

Newsletter

What a brilliant start to 2023!

Our pupils have blown us away with their hard work and we have loved seeing everything that they have produced! From enterprising charity activities, visits from DHL to an Outstanding OFSTED grading and budding chefs in the building. It has been a half term of new skills and experiences which our pupils have flourished with.

A copy of the OFSTED report has been emailed out to all parents and carers and it really is a fantastic read to see the dedication that our staff put in to deliver the highest standard of education for your children. We were also overwhelmed with the positive response of the parent & carer survey and always enjoy reading your views and taking points on board. Thank you for taking the time to complete it!

I would like to take the time to share our 2022 / 23 School Improvement Priorities below:

1. To further develop the broad database of well-matched, work/training experience opportunities, providing a range of work-based learning.
2. To continue to embed a love reading for all pupils.
3. Following the uncertainty caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, ensure that impact on behaviour is minimised.
4. Increase frequency of opportunities for pupils to enhance their cultural capital.
5. To continue to engage in school council ideas to improve the school and environment to enhance pupils' experience.

As we come back after the half term break, we will all see the lighter evenings and have further opportunities to explore the local community and education outside – something we all look forward too after the dark nights!

The IEP meetings at the start of the term were a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to visit the school, see classrooms and students work. It was wonderful to welcome so many families into school and meet with our staff. This opportunity will be available again in April for our new students and also for families and carers who were not able to attend.

Our door is always open to welcome parents and carers in for a chat and a cup of tea. Should you wish to come and see us please contact the office to make an appointment or contact me on the school number 01782 987012 or at kbanks@bluebellschool.co.uk

I wish everyone a lovely break and we look forward to welcoming all children back on Monday 27th February.

Best Wishes,

Kay

Minton

Class Minton have had a lovely start to the Spring term and lots of fun as we learn!

In Science, some of us have been learning about teeth, their functions and how to keep teeth healthy whilst some of us have been learning about animals and their lifecycles.



In English some of us have been exploring fantasy stories such as 'James and the Giant Peach', 'The Wizard of Oz' and more recently 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', where we even created our very own chocolate bar design and creation. Others have been working hard in English with a focus on nursery rhymes and have taken part in lots of role-play

activities, sensory stories and even began to create character descriptions. We have also been working hard during our Read Write Inc and handwriting sessions too!



In Math's, we have been working on a range of skills such as Numicon recognition, number recognition, addition/ subtraction and multiples of 10. We have all used lots of visual resources to support our learning.



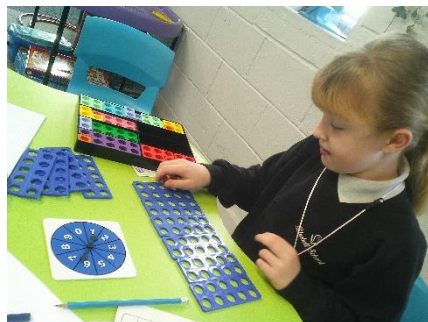
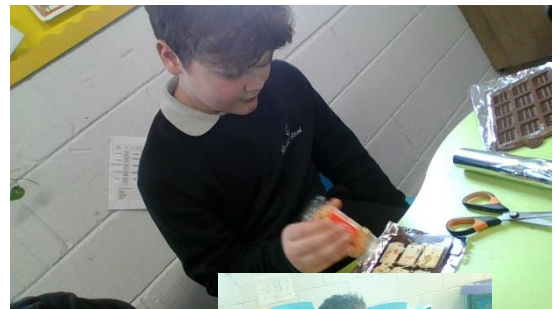
During our Topic lessons we have been looking closely at our local community and exploring the different localities. We have been able to identify and discuss the different things we can see and have even contributed towards creating amazing work to show off on our Topic display.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you back after the well-deserved break!

Shereen and Class Minton

Churchill

In English, we have been enjoying a variety of fantasy stories. First, we read 'James and the Giant Peach' and used adjectives to create character descriptions. We then moved onto 'The Wizard of Oz', where pupils sequenced the events of the story and role played it using mask they created themselves. Our final story has been 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. This has created many opportunities for writing for different purposes and built up to a final project of writing a plan, designing and making their own unique chocolate bar.



