

Newsletter 17

Friday 19th January 2018

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Investigating Democracy



Although British Values under-pin our whole school ethos, throughout this term we are explicitly focusing on them in assembly. We have been having some fascinating and very informative discussions led by the children both in assembly and in lessons. This week the children had the opportunity to discuss democracy in action with our local MP, Heidi Allen.

Heidi kindly put herself into the spotlight to be grilled by the children. She expertly dealt with questions on many aspects of her role as our representative in parliament and was kind enough to answer questions about what motivated her to become an MP and whether she knows the Queen!

The SAW Project

We are always looking for ways to make our curriculum as creative as possible so we were delighted to welcome the SAW project to Year 6 for two days this week. SAW—the science, art and writing initiative—breaks down the traditional barriers between the arts and sciences. Having taken soil samples from the school grounds during the previous week the children were amazed to find that large numbers of bacteria had grown in their petri dishes. Close study of the bacteria and mapping their genomes showed the children how many helpful pathogens exist in nature. Dr Wilkinson talked to the children about his revolutionary research on Leaf Cutter Ants in his search for new antibiotics.



Using the science as inspiration, the children were inspired to create poems and artwork based on the bacteria. They enjoyed expressing themselves using inks and oil pastels to produce some fascinating artwork. The project has given us all an insight into the world of science, art and writing and has hopefully inspired the next generation of scientists.



Inspiring Public Speakers

On Wednesday afternoon four of our very talented children took part in the first Network CB23 Public Speaking competition at Peterhouse College. Many would have been daunted to take to the stage in the esteemed



surroundings of Cambridge University's oldest college but the children relished the challenge. The standard was extremely high and the competition was very stiff. All the children spoke with authority on the subject, 'In the future I hope' and entertained the audience with their visions of a world filled with driverless flying cars, or gave us hope that the world will become a fairer, more peaceful place when the next generation are in charge. Well done to Sophia in Year 6 who was judged the overall winner for the Year 5 and Year 6 category by the Peterhouse judges. I think all the children could have very promising careers as

politicians in the future.

Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to give you clues to describe an Arctic animal. Can you guess what it is?

Ask your Year 1 child what democracy means and how letting people vote for things is fair.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you how hurricanes are formed.

Ask your Year 3 child to show you the conditioned phrase learnt in PE.

Ask your Year 4 child to list the components of an electrical circuit and draw their symbols.

Ask your Year 5 child to name five facts they have discovered about Sir Walter Raleigh (at least one of the facts should be from the book *My Friend Walter* by Michael Morpurgo).

Ask your Year 6 child whether they think Robin Hood is a villain or hero.

Head Teacher Roll of Honour

This week it has been wonderful to see so many children who are working so hard and taking such great pride in everything they do.

Beau in Orange Class— Beau is always kind and helpful and determined to do her best. She has worked so hard on her writing and has shown me how successful she has been with some beautiful work this week.

Niven in Indigo Class—I think Niven is going to be a very successful politician in the future. He impressed everyone in assembly with his incredible knowledge of our political system and thought provoking questions.

Miles in Columba Class—Miles loves a challenge and impressed me with his approach to a tricky problem this week. He applied his knowledge of times tables and many other facts to find the solution and explain his thinking.

Jasmine in Pegasus Class— Jasmine always puts 100% into everything she does including her reading. We have been amazed by your analysis of language when you have been comparing texts this week. Well done.

Forthcoming Dates

26th January 9am —Green Class assembly

27th March 2pm—Year 5 performance

2nd February 9am —Dorado Class Assembly

27th March 4pm—Parent Consultation Evening

6th February 10am—Year 2 Spring performance

28th March 6pm—Year 5 performance

7th February 2 pm—Year 2 Spring performance

29th March—last day of Spring Term

8th February 2pm— Reception Come and Share

30th March—EASTER HOLIDAYS begin

9th February—Year 1 'Come and Share afternoon

16th April—Children Return to school

w/c 12th February— HALF TERM

20th February—All children return

26th February —2nd March—Science Week

w/c 5th March—Book Week

20th March 9.30am—Reception Come and Share

22nd March 5pm—Parent Consultation Evening

23rd March 9am—Cygnus Class assembly

w/c 26th March —International Week

Ravenous Readers

In the words of Dr Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Here at Monkfield Park, we couldn't agree more. We believe that providing children with rich reading and writing opportunities both at school and at home are fundamental in developing a child's love for reading.

On Wednesday afternoon, an interactive session was held for Reception and Key Stage One parents which showcased a range of activities and ideas to promote reading and writing within the home and beyond. This included cosy reading areas, a list of challenges to complete at the library, reading bingo, e-books and recommended reads. Great fun was had by the parents and children who came along and many left with an eagerness to read and write more together as a family.

Do not worry if you were unable to attend the session as the wealth of ideas will be accessible to all via the school website.



Spelling

Each week we will be suggesting some games to help your child remember their spellings. We hope these games will be a fun way to build your child's confidence in spelling and also something that you can enjoy playing together. After all, learning should be fun.

Clap and Chant

Get your child to clap out the letters of a tricky word while chanting the letters, or say each letter out loud in silly voices.

Arctic Explorers



Children in Orange and Yellow Class have been learning all about life at the top of the world, so they were very excited to receive a visit from Mr Kavanagh who is a real life Arctic explorer. Mr Kavanagh explained to the children what it is like to live in extremely cold climates and helped them to think about what type of equipment they would need to take on an expedition to the Antarctic. Everyone had great fun trying on Mr Kavanagh's super insulated arctic equipment.

School Disco

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our School Disco on Friday 9th February 2018 in the main hall.

Due to the limited capacity of the hall we need to keep age groups paired together so there will be three discos divided by Year Groups - 4pm-5pm for Years 1 & 2, 5.15pm-6.15pm for Years 3 & 4, 6.30pm-7.30pm for Years 5 & 6.

Each ticket is £2.50 and this includes entrance, a drink and a cone of popcorn. We also recommend that you co-ordinate with friends to share drop off and pick up as collection of children after discos is often chaotic and with fewer adults it is easier to ensure a smooth handover.

If you are available and would like to help out at the disco then please email us at friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com , all help would be greatly appreciated!



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Ideas

Just like last year our main fundraising aim this year is to raise funds for the Library refurb. We are after fundraising ideas that not only we can do but also that the staff and pupils can do at school. If you have any ideas, no matter how BIG or small, please let us know. You can either send us a message via our Facebook page or via email to friendsofmonkfieldpark@gmail.com.



Year 6 leavers Celebrations

We may have just returned from the Christmas break but preparations for this year's leaver celebrations will soon start. If you are interested in helping with the planning and/or at the event then please get in touch. These are run entirely by the Year 6 parents to ensure they have the send off they deserve.

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