

7 January 2022

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Happy New Year!

It's great to have everyone back at school after the break. We are feeling well rested and ready for lots of learning.

We got a new minibus this week. The bus will allow us to organise learning experiences in the local area. The first outing will be taking Polar class to Hinckley for their first swimming session next Monday. Doesn't it look smart with our school logo on!



We are currently recruiting for an Assistant Head at The Fusion Academy to support our growth over the next few years. We have shortlisted some excellent candidates and will be interviewing them in school next week.

Have a great weekend and see you soon,

Sarah



PHOENIX

What a lovely, calm start to 2022! We've been discussing New Year's Resolutions and what we would like to achieve this year both in school and at home. It's been exciting plotting out projects, possible trips and exciting learning opportunities that the students want to take part in.



One of those projects is Operation Bird Watch. One of Harriet's goals for the year is to encourage more wildlife to our forest area. We've started tracking the types of birds we have visiting the area and researched their favourite food. We have a lovely family of friendly Robins and we are keen to help them through these Winter months, so they hopefully nest in the area.

Our cooking project this term is to create another cafe, but this time for pupils as well as staff. We're experimenting with different recipes to find a cost effective menu we can offer to everyone. We made our own bread earlier in the week. We found this is a much cheaper alternative to buying bread from a shop. We then made BLT sandwiches. The idea behind this was to use less of the expensive ingredients (bacon) and fill the sandwich with cheaper ingredients to save money! It also made the sandwich a bit healthier. A win all round!



DRAGONFLY

Happy New Year everyone! It's been wonderful to see all the children back in class this week. At the start of the week, we joined up with Polar class for PE and had a really fun session together.



In Cooking, we found out about seasonality of food and how a lot of foods can be found growing in the UK at different times of the year. At these times they are often much tastier! We focussed on Tomatoes this week and made delicious Cheese and Tomato Pizzas. We're very sorry - as usual we ate the evidence!

We have also been finding out about World War 2 in our History lessons. Did you know that, in 1939 there was: NO TELEVISION! NO COMPUTERS! NO YOU TUBE!!! The only way people could find out what was happening in the world was by listening to the radio! This meant that it took a very long time for news to filter through about what was happening overseas in Europe.

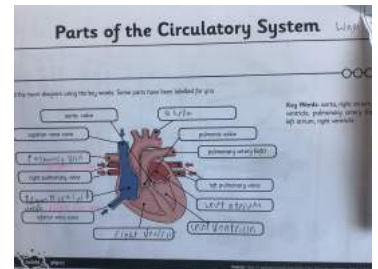
In Music, we found out about Dame Vera Lynn and why the songs that she sang were so important during World War 2. They cheered people up no end and have continued to warm people's hearts ever since. We watched a video of her singing 'We'll Meet Again' to RAF personnel during the war - they looked as though they were loving singing along with her! Her songs must have really helped to raise their morale!

POLAR

We have all said that we enjoyed the Christmas holiday, but happy to be back in school. We started the day off with an exciting PE lesson and joined with Dragonfly. It was brilliant to see such great teamwork and resilience throughout the session.

For our cooking lesson, we learned when tomatoes are in season in the UK and where and how they are grown. It was brilliant that everyone got involved and remembered the group plan. It allowed us to prepare and make a healthy, as well as tasty meal using tomatoes as the main ingredient. The Tomato Bruschetta looked and tasted delicious and most of us finished it before being able to take it home.

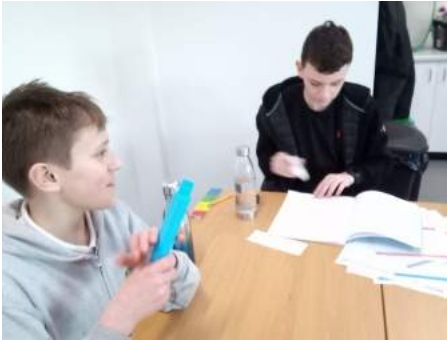
In our Science topic this term, we are focusing on 'Animals, including Humans'. For our first lesson, we learned how to identify and name the parts of the circulatory system and completed a partially labelled diagram of the heart.



Part of the System	Skeleton	Muscles	Digest
Name at least 3 different parts of the system	bones, skulls, ribs, spine	shoulders, forearms, fore muscles	stomach, intestines, liver
Does this system contain organs? If so, which ones?	No	No	stomach, liver, intestines
What is the purpose of the system?	To make people stronger	Make strength	digest food
Why is this system important?	so people can move	Make	eat



EUROPA



We have started our new year by thinking about what we want to learn or get better at over the next year. We talked about how we need to show determination and resilience in reaching our goals. We went straight into working together like we had never been apart!

