



Kennet Valley C of E VA Primary School

Curiosity, Compassion, Courage

FEBRUARY 2022

Plus Reading Week and World Book Day!

Although February is a short month, we seemed to squeeze an awful lot in to it. If you add in our Reading Week and World Book Day celebrations the children have been very busy little bees while in school.

One of the real highlights for all the staff was being able to invite parents back into school for the 'Stay and Read' sessions during our Reading Week. It was amazing to see so many people in the school again, and I think it highlighted how much we have all missed these opportunities. A huge thank you to everyone who was able to attend the sessions. I know that the whole staff team are busy planning other events that you can all come to - we will have these on different days and at different times so that as many parents can attend as possible.

For my February newsletter I have tried to use as many pictures as I can, so that you can see what we have all been doing in the school. Many of these are also posted on the class Seesaw accounts.

Don't forget that you can use Seesaw on a daily basis to get in touch with your class teacher. Alternative ways of talking to them is to pop in at drop off in the morning, speaking to them in the playground after school or ringing the office to leave a message for them. Staff will always get back to you as soon as they can. Mrs Russell



Creativity in Wrens' Class

Our reception and Year One children are exceptionally creative so Mrs McQue and Mrs Alexander have worked hard to develop the continous provision in the classroom to ensure that the children have lots of outlets for this. This year they have expanded the main art and craft area within the classroom so that it now includes a wood work area with tools (including hammers, drills and a cool-melt glue gun) that the children can use independently, as well as a large junk modelling area. This means that the children regularly take home amazing pieces of artwork and sculptures to their parents and families.



On World Book Day the children all had the opportunity to take part in a virtual author talk. Harriers and Kites joined a talk from Michael Rosen, while Kingfishers and Wrens heard from Catherine Rayner.

Michael Rosen has written over a hundred books, which include stories and poetry. Catherine Rayner is an award winning author and illustrator. I know that all the children (and staff) really enjoyed listening to these amazing talks about the process of writing.





World Book Day!

Thanks to everyone (children and staff) who dressed up and helped us to celebrate the 25th Year of World Book Day. Everyone had fantastic costumes and were really impressive.



As part of our Reading Week, the whole school used the book "The Night Gardener" by The Tan Brothers as inspiration for their writing. In this story a boy wakes up each day to find that new wonderful topiary has been cut in his town.

Each class read this beautiful book together and then thought about the description of the character and settings within the story. The class hunted for powerful vocabulary which they added together to make our own topiary vocab tree!



One of the loveliest parts of the week was when the children swapped classes to work together to write their own versions of this heart-warming story. Kites worked with Wrens, while Harriers and Kingfishers joined forces too. The stories are in the process of being edited and then the children will publish and illustrate them before we share them with you all.



Thinking Music

Day 2

Harriers have continued to work on their Thinking Music project.

Last week they were visited by Alice and Frances again, with 3 music students from Bristol University. During the day they worked in two groups to write songs about two rivers - The River Kennet and The Amazon River. They thought of the rhythms that would represent the different rivers and words that were connected to them. These were put together to make a 'sound-scape'. They also practised directing each other's groups.

At the end of the day the whole of Harriers performed their soundscapes to the rest of the school. They also performed a song that they have written about our school. Both parts of their performance were amazing and their school song was really touching - lots of the staff watching felt very emotional!

The project will continue with zoom sessions with the students and then a performance in June at Bristol University with two other schools.



PSHE - JIGSAW

This term all of the classes are looking at the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) topic of 'Healthy Me'.

Each class is using the Jigsaw Scheme of work. This means that each week we look at a different 'puzzle piece' of the topic. The lessons involve games, relaxation and focus times, and a topic to discuss.

As well as the PSHE topic each term, we make sure that we also do extra PSHE on subjects such as Internet Safety and citizenship. In February the school all completed tasks on



Safer Internet day so that we could help our children to find out more about how to be safe online - especially when gaming.

Year 6 have also started to watch Newsround on CBBC regularly.

