



Year 1 Classroom News

Spring Term 2 — March 2024

Well, we are coming to the end of a short, but fantastic half term in Year One, filled with many highlights to recount. Time has gone by so quickly!

Maths

This half term has focused on numbers 10-20 and their place value. The children have been working very hard to compare numbers, exploring difference, odds and evens as well as doubles and halves. We have considered what gives a number its place value and those numbers that might be greater or smaller than it. Four days a week we also complete Maths Mastery which is a short but engaging twenty minutes, spent exploring numbers in greater depth. We love it! The children are very familiar with a wide range of concrete resources to support their maths learning, including cubes, dienes, numicon, ten -frames, counters and Rekenreks.



Topic Learning

Over the course of the last six weeks, the children have also developed their knowledge and understanding of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland through our topic work on the British Isles. Here is a glimpse of some of the activities that have kept us very busy...

We have been studying maps of the British Isles and the children are proud to have created their own maps. They have used a key to identify land and sea and labelled the countries with their capital cities and displayed each country's flag on the map. At the very top of the map, the children have drawn a Union Jack to show the combination of the nation's flags. We have played a game involving collaboration, matching flowers to



Other highlights over the course of the half term include...

Mother's Day Afternoon

We loved sharing an afternoon with our Mum's, and other special females in our lives on Friday 8th March. The children were so very excited in the build up to the afternoon event, helping to tidy and prepare the classrooms for our important guests. They had made a beautiful card and painted a portrait of Mum to give as a small token, and each considered a message they wanted to communicate, to say thank you for all the many ways in which Mum's can love and care for us. To conclude, the children sang a song called "My mum is one in a Million" which has become something of a tradition at Nathaniel Newton!



World Book Day

Hooray for World Book Day! The children celebrated WBD and loved dressing up in their pyjamas or comfortable clothes. Each class enjoyed a day of focused activities based on a chosen book. Owls read "The Bear who Stared" by Duncan Beedie, Rabbits enjoyed The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by David and Rhonda Armitage, while Squirrels were excited to share "I Can Only Draw Worms" by Will Mabbitt. Each class

worked hard to produce a canvas and they are all on proud display in the library, so be sure to look out for them when you next pop into the library café! Take a moment also to glimpse through our comic strips, designed by the children and based on the main character in the chosen class



English

The children wrote some fantastic stories telling the tale of Jack and his magic beans! Using our Talk for Writing shared story script the children were able to retell the traditional tale on paper. They were super at extending their writing! We are currently working on writing instructions on how to Catch a Giant—if we are successful in trapping one, we will be sure to let you know! Look out for the use of time sequence words such as First, then, next and after that...

Science

This half term our topic has been focused on Plants. The children took part in a short investigative walk to explore the early signs of Spring. We spotted signs of new life such as buds appearing on trees and bushes, daffodils and crocuses growing and busy birds building nests. Over the last week or so, the children have been really pleased to see more of the spring sunshine and to enjoy some outdoor play without their coats on! Definite signs of spring...

We have planted cress and are eagerly observing its progress.... Furthermore, our learning has involved identifying different types of leaves and determining which tree they are from, as well as any berries or seeds the tree may produce. This week we are going to be drawing and labelling a daffodil with important features such as leaf, stem, seeds..



I hope you can see that children and staff have had a fabulous half term, and are really looking forward to the summer term and our upcoming topic "Knights, Castles and Dragons", and of course our trip to Tamworth Castle. It will also be lovely to enjoy the warmer weather and make opportunities to utilise our lovely outdoor space and play equipment.

Thank you for all of your support over the half term and wishing you a very happy Easter.

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





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