

Dear Parents and Carers,



We have had a short term 3, welcoming in the New Year and packing in lots of fun and engaging activities along the way. This term Miss Middleton and her lunchtime play leaders have started to develop our OPAL provision for all children. This approach offers children fun and stimulating games and resources that allow all year groups to play together. It is a delight to see and hear the children laughing, sharing and modelling vital skills to each other. By implementing this, we have started to see a reduction in behaviour incidents and seeing more of our children burning off energy, ready for their afternoon lessons. OPAL has many layers, and these will be rolled out gradually throughout the rest of this academic year.

One of our school development points focuses on ensuring children feel happy and safe at our school. During Term 2, we welcomed a behaviour audit of our provision into our setting to review our behaviour and conduct during various times of the day. We would like to share that Grove Park is a wonderful school for our children, with kind and friendly pupils who welcomed our visitors in a polite and respectable manner.

One thing that is truly evident from my visit to Grove Park School is the sense of community within the school. There is clear feeling of togetherness for all to see involving both staff and pupils. All pupils who I spoke to both formally and informally told me they felt safe and happy at the school and enjoyed coming to the school. It was also clear as I toured the school that staff were happy and also appeared to enjoy being within the school environment. I feel this is helped massively by the division of the school into communities, giving each area an identity and almost creating two smaller schools within one larger school.

The children at Grove Park shared how they felt heard, supported and valued. They understand our school values and can feel a difference. We will continue to work hard to support your children with their emotional wellbeing and hope that we can continue to offer them the love and kindness during their time with us.

At the start of January, as many of us do, we thought long and carefully about creating New Year's resolutions and through our assemblies, we decided to change our approach and create a personal pledge of promise. All members of our school community, made a promise to themselves for example *"to turn a negative into a positive"* or *"make new friends within the other classes."* Some children linked it to their learning and others have thought carefully about behaviours and attitudes. The pledge your child has made is personal to them and we have seen a large number of children ending this term, reaching their goal and meeting their promise. We are very proud of all the children and would like to thank them for their perseverance and dedication. Please ask your children about their promise and see if we can help them achieve their targets.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, our staff took the choir to the O2 for the Young Voices singing event. This is always a joyous time in the school calendar and our children love the experience. Having spoken to the staff and children, everyone was amazing, sang beautifully and were outstanding superstars. A big THANK YOU to all the staff for helping and making such a special event so memorable for our pupils.



As some of you are aware we have been supporting a pupil in Year 6, Jude and his family, who is currently receiving medical support for a life changing condition. Jude has been a member of our school community since 2017 and has many friends within the school. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January, a group of children from his peer group and class decided to raise money for Jude through a 24 hour ***no gaming challenge***.

Logan, Alfie, Teddy, Ted, Harry, Tommy, Archie, Maddox and Thomas raised over £400 for Jude through giving up their gaming privileges for a set period. At times, there were some moans, but they battled through, as they know the difference this money would make to Jude. We are extremely proud of these children for being such wonderful friends and looking to help others in need. This is a true mark of our school values, showing *Respect* and kind towards other, *Resilience* and perseverance to a good cause and acting *responsibly*. We, along with their proud families would like to say thank you to each of them and share how wonderful they have been.

