

# Weekly Learning Reflections

**Week Beginning: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**



Good afternoon Class Endeavour families,

This week has been yet another hard-working and amazing week for the children. They have imagined themselves sneaking into abandoned studies, discussed the significance of percentages in real life and solved a series of problems on this, and continued their learning of evolution through analysis of evidence over many years. They have all maintained positive attitudes and have been reflective on what can help them be successful in class and around the school each and every day.

In English, we looked at novel called 'The Tiger Who Sleeps Under My Chair' by Hannah Foley. We have only looked at the first few pages, though I know that the children are desperate for answers to the many questions that they posed throughout the week. So far, we have met a young girl called Emma, who lives in the attic of her large Victorian house. Her father, Mr Linden, seems a very strict, powerful man. One morning, Emma sees a letter under the arm of the housemaid, addressed to her, in her brother's handwriting. Desperate to know the content, Emma plans to sneak into her father's study, a forbidden place in the house, despite the fact that she never leaves her room due to her fragile health. The children's task was to write a detailed description of the study, and include a short piece of narrative following Emma as she searches the study, finds the letter and the final event is up to them – does she get caught? The children have really enjoyed generating vocabulary for this, and have put their imagination to the test as they have had to consider what Emma might or might not recognise in the study due to the way she lives her life. So far, we have planned the description and started to add the narrative elements, this will be continued next week.

In Maths, our focus has been on the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have worked incredibly hard on learning the process of converting between each of these formats, and challenging themselves to use these skills to solve word problems as well. It can be a very challenging and complicated concept to master, but the children have not let this shake their confidence and determination. They have come in every day, ready to tackle all of the questions that we send their way – we have particularly looked at the method of breaking down the percentages into smaller, more manageable ones, to then build them back up to the percentage that we are attempting to find. Also, today we started to consider the use of percentages, of amounts and increasing and decreasing, in real-life contexts, which has helped the children to understand the purpose and importance of understanding the concept.

Across the rest of the curriculum, in Science, the focus was evidence showing evolution. The children looked at how photographs of bone structures, as well as other sources, enable us to understand how certain animals have evolved over time. This links to previous lessons about adaptation and Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, the survival of the fittest. Next week, we will look at other scientists, and their viewpoints regarding the concept. In PE, we continued our Hockey training, focusing on accuracy in passes, and when we might pass instead of dribble. There was a large emphasis on the pushing aspect of the pass, and the reminder that they are hockey sticks, not golf clubs! We have started drafting our Portsmouth News article on the bombing of 10<sup>th</sup> January 1941, with the children having the prioritise the important facts and information that the reader would want to know about the event. The passion remains with this topic, and every lesson the children are asking new questions and wanting to find out more information. In Computing, we looked at an additional

piece of World War Two history, in the form of the work of Bletchley Park. Our topic has been looking at secret codes so far, and there is no better origin point to revert back to than the work of the cryptanalysts at Bletchley. This week, we took a deeper dive into the history of the now museum, and next week the children will have the freedom to find out more information, before creating their own informative poster on the heritage attraction.

For Stars of the Week this week, the class chose Jess. This was due to her constant perseverance and hard work in Maths this week, her positive learning attitude and her support and kindness towards others. My choice for Star of the Week is Payten. This week, Payten has continued to go above and beyond for herself, her learning and her classmates. She has coached, without being asked, she has challenged herself and asked to be challenged, and she has been an excellent to the class and others in the school. Well done Jess and Payten!

I hope that you all have a lovely and relaxing weekend, that you are able to get outside and enjoy the lovely weather (despite the low temperatures!). I will see you all on Monday morning!

Miss Devonshire 😊