

25th February 2022

## HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Hello,

We have been interviewing for Teachers this week, ready for next year. The School Council has done an especially good job of interviewing them for us and sharing their thoughts.

This week we have celebrated 'Empathy Week'. Katie spoke to everyone about this in assembly on Monday and we have challenged ourselves to work on our school characteristic 'Empathy and Compassion' over the week.

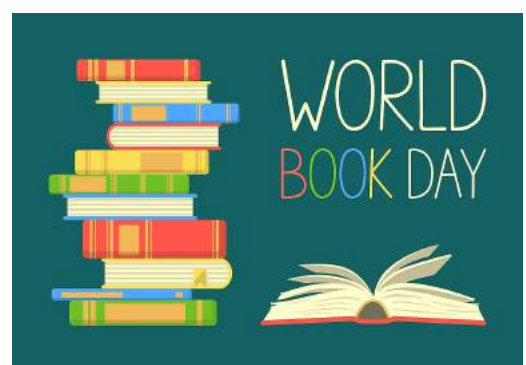


After school on Wednesday, Educational Psychologist Steve led some parent training on Emotion Coaching. This was a really great session and very helpful.

Reading is a big focus for us this year and so we are very excited to be celebrating World Book Day next Thursday. Please see the bottom of the newsletter for details of what we have planned (including a chance to dress up!). There is also a great 'Home Reading Challenge' that we would encourage you to get involved with.

Have a great weekend,

Sarah



## PHOENIX

We have had a really good week back in Phoenix. On Tuesday morning we had Ellie (SALT) come into Phoenix to do a Social Thinking session. It was all about who we would take on a Rocket with us, we needed to take 10.

Each of us needed to think of a character we would take and what qualities they would have. Then, we came back together as a group and had a discussion about each of the characters and why we needed to take them. This enabled them to use their listening skills, collaborate and move their set thinking. They became so involved with this that as a whole class, they decided to carry on through their break and it ended up being over an hour.



Cooking was an interesting one. They had to do a 4-ingredient challenge on Tuesday. There were some unusual combinations - they had to find a recipe, but then adapt it to include 4 ingredients. On Thursday, we made Ham and Cheese toasties, Jude mentioned he hadn't really buttered bread before and he was quite proud of himself. Sol joined us.

Dylan had a good time building a fort with Jenga bricks.



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## DRAGONFLY

Another great week in Dragonfly. We made some delicious Chicken Fajitas in cooking and are getting very skilled at chopping and slicing together with washing and drying up afterwards!



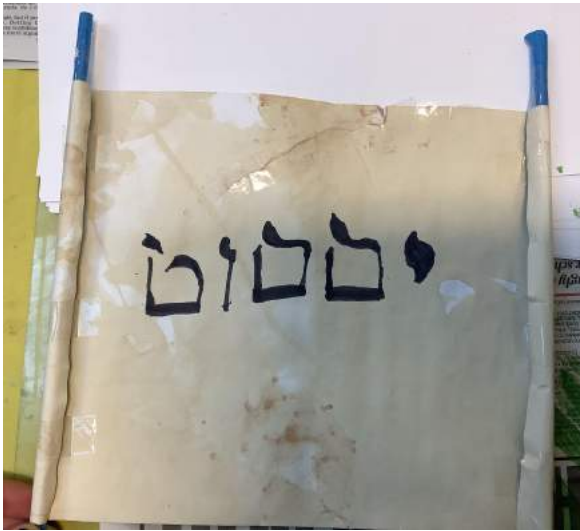
In Art, we learned about the famous artist Frida Kahlo. We looked at some of her self-portraits and particularly liked her 'Self-portrait with Monkeys' so we made our own monkeys out of clay. She used very bright colours in her artwork to remind her of Mexico and we are going to emulate that when we paint our monkeys next week.



In RE, we learned about how The Torah is important to Jewish people. It is their sacred text and holds 613 commandments which help them to live good and happy lives. The Torah is housed in the synagogue and treated with great respect. We made our own Torah scrolls using teabags, coffee and paint. It was good fun!



## POLAR



This week, we have learned that all religions have a Sacred Text and merely focused on Judaism. They have The Torah, which is where Jewish people take their instruction from the God that they believe in. We found out that there are in total 613 different commandments, but that the 10 commandments are the most important that Jewish people live by daily. We watched a clip showing how the Torah is written, then made our own Torah scroll and wrote a message using Hebrew letters. Tommy paid attention to detail, as he perfected writing his name in the Hebrew alphabet.



In Art, we learned about Frida Kahlo, who was one of the most important artists of modern times. She painted a lot, because she contracted a disease called Polio at a young age. Her paintings sometimes showed animals, which she was very fond of. We then had a go at making clay monkeys and followed the instructions carefully. It was amazing to see everyone produce their masterpiece! Emilia used her imagination and created her vision of a monkey. We cannot wait for it to dry and start painting them carefully.



