Squirrels Class Round-up



To kick off our new topic, the children had an exciting surprise, Ted had left clues that led us on a treasure hunt around the school grounds, ending in the sandpit where we discovered pirate-themed treasures! The children worked in pairs to decode the clues—some of which were quite tricky—and showed 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 used. The children discussed characters and settings, then began drawing story maps to organise their ideas. They shared their stories with each other and have now written their very own pirate tales. The stories showcase their growing understanding, stamina, and beautiful letter formation.

In DT, the children designed and built pirate ships that float! They thoroughly enjoyed racing them in the water tray. They also made pirate hats, telescopes, and flags, and have been using pastels in Art to create porthole pictures from a ship's perspective. We discussed the horizon and imagined what they might see from aboard a ship.

In Science, we've experimented with objects to see if they sink or float, discussing the impact of shape, size, and material density. The children have used reusable materials—plastic containers, cardboard, bottles, corks, and packaging foam to make their own boats.

In maths we've been doing lots of mental maths, building on our knowledge and explaining how we work out answers without using physical resources. The children have been confidently counting aloud in tens and twos during our daily sessions. We've also been learning to recognise and interpret the symbols in number sentences, identifying whether it's a plus or minus, and using this understanding to solve calculations independently. We have really enjoyed exploring capacity by filling and measuring containers with water.

The children have loved writing tricky words on the windows, 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 cycles we've experienced, including the life cycle of a caterpillar and our own human journey from baby to adult. We've also welcomed our new Squirrels, and it was heart-warming to see how 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, completed a challenging pirate puzzle, and role-played on our fantastic outdoor pirate ship. They've

been singing a pirate song, which they proudly shared with the new children on their transition day.

As we reach the end of this 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 getting excited about meeting their new teacher, Miss Gibson.

Your child will be bringing home a holiday book to record special days out and events they'd like to share with Miss Gibson when they return. We hope you have a fantastic summer break!