

# Newsletter



## Year of Reading

This month we have continued a whole host of activities – many with other schools as part of our year of reading. This is in addition to promoting the love of reading and reading for pleasure that happens in school every day. As part of our weekly Book Club, Class 3 restocked our class book shelves, choosing a range of authors and genres that they wanted to read. We recommended books to each other and the children created a shelf of books each of them had read that they thought others would enjoy!

Vaughan House



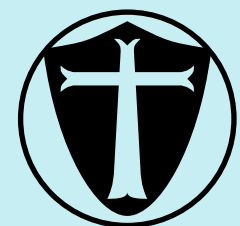
Thames House



Dakota House



Templar House





## Stroud Book Festival

Some children in Key Stage 2 visited Stroud Book Festival, thanks to the Year of Reading, where they attended a talk from the author Natasha Farrant. She talked about how books are a simple technology which bring us so much, what has inspired her and how she has turned her experiences into stories within her books. We were also lucky enough to get a copy of one of her books signed for our school library!

Year 2 had a fantastic time at Stroud Book festival on Friday 10th November, meeting Smriti Halls and Ken Wilson-Max. They got to hear about what has inspired their stories and even came up with some of their own characters, where the children were the heroes of their own stories! The children also helped create some interesting characters with Ken Wilson-Max, where he drew animals heads with different bodies and came up with names and unusual diets for them! It was great fun and definitely inspired the children to keep using their imaginations in their writing.

## Cirencester College



Class 1 visited Cirencester College to work with some of their T-level students, who had constructed different activities which focused on maths, fine motor

skills, story telling and feelings. The children explored the 'axehead' outdoor area and went on a hunt for different story characters, made shapes using natural materials, did some bug hunting and



practised climbing. We are really excited to be building this relationship with the college, allowing the students to put their learning into practise and allow our children to enjoy new learning environments.

## Focus on Class 2

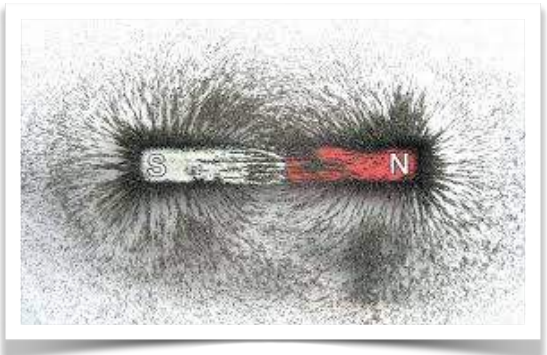
Class 2 have explored 'The BFG' as our writing focus and the children have enjoyed learning about the writing style of Roald Dahl and using this in their own writing. As part of developing the children's use of direct speech, they came up with their own conversations between The BFG and another giant called The Bloodbottler (The Bloodbottler is bigger and scarier than The BFG!). All children thought carefully about how the characters would talk to each other and they even used some of Roald Dahl's

vocabulary from his dictionary to make their writing more interesting! Children took some time to practise



reading their direct speech to each other in character and after that, performed their pieces to the rest of the class.

Class 2 have been learning about 'Forces and Magnets' in science. As part of our investigation into friction, we used Newton metres to compare how



shoes move on different surfaces. The children worked in pairs to test different surfaces such as cardboard, the pavement and carpet to see how much force was needed for the shoe to be pulled. Children discussed how to make the investigation a fair test and decided that each pair would need to use the same shoe, and all children should use a 0-5N Newton metre. After our investigation, we compared our results table to see which surface had the most friction; all children agreed that the carpet had the highest amount of friction when pulling a shoe across!

## Music

We love music at Down Ampney, and are very pleased that lots of children choose to come to choir club. We have been very busy this month learning songs ready for the Christmas in the Community event. We enjoy singing together and also giving opportunities for children to have a go at duets and trios etc. It is also great to hear the sound of brass instruments on a Friday lunch time. We now have a



small group of children learning to play trumpets, horns and cornets. We have had great support from Paul at Brass Bands England in setting this up and the children are making good progress learning to play their instruments and how to be part of an ensemble.

## Spring Into Action

We have put it lots of effort to ensure that the school will look its best in Spring, this has included planted bulbs, tidying the allotment, collecting all of the fallen leaves and added them to our compost bins as well as planting trees and saplings that will take longer to grow. A huge thank you to our eco



warriors, parents, governors and siblings for your efforts – we managed to get it done before the first frost!

## Sport

Sport this term included multisports at Kingshill and football with Forest Green Rovers.



## Clubs

This term we have had a variety of teacher led lunchtime and after school clubs, including football, choir, construction, French, brass band, maths and two book clubs, We are really enjoying reading and reviewing the books for the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize each week. Each week the children take a different science book from the shortlisted authors, review and score it and feed back to the group before we all swap again!

## Have Faith

Throughout each term we ensure that we can make connections with our learning, as part of our studies children throughout the school have been learning about other faiths and their celebrations. This week we have all been learning about Diwali. Class 2 had

a great afternoon developing their clay skills making diyas (the Hindi word for a traditional clay lamp). The children in class 1 loved seeing the real diyas that Mrs Dearsley brought in for show and



tell. Class 3 viewed the featured books in our library this week which are all about different faiths and celebrations - why not take a look?

## British Values

As part of our learning about British Values, the whole school took part in parliament week and learnt more about the rule of law and democracy. Children across the school have been taking virtual tours of the House of Commons and House of Lords, learning about our democratic voting system and talking about where we see democracy in our daily lives and at school. Class 1 explored what the Parliament buildings were for, drew pictures of them and talked about voting. Class 2 and 3 learnt about the different roles in our government and how laws are made. The whole school watched the state opening of Parliament and watched King Charles address Parliament as the first king to do so in 70 years. It was incredible to be part of such an historic event.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 11th Dec - Sports leadership - skipping.

Tue 12th Dec - Boccia

Thu 14th Dec - Christmas in the community 5-7pm - All children

Tue 19th Dec - Treasure Island at the Barn Theatre

Wed 20th Dec - Christmas lunch and jumper day

Thu 21st Dec - Nativity at 1.30pm and early finish