In Maths, we have focussed on learning 2-digit numbers and counting in multiples of 10. We have used Numicon to support our understanding and have enjoyed using the new giant Numicon too!



In Science we have been learning about the needs of humans and animals. We have explored how animals are suited to particular foods and visited a farm and pet store to identify the food they can consume. We then focussed on what humans require to survive and the impact different food can have on our bodies. We have begun to learn the correct names for our individual teeth and completed an experiment to see how sugar can harm our teeth.



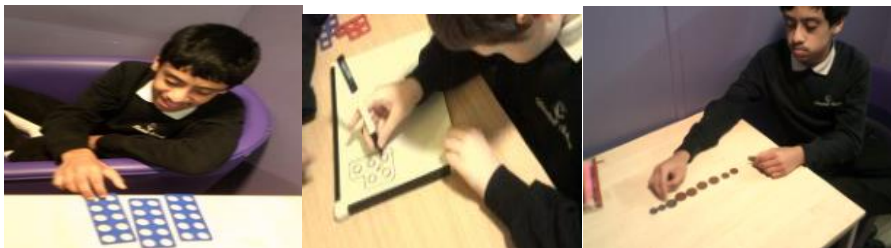
In our topic lessons, we have had a geographical focus of making comparisons between our local area and Mexico. We began by looking at the natural features and then moved onto the man-made features such as housing and towns. We walked around our local area and learned the names for the different types of typical housing in the UK, such as semi-detached and terraced. We then worked in pairs to design and create our own 3D model of a house.



Gladstone

Class Gladstone have had an excellent start to the spring term. We have had lots of fun, engaging in practical and sensory activities to expand our learning across the curriculum

During our maths lessons, we have been exploring different topics, including addition and subtraction, money and measurement. We have improved our understanding of these areas using mainly concrete and pictorial methods to practice applying our knowledge. We have taken part in practical and sensory activities to help us to retain information and consolidate our learning.



In English, we have been studying a range of different texts. In KS1 and KS2, we have been exploring a range of familiar stories and tales, focusing on language, sequencing and comprehension. We have engaged in plenty of activities, including creating characters using arts and crafts, retelling stories through role play and making our own chocolate! In KS3, some of us have started to study a new Step-Up project: "Comparing Traditional Stories". We have explored many different versions of the story "Little Red Riding Hood", written by different authors including Roald Dahl, Gerald Durrell and Angela Carter. This has included lots of work on various writing and language techniques and structure. Other children have been developing their knowledge around language and sounds using games, musical instruments and stories.



Within our Science lessons, each key stage has focused on a different topic.

Key Stage 1 have been exploring different types of animals and comparing their diets, habitats, life cycles and adaptations. They visited a frog pond to witness the different stages in a frog's life cycle and participated in arts and crafts activities to understand the different features of animals.



Key Stage 2 have been learning about the basic needs for humans and animals. They have accessed new knowledge through sensory play, visual aids and experimentation. The class visited the farm to see the animals and learn about their lifestyles.

Key stage 3 have been learning about electricity, using different experiments and resources. They practiced creating different circuits to power a propeller, lamp and buzzer and made their own working potato clock.



Well done class Gladstone for a super start to the New Year!



Wade

What an amazing start to the spring term class Wade have had....

In PE, everyone had great fun exploring different rolls and balancing. Just look at all their amazing skills, they are continuing to improve week by week.



In English we have been reading lots of different fantasy texts. Whilst reading Charlie and the Chocolate factory, we were able to design and then create our own chocolate bars.



During Topic, we have looked at our local community and the pupils have loved exploring the local area.



To celebrate National story week, one of our pupils asked to read to the rest of the class!



In Science, we have explored the functions of the teeth and how to keep them healthy. Children were all able to explore keeping teeth healthy by cleaning them!



