Squirrels



Last Term Round-up

To kick off our new topic, the children had an exciting surprise! Ted had left clues leading us on a treasure hunt around the school grounds, ending at the sandpit where we discovered pirate-themed treasures. The children worked in pairs to decode some very tricky clues, showing fantastic enthusiasm, determination, and a brilliant can-do attitude.

We've been exploring pirate stories, learning how they are structured and identifying the special language they use. The children discussed characters and settings before creating story maps to organise their ideas. They shared their stories with each other and have now written their very own pirate tales, showcasing their growing understanding, stamina and beautiful letter formation.

In DT, the children designed and built pirate ships that float and thoroughly enjoyed racing them in the water. They also made pirate hats, telescopes, and flags. In Art, they used pastels to create porthole pictures from a ship's perspective, discussing the horizon and imagining what they might see aboard a pirate ship.

In Science, we've been investigating which objects sink or float, discussing how shape, size, and the materials they are made from affect the outcome. The children also used reusable materials, including plastic containers, cardboard, bottles, corks, and packaging foam, to design and make their own boats.

In Maths, we've been doing lots of mental maths, building on our knowledge and explaining how we solve problems without using practical resources where appropriate. We've also been learning to recognise and interpret the symbols in number sentences, identifying whether they show addition or subtraction and using this understanding to solve calculations independently. We have also enjoyed exploring capacity by filling and measuring containers with water.

The children have loved writing tricky words, practising new vocabulary and continuing their hard work in phonics. Their fluency with longer words is improving every day. They've also been wonderful gardeners, caring for plants, picking strawberries and raspberries, and digging up our potatoes to enjoy with a drizzle of butter at snack time. Yum!

In SCARF, we've reflected on the seasons and life cycles we've experienced, including the life cycle of a caterpillar and our own journey from baby to adult. We've also welcomed our new Squirrels, and it has been heart-warming to see our current children step up as leaders, showing kindness care, and responsibility. I was so proud!

The children have been using "pirate pads" to practise tricky words, completing a challenging pirate puzzle, and role-playing on our fantastic outdoor pirate ship. They've also been singing a pirate song, which they proudly performed for the new children on their transition day.

As we reach the end of the term, we've been reflecting on everything the children have achieved across the EYFS curriculum. They are preparing to move up to Otters Class and are excited to have Miss Gibson as their new teacher next year.

We hope you all have a fantastic summer break!

Mrs Hudgell