



Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It's always great to reflect back on the half term as a reminder of just how much we manage to fit in to school life. The children definitely experience a broad and extended curriculum which gets them ready for the future.

Key Stage one and two all had lessons led by our STEM ambassador Dave Rockett. He talked about climate change and the possibilities to reverse this.

Even though internet safety is woven through our curriculum and is taught every term we celebrated Internet Safety day this half term with a visit to school from PCSO Keris Thornton and Alice Michelmores Brown to talk about how to stay safe online.

Reception and KS1 visited a Gurdwara in Bradford and they loved this opportunity to bring to life what they had been learning in school. The tutor contacted us to say how impressed she was at their behaviour for learning and knowledge.

Year 6 spent a day in London learning about the rule of law in the Houses of Parliament and even met our local MP Julian Smith. Later in the half term they visited the Victorian classroom at Bradford Industrial Museum. KS2 have also taken part in a dance and drama festival at South Craven School.

Year One and Two girls have had a great time learning football skills led by West Riding County Football Association and this will continue after half term.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have sent in such lovely emails and comments about the recently sent out Ofsted report - it's been lovely to hear how proud you are to have your children in our school.

Finally a big congratulations to Miss Meegan who is getting married over the half term break! We look forward to welcoming her back as Mrs Swensson in Spring two. Enjoy your special day.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term!

Mr Whitehead

Headteacher

Loving to Learn

Robins

Well that was a short but sweet half term! We have been very busy with lots of learning and plenty of fun! We have embraced the weather conditions and enjoyed outdoor learning on the Rec - apologies for the mud baths - children love mud!



I have been so impressed at the enthusiasm for our History work this half term. The children loved learning all about Rosa Parks and then moving onto the suffragettes with shouts of 'votes for women' around the classroom! The use of their new vocabulary was amazing and I know lots of children have shared their learning with you at home.

Mrs Swales has been doing weekly yoga sessions with the children and they have enjoyed every minute, they asked to do more and love showing off their yoga positions in the classroom. This tied in very nicely with children's mental health week when children made a 'What Matters to Me' picture. It was lovely to sit down with them and really think about what is important to them - I hope you enjoyed sharing them at home too.



The children were an absolute credit to you and the school on our visit to the Gurdwara Singh Sabha - Bradford. Our tutor for the session was really impressed with their knowledge, interest and behaviour. Well done Robins, it was a pleasure to take you to experience something new.



We had great fun learning about programming, directions and mapping skills when we used the 'bee bots' to find our way to the penguin from our class book 'Lost and Found'.

In addition to all of this we have done plenty of Maths, writing, phonics, lots of reading lessons, PSHE about keeping safe, some DT, had a visit from a STEM ambassador and North Yorkshire Police came to help us learn about staying safe online! Phew.....you'd better get some rest this half term Robins!



See you all soon for another busy half term!
Miss Akrigg



Loving to Learn

Swallows

This half term has certainly flown by! We have managed to squeeze a lot into five weeks. We have welcomed two trainee teachers into class, Miss Abbas and Mr Robertshaw. They have enjoyed getting to know Swallows children. They are with us for another four weeks following half term.

We really enjoyed History this half term, learning about Rosa Parks and the Suffragettes. The children loved acting out different protests and we had a lot of chanting 'votes for women!' We definitely have some budding actors and actresses in our class.

The children were an absolute credit to you and the school on our recent visit to the Gurdwara Singh Sabha in Bradford. They asked lots of thoughtful questions and listened carefully to lots of new information.

In English the children have embraced our text 'George and the Dragon'. They designed their own dragons and wrote some amazing descriptions to go with them.

In science we have been busy learning about different materials. We enjoyed going on a walk to draw different things made from rock or bricks. We have also classified objects made from wood, paper and card and used vocabulary such as 'flexible' to sort them. Finally we looked at objects made from glass and plastic. We carried out an experiment to see if all plastic objects float. We had some fantastic use of vocabulary and discussions about our findings.