Thank you for all your hard work this term and enjoy your well-earned break!!

Staff look forward to seeing you all soon!!

Wedgwood

Class Wedgwood have had a fantastic start to the Spring term.



In English we have been looking at a range of traditional tales. The stories we have worked on so far are 'Goldilocks and the three bears', 'The three little pigs' and 'The three billy goats gruff'. The children enjoyed engaging in a range of sensory stories and predicting what would happen next and role playing the stories alongside the characters. The children have also enjoyed creating the characters from the story using a variety of materials.



In Maths this term, some children have been working on equals and balance, also adding, subtraction and more recently began to look at halving. Other children have been working on recognising and forming their numbers and also creating patterns.

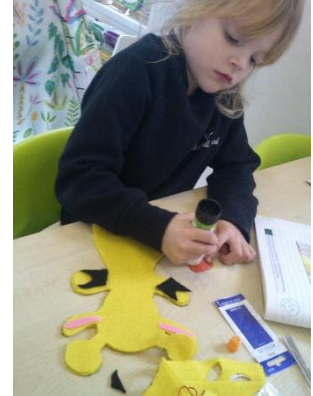


In Science, class Wedgwood have been observing a variety of animals, as well as exploring their habitats and identifying their features. The children have also been working on animal life cycles and enjoyed creating their own pond in our playground.



In Topic, Class Wedgwood have explored a variety of safari animals. They have explored their different prints and created collages, designed and created their own safari animal puppets and created their own animal inspired mosaics. They have also researched animals

that existed beyond our living memory such as dinosaurs. They enjoyed creating their own dinosaur fossils and playing in the dinosaur swamp.



We have also enjoyed some lovely trips, including a fantastic trip to the farm.



We hope you have a lovely half term break!

Moorcroft

Class Moorcroft have had a great half term again and have engaged in lots of activities surrounding our subject areas, with all children making great progress within their learning.

In maths, the children have all covered a range of different topics within their key stage area. Key stage 2 have covered addition and subtraction to consolidate their learning and have used a range of resources to support this; they have showed great improvement in their knowledge. They have also begun to explore multiplication and division where they have looked at grouping to support them. The children in key stage 3 have been able to show a great development of their understanding they have covered topics such as place value, addition and subtraction of 3- and 4-digit numbers and we have paid particular focus on our times tables using this for multiplication and division questions. The children covering functional skills have shown fabulous resilience and have covered a range of topics which will meet the criteria of their exam. The children have engaged in mock exams and then have looked at shapes, symmetry, area and perimeter to build on their.



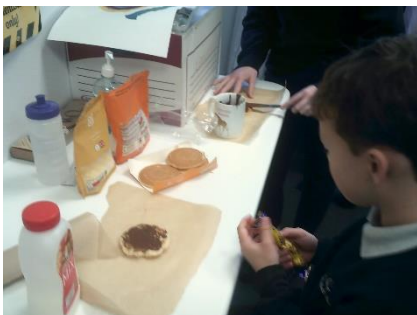
In English the children have engaged in some amazing sessions and developed their English ability and worked on their phonetical knowledge and spelling. Key stage 2 have been exploring recounts to begin the term and they used their learning from the half term to write a great diary entry using a range of different language techniques. Following this the children have looked at classic poems where they have focused on two and made great comparisons looking at language and punctuation used in each. Key stage 3 within their English lessons they have looked at different charities looking at the different roles which may occur in a charity. Following this they explored questions which may be asked of a specific job role within a charity. They engaged in great conversation and discussion to come to good conclusions. They learnt a range of research skills and looked at the importance of effective sources. They finished the term by writing a great report. The key stage 4 pupils have explored two versions of the same story written by different authors looking at and comparing how the author uses different language techniques to engage the reader. To end the term they have made particular focus to looking at the plot within the stories and then engaged in mock exams.



