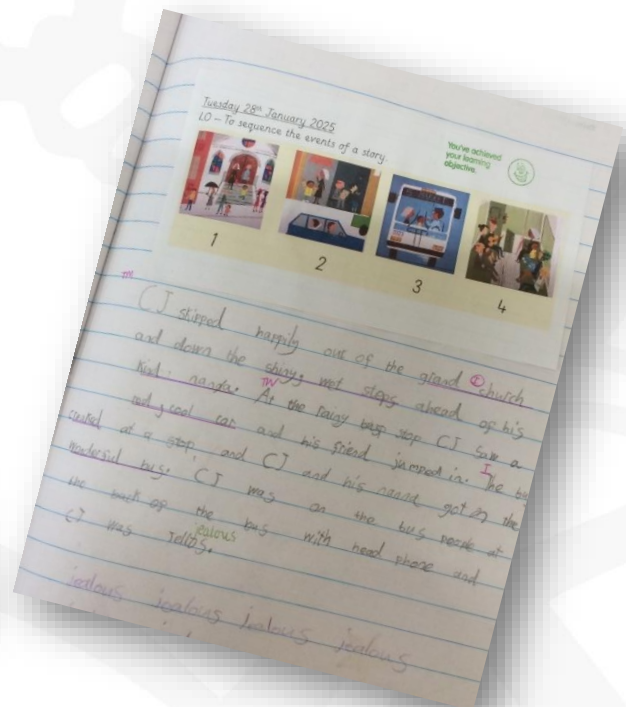
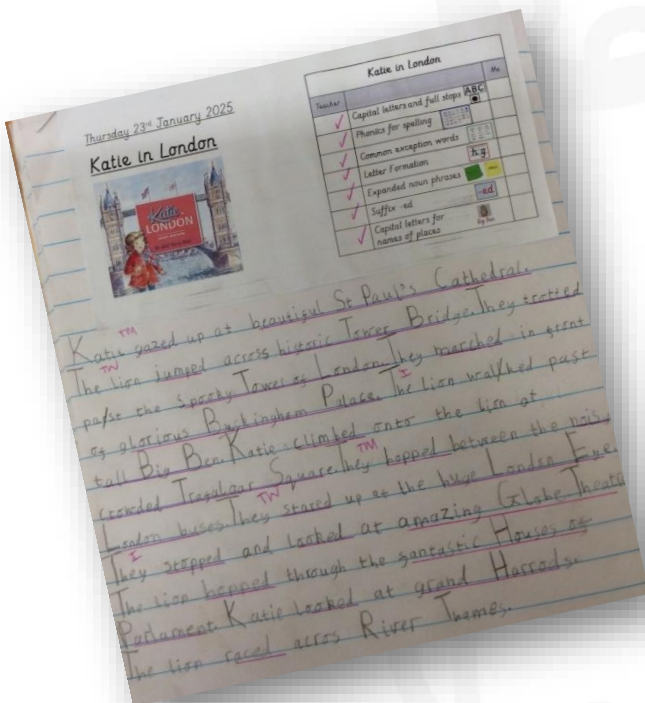
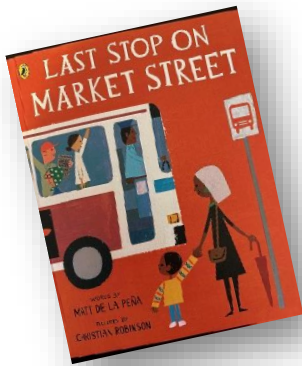
Help us to look after our world so the people and the animals can live in peace.

Amen.



