

Alexandra Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed



News: 10th November 2023

Message from the Head Teacher

Hello Parents and Carers,

Reading is a fundamental part of our approach to the curriculum at Alexandra. The impact of reading to and with your children is huge. Encouraging children to read for pleasure can build vocabulary, deepen understanding across other subjects and help children with creativity.

There is lots of useful information about reading and great reads on our website along with some videos of staff reading their favourite books. You can find this here:

<https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/learning-reading>

The Pre-loved uniform shop is open on Tuesdays from 3pm – 3.30pm. If you have any unwanted uniform, school bags or school shoes, please send these in to help us stock the pre-loved shop.

Smart watches have lots of useful features, however they should not be worn by children to school. They are too expensive and are likely to get lost or broken.

A reminder to parents that we have over 650 children entering and leaving the site each day. In order for this to be done safely we ask that parents follow some simple steps. When walking to and from the school, please always walk on the left-hand side of any school paths. Keep moving as there are often people behind you. We ask that you leave the site promptly. Please make sure your child stays with you and does not run ahead.

Safeguarding children is one of our highest priorities and we ask that you follow the procedures set out on the website. Parents of Junior children need to use the Tiverton Road exit at the end of the day, collecting their infant children **first**, entering via the Denbigh Road entrance.

At the end of the school day it is tempting to bring a snack or food for children to eat on the way home. Please avoid this as children have not washed their hands and it can be a choking hazard. Children are not thinking about road safety and can be distracted. It is also a particular issue if they are traveling on cycles and scooters.

There is no expectation for parents to provide birthday treats for children particularly party bags and cakes. It is lovely that you want to share your celebration of your child's birthday and as such small bags of fruit or a small box of raisins would be acceptable only.

At times, you may want to discuss concerns and issues with class teachers. You can email using office@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk or telephone on 020 8570 6826.

Year Group Leader emails which can be used for general concerns:

Nursery at Alexandra Primary School nursery@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Reception at Alexandra Primary School reception@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 1 at Alexandra Primary School year1@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 2 at Alexandra Primary School year2@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 3 at Alexandra Primary School year3@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 4 at Alexandra Primary School year4@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 5 at Alexandra Primary School year5@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Year 6 at Alexandra Primary School year6@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

The Year Group Leader may answer directly or ask a class teacher to phone you.

Current School Attendance since the beginning of term is 96.5%, which means that children have been able to maximise their learning.

And don't forget:

In November we have...

Diwali on Sunday 12th November – Happy Diwali!

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/67262138

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 12th November

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/remembrance-sunday>

World Diabetes Day – Tuesday 14th November

<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/get-involved/world-diabetes-day>

International Day for Tolerance – Thursday 16th November

<http://www.toleranceday.org/>

Thought for the week:

A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money.

Question of the week:

Would you rather be the sun or the moon? Why?

Rights Respecting Articles of the Week: Remembrance and Article 38



Articles 38 (life, survival and development)

Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts

Why is it important to remember and commemorate those who have fought in wars?

Children have a right to be protected during war. It's important to remember and acknowledge those who have fought to keep children safe and to show thanks.

Children have a right to life. During wars, some people lose their own lives to protect the lives of children and their communities. It is important to remember their sacrifice.

If we forget about wars that have protected our way of life, we might make the same mistakes again.

Children under 15 should not take part in war.

It is important to think about how we can achieve a more peaceful future. It is important to consider ways to avoid war to resolve conflict. Remembrance unites people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds.

Poppies are used as symbols during Remembrance Day events. [Watch this short CBeebies animation](#) and discuss what the film is about. Discuss how the rabbit is feeling during the war. If the rabbit was a child, what rights are affected?



Eco Schools



Cut Your Carbon is a month-long carbon-cutting challenge. Taking place throughout November 2023, the campaign challenges young people and their families to complete nine simple actions that will reduce their carbon footprint. Cut Your Carbon is a great way to learn more about the carbon emissions connected to everyday actions and how we can reduce them by making small, manageable changes.

