

## Weekly Learning Reflections



### **Week Beginning: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

What a fantastic week we have had this week! The children have continued their enthusiasm for all things World War 2 in English, as they took on the role of a war-time journalist working for the Portsmouth News. They have been fascinated with all of the sources of evidence about the Portsmouth Blitz they have looked at, from maps of the area before and after the bombing, press releases from the time, personal accounts from a Portsmouth resident and diary entries from a soldier on duty on the worst night of bombing. They used their note-taking skills to extract the important information, which they will include in their newspaper report, as well as turned evidence from our witnesses into quotes, written as both direct and reported speech. This work will continue through our history lessons from next week onwards.

Linked to this, in history this week, the children learnt about George Osborn, who was just over five when he was evacuated from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight with his sister Brenda. A few years ago, George wrote all of his memories of the time in a book and we used extracts from his book to help us to walk in the shoes of an evacuee. We discussed the dilemma faced by parents at the time in terms of whether to send children away or keep them at home in a city which was a target for the German Luftwaffe's bombs. The class asked some very thought-provoking questions and showed maturity when discussing his experiences.

The war also features in our computing unit this half term, which is all about code-breaking. Bletchley Park was the centre of British code-breaking during the war and was where the enemy's secret messages were decoded. As our learning journey continues this half term, we will learn more about the work which went on there but on Wednesday the children were deciphering a range of different coded messages, as well as having a go at writing their own cryptic message using specific codes.

We have reached the end of our work on fractions in maths, with this final week seeing the children dividing fractions, as well as inferring from pie charts using our fractions skills. Dividing fractions is often an area that the children find challenging but I have to say that Class Loyal took it all in their stride this week. We used bar models to explore what happens when we divide a fraction, before learning the method alongside the visual representation. This really seemed to help them to grasp the skill well and show great confidence when dividing them. Today was the children's first experience of pie charts and they worked collaboratively in pairs to explore what they can see and use their fractions knowledge to answer a range of problems. Great maths this week Class Loyal – I'm so proud of you all.

Now on to star of the week. The class star of the week this week was Ava. Ava was identified for being a fantastic friend and working hard this week, despite challenges she has faced. My vote went to Riley S for settling well into Class Loyal and challenging himself, particularly in maths and handwriting. Well done to you both.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. See you on Monday Class Loyal.

Mrs Holmes