

19th November 2021

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

The new scooters have gone down very well this week! Students have enjoyed playing with them at lunch times and developing their scooter skills. Some students can even do jumps on them! I have been really pleased with how well the students have followed our scooter rules and taken turns to make sure that everybody gets a go.

We have also introduced a new 'film club' in the gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This has been a hit too!

On Monday, we will have a videographer in school making a promotional video for the Fusion Academy/ The Open Thinking Partnership. Thank you very much to the parents who have offered to be interviewed for this and please let us know if anybody else is interested.

We have had a visit this week from Reverend Philip who is based at St. Mary's church in Barwell. It was great to show him around and he will hopefully be visiting again soon to talk to some of the students about Christmas.

Have a great weekend,

Sarah



PHOENIX

This week, Harriet met some new friends! During Curriculum Choice, Harriet joined the animal care session and learnt about leaf bugs. She was fascinated by their camouflage and odd movements. Well done Harriet for engaging so well in these sessions.



During our interoception lessons, we have been becoming more aware of our senses and how our bodies pick up signals. Students have been working together in a variety of exercises, but the favourite was attempting to figure out what your partner was drawing on your back and drawing it on the board!

Our main focus this week has been injecting kindness into our daily routine. 2021's Anti-bullying week has a focus on spreading kindness. So, we have discussed what this looks like and simple ways we can spread joy! We've seen this make a positive impact in the class and has definitely helped students to work together more effectively.



DRAGONFLY

In Art this week, we made faces out of clay to show different emotions. We added natural resources from outside, such as leaves and twigs to give them hair and features. James had a very long nose!



In English, we have been learning about Information Texts and the children worked really well together sorting paragraphs into categories:



We really enjoyed decorating our Christmas Cakes in Cooking and in RE we found out about the history of Advent Calendars. During P.E, we have been learning about Circuit Training and how we can keep fit using different exercises such as Planks, Sit-ups, Shuttle Runs and Burpees!



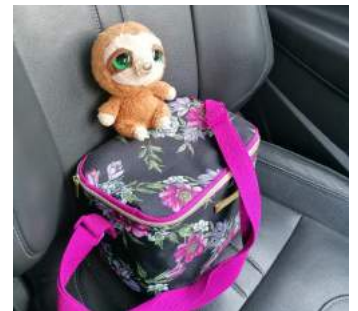
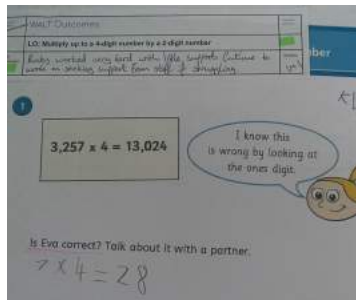
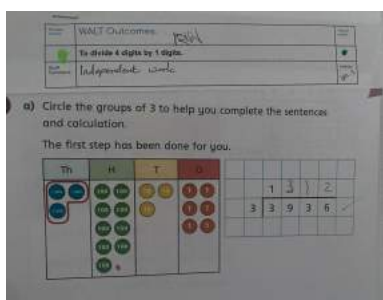
POLAR

We had the opportunity to meet the Giant Malaysian leaf insects called *Phyllium giganteum*, which Laura had kindly brought into class on Monday. We found out that insects are small vertebrates (animals that have a backbone) and are unique. Not many insects are sold in shops, but more so online. You could breed and sell insects or you could help with the daily care of insects and other exotic pets by working in a pet shop or even a specialist zoo! Did you also know that insects are the largest group of animals on earth!

We have worked super hard in Maths this week. We finished working on multiplication and showed that we can work out the steps to multiply up to 4 digit numbers by a 2 digit number, which is great. In division, we built our understanding of dividing up to 4 digits by 1 digit. We looked at place value counters to partition the numbers and then grouped them to develop our understanding of the short division method. We then continued to practise using the bus stop method. Some of us have picked up the steps quickly and felt quite confident using the mini whiteboards.

As part of the wellbeing session, we looked at mindfulness and our understanding of the concept of mindfulness. We watched a video and had a go at practicing mindfulness in meditation. We also really enjoyed creating our own calming glitter jar and made lots of different ones using beads, food colouring, glitter, glue and water.

To end the week, we focused on Children In Need Day. We did a Children In Need code breaking in Maths, a reading comprehension on the history of Children In Need and lots more fun activities. On a more adventurous note, Jeff the sloth went on a special journey with Maz, which required a specific wash and clean before returning to Polar.



ODYSSEY

We've been busy in Odyssey class preparing for our re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth. First, we learned about the events that led up to the battle and then we focused on how Henry Tudor

managed to beat Richard III. We spent some time researching weapons and armoury before making our own. The students were able to demonstrate how much they had learned by being on the battlefield. Fortunately, no lives were lost!



We have read and watched the next part of A Christmas Carol, thinking about why the ghost of Christmas

past is represented by a candle. We've also learned about synonyms and antonyms.

Maths this week has been working on fractions. We can find fractions of amounts and solve word problems by multiplying fractions and converting improper fractions.



