

The Oak Oracle

Oak class have had a jammed packed term full of learning and excitement. A particular highlight of the term has been our weekly swimming lessons at Farleigh school. The children really impressed the swimming instructors at the beginning of the term with their competency and have continued to show great improvement in their stroke technique and their life saving skills. A very big thank you to all of the parents who have given up their time to help transport us; it is very much appreciated by everyone!

In English this term, we have been conducting an author study and exploring different texts from Michael Morpurgo. It was lovely to hear the wide range of books children have enjoyed over the years from this author, but we focussed on two of his lesser-known texts. We began the term with the book 'Beowulf', a retelling of the classic Anglo-Saxon legend. The children really enjoyed the violent battles between our valiant hero (Beowulf) and the trio of beasts he had to face. We wrote as the King's royal advisor, giving suggestions on how to protect his kingdom from the evil Grendel, as well as constructing obituaries for Beowulf after his demise, announcing his death and celebrating his life. We then moved onto reading the beginning of 'Kaspar: Prince of Cats', a text centred around a bell boy from the Savoy Hotel, who befriends a guest's cat. The class became quite fond of the fictional feline and enjoyed learning of his adventures around one of London's most famous hotels. We developed our understanding of the story through writing in different perspectives, either in the form of a narrative or as a letter and developed character voice through exploring formality. The Morpurgo fan base has certainly increased after such a busy term of reading and writing!

Our Maths lessons have continued to develop our knowledge in a variety of different aspects of the subject. We began the term consolidating our understanding of the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. We revised the different types of angles and practised using a protractor to draw and measure angles. A particular highlight was working in partners to draw and measure angles directly onto the tables using whiteboard pens! The year 6 children have had their first experience of using algebra to help generate numbers in a sequence and the Year 5s have continued to use common denominators to help add and subtract fractions.



Our Geography focus this term has been 'Natural Resources', allowing us to develop a wide range of geographical skills, from reading maps to using locational vocabulary. Children have recognised how different natural resources are used and used atlases and a range of maps to identify these both in the UK and across the world. They then evaluated which continent they believed had the best access to natural resources and which continents would be best to create a partnership with each other.

Finally, our key concept in RE this term was 'Wisdom', where we explored proverbs in both Christianity and Islam. We evaluated famous proverbs we had heard from the modern day before learning about the 'Book of Proverbs' in the Old Testament of the bible and illustrating proverbs from it. We then explored similar 'words of wisdom' from the Qu'ran and assessed these on which we agreed with. Finally, we took the proverbs we valued most from both religions to create our own 'Book of Wisdom'

