

November Newsletter

Reading Comprehension

We are continuing our sessions with all the children where, in small groups, we specifically teach them a skill related to improving their reading comprehension. As you know last half term we looked at the importance of “prediction” when reading. Some of the children have said how they are rehearsing these skills at home which is really very helpful for them.

This half term we have moved onto “Why” questions. The children will be encouraged to come up with their own “why” questions as well as giving answers. We will be encouraging them to explain how they know the answer to specific questions i.e. what evidence they can give and explain to the rest of the group why they need to know that bit of information. So when you hear your child read up until Christmas we would ask that you encourage lots of questioning to take place, both to them and from them

Harvest

We had a wonderful Harvest Festival this year with many parents and friends attending. Each class took part in the service by showing some work connected with one of our Harvest songs, the favourite had to be “Singing Vegetables” performed by Earth class!

The generous donations you sent in will be used by the Haverhill Foodbank distribution and 2 children from the School Council represented the school when delivering them.

Cultural Day

We held our first Cultural Day before half term and we looked at the country of Kenya. It was a fantastic day where the children were put into mixed age groups and did a “round robin” of activities for the day including singing, cooking, drumming and art work. We had 2 Kenyan visitors who had a “wonderful time” and took away with them some pen letters which they will deliver to a Kenyan school (they flew out the following day) so hopefully we can develop some links with them.

This is what a Year 3 child said about the day:

“The day was fun and full of activities. The Swahili was quite hard to learn but I have remembered it still and the dancing was really fun and made me feel tired out. When I was drumming I found it easy and I liked it that everyone got to perform for the grown-ups. I remember how we had to change to a different beat when drumming. Cooking was hard because the chopping was hard and you could not rub your eyes after touching the onions. The food we made was spicy and I liked eating it. I cannot wait to do another Cultural day again and look at another country.”

Saturn Class News

The children in Saturn Class (Y5/6) visited the Ridgewell Airfield Commemorative Museum on Wednesday 28th September and met American author, J. Ross Greene. He has written the book, 'A Fortress and a Legacy' about the life of his uncle who was stationed in Ridgewell during WWII. He delivered a fascinating talk to the children about the airfield, planes and servicemen including his memories of his uncle, Ross W. Perrin. It was a truly memorable visit. All who visited from the school much appreciated the welcome they received.



Saturn Class also visited Duxford Museum. Here is a recount of the trip by Zac Sanders.

Imperial War Museum - Duxford

On 5th October, Saturn class went to the War Museum in Duxford to find out more information about World War II. We spent the day there and it was amazing.

When we first arrived, we had a class photo taken under a big sign. It was a squeeze, but we got there in the end and then went inside. "WOW," I thought, when we first went in, it looked amazing before I had even seen any artefacts.

When we were outside walking towards the Land War museum, we saw a Flying Fortress, the strongest war plane used in World War II. When we got inside the Land War Museum, it was fantastic, there were tanks and turrets everywhere, I felt like I was in World War II. My favourite tank was the camouflage tank, I definitely recommend that others go there.

Soon after that, we went outside for a break and a yellow bi-plane came and took off, it looked so cool. A few minutes later, we went into a different room and there was a 100-year-old boot. This room had lots of information about soldiers and we got to hold grenades, wear a helmet and touch real guns. I really liked that part.

After that we went into the American Airplane Museum. Here we saw huge plane, Spitfires and Hurricanes, and we saw the Thunderbolt Plane. I had a picture taken of me with the wind blowing on me. There were phones on the displays that you could listen to.

Straight after that we went into a different room and on the wall we found Ross Perrin's name. We then went to the Battle of Britain room. We read lots of information and looked at the Messerschmitt, Spitfire and Hurricane. It was awesome.

The best thing about that day was looking at big planes in the American Museum because I learnt the most in that room. I learnt that the Flying Fortress was the strongest plane in WWII. I would recommend the museum at Duxford to everyone who loves the topic of WWII.

Remembrance

On the 11th November as usual, we will be taking all the children to the war memorial in the village for an Act of Remembrance at 11am. This is a village occasion and all will be welcome to join us for the short service we will hold. We are always very proud of our children on such occasions as they show great respect. Please can you ensure your child has a coat and appropriate warm clothes on the day.