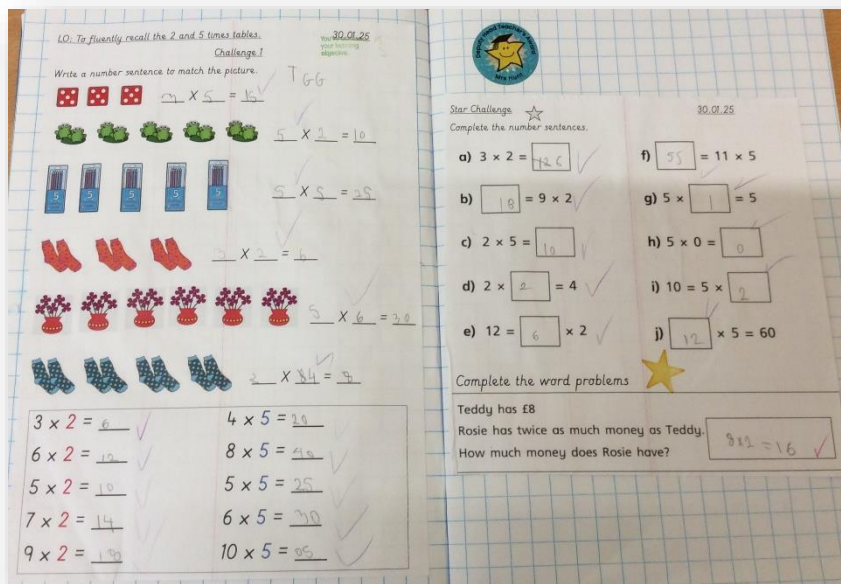
Year 2

This term in English, we have been busy readers and we have read 'Rosie Revere Engineer' by Andrea Beaty, 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew and 'Last Stop in Market Street' by Matt De La Pena. We have enjoyed delving into each of the texts and we have written some lovely descriptive pieces. 'Katie in London' has linked nicely with our geography learning on cities and we have enjoyed describing the impressive landmarks that we might find around London.





What great mathematicians we are! In maths, we have been learning multiplication and we are beginning to become experts at our quick recall of our 2x and 5x tables. Next term we will be using this knowledge to support us with our learning of the 10x table and division.



How are different materials suited to different uses?
W5: gathering and recording data
20.01.25
Challenge 1

Object	Material	Two words to explain why that material is suitable
towel	Plastic Cotton Wood	absorbent soft
car windscreen	Glass Metal Rubber	transparent durable
umbrella	Glass Cotton Plastic	water proof opaque
keys	Plastic Metal Rubber	hard durable

In science, we have been learning about materials and their properties and we have conducted experiments and undertaken some investigations to develop our skills of working scientifically.

We tested the waterproof properties of different materials to see which would be best to fix a leaky pipe and more recently, we explored the area of 'changing materials' investigating which materials will bend, twist, stretch and squash.

In geography this term we have been learning about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom, including the names of the surrounding oceans and seas. We have been super enthusiastic geographers and we have loved learning some facts about what makes the four countries in the United Kingdom unique!

