

## Turtles Class Report

### Spring Term 1

Despite the challenges that COVID has faced the children with in Turtles we are dealing amazingly well with all the things we have had to adapt and cope with. The children have continued to show great enthusiasm to learning.

### Home Learning

Over Spring half term 1 we have had a few children in our class working from home. They have had a structured learning timetable sent home and weekly paper learning packs delivered. These lessons and activities have been using the Oak Learning resources and a range of other alternative programmes such as Education City and Bug Club to mirror the things we have been learning in class. We have offered lots of support to these home learners and we keep in regular contact with them over the phone and via Zoom. We are also providing a home visit every Thursday when we drop off their work for the following week and collect in completed work. Our home learners are showing enthusiasm and good understanding of the work we set and despite the difficulties we are facing due to COVID at the minute they are coping and adjusting remarkably well to the changes. Most of them have also learnt lots of new skills whilst being at home which is fab!



## English

This half term we have continued to have a range of English topics that have been engaging and exciting. The children have participated well within a range of writing or drama-based tasks whilst studying a couple of different text types.

At the start of the half term, we looked at our grammar and use of exciting language. We recapped prefixes and suffixes and used our dictionary skills to try and depict the meaning of common prefixes such as sub- for submarine and anti- for antifreeze or antibullying. Some the children needed a lot of adult support to use a dictionary but we all got the hang of it with some practise.

After doing this, we started to look at a novel called *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. We completed a range of tasks to develop our understanding of the characters and setting. Again, we used out dictionary skills to understand uncommon and tricky words that we found in *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. Throughout the half term we went on to discuss the use of speech in the book, then looked at the plot and structure in more detail in order to complete our own fantasy big write.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed *The Spiderwick Chronicles* and we found the film for them to watch also. We noticed as a class how the book and film differ, how the characters are portrayed differently and which parts of the setting are the same. The children have showed excitement for this unit and want to read the second book.

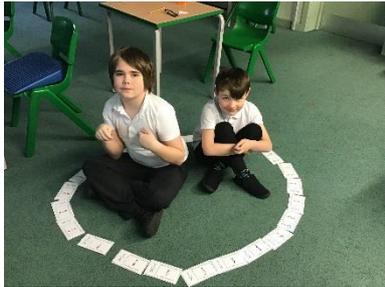


## Phonics

The children have recapped lots of phonics knowledge but we are working currently on phase 5 phonics. We have seen a great improvement with spelling from the beginning of the academic year which shows the phonics is making a positive impact to the children's writing. The children are also doing well with the fluency of their reading with a lot of them becoming more confident to read aloud.

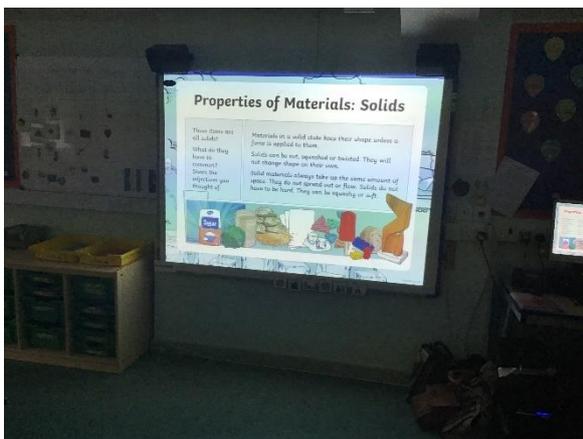
## Maths

In Maths we have learnt about a range of things over this half term including: Roman Numerals, Negative Numbers, and Fractions of amounts and shapes. We have continued to provide differentiation in Maths providing each child with a challenge in alignment with their ability. The children particularly like the loop games and practical activities where they can work independently or in pairs. Over this half term the children in Turtles have increased their ability to problem solve in maths without adult support.