During our other subjects we have covered a range of different topic areas. The key stage 2 children have really enjoyed looking at the history and geography of the Ancient Egyptians where they have produced great time lines of the history and key events which occurred. They have looked at the features of Egypt and how they have changed over time; they have engaged in great conversations and have shown a great understanding. Key stage 3 have had a great half term in topic where they have explored art and design technology. In art they have looked at a range of different artists and looking at art work and collages. You then used your understanding to create your own fantastic collage.



Over the term the children have also engaged in a range of different diversity events where they have really enjoyed partaking in practical activities and developing their social, moral, cultural and spiritual understanding. The children really enjoyed baking and engaging in independence activities.



The children have continued to build fantastic relationships with both their peers and staff. They have showed great development towards their targets and should all be proud of their work.

Have a half term break and we look forward to the children being back for the spring 2 term.

Charlotte and the Moorcroft team! 😊

Spode

Maths

In Maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction. Pupils have completed money problems and have been measuring and weighing different items around the classroom. We have also been learning about a range of fractions.

English

In English, we have been focusing on persuasive language and analysed T.V and written adverts. Pupils looked at persuasive phrases and explored the features used within advertising. We then moved on to poems and poetry and have been comparing and contrasting different traditional poems and discussed the meaning behind them.

Science

In Science, we have been learning about circuits. We have had lots of fun making the light bulbs illuminate and learnt all about keeping safe around electricity, designing posters to embed our knowledge. We have also learnt about the differences between series and parallel circuits.

Topic

Over the last few weeks, we have been learning all about Ancient Egypt. We have discovered the ancient tombs and created our own 3D model. We learnt about the importance of the River Nile and how it central to all life, providing food, agriculture and transportation.

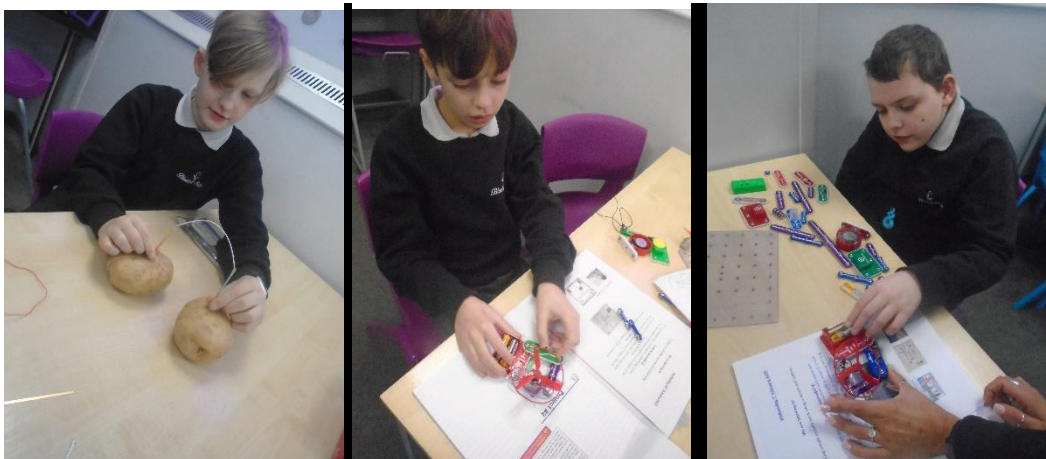
In PSHE we have been learning about being learning all about how the Law works and the responsibility of the local MP's. we have explored anti-social behaviour and discussed the expectation the police and the community have while we are out with our friends.

In P.E, we have been learning all the different skills in Gymnastics. We have developed our skills in rolling and balancing moves, as well as using Gym equipment safely.

Middleton

Class Middleton have had a very productive half term!

We have been looking at electricity in our science lessons and begun to look at circuits and how things work. We created a plan to create a circuit for a purpose and decided to make a potato clock using batteries, copper wires and two potatoes.



In PSHE and R.E we have focused on looking at protected characteristics and charity and decided as a class we wanted to raise money for charity ourselves. Class Middleton set to work on sewing, baking, crafting and designing cards. We then headed to the local market to sell our products to the local community. Class Middleton then set up shop in the dining hall to give the remaining products away to their peers in other class. Class Middleton raised an amazing £200!



