

5th November 2021

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

I have a lovely update for you today about how one of our families has helped us to buy some new equipment.

Over the summer holidays, the Grandad of one of our students, Peter, very kindly brought his tractor into school and cut down all of our long grass. Not only did this make our grounds look much better, it saved us money on paying for someone else to do this.

We decided that we would put the money that we saved towards some new outdoor equipment for the students. This task was put to the school council who collected the views of their classes and looked at various different options. They finally decided that the best option would be to buy some scooters.

The school council has chosen 2 types of scooter (for different sized students) and have also ordered some helmets. In addition, they have developed some rules to make sure that the scooters will be used fairly and safely. We cannot wait for them to arrive! Thank you Peter.



We would also like to say a big thank you to one of our Mums, Kerry, who has kindly donated lots of amazing games and puzzles for our students to use at school – they are much appreciated, thank you.

Have a great weekend,

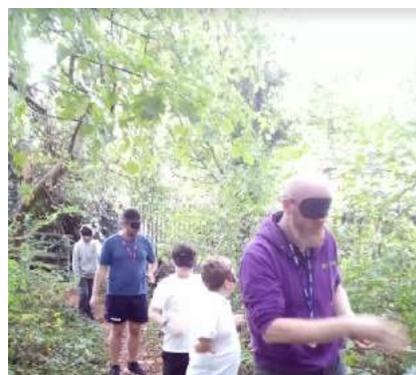
Sarah

PHOENIX

This week our focus has been challenge and perseverance. We've been very proud of how students have concentrated on pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to achieve new things. In the morning sessions, we have been using challenge boxes. Students have been encouraged to choose tasks that they think they might find more challenging. This was also a good opportunity to practice our social thinking skills using conversation dice.



We've had a great time exploring our forest area this week. We've set up trails for other students to follow. Our favourite was the blindfold rope walk. Nicki ran a session a month ago and we all really enjoyed the sensory experience of walking through the forest blindfolded. This week, students created their own walks for the rest of the class to explore. They spent a lot of time trying to make the experience as exciting as possible with lots of obstacles.



DRAGONFLY

Good Morning, everyone.

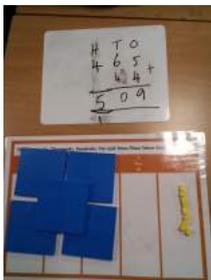
The highlight of our week this week has been making Tie Dye T-shirts based on Firework designs. We learnt about Diwali on Thursday as it was Diwali Day. It is also known as the 'Festival of Lights' and celebrates the Hindu New Year. Hindus around the world enjoy having firework displays in order to help them celebrate. Here are some of our fantastic results:



In Cooking, we baked Breakfast Muffins and found out their nutritional benefits. We also learnt how to slice and chop safely and the importance of washing up afterwards:



Everyone joined in and brought different skills to the lesson - fantastic teamwork, Dragonfly!

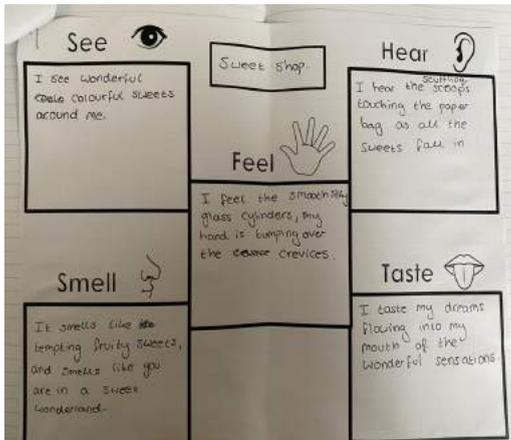


We continued with our hard work in Maths. Some of the children have been learning how to use Base 10 to understand Place Value when working out their calculations.

And of course, we ended last week with a lot of fun dressing up for Halloween!

