

Bedwell News

March 2023

This term's highlights:

- We've been getting out and about! Early Years visited Stevenage Theatre to watch *Tales From Acorn Wood*, Year 2 travelled to Paradise Wildlife Park and Y3/4 headed to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch *The Demon Dentist*.
- Our Dance-a-thon raised an amazing £1196 for School Council funds.
- We all got into costume for World Book Day and took part in lots of fun reading activities.
- Our Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics team took part in the Stevenage Festival, with our girls finishing fourth and our boys fifth out of sixteen schools.
- A packed Science Week saw us completing loads of exciting workshops and challenges.
- Our Spring Parents Evening was attended by 89% of families.
- Our Football and Netball teams have been in regular action throughout the term.

What we've been doing this term...

Sharing learning

One of our big aims for the year has been to develop home-school links, giving parents and carers more opportunities to come into school and find out more about what we're learning - and this term has been packed with events designed to do this.

We've had maths and reading workshops spread across almost every year group, regular Stay and Play events in Early Years, parent sessions at the end of Year 3/4's Egypt Day and Year 5/6's Circus Day - and, in the final week of term, a fantastic Science Fair, which saw around 150 children, parents and carers taking part in a series of science activities for an hour after school.



Easter Egg Competition

We held our annual Easter Egg Competition in the final week of term. With some fantastic ideas, designs (and pun-tastic names), it was a great display of artistic flair and ingenious constructions - including models of Wembley Stadium, WW2 bombers

with egg pilots, stables, company meetings and fish tanks, along with gorgeous Easter bonnets and lots of carefully painted egg characters. It was great to see how much we all enjoyed looking at the creations and picking out our favourite details - even if all the care and attention did make some of the judging decisions trickier than ever!

School Council

School council have been busy, organising the sponsored Dance-a-thon which raised an impressive £1196! We have also been lucky enough to secure a donation of £500 from the Follett Trust. This means that our Trim Trail total is now standing at just over £3,000. Our Easter disco takings will also go into the pot, and we are thinking hard about what we could do next to raise more money. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Our Year 6 councillors also took part in the Stevenage Schools Parliament. Reggie, Alfie, Aaliyah and Aleena represented Bedwell School and spoke in the chamber to discuss different projects to benefit the Stevenage community. It was decided to hold a bake sale in support of a Stevenage homeless charity, which will take place in the summer term.

Science Week

We rounded-off the term with a fantastic Science Week. The final week of term saw us taking part in a variety of challenges, workshops and activities, including:

- Our annual Egg Drop Challenge, building a contraption that could safely transport an egg from the top of the Infant hall to the floor below.
- Workshops with *Teaching Talons*, who brought a collection of animals into school, including guinea pigs, an owl, cockroaches, tortoises and a very friendly dog.
- The K'nex Challenge, where we worked in pairs to build a bridge that allowed a boat to go underneath and a car to go over the top.
- Lots of science activities in class, including bug hunts, kite making, construction challenges and research projects.

As you can probably tell, it was a really busy week, packed with fab opportunities to learn about science and what it means to be a scientist.

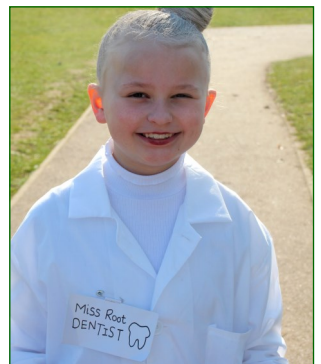
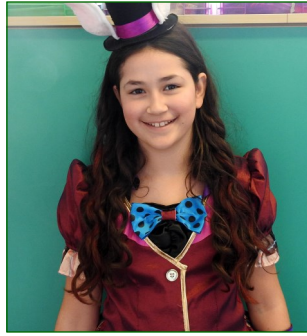




World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day, we got into costume, dressing-up as our favourite storybook characters. We were really impressed with the range of characters and stories on show, with everything from Elmer the Elephant and Fantastic Mr Fox to the Demon Dentist and the Balaclava Boys! We also had an army of Harry Potters (as well as lots of Rons and Hermiones), a palace of Disney princesses and enough superheroes to take on even the most fearsome of villains!