Throughout Topic we have looked at a several different modes of local transport, ranging from taxi's, public buses and also trains. With that, we took a trip to the train station to see which locations we could get to and from.

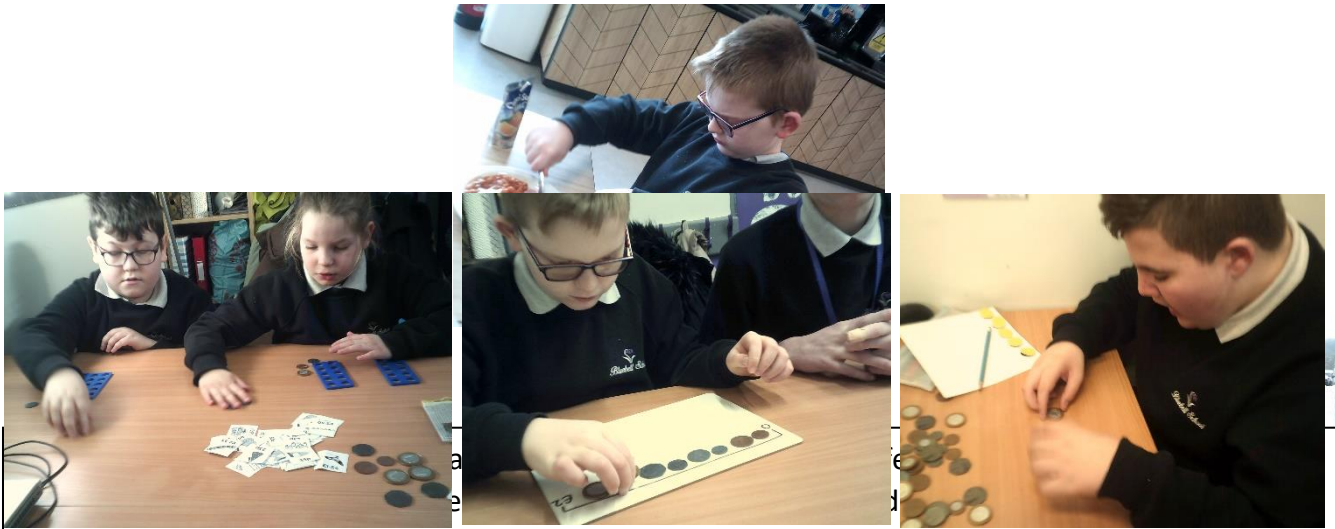


It has been a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes from Josie and the class team.

Dudson

Dudson have had another fabulous half term, the children have all impressed staff with their incredible behaviours and attitudes towards their learning, and have made incredible choices while offsite, representing the school amazingly. Class Dudson have taken part in lots of exciting things this half term!



point of view and one from Little Red Riding Hood's point of you. The children were able to compare both, explore the different emotions in both and then write their own versions from

In Maths this half term, we have been learning all about money. The children have been able to identify the different notes and coins and then use these to calculate correct amounts of money to use when purchasing different items for a tea party. From this, they were able to calculate the correct amount of change they should receive and then budget for a party!



During Science this half term, the children have been focusing on electricity! Dudson have done lots of practical experiments and investigation with the circuit boards and even made a circuit just from potatoes! Their task was to make a digital clock work without using batteries and the children were amazed when they got it to work! Class Dudson have also explored electrical hazards and how careful we have to be around electrical appliances and sockets.



Throughout our Topic sessions this half term, Class Dudson have been exploring Sir Robert Peel and his involvement with The Metropolitan Police Force in History! The children made their own fact files and made a fantastic collage! In Design and Technology, we have been investigating security systems and made our own security alarm casing. Lastly, in Geography, we have begun to explore rain and flooding and the impact this has on different countries.



During the last week of this term, Class Dudson took part in Independence week, where we all learnt many skills, such as, how to catch a bus, ordering breakfast in a café, using teamwork to complete an activity, baking and even shopping for ingredients! The children have absolutely loved it and it has been amazing to see how independent they can be when given a task.