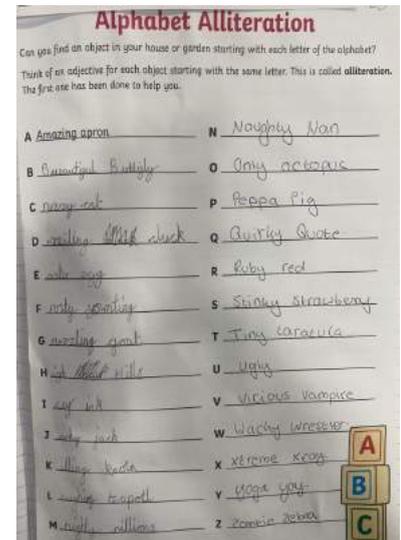


POLAR

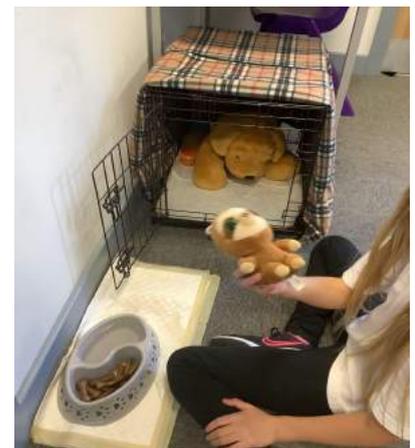


We focused on figurative language for English this week and enjoyed being timed to see how many alphabet alliterations we came up with in the session. We also completed a selfie simile after we looked at different poems and listened to a song by Katy Perry called Fireworks that uses a simile in her lyrics. In addition to the types of figurative language we learned

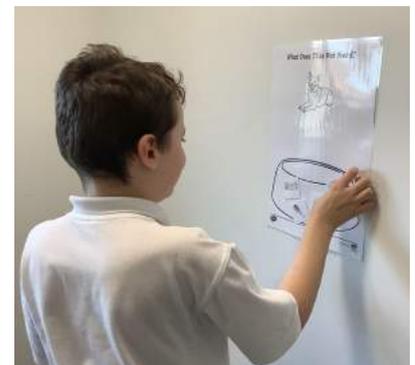
about, we found that poets often use figurative language to appeal to the five senses: sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell. So, we brainstormed what we would experience through our 5 senses, if we were in a specific place and used a mind map to do so.



During our Wellbeing session, we learned the origins of tie dye and appreciated the individualism whilst creating firework tie dye t shirts. We focused on how Tie-dye can promote wellbeing and bright colours that boost moods. Some of us attempted the firework tie dye pattern linking it to bonfire night on the 5th.



For our Animal Care session, which is part of personal development, we discussed as a class whether animals need the same things that children need, in order to be happy and healthy. We all agreed that animals have basic needs like humans do. We had such fun creating a home for Bruno the (pretend) dog, by ensuring that we have everything that the pet will need. We were given the responsibility to take Bruno for a walk and to train him using treats; as well as, remembering to feed him and provide a nice quiet place to sleep.



In our first Geography lesson this term, we used a map to find countries and their key features. We have watched a film about Mountain Ranges, then used our ChromeBooks and atlases to locate some of the important mountains and indicate these on the map of the world.

EUROPA



This week, we have started our new topic where we are learning all about fracking. We started by receiving a letter from a fictional company expressing interest in fracking within school grounds. To start with, the students were excited by the idea of having a giant drill, but as they started to learn about the dangers of fracking, they changed their minds about how they felt about it.

The students have collected some rocks from around the school that we have done detailed drawings of and tested how porous each one is. We have discovered that the more porous a rock is, the more natural gas it can hold.

Using Minecraft, the students worked together to explore different terrains and linked the landscape back to fracking. Lennon is planning to create a world with a fracking drill to show how it works.

Throughout the week, the students have shown excellent collaboration, and this was especially evident during our PE lessons. **PLEASE NOTE WE NOW HAVE PE ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY.**

ODYSSEY



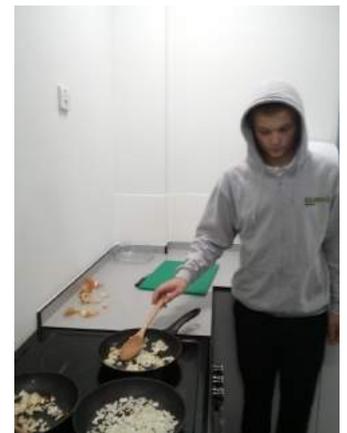
Some of our students have been enjoying their rewards this week after earning lots of reward points. They can earn points for making good decisions in tricky situations, using kind words, working hard and being helpful. Theo took a trip to the shop for his 40 points and treated himself to some Tic-Tacs. Ethan made some candy floss and on Friday, Callum, who has earned a whopping 50 points, became king for a day! He enjoyed bossing around his servants!



