

14th January 2022

## HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

We interviewed for our new Assistant Head on Wednesday. We had some very strong candidates and it was lovely getting to know them all. I am very pleased to let you know that we have offered the job to someone and they will be starting after Easter. I cannot share any further details with you just yet but I will tell you all about them very soon!

We have a few Covid cases in school currently but please be assured that we are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe. If a student or staff member in your child's class tests positive then we will let you know that there has been a case so that your child can do daily lateral flow tests.

Please continue to monitor your child carefully and do not send them to school if they have any Covid symptoms.

The number of Covid cases is having an impact on our staffing levels and we thank you for your understanding when changes have to be made to accommodate this e.g. having a different menu for school dinners this week and having to cancel swimming.

There will be no swimming again for Polar next Monday (17th) but we are hopeful to start on Monday 24th.

We will continue to keep in touch with you as we see how things progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Have a good weekend,

Sarah



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## PHOENIX

This week we have continued to strive to improve our cooking skills by introducing more challenging recipes. This week we created a chilli from scratch and experimented with different spices and flavours. The results were absolutely delicious!



Harriet spent a lot of time this week concentrating on an art project - bringing one of her mythical animals to life! She used a variety of art techniques to create this excellent model which is now on display in our classroom.

Operation birdwatch has continued this week! We are trying to encourage wildlife to our forest area. We've been looking at eco systems and decided to build some miniature bug hotels so our birds have some insects to eat. We have at least two families of Robins who are becoming a lot more comfortable with us being around them. They are getting very brave and getting closer to us - a good sign that we are helping our forest area thrive!



## DRAGONFLY

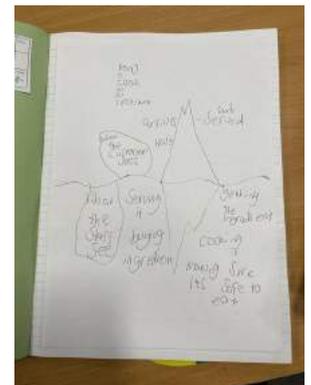
We have had another fun and exciting week in Dragonfly. We continued to look at seasonality of food and this week we focussed on Strawberries which are at their best in the UK between June and August. We made some delicious Strawberry Cheesecakes:



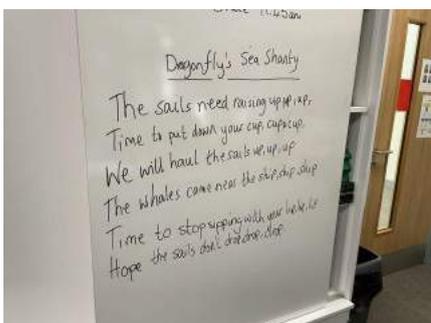
We have been making good use of the new swivel chair that was kindly donated by a parent. Our children love it, thank you very much! Here is Maverick testing it out.



In Wellbeing we talked about icebergs and how we can only see the very tip of the iceberg when looking at situations both emotional and in life. Lukas demonstrated it very well in his picture of a day in the life of a restaurant cook.



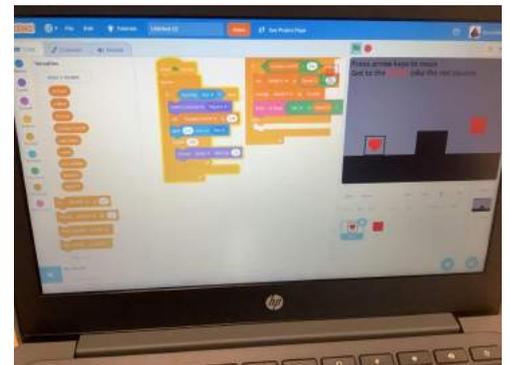
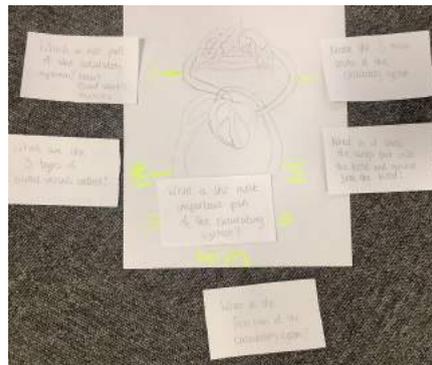
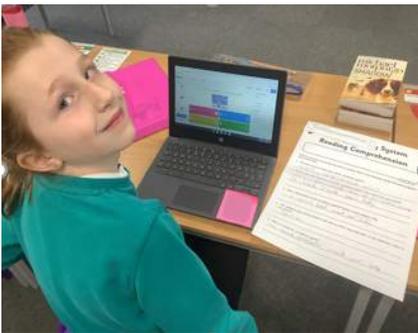
In English we have been learning about the Legend of King Arthur and in Music we looked at Sea Shanties. These were sung by sailors who had to work extremely hard when out at sea. They had to hoist the enormous, heavy sails themselves as there was no machinery to do it for them. To help them to do this the Shantyman would make up a song that they would all sing to keep them in rhythm. They also made up songs for other activities and sang about waiting for the Wellerman to 'bring us sugar and tea and rum!' Here is the Sea Shanty that we made up ourselves. Each of the students contributed a line:



