



ST MARY'S SCHOOL Hadleigh

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another



CURRICULUM NEWS

March 2024

This has been a great year of learning so far at St Mary's. Teaching staff have continued to offer a rich and varied curriculum: for example, from our Forest School where the younger children have been learning about the seasons and bird song; to Art where children have learned about Italian painters; to Maths, where children have learned multiplication and division calculations amongst other things. In Science, students have studied how water gets into plants and the ideal conditions for plant growth. In Religious Education the Hadleigh Story Tellers have visited the school to help students learn about Bible parables and the early years children have learned how to help other people when they need it. Each year has provided further detail

YEAR 1 Science and Forest School

In science we have been learning all about the seasons and how we identify them. Our Forest School sessions have really helped with this, as they allow us to really notice the changes in weather and temperature, but also to notice the changes in trees and animals around us. We have learnt that in winter, it is colder and there are fewer berries on the trees or insects around for birds to feed on. We created our own bird feeders to help with this and to encourage more birds to visit. We have even learnt to recognise the call of a few different birds! In Winter, we noticed how bare the trees had become in comparison to the summer months and how it was more difficult to play hide and seek. Recently we have looked for signs of spring, noticed all the new flowers and learnt the names of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. We have observed new birds nests appearing in the trees daily and been amazed at the budding trees and appearance of beautiful blossom on their branches. This week we even saw our first bumblebee, out of hibernation, and learnt about the many other creatures that hibernate in the Winter, but our now beginning to wake up!