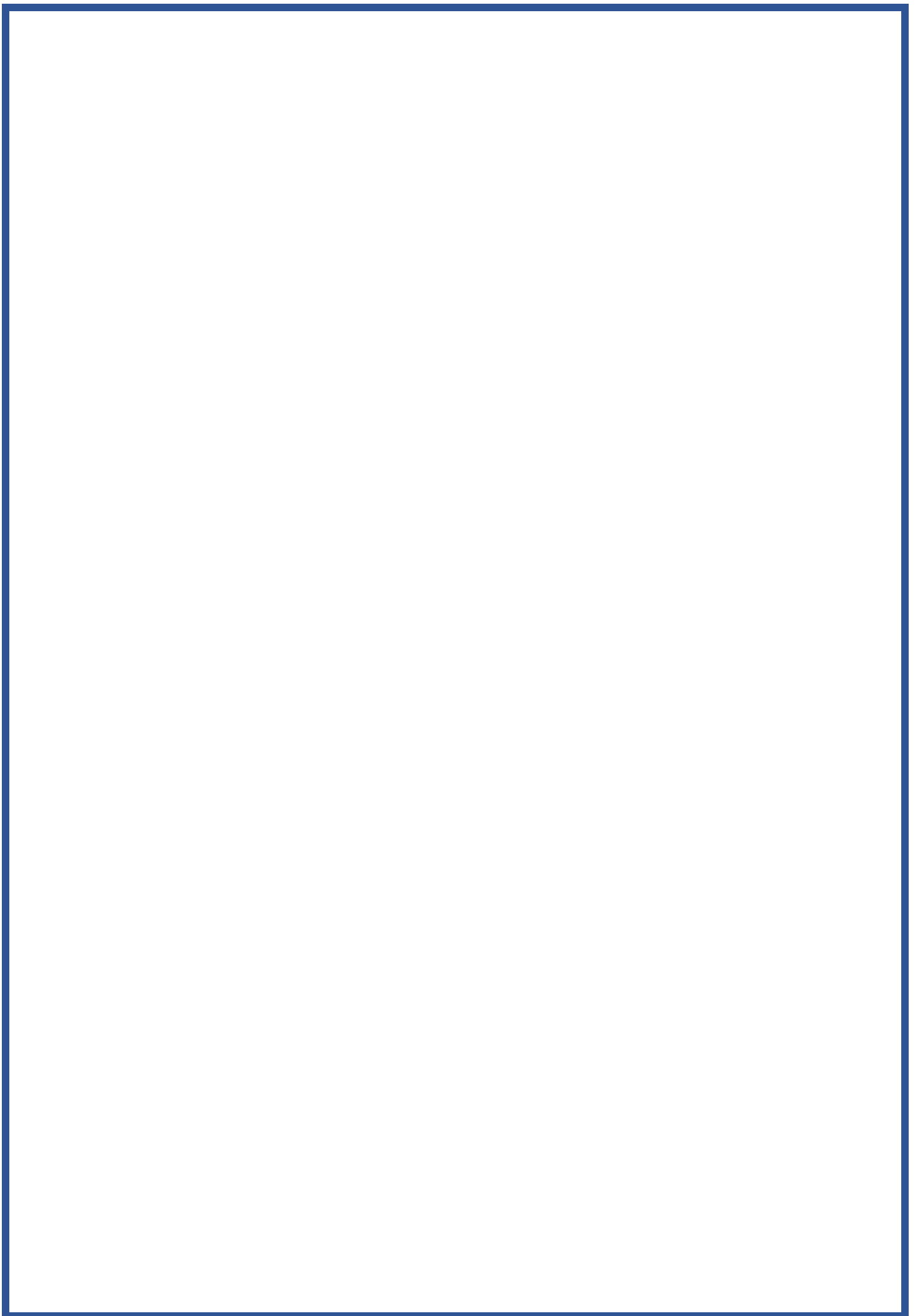
# *Congratulations*

Finally, we hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Further Notices:**

Our Local Governing Body have an exciting opportunity for two new members of our parent community to apply for governor positions for our Trust. If you feel, you can ensure clarity of vision, help embed our Trusts ethos, support with strategic direction, and help support our staff please look out for our letter, which will be sent home at the start of Term 4.

We politely ask that children refrain from bringing football cards, Pokémon cards and other trading cards into school with immediate effect. Unfortunately, it is leading to some children being upset and causing children to worry. We hope you will support us in this, and we will look for ways to ensure these interests are re-established in an appropriate manner, when it is appropriate to do so.



## Term 3 in Polar Bear Class



This term our topic is Space! We had a special visit from the astronomy dome and we learnt about the planets, moon and stars.



The Numberblocks have been helping us to learn our numbers from 6 onwards. We learnt that 'octo' means 8!



In Literacy we have been reading *Aliens Love Underpants* and *How to Catch a Star*,



We have been making rockets using junk modelling and shapes! We have even been creating our own space stories.



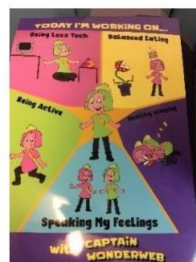
We worked in groups to try and solve the problem of how we were going to catch the star!

We had a workshop on Self Esteem. We learnt about needing to have a healthy mind and body.



