

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

May 25

Spring Newsletter

from St Peter's
Primary School



Dear Parents and Carers

This very short and action-packed term ended with high energy and high spirits! Throughout the day, the sounds of excitement, laughter, and enthusiastic cheering from children taking part in the 'canoe' activity filled the courtyard outside my office—I hope everyone has dried off by the time they get home! We began the school year reflecting on the Olympic motto—*Higher, Faster, Stronger – Together*—and it continues to be deeply embedded in all that we do within our school community. There was a wonderful buzz of energy and friendly competition across the whole school grounds as children joined in a range of sporting events with their family group friends. The spirit of teamwork, perseverance, and joyful challenge truly shone through.

This term has been one of real growth for all our pupils, as they begin to reap the rewards of their hard work throughout the year. It has been a genuine pleasure to visit classrooms, see children's books, and talk with them about their learning. I have particularly enjoyed speaking with many of the Reception children and seeing the progress in their books from the start of the year—it truly feels like something magical has happened! However, we all know that each child's progress is the result of excellent teaching, alongside the resilient and steady determination of the children, who put in consistent effort day after day. We are confident that you will discover some wonderful surprises when you join us for the share sessions next term!

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils who approached SATs week with determination and focus, handling the tests with great resilience. We thoroughly enjoyed hosting the SATs breakfasts, and I want to thank the dedicated team who, dressed in cheery gingham aprons, who worked tirelessly to serve breakfast for 90 children each morning—there was certainly no shortage of toast to butter! It was lovely that the sun was shining for our traditional celebration at the Lake Grounds, and as always, Mrs Hunt and I took great pleasure in handing out ice lollies to the children to the tune of the ice cream van song, along with the 2025 addition of ice cream hairbands!

Whatever the weather, this half term, we wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd June!

Kind regards,

Catrin Battista



Reception

It has been a busy term in Reception! We have been learning about different birds, focusing on penguins in Antarctica and garden birds in England. The children read 'Lost and Found', 'Jonty Gentoo', and looked at different non-fiction texts to learn facts about birds. The children learnt about how to freeze water to make ice, and learnt that Antarctica is incredibly cold! They had the chance to observe melting and think of different ways to encourage the ice to melt in our own penguin ice rink in Discovery.

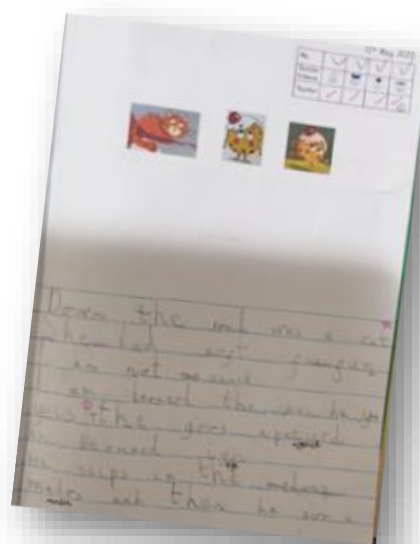


The children learnt about floating and sinking, creating boats out of recycled materials and made predictions about whether they would float or sink before testing them in our water area. They created watercolour paintings of garden birds in the classroom and colourful pencil drawings of birds which are on display in Discovery.





We read the story 'Bun on the Run' and the children loved joining in with the repetitive 'you can run, run, run, you can chase, chase, chase, but you can't catch me I'm Bernard the bun!'. They re-wrote the story in their writing books, utilising all of their phonics knowledge and story language to complete their own wonderful version of the story.



In terms of phonics, the children have now completed phase 4 of Unlocking Letters and Sounds. We have introduced the children to 14 new common exception words they have learnt to read and write words with adjacent consonants in. As we move into the final term in reception, the children will be consolidating and mastering Phase 4 so please do practise any words below with your children.



We wish you all a lovely restful week and look forward to welcoming you back for a busy and exciting final term!

