



Newsletter

MARCH

“Valuing every achievement”

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Dear Families,

Easter already! It doesn't seem 5 minutes since we were celebrating Christmas!

Even though the weeks are flying by, the amount of work the children are getting through still resembles a 7-week half term! They are all trying so hard and the progress seen in this middle term is always great! It's that midpoint between how a child started their year and halfway towards what they can actually achieve, which is fabulous for us all to see!



There have been lots of trips going out and more to come in the Summer term. We absolutely love taking the children outside of the school site to see all of the opportunities beyond our walls. We have a lot of facilities in school, but it's always good to broaden horizons and challenge limits and feelings by seeing new places.



This term our Key Stage 3 group went to the Pioneer Centre in Clebury Mortimer. This is always a wonderful trip as the pupils quickly learn they are far more capable than they imagined and they love the adrenaline of the activities. This trip is always an amazing opportunity for the pupils and the staff to bond and build relationships.

In the Summer term, we build on this experience with our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 D of E Bronze and Silver Award groups taking part in their expedition. This is always so exciting and again, the level of team work, independence and resilience that the pupils show whilst out on these experiences sets their self-esteem and confidence to another level.



We also took part in a competition with our Community Partner, Redditch United Football Club in February. The pupils were asked to help design a new 'Home', 'Away' and 'Goalie' kit. Our budding designers eagerly got going on this and we have two pupils in the final five of the 'Away' kit designs. These are being voted on at the next home game and also in the Kingfisher Centre on March 25th. All of our entrants have been given two complimentary tickets to Saturdays game at Redditch United.



During the first week of March we also had fun at our World Book Day. I think the staff enjoy dressing up more than the children sometimes! Everyone had fun reading and listening to stories and it was lovely to see different classes interacting with each other for this.



We are also looking forward to our pool arriving after Easter! This is our two weeks of having a temporary pool. The pupils are all timetabled to go in in their PE sessions with some slight changes to timings to enable all pupils to have access. The class teams will send home the timetables. If there are any issues around swimwear/towels etc, please just let us know so we can help and support. When the temporary pool arrives, I will then call in the company we have asked to build our pool house so we can get it started! The reason for the timing being April and not July this year is so that we can have the temporary pool before our own one is built and installed.

Congratulations to Ms Wheeler and Mr Homer who are heading off to St Lucia to get married next week. We all wish them the very best in their new life together. With lots of love from Team Rigby!



I hope you all have a lovely two week break with your family and friends and that the weather takes a more positive turn and we can enjoy lots of walks and fresh air! Thank you as ever and always for your valued and continued support, it is very much appreciated by myself and my team.

Happy Easter!

Tracey, Headteacher



Attendance Guide



Whole School Attendance is: 91.3%

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

Arrange in advance if you wish to collect your child before 3 o'clock and have received permission to do so.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

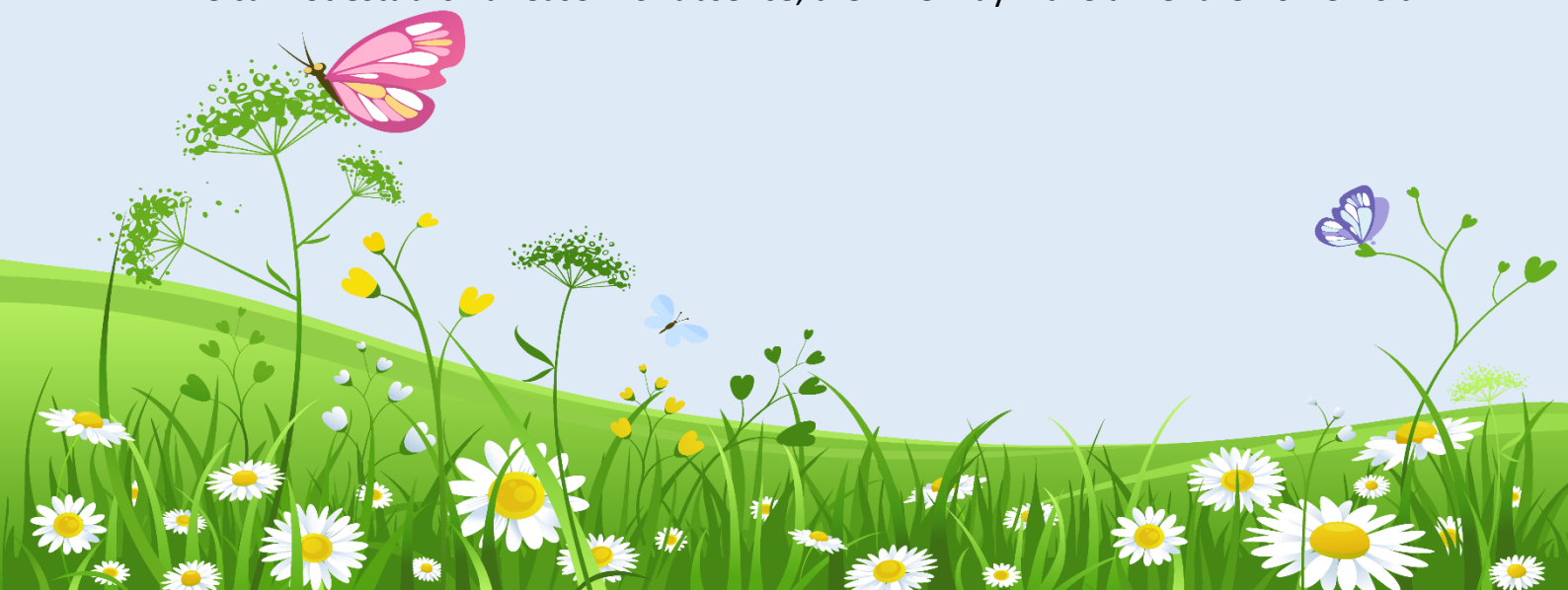
What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

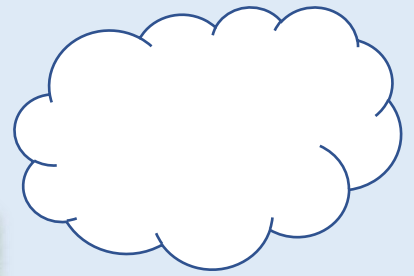
If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.



