

February News

Spring is on its way, we hope!

This first Spring half term has been, as it always is, a very busy term. We do hope that the children have been able to tell you about some of the things they have been doing and learning in school since returning in January. Here is a flavour of what has been going on in Millfield this half term.

It has been such a busy half term in nursery, the children have had so much fun travelling to space and pretending to be astronauts in their very own rockets. We then took a journey to China and went on to learn about the festival of Chinese New Year. The children created a spectacular Dragon with very sharp teeth and paraded around our nursery garden whilst playing instruments. We have continued with our idea of journey's and we have now been thinking about all the places we could go travelling on a train. This has led us to do some amazing exploring and learning such as drawing large scale train line maps of the underground, creating bridges with our bodies and visiting magical stations such as a fairyland!



This term the children of Y5 have grown in confidence across all aspects of their learning and it has been great to see them persevere in all aspects of the curriculum. Maths has been a particular highlight where many children have shown courage and resilience in their approach to some tricky topics this half term. In History lessons, they have examined historical evidence and conducted historical enquiries drawing their own conclusions about Greek Life. Through our art work we have explored 'Set Design' and created model sets with great success. The children have also shown maturity when discussing mental health during PSHE and have become more aware of the risks of scams online during Safer Internet day. It has been a pleasure to read their writing, especially their poetry which is incredibly powerful in its use of imagery. Mrs Suter and Mrs Atkin are proud of the excellent behaviour, engagement and achievement that we have seen this half term. Enjoy a well deserved break and we look forward to seeing you soon.

In Year 3 our art focus has been, "telling stories through drawing and making." We really enjoyed sketching, then making and painting a book character from clay. Finally, we created a background for their story.



In Reception the children have loved finding out about bones, skeletons and teeth. We learnt the names of our bones and made life-size skeletons using cardboard and spit pins. We then talked about where we might find or see skeletons which led to a virtual tour of the Natural History Museum. Of course we then had to turn our classrooms into the museum, complete with dinosaur skeletons, cafe, maps, leaflets, museum labels and tour guides.

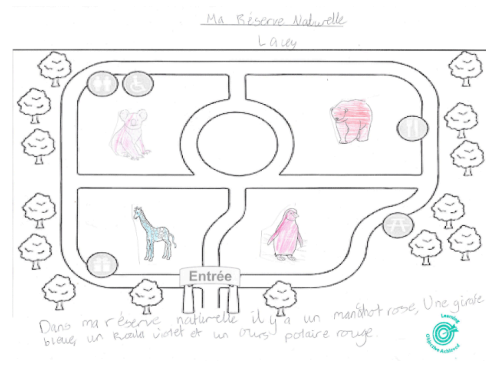
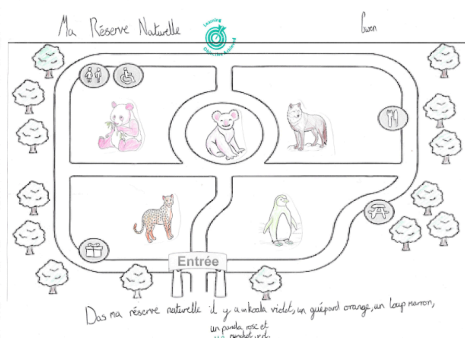


We have also been learning about how to look after our teeth. The children loved brushing their teeth in school and we talked about the importance of brushing our teeth twice a day and which foods and drinks are good for our teeth. We talked about baby and adult teeth and found out what happens during a trip to the dentist. It was great to see the children putting all this knowledge into practice at home as they sent videos of them brushing their teeth at home to us on Tapestry!

3S have been lucky enough to take part in an online dance project with Dance East which combined our science lessons (learning about forces and magnets) with different dance styles. We have really enjoyed our sessions and learnt some new skills.

In Year 1 we have enjoyed learning about axles. We have been exploring how an axle works and what the differences are between a free axle and a fixed axle. We planned a vehicle for a superhero, thinking about which type of axle we would use and why. We worked completely independently to build our vehicles and then evaluated them. We decided whether our choice of axle was the right one and if we made the model again, what, if any, changes we would make.

This half term Year 6 have been creating wildlife parks with imaginatively-coloured animals in French lessons.



The year 6 spring half term has been full of excitement and joy. In English this term, we have been creating visitors' guides for the Stonewall Inn, a Historic Landmark that changed the LGBTQ+ community's rights. In history, we have learnt about how difficult times were in World War 2. We learnt about air raids and the Battle of Britain which was when the Germans used the lightning strategy to try and take over Britain. In art, we have been learning about using brave colour and different artists that use it. We've found learning about evolution very interesting, which is what we learnt about in science. We are all related to every living thing! We are all looking forward to the next term and the things we will learn!

:) Kirsty and Gwen! (6N and 6W)

The choir have been working really hard this term on songs in a variety of styles including some with multiple parts or harmonies. We have been invited to perform in some different settings during Spring 2 and Summer Term and look forward to announcing these in the weeks to come. Miss Drury is so proud of the children's energy and enthusiasm.