During the week, we also took part in lots of reading events throughout the school, including Buddy Reading with children in younger years, taking part in online workshops and writing lots of reviews and recommendations. Dormice and Fieldmice also organised a fantastic *Come and Read* session to share ideas with parents and carers. Finally, we did lots of work linked to this year's special World Book Day £1 books, reading extracts, making predictions and learning more about their authors.





Easter Disco

On the last Thursday of term we held a fantastic Easter disco. With over 150 children from Years 1-6 coming back to school to join the party, the evening was full of energy, dancing and laughter. We ate a lot of burgers, pizza and sweets; we drank a lot of juice and pop; we threw a lot of balls at the coconut shy; and (helped by all that food and drink) we bounced enthusiastically around the dance floor!

As a result of all this, we collected £916 for School Council funds. This will be added to the money we have already raised this year for our Trim Trail, and means that our totaliser will be edging upwards again. Mrs Draper has been working hard to source some extra funding from local charities and businesses, so we're hoping to move much closer to our goal over the next few months.

Can we all send a massive thank you to the staff who volunteered to give up their time to organise and run the disco, making our brilliant evening possible!





Early Years

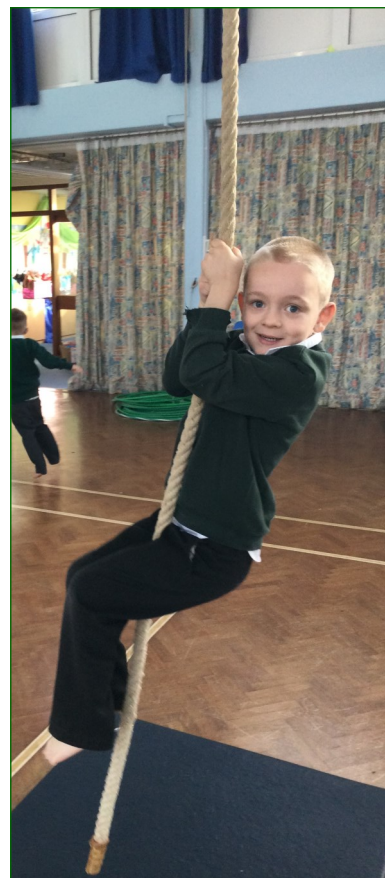
Easter Crafts

Thank you to all of our parents/carers who took part in our *Easter Stay and Play* session. We created bunny hats and foam eggs, threaded Easter eggs and made our own paper chains. We also took time to learn about the real meaning of Easter and how Christians celebrate this. We also learnt about Lent and thought about what we could give up that means something to us (after enjoying delicious pancakes on pancake day of course) We finished our Easter learning by writing signs for the Easter Bunny to see - and he did in fact leave us some eggs the next day for an exciting Easter egg hunt! Some of us have also been celebrating Ramadam, so we have been sharing stories from Islam and thinking about fasting.

Maths:

This term we invited all our families to come and see how we learn during our *Maths Stay and Play*. We were able to share lots of the resources and activities we use to develop our maths skills in EYFS.





Early Years

Talk for writing:

We got very excited when we watched a video of our baked Gingerbread Men running away from our classrooms! After this we created *Wanted* posters and looked for clues. We also innovated the story and changed the character to 'Pizza man' and we were also visited by a wolf. We have also learnt the story *Jaspers Beanstalk*, planting our own broad beans, keeping a bean diary and learning what seeds need to grow.

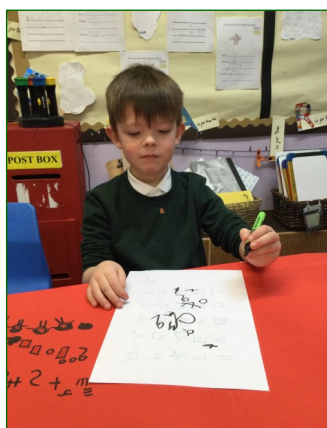
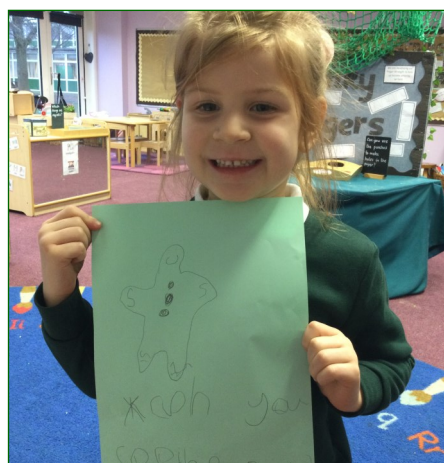
Theatre trip:

We visited the theatre to watch *The Tales of Acorn Wood*. We loved getting on the coach and sitting in our special theatre chairs. The story was told by such amazing story tellers using fantastic props. When we returned, we acted out the story and told our own versions.

