

More recently, the class have been learning about 'real-life' superheroes and particularly enjoyed visits from real-life superheroes from within our Buckstones' family including a soldier, a midwife, a police officer and a neonatal nurse. We are really grateful to all the families who were able to provide these amazing experiences for the children.

As well as learning about superheroes, the children have also learned about the festival of the Chinese/lunar New Year. They fully embraced this topic by making their own dancing dragons, designing beautiful Chinese fans and their favourite part... tasting some delicious Chinese foods!



The children are progressing really well with their phonics skills. They are now well on with learning the level 3 phonemes and are blending and segmenting simple words brilliantly. They have also been practising the correct letter formation to go with each of the phonemes and are perfecting the correct formation of the letters in their own names every morning when they arrive in school.

In Maths, the children have been practising counting accurately to twenty, particularly focussing on the tricky 'teen' numbers. Recently, the children have also been learning the names and properties of 3D shapes and also enjoyed our recent topic on using balance scales to find things that were 'heavy' and 'light'.

The recent cold weather has provided the children with the perfect conditions for some Wintery forest fun sessions. The children have loved having these 'hands-on' sessions where they have been able to explore the seasonal changes in a much more meaningful way.



To finish the Superheroes topic, the children finished with a special superhero-themed day, where they enjoyed coming to school in fancy dress and spending the day doing all things 'superhero'...

What a SUPER half term Reception! 😊

Year 1: Year 1 have had another busy half term!

In their other **English** lessons, they continue to work on their SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar) skills, focusing in particular on using capital letters, full stops and an introduction to exclamation marks. They have also been learning how to write both lower case and capital letters properly.

Since Christmas, they have been learning about the features of traditional tales. They have looked in particular at The Three Little Pigs and have had fun using voices for different characters when retelling the story!



The children have also been enjoying their 'Great Fire of London' **history** topic. They have been keen to find out what happened back in 1666 and have enjoyed recreating the fire in the hall, especially the part where they had to escape from the fire on boats along the River Thames.



They are now looking forward to their trip to Fireground in Rochdale after the half-term break. It's a lovely trip which not only helps to reinforce their learning about the events of 1666, it also teaches them about the importance of fire safety too. Following on from the trip, the children will be writing their own eyewitness accounts from 1666, written as though they are the children of Samuel Pepys.



In **maths** they have been continuing to develop their calculation skills; they have also been working hard on recognising and comparing numbers within 50 and 100, as well as learning by heart their numbers bonds to 10. They continue to learn new maths songs to help them with their counting skills and recall of key number facts.

Their problem-solving and reasoning skills are improving all the time and they continue to do well with their counting in 2s and 10s. The children have also enjoyed their recent practical maths sessions, involving position and direction linked to algorithms.



Their latest **Science** topic for this term is 'Materials'. The children have enjoyed exploring the properties of a range of different materials and have been grouping objects by which material they are made from. In particular, they have been focussing on the materials wood, metal, plastic, glass and fabric and had great fun completing a search of the school for these materials.



In **art** the children have been developing their printing skills and have really impressed us with their imagination and ideas! They have developed lots of different printing skills - handprints, wax rubbings, lino printing, sponge printing etc, as well as creating their own repeating patterns on Purple Mash.



Last month, the children had the most wonderful morning at Gallery Oldham, taking part in a Pattern and Print workshop. They had great fun exploring the galleries, investigating patterns and then making their own printed masterpieces. They had such a lovely time!

galleryoldham

Many thanks again to those of you who work with your child on their **homework** tasks - supporting your child by reading with him / her at home, but also practising spellings, playing number games and completing general homework tasks. The additional input is much appreciated and we are really starting to see a difference with those children who have the regular extra input at home 😊.

After a very hectic half-term, everyone is now looking forward to their half-term break!

Year 2: We started this term with a visit from Mr. Plater, the curator of the Hull Dinosaur Museum who brought with him some amazing artefacts, including the skull of an Allosaurus, a Tyrannosaurus Rex's tooth, claws, bones and lots of fossils. 'Dinosaur Day' really inspired our writing this term and Year 2 have produced a fantastic set of dinosaur reports. The children carried out their own research, wrote and published their own dinosaur fact file. Year 2 have also enjoyed sharing lots of descriptive dinosaur poems and wrote their own dinosaur poem incorporating the four sentence types; questions, statements, exclamations and commands.



In Maths, the children have been continuing to develop their understanding of the place value of numbers and they have been adding and subtracting two 2-digit numbers using different methods. They have been finding change from ten and twenty pounds too. The children have enjoyed identifying properties of 3D shapes, ensuring they are using the correct vocabulary i.e the number of faces, edges vertices (pointy corners) a shape has. They are also beginning to tell the time to quarter past and quarter to the hour.

