

8th October 2021

## HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

The weather is turning chilly and there are a few colds going around but that hasn't stopped us! Students have been working hard and have lots of great learning to share.

We have had two new Learning Support Assistants starting this week – Georgina and Zak. They have been spending time in different classes across the school and getting to know everyone.

We have also recruited an additional Senior Teaching Assistant, Catherine, who will be joining us soon.

We are looking forward to Halloween and some students are starting to organise a Halloween dress up day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October for anybody who would like to join in.

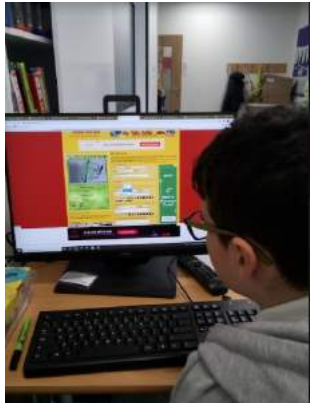
Have a great weekend,

Sarah



## PHOENIX

This week, we celebrated receiving a huge delivery of new resources (some of which the pupils had ordered in previous lessons). So far, the Monopoly has been a big hit in reward time as has the Hotwires which Harriet used to make a working lie-detector to quiz staff with!



In our 'Learning about Difference' lessons, we have been studying the creator of Pokemon, Satoshi Tajiri. We learnt how he turned his special interests of bugs and collecting into a worldwide phenomenon. Students went on a bug hunt and created their own Pokemon cards to trade.

We are now in the process of planning and organising a special cookery event which will be announced after half term. Pupils have been researching their own recipes, completing kindness surveys and taking part in a scavenger hunt in our local shop in preparation for our special project!



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## DRAGONFLY

We have been having a lot of fun again this week. In Cooking, we made Chocolate Chip Muffins. As you can see, they are all super efficient in their different roles - Axel was particularly good at washing up having taken on board our homecare lesson last week.



During Movement Breaks, we had fun on the Scooter Boards. Not only did we have fun, but we also got a lot of exercise, took turns, shared and encouraged each other to have a go (even if we found it a bit scary!) Freddie, meanwhile, was having fun making and playing with slime.



In Music, we have now progressed to play short tunes on the recorder and we are all really enjoying it - in spite of the noise! And we made Lava Lamps in Science using water, food colouring, vegetables and Hilary's Denture Cleaning Tablets! Only joking - she bought them in the Co-Op!



In amongst all this fun and mayhem we have also been doing some fantastic Maths and English work. We have been learning about Negative Numbers and Adverbs this week!

## POLAR

It is World Space Week and we started the week off with learning about it. We had lots of discussions about whether we have ever looked up to space and the stars and what we imagine it would be like to travel to space. We learned that World Space Week was created by the United Nations in 1999 and it is the largest space event on Earth. We ended the lesson by creating space themed activities, such as cardboard tube rockets, paper plate flying saucer and spaced themes pictures.

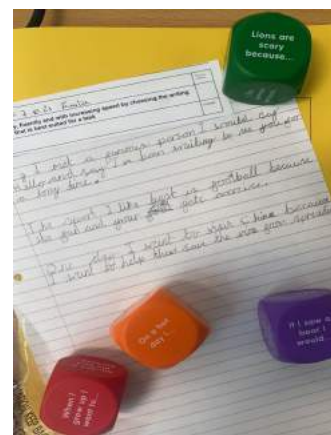
In History, we learned more about understanding how and why hillforts were developed in the Iron Age and looked at prehistoric homes from the three ages which were Stone, Bronze and Iron age. Then, we all had fun identifying features of a roundhouse and learning about hillforts.

For our Art lesson, we all jotted down ideas on the board of what our thoughts are about the seaside, what we like and dislike. We then used sand, tiny rocks and shells to create our very own seaside themed artwork on a canvas, which is currently proudly displayed in our classroom.

We all worked really hard towards our pizza party for our class behaviour bingo. A few of us really enjoyed choosing our toppings and creating our favourite pizzas. Daniel and Ruby were excited to purchase £1 worth of items from the local store. We finished our class party by watching a film for the last part of the hour.

In our English lesson, we have been using writing prompt cubes to create four sentences. We were imaginative and came up with some brilliant ideas. We had to write legibly and fluently with increasing speed.

In our French lesson, we learned how to say a sentence starting with J'ai vu and were able to name at least ten animals in French. We had fun playing Loto, which means Bingo in French, to reinforce the names of animals and completed the lesson with a wordsearch.



