

Priory Lane Community School

Autumn 2 Newsletter

A message from Mrs Leighton

Despite the dark and wet weather, which seems to have been with us throughout this half term, there has been a lot to celebrate this half term. At the beginning of January we celebrated opening our new school based nursery unit. The expansion of a school based nursery has been jointly funded by the Department for Education and North Lincolnshire Local Authority and we hope that it will really support the local community when looking for suitable nursery education for their children. Councillor Julie Reed was kind enough to visit Priory Lane to perform the grand opening at the beginning of January along with members of our Governing Body, Jackie Rae, Christian Smith and Audrey Dakin. Our nursery class, Caterpillars, have settled into their new learning environment and are really enjoying their new learning experience.



We have continued our Positive Phone Call home every Friday this half term. The Positive Phone Call home is a phone call that all teaching and leadership staff make every Friday for a child in school who has impressed them in any way that week. It is not always necessarily a child in their class. The children are not aware when they are selected so it is always a nice surprise when they come home on a Friday to find that their behaviour, work or attitude has been recognised and noticed. Everyone needs a bit of Friday positivity and it is always wonderful to celebrate our children's achievements. We will be making the Positive Phone Call home a Friday habit and routine from now on. Don't be surprised to hear from us.

Huge congratulations to our fantastic Year 5 children who attended Young Voices 2026 in Sheffield. It was such a joy to see so many smiling faces, hear such beautiful singing voices, and witness the exemplary behaviour shown throughout the event. Year 5 represented our school brilliantly and should all feel incredibly proud of yourselves. Clearly, a lot of hard work went into making this experience so memorable for the children. Huge thanks to Miss East, Miss Foster, Miss Williams, Mrs McClue, Mrs Goodhand and Mrs Dawson who invested such time and commitment to teach the children the songs and accompany them.

We have lots of exciting things planned for next half term. Here are some key dates for your diary.

Monday 2nd March Year 2 Trip to The Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Wednesday 4th March Year 3 Assembly to parents

Thursday 5th March World Book Day - More information later in this letter

Monday 9th March - Wednesday 11th March Year 6 Residential Trip to Robin Wood

Thursday 12th March Year 4 Assembly to parents

Thursday 19th March Year 5 Assembly to parents

Tuesday 24th March - Parents Evening Y1 - Y6

Wednesday 25th March - Parents Evening - FS2 - Y6

Thursday 26th March - Parents Evening FS2 only

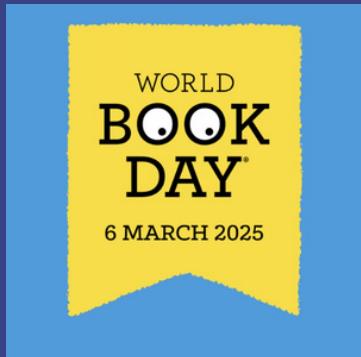
Wednesday 1st April Easter Church Service at St Hugh's Y 1 to Y6 - All parents welcome.

Thursday 2nd April School Closes for Easter.

Summer Term

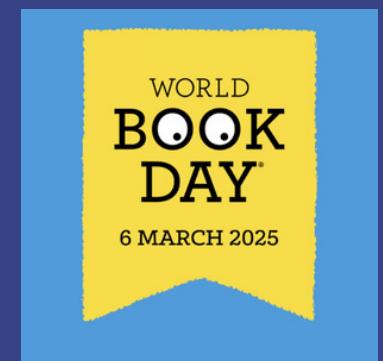
Tuesday 21st April School reopens for the summer term.

Thursday 2nd July Annual Priory Lane Garden Party.



World Book day 2026

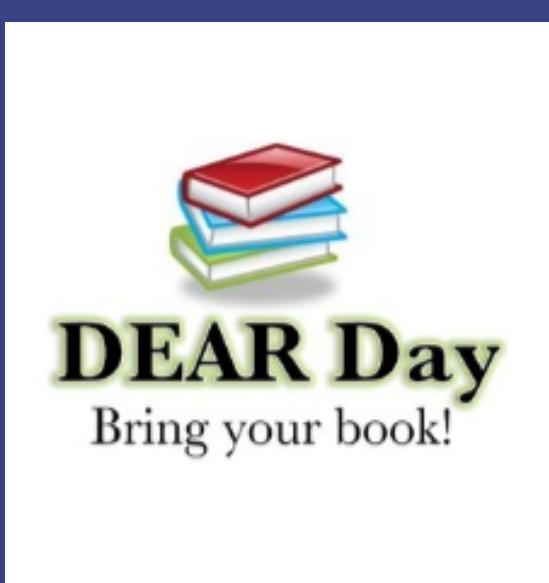
We're looking forward to celebrating World Book Day again in school on **Thursday 5th March**.



To celebrate this special time, we've decided to take part in a few different things.

We ask for everyone to dress up as one of their favourite book characters. It would be great to see you with the book too. You can also dress in your pyjamas ready for sharing a story too. This will not be a competition, but a chance to celebrate.

We will be having a DEAR day - drop everything and read day. When the tannoy is heard, all children and adults will stop what they're doing and read their favourite books. If you've got a book from home that you're enjoying, don't forget to bring this with you!



As we know that many of you enjoy a little competition, we would like to celebrate this too. Your challenge this year is to design and decorate your own spoon character. This competition is open to all classes, and you can enter one spoon or a set. There will be a winner and runner up chosen from:
EYFS (Caterpillars, Butterflies and Bumblebees)
KS1 (Penguins and Dolphins)
LKS2 (Giraffes, Zebras and Koalas)
UKS2 (Panthers, Leopards, Tigers and Lions)

