

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 15th January 2024

This week really has whizzed by in the blink of an eye but we have certainly achieved so much and have plenty to celebrate.

This week's English sessions have mainly had a focus on effective reading skills and we have practised a range of different strategies to enable the children to increase their confidence in navigating around texts, as well as decoding unfamiliar vocabulary and answering a variety of questions types using evidence. We are lucky enough to have Mrs Williams supporting us during these sessions, enabling us to break into smaller groups, focusing on key targets. Our main text this week was an extract from Michelle Obama's autobiography. To complete the week, the children used what they have learnt about her and her aunt to write their own recount of an event in Michelle's life, which could be inserted into the book. All of the children showed excellent focus and determination in these sessions – well done Class Loyal.

After our first Arithmetic Monday session, we turned our attention to decimals in maths. It's amazing how the sight of a decimal point within a number can cause distress, however over the course of the week, I am confident that Year 6 have started to enjoy calculating with decimals and have realised, in fact, that they are nothing to be scared of. Using place value counters, place value charts and numberlines they have been able to explore partitioning them, rounding them and calculating with them. We've definitely made a breakthrough and hopefully, with regular revision, their confidence will continue to grow. Our learning journey ended today with an Escape Room task, always a popular Big Problem, where the pupils applied all of their skills from the week to escape! Next week... percentages!

In history, we started to write our newspaper article about the Portsmouth Blitz, using all of our hard work from last week, and we had fun exploring and creating our own newspaper headlines using wordplay, rhyming, alliteration or puns.

A real highlight this week was Thursday's science lesson. Continuing our learning about adaptation and evolution, we discovered the work of Charles Darwin, exploring his theory of natural selection using sketches of the finches he saw on the Galapagos islands. We then carried out our own scientific enquiry to put the theory to the test. Using two different sized sets of tweezers to represent a large and small beak, rice and large beads to represent different sized food and a stopwatch, the class recorded the time it took them to pick up and move the rice grains and then beads. This investigation enabled them to understand the idea of 'survival of the fittest' and how Darwin's finches had evolved over time as a result. Great scientific work this week everyone, well done.

Now on to star of the week. The class voted for Erin, who has been working hard all week and was identified as being a great friend. My vote went to Stanley, who has shown a fantastic attitude to his independent learning in every lesson over the course of the week, as well as working collaboratively to coach peers in both English and maths. Well done to you both.

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

Mrs Holmes