Our 3 Dojos across our school are: Ready, Respect and Safe.

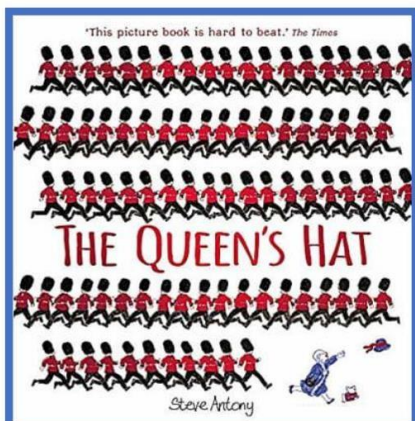
When we get to 20 Dojos we get to wear a special medal and have our photo in a frame - make sure you look out for this!



# Puffin Class



This term Mrs Fisher has enjoyed getting to know all of the lovely proud Puffin children, they have been so welcoming! Well done Puffins! We have been learning about the importance of the three Queens over time in History. The children have loved reading stories about the Queens and pretending to be regal in our lessons.



In science, we have been learning about the changing weather and the implications upon their surroundings. We enjoyed a winter discovery walk and noted many changes. We enjoyed investigating ice and its properties. I was amazed by the ideas of where we needed to place the ice to ensure it melted! We definitely have some budding Scientists in Puffin class.

In Art we have been sketching, using pastels and a variety of resources to produce portraits of the Queens. Weaving was also a big hit in Puffin class as we were amazed by the children's skills!



In our discovery work, we have been learning about the different clothes the Queens wore and we had fun designing and making crowns. We have looked at toys from olden times and it was agreed that we have a lot more exciting toys nowadays, but we do still like the marbles.

