



Dale Hall Diaries

DALE HALL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you a warm welcome back to this very chilly new term. As you can see from this Newsletter we have had a very busy start to the term and the children have immersed themselves back into their learning with enthusiasm. We have also visited all the classrooms to enjoy some of the children's lessons and have seen some excellent outcomes. The thing that has stood out to us the most is how confident the children are to ask questions, make mistakes and celebrate their learning. Their handwriting and general presentation is excellent, this is something the teachers have worked really hard to improve over the last few years.

The teachers and teaching assistants have also been devising key principles that contribute to excellent outcomes- this is one of our key development priorities this year. We hope to share these with you at the next parents evening so that you can enable your children to face challenges with resilience and determination. Please note the key dates that are coming up, as well as the school calendar on the Dale Hall website. many thanks for your continued support,
Mrs J Dedicoat

**NEW
SIGNAGE!**



Some of you may have already noticed our new signage which is already in place for our conversion date on Thursday 1st of February.

This will be the official day we transfer over to Penrose learning Trust and become part of their family of schools.

This is such an exciting time for our school community and will open up lots of opportunities for the children, staff and parents to work collaboratively with other schools in the trust.

I will be writing in more detail about some of the changes next week, such as how to use Arbor, the new parent portal, and the new website

If you would like to know more about the trust please visit
<https://www.penroselearningtrust.uk/>
Exciting times!

Outstanding Achievements...

It has been wonderful to receive messages and pictures of some of the children's amazing achievements outside of school. What is really beginning to stand out, is that the children are able to apply their Growth Mindset not only at school but outside of school too! I am looking forward to sharing these with the rest of the school when I complete the display in the main corridor. There are examples of trophies won, new skills learnt and lots of perseverance. Thank you to all who have shared these with me! Mrs Morris

(Pictured, Isabella and Evie who performed in front of 200 spectators at Pipers Vale Gymnastics Club).



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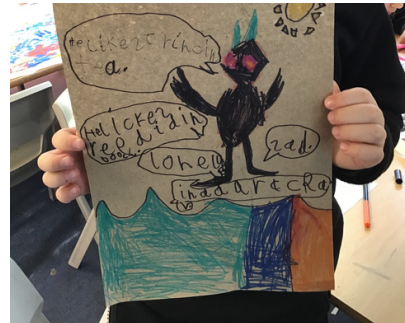
"Learning together to challenge and achieve"

EYFS have been busy little detectives trying to solve the case of the runaway Gingerbread Man! Mrs Watson was baking gingerbread in the kitchen, when all of a sudden a gingerbread man jumped off the tray! Mrs Dedicoat reviewed the CCTV and thought Reception would be the best detectives for the case. We followed our maps and searched for evidence with our magnifying glasses. We wrote down clues and collected lots of evidence along the way! Coincidentally, Mrs Allum was having a meeting with PC Fisk that morning so of course we invited him in to have a look at the evidence. He took some statements from the children and is working hard back at the police station... Despite our best efforts unfortunately, he is still on the run! We made predictions in Drawing Club as to where he could be and came up with some excellent ideas. "He might have gone to the beach", "I think he's been eaten by a shark!", "I think he's tired after all that running and is sleeping in my bed". If you do see anything please report back to us!



To extend our computing skills we have writing algorithms to move the Bee Bots in the classroom. The children have been designing mazes and debugging their algorithms if they don't reach the final goal.

In maths we have been exploring numbers up to 20. We have been making different numbers using ten frames, comparing and ordering them.



