



Starlings'



Ask Me About Newsletter

Autumn 2

19th December 2024

Date for your diary – Tuesday 14th January

World War II Day for Starlings and Nightingales – Children can dress up in 1940s clothes. A more detailed letter will be come out from Mr Hamilton soon.

Maths – sorry this is a long one!

This half-term has been all about multiplication and division (part 1!) and length, perimeter and area. For Year 4 this first section of multiplication and division has focused on times tables. They have now been introduced to all of the times tables up to 12x12. Practising these facts will continue to be a focus of maths lessons for the rest of the year leading up to the times table check in June. Information for parents about the check can be found in the following document

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6724ae64c053e87b6a0a81e4/Information_for_parents_multiplication_tables_check.pdf

The main reason Year 4 are set this target is so that they can fully access the Year 5 curriculum next year. The Year 5s are about to find out how important quick recall of times tables facts are as we move on to part 2 of multiplication and division and fractions after Christmas. Both year groups will continue to do Mighty Multiples on a Friday where they will focus on their own personal times table target. For those children that have completed Mighty Multiples they move on to the challenge grids. Times Tables Rockstars is a great way for all the children to practice. This will be regularly updated to match the times tables they are working on and a new tournament will be set up next term.

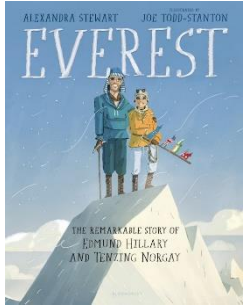
We have also started a new maths programme designed by the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Maths (NCETM) called Mastering Number at Key Stage 2. This a series of 10-15 minute extra maths lesson which we do every day after lunch. The programme is designed specifically for Year 4 and Year 5 and focusses on multiplication and division as this is such an important strand of maths for both year groups. It is short, snappy and fun. This week the children were very excited to make their first set of times tables practice cards which they get to keep in their little gold bags!

Aside from times tables we have all learnt more about factors and multiples. Year 5 have also been introduced to square numbers, prime number and cube numbers. Then both year groups built on their knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 (Year 4) and 1,000 (Year 5).

Finally we learnt more about perimeter before this week moving onto area (which we will finish the first week of next term). This is a new concept for Year 4. Year 5 will add to what they know by finding the area of compound shapes.

English

We started the term watching the lighthouse video clip that has no words. The children wrote an independent piece of writing using all the skills they had learnt the past term. We had some great diary entries and retelling of the story. We then moved onto the Cloud Tea Monkeys, which was a story about a girl who goes to pick tealeaves with her mum. The children used similes as sentence openers and lots of exciting vocabulary to draw the reader in.



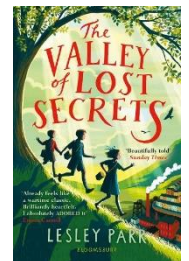
We finished the term by reading Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. We then explored biographies looking at the formal language used. We then wrote our own biography about Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. The children planned each section and were able to edit and proof read as they went along. They have also published their biographies.



Next term we will be using books based around our topic of World War II. We will start with Tail End Charlie.

Guided Reading

We have finished Podkin One-Ear and the children have loved it! I have bought the next book in the series to read to the class in story time next term, but they may want to get a copy for themselves and read it at home. The second book is called the Gift of Dark Hollow by Kieran Larwood. There are 7 books in the series in total.



Next term we will be reading The Valley of Lost Secrets by Lesley Parr which ties in with our World War II topic.

Geography

We have now completed our Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Mountains topic and the children are so knowledgeable about them all - which they have shown in their end of term assessments. A particular highlight was the lesson where we learnt about how different types of mountains are formed through practical demonstrations. We had crumbled tissue paper for fold mountains, leaning piles of books for fault-block mountains, an expanding balloon for dome mountains, watched water wash away sand for plateau mountains and exploding buttercream for volcanic mountains!

We will now move onto History next term. Our topic will be World War II. In the first half-term this will focus on the Battle of Britain. In the second half-term we will look at the home front including evacuation and women's roles in the war.

Computing

The children have extended their Excel skills in computing and finished with a budgeting challenge which they all enjoyed. Next term they will be moving onto to coding.

DT

The DT boat building day with the STEM ambassadors was definitely a success. After learning about the design process and the important elements in building a boat, the children built their own with electric motors. There was then a competition for the fastest boat and the most beautiful boat!



German

The children have continued enjoying their German learning. This half-term we have learnt the days of the week and months of the year, as well as a little about German Christmas traditions. We hope you enjoyed their German Christmas Carol if you were able to come to Christingle.

Science

This term in science, we have been looking at variation in plants and animals. We have also looked at adaptation and how animals and humans adapt to the world around them. We ended the term with fossils; we looked at how fossils are formed and have an understanding that they were formed a very long time ago. We also discussed what scientist could learn from fossils. We have also learnt about three scientist Carl Linnaeus, Charles Darwin and Mary Anning while completing the topics.

Music

Year 4 – djembes performance was a great success thank you to the parents that came along to watch. Below are a few photos from the performance.



Have a great Christmas,
Mrs Atkins and Ms Miah

Homework

There were some excellent homework submissions this half-term including some beautiful paintings of mountains and creative Top Trumps cards! Well done.

Some of the children have been done brilliantly with their reading diaries, reading 5 times a week and being awarded with lots of House Value Points for responsibility, as well as raffle tickets for the prize draw. However, we have a few children have not handed in their reading diary at all this term. Please can you encourage your children to take responsibility for remembering to have their reading diary ready on a Monday morning. They are welcome to fill it in at school during SILT time. We are particularly keen for the Year 5 children to remember this one weekly task. Next year the homework expectations will increase in preparation for SATS and for moving on to Secondary School.

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 Christmas. At least one piece of homework need to be brought in during the last week of term.
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/

If you or your Y5 child would like to access Google Classroom, please let Ms Keeling know and she will set it up for them.