Well done Class Dudson, I hope you have an incredible half term and I am looking forward to hearing all about it on you return!

All the best,

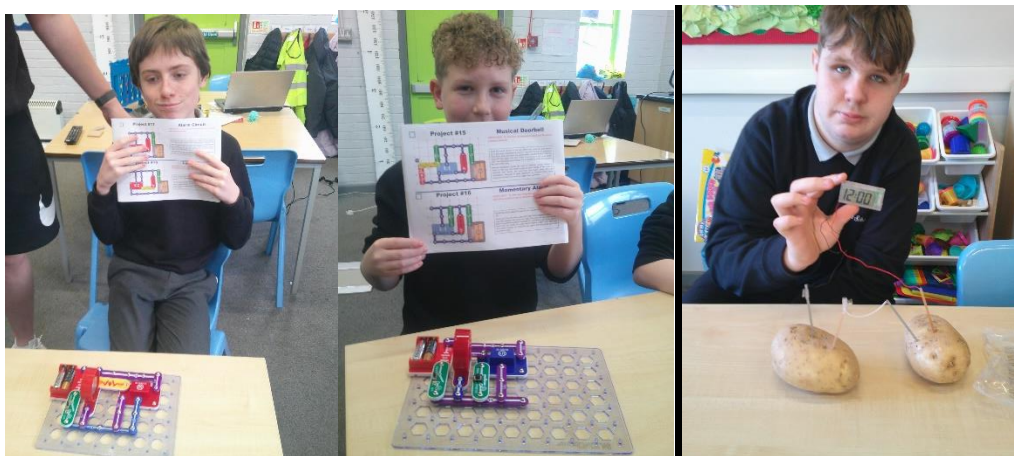
Abbey and the team

Beswick

This half term in class Beswick has been a jam-packed one that's for sure! In English, we have explored the importance of CVC words and used our previous knowledge to make our way across the dangerous river! Luckily everyone made it so we could also explore the many different versions of little red riding hood. Pupils have done extremely well in comparing stories and discovering the alternative endings that each author has produced.

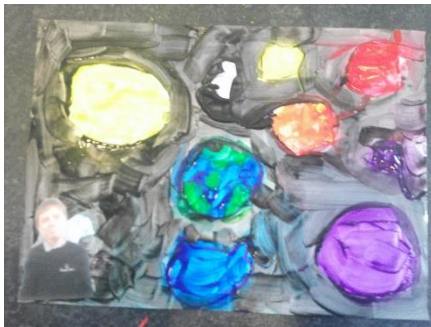


In science this half term, we have been exploring electricity. Children have explored the dangers and risks of electricity before discovering the different ways that the planet produces its own, whether this is through solar panels or fossil fuels. Quite recently, the children have had time to design their own circuits with different uses. To finish the term, the children powered a clock using two potatoes!!



In PSHE this term we have explored the different feelings that are associated with change. We have taken part in lessons outside of the classroom to explore our feelings and ever so recently we have had to create a piece of art that shows ourselves in an unfamiliar place.

The children have controlled their emotions excellently and reflected on their different emotions when dealing with change.



On behalf of the staff in class Beswick, we hope everyone has a fantastic and safe half term and everyone comes back raring to go again in the new term.

Burleigh

We have had a brilliant half term in Class Burleigh and have taken part in a number of different activities, including independence week.

In English this half term, we have looked at how charities work and their purpose along with the positive impact they have on the local community. Students were tasked with choosing a charity of their choice before coming up with an action plan on how they would campaign. This could be done by organising a charity dinner or setting up a race for life. In Maths, we have been covering a number of different topics including multiplication and division. Students have been able to revise their knowledge of the times tables before seeing how division can be mirrored,

In Science this half term we have been looking at materials. We have identified why plastic bags don't decompose as well as why items such as paper and glass can be recycled. We also looked at clay, which is a ceramic and students created their own pet sculpture.

