

Key Stage One Spring Term

Key Stage One had a wonderful time during our trip to the zoo. Despite the cold weather, we really enjoyed walking around the zoo and seeing lots of interesting animals. After our visit we talked about the animals we saw and we looked at where in the world these animals come from. We then became artists and painted our own world map. After that we sketched some of the animals we saw and used pastels to colour them in.



The children in Key Stage One have been practicing their balancing skills during their gymnastics lessons. Mr Murphy has been very impressed with the talent displayed by the Year One



and Year Two children. They have also been working on their rolling, stretching and jumping skills.



During e-safety week we were lucky enough to have a visit from One Day Creative who taught us all about how to keep safe on the internet. We were given some important hints and tips on how to report something if it makes us unhappy and how to make sure we choose a secure password.



We were very excited to walk into our classrooms one morning and meet two new friends. Year One welcomed Jigsaw Jack and Year Two welcomed Jigsaw Joe. These two cheerful characters have been helping us when we have our circle time.



Key Stage One demonstrated their craft skills during World Book Day. To show off their wonderful designs we strutted along the 'Hat' Walk and shared our hats with pride. As well as this we met up with our Reading Buddies to share the book that inspired our hats and talk about how we made them.



Year One

We kicked off our 'Toys' topic with a toys day. On this day we brought in our favourite toy and drew it. We then added detail and, inspired by the artist Chris Lange, we collaged our pictures. We also looked at toys from the past and compared them to the toys we play with today. We noticed that our toys are mostly made of plastic and that we have a lot more electronic gadgets to play with than our grandparents had.



During our ICT lessons we have enjoyed using 2DIY on Purple Mash to design and make our own jigsaw puzzle linked with our toys topic. We also used 2Count on Purple Mash to create a pictogram of our favourite foods. As well as using Purple Mash at school the children now have their passwords at home and are able to access the exciting and educational programmes on this site.



We started our 'Food' topic with a teddy bears picnic. We wrote invitations to our teddies and then designed and made sandwiches to enjoy with our furry friends. Inspired by The Gingerbread Man story we were reading we made our very own gingerbread men and wrote down the recipe. We had to eat them quickly before they ran away. We got arty with fruits and vegetables and enjoyed using them to print with, creating colourful patterns and pictures. As well as this we looked at school dinners in the past and



compared them with our delicious dinners today. To find out more about school dinners in the past we interviewed our parents and grandparents as homework. We think lunch long ago doesn't sound too tasty! To celebrate the end of our food topic we became geographers and found out about food from around the world. We tried lots of different food. We tasted pizza and pasta from Italy, Indian rice and chutneys but only a few of us were brave enough to try the smelly French Cheese.



We have thoroughly enjoyed our science topic Animals, including Humans. We found out all about our bodies and the clever things they can do. We used our senses to work out the mystery flavours and we used our sense of sight to really look carefully at each other to see how we are all the same but also very different.



Year One are looking forward to starting their new science topic Living Things and their Habitats and their new 'Buildings' topic where we will find out about the types of buildings around us and homes long ago.

Year Two

Power Maths has continued to make sure maths lessons in Year Two (and Year One) are engaging and exciting. With lots of practical, 'hands on' learning opportunities, the children have loved using the concrete manipulatives to practically solve problems before thinking about how to record their answers using pictorial representations or by writing abstract number sentences. We have also been working on our reasoning skills and explaining our thinking, always asking the question 'Why?'



We have also been enjoying our topic 'Land across the Sea' and have been learning all about the Isle of Struay and the McColl family who live there, in particular Katie Morag. The children have really loved reading the Katie Morag stories and have enjoyed making use of their imaginative play area by writing letters and postcards and posting them at the Struay Post Office.



During their ICT lessons the children have been using 2DIY on Purple Mash to create their own game. They first had to design the game then program how the game would work. This involved learning some tricky programming but we all had great fun playing the games once they were made.

Year Two have been busy practicing their sketching skills. As part of our topic work we looked at the story of House Cat and were inspired by the work of Rosina Watchmeister. After looking closely at her work we started to sketch our own cats in the same style as Rosina. After our first draft we watched the video 'Austin's Butterfly' and were motivated to look at our first draft and find ways to improve it. We repeated this until we were happy with our final draft at which point we coloured it in using pastels. We



really proud of them and how we all had a Mersey Park Mindset to 'Never Give Up'.



This half term in Year Two we are reading the story of Traction Man, this is one of our literacy spine books and even though we have only read the opening section we are very excited to find out about the adventures Traction Man goes on and the exciting characters he might meet on the way. Check back in with us next time and we will tell you all about it!