

21 January 2022

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

I hope everyone is well. We still have a few Covid cases in school at the moment and are monitoring this closely. Although the government is advising that masks no longer need to be worn in schools, at present we are asking that we continue to wear them at The Fusion Academy until the number of cases here starts to drop.

Staff are working hard to support each other on days when staff numbers are lower and students are managing very well when there are staffing changes in their classes. I am very grateful for everyone's effort to keep school running smoothly.

We have had a new Learning Support Assistant called Jo join our team this week. Jo is based in Europa class and we are really happy to welcome her to our school.

I'll finish with some exciting news – we are already starting to think about next year and are currently advertising for three new Teachers. Let people know if you think they may be interested! We will start to introduce KS4 qualifications (e.g. GCSEs) for our older students next year so we are looking for some skilled Teachers to help us with this.

Can you believe that we're planning for year 3 already? Time is flying!

Have a great weekend,

Sarah

**PSSST! WE ARE
RECRUITING!
(SPREAD THE WORD)**

PHOENIX

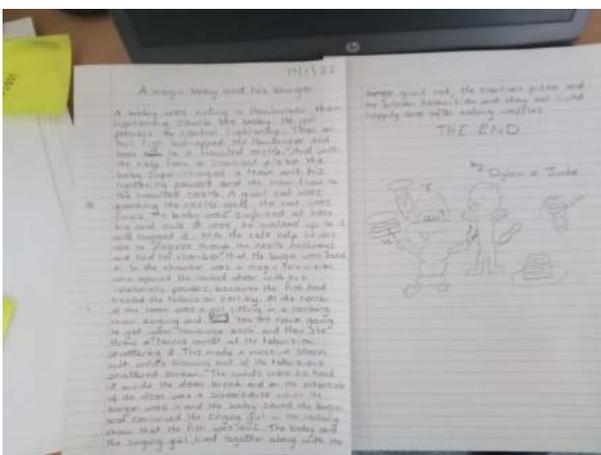


Before we look at this week, let's skip back in time to backwards day on Friday! Students designed their own timetables and taught the lessons! A huge well done to Dylan who taught an engaging computer programming lesson to the rest of the class. A phenomenal effort! Well Done!



In PE, students used some of our new equipment and enjoyed an archery lesson. They picked up these skills very quickly and were soon shooting arrows as straight as Robin Hood! We had thought that archery wasn't very physical, but we soon found out it's a real workout for the upper body and arms!

A lot of the time, students say we don't really do 'real work' in Phoenix Class. Well, I'm afraid they are wrong! We've had a big push on literacy this week and students have enjoyed accessing the library and writing their own stories. Superb work!



DRAGONFLY

We have had a lot of fun learning this week! On Friday, the teachers enjoyed being taught by the students. Freddie and Joe taught us about designing Memes; Axel gave us a tutorial on how to draw a Mario Question Box; James taught us French; Maverick taught us about Tradigrades (also known as water bears) and Lukas led a discussion about our favourite animals. We had a lot of fun doing everything back to front that day!

We found out more about what it was like for people in Britain during World War 2. They had to completely black out their windows every night so that the German planes could not see anything on the ground. When the air raid siren sounded, they had to make their way to the air raid shelters. Sometimes, they had to stay in the shelters for several hours until they heard the All-clear siren. We practiced going to the shelter ourselves and listened to a real recording of the siren going off! Then, we talked about what people kept in their shelters to make them more comfortable - they didn't have televisions or computers and they had to have a potty available in case they were caught short! Here are Axel and Maverick in their shelter:



In Science, we researched healthy diet and exercise and created Healthy Lifestyle posters.

In Cooking, we found out about carrots and when they are in season in the UK. We learned that they contain a lot of Vitamin C which helps us to see in the dark. In the wartime, people were encouraged to grow and eat carrots to help them to see during blackouts and air raids!



POLAR

In Cooking this week, we made pasta! Everyone helped to make fresh pesto and tomato sauce from scratch. We looked into different types of herbs and how basil is grown in the UK. Liam chopped the basil, Emilia prepared the garlic, Xander cut the lemon, Tommy made the tomato sauce, Daniel cooked the pasta and Ruby toasted the ingredients. They tasted amazing!



In PE this week, we practiced our throwing, catching and target skills and finished with a friendly game of handball with Axel from Dragonfly class.

In PSHE, we looked at how there are no ideal types of bodies and that everyone is amazing just

the way they are! We each created a fact sheet about how amazing we are and our favourite features. Ruby said she is proud that she is Autistic and that she has an amazing family and school!

