



Dale Hall Diaries

DALE HALL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



January 31st 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and managing to escape the various bugs and viruses currently circulating. Please notify us as soon as your child is not well enough to come to school via the school office or by email.

We have had a busy few weeks already with starting new topics relating to our power of reading books, sporting events and exploring diversity and equity across the curriculum. The children have been sharing their ideas of ways they would like to learn about various cultures, countries and communities. Mrs Critchley is starting up a School Council in Key stage 2 which will enable the children to elect their class mates to represent their voice. The successful candidates will then spend time with EYFS and KS1 children to capture their thoughts and ideas on how we can improve the school. The School Council members will produce their own reports which I will then share with you all. They will meet with me fortnightly to discuss the areas they feel need the most improvements.

I hope some of you were able to attend our SEND coffee morning. There will be more parent workshops to follow. We look forward to seeing you all after half term at our parents evenings and I hope you have a restful and happy half term.

Mrs J Dedicat



I cannot finish this newsletter without mentioning the AMAZING girls football team who won Suffolk School U11 County Finals!. This makes them, officially, the best team in Suffolk. We are so proud

Coming up....

8th February OPEN EVENING 6.00pm
13th February HALF TERM
21st February Phonics parent session
22nd February Phonics parent sessions



Next week we have our open evening which we would love as many of you as possible to attend. We will be sharing our school development plan with you by opening the hall as a market place and letting you browse the various aspects we are developing at Dale Hall.

Just pop along and have a chat with us, ask any questions or just come and find out what the whole school priorities are. You will get a chance to read our new behaviour policy and experience some restorative justice support as well as having a chance to meet and take part in our peer mediation programme.

If you can't attend then please don't worry, I will be sending out the development plan just before half term for you to read at your leisure.

DALE HALL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"Learning together to challenge and achieve"

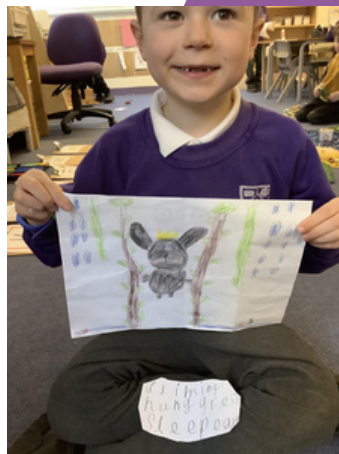
Reception

This Month's Highlights

It's been a month of exploration in Reception! We have used our Power of Reading text 'Blue Penguin' to think about our 5 senses and how we can use them to explore the world around us. We have had lots of winter themed activities in provision, which has really helped to bring the story to life. The children have particularly enjoyed exploring the ice! Blue Penguin is about a penguin who is born and looks different to all the other penguins. He dreams of being rescued from his loneliness, but after singing a song with another penguin, he finds he is able to make friends and no longer needs rescuing. This has inspired the children to think about the way Blue Penguin feels and relate this to how we may have similar feelings. We have also been thinking about the seasons and the changes we see over the year. The children worked together to make some brilliant posters for the classroom.



Year One

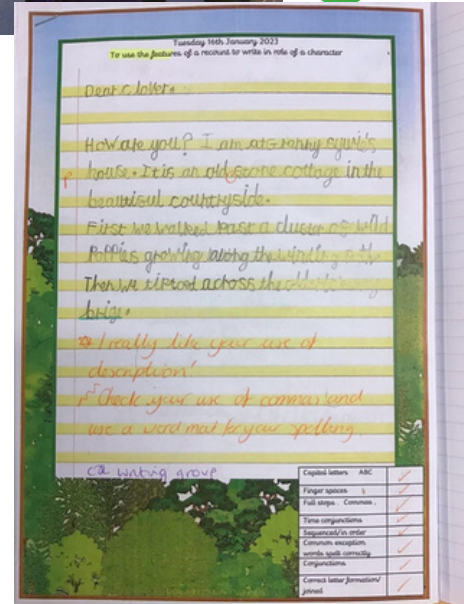


This term we have been following the journey of the snail and the whale, visiting the seven continents around the world. So far, the children have enjoyed exploring Antarctica, South America and Australia. In Art, we have been creating mixed media collages to represent the landscape of Antarctica, including the animals that live there and the Southern lights. We have also been learning about the layers of the Amazon Rainforest and exploring the animals in each of the different layers. In Science, the children have been experimenting with ice and were able to make their own predictions and perform a simple test. I wonder where the snail and the whale will take us next?

Year Two

Year 2 have been busy learning all about Winter with our new power of reading text 'Winter Sleep'. The children have written letters in the role of the character sharing their adventures when they visit Granny Sylvie and her countryside home. They have even found time to act out a poem which compares winter and summer and write their own.

In Science the children have been exploring the signs of winter, the type of weather that happens as well as where the animals go during winter time. They had great fun becoming weather forecasters.



Year Three

Year 3 has travelled back in time... 480 million years ago! We started our Power of Reading book 'The Pebble in my Pocket', a story following the fascinating history of the earth that takes us on a scientific adventure through time and across the globe, all by following a single pebble over millions of years.

