

Alexandra Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed



News: 31st March 2022

Message from the Head Teacher

Hello Parents and Carers,

This term has been very busy with a great deal of learning. Coronavirus has still been a challenge this term causing child absence and staffing issues. Hopefully better weather and a break from school will help further to a more normal school life.

The children have worked hard and have enjoyed learning across a range of subjects, for example the Design Technology projects in Y6 or the architectural drawing in Y2. We hope that you enjoy time with your family during the holiday. On Friday 1st April school closes at 1:30pm.

Over the holidays, please use the website and look at the reading pages for all inspiration for choosing books to read, which can be found here:

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

and here:

<https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/news/news-detail/bookspace-lockdown-reading-lists>.

You can also hear staff reading stories by following this link:

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

A reminder that if you have any preloved uniform, in good condition, washed and outgrown, please send this in so that we can stock the preloved uniform shop. Thank you for the contributions so far.

We would also like any puzzles that your child has outgrown for the puzzle exchange. They also need to be in good condition and complete.

This term we continue to teach the school breathe techniques to children. Ask them to demonstrate. These can be used anywhere and are fun. Adults can use them too! Found here:

<https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/school-breathe>

Parents, please sign up to National Safety Online, link below. Here you can get regular updates and find out more information to help keep your child safe whilst they are online.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/alexandra-primary-school-1>

When walking to and from the school, please always walk of the left-hand side of any paths. We thank you for your consideration and patience when walking along our paths. Please take time, not to push past others and be considerate of parents with pushchairs.

Drop off and collection information is available from the home page. Please use the entrance and exits as stated.

There have been a number of sporting competitions that children have been involved in representing school. The write ups can be found on the school website in the news section.

On return to school on Tuesday 19th April, please ensure children are dressed in appropriate school uniform.

At times, you may want to discuss concerns and issues with class teachers. Just at the moment it is best to use the telephone or email. You can email the school 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. Please ensure school has at least two contacts and that you keep us informed of changes to mobile numbers and email addresses.

Family learning opportunities can be found here: <https://fsd.hounslow.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/>

To help children with any questions they may have about the conflict in Ukraine, there is information on our website: <https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/news>

And don't forget:

In April we have...

1st April is April Fools Day

7th April is World Health Day

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2022>

April is National Autism Awareness Month and also National Pet Month

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/news>

<https://www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk/>

Easter Sunday (Christian)

Commonwealth Day – 14th March

<https://thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-day>

Thought for the week:

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.

Question of the week:

What would it be like if there were no stars?

Nursery – Over the last few weeks in Nursery we have welcomed a range of visitors in to discuss their jobs and how they help others. The children were able to ask questions and have a go at using real equipment and uniform. The children had lots of opportunities to engage, act out scenarios in our hospital role play area and emergency services call center. We have also been busy creating a bug hotel in our garden. Together, we researched the kinds of places that insects like to live in and have created a structure that we think they will love!



Reception – In Reception, the children have enjoyed their learning about fantasy stories this half term. They have learnt about castles, knights, witches and dragons and of course kings and queens too. As a finale to the topic the children have enjoyed making fairy cakes. We made the cakes together. The children used good listening skills and understood the importance of using a recipe and measuring the ingredients. All the children watched the ingredients change as they were mixed. Then the children decorated the cakes. They looked scrumptious!





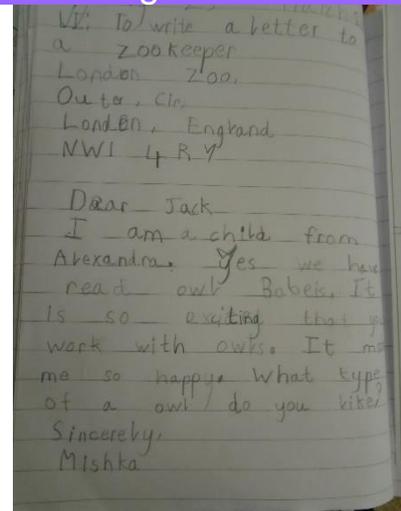
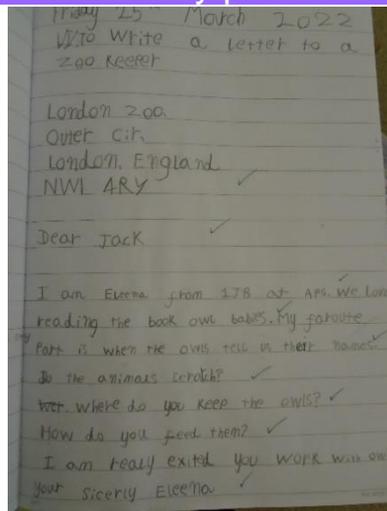
I like mixing. It's gloopy!

