



Diptford Diary



Friday 10th November 2017

All your up to date news about our classes!

NEWS THIS WEEK!



Kingfisher's exploring multiple numbers

Dipper News:

Dippers Class have started a new English topic this week. We are working on all the skills needed to write a diary entry for the Great Fire of London. The children already know lots about the subject so we are concentrating on how to write interesting and varied sentences. We have been spotting verbs and learning that they tell us what something or someone is *having, doing or being*. We have been joining simple sentences together with the conjunctions *and, but* and *or*. We have also been making sure that we understand where the end of a sentence is and what to do to mark the end of the sentence. It has been tricky and there have been lots of new big words to learn: compound sentence, conjunction, verb phrase and "alternative" (when we were talking about *or*). Our learning about sentences continues next week – there is so much more to learn!

In maths we have been learning about the properties of shapes and symmetry. Year 2 children have been busy comparing 3D shapes and counting faces, edges and vertices. Year 1 children have been spotting and comparing the 2D shapes on the faces of 3D shapes. We have been talking about the differences between cubes and cuboids and finding them around the school.

In Science we have continued with our "Brilliant Builders" topic and have been looking at and discussing the properties of materials. We have played some pairs games with materials words and have also played a guessing game. See if you can notice and talk about all the different materials things are made from around the house.

Achiever of the week: Ellie.C for her hard work and achievements in writing.

Kingfisher News:

What a week we have had exploring lots of new ways to help us multiply number together. We have learnt how to use the expanded and short written methods to solve calculations and even experimented using the Chinese method. We really enjoyed using the Chinese method as we found it helped us to solve our calculations faster. By practising using different strategies, we have been able to find one that suits the way we like to work which will help us in future assessments. See if we can teach you how to use one of our new methods to solve a calculation!

In English, we have begun our new book called *The Beasties*. We have text mapped and learnt the book by heart and have practised breaking down the different Beastie stories to help us understand the structure the author has used. We were particularly good at reading the stories in the different Beastie voices! During English, we have also looked at adverbial phrases and created some super sentences about different people, times and settings. Why not see if we can wow you with one of our amazing sentences!

We have begun learning about a new song in music and have practised playing two different notes on our recorders and glockenspiels. We are looking at the work of the band ABBA and are learning to play the song *Mama Mia!* It is very upbeat and we like it because we think it sounds happy and fun. We are very lucky to have some talented musicians in our class who are going to accompany our class band with their own instruments. Some of us are also learning how to play the melodies of our song which will help us in our final performance.

Our word total this week is a super 1,562,657 words! Everyone is now aiming to achieve their next certificate so are trying really hard to read their books carefully and take their quizzes.

Achiever of the week is Kai for his amazing perseverance in English and Maths.

Hawks News:

Hawks class started the week with an exciting trip to Coombeshead Solar Farm, They got a tour of the solar farm and learnt about why we have solar farms and how they work. The children also spent time looking at the habitats that were still there at the farm and they discovered many creatures still living in the fields where the solar panels are. They saw pheasants, spiders, frogs and evidence of even bigger animals.

In English this week we have been exploring the characters in our class text, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the *Race Against Time*. We have used freeze framing and though tracking to unpick how the characters felt at different points in the story. We have been practising writing sentences with expanded noun phrases and relative clauses and the children wrote some very detailed character descriptions today - using these features.

In Maths, we have been focusing on mental maths strategies for addition and subtraction. We have been successfully adding and subtracting 3 and 4 digit numbers. We have also explored BIDMAS to carry out the order of operation and today we created our own algebraic expressions and the children discovered that algebra isn't as scary as they first thought.

In Science this week we solved another clue for our crime lab. In co-operative groups, the children planned a fair test to that measured the shadows made by the different people. By measuring the lengths of the shadows at different distances from the light source they could eliminate one of the suspects.

We have been practising listening to and following french instructions today. We have used maps to help us follow the instructions and used pictures to sequence our route in french

Achiever of the week is Zach for always being on task and pushing yourself in every task. You have written some excellent sentences in English this week.



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Little Dipper & Preschool News

The Little Dippers (Reception and Pre-school) have been working collaboratively this week and it began with a sharing about their experiences of Bonfire Night and fireworks. The Reception children used these experiences to write about their weekends in their 'Weekend Diaries'. I was over the moon with their application of phonics and their knowledge of segmenting the words. Their handwriting was fabulous too. Well done, boys and girls!

Also this week (and linked to fireworks) the children were introduced to one of my favourite artists, Jackson Pollock. They explored images of his paintings and talked about their likes and dislikes and then learned about how he approaches his artwork. The children loved using Jackson's Pollock's techniques of splatting, pouring and dribbling to create their own artwork. It really was very good fun and their creations were amazing!

The Little Dippers have also been developing their technology skills this week by completing a simple program on the IWB and laptops. Using the website, www.jacksonpollock.org, the children had to move the cursor to create lines of colour on the screen then 'right click' the mouse to change the colour. Again, this was an activity loved by all and they created some beautiful pictures. Well done!

In maths this week, we have been learning about 2D (flat) shapes. The Three Little Pigs set the Little Dippers the challenge of designing them a new house using rectangles, triangles, circles, squares and hexagons. The designs were super and very much loved by the pigs. Great work, everyone! I was also very impressed with the mathematical language being used and by the end of the week, the children weren't just naming the shapes correctly but also describing their properties. AMAZING!

Achiever of the week: Millie for an amazing attitude towards learning, especially during maths lessons. Keep it up, Millie!

Important dates for the week ahead:

13 – 17 British Values Week

Thurs 16 November – Flu Vaccination for Year R, 1, 2 3 & 4

Fri 17 Nov, Children in Need

Correspondence out this week:

Scholastic Leaflets

THANK YOU from Mrs Ali Hockings

Thank you again to our Dippers parent helpers. We are really getting into the swing of morning reading sessions and I have enjoyed some Guided Reading group sessions while the rest of the class have been busily engaged in reading and quizzes. Thank you!