Best wishes,

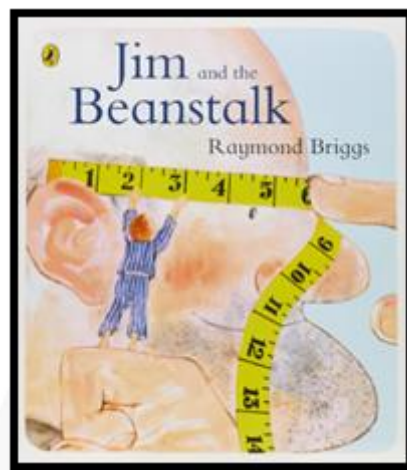
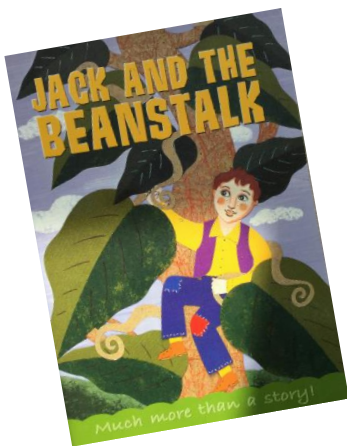
Reception Team



Year 1

English

This term in English, we've been developing our skills as confident storytellers and imaginative writers. We started by diving into the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk', learning to retell it using a story map and adding fun actions to help us remember the key events.



Our reading journey then took us to 'Jim and the Beanstalk' by Raymond Briggs - a creative sequel where the giant has grown old and meets a new character, Jim. We explored the story through mapping and actions once again, then worked together to innovate it with our own twists. Finally, we wrote our own fantastic versions in our English books. We're incredibly proud of how much we've grown as writers!



Art

This term in art and design, we took inspiration from the work of British sculptor, photographer, and environmental artist Andrew Goldsworthy. Spending time outdoors, we gathered a variety of natural materials and used them as the focus for our observational drawings. Back in the classroom, we had lots of fun designing and building our own natural sculptures in the playground. We also explored the creative possibilities of clay, using different tools and natural objects to press textures and patterns into the surface, resulting in our very own unique Year 1 sculpture.
























Geography

In geography this term, we explored physical and human features of the environment through the stories of Katie Morag, set on the fictional Isle of Struay. We learnt to identify physical features like beaches, hills, and rivers, as well as human features such as houses, bridges, and shops. By comparing life on the island to our own local area, we developed a better understanding of different places and how people live. We loved discovering more about island life through Katie's adventures!



Phonics












This term, we've been working hard on our journey to become phonics experts! The children have shown fantastic progress in recognising sounds and applying them in their reading and writing. We're now looking ahead to the Phonics Screening Check in Term 6 and are feeling excited and confident. Please continue to support your child by hearing them read daily at home and helping them practise any sounds they're still securing - teachers will highlight these when needed. Your support makes a big difference!














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Unlocking
Letters & Sounds
Sound Mat - vowels, all phases

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f ff ph	l ll le	m mm mb	n nn gn kn	r rr wr	s ss se ce	v ve	z zz s se	sh ch ti ci s/ss	th	ng

												
b bb	c k ck ch	d dd	g gg	h	j g ge dge	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y	ch tch t



Unlocking Excellence
English Hub at St Peter's School

Phonics Screening Check Coverage

Single Letter Sounds:
a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j,
k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s,
t, u, v, w, x, y, z

Consonant digraphs:
ch, ck, ff, ll, ng, sh,
ss, th, zz, ph, wh

Vowel digraphs:
ar, ee, oi, oo, or, ai,
au, aw, ay, ea, er, ew,
ie, ir, oa, ou, ow, oy,
ue, ur

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-sample-materials-and-training-video/phonics-screening-check-structure-and-content-of-the-checking>