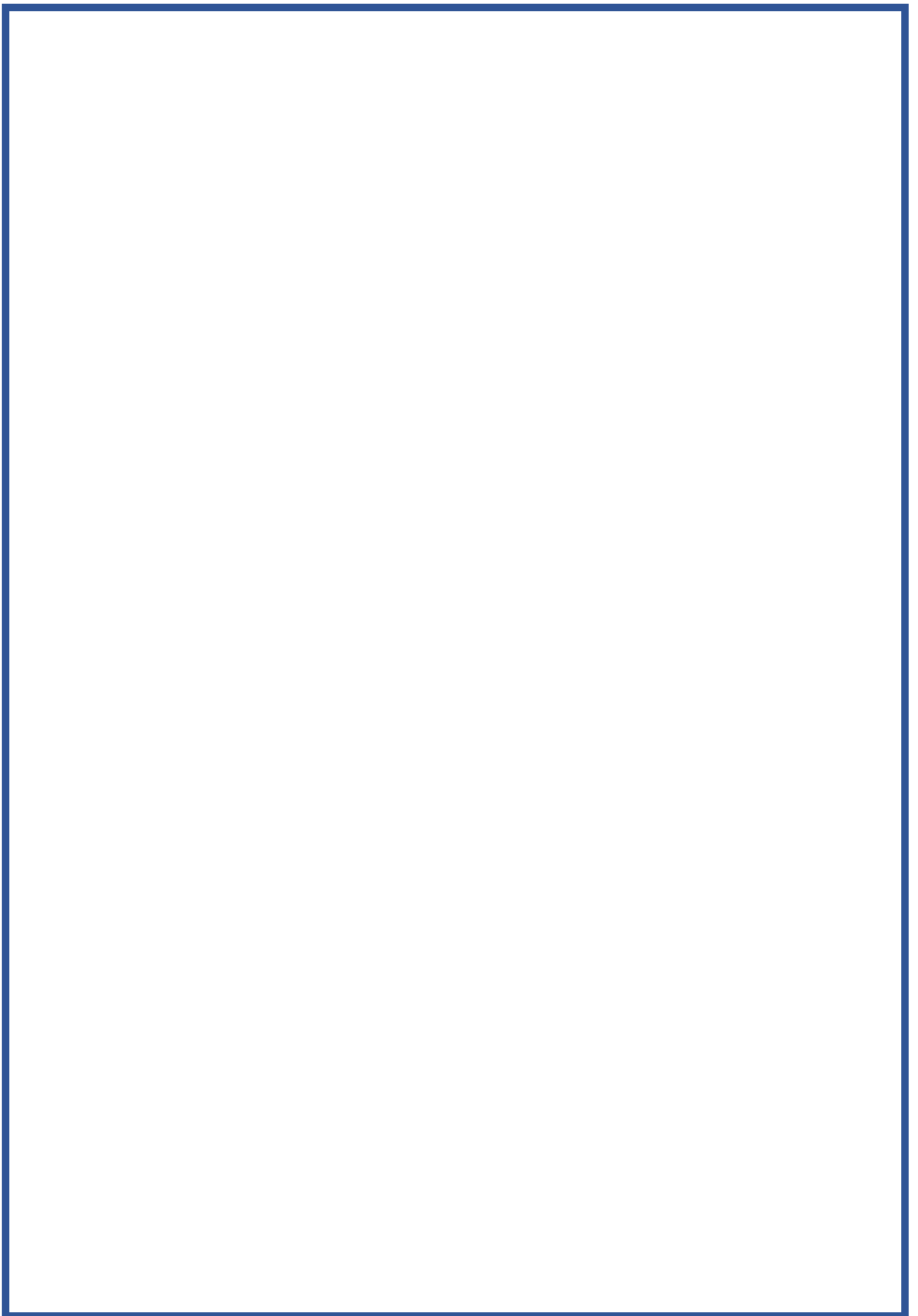


We all loved learning about how different religions welcome new babies.

We have been really pleased with all the children logging into Numbot at home, it really does make a difference to your child's mathematical development 😊



Congratulations to our school values certificate winners this term: Alicia, Kayla and Willow.

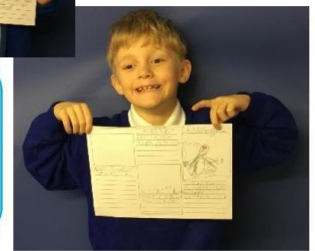
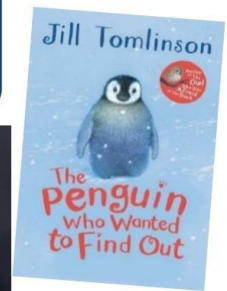




# Year 2 - Snowy Owls

Term 3 has been chilly term, in every nature! Our discovery learning has been based on ice and we have enjoyed learning about all things frozen!

Our writing text this term was 'The Penguin Who Wanted to Find Out'. The story has developed our understanding of the lives of Emperor penguins. We have written information leaflets about them, described how it would feel as a chick growing up and even written a letter to convince Mrs Flain to allow us to have a penguin at school!



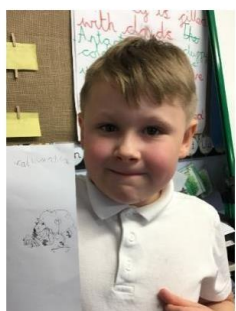
In maths, we have been learning how to multiply and divide. We can confidently use a range of methods to answer these questions, helped by our ability to count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. We've looked at statistics and we can read and interpret tally charts, pictograms and bar charts. We have also been learning how to measure length and height.

Within our Discovery lessons, we have learnt about the poles and the equator and how to use a compass to read a map. We have also learnt about famous ice explorers including Hilary, Scott and Bancroft. Our famous scientist of the term was David Attenborough. We have used his passion for preventing global warming to inspire our learning about the impact humans are having on ice habitats.



This term, we have created so many beautiful pieces of art work! We have looked at the colour wheel and used cold colour oil pastels to blend The Northern Lights. We created a multi-media piece of art inspired by Romare Bearden and also practised our sketching skills by drawing Arctic animals.

In RE we have been learning about places of the worship for Christians and Muslims. We also participated in a PSHE workshop all about self-esteem. It helped us to understand the importance of physical and mental health.