St Peter's

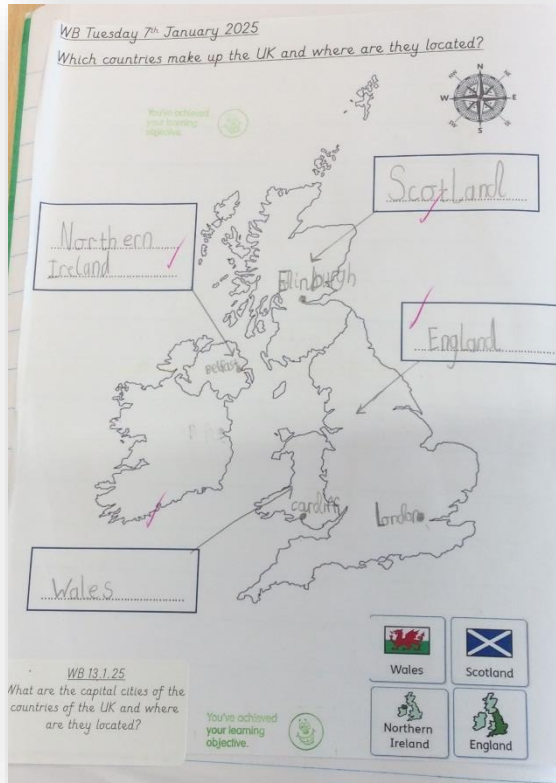


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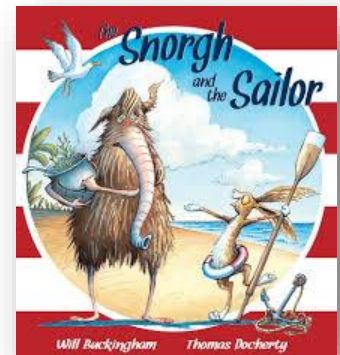
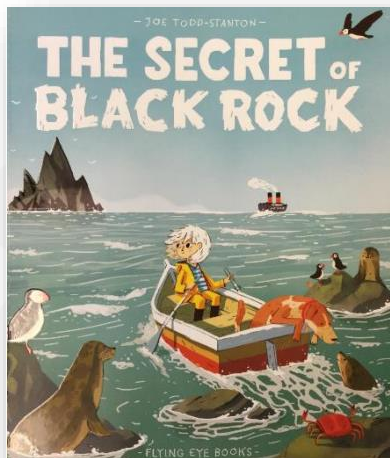
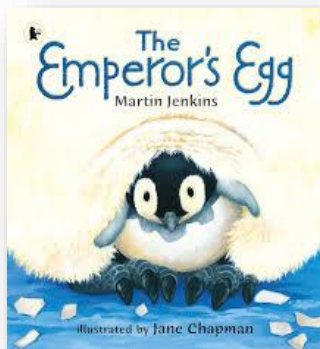


Well done, year 2, on an excellent start to 2025!

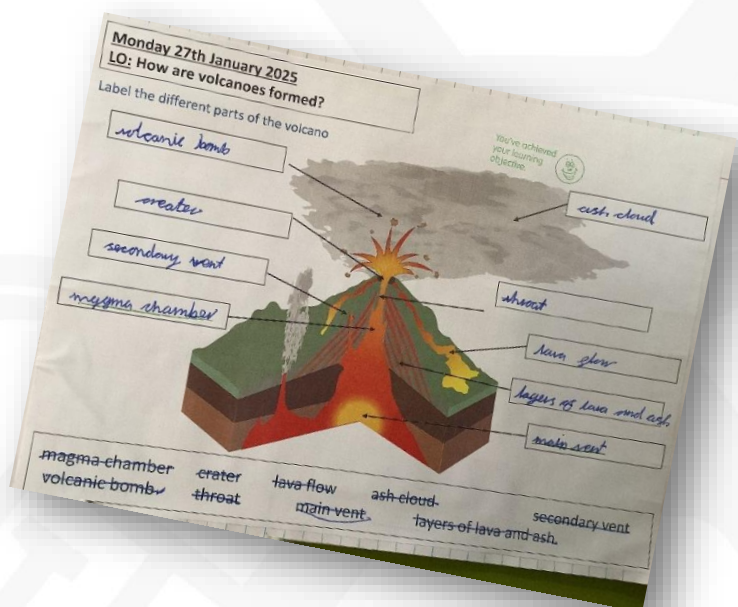


Year 3

We have enjoyed looking at three new books within our writing lessons this term. First, we read *The Snorgh and the Sailor* and learned a new skill of using inverted commas for speech. Next, we practiced using subheadings and paragraphs and created a fact file based on our knowledge on emperor penguins. Finally, we have loved *The Secret of the Black Rock*. We looked at how stories are structured, exploring the problems and resolutions that come up in the text.