Multiplication & Division

$$7 \times 3 = 7 + 7 + 7 = 21$$



In Topic, we have been focusing on Art where students were able to draw a self-portrait which included resources such as sketch books and light boards. In our other topic lessons, we have been looking at resistant materials and within this, we looked at a number of different tools.



Finally, we have taken part in Independence week. We completed a number of activities, including catching a bus and making a sandwich. Students caught the bus from Kidsgrove to Tunstall before stopping off at Asda for snack and making the return journey back to school. We have also been able to make tie our shoe laces and make a sandwich of our choice.



We hope you have a lovely half term and we look forward to the pupils return.

Nathan

Burleigh Class Teacher

Aynsley

In Science this half term, we have been studying about different types of materials. We began learning about cermaics and their properties, the pupils really enjoyed making their own clay mugs/pots or bowls. We then moved onto learning about polymers and different types of materials. We completed a polymer experiement and during this, we filled ziplock bags with water and pushed a pencil through. The pupils were intrigued to why the water did not leak.



In Topic this half term, we began with Art. We learned about different portrait artists and different styles of portraits. The pupils really enjoyed creating their own interpretations of themselves. We began by drawing our portraits and then moved on to creating collages.



To end this half term, Aynsley participated in Independence week. The pupils worked incredibly hard throughout the week and demonstrated their independence. Throughout the week, we completed a range of different activities, including making tea and toast.



The pupils also made their own sandwiches and walked to the shop to get their ingredients, paid for these and packed their own bags.

To end their independence week, the pupils developed their sewing skills. The pupils learned basic sewing techniques by hand and how to safely use a sewing machine. The pupils were able to create a small bag using different materials and the sewing machine.



We hope all the pupils enjoy their half term break.

Kate and the Aynsley team ☺

Twyford

Twyford class have had a great start to the spring term. Pupils should be extremely proud of the progress they have made and the fabulous work they have produced!

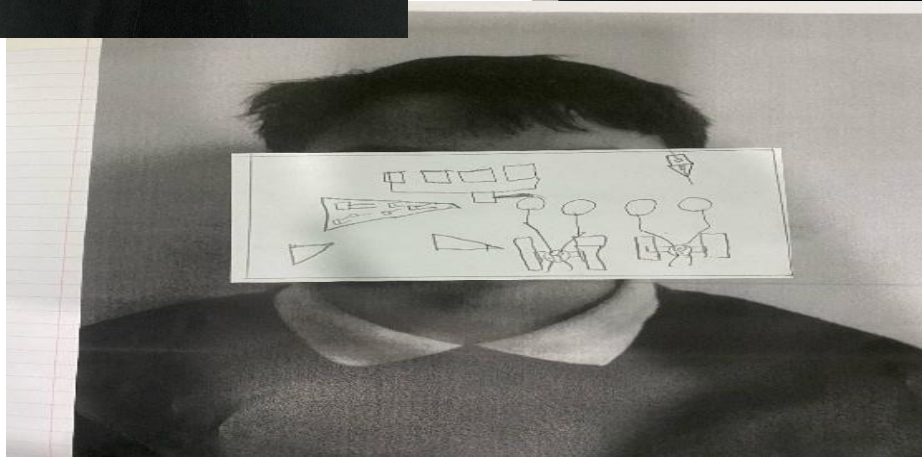
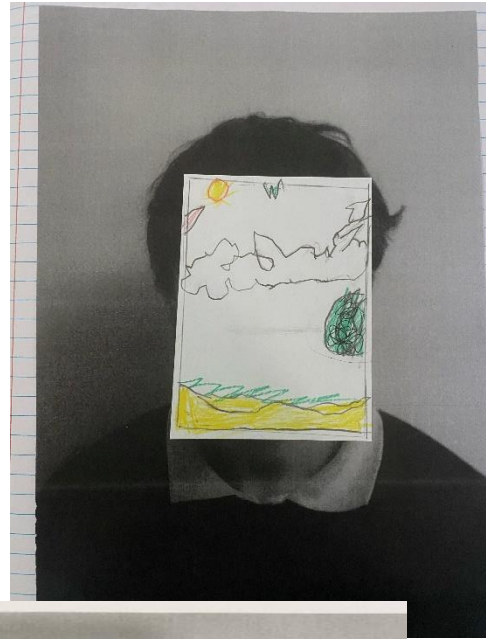
In Science, Twyford class have explored 'Ceramics'. The class showed a secure understanding that ceramic means 'of pottery'. They enjoyed investigating how ceramics are made and found out that they are made out of clay soil that has been dug out of the ground and heated in a kiln oven. Pupils particularly enjoyed exploring that clay can be easily shaped. Ceramics have excellent strength and hardness properties; however, they are often brittle in nature. Their creations were brilliant!