Ash

This Spring term has been so much fun!

It has been full of different messy media through sensory play and sensory stories. As our theme topic has been "On the Farm", we have based most of our lessons around farm themes. We absolutely loved getting FILTHY in painting with mud!



We have been working really hard in communication on our listening and attention skills! Our adults are so proud of how we have all progressed at waiting our turn, and being present to an activity for a much longer period of time.

One of our favourite activities is "What's in the box?", especially when we wait to see the jumping frog! As we have been working so hard since September on our attention skills, we can now work for even longer focused



We can't wait to go to the farm to see all of the animals!

Next term's topic theme is Emergency.

We will be doing lots of dress up to role play our amazing Emergency Services.



Bay

In PSHCE we have been learning about how to care for our world. Part of this topic was about caring for pets and animals. We enjoyed exploring lots of different items that are required to care for a dog. We role played feeding, walking and brushing the dog. We also made dog biscuits.



In ICT we have been learning about ICT in our environment. We had lots of fun using the hand blender with support to create our own milkshakes!



We have really enjoyed using our resonance board in our communication sessions. We have enjoyed lying on the board to explore the vibrations from the different sounds.

We have also enjoyed making sounds with instruments and taking turns with our teachers to make sounds.



Beech

Beech Class have worked hard in our English lessons this half term. We have enjoyed learning lots of new verses for Row, Row, Row your Boat and looking closely at the words that rhyme.

We had a super World Book Day, it was great to see all of the children dressed up and the children were very excited to see the adults dressed as different animals in the 'Dear Zoo' story.

The children have made good progress in Number too, we have been working hard to count in 2s.



During our mathematics lessons, the children have explored capacity and weight.

The children were able to choose the right sized container for different objects and enjoyed pouring water between containers. Also the children can describe containers as full and empty.



We had lots of fun lifting different objects and deciding if they were heavy and light. We worked hard to learn the correct vocabulary to describe weight and enjoyed comparing the weight of 2 objects using balance scales.



In Science, we have been naming animals and looking closely at their features e.g. how many legs they have, if they have fur, or if they have a beak.

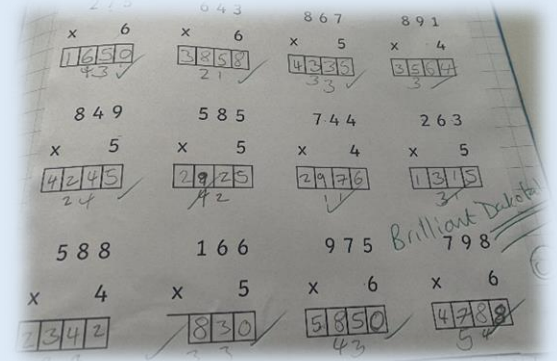
We used our music lessons to explore how instruments can be used to represent different animals. We represented a lion walking up to his prey quietly and slowly, then played the instruments louder when the lion roared!

In PE, the children have been developing different ways to travel as a part of their gymnastics topic.

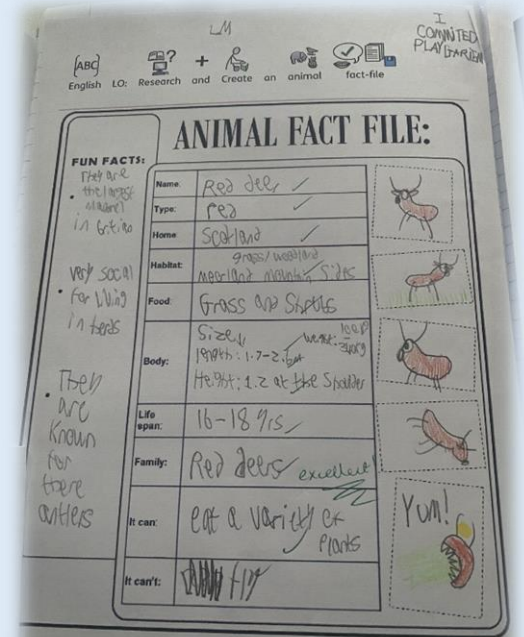


Birch

Birch have had a super exciting half term! For most of us it was time for Pioneer and time to find some independence and take on some mammoth tasks. Both the children who came with us and the pupils that stayed at school for some practical activities were a credit to you. They behaved impeccably and we had more than a few laughs!



In Maths we have been practising our multiplication skills.



In English we have been looking at non-fiction texts. We researched an animal and then produced an animal fact-file page for a non-fiction book.



Cedar

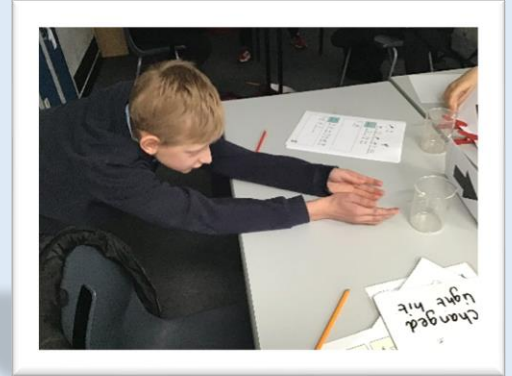
What a busy half-term!