This week we have been focusing our learning about the season of Spring. The children have been very creative using different techniques to create pieces of art work to represent the Spring. Looking at the blossom on the trees and the flowers in our garden have influenced their work.



Blossom trees using paint. Trees using collage. Paper daffodils.

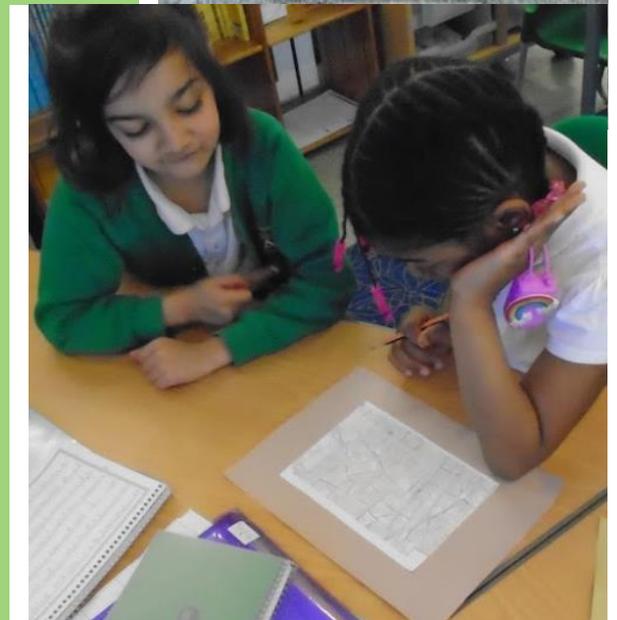
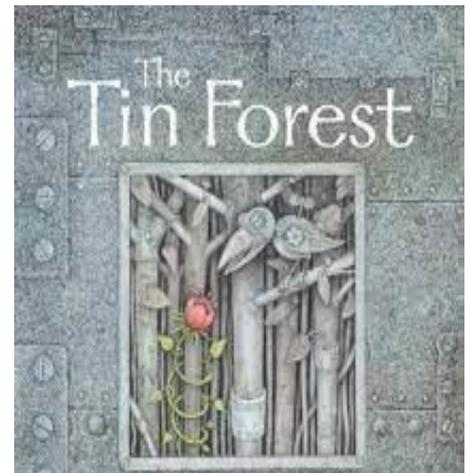
Year 1 – We have been learning about letter writing in English for the past two weeks. The children received a letter from Jack the Zookeeper who works at London Zoo. He told them all about his job in the owl enclosure. The children then wrote a reply using some features of a letter such as a greeting, questions and including useful information. They published their writing in a letter format.



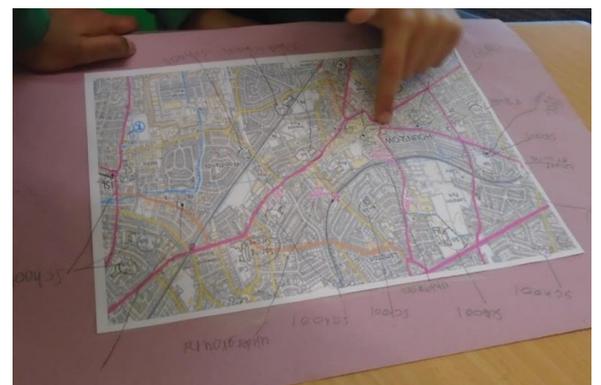
During Music this term, the children have been learning about tempo and pitch. This week the children used their learning to create a performance using percussion instruments, tuned percussion instruments and their voices.



