



Starlings'



Ask Me About Newsletter

Autumn 1

24th October 2024

Maths

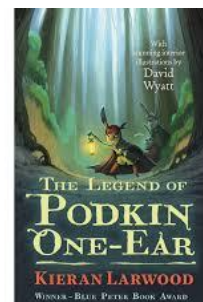
This half-term we have completed units on place value and addition and subtraction. For both year groups, most of the learning for place value and addition and subtraction are concepts the children have covered before (partitioning numbers, rounding, column addition and subtraction) they are now using these with higher numbers (up to 10,000 for Year 4 and up to one million for Year 5) or in more complex problems. If you would like to practise some maths at home with your child I would recommend rounding, as this is the most challenging aspect of these topics - particularly rounding the same number to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000 (Year 4), 10,000 and 100,000 (Year 5). The key is to remember which digit to check to apply the rule of 0-4 round down and 5-9 round up. You could have a look at the BBC Bitesize page and try the quiz at the end. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh8dmp3/articles/zdtftrd>

English

This term in English, we have used a variety of texts. We started with retelling parts of The Crows Tale thinking about our sentence openers and descriptive language. We then retold a section of our guided reading text Podkin One-Ear making sure we were including direct speech and appropriate verbs. The children really enjoyed the story of Juliane Koepcke- 'The girl who fell from the sky' from the book Survivors by David Long. We created setting descriptions and diary entries based on what Juliane may have been feeling at the time and were able to incorporate 'show don't tell'. We finished the term writing a non-chronological report on volcanoes which tied in nicely with their geography topic.

Guided Reading

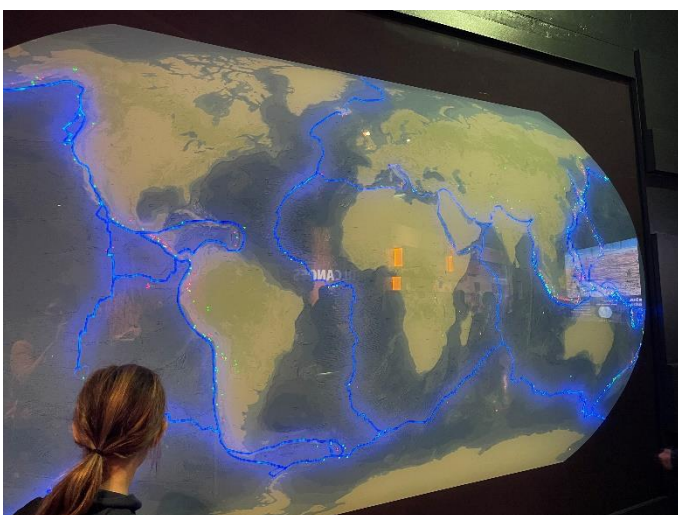
This term our book is Podkin One-Ear by Kieran Larwood, which the children are really enjoying. It is set in a fantasy version of medieval earth where humans no-longer exist and rabbits are in charge. Podkin is our hero who is trying to escape for the Gorm, evil rabbits who are taking over one warren at a time. The children love listening to the chapter each Tuesday and trying to predict what will happen next.



Geography

The children are really engaged with our topic of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Mountains and loved the trip to the National History Museum which really enhanced their learning (see photos below). So far we have completed the Earthquakes section of the topic and have answered the question: Why do some earthquakes cause more damage than others? We are now learning about volcanoes where our enquiry question is: How do volcanoes effect the lives of the people of Hiemaey (Iceland)? After half-term we will move onto mountains and will be considering the question: How are the Cambrian mountains different from the Himalayan mountains?







Computing

This half-term the focus has been on e-safety. The children have covered topics such as cyberbullying, what information they should share online and critically evaluating the information they find online. Next half-term they will be learning to use Excel spreadsheets.

Art and DT

This half-term we have been learning how to Batik. The children have had to make a wooden frame, drawn their design on fabric, paint their design on in wax and then die the fabric areas not covered in wax to see the end result. We will be finishing these after half-term when they will get sent home for you to see.

Next half-term we will be having a design and technology day on Wednesday 6th November when we have visitors coming in to lead a STEM Boat Challenge. We will let you know how it goes in our next Ask Me About!

German

The children have made a fantastic start to their German learning! They have learnt basic greetings such as guten tag and wie gehts?, numbers to 10 and some colours. They are so enthusiastic about it, it has been brilliant.

Music

The children have been enjoying music this term.

The Year 5 children have been listening and appraising the song Happy by Pharrell Williams with other songs in different styles about being happy. They have also been using the glockenspiel to learn the tune while they sing along to the song. The Year 4 children have been very excited to be learning to play the djembe (African drums) with Mr Roff. There will be a performance for parents in December time to be confirmed.

Have a great half-term,
Mrs Atkins and Ms Miah

Homework	
Reading	Please read 5 times a week and write this in your Reading Diary. Reading diaries are checked on Mondays.
Topic	The next topic grid will be sent out after half term. At least one piece of homework need to be brought in during the last week of term. Homework for Y5 will go out through Google Classroom, with the expectation that year 5 can choose to do so if they wish.

Spellings	The spellings for the week will be stuck in reading diaries each Monday. The spelling test will be on Friday each week.
Times Tables	Mighty Multiples will be completed in school every Friday. Any practise you can do on your focus times tables at home will help. One way to do this is on Times Tables Rock Stars https://trockstars.com/