During our English sessions pupils have been able to campaign for a cause. We began the unit by exploring what charities are, their purpose and the importance of writing and speaking within key job roles. The class have been able to explore key persuasive devices used by charities in order to gain support. The class then went on to choose a charity they feel passionate about. They were able to research, plan and write a formal report to campaign for this cause. We were able to include lots of persuasive devices such as direct appeal, facts and figures, emotive language and imagery.



During our Topic sessions, Twyford class have focused on Art. They began the term by exploring portraits and were able to investigate work by Frida Kahlo, Roy Lichtenstein, Giger and Leonardo Da Vinci. Pupils had a fantastic time assessing these works of art. The class then chose to focus on the work of John Stezaker, a contemporary British Conceptual artist best known for his collages of found images taken from postcards, film stills, and commercial photographs. Pupils' created some fantastic, interesting pieces of art. Enjoy some of them below:



In Maths, we have furthered our understanding of angles, mass, fractions and time. We have also spent time focusing on discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs.

Twyford class have enjoy biweekly trips to the local library. We have enjoyed adding excitement to our reading area with lots of great choices. These have ranged from non-fiction history books to J. K Rowling's Harry Potter collection.





Twyford class have ended the half term particularly well. Our pupils have participated in 'Independence Week'. Our Year 9 students did extremely well to earn a 'Home Cooking Skills' BTEC. Our Year 8 pupils completed lots of similar activities and developed lots of key life skills.

We most definitely have some chefs in the making. Pupils planned, resourced, prepared and cooked a beautiful three-course meal. We were treated to a macaroni and cheese starter, a chicken and chorizo main course and a gorgeous Easter egg cheese cake to complete the meal.



Well done for all your hard work Twyford class. Have a lovely break. We look forward to welcoming you back!

Doulton



What a great first term back after the Christmas break.



In Science the students have been looking at energy and arrangements in the different states of matter.

In Maths, we have developed our understanding in several key areas of study, including percentages, ratios and capacity. All the children have had lots of water fun when identifying the capacity of different objects.



In English, the GCSE group have continued their work on *The Lord of the Flies* where we have been analyzing the story. The rest of the class have been working on their reading, writing and comprehension skills.

Towards the end of the term we have been working on our independent skills, where we created our own three course meal. We created our shopping list, took the train from Kidsgrove to Alsager and purchased our ingredients. We created some beautiful dishes which included macaroni cheese and apple crumble, they were delicious.

Coalport

Class Coalport have had a fantastic start to the Spring term and should be very proud of the progress they have made!

Studying

It is that time of the year when students are studying hard and doing lots of practice exam papers in preparation for their upcoming examinations. Students have undertaken exams in BTEC Hospitality and in GCSE Science.





College

All pupils have continued to enjoy Fridays at college, learning about areas in which they are hoping to study post 16. This is allowing our pupils to feel more equipped for full time study at college.

Independence Week

Class Coalport have ended this half term particularly well, having an 'Independence Week' in which they have been studying a Level 1 BTEC in Home Cookery and have planned a three course meal. This included writing an ingredients list, going to the shops to purchase all ingredients and then of course making the food! Well done to all involved!!

Well done to all pupils for your hard work! We look forward to welcoming you back!