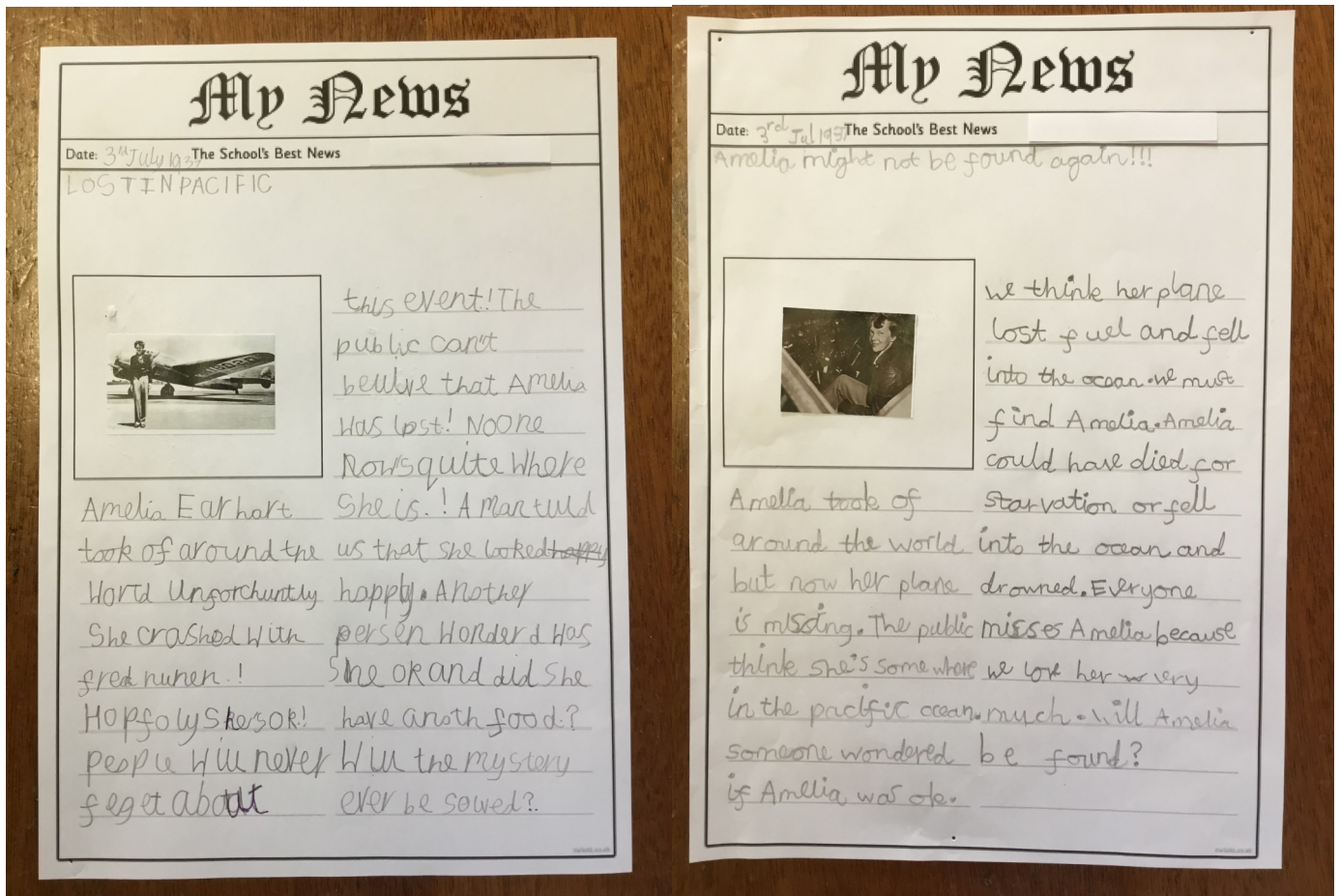


Year 1 making bird feeders and creating model birds from recycled materials

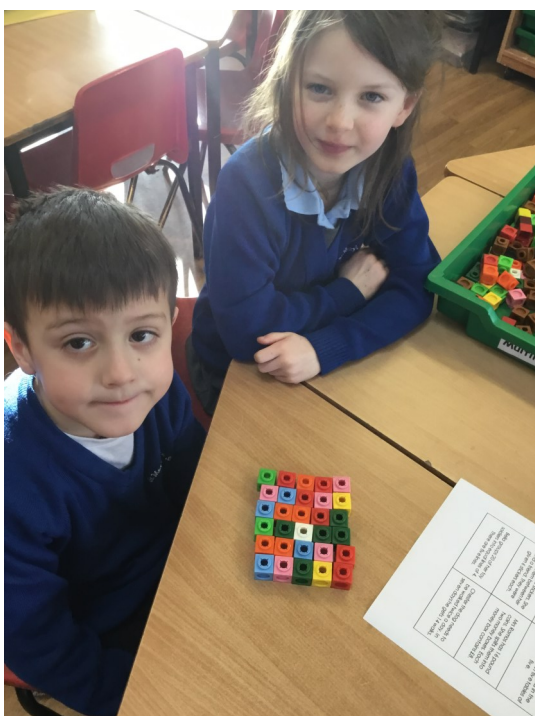


Year 2 Across the Curriculum

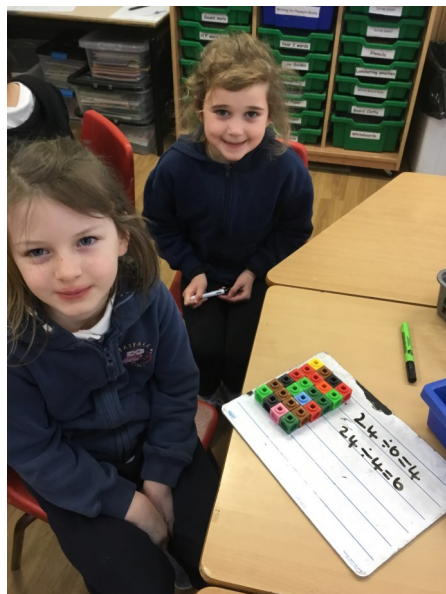
In **English**, we have written newspaper reports about the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, the famous aviation pioneer.



And in **Geography**, we have looked at where female explorers have travelled, including Amelia Earhart & Ellen MacArthur, the yachtswoman.



Here are some students in **Maths** doing multiplication, division, time and fractions. The photos include arrays using multilink

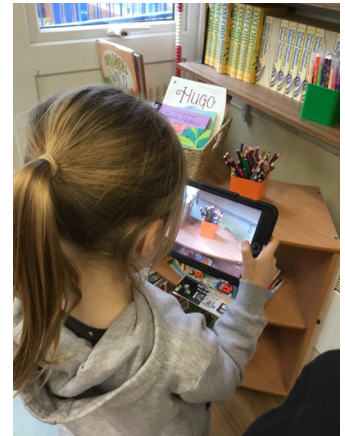


Year 2

Religious Education classes saw the Hadleigh Story Tellers come to talk to us and Year 1 about various Christian parables. **In Art**, we made sculptures inspired by Barbara Hepworth.