Year 2 - We have been learning about our new story, the Tin Forest. This story is all about the problems of pollution and the effects that it can have on people's lives. Through this story, we learnt about the different ways that we can make rubbish pollution better – like recycling, reducing and reusing rubbish.



Also, we have been using the exciting programme called Digimaps to help us learn more about map reading and how we can create maps of our own. Through this we mapped out the important landmarks of Alexandra Primary School whilst also looking in detail at maps of Hounslow and Sydney. We then used our map detective skills to explain what features are the same and which are different for both areas.



We have been learning about map reading and how we can use a map to locate different landmarks and features of Hounslow. We went hunting for some of the many schools that can be found throughout the Borough of Hounslow before trying to find many other features, like the bus garage and the underground stations.

In Art, we have been keeping our eyes firmly on some observational drawings and paintings. Through our topic about Australasia, we used some watercolours to produce some landscape paintings of Uluru.



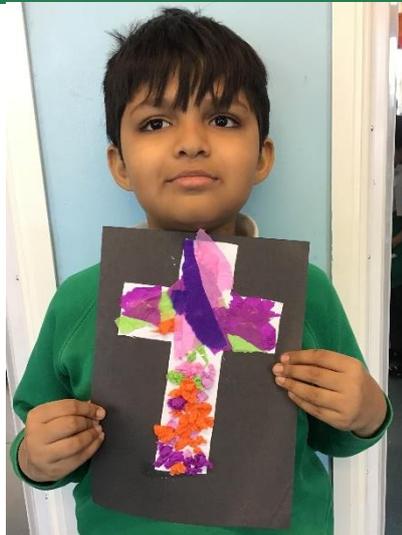
In PE, we have been practicing our dribbling skills for basketball. We know it is important to keep your fingers spread and your eyes firmly on the ball!



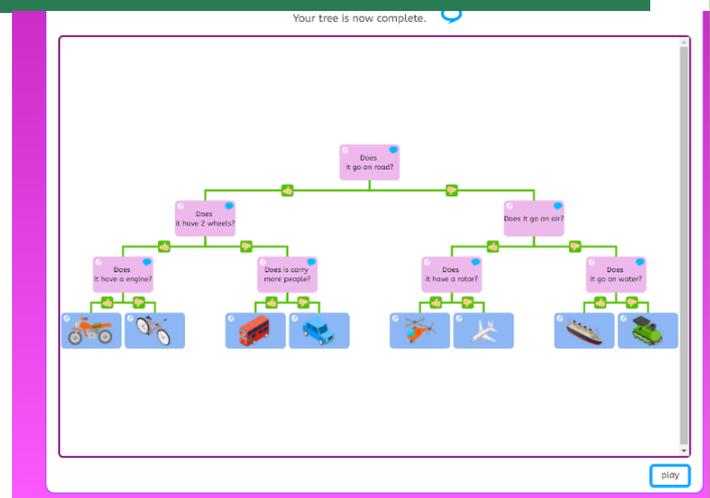
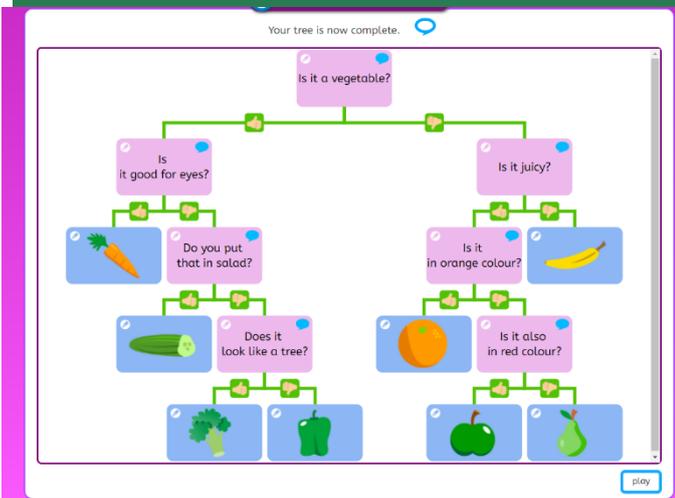
Year 3 - We completed our unit on writing play scripts. We really enjoyed using Roald Dahl's book 'The Twits' as an inspiration for our writing. To help us understand how important the different features of play scripts are, we acted out some short scenes from various stories. Some of us even managed to learn our lines by heart before performing our scene!



