



April Newsletter

End of half term celebration

I have to admit, this is my favourite newsletter of each half term, not because the teachers write most of it, but as it reminds me of all the amazing learning and experiences that are on offer in the school!

On top of that, I hope it also highlights how much of Year 6 in particular is not SATs, SATs and more SATs.

I wonder which other Year 6 children are experiencing the breadth of learning our children are at this point in the year? It's all too familiar to hear tales of nothing but Maths, Reading and SPaG for children, but it's our strong belief that the rest of the curriculum stays sacred and that after lunch, we cut up hearts in Science, fruit in Design and Technology or visit mosques in Halifax for Religious Education.

It may not be tested, but this doesn't diminish its importance to us one bit.

Also, I thought that you might like to see some of the hidden learning that exists within the school through our wonderful support staff, who work tirelessly and imaginatively under the expert guidance of Miss Rooney; having worked in other schools, the holistic support on offer to our Riverside children is not only a privilege to provide but a privilege to witness too...it deserves celebrating.

And look, I got through a whole introduction without saying the word Covid once...

Enjoy the Easter break, whatever your plans.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 26th of April: class photographs

Tuesday 3rd of May: forest school for Goldfinch (3/4MT)

Week beginning 9th of May: SATs week (Year 6)

Friday the 13th of May: sponsored walk—whole school

Thursday the 19th of May (9:15am) : Kingfishers Class Assembly

Friday the 20th of May (9:15am): Year 6 Class Assembly

Friday the 27th of May (9:15am): Wagtails Class Assembly

Friday 27th of May: last day of term

Monday the 6th of June: Jubilee Bank Holiday re-arranged date

Tuesday the 7th of June: school re-opens

New Twitter Feed

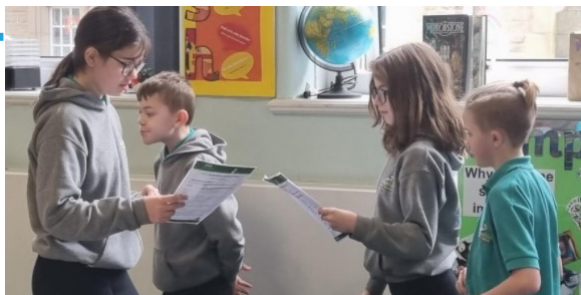
We're about to launch a new Twitter feed for the Federation @HebFed1

If you use this platform feel free to follow us, but please be patient, as staff have not yet been introduced to it.

Year 6

Is this some Shakespeare learning I see before me?

In English, Year 6 have read Shakespeare's Macbeth. They have really enjoyed looking at a number of the different versions that have been produced throughout history and understanding the reason each version has been produced. They have conducted an investigation into the impact of Shakespeare's work today and what words we still use. They have also produced some dramatic reconstructions and had a go at script reading as well as producing a Shakespearean tragedy of their own.



Hands-on with hearts!

Year 6 have really enjoyed learning about the function of the human heart and blood. They have conducted a number of practical experiments to measure their own heart-rates and made hypotheses based on these. They have also had a go at replicating 'blood' using a range of different materials.

Finally, they were hands-on with actual hearts and had a go at dissecting these (with gloves on!) to explore what they actually look and smell like, rather than pictures alone.



Seasonality and seasoning!

In DT, year 6 have enjoyed learning about seasonality and food preservation this half term. They have taken a trip to the Coop to conduct a survey on locally sourced food and imported food and also took a look at all the different ways that food is preserved. They then had a go at drying their own food, with consideration of food handling and safety.



Faith in the community

Year 6 visited Jamia Madni Cental Mosque in Halifax to learn about Islamic interpretations of what it means to live a good life. They learnt about Muslim artefacts and the importance of Islamic prayer.



Year 5



Small fractions...big progress!

It has certainly been another fun filled half term for Year 5!

We have thoroughly enjoyed being part of Edward Tulane's miraculous journey in English and have performed brilliantly in lots of drama-based activities. Maths has been challenging this half term in Year 5, as we have been learning about fractions, decimals, and percentages, however Miss Smethurst and Mrs Munton have been blown away by everyone's effort to succeed in this topic.



Living in a material world

As part of our Science lessons, we have engaged in lots of exciting practical experiments to answer our question for learning *what is the purpose of having different materials?* Year 5 have tested different properties of materials and learnt about both electrical and thermal insulators, as well as which materials are soluble and insoluble!

Slowing the flow...

In Geography we started our *what is flooding?* Topic with a visit from Calderdale flooding services, we identified different types of moss using microscopes and then planted our own class moss which will follow us through to the end of Riverside. We have learnt about different types of flooding, why it happens, how we can stay safe in flood water and how to plan for the future.

We also met Slow the Flow at Hardcastle Crag and explored how they use leaky dams to prevent the rivers flooding—it was a great day out completing our field studies.



Hammers at the ready!