Computing—students learned how to take photos and edit them on their tablets.



PE - We concentrated on Gymnastics and Yoga



Year 3 Across the Curriculum

In Maths, our focus has been on multiplication and division calculations. We have used a range of strategies to solve calculations, using arrays, dienes, partitioning and inverse operations.

In English, we have been looking at recount writing focussing on the text 'The day I swapped my dad for a goldfish.'



Our Topic—this term we have been learning about Italy:

its cities, mountains and lakes,

as well as volcanoes with a focus on Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii

In Science, we learned about plants and what they need to survive and flourish. We completed some investigations, one to find out what the ideal conditions are to grow a plant and another to find out how water travels into a plant.



And in Art. We are looking at Italian painters, the use of brushstrokes, mixing colours and making them lighter and darker,



In PE,

we are learning the skills needed to play football and netball. We have learnt various passes and throws and also how to defend

Year 3 have also been hard at work learning songs and rehearsing for their production of ***You Are Special***



YEAR 4

In Maths, we have been learning fractions , especially equivalent fractions & learning the language used when working with fractions. Also there is daily times tables practices and challenges

In Art, children have done mono-printing inspired by Paul Klee work (right): how to create a print by tracing over a drawing placed on ink. We are now moving on to Fabric art which will look at the artist Michael Brennand and involve mono-printing over dyed fabric to create a mixed media collaborative art piece

In RE Students have studied Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus and the impact this has had on Christians.

English classes have seen us doing narrative writing that persuades the reader to agree with you, inspired by 'The Great Kapok Tree'. Calligrams and simple shape poems

PE students have practised netball skills, including different ways to pass the ball to your team mates.

PSHE

We have looked at healthy and unhealthy relationships & how to deal with conflicts and problems. In addition, we studied Human Rights – what they are and which we think people might think are most important



Geography Children are learning about Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest— animals of each layer of the Rainforests and the life of the Kayapo tribe (left).

In Science Our focus has been on Living Things and their Habitats. Understanding the 7 processes of life, the meaning of classification, the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates, the 5 groups of vertebrates in the Animal Kingdom and classifying features of animals by detail. At the start of the topic, Year 4 went into the wooded environment at school and searched for mini beasts.

Reading We looked at comprehensions focusing on a variety of skills including retrieval, vocabulary, and inference plus taking an image with no text and 1) Using inference to decide the context of the story 2) answering comprehension questions on an image with no text.

Spelling One group learned Year 4 Common Exception words along with other words based on spelling rules. A second group looked at Year 2 Common exception words with weekly homework and testing

MICHAEL MORPURGO
 Kensuke's
 Kingdom
 From the author of **WarHorse** now a major feature film

Forces and the children have had a really interesting time investigating the different forces and how they work.

In RE, students are learning about why Jesus is important to Christians and we are looking at the resurrection.

A hand-drawn mind map about forces. The central node is "FORCES" in a cloud. It branches into "Effects" (with sub-nodes "motion", "shape", "VECTOR"), "Scalar" (with sub-nodes "Magnitude", "Distance", "Mass", "speed"), "Types of force", "Elasticity", "Hooke's Law", "Forces and Motion", "Newton's Laws", and "Newton's (N)". There are also smaller nodes like "Unbalanced forces", "mass", and "weight" with a drawing of a person.



Our Topic –We are studying World War 2 and the children have been learning about the Blitz and its effects. The class is enhancing this learning with a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford in the Spring term.

YEAR 6

English

Narrative poetry: *The Highway Man* by Alfred Noyes. Year 6 read the poem, identifying the features used & we discussed the story and students then wrote their own version of the story.

Biography writing: children researched the life of Mary Anning, the British fossil collector, to write a biography, identifying the features of the genre. Cross curricular link to science topic of evolution and inheritance.

Science

Classification: Carl Linnaeus and his system of classification. We sorted sweets by their characteristics using a system similar to Linnaeus.



Evolution and inheritance: Looking at the work of Mary Anning and her discoveries. What can we learn from fossils about how animals and plants have evolved?

In Maths We have focused on fractions, decimal and percentages finding the equivalence for each. Learning how to subtract, add, divide and multiply fractions. SATs revision has been taking place with the children using an on-line website *SATs Boot Camp* to support this.