Life Skills: We have continued to cook simple meals, with chicken curry being a pupil favourite!

Art: We created Planets from paper mache.

Science: We have explored light looking at reflection and refraction.

PSHCE/RSE: We have reviewed how we recycle in school and introduced recycling bins in our classroom.



Maths: We have been refining our skills in multiplication and tessellation.

English: We studied fact files and their features.

And some of us enjoyed a FANTASTIC KS3 Residential to Pioneer Centre in Cleobury.



Cherry



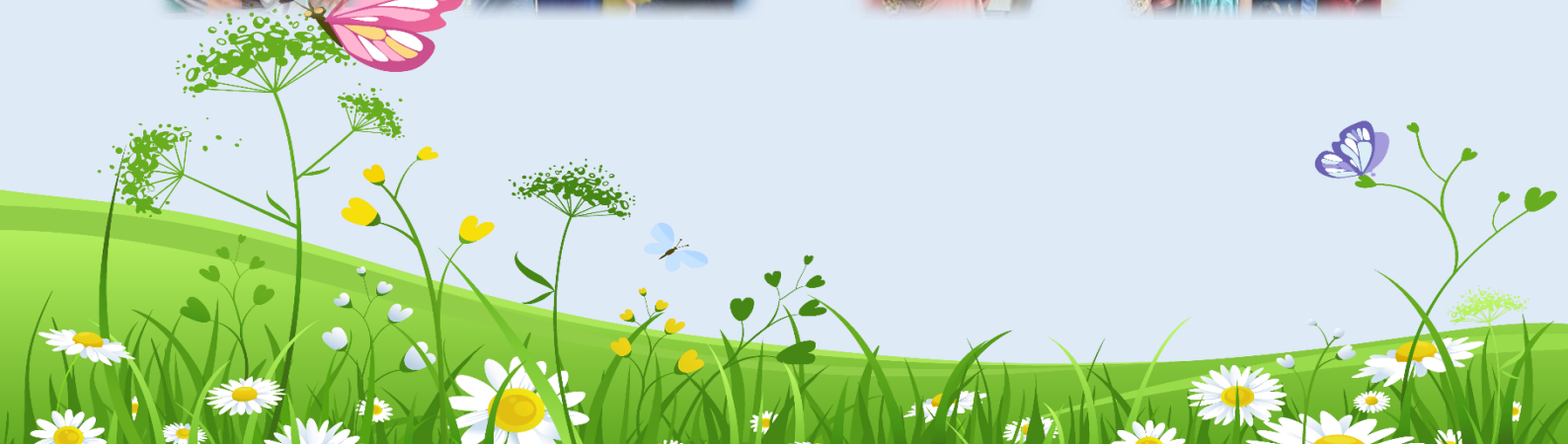
This half term we have been learning about Capacity and Weight in Maths. Children have really enjoyed using the forest school area to make 'mud pies'. They measured out liquids in millilitres and mud in grams and kilograms. They did get quite muddy but had lots of fun and learnt lots about measuring!

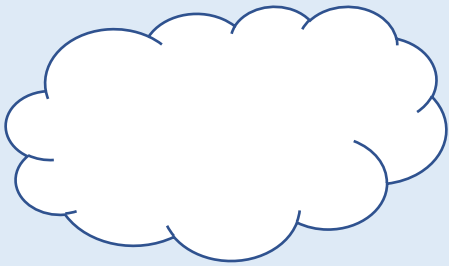


We had an amazing careers week. We had visits from the Police, life guards and swimming instructors about first aid. Children enjoyed learning about different jobs and the skills needed for each job. They also took part in restaurant and clothing workshops.

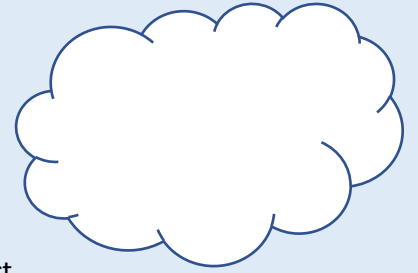
In Geography we have been learning all about the weather. Children made wind streamers and used compasses to test the direction of the wind.

We had an absolute blast for World Book Day! Have a great Easter! Kelly Ferran, Chloe and Lydia





Hazel



This half term we have been learning about our 'Perfect Planet' and thinking about how we can care for our environment.

In English, we have explored the poem 'Broken Planet' and have been creating our own parts to the poem, performing it and adding actions.



In History we have explored different weathers and enjoyed making 'wind streamers' and rain gauges.

