



Willow Word



It has been a brilliant start to the year. We have welcomed our new year threes to Willow class. The children have come in ready to learn and shown they are keen to begin their adventure in the class.

In Maths we have introduced Times table Rockstar which has been a huge success in our class. All the children are using it weekly and are having a go at home. We have an outfit of the week where children use their skills to buy a new outfit through completing times table questions. We have secured our methods of the four operations visually and in written form. The children also completed a long jump competition to learn about measurement. They have used real life items and organised a shopping list to improve their understanding of money.

In English, we have studied two books. Our first consisted of the children making a promise to the world to clear up our oceans and devising ideas of how to do this. This was inspired by the book called 'The Promise'. The children each wrote a narrative style piece displaying how to clean up our oceans. These are displayed outside our classroom.



The second story we looked at was a story that covered one of History's greatest expeditions: Sir Ernest Shackleton venturing into Antarctica searching for the South Pole. The children built up an array of ambitious vocabulary and learned how to explain emotion in their writing. Their final write was in the form of a letter where the children wrote as Shackleton to his wife, Emily. They recalled different events from the story and showed deep understanding of how the crew felt and what they had to go through.

Our History topic was Ancient civilisations. The children studied and researched four groups of people: The Mayans, The Ancient Egyptians, Ancient Sumerians and the Shang Dynasty. They learned and discussed their greatest achievements and the key people from those eras. They translated English into hieroglyphics, learned how to play Mayan football and took part in a virtual experience of the British museum.

In Science, the children became Geologists, where they studied rocks and soils. We discussed the three



types of rocks: Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary. They learned how a rock is formed through the rock cycle. We did some experiments testing different types of rocks to see whether they were buoyant, permeable and how they looked and felt. We recreated how layers of rock are formed in our natural world in our outside area. The children really enjoyed getting their hands on these and learning their different components.

Our concept in RE this term was Protection. The children discussed and explained who is there to protect them and how. We used the religion of Hinduism to contextualise this concept. The children learned about Raksha Bandan which is a festival of love and protection between siblings. We all then designed our own Rakhi bracelets which symbolise how they seek to protect someone special. The children made their bracelets and gave them to that person with a beautiful greeting sending love and protection.

I am very proud of our start to the term. The children are coming into school with work they are doing at home. I enjoy seeing their interest in our topics in and out of school. Let us keep this momentum in the run up to Christmas. Thank you for all your support and have a lovely half term.

Mr Harris