

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 29.4.24

Dear Parents and guardians,

Pulled ribbons of grey mist hung suspended over sheet ice- all was quiet on the fjord in ninth century Sweden.

In a monochrome world of snow, white mountains and wispy clouds, everything looked exhausted, sapped of life.

Then, a screaming, raging banshee wind picked up and twisted and pulled at trees and branches, and at anything that dared cross it.

An animated version of the olde English epic poem Beowulf, had the children wide-eyed and dropped mouth.

They watched the short clip, before reading an abridged version of the Nordic story steeped in heroism and sacrifice.

Next, they read openings of stories to unpick the structure and language used to create a success criteria.

The children finished the week by writing imagery-rich noun phrases in readiness to write their adventure Viking story openings next week.

Maths

All around us, shapes in the world lurk almost invisible, except to the observant mathematicians. This week, the children started their geometry journey into 2-d shapes.

The children learned about angles by making them with strips of card, before problem solving and identifying acute, right angle and obtuse angles.

Next, the children learned about different types of triangles.

To remember the different types of triangles and their properties they came up the following memory muscle builders:

scalene triangles are scary scalene as they have three different lengths and angles, they are scary as there is so much that is different about them.

Isosceles triangles have two equal lengths and the word sounds like sausages. So 'I like 2 'isoauages' is their way of remembering the properties of isosceles triangles. Equilateral triangles needed little explaining, as all three sides and angles are equal.

Science

Birds of all shapes and sizes brought a blizzard of colour into class Nelson. The birders were faced with everything from buzzards, swallows, sparrows, goldfinches, kites to wrens.

The bird watchers used bird identification packs to narrow down the range of questions and identifying features to zero-in on a specific animal.

The children also challenged themselves to differentiate between classification and identification keys, and when to use each.

History

Plank- by-plank the oaks were laid, shaped and waterproofed to make longships that brought Vikings to England.

What made these narrow 30 metres long vessels, so formidable (the children found) was their low draft. This enabled the Viking invaders to sail right up to the beach, and even inland through rivers.

The children discovered these wind and muscle-powered boats changed the face of eighth century England, and these fearless explorers ventured as far afield as far as Canada.

We say good bye to Boody as he starts at a new school following a house move. Good luck Boody.

Children's Star of the Week

Boody, Harlee, Maddie and Masooma were voted for being super friends and kind.

Teacher Star of the Week

Finally, this week I have selected a clutch of stars, including: Alex, Carwyn, Dylan, Eloise, Jensen Kasper, Matilda and Pippa.

I hope you have a special, long weekend with your child and loved ones.

Kind regards,

Amarjit