More information can be found here: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/cut-your-carbon/>

Nursery – This week we have been reading the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children have had lots of opportunities to act out the story and explore resources such as the long wavy grass and thick oozy mud. We have also been reading stories about Diwali. The children have had the opportunity to create firework pictures and try out special clothes and resources in our role-play area. The children have also been talking about things that they are good at and have been sharing this proudly with their friends.



Reception - As part of our learning about our world the children have been learning about Autumn. They have been looking at the changing colours of leaves, the different shapes and the different textures of leaves. Some of this learning has continued into the children's artwork. The children have used paint to print leaves and also to depict the falling of leaves from the trees. Concentration and the dexterity of fingers were needed to create the artwork.



We learnt about pumpkins. Feeling how heavy they were and looking at what is inside a pumpkin. We were amazed at how many seeds there were inside a pumpkin! We also talked about the symbol of Halloween being a pumpkin and how the pumpkins had faces on them. Many children talked about their experiences of seeing pumpkins around Hounslow.



In Maths the children have been learning about positional language. They have been learning during Maths sessions and then reinforcing the language during play. Super learning!

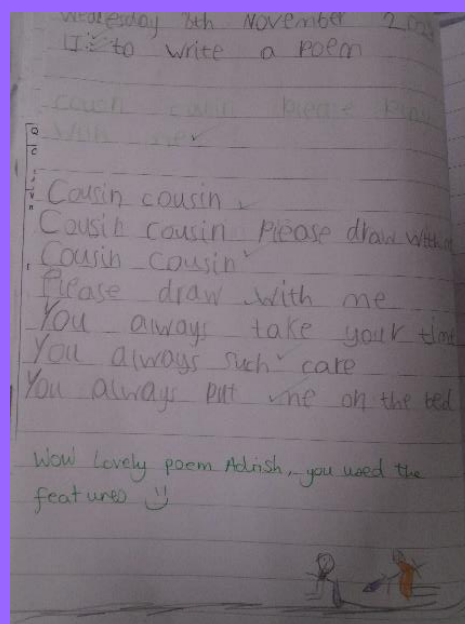
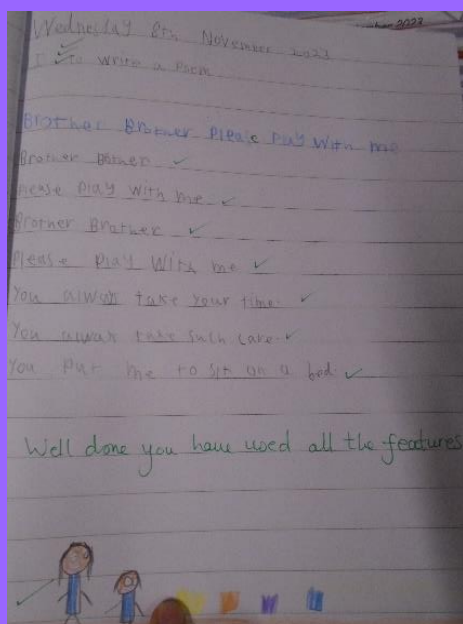


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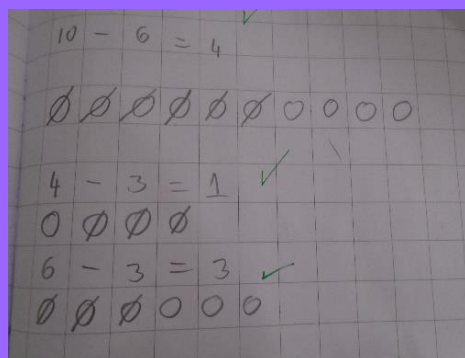
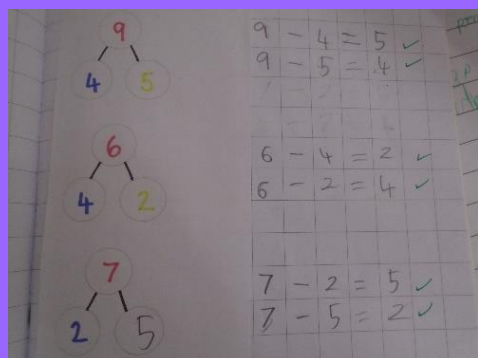


inside

Year 1 – We have been reading and writing cultural poems. We have been looking at a poem by Grace Nichols called 'Granny, Granny please comb my hair'. The children have chosen a family member they like to spend time with and have written their own versions. They focused on the layout of a poem compared to a story.