Our new topic this half term is Journalism, with a focus on reviews this week. To link with this, we have been listening to music, grouping instruments and creating our own instruments to improvise and compose our own tunes. Lennon and Jayden worked with Chloe to figure out how to categorise different instruments, before the class had a go at making their own instruments.



Camron made a trumpet to perform the Jurassic Park theme, Lennon created a water xylophone, Caleb decided on a banjo, while Jayden made some spoon maracas. Steph had a good go at making a recorder, and Caden is planning to make pan flutes while Robbie is working towards making some tin drums!

When the students have performed their music later today, they are going to write their first article for their newspapers: a review of their own performance!



Steph has shown immense determination this week by learning how to solve a Rubik's Cube! She is now working towards a target of being able to solve it in less than 2 minutes!

As a final note, we no longer have PE on Mondays. Instead, we have double PE on Wednesdays.

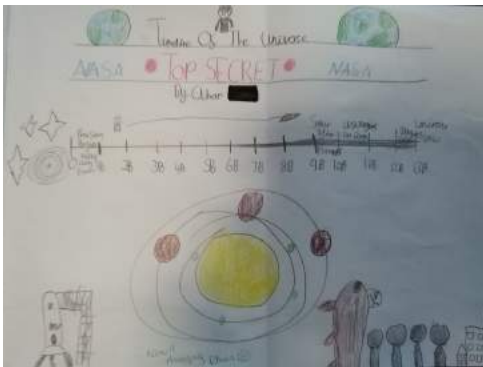
ODYSSEY

Happy new year everyone! We hope you've had a great Christmas. Thank you very much for the lovely gifts you sent in for staff and students. All those treats were much appreciated!

Raise money for a charity	Try a new sport	Visit somewhere exciting	Watch a show	Help to lead a school assembly
Watch a film at the cinema	Go to a lunchtime club	Try a new food	Make a new friend	Buy something from a shop
Visit a city	Bake a cake	Attempt a world record	Take part in a water fight	Do something helpful for the community
Order a drink at a cafe	Teach a lesson	Help to put on a show	Do some work experience	Learn a new language
Learn a new game	Learn to swim	Make a cup of tea	Do something that's good for the environment	Go to a sports event
Build a den	Make a campfire in the forest area	Read a book	Go on a residential trip	?
Come to school in fancy dress	Make some popcorn	Build a model	Enter a competition	?
Wear your pyjamas to school	Hold an animal	Visit a theme park	Go on a boat	?
Visit a museum	Draw a really good picture	Go to a party or disco	Visit another school	?
Cook a 3 course meal	Visit somewhere that has animals	Travel on a train	Play an instrument	?

We started this week with some reflections on last year and what we would like to achieve this year. We are looking at our Fusion "50 things" this term to see how many we can tick off the list. Most popular choices so far are baking cakes and going to a theme park and Damon would love to add another water fight to our class list. We played one of our favourite games in PE called Rock, Paper, Scissors. Students are becoming more agile at making their way around the obstacles and scored lots of points when they made it to the other side of the course.

We made some mini-catapults on Tuesday and tried them out to see which one would fire the furthest. Theo's and Damon's were the most successful and fired the "ammunition" nearly 2 metres.



We began our science topic on Wednesday which is learning about the universe. Jan took the class on a tour around the planets in our galaxy and we learned how to make a simple timeline of the birth of the Universe.

Our other new topics for this half term include Music - learning about and making our own instruments; finding our way around the classroom in

French; keeping ourselves safe online in Computing; RE- how people make choices about what is right and wrong; and

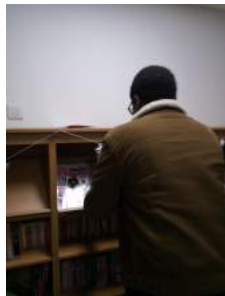
Britain since 1745 in History. On Friday, Bradley chose to be king for the day as his reward. He really enjoyed bossing everyone about! Just to remind you, PE lessons will now be on Tuesday and Thursday so students will need their PE kits on these days. Thank you. 😊



VOYAGER

We have had a great start to 2022! Our topic this half term for English is Journalism and we've been looking at various magazines and newspapers focusing on themes and layouts so far (*if you have any specific themes of magazines: sports, cooking, knitting, etc. that you are interested in recycling, please think of us!*). We have made good use of the dictionaries to define words that we were unsure of as well.