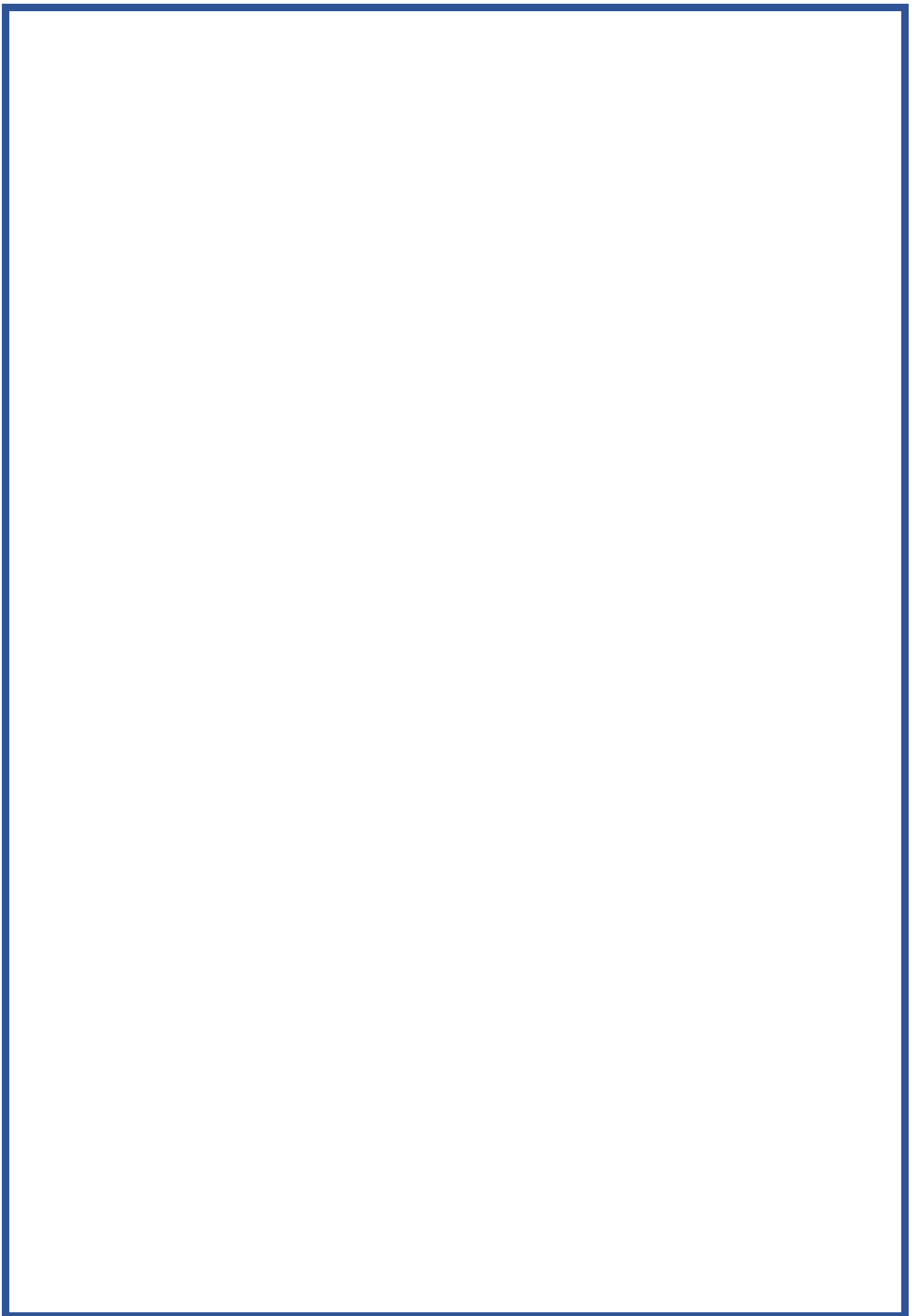


The children have loved sharing the habitats they have made at home. Thank you for all the effort that went into making them!



