



Dear Year 6 Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well as we approach the Christmas break. Pupils within year 6 have had a very successful term and explored a wide range of topics enhancing their skills not only academically as a class but also socially. They have participated well in some very high-level thinking debates, and it is wonderful to see their confidence in communication improve and develop. The class support one another with their learning, and they are reflective in how they can overcome challenges. Pupils every day are working on their organisation and independent skills that will help equip them for the year as they transition to Secondary.

English

In English, students have been able to develop a piece of writing across five different genres: recount, diary entry, instructional, newspaper report and a playscript. Year 6 pupils recognise the need to adapt a piece of writing for a specific genre and audience. It has been incredible to watch their writing skills flourish and observe how they can use a plan to form a piece of writing. A plan is helping the students organise their ideas into coherent paragraphs.

Grammar has been an integral part of our learning this term. It is important that pupils know how to apply what they have learnt into a piece of writing. For example, understanding that colons are used in making lists, but that a colon can also be used in playscript writing to separate the character's name and dialogue. Or how a modal verb can be used in future tense writing, and it can help determine the probability of something happening.

Finally, we have placed a lot of emphasis on reading this term, and identifying what skill is required to answer a particular question. It is an area that we will continue to work upon, especially the ability to justify an answer by using evidence from the text.



Maths

Maths this term was centred on Number and Place value. This included being able to read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10 000 000, including numbers with up to 3 decimal places. The children worked on rounding to whole numbers, tens, hundreds and thousands in addition to rounding numbers to either 1, 2 or 3 decimal places. We recapped both mental and written methods for the four rules of number, where children needed to multiply and divide 4 digits by 2 digits.

All children have focussed on being fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics alongside being able to reason mathematically therefore, a lot of the maths lessons have been delivered through the use of problem-solving activities allowing children to apply their knowledge by deciding which operations to use and why.

Our final unit covered this term was Fractions. We began by learning about how to simplify and convert between mixed and improper fractions. These skills then allowed students to successfully manipulate answers when adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the weekly treasure hunts associated with this unit as well as being able to work collaboratively on various activities, like the card sort activity seen below.



Science

This term in Science, the students have been studying habitats and the human body. We started the year by learning about how animals and plants are adapted to the environments they live in and how failure to adapt can lead to extinction. The students were learning about predator prey relationships as well as how these relationships can be displayed using food chains and food webs.

In the second half of term, the students were learning about some of the organ systems within the human body, with particular emphasis on the circulatory system. The students had the opportunity to enhance their oracy skills through presenting information about the different organs within the human body and discussing in class



how each system links together. The highlight for them, in my opinion, was being given the opportunity to dissect the heart of a lamb, which they expertly carried out in the lab.

PE

This term children have been learning skills to catch and throw using different techniques. We have competed, in different competitions, which has allowed children to develop their own decision-making abilities and, more importantly, be able to evaluate them. Additionally, athletics skills and methods have been acquired, allowing children to access different athletics events and to compete. Children have also made the most of the opportunity to partake in our sports tournaments at lunch time.

ART

Linking with Humanities this term we have been digging into the past to discover the different types of fossils such as mould and cast looking closely at ammonites. Pupils have improved their drawing skills and created excellent mono prints and 3D sculptures of fossils. Pupils are now more confident in how to use a sketchbook effectively and have improved their art vocabulary. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the recent weeks where they have recycled socks to make their own festive snowman.





Conclusion

In conclusion, it has been a very active term and students have been engaged in a range of activities. Again, I would like to take this moment to share my thanks with you all and I hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Miss Marsden

Queridas familias de Year 6:



Quiero comenzar esta carta agradeciéndoos todo el apoyo que habéis mostrado. Es vuestra colaboración y confianza las que me permiten diariamente sacar lo mejor de vuestros hijos.

Este trimestre en el Club de la lectura hemos compartido el libro; "El sobrino del mago", vuestros hijos han reflexionado acerca de la personalidad de los distintos personajes, han argumentado los motivos por los cuales el escritor había decidido crearlos, y han analizado el argumento de este género literario que mezcla fantasía y realidad.

Del mismo modo, la lectura en voz alta les ha permitido practicar la entonación y dramatizar extractos del libro. Su fluidez y comprensión lectora han mejorado a lo largo de este primer trimestre. Esta novela ha servido también para desarrollar la expresión escrita, incluyendo diálogos en algunos fragmentos del libro y respetando el estilo y argumento del escritor. También elaboraron una carta formal, imaginando que eran los alcaldes o alcaldesas de Londres y debían exigir a la reina que subsanase los desperfectos que había provocado en la ciudad.

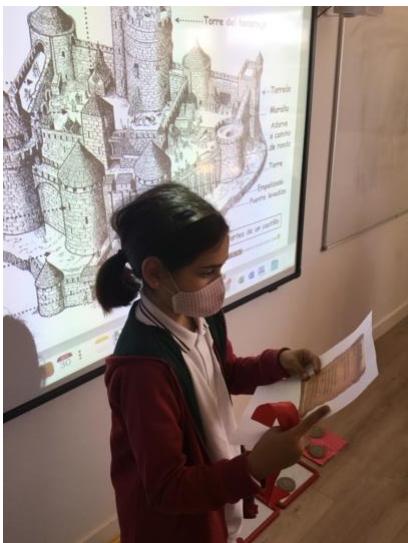


En cuanto a la ortografía, semanalmente se han enfrentado a diversos retos ortográficos. Gracias a una mayor conciencia ortográfica, los alumnos han mejorado su escritura. Del mismo modo; han realizado ejercicios de puntuación, comprendiendo la importancia de emplear correctamente los puntos y comas en las redacciones.

Por otro lado, han tenido la oportunidad de investigar diversos aspectos de la lengua, como: los elementos de la comunicación y las diferentes categorías gramaticales. También han tenido ocasión de ser profesores y explicar a la clase algunos de estos, u otros conceptos, como diptongos e hiatos.



Los alumnos han comenzado a realizar resúmenes, identificando las ideas principales de un texto, empleando el subrayado. También han elaborado mapas conceptuales y esquemas, que les han permitido organizar la información y desarrollar su capacidad de síntesis.



En Ciencias Sociales han aprendido acerca de la Edad Media en España. Para comenzar el proyecto los alumnos de Year 6 recibieron una carta de un caballero medieval. A través de diferentes actividades han ido descubriendo las culturas que vivieron a lo largo de este periodo, la organización social, la arquitectura, las características de Visigodos, musulmanes y cristianos. También han descubierto las principales batallas que tuvieron lugar sus causas y consecuencias. Por otro lado, han aprendido a comparar mapas políticos, comprobando como cambiaban las fronteras de la península. Para finalizar, crearon diversas actividades por equipos, demostrando todo lo aprendido.



Uno de los temas de debate fue la injusticia en la organización social de la Edad Media. Como siempre, la profundidad de pensamiento y las preguntas que vuestros hijos son capaces de hacerse cuando se les dan las herramientas adecuadas son sorprendentes.

Finalmente, pudieron visitar el castillo de Manzanares el Real y comprobar “in situ”, las huellas del pasado. Todos disfrutamos de esta visita, en la que se convirtieron en caballeros por un día.

Aprovecho para deseáros unas felices navidades en familia.

Con cariño,

Miss Paloma