



13th November 2020

Message from the Senior Leadership Team **Newsletter**

Dear all,

A very warm welcome back to the second part of the autumn term. It has been a busy but wonderful two weeks. Children are enjoying their new topics and it's great to hear about the exciting lessons they have been having. We have also taken part in Maths Week England 2020, ran our School Council elections and taken time to remember those who have given their lives in service.

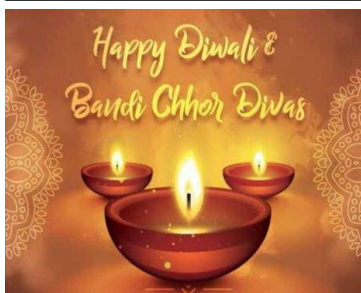
As you are aware, the school is continuing to develop. Rumour has it there is a new library on the way! Keep an eye out for a special reading newsletter that will outline everything you need to know.

As we've entered into another national lockdown, it is essential that we continue to keep ourselves and others safe by adhering to the national guidance. Please continue to be mindful of others when waiting outside and remember to socially distance.

Thank you for all the kind words and messages over the last few weeks. Please remember that we are here for all our families, and that if you need any advice or support regarding your child or home circumstances, then we are only a message or phone call away.

Have a lovely weekend. Stay safe and happy Diwali and Bandi Chor Diwas!

Mrs Westwood – Principal
Mrs Kaur – Interim Headteacher
Miss Prior – Interim Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Worthington – Assistant Headteacher



Our virtue focus over the past 3 weeks have been:
KS1 – Cleanliness
KS2 – Tolerance
Take some time to reflect on how we can use these virtues in our own lives.

Dates for the Diary

ACADEMIC YEAR – 2020/2021

	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term 1	Tuesday 1 st September 2020	Friday 16 th October 2020
Autumn Term 2	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 5 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
Spring Term 2	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Summer Term 1	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
Summer Term 2	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 23 rd July 2021

Please note mid-term CPD day Friday 27th November for staff; the school will be closed to pupils.

Date	Event
16.11.20 to 20.11.20	Road Safety Week
16.11.20 & 17.11.20	Birmingham City Mission virtual Faith Assemblies for KS1 and KS2 -Harvest & Hope
27.11.20	Teacher Training Day – children not in school
30.11.2020	Faith Enrichment Day, celebrating the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev ji
30.11.20 to 4.12.20	Children invited to bring in donated items for the Homeless Appeal this week

Attendance for Autumn Term 1	
Truth 1	95.76%
Truth 2	97.56%
Service 1	96.10%
Service 2	99.08 %
Humility 1	96.48%
Humility 2	98.29%
Compassion 1	96.33%
Compassion 2	96.89%
Forgiveness 1	98.59%
Forgiveness 2	95.80%
Contentment 1	98.51%
Contentment 2	97.74%
Optimism 1	96.33%
Optimism 2	96.40%

Autumn 1 Attendance

Wow, Service 2! Look at that excellent attendance from Autumn 1, especially under the current circumstances. So many year groups are very close to 100% too – keep trying!

Please also remember how important it is to be on time with all the right equipment. This ensures our children are happy, calm and ready for the day of learning ahead.

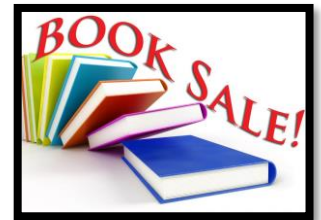
A new library I hear you say?

We are super excited to launch our new library next Friday! The library is very nearly set up and is currently teasing our children with its new array of fantastic books.

Watch out for our special reading edition newsletter next week, which will have information about our new library, our new reading system and our librarian positions.



Old Library Book Sale



As some of our old books are not compatible with our new library system, we will be selling these to our pupils at very reasonable prices: 10p, 20p, 50p or a £1.

We are inviting children to bring in their change next week to purchase these books.

They **MUST** only bring these exact coins as **change will not be given**.

Children must bring in no more than £2.

Children may purchase more than one book if they wish to. For example, they may bring in £1 and purchase 5 books at 20p or 4 50p books for £2.

All sales will take place in class throughout the week and will be the perfect opportunity to apply their maths skills.

Please ensure that your child's money is labelled in an envelope or purse. Siblings must bring this in separately too.

