

Weekly Learning Reflections

Week Beginning: 8th January 2024



Good afternoon Class Endeavour families,

Outside of having to constantly remind ourselves that we are now in 2024, and not 2023 (accompanied by many crossings out in books), the children have been extremely busy with their learning this week. We have been delving into the role of a war correspondent, researching and sifting through a range of evidence to include in our newspaper reports about the Portsmouth Blitz. We've analysed book extracts about children who were evacuated from Portsmouth in the war, and what their experiences were like, and even practised some wartime songs as well.

In English, our classroom has been transformed into a 1940s newsroom, with the walls covered in photos, reports and maps from the Portsmouth area, all focused on the devastating bombing raid on the 10th January 1941. We have analysed Council reports, eyewitness statements and diaries, and photographs showing the impacts on the city. The children then had to decide how to prioritise the information, what needed to be included in their report and what wasn't very necessary for the public to hear about. Donning their PRESS lanyards, the children got to work and meticulously organised their notes and have finished the week with a wide range of evidence and information to use in their newspapers, which they will begin to write next week.

Maths saw the children turning their focus from multiplying fractions, to dividing them instead, which can often be a tricky task, considering the numerous different processes that they have to remember when it comes to this domain. However, without hesitation, the children were focused and determined to master each strategy and have ended the week as professional fraction dividers, and multipliers. This was then put to the test during the last two days, when they were faced with problem solving and reasoning questions around their fractions learning. We had a series of pairings around the class, with some children coaching others who were less confident. I must say, the coaches out did themselves in terms of their patience and explanations, every conversation I overheard was respectful, clearly explained and encouraging, they really did make me proud. So many children pushed themselves in Maths this week, and you could feel it in the atmosphere of the room every day.

Throughout the rest of the curriculum, we explored the story of George Osborn, who was an evacuee child in World War II. He was one of the first children to be evacuated, from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight. The children listened to his story, and analysed his experiences during his time on the island. They were intrigued and engaged thoroughly, constantly asking questions to deepen their understanding and wanting to find out more about his life. In Music, we looked at our first WW2 song, 'The White Cliffs of Dover' by Vera Lynn. I have to admit, I was slightly surprised at the passion that the children had when learning this song, they really hit their stride with it and after some

rehearsing, were confidently singing without a backing vocal. Next week, we will be able to look at the song in a more technical light, but it was great to see the children introduced to the song and learn the lyrics. In RE, we started our new unit of Rituals, which involved us initially focusing on the word itself, and what the children's understanding of it was. They were all able to contribute to a rich discussion and share their prior knowledge on the subject. In Science, we continued with our unit on Evolution and Inheritance, this lesson, focusing on inheritance and adaptation. We looked at specific animals, and how they have adapted to their environment, and then looked further at how those adaptations help to survive and thrive.

For Stars of the Week, the class chose Jack. This choice was due to him challenging himself in Maths and Music, as well as being a good friend whenever someone might need him. My choice for the week was Flora. I chose Flora because she is constantly working her hardest, and maintains a positive learning attitude regardless of the subject. She is a great role model to others in the school, and is able to articulate when she needs help, and what support she might need to help her be successful. Well done to Jack and Flora!

I hope that you all have a lovely, relaxing weekend. I will see you on Monday morning!

Miss Devonshire 😊