

Classroom News

Spring Term 2 — February 2024

Reception

Our topic this half term has been 'Space'

We have been learning lots of information about space and astronauts. We learnt about the first moon landing and about how astronaut eat, drink and sleep in space. We have been working hard to design new rockets and look forward to building them later this week when our grown ups come to spend time with us in class.

We have been learning the names of different planets and facts about them. Did you know that Mercury is the smallest planet in the solar system? In PE, we went on a special mission to the moon and practised jumping and landing in different ways. In art we have been exploring the work of the artist Van Gogh and made our own space themed pictures after looking at his painting Starry Night.

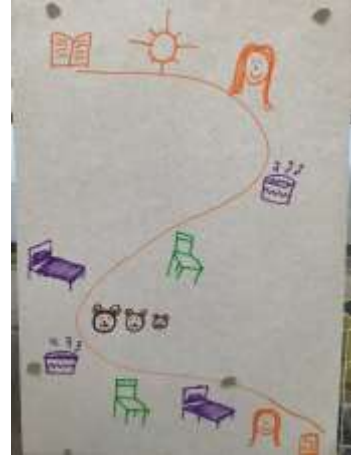


Whatever Next!

Once upon a time

Whooosh

The End



Signs of Winter

We have been looking at changes that happen during Winter. We wrapped up warm and went on a walk through the school grounds to see what signs we could find.



Ice

We also explored ice and described how it felt. We observed what happened to it when it was left in the classroom.

It is
melting, it's
getting smaller!



It is cold and
slippery!

It's making my
hands wet!

Maths

We continue to learn about numbers to 5. We have practised counting and ordering and are getting very fast at showing ways to make amounts to 5 using our fingers and counters.



3 and 2 makes
5

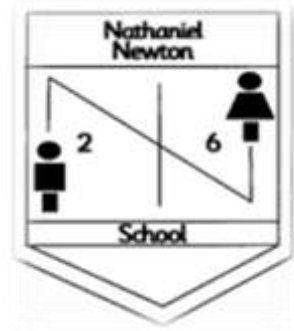


New play area

The children are enjoying climbing and exploring on our new play area.
A big thank you to the Friends of Nathaniel Newton for their hard work fundraising towards the renovation of this area.



Year 1 Newsletter



Year One have had a totally Fan-Toy-Tastic time this half term! **Let's start with modern Toys...**

To begin learning about Toys, we opened our topic by inviting the children to bring in some of their favourite toys from home to share and explore with their friends. It was lovely to see the children describing and discussing their toys during carpet sessions and also writing about them. We spent some time considering which materials modern toys were made from and the properties that made them safe and useful. The children worked hard at sorting and grouping toys into different categories and comparing their similarities and differences.

English in Year One

Dogger by Shirley Hughes We have very much enjoyed reading the story of sad little Dave who loses his most precious toy dog, "Dogger". We couldn't believe it when some of our very special classroom toys went missing....we had to write some sentences describing the toys to help find them. Fortunately it worked!

Little Red Riding Hood

One day, we were outside at playtime and somebody spotted an abandoned bag on the grassy embankment. Naturally, curiosity overwhelmed us and so we took the bag inside to explore it further... Having had a peek inside, we discovered a red cape, a bunch of beautiful red flowers, oh and a delicious looking chocolate cake. Do you think you can guess who we imagined the bag belonged to? And so began our Talk for Writing module on Little Red Riding Hood. This week we are innovating and transcribing our stories—it's very exciting! Wonderful to observe the progress in our Year One writers in their use of extended sentences and use of phonic skills.

Toy Day with Tommy Top-Hat...



We welcomed Tommy Top-Hat into school on January 26th for a day of **learning about toys from the past. It was very exciting and full of fun...**for the children and the teachers! Tommy (a.k.a. Greg from the Toy Specialists) brought along lots of toys for the children to play with and explore. He demonstrated how the toys worked, their mechanisms and materials and we had lots of time to enjoy

handling and playing with the toys. A selection of the toys included a Climbing Monkey, Humming Top, Musical Carousel, Cup and Ball, Hoop and Stick, Shut-the-Box, Marble Arch, Zoetrope, and many more. There were toys to play inside and also toys for outside such as skipping ropes, hobby horses, skittles, and hoopla. We also enjoyed playing Parlour games such as Oompa Oompa and Poor Pussy Cat. It was great fun!

Andy Warhol

We have enjoyed creating Pop-Art style pictures using our handprints! Just like the American artist Andy Warhol, we used bold, bright colours and repeated the image of our hand over and over again. Owl class are looking forward to showcasing them in our class assemblies this week.

Visit to Church

Vicar Heather welcomed us warmly when we visited church last week. In R.E the children have been learning about sacred places so it was decided that a trip to church to find out how the church is a sacred place for Christians would be very educational and help inform our learning and understanding. Vicar Heather encouraged the children to walk around and explore the church. She helped the children to identify special features of the church such as the pulpit, lectern, altar, candle, organ, mosaics, stained glass windows and archway. Heather also played the organ for us and we listened to the sounds that the different sized pipes made.. and as we left we could hear the bells ringing. They were very respectful in church and behaviour was excellent - I know the Year One team were very proud of all the children.