Thank You for Your Feedback

Parent feedback is so important to us in the development of our school and our children's education. Throughout the difficult changes this year, we can not thank parents enough for their kind words and support.

"My initial thought as a parent was that we are only getting a ten minute call and I was concerned how would we find out about our son's progression and how he has settled back in school in under ten minutes. I have to say I could not have been more wrong, the call was very well planned with individual targets clearly set for my child. I was told how my child was progressing in school and how he settled back in and was also advised on where improvements can be made - all within ten minutes! All my questions were answered before I even needed to ask – thank you!

*The effort put in planning the parents evening was clearly evident and this was the **best parents evening we have received to date.***

A big thank you to you and your staff at NPSB."

"My husband and I were a little apprehensive on the thought of discussing our child's current support and work at school via telephone for 10 minutes. However, we were amazed and pleasantly surprised at how constructive and succinct the information that was given regarding our child. Listening to the targets set, virtues used and how we could help our child really gave us a great insight into how well our son is doing and how well he is supported by his teacher and the school. We didn't feel rushed at all and the teacher gave us time for questions but really summarised everything we needed to know very well."

"I would like to say a big thank you to yourself and the staff at Nishkam Primary School Birmingham, who have worked extremely hard.

I was amazed at the progress she had made with her phonics and reading after her first week back into school in September, especially as she was away from the classroom for so long during lockdown. This was one of my worries that she may fall behind in her learning as Phonics/English/Reading was one of her weaker areas, which I had the opportunity to notice while working with her over lockdown. She was so excited to return back to school in September and was so enthusiastic to learn and you could see she began to have confidence in her phonics work. Her reading had improved tremendously thanks to the teachers and associate teachers.

I would also like to say thank you for a wonderful parents evening. It was very well organised and I liked the way we were provided with the date and time of our call in advance with enough notice given to parents, allowing us to plan and be ready for the call. Miss Edwards covered all areas of her work, highlighting my daughters strengths and areas to improve on and what we could do at home to support this. This was a very detailed parents evening, leaving me with a lot of confidence in the school!"

Remembrance Day



Armistice Day is on 11th November and is also known as Remembrance Day.

It marks the day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918.

On this day, there are usually ceremonies at war memorials, cenotaphs and churches throughout the country, as well as abroad. The Royal Family and top politicians gather at The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, for a memorial service.



The anniversary is used to remember all the people who have died in wars - not just World War One. This includes World War Two, the Falklands War, the Gulf War, and conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Why do we hold a two-minute silence?

The first two-minute silence in Britain was held on 11th November 1919, when King George V asked the public to observe a silence at 11am. This was one year after the end of World War One.

He made the request so "the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead".

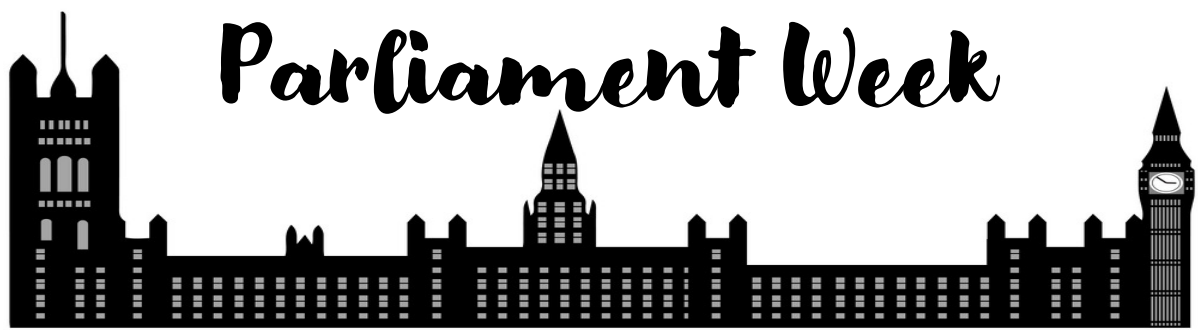


Why Do We Wear Poppies?

After the battle of the Somme in the first World War, soldiers returned to see the trenches covered in bright red poppies.

Even after the land had suffered so much battle, these strong poppies grew, representing hope. This is why the red poppy became the symbol to remind us of those who have gone. You may have seen staff and other children wearing poppies or poppy badges on their tops this week or on the 11th November.