Physical Education



Learning to work collaboratively supporting each other to find solutions to problems.

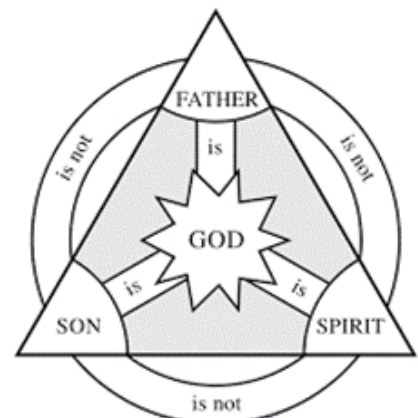
A visit to Hadleigh High School gave Year 6 the opportunity to experience trampolining (right)



In RE

This term we have learnt about the Trinity, making mobius strips to represent this. It was difficult to explain and understand how one person could be the same but different.

Our second topic this term is resurrection and what Christians believe about this. We designed our own Easter eggs to show the true meaning of Easter.



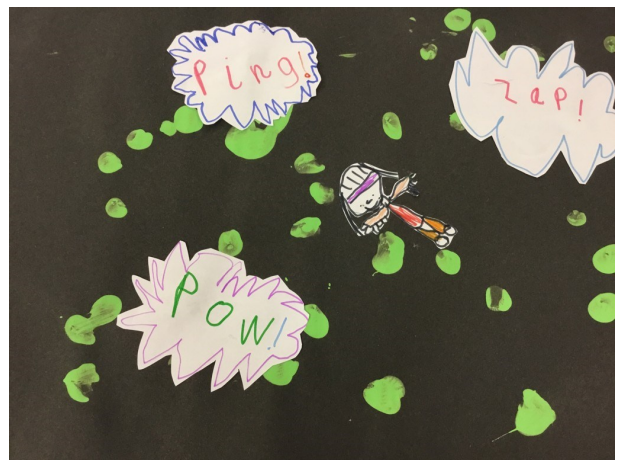
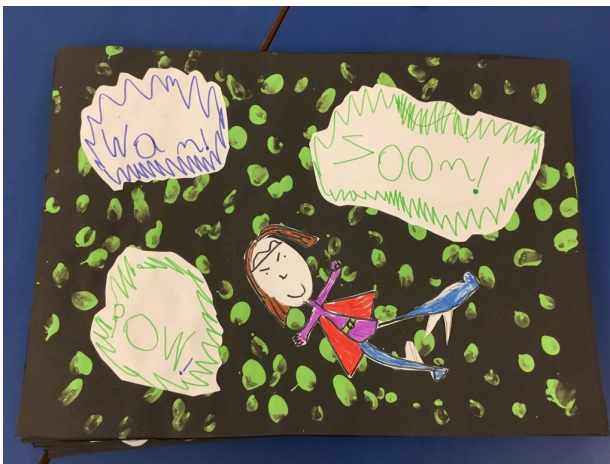
Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Work Spring 2024

The EYFS children have been focussing on Superheroes related to our **R.E. topic** 'How can we help others when they need it?' This superhero topic has inspired learning in all areas of the curriculum including reading, writing, maths, science, geography, art and P.E.

We have been reading various Superhero books including Supertato by Sue Hendra and Super Daisy and the Peril of Planet Pea by Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt. The children have been writing in response to our Superhero R.E. topic and in response to our Super hero books such as Super Daisy.

Reading, art and writing

The children loved creating the Planet Pea by finger printing and did an amazing job of drawing Super Daisy in the style of Nick Sharratt. They finished their master pieces by writing superhero words!



Art, Science and Maths (capacity, subitising and counting with peas)



We made our very own Supertatoes from real potatoes and explored frozen 'Evil Peas'!



Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Work Spring 2024



P.E.
Superhero training!



Geography

Hunt to find the Superhero baddie following our maps!



NEW MATHS MASTERY SCHEME

Lastly, we are introducing a new maths teaching scheme in the school to enhance learning. The Mathematics Mastery Programme aims to help children develop a deep and conceptual understanding of mathematics. The curriculum is carefully sequenced with consistently structured lessons and opportunities for practical maths. Through the scheme, pupils learn mathematical thinking and communicate their ideas, becoming great problem-solvers!

Mr A Frolish Headteacher