

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 9th September 2024

Dear Class Loyal families,

We've had another very productive week in Class Loyal this week.

In English, we have been preparing to write our letters of application to Mrs Williams and the Ranvilles Staff for the range of different jobs available to the Year 6 children. These jobs play an integral part in the smooth running and organisation of the school and require the pupils to demonstrate many of our STARS values, which are at the core of our curriculum. From sports leaders ensuring all the play equipment is ready and accessible to children at break and lunchtimes, to our prefects monitoring corridors and shared areas, these roles are so very important. After deconstructing two examples of persuasive letters for structure, as well as grammar and vocabulary, we turned our attention to the roles and how they are all important and unique. The children explored what the STARS values mean to them, which ones are the most important to their role and how they can exemplify having these qualities through their actions, both in and outside of school. An effective and engaging introduction is very important and today we discussed the purpose of it and explored different ways of beginning our letters, before drafting our own unique and personal one. The children are very excited and motivated by the opportunity of securing a Year 6 position and have working with brilliant focus on their letters this week.

Our first learning journey for Maths began this week, with a focus on number and place value. It is always important to consolidate and secure prior skills before building upon them and that has been the priority this week, as we have explored the make-up of numbers, ensuring we understand place value of numbers up to ten million. The children have applied key skills to find halfway between a range of numbers, to order and compare large numbers and round them to a specified degree of accuracy. Each maths lesson begins with an anchor task, which the children discuss and explore using their prior knowledge and focusing on using mathematical vocabulary. Talk is very important in the maths classroom and I have enjoyed hearing the different thought-processes and range of methods which the children have had. Exploring different ways of achieving an answer before choosing their preferred one, will enable them to have a deeper understanding of the maths. Next week, we will continue our journey towards our first big problem – 'The Millionaire Club'.

The class are really enjoying our history topic this half term in which they are learning all about the census. After discovering the purpose of it and producing their own mini census of children in the class, they have now started to explore what the census can tell us about the lives of people living hundreds of years ago. On Tuesday, they explored Victorian censuses in order to build their knowledge of life in Victorian times, particularly for children. It is fantastic to see them so inquisitive and reflective about past events and comparing them to their lives today.

We continued our classification work this week, turning our attention to cold-blooded vertebrates – fish, amphibians and reptiles. The pupils used different sources to research about the varying characteristics of cold-blooded vertebrates, including finding out about their skin type, how they reproduce and how they breathe. Then they set to work creating a fact sheet detailing these organisms and their own unique characteristics, including scientific vocabulary and detailed sketches. Once again, the class really impressed me with their level of detail and high standards of presentation – keep it up everyone!

Hopefully the children's homework booklets have made it home this week! Homework for us in Year 6 is very important for two main reasons. Firstly, it enables the children to practise and consolidate key skills, which are the foundations for all our learning in the year. Secondly, with secondary school just around the corner, it is essential that we prepare them well for the homework expectations they will face in Year 7. Getting into a good routine with regular homework will ensure that they are well prepared for this. As well as the weekly tasks in the booklet, please can I encourage the children to ensure they practise any times tables they are not secure in yet, as well as high frequency spellings (a list of these can be found in the front of the English booklet). Please can I ask for your support to ensure children are completing their tasks each week and please contact me should you require any support or guidance from me.

Now on to star of the week. It was a very close competition this time, which is evidence of how many different people in the class have been recognised for demonstrating our learning values over the course of the week. However, our final winner was Mia, who was identified as being someone who has worked incredibly hard in all lessons this week and has collaborated well with others. My vote went to Daniel. Daniel has been a hard-working, focused and determined learner in all subjects – I have really seen him go over and above what is expected of him on many occasions. Well done to both winners.

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

Mrs Holmes