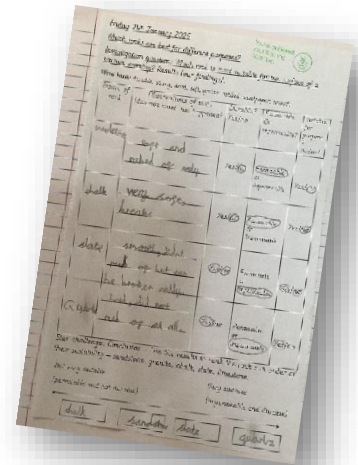
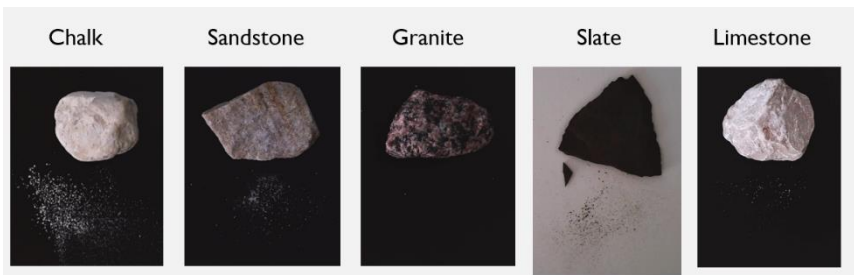


Mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes have been our focus in geography this term. We discovered how fold mountains are created and what happens when the tectonic plates rub together. Our favourite part was learning about the gasses and pressure build up in volcanoes with our experiment using coke and mentos!





In science, we have become geologists studying rocks! We worked as scientists to test what type of rock would be best suited for kitchen worktops. We tested durability by rubbing sand paper and permeability by using pipettes to drop water on to the rocks.



Finally, Year 3 loved our Art topic studying French artist, Henri Matisse. We created collages based on the Greek myth, The Odyssey. We used stencilling and drawing with scissors techniques to create our collages.



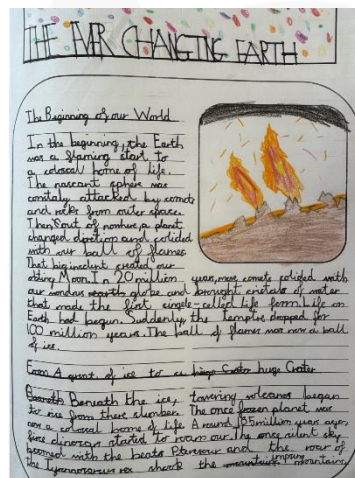


Year 4

We've had a fantastic few weeks in Year 4, and we wanted to take a moment to celebrate all the brilliant learning that's been taking place. The children have been working incredibly hard across all subjects, showing great enthusiasm and progress. Here's a little insight into what we've been up to:

English – Writing Explanation Texts

Our focus in English has been on explanation texts, inspired by the book *Until I Met Dudley* by Roger McGough. The children have loved exploring the creative and scientific ways things work, from toasters to vacuum cleaners! They have been developing their skills in writing clear, structured explanations, using cause-and-effect language to make their writing informative and engaging.



Maths – Fractions

We've been diving into the world of fractions, beginning with fractions on a number line and mixed numbers. Understanding how fractions fit into our number system has been a challenge, but the children have shown great determination in tackling new concepts. As we move forward, we'll be exploring equivalent fractions and fraction calculations, building their confidence step by step.

Geography – Europe and Migration

Our geography lessons have taken us on a journey across Europe as we explore countries, cultures, and the concept of migration. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about the different European nations and testing their knowledge with map work and quizzes. Their curiosity and discussions around migration have been insightful and thoughtful, showing a deepening understanding of global movement and its impact.



R.E. – Pentecost

In R.E., we have been learning about Pentecost and its significance in Christianity. The children have been exploring the themes of celebration, courage, and change, reflecting on the powerful imagery of the Holy Spirit and how this event shaped the early Christian church.

Science – States of Matter

Science has been all about solids, liquids, and gases! We've been investigating how materials change state, with fun experiments demonstrating melting, freezing, condensation, and evaporation. The children have particularly enjoyed practical investigations and making predictions about how different substances react to temperature changes.



