



## STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"*

### Curriculum In Action

March 31st 2023

**Rainbow Explorers** started the term by learning about Shrove Tuesday (pancake day). Mrs Rowan had a very busy day making pancakes and the children tasted them using a 5's framework to vote for their favourite topping. This was followed by an action packed World Book Day which involved another special snack (cucumber hungry caterpillars), as well as lots of fantastic costumes, story sharing, character hunts and painting character portraits. For the rest of the term we have been reading the story of 'The Ugly Duckling'. The children have been thinking carefully about the feelings of the characters in the story and choosing instruments to represent each character. They have loved moving to the instruments that they chose. Of course we took full advantage of the surprise snowy day and the children had a fantastic time playing outside. We have learnt some lovely new songs and signs from Miss Wilde during national singing week.



### Reception

The term has been filled with 'did you know' facts about animals. We began the term with enquiry questions and facts about animals and as the term has progressed we have been finding out the answers to our questions.

### Quiz Question

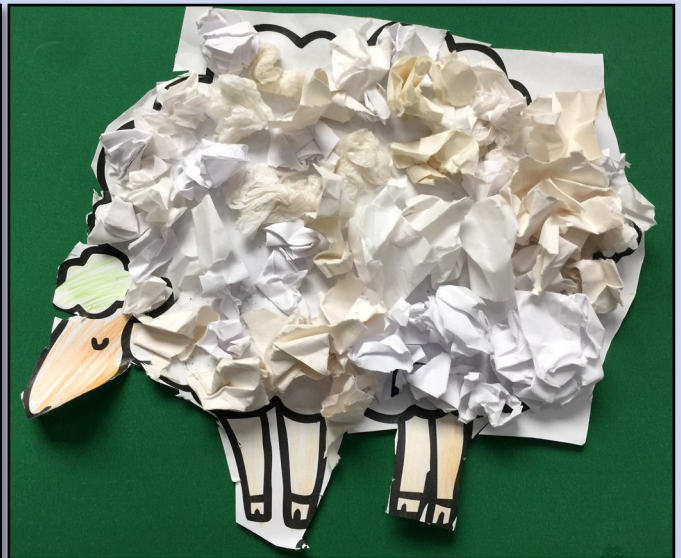
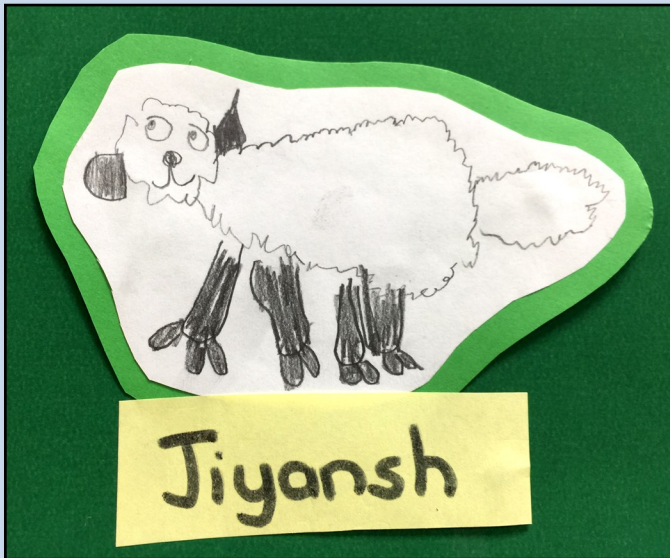
Which animal is the odd one out, blue whale, cod or whale shark?

In maths we have been learning how to double numbers and the children have loved this, they enjoy finding and representing doubles in the continuous provision. PE lessons have been a great success and we have enjoyed the new trainers fashion show. We combined art and IT for our mother's day celebrations. As well as using their art skills the children used an app to record a message and take a selfie. In order to receive their Easter chocolate lolly from the Easter Bunny, the children had to complete a phonics and maths scavenger hunt.

Thank you for all your support this term and for showing us on class dojo all the fun things that you do at home.

### Quiz answer

The odd one out is the blue whale because it is a mammal that needs to come to the surface often enough to breathe. A blue whale also has live babies called calves which are fed with milk. The other two animals are fish as they have gills and can stay underwater indefinitely.