Phonics:

In Ladybird class we have been learning a new sound each day as part of our phonics scheme. In Butterfly Class, meanwhile, we have been working very hard to record our own sentences, and are now trying to do this independently.





Fieldmice & Dormice

In maths we have been learning the language of length, height and mass, using this vocabulary in practical activities. We also developed our understanding of number bonds to 20, using Cuisenaire rods to help us to see how different numbers combine to make the same total.

In science we have been looking closely at materials and their properties, using language like absorbent, magnetic, waterproof and durable. Our work on fairy tales saw us searching for the best material to solve their problems, such as finding the right material to build a house for the Three Little Pigs. Our fairy tale theme weaved its way into our DT work as well, as we designed and created a hand puppet of our favourite character, learning how to cut materials, thread a needle, sew and glue.

Finally, we finished last half-term with a fairy tale day! We came dressed as our favourite characters, completed a circuit session and made jam tarts which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

English : Dear Mr Wolf...

Fairy tales and persuasive writing

In English this term we began by learning the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We explored a variety of fairy-tales, looking at the types of characters we found (with lots of heroes, princesses, talking animals and evil wolves and witches). We thought about the types of places where these stories took place, and eventually created new fairy-tales of our own.

We then moved on to explore persuasive letters. We used a letter to the Big Bad Wolf as our starting point, looking at the ways in which our model letter tried to persuade him to be a bit less Big and Bad (and a bit more kind and helpful!) We then used these skills to write our own persuasive letters. We wrote to the Easter Bunny (asking for eggs) and then to any character we chose - everything from asking Godzilla to be a bit less scary, to asking Harry Kane to play football with us! Throughout all of this, our main focus has been writing in sentences, adjectives and letter structure.

You can see a few excellent examples of our finished letters below:

Dear Easter Bunny,

Hi, how is your day? Are there enough Easter Eggs for the children? If there is great, can I have one please? I will make you a carrot airplane to help.

Yours hopefully,

Morfeas.

Dear Easter Bunny,

I am writing to you because can you bring some Easter Eggs to me? I will help you to buy some more Easter Eggs.

From

Rajan

Dear Easter Bunny

Please can I have Easter Eggs? If you give me your eggs I will give you carrots. I will make your burrow nice instead of dirty. I will buy you more Easter Eggs and I will make the Egg Drop really good.

From

Deivis

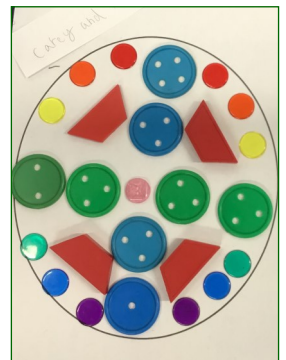




Year 2: Hedgehogs

It has been a very busy but rewarding term in Hedgehog Class. In geography, we have been learning about India. We focussed on Chembakolli, a small village in the south of India, and discussed how life there is different to Stevenage. We are very lucky to have Mrs Anderson in class who is originally from India, and she has told us lots of new things about this huge and amazing country, including sharing Rangoli patterns, spices and symbols. We also made our own chapatis and tried some Indian foods.

In science we have been learning about the way animals adapt to their habitats, and to help us better understand this topic we visited Paradise Wildlife park. We met one of the zoo keepers, and then had a very enjoyable (if wet) day looking at the animals before eating our picnics and having a look around the dinosaur area. We were also visited by Safety Seymour, who taught us about carbon monoxide (CO), its dangers and how to keep us (and our homes) safe.





Year 3: Rabbits

African Drumming

This term, we have begun having weekly djembe lessons. We have been exploring different rhythms and tempos, using our own djembe drum which originate from West Africa. We have followed instructions, listened carefully and can now play short repeating rhythms - we even tried playing solos this week!