Computing – Photo Editing

Our young digital artists have been working on photo editing, developing their skills in layering, blending, and enhancing images. One of the highlights has been creating artistic double-exposure photographs, where they've combined images to produce some truly creative and striking pieces of work.

It's been a brilliant half-term so far, and we're incredibly proud of all the effort and enthusiasm the children are putting into their learning. As always, thank you for your support at home—it makes such a difference!

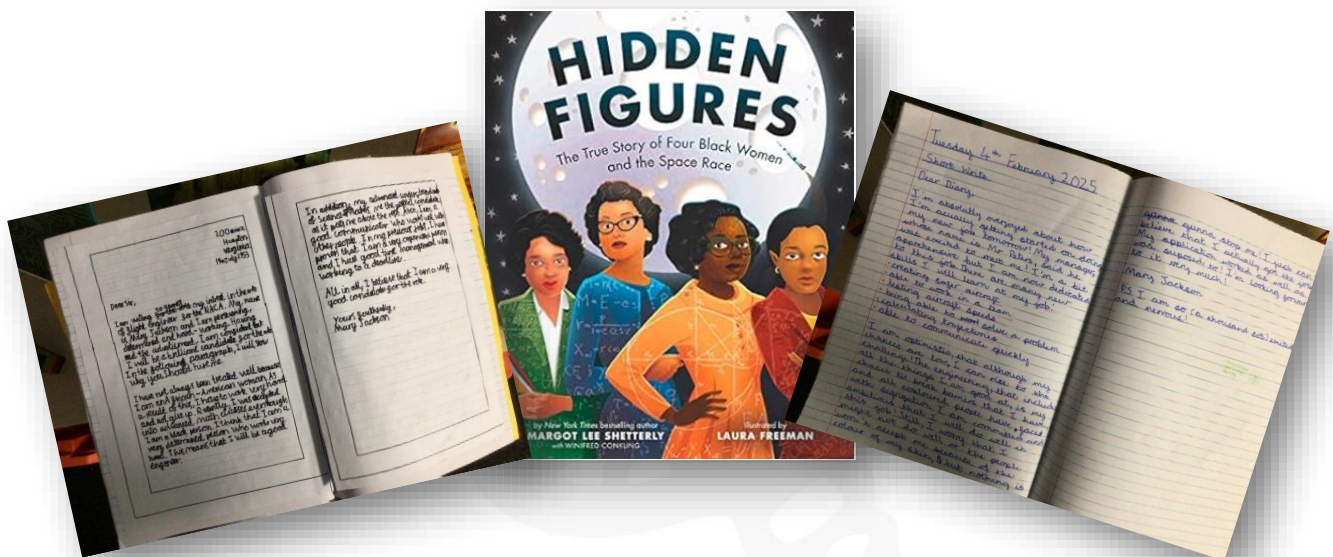




Year 5

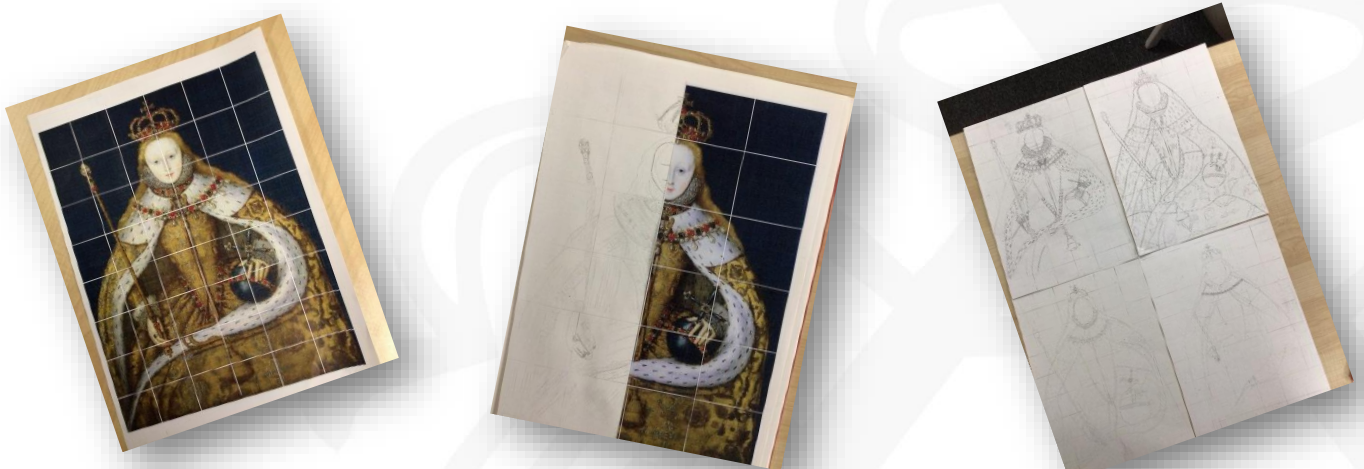
English

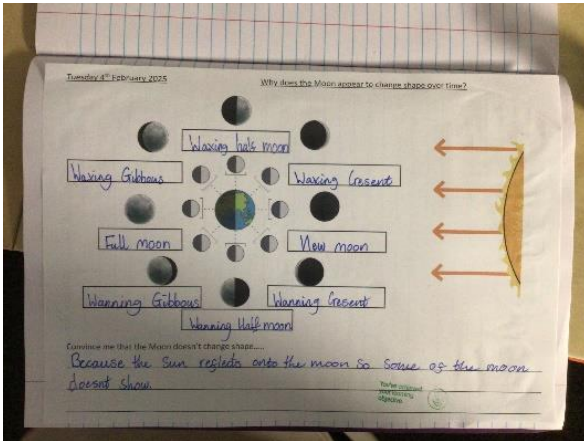
This term Year 5 have been learning all about the four black women who were integral to the development of NASA and the space race. We have been learning about what great mathematicians these women were and how they fought for their rights to work