

Weekly Learning Reflections

Week Beginning: 15th January 2024



Good afternoon Class Endeavour families,

This week has been jam-packed with learning, and the children have risen to every challenge that they have faced, and have shown consistent resilience and perseverance to push themselves and prioritise their individual learning journeys.

In English, we have looked at the autobiography of Michelle Obama, 'Becoming', analysing a selection of extracts from the beginning chapters about her childhood. We have studied language, picked apart techniques and completed a variety of questions so that the children knew the text inside and out. This information was then used by the children to write a short extract of their own, recounting Michelle's first piano lesson, that could fit seamlessly into the original text. In order to do this, the children needed to consider the style of writing that was used, as well as the writer's voice, to be able to match them both. The children became so interested in these extracts, and wanted to know more and more about Michelle Obama's childhood, but also found great enjoyment in using what they knew about her and her story to suggest an alternative to a segment of her childhood – some of them getting it spot on!

In Maths, we have started our journey into decimals and percentages, something that many children in the class lacked confidence in at the start of the week. They have worked immensely hard this week, really focusing on the small, but important, details to remember in each process and method. This week, we looked at decimal place value and rounding decimals, before moving on to calculating with decimals (reasoning and problem-solving style questions) and an escape room themed big problem. Solving a number of intricate questions and calculations, the children had to put the week's learning to the test, as well as think back to some prior learning, in order to escape the room. They all did so well and it really showed the increase in their confidence levels, and their progress in terms of their learning attitudes; at the start of the year some of them would have given up part way through the lesson, but they maintained focus and were determined to use every minute of the lesson to solve these calculations.

Looking at the rest of the curriculum, we continued our study on inheritance and variation in Science, this week with an experiment. Using a selection of different sized tweezers, the children were tasked with moving some grains of rice from one dish to another. A simple task, they originally thought. Half an hour later, through sheer willpower and focus, the children had filled out their results grid and had worked out the average time it took each pair of tweezers to move the rice. This experiment represented the different beaks of the Galapagos finches, which Charles Darwin studied as he formed his concept of natural selection. In RE, we looked at the Islamic ritual of Wudu, which is a cleansing ritual that is completed before prayer. The children were so intrigued by this ritual, and

this inspired some great discussion amongst the class. By the end of the lesson, everyone was confident in explaining the steps that are to be taken when completing the ritual, as well as being able to explain the significance of it in Islam. In History, we have started to write our newspaper report about the Portsmouth Blitz. It is so amazing to see how much knowledge the children have retained since our previous lessons, and the passion that they have for the events. Together, we discussed the important events that needed to be added into our synopsis, and there were numerous moments where every hand in the class was up, with children itching to show that they knew the information.

For Stars of the Week this week, it was a very close call – we even had to do a secondary vote to finalise our decision, because we had so many nominations! In the end, the class chose Oscar. Their reasons for this choice were due to his constant perseverance in Maths and for always being a good, supportive friend. My choice this week is Elizabeth. I chose Elizabeth because she is a consistently great role model within the class, always encouraging others to make the right decision when they are wandering off task. As well as this, she is really pushing herself in her learning, always excited for a new challenge and has a brilliant learning attitude. Well done Oscar and Elizabeth!

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend, wrapping up warm for the cold weather. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning!

Miss Devonshire 😊