

1st December 2023

INTRODUCTION

Hi All,

It's been a lovely week at school, with collaborative work across the school in full flow.

Anne, our art teacher, has opened up her doors every day this week for students to enjoy a creative, peaceful environment at the end of each day. After a few days without much take up, we have now seen students enjoy their time there to end the day successfully.

This week, many of our students took part in mock maths exams. We know this is a very stressful experience for them, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part. Exams are something new to lots of the students this year, and we appreciate all the care and support from you as parents in helping prepare them.

It's December 1st, so we can officially start the countdown to Christmas. Our preparations for Festive Fusion are in full swing. Classes have planned what they'll be doing for the day and the students are all looking forward to seeing you on the 21st December. This year, part of the money raised will be used to fund two evergreen trees that will be planted by our forest school.

Whilst we know that the children have different ways of regulating their body temperature, and they don't always 'feel' the cold. However, we do ask that you send in coats and gloves to help us keep them warm, especially if they have forest school. If you are unsure which days your child has forest school, then get in touch with your class teacher and they'll let you know.

As always, we wish you a restful weekend, and if you're putting up your tree like we are, that it's not too stressful!

Katie & Tunde

JUNO - Annabelle



We have had a lovely, but very energetic week in Juno. The weather has changed which has meant lots of interesting outdoor exploration about solids and liquids and how water will change state depending on the temperature of the space around it. The young people even initiated their own experiment by wanting to leave a tray of water out overnight. Inside the classroom, we have tried to do lots of work on our bodies signals and needs, and looked at what causes us to feel different emotions. There has also been lots and lots of lovely play and interaction between all the students this week, particularly through use of PE equipment, music to dance to and our Toot Toot track which is growing by the week thanks to lovely gifts and donations from staff and kind families!

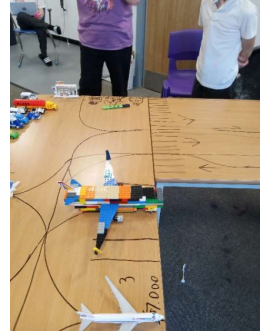
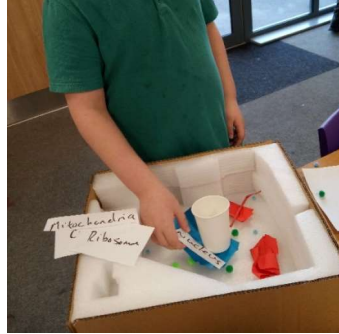
GENESIS - Aimee W

A fantastic week in Genesis this week. We had debates week in English where we looked at what a debate is, practised sharing our own opinions and finally finished with a class debate about whether the weekends should be longer or not. All students were brilliant at sharing their arguments during the debates, working well in their teams and listening carefully when someone else was speaking. Our judge decided that the team arguing for longer weekends had the strongest argument. We have continued with our light topic in Science, where the students conducted a shadow experiment to look at how shadows are formed and why they move throughout the day. As always, students have worked extremely hard in all of our Maths lessons and answered some very tricky questions.



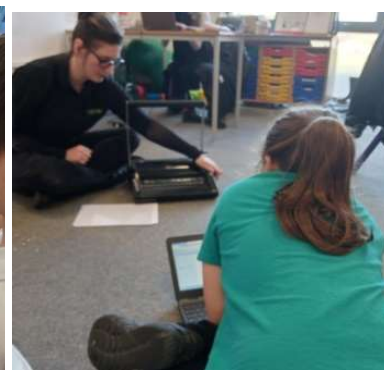
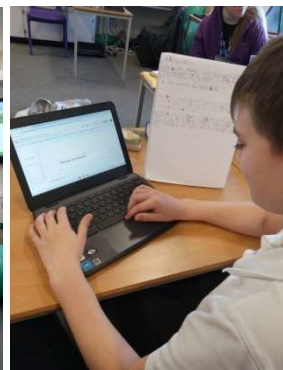
GATEWAY - Christina

This week has been another amazing week! Students have shown positive interactions through play. Harry has been able to design and create his own game through his interests. He was able to explain the rules to his peers and they happily engaged. We have also been exploring our tolerance levels through a 'comfort scale'. Students have been able to share their feelings and opinions on how comfortable they feel in different scenarios. We also discussed reasons why. In Science, we have been exploring cells and their different functions. Students have been making the cells to explore the different parts.



