



Woodpeckers'



Ask Me About Newsletter

Autumn Term

15th December 2023

What have we been up to this half-term? What will we be doing next half term?

Maths

This half-term has been fraction focussed! The work over the half-term built up to the children learning how to add and subtract fractions where the denominators are multiples of each other. Below are some examples of the hardest calculations the children have been working on. You can see there are lots of steps to remember. For any children you found this tricky, we will be providing opportunities to recap this as a whole class, as well as extra small group sessions for those who need further practise.

Adding Fractions

$$1\frac{2}{3} + 2\frac{7}{9} =$$

First, the mixed numbers can be partitioned into a whole part and a fractional part.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1\frac{2}{3} + 2\frac{7}{9} = \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \quad \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 1 + 2 \quad \frac{2}{3} + \frac{7}{9} \end{array}$$

Next, make the denominators the same by converting one of the fractions.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1\frac{2}{3} + 2\frac{7}{9} = \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \quad \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 1 + 2 \quad \frac{2}{3} + \frac{7}{9} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ 3 + \frac{6}{9} + \frac{7}{9} \end{array}$$

Then the whole number and the fractions can be added together.

$$3 + \frac{6}{9} + \frac{7}{9} = 3\frac{13}{9}$$

But we are not finished because the fractional part of the number is an improper fraction, so needs converting to a mixed number.

$$1\frac{2}{3} + 2\frac{7}{9} = 3\frac{13}{9} = 4\frac{4}{9}$$

Subtracting Fractions

$$9\frac{2}{7} - 7\frac{6}{14} =$$

1. Convert the fraction with the smaller denominator to be the same as the larger (what you do to the top you do to the bottom)
2. If the numerator of the first fraction is smaller than the second, repartition the first fraction by taking 1 from the whole number and adding it to the fraction to make it an improper fraction
3. Subtract the whole numbers
4. Subtract the fractions

$$9\frac{2}{7} - 7\frac{6}{14} = 1\frac{6}{7}$$

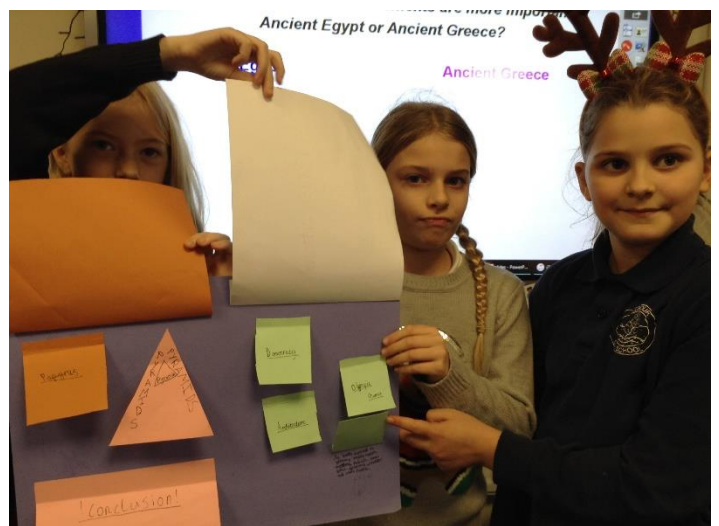
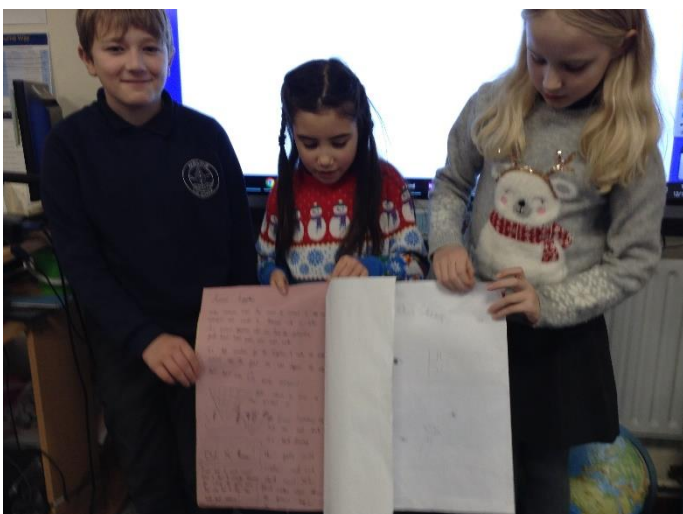
$$9\frac{4}{14} - 7\frac{6}{14} = 8\frac{18}{14} - 7\frac{6}{14} = 1\frac{12}{14} = 1\frac{6}{7}$$