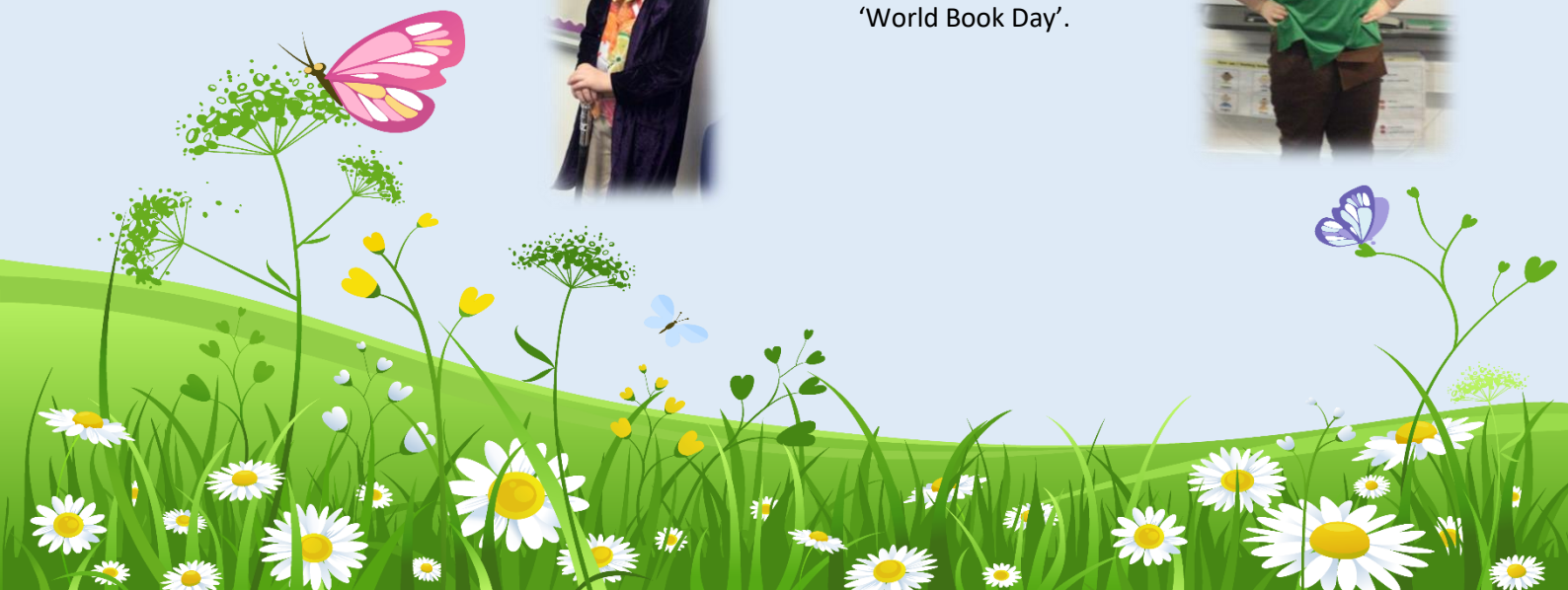
We loved meeting Harold the tortoise and learnt about how to look after tortoises.



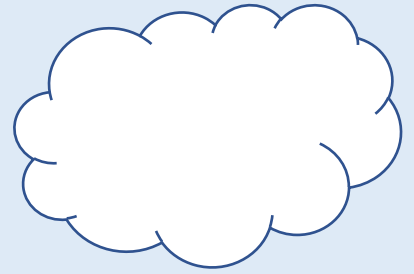
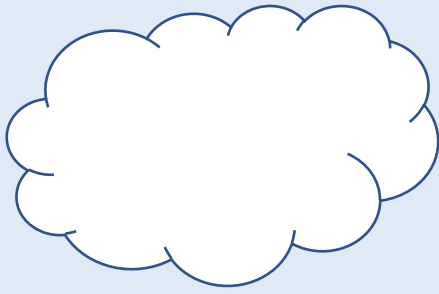
In Maths, we have learnt about weight and capacity. We have enjoyed weighing objects and comparing the heaviest and lightest objects. We have learnt about capacity and used standard and non-standard units to measure.



Hazel Class enjoyed dressing up for 'World Book Day'.



Holly



In Holly class we have been focusing on growing independence skills and beginning to complete longer tasks. Most children are on a TEACCH style basis, learning to follow a schedule of activities to developing independence. They have been able to recap and revisit a lot of previous knowledge whilst building on their new knowledge.



In Mathematics we have been comparing and describing different types of weight. The children have been able to grow their vocabulary and judgements of different weights e.g. heavy and light or, full and empty.



Holly class have been working really hard on hand writing and mark making. The children have enjoyed sensory handwriting activities.



Holly class have been working really hard on their communication, especially listening and attention activities this term. The children have enjoyed and engaged well by singing songs, playing games and interacting with bucket time.

In Literacy we have been learning about rhyming and poetry. We have been listening to rhyming songs which the children have joined in with and they have been able to match the rhyming words. The children have also enjoyed our poetry activities.

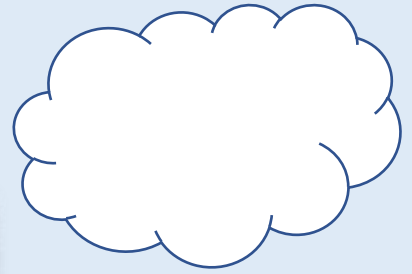


We hope you have a lovely half term and a happy Easter. We would like to thank you for all of your support.





Lime



In Lime class this half term we have learnt all about gardening and went on a visit to the local garden centre. At the garden centre we got to see lots of different gardening tools, plants and seeds. We also each got to choose a plant to buy and look after in school as well as some seed potatoes which we hope to plant and grow our own potatoes. We also spoke to one of the assistants who worked there and they told us all about the different jobs that they do, we enjoyed having a lovely drink in the café.



We have done lots of cooking using potatoes, we have made potato and spring cakes, bubble and squeak and potato scones. We also enjoyed taking part in some science experiments where we mixed mentos and coke and baking powder and vinegar. We have learnt about fossil fuels and the effect that they have on the environment and about renewable energy such as solar and wind power.

We really enjoyed acting out and using sensory objects when listening to and telling the story 'We're going on a bear hunt' as well as writing our own versions.

In Maths we have looked at lots of different ways of telling the time using calendars, timetables, clocks, sand timers and stop watches.

We have also looked at different jobs that we might like to do in the future and the different roles and skills needed for those jobs.