Hope, Courage and Respect



1st and the 7th of November 2020 Parliament week

UK Parliament Week engages people from across the country with the work of the UK Parliament, it explores what **Parliament** means to them and empowers them to get involved

During Parliament Week, our pupils were taught about **democracy** and the importance of **parliament**.



What Is a Democracy?



The Main Political Parties



A discussion was held in class and the pupils were taught the fundamental principles of **democracy**.

This discussion helped pupils to explore democracy; that it allows people to participate in decisions that affect their lives. It taught them the importance of **every voice matters**, including theirs. They discovered how they could vote at the age of 18, but if they felt seriously about an issue, something in the news or an idea for a law that Parliament is talking about, then they could still get involved through the UK Youth Parliament, which comes to the House of Commons every year to hold a debate about issues that are important to them.

The discussion in class also included:

- the role of their local MP
- The main political party leaders
- Why voting is necessary

This then led into the discussion about Nishkam School Council, their involvement and its links to democracy - a process pupils partake in as they are voting for a candidate for their class.



Nishkam Primary has been fortunate to have a very active school council. We pride ourselves on our faith development, virtues and education. Our school council aims to help to support our school's development in becoming a caring community, where pupils, teachers and parents can work in partnership with shared goals.

Nishkam School Council believe that to build strong communities and responsible citizens, their efforts must go past their normal idea of education and include a holistic approach. They also believe that our faith-inspired virtues describe the character of education and that a pupil council should be a positive, central role in our daily school life. Nishkam School Council work to ensure both our teachers and pupils are automatically applying virtues in every thought, decision and action for our school.

2020 – 2021 School Council Elections

This November, pupils were involved in improving different aspects of school improvement. The pupils actively made projects and manifestos to present to their peers. Their projects included:

Key stage 1 - Eating healthy at Nishkam Primary and the Nishkam Allotments

Key stage 2 - Mindfulness at Nishkam Primary and how to be more physically active

Thank you to all those who put together their manifestos and presentations. We were blown away with the amount of courage and respect our children showed. Our votes are now in and counted so watch this space for further details of the elected class councillors



Maths Week England

Maths Week England ran from 9th – 14th November. This event aims to share the joy of mathematics with everyone. Their vision is to “provide young people in England with a positive image of mathematics, and to contribute in a small way to changing the national attitude towards this vital and beautiful subject.”



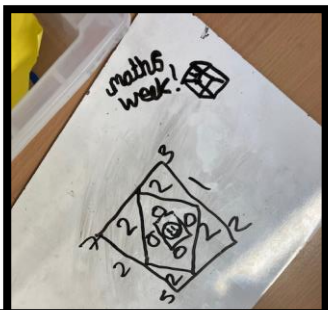
Maths investigations in Year 1

At NPSB we want our children to see Maths as a life-skill, something that is, and will always be, part of their daily lives. We want our children to use the virtues of 'awe' and 'enthusiasm' when they approach Maths and see it as a subject that can inspire them. At NPSB we want our children to use resilience, communication, strategic-thinking, curiosity and creativity in Maths and learn that these are essential skills for life.

In school, the children took part in strategic-games and problem solving. At home, the children had a chance to access a famous mathematician of the day, a daily career that uses maths and a variety of different maths activities to get involved with individually or as a family.

Take a sneak peek at what we some of our pupils took part in in school and at home...

Year 4 investigating numbers!



Anadh solving real life problems at home

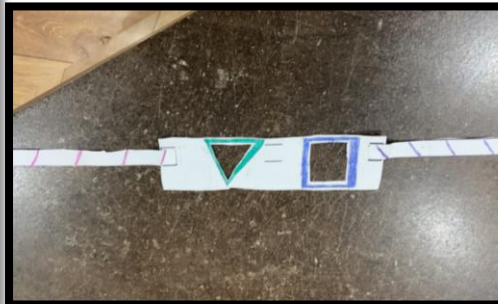
A Bowl of Fruit

Half the pieces of fruit in the bowl are apples.

There are also three oranges, two pears and a banana.

How many apples are there in the bowl?

Harveen's maths glasses



Jasneet made some Maths glasses at home.