For cooking, we first looked at the Healthy Eating website and discussed which food groups are included in our chicken fajitas. We also discussed how we could make it an even healthier meal. It was great to see everyone working together as a team when making fajitas. Some of us asked for seconds and finished it before they could take it home. Daniel has impressed us all with his cutting skills.



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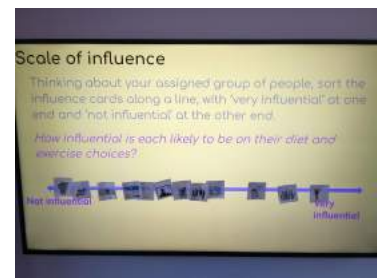
## EUROPA

Our learning this week has focused on assessing the students' prior knowledge across maths, English and Science. Our text this half term is **Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz. Next week, we will be working on writing adverts in English. In particular, we will be looking at persuasive language, so apologies in advance if they try it out on you at home! In maths, we will be starting our topic on geometry by looking at the properties of shapes. In Science, we will be looking at Human Reproduction.

What an excellent first week back! The students have worked tremendously hard to earn rewards this week by completing their learning tasks and helping each other. We have had our first week with Amanda in our class and the students have been so welcoming that they have earned a whole school token!

Steph has decided to treat the class this week by saving up her Dojo points and then redeeming them for a whole-class movie, so everybody is looking forward to that.

In PSHE, we are working on making healthy choices so the students worked together to order different influences. We also had a 5-ingredient challenge in cooking where the students all made something delicious!



In Art, we have started our new topic of 'Pop Art' which the students particularly like, because of the links with comic books. You can see some of our onomatopoeic words here. We thought really carefully about the colours we wanted to use and looked at the work of Roy Lichtenstein for inspiration. We have also looked at some of Andy Warhol's work ahead of creating portrait prints.



## ODYSSEY



The week before half term was Children's Mental Health Week and Odyssey class set themselves targets to see how many of the challenges they could complete in a week. We did really well and everyone completed most, if not all of the challenges. Three of them included: playing at the park; going for a walk

and eating something nice. We decided to combine all three with our first ever trip out as a class!



Friday morning was a bright, sunny day - just right for a trip to the park. We walked to Kirkby Road and spent an hour enjoying the sunshine, fresh air and lots of



running around in the play area. Damon took the kites and managed to get them into the air, everyone enjoyed playing on the equipment and then we had a game of hide and seek before we left. We then walked to the shop and enjoyed choosing something nice to eat on our way back to school.



We even bumped into Jan's daughter who was out riding her horse!

We arrived back at school, just in time for lunch and everyone agreed it had been a lovely way to spend a morning - definitely good for our mental health and wellbeing.

As our first adventure out together, it was a great success and we are looking forward to planning our next one!



## VOYAGER

We have had a busy first week back, and it's been lovely to see everyone after a week off. We have started lots of new topics and the boys have done well to adapt to all the new terminology and learning so far.



In English, we are "spies" and have created Spy Profiles, names and characters. Mission 1 is to create a gadget for Bond and Jacob made a camera that does lots of great things with various buttons! Look at Agent Ade →



On Monday, we started our Zones of Regulation lesson by checking-in after our break and then playing some games with Group Plan in mind - here's some pictures of 'balloon volleyball'.



We continued with our algebra. Luke, Ade and Lewis used the

Numicon resources to help with the trickier algebra and calculating various combinations of numbers that will work in an equation (for example  $2g + w = 10$ )



In Science, we have started Human Reproduction and have so far looked at both female and male reproductive systems. On

Wednesday we made 3D models using various resources, here's Ade's that he made from clay.



In Curriculum Choice (Construction), my group made face portraits - Jacob is in my group - he was so proud of his face... and we're so glad we got a picture, because it got broken a few times during the week!

We're cooking hashbrowns today.

## APOLLO

In PE this week, we have started the "multi-sports" topic which means that students get to experience a large variety of different games and sports, applying their skills and developing cross-sport techniques.



In Science, we have been learning about the reproductive systems. Although this can be a tricky topic for some to talk about, students have been really sensible and enjoyed making play dough and clay models to consolidate this week's learning.



Leah has drawn this free hand (with her recognisable mushroom theme).

With the crazy weather, we have been inside a lot for movement breaks, so we have found some alternatives for the class. Owen has learned to solve the Rubix cube (he completed it in under a minute this week), and has been teaching Tom to be able to do it too.



We have also completed a horoscopes puzzle too. It was really tricky and tested our patience as many of the pieces were so similar. We thought it was a 500 piece puzzle but annoyingly it turned out to be a 499 piece puzzle with 1 piece nowhere to be seen. It had annoyed us all and had put us into the yellow zone, but we saw the funny side in the end and made the best of it.