This half term Y4 have been learning about the 'Art of Display' and the use of plinths. We have created our own 'Plinth People' using plaster, wire and fabric. We thought carefully about the pose we wanted and how to create their clothing. We're very proud of how they've turned out - fantastic and unique!



In Year 2 we thoroughly enjoyed innovating our own version of 'The Bear Under The Stairs' by Helen Cooper which incorporated our own fears and creatures using rhyme. We also had a great time studying architecture from around the world. We initially focused on the work of artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser we moved on to looking at both the ancient and modern wonders of the world. This culminated in creating our own structures inspired by these wonders and sharing them in a year group gallery display.

There are a number of our staff members undertaking apprenticeships in school to further develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in a range of topics including emotional wellbeing, mental health, curriculum, early years and special educational needs. The commitment and dedication of our staff to continue their professional development shows how much they are invested in the children we have in school.

I recently wrote to Y5/6 parents following incidents occurring after school at Teletubbies Hill/Park in the Highfields Estate and shared this with them: as a member of the Littleport community, if you do have serious or significant concerns of a safeguarding nature or of dangerous behaviour, I would advise you to contact the appropriate authorities which include the Police or Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board.

Email link: <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/concerned/>

We have taken action in school through our PSHE and IT curriculum as well as inviting in the Police, PCSO, NSPCC and Youth Worker Jo Coe. We will continue to monitor in school and support children in school through our curriculum. We will also keep parents/carers updated.

Once again, thank you to those who are adhering to parking safely outside of school. Our local PCSO, Mags Harvey, has visited on a number of occasions now and will continue to do so when she is available. Jo Coe, Littleport Youth Worker, also visited school to speak to the children. She also shared information about some of the things that go on at the local Youth Centre.

On the subject of the PCSO, Y5/6 had a visit from Mags Harvey who spoke to the children about keeping safe in the community and anti-social behaviour. She was very impressed with the children's knowledge and we hope that they will take this and apply it as they grow more independent and are out and about in Littleport.

The NSPCC visited our Y2 and Y5 pupils as part of the Speak Out Stay Safe project. The project is a safeguarding programme for children aged 5 - 11 years old. It helps children understand abuse in all its forms and how to speak out about it. This is done through an assembly and workshops. The younger children enjoy hearing about it from their mascot Buddy.

School uniform - we have had a number of children who are still wearing expensive, designer, brightly coloured or white trainers and hoodies to school. Please adhere to the school uniform policy which is available on the school website. As a reminder footwear should be black in colour, polo shirts should be white or pale blue, jumpers or sweatshirts should be royal blue and skirts/trousers should be grey/black. If you do have any issues with purchasing a school uniform, please contact the school as we often have lost property or donations handed into school.

On Tuesday 11th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day, which is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. The children took part in discussions and activities around this year's theme: 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.' We thought about ways to recognise scams, and what we could do if we thought we were being scammed, and enjoyed sharing this information with parents and carers who came in for part of the afternoon.

On Friday 7th February, we took part in the NSPCC's Number Day. The children took part in numerical games, activities and 'Dressed up for Digits', while raising money to support services like 'Speak out, Stay safe' and 'Childline'. On Times Tables Rock Stars, the children competed with over 3,620 schools across the country, and came 1,653rd!

This year, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been taking part in 'Mastering Number', which is a project by NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics). The project aims for all children to leave KS1 with fluency in calculation and confidence and flexibility with number. The children have enjoyed using a rekenrek (a counting frame) to visualise numbers, watching Numberblocks and using sentence stems to talk about numbers.

Some of our Y3 and Y4 children participated in a Cross Country event at Ely College at the end of the half term. They were such good representatives of the school and On returning to school, a number of them said it was much harder than they thought it would be but they challenged themselves and completed it. Congratulations to all our children and particularly to Borenyi who finished in the gold medal position.

The Millfield Young Carers group have met throughout the term and have enjoyed a number of activities. One of our favourite activities was playing different games and completing a range of puzzles. The group has approximately 16 members across KS2. If you think your child might be eligible for the group please contact Mrs Lee or Mrs Sampson for further information.

Afternoon Tea with Mrs Lee for those children who were successful in the Accelerated Reader draw, took place on Thursday 13th February. Mrs Kennedy put on a lovely Valentine's spread with lots of sweet and savoury treats.



Exciting things to look forward to in Spring 2:

Y1 sharing assembly on Thursday 27th February at 2.15pm

World Book Day on Thursday 6th March

Class library visits

Trips for Yr2, Yr3 and Yr5

Look out for more information by email, Friends of Millfield on Facebook and the school website regarding what's coming up next half term. As always, please do not hesitate to contact school via the school office or catch staff at pick up at the end of the day if you have any questions or queries.

Mrs Lee

Headteacher