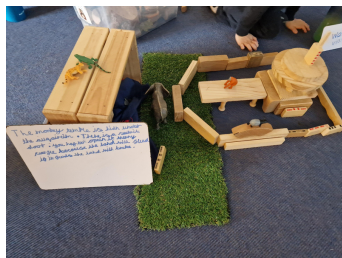
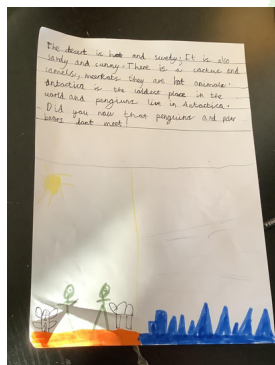
Year One



Year One has been enjoying reading our new Power of Reading book "The Lonely Beast". We have discovered why he is lonely and have given him advice about what he can do about it. We have been writing character descriptions and thinking about the verbs used in the story to describe his actions.

We have been thinking about where we live in Geography and produced fact books explaining why the Lonely Beast should visit Ipswich. We have also started to think about what the Beast would see if he went around the United Kingdom.

Year 2 had a great start to the new year from exploring hot and cold climates to identifying different habitats, their features and the living things that are there. During choose our learning time the children have been busy creating habitats and settings using the small world and adding a range of writing alongside this.



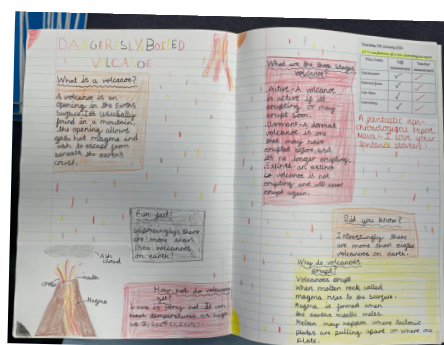
Year Two

On Monday, we were incredibly proud of all the year 2 for their exceptional behaviour and representation of the school while on a science and geography walk to The Dales. The children enjoyed exploring The Dales, ending the trip with a play of the play equipment.



The children have been super enthusiastic about our new topic 'Our Wonderful World'. We begun the term learning about the different parts of a volcano. Using their knowledge of this, the children then had a whole day to create their very own volcanoes and are looking forward to erupting these this week!

Year Three



In Art, we have been exploring the work of Alice Kettle and Hannah Rae, who will be used as inspiration for the children's final art pieces. We will be using paint, cloth and thread to create a textured art piece, with a specific focus on the natural world.

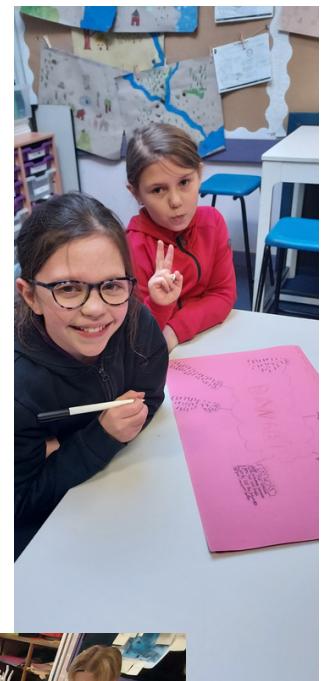
In English, the children have created some fantastic non-chronological reports about volcanoes. They carried out their own research to gain lots of facts and then wrote these in the style of a report. The children focused on using exciting sentence starters to grab the reader's attention and ensured their reports were eye-catching too.



Year Four

We have had another wonderful start to this term, creating our classrooms for our new story, 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' by turning them into blazing infernos!

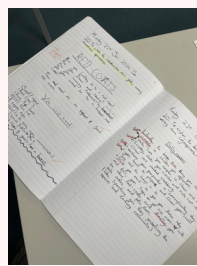
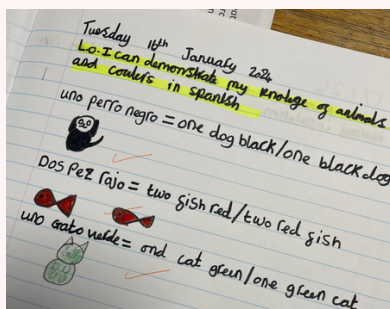
We have looked at persuasive language and written and performed adverts to encourage holiday makers to visit Iceland.



