



STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"

Curriculum In Action

October 19th 2023

'It's All About Me' and it certainly has been in **Nursery** this term. We have been delighted to welcome all the children to Rainbows and we have been amazed at how well all the children have settled into their new environment. We have enjoyed finding out all about the children and their families as well as developing group social skills. We have been on an Autumn walk and talked all about the characteristics of Autumn. All the children have loved being creative, drawing pictures of themselves and their families.



Reception

A huge welcome to all the new Reception children and their families, we have had a wonderful start to the academic year. Our RWI phonics lessons are fun, and the children enjoy finding out what our new letter is every day. In our maths we have focused on the numbers 1 to 5. The bikes have proved very popular in free flow and the children are learning to take turns. They love demonstrating their progress as they whiz past. UK class have loved going to Forest School and it will be the turn of Poland class next term. We enjoy seeing your posts on class dojo, thank you for sharing all the amazing activities you do outside of school.



Year 1

The term started with an interesting geography topic during which the children learnt about aerial photographs, directional language, maps, symbols and compass points. When we were outside learning about the physical and human features of geography we made a fantastic discovery. On the field we found a huge nest of 12 mysterious eggs and inside the eggs were dinosaurs! The children were fascinated and loved learning all about dinosaurs and reptiles and mammals, we also learnt how to use the terms carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. The children have enjoyed getting to know our class book, 'Dinosaurs in my School' and they have done some fabulous descriptive sentences. In art we have been creating some dinosaur silhouette paintings and we have learnt about the colour wheel and how to blend colour. In maths we have been doing a lot of place value, number line work and addition.

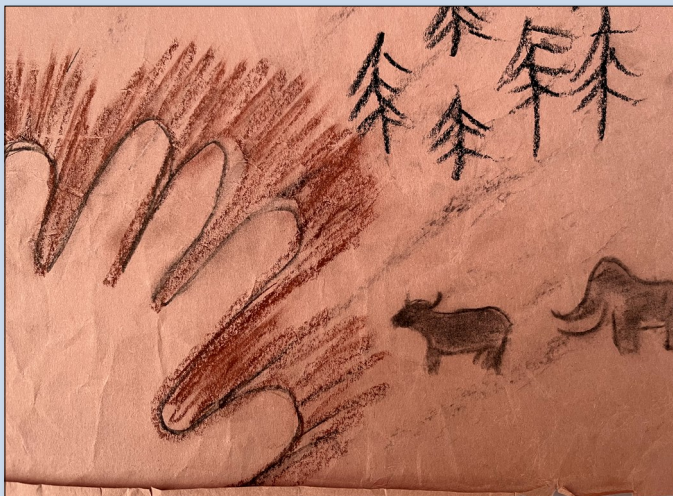


The children have enjoyed lots of practical hands on lessons and have loved the opportunity to record their knowledge and develop their understanding.

Year 2 have had a great start to the term and have enjoyed our topic on pirates. At the beginning of the term the Year 2 classrooms were broken into by the very naughty Captain Blackbeard who stole our class pets. Thankfully, we managed to use the clues to find them. In English we have been reading 'The Pirate next Door' and we wrote letters to the Mayor asking him to make the pirates leave although we all decided we would like pirates to live next door to us. We are now reading 'Grandad's Island' and have been learning all about verbs and writing in the first person. In maths we have been learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables as well as learning what less than and more than mean. The children have been looking at addition and subtraction as well as fact families. We have had very exciting lessons in Design Technology where we have been testing the boats that we have built using a variety of materials. These lessons linked really well to our science lessons where the children built houses for the three little pigs and made a sleeping bag for Humpty Dumpty.



Wow, what an exciting start to **Year 3**. As a class we have been learning all about The Stone Age. The children have created a fact file about the Stone Age and written detailed descriptions of the caves that Stone Age people lived in. In maths the children have been revising their knowledge of place value and learning how to subtract 3 digit numbers. We have had an exciting time in PE playing tennis and creating our own dances based on our understanding of Stonehenge. The children created their own cave paintings and clay pots based on Stone Age art. In Science we have started our topic on animals and the children have spent time learning about the different bones in the human body. We have even created our own bionic hands.



We have had a fun-filled first term in **Year 4**, beginning with our road trip to Asia where we have been exploring Japan and China, our class countries. We have dived into our Geography topic and learnt how to use lines of latitude and longitude to locate countries and continents. It has been great to use our atlases and globes. In art we have been inspired by Hokusai's painting, 'The Great Wave'. After studying the painting, each child was given a section of the piece to recreate which allowed us to develop our self expression. In Science we have been learning how to build a simple electrical circuit. After many failed attempts and lots of new batteries we managed to create a circuit that lit our light bulbs. We then took on the task of making a switch using everyday item. This was definitely a challenge but we succeeded.

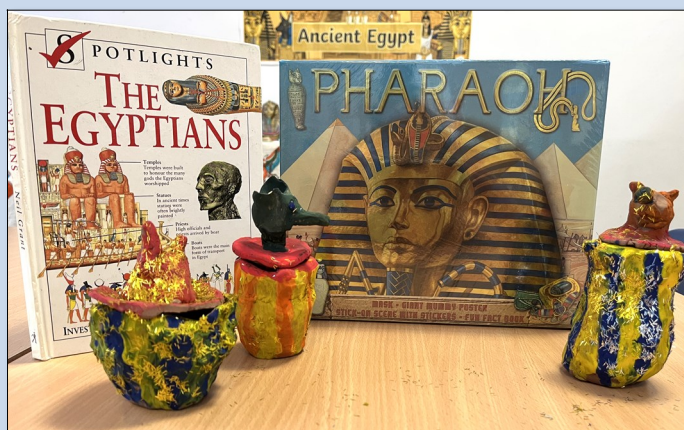


This is the original woodblock print created in late 1831 by the Japanese artist Hokusai

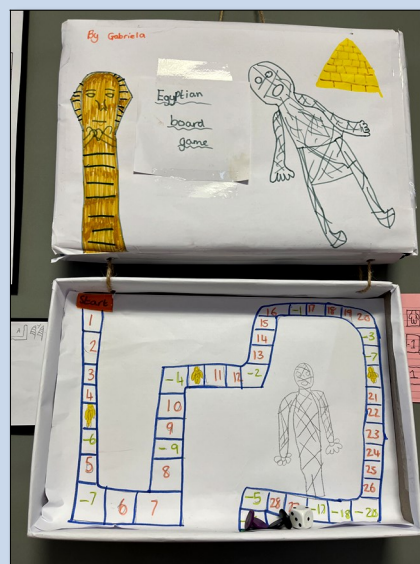


This is an interpretation of Hokusai's painting by the Year 4 class created in late 2023.

This term **Year 5** have been transported back over 3,000 years to the time of the ancient Egyptians. We have learnt about the Gods that the ancient Egyptians worshipped and their rituals including mummification. We had a go at mummification using tomatoes and we created our own canopic jars which were containers that were used by the ancient Egyptians during the mummification process. It has been fascinating learning all about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter. We have been writing our own newspaper reports about the events on the days following the opening of the tomb which linked to our guided reading book, 'Secrets of the Sun King' by Emma Carroll. We enjoyed our visit to the Ashmolean Museum where we saw real Egyptian artefacts. In Science we have been learning about the life cycles of different animals.



These are an example of our Canopic Jars



Gabriella made this Egyptian board game as part of her home learning

We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Mexico in our first term in **Year 6**. We have discovered why the Mayan civilization was so important and how it has influenced our lives today. We have worked hard on securing our understanding of place value in maths and in English we have been working on consistent tenses, noun phrases, and how to use a parenthesis. In art we created our own pictures based on the book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio. The book is a story about a ten-year-old boy named August Pullman who has facial differences and it follows his experiences when he goes to a traditional school. The book is essentially about kindness and we thought about the message of the book as we painted our pictures. We have all enjoyed learning all about the notes A and G in music and listening to 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams.



Harvest Festival

As a school we enjoyed celebrating Harvest Festival. It was an opportunity for us to reflect on all the things that we have to be thankful for and to consider how we could help those in our community who don't have all they need. We decided to collect items for the food bank in Didcot. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

Stephen Freeman and Didcot Girls School Paired Reading Initiative.

As a school we are really pleased that once again 6th form students from Didcot Girls' School will be supporting the children with their reading. This support will be offered across all age groups and we look forward to welcoming the students to Stephen Freeman School.

Coffee Morning



The children in Madagascar class organised a coffee morning to raise funds for

Macmillan Cancer Support. This was in memory of their friend Max and the class raised an incredible £881. Well done to you all and thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser.

Dates

20/10/23 - INSET Day
 30/10/23 - School re-opens
 02/11/23 - Flu Vaccinations
 06/11/23 - Year 6 Residential
 08/11/23 - PTA After School Cake Sale
 10/11/23 - Year 6 Return from Residential
 01/12/23 - PTA After School Nearly New Toy and Book Sale
 13/12/23 - School Christmas Lunch
 15/12/23 - PTA After School Christmas Fair
 19/12/23 - End of Term 1.30 p.m. finish