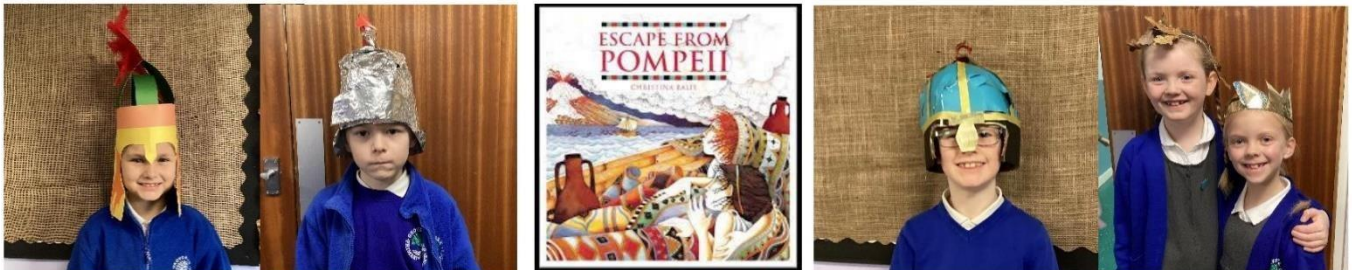
A huge congratulations to our class value winners for the autumn term  
Molly, Lily, Finley H.J, Freddie, Mojola and Scarlett

Next term, our topic will be 'Australia'. We are so excited for our Digeridoo workshop!  
Our PE days will remain as Tuesdays & Thursdays



# Narwhal Class

This term in Narwhal Class our topic was 'Rise of the Romans'.



We have been reading a book called 'Escape from Pompeii'. The children have worked hard to produce different pieces of writing this term. This has included a diary, letter and a setting description. The children also made their own character and plot and re-told the story using their own ideas.

The children have particularly enjoyed learning about food this term. In science we have explored different food groups and why they are important to us. The children created a plate of their favourite meal and were able to talk about the different food groups that were missing from their favourite meal. We also looked at labels from different food packaging to compare the ingredients and nutritional value of them.

We learnt about different foods that Romans ate and the children were not impressed that they ate flamingo tongues, stuffed dormice or ostrich brains! The children were able to use this information to design a banquet of Roman foods and label them.

The children also learnt the different clothes that Romans wore and were able to talk about how the clothes between men and women differed.

Other topics that the children have learnt this term:

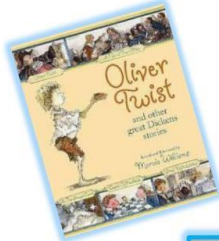
- French - animals and colours
- Computing - PowerPoints
- PSHE - Different ways to pay, how to budget and future jobs
- Religion and World Views - what is important to us and what is important to Hindus.
- Maths - money, pictograms and measuring
- PE - Outdoor PE - invasion games and exploring the role of an



# Arctic Fox Class

This term our Discovery topic has been 'Steaming Through Time'. We have learnt about The Industrial Revolution, and how Victorian engineers and inventors, such as George Stephenson and Alexander Graham Bell changed Britain.

Our Science topic this term has been 'Sound', and we've had great fun thinking about how sound is made and travels. We even tried our theories out by creating string telephones!



Our guided reading and writing texts this term has been based on stories by Charles Dickens. The children have loved listening to David Copperfield, and have produced some amazing pieces of writing, which have included fronted adverbials and punctuated speech. We continue to focus on spelling words correctly and using a more rich and varied vocabulary.



Thank you as always for supporting your children with their home learning. The children have shown off their talents by producing some fantastic pieces of art for our creative element of home learning tasks this term. Thank you too for continuing to read with your children at home.

This term in PE, as part of our 'inclusive games' topic, we have enjoyed taking part in archery. The children have really enjoyed the challenge of remembering all the elements to hitting the bullseye!



Our Design & Technology topic this term was discovering and making bridges. We learnt about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and how he designed and engineered bridges. We tested our engineering skills by creating our own spaghetti truss bridges!

Respect Responsible Resilience Resourceful

Congratulations to our class Value winners

Harper, Ava F, Sophie,  
Scarlett & Riccardo



Next Term our topic will be  
'The Natural World'

Our PE days will remain the same.

Mondays and Wednesdays  
Please can PE kits return to school  
in the first week of the new term  
and include warm outdoor clothing.

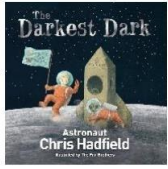
Thank you



Just a little reminder that yellow reading records need to come into school every day please. Thank you.



# Year 5 - Snow Leopards



Linking to our topic, in English we have been reading 'The Darkest Dark' by Chris Hadfield. The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading about Chris Hadfield. The children loved watching Chris tackle his fear of the dark to be able to become an astronaut. In Reading, we have looked at 'Exploring Space'. The children have learnt lots about The ISS, Chris Hadfield's achievements as an astronaut, and looking at different pioneers in space.