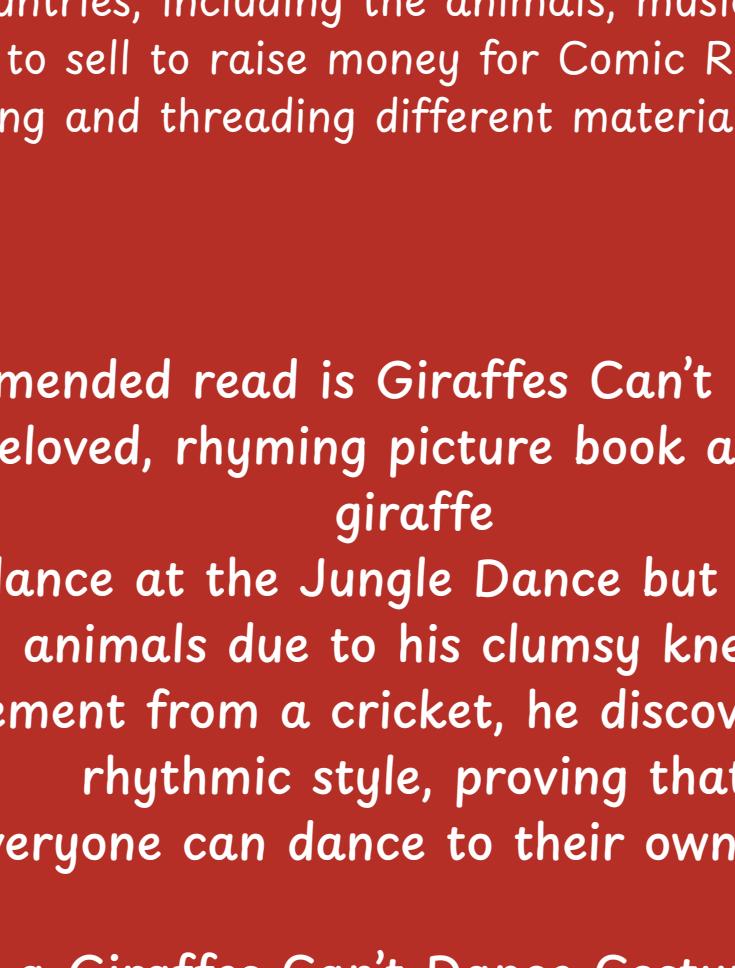
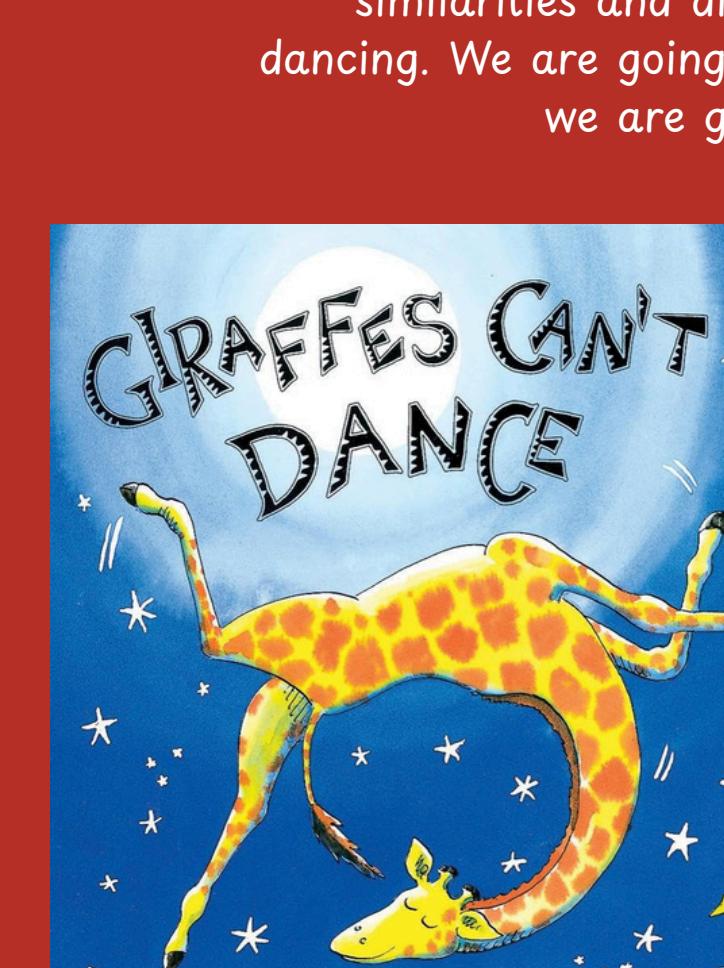
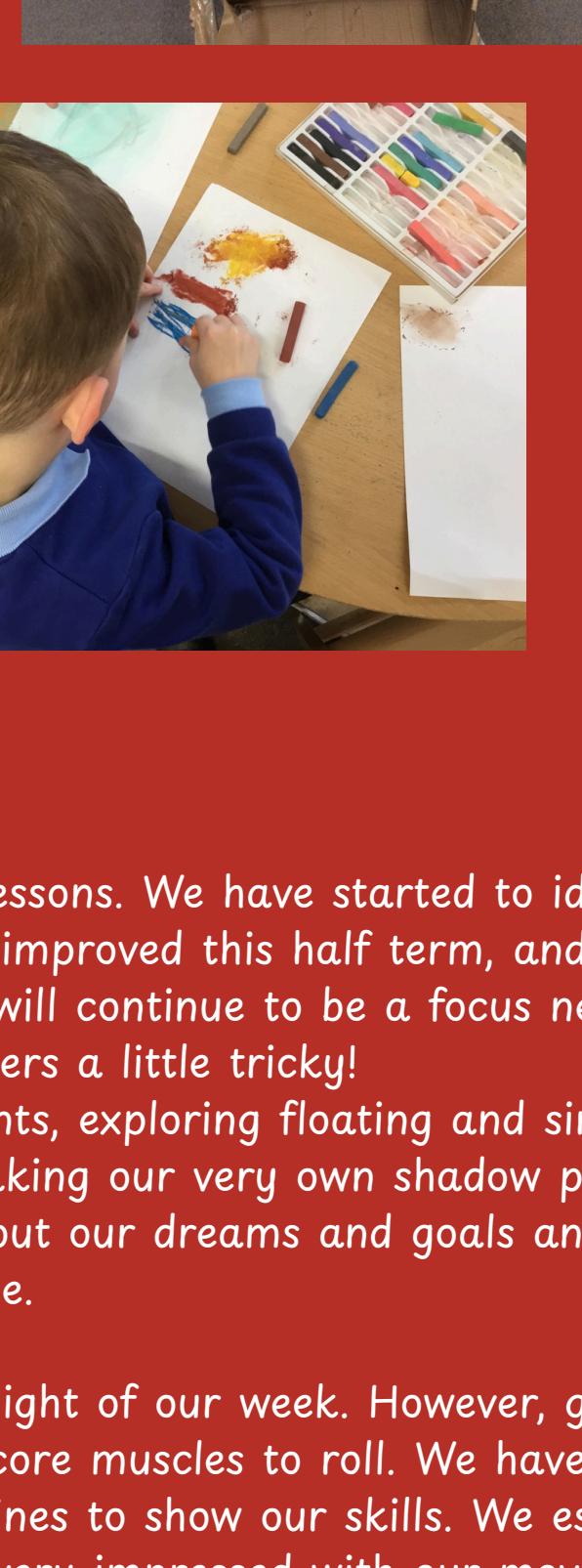