In Science, we have looked at how the ear works and how this affects balance. While in Maths, we have explored various methods of multiplication and division. Flute lessons continue to go from strength to strength, so well done to all children for their determination and stamina to keep trying to improve!

We have now started to investigate the invasion of Britain by the Anglo-Saxons and we are looking forward to an exciting visit from 'Portals to the Past' next half term.

Happy new year from year 5!



In maths, we have been recapping our knowledge of multiplication and division using methods such as formal column, bus stop and the grid method. In Spanish we have been learning how to say days of the week and months of the year, as well as revisiting pets, greetings, colours and numbers - we are all becoming very multilingual!

We always love January, as it means the start of our crime and punishment topic and we begin reading our new Power of Reading text: The Highwayman.

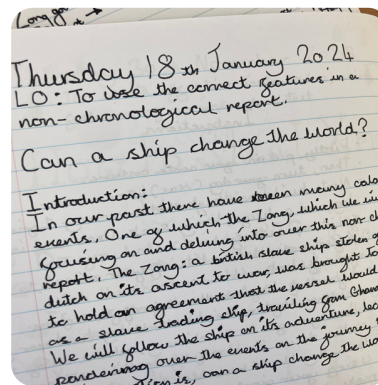
We started the term by splitting into tribes and each tribe designing a new society with rules and laws to live by. This was a great way to see which laws the children had heard of and which ones they felt were important to society. In English, we have been looking at the role of redcoats (not the Butlins ones!) and why they were important to society before a regular police force was established. We will be working towards writing an information text on "How to be a good Redcoat" using our knowledge of subheadings, imperative verbs, lists and formal language.

Year 6 have continued to blow us away with their unwavering commitment and sense of responsibility as they contribute to the wider school, and beyond. As staff in year 6, we have been able to take a step back and watch the children run reading clubs, support children as they come into school, at lunchtime and at break. As Sport Leaders, they continue to uphold the high standards set by Mr. Hatcher in PE. All of this while maintaining infectious smiles on their faces. It is truly heart warming to witness their enthusiasm and leadership in these roles.

Year Six



In the classroom, Year 6 have been delving into the captivating story of Ernest Shackleton and his legendary journey to the Antarctic. This has prompted an array of exceptional writing and some fantastic discussions about various ships throughout history.



The children's constant dedication to being the best version of themselves, both in the classroom and outside, has been incredible!

Please find time to read the latest OFSTED report on Suffolk County Council's SEND services. Although this was a very upsetting read, it does not come as a surprise to us. We are constantly battling with delays, missed and sometimes lost information, lack of replies and timely support.

Unfortunately, we are often the ones left having to explain why things haven't been actioned, despite our diligence, hard work and own frustrations. We continue to work hard and strive to get the very best for our children but hopefully this report will explain why this is not always achievable.

OFSTED says Suffolk is failing children with special needs

"They and their families have not seen the improvements they should from the area's leadership. Their needs are not identified quickly or accurately enough. Assessments for support take too long.

"When the right help is put in place, it is often only at the point of crisis.

"Unidentified and unmet needs sometimes manifest in behaviours which too frequently result in many not accessing mainstream settings, because of exclusion or absence.

Message from the Deputy Head

January has been another fantastic month of learning at Dale Hall. As always I have been excited to see new Power of reading texts started across the school and I love seeing the curriculum come to life. There has been so much exciting learning happening across the school and I have been lucky enough to spend time in classrooms observing teaching across the school.

Over the last few weeks I have seen Year 3 have erupting volcanoes, Year 2 visiting the Dales to explore habitats, Year 4 becoming computing experts, Year 6 with the most outstanding quality of writing, Reception hunting for the gingerbread man, Year 5 creating theatre sets and Year 1 talking about a mysterious beast...

We have continued our work with teachers on growth mindset and we are now focusing more on how we view the brain as a muscle... watch this space for some parent workshops coming soon.