Blog w.e. 14.02.2020

The final week of Spring 1! What a funny weather week it has been with the unexpected snow impacting on planned events at school. I would like to thank you all for your rapid response to the early closure on Monday which meant that everyone got home safely without spending too long stuck in traffic! I know that there will have been lots of children feeling disappointed that the disco was cancelled but rest assured it will be rearranged! We apologise for any inconvenience caused but with the uncertain forecast we had to put the safety of our children first which I am sure you will completely understand.

On Tuesday we celebrated internet safety day. The theme this year was ‘#freetobe’ with a focus on how children act online and how they share their online identity. There was a focus on looking after their online profiles and being responsible internet users – the children completed an activity which allowed them to say #freetobe - and be proud of what makes them unique. The children had lots of fun from designing their own avatars to creating posters, at the same time as learning about being safe online.

It has also been our Parent’s Evening this week – it is always lovely to see so many of you in attendance at these evenings to find out all about your wonderful children and how well they are doing at school. I always enjoy the chance to see you all and get chance to speak to you so many thanks for joining us and supporting the academy. If you haven’t managed to make an appointment with your child’s teacher please ensure that you do so as soon as possible as it really is important that we work together in the best interests of the children.

At the start of the week, in English, Year 3 wrote their descriptive piece all about the centre of the earth. They used their senses to write expanded noun phrases and prepositional phrases describing each aspect of the setting. As the week has progressed they have looked at their own work and how they can improve and up-level their writing focusing upon one sentence at a time. In Maths the children have continued to divide two digit numbers by one digit numbers but this week they were looking at other ways to partition the number based on multiplication factors – this is a great example of why the children really do need to learn their times tables. By Wednesday the children started to look at dividing with a remainder and what this means. The children explored and used patterns within a 100 square to support them with their mental maths. This week the children have been developing their vocal cords in their music lesson. They have been learning the famous Bob Marley song, ‘Three Little Birds’ and looking at how they are able to manipulate the pitch and volume of their own voice. Why not ask them to give you a sole performance at home?  In Science, Year 3 have been completing their final experiments on rock formation and have been writing up how the three rock types are formed in readiness to complete their post assessments comparing what they knew at the start of the unit and what they have learnt.

Year 4 have had a busy last week of term. They finished their topic by writing about how sound travels through the different parts of the ear. They used drama to show the sound/vibration travelling through the air and how it enters the ear canal and travels into the middle ear and then sends messages to the brain. In English, the children have also finished their final drafts about the poor orphan boy in the Pied Piper. They used descriptive language to describe his bad luck when he was hit by a carriage. The children used a variety of skills like adverbs, expanded noun phrases and ‘show not tell’ – what clever writers they are becoming. In Maths they have finished their unit about multiplication and division and used these operations to solve problems. The children started a new unit on measure and have been looking at area and what this means. This is a new skill and they have been using concrete apparatus to help them understand the concept of finding the area of a shape.

This week Year 5 have been reading the poem ‘If’ by Rudyard Kipling. The children have been annotating the poem and discussing the meaning of different verses and the language features included. It has led to some interesting discussions around vocabulary and why the poet chose particular words. In maths, children have continued to learn about fractions, focusing on mixed numbers, improper fractions and number sequences – there are some complex concepts here and we are very proud of how well the children are doing with these. The children have even converted mixed numbers into improper fractions. Year 5 have been consolidating their learning in Science through writing an explanation text about forces, including all they have learned about friction, gravity, air resistance and water resistance. In music, they have been listening to and appraising different songs from the rock genre, such as ‘We will rock you’ by Queen and comparing them with our focus song, ‘Living on a Prayer’ by Bon Jovi. Pupils have really enjoyed art this week as they have made their skyscrapers using recycled materials. They have been designing these for the past couple of weeks and so were excited to create them. The children worked in groups and included one idea from each group members’ design.

In year 6 this week, children have been developing their mathematical understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. They are successfully converting between them and applying them into worded problems – well done Year 6! In English, they have completed their writing of a balanced arguments and have also produced poetry in the form of Kennings related to the Spider and the Fly. These have been great successes and the teachers have thoroughly enjoyed reading through them. In their PE and healthy lifestyles learning, children have produced a healthy breakfast plan. Why not ask your child to explain what they included in their morning plan and why?

All teachers have been assessing pupils’ reading this week, in order to select the correct level for a graded home reading book, which will be coming home after the half-term break.

I would like to thank you all once again for your ongoing support and wish you all a lovely half term break. Hopefully we have seen the last of the snow and wintery weather. Have a lovely restful week and we look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school on Monday 24th February.

Mrs Carrigan