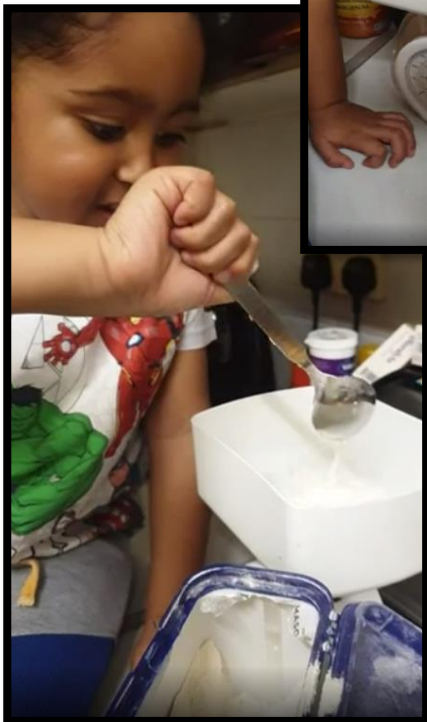


Jaycee, Harjas and Sachjot made some maths glasses to help them find the maths that is all around us.



Angad counted coins at home.

Kirin measured ingredients in his kitchen at home.



Kiran solved some sweet problems at home.

Don't worry if you didn't get a chance to take part at home, there is still time! Find the Maths Week England document on your class Dojo story and take part this weekend.

Celebration of Light

As we approach the festive season, we would like to engage the school community in a **Celebration of Light**. Please Class Dojo for individual Year group homework based on different Faith festivals during the Winter Season. All of these festivals and stories are linked to virtues to reflect upon at home.

Below are just some of the festivals we look forward to at this time of the year.



Happy Diwali to our Hindu families who will be celebrating in their home this weekend.

The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word deepavali, meaning "rows of lighted lamps". Diwali is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. Linked to the story of Rama and Sita.

Year 1 & 4 have been set some homework about the importance of Diwali

Sikhs around the world also remember the 6th Sikh Guru, as Diwali coincides with the day when Guru Hargobind Ji, was released from prison he had been wrongly and forcefully detained.

The Emperor Jehangir agreed that only those who could hold onto the Guru's cloak would be released.

Guru Ji therefore had a special robe made with 52 tassels so that all the prisoners could be released from the Gwalior Fort in 1619. The occasion is also known as 'Bandi Chorr Diwas' – the day of release of prisoners and is celebrated by the lighting of lamps. Year 3 will focus on Bandi Chorr Divas for their homework.



On December 8th Buddhists will reflect on Bodhi Day. The day that Buddha was enlightened under the Bodhi tree.

Our Year 6 will learn about Buddha's life and his journey towards enlightenment.



From the 10th to 18th December the Jewish Community will celebrate the Hanukkah. Our Year 5 children will reflect on the virtues of faith and hope.



Year 2 children will learn about the First Christmas. Reflecting on the light of the North Star.

Optimism and Faith

Keeping Safe Online

It has come to our attention that over the past couple of weeks children are still accessing games and apps at home that are not age appropriate. We urge parents do follow the steps below to ensure children are safe whilst at home:

- Monitor the use of mobile phones, tablets, laptops, computers and game consoles.
- Ensure settings on all devices are set to "family settings"
- Check the age restriction for all apps and games. You will be surprised at how many games and apps are 13+ or higher due to the online messaging functions.
- Don't always believe it when your child says: "But everyone plays it" or "Everyone has it." This is not always true and can put your child at unnecessary risk.
- If you're not sure about something regarding the above, please just ask.

There are some fantastic online safety videos available for parents. Please click [here](#) to view. If something happens, please be reactive. If the children hear language that is inappropriate, please explain that it is offensive and unkind to use bad language.

If your child has seen inappropriate content online, you can: talk with them about what they've seen – let them know what is, and isn't, appropriate for their age. Reassure them they can come to you, another trusted adult.

Keep Talking

The biggest risk online for your child is bullying or similar behaviour. Do your best to make your children comfortable talking to you about what they see online.

Monitor and Check

Whether you share passwords, become friends online or just take a more active role in their online activities; your occasional checks are a valuable way to check they are safe online. We don't let them talk to strangers on the street, please don't allow it online either.

Plan for the future

Sharing photos and information online has become part of how people stay in touch. Please be mindful of what your child is posting as this may impact on them in the future.



