

CLASS NEWS

Willow:



Over the past two weeks, Willow class has enjoyed playing in our post office. The children have been busy making cards, buying stamps, writing addresses and posting their letters.

Reception children have also worked really hard to pay for items in different ways and recognise coins quickly.



We are now exploring Antarctica and have enjoyed learning lots of penguin facts. We've used photographs to paint penguins in our workshop and fed penguins the correct amount of fish in our busy fingers area. We're looking forward to our Snowzone trip!

Please send your child with hats and gloves so we can continue to enjoy playing outdoors in the colder weather.

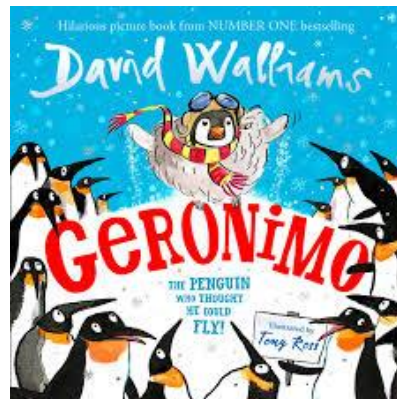


Oak:



As part of our topic work we have now started to look at Antarctica, this week we have been focusing on penguins. We watched an episode of Pingu, we used a comic strip to add speech to the story, the children enjoyed working out what Pingu might have been saying. We also

read *Geronimo* by David Walliams, a story about a penguin



who really wants to fly! We decided to help him and have been thinking of ways he might be able to fly, some of which include a jet pack and a paper aeroplane. We are going to create our own comic strip using the iPads, telling the story of how we made Geronimo fly!



We also read a story all about bread, so we decided to make our own! It was delicious and the smell from the classroom was amazing! Hopefully a little bit came home for you to try...

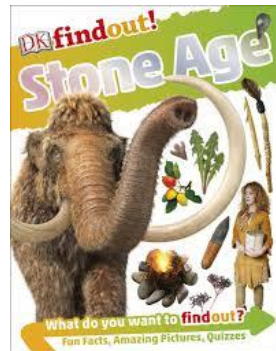
In Oak Class we have lots of reading volunteers who kindly come in to read with us every week. As they come into school on different days each week, **please can children have their reading books in school every day.** Thank you.



Beech:

We have continued our focus on the Stone Age this week with some fantastic work being produced.

In literacy we used DK Findout to research different aspects on the Stone Age and made notes using word maps. We used the wealth of information collected to write short paragraphs explaining life in the Stone Age and have been writing them up as fact files. We have also made some wonderful pieces of art and even a biscuit replica of Stonehenge.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

To finish our times tables we made big posters explaining different patterns and strategies we have discovered. We have begun learning methods for multiplication, exploring multiplying 3 numbers

and looking at factor pairs. Our knowledge of times tables is sure to help us with this topic.



We have continued looking at rocks in science, conducting an experiment to see what properties different types of rocks

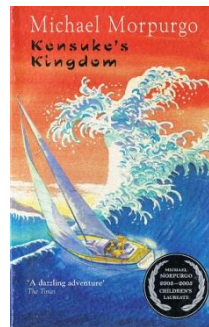
had. We looked at how permeable they were and whether they had a high or low density.



We have had a wonderful term so far and I'm sure it'll continue as we learn more about our fascinating topics.

Sycamore:

Sycamore class has continued to excel at fractions! Unlike other years we haven't had to resort to chocolate, pizzas and pies to engage the children in their fraction learning, rather they are buzzing from the sheer satisfaction of cracking fraction problems using a wide range of skills. Our fractions lessons are noisy because the children are genuinely discussing how to tackle the calculations they are faced with. The children have now begun to give me their spelling scores as a fraction, such is their obsession with them! As a teacher, it's the most wonderful feeling to see children inspired and excited by something which is usually perceived as scary and over-whelming. Go Sycamore!



Equally satisfying is the class's interest in Kensuke's Kingdom. There is real disappointment on days when we don't read the next chapter. The children had a go at writing dual narratives this week, which is where the same piece of narrative is told by more than one character simultaneously. This is a high level skill which the children will learn

more about at secondary school. We felt that the class was able to take on the challenge and once again they did themselves proud. The children have moved on to writing a non-chronological report on a new species of jellyfish they have 'discovered' and next week we hope to spend a session making their jellyfish.