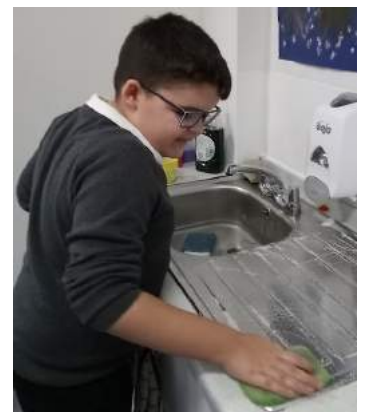
On Monday, we cooked pizza to practise kneading dough and our students were able to choose their toppings. There were some interesting combinations!



Science this week was adaptation and Jan showed us how animals adapt to suit their environment. The class went on to invent their own adapted animals in clay.

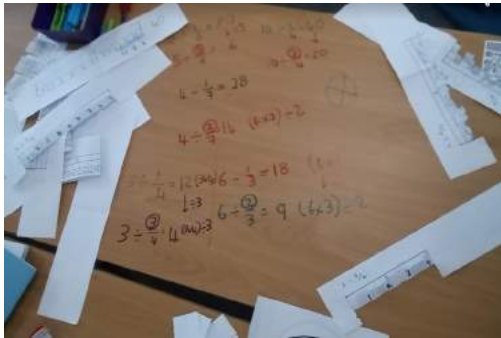
We have completed our series of lessons on disability discrimination and the students have shown real sensitivity and awareness of how our actions can impact on others.

We learned about how to use household products for cleaning in our life skills lesson. Everyone is really keen to get some extra practice at home!

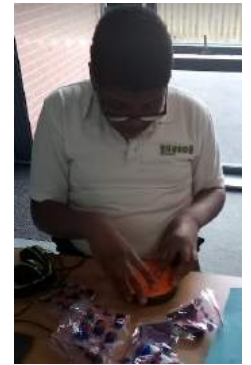


In other news, Callum continues on his quest to break some records. Last week, he made the shortest pencil in the world; this week, it's toppling playing cards!

VOYAGER



We started the week off by completing our Fractions topic in maths. We were all finding the final part a bit tricky (dividing fractions by a unit fraction), so we took to writing on the tables and doing a big joint activity to visualise it (don't worry, it was a whiteboard pen that cleans straight off!)



Ade also did some great work using the fraction resources we have to compare different fractions and their equivalences (he's seen here making 'fraction pizzas!')

In our Laundry and Home Care lesson this week, we focused on gardening and the boys did a fantastic job clearing up some weeds in the playground!



In our Design Technology lesson, we made shelters for Disasters topic and the boys really thought out their plans and were able to justify their design choices. Luke's plan was an incredible multi-story underground bunker with various levels including a wellbeing room and water storage.



In Social Thinking, we looked at whole body listening and we all came up with some great tools (not rules) for how our body is expected to react when listening to a conversation. Lewis and Luke then initiated a conversation about "Is water wet?"



In R.E, we looked at *why we have advent for Christmas* and linked it to Jesus being born and the religious celebration of Christmas. We decorated a wooden, self-fill advent calendar ready for Katie to fill with goodies!

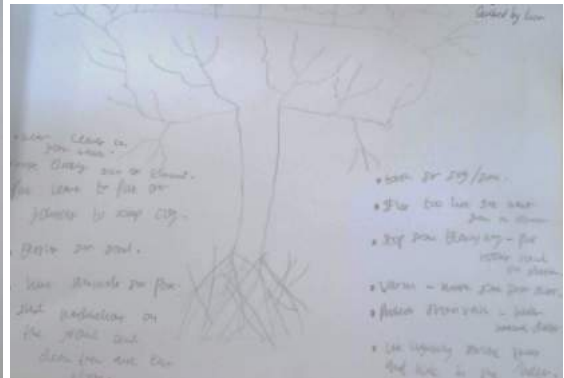
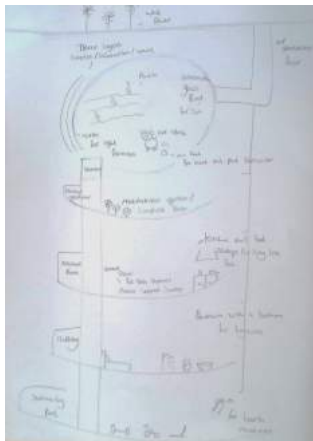
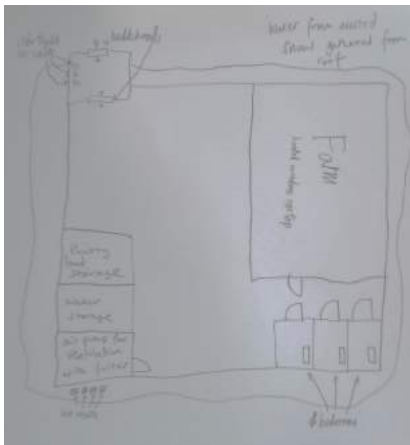


APOLLO



In History, we have focused our local History project on the Battle of Bosworth discussing how different leaders had banners that showed where they were in battle and how they were used to rally the troops.

