

26th November 2021

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

The Fusion Academy has run a few charity events recently and I am pleased to share with you the money we have raised.



Recording for the school video went smoothly on Monday and I was delighted to see a number of students volunteer to do an interview. A very good example of students using the school characteristic 'Confidence'.

Our parent training session on RSHE went well last night. Katie did a great job of explaining the RSHE curriculum and shared some great resources with everyone. It was nice for parents to start meeting each other face-to-face too. Our next session, in the new year, will be on internet safety.



As we get nearer to Christmas, we have a few exciting events booked in:

- ★ Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th December
- ★ Christmas dinner in school on Wednesday 15th December
- ★ Christmas afternoon for parents on Thursday 16th December

See you soon,

Sarah

PHOENIX

This week saw Phoenix students undertake our biggest cooking challenge so far - quiche!! The students followed a complicated 10 stage recipe to create their own pastry, cook the filling ingredients and layer the quiche. I must say the results were absolutely delicious! I was proud of all the students using their determination and patience to overcome the challenges they faced.



Jacob has had a real breakthrough this week! He will be the first to admit he is not the biggest fan of art and DT. However, Jacob stunned us by spending a long period of time concentrating on building a scale model of a space shuttle. Great work, Jacob!

We've had some excellent engagement in our more formal lessons this week. Our interoception lesson saw us explore how our body sends signals to tell us about emotions. Students worked together to explain how their body feels when they have certain emotions. This work has been really crucial to understanding how we can regulate our emotions better and spot the warning signs that we are upset or angry.



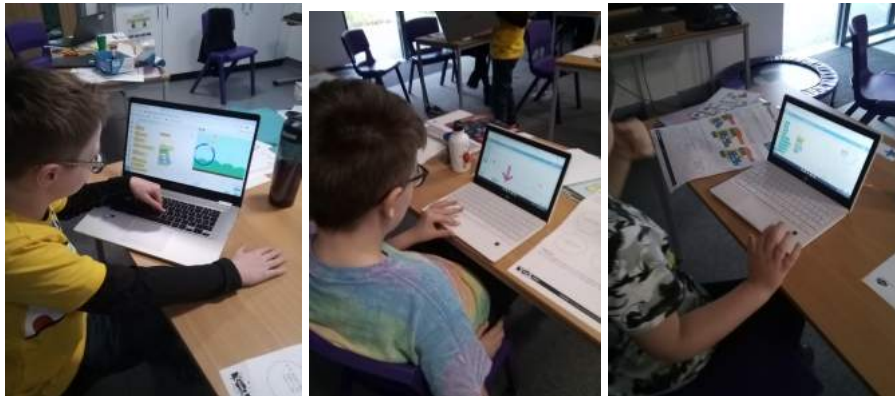
The cold weather hasn't stopped us exploring the forest area. We're trying to keep on top of all the fallen leaves and are planning to make a leaf mulcher next week. We've been using the bow saw to help keep trees healthy by removing stray branches and creating clay animals that can live in the forest.

DRAGONFLY

In Science this week, we have been finding out about 'pitch' - how high or low a sound is. We used a selection of musical instruments to investigate what factors affect the pitch. We found that the thinner the strings on the violin made a higher pitch and the shorter bars on the Glockenspiels also made a higher pitch.



In Computing, we have been using Scratch to create algorithms and have really enjoyed making our own fun programmes.



In English, we have been developing Information Texts. We now know a lot more about trains, narrow gauge railways, Psychonauts 2 and Peter Rabbit thanks to Joe, Freddie and James!

And in our Wellbeing lesson this week, we talked about 'Mindfulness' and how it can help to relieve stress and anxiety. We shared our favourite pastimes and discussed how they help us to calm our thoughts. Some of us read books, draw pictures, play with fiddle toys and blocks. The staff also shared their de-stressing activities including: doing jigsaws, jogging and exercising and Mindful Colouring. We made origami book corners to round off the lesson:



POLAR



On Monday, we revisited the story Hurricane by David Weisner in English. We acted out a sequel into groups of 3. We all knew in the story that another hurricane was coming and the boys were hoping for the elm tree in their garden to fall down. So, we had 10 minutes to plan and agree on what will happen next, before acting out the sequel. It was fantastic to see 3 compelling stories and come up with some great opening lines!



For our wellbeing session, we learned what resilience is and the importance of it. We had so much fun designing our resilience rock cactus garden to demonstrate the class' resilience. Daniel took charge in designing the logo and we were all super proud of the end goal.



On Wednesday morning, we surprised Xander with a sparkly candle, a signed birthday card and a cupcake. We had such fun playing charades - what am I - guessing game and musical statues, the last half hour before hometime. It was great to see that we all joined in, played fairly and followed the rules.

As part of our Geography session, we learned how different types of mountains are formed and watched a video on what happens when magma escapes through gaps in the earth's surfaces. Then, we really



enjoyed making a volcanic mountain using paper mache. This volcano project definitely uses some of our primary senses. We are excited to see the bubbling explosion and hear the fizzing, as the vinegar mixes with the baking soda, once the paper mache has dried.

We were all discussing how much we enjoyed and missed making our own pizza. So, initiated individual roles, as part of a group plan. We were able to read a recipe and use it to prepare a simple dish.

However, we discussed and agreed that the shared goal within a small group task includes to help wash and dry up the dishes.

I must say, it went smoothly.