Split digraphs:
a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e

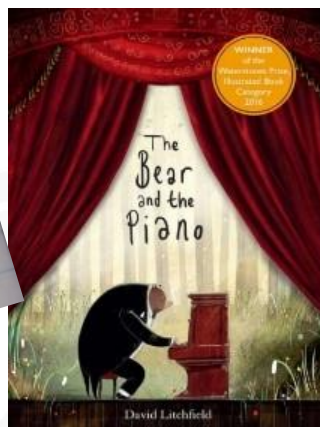
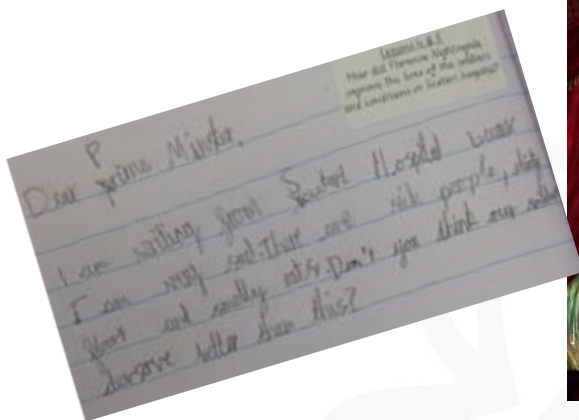
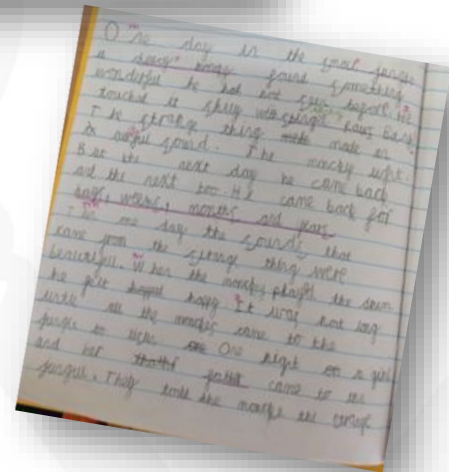
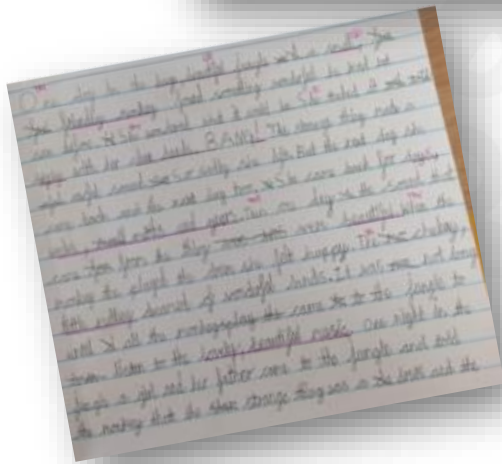
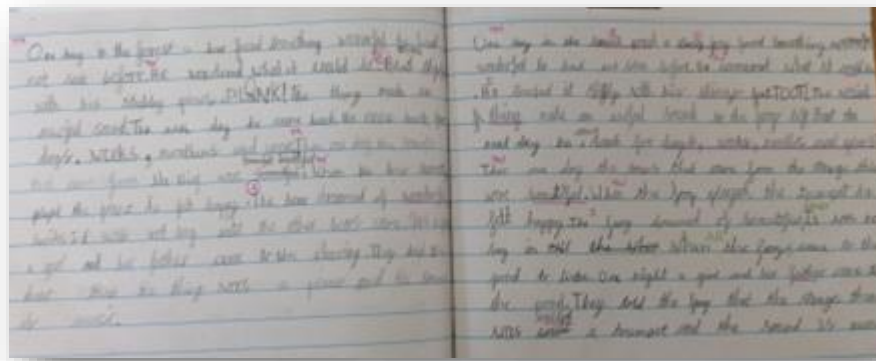
Trigraphs:
air, igh

Alternative pronunciations:
a, c, ch, e, ea, er, g, i, ie,
o, oo, ou, ow, s, th, u,
ue, u-e



Year 2

This term in year 2, we have been exploring the text 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield. We learned about how to use suffixes to add interesting vocabulary to our writing. We practised retelling the story using a story map and then we wrote the narrative. From this we innovated the story to write our own narratives using our own choice of character with a different instrument!

