

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 2nd September 2024

Dear Class Loyal families,

Wow! What a fantastic first week we have had in Class Loyal. The children arrived on Tuesday morning cheerful, enthusiastic and excited. We spent the first two mornings focusing on routines, expectations and attitudes to learning – exploring our learning value progression grids and identifying areas we are strong in and areas for focus. Many of the children were able to be very reflective in terms of the learning value they would like to work on as a learner and we also set a whole class target, which everyone agreed should link to successfully working collaboratively with a range of different people. Over the course of the next couple of weeks, I will be introducing the children to the different roles you can take on within a team and challenging them to put these roles into practice when working in groups.

On Tuesday afternoon, our class target was the focus as the children attempted to design and make the highest tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. Some brought their prior knowledge gained in Design Technology to consider the most appropriate shape for the structure, in order to ensure it was strong and sturdy. There was certainly a lot of perseverance required for this activity too but I'm happy to report that great collaboration was shown by all.

It was also fantastic to see plenty of creativity in our English sessions this week. As a hook, we showed the children a key and asked them to consider the type of door the key might open. Following on from this, they began to wonder what land or world may lie on the other side of the door. After interrogating a setting description for key features, they got to work planning a description of their own about their imaginary setting. Today was writing day and they focused so well on using their plan to create a picture in the mind of the reader, whilst carefully showcasing their cursive handwriting and trying to include the key features we had identified. I am very much looking forward to reading their first piece of writing for Year 6 and know I am going to be very impressed. This will also give me an opportunity to identify writing targets and enable us to begin to plan opportunities for them to practise, prove and perfect!

The children had their first taste of maths – an escape room task focusing on Year 5 number and place value objectives and a murder mystery task, requiring them to use their addition and subtraction skills. Whilst the children really enjoyed the tasks, they are, again, a fantastic way for us to assess knowledge and understanding and identify next steps for their learning.

In science, we started our unit on classification. After identifying the prior knowledge that the children were able to bring to the lesson, we explored the life and work on Carl Linnaeus, a scientist who is famous for developing a system to enable all organisms to be classified. The children were tasked with using their reading skills to research facts from a range of sources, before creating their own informative and eye-catching double-page spread about him. I have to say that these look phenomenal and I have no doubt that the children will be very keen to share these with you on our first open morning.

We were extremely lucky on Wednesday to dodge the rain and enjoy our first PE lesson outside. Our Wednesday PE focus is OAA – Outdoor Adventurous Activities and very much focusing on teamwork and communication – excellent for our whole class target! This week's highlight involved groups of four and a blindfold. The children needed to take it in turns to give careful and precise

instructions to a peer who is blindfolded and trying to find and bring back a coloured cone. The session was very successful and I witnessed excellent teamwork and heard many successful communicators. Well done, Class Loyal.

Now on to star of the week. The class voted for Maya, for showing fantastic focus all week and being determined to challenge herself in all subjects. My vote went to Robyn, for very similar reasons and also for being incredibly positive and enthusiastic about all of her learning – she always has a smile on her face! Well done to you both – very worthy winners. Based on my observations over the last four days, however, the star of the week choice is going to be very difficult each week and I can honestly say that so many of the children could have been a winner this week. Keep it up Class Loyal stars!

I would like to wish you all a wonderful weekend. See you on Monday morning Class Loyal.

Mrs Holmes