Maple

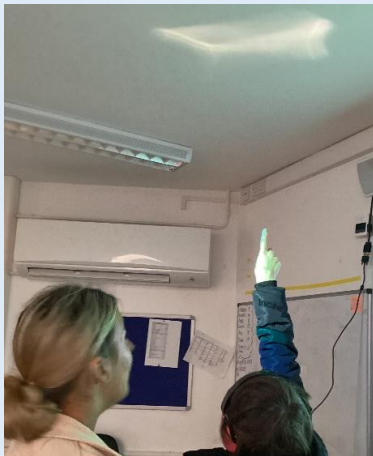


This term we have had exciting events happening like the Pioneer trip, careers week, World Book Day and preparing for the Easter Holidays! We heard so much positive feedback from the children and staff that went on the Pioneer trip! Careers Week enabled the children to learn about different jobs and role play different occupations to see which they enjoyed. World Book Day was an amazing opportunity for everyone to talk about their favourite stories



In D.T the children have been designing and creating aeroplanes out of paper, evaluating it and recreating their final piece out of cardboard.

In life skills we have been focusing on different elements of team work, this included cooking activities and trust exercises.



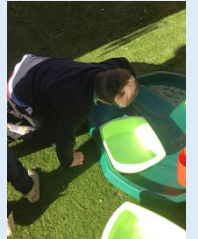
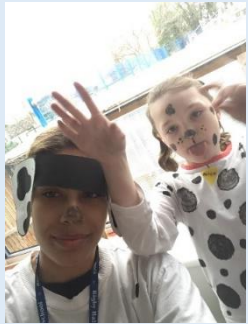
In Science we have been learning about light sources and reflectors. The children really enjoyed the practical lessons experimenting with torches and mirrors in the darkness to spot where the light reflects.

In relation to Easter coming up we have been learning about the story of Pentecost in RE. The children have enjoyed watching a Puppet explanation of what happened and recreating the story themselves. They also learnt about the Holy Spirit and how this affects Christians today.



Oak

Oak Class have had a lovely half term, we've enjoyed our World Book Day!

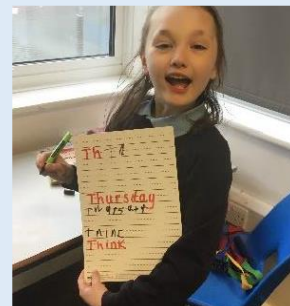


In our Maths lessons this term, we have been looking at capacities.

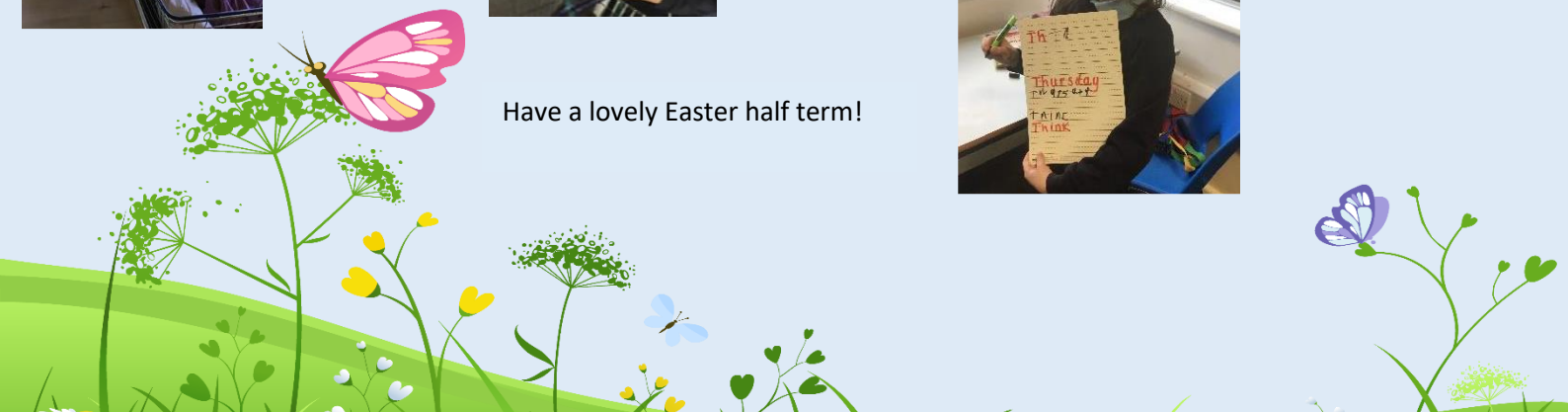
Oak class loved our careers week, we enjoyed roleplaying shops in our life skills village.



We have loved practicing our handwriting and new sounds this term in phonics.

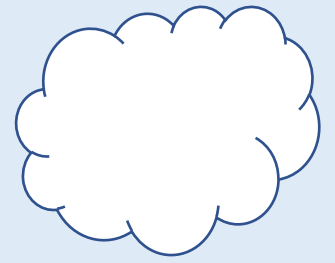


Have a lovely Easter half term!





Pear



In English this half term we have been looking at Fact Files. We have researched animals, pollution and what we can do to help look after our environment.

The children have produced some fantastic writing and even learnt to edit!

In Maths, we have been learning about multiplication. We are now getting super good at our 2,5,10,3 and 4 times tables!

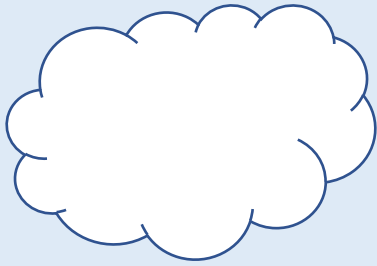


We have explored lots of skills this half term from greeting in German to working on our sign and being active in JASS. We also enjoyed some fantastic activities for careers week and World Book Day!

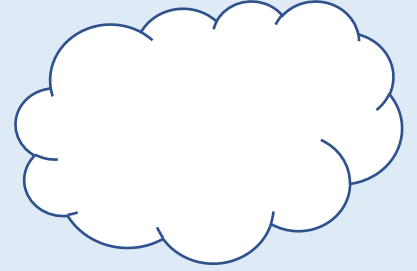
Many of our children are also reaching their goal to gain a free book from our vending machine – keep this up!