Egypt Day

This term we have been learning about the incredible Ancient Egyptian civilisation. We rounded it off with a brilliant Egyptian day - and you can see a few pictures from the day on the opposite page.

Demon Dentist

Over the past term we have been reading the David Walliams book *Demon Dentist*. Although it was a bit creepy at times, we have really enjoyed the story and have been rooting for Alfie and Gabz to triumph over the Tooth Witch. As a result, we were delighted to be able to watch the story on stage at Milton Keynes theatre. The show was amazing and we were blown away by the acting and special effects.

English : Adventure!

The Emerald Amulet

We have been working on adventure stories this term, writing our own tales based on the story of *The Emerald Amulet*. As we have been learning about Egypt in history, we had plenty of ideas to help us create complex characters and interesting settings. The finished adventures we produced were amazing, full of ambitious language, speech and peril. We'd love to share them all with you, but there's only space for two:



Hett and the Amulet

When Hett saw the hooded figure she was running and then she saw a busy market place. Hett said, "The hooded figure must have run into that market place!" and she followed. When Hett caught up with the hooded figure there were lots of rolling barrels in her way and she tried to dodge them. The hooded figure got a knife and cut some rope.

A big bag of flour fell from a building but Hett did not get hit. She caught up with the stranger who had skin the colour of an orca. His eyes were rectangle shaped and the colour of glittering gold. On his cloak there were hanging red rubies. When Hett pulled off the cloak she said, "Pharaoh Akenhaten, why do you have the amulet?"

"I just wanted to find someone that was poor to bring it back to the palace and get money. I will give it to you to take back," he said. "Thank you," answered Hett. At the end Hett got the money and they lived happily ever after.

By Carson

Hett takes a tumble...

Out of the corner of her eye, Hett saw a strange hooded figure. She started to chase the hooded figure but they were too fast. "I must catch the figure before it is too late!" she thought.

As Hett slid across the carriages she saw the figure going the other way. As she ran across the market she noticed something very weird. Hett ran as fast as she could. She jumped and then tumbled down from the roofs. Hett could not catch the figure. She jumped as far as her little legs could carry her and caught the figure.

Hett noticed bright sparkly blue eyes. He took down his hood. It was her uncle!

"Uncle," said Hett, "I am here to help you." He revealed he had the amulet and they made a plan. "Let's give it in and get the reward of gold," said Hett.

They ran off together towards the palace...

By Bonnie-Mae



Year 3/4: Badgers

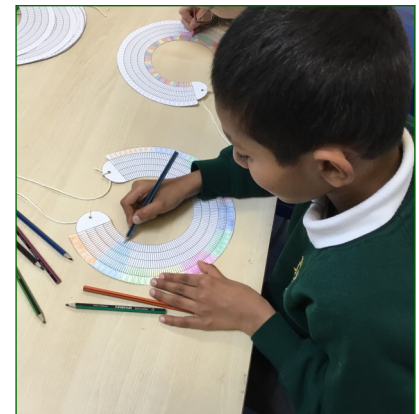
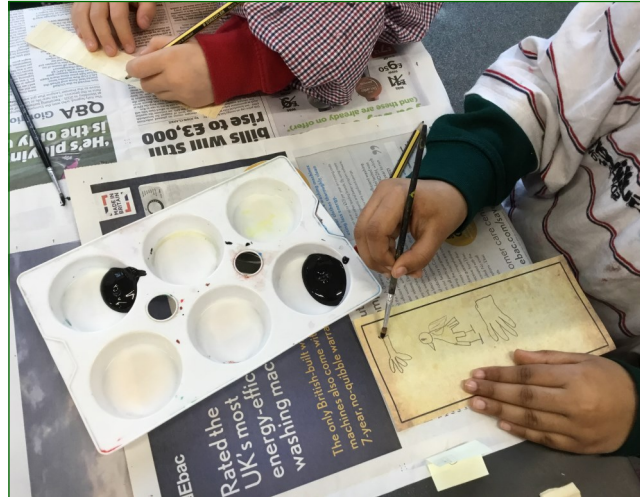
The Demon Dentist

In class this term we have been reading *The Demon Dentist* by David Walliams, getting ready for our trip to Milton Keynes Theatre on March 24th. As soon as the curtain went up, we joined Alfie and Gabs on their adventure, investigating the strange events happening in their home town! We loved the production, and were in fits of laughter on several occasions!