In Spanish our conversational skills are really beginning to develop, the children can now use a variety of greetings and have used these skills to create a Spanish comic strip!

We have been lucky to build our very own Bird Boxes in Design Technology this half term. The children have been learning about important design elements such as mood boards, design specifications and woodwork skills to create their own boxes. Each child has had the opportunity to use a range of tools including glue guns, hammers and saws (scary we know!)



Years 3/4

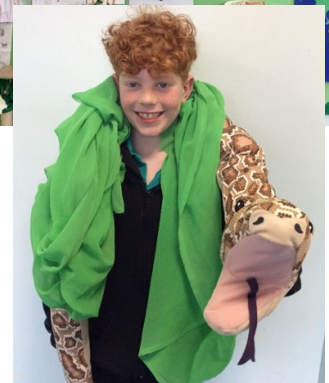
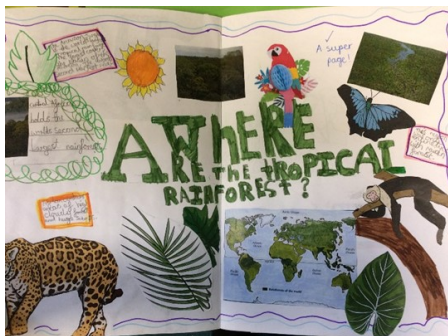
Smaller children...big progress!

It has been a fantastic half term in both 3/4 classes. Children have been enjoying all of their topics and have really developed in all aspects of their learning. Coming up to the end of this term, we have time to reflect on the progress all of our wonderful pupils have made. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves!



Amazing planet!

A highlight of our half term has been learning all about the Rainforests! We have had many hands on lessons where we have enjoyed creating our beautiful project books! We learnt about where the rainforests can be found, the different layers that they have and the amazing animals that can be found there. We also engaged in heated debates about deforestation and ultimately gained an understanding as to how important these beautiful places are!



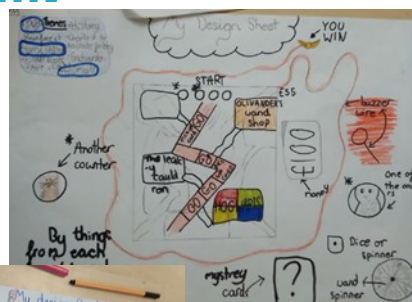
Hoop fun!

We had a very exciting afternoon where we learnt many different circus skills! We learnt how to balance a hoop, we learnt juggling skills and even got to watch a wonderful performance at the end of the session! Who knew how many hoops one person could balance on themselves at one time?!



Great games design!

In DT we have been exploring what makes a great board game. We researched the history of board games and worked in design teams to evaluate different games. We used our knowledge and imagination to then design our own brilliant board games on a theme such as the rainforest, Star Wars and animal adventures. We learnt how to use a craft knife safely and our science circuit knowledge to incorporate buzzers. We finally got to test them out with each other and play them!



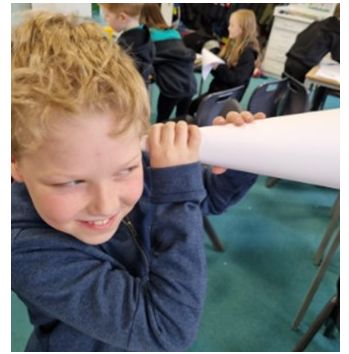
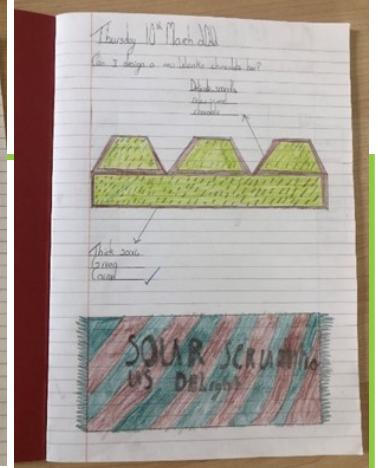
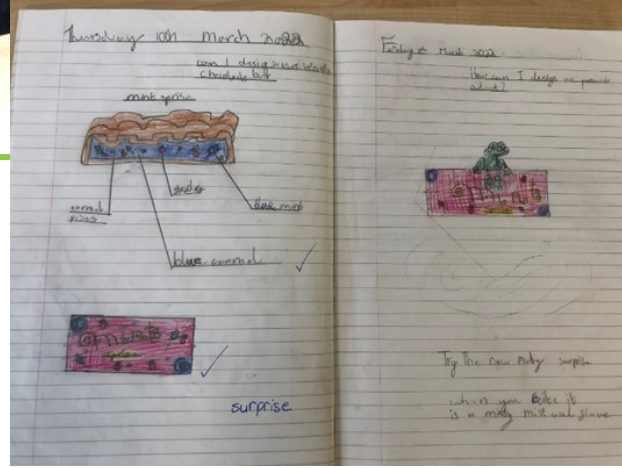


Blown away...