**Year 1** discovered strange colourful marks in the car park, they were amazed and confused by the discovery. When the children returned to their classroom they found video footage of an unfamiliar object floating in the sky above the school building. So many questions were asked; had the school been visited by a UFO, had an alien invasion taken place or were the teachers playing a trick? As the term has progressed, we have learnt more about space and in literacy the children created a newspaper report about the discovery of the strange

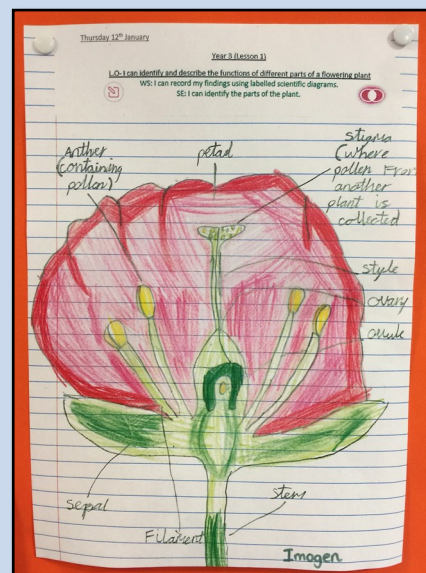
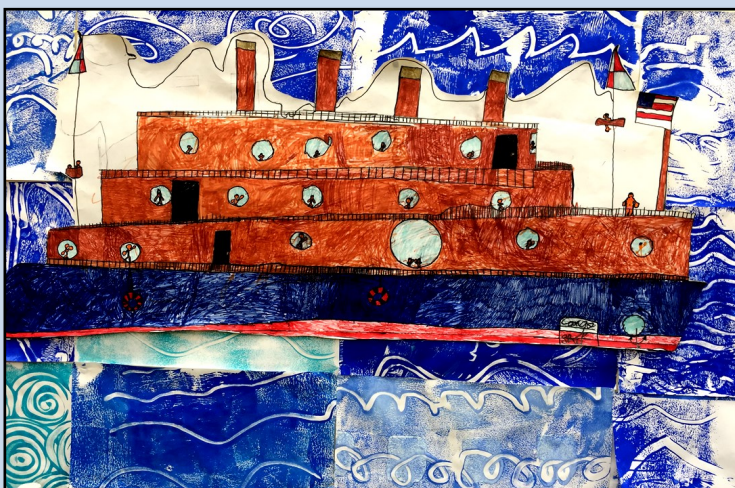
marks. The children were inspired to create their own planets by the work of the artist Sarah Cox. She uses multiple layers of paper and string in her papier mache work to create depth and texture to her sculptures. In science the children carried out an investigation to find the best material for an astronaut's nappy! There has been some wonderful home learning with the children creating an array of rockets, space biscuits and planet mnemonics .



This term **Year Two** have travelled back in time to 1666 to learn all about 'The Great Fire of London'. We started our topic with an amazing workshop where the children dressed up and took part in a range of exciting activities. The made candles, writing quills, soap, jewellery and leather bookmarks. The children also had the chance to explore medicines of the time. In our writing lessons, the children imagined themselves as reporters writing about the events surrounding the fire. Our topic informed our learning in history as we found out more about life in 1666. Our art lessons have been really creative as the children have learnt about mixing colours and how colour can inform our emotions. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made and bought cakes for our fundraising cake sale. You helped us raise an incredible £550 which means that our trip to Warwick Castle can go ahead. **Thank you.**



Our topic in **Year 3** has been 'Flow'. We have learnt all about the features of a river and in Science we have been looking at the uses of water and how it changes. We have loved reading, 'When Jessie came across the sea' by Amy Hest. Inspired by this book we created a mural of ships entering New York harbour. It has been fascinating to learn about the sinking of the Titanic and we have examined existing evidence to draw our own conclusions about what happened. In art we have been learning about how different artists paint water and light and we have been using paints and pastels to get our colours just right. Our maths learning has been centred around fractions and in RE we have been learning about Easter and why the Friday before Easter Sunday is called, 'Good Friday'.