Last Thursday, Year 3 were treated to a visit from Reverend Elis from St Luke's church on Kingsley Road. As part of our RE unit on Christianity and Easter, he spoke to the children about Good Friday and what it means for Christians. They had the opportunity to ask many excellent questions to the reverend and he answered them all enthusiastically and comprehensively. The children really enjoyed the visit and were engaged the whole way through. Following on from this visit, children created their own tissue paper cross to display the joy of Easter to Christians.



In Computing, we have been identifying objects using branching databases. This week, we independently created a branching database that identified a given object. We continued to consider the attributes of objects to write questions with a yes or no answer, which enabled us to separate a group of objects effectively. We then arranged the questions and objects into a tree structure, before using our branching database to answer questions.



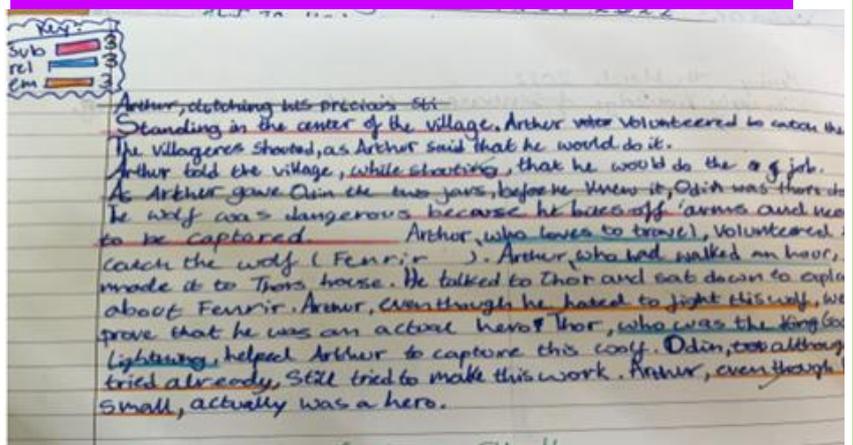
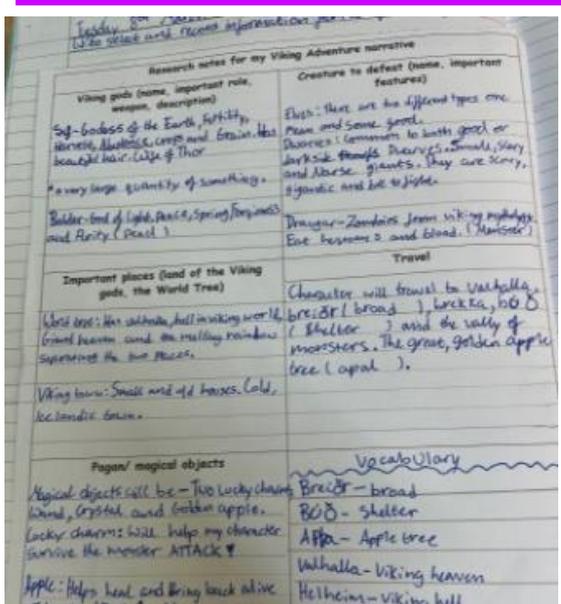
Miss Alice from Dance Energy has been instructing us in gymnastics over the past few weeks. To show off all that we have learnt so far, we worked in pairs to come up with a synchronised routine that included 2 balances, 2 rolls and 2 jumps. We worked extremely well together and came up with some very impressive short routines.