Ancient Egypt

We were incredibly enthusiastic about our Egyptian Day, which pulled together everything we have learnt about this ancient civilisation this term. There were six stations to explore, covering soap carving, hieroglyphics, food tasting, pyramid building and jewellery. We really enjoyed our day, and getting to share lots of what we had done with parents and carers at the end of the afternoon was a real treat as well.

In art we painted ourselves as pharaohs. After a quick snap of our faces we used oil pastels to add bright and elaborate Egyptian head pieces.



English : News Reports

Over the last 6 weeks we have become reporters. After learning what makes a good newspaper report and finding out about adverbial openers, writing in the past tense and using quotes, we opened up our very own Newsroom. We reported on some very strange incidents that had occurred around our town, the funniest being a dragon landing at Fairland's Lakes and a squirrel scoring a goal for Stevenage Borough! We then started writing newspaper reports about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, linked to our work on Ancient Egypt. You can see two fantastic examples below:

King Tut's Tomb Raided!

Reporter : Charlie

On Friday 4th November 1922, an archaeologist called Howard Carter found an untouched tomb in the Valley of Kings, Egypt, Africa.

A young water boy aided the expedition on the Valley of the Kings and helped Carter to inspect the land, they had searched for years to find any

signs of temples or tombs. It is suggested that the water boy tripped on rubble, which in fact was the stairs which led into a tomb.

Carter had been searching for many years for any kind of discovery, but he did not expect to find the King of such an important Pharaoh. It is reported that Howard Carter sent for Lord Carnarvon, his employer, to



inspect the chamber and move the loot, he could not believe what was inside.

If you want to learn more about Tutankhamun or Howard Carter's find visit www.egyptian.co.uk

Pharaoh Discovery

By Toby

On Friday 4th November 1922, Howard Carter a British archaeologist discovered the intact tomb of King Tutankhamen in Valley of Kings, Egypt, Africa.

At the time of the discovery, Howard Carter was working for Lord Carnarvon, a British collector of antiquities, who had employed Carter to supervise excavations in the valley. Carter had been working in Egypt for 31 years. It is reported that Carter

contacted Lord Carnarvon instantly to reveal his find. Lord Carnarvon came with his daughter and started to clear the rubble.

Officials inspected the chamber and said they didn't know what to do. All over the country there was much excitement about the tomb's discovery. Reports suggest it took 24 hour to break down the rubble to gain access.

After a while, Carter found a hollow wall where they made a small hole, using only a candle to

see. Behind the wall lay King Tut's burial chamber. Howard Carter said "I knew I would find something, I would like to thank Carnarvon for believing in me!"

Howard then removed the gold items from the chamber, and took them to a local museum. Reports suggest that all of the gold combined is worth over 200million pounds. From that day, all of the artefacts remain in the museum safe and secure.

Story continues inside...

Year 4: Moles

Pirate Map Day

We spent the day designing pirate maps for our English unit. First we got together as a class to collect ideas for as many different pirate locations as we could. We were actually very good at this and soon had a huge bank of ideas for places like *Skull Island*, *Dead Man's Forest*, *Misty Mountains* and *Blackbeard's Inn*. After this we drew the outline of our island, learning how to make it 3D, we added all the detail to our maps including beaches, coves, forests, mountains and anything else we deemed worthy of a pirate.

Egypt Day

During the first of our two Egyptian days this term, we found out about the mummification process and really got down to the gritty details of this ancient method of preserving bodies. Next we turned our attention to the burial stage and were tasked with having to design a sarcophagus. We used acrylic paint for our designs and as you can see they were very detailed, just like the real ones.

English : Pirates!

In Mole class we have been living and breathing pirates for the last 6 weeks and it has been so much fun. After learning what makes a good explanation, and finding out about causal conjunctions, time openers and present tense we took the plunge and began writing explanations for pirate ships, cannons, hobbies, eye patches and anything else we could think of. We had a blast and put our imaginations to good use.

How Pirates Work

By Max

Who are these daring figures? Blood thirsty men that return home with mountains of stolen gold? Adventurers who sail the seven seas? Well, pirates are all these things and more. So if you think you know everything about these awesome rogues, think again.