EUROPA



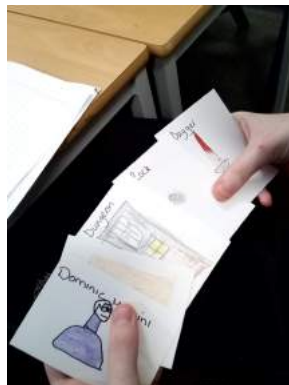
What an amazing week we have had in Europa! We kicked off our new project all about The Battle of Bosworth and Richard III. The students started the week by going on an archaeological dig in the forest to find historical artefacts. They then needed to use their powers of inference to work out what linked the artefacts to work out what our new project is.

As part of our new project, the students worked on ordering a timeline of the events leading up to The Battle of Bosworth. We combined this with our Home Care skills and pegged the timeline up on a washing line!



In Maths, we have been continuing to consolidate our skills in fractions with finding equivalent fractions and adding fractions with different denominators. We have really challenged ourselves and Robbie has loved showing off to Kate everyday with completing every challenge he has been set!

Finally this week, we have been finding out about the mystery of The Princes in The Tower and after doing some research, we created our own version of Cluedo based on the real life WhoDunnit? The students have created all of the characters, the board and the weapons before playing a game together. They really enjoyed making accusations against real historical figures and the game helped them to understand that there are lots of theories about what happened to the princes.



ODYSSEY



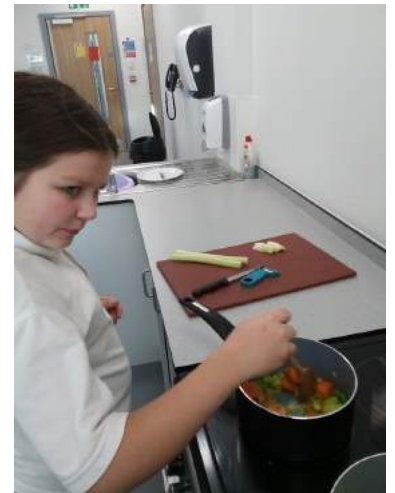
We've had two trips to the cooking room this week. The first was to make some delicious vegetable soup. We practised peeling and chopping vegetables and we added different herbs. We also did cooking on Wednesday to learn about the structure of the earth. Jan showed us how to make a rice crispy model of the world to show the core, the mantle and the crust.

Everyone got to eat their science creation at the end of the lesson too!



We tried to solve the chocolate problem in our maths lesson. We had to decide if we wanted to share one chocolate bar or two chocolate bars. The problem was that other people might choose to share the same bar so the fraction kept changing. Damon was determined to get the most chocolate possible so was very good at explaining which fractions were bigger.

Everyone wrote a recount this week of the visit of Marley. Students were able to use speech punctuation and synonyms to make their writing more lively.



We are working on 'perseverance' as our school value and lots of students have shown perseverance this week. Theo and Callum kept going when they thought they were never going to get their art finished and Ethan kept going even when his fractions work got tricky.

First Scrooge heard the rattling chains and rattling bricks which were full of his greed. Scrooge asked Marley why he was there.

“HAPPY ME NO MORE!” demanded Scrooge.

The ghost of Christmas Past came to him.

“Why are you here?” asked Scrooge.

The ghost of Christmas Present sick so he is replaced by the ghost of Christmas Future. He was a blood sucking demon. Scrooge punched Future ghost and ran away.

Good use of synonyms in writing

VOYAGER

We've had another really busy week this week and have worked really well on our Character Education traits 'collaboration', 'respect' and 'perseverance'. We have worked with Apollo in a few lessons this week and it was really great to see all students discussing and sharing ideas with each other in Design Technology (pictured is Henry and Jacob testing strength of various materials), R.E (looking at the two nativity stories from Matthew and Luke Bible passages) and Laundry/ Home Care where we attempted to fit a sheet to a bed then put pillows and duvets into cases...They were all very resilient with this and definitely showed perseverance when it got tricky! Ade was "two thumbs up proud" of himself! The 3rd picture below is a student getting tangled with the duvet cover! We recovered though, thankfully!



In English, we have continued with A Christmas Carol. We began by working with Apollo and doing a quiz based on the storyline and key characters to help everybody deepen their understanding of the story (picture →). In Voyager, we have split into groups: Ade and Lewis are working on recognising emotions and traits of each of the characters in depth (Rhys will join this group) whilst Luke, Jay, Jacob and Henry are working on reading parts of the story and analysing it using PEEL (Henry has done well to remember this acronym!). This week we've looked at Fezziwig, Scrooge's old boss, and we used adjectives to describe him; Henry's work was so good that we copied it to go onto the proud work board by the office (he drew Fezziwig... which wasn't Godzilla! If you know Henry, this is unexpected!)



In Maths, we are working on coordinates and graphs; after a quick baseline assessment, we've realised we're all at different stages, so, like with English, we are working in small groups on the part of the topic we need to progress on and so far it's going great!

APOLLO

We saw lots of improvement in P.E this week doing circuits with students checking their ability in each activity and trying to beat it this week. The students also did a bit of badminton and dodgeball afterwards too.



In Home Care, we practised making beds, putting on pillow cases, sheets and bedding. Students were quite good at it already, but demonstrated it really well in class.



For DT, we tested the strength of materials. Josh and Ade enjoyed working together to test their materials to breaking point.



We had a couple of tightly-fought chess games (one lucky win and one close game). We're pushing for students to take part in the chess club that happens on a Tuesday in Odyssey class.



OTHER NEWS



Diary Dates

- ★ Friday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- ★ Wednesday 15th December - Christmas Dinner
- ★ Thursday 16th December (pm) - Christmas event for families in school. Details TBC
- ★ 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