Some of the children had a wonderful time in Pioneer too!





Pine



Science

We have been carrying out an interesting investigation to find out which colours of food colouring contain the most different colours using chromatography.

Maths

We have completed our topic looking at the four operations used in calculations. All pupils have become much more efficient at using addition, subtraction, division and multiplication.

Humanities

We have completed our topic on Responding to Major Tectonic Events. Students have completed lots of great coursework looking at how individuals, charities and governments can help the health and wellbeing of people, infrastructure and economy of areas affected by these events.



Post 16.1

Some students in Post 16.1 have had the opportunity to complete some work experience at the RSPCA. They enjoyed learning about animal care, took the dogs for a walk, planted flowers and made bird boxes.

We have also visited Redditch town centre and Redditch Job Centre.

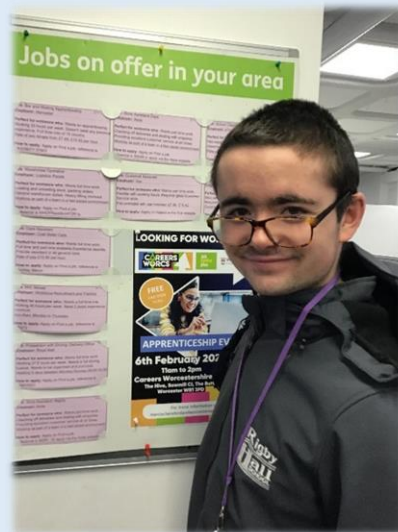


Students have been developing their life skills in their Vocational learning and have been planning and preparing different meals. They have worked together to make apple crumble, pasta bolognese and flapjack.

They have found recipes, created shopping lists and learnt how to use the kitchen and equipment safely and hygienically.

Students have continued to develop their English and Maths skills and have been learning how to write in paragraphs and review and correct their own work.

In Maths they have developed their knowledge and skills with working with money and time.



Post 16.2

This half term we have been reading short texts and finding information.

Students have read and followed a range of instructions and written their own instructions about how to make a cup of tea.

Students are doing really well and working hard on improving their reading and writing.



In maths we have been reading the time on digital and analogue clocks and also reading and recording different date formats.

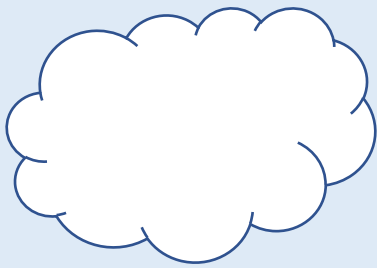
Students have been participating in activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle such as relaxation and meditation and energetic activities such as football and dodgeball.

We enjoyed a visit to Worcester on the train this half term, visiting The Hive. Students are polite and well-mannered and are becoming increasingly confident and independent when in the local community.

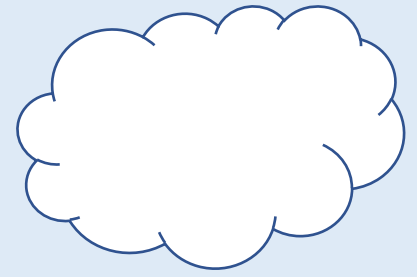
We are looking forward to more offsite visits after Easter break when, hopefully, the weather will brighten up.

Have a lovely Easter break all xxx





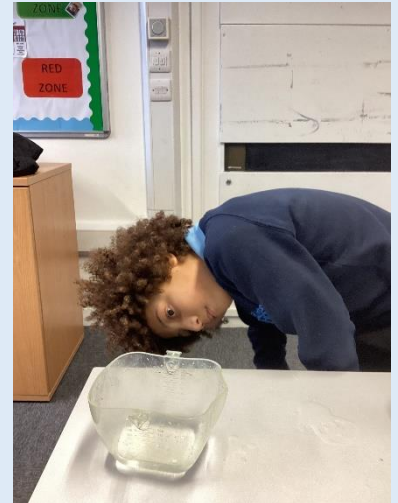
Rowan



In English, we explored a poem called 'Our Broken Planet'. We broke down each verse to spot the repetition and rhyme. We also created our own class poem which was based around animals. We performed this individually in front of the class. We have also explored persuasive writing and looked at ways to save our planet.



This term we have had lots of fun learning about capacity and weight. We have used a variety of resources such as bucket scales and jugs. We have explored many different key words including heavy and light. We have also explored multiplication this term where we have used our forest school sessions to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.



Our topic this half term is 'perfect planet'. In Art, we explored the planets and sketched it into our sketch books. We also painted our own planet using colours of emotion. In humanities we explored seasons and the changes in weather through the months. We also used compasses which enabled us to explore the direction of the wind.

Have a wonderful Easter!



Sapling

We have had a great half term in Sapling class which has involved lots of learning and lots of fun with the theme 'At the Farm'!

In Literacy, we have been learning about The Three Little Pigs. We have been exploring the sensory props, joining in with repetitive phrases and retelling the story!



We have been joining in with rhymes in Number; taking one away. We have been removing objects at the correct part of rhymes and have been matching numerals to quantities.