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## EUROPA

In Europa this week, we have really enjoyed some different STEM challenges. We have explored how to make the best shadow puppets, where Lennon suggested using black card because it blocks out the most light. The students enjoyed creating spooky scenes while working out how to make the shadows bigger and smaller by moving the puppets closer to and further from the light source.

We made some ghostly pom pom poppers and skeleton pom pom launchers to explore kinetic energy where the students used simple materials of paper cups, balloons, lollipop sticks and elastic bands to find out about how energy transfers.

Another challenge the students faced was making a tower with only cardboard, straws and tape that had to support the weight of a pumpkin. The catch was that the students weren't allowed to say the words card, straw, tape or pumpkin, so they had to be very inventive with the way they were describing each item. This challenge was extended for Steph, who had to use all of the engineering skills she has to create a platform for my cup of water. The students went on to make a skeleton bridge out of cotton buds and lollipop sticks that had to support the weight of two bananas. There were some excellent discussions about where the bananas should be placed in order to best distribute their weight.

We have seen some excellent teamwork from all of the students this week, and as you can see, the Halloween activities are well underway in Europa!



## ODYSSEY

This week we've been learning about newspaper reports in English, division in Maths and sound in Science. Everyone has been working very hard to make progress and grow in confidence. Connie was particularly pleased with her work in Maths as she is beginning to try the challenging tasks. Ethan wrote an amazing poem in English after listening to a poem about survival. We looked at what sound waves look like and everyone had a go at drawing them from sounds they created with musical instruments and their voices.



We collected ingredients from the forest for our magic potions. It was fun to add the baking powder and vinegar to make it bubble. It did smell horrible though! Damon led a brilliant game of Among Us in the forest too.

Theo and Zane enjoyed making their own cars in Curriculum Choice. They used air drying clay which they attached to a pull-back and go mechanism.



Connie's jewellery business is coming along really well and she has already sold a few pieces. Look out for more information as she is hoping to sell them to Fusion families too - they'd make great Christmas presents!



We had great fun in PE this week, learning new games and skills and learning how to cooperate and compromise.

Theo earned his reward this week and couldn't wait to get into Apollo to spend the afternoon with Josh as his prize!



We're off to the forest again this afternoon for Damon to show us some sword fighting skills!

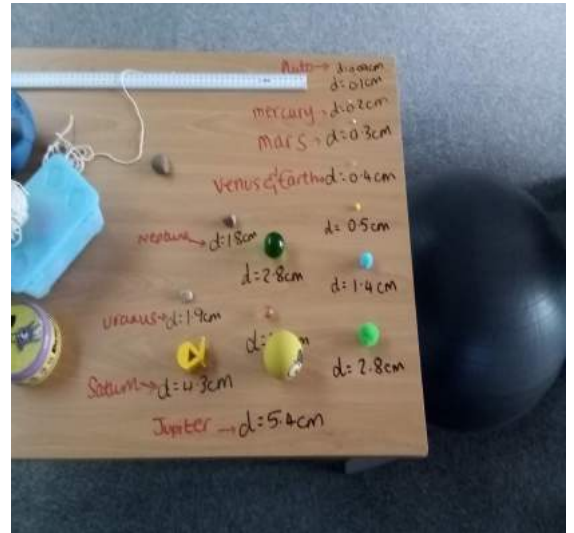


## VOYAGER



We've had another busy and fun week this week! We started off the week looking at planets for National Space Week. Tom (Apollo) and I collected various spheres for students to measure circumferences of, we then used  $\pi$  to calculate the diameters. We suggested that the yoga ball is the sun, then researched sizes of planets and worked out how many times smaller each of the planets were compared with the sun.

The students then worked together to find spheres that fit the dimensions - we had pompoms, tennis balls, stones and even tiny particles of soil! The Earth was a small bead in comparison to the yoga ball sun!



All of Voyager have enjoyed spending lots of time playing with Jenga, Lego or darts this week; Jacob kept challenging himself to build the tallest freestanding towers with the giant Jenga blocks!

In Music, we have been experimenting with various instruments. Ade is seen here with a shaker, whilst Jacob and Henry play the Glockenspiel.



## APOLLO

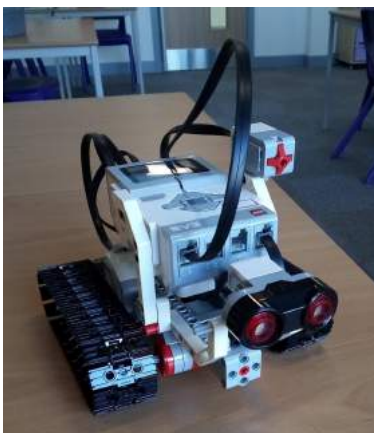


We've had another good week in Apollo, but we're definitely looking forward to the half term and halloween already. We gained the snooker table from Phoenix this week and so everyone has had a bit of a go on that during movement breaks (we even managed to fit it into our science lesson using the balls to represent sound waves hitting solids, liquids and gases).