## OTHER NEWS

# Support

### ★ Mental Health Drop In - Friday 11th February



John from the Mental Health Schools Team came into Fusion on Friday before half term to hold a Mental Health Drop in session which linked in with our focus on Children's Mental Health week. It was a positive afternoon accessed by lots of our students. John will be continuing to work with some students in

Fusion over the next couple of months.

### ★ Parent Support Workshop - Zones of Regulation

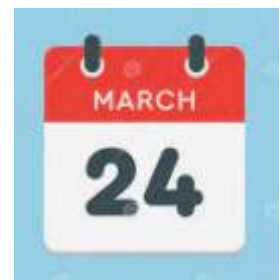


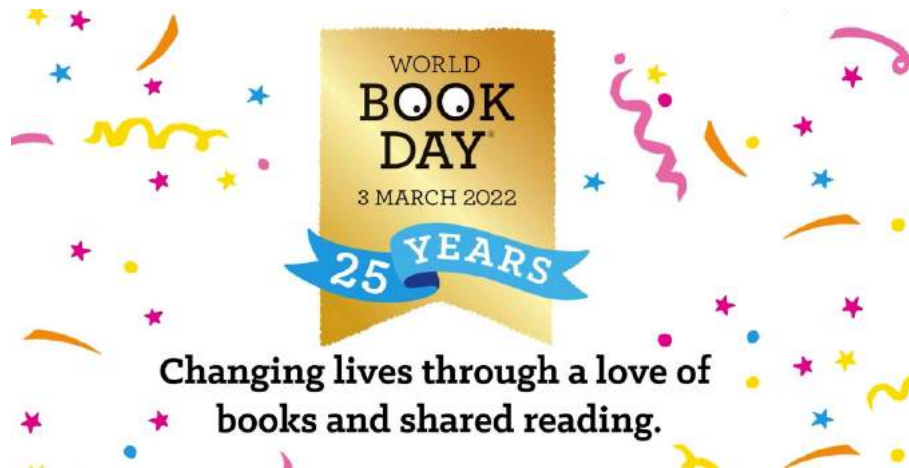
For our next Parent Support Workshop, we will be focusing on Zones of Regulation which we use in school to support our students with emotional regulation.

The session will be held on Thursday 24th March from 3:45 - 5pm 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.castleford@thefusionacademy.co.uk](mailto:elyssa.castleford@thefusionacademy.co.uk)

Please don't hesitate to contact us for further details.

We hope you can join us.





The staff and students of Fusion Academy are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on **Thursday 3rd March**. As we are promoting a “Book at Bedtime”, they may choose to wear their favourite PJs or onesie instead! They will be taking part in some fun activities to promote books and reading. Look out for the £1 voucher that they will be bringing home to swap for one of the WBD books.



Tesco, Sainsburys and WHSmith are all stockists of the £1 books.

# Home Reading Challenge

Reading at bedtime can be beneficial for so many reasons:

- It can relax the body and brain to be more ready for sleep
- It can reduce stress
- It can provide an escape from everyday life
- When we read together, it can be an opportunity for quality family time
- It promotes good reading habits for life

During WBD at the Fusion Academy, we will be promoting a “Book at Bedtime”.

How many of these challenges can you complete at home this week?  
We'd love to hear about how you got on with the challenge or see any photos!

<p>GO TO BED 30 MINUTES EARLY ESPECIALLY TO READ YOUR BOOK</p> 	<p>NO SCREENS AN HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED.</p> 	<p>LISTEN TO AN AUDIO-BOOK IN BED.</p> 
<p>ASK AN ADULT TO READ WITH YOU AT BEDTIME.</p> 	<p>READ TO A FAMILY MEMBER OR EVEN A PET!</p> 	<p>MAKE YOURSELF A COSY AREA OR DEN IN YOUR BEDROOM TO READ A BOOK.</p> 
<p>MAKE A HOT CHOCOLATE TO ENJOY WITH YOUR BOOK.</p> 	<p>MAKE A COLLECTION OF YOUR FAVOURITE BOOKS TO KEEP BY YOUR BED.</p> 	<p>READ IN BED FOR 10 MINUTES EVERY NIGHT.</p> 



## The Fusion Academy Reward Tickets

Students can earn tickets for doing things that are 'above and beyond'. For example, for doing some amazing work, behaving really well, or doing something especially kind or helpful. When the whole school earns 100 tickets, we all get a reward.

Tickets have been earned this week by:

Luke	Jacob	Henry	Tommy
Daniel	Josh	Jay	Europa Class

Well done!

**Overall Ticket Total = 69**



## Diary Dates

- ★ Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day
- ★ Thursday 24th March 3:45 - 5:00 - Parent Training: The Zones of Regulation
- ★ Monday 28th March - Friday 1st April - Autism Acceptance Week
- ★ Friday 8th April - School closes for Easter
- ★ Monday 25th April - School Opens

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

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