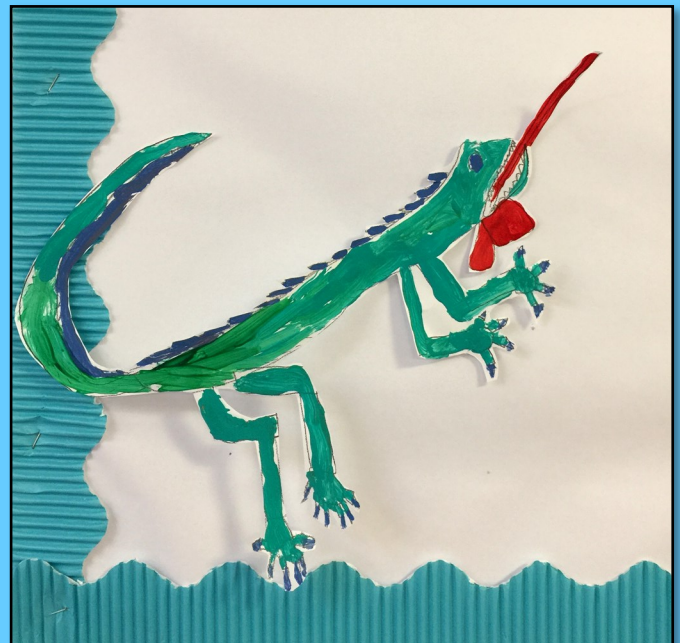


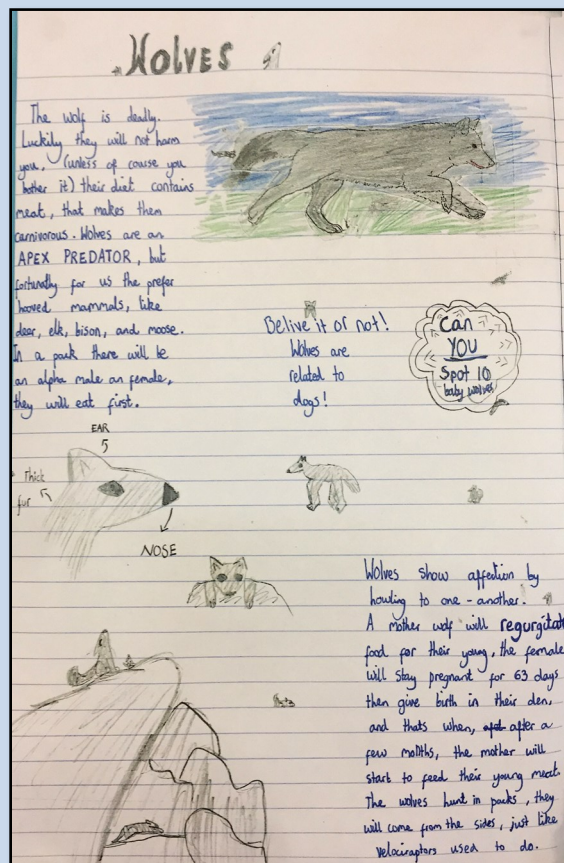
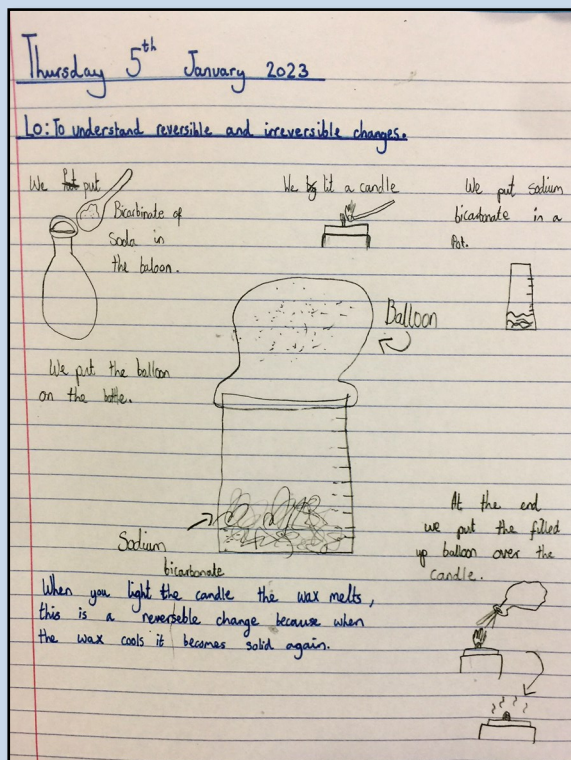
We have had a wonderful term in **Year 4** and the highlight was our trip to Oxford Castle. During the visit the children were able to see first hand how the Normans build a fortified castle. They walked up the 101 'Norman Trip Steps' and peered through the cross bow windows. The children appreciated the view of Oxford from the top of the Motte and could see why this was such a strategic position to build a castle. It was fascinating to learn about the different prisoners who have been imprisoned at the castle and it was interesting to learn that if you were a rich prisoner you could buy a better cell and even enjoy afternoon tea. This term we have been learning about the Battle of Hastings and we had a discussion about whether the odds were stacked against Harold even before the battle started. This has informed our newspaper reports which we have written in our English lessons. In Maths we have focused on multiplying and dividing decimal numbers.



**Year 5** have been learning about the tectonic plates of the Earth, their movements and how movement of these plates creates geographical features such as volcanoes, mountains and earthquakes. In science we explored states of matter and how solids, liquids and gases react to each other. The children were tasked with separating materials using a variety of equipment and then recording their observations. To develop our writing skills we have written formal persuasive letters, fact files and reports. It has been exciting to see the children so engaged and linking their learning between subjects. We have taken an exciting tour of the USA through our guided reading book 'Holes', to making pretzels and learning about Rosa Parks. From this work the children produces some incredible palindrome poems that addressed issues around inequality, stereotypes and negative emotions. As

teachers we were proud of how the children discussed these issues and how they were able to articulate their feelings.





The children have been pushing full steam ahead in **Year 6** to prepare for their SATs. As teachers we have been impressed by the children's self-motivation and resilience. Our topic this term has been focussed on the rainforest. We have created our own biomes that demonstrate the four layers of the rainforest and the ecosystem which enables the rainforest to thrive. Our stimulus for writing has been 'The Jungle Book' and we have been learning about a range of skills such as the use of ellipsis, figurative language and subordinating and coordinating conjunctions. In PE the children have enjoyed gymnastics, tag rugby and a session using the wall



At the beginning of March our school choir took part in the Didcot Music Festival which was held at Didcot Girls' School. Our choir joined a number of other local schools to celebrate the joy of singing together.



The Woodland Trust are running an initiative called 'The Green Tree Schools Award' which encourages outdoor learning and inspires pupils to learn all about trees, woods and wildlife. Our school has been awarded a silver certificate which means that pupils can take part in practical projects while helping the environment and improving the school grounds. Thank you Mr Leader for facilitating this project and well done to Year 5.

### Good Bye Mr De Brito

Mr De Brito is leaving at the end of this term to take up a new teaching post. We wish him luck in his new job and say a big thankyou for the creativity and knowledge that he has brought to Stephen Freeman School over the last three years.

Here are the winners of the PTA Egg Decorating Competition.  
All the entries were lovely and thank you for taking part.



Nursery & Reception First



Nursery & Reception Second Prize



Years 1 & 2 First Prize



Years 1 & 2 Second Prize



'Eggsford Beach'  
 Years 3 & 4 First Prize



Years 3 & 4 Second Prize



'From A Galaxy Far Away'  
 Years 5 & 6 First Prize



Years 5 & 6 Second Prize



Jack in Year 4 recently competed in the National Primary Schools Cross Country Championships in Loughborough. He won and was crowned National Champion. Well done Jack, we are all really proud of you.

### **New School Cooking Equipment**

We were really fortunate to secure a £1000 grant from Tesco's and with the help of a £600 top up from the PTA we were able to purchase some much needed cooking equipment for the whole school. Thank you to Rachel Macdonald for spending her free time shopping for the best deals on everything from wooden spoons to mini ovens. Rachel has now put together boxes of equipment to support cooking lessons across all age groups. Look out for some delicious creations.



### **PTA News**

Thank you to everyone who took part in this years Mother's Day shop. We were overwhelmed with orders and raised a significant amount of money. The volunteers worked really hard and seeing the children's smiling faces as they left with their gifts, made it all worth while

### **Spending**

Up to this point in the school year we have given our usual £50 donation to each teacher to spend as needed.. We have donated £5000 towards the cost of replacing the playground safety surface and £60 on World Book Day prizes. £600 has also been spent on new school cooking equipment.

### **Upcoming Events Coming Soon**

Disco's, Father's Day shop and outdoor cinema (tbc)

### **Get Involved**

If you would like to find out more about volunteering, or you have ideas for events, please contact us through our Facebook page or email [ptastephenfreeman@aol.co.uk](mailto:ptastephenfreeman@aol.co.uk). We usually have an evening meeting once a month and everyone is welcome. We are a very friendly group. We will need some new volunteers this year as half on the current committee will be stepping down at the next AGM when their children move on to secondary school. Being a member of the PTA is a great opportunity to make new friends and support your child's school.

## World Book Day - March 2023

World Book Day was a riot of colours, costumes and activities. We held a competition for the best decorated classroom door and Brazil class won with their wonderful interpretation of 'Beegu'. It was hard to choose a winner as they were all so fantastic. The costumes were fabulous as were the decorated spoons. It was a wonderful way to celebrate books and reading.