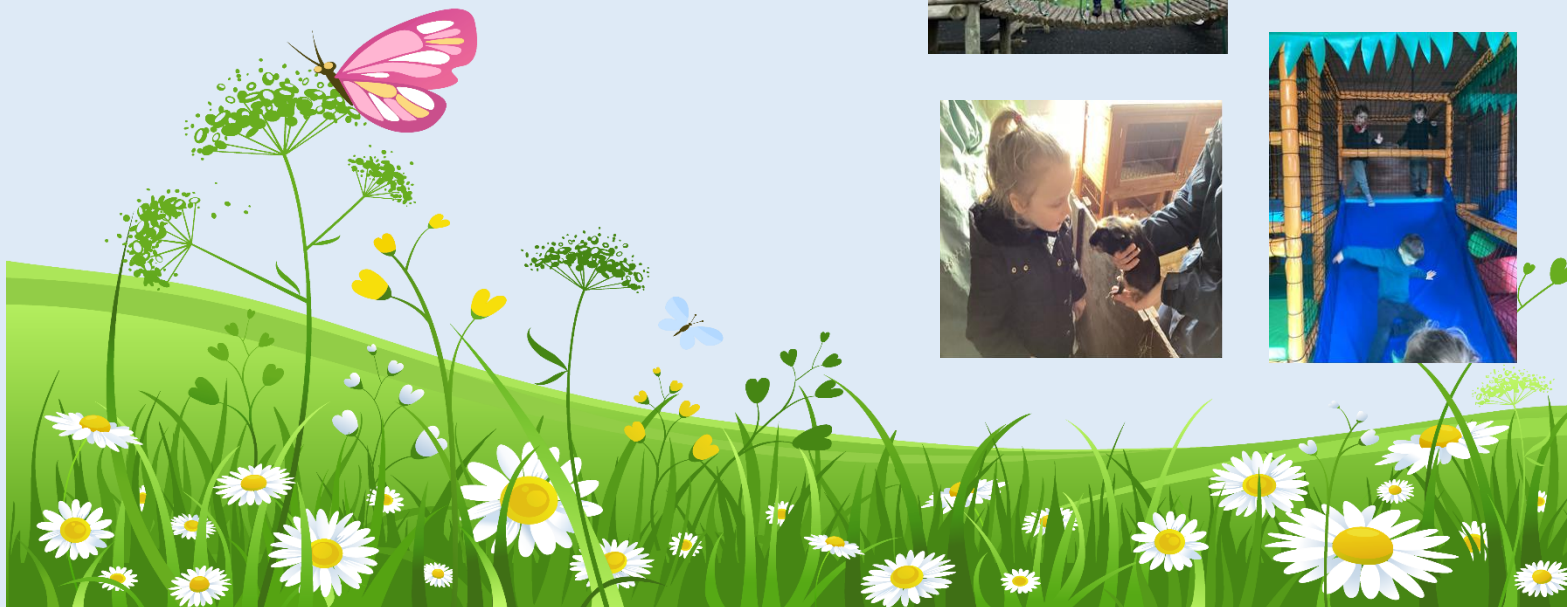
In Maths, we have been exploring coins and notes. We have been giving the 'shopkeeper' pennies during the "Five Currant Buns" rhyme, sorting coins by colour or size, and matching coins to the price of food when 'shopping'.

Sapling class absolutely loved visiting Dodford Farm to end this term's topic. We got to see, touch, and feed real life farm animals. We also enjoyed soft play and the outdoor play area. All children were brilliant and loved their first trip with Rigby Hall.

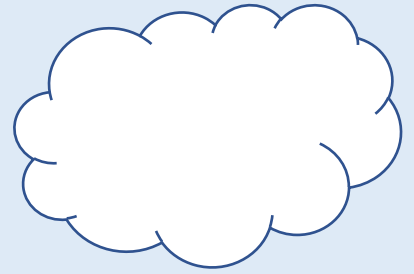
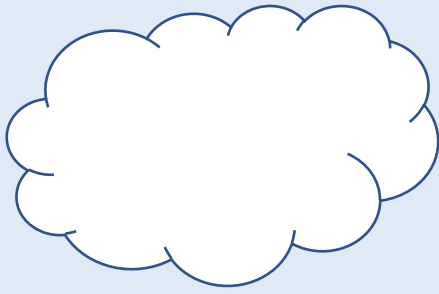
Next term our theme is 'Emergency!'.

Have a lovely Easter and we look forward to seeing all the children for the Summer term!

Zoe, Louise, Kelly, and Nazish



Holly



In Holly class we have been focusing on growing independence skills and beginning to complete longer tasks. Most children are on a TEACCH style basis, learning to follow a schedule of activities to developing independence. They have been able to recap and revisit a lot of previous knowledge whilst building on their new knowledge.



In Mathematics we have been comparing and describing different types of weight. The children have been able to grow their vocabulary and judgements of different weights e.g. heavy and light or, full and empty.



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Holly class have been working really hard on their communication, especially listening and attention activities this term. The children have enjoyed and engaged well by singing songs, playing games and interacting with bucket time.

In Literacy we have been learning about rhyming and poetry. We have been listening to rhyming songs which the children have joined in with and they have been able to match the rhyming words. The children have also enjoyed our poetry activities.



We hope you have a lovely half term and a happy Easter. We would like to thank you for all of your support.



Spruce Class

It feels like only five minutes since our last newsletter but we have had quite a full-on half term with lots of learning and work to fit in. I want to thank everyone again for their massive efforts with attendance, it really does make a huge difference particularly in year 11.