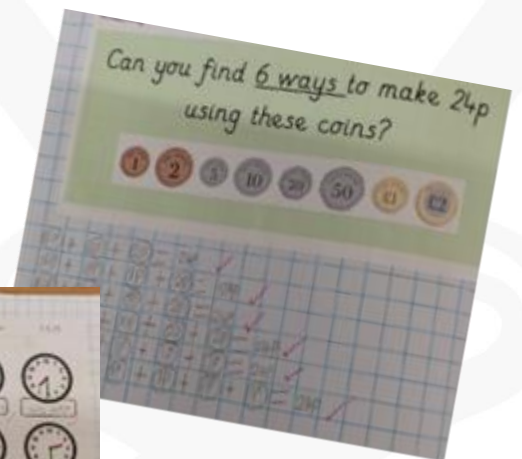
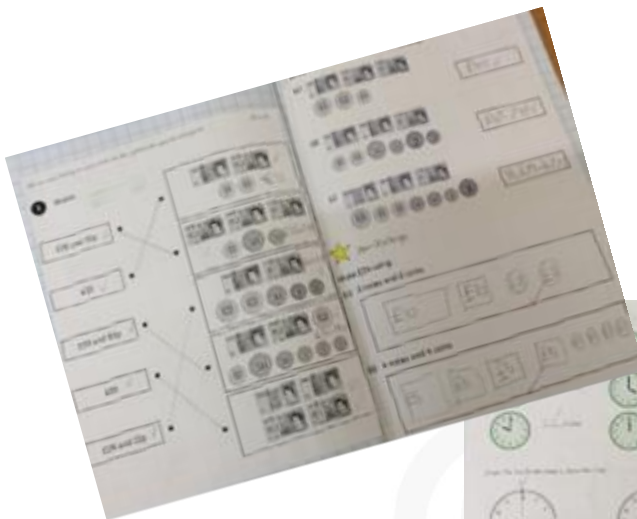




As historians, we have been learning about the life and achievements of Florence Nightingale. We discovered how she worked tirelessly to improve the conditions for the soldiers in Scutari Hospital in Turkey during the Crimean War. We even wrote a letter as Florence to the Prime Minister of the time to complain about the conditions and to ask for supplies and equipment. We even know that she was called 'The Lady with the Lamp'.



In maths, we have enjoyed learning how to tell the time. We have found o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to times. Next term we are looking forward to learning the time in five-minute intervals.





We have also learned all about money and we have become experts at using our counting skills to add different values of money together.

A highlight of term 5 has been our trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm! During the trip, we took part in a wonderful workshop about animals and their habitats. While we were there, there were also different animal artefacts to explore. We had to use our clue finding skills to decide which animals they were from, that would live in that habitat.

We had a fabulous time seeing and learning about all the animals. Some of our favourites were the baboons, elephants, pigmy goats and the giant tortoises.

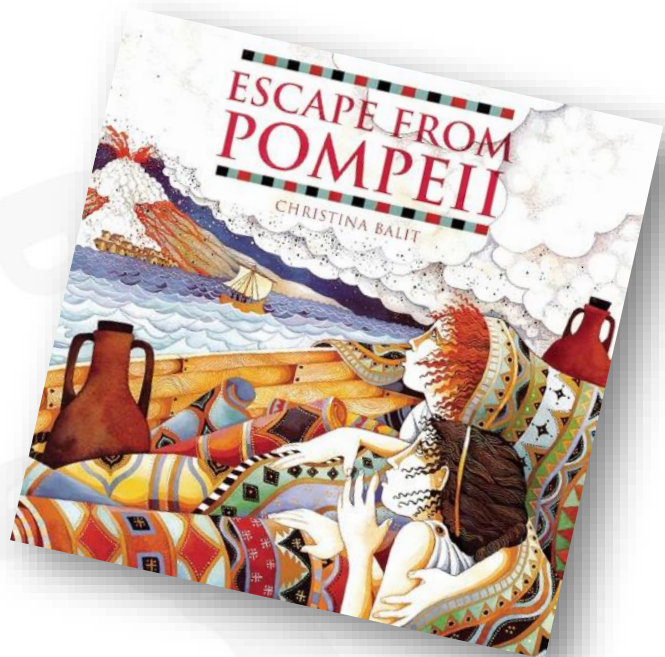
Year 2 would like to say thank you to all the fantastic parents who volunteered their time to make our trip possible.



