

Year 5 Update

Forest School

After our welcome routines, we revisited the 'Needs Understanding' practice we introduced in our last session. Emma spread out different needs in a circle and children chose to stand by a need that they wanted to meet at Forest School today. The needs ranged from connection and creativity to choice, community, and discovery.

Next the children took part in a team challenge. Each team was given a wooden ring with five strings attached and a tennis ball. The children had to work together by holding the strings and attempting to keep the ball balanced on the ring without touching it! It was quite a challenge and required a lot of effective communication, focus and patience. Once the individual teams became comfortable with keeping the ball balanced, Emma invited them to be creative and invent different challenges for themselves. Some worked to reach a certain destination, some changed speed, some made the ball go higher and lower, and a few groups even went over the slackline with the ball remaining on the ring the whole time! Afterwards, the children reflected on what went well and what difficulties they had had (e.g. "To start with we didn't have a shared plan, but then we began listening to each other.").

Back at the log circle, Emma told the children about Imbolc. Imbolc is an ancient festival marking the midway point between winter and spring, traditionally celebrated on February 1st or 2nd. This year it was on Saturday. It honours the returning light and the first stirrings of new life in nature. Associated with the Celtic goddess Brigid also known as St Brigid, Imbolc symbolises renewal, new beginnings, and the promise of warmer days ahead. Then Emma read a story about goddess Brigid waking up and the returning light of spring.

For the rest of the session, some children took part in traditional St Brigid crafts including making St Brigid's crosses out of rushes and dolls made from wheat and lavender. Other children chose to help Carrie develop the hibernaculum. This involved moving heavy logs to surround the area and then digging soil from the digging area to build up the sides as we plan to plant some more bulbs and other flowers in it to attract more wildlife. Unfortunately, the squirrels have had a lot of fun digging up the bulbs in the tyre planters and children in both groups spent time contemplating different ideas to stop this happening again once we had replanted the bulbs. We observed a lot of independent and creative problem solving between children and various proposals were considered. We are hoping the final plans that the afternoon group put in place will work. Fingers crossed!

To conclude the session, Emma invited the children to reflect on the messages of Imbolc and what new beginning they may choose as an intention or what they may grow in from this point on. Then we sang an Imbolc-inspired song called 'Light is Returning'.

R.E

Topic: mission

- This week the children have continued to research the role of the Bishop.
- In Assembly this week the children learnt about Candlemas, where the infant Jesus was presented to the temple. This led to some children carrying out their own class worships with Candlemas as a focus.

Key vocabulary: Mission, inspiration, community, charity, apostle, Candlemas, presentation.

English

National Storytelling Week

On Tuesday, the Year 5 pupils paired up with a pupil from year 2 for National Storytelling week. It was lovely to see them talk so confidently about their favourite stories and to encourage the younger children to read to them.

Padua:

Focus: Writing to inform

- The children have planned and started writing their own persuasive letter to Elaine.

Key vocabulary: persuasive techniques, hyperbole, power of three, alliteration, anecdotes.

Next week we will be finishing and editing their letters. The children will then carry out a writing assessment based on what they have learned this half term.

Lisbon:

Books: The Skies Above My Eyes, The Street Beneath My Feet, The Sea Below My Toes

Focus: Writing to inform

- The children explored the texts, searching for key features of non-fiction texts. They revised the use of glossaries and the effectiveness of bullet points.

Maths

- The children have been adding and subtracting fractions, including mixed numbers and improper fractions.
- The children have been applying their learning to reasoning questions.

Key vocabulary: addition, subtraction, fraction, convert, simplify.

Pre teaching: we will be focusing the four operations addition, subtraction, division and multiplication.

Science:

Topic: Forces: Earth and Space

- The children have been learning about the movement of the Moon around the Earth and researching the moons of other planets.
- Padua created a model of the phases of the moon using Oreo cookies, Lisbon will get a chance to do this next week.

Key vocabulary:

Pre-teaching: The children will be learning about how the rotation of the earth causes day and night.

Alarm Test

Yesterday we tested our invacuation alarms. As with our fire drills, the children behaved very sensibly. Well done to everyone.

Key information:

- Next week is internet safety week, children will be carrying out activities in class.
- Friday 14th February school closes at 3.30pm for half term.
- Thursday 13th March we will be holding a Harry Potter themed day in school for the Year 5 pupils. We invite them to dress as a character from the book on this day.

Have a lovely weekend,
Amy, Catherine, Rachel and Magda