In Maths, the children have been learning about subtraction. They have shown great understanding of what happens when we subtract a number as well as learning all the different words associated with subtraction.



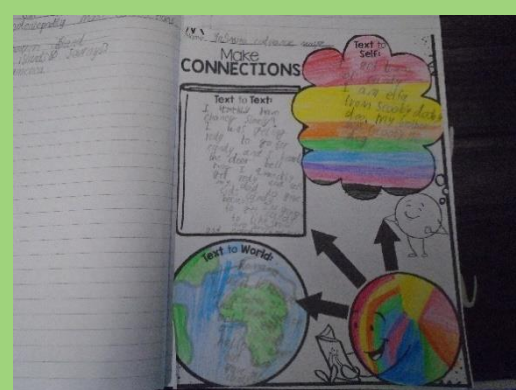
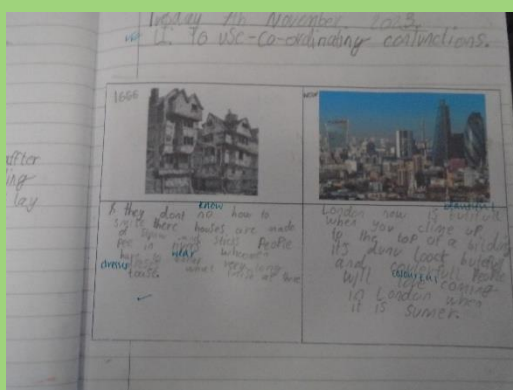
The children have been learning about the significance of Remembrance Day ahead of November 11th. They created poppies to show their respect.



This half term Year 1 are doing gymnastics with Miss Alice. They are having a great time learning about different rolls and balances.



Year 2 - Linked to our topic of 'The Great Fire of London'. In English, we have been using our reading strategies and skills learnt to help us make connections and predictions about such a historical event. We have also been practicing writing in past tense and using adjectives and conjunctions to make our sentences more informative.



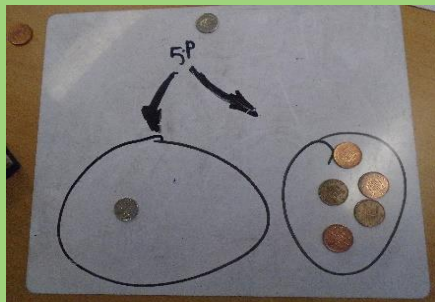
In Science, we have been learning about the importance of self-care and what to do if we are feeling ill. We thoroughly enjoyed the lesson about germs, as we carried out an experiment to find out how quickly germs spread. We were asked by the teacher to choose a coloured glitter. We then had to put that colour glitter onto our hands and went around the classroom shaking hands and touching everyday objects. We were amazed to see how the glitter had transferred so quickly onto the things we touched. This showed us how rapidly germs can spread.



For Art, we looked at and discussed pictures depicting the Great Fire of London. We decided to create our own collage drawing of London during the time of the fire. To create our collage, we used a mixture of techniques, such as; drawings, tissue paper, pencils and sugar paper.



In Maths, we have been adding different amounts of money. We first had to recognise and label the different coins and then had to add the coins to see what total they made. At first, we thought the larger the coin the bigger the value it had. We then realised that this was not the case, as some coins were smaller in size but worth more in value.