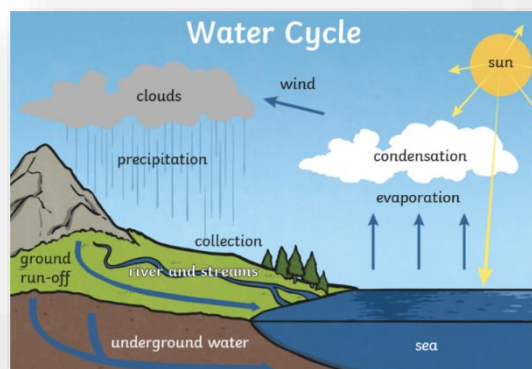


Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed two different books in English this term. First, we read 'Escape from Pompeii'. The children loved that this book also linked with our Geography topic of 'Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes' from term 4. We used expanded noun phrases and prepositions of place to create setting descriptions. Our second text, 'The Last Garden' inspired us to write another setting description. This time we used complex sentences, using the conjunctions while and although.



In geography, we have been learning about water, weather and climate. We learned about the water cycle and how evaporation and condensation occur. We also learned about different types of weather and pretended to be weather reporters!

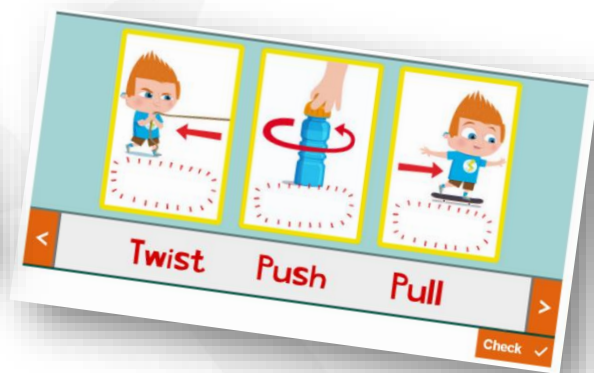
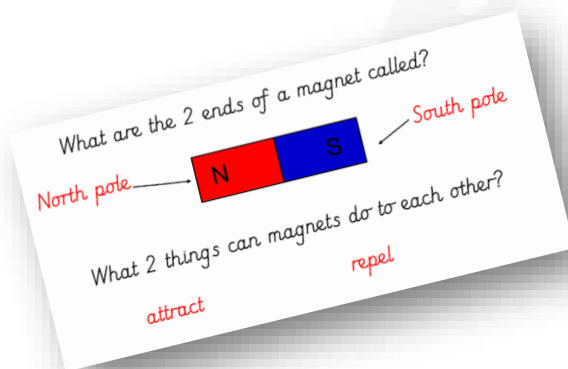




In art, we explored the medium of clay. We used the technique of creating pinch pots to make our own Canopic jar. We also explored work from artists Anthony Gormley and Charlotte Mary Pack.



In our science lessons this term, we have learned about forces and magnets. We enjoyed the investigation sending a toy cars down a slope onto different surfaces to investigate friction. We have also learned about magnets and tested magnets with different materials.



Finally, Year 3 had a special visit from the RNLI as part of our legacy learning. We learned about the flags, Portishead lifeboat station and how we can stay safe near or in water.