In Geography, the children have been learning about the Scottish Island of Coll. This is the island the author Mairi Hedderwick based her Katie Morag stories on. The children have enjoyed locating the Isle of Coll on a map, looking at the human and physical features of Coll and learning how life on the Isle of Coll is different to their own life in Shaw.



In RE the children have been learning about inspirational leaders and reading in detail about the life of Mother Teresa and Florence Nightingale.



The children are continuing to develop their coding skills in our computing lessons. They are learning to drag and drop events, characters, objects and actions to make things happen.

In PE they have been performing dances using simple movement patterns to circus music. Children have been learning how their body can move to express an idea, mood, character and feeling.



Our Art topic this term has been based on 'weaving'. The children have been weaving using different materials and they have created their own woven pot to keep their pens or treasures in.

Well done Year 2 for another super half term of learning, have a lovely half term break!

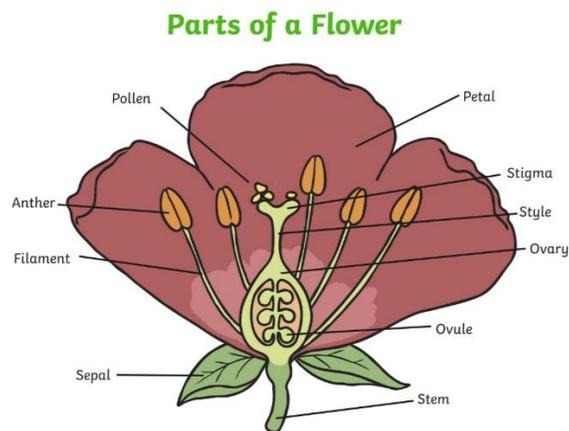
Year 3: Year 3's Geography topic this half term has been The Countries of the United Kingdom. The children have been developing their map reading skills, using atlases to name and locate towns, cities, counties, rivers, mountains and islands around the UK. They have used an eight point compass to describe the direction of travel between cities and they have considered the changing effects of immigration to this country throughout its history.



In Maths, this half term, Year 3 have been developing their understanding of place value. The children have learnt how to add and subtract 2-digit and 3-digit numbers by partitioning, using number lines and the standard column method of addition. They have learnt how to use known number facts from their times tables, including the 8 times table, to multiply and divide. They have started to place fractions on a number line, recognise equivalent fractions and calculate fractions of numbers. They have been learning how to recognise angles that are greater than, less than or equal to a right angle. They have described the properties of 2D shapes and have learnt how to calculate the perimeter of simple shapes. The children have demonstrated the ability to work co-operatively to solve problems and to explain their reasoning both orally and in writing. Well done to all those children who have worked hard to learn the 3 and 4 times tables off by heart.

In Computing, the children have developed their presentation skills using a desktop publishing application. They have combined text and images, considering effective layouts, to produce a leaflet entitled Digital Kindness based on their PSHE work on 'Staying Safe - Digital Wellbeing.' These will be displayed in the Computer Suite.

In Science, Year 3 have been learning about the different parts of plants and their functions and they have carried out a series of investigations to find out the conditions required for plant growth. They observed the different parts of a flower by dissecting tulips and learnt how the different flower parts are involved in the process of pollination and fertilisation.



In English, following a study of some of Aesop's fables, the children have worked hard to plan and write their own fables based on ones they have read. Their non-fiction writing has been based on the Science topic of Plants. The children have written their own non-chronological reports based on their research and their own scientific investigations into the conditions required for plant growth.

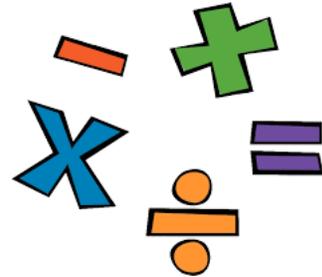
The RE unit of work this half term is 'What do Muslims and Christians believe about worshipping God?' The children have been learning the core beliefs about each religion, considering similarities and differences, and relating these to their own ideas. They have had some thoughtful discussions, and produced imaginative and caring written work and drawings. Well done!

In DT lessons, the children have investigated Structures and how they are strengthened. They have focused their work on Gift Boxes, collecting ideas from real life and from the Internet. They experimented with different 3D shapes and strengthening/protecting materials before designing and making their own eye-catching gift boxes.

In French, they have been learning how to say and write the names of 10 different animals. They have also been saying and writing simple sentences beginning with "I am..." They are working very hard in French. Well done Year 3!

Year 4: Happy New Year everyone! Year 4 have made a brilliant start to 2026 - well done!

In Maths, we have been continuing to work on written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have also been deepening our understanding of fractions, shapes and angles, and have drawn our own bar and line graphs linked to our geography topic. In addition, we have been focusing on our rapid recall of times table facts and have introduced the 7 times tables into our repertoire.



