Blog w.e. 03.05.19

Welcome back to my first blog of the summer term! It has been a busy first week back but so lovely to see the all of the children so happy, smiley and ready to learn. We want to say a huge thank you to Year 6 this week for being so positive about attending school on Thursday when everyone else was off for polling day. It was very impressive to see so many of you with such enthusiastic attitudes – well done all of you! We could tell that they all really appreciated the pizza! We know that it has been tricky for some parents/carers to arrange child care and we appreciate that these enforced closures do cause some inconvenience, however these are beyond our control and we genuinely appreciate your understanding and support with such matters. You will, by now, be aware that we are also being used as a polling station on Thursday 23rd May, so will again be closed to pupils. We are required to comply with these requests as part of the People Act 1993 - schedule 1, part 3 regulation 22.

The first week of the summer term for Year 3 has been a brilliant one! In Maths, Year 3 children have concluded their first fractions unit by applying their skills in their end of unit tests. The teachers and I were very impressed by their super scores and their ability to explain their methods for each question with their partner after the test. By the end of the week, the children have begun their length topic in Maths, making a fantastic start by learning to accurately measure classroom objects with rulers. In English, Year 3 have begun reading their new class text, ‘Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters’, an African tale which is very similar to the traditional tale of Cinderella. The children have been analysing the text and its pictures to infer the feelings of the main characters, Manyara and Nyasha. They have also taken on the role of these characters in drama, adjusting their body language and facial expressions to suit the characters' personalities and feelings. In Science, Year 3 have kick-started their ‘plants and flowers’ topic by each planting a sunflower seed into a pot and placing it in the sunlight. The children will be watching their pots carefully to observe any signs of germination. How exciting! Keep up the good work next week!

Hufflepuff have had yet another exciting week of learning ranging from challenges in fractions to writing fabulous character descriptions. In English this week, children have been focussing on applying their nouns and pronouns skills to help them write a character description for Mr Toad, one of the main characters from the story ‘The Wind in the Willows’. In class, children have practised speaking in the Queen's English, walking as Mr Toad and looking at his 'superior' lifestyle – it has been great fun and the children have thoroughly enjoyed acting ‘in role’ as these characters (I’m sure they would love to show you at home!). Hufflepuff have also worked extremely hard in Maths where they have continued to embed their fraction skills by applying them to some tricky challenges set by the teachers, who unfortunately could not catch the children out! Also this week, children have begun to look at the Wind in the Willows characters and animals where they have looked at the habitats of these creatures.

An interesting first week back in Ravenclaw as the children have started their amazing, new topic: ‘The Clash of the Titans’. This topic will be based around the history of Greek Mythology and Ancient Greece and is spearheaded by a new class text: ‘Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief’ by Rick Riordan. The children have really enjoyed this book so far and have not wanted to put it down. They have completed shared reading and group activities, using retrieval and inferential skills to develop initial ideas about the novel’s main protagonist: Percy Jackson. In 'Power Maths', Year 5 have continued their work with fractions by exploring sequences and ordering and comparing fractions using their previously built knowledge before Easter - well done Year 5 for making some challenging work look so easy! Finally, in Science, Ravenclaw have started to explore ‘Space’ which they have been so excited about! They began to explore the wonderful wonders of the Solar System and the planets within them. A class model was built using equipment and spherical fruits; and intriguing concepts were debated including planet names, distances and features. Take a look at the photographs of their models on Facebook – you will be very impressed I’m sure!

The first week back for year 6 has been a very productive one and as the SATs tests draw ever closer we are delighted that the children have come back refreshed and ready to learn. Their SATs revision continues and they are focussed on perfecting exam techniques and tackling problems in SPaG, reading and mathematics. Please continue to encourage your child to revise, in short sessions, the key vocabulary and terms given out prior to the Easter break. Alongside revision the year 6 children have also begun to unpick the text ‘Holes’ by Louis Sachar: discussing the main character ‘Stanley Yelnats’ and the setting ‘Camp Green Lake’. The children are looking forward to finding out how the plot develops. This text will be the focus for generating evidence for their writing assessment.

Just to remind you that full attendance for all children is of great importance at all times but this is particularly the case at present for Year 6 to ensure that they don’t miss any of the final preparations for the SATs which commence on Monday 13th May. We know that we can count on your full support with ensuring that children are in school every day.

Enjoy the long weekend,

Many thanks

Mrs Carrigan