English

This half term we have ventured into non-fiction by writing biographies. These were lots of fun and the children were able to choose their own person to research and present. We used skills such as brackets for parenthesis (adding in extra information), relative clauses starting with who, which or that (the cat, which was ginger, jumped onto the wall) and a colon to introduce a list within a sentence (I received the following: pen, paper and a pencil).

History

This half-term we have continued learning about Ancient Greece. Our focus was: 'Can we thank the Ancient Greeks for anything in our lives today?' We learnt about Alexander the Great, the Greek alphabet, words in our language that come from Greek, how Ancient Greek architecture still influences architecture today, what Ancient Greek schools were like and Ancient Athenian democracy and how it compares to our system of government today. To finish the topic the children were asked to think back to their learning in Year 3 and compare the achievements or the Ancient Egyptians and the Ancient Greeks: Whose were most important? They presented their work to the class this week.



Guided Reading

This week we have finished Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. We will be completing our work on the book in the first week of next term, looking at the book's themes and writing our own book reviews.



Science

This half term has been all about space. The children learned about the 8 planets in our solar system and did some research on them to find out more. We discovered that the first four planets are terrestrial and are rocky planets, whereas the last four are called Jovian planets and are gas giants. We also looked at what stars are and how big our sun star is and why so many planets orbit it. The class learned in more depth about the Earth, sun and moon and the orbiting times as well as which direction they spin. It's been a really fun topic!

DT

The children had a great time making their Greek food with Ms Keeling this week. Thank you to Mrs de Klijn who came into help. Here are some photos of the finished products!



Homework Plea

As we discussed with some of you at parent consultations, we have had very few children completing and handing in their reading diaries this term - much less than in previous years. We have also had lots of children not completing any homework from this half-term's homework grid. Please support your child to keep on top of their homework, this will increase significantly in Year 6 and again when they start secondary school. Regular reading is the key to success in all subjects.

To reward those who have consistently handed in their reading diaries this term (in addition to the raffle ticket prize draw in Worship this week) children enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate in class. They were also chosen to help with extra jobs around school such as delivering Christmas cards.

Other news

Next term, as Mrs Cragg is back from her maternity leave, Mrs Atkins will be increasing her teaching time in Year 5. She will be teaching all day Monday and Tuesday every week and teaching Wednesday afternoon every other week. Ms Keeling will no longer be teaching Year 5 as Mrs Atkins and Miss Heard will have their PPA (planning) time on Wednesday afternoons, covered by each other.

After Christmas Year 5 will be having French lessons every week from Hurst teacher Ms Flint, who has just returned from maternity leave. These will be on a Wednesday afternoon.

Date for your diaries: **Portals to the Past Anglo-Saxons and Vikings Day Tuesday February 27th 2024**. Letter with further details to come next term.

Have a great Christmas holidays,
Mrs Atkins and Miss Heard

Homework	
Reading	Please read 5 times a week and write this in your Reading Diary. Reading diaries are checked on Mondays.
Topic	The next topic grid will be sent out after Christmas. At least one piece of homework need to be brought in during the last week of term.
Spellings	The spellings for the week will be stuck in reading diaries each Monday. The spelling test will be on Friday each week.
Times Tables	Mighty Multiples will be completed in school every Friday. Any practise you can do on your focus times tables at home will help. One way to do this is on Times Tables Rock Stars https://trockstars.com/