

Newsletter

Friday April 29th 2022

Reception news

We've had a productive week in the garden. We have painted the stairs in a rainbow pattern, made a concrete step which the children have made from scratch and we have started to maintain our garden, weeding and cutting the grass. Also this week we have made junk model frogs, learnt where Kettering is on a map and how England is part of the Earth.

We have new additions to EYFS! Three chicks have hatched so far. We've named them 'Salt and Pepper', plus 'Lucky' our latest edition! The children love watching them, it has been very exciting!

Dates for your Diary

3 May - Year 3 Roman workshop
w/c 4 May - Year 2 SATS
w/c 9 May - Year 6 SATS
13 May - group class photos
25 May - EYFS and Year 6 Screening
27 May - last day of term
6 June - return to school



Photographed left Introducing 'Salt and Pepper' who are a little camera shy! They joined EYFS yesterday ☺



Year 1 and 2 news

Our focus this week in **Year 1** Maths is learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. They will be revisiting it regularly so they can confidently count forwards and backwards. Try asking your child to have a go! As they gain confidence they have been able to list the next number in the sequence 2, 4, 6, ... and identify the missing number 10, 12, _, 16 18.

In Science Year 1 have been exploring 'Everyday Materials' starting with the question 'what are materials?' by identifying the materials found around school. While they have been identifying materials in their classrooms, they have been describing them using the vocabulary: soft, hard, stiff, stretchy, rough, smooth, bendy, rigid, transparent and opaque.

Year 2 last week worked on a 'shape' unit in Maths using the vocabulary: edges, vertices, sides and faces to



describe 2D and 3D shapes. This week they compared 3D

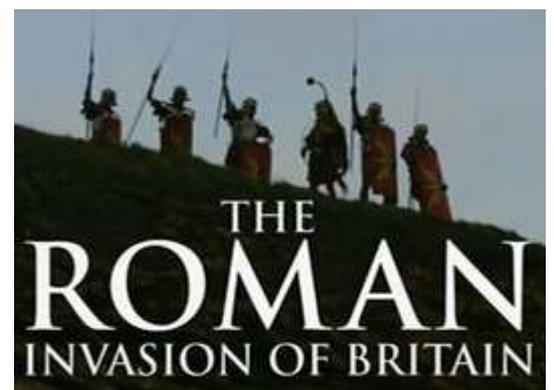
shapes highlighting the differences and similarities, making sure they identified the faces of 3D shapes using the correct 2D shape names. They measured the length of shapes using a ruler making sure they lined up the shape against the ruler accurately starting at 0cm. Year 2 have enjoyed measuring other objects using centimetre rulers and metre sticks but took time to think when each measuring apparatus would be used. Having understood there are 100cm in 1m, they have been comparing lengths using the symbols > greater than, < less than and = equal to.



Year 3 and 4 news

It has been another busy week in **Year 3**. The children have been eagerly waiting for our history topic 'The Romans'. We are looking at the impact the Roman invasions had on Britain. Both Mr. Palmer and Mrs. Spencer were impressed with how much the children already know and the facts they could share from their research homework. The topic is spread over the next two weeks and will include Roman day where a gladiator will visit the school on the **3rd May**. He will be sharing with us all things Roman. Dressing up is optional for the children on this day. There is no need to buy any special clothing, you may wish to research how to make a toga out of a bedsheet!

In Maths, we are still investigating fractions and will be moving onto using a number line and adding/subtracting fractions. In writing, we started a new piece of work in third-person narrative looking at predators and their prey. We are continuing with the book 'The Dancing Bear' by Michael Morpurgo. Thank you for the positive comments received during Parents Evening this week, your support is invaluable.



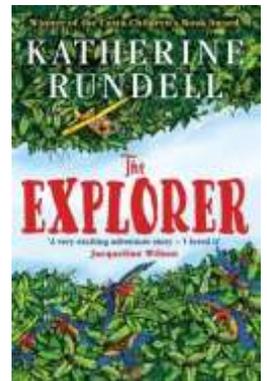
Year 4 have had a productive week back at school. In writing lessons, children have been looking at the work of Hilaire Belloc by investigating the similarities and differences between two of his poems. We have started reading our new class text, 'Varjack Paw' by S. F. Said and are enjoying discussing the story so far. In Maths lessons, we have been looking at tenths within our topic of decimals. The children have studied the Nile, Amazon and the Nene in Geography lessons this week. In R.E., the children have been learning about Buddha's teaching of The Noble Eightfold Path; challenge your children to name all eight!