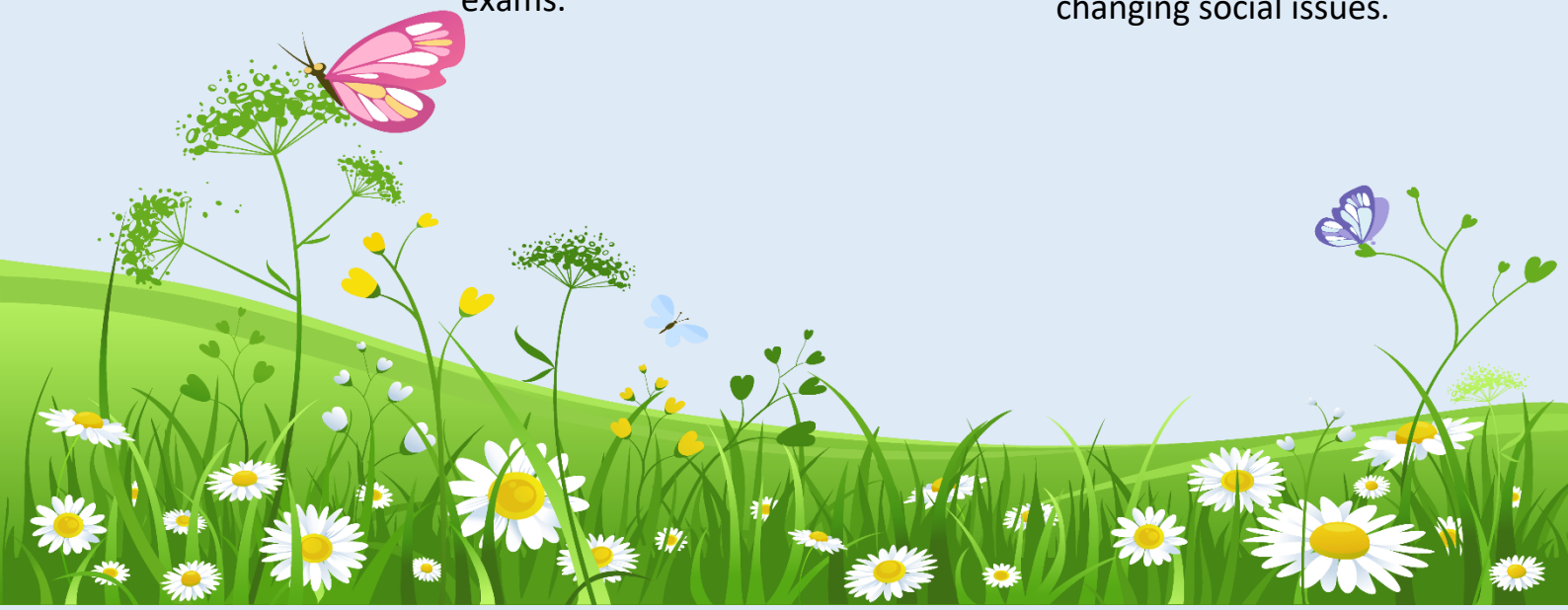
In Maths this half term we have been exploring data and statistics. This has involved learning about and creating graphs as well as collecting and managing raw data. We have also looked at timetables which we learned can be quite tricky because they involve a lot of reading!

In English this half term we have been preparing and practising for our speaking and listening exams. As each student needs recording individually this can be quite logistically tricky so I want to thank all the students for their patience with this! We have also been doing lots of reading practise to make sure we are ready for our upcoming exams.

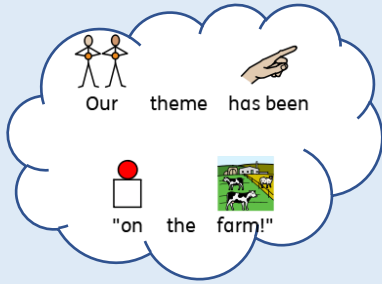
In PE this half term the students have been learning tennis skills. This has involved developing individual skills as well as travelling to the tennis club to play in matches on a proper court. They are getting so much more confident in travelling outside of school and their maturity is really showing.

In Humanities this half term we have been completing two units both very climate focused! In the first we are finishing our work on threatened ecosystems by exploring British Woodland and the threats to it as well as the work done by the woodland trust to preserve and improve our local environments.

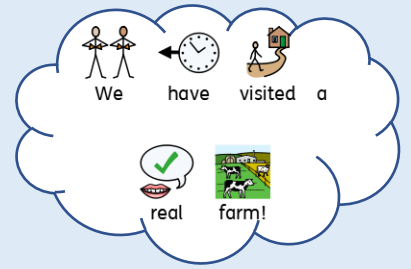
We have also been looking at environmental awareness which involves exploring human impact and changing social issues.



Sycamore



This term our topic has been "on the farm!". We have loved lots of farm and animal-based learning, sensory stories and activities. We also went on a fantastic trip to the farm! Our story this term has been the Three Little Pigs and the children have loved getting to know this story.



In communication we have continued using PECS and aided language displays to help us communicate our needs. We have also greatly developed our understanding of following a now and next board.

In literacy we have been learning the Three Little Pig story and we are able to retell the story using sensory props and sound buttons. The children especially loved the scary wolf voice on the interactive whiteboard.



In maths we have been learning about coins and money. The children have been beginning to match coins and identify their size and colour to help them distinguish between them.

In PE we have been practicing dance and have used our Three Little Pigs story to make a dance to!

We have also made some fantastic progress with our reading this half term and are all engaging more in books and enjoying whole class stories for longer.



Willow

This half term in Literacy we have studied the Three Little Pigs the children have been busy learning the repetitive refrains, identifying characters, settings and the main events, we have sequenced the story using a story map and this week we will be innovating the story with their own choice of characters and settings.



In Mathematics we have been looking at Subtraction and the language used for this, one less than a given number up to ten and subtracting items from a group. We have also looked at the language used in Money identifying and sequencing coins from 1p to £2 and begun to understand that coins can represent different values.



In PE we have been looking at Dance and creating and sequencing moves for the Three Little Pigs. In understanding the World, we have been looking at and identifying plants and flowers. We have also begun to look at the importance of staying healthy and what this means, eating healthily, getting enough sleep and exercise. In PSHE we have studied emotions and how to understand and deal with these.