Our topic this term has been Above and Beyond. The children thoroughly enjoyed their school trip to the Royal Observatory and Planetarium. Snow Leopards said their favourite part of the trip was the planetarium as they got to see all the planets and the zodiac signs. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they represented the school fantastically.



In Science this term, the children have looked at Earth and space. They have enjoyed learning about the movements of the planets and the moon. They have also learnt a song and a rhyme to help them remember the order of the planets!

Also, this term we have looked at the following topics:

- Art – We have enjoyed using charcoal to create moon pictures – these were excellent. Have some fantastic artists in Snow Leopards.
- DT – The children worked in groups to design and test moon buggies using lots of old junk! They have shown excellent collaboration skills.
- RE – We have continued to explore the big question of 'What influences religions on how to dress.'
- PE – We have enjoyed doing rugby outside. We have learnt that we must throw the ball backwards, and how to attack and defend our tags.



In Maths, the children have shown great resilience when faced with tricky learning. The children have been working on their multiplication and division. As a class, we have found using column multiplication and bus stop method division challenging! We have used place value counters and drawn these on whiteboards to help us to understand exchanging! We have also started the first of our fraction units!

Congratulations to our value certificate winners this term – Sara, Freddie, Reggie, Neve and William.



# Year 6 - Reindeer Class



This term our topic was 'Please Sir, I want some more.'

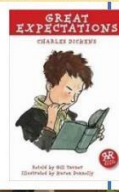
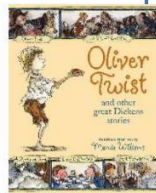
We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Rochester Cathedral and the Guildhall Museum immersing ourselves into the lives of Victorians.

This term we have considered the impact from the empire, monarchy, social change, and innovation during the Victorian Era. Through the life and work of Charles Dickens we have explored what life was like for children & adults in relation to workhouses. We have also discovered what crime & punishments looked like in comparison to modern day.

DT: Linking our understanding of traditional clothing from the Victorian Era, such as 'waistcoats', we considered the work of famous artists, making comparisons to how these have changed in modern fashion. We used this knowledge to design, make and evaluate our own waistcoats, recapping our sewing skills.



Linking to our topic, in English we have been reading a comic-strip version of Oliver Twist. We have produced a description, monologue, persuasive letter, diary entry and a rewritten narrative from Oliver's point of view. We have also been working on correct use of semi-colons. Our Pathways to Read book 'Great Expectations' has created excellent discussions for making predictions and inferences using evidence from the text and illustrations.



In science, we have learnt about Charles Darwin, who is widely known for his contributions to the theory of Evolution. We have had some exciting investigations looking at adaptations and their purpose.

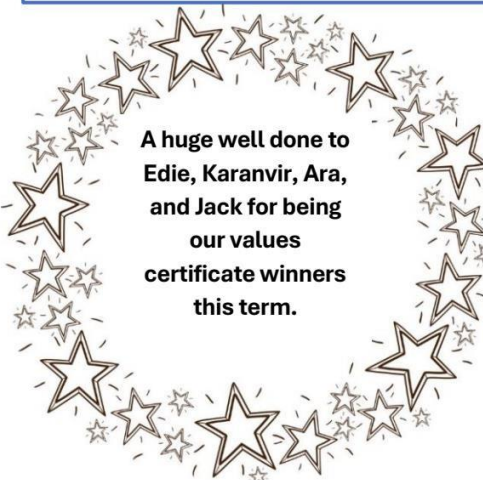


In maths this term we moved onto decimals and percentages, whilst recapping our learning on fractions along the way. We have just started to move onto the challenge of algebra, which we will continue with at the start of next term.



Other topics that the children in Year 6 have been studying this term:

- Sports (French)
- Creating graphs (Computing)
- No Outsiders storybook & Healthy living (PSHE)
- Gymnastics & Ultimate Frisbee (PE)
- What do religions say to us when life gets hard? (RE)



**A huge well done to Edie, Karanvir, Ara, and Jack for being our values certificate winners this term.**

We are looking forward to making more memories with your children in Term 4 to start our new topic 'Can we save the tigers?', including creating our very own tiger traps in DT in the first week of the term.

