



# UPDATES

## Some key updates from our year so far.

Following on from our successful first week back focusing on PSHE, we have had another week full of new curriculum experiences. The children have been engaging with their new topics in our curriculum and are clearly enjoying them.

## EXCITING UPDATES ON OUR NEW CURRICULUM TOPICS!

We are pleased to share the latest updates on the new curriculum topics that our children are enthusiastically embracing this term. The energy and excitement in the classrooms is contagious, and we wanted to take a moment to keep you in the loop. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity demonstrated by our children. The engaging activities and immersive learning experiences are fostering a love for history (a focus this half term) and knowledge that will undoubtedly stay with them for years to come.

As the chilly weather arrived, our tiny tots in Nursery have embarked on an enchanting journey into the wonders that this frosty season brings exploring snow, ice and penguins.

EYFS learning about ice, snow and penguins.

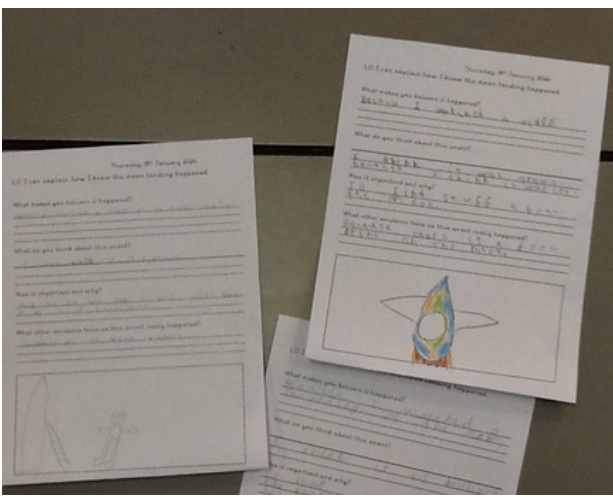


Our Reception Class have embarked on an incredible journey of discovery, exploring the enchanting wonders of our local community right here in Slaithwaite. They have been learning about jobs available within the community alongside people who help us.



In Year 1, our little explorers have embarked on an incredible adventure with 'Toy Time Travellers.' From teddy bears to action figures, the children are learning about the concept of time through the lens of their favourite toys. Creativity is soaring as they imagine the historical escapades their toys might have had! They also had a great time exploring their balance bikes.

Year 1 learning about toys of the past.



Year 2 work around Neil Armstrong.

In Year 3, our students have stepped back in time to explore 'Stone Age Rocks!' From cave paintings to primitive tools, they are uncovering the mysteries of the Stone Age. The children are engaged in hands-on activities that bring this ancient era to life, fostering a deep appreciation for our ancestors and their way of life.

Year 4 students have embarked on a fascinating journey into the mysteries of the Maya civilization. 'The Mysterious Maya' curriculum is captivating our young historians as they learn about the rich cultural heritage, advanced architecture, and mysterious disappearance of this ancient civilization. They thoroughly enjoyed their Mayan workshop that included role play, drama activities, freeze frames and quizzes.



Year 4 Mayan workshop freeze frame.

The Year 5 classrooms are echoing with the sounds of chariots and the clashing of swords as children dive into 'Ruthless Romans.' They are exploring the vast Roman Empire, learning about its military prowess, engineering marvels, and the impact of this influential civilization on our world today.

In Year 6, our children are engaging with the poignant topic of 'Lest We Forget.' Through thoughtful discussions and historical exploration, they are gaining a deeper understanding of the impact of wars on individuals and societies. The curriculum aims to instil a sense of remembrance and appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who came before us. The children enjoyed engaging in the WW2 workshop that included role play, drama activities, freeze frames and quizzes.



Year 6 WW2 role play.

By making learning fun and interactive, we are helping the children to secure the most important knowledge they need.



## **LAUNCHING THE POWER OF READING AND VIPERS**

Our teachers all had high quality CPD from Mrs Rawat from Carlinghow Academy focussed on the Power of Reading and VIPERS. Following this, we launched our new Power of Reading scheme across the school. We have purchased new books and resources that link to their learning. The Power of Reading provides us with a text based thematic curriculum where oracy, storytelling and drama-based approaches support children in their writing.

Precise reading comprehension methods are now being rolled out across school which supports reading development. We started with lots of inference using the front covers of the next texts the children were reading before delving into the other 5 areas of vocabulary, prediction, explain, retrieval and summarise.

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## **ENHANCING PHONICS EDUCATION FOR OUR STUDENTS**

Our dedicated staff have been hard at work, striving to provide the best possible outcomes for our children. Recently, a team of our teachers and support staff had the opportunity to visit Bowling Green Academy, part of the Great Heights Academy Trust, to enhance and develop our teaching methods, particularly in the area of phonics. Phonics is a crucial component of early literacy, laying the foundation for strong reading and language skills.

During this visit, our team observed best practices, and exchanged ideas with experienced colleagues. They gained valuable insights into innovative approaches to phonics instruction, which will be implemented in our classrooms to create a more enriching and effective learning environment.

We believe that investing in professional development for our teachers directly benefits your child's educational journey. Our commitment to staying current with the latest teaching methodologies ensures that we provide a well-rounded and dynamic education that meets the evolving needs of our children.

As we integrate these new insights into our phonics curriculum, we anticipate even greater strides in literacy development for our young learners. We are enthusiastic about the positive impact this will have on their language skills, reading proficiency, and overall academic success.

**If you have any questions or would like more information about these developments, please don't hesitate to speak to our staff. We value your partnership in creating the best possible educational experience for your child.**