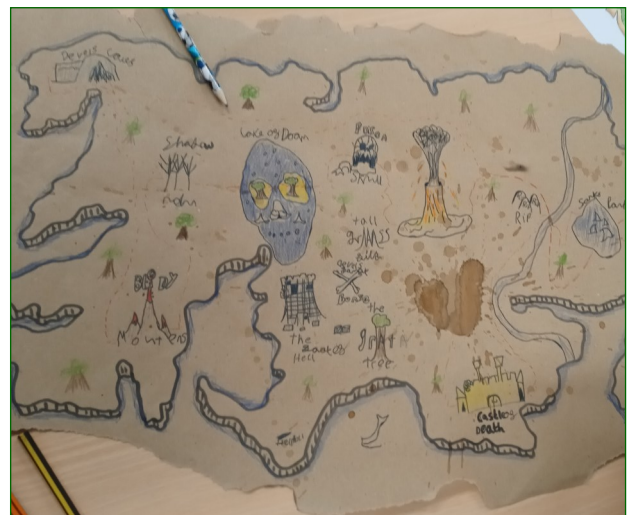
Pirate Weapons

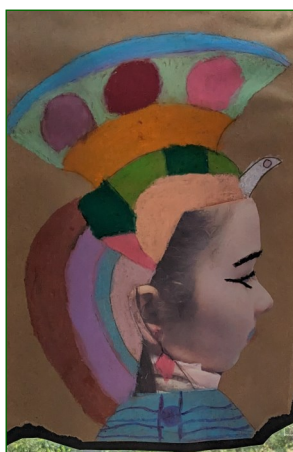
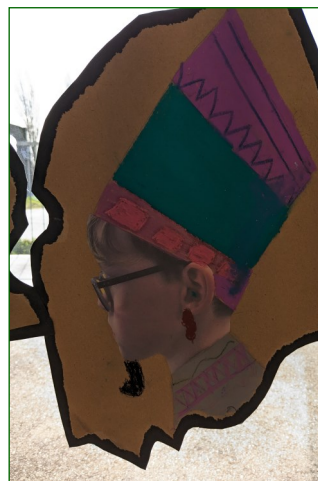
Pirates have a wealth of weapons at their disposal including cannons, flint locks, shotguns, rifles and blunderbusses. These tools are an essential part of everyday life. These weapons are very dangerous and are only used by the most skilled pirates.

Cannons

The most powerful weapon at a pirate's disposal is a cannon. They wreak havoc into the souls of anyone unlucky enough to come face to face with them.

First a gargantuan iron ball is carefully placed into the empty socket by two bulky pirates, because it's no use getting two skinny pirates who clean the poop deck and drink all day. Soon after they quickly go fishing for hydras as their eyes (which need to be cut out) are squeezed into the ignition chamber, consequently the cannon is now primed and ready for action. Furthermore if a pirate has no hydra eyes or gunpowder, he or she can use a mix of ketchup and mayonnaise because when these two are mixed together it becomes highly explosive.





Year 5: Foxes

It has been a shorter term, but it feels like we've absolutely rammed it full of activities and learning. We have learnt loads about Vikings (and their myths), explanations, Scratch coding, evolution, lacrosse, athletics, swimming - and we even found out how to save lives in our CPR session!

Highlights of the term have included:

- Lacrosse training with Great Britain goalkeeper (and European champion) Katie Greenwood
- A packed science week, which has seen us working towards the national CREST Superstar award (we need to do two more activities after Easter to earn our badges)
- Writing brilliant explanations for vehicles we had designed, packed full of clever vocabulary
- Helping two new members of our class who didn't speak any English to rapidly pick up language and join in with all we do
- Making huge improvements in swimming!

English : Explanations

We began the term by exploring explanation writing. We looked at lots of examples of explanations of complex, ingenious inventions and identified the way that these texts are structured and linked together. We focussed in particular on a model text which explained how the SHIELD Helicarrier works, and then used this to inspire our writing. We invented vehicles for some of our favourite characters and explained how they worked - just like Holly has done here:

How the DOG-MOBILE™ works

The DOG-MOBILE™ is without doubt one of the most intelligent, skilfully designed, indestructible machines in human history. This vehicle is Dog Man's favourite vessel. The DOG-MOBILE™ is equipped with its very own call centre on board, ready for any situation. The constructors have tinkered and changed this machine for years, but the way it works is surprisingly simple...