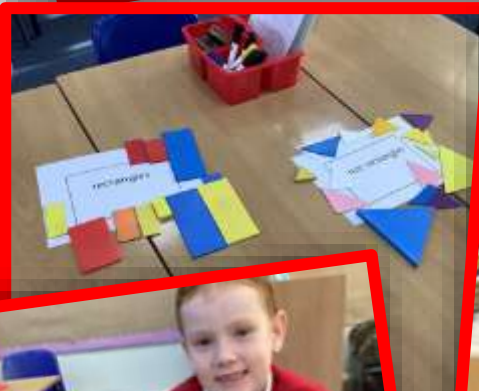
Justin from the Health Team

We were fortunate to welcome Justin from the Health Team to come and talk to Year One about the importance of Healthy Eating and Exercise. The children were brilliant at answering his questions politely and enthusiastically and loved joining in with exercises to elevate our heartbeat!

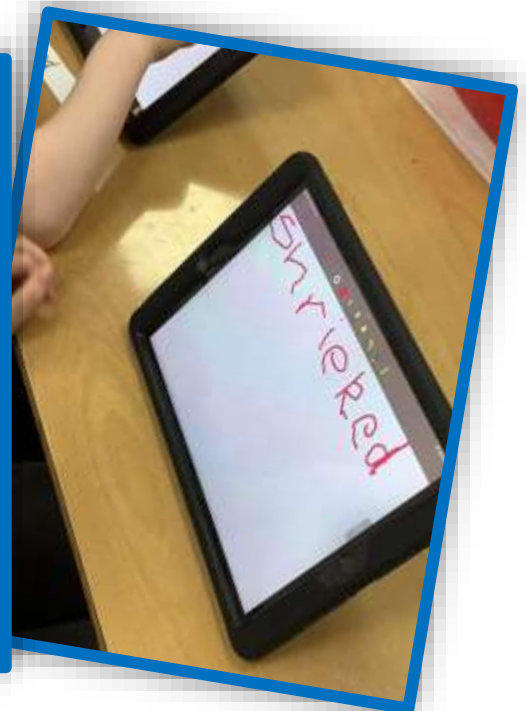
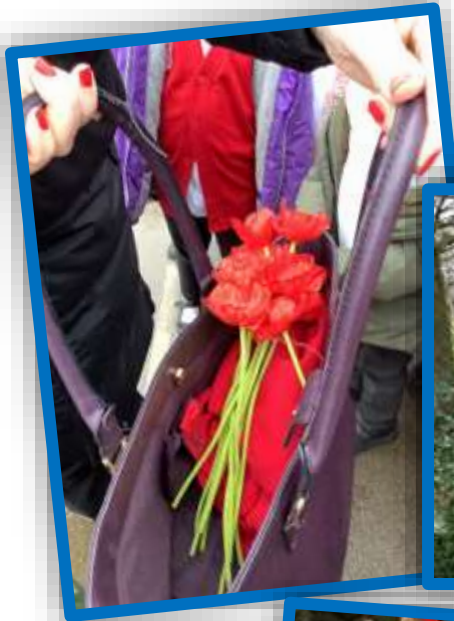
What a brilliant half term we have had! Well done to Year One again. We look forward with **enthusiasm to the weeks ahead in "Spring Two" and beginning our new topic on the British Isles.**

Mrs Fussey (Year One Team Leader) and the Year One Team

Maths



English



Church Visit for R.E

Year 1



Toy Day



Year 2

This half term the children in Year 2 have been transported back in time to the year 1666! The children have demonstrated such enthusiasm for this topic, often asking the staff in Year 2 when we can find out even more!

To begin our topic we went outside in search of a time capsule! Inside we found cheese, a diary, bread, a quill, and even a bottle of wine! We worked together to identify clues about who these items might belong to and finally found out the time capsule was from Samuel Pepys!



We tasted a variety of cheese and even baked our own bread!

In our Science lessons this half term we have been learning all about habitats. We have identified how different animals are suited to their habitats and how they adapt to these. Using all of our new knowledge, we created appropriate habitats for different animals. We worked collaboratively to create some amazing habitats for minibeasts, penguins, camels and even sharks!



We have explored lots of historical sources to find out even more information about the Plague and the Great Fire of London.



Health Team Visit

As part of our PSHE curriculum, Justin from the Health Team joined us in school to talk about the importance of eating a healthy, balanced diet. We found out all about the different types of food we should eat and why. As well as thinking about why staying hydrated during the day is very important.



In our English lessons we have enjoyed creating our own journey tales all about the character Vlad. Vlad was a little flea who lived on Pudding Lane in 1666. When writing their stories the children in Year 2 **have been working hard to follow the four 'P's when writing**, posture, pencil, position and pressure to improve our handwriting. We even created our own new version of the city of London, drawing new buildings and describing what they were made of. The children worked really hard as a team to create new streets, buildings and landmarks for the new city.



Children's Mental Health Week

This year the theme for Children's Mental Health week was 'My Voice Matters'. The children in Year 2 took part in lots of activities during the week to empower them to express themselves.



THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON!



To end a wonderful half term of learning, we have been lucky enough to experience a performance by the Trunk Theatre Company.
This was absolutely FANTASTIC!
The show brought our learning to life and we were able to showcase just how much we had learnt.



We are looking forward to the children returning to school next half term when we will have a very exciting topic all about flight to look forward to! On behalf of all of the Year Two team, I hope you have a lovely half term.

Mrs Carly Evans, Year 2 Team Leader