

Straight out of the classroom

Topcliffe C of E Primary School Class 2, 3 & 4 news

Class 2 - Phonics – Year 1s have been looking at different nouns. We have discovered that common nouns such as: spring, summer, dog and cat for example, do not need a capital letter, but days of the week, months of the year and names of people and places do. We also found out that agent nouns are words that describe the job a person or thing does and often they end in /er/. A waiter brings food, a farmer works on a farm and a teacher teaches! Year 2's have had a check up this week on common exception words. Any which they did not get right will be in homework books this week.

Class 2 - English – In English we have been exploring a text called 'Dear Greenpeace'. We answered questions about the text and then completed some drama activities. We then started our own research on blue whales as Emily, the main character, believes that she has found a blue whale in her pond. We very quickly found out why she could not have possibly had a blue whale in the pond. We have then been using this knowledge to help us write a non-chronological text about blue whales. We have drawn a picture and labelled it and we have written questions and answers.

Class 2 - Maths – Year 1s have been exploring place value. We have been using base 10 blocks to separate 10s and 1s in to their own columns. This helps us to think about how teen numbers can be split in to their individual components. We can then clearly see that thirteen is made up of one 10 and three 1s. Year 2's have been working on multiplication and division. We have been using arrays to help use work out number sentences and we have used number lines as well. We have looked at how multiplication and division are the inverse of one another. We sorted numbers into multiples of 2, 5 and 10 by spotting the patterns in the 2,5 and 10 times table. We then used this knowledge to reason why 19×2 would be 38 and not 21 or 18.

Class 2 - Afternoons – We have read the story of the Great Wall of China, how Emperor Qin wanted to rule over many kingdoms and build the wall to protect his land. We then had a great afternoon building our own wall as a whole class. It was 2.5m long and the tallest tower was 74cm high! In RE we explored the parable of the lost sheep. We compared two versions of the story and discussed the morals of the story. We then looked at stained glass windows and other pictures of the story and discussed how these made us feel.

Class 4 news

Maths – We have been looking at Roman numerals this week. We have discovered that they are made up of a combination of seven letters. They also used addition and subtraction in order to write numbers eg. XI = $10 + 1 = 11$. I wonder if your child can remember what D stands for? We have also been using our calculation knowledge to solve some topical problems about 'Heart Month' which is February.

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Class 3 news

English – In English we have been writing stories concentrating on using different kinds of sentences for effect and descriptive writing to describe characters, setting and plot. We have also been practicing our speech punctuation, making sure that it is really accurate. Our SPAG focus has been spelling homophones and words with pre-fixes and suffixes correctly.

Class 3 – Maths – In Maths we have been revising our written methods for column addition and subtraction. The Year 3s have been concentrating on 3 digit numbers and the Year 4s on 4 digit numbers. We have then been using our skills to solve problems using the inverse. We have also learned how to round numbers and have been using rounding to estimate the answer to a problem before working it out.

Class 4 - English – In English this week we have been focusing on editing and re-drafting our work – a key skill in KS2. The children need to be able to do this independently. We have been using 'polishing stations' in order to focus on specific skills in writing eg. Punctuation, sentence openers and presentation of work. The children then made notes about what they thought they had done well and what they wanted to improve. This was reflected in their second draft which was a huge improvement.

Class 4 - Afternoons – In PE we have been working on our routines in our dance and gymnastics sessions with Mrs Clay. We performed these this week and will look at them again to self and peer review them. We have also been learning more about netball in order to compete in the tournament – the children who went did a great job. Well done! We have also been finishing our work on the Romans this week and I was really impressed by all the fantastic homework! I hope you all have a wonderful half term!

Class 3 - Afternoons –

We have been continuing to enjoy our weekly Ukulele sessions on a Friday afternoon. The children have really come on since the beginning of term and now have several songs in their repertoire. They have really enjoyed the opportunity to learn this instrument and are looking forward to continuing it next term.

In PE we have been playing matches in tag rugby and we are beginning to make progress in understanding the rules, particularly how to pass the ball backwards while moving forwards towards the goal!

We are coming to the end of our Stone Age to Bronze Age topic but it has been lovely to see the children's enthusiasm for the subject. I have really enjoyed seeing the fantastic work they all did for homework, so thank you very much indeed for all your support with this at home.

It has been a very busy and productive half term and I hope you all enjoy a well-earned rest in the holidays. Have a fantastic time with your family!