In Maths we have been working out Factor Pairs and in History we have been learning more about life in the UK during World War 2. We re-enacted scenarios of Blackout periods and how people had to rush to the air-raid shelters being ushered by the Air-raid Wardens. It must have been very scary!

## POLAR

To start the week off we have learned the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood by investigating how the different parts of the circulatory system work in Science. We discussed and answered questions about the general functions of the different parts of the circulatory system. Then using the knowledge we acquired, Daniel and Xander created a circulatory system game and chose to make a Scratch circulatory system game. Emilia and Ruby created a Kahoot game quiz and Tommy designed a board game, using the functions of the circulatory system information sheets, as reference. It was great to see the end result.



In Music, we looked at why singing has taken place in communities throughout the world and throughout History - how well-known songs that originated in WW2 are still sung today as a way of remembering the events of that time and the people who died during that period. We focused on Dame Vera Lynn, who was a very well known singer who died last year at the age of 103! Her songs cheered people up during very difficult and

worrying times when people didn't know if they would see their loved ones again. We listened and discussed her lyrics and Tommy, Emilia and Ruby had a go at singing along with a Dame Vera song on YouTube.

As part of our cooking session, we have learned when strawberries are in season in the UK and where and how they are grown. We then used the kitchen tools safely to make a dessert with strawberries and left the dessert in the fridge to set. Xander and Daniel helped with the washing up.

We finally got our Class behaviour bingo and it narrowed down to either a glow stick party or McDonald's treats. The majority had voted for McDonald's treats. We ended the week with 'Backwards Day' reward, where we did lots of things backwards!

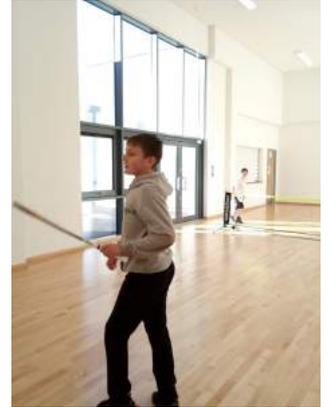
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## EUROPA



What a week! We have continued exploring our understanding of decimals - Camron and Jayden worked well together to round decimals to the nearest whole number by placing the decimals on a number ladder and visually seeing which whole number was closest. They showed some excellent teamwork and were very supportive of each other.

We have been working on building friendships with each other and other students. Jayden has had fun playing with Edmund from Dragonfly and he has enjoyed being with Phoenix class for cooking or his reward time.



In our Journalism topic, the students have worked together to identify the features of a news report, fitting the pieces together and checking that the text makes sense, before matching grammatical features.



For backwards day, the students took responsibility for planning and resourcing different lessons to teach. Steph has walked everybody through solving a Rubik's Cube, with Daniel from Polar joining us. Caleb has planned a session on creating a game on Scratch. Caden's lesson follows the theme of Shrek, with a brilliantly difficult quiz to check our understanding, while Jayden has planned a sensory session with making slime!

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## ODYSSEY

Students in Odyssey have been working hard this week. We will be trying out different "Fake-aways" in cooking this half term, and we started this week with chicken nuggets. The



students did a great job and worked really well as a team to clear away and wash-up afterwards. They thought their chicken nuggets were delicious but they're not quite ready to give up McDonald's just yet!

We have started looking at inference skills in social thinking and students practised using their "smart guesses" to work out what might be going on in social situations.

Our English topic this half term is news reports and journalistic writing.

We have looked at features of news reports and on Thursday, the students went on a scavenger hunt around school to find the features.

They also showed what they had remembered about play scripts from last half term.

Jan continued on the Universe topic in science and the class made models of the globe. They used torches to show how the rotation of the earth on its axis affects light and dark. We had an extra lesson of science, where students learned about the orbit of planets too.

We have tried 2 new activities in PE this week, both of which the students really enjoyed. We played handball on Tuesday and learned a mini-golf game on Thursday. Some of Odyssey class really surprised themselves with how good they are at golf!