Year 5 and 6 news



Year 5 have been working on geography again this week. We have been improving our knowledge of the different biomes in the continents of North America, South America and Europe. We've also been thinking about their location and how that makes some continents have very similar climates. In Maths, we've started learning about percentages as we looked at decimals previously. We've been

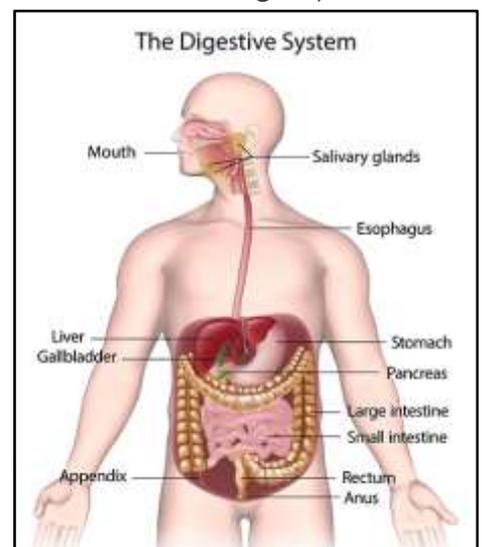
really impressed with the attitude of the children when they've been faced with tricky problems. We are also excited to start our new reading book, 'The Explorer' this week.



Year 6 have had an excellent week of learning. They have enjoyed planning ideas for their own fantasy adventure story and are looking forward to showing off their writing skills in this piece next week. In Reading, children have started to read 'Skellig' by David Almond and have been intrigued by the strange man/creature that the main character has found in their garage... In Science, children have been extending their knowledge of the human body by looking more in depth at the digestive system, especially how kidneys filter the blood and remove wastes and extra fluid from the body. The two classes were also introduced to the production they will be putting on in June called 'Olivia'! All the teachers and teaching assistants are really looking forward to auditioning the children next Tuesday for the play - good luck to anybody giving it a go!

BONUS - Junior Maths Challenge!

Top Mathematicians at Brambleside had the wonderful opportunity to challenge themselves in the UKMT's Junior Maths challenge on Wednesday. The questions are designed to get you to think in different ways and apply what you know in complex scenarios. Their answer sheets have been submitted with



results (and hopefully some certificates!) due back in around three weeks. One of Mr MacLaren's favourite questions was "Today it is Thursday. What day will it be in 100 days' time?" - have a go at home! 😊



Sports news



The Year 3/4 **hockey** team resumed the district final event, delayed from March due to pouring rain. They performed extremely well, however just missed out on going to the county finals on number of goals scored. They should be really proud of getting so far in the competition. Well done!

On Tuesday, four of our KS2 children participated in '**goalball**', an

inclusive team sport - with a unique twist! Everybody is required to wear eyeshades so that nobody can see. Players have to rely entirely on their other senses. The ball contains internal bells so players can track its movement by its sound, whilst the court is marked out with tactile lines so players can feel where they are. The aim of the game is to throw the ball (along the floor) into the opposition's goal while defending your own goal. *Brambleside* team won all three games to win the day's tournament. Next the team will go on to participate in the County finals.



Our KS2 **netball** team participated in the County Finals this week. They performed really well, winning all of their group games and finishing top of their group. Unfortunately, in the semifinals, the team just missed out on the finals, losing in extra time. Well done, team *Brambleside* - great teamwork.

Current County Champions, our girls' **football** team competed in the English Schools' FA U11 7-a-side regional finals representing Northamptonshire in Birmingham this week. The competition was of an extremely high standard with some of the opposing team players being in premier league academies. However, our girls performed extremely well, finishing third in the group, officially becoming the 6th best team in the region. Fantastic achievement, they should each be very proud of themselves and how well they have performed to get this far. The girls have another chance, representing Northamptonshire in another regional competition in May.



TAKEHOME



Should pets be protected more than other animals?



In the news this week

Access to a new scheme offering free pet healthcare across 38 European countries, is now available to Ukrainian refugees, who have left the country with their pets to avoid the conflict. Refugees will be able to have treatment costs covered for up to five dogs, cats, horses or other animals as a result of the effort by Humane Society International (HSI). The project, called, Vets for Ukrainian Pets, will provide up to £209 per pet for care and medication.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you have any pets at home? Share your experience of keeping animals at home.
- Can you think of any examples of animals that people own that aren't pets? E.g., farm animals.
- Do you think the project, Vets for Ukrainian Pets is a good idea? Share your thoughts on the project. Do you think any more can be done to help the pets of the refugees?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