The DOG-MOBILE™ needs to be prepared for any weather. For complex snowy situations, magnesium skis emerge from the bottom. Therefore for wetter emergencies, doors and windows are firmly sealed with unbreakable fibres. Finally, underwater fins pop out from a hidden hatch.

For land situations, bullet proof tyres pop out from the bottom. When you need to take to the air, wings and magic propellers spring out from the sides and top, then the bullet proof tyres fold up into hover wheels for extra speed. It's truly amazing!

Dog Man needs to be ready for any emergency, and consequently you need an assortment of gadgets. The titanium turbo boost (which works on any terrain) can give you extra boost. Moreover there is an unbreakable jail cell that can hold any one, and as a result no enemy has ever escaped. Finally, the dog food dispenser is great for break time snacks!

This really is an incredible machine, packed with amazingly crafted gadgets, and therefore there is no situation that Dog Man can't handle using the DOG-MOBILE™!

By Holly

Viking Britain

In the second half of the term, we've been learning all about Vikings. We investigated their history, from early raids to full invasions, battles with Alfred the Great and the partition of England. We learnt about everyday life in Viking Britain (there was more farming than we'd expected, and far fewer helmets with horns sticking out the side). Our English work has also focussed on Norse myths. We have read lots of adventures of Thor, Odin and Loki, enjoying their battles with giants, shape-shifting creatures and magical dwarves. We thought about the way that myths were originally told and passed on in the time before many people could read and write, and we practiced retelling myths we had learnt.



After that, we worked on writing character descriptions for Norse gods. We collected lots of precise descriptive language, drafted our first versions, edited and improved them, and then presented our final pieces using laptops. You can see Alice and Taylor's fantastic finished descriptions below:



FREYA

If you were to meet Freya, the first thing you would notice is her smiling face. She has golden hair and yellow eyes. She wears a pink and gold dress and carries a cloak.

When Freya moves she walks and runs. When she speaks, she is kind and often says, "How are you doing?" Freya has a beautiful personality, and if you met her I think that you would be surprised how nice she is.

By Alice

HEL

If you were ever unfortunate enough to meet Hel, the first thing you would notice is her half deceased body rotting away! The next thing you



would see is her raven black dress with a gold rim as it blows in the breeze, as well as her huge feather bower. Lastly you will see her dead flower crown twisting every which way.

Breathing deeply, she roams Asgard with her head held up elegantly, clutching her hands behind her back. When she speaks, she has a soft but scratchy voice, speaking delicately and making soft cooing noises.

By Taylor

Year 5/6: Eagles

Maths

Across all three of our maths sets, a big focus this term was on measures. We completed lots of practical challenges to develop the ability to read scales precisely and measure mass, capacity and length. This also helped us to build an understanding of what 1kg or 1 litre 'looks like', so we can make sensible estimates and spot when answers just can't be right. Those of us in Year 6 have also taken part in weekly Booster sessions, building our understanding and confidence, ready for our national SATs tests in May.

The Easter Story

In the lead up to Easter, we visited our local church, to find out more about why Christians celebrate this special time of the year. We were split into four groups and throughout the morning, we talked about how Jesus was betrayed by Judas, was hung from the cross and was then resurrected. All of the adults were really impressed by both our behaviour and the way we were able to talk knowledgeably about the Easter Journey.





Year 5/6: Falcons

At the Circus

This half term started with a bang, when Steve the Juggler came to Bedwell. He wowed the whole school with his tricks and jokes, before focussing on teaching Eagles and Falcons a host of circus skills. We all attended two workshops, learning how to walk on stilts, spin plates, spin toothbrushes and finally juggle. At the end of the day, we invited parents and carers to come and see us perform our new found talents!

Linked to our work in English, we also created 'circus art' using simple techniques to create a stunning effect.

Evolution

In science we have learned all about evolution and how different animals have adapted to their environments. Horses, elephants, humans - you name it - we've looked at how small changes over millions of years has enabled different species to survive. We have also found out about Charles Darwin and the impact his discoveries have had on our lives today.