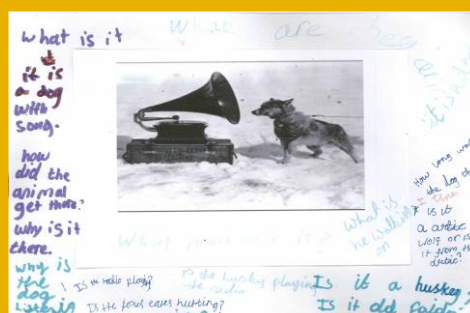
Year 3 - Recently we had the best day ever! We were visited by a man from History who had travelled from the Stone Age. We were learning about lots of stone age things and could even touch and wear some artefacts. We learnt to use some large flint stones to cut up some sticks ready to turn them into a fireplace.



Also, we were using some artefacts like a stone age horn made from an animal's antler, they were super loud! Also, we could try on some bronze age armour and could even use the stone age sledge to help us move around, of course working as a team!



Year 4 - In History, we are looking at Robert Falcon Scott and we used our enquiry skills to ask questions and enquire about the secondary sources of information we had from Scott's expedition to the Antarctic.





Tuesday 7th November 2023
 Part continued.
 After some time, the fairies and Kirstel began their journey towards the cave where the evil hated witch lives. Before they left the Fairy Queen wished them the best of good luck and decided to accompany them. I hope we can ^{defeat} that monstrous witch! We will have to be safe though especially because of the deadly piranhas. ^{advised} / warned the old woman.
 It took six hours to reach the terrifying cave and it even got as dark as charcoal outside. To reach the evil hated witch the party also had to cross a deadly swamp. Usually everyone avoided this area. Feeling as frightened as mice, the fairies started to walk carefully across the wobbly / rickety bridge. As they did so deadly piranhas jumped out of the

water trying to bite their their legs.
Luckily the fairies remembered they could fly and they carried/whisked Kirstel across the bridge. ✓

As quick as a flash ^{what do you need to add here?} when the Fairy queen caught a glimpse of the evil hated witch snoring in her lair she waved her wand and casted a spell on the evil woman. suddenly the evil hated witch disappeared into thin air and only a pile of dust was left behind. Everyone gasped in shock. was this the end of this hated witch? ✓

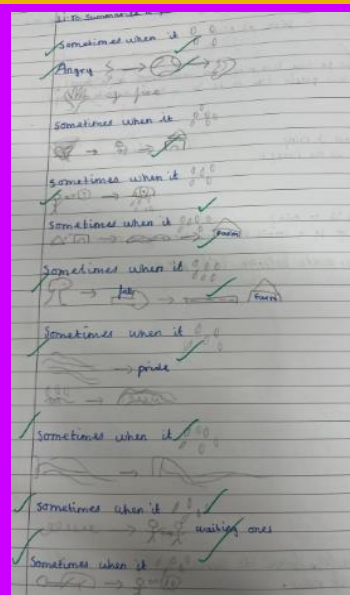
Sp-hated

- 1.
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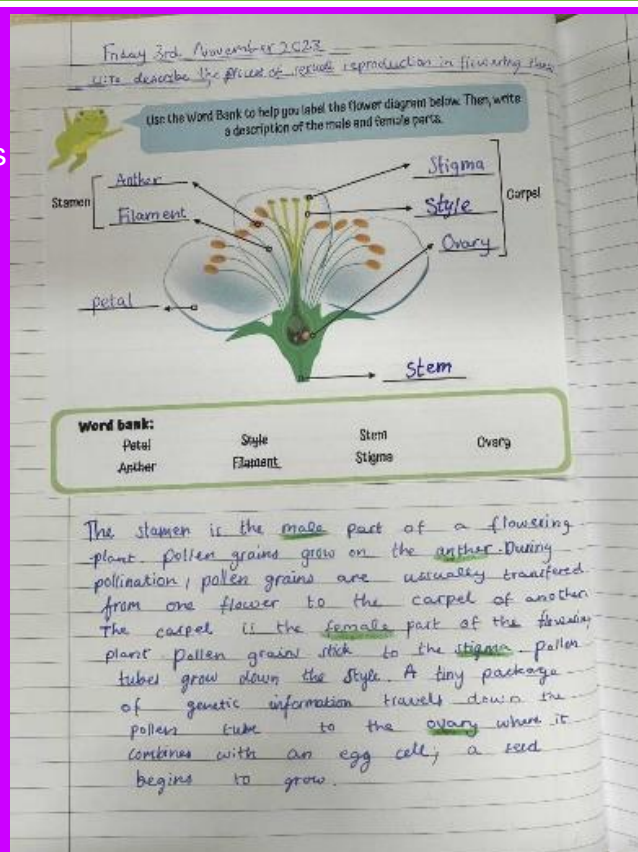
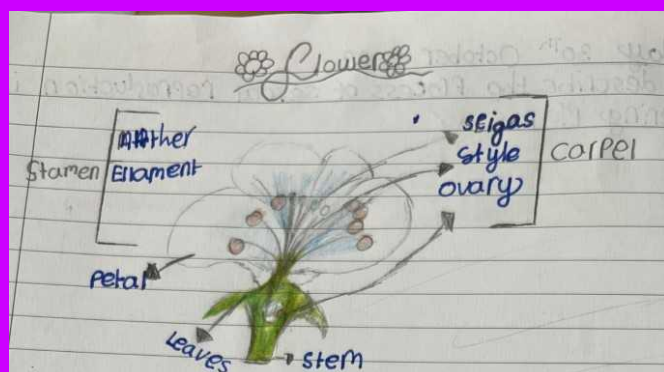
This is an example of work

