

Weekly Learning Reflections

Week Beginning: 6th November 2023



Good afternoon Class Endeavour families,

In the blink of an eye, another week has come and gone. The children have been focusing really hard on independence and perseverance this week, and challenging themselves to problem solve on their own before asking for help. We have successfully planned the 'Ranvilles Firework Party', analysed birth and death rates across a range of countries, continued to master the ukulele, and commence our volleyball training. It has been a consistently hard-working week, where the children have had to push themselves every day, but each and every one of them is rising to the challenge.

In English, the mobile phone debate has continued, with the children finding research and evidence to back up their points for their balanced argument. They have logically planned their points in order to increase effectiveness, and maintain cohesion throughout their writing. The children have really enjoyed building their discussions so far this week, and I look forward to see how they develop over the next few sessions.

In today's lesson, we looked at the poem of Flanders Fields by John McCrae. Initially, we looked at some context around the time of writing, where the children discussed what their emotions would be like having to live in the conditions that the soldiers did, and what challenges they might have faced. Once the children were more confident about what the men would have been going through, we read through the poem carefully, looking for the message that was being shared. I was so impressed with the depth of understanding and detailed observations that were made by the class, and how they were able to make inferences from the lines of the poem.

In Maths, we faced long division. The children had finished last week with short division, and now, a new strategy was introduced. Long division can seem quite daunting upon first glance, however, once the steps had been looked at a bit closer, it began to make sense to the class. We have mastered the steps over the course of the week, and, for the past two days, the children have been completing the Big Problem for this domain, 'Ranvilles Firework Party'. This task saw the children having to problem solve a variety of planning needs for the party. The word problems would either require a division skill, or potentially another maths skills, but that was for the children to solve. This was an independence-focused lesson, as a lot of the class have the instinct to ask for support straight away, without attempting to solve it independently first. We set up a list of strategies for the children to go through before asking for help from an adult in the class, and by the end of the two lessons, the children were working entirely independently, and with confidence.

With the rest of the curriculum, in French, the children are developing their skills and confidence to describe their houses. This week, it was what house they lived in, and who with. This meant that not only did the main vocabulary have to be learnt, but also some smaller, more commonly used, words

had to be understood as well. These skills will, once again, be built on next week as we take a closer look into the house vocabulary. Light was the continued objective of Science, this time looking at how we see. The children studied the human eye, and what role each aspect played in producing the images that we see into our brain. They explored how rays of light move from a light source, to an object, through our eye, and into our brains. In Geography, we looked at an aspect of population change: birth and death rates. Studying some examples of decreasing and increasing populations, we considered the factors that might influence these changes. The children analysed some graphs and compared some natural increases of countries around the world.

For Stars of the Week, we had a three-way tie for class choice, between Leyton, Josh and Tieghan. Josh, for being a great maths coach, always trying his hardest and persevering in every lesson. Leyton, for being brave and speaking in assembly today, being a good friend through both good and bad times and challenging himself in all subjects. Finally, Tieghan, for challenging herself in maths when mastering long division and for being kind and helpful to others. My choice for the week was Sebastian. He is positive about his learning, and is always up for a challenge, or something that makes him think that bit harder. He is a wonderful role model in the class, and across the school, happy to support adults and peers alike, helpful around the classroom and such a reflective learner. Well done to you fantastic four!

I hope that you have a restful weekend, and take the time to unwind and spend time with your loved ones. Remember that Monday is a non-uniform day, with the task of bringing in ladies' gifts for Christmas. However, do keep in mind that it is a PE day for us, so please have something that the children will be about to do activities in. I will see you then!

Miss Devonshire 😊