

Dear Parents

Another great week here at MPS with the children working really hard and enjoying their learning. Personal highlights of the week have been; seeing the excitement of the netball stand and hoop going out onto the playground, the children enthusiastically trying to score goals, the children in Falcon class applying their knowledge of shadows to make shadow puppet shows and the amazing writing in FS2. Well done everyone!

Plover Class:

We went 'back to basics' this week, by incorporating plenty of opportunities for construction, using wooden and natural objects. The children have also started 'wood-on-wood' process sculptures, that they can work on and add to, if they want, throughout next week. Our focus text was 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?' The children explored tuning in to different sounds, by listening to (and trying to identify) pre-recorded sounds. They also loved playing with sound cubes, recording clips and telephones.



Albatross Class:

This week we have used the book 'Juniper Jupiter' as a basis for our learning. In literacy we have been talking about the book, writing about what the characters needed and re-telling the story.

In physical development, we have created superhero poses, built tall towers, completed superhero challenges at the play park and completed finger gym challenges.

In maths for FS1, we have been focusing on 2D shape names and properties. In maths for FS2 we have been comparing and partitioning numbers up to 9.



Caracara Class:

This week, Caracara class enjoyed using clay to make a model of something that they had been learning about. After a few attempts at different models, the children agreed that the hedgehog was the simplest to make! All the hedgehogs turned out well and the children carefully painted them once the clay had dried. We had a tricky time in history this week trying to think why Grace Darling became famous (and not her father who attended the same rescue). We decorated paper plates as memorabilia plates to commemorate Grace Darling.



Falcon Class: This week, the children have been learning all about measuring in: metres, centimetres, kilometres and millimetres and assessing which measurement is the most effective to use for a variety of different tasks. In English, the children have been looking at the variety of words that have a 'un, mis, in and dis' prefix and have started to create interesting sentences using several examples. History has seen the children research the 'Ancient Egyptian Gods' and discuss why the modern day Egyptians do not have the same beliefs as they once did. In science, the children are in the process of creating a shadow puppet play, in which one or more of the characters have to get longer, shorter, fatter or thinner. They have been investigating ways that they can make this happen using light sources and are preparing to record their shows on an iPad next week.



Meadowlark Class:

We had another busy week in Meadowlark and it feels like the days are flying past!

We were fortunate enough to have an online talk by the author, Abi Elphinstowe, a renowned children's author with a string of published novels behind her name. She gave several examples of how children should look for inspiration to write adventure stories and explore different ideas. She told us about the time that she went to TK Maxx and saw a brand of shower gel with an interesting name and used it for one of her character's names!

But most importantly, she gave us inspirational tips and ideas to write stories, for example:



- Make things happen to your characters and put different 'obstacles' in their way.
- Use an 'Idea Box' where you store names of people, places or what people say, for future writing.
- You don't have to be the brightest or best at writing but be the **MOST CURIOUS** to write a book.
- Go outside and explore.
- Don't be scared to get things wrong.

We also had a fascinating online workshop with the RAF Museum Midlands on 'Flying Equipment through the Ages'. They showed us how communication devices, flying goggles and helmets for pilots have changed since the 1stWW and we looked at the RAF since its formation in 1918.





Swimming

School swimming is going really well and most of the children have made super progress since the start of the year. We are really lucky to have the ability to take the children swimming each week. School swimming is designed to enable the children to swim 25m by the end of year 6, which for some is a long time away and for others, they are already achieving this.

The lessons we give here at MPS are undoubtedly better than the school provision in the UK, but our weekly session is designed to enhance existing swimming lessons children have, and not replace them. Swimming is an essential life-saving skill and individual/group lessons such as those provided at Stanley Swimming Pool are undoubtedly the best way for your child to learn, alongside the school provision. It also really helps your child's confidence if you can regularly take your children swimming for fun, so that they can practice the skills taught which will lead to increased water confidence. We are very lucky to have timetabled family sessions at the MPC pool and we would encourage you all to use these sessions.



Dates for your Diary

- Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February - Half Term
- Monday 20th February-Teacher inset Day- Teachers in school
- Thursday 2nd March World Book Day - Details TBC
- Thursday 9th March - Celebration of Learning class events at 1415
- Wednesday 29th March - Parents Evening 1515-1715
- Thursday 30th March - Parents Evening - 1600-1800
- Thursday 6th April - School Finishes at 1300
- Tuesday 25th April - School Starts for children
- **Monday 8th May - Bank holiday - No school**
- Tuesday 9th May - Key Stage 2 SATs start
- **Thursday 1st June - Nursery and EYFS Sports afternoon 1415 in the school hall** (For All children who attended Nursery, FS1 and FS2 and their families can come along to join us even if not booked in for a session that afternoon).
- Monday 5th June - Friday 9th June Half term
- Friday 23rd June - mid Winter Event-details to be confirmed
- Thursday 20th July - school finished for the year at 1300