Year 5 – In English we have based our learning around the poem ‘Sometime when it rains’. Within our learning, we have identified the features of the poem, how the poet uses personification and similes to help describe the weather.

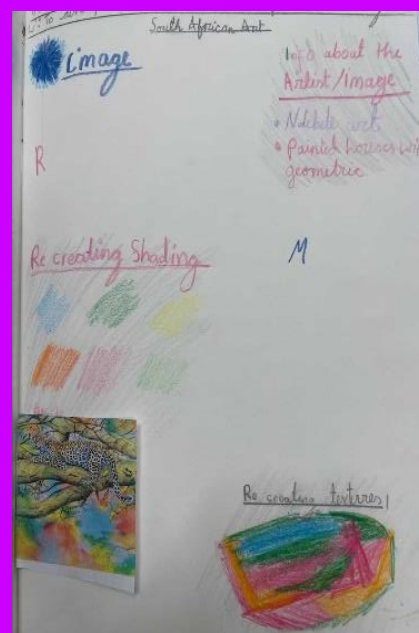
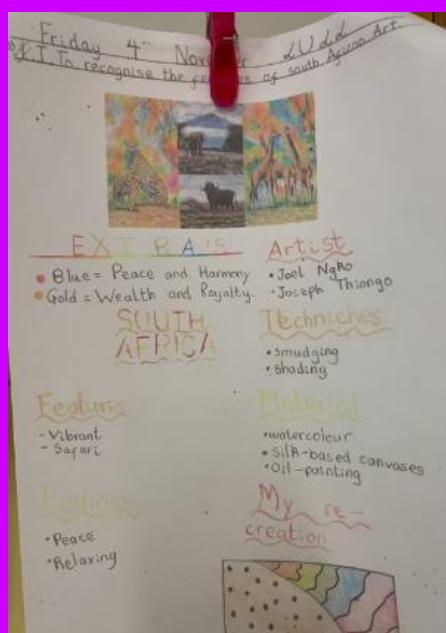
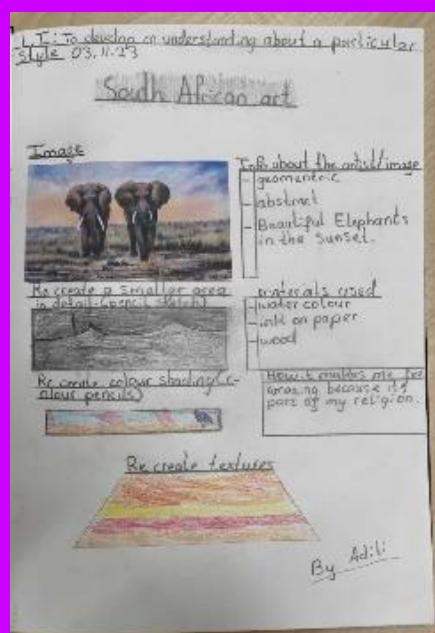
We have looked at how poets can show differing points of view in the style of their writing. We have created a story map of the structure of the poem, with images to help us re-call the important part of the poem.