at NACA during a time of segregation. The children have enjoyed learning all about these important women and have written job adverts and diary entries from the perspective of these women.



Art

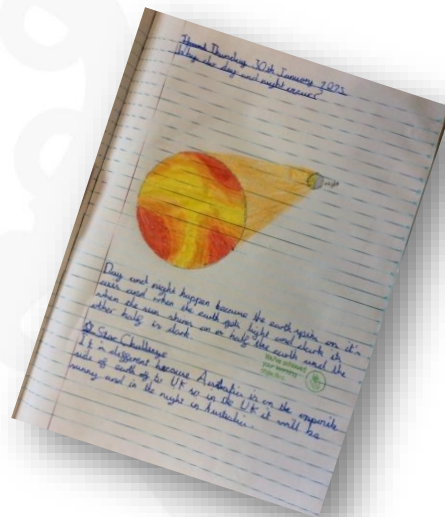
During our art lessons this term, the children have been learning about Tudor portraits and how there were hidden meanings behind the choices of colour and composition. The children have been looking at proportion and colour mixing to produce their own portraits of Queen Elizabeth the first.





Linking to our learning about Hidden Figures, our science this term has been all about space. The children have learnt how beliefs on the solar system have changed over time and that we can't always rely on what our eyes tell us – the Sun doesn't actually move across the sky and the Moon doesn't change shape! We also made a fruit solar system to help us understand the relative size of the planets.