In DT with Mrs Oswald the children have learnt about different sliders and the skill to create a moving picture book about humpty dumpty. After half term we are going to share our books with Reception.

Alongside this we have been busy with maths, phonics, spellings, RE, a visit from a STEM ambassador and North Yorkshire police! No wonder we are ready for a rest!

Have a fabulous half term. Mrs Carpenter and the Swallows team.



Loving to Learn

Kingfishers

Well done on a great half term Kingfishers. You have all worked hard to cram lots into 5 weeks. We've managed to have lots of fun along the way too.

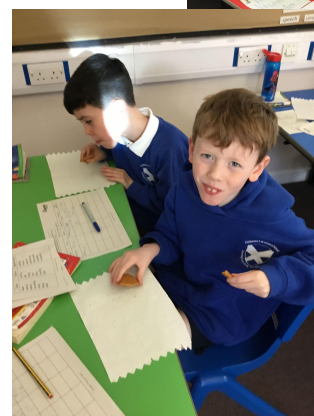
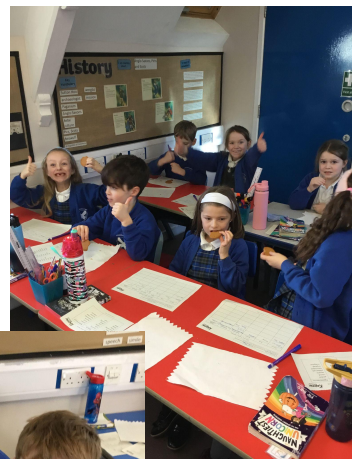
The children have particularly enjoyed our DT topic, Cooking and nutrition. The topic started with us taste testing and evaluating biscuits already on the market. We then moved on to creating and making our own biscuits.

Our DT topic paired nicely with our science topic of Reversible and Irreversible Changes. This topic allowed us to complete a number of investigations. We explored the changes in materials when heated, discovering that heating an egg is an irreversible change. Whereas melting wax is reversible as it reverts to its starting state when cooled. We then moved on to explore the key vocabulary - soluble and insoluble. We tested a number of materials to see if they dissolved in water. We learnt that for a material to be soluble (dissolve) it must mix with the water particles and make a translucent solution.

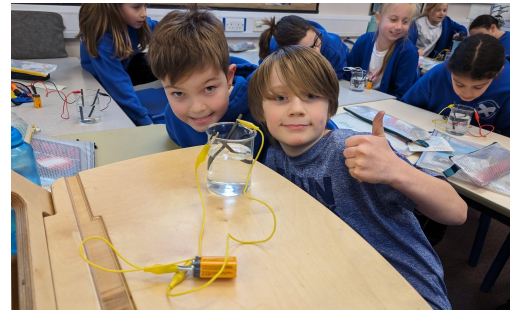
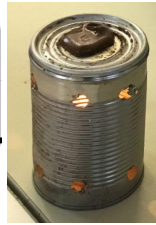
In English, we have written our own narratives. These were based on our class book 'The Great Chocoplot' in which there was a chocapocalypse! The children chose an item to disappear in their own stories, we had stories with everything from pepperoni to whole football stadiums disappearing.

We have also really enjoyed swimming lessons this half term. The children have been a credit to the school with the way they have acted whilst out of school.

I hope you all have a lovely half term, I can't wait to hear about what you've been up to when we return. Miss Norton



Loving to Learn



Owls

Our term has been a quick one it seems but we have packed a lot in! Our science lessons have covered irreversible and reversible changes. In one lesson we heated pancake mixture and chocolate separately. The class observed one change that could be reversed and one that couldn't. We decided that once it was a pancake it could never be a mixture (liquid) again because there had been a chemical change (cooking).