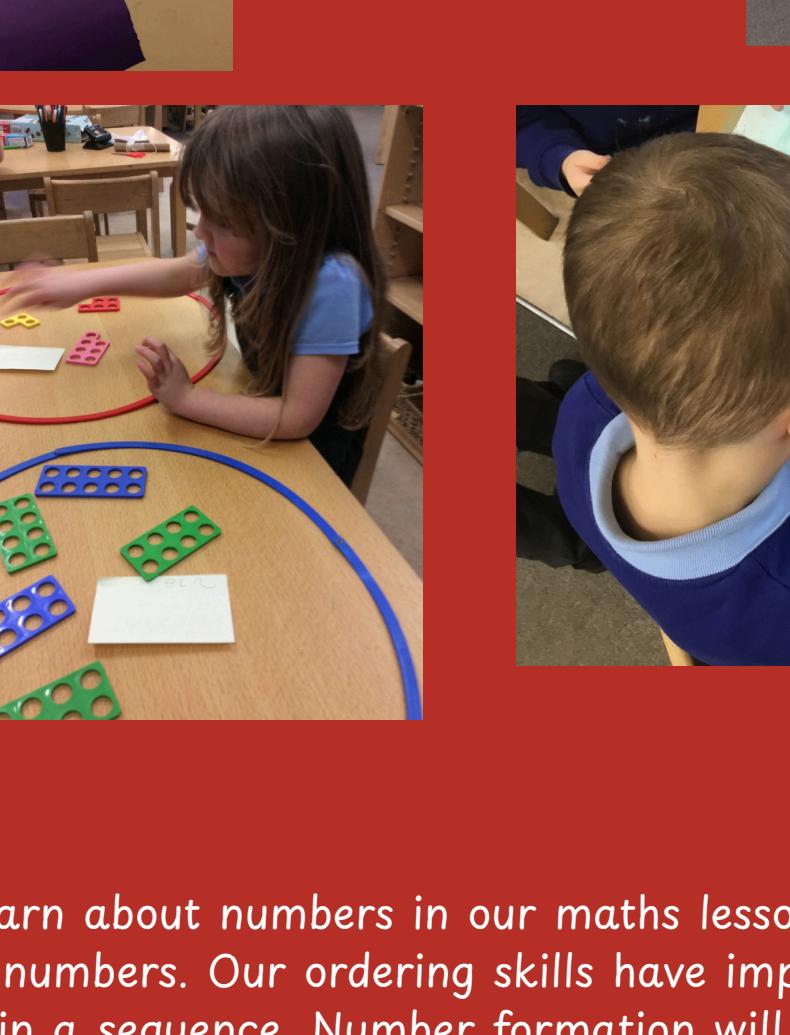
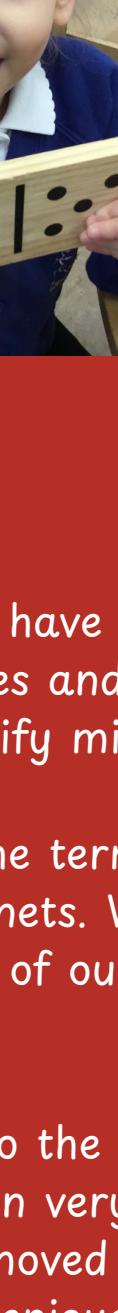
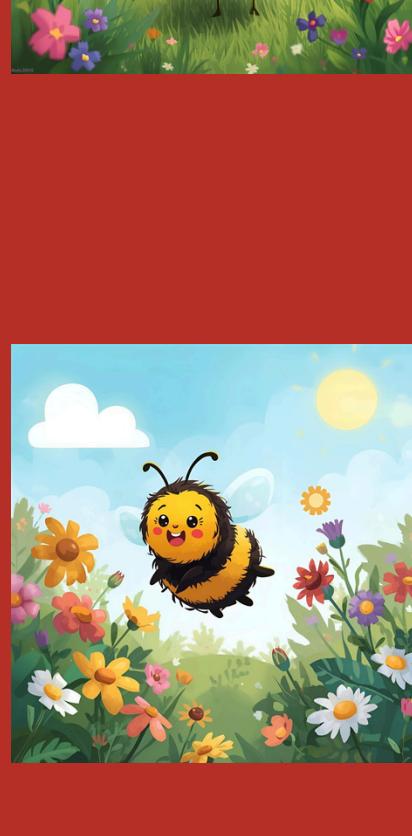


