

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 1st January 2024

It was fantastic to welcome all of the children back to school on Wednesday. They all soon settled into our usual morning routine and were very excited to discover that our learning journey this half term is all centred around World War 2.

We started with our history where we left off at Christmas, with the end of World War 1. The class learnt all about the Treaty of Versailles and the impact that the conditions within the Treaty had on life in Germany following the war. This helped them to understand the factors which finally led to the start of World War 2. Following this, we used atlases and key sources to discover the many countries involved in this war and whether they were an Axis Power or part of the Allied forces. The Battle of Britain was the focus of today's lesson and we explored the four phases of the Battle and how this forced a change of tactic by the German Luftwaffe and, ultimately, the start of the Blitz. Next week, we will bring this learning closer to home, learning about life in Portsmouth during this time. Being a large city on the coast with a naval base nearby, Portsmouth was a key target for the Luftwaffe and the class will explore key events through the eyes of real-life witnesses who lived in our local area at the time. We will also discover what evacuation would have been like for Portsmouth children, again through the real-life recount of someone who was evacuated to the Isle of Wight at the age of 5. Class Loyal have shown fantastic interest in all things World War 2 and no doubt this will continue throughout this half term.

To link with our World War 2 topic, we started a new music unit this week linked to songs of wartime. Today we compared songs from World War 1 with World War 2, discussing the differences in the tone of the songs. We even had a go at singing some this afternoon!

It was back to fractions for us in maths, as we moved to multiplying them, firstly by an integer and then multiplying pairs of fractions. I have been so impressed at the confidence the children have shown this week – I think we're finally starting to love fractions! Today was a consolidation day, where the children applied the skills from this week's lessons in fluency, problem-solving and reasoning tasks. Next week we will be using this knowledge in order to learn how to divide fractions by integers.

We have also started our new science topic, all about variation and inheritance. We explored the similarities and differences within the same species, before discovering the reasons why these variations may exist. This led us to discuss adaptation and how species adapt to their environment to ensure they can survive. Following this, we discussed inheritance and characteristics that we may inherit and those which are determined by environmental factors. This unit of work will continue with us learning about the work of Charles Darwin.

Finally, we also welcomed a new pupil to our class. Riley has joined us and is already settling in well and making plenty of friends. Well done for a fantastic first three days Riley – you are a great addition to Class Loyal.

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

Mrs Holmes