In English, the children have written their own incredible versions of Australian Aboriginal Dreamtime stories. These fables have been used by Aboriginal people to explain elements of the natural world, from how mountains and rivers were formed by the Rainbow Serpent to why Kangaroos have tails! We then combined our art topic with writing to research and create detailed biographies of Claude Monet. We finished the half term with a persuasive tourist guide to the French city of Marseille.

This half term we have introduced our new Science topic, States of Matter. So far, we have identified the material and particle properties of solids, liquids and gases, researched and created a poster on the boiling and melting points of a range of common metals and a few of us have even had a go at becoming each state in a class demonstration! We will be continuing the topic next half term by looking more in depth at the Water Cycle.

In geography, we have been on a journey to the South of France, finding out all about Marseilles. The children have explored tourism in the area and created amazing tourist leaflets detailing what there is to do in Marseilles. We have also been comparing the land use and climate in Marseilles and Manchester.



In art, we have been creating beautiful Monet-inspired landscapes using watercolours. The children have been perfecting their colour-mixing knowledge to recreate photographs and pictures that have inspired them.

In both indoor and outdoor P.E, the pupils have been testing their fitness, focusing on developing their speed, strength, stamina, balance, agility and coordination through a range of different exercises. We have finished the half term by beginning our dance topic based around 'The Spy.'

We hope everyone has a restful half term and we look forward to a busy end to the Spring term!

Year 5: In PE we have developed our hockey skills during our Monday sessions. We have taken part in dribbling and shooting activities, and have enjoyed getting stuck into some small-sided games. During our Wednesday sessions, we have created different dances focusing on keeping to a beat and developing how we are carrying out a movement.

In Science, we have been studying Earth and Space. We have learnt lots of interesting facts about our solar system, particularly the Earth, Sun and Moon, and have focused on how these interacted with each other. During our trip to Jodrell Bank, we learnt lots of new facts and were able to see the Lovell Telescope up-close.



In PSHE, we have focused on identifying and assessing risks. We have looked where risks might occur in our day-to-day lives and what actions we could take to minimise them.

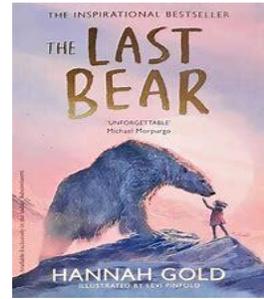


In History, we have learnt about an Early Islamic Civilisation: Baghdad. They have enjoyed finding out about how the location of Baghdad helped it to develop into the Round City and why it was so successful in the Golden Age.

In French, we have learnt the names of different animals we might have as pets and how to say we do or do not have them.

In RE, we have compared the differences in how Christians and Muslims pray. We thought about why people pray and learnt some facts about both religions.

We have started reading our class text 'The Last Bear'. It has been fascinating learning about the characters and have created a setting description of Bear Island.



Year 6: Year 6 children have been learning about rainforests. They have located the tropical rainforests of the world, focusing on the Amazon rainforest. They have found out about the different layers of the rainforest and the animals found in each layer. They have also looked at the causes of deforestation and the damage caused as a result.



Art is linked to the rainforests as they have looked at the work of Henri Rousseau and are currently in the process of creating a collage of a jungle scene.



In Science, the children have been looking at classification of plants and animals. They have used decision tree diagrams to identify these and created their own to classify and name different types of leaves. They have also found out information about Carl Linnaeus - the father of classification.

In R.E., the children have discussed who has inspired them and the qualities of inspirational people.

Year 6 children have begun their coding topic which involves programming using more complex variables to manipulate inputs and create useful outputs.

TOPIC AFTERNOON: We are pleased to invite you to our Reading afternoon on Friday 6th. March. Due to space only 1 parent per child please. The afternoon will start at 2.30pm. This is also the day we are celebrating World Book Day, when the children can come to school dressed in their pjs or a book character costume.

GOVERNORS: On Wednesday 28th. January the Governing Body met. During this meeting the Governors:

- Received a head teacher's report outlining what we have been doing in school
- Reviewed the School Development Plan
- Reviewed the new SEND Policy
- Reviewed our safeguarding procedures and training
- Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES

The money raised so far this year has been used to pay for the Panto tickets. The children have asked the Friends of Buckstones to raise money to buy some new computers

We haven't been able to have our Valentines' Disco this term as the date clashed with the choir going to Young Voices but we are hoping to arrange a family quiz after Easter.

PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents Evenings this year are on Tuesday 24th. February and Thursday 26th. February. Please make an appointment via parentmail.

SATS

Thank you to all the parents who attended the SATs meeting this half term. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the changes to the SATS and how to support the children in Year 6 so they are fully prepared for the tests in the summer.

School reopens on Monday 23rd. February.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey