

Reception

It has been another busy term for our Reception children! We started the term with a chilly walk to Bilton and Woodfield Library. The children enjoyed listening to Richard, Cath and Joyce read stories, exploring the books available and even a special tour of the facilities! Books are very special to us in school, and we love sharing stories together to spark imagination and a lifelong love of reading.



We stomped into our animal topic with Now Press Play. The children were immersed in a dinosaur adventure, helping a baby dinosaur find its way back to Mum. This continued in P.E. lessons, where children were challenged to stomp, scurry and creep around the hall! Throughout this topic, children have learnt interesting facts and used vocabulary to describe and compare different animals. The children loved learning through the story *Giraffes Can't Dance*. We discussed the skills we would like to improve, and the children had the opportunity to try out a variety of activities, stepping outside of their comfort zones to challenge themselves and try something new.



Dave from 'I Want to Ride My Bike' has been visiting each week to support the children in using balance bikes and learning to ride pedal bikes. The children have been developing key skills such as balance, coordination, steering and control, as well as building their confidence and independence. They have also been learning how to start and stop safely and how to navigate space while being aware of others. He has commented on how impressed he has been with the children's resilience and determination!

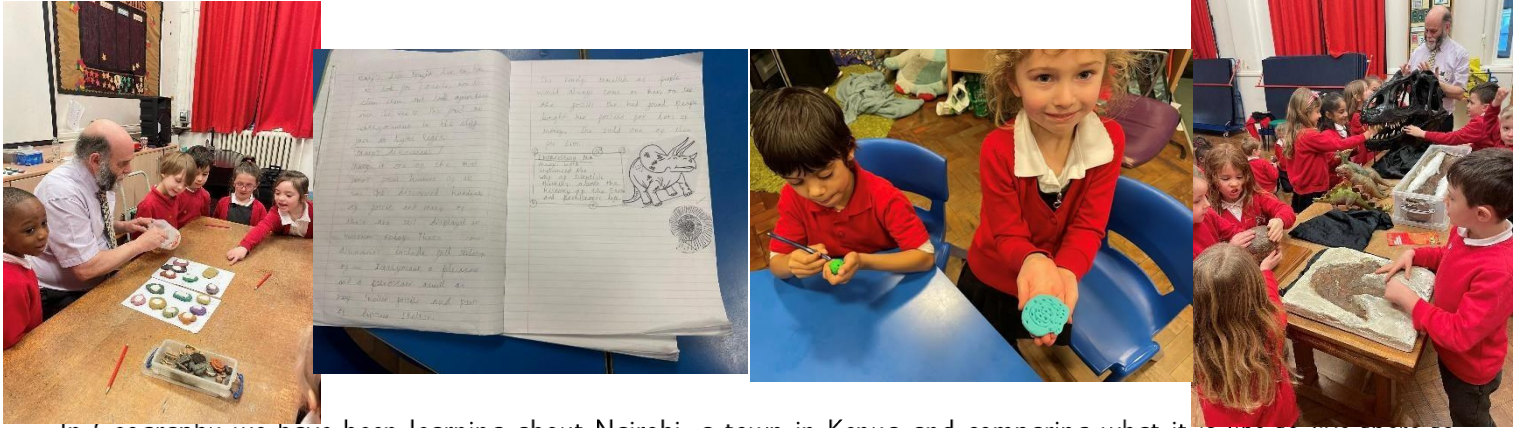


A huge addition to our curriculum this term has been Forest Schools. Although the children have been very excited about it, they have listened carefully and fully immersed themselves in the experience. They have loved exploring, building dens and being creative outdoors using natural resources—not to mention enjoying popcorn and drinking hot chocolate! We can't wait to see what they do next.



Key Stage 1

Another fantastic and busy term in Key Stage One. In Art we created our own dinosaur fossils using clay. We practised and developed our skills first and learnt about different techniques such as using a slip, before creating our masterpieces. In History we looked at Mary Anning and why she is famous. The children remembered lots of facts about her including that she survived a lightning strike. We used this knowledge to create our own fact files. Our dinosaur visitor brought in real life fossils and the children got to explore these like real palaeontologists before making their own fossils using Plaster of Paris.



In Geography we have been learning about Nairobi, a town in Kenya and comparing what it is like to live there to living in Harrogate. In RE we have looked at Judaism and created our own stars of David. We have looked at the sacred places of different religions. In Computing we have programmed the BeeBots to follow instructions and get to different places.



In DT we have designed, made and evaluated moving monsters. In Science we have looked at animals and their habitats. We participated in a Now Press Play to immerse ourselves in different environments. In PE we spent the first half term developing our gymnastic skills.



Lower Key Stage 2

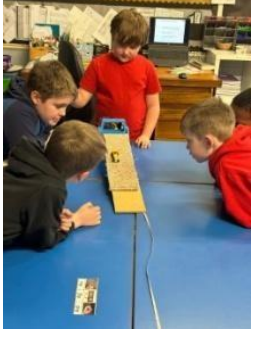
What a busy and fun packed term Year 3/4 have had.

We started off the beginning of the term when our Year 4's had an exciting residential visit to Nell bank, where they demonstrated fantastic independence and team work. They took part in a range of team-building activities, developed their orienteering skills, and even made their own lunches! Staying overnight was a brilliant experience, and the children represented the school beautifully.



Meanwhile, Year 3 children explored their creativity back at school through an art project inspired by Charles Mcgee. They investigated patterns and shapes before designing and creating their own impressive 3D paper sculptures. I am sure that you will agree that their final pieces were both imaginative and striking.





In science, we have focused on Forces. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about pushes and pulls and they worked collaboratively to investigate friction. They carried out experiments to measure how far a toy car travelled on different surfaces, developing their scientific thinking and enquiry skills. They also explore magnets, testing a variety of materials to discover which were magnetic.

In PE during the first half term, the children have developed their gymnastic skills. They practised different ways of travelling, learnt a range of rolls which they performed both on and off the apparatus. It was wonderful to see their confidence and coordination grow.

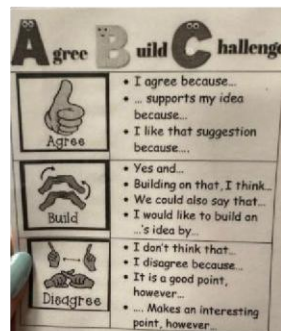
In English we studied the poem “The Listeners” by Walter de la Mare. The children explored how language can create vivid imagery and used this as inspiration to write their own spooky, atmospheric settings using a range of noun phrases and similes. We were also very to welcome a local author into school as part of our World Book Day celebrations. The children listened with great enthusiasm as he shared his book and discussed the writing process.

We have finished the term with an amazing Year 3/4 production based on the story “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse”. Every child contributed to this special production. They worked hard in Music to learn the songs and even helped create the beautiful backdrops. Our Year 4 children showed great dedication in learning their lines and we are incredibly proud of all the children for their effort, teamwork and confidence on stage.



Upper Key Stage 2

What a busy term! Our pupils have been developing their oracy skills by taking part in structured discussions, presentations and collaborative activities. They are learning to express their ideas clearly, listen carefully to others, and build confidence when speaking in a range of contexts.



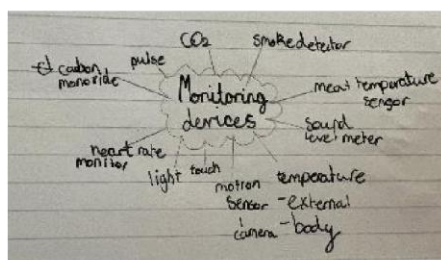
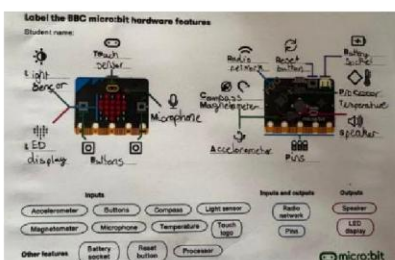
In music lessons pupils have been making rhythms on the recorder. They have learned how to make sure their fingers cover the holes completely to avoid any squeaks. They have also been developing their timing and coordination to play more accurately and in time with others.



Year 5 children thoroughly enjoyed their Space Camp experience, taking part in a range of exciting, hands-on activities. They made moon dough, observed the stars, and created space-themed artwork on canvas, showing great imagination and enthusiasm throughout the event...some sleeping happened too!



In Design Technology, pupils across Year 5/6 have been exploring micro:bits as part of our DT curriculum. They have been programming them to monitor temperature and to trigger an alarm and display a sad face if the temperature falls outside the desired range. It's been a very lively (and noisy!) learning experience across the year groups!



Year 6 pupils have been taking part in short SATs revision sessions a few times each week and have been doing exceptionally well. They have shown a positive attitude, a strong desire to improve, and a commitment to addressing any gaps in their learning. Further information about SATs week will be shared nearer to the tests in May.

While Year 6 have attended these sessions, Year 5 pupils have taken part in additional computing lessons focused on coding. They have also been working with Dave Moss from Sporting Influence, developing their teamwork and resilience through PE.

In Friday PE lessons during the second half of term, pupils have focused on circuits, practising a range of exercises and learning how they affect different parts of the body, as well as how changes in time and intensity can impact a circuit.