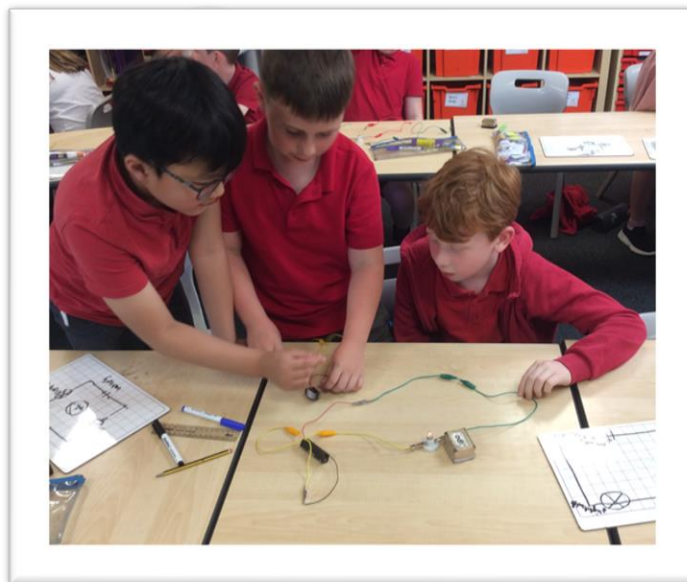
Year 4

Folly Farm

We had a fantastic time on our one-night residential trip to Folly Farm! We threw ourselves into a variety of outdoor activities including pond dipping, bug hunting, and den building. It was wonderful to work together and enjoy the great outdoors. Everyone showed great courage in trying new things and being away from home overnight—true adventurers and excellent sports all round!

Science

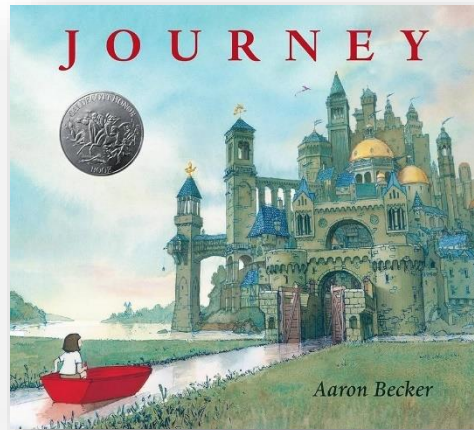
Year 4 have been learning about Electricity this term! We have looked at different devices and objects we use in our lives that are powered by electricity, discovering how the electrical current is passed through a circuit.



English

In English this term, we have been exploring the text 'Journey' which shows the adventures of a young girl entering a new world once she has discovered a magic crayon. She learns that what she draws with the crayon comes to life and she is able to see new places and meet new people. As the book has no words, we have been using our creativity and knowledge of rich vocabulary to retell the story.

This week, we have begun the story of 'Beowulf' adapted by Michael Morpurgo. We have learnt so far that the great warrior Beowulf is wanted to help a desperate King Hrothgar evade the terrors of Grendel, a monster. We have been focusing on using persuasive devices in our writing and challenging ourselves by using superlatives.