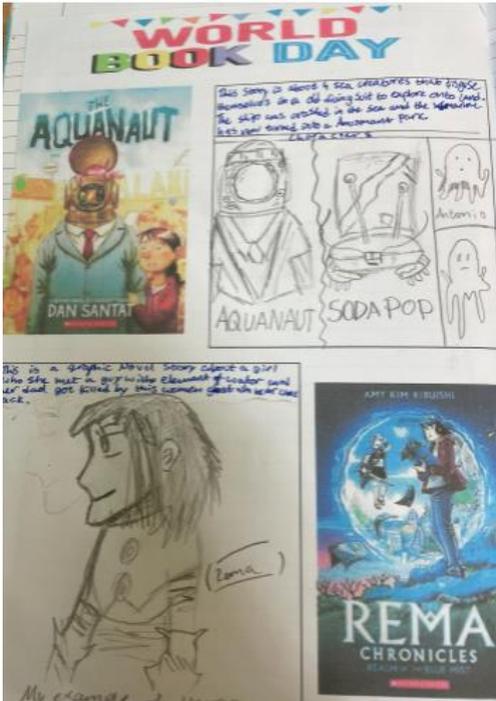
Year 4 - We celebrated our learning of China, through a China Day. This included, calligraphy of Chinese symbols and words, learning Mandarin e.g. colours, numbers, replicating festive dances such as the Dragon and Fan dances, commonly seen at Chinese New Year events.



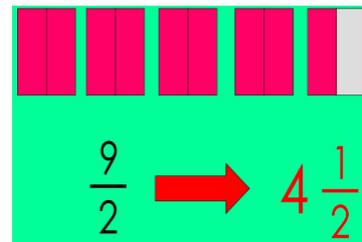
Year 5 - In English, we have been writing our own Viking adventure narrative based on the book 'Arthur and the Golden Rope.' We have been able to research Viking mythology which will help us write our Viking adventure. We also described various settings that our character would visit on his quest and used various sentence structures to help enhance our description.



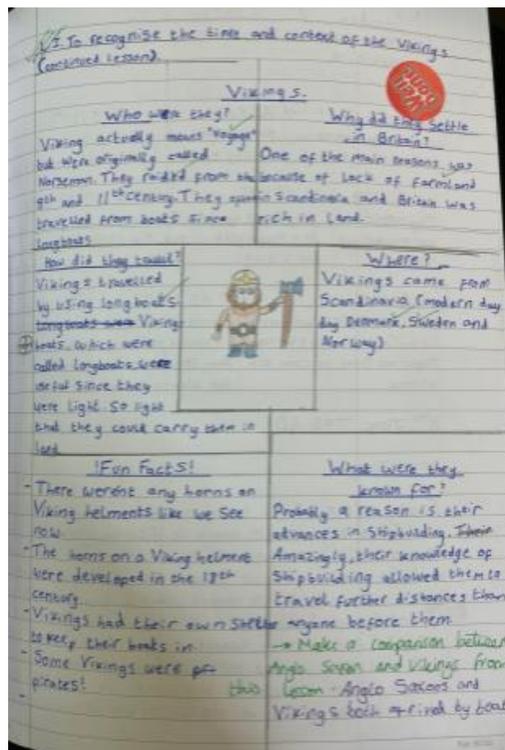
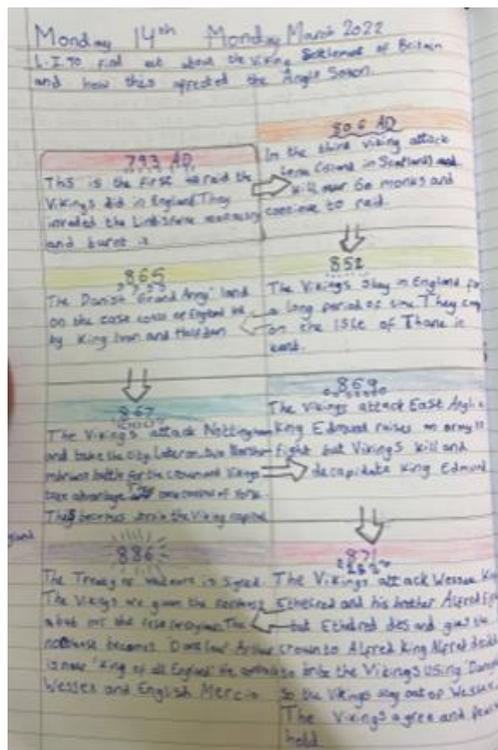
For World Book Day: We participated in a virtual session by two different authors. We copied the illustrations that they had within their books.



In Maths, we have been learning about fractions. We have converted mixed fractions to improper fractions, we have used this knowledge to help us order fractions and we have begun adding and subtracting fractions. We are ensuring our multiplication knowledge is secure to help us.



In History we have been learning about the Viking invasion and raids on England, after the Anglo Saxons. We have learnt about the Viking first raid – and wrote a diary entry from the perspective of a monk or Viking. We have also learnt about the division of the Anglo Saxons 7 kingdoms and the new Danelaw. Here are some examples of our work:



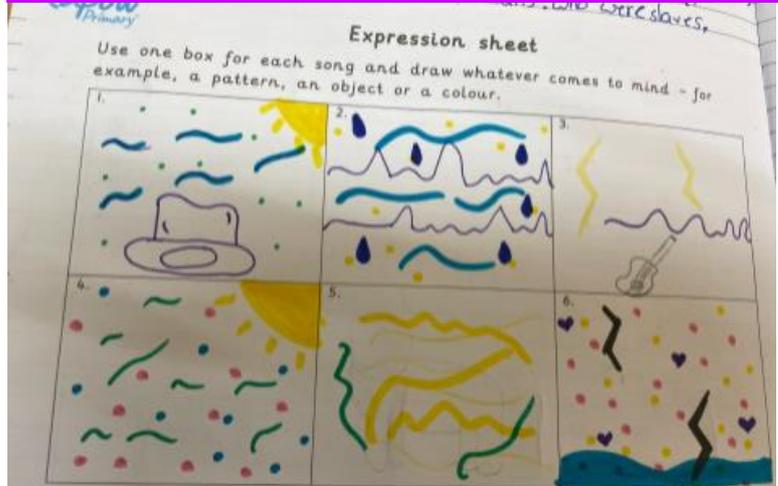
8th June, 793 AD
Dear Diary

Today, it was a grave, brutal day. But I was in a way lucky, unlike most of my friends and family. I was one of the very lucky few who had survived the brutal attack on Lindisfarne. Lindisfarne was a peaceful place, probably the most peaceful in the world. Contrary to our beliefs, this peace would not last much longer.

Earlier that morning, I had been writing out the words from the holy book in my neatest writing. After I had done this, I got up to go and look at what the others were doing. But as I was doing so, I could see a dragon head come towards the monastery. At first, I thought I was just seeing some waves but as it came closer, I could see that it was a boat with fierce people glaring at us. I quickly told the others but by the time they understood, they were already here. It was too late.

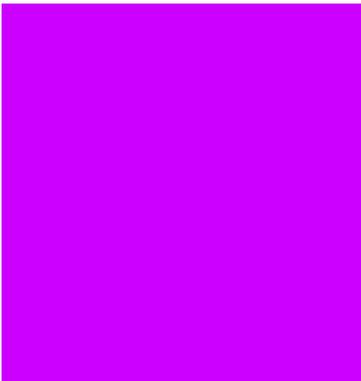
The fierce raiders leaped out of their boat and took their weapons out. The sky looked as if it knew those brutal raiders were there and the stormy. People were dying everywhere I looked. Even if we defended ourselves, the raiders were too strong and skilled with weapons. I couldn't bear to see my family die so I sneakily ran into a bush and stayed there until I thought it was safe to come out. These raiders (whom I then found out that they were Vikings) took almost all our precious things. They took the gospel book which was covered in jewels, the silver goblets, jewels and most of our valuable items. Fortunately they left the body of Saint Cuthbert.

In Music, we have been looking and listening to 'Blues' music. We listened to various versions of this genre and we drew pictures which matched to what we were listening to. We talked about how this genre of music made us feel.



Viking day

We were privileged enough to have an exciting day with the History Man. We were able to learn about the Viking period of history through artefacts. We looked at Viking games and tools. Viking clothing and a Viking bed. We were all able to handle the artefacts and feel like real life Vikings!



Thursday 24th March 2022
 4.1. To use features of a playscript

Arthur and the golden rope - Journey to meet Thor
 Arthur: (Takes a deep breath and packs possessions)
 I've been on many adventures before, how hard could this be?

Atrix warns the Village
 Atrix: (Shuffles to the front of the platform)
 Without the great fire, our town will be frozen solid in only a week, then we will too.

Arthur's discussion with Thor
 Arthur: (Bows down and starts to beg)
 Please help me, our town has been attacked

Thor: Of course, but you will need to help me with something (since a le)

In English we have started our new topic on playscripts. We have identified the features of a playscript and performed various examples. We then used our class text of "Arthur and the Golden Rope" and "The Viking Boy" to convert a narrative into a play. We performed this as a group to develop our stage directions (voice and gestures).