In DT, we were planning disaster shelters / bunkers and justifying design decisions that have been made to identify and solve a lot of problems that may arise. We discussed how different materials and designs can help to protect people from the elements and provide the necessary things needed to survive. These were food, shelter, air, water, but also secondary needs such as fitness, contact with other people, fresh food and wellbeing equipment too.



Across the school, football seems to be becoming more popular with students from most classes taking part, especially on clear days but even in the slight drizzle. It is a great opportunity to focus on the communication and teamwork skills; as well as, personal football targets such as learning new tricks, shooting and passing. Everyone has been so accepting of skill levels and those who are new to the game which has been lovely to see.



OTHER NEWS



Being Kind Online

This week is Anti-Bullying Week. As part of that, this week's topic is all about being kind online. This links in well with the previous topic of TikTok; as the TikTok comments section can be full of opposing views, people commenting without thinking about other people's feelings and bad examples of communication online.

Being Kind

There is a lot of positivity that comes through kindness. Being kind is one of our Character Education traits and a big focus for us at school. Lockdown has meant that a lot of communication has gone online and there is also everyone feeling quite low about the situation, which can lead to some common problems.

Being kind to ourselves first is important as it promotes confidence and a feeling of wellbeing, this then leads into being kind to others. How we feel about ourselves has an impact on other people around us (this is something we link to in Social Thinking and wellbeing lessons). Being kind online can take many forms, here are some ideas:

Offer help to others

Show appreciation to others

Share funny content with friends and family

Share positivity

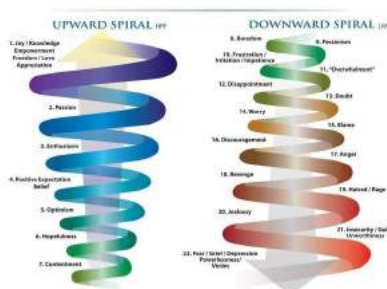
Take time to video call friends and family

Tell someone you're thinking of them

Connect people you know with similar interests

Celebrate online work (skip the negatives)

Help those who are struggling

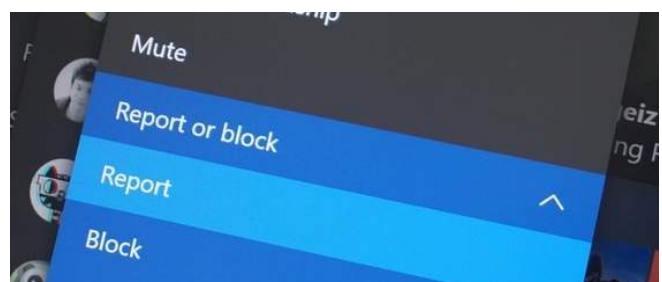


The main message here is to make the internet a more positive place. There will always be hate online, but sensible people do not need to be a part of it. The main message is to spread kindness not negativity. It can be easy to get caught in a downward spiral, but once you are on the positive side of it, it is easier to climb. This should help you to be surrounded by that

positivity too and have a

more positive feeling overall. (You can click the spiral image or [here](#) to see the full detail).

A reminder, if people are being unkind online, you can usually find a report button on the website, game or app like this →



Support

★ Parent Support Workshop



We have our first Parent Support Group of the year taking place on 25th November and we would love you to join us.

The theme for this session is RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education linked with Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) where we will explain how we support our students to understand a range of topics within the framework including Self awareness and managing feelings.

The session will be on Thursday 25th November from 3:45 - 5pm, held at school in our Main hall, we will also provide refreshments. If you would like to attend please contact the office on 01455 243 689 or email Elyssa our Pastoral Lead on; elyssa.castleford@thefusionacademy.co.uk

Please don't hesitate to contact us for further details. We hope you can join us.

ChatAutism

The Specialist Autism Team is introducing a new way for young people aged 14+ and adults with an autism diagnosis and to their parents and carers to get confidential help and advice from ChatAutism.

ChatAutism is a messaging service that provides a safe and easy way to send a message to a healthcare professional and get confidential help and advice.

The aim of implementing ChatAutism into the Specialist Autism Team is to allow autistic young people and adults and their parent and carers easy access to advice and support from the team.

ChatAutism will launch on 1st November 2021. People can access the service by sending a text message to:

07312 277097

Promotional materials will be circulated as soon as they are available in the form of posters to advertise the service and cards to give clients.

For now, please feel free to share this with any people/services you feel relevant.

For more information, visit chathealth.nhs.uk



Diary Dates

- ★ Thursday 25th November - Parent Support Workshop
- ★ Friday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- ★ Thursday 16th December (pm) - Christmas event for families in school.
- ★ Friday 17th December - Last day of term
- ★ Tuesday 4th January - School opens

<https://openthinkingpartnership.co.uk/fusion-academy/>

office@thefusionacademy.co.uk

Contact Number: 01455 243689