What's Been Happening in Squirrels Class?

Wow, we have had an exciting half term in Squirrels Class! Our topic has had all the children buzzing with enthusiasm and imagination. We began the term by sharing holiday news, revisiting our *Ready, Respectful and Safe* rules, and reminding ourselves of our class charter and the all-important Rights of the Child.

Superhero Day!

One of the highlights was our Superhero Day**,** which was a huge success! We received a mysterious letter from the Evil Joker, announcing that he had kidnapped Squirrel! The children had to complete a tricky obstacle course to rescue him. Working in pairs, our superheroes supported and encouraged one another, using balance, agility and speed to save the day. We continued our superhero theme with a fine-motor challenge, using tweezers to rescue superheroes. The children counted how many they saved and recorded their totals. In the classroom, we have been "unlocking" superheroes by matching numerals, counting, and adding them together.









Maths

In Maths, we have focused on comparing quantities in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than, or equal to another. The children used a voting system on our board and worked with tens frames to support their understanding of number. They are becoming confident using the symbols for addition and subtraction, exploring number bonds to 10, and jumping forwards and backwards on number lines.

SCARF and Real-life Superheroes

In SCARF, the children have been learning how to keep themselves safe at home and in school. We focused on the *Right to be Safe* (Article 19) and discussed the people who help keep us safe in school and in the wider community.

We were thrilled to welcome Sergeant Ward, who visited us with his police car. Everyone had a turn sitting in the driver's seat as he explained his role in the community and taught us that being a police officer isn't just about catching baddies, it's about keeping everyone safe. The children especially enjoyed seeing me being "arrested" and handcuffed! This visit inspired lots of role-play and discussion about community helpers, including doctors, dentists, nurses and traffic wardens.









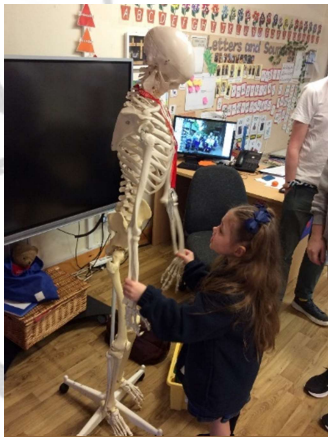
We were also very lucky to be visited by Dr Watson and Dr Ian, who both shared their important roles as doctors and explained how they help to keep people, especially children, healthy. The children learned that superheroes do not always wear capes… sometimes they wear uniforms and use medical equipment to care for others.

During the visits, the children explored a wide range of medical equipment, including a stethoscope, thermometer, pulse oximeter, eye examiner, and a peak flow meter. The children had the opportunity to handle and explore the equipment themselves, which sparked lots of excitement, curiosity, and thoughtful questions.

The doctors helped the children understand how our bodies work and how doctors investigate what might be wrong when someone is ill. The children learned about stomach infections, tonsils, vaccines, and how our bodies defend themselves against illness. They were also introduced to the organs, heart, and lungs, and learned about the skeleton with the help of Stan the Skeleton, who completely captivated everyone. The children enjoyed learning the names of different bones and pointing them out on the model. We also explored the world of microbes and discussed how doctors use microscopes to learn more about infections. The importance of handwashing was highlighted as a simple but powerful way to keep ourselves and others healthy, helping children to understand how they can play their own part in caring for the community.

These visits brought real-life learning into the classroom and inspired the children to see how doctors are everyday superheroes who help and protect others. We are extremely grateful to Dr Watson and Dr Ian for taking the time to visit Squirrels Class and for bringing along their books, equipment, and expertise to support our learning.









Science

In Science**,** the children investigated how to rescue frozen superheroes after receiving a letter from Elsa, who had accidentally frozen them! The children made predictions and tested different methods, including salt, sand and hammers. They used scientific language, made careful observations, and discovered that while hammers were the most effective, they weren't the safest! A combination of salt and gentle tapping helped rescue the superheroes successfully.

P.E and Bikeability

In PE**,** the children have enjoyed Bikeabilty by our brilliant instructor, Craig, who expertly guided them through identifying the different parts of a bike, carrying out essential safety checks, and developing key cycling skills such as manoeuvring, gliding, and stopping safely.

Across the sessions, it was wonderful to see every child grow in confidence, balance, coordination and resilience. The children showed great focus and independence, persevering with new challenges and taking real pride in their progress. Bikeability supported not only their physical development but also their mental wellbeing, as they encouraged one another and celebrated each success together.

The enthusiasm was truly infectious, so much so that we even squeezed in a few extra sessions because everyone was enjoying it so much!





Reading and Writing

We have loved sharing the Supertato stories, which have become firm favourites during our daily vote. The children designed and made their own Supertato characters to save the vegetables from the Evil Pea. Afterward, they received feedback from their peers in Otters Class. The children were thoughtful, kind and constructive, showing wonderful teamwork as they refined and improved their designs.

In Letters and Sounds**,** the children have been challenged to read words using new sounds and tricky words. They have been practising through games in continuous provision, with a new favourite activity involving emergency service vehicles to find tricky digraphs and trigraphs. Writing has been everywhere! The children have written speech bubbles for their favourite heroes and science predictions. There has been a huge improvement in letter formation, finger spaces and confidence; everyone has truly been a *"have-a-go hero"* this term.

We also welcomed Ted, our class visitor, who has been receiving lots of lovely letters from the children. Each week, Ted chooses someone who has shown they are Ready, Respectful and Safe to take him home for the weekend – he has already enjoyed three wonderful adventures!

Looking ahead, next half term we will be holding **Welcome In Wednesday on 18th March**. We are looking for donations of compost, seeds – ideally fruit, vegetables or flowers – that will grow and flourish before or during July so the Squirrels can enjoy the results of their hard work. Please drop your donations to Squirrels class – thank you for your support.

It has been a truly fabulous half term. The children have shown incredible enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork, and we can't wait to begin our new topic after half term.

Have a lovely half-term break!