

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 8th November 2024

Good afternoon, Class Loyal families,

The children have started our new half term with their usual positivity and have settled straight back into the routines of Year 6. With a new half term comes new learning journeys and it has been exciting to share these with the children this week and start some new and exciting units of work.

In English, we have started to look at instructional texts, deconstructing a range of them and comparing them for structure and language. This will enable the children to make conscious decisions at the planning stage in terms of the structure and language they will adopt for their own instructional text. This unit is always a popular one with Year 6, as they are given the opportunity to choose a 'skill' they are very familiar with and write a useful set of instructions and accompanying information for a novice to learn how to do it. We always have a varied selection of topics and this year is no exception, with football skills, gymnastic/dance moves and baking being just some of the skills chosen. This genre enables us to practise using a range of imperative and modal verbs, as well as colons and bullet points, which we explored on Thursday. Next week we will write our instructions, ensuring they include all of the criteria identified this week.

In maths, the children have shown fantastic determination and resilience as they have learnt the skill of long division. This can be an area that the children feel worried about and, at first glance, they were a little put concerned at the complexity of it. However, I have been incredibly impressed at the speed they picked up the method and the broad smiles across their faces, as they realised they had cracked it, really were a picture. This led us on to our next big problem – The Ranvilles Firework Party – which saw the children applying their skills of short and long division, as well as long multiplication, money and measure to organise and run the party. What a great success it was and, once again, Class Loyal have blown me away with their excellent maths skills. Next week, it's fractions time!

Our PE this term is volleyball and gymnastics. On Monday, we started learning the skills required for volleyball, including the importance of the 'ready' stance and also finding space on the court. No doubt this will be a firm favourite with the children, based on our first lesson. We spent much of Tuesday afternoon with the lights off, as we delved into the world of 'light' in science. After discovering what we already know it was time to use the equipment given to them to answer two important questions:

- can we see in the dark ?
- does light travel in a straight line?

Allowing time for the children to explore and discover for themselves is such a joy and, being such an inquisitive group, they always seem to enjoy science. So many of them

brought their own knowledge to the lesson and were keen to share and demonstrate to their peers. We also started out geography journey this week, all about global population. We discovered countries which were densely populated and those sparsely populated. We talked about why people may choose to live where they do and what can cause a population to change. Again, the children brought great knowledge to the lesson and talked maturely about issues such as wars and disease. On Thursday, we began our music unit about film music, which appeared to be a firm favourite amongst Year 6. We discovered how music is carefully chosen to complement scenes in a film, before listening to a range of pieces and imagined the film scene it would suit.

Finally, today was HMS Ranvilles day, with a focus on, of course, Remembrance. After inferring about World War One from a range of sources, included pictures and posters, the children learnt about John McCrae and his poem 'In Flanders Fields'. They also had an opportunity to talk to two serving members of the Royal Navy, before producing a written response about Remembrance in the form of a poem. On Monday, we will give our thanks by stopping and reflecting at 11.00am along with the rest of our Ranvilles family.

Wishing you a lovely weekend – see you on Monday Class Loyal.

Mrs Holmes