We've continued to work on multiplying fractions on Maths and fluency in arithmetic. English lessons have focused on the story setting and main character in A Christmas Carol. We wrote a poem about remembrance and started getting ready to use Accelerated Reader in the classroom.



Everyone has learned how to wash and dry up after cooking really thoroughly and students were able to demonstrate those skills after they made hotdogs in the cooking lesson. There was a big improvement as everyone remembered to use hot water and plenty of elbow grease!



Our PSHE lessons are focusing on Diversity this half term. Today we talked about the importance of the words we use and how to make sure we are being respectful.

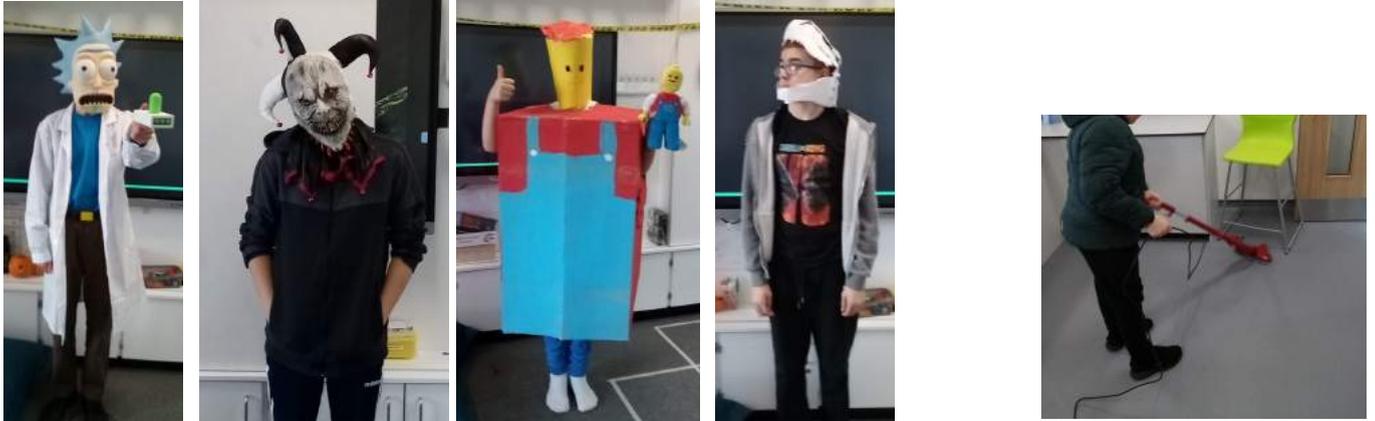


I hope you like our remembrance artwork. We learned about perspective and paint resistance techniques and listened to the poem "In Flanders Fields" for our inspiration.

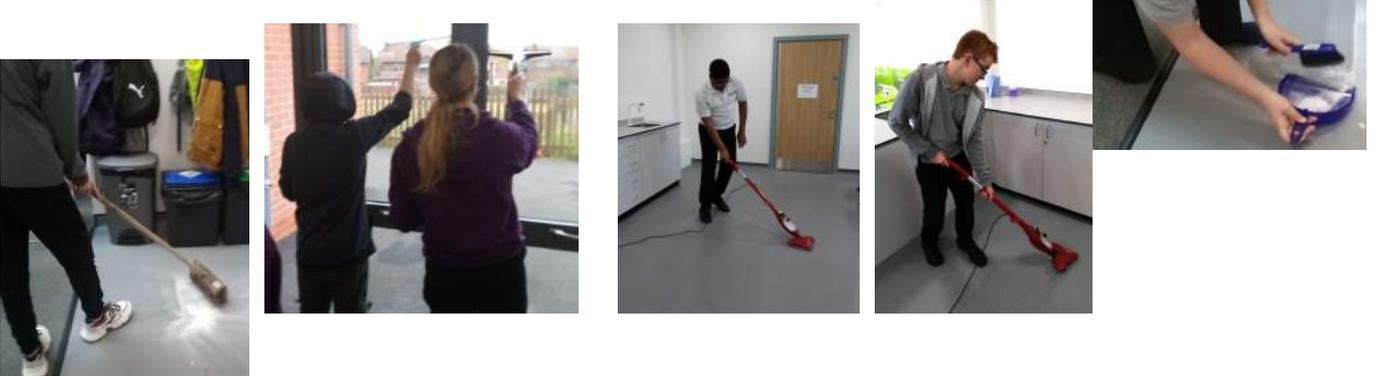


VOYAGER

We didn't quite capture the boys' outfits from the dress up day for Halloween (or spooky day according to Henry 😊) so here they are in all their glory:



We have continued with our Laundry and Home Care topic in Life Skills, but focused on bigger chores this week, namely cleaning windows, sweeping, steam mopping and hoovering.



