

## Weekly Learning Reflections

**Week Beginning: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**



Good afternoon Class Endeavour families,

Just like that, the first week is complete! It has been so wonderful welcoming the children back from their summer and getting to know them even more over the course of this week. As the nerves and anticipation around starting Year 6 have dissipated, the children's personalities have begun to shine through and they have settled amazingly well into the routines and expectations of the class.

To begin the week, the children chose their preferred learning mindset for the upcoming year; how they would be able to be successful, as an individual and as a class. We highlighted the specific traits of a successful Year 6 student, and discussed the ways that we would implement these into our daily school life. Visiting each of the STAR values, the children looked at the significance of each one to ensure a safe environment where all pupils are able to flourish and achieve their goals. We ended with our EPIC values, looking specifically at cooperation and collaboration – this was then put to the test in the afternoon, when the children were tasked with creating towering sculptures out of spaghetti and marshmallows. The atmosphere was so focused, and every single person showed brilliant perseverance as the groups had to do, not one, not two, but up to six attempts before they achieved a free-standing sculpture. Our winning group, with the tallest creation, was Olivia, Tilly and Toby, who worked seamlessly together and focused on a strong foundation before building further.

In Year 6, the children always get the opportunity, during Induction Week, to showcase the knowledge and skills that they have gained from their previous years. In today and yesterday's maths lessons, the children completed an Escape Room and a Murder Mystery task to show off a variety of their maths ability. Working in pairs, they solved a range of problems, having to show clear working out in order to validate their findings. Everyone was confident and engaged throughout both of the tasks, with all pairs diligently checking and double checking their answers to ensure accuracy.

Creative writing ability was also demonstrated this week, as the children were challenged with writing a setting description about a mysterious world that they are transported to after finding a magic key. Having decided what kind of door our magic key might unlock, we had a lengthy discussion about the kind of world that we would end up being transported to – a secluded cottage in the middle of the woods, or the gloomy corridor of an underground dungeon. The children collaboratively planned, using images to inspire powerful vocabulary to create a clear atmosphere for the reader to imagine. Then, they independently wrote their piece, using resources to upgrade any vocabulary and their plans to ensure that they incorporated a range of senses to build a picture of their world.

Across the rest of the curriculum, the children have started their science unit for this half term, which looks at classification. The first session was spent exploring the life and work of Carl Linnaeus, who is considered the Father of Taxonomy. The children watched a video, read fact files and researched on iPads to build a bank of information, before creating an educational, double-page spread in their books all about him. In French, our Autumn 1 unit is about sports and the Olympics, where the children spent today learning vocabulary for a selection of popular sports, and the verbs that we would use to accompany them. This lesson also showed the children that, although some words are a bit complicated and difficult to understand initially, some French words are cognates (they are spelt the same in French and English), which enabled the children to feel more confident when practising them and using them in sentences.

For Stars of the Week this week, the class chose Darcie. This was because she is always kind and helpful to others, showing this through some coaching that she offered during our maths lesson, and is a good friend. My choice for this week is Emily. She has been brilliant this week, and has consistently been the first to react to a countdown for instruction (creating a little bit of competition for the rest of the class to see if they can react before her). Also, she has maintained a positive attitude all week, and has been willing to give everything a go and is happy to receive and respond to any feedback that she is given. Well done Darcie and Emily!

It really has been a true pleasure getting to know the children, and I just know that we are going to have a delightful year together. I hope that you take this weekend to relax, unwind and spend time doing the things that you love, with the people you love. I will see you all on Monday for our first full week back.

Miss Devonshire 😊