

November 2020



13th November Celebration Assembly



This week Merlin Class have worked brilliantly once again.

In English we started the week by writing our weekend news in our news books. Mrs Lane would like to mention Nina for her efforts with independent writing using the sounds she has been learning in phonics.

Year 1 and 2 have been learning more about Remembrance this week and a special mention goes to Molly for her outstanding knowledge and understanding of this subject and her thoughtful contributions to class discussions. The year 2 children also all impressed Mrs Barron in their reading comprehension linked to this work, well done all of you.

In maths we've focused on 2D and 3D shapes and lines of symmetry. Children have been exploring the properties of a range of shapes making a range of increasingly complex 3D shapes using polydron. They've been counting edges, faces and vertices and have really tried very hard. Special mentions go to Leo and Lars for their excellent constructions and high quality work.

The younger children in Little Lambs and Reception have been shape naming and shape hunting too. They have also decorated the enormous play train that appeared this week, after Mr Dangerfield spent a happy couple of hours creating a train from cardboard boxes for the children to play in. The addition of a train whistle was a popular feature, less so with the staff as it turns out that there are only so many whistles you can cope with in a day.

Final special mention this week goes to Harry who has been an all round superstar again this week in everything he has done. He is a really good friend to others and always tries to keep them on the right track!



Kestrels have produced a huge amount of work this week. They have been focused and always done their best. It is lovely to see the enjoyment they take from learning and how well they work together.

In English we have been learning to write diaries. We have been working in our historical knowledge of the Romans and Ancient Britons into a recount from the points of view of Cassia and Felix, mapping out their thoughts and feelings and reactions to this strange new land. We followed this up by adapting well-loved picture books into diaries featuring the voices of The Gruffalo's child, the smartest giant in town, superworm and so on. This week I am not going to single out one individual, it's just too hard, but I'd like to give a huge clap and salute to the whole class!

Our theme work has taken us into the Roman baths of Aqua Sulis. We have learnt about how the baths functioned as social, business and religious settings as well as providing places for Romans to stay squeaky clean. Our work to date has thrown up some fairly grim facts about the Romans, but face masks made from gladiators' exfoliated bath mush must rate up there with some of the more disgusting details.

A fast paced, all systems go maths week in Kestrels where we were learning to round to the nearest 10 and 100. We had lots of practise and had to prove that we knew what we were doing through a mystery number task. We used lots of actions to help us to use key words and had lots of fun through our learning, so much so that a wasp and a stick insect came to join in! Some children needed to work in a supported gang to practise rounding but through perseverance and determination, made some very pleasing progress. Rosie deserves a special mention this week as she tackled her rounding activities with her usual enthusiasm. She was very good at explaining her understanding when working with a partner and her work was set out beautifully in her book. Well done Kestrels, a great week in maths.



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Friday 13th - unlucky for some but not so for Eagle class who have had another busy week.

This week, we have seen our Roman magazine published. This has been a culmination of effort over the past few weeks with fascinating 'Did you know?' facts and great illustrations.

In English, we have continued to look at how we construct paragraphs: both in our persuasive writing with Mr Ringer and our balanced arguments with Miss Edwards.

Alexander has continued to impress us both with his focus when writing and his determination to maintain his exceptionally neat handwriting.

In maths, we have been looking at solving problems using our knowledge of factors, multiples, square numbers, cube numbers and prime numbers. After an initially slow start, we all began to realise how using a logical approach would help us - Isla, in particular, proved to be very systematic and logical when solving problems - a sign of a great mathematician in the making.

We have also begun to explore stop motion animation to tell the story of Romulus and Remus. The children have all been very creative with making resources for these animations and worked hard to portray the facts of this Roman legend. Sacha, Elden and Nesty worked hard to achieve an animation that communicated the story to their audience.

Our class book, Varjak Paw, has continued to keep us captivated this week as we follow Varjak on his adventures to Outside and we have had some fantastic discussions about which characters we have warmed to all already and how much impact different characters have had on the story so far. Well done all of Eagle class. Keep on reading and keep on smiling.