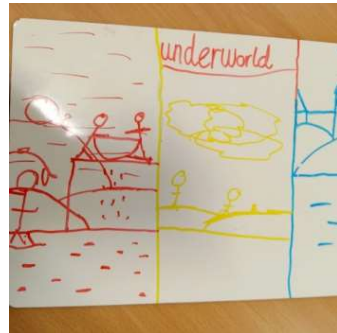
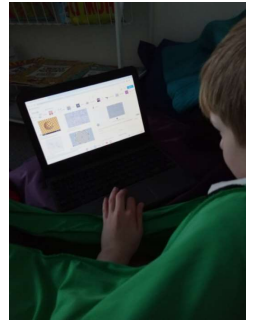
CALIPSO - Sam S

A week of incredible hard work in Calipso! The students have put an amazing amount of focus into their writing this week and have created books to give out. Maths lessons have seen us deal with some incredibly difficult sequence work and they have wowed us with their understanding and ability to represent these with objects. Everyone in the class has made so much progress since September and we are extremely proud of them. Swimming this week was cut short due to needing to leave the pool on a life guards command and everyone showed just how sensible they are. However, we had just long enough to see some real improvement in our technique and courage in the water. As we move into December, we are excited to see what we can achieve next!



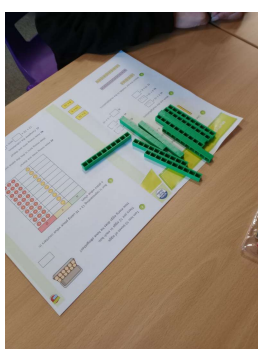
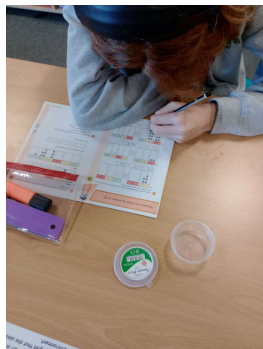
RANGER - Karen

Our class are becoming fantastic chefs and staff from around the school have commented on their skills. The students this week cooked Cheesy Puffs and then seasoned them using a range of herbs and spices. Some students came back to our class for second helpings! This week in Maths, we have been reviewing our multiplication and division skills and developing our accuracy with the formal methods. In English, we have continued to develop our knowledge and understanding of the play Macbeth. In Science, the students enjoyed exploring leaves when we were learning about photosynthesis and why leaves are yellow in the winter. In RE, we have been exploring what heaven and hell is like. Hannah decided to describe and draw what she thought the underworld would look like.



VIKING - Hilary

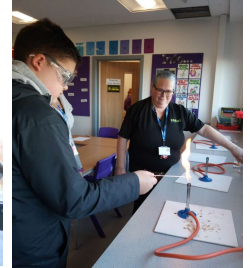
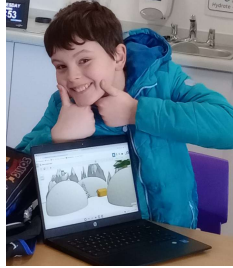
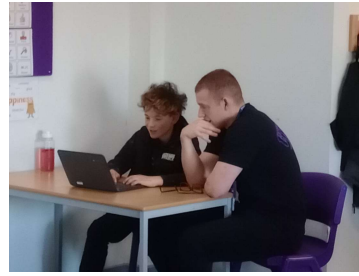
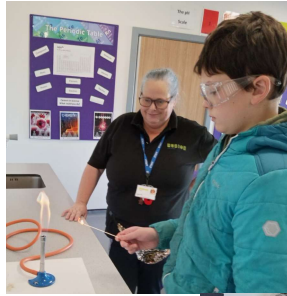
In Maths this week, we have been increasing our knowledge of Number. We used Base 10 to help us to understand multiplication and division and also used written methods to help us to work out calculations.