We made use of our library space to create a magazine display, considering themes and placing magazines of similar interest together - it was tricky to get over the fact that magazines can be put together even though they do not have the same title.



We have started our new topic of Data in maths, and begun by representing and interpreting data; everybody did some fantastic drawings to represent their data. We have focused on Tally Charts, Pictograms and Block Diagrams to start. Next week, we will be in groups looking at more tricky ways to represent data.



In PE, we all enjoyed a game of "crazy golf". There was a lot of social thinking, respect and maths involved, because Jamie thought of ways to make it a collaborative game, as well as being competitive by aiming for objects that gave you points.

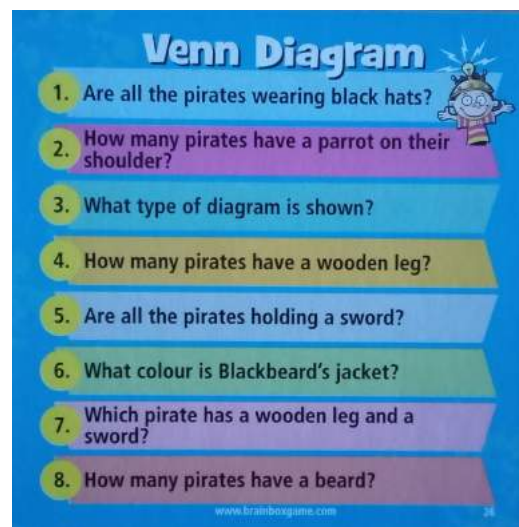


APOLLO

We've had a few absences this week in Apollo, but we thought we'd share a couple of games that have been big successes recently. One student introduced us to a Viking game that is similar to chess, called Hnefatafl (pronounced Neff-Ell-Taf-Ell). It was played by Vikings, supposedly to aid logical thinking and forward planning when attacking and defending.



The next game is one of the brain box sets. They have a card that you look at for just 10 seconds, then answer a random question on it (see the Venn diagram card below).



We looked at sleep in our wellbeing lesson too, as many of our students struggle falling to sleep or have disrupted sleep. We went through the stages of sleep and the benefits it has on the mind and body. We discussed the negative effects of lack of sleep too. The students were very knowledgeable about it, and the lesson promoted open discussion and all sorts of branched conversations about lucid dreams etc.

OTHER NEWS



This week in online safety lessons we have been focusing on age restrictions for social media platforms. We looked at different movies and their age restrictions and why they had those restrictions, the differences between a U rating movie and a PG, for example. We discussed how some content may not be suitable for some ages, but some students are more able to understand that cartoon “violence” in a movie like Toy Story isn’t real at different ages.

We then moved the discussions on to social media...
How well do you know the age restrictions?
(answers at the bottom of the page, no cheating!)

The following are either age rated: 13+ 16+ 18+



We discussed the different age ratings for the most common social media sites (above). All of these social media platforms feature content that, if in a movie, would be rated at least 15+, some of the content 18+.

It is hard to identify who is responsible for the content on social media and how tricky it can be for the content to be monitored by the company itself when users can “go live” or upload content immediately. There would be no point if YouTube had to check every video as they would need almost as many checkers as there are YouTubers! (in 2020, there were 37 million YouTube channels, 22,000 channels with more than 1 million subscribers).

What is important is that the users (and parents of young users) need to know the risks, the benefits, how to use social media properly and healthily, and what is appropriate for them. Users also need to know what to do if they see content they do not like and who they can speak to or report the content to, to protect themselves and others.

That’s why we are aiming to educate students on what to do when they see something they feel uncomfortable with, how to identify fake news and make good decisions online.

Answers: Twitter: 13+, Instagram: 13+, Whatsapp 16+ (due to European data laws), YouTube 18+ (13+ with parental permission), Snapchat 13+ , Facebook 13+, TikTok 18+ (13+ with parental permission)



Diary Dates

- ★ Monday 10th January - Swimming starts for Polar class
- ★ Thursday 10th February - 3:45 - 5:00 Parent Training on e-safety
- ★ 14 February - 18 February - Half Term
- ★ Wednesday 23 February - 3:45 - 5:00 Parent Training on Emotion Coaching
- ★ 28 March - 01 April - Autism Acceptance Week
- ★ Friday 8th April - School closes for Easter
- ★ Monday 25 April - School Opens

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