In Science, we have started our new topic 'Living Things'. In our first lesson, we reviewed our previous knowledge of this unit (plants and habitats). We have also identified parts of a plant and their purpose.



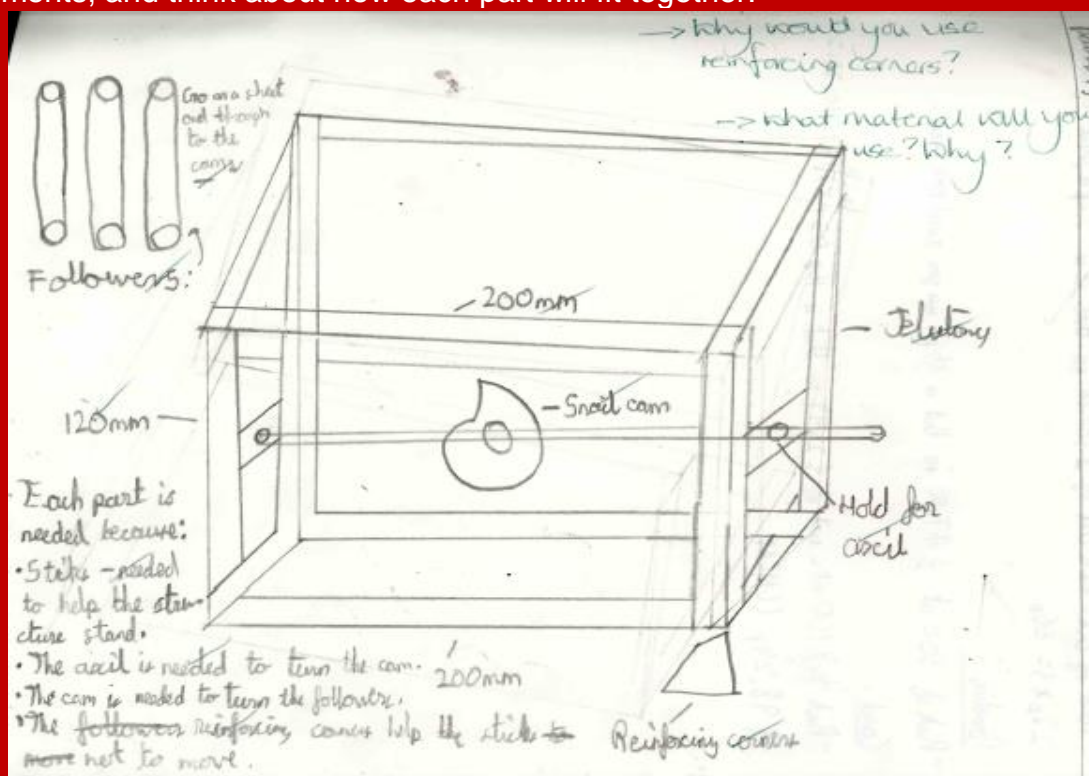
In Art we have looked at South African artists. We created a page of what we identified from the artwork; such as textures, materials used and information about African art. We also zoomed in on an image and re-created a small part of it.



In Spanish we have started our new unit on Spanish days, numbers and months. We have matched the Spanish days of the week with its correct English translation.



Year 6 - In DT, this half term, the children are learning about, designing and making their own Victorian automata window displays. They need to consider which three components will move and design their mechanism labelling the different parts of their display, including measurements, and think about how each part will fit together.



They also looked at the cost of materials being used for this product, where it would be sourced and the sustainability of each piece.

Wood Jetulony:

- Pack of 600 at a cost of £188.88 so that it is 22p a piece of wood
 $22p \times 3 = 66p$

Painting:

- Pack of 300 at £47.50 so that is 16p (we saved one price.)