Here is an example of our homework – Creating a Viking Longship.



Year 6: This week the children have been learning about pie charts in Maths. In English, we have been working on a variety of grammar and comprehension tasks to fill in gaps within our learning. In Spanish, the children have reflected on their learning based on WW2. The children have been working effectively in teams to carry out orienteering tasks during PE lessons. In PSHE, we discussed emotional and mental wellbeing. It has been great to see the children give a variety of strategies to promote positive mental wellbeing. The children

Friday 25th March 2022

Positive (L)

Amiable - don't get mad at people quickly.
 Always be kind to others.
 Excitement -
 Make plans with your family/friends.
 Treat yourself something go to places you feel comfortable in.
 Think about a positive life/future.
 Weights - eat healthy things you like.
 Feel proud of your smile in the mirror.
 Think of all the positive things about yourself.

Positive (R)

Kindness - and compliment people.
 - treat others the way you want to be treated.
 - Being generous makes you feel better.
 Self-love -
 Look at yourself in the mirror and smile.
 Wear clothes you happy in.
 Always think of how worthy you are.
 Don't think about someone badshaming you (think how they feel).

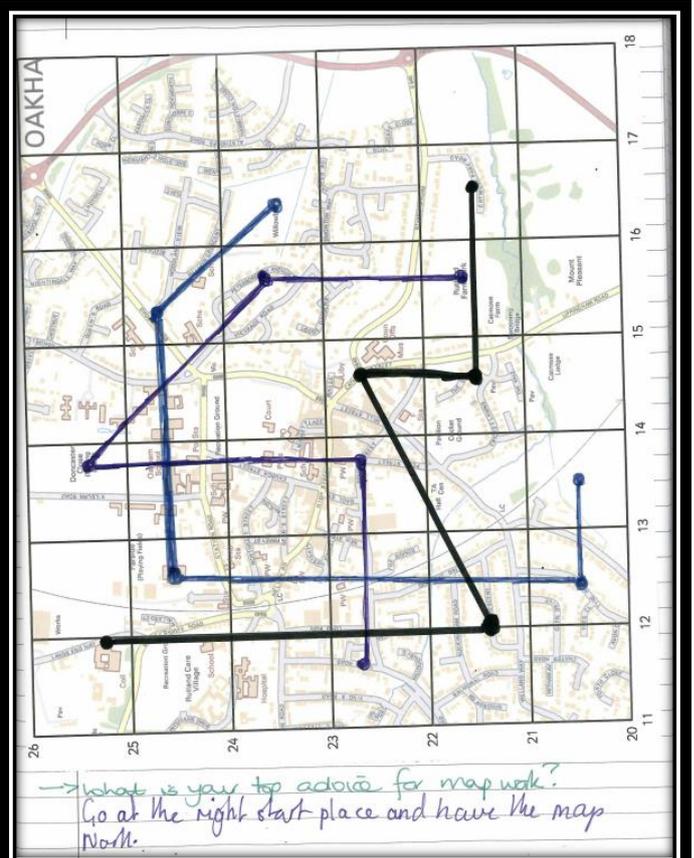
Anxiety - (negative)
 Forget the past.
 Do a fun activity to forget about worries.
 Hang out/express your feelings to someone you trust.
 Use sensory toys (if needed).