Amazing Me! Ruby	
Something that makes me unique is... I have two different coloured eyes!	My favourite physical feature is... My Red hair
I like to wear... Rainy clothes	I try to stay healthy by... Running
I hope others think of me as... funny and kind	
Three things I enjoy doing are... 1. playing on my own 2. reading 3. playing with my mum	If I had to describe myself in three words, these words would be... 1. funny 2. Unique 3. lovable
I feel proud that... I am autistic and I have an amazing family and school.	



In social thinking, we continued to practice flexible thinking through the 'drawing game'. As a class, we created some truly amazing art works by swapping them over every few minutes. Tommy's plant in a pot was turned into a crying volcano having a haircut by Liam and Maz!

In History, we built our own WW2 Anderson shelter and role played an air raid simulation! It was great fun, but also a serious reminder of how children would have had to stay cramped in these small shelters for days to keep themselves safe. We discussed how scary and uncomfortable that would be!



In Maths, we have been continuing to practice our skills at reading analogue time, digital time and inferring from timetables. All of the children are showing great improvement with this!

In English, we have been focusing on rhetorical questions and how they benefit persuasive writing. Wouldn't you agree we've had a great week?

EUROPA

We had a great time on Monday when we joined Phoenix class in the forest. Nicki taught us how to safely make and maintain a fire using flint and steel. Caleb and Caden were both very determined and managed to make excellent fires. We also learned about the importance of putting fires out and not leaving them unattended. Poor Caleb had to have three buckets of water over his fire to make sure it was completely out!



We have been working on our listening skills too. We played a game called **Hearing Things**, where the students took it in turns to wear headphones that block out any noise and had to guess the phrases that were being said to them. It helped them to understand the importance of facial expressions and body language in conversations, along with the spoken words.

For our topic, **The Universe**, we have been learning the names of the planets and their order in our solar system. Caden came up with a great idea of creating a model using different sized and coloured balls to represent the planets in our solar system.



ODYSSEY



We have been working on flexible thinking this week and trying to apply this in all of our lessons and throughout the day. Odyssey class enjoy playing together on the soft play during their movement breaks and have shown lots of flexible thinking in how they manage the rules of their games and accommodate each other's needs. We visited the forest on Friday and Damon led the students around a blindfold trail. He gave them really good instructions and was very encouraging when the others needed support.

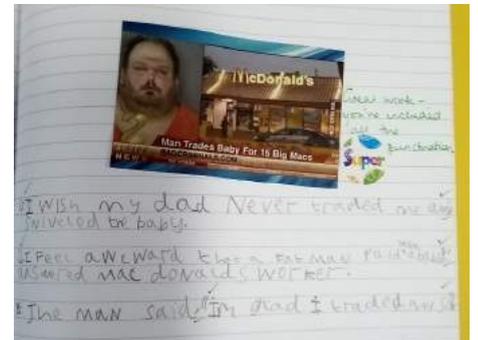


We have been working on developing language in English for our newspaper reports and writing quotes for the main body of the article. We looked at some funny news stories and wrote our quotes using correct punctuation and structure.



We have looked at grouped data in maths and learned about seasons in science. We used torches to shine a light on the globe to show how the earth orbits around the sun.

In PE, we have played handball and tag games. Everyone is learning how to work together as a team and practising managing emotions when winning and losing.



We continue to focus on reading and everyone is reading in class independently and with an adult. We are working on students choosing their own books so that they can find something that they enjoy. It would be great if students could try some reading at home too.



Although they are encouraged to bring their books home on a Friday, it is their choice about what they would like to read at home.

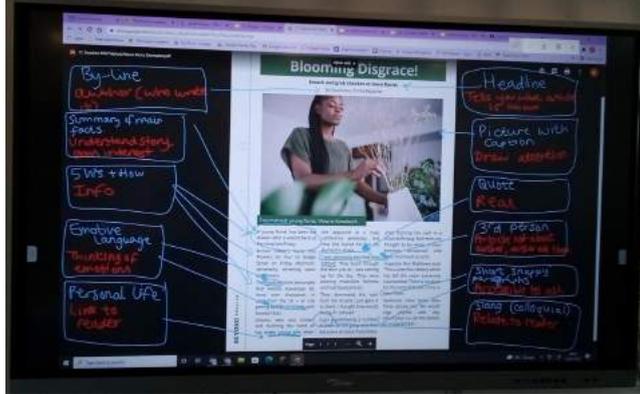


VOYAGER

Another great week in Voyager 😊 we started off the week with a lesson all about self-esteem, linking it with our Character Education trait and the explanation "Feeling good about yourself and others" and tried to give ourselves and others praise where appropriate throughout the week, but also to accept the praise from others without just shrugging it off (which is what was happening before). Jacob made a great mind map of lots of positive things

about himself that others had said to him, and we also shared lots of praise throughout the week... long may this continue!