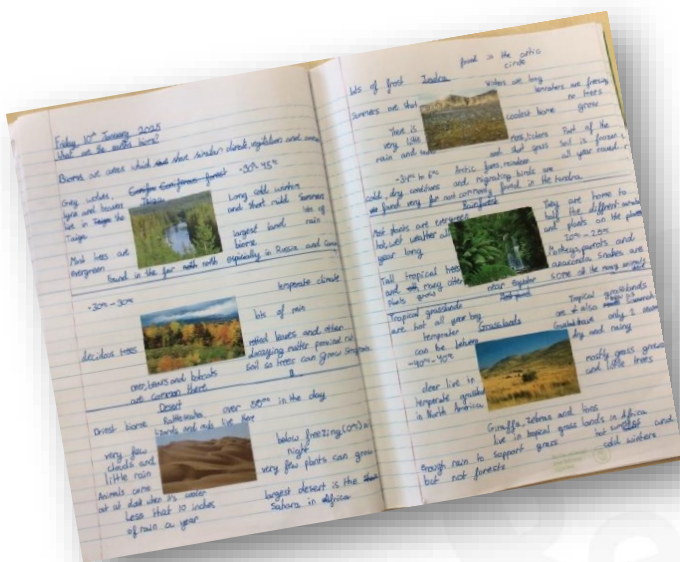
Our learning culminated with a visit by the fantastic space dome. The children loved the amazing graphics, especially seeing inside the International Space Station and learning about the planned expeditions to Mars.





Geography

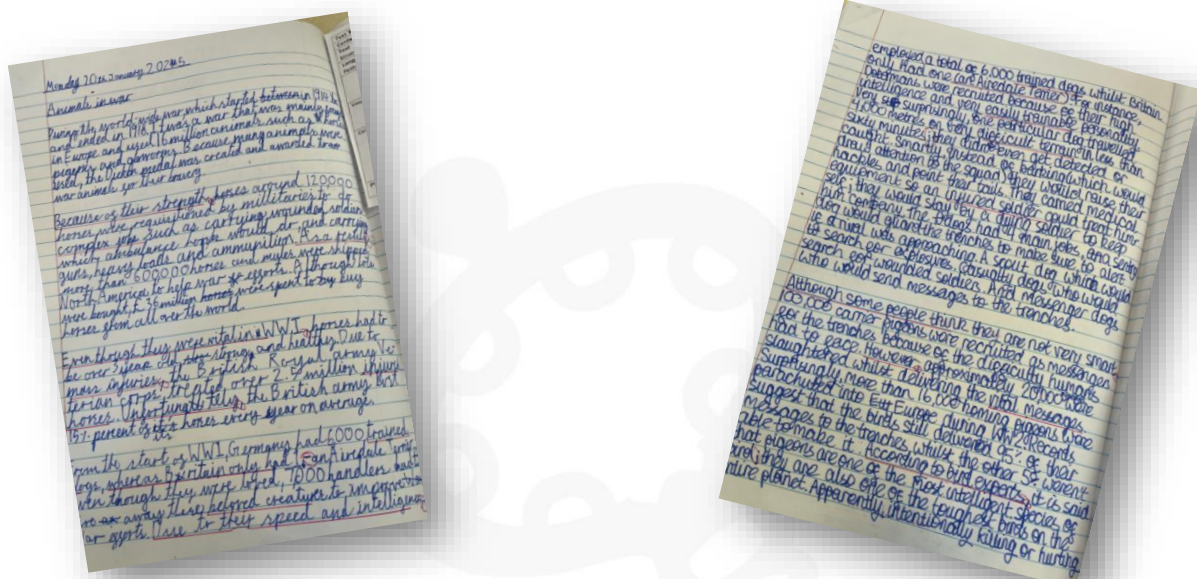
In geography this term, we've been learning about biomes. Children loved researching different biomes and, building on their learning from year 3, found out how things such as latitude, altitude and precipitation affect the climate of a place. They also learned how human behaviour can affect biomes and carried out an investigation to see how ice melting in the Arctic and on Antarctica, impacts sea level in different ways.