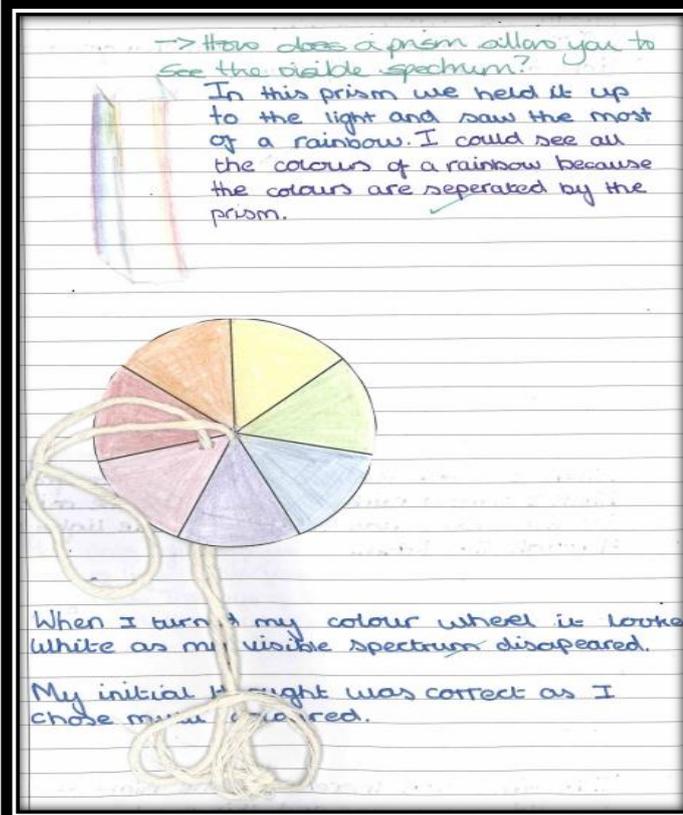
Wah!
 I love this Sabin.
 You're pet so much - brought into me!

negative (L)

Depression -
 Listen to songs that give you good vibes.
 Express your feelings go to happy places (carnival etc).

→ Is physical or mental health more important than? Give reasons for your answer.





composed and performed their own advanced rhythm (Kolady) within music. Within Science, the children investigated how a prism works and created a colour wheel to demonstrate this.

From left to right, PSHE - Wellbeing, Geography – Planning a route, Science – Refraction, Music – Kolady.



Towards the end of last week, Year 6 took part in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshop, also known as a STIXX workshop. The children worked in small groups to create air raid shelters. The children had to design their own structures within groups and they created newspaper sticks, which were then assembled to create the structures. It was great to see all getting involved!





In PE, we have been brushing up on our orienteering and map work skills. In Maths, we have worked on ratio and in English; we have been looking at features of a newspaper article.

C8 School Council Conference



Collabor8

On Tuesday 22nd March, APS hosted the annual C8 School Council Conference. We were joined by members of the school council from 6 other schools to discuss the theme of climate change. Each school presented some of the things that they have been doing this year and every group took lots of ideas back to their respective schools for potential future projects. Later on, in the afternoon we were joined by Heather Carlisle, a sustainability officer from Hounslow Council, who discussed what climate change is and why it is such an important issue, as well as some of the things that Hounslow is currently doing to tackle climate change. She also shared some things that schools and individuals could do to help.



We ended the afternoon with a tricky quiz that prompted lots of discussion amongst the schools and provided us with lots of facts about the environment that we didn't know before.

Did you know that recycling just one aluminium can save enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours, or that 17 trees are saved for every tonne of paper that is recycled?

30 IDEAS ON HOW TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

1 Drink tap water	2 Turn off taps when brushing teeth	3 Take a shower instead of a bath	4 Install a low flow showerhead	5 Dry your clothes on a line
6 Cycle or walk if you can	7 Don't idle in your car	8 Complete an energy audit of your home	9 Unplug chargers when not in use	10 Buy locally produced foods – shop local
11 Don't overheat your home	12 Water the plants with water harvested from water butts	13 Set up your own compost system for food waste	14 Switch off lights after use	15 Calculate your carbon and aim to reduce
16 Switch to LED bulbs	17 Go vegan once a week	18 Plan your meals for the week, only buy the food you will eat	19 Buy more loose products	20 Donate to plant a tree
21 Recycle everything you can	22 Buy less, share more and swap	23 Plant bulbs	24 Avoid buying plastic	25 When boiling the kettle only boil what you need
26 Be an influencer and turn your friends 'green'	27 Learn to mend clothes	28 Recycle any plastic bags	29 Recycle all batteries – don't throw away!	30 Go paperless

www.hounslow.gov.uk/climate-emergency

During the holiday, remember to read, relax, rest, recover and we will do much more in the summer term.

What do you remember from this week, last week, last month, last term?

What are you able to do now that you couldn't at the beginning of this term?

What will you be able to do at the end of next term?

Have a really good holiday.

