

Ask Me About Nightingales 2024-2025

December 2024

Nightingales have continued to impress with their attitude and effort throughout the term and continue to aspire through following the Albourne Way. They have been introduced to the Explorer and Polisher in assemblies and are responding to the expectations.

English

In English we have continued to develop writing skills. This term we have focused on more formal writing skills by creating newspaper reports, based on the story of Phillippe Petit and persuasive writing using the animation featuring Edgar the Dragon! The children have also had opportunities to show their skills in independent pieces of writing, based on the Survivors book which we have used for our reading sessions. In addition, they have written and illustrated some stunning poetry, which is displayed in our Golden Work Gallery. Please keep encouraging all the children to read a variety of texts and year 6 readers, remember to keep reading the book for your book club and be ready to discuss it in your book group at the end of the next 1/2 term.

Maths

We have focused on understanding fractions this term. This has involved recognising and finding equivalent fractions, mixed number fractions, irregular fractions, simplifying, adding and subtracting. Some of the children have found elements of this a challenge but we will revisit it regularly throughout the coming term.

Art/DT

In DT we had a visit from Stem Ambassadors Mike and Andrew, who spoke about careers as engineers and surveyors and challenged the children to design a boat for a whole class boat race! The children had a great day and made some super models.



Geography

We have continued to explore mountains, with a focus on Wales and the Cambrian area, and how mountains are used for farming and as a source of fresh water for neighbouring cities.

Other subjects

We have continued developing and refreshing our French skills. In RE we have explored why Christians believe Jesus was the messiah, while other religions do not believe so. Computing has introduced the children to the use of spreadsheets for storing and presenting data. Please keep reminding children about keeping safe when using electronic devices-visit the school website for further information if needed.

Science has allowed the children to find out more about Adaptation. In PE, as a class, we had some time doing gymnastics, but due to nativity rehearsals we had to cut these short, however, we will return to gymnastics later in the year. Year 6 have completed their swimming at Hurst while year 5 practised netball skills with Ms. Keeling.

Miscellaneous

Home work will continue to go out through Google Classroom, with the expectation that year 6 do complete the tasks set and year 5 can choose to do so if they wish. No homework over the Christmas holidays, but it will return in the New Year!

Miss May completed her first successful placement with us and will return for the summer term.

Just a quick note to keep you informed of what is coming up during the next term for the children in Nightingales:

Now that swimming has finished, PE will be for the whole class for both sessions. Monday will be our outdoor session, which will be hockey; Thursday will be an indoor session, which will be dance.

We will also be starting an after school Maths Club to help support some of the year 6 children develop and improve their understanding in key areas. This will begin on Thursday 16th January, 3.30-4.15. The children we would like to attend will be informed via a letter when we return in January. It is not compulsory, but we hope those invited can attend, it will be used to consolidate skills for the children. There will also be an intervention session run by Mrs. Atkins, during school hours- we will let you know when we can confirm an afternoon and the children who will attend.

Early in the new term we will arrange a SATs meeting for the year 6 parents. This will also be an opportunity for parents to purchase the revision books for the year 6 children to help them in preparation for the SATs exams. We will confirm details when we return in January.

As we move into our new topic of World War Two we will have a day for the children to dress as an evacuee; on the same day we shall have a visit from a performance group- again, keep an eye out for the letter early in the New Year.

Finally, just to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Have a great Christmas.

Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Henson.