



STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"

April 8th 2022

Rainbow Explorers have had another fantastic fun filled term. It began with us reading the story of 'The Ugly Duckling'. Some 'mystery eggs' arrived in Nursery and we wove a nest for them. The eggs hatched into 5 small ducklings and 1 huge duckling. After reading our story we realised that the huge duckling was a swan. We were very excited at the arrival of 10 real chicken eggs and it was wonderful to see them hatch a few days later. The lovely fluffy chicks stayed with us for two week and in that time the children named them using alliteration of the sounds they had been learning in phonics. We learned about how to care for the chicks and watched how they grew. With the help of Jennie Jigsaw we have been learning how to keep our bodies healthy, we practised brushing giant teeth, exercised in the hall and walked to Asda to buy some healthy fruit.



Reception

The children have enjoyed learning from these Superheroes about healthy living.

They kept a sleep diary for a week and shared it with the class and we enjoyed taste testing a variety of wonderful fruit. As a class we learnt about lots of fruit: did you know that it takes up to two years for a pineapple to grow? It took us 5 minutes to eat it.

We enjoyed sharing 'The Living Eggs' experience with Nursery. 10 eggs were placed in an incubator and we all predicted which egg would hatch first. We used our number bonds to 10 and worked out how many males and how many female chicks there would be. The best part was cuddling the chicks, 'Marshmallow' was a firm favourite.

The children are using their phonics in their daily activities and they love spotting 'special friends' (two letters one sound) in the environment. It is a real joy to see them implementing their knowledge, enjoying the value of print and being able to write messages.



Space

The Final Frontier

What a half term of out of this world learning **Year 1** have had. The children have definitely enjoyed our topic on space. The children would have told you about our visit from an alien who flew their spaceship to our school. Luckily we found out that she was a friendly alien called Beegu. The children wrote letters to her and newspaper reports about her visit to our school. We have learnt about eight planets, created a new planet for Beegu and had two visitors to school who told us about the launch of the rocket 'Lucy' who started her journey to Jupiter from America in December last year. She is expected to reach her destination in 2027.

The children have recreated constellations, built rockets, made alien friends for Beegu and researched information about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peakes.

As Buzz Lightyear would say

We have gone to infinity and beyond

This term in **Year 2** we have been learning all about Amazing Africa. We read 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' a story set in an African village about a brave girl who tells the sky the saddest thing she knows to make it rain. We became authors and innovated the story to create our own version about Didcot and the secret of the sun, telling the sky the happiest thing we know to bring out the sun. Next, we met an adventurous meerkat called Sunny, who met his relatives as he travelled to find a peaceful new home. We decided that Sunny needed another adventure, so we became illustrators as well as authors.

In art we have used silhouettes to represent an African sunset and the children have enjoyed blending colours. We have studied the work of Edward Tingatinga a painter from Tanzania, here is one of his paintings.



Max and Ruby painted these amazing African Skies.

In science we have explored the different habitats in Africa and how animals adapt according to their habitats. The children created some wonderful fact files about meerkats such as the fact that they eat scorpions. It has been a wonderful term.



Year 3



In our topic on Rivers we have learnt all about the features of a river and we made our own dioramas. We studied a painting of the Houses of Parliament by the French artist Claude Monet. Monet produced nearly a hundred paintings of views of the River Thames to capture the changing light and seasons. Daisy and Harry painted these wonderful pictures inspired by Monet.

In science we have been studying plants and learning about the water cycle and in guided reading we have enjoyed 'When Jessie came across the sea' by Amy Hest. The book has given us an insight into the experience of an immigrant who travels from a poor village in eastern Europe for a new life in America. We are developing our understanding of fractions in maths and in RE we have been learning about Easter.

Trip of a Lifetime to Oxford

Castle by Toby N Year 4

We went to Oxford Castle and it was the best! So we went to get on the coach and then we got there so we hopped off and chose our partners. There was tonnes of scary things like the padded cells that had a man come out of the wall but it was just a hologram. We went to the stairs and everyone was scared

and terrified like they were going to fall over or something! Finally, we got to Matilda's room where she escaped out of the window. We went into Brother Bernard's room where he died in a corner while drinking alcohol. So we went into the corner and we smelt alcohol, it was weird and we also felt his spirit breathing on us. We climbed more and more stairs and finally reached the top with an amazing view. Eve-

ryone loved it. An interesting fact that is weird is that if you were poor you would have a bad time in prison but if you were rich you would have a good life in prison.

FUN FACT

Did you know that there was this prisoner called 'The Black Panther' and he got shot in the eye and his eye



Thank you Toby for your excellent write up about the Year 4 visit to Oxford castle.

It has been a fabulous term of learning in **Year 5**. There has been some incredible descriptive writing based on the film 'Alma'. Pavaani wrote, 'I walked into the overgrown forest, it was dark, it was eerie but I felt I was not alone' and Emily wrote, 'I heard a rustling sound in a pile of fire wood, a chill went down my spine. Was someone there? Were they following me?'

In maths we have worked on fractions, decimals, and common denominators. We have added, subtracted, multiplied and divided and now we are learning about statistics. Phew!!

Our work on 'Around the World' has been fun. We designed our own flags and researched a range of countries and cities. It was fascinating to learn how Didcot has changed over the last 50 years and the maps we studied were really interesting.

We have taken part in Bikeability and over 30 children were awarded both level 1 and level 2. Swimming has been great and it culminated with us all swimming in our pyjamas and learning some life-saving skills. We have had forest school sessions and have been to UTC to take part in physics, chemistry and engineering workshops.



As well as preparing for their upcoming SATS, **Year 6** have been learning about safety in the community. The children took part in a First Aid session with the IMPS (injury minimisation programme for schools) team. The children learnt the DRS ABC acronym and they practised putting each other into the recovery position, how to make a 999 call and how to use an automated external defibrillator. This certainly prepared the children for their Junior Citizens trip to Oxford Fire Station where they learnt how to respond to different emergencies. The scenarios ranged from stranger danger to safety by water and how to follow an evacuation procedure in the case of a fire.



Good Bye and Thank you

We are sorry to be saying 'Good Bye' to Mrs Price who has worked at Stephen Freeman School since September 2018. During her time with us Mrs Price has made a significant contribution to school life and we will really miss her.

We hope you enjoy your new job and thank you for all the support you have given to the staff and children at Stephen Freeman School

Welcome back to Miss De Bruyn our Year 5 teacher and thank you Mrs Speckels for looking after the class so well.

Term Dates

Term 5

Monday 25th April to Friday 27th May

Half-Term Break

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June

Term 6

Monday 6th June to Wednesday 20th July

(1.30 p.m. finish)

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - extra bank holiday

School will be closed on Monday 13th June.