In English, we are still enjoying delving into the play Macbeth. This week, we have started to read out the different parts in the play script. Jaxon does an amazing Scottish accent - it puts us in mind of Sean Connery!

ACE - Zak

We have challenged ourselves this week to be more sociable and to reflect on how we are feeling. We have started to make surveys in RE to ask people whether they believe that there is life after death and why. In PSHE, we created some new emojis to update our Zones of Regulation board and to expand our vocabulary to be more specific about what emotions we are truly expressing. For example, are we just angry or are we out of control or are we simply annoyed or cross? We placed these emojis on intensity scales. For Science, we went to the science lab for the first time this year and did a practical session on using bunsen burners. Thank you once again to the science team for a fun and engaging Thursday morning session!



MARINER - Simon



In Mariner this week, we have done some excellent work around strategies to calculate addition and subtraction. Oscar, in particular has proved that he is very confident in using the column method to add and subtract multiple-digit numbers. Jacob is also set to sit his mock Maths GCSE exam today and we wish him good luck with this.

We have also seen some great success in cooking this week with mocktail making for Ruby, Jacob and Oscar, with some mixed results. They showed great resilience and tool skills to crack the coconut, but some of the other ingredients were a little dubious. Jacob also made a fantastic cake this week, for mum's birthday, at his request. Excellent work on this and it was delicious!



AQUARIUS - Katie

We've begun learning about Trigonometry in Maths this week in upper school and made clinometers to help us use the tangent ratio to calculate the height of really tall things: the school building, the bucket swing and the basketball hoops.



In Aquarius, we have continued to plan our stalls for Festive Fusion - Lennon helped me to place the order for the ingredients he needs for the things he is cooking.

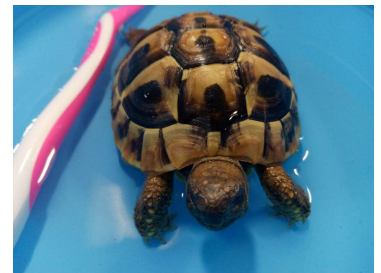
We also continued to play various word and spelling games; One of our students likes to play Apple Letters and he was being humorous one day this week by playing the same word [SEAT] every time when playing the game solo!

NEW HORIZONS - Jenni

In New Horizons, we have been making further plans for our yummy treats that we are planning on selling at Festive Fusion and Jacob has started to think about the game he would like to organise for our class stall.

We have been focusing on resiliation and by enjoying playing the frog game - and have found it harder than we thought we were going to to get the frogs in the tub - It is really testing our patience!

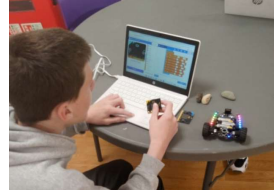
We have also continued to care for our class pet Elphie - Making sure she is well fed and has a clean environment. Attached is a photo of her having a bath.



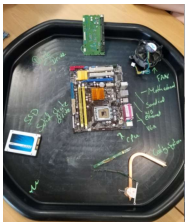
SWIFT - Sam R

In Swift this week we have been working on playing games that involve communication between each other and working on the final preparations for Festive Fusion.

In our Computing lessons, the students have been working hard with their coding skills to direct a motorised car to perform different functions such as: sounds, lights, images, music and movements of the car.



In Computer Options, we have been looking at the physical components of a computer and identifying the different components and discussing what they do.



In PE, we are still continuing to work in teams or with partners in a range of activities. This week, we have been playing badminton and challenging different students to games.

