

The Oak Oracle

It has been an absolute delight getting to know the new members of Oak class throughout Autumn 1 and I have been so impressed with the attitudes towards learning from both the Year 5 and Year 6 children. All children in the class are taking on their new responsibilities very seriously and are setting good examples to the rest of the school.

The children have been really engaged with our English units this term, which I think is partly based on the interesting texts we have been reading. For the first part of the term, we were exploring biographies, using the text 'Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls' as a stimulus. We learnt about lots of different inspiring people before researching a person who inspired us and writing our own biographies about them, ensuring we gave information in chronological order to aid cohesion. We then moved on to 'Odyssey', a retelling of the Ancient Greek myth by Gillian Cross. The children have really loved developing their use of dialogue in narratives and their writer's voice through writing a letter home as Odysseus.

Our focus in RE this term has been 'Stories with messages', where we have been learning about how stories can be used in different religions and cultures to help convey important messages. We looked at a variety of fables, parables from the bible and stories from the Islamic faith to see whether we could establish what messages were trying to be communicated. We then compared similar stories across different religions and even identified a message we felt was important for the world today and created our own story, which helped convey this message to others.



In Science, we have been learning about the importance of fossils in telling us about the history of the Earth. The children began by learning about the geological timeline of the Earth and used the information they learnt to order a series of events (do you know if plants or fish were first on Earth?). We also learnt about different types of fossils and how they are formed, using Play-Doh to reconstruct how trace fossils can be formed. Using our knowledge of fossils, we explored how fossil records can show us how species can adapt and change over time and used a case study to discuss how horses adapted over thousands of years. The children also learnt about Mary Anning, one of the first palaeontologists, and discussed how important she was to modern day palaeontology.



Throughout the term, the children have also had many opportunities to focus on our three school values. We took part in 'Taskmaster day' at the beginning of term, where children had to demonstrate both compassion and courage when working in a team to complete a series of challenges. In week 5, Oak class held a class assembly for the rest of the school based on courage, reminding children how they can show courage around school and sharing the story of 'Daniel and the Lion's Den' from the bible. The children are also enjoying the work we are doing around compassion, including the introduction of a 'Compassion corner' in the classroom and the 'Compassion post', which recognises when a child has been kind and compassionate around school.