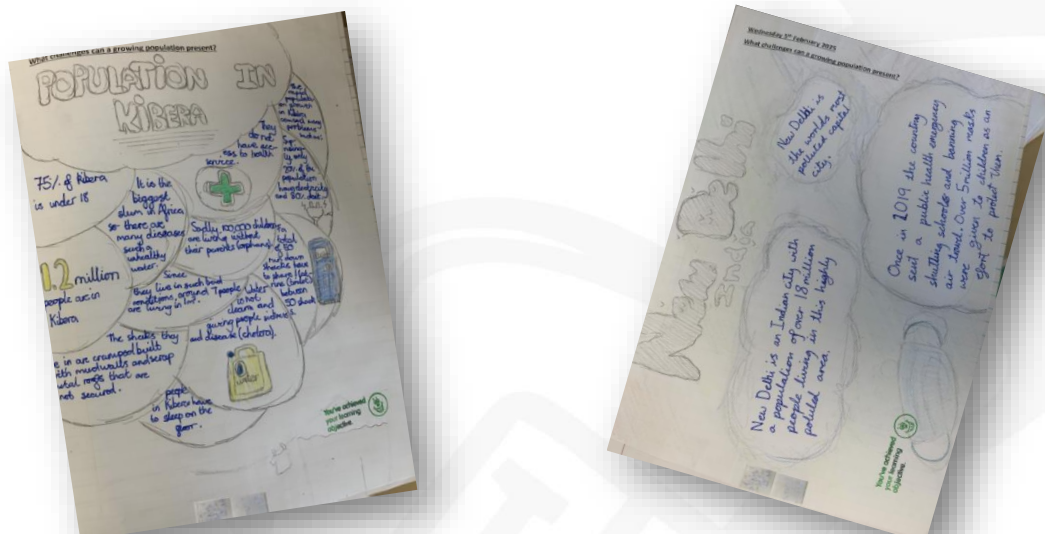


Year 6

In Year 6, our English lessons have been focusing on 'Animals at War'. We wrote a non-chronological report about the important role that horses, dogs and pigeons played in the war, such as carrying wounded soldiers, delivering messages and boosting morale. We were particularly fascinated to learn about a heroic pigeon called Cher Ami who, despite being struck down by a bullet, still managed to successfully arrive at base camp to deliver a message.



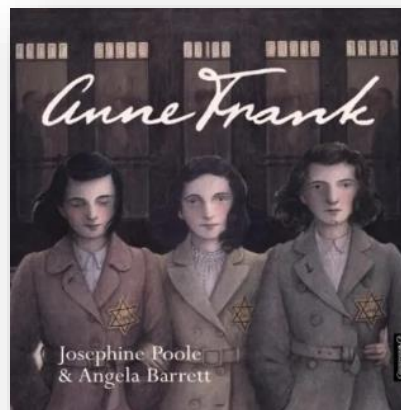
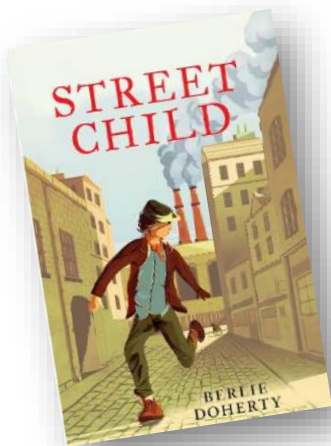
In geography, we have been learning all about the world's population, including the factors which impact the size of the population and how to draw and interpret population pyramids. We enjoyed producing information posters about some of the challenges that Kenya and India are facing as their population grows.





In science, we have been learning about inheritance and evolution. We have explored how finches have adapted on the Galapagos Islands. We then recreated their 'beak' adaptations using equipment including chopsticks, rulers and tweezers.

We have enjoyed reading lots of books this term. Here a few of them!



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Wellbeing



This terms Wellbeing Newsletter can be found on our website at the link below and is attached along with this newsletter on Parentmail.

[Newsletter website link](#)