STARDUST - Sam P

Stardust students have been spending time in Social Communication focused on the purpose of revision and scientifically recommended tips for revision including exercise, brain breaks and sleep. On Wednesday, students tried out some brain yoga and memory enhancing games.

Brain Yoga

Take your left hand, make a fist, and extend your thumb; holding this, do the same with your right, only extend your little pinky.

Now change them so it's left pinky and right thumb. The co-ordination involved will strengthen neural connections, which will help develop the memory!



English this week has seen students challenging themselves with their analysis skills. In Pathway 1 Group 2, students have been stepping up their language analysis by attempting a GCSE language question. Jay and Theo have been amazing and pushed themselves to consider the writer's choice of language. In Pathway 1 Group 1, students have started to piece together their analysis and comparison skills to reflect on the writer's viewpoints and perspectives of similar experiences. Felix, Alfie and Owen were particularly good at finishing evidence to rule out false statements.



In Life Skills this week, Pathway 2 group 1 students made delicious desserts by working together. The chocolate orange cheesecake and super smooth ice cream were excellent. A big thank you to Edward and others for making sure the kitchen was clean and tidy at the end of the lesson.

SCIENCE - Laura, Nic and Tam

Pathway 1 students have been busy getting to grips with the Chemical changes topic. This week they have tested the pH levels of different drinks finding out water or milk are the least acidic and damaging to the teeth.

Pathway 2 students have focused on human reproduction and are very glad that we are moving onto plant reproduction.

FOREST SCHOOL - Karen and Penny

With the winter season upon us, the forest is changing and the students are using the natural resources to create a bug hotel. We have been trying to prepare the forest for winter by barking the paths. In our options group, we are so proud of one of the students. He has been practising a game outside the forest that today he decided to bring it into the forest and play it with Penny and I. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and actually beat me 4 - 0. I think I had a handicap of the sun in my eyes (well that is what I am using as my excuse!)



Now the weather has changed, please make sure the students have coats, boots, hats, gloves and scarves to keep them warm.

OTHER NEWS



The Fusion Academy
Celebrating Achievements

Everyone who had a go at their exams



Save The Date!!!

Festive Fusion 2023

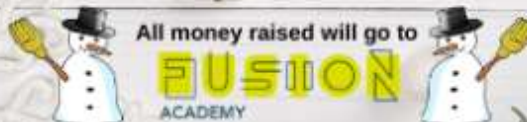
*Please join us on Thursday 21st December
1pm - 3pm*

At the Fusion Academy

*For an afternoon of seasonal enjoyment and
fundraising*

Food & Drink
Stalls and
Activities

Raffle
Tombola



All money raised will go to



Careers & Next steps

There are so many websites which have information on careers. Below, we have shared some that come highly recommended from Hannah, our Careers Lead. (Please click the link and it will take you to the websites)

- ★ [Start Profile](#) - Start Profile is a free platform that you can register with. You can complete a series of questions and it will suggest suitable careers. You can find information on qualifications, employers, apprenticeships and live local job information.



- ★ [National Careers Service](#) - This is a fantastic resource for information about a wide selection of different careers. You can see how much you would get paid, the skills you need and qualifications you can achieve.

- ★ [Go Construct](#) - Want to work in construction, but not sure which role? Go Construct has information on everything from a builder to surveyor and an architect to a plumber. Take their interactive quiz to find a role to suit you.



Please see the below link for the e-safety newsletter:

<https://openthinkingpartnership.co.uk/category/e-safety/>

Diary Dates

- ★ Festive Fusion: Thurs 21st Dec 2023
- ★ School closes for Christmas: Fri 22nd Dec 2023
- ★ School Opens: Mon 8th Jan 2024
- ★ Parents Meeting for Red Ridge Residential trip: Tues 9th Jan 2024 at 4pm - 5pm

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

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