

Straight out of the classroom

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

Class 2 - Phonics – We have been busy with our phonics. Year 1's are continuing to work on words where we are identifying the consonants and vowels. We regularly look at tricky words as well. Year 2's have been exploring spelling rules and patterns when pluralising a word. Don't forget to keep encouraging your child to sound out at home when they are reading. If they can sight read a word, then this is fine as well. Keep practising spellings and encourage your child to write these into sentences.

Class 2 - English – We have been working on our spider based writing. We have practised using adjectives in sentences and some of us wrote expanded noun phrases as well. This is where we use adjectives to describe nouns e.g. the blue butterfly. We then did some research on spiders and used these facts in a non-chronological report. We have then been exploring rhyming words and have then used these in a poem about spiders. The poems were great and your more than welcome to pop in and see them in your child's writing book.

Class 2 - Maths – In maths we have been focussing on addition. Year 1's have been looking at number bonds and learning to count on using a number line to help. We have then taken this knowledge into problem solving. Year 2's have also been counting on using a 100 square. We have then been working on column addition where we add the ones first and then the tens. It's quite tricky when we have to exchange a ten and we must remember to add this on.

Class 2 - Afternoons – We have been learning about light in science. We have explored light sources and thought about the sun. In history we have been learning about the Gunpowder Plot. We have thought about the artefacts Guy Fawkes might have used then. We have also started our nativity! We are enjoying learning our lines and songs ready for our performances.

Class 4 news

Maths – In maths we have moved on to looking at division methods and, importantly, how to apply these to problems. We have learned a method for short division and also the 'chunking' method for long division. We have then tried to apply these methods accurately when solving word problems. We have been supporting this work by daily practice of our times tables using songs, chants and visual prompts.

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Class 3 news

English – In English we have been learning how to add adverbial phrases to our sentences to include some interesting detail. These are phrases that explain how, when or why something happened. We finished the week with some winter poems, learning how to use personification and simile. These are displayed in the corridor so please come and enjoy them.

Class 3 – Maths – In maths we have moved onto division. We have been using different methods to divide 2 and 3 digit numbers. The children have done really well with this. Some of us are still practicing the skills we need to divide so they are really confident with the method they are using. Others have moved on to problem solving and are enjoying the challenge. Any extra practice with multiplication and division on RM Easimaths would be brilliant.

Class 4 - English – As the story (Wolf Brother) develops, so too does our curiosity as to what will happen next! We have been looking at the punctuation and grammar used in the book and seeing if we can use it in our own writing. We have been focusing on subordinate clauses eg. Although Torak was tired, he still continued to climb through the dense woodland. We have also recapped fronted adverbials eg. As soon as he could get away, Torak fled the camp. I wonder if your child can tell you the difference between the two?

Class 4 - Afternoons – In science this week we have been exploring and investigating solids, liquids and gases. We took part in two experiments, one of which saw bicarbonate of soda react with vinegar to release a gas which blew up a balloon! In the other experiment we were debating whether a cornflour and water mixture was a solid or a liquid – it has very interesting properties! In PE we have been setting targets for ourselves and seeing if we can reach these targets – measuring our own and our partner's progress.

Class 3 - Afternoons – Our afternoons have been busy with finishing our pointillism pictures in art. These are now displayed in the classroom, so please feel free to come in and enjoy them. They look very colourful and eye catching. In Geography, we had an interesting debate about the Euro, learning about which countries used it and which countries didn't. We thought carefully about the reasons for and against the Euro and wrote a reasoned argument. In Science, we have been continuing to investigate electrical circuits, experimenting with the effect of adding extra light bulbs, extra wires, changing the order of the different parts of the circuit and then observing and explaining the effects. The children have really enjoyed the practical part of these investigations.

