

16 April 2021

## HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

I hope that you all had a relaxing Easter break. We held some open days over the Easter holiday for new/ prospective parents to have a look around and it was lovely to be able to show off our school.

We currently have 26 students at The Fusion Academy and this will go up to approx. 45 students next academic year. Places are filling up fast and we were excited to meet some of the new students when they came to look round over Easter.

Class groups for next year will be arranged later this half term (once we know who all our new starters are) and we will be sharing transition booklets with students and parents just before the May half term. We have 2 full transition days on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Prior to this, we will be arranging additional transition support for students who would benefit from this e.g. having opportunities to spend time with new staff and peers prior to the transition days. This will start after May half term. If you have any worries about your child's transition for next year and would like to discuss it further, please contact [Elyssa.castleford@thefusionacademy.co.uk](mailto:Elyssa.castleford@thefusionacademy.co.uk).

To help prepare for our growing numbers, I am pleased to introduce our 2 newest staff members, who joined us on Monday:



Rachel (Teacher)



Jaidene (Learning Support Assistant)

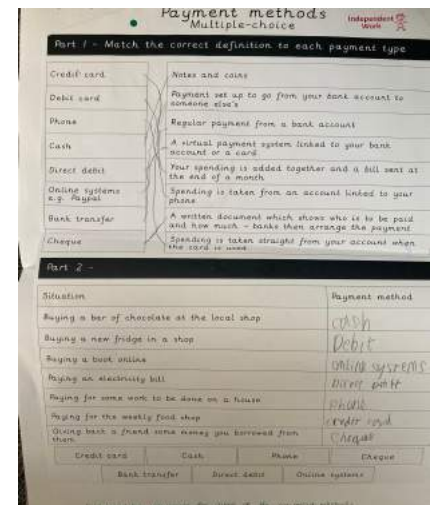
In other news, the newly formed Eco-Committee met this week and shared their environmental reviews of the school. They have identified lots of things that we are doing well for the environment such as planting trees, drinking from reusable water bottles, recycling in school and looking after animals. They also identified some areas where we can improve and will be putting together an action plan soon.

Have a lovely weekend, Sarah

## CURIOSITY

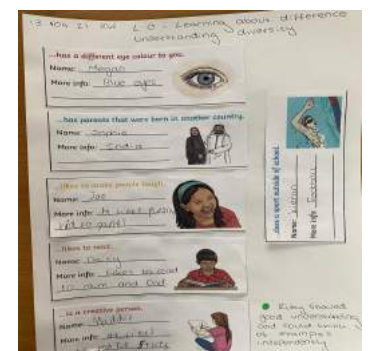
We are all happy to be back this week and thankfully for the weather, we have spent a large amount of time outside too. We must admit that aside from the bucket swing outside the playground, the neighbour's cat has particularly been famous amongst Curiosity. We have recently discovered his name is Simba and regularly visits the field, which has been joyful. We are also very delighted to have met both Jaidene and Rachel, who have spent some quality time in our class this week.

In PSHE, our topic for this term is the Wider World and why money matters. We have learned that there are many different payment methods and discussed what influences peoples' choices about money. We also looked at what the most appropriate way of paying in different situations is.



For our Science topic, we are focusing on animals, including humans. We learned more about the stages of human development and discussed the different types of reproduction, such as sexual, asexual and both. We looked at the major stages that take place in human growth and physical development and found out about how the fetus grows in the womb.

During our Personal Development lesson, we are learning about diversity and personal identity. We recognised how we are all unique and yet all the same. We played a fun game called valuing diversity, which was great, as it involves finding someone in our class who can answer the question. This showed us that we all come from many different backgrounds and religions and have family living around the world.



## EXPLORER

It's hard to believe that we are already in the Summer term! This week we've been taking advantage of the weather and taking our learning outside. We completed a fitness routine including the beep test to see how we can improve our fitness during this term. To get our brains switched on we have continued our high energy starters playing games of giant twister, human noughts and crosses and minefield maze. We've really stepped up our work ethic this week with superb efforts from all children in Maths (division) and English (persuasive writing). The class had an opportunity to roleplay some scenarios to learn about different payment methods in our PSHE unit and we explored how our skin can feel with different challenges linked to our interoception module (that's why there is a photo of Connie getting sprayed in the face with water - its a real lesson we assure you!) We've also had some visitors to the playground - two local cats who have really enjoyed being looked after at break and lunch time.





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## ROSETTA

Just before we broke up, we made some Easter crafts and didn't have the chance to pop our captured pictures on...



We've been so happy to be back to school this week and to see everyone! We visited the Forest Classroom with Pioneer to search for ideas and examples all about Ecology for Science, so that we can make dictionaries of our own for our new Interdependence topic.

In English, we have also started a new topic "Argue and Persuade", the boys have been really creative with their ideas and pitching them to the rest of the class in a Dragon's Den style set up! We've also created advertisements supporting our pitches, Theo is hoping that Walkers will bring out pink French Fries (yum!).