Friday was "Backwards Day!" We had backwards names, walked backwards, had a backwards timetable and students became the teachers.



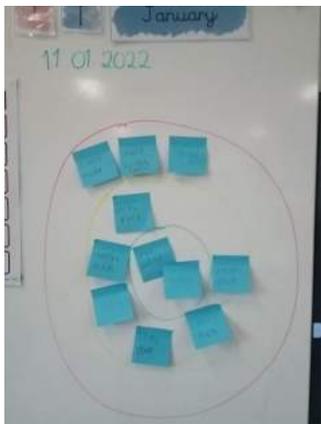
# VOYAGER

We've had a bit of an odd and quiet week this week for various reasons... but we've still managed to do lots of lovely things!

Students have continued to work on Journalism in English and started to make "mood boards" on Thursday around a theme of their choice by cutting out articles and finding online articles to suit. They have used their skills learnt over the past couple of weeks based around reading to notice keywords, language features and layout to help with their mood boards.



In Social Thinking, we have continued working on Group Plan - you can see Jay, Henry and Jacob working together to build a T-Rex Lego (Jay instructing, Jacob finding the pieces and Henry building). It was so lovely to see and hear them all conversing calmly and respectfully.



In RE, Laura has focused on authority - the students wrote on post-it notes all of the people in their lives who have authority and then placed them in targets to compare the level of authority that they have... parents, teachers, headteacher and police were among the crowd!

For Wellbeing and movement breaks, we've been encouraging students to use their Chromebooks less, so they've been playing board games, colouring or doing puzzles. Jay has been introduced to Tangrams and uses a lot of patience and "brain power" (his words) to make the shapes given to him!



## APOLLO



In English this week we have been categorising and investigating the words on magazine covers to be able to look at the language used for specific topics. We have also looked at the structure of articles and how they differ depending on the theme and target audience.

Alfie has been continuing his shirt that he is creating using the sewing machine and impressed everyone with his accuracy using the sewing machine.



Sol did some excellent cooking this week, making both chocolate muffins and chili con carne. Alfie made his favourite pasta meal from home and did very well using his knife skills and cooking skills.

PE was a great success with students practising their throwing, catching and movement skills in mini-games as a warmup for a very closely contested handball match at the end.



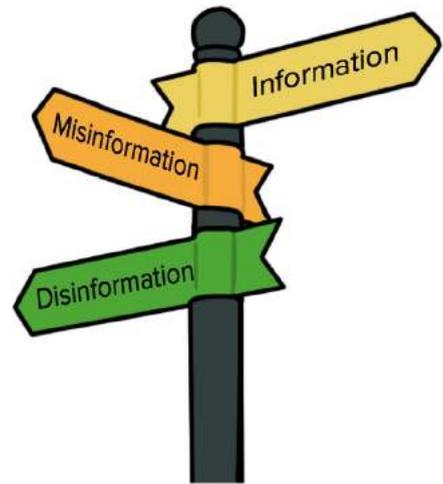
Finally, if anyone does have a modern sewing machine that they would be happy to donate to school, or know of any links to enable us to get one, it would help us to further push our textiles work and be very much appreciated.

## OTHER NEWS



### Misinformation and Disinformation

There has been a flourish of misinformation and disinformation over the past few years as social media usage has gone up due to COVID lockdowns and people working from home. It is important to be able to spot incorrect information and do the right thing with it.



#### Misinformation:

*“false information that is spread, regardless of intent to mislead.”*

We looked at examples such as spreading information that people might find interesting, or potentially that they believe to be true. We discussed reasons that people share information:

- Unknowingly (they believe it and think they're doing good)
  - Because they find it funny, but then others believe it

#### Disinformation:

*“deliberately misleading or biased information; manipulated narrative or facts; propaganda.”*

Disinformation is subtly different, and it comes down to intentions, which our students can sometimes struggle to understand. Again, we discussed the reasons people might knowingly share information:

- People looking for evidence for something that they believe in
- People sharing information to make people believe what they believe
- People wanting to cause a bit of excitement / trouble (trolling)

#### Some useful sites and further reading / video links:

UK's independent fact checking site: <https://fullfact.org/>

Worldwide fact checking site: <https://www.snopes.com/>

BBC Henry Dyne story: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-trending-59896688>

BBC Misinformation in 2021: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-59736375>

If there are any specific topics that you would like advice about, please email [office@thefusionacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@thefusionacademy.co.uk) using the subject “eSafety”.



## Diary Dates

- ★ 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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