In Maths, we've continued working on representing data; Luke, Lewis, Jay and Henry have worked on manipulating data to draw Pie Charts and Jacob has focused on reading tables, including time with lots of information.

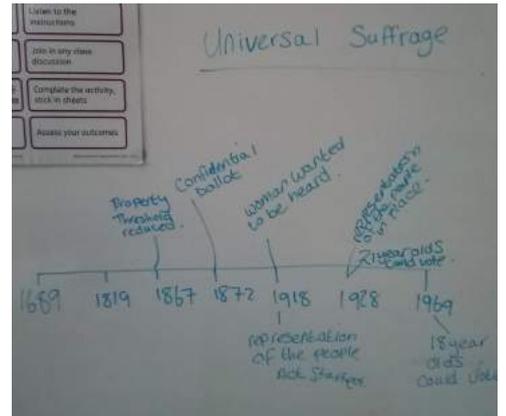
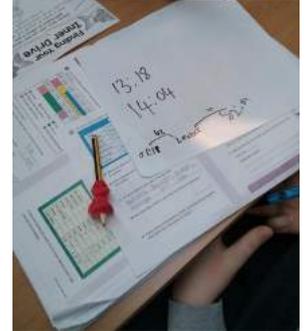
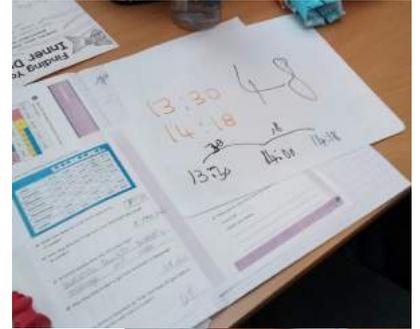
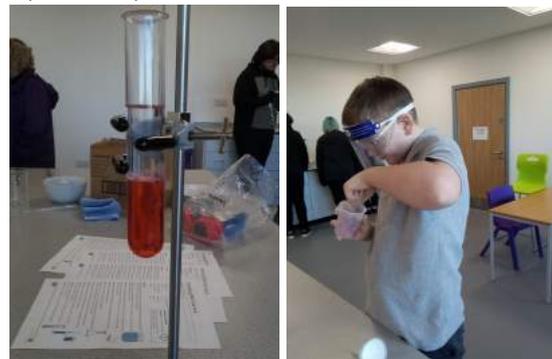


In English, we've focussed on Figurative Language, then we looked at a newspaper front cover example on Thursday and all of the main features we'd expect to see and thought about why they are there... This will help when we move onto the written part of Journalism next week.

Laura looked at Universal Suffrage in History with the boys, and they drew out a timeline of events on the big

whiteboard:

In Science, we partnered up with Apollo to extract DNA from strawberries which was exciting! And in PE, there was an exciting game of Handball after practicing the skills needed to play... see photos in Apollo's part of the newsletter.



APOLLO

In PE, we played handball and it was another roaring success - lots of involvement and a lot of fun too.



We looked at healthier alternatives to a favourite food (fried chicken) this week and made breaded chicken burgers, every one of the burgers turned out great.

Some students tried out some arty photos too.



To end the variation and Science DNA topic we experimented by extracting DNA from strawberries. The students used lots of science skills including setting up equipment, handling chemicals carefully, measuring and filtering.



Online Grooming

The older students have been learning about grooming in their eSafety lesson this week (or next week depending on when their lesson falls).

The definition of grooming is: *when someone uses the internet to trick, force or pressure a young person into doing something sexual - like sending a naked video or image of themselves or meeting up.*

We have been learning about the dangers of grooming, and ways to identify the beginnings of how potentially dangerous conversations may start. This continues our focus on online safety this half term, with a specific view on identifying dangerous communication and taking sensible next steps. We made sure that students understood that online grooming is not about avoiding all sorts of online communication, but about knowing about the dangers and being able to identify unsafe communication.

The students have been very mature about this topic and also shown that they are capable of making very sensible decisions and giving advice to fictional students in fictional scenarios (this can be a good strategy when discussing eSafety with your child to distance them from being fearful of it potentially happening to them).

Early warning signs of grooming:

- Sending lots of messages, even when the child doesn't reply
- Asking the child to keep the conversations secret
- Try to find out more about where the child uses their PC, or how much parents monitor their internet use
- Start sending the child compliments, personal, or sexual messages
- Get the child to share personal information such as area, location, school, etc
- Try to blackmail the child (if the child has sent information or pictures already)



A reminder that the 'eSafety for parents' evening takes place on the 10th February



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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