Card:

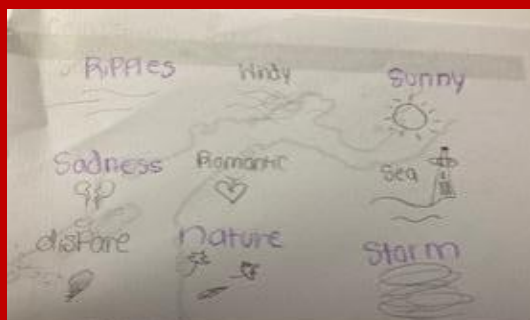
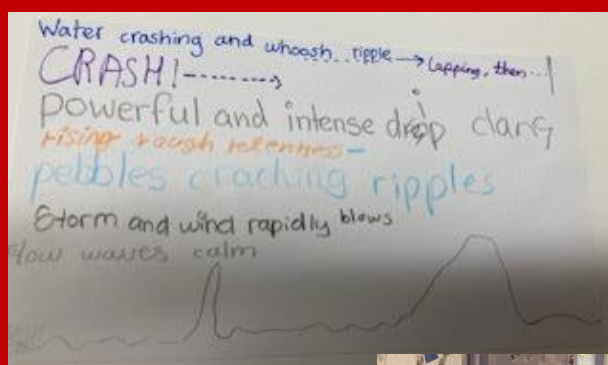
- Pack of 100 at a cost of £2.99 so that is 16p ($0.2p \times 37 + 16 + 0.29 =$
 998.29p (CHEAP)

The children also got the opportunity to recall and use their mathematical knowledge to convert unit of measure when accurately measuring the wood and worked safely to cut all 18 pieces ready for the next stage – construction.

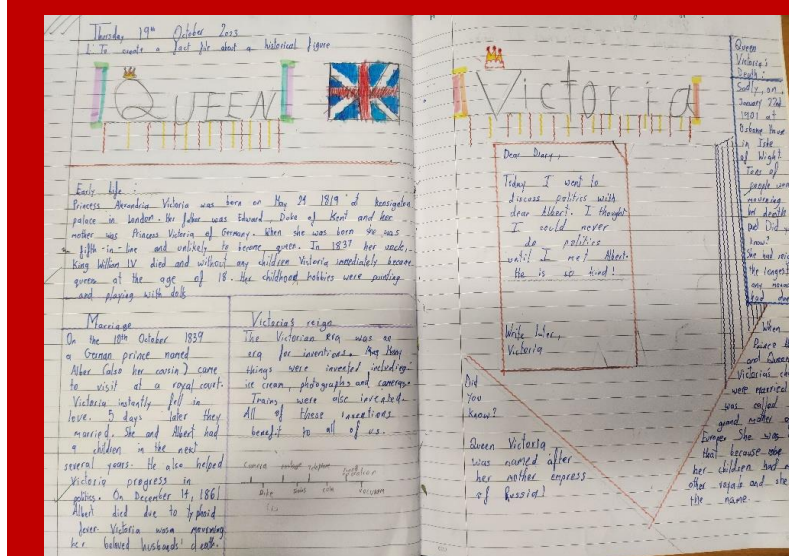
**Remember, measure
 twice, cut once.**



In Music, this half term we are looking at dynamics, tempo and pitch within pieces of music. We listened to Fingal's Cave by Felix Mendelssohn and recorded what words and phrases came into our minds (what we visualised), then in groups we chose six words to accompany the piece to show the changing tide of the sea.



In History, we are continuing to learn about the Victorian era, and focused on what the Victorians did in their leisure time and how it is similar and different to ours.



At APS we talk about the values that underpin our school aims. This one is about Creativity.

Alexandra children, staff, parents and carers think carefully to find solutions to the problems they may encounter. We express ourselves in many ways and are not afraid to be unique or individual in our acts or thoughts. We celebrate our talents and work hard to develop these. We appreciate and are inspired by the imagination and creativity of others and seek to encourage this.

Have you been using your School Breathe Techniques?

You can find these on the website here: <https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/school-breathe>



What have you learned this half term half term?

What are you reading at the moment?