It's coming... Road Safety Week

Next week in PSHE lessons, all children will learn about the importance of road safety. As adults, we must role model the correct behaviours. The journey to school everyday is a good learning opportunity.



Speed contributes to one in five fatal crashes in the UK

Walking with young children

When your child is old enough to start walking with you, talk to them about how they must always hold your hand. Make sure hand-holding is your number one rule. If your child is likely to pull away from you, use safety reins or a wrist strap. Keep children on the inside, away from traffic, in case they trip.

As you walk, teach young children the words and ideas they need to understand the dangers of traffic.

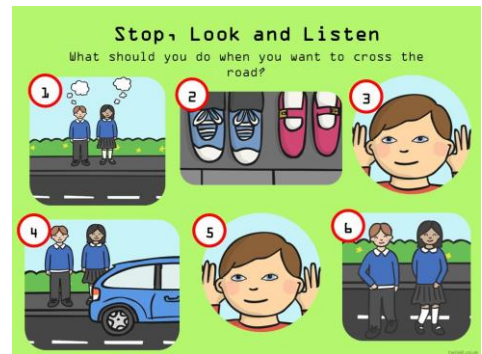
Teach them that:

- traffic is hard and fast and can hurt and kill people, because people are much slower and soft;
- it's important to stay away from roads, hold hands with a grown up, and not to run near roads;
- traffic is also smelly and can hurt your lungs – this is why it's better to walk where possible.



Top tips for keeping children safe near roads

- Children under 8 should always hold a grown up's hand when walking near roads
- Children under 8 should always cross roads with a grown up, at a safe crossing place
- Until they are 150cm tall, all children should sit in a correctly sized and fitted child seat when travelling by car
- Children under 10 should not cycle on roads, they should keep to cycle paths away from motorised traffic
- Children should always wear a helmet when cycling to protect their head if they fall off



Using roads independently

Many children aged nine or over are able to learn to use roads independently, although some take longer to reach this stage.

When you and your child decide it is safe to allow them to walk independently, teach them and keep reminding them about the importance of crossing safely using the Green Cross Code:

- Stop somewhere safe where you can see,
- listen, look right, look left, look right again,
- keep listening,
- only cross when you are sure it is safe.

Truth

We have had a busy two weeks back at school after our break. We have started our new topic 'Out of this World' and have enjoyed learning about the moon and astronauts! We have read 'Whatever Next', retold stories and written lists of what we would take to the moon! We are having lots of fun roleplaying trips to space and working on the space station. In Maths we have been developing our understanding of numbers to 10 and compared numbers using our star words 'more, less, greater and fewer'. We have also been very creative building rockets and painting astronauts. We have also been very busy exploring our learning garden. We have been investigating seasonal changes and discussing the weather. In Faith we have been learning about the virtue of cleanliness. We have shared ideas and how to keep ourselves clean and made posters about washing out hands.



Service

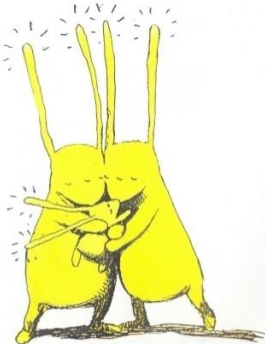
In Maths, we have been learning to know how to subtract numbers up to 20. We have learned different strategies when subtracting numbers e.g. counters, pictorial representation, ten frames, bead strings and counting back.



In English, we have been learning about the story of Beegu. We made predictions about what might happen in the story and explored the characters and setting. We asked questions and 'hot seated' the character Beegu. This week, we used our virtue of creativity and designed a friend for Beegu because he was lonely.

We are very excited to explore this story in the coming weeks and develop our writing skills further!

We have made progress in our phonics and also our pre-cursive handwriting.



In Music this term, children used the familiar story of The Three Little Pigs to explore timbre by creating different character voices. Children also used a range of instruments to retell the story and to represent characters.

In Science this term, we are learning about 'Seasonal Changes'. We will be exploring, discussing and comparing what happens to the leaves and weather during Autumn and Winter. Remember - don't forget to talk about the weather and the seasons as a family at home. You could also sing the weather and seasons songs we learnt in Reception.