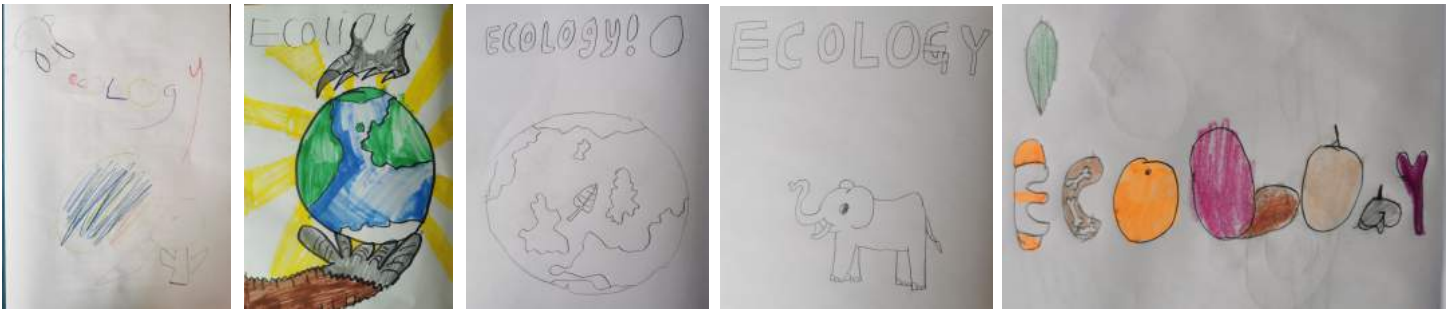
In Maths, we've been working on money; recognising the different coins and calculating totals - it's been helpful to use the plastic coins we have in school.



## PIONEER

It's been great to have everyone back this week, we've welcomed our newest student, Sol, into Pioneer full time and he's had a good first week at Fusion.

In English, we've started our new topic on working on "argue and persuade" looking at Dragon's Den pitches (successful and unsuccessful) and the characteristics of what is needed to persuade someone to your point of view or to convince them that something is good and worth investing in. We had such varied ideas: trips to London, the benefits of learning, an unpuncturable football, portal juice and Godzilla vs Kong funkopops.



Alfie

Henry

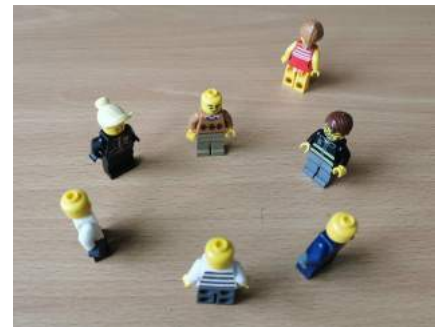
Owen

Sol

Ade

The new Science topic for this half term is "Interdependence" where we will be looking at ecology and how life systems all around us work together and depend on each other. So, we joined Rosetta class in visiting the newly-opened forest area to complete an "alphabet of ecology" (photos in Rosetta section of the newsletter). We also completed some "Ecology" title pages (above) ready to introduce all of our new work in this topic.

In our Social Thinking Group this week, we had a recap of all of the concepts we have looked at so far - 'Thoughts & Feelings', 'Thinking with your Eyes', and 'The Group Plan'. We have now moved on to 'Body in the Group' and have made a good start on discussing how having our body and brain in the group (or not) during a conversation or activity can have a big impact on our communication with others. We demonstrated this with some lego people and had a good chat about various different situations and how this might affect the thoughts and feelings of both the group and the individual.



It's Owen's turn for a paragraph all to himself this week - he's been really focused on doing some pixel art from different computer games. He uses a specific website to pick colours and then clicks each dot on the image to create the overall character. Owen is hoping to use pixel art for his Art project this half term on "Portraits".

## OTHER NEWS

### School photos will be taking place on Wednesday 5th May 2021

Preview Portraits will be available for you to have a look at prior to purchasing the photos. If you would like to purchase the photos from the photographers, more details including prices will be enclosed in the Preview Portraits pack.



### The Fusion Academy Reward Tickets

Students can earn tickets for doing things that are 'above and beyond'. For example, for doing some amazing work, behaving really well, or doing something especially kind or helpful. When the whole school earns 100 tickets, we all get a reward. At the moment we are working towards an afternoon of fun! Students can choose between a whole school water fight or a movie afternoon.



Tickets have been earned this week by:

Theo	Tommy	Robbie	Ruby
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Well Done!

**Overall Ticket Total = 48**





## Gaming

Gaming is increasingly popular with young people . Mobile gaming is the most popular being as popular as PC and console gaming combined. It is a huge industry and attracts a huge number of people all around the world.

Spending time gaming can be a great way to zone out, let off some steam or communicate with people and enjoy common interests. There is a small minority of people that don't really use it for the right reasons or use it negatively. Competition can bring out the best in people but also the worst, and "keyboard warriors" feeling safe in their own home talking to someone in a different country can say things they don't really mean, or things that are meant to make the other person angry.

It can be really difficult for gamers to cope with this and not to take any attacks personally, but it's important to go back to basics and think of the following key things for online games to think about:

If it makes you angry or worried, stop

If someone says something you don't like, block and report them if you can, change the room, change the game or play offline

If it's making you be a negative person to others, take a break and reflect on how you could react differently

Parents can be worried when a child reports something , also one of the pieces of advice I have heard before (that also links in with the "communication" topic talked about in previous weeks) is that banning the use of a console because of other people being nasty just leads to the young person being more secretive if it happens next time. Being open and honest about how an online game might have people on there that might say things and giving support on what to do next is a much better response.

For more advice on gaming aimed towards young people, please visit

[ThinkUKnow's page](#)