We have a sewing machine! It turns out that Luca is a sewing wizard and set up the machine for Alfie to try out. Sol got back into his hand sewing and each of them made a cushion. We were all very impressed with how quickly Alfie picked it up

and whilst his first attempt was amazing, his second attempt is definitely more square than his first. His longer term goal is to adapt or make outfits from characters from a TV show.

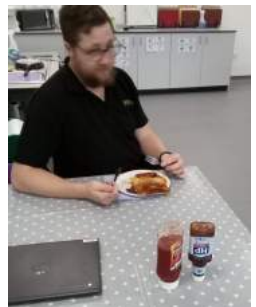
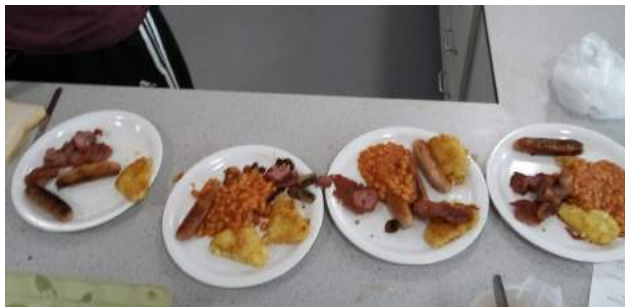


Owen had a go at programming a lego robot this week. It has sensors that allow it to measure distance (ultrasonic) and a button on the top. Owen then programmed the motors to move the tracks, so that if it moves too close to the wall or an object, it will stop, turn, and carry on.



### Josh's 3 course meal

Josh gets a whole page dedicated to him this week after such a fantastic personal achievement. A couple of weeks ago, we discussed a bucket list (50 things) of activities and targets that all students at Fusion should try to take part in during their time here. Josh set one of his ideas as a personal goal, and that was to "make a 3 course meal for your teacher". He planned what to cook and in the end he cooked it for 4 of us (Tom, Laura B, Grant and himself). Garlic mushrooms to start (a recipe from home), a full english breakfast (with fried bread) and then a milkshake. It was amazing to see such composure and drive to achieve a target set by Josh himself. It was very well executed and took a lot of effort and composure. Well done Josh!



"10 / 10"  
Tom

"10 / 10"  
Grant

"10 / 10"  
Laura B



"Delicious"  
A student

"Smells incredible"  
All staff walking by

"☆☆☆☆☆"  
- Would eat again"  
Everyone

## OTHER NEWS



### Safe apps for learning

Here are a few apps that are great for learning different skills whilst being fun at the same time. Some of them have costs but all are great fun.



### Magic Piano Smule - iOS, Android (free, in-app purchases)

This is a great app for hand to eye co-ordination, fine motor skills and creativity. There's lots of songs and progression too. Reaction times, dexterity and some musical knowledge too.

It is free, but there are ads and in-app purchases so keep an eye out just in case as money can be spent through the app.



### Poly Bridge - iOS, Android, PC, Nintendo (various prices)

This is a fun game in itself and has engineering and problem solving / critical thinking links too. The player's task is to get vehicles over a gap by constructing a bridge and trying to make it strong enough to support the weight. It does cost money (different platforms are different prices) but the game has lots of levels and a sandbox mode so the possibilities are endless.



### Scratch & Scratch Jr - Web browser, iOS, Android (free)

Programming is something that has been pushed a lot in recent years, and Scratch is a great place to start, but also to continue programming and develop skills.

It is great to learn programming, make games and animations, learn about problem solving and breaking down larger problems (decomposition) and also learning new skills. Scratch allows users to make simple projects but can be used at a very high level too, making it great for all ages.

## Reminder



Please could parents complete the parental consents for their child via the Arbor App



With the weather starting to get colder, students will be spending more time inside during break and lunchtimes and therefore we wondered if any of our Fusion families have any old games or puzzles that they no longer use, could they be donated to school for our students to use?

If you are happy to donate them, please send them into school where they will be greatly received.



## Diary Dates

- ★ 18-22 October 2021 - October half term
- ★ Friday 29th October - Halloween dress up day



**SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER 2021**

**JUBILEE HALL, BYRON CLOSE**

**BARWELL**

**5.00pm to 8.00pm**

**Prizes for best fancy dress and  
best carved pumpkin**

**(Please bring your carved pumpkin with you)**

**(Event for under 12's only)**



**Making a Difference in the Community - Barwell Parish Council**

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