

Weekly Learning Reflections



Week Beginning: 9 December 2024

Good afternoon, Class Loyal families,

Another jammed-packed week has come to an end, one packed full of hard-work and determination throughout the class and across the curriculum. This week was Debate Week in school, when we take elements of our learning from the half term, as well as prior knowledge, to construct arguments for and against a given statement. This half term's debate statement was 'Change always has a positive outcome'. Many parts of our Autumn 2 learning journey have linked to this, including Geography, where we have looked at changing populations, migration and climate change, and English, where we learnt about the life of soldiers in WW1 trenches and the sacrifices that many of them made for us. So many of the children impressed me in today's debate – particularly as they didn't know until this morning the side that they would be arguing on. I was especially impressed with children who brought other knowledge or learning into the debate, such as Dexter who spoke about the damage that technology advancement is having on people's eyesight (this knowledge came from our science topic of light). With only three talk tokens each, the children had to prioritise their points carefully. They also used excellent sentence starters, such as "I ask you to consider..." and "I would like to challenge that point..." to articulate their ideas respectfully. A brilliant debate which was really enjoyable Class Loyal – roll on the next one! With everything turning rather Christmassy next week, we will have a special unit of work linked to it starting on Monday.

In maths, our fractions journey continued, with the children consolidating multiplying fractions by an integer and also multiplying pairs of fractions. Both of these methods are reasonably straight forward, however the key is to remember which method is used for which type of question! The latter part of the week focused on revisiting fractions of amounts before using our knowledge of this to calculate the whole. Bar models became very useful for this and I think I've won the children over with them now – they understand how useful they can be. Class Loyal have absolutely smashed maths this week – it is amazing to see them working with such confidence. Next week, maths will also turn very Christmassy, as we practise our position and direction skills.

Our curriculum highlight, apart from our Big Debate, would have to be music. The children have really enjoyed our Autumn 2 unit all about film music. Today, we finished the unit with a special performance, as the children worked in groups to soundtrack film clips with their own graphic score. Using the film 'Wallace and Gromit – A Close Shave', each group had to compose a piece of music to suit a specific mood, such as tension, sadness and love story. These were really carefully thought through and the results were very impressive indeed.

Now on to star of the week. The class voted for Daniel for his excellent independence and contributing lots to our learning this week. My vote went to Maya, who always impresses me with her attention to detail and incredibly high standards. However, this week, I was especially impressed with her challenging herself to articulate her thoughts in our Big Debate. Well done to you both.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Holmes