We also continued to make good use of our Tuffy Tray in Maths lessons to help with multiplication of fractions - looking at it visually with concrete resources to help has really boosted our understanding and confidence.

On Thursday, we looked at Diwali and how it's celebrated and it being the Festival of Light...then made some fireworks scratch art pictures - some of us added glitter and they turned out so well!



APOLLO



This week we have really challenged students in Maths, looking at long division with decimal places and recurring decimals. Owen took on the challenge on the whiteboard and smashed it, especially with his accuracy, checking his answers and showing his working.

P.E. was fantastic with so many getting involved from both Voyager and Apollo. It was basketball this week and we practised shooting by playing a "tug of war" style game where you moved a cone closer to the goal every time you scored a basket.



We ended with a match which was very competitive; it ended 2-1 after a last second shot hit the rim and bounced out. We talked about how basketball is one of the most physically intensive sports as everyone was out of breath.



Alfie's textiles work has switched to hand sewing, with his focus and attention to detail being the priority. His motivation has been great and he was really pleased with his practice.



We have discovered a game in movement breaks that has become a class favourite already. "Selfish", which is a game where you have to be a little bit selfish to the other players and make decisions to try and win. We've had lots of laughs and a few different winners, it's been a great tool for taking turns and joining in and having a bit of fun together.

OTHER NEWS



TikTok

TikTok has around 1 billion users worldwide, and is a very easy platform to contact users openly and therefore there could be concerns over its safety. As with any tool, it is how it is used that makes it safer.

Algorithm

Part of TikTok's algorithm (the "clever" part of the programming that chooses what videos users see) means that users get more videos that appear to them that are like the ones that users interact with ("like", share, follow and comment on). This means that if you watch a lot of videos about football, you will get more videos about football.

Fun

Because of the way the algorithm works, it means that users get videos that spark their interest and engage them. Videos can be created and shared very easily, and so videos can go viral very quickly, giving users that hope of fame too.

Misinformation

TikTok does have a lot of "spoof" videos or content that isn't always true (either for serious or comedic purposes), which our students may find difficult to interpret correctly. This can lead to issues around misinformation being believed, shared and potentially hate towards people. Users can stay anonymous on TikTok too, "Keyboard warriors" are in their element; with users picking up on slightest spelling mistakes that people make, to other hate speech and even extreme political opinions.

Screen Time

TikTok is designed to be hard to put down, it is easy to use and videos are usually short and snappy, so it could be a good idea to limit screen time. This can be done through a tablet's settings. Screen time is important to monitor and regulate too, either by setting limits (which can be overridden / unlocked with passwords) or ideally checking, monitoring and discussing the impact.

Parental Controls

TikTok has parental controls that allow you parents to link their account to help monitor a child's account. This should be done openly with the child.

[Parental Controls on TikTok](#)

Other Useful Links:

[National Online Safety Guide to Tik Tok](#)

If there are any specific topics that you would like advice about, please email office@thefusionacademy.co.uk using the subject "eSafety".

Support



★ PARENT SUPPORT WORKSHOPS

We are pleased to share that we are planning lots of Parent Support Workshops throughout the academic year looking at a variety of topics including eSafety, Speech & Language Support and also Occupational Therapy lead sessions.

Our first workshop will be on Thursday 25th November 3:45 - 5pm with the first topic area being PSHE, held by our school lead Katie. We will be covering what PSHE is and how we will teach it across our school with the opportunity for Q&A's too.

We are hoping to be able to run the session face-to-face in school, with refreshments. Please let either Elyssa; elyssacastleford@thefusionacademy.co.uk or the Office; office@thefusionacademy.co.uk know if you would like to join us.

We look forward to seeing you on the 25th!



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