## Science

In Science this half term we have learnt about Solids, Liquids and Gases and their changing state. We have shown a fantastic understanding of scientific method and predictions and we have completed lots of experiments together including measuring the weight of gases and testing the melting point of foods. We have done many practical lessons which all students have engaged with and displayed excitement towards. We have continued to work on using scientific language and evaluating the outcome of various investigations.



## Academic Interventions

In Turtles Class this half term we have continued with a range of interventions that have been chosen for each child. We are aware that the more the children participate in academic interventions, the gaps within their English and Maths knowledge reduce.

The children are currently still completing Stile Literacy & Numeracy, handwriting interventions, Spellzone and Education City on a weekly timetable.

### Therapeutic Interventions

Over Spring Term 1 the children from Turtles Class have taken part in a variety of therapeutic interventions. These include: Forest School, Build to Express, Feeling through Art and some Baking sessions. We have continued to miss doing peer massage this half term but have replaced it with 'COIVD friendly' therapeutic interventions such as mindfulness yoga, Joe Wicks workouts and Dojo feelings sessions. All children demonstrate a relaxed and calm attitude when taking part in these interventions and they look forward to experiencing new things. We have found in Turtles that when we do these sessions at the start of a day we all radiate a better attitude to learning. We have also set up a sensory tent area in the classroom where children are given the opportunity to take some sensory time with the coloured lights on and the sensory blankets and twiddles. The children love this and some of them helped to make it a positive calming space.



### Thrive

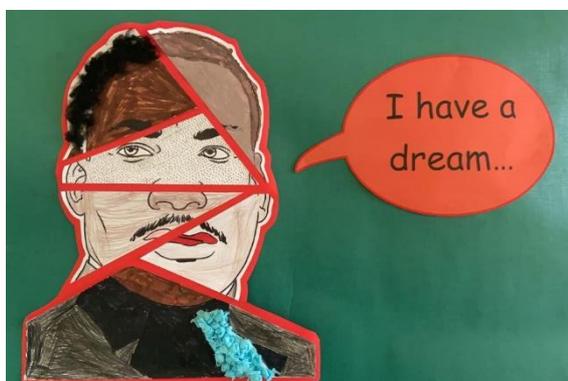
Across Spring Term 1 we have been continuing to meet the Thrive targets set for our children. Thrive is still such a big part of our timetable as it helps us to fill the social and emotional gaps our children have.

The activities that we have been doing this half term have continued to be creative, and co-operative teambuilding activities. We have also been looking at our feelings as it has recently been wellbeing week. We show enjoyment with being with the children whilst they are learning through playing and creating. We display the children's work and praise them for trying to overcome barriers and challenges they face. All of our children in class look forward to Thrive time whether that be in or outside the classroom.



## Topic

Our topic this half term has been Black History. As a class we have mostly researched and learnt about Martin Luther King. We have completed a range of different tasks to better our knowledge on why Martin Luther King was influential, what he stood for and why it was so important. We considered Martin Luther King's famous speech 'I Have a Dream...' and we considered what our dreams would be for changing the world. We also made a big collage of him for our topic board outside the classroom to show off how important he is. We have considered that there are lots of influential black figures and some of the children were able to recognise some in the media today such as Marcus Rashford and Stormzy.



## PSHE

Our focus in PSHE this half term has been valuing difference. We have looked at this topic in school and our home learners have also shown a fantastic understanding of difference. We have discussed a range of things including physical and non-physical differences and similarities between ourselves and others. We have studied difference in opinions and how we can learn to compromise, and safe and appropriate touch in terms of our boundaries and how others' boundaries may differ to our own. As always, the children have been respectful of their peers' feelings when we have shared

experiences and thoughts. Our home learners have also completed lots of task with parents to demonstrate that they understand difference.



## RE

In RE this half term we have been looking at religious pilgrimage. We have looked at what pilgrimage is, why it is so important to people and where different religious people would visit. We discussed the special places we would like to visit and why these are different to where pilgrims visit. All the children were respectful of others' choices and beliefs and asked some great questions.