We learnt through Starburst sweets that we could represent the three types of rock. Sedimentary rock was formed by squashing layers of starburst together. High pressure from our hands was put onto the starburst to form Metamorphic rock then we melted it to show Igneous rock.

Tyler kindly brought in his fossils for everyone to have a look at - can you believe his oldest fossil (a trilobite) is 542 million years old?

We had lots of fun making and erupting volcanoes as well as learning the science behind why volcanoes erupt. A very memorable term for Year 3!



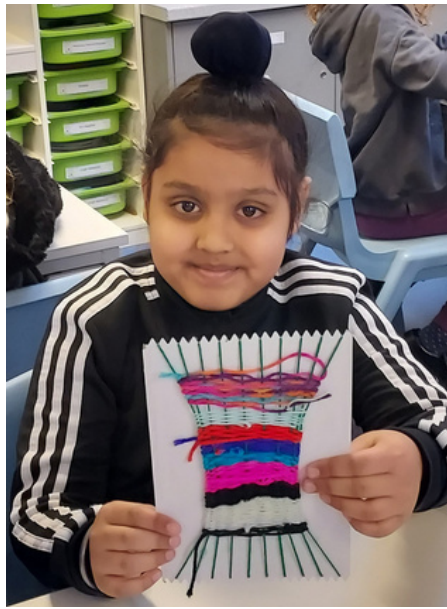
Year Four

Year 4 have had an exciting few weeks starting, 'Arthur and the Golden Rope', by investigating Iceland, where Arthur lived; creating an advert and Guide Book and examining how adverts persuade.

We have also started looking at the Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain and how this has had an impact on our place names, settlements and what Anglo-Saxon artefacts tell us about Anglo-Saxon culture and lifestyle.

In Art and DT, we have learnt how to weave, as the Anglo-Saxons were skilled Weavers, using plants to dye the woven cloth.

Well done Year 4!



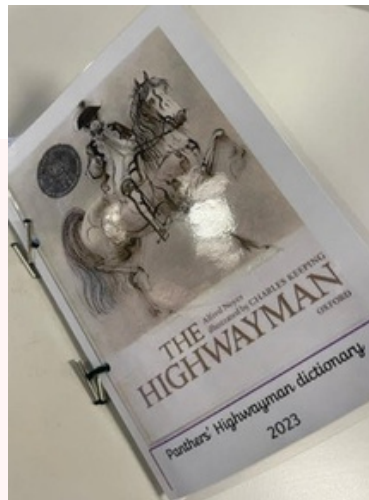
Year Five

What a fantastic start to the year we have had in year 5.

We began by introducing our crime and punishment topic with a look at crime through the years. It was wonderful to see the classes looking back at past topics such as the Tudors and ancient Egypt to compare actions that were considered crimes then and think about why they are not crimes today.

To link to our crime and punishment topic, both classes have been reading the classic poem, The Highwayman. We have been discussing themes such as love and jealousy and using this as inspiration for our own Highwayman inspired stories. We have also looked at visual interpretations of the poem and made a dictionary of all the new and unfamiliar words we have discovered.

In art, we have been studying the work of German artist Paul Klee. Both classes have been fascinated by Klee's use of colour and how the viewer can find many different patterns and objects within his abstract works.



Year Six

What a brilliant month in Year 6! We have continued to be creative in so many different areas and are finding a variety of ways in which to express ourselves.

Our Power of Reading text has lent itself towards some fantastic roleplay where the children have become characters from the story and performed in role. This will help them to write a newspaper report telling the story of the arrival of a suspicious looking stranger who has come to perform magic! This text has also influenced our work in Art and we have continued developing our weaving skills, contrasting colours and considering the impact. Currently we are using paper (magazine pages), but as the children have been making their looms out of the photo frames that they brought in, they are almost ready to start weaving with different materials.

Music has also been really exciting as the children have had the opportunity to create their own music electronically. There have been some incredible pieces! This is the beginning of a project which will progress to thinking about music videos and cover art.

Alongside all of their classroom learning, a committed group of children are still giving up their own time to support other children across the school.

We would like to say a big thank-you to the Peer Mediators, Playleaders, Librarians and Sports Coaches for all that they do - they really do make a huge difference to so many people.



Message from the Deputy Head

Well we have finally reached the end of January! It always feels like such a long month but as always, it has been a busy month in school.

We have continued our focus on diversity in the curriculum and as always I am amazed to see a range of topics being covered across the school. Just the last 2 weeks I have been persuaded to learn about Iceland by Year 4, met Australian animals in Year 3. Last week we were lucky enough to have a wonderful selection of diverse books funded by the PTA and these have been shared out across the school. In a recent staff meeting teachers spent time reflecting on how diversity should be part of day to day school life and not something that is added on because it is a current focus. I have had the pleasure of showing several of these books around our school this month and it is always amazing to see the confidence our pupils have when they talk to visitors about their learning.

I can't wait to see what February brings...

Mrs Spalding