



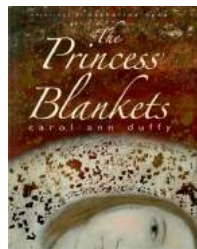
Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary School

Curiosity, Compassion, Courage

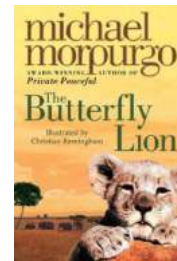
January 2022

Dear Kennet Valley Community,

I'm not sure about you, but I can't quite believe that January 2022 has already past us by and we have started a new month. As you can imagine the school has been busy over the last four weeks, and although we have had some cases of Covid we have not had to change back into bubbles, which is fantastic news for all of us.



The classes have been focussing on topics in Science and Geography this term and I have included pictures in the newsletter of some of the fantastic work that the children have completed. High quality books to start English reading and writing have continued to be a focus for the teachers this term and children are enjoying reading a range of stories in class. These include Pugs of the Frozen North in Harriers and The Butterfly Lion in Kingfishers, while Kites are exploring The Princess Blanket in English sessions.



Please do remember that we are still here should you need any help during the current covid situation. If you do need to speak to me, please contact Ruthie or Suzanne in the office and they will ensure that I contact you as soon as possible. No-one in the school community should feel alone or have worries - we will work hard to help you.



This newsletter is a great opportunity for me to say thank you to everyone in our school community who has been so sensible and considerate when children have shown symptoms or are poorly with other illnesses. As I have previously written, it is essential that you consider that illnesses could be covid, rather than thinking it probably isn't.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the staff, including our supply teachers Mrs Robinson and Mrs Oliver, who have been working so well together to keep our classes going when other staff have had to be absent from school.



I know that our community will continue to work together to stay as safe and healthy as we can. Thank you for all you do.

Mrs Russell

THANK YOU!

As a school, we are so grateful to our community because of the huge support that you continue to give us. Since the start of the school year we have had over £700 of book sponsorship - thank you to all of you who have sponsored a book or story sack.

We have also very grateful to some parents and local residents who have supported the school in other ways ...

Thank you Mr Humphries for coming to jet wash the patio in the Outside Area in Wrens. This is now being painted as well.

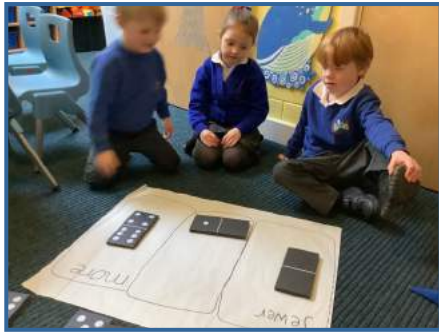
Thank you to Mr David Oliver (married to our teacher Mrs Oliver), who has sent in a range of wood for the children in Wrens to use in their continuous provision activities.

We are also very grateful to our wide range of volunteers, who either come in to hear our children read, or help out with Wren's weekly walks. Some of these marvellous people even help with both! If you can offer any help to the school, even if it is not on a regular basis or you're not sure what you can do, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher. We will always find a place for you!



Maths around the school

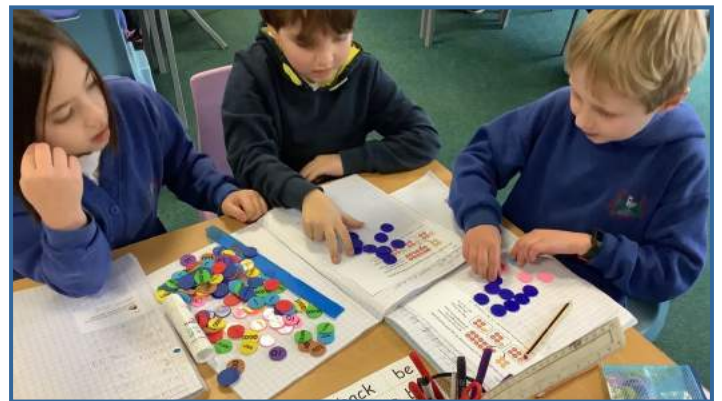
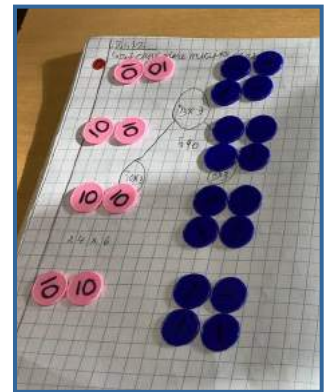
At Kennet Valley we follow the White Rose Guidance for maths in all classes, but this does not mean that maths looks the same if you walk around the school. Over the past 4 years, Mrs Hues has been our Maths Subject Leader and she is passionate about this subject. She has worked with Simon Jones, the maths link governor, to ensure that the maths across the school is exciting and motivating, so that children enjoy learning essential skills. Maths sessions take place every morning, as you would expect, but you



might not know that we have a second maths session in the afternoon, where we focus on vital key skills such as the multiplication tables. Mrs Hues has worked hard to build the maths resources that we have in school, so that children can access concrete resources (cubes, place value counters, base 10 etc) whenever they need to.



When I asked Mrs Hues about maths at the school she said "There's a real buzz about Maths throughout Kennet Valley, which we are looking forward to sharing with you in our first Maths Newsletter coming out soon. We have purchased more manipulatives across the whole school, which help us with our Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract approach to teaching and learning Maths. The children use these resources to help explain their reasoning when answering problem solving questions. More detail to follow soon about Maths at Kennet!"



School Lunches

Over the last few weeks we have been looking for a new MDSA. This has meant that we have all taken our turns at serving the lunch and helping with the tidy up afterwards. One of the things that I have noticed, is that there are always several children who are worried about the lunch option that has been chosen for them. Please could I ask all of you to talk through the school menu with your child when ordering so that they have something that they like and that they will eat.



Parking at the school

Just a little reminder to either use the 'Drive and Drop' system, or to park at the Who'da Thought It pub when you are picking up or dropping off children at school. If you are doing a 'Drive and Drop' please do not drop off until after 8.40am when staff are out in the playground. We ask this for the safety of our children, parents and staff and to be considerate to local residents of the school.



Adventures in Wrens Class - in and out of the classroom.

Over the past two years Mrs McQue and Mrs Alexander have been developing the continuous provision in Wrens class. This means that the children use a wide range of equipment and activities to learn different aspects of the curriculum every day. Mrs McQue is passionate about the children being outside as much as possible, and both members of staff are committed and excited by the idea that the children should be fully involved in developing the outside area of their classroom - this has included the children helping to develop a boggy pond area, a wildlife area, and they are soon going to be helping to build a living willow den. Almost every Friday the whole class set off for a walk around the woods or the Dene to extend their learning further afield. The children have shown that they love being out and about and come back brimming with exciting stories to talk about.

We are always looking for more resources for the outside area and more help with walks etc - if you would like to help with either, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McQue or Mrs Alexander.

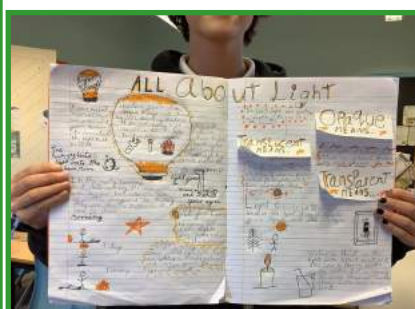


Science Block

In Term 3 we have had two main topic blocks - science and geography. The science that the children have been looking at includes light, rocks, space and weather. As you would expect children across the school enjoy

the practical side of science the most and so teachers plan as many of these tasks as they can. Before practical tasks children have to make predictions and then write about their findings.

In Kites class the children have been creating 'Double Page Spreads' to show their learning at the end of the topic blocks. The idea of this is that throughout the topic they are making notes of the most vital information that they are learning. These are then used in their Double Page end of block presentation. Mrs Byford, Miss Harvey and I love looking at these when they are finished.



Cross Curricular Work

Even though we use a topic block system at the school, it does not mean that the children don't access other areas of the curriculum at the same time. In Kites class the main book being used in English is *The Princess' Blankets* by Carol Ann Duffy. This is a beautiful book with a wonderful tale and gorgeous illustrations. To start the work on this book the class all made their own mini blanket which were based on different aspects of nature - as the blankets in the story are from different areas of the world.

Mrs Byford was incredibly impressed by the children's hard work on these pieces of artwork. It was also incredibly impressive to see how well the children work together to overcome problems when sewing. They all showed wonderful team work on this project. Well done Kites Class.



Questionnaires

Before the end of Term 3 we will be sending you all a link for the 2021/22 Parent questionnaire, which we hope you will fill in. This year our survey will be online, but if you need a paper copy we will be able to send one home to you - please just let Ruthie or Suzanne know. The governors and I will then review the results and send out feedback from what the questionnaire has shown us.

We will also be asking the children to complete a questionnaire about the school too. Again we will review the results and let them, and you, know the findings.

The questionnaires should only take a few minutes to fill in so we are hoping that you will be able to complete them. There will be a opportunity for you to put your name on the questionnaire and I would encourage you to do this, so that I can contact you about it if needed.

Many thanks in advance - Mrs Russell



Office Reminder - Fridays

Can I just remind everyone that Ruthie does not work on a Friday. This means that her emails are not checked until Monday. If you need to let us know anything - such as pick up arrangements - please make sure you call the school and speak to Suzanne or email her on finance@kennetvalley.wilts.sch.uk

The days that Ruthie and Suzanne work are as follows

Ruthie - Mon,
Tues, Wed,
Thurs

Suzanne - Wed,
Thurs, Fri