Please bring your spoons to your class on World Book Day.

As you can see there are lots of things happening in the second half of the Spring term. I hope you all have a lovely half term and enjoy the time with your families. We will see you all on Monday 23rd February - hopefully with some drier weather. Take good care everyone. Mrs Leighton

Early Years Foundation Stage

What a busy half term we have had! We started our topic 'Toys through Time' by looking at our teachers' childhood toys and photographs. North Lincolnshire Museum have been very kind and lent us some toys from their collection too. These were a lot older than Miss Lyon's and Miss Chick's toys. They included a cup and ball and rocking horse. We explored how they moved, such as if they needed to be pushed or pulled. We have read several stories about old toys, including *Threadbear* by Mick Inkpen and *Old Bear* by Jane Hissey. Each week we have used our 'Fred talk' skills to write words and captions linked to the books. Some of us have started using full stops too! One of our favourite stories was '*The Sea Saw*' by Tom Percival. We made props to retell the story, including a large train which seated two children.

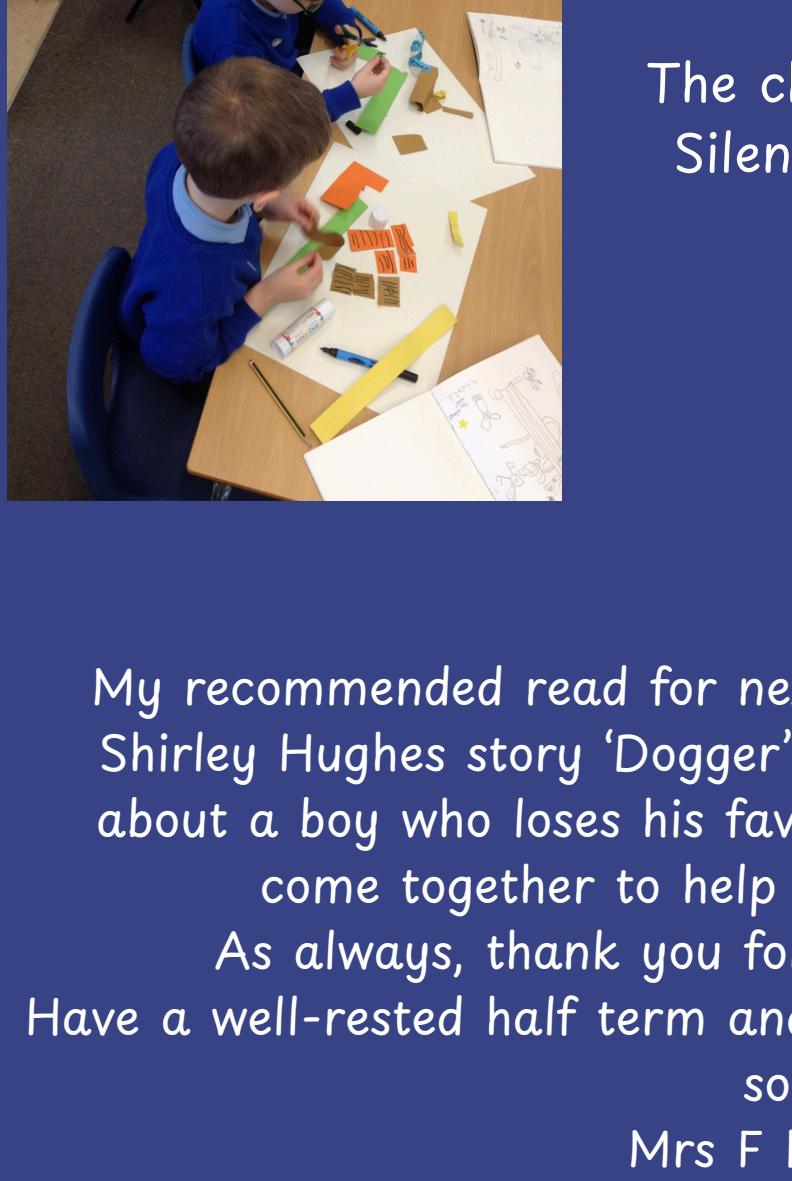


We have continued to learn about numbers in our maths lessons. We have started to identify doubles and odd and even numbers. Our ordering skills have improved this half term, and we can identify missing numbers in a sequence. Number formation will continue to be a focus next half term, as we are still finding certain numbers a little tricky!

Over the term we have carried out several scientific experiments, exploring floating and sinking and magnets. We had great fun learning about shadows and making our very own shadow puppets. As part of our Jigsaw PHSE sessions, we have been talking about our dreams and goals and what we need to do to achieve these.

Going to the hall on a Wednesday morning is definitely a highlight of our week. However, gymnastics has been very challenging this half term, especially using our core muscles to roll. We have balanced and moved across different apparatus, putting together routines to show our skills. We especially enjoyed the recent Silent Disco and the teachers were very impressed with our moves!

After half term we will be learning about a country far away - Kenya. We will be learning about the similarities and differences between the two countries, including the animals, music, food and dancing. We are going to be making African things to sell to raise money for Comic Relief too. In art, we are going to explore textiles, weaving and threading different materials.



Our recommended read is *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae. It is a beloved, rhyming picture book about Gerald, a tall giraffe who wants to dance at the Jungle Dance but is mocked by other animals due to his clumsy knees. With encouragement from a cricket, he discovers his own unique, rhythmic style, proving that everyone can dance to their own tune.

Watch out for a *Giraffes Can't Dance* Costume on World Book Day.



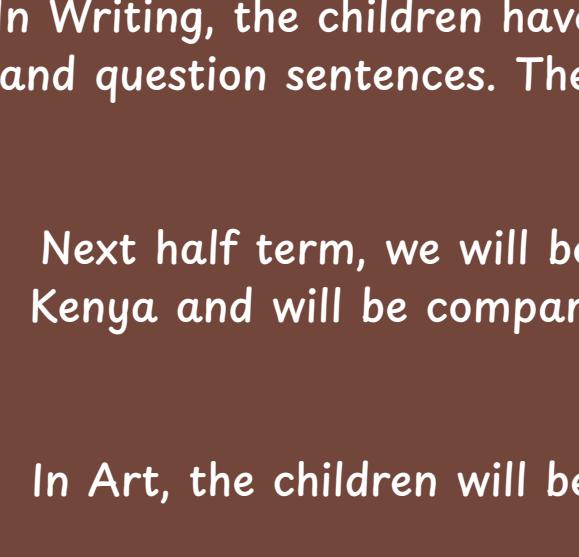
Year 1

Another fun-filled half term for the Penguins! It is wonderful to see how confident, mature and resilient the children have become at this half-way point of the year. I am really proud of them all.

In English, the children have produced wonderful writing centred on '*The Lion Inside*'. The children loved the unexpected twist at the end.

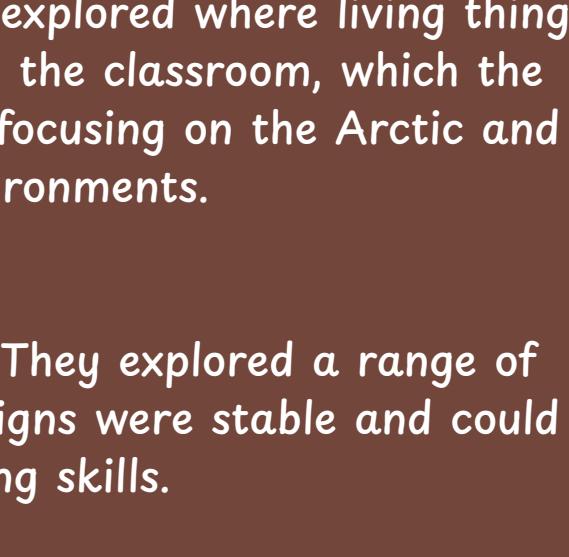
Next half term, we will be using '*Beegu*' by Alexis Deacon to inspire our writing. This is about a friendly creature who ends up on Planet Earth.

We have all enjoyed our 'Sculpture and 3D: Paper Play' topic in Art. We began looking at different sculptures and then using different techniques to create our own. One of my personal highlights of this topic was the 'Tree of Life' inspired artwork the children produced. I know that the children have loved creating their own 'Maman' spider sculptures.



Looking ahead to the next half term, we are staying with Geography and our focus for this half term will 'Be the Seaside'. In our Design Technology lessons, we are going to be making our own textile puppets.

The children thoroughly enjoyed participating in our Silent Disco, there were lots of great dancing and huge smiles.



Year 2



We are incredibly proud of Year 2 Dolphins and all the hard work they have been doing this term. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm across the curriculum and continue to impress us with their curiosity, creativity, and determination.

In Science, the children have been learning about microhabitats around the school grounds. They explored where living things can be found and what they need to survive. A real highlight was creating our own wormery in the classroom, which the children have loved observing and discussing. We have also explored habitats around the world, focusing on the Arctic and the Saharan Desert, and learned how animals adapt to different environments.

In Design and Technology, the children designed and created a Ferris wheel using mechanisms. They explored strength and structure, and worked hard to ensure their designs were stable and could move successfully. The children showed excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills.



During PSHE, the children have been thinking about their dreams and goals. They shared their ideas confidently and showed just how ambitious they are. It has been wonderful to see them encouraging one another and celebrating big aspirations.

In Writing, the children have been learning how to use tense correctly and have been practising writing exclamation and question sentences. They are becoming increasingly confident writers and are enjoying adding excitement and interest to their work.

Next half term, we will be returning to our Geography learning. The children will be learning all about what life is like in Kenya and will be comparing Kenya to the United Kingdom. We will explore similarities and differences, including weather, homes, schools, and daily life.

In Art, the children will be exploring paint and colour. They will experiment with different techniques and colour mixing to create a fantastic final piece of artwork.

In Science, we will be continuing our learning about animals, focusing on food chains and exploring what animals eat. The children will learn how animals depend on one another for survival and how energy moves through a food chain. We will deepen this learning during our exciting school trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, where the children will have the opportunity to observe animals in real-life habitats and make links to their classroom learning.

This beautiful story follows a young boy who dreams of having a star of his very own. He tries many different and imaginative ways to catch one, showing determination and creativity along the way. When things do not go as planned, the boy learns that sometimes dreams can come true in unexpected ways.

This is a wonderful book for Year 2 as it encourages imagination, perseverance, and hope. The gentle illustrations support discussion skills. It also links nicely to our PSHE learning about dreams and goals.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very proud of everything Year 2 Dolphins have achieved and are looking forward to another exciting half term of learning together.

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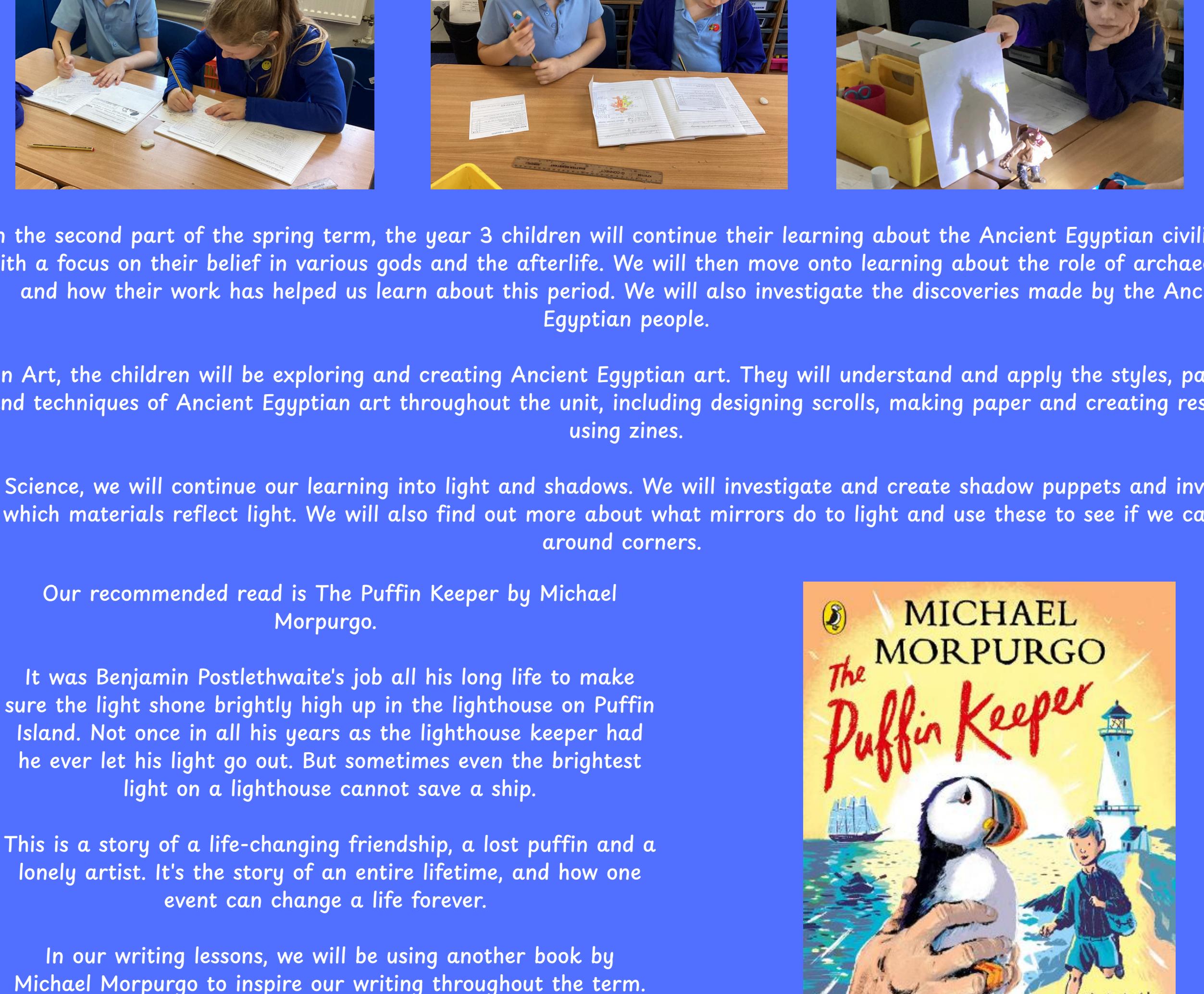
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Year 3

The year 3 children have made a great start to the spring term.

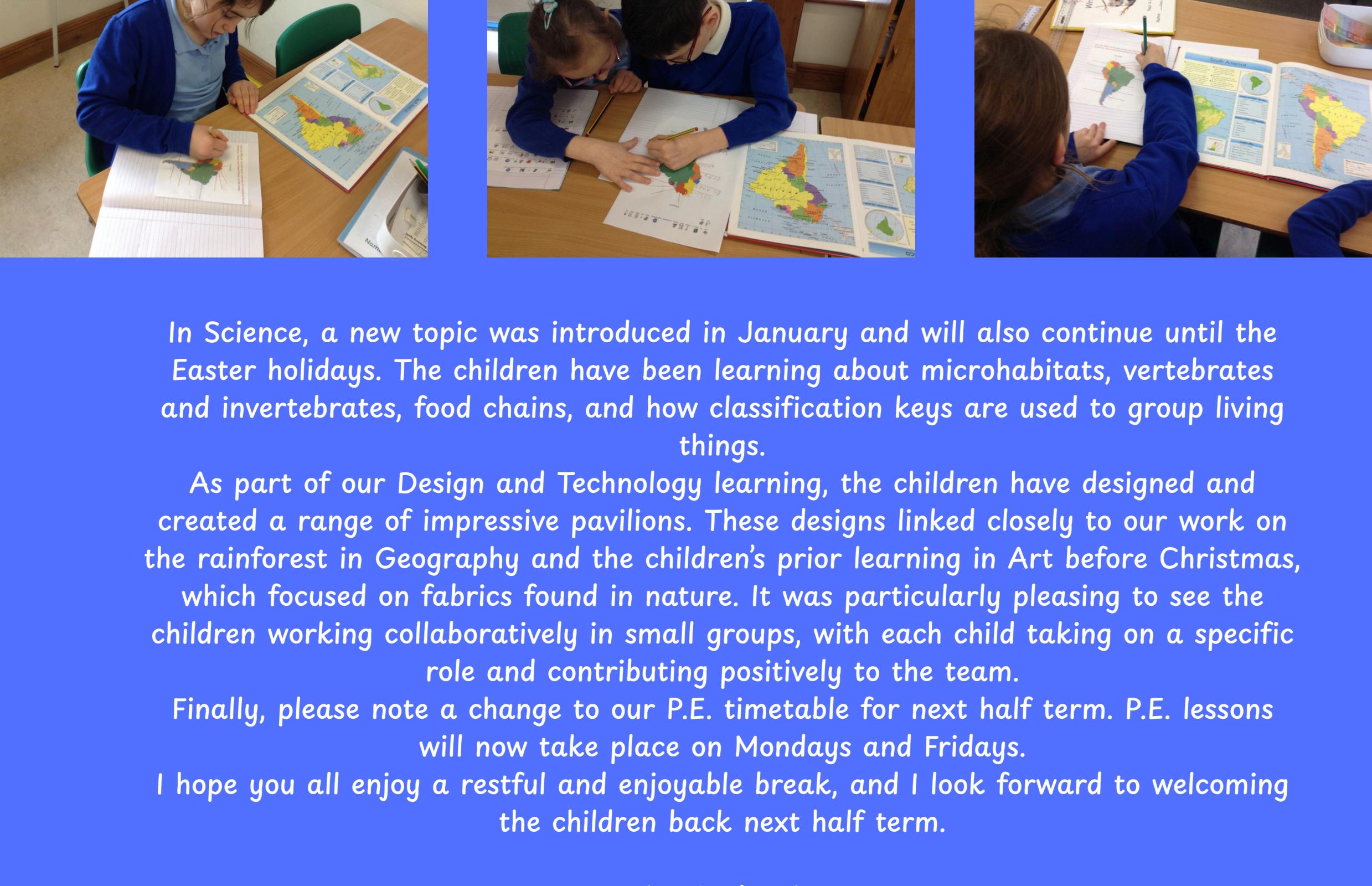
In History, the children have been using evidence to learn about the Ancient Egyptian society. We have learned about the importance of the River Nile and how it was essential to daily life. We have investigated the lives of various pharaohs, including Tutankhamun and Cleopatra. We enjoyed learning about the Pyramids of Giza and using digital maps to look at their positions and their size. We have also looked at the hierarchy of society in Ancient Egypt, and we considered which role we would want to hold if we lived in those times. We will continue our learning into the Ancient Egyptian civilisation after half term.

In DT, the children have been investigating wearable technology. The children's task was to design a piece of wearable technology for a child to wear so that they can be seen when walking home in the dark. We were given design criteria, which we aimed to achieve. We initially designed our product to be suitable for the user. We then used computers to programme a Micro:bit to be incorporated in the product in order to make LED lights flash. We used computer-aided design on the programme Sketchpad to create point-of-sale badges to promote our product, and finally we peer evaluated our product against the design criteria. We were so impressed with the ideas that the children developed and their ability to use the new computer software successfully.



In Science, the children have been learning about lights and shadows. We learned what a light source is and the difference between natural and artificial light sources. We enjoyed going on a light source hunt around school and identifying the uses of different light sources. We have learned about how to protect our bodies from the Sun and how light travels in a straight line. We have carried out various investigations into whether light travels through different materials or not. We have also investigated how we can vary the size and position of shadows. We will continue our learning into light and shadows after half term.

In PSHE, the children have been learning about Dreams and Goals. We have considered what our dreams and goals might be for our futures and what we will need to do in order to be able to achieve them. We have worked well in pairs to design gardens of dreams and goals, and have thought about how these could help people within our community. Our final designs are fantastic and are displayed in our class floor book.



In the second part of the spring term, the year 3 children will continue their learning about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation, with a focus on their belief in various gods and the afterlife. We will then move onto learning about the role of archaeologists and how their work has helped us learn about this period. We will also investigate the discoveries made by the Ancient Egyptian people.

In Art, the children will be exploring and creating Ancient Egyptian art. They will understand and apply the styles, patterns and techniques of Ancient Egyptian art throughout the unit, including designing scrolls, making paper and creating responses using zines.

In Science, we will continue our learning into light and shadows. We will investigate and create shadow puppets and investigate which materials reflect light. We will also find out more about what mirrors do to light and use these to see if we can see around corners.

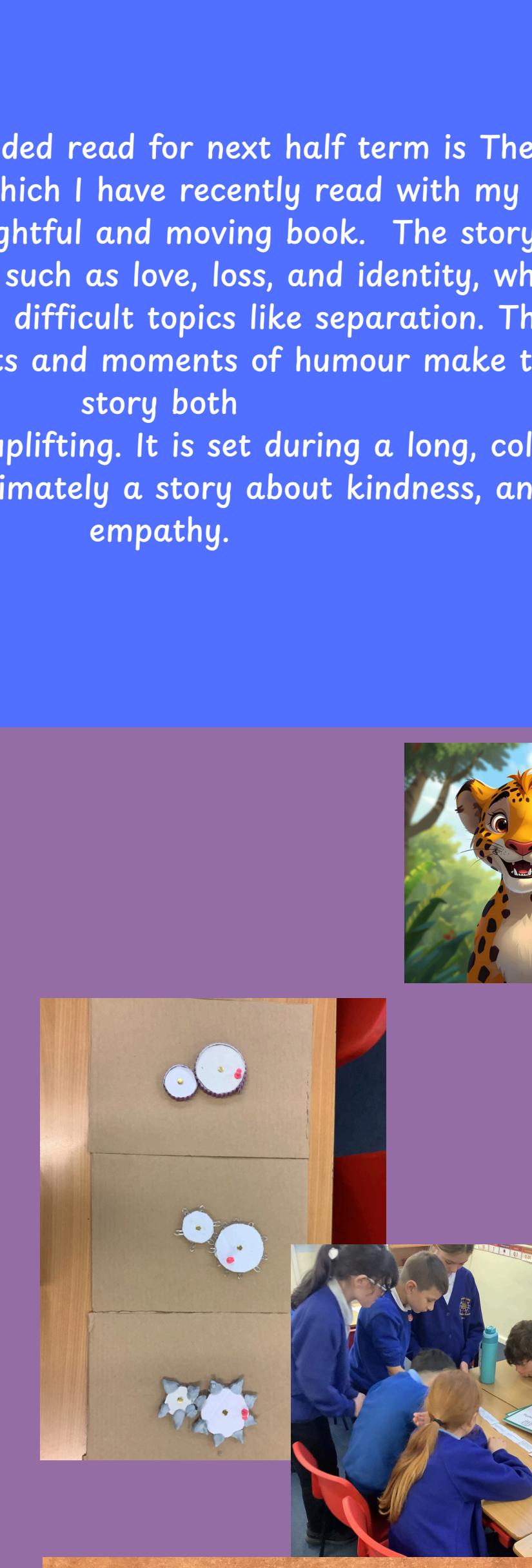
Our recommended read is *The Puffin Keeper* by Michael Morpurgo.

It was Benjamin Postlethwaite's job all his long life to make sure the light shone brightly high up in the lighthouse on Puffin Island. Not once in all his years as the lighthouse keeper had he ever let his light go out. But sometimes even the brightest light on a lighthouse cannot save a ship.

This is a story of a life-changing friendship, a lost puffin and a lonely artist. It's the story of an entire lifetime, and how one event can change a life forever.

In our writing lessons, we will be using another book by Michael Morpurgo to inspire our writing throughout the term.

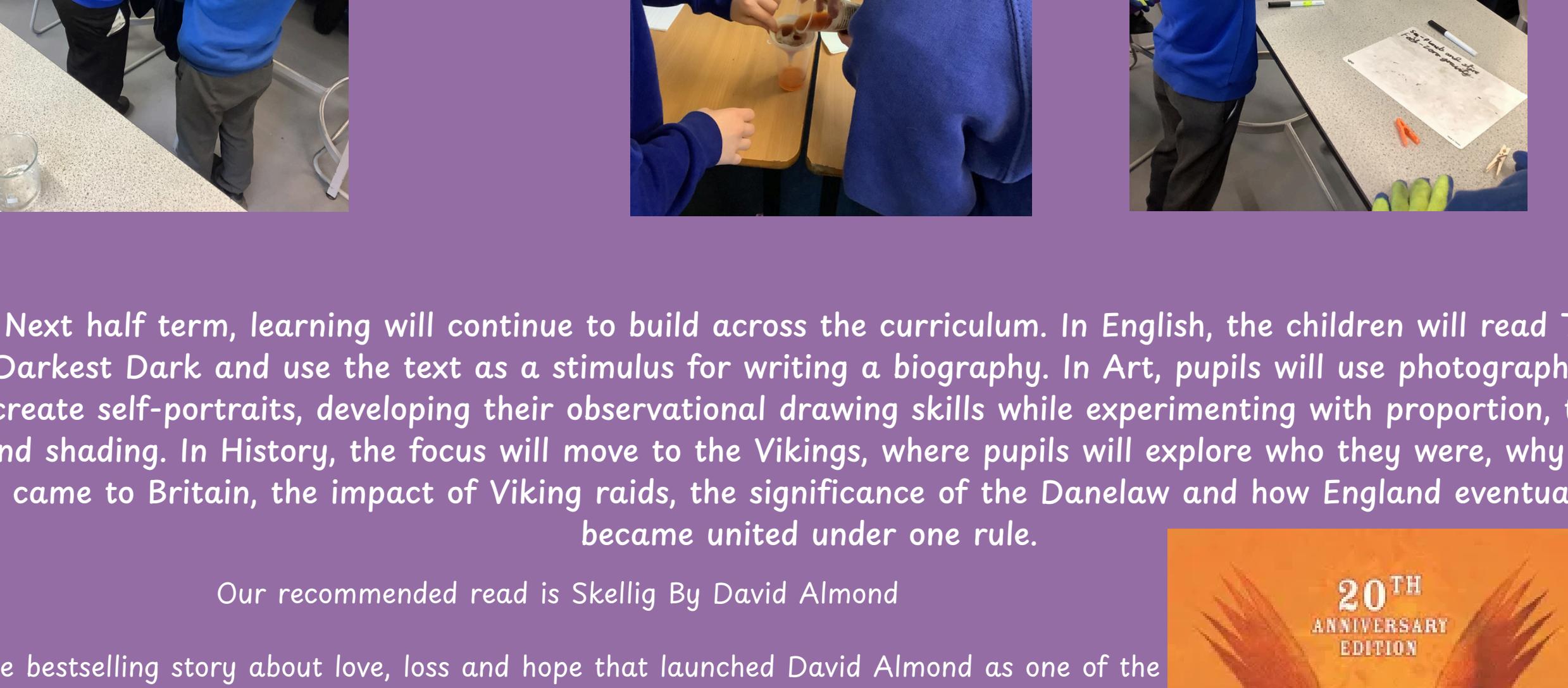
We hope that you have a relaxing half term break, and we look forward to seeing you all again soon



Year 4

The Koalas class has enjoyed a busy and engaging half term. Our key text, *Escape from Pompeii*, has been a particular highlight. The children have learned about the historical eruption of Mount Vesuvius and followed the journey of two children as they escaped the disaster and reached safety. After exploring the text in depth, the children produced thoughtful and detailed retellings of the story, demonstrating a strong use of descriptive and ambitious vocabulary.

