Blog w.e. 08.02.19

Welcome to my penultimate blog for this half term! This week the children have been involved in ‘Safer Internet Day’ where they have focussed on how to stay safe on the internet. Whilst this is an amazing resource for us all it is also vital that children understand and are aware of the dangers that we can face. Please see our Facebook page for some of the tips that we have added to support you at home with ensuring that your children are safe online. Our football team have also been out representing the school this week and took part in a competition on Thursday where they won 2-0! We are all very proud of what amazing sportsmanship our team displayed and how brilliantly determined they are. Well done! In the words of Mr Woods – what an awesome performance!

This week in Year 3, all of the children should have had a superb time exploring the exciting exhibits at Hanley Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. However the weather decided differently and unfortunately 2 of the classes did not make it, but this will be rescheduled to ensure that they get the opportunity to take part in this. The classes that did attend did lots of new learning to support their topic and had a fantastic day - they loved having the opportunity to get up close to real-life fossils and apply their sketching skills learned last week. In English, the children have been planning and writing a conversation between Barney and Stig, characters from our class text ‘Stig of the Dump’. They began by acting out the dialogue in pairs and recording this on a talking tin. Next, they replayed their drama work and began writing their dialogue, punctuating their work carefully with inverted commas. There has been some fantastic learning taking place around how to correctly punctuate speech, which can be quite tricky, so well done Year 3! In Maths the children have moved on to recognising related multiplication and division facts by spotting patterns. The children were amazed by how simple it was to solve 3 x 30 when they already know the answer to 3 x 3! Why not ask your child to show you how it’s done! It really is fantastic to see them making links in their maths learning as this will really help them with new concepts as they move through school.

Hufflepuff have become experienced lead officers this week as they've tried to solve the murder of Julius Caesar. Children walked into their classes on Monday morning to find police tape, an outline of a body, the weapon and some witness statements. Throughout the week in both guided reading and topic work, children have learned about the unfortunate murder of Caesar and have been investigating ‘who dunnit’! Have a look at the photographs on Facebook to see the murder scene! This has definitely motivated the children and they have all been very enthused to investigate the murder! In English, children have continued to write their reports all about Roman jewellery - they are looking fantastic. In Maths, Hufflepuff have worked hard on multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers using a written method - we've sent some examples of these home for homework this week; test your child to see how they solve these - will it be a different method to how you were taught at school? Please ask them to explain the way that they have been taught so as not to cause any confusion!

This week in Ravenclaw, democracy has been a key word as Year 5 travelled back in time in their quest to understand the struggles of Victorian women and the formation of the Suffragette movement. The children have been genuinely thrilled by the 'Victorian Era' over the last two weeks and, in particular this week, the children have been enthused with discussion and activities based around the rights and roles of women. The highlight of the week was certainly when the "corrupt" Year 5 teachers threw out all the female votes on whether boys should be able to receive extra playtime which ended in a resounding "victory" for the males in the classroom! It's safe to say that the girls' faces were absolutely priceless when the votes were going in the bin and enabled them to relate to the frustration of women in Victorian times (This was all in good fun of course!). From this, Year 5 have created some magnificent formal letters to the Victorian Prime Minister arguing their point about whether women should indeed receive the right to vote. Away from Victorians, Year 5 have made some excellent strides in their understanding of number with a particular focus on square and cubed numbers during Power Maths. They have worked hard on this and made pleasing progress, so please challenge them at home about how to work these out and what the mathematical symbols look like and mean. The children have also developed their understanding of key vocabulary such as ‘equality’ and ‘democracy’ during work on British Values.

The year 6 children have completed their evacuation leaflet in English this week. We are sure that this would have been a fantastic supportive document which could have been used by children during the war to ensure their experience was informed and pleasurable. The children are really enjoying learning all about the war and are fascinated by what actually happened during this time. In Maths, children have wowed teachers through their understanding of adding and subtracting fractions which include mixed numbers and improper fractions. It is fantastic to see them growing in confidence in a usually tricky area of the curriculum. They have also shown progress in their morning arithmetic sessions which is amazing! Thank you for supporting them at home with getting ready for their SATs tests. In French, they have been learning about vocabulary for positions which will allow them to describe the local area. During E-safety day, the children discussed how messages online stay out there forever. They have looked at the impact of this on friendships and online safety.

As usual, thank you for your ongoing support of both our school and your children. Hope you don’t get too wet this weekend!

Many thanks

Mrs Carrigan