

Middle Floor Autumn Term 2024

Year 3

A real treat this first half term has been a trip to beautiful Birkenhead Park. Hannah, the ranger taught us all about the trees and plants that grow in the park and we also found out about the Victorian history of the park and how it led to Central Park being created. It was a truly great day and we also found the time to explore the forest school area, looking under logs and leaves for minibeasts. There were lots of cheeky, brave squirrels and we also got to feed the hungry ducks and geese.



In literacy lessons, we have been retelling the Rumpelstiltskin story using the 'Talk for Writing' process. We then created our own little goblin character. We had to use our imagination to think about what he might eat and where he might live. Here we are telling the story!



In maths, we are using practical equipment to help us work with 3-digit numbers. We have been adding and subtracting large numbers in Year 3!

Our science topic is 'Humans and other Animals' so we have enjoyed learning the scientific names for the different bones in our bodies and the reason why we have a skeleton. We also looked at X-rays of animal skeletons and had to guess which animal they belonged to.



Ask us all about our brilliant brains – we are experts! As part of the 'My Happy Mind' programme we have spent many sessions learning about the brain. We learned to use some very fancy scientific words like 'neuroplasticity'. This links in really well with our growth mindset work as we know that the harder we work, the more we will learn and achieve.



In Geography, we have studied famous UK human and physical landmarks.

Our Knowledge Organisers and Knowledge Boxes help us to remember important information. Our entry point was a whistle stop tour of the UK- including Irish dancing and Scottish shortbread tasting. We have also tackled tricky 4 figure grid references and used a map to do some lovely orienteering in Birkenhead Park. Did you know that it took 1000 men to build Birkenhead Park and that it was the first park in the world to be open for both rich and poor people?

In art lessons, we had a little go at tie dying. It was very messy and needed gloves and aprons but the results looked amazing.



We have enjoyed finding out about our class poet Joseph Coello. We recited a funny poem written by him during our National Poetry Day assembly. It was all about a yeti.



3B were delighted to bring their mascots into school as their attendance award for 10 stars in a jar.



Year 4

In October, we were delighted to visit Chester for our school trip. We visited the Deva Museum and took a trip around the city guided by a Roman Soldier. We also conducted some geography field work and asked people why they were visiting the city. Mrs Smith sat on a Roman toilet and Mrs Passmore went into battle with a gladiator. Look how we prepared for battle! We marched through the streets chanting aloud with our Roman swords and shields. The teachers could not get through our strong tortoise shield formation.



In Maths, we quickly began work on multiplication and times tables. We know that we have to know all our times tables by the end of the year. We are also starting to use Roman Numerals which fits in perfectly with our Romans topic. We also made a huge timeline to show when the Romans lived.



In Literacy we did an exciting unit of work based on the Roman story of 'Romulus and Remus'. The Talk for Writing process helped us develop our own ideas and use our imagination. We are studying Valerie Bloom poems in Year 4. We have learned to recite one of her poems which has a positive growth mindset message about achieving your goals. We also wrote poetry for Mrs Passmore after we spotted a pigeon trapped in her classroom one day!



We are enjoying using our Voice 21 talk tactics in P4C sessions and in classroom discussions. We are learning to instigate, build and challenge ideas. The 'nesting' technique also helps us to plan and think through our ideas before sharing them with others. We have also developed our active listening skills and know how to give proof of listening.



In Science we have enjoyed learning about our teeth and our digestive system. We carried out some great experiments. We used disclosing tablets to see just how clean are teeth really are and we certainly will not forget this yucky experiment to show how food travels through our bodies!



In DT, we made a delicious beef ragu. We chopped and prepared all the vegetables and made our own tomato sauce. We really enjoyed tasting it and served it with tagliatelle pasta.



We have also visited the school allotment to plant seed potatoes. We also enjoyed relaxing there with a good book – it is so peaceful and we can't wait to

visit again to see if our potatoes have grown and to see the new wormery in action.



What a busy start to another school year for Year 3 & 4! We can't wait to find out what we will learn about next.