

MINCHINHAMPTON NEWSLETTER

MATHS CURRICULUM EVENING FOR PARENTS COMING SOON

There is a big focus this year on maths. In the last couple of years the curriculum has changed and expectations have been raised (for example often now Year 4's have to learn what were once Year 6 objectives). We have been trying to approach this challenge in a realistic and sensible manner. Last year our primary aim was to develop a more positive mindset towards maths for all our pupils—this work is ongoing and includes presenting the children with interesting challenges in which children can explore their own ideas and methods. This year we are overhauling the rest of our practice. Children are now taught in their classes using some new methods (inspired by teaching in Shanghai) which are both very supportive and thorough. Our aim is to ensure all pupils leave primary school feeling positive about maths; with both a really solid base of skills and knowledge as well as the sense that maths is an exciting, creative subject to explore. We are aiming to deliver on the higher expectations of our children without putting added pressure on them. The teaching staff are spending many hours beyond the classroom working together to make sure these aims become a reality.

We are intent on delivering more curriculum evenings in the future to provide parents with better insight into how children learn in this school. Our first evening will be about maths. This will follow the format of a recent demonstration philosophy session we ran for parents of children who attend the P4C club. The session allowed us to both demonstrate how philosophy is taught as well as discuss the teaching in progress. Parents will be invited to pair up with their own children and experience a typical maths lesson directly. Please put aside any trepidation you may have at such a prospect—the session will aim to be fun and supportive.

The first one will be for Year 5/6 parents and their children and two further evenings will be run for Year 3/4 and KS1 parents and children.

The Curriculum Evening will take place in the school hall on Wednesday 6th March at 6.00pm

CURRICULUM BOX

SKY- YEAR 5/6- MR RICKETTS

In science we have been identifying inherited and environmental characteristics. Inherited features include things like hair colour, blood type, original skin colour and tongue rolling. Your language, mental health, scars and sporting ability are all examples of environmental characteristics. Then we moved on to adaptations: we looked at different plants and creatures and spoke about if they changed in some way would it be for the better or worse. In English we have been reading 'Goodnight Mister Tom,' a story based in World War 2 (this term's topic). We have created character

descriptions, diary entries, and much more, all based on the book. Maths has included measurements, fractions, decimals and percentages. In P.E., we have been using the apparatus for climbing and we have been focusing on patches, balances and travels. Currently, basketball is our focus in games.

YEAR 5/6 MUSEUM IN THE HALL

On Friday 25th January the Year 5/6 teachers brought in some artefact boxes from a museum: they were filled with objects from World War 2. All the artefacts were spread across the hall on tables and Year 5/6's went down into the hall and looked at and sketched and discussed the objects. There were all sorts of genuine WW2 artefacts, such as ration books, post cards, gas masks, bombs (made safe), uniforms, shoes, pictures and rationed foods (plastic replicas-- otherwise they would have been mouldy.) Most terms we in Year 5/6 get an experience similar to this one. Last term when we were studying Shackleton, we had a museum in the hall about Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic.

STEAM

On Friday the 18th January the Year 5/6's went to STEAM in Swindon to learn about World War 2. All of the children got dressed up as evacuees and the teachers dressed as billeting officers and soldiers. In classes, they did 3 different activities. One activity involved walking around the museum, full of scenes, a life-like train station and displays. Another experience was an air raid and the final one was being evacuated.

"It showed how the children of WW2 must've felt. I bet they were terrified," said Riley.

"I really enjoyed the trip. It was an experience of a lifetime, because we got to dress up and experience what all the evacuees would have felt like during the war," said Darcey.

"I thought that it was a really good trip. I enjoyed all of the different activities. It was good because there were genuine artefacts and replicas which helped us imagine what life would have been like," said Aidan.

"I pretended to be a wax person, and I liked it. I also liked taking pictures with my friend and experiencing an air raid with the sounds of bombs going off," said Isobel.

SNOW

Last Friday, school had to shut. Mr Moss stood at school knowing that more heavy snow was going to come down. Against his will, he had to close the school for the day. We are very sorry for any inconvenience caused. We hope that everyone made the most of the snow and enjoyed themselves.

PUPIL LED ASSEMBLY

On Friday 25th January, Kitty, Bel, Cerys, Kirsten, Isabella, Lola and Amber led an assembly all about being responsible for your learning. They did a play about a class of children and what they did when their teacher left the room. They asked all sorts of questions about being responsible. "It was

really cool to lead the assembly and to ask people questions that we came up with. It was nice to see everyone really thinking about responsibility,' they said.

POEMS OF THE WEEK

IMAGINE
Imagine a willow
As silky as a pillow
Imagine a house
As small as a mouse
Imagine a park
As hot as a spark
Imagine a broly
As cold as a lolly
Imagine a tree
As small as a bee
Imagine a book
As sharp as a hook
And a cone the same
size as a bone
BY DAISY - AZURE

IMAGINE
Imagine a mat
As rough as a hat
Imagine a book
As shiny as a hook
Imagine a bed
As round as a head
Imagine a can
As fat as a van
Imagine a vase
As big as mars
Imagine a bear
As small as a pear
And a door the same
Size as an oar
BY SAM - AZURE

IMAGINE
Imagine a dish
As smelly as a fish
Imagine a tree
As small as a bee
Imagine a house
As small as a mouse
Imagine a label
As long as a table
Imagine a moth
As slow as a sloth
Imagine a hose
As prickly as a rose
And a pea the same
Size as me
BY ISABEL- AZURE

IMAGINE
Imagine a sloth
As fast as a moth
Imagine a dragon
As small as a wagon
Imagine a pig
As fluffy as a wig
Imagine a leaf
As big as a reef
Imagine a light
As big as a kite
Imagine a dock
As smelly as a sock
And a lace the same
Size as a face
BY AMELIA - AZURE

THE RETURN OF THE GUINEA PIGS

The guinea pigs joined us again in January after their break when the building work was being done. We would like to say thank you to Lyra and her mum for looking after them. As the weather has been so cold, they have been playing outside during the day and sleeping inside during the night. They are very happy being back at school. Each class have a rota for their week to look after the guinea pigs. During that week, the class will feed them, play with them and clean them out. Mrs Bennett brings in fresh vegetables for them each day as they are greedy little monkeys and love to eat.

LEARN PADS RETURN

Due to the return of the learn pads, children from Minch are very excited because they get to use more technology in school.

"I enjoy using the learn pads because using technology is infinitely better than using a pencil and some paper," says Alisha.

The learn pads encourage children to learn responsibly with technology. The learn pads left the school because of technical problems, but with the help of a couple of technicians they came back this term. Lessons can be controlled from the teachers computer to all of the learn pads in the classroom. They have many different functions, useful for most subjects.

By Kitty, Kirstin, Bel, Cerys and Isabelle.