We have been lucky enough to continue our brilliant music lessons where we are developing our practice. We have been learning how to play brass instruments whilst others have been learning how to play the recorder! The sounds coming out of the classrooms on a Tuesday afternoon are really starting to become quite impressive!

Roald Dahl inspiration...

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory has been a favourite of ours this half term. The children have written remarkable narrative stories, considering where a new character with a sixth ticket could go to. They then wrote a setting description to describe a new room in the factory their character finds. The favourite piece of work was designing their own chocolate bars and persuasive adverts. This half term has culminated in a very fun Shakespeare week full of drama and poetry writing based on the play The Tempest.



Super science...

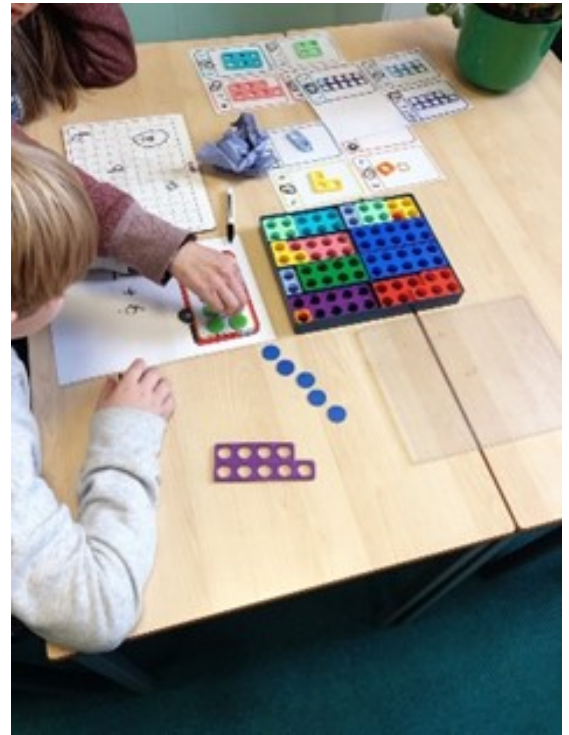
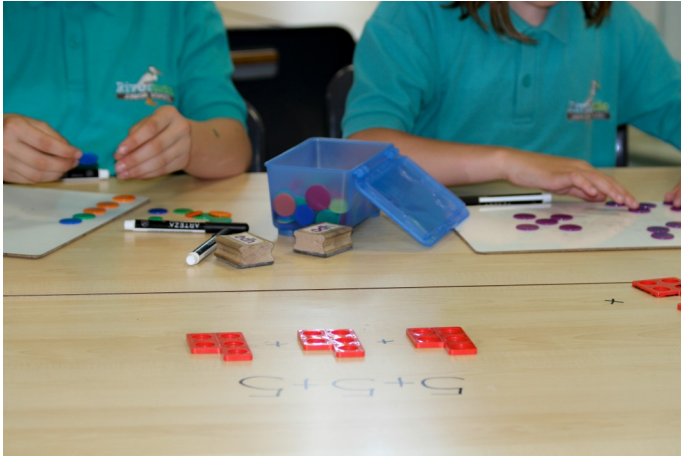
We have loved exploring sound and finding more about how sound is made and changed in pitch and volume. We went on a sound walk through school and used a range of equipment to test and record how the decibels change as a source of sound gets further away from a sound meter. And we also tested what happens when we hit a drum that is covered in rice; we discovered it is a quick way to make a big mess!

We loved exploring Mars during British Science week. We explored what a safe landing on Mars might look like, and worked in groups to design and build capsules for our Mars 'egg-splorer' to test. Sadly, not all of our eggs survived the landing but we had a great time making and testing our capsules!

Inclusion

Little and often...

Our interventions vary from catch up Maths and Reading to mental health and wellbeing support. In addition to our already well-established provision, this term we have introduced a number of new interventions and support strategies that are already having a great impact.



Toe by Toe

Miss Pollard has started up our Toe by Toe programme to support children's confidence and accuracy in reading. The programme uses a multi-sensory approach and is delivered on a 1:1 basis. I know the children are doing some fantastic learning with Miss Pollard, as I have spotted lots of stickers so far!

Learning about ourselves...

Over this term we have also been fortunate enough to work with several external services to offer additional well-being support. Calderdale Music Trust have been supporting pupils through a weekly musical nurture group and Open Minds have continued to work individually with pupils through a range of interventions.



The start of 2022 also saw our work with the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) begin. The NTP is a government funded service which aims to offer a sustained response to the pandemic and provide a longer-term contribution to lost learning. Many pupils have benefited from the fantastic support provided by our tutor Liz Anstee.

I am always impressed by the support, learning and progress I see across the school every single week. I am really looking forward to seeing even more next half term and working closely with Open Minds to offer some additional transition support. ..Miss Rooney