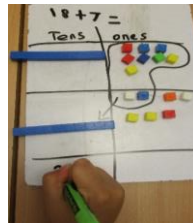
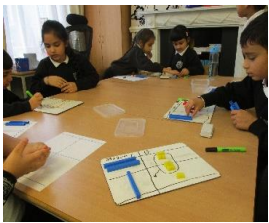


Humility

In English, we have been really enjoying our new text Emily Brown and the Thing. We loved the fact that she had a bunny called Stanley and went on lots of adventures with him. We decided to make our very own Stanley so that we could say our sentences out loud to him. We look forward to developing our writing skills by writing a fantastic set of instructions on 'how to make a rice bunny'.



In P.E, we are learning all about gymnastics. We had so much fun practising our balance skills and learning the different names of techniques such a 'pike' and 'tuck'.



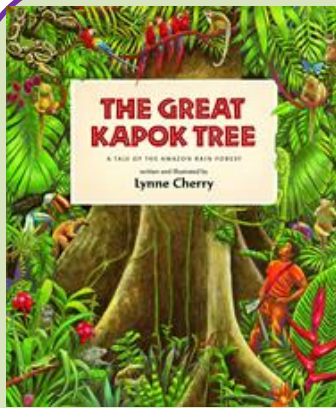
In PSHE, we discussed British Values and how democracy works. We then role played being Members of Parliament and gave our opinions.



In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction. We used base ten and place value charts to help us add our ones and tens. After we were confident with that method, we moved on to column method for adding and subtracting numbers. s

Compassion

An activity you can try at home: Imagine that you fell asleep under the Great Kapok Tree. What dreams might you have?



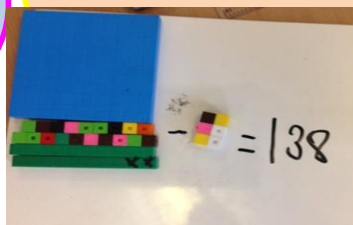
Using the settings of the rainforest, we wrote a diary entry of a person visiting the rainforest. We used our senses to help generate ideas and used adjectives and adverbs to make an impact on our reader.

In English, we have been reading an amazing tale about the Amazon Rain forest...
*Exhausted from his labours, a man chopping down the **great Kapok tree** in the Brazilian rainforest puts down his axe, and, he sleeps, the animals who live in the tree plead with him not to destroy their world.*

During Science, we have been investigating human and animal skeleton types. We **Identified** the **differences** and similarities between animals and human skeletons. We learnt the three different skeleton types; endoskeleton, exoskeleton and hydro skeleton. We had lots of fun meeting 'Mr Bones' and labelling parts of the skeleton.



In Maths, we have been working extremely hard! We added and subtracted numbers with up to three digits, using the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction. We added and subtracted numbers mentally, including: a three-digit number and ones, a three-digit number and tens, a three-digit number and hundreds. We further challenged ourselves by solving problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value, and more complex addition and subtraction problems.



We love reading in year 3! Look at all of our certificates!



Forgiveness



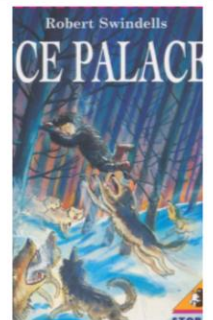
During science lessons, Year 4 have been learning about the digestive system. Can your child remember what the functions are for each organ?



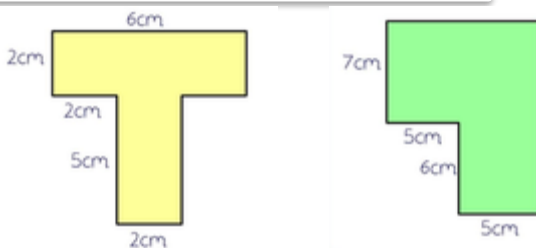
We have also looked at teeth in our Science lessons. We have made a model of our teeth and we even know each tooth's name!



In Mathematics, we have been looking at measurement. We have converted units of measure before moving onto finding the perimeter of rectilinear shapes.