English : Setting Description

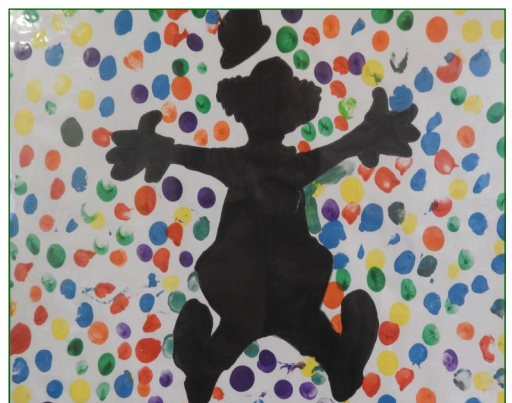
We used our work on the circus (and the inspiration of our Circus Day) to help us to write setting descriptions, showing a contrast in mood and atmosphere. Check out two of our brilliant examples below:

It was between dusk and twilight and every nerve in my body warned me not to go any further. However, the circus, which was covered in particularly bright fire-flies, drew me in. Goosebumps crawled over my skin, as I felt the chilling breeze run down the back of my neck. Looking at the claw-like trees, I immediately knew that I had made the wrong decision. An acrid smell of dying embers lingered in the air, having escaped from the colourless tent. Suddenly, I heard the iron fence creak - I shivered in fear and knew I had to run!

By Bella

While you looked around, you could see children persuading their parents to enter the vibrant circus. Desperately, boys and girls held onto their balloons as tight as they could. As you ate the flavoursome candy floss, you could feel the vibration of the music, which must have been one hundred decibels, and children were laughing joyfully. Behind the ticket booth, a man could be heard shouting, "Come and get your tickets to see the best show in town!" Excited children ran past as you saw massive smiles on peoples' faces; they beamed from ear to ear. You could see the rides going round and round and happy screams travelled across the air. The rhythm of the music pulsed, when suddenly a voice declared, "The show is about to commence - please take your seats and enjoy!" And so you rushed in, where else would you ever want to be?

By Emily



March 2023 : Bedwell School News



Diary Dates

17th April

Start of Spring Term

1st May

May Bank Holiday

8th-11th May

Year 6 SATs Week

12th May

Foundation Stage
Stay & Play session

15th-19th May

Year 2 SATs Week

29th May - 2nd June

Half-term

12th-16th June

Y1 Phonics Screening

16th-18th June

Year 6 PGL trip

22nd June

Summer Fayre

23rd June

INSET day (school
closed for training)

26th June

Occasional Day

27th June

Key Stage 2 Sports
Day (Years 3-6)

28th June

Key Stage 1 Sports
Day (Years 1 and 2)

29th June

Foundation Stage
Sports Day

11th-12th July

KS2 Production

21st July

End of term 2pm

Sports Update

Football

This term has been jam packed with football matches for our Boys 5/6 football team. The games have come thick and fast and although the results have not always gone in our favour, the boys are now starting to understand positions, be able to defend as a team and work together showing great communication and teamwork. In each game there has been 1 or 2 new faces, this has been a real testament to the boys as they are always pushing for a starting spot. Hopefully we can now start to score some goals and win some of our final matches.

Our Year 3/4 team have also been in action twice this term. We started with a tough match against Codicote, with Andrei making some excellent saves to keep us in the game and player-of-the-match Jazzi proving her huge value to the team as our unpassable, no-nonsense, one person defence. Our second game saw us taking on Giles Juniors. Two first-half goals from Toby (both from Max's corner kicks) saw us take a deserved lead, which we built on in the second-half when Frankie buried his penalty in the top corner. It was Jaden, however, who earned the player of the match award this time around, with his massive work rate - driving forward with the ball and covering back in defence - really catching the eye.

Netball

After lots of cancellations due to rain, snow and ice, our Year 5/6 Girls Netball team only managed to play one game this half-term, taking on Trotts Hill in the Stevenage league. On a dark and rainy evening, we had to work really hard to move the ball down the court, with player-of-the-match Madhumitha seeming to cover every spot of ground as she battled to win the ball back.

In the last week of term, our Mixed Netball team took on Knebworth, securing an amazing win thanks to their precise passing, tight marking and all-around determination. Jayse was our player of the match this time around, thanks to his hugely impressive shooting.

Indoor Athletics

Just after half-term, our Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics team headed to Barnwell School for the Stevenage Festival. Taking on the best young athletes in town, competition was tough, but some excellent baton changes in the relