

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 22nd January 2024

Good afternoon Class Loyal families.

We have had a really positive week in Class Loyal this week, with many of the children exceeding my expectations in terms of their effort and desire to succeed. A real highlight for us this week has been our learning around an extract from the book, 'The tiger who sleeps under my chair'. Sharing just an extract from a book always generates many unanswered questions, but the children used their inference skills and plenty of creativity to predict what might have happened to the main characters, and what might happen next. The story is set in Victorian times and so we used the wonders of the internet to time-travel back to this time and learn about the buildings, furniture and ornaments of the time. This was all so the children could begin to write the next part of the story, in the style of the author, and make their description as authentic to the time as possible. These are still work in progress – we will continue to perfect these next week.

Year 6 have 100% enjoyed their maths this week! Percentages might have seemed a little scary at the beginning of the week, but through sheer determination and plenty of repetition, we have smashed percentages of amounts. We then went on to discuss percentage increase and decrease and when we might see these in the real world. We talked about interest in a bank account and fuel prices, as well as discounts in shops. The last two sessions have seen us calculating percentage increase and decrease, ready for our next 'Big Problem' on Monday – Tesco Trolley Dash! Well done Year 6 – a great week of maths.

In history, we were lucky enough to be able to listen to an audio recording made by Ruby and her family with Ruby's great-uncle Jonny. He spoke in such detail about his experience as a 6-year-old, being evacuated first to Sussex and then Surrey. As a class, we had generated some questions for Ruby to ask, from his experience of air raid sirens, shelters and living with his new families. It was incredible how much he was able to remember and it really brought our World War 2 learning to life. Thank you to the Dent family for organising this - we are very grateful. We also continued writing our newspaper articles about the Portsmouth Blitz, which are really coming together well.

Today was a real highlight for me – our music lessons over the last few weeks have also been centred around the war and we have been learning 'The White Cliffs of Dover'. Today, we attempted to add a counter-melody to the song, to create a harmony. Wow! The final result was brilliant – half of the class were singing the original melody and the other half harmonising with the counter-melody. We will continue to work on this but I'm really hoping to be able to share it with you all soon.

Now on to star of the week. The class voted for Lois for her excellent independence and hard work throughout the week. She was also identified as a great friend and collaborator. My vote went to Layla, who has tackled everything this week with fantastic focus and challenged herself at every opportunity. Well done to you both.

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

Mrs Holmes