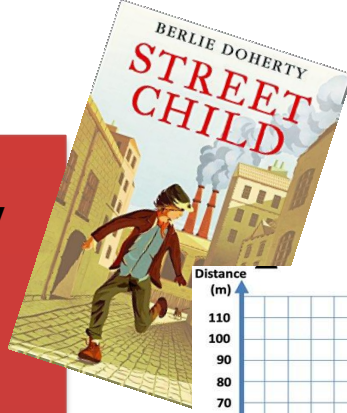
In English, we've been reading and discussing our latest text, *The Ice Palace*. We have so far looked at descriptive poetry about the wintery setting and have also created fictional diary entries.



Contentment

ENGLISH

This term we have dived into our new class novel, 'Street Child'. During our lessons, we have role-played events from the text and learnt new language such as shilling, hearth, squalor, slums, workhouse. The story has contributed to Year 5's understanding of the Victorian era and allowed them to reflect and compare their own lives to that of a Victorian child. As a result, the classes decided that their lives are much richer and safer than back then. Over the next few weeks, we will be writing our very own newspaper reports. Watch this space to see how we get on...

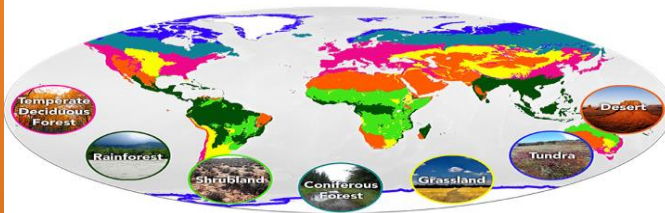


MATHS

Maths this term has been full of data! We've not only solved data related problems and compared data across charts but have presented and interpreted data from line graphs as well as timetables. We realised that data, tables and graphs are all around us, therefore we need to make sure we can read and interpret the data accurately.

GEOGRAPHY-Biomes

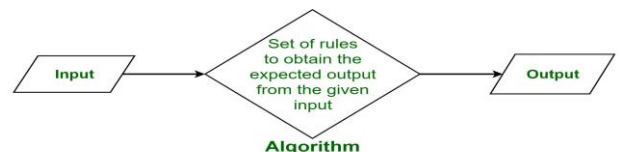
During this term, we have discovered so much about biomes, such as where they are in the world and the climate in those areas. We also were able to find out about the different animals and plants that have adapted to live in each biome. We have continued to build on our map skills by using atlases and globes.



Computing

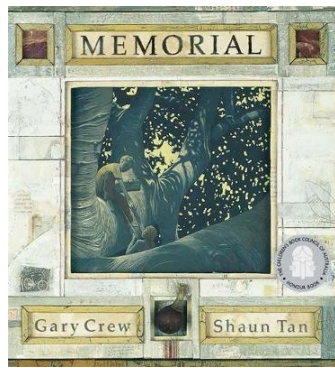
In Computing this term, we have been learning all about algorithms. We learnt what one is and thought about all the different types of algorithms in our lives. We didn't realise there were so many!

What is Algorithm?



Optimism

In English, we have been comparing the work of two famous WW1 poets and discovering how an author's bias can shape a poem's message. Then, to mark Remembrance Day, we wrote and illustrated our own poems about the sacrifices that have been made by so many during terrible conflicts.



We have just started reading the wonderful book 'Memorial', written by Gary Crew and illustrated by Shaun Tan. This book cleverly brings together the themes of remembrance and the importance of environmental conservation in a perfect storm! We'll be using this book as the catalyst to write first-person narratives with scenes of dialogue that'll make you laugh, cry and wince as the characters forcefully voice their opinions! It's going to be great fun!

In music, we have been learning about and identifying the characteristics of film music. We analysed a whole host of varying film soundtracks and looked at how they had been composed and performed. After listening to four different pieces of film soundtrack, we drew a graphic score to represent how we thought each piece of music would "look"! It was a lovely activity and everyone really embraced the concept of creating abstract art!

In our science lessons we are studying the topic of living things and their habitats. So far, we have looked at how scientists have classified different species using dichotomous keys and the Linnaeus' classification system, examining their advantages and disadvantages.



Both classes did an amazing job when they came to creating their own compositions and graphic scores that could be performed alongside a specific scene from a film. They sounded amazing! I think Hollywood beckons!

In our faith lessons, we have been continuing our exploration of the virtue of tolerance. We have reflected upon our own use of tolerance over the past few weeks, discussing how this virtue can help us to cope with difficult circumstances that cannot be helped.