RE

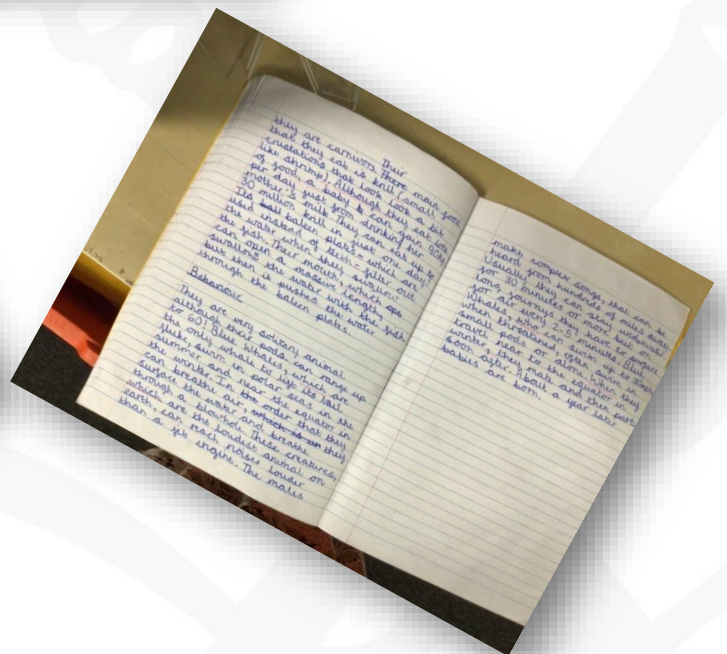
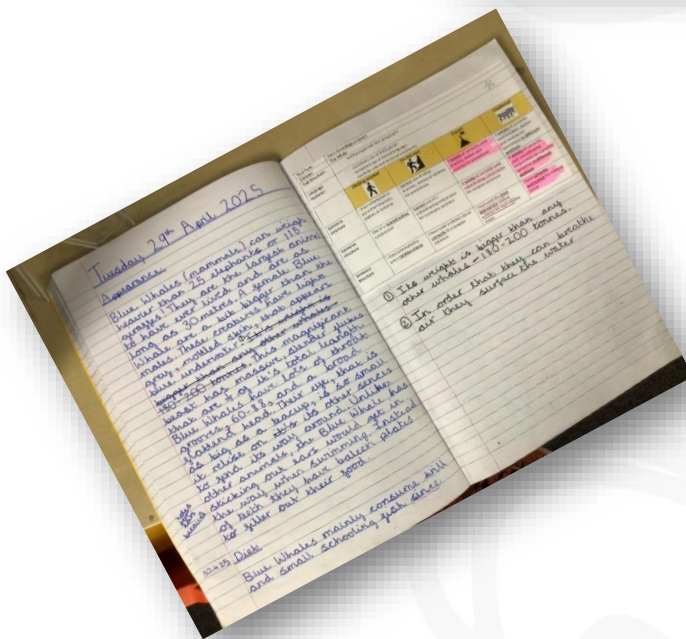
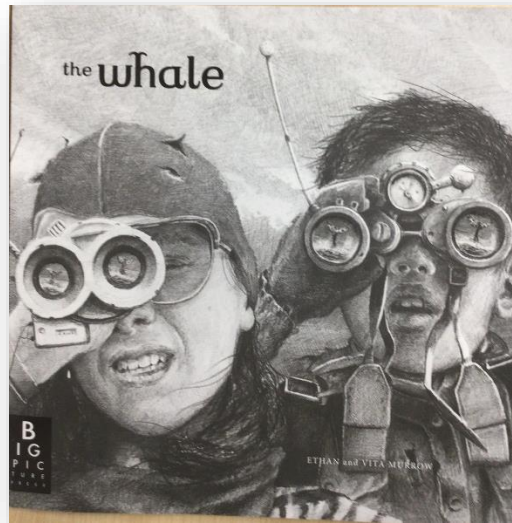
The religion we have been focusing on this term is Hinduism. We have learnt about three important Gods that are known as the 'Trimurti', which include Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. We have learnt what each of them is responsible for and how they are represented as well as how they are valued and worshipped by Hindus.

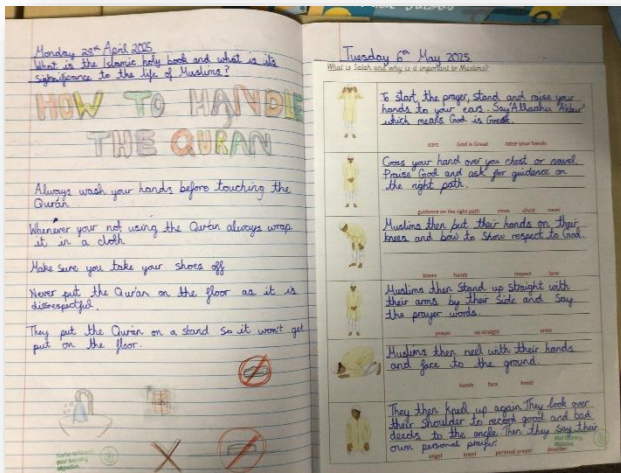




Year 5

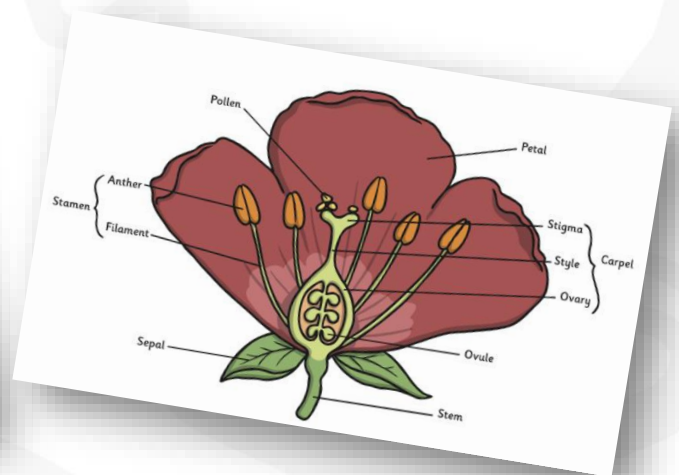
In English this term we have been reading and inspired by the book 'The Whale.' We have created a non-chronological report about either the Killer, Blue or Humpback whale. The children really enjoyed researching about their chosen whale with some children even doing extra research at home to help with their report. We then moved onto writing a narrative about the story. As it is a picture book, we have been able to be creative and use our skills of speech punctuation to bring the characters to life with our own dialogue.





In RE, we have been learning all about the religion of Islam ahead of our visit to the Mosque next term. The children have enjoyed finding out about the similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity. They have seen images of a Mosque and have learned about the rituals Muslim people follow when entering their place of worship. The children are learning about the 5 pillars of Islam and were shocked to find out that people who follow this religion pray 5 times a day.

In Science, we have been learning about how plants reproduce and had lots of fun dissecting Lilies and looking at the different parts on the inside of a flower. We have learnt about sexual and asexual reproduction in plants and are seeing if we can get some cuttings to re-grow their roots.



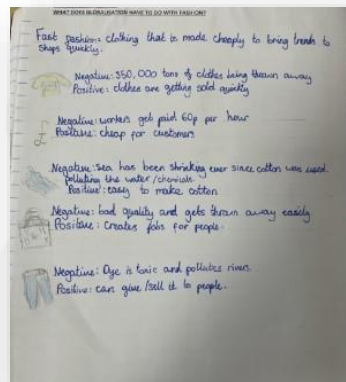


Year 6

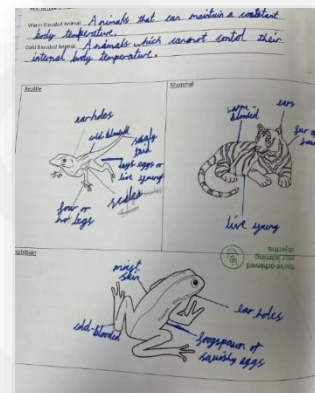
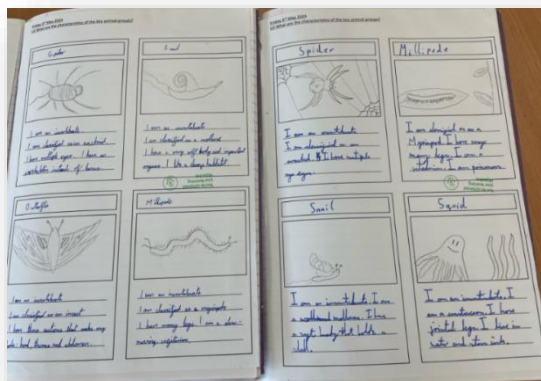
Year 6 newsletter

In English this term, we have been enjoying looking at "The Promise" and using it to write some contrasting setting descriptions of a run-down city and one that looks beautiful. We thought carefully about selecting interesting adjectives and verbs.

In geography, we have been learning about how globalisation has changed the world. We were intrigued to learn about the communication methods people had to use before there was the internet and mobile phones! Throughout the unit, we have been evaluating the positive and negative impacts of globalisation.



Our topic in science has been 'living things and their habitats', focusing specifically on the five different animal kingdoms. A particular highlight was exploring a variety of invertebrates and vertebrates. As part of this, we created fact cards on some invertebrates. Like us, you might be surprised (and slightly horrified!) by the fact a Japanese crab spider has a diameter of 4m!



St Peter's



Church of England
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After all our hard work with SATS week, we enjoyed a lovely break at the Lake Grounds. The children particularly enjoyed the delivery of ice creams from Mrs Battista and Mrs Hunt. Since then, we have loved making a start on Shrek!





Eco Update

Wow, what a great effort all of our eco team have put into our allotment! If you haven't been to visit, please do so that you can see all the plants we are growing. So far, we have sunflowers, pansies, tomatoes, beans, peas, sugar snap peas, beetroot, courgettes, pumpkins, leeks, broccoli, carrots, strawberries and raspberries! Wowzers, we can't wait to eat our delicious harvest when they grow!