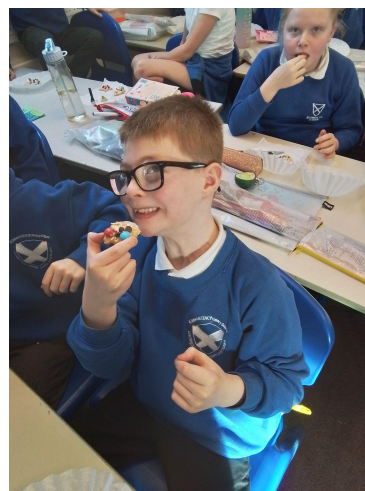
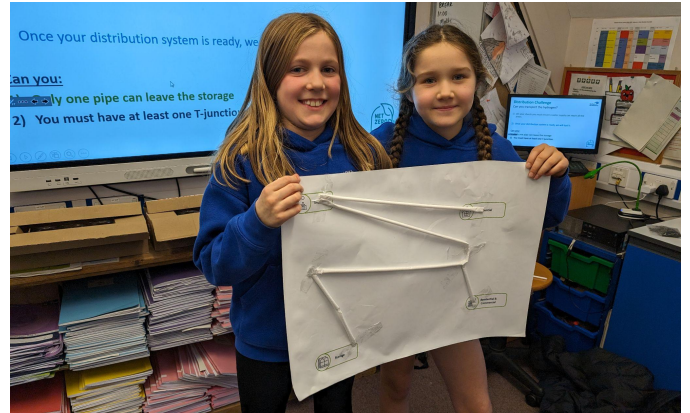
We also had a very exciting visit from a STEM ambassador. Dave Rockett, who is an engineer for Northern Gas Networks, visited Owls class to talk about climate change and what we can do to help. One such possibility is using hydrogen to replace some natural gas. Everyone was able to make some hydrogen from water in the classroom! Then they designed a gas network using straws to deliver their new gas to homes.

During our English lessons, we have learned a lot about emperor penguins while writing a non-chronological report together. Once experts at report writing everyone chose their own animal to research and write about. From crabs to capybaras they were great to read!

Year 5 are now fraction experts having tackled some of the toughest concepts, including 'breaking the whole'. We were successful because we always remembered the golden rule of equivalent fractions (opposite). Year 4 mastered multiplication and division methods and have just moved onto length & perimeter.

Finally, this week we have designed and made both biscuits and the packaging for the biscuits. Of course we had to sample our product and it was very good! Then for Safer Internet Day we had a visit from the police who shared their top tips for staying safe online.

I hope you all have a lovely half term holiday. Mr Horton.





Loving to Learn



Eagles

It's hard to believe how much we've packed into this very short half term in Year Six!

We kick started 2024 by heading down to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. We had an amazing day and luckily what seemed like the only good weather day in the whole of January. It was an incredible experience to go on a sightseeing tour down the River Thames before heading over to the Houses of Parliament. We were able to go into the House of Lords and also went in the viewing gallery of the House of Commons to watch a debate about NHS dentistry.

Back in school, we began to find out about what life was like during the Victorian era. We learnt a few things about Queen Victoria whilst we were in London so we were all keen to find out more about her reign. An experience in a replica Victorian classroom at Bradford Industrial Museum made us very grateful that the education system has improved and developed since the Victorian era. Children recited hymns and times tables, wrote on slates and also with ink dip pens and - most importantly - did not speak unless spoken to! The children got into role well by taking on Victorian names and dressing as children would have at the time.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, Year Six have been powering through working with ratio and decimals and are quickly becoming experts at applying their arithmetic skills to any problems thrown at them.

In our writing, we linked the book 'A Monster Calls' to our Victorian history work to create a nightmare story with a Victorian twist. The children created some spooky, atmospheric stories whilst also ensuring a range of Year Six writing features were used.

We have loved our class book of 'Wild Boy'. It has kept us guessing throughout with its dark, mysterious elements and suspicious characters. We've had lively debates about who the criminals are and we've been left on a cliff hanger over half term until we find out the finale of this grizzly Victorian era tale. I promise I won't read ahead without you, Year Six!

We've been joined by Miss Elks, a trainee teacher, this half term who will be staying with us until the end of June. She's had a great few weeks getting to know all of the children and will begin teaching more lessons after half term.

Have a fab half term break and we will look forward to seeing you on the 19th February.

