

Southminster C of E Primary School's Newsletter Friday 19th January 2024

Bible Quote of the Week

Galatians 5.22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.



We had an exciting time this week when an air ambulance landed unexpectedly on our school field. Thankfully, the helicopter was not needed to transfer a casualty and the crew were kind enough to allow the children to look around and ask questions. We then had the opportunity to watch the helicopter take off as we all waved goodbye. We are all very grateful to the crew for their time in answering so many questions and for allowing us to take photographs. It is a memory that will stay with us all.



EYFS

This week, we have been exploring mass and capacity in maths. We have been using weighing scales to see what items are heavier and what are lighter. We have also explored how to balance our scales with multilink in our continuous provision. We have been exploring watercolours and how to blend colours to create a sunset linked to our R.E. this week. Tomorrow, we will be trying to draw mosques on top of our watercolour backgrounds.

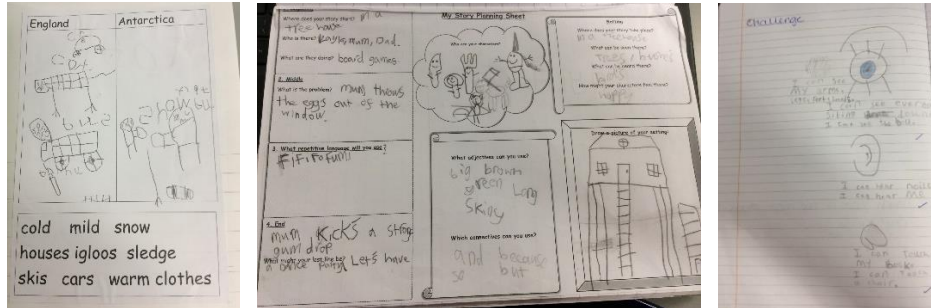
We were very lucky on Wednesday that an air ambulance landed on our school field, as our children were able to look around the helicopter and ask the pilots some questions. This was a fabulous experience that linked perfectly to our topic of How People Help Us.

KS1

This week KS1 have started to write a story based on the traditional tale Jack and the beanstalk. We have planned and have written a fantastic opener. In Science, we have been learning about the five senses, matching them to the different parts of the body. We discussed which sense we thought was the most important and why.



As part of our topic, we are finding out about different explorers and the places that they explored. We compared England to Antarctica.



LKS2

This week in LKS2, we have been looking at the work of William Shakespeare in our Writing lessons. We have been finding out all about him and his famous plays and poems. We are in particular studying 'Twelfth Night' which was confusing to understand at first but now we understand it (it is a very complicated love triangle!). In Rosa Parks Class, we even acted out the parts of Viola/Cesario, Duke Orsino, Lady Olivia and Sebastian. Acting the story out really brought it to life and we had a lot of laughter throughout. 😊



UKS2

UKS2 students had an exciting week in Science, immersing themselves in volcanic eruptions and creating impressive demonstrations. The enthusiasm continued in Geography, where they explored the geology behind tectonic plates and volcanoes. This integrated approach provided a dynamic and engaging learning experience, connecting scientific principles with geographical concepts.

In Mathematics, the focus extended to the intricate world of addition and subtraction using the column method, spanning both decimals and integers. Simultaneously, during dedicated writing sessions, the students honed their descriptive writing skills. This week marked the second 'Write to Impress,' where the children showcased their outstanding writing abilities, highlighting a comprehensive blend of scientific exploration, mathematical challenges, and literary development.



Online Safety

Children regularly use different websites and apps from their parents and it can be hard to keep up in this everchanging digital world. The things that help to keep children safe online are often similar to the things that keep them safe offline.

- Half of ten-year olds now own their own smartphone (Ofcom 2019)
- 70% of 12-15-year olds now have a social media profile, with Snapchat being the most prominent platform in this age group (Ofcom 2019)
- Children aged 5-15 now spend over 14 hours a week online, just over two hours a day (Ofcom 2019)

Source: www.parentprotect.co.uk/

Please use the following link to find out how to protect your children in a digital world:
[Parents Protect - Internet Safety](#)

Diary Dates:

Monday 5th February - Friday 11th February: Mental Health Week

Friday 16th February: Inset Day

Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February: Half Term

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day

Friday 15th March: Red Nose Day

Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April: Easter Holiday

Monday 15th April: Inset Day

Monday 13th May: Year 6 SATs Week

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May: Half Term

Monday 3rd June: Year 4 Multiplication Check Week

Thursday 13th June: Dengie Sports Training

Monday 10th June: Phonics Screen Week

Wednesday 26th June - Saturday 29th June: Year 6 residential trip

Wednesday 3rd July: Dengie Sports

Tuesday 23rd July: Summer Holidays begin.



SOUTHMINSTER
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

One of our pupils suffers from this rare condition, which can continue into adulthood. Her mother was also diagnosed with the condition at 18 months of age and the two have been raising awareness and money for the national charity Versus Arthritis.

Mia is brave, resilient and doesn't stop smiling, even through her two injections a week, numerous appointments and blood tests. She has uveitis (inflammation of the eye) and now has eczema to deal with too.

Both Mia and her mum have featured in Ok! Magazine and in three national newspaper magazines as well as the Maldon and Burnham Standard, raising awareness of JIA. Mia's mum has also released an album of Christmas songs where all proceeds go to the Versus Arthritis charity. Mia even sings on one of the songs.

To read more about Mia and her mum and the Versus Arthritis charity, please use the following link:

https://www.versusarthritis.org/news/2023/december/christmas-charity-album-raises-awareness-of-arthritis/?fbclid=IwAR39NU4VuEhrTqVJBsD6L6WW9nsLr-YhUPkO_CF5_B949PhGy27VdXHN13o

We are very proud to have such an amazing little girl at Southminster School. Well done, Mia!



Reading

Well done to everybody who has increased the amount that they are practising their reading at home. It was noticeable in our Celebration Assembly this week how many more children were in the draw to win a book and I have seen in classes how many more books are going into the **I have read** tray or basket. This is wonderful to see. I am looking forward to the first pupils winning their Blue Peter Book Badge.

[Blue Peter Book badge | Find out how to earn the Book BP badge - CBBC - BBC](#)

Kind regards,

Mrs. Woods and all the staff at Southminster C of E Primary School