This half term, we also began our Geography topic, which will continue until Easter. Our focus is South America, with particular attention given to the rainforest. The children have learned about rainforest climates, the animals that inhabit these environments, and the different layers of the rainforest. They are very much looking forward to sharing their learning with you during our class assembly after half term, which will focus on this topic. The children will be bringing their lines home shortly; further information will follow.



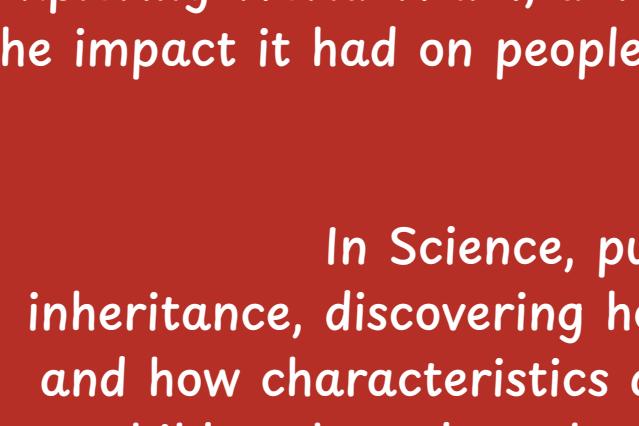
In Science, a new topic was introduced in January and will also continue until the Easter holidays. The children have been learning about microhabitats, vertebrates and invertebrates, food chains, and how classification keys are used to group living things.

As part of our Design and Technology learning, the children have designed and created a range of impressive pavilions. These designs linked closely to our work on the rainforest in Geography and the children's prior learning in Art before Christmas, which focused on fabrics found in nature. It was particularly pleasing to see the children working collaboratively in small groups, with each child taking on a specific role and contributing positively to the team.

Finally, please note a change to our P.E. timetable for next half term. P.E. lessons will now take place on Mondays and Fridays.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to welcoming the children back next half term.

Miss Outhwaite

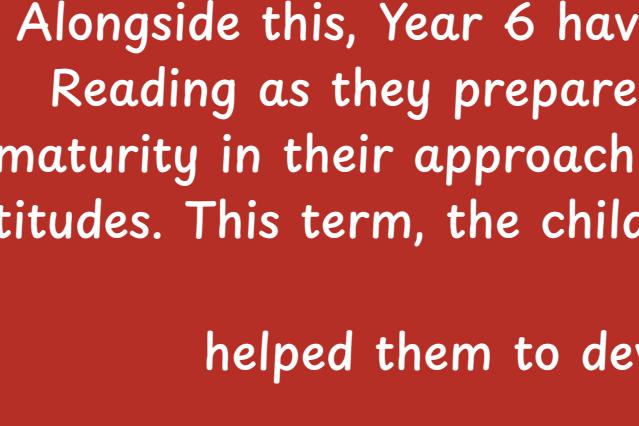


My recommended read for next half term is *The Snowman Code* which I have recently read with my son. This is a thoughtful and moving book. The story explores themes such as love, loss, and identity, while also addressing difficult topics like separation. The magical elements and moments of humour make the story both engaging and uplifting. It is set during a long, cold winter; it is ultimately a story about kindness, and empathy.



Alongside this, Year 4 have been working incredibly hard in Maths, Writing and Science, showing enthusiasm and creativity across all areas of the curriculum.

As part of our DT project, the children have been investigating gears and pulleys. They have explored how these mechanisms work, how they transfer movement, and where they are used in everyday machines. After investigating different examples, they designed and created their own working models and then applied their learning to a creative project, designing an eco-adventure bike that used a mechanical system to support environmentally friendly ideas.



Our recommended read is *Skellig* By David Almond. This is a best-selling story of today, winner and the Carnegie Medal and the Smarties Book of the Year Award.

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Michael's world seems to be changing, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital.

But Skellig is more than Michael's world, and as he helps his sister, Michael's world changes for ever...

Skellig won the Carnegie Medal and the Hans Christian Andersen award. David Almond is also winner of the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen award.



Our recommended read is *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall. This gripping first novel for children set during World War Two and winner of the Carnegie Medal.

Year 5

This half term has been a busy and productive one, with the children showing enthusiasm and creativity across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, the children studied *Arthur and the Golden Rope*, exploring the key features of myths. They analysed how authors create heroic characters and exciting settings before the planning, pupils worked on developing descriptive vocabulary, expanding sentences using relative clauses and organising their writing into clear, engaging paragraphs.

In DT, the focus was on understanding gears and pulleys. The children explored how these mechanisms work, how they transfer movement, and where they are used in everyday machines. After investigating different examples, they designed and created their own working models and then applied their learning to a creative project, designing an eco-adventure bike that used a mechanical system to support environmentally friendly ideas.

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Next half term, learning will continue to build across the curriculum. In English, the children will read *Darkness Dark* and use the text as a stimulus for writing a biography. In Art, pupils will use photographs to create self-portraits, developing their observational drawing skills while experimenting with proportion, tone and shading. In History, the focus will move to the Vikings, where pupils will explore why they came to Britain and how they eventually became united under one rule.

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Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic term filled with exciting learning experiences across the curriculum. In History, they have thoroughly enjoyed exploring World War I, developing their understanding of the causes of the war and the impact it had on people's lives. Next term, they will be learning about World War II and its impact on Britain.

In Science, pupils have been investigating adaptation and inheritance, discovering how animals and plants evolve to suit their environments and how characteristics are passed from one generation to the next. In Art, the children have been learning about one-point perspective and are using this technique to create their own impressive pieces of street art, demonstrating a clear link between their designs and their work in History.

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Alongside this, Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in Maths, Writing and Science, showing enthusiasm and creativity across all areas of the curriculum.

As part of our DT project, the children have been investigating gears and pulleys. They have explored how these mechanisms work, how they transfer movement, and where they are used in everyday machines. After investigating different examples, they designed and created their own working models and then applied their learning to a creative project, designing an eco-adventure bike that used a mechanical system to support environmentally friendly ideas.

Our recommended read is *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall. This gripping first novel for children set during World War Two and winner of the Carnegie Medal.