With about six weeks to go until Low Mill, we spent a session discussing the children's hopes and fears for the week. We talked about some of the strategies they could use if they are concerned about taking part in an activity they are worried about. The children understood that it is ok to feel anxious when they are pushed outside of their comfort zone and faced with unfamiliar challenges, but that it is so important to just 'have a go' and to acknowledge that it may be a very long time before they are offered the same opportunities again - if ever. We talked about the fact that we will be guided by very experienced instructors who would never put any one in a genuinely dangerous situation. The children had so much to discuss that we will carry on with talking things through next week.



FOSCPS

Do you want to meet other Skelton School mums, dads and carers? Would you like the school to have more funding for trips, arts, crafts, baking, class pets and play equipment? Would you like to give something back to your community? Then please come to the next meeting of the Friends of Skelton Community Primary School (FoSCPS)! You don't need any particular skills or experience, you don't have to commit to anything, you don't need to be on the committee, all you need is a willingness to help in any way you can, whenever you can.



Our next meeting is 19:30 on Tuesday 12th February at Riverside Farm Pub. We meet once every couple of months and we aim to hold one or two events per term. We can't do anything without help from parents and carers and we always need more!



Valentine's Disco - Thursday 14th Feb, 5.15 - 6.30pm. More details to follow.

OOSC



The children have been getting up to all sorts of fun in the club! Last week, we made some gloopy foam sand – it felt really smooth and gloopy between our fingers and we all made some interesting mounds and marks. Inspired by the photography challenge from two weeks ago, the children have really enjoyed experimenting with taking their own pictures and getting creative with all the different filters and effects available on the iPads. Another popular activity lately has been junk modelling! We've seen crafted: a noble steed, a fine dancer, and a tiny little elf bed.



Eggs seem to have been the recurring theme for this week. On Tuesday, we baked some delicious chocolately cupcakes. There was just one minor egg explosion, luckily most of it made it into the cake mix! Another egg activity we've tried is growing cress inside eggshells. We only planted the seeds on Wednesday but we're very excited to see how they grow over the next week – not to mention getting to taste it!

There are still places available for our Chinese New Year event on Tuesday 5th February. Come along for a fun-filled evening of creating and culture! Furthermore, if you have received an Out of School Club survey and have not yet completed it, we would be most grateful if you could do so and return it before half term. Thank you very much.



Upcoming After School Club Activities:

Week commencing 4th February:

Monday	BIG ACTIVITY Tuesday	STEM Wednesday	Arts and Crafts Thursday	Sensory Friday
Indoor Snowball Fun	Chinese New Year	Lemon Batteries	Sparkly Icicle Decorations	Edible Play Balls

Week commencing 11th February:

Monday	Tuesday	STEM Wednesday	Arts and Crafts Thursday	Sensory Friday
Wooden Snowflakes	Basketball and Hockey	Cup Communication	Solar System Jewellery	Fizzy Cloud Dough

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 5 th February, 3:30 – 6pm	Chinese New Year in After School Club – booking required
Monday 11 th February	Whole Class Photographs
Tuesday 12 th February	Reception & Oak Class Xscape Trip
Tuesday 12 th February, 7.30pm	FRIENDS Meeting at Riverside Farm
Thursday 14 th February 5.15pm – 6.30pm	Valentines Disco
Friday 22 nd February	PTA Tuck Shop
Friday 22 nd February	Break up for half term
Monday 4 th March	Return to school
Wednesday 6 th March, after school	Year 5/6 Netball at Vale of York –letter to follow
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th March	Sycamore trip to Low Mill
Wednesday 3 rd April	Beech Swimming – letter to follow



Please take a look at our website (www.skeltonprimaryschool.org), which has a new look and a great search feature to enable you to easily find information. It is also linked to our school Facebook page, where you can see daily updates and photos from our class teachers.



Please note that in the event of heavy snow, you can check whether the school is open by listening to BBC Radio York (95.5FM) or Minster FM (104.7FM) or by checking their websites/Twitter feeds. We will also place a message on the homepage of our website advising if school is closed.

www.bbc.co.uk/radioyork

www.minsterfm.com