

3rd November 2023

Year 5 Newsletter

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a great time with your children! They have certainly worked very hard this week. In maths, they learnt about multiples, factors, common factors and prime numbers. In English, we started a new class book, "Varjak Paw" by SF Said. The main character, Varjak, is a cat whose family have stayed indoors for generations. The children's first task was to write a discussion text about whether or not Varjak should go outside. Reading more of the book, we saw how the author uses a device called the 'rule of three' to make his writing more powerful and dramatic. The children wrote a descriptive recount of some of the events, trying to use the 'rule of three' in their own writing.

In science this week, we considered the properties of the materials that features of houses are made of, and what makes them suitable for their purpose. For example, windows are made of glass, which is transparent to let light through, impermeable to keep the house dry, and strong, so it doesn't bend or break easily. In RE, we started looking at 'The Big Bible Story' to gain a sense of how the stories in the Bible fit together. Finally, in Geography we started a new unit of learning, which focuses on the question *Why is California so thirsty?*

For PE this term, we will learn the skills to play hockey and football. If the weather is awful, we will go indoors though - one lesson this week we played bench ball, which uses netball skills. Lots of children have PE bags and kit which is not named. I'd really appreciate it if you could ensure absolutely all items of uniform are named, as we seem to get a heap of unnamed clothes in KS2 every day!

Teacher of the Week

Our first teacher for Term 2 was Dylan. He told us about his passion for football with great enthusiasm - I hope his dream comes true to play for Crystal Palace one day!



The children enjoyed his tasks, including completing a quiz to name all of the teams in the Premier League.

Vocabulary Ninja!

We are excited to be introducing a new whole-school system for teaching spelling called Vocabulary Ninja! Each week, a spelling pattern will be introduced to the children in class. Every Friday, a set of words will be sent home for the children to learn to spell, along with a fun activity to help them practise. (This week, this is the only home learning task to be completed, but this will not usually be the case.) Additional activities will be carried out



in school during the week, so spellings will be reinforced at home and in school, before a spelling test takes place on Thursday. The system includes regular revision of common words that the children are expected to be able to spell, so don't worry if some words seem a bit easy for your child. Also, there may seem to be a lot of words to learn, but we hope that by practising at home and at school, this won't be a problem. As with all new initiatives, we will try things out and adapt as necessary, but we hope to have a whole school of Spelling Ninjas very soon!

Woodland Learning

Our first Woodland Learning session this term will take place next Wednesday, 8th November. Any offers of help would be greatly appreciated. The second session this term is due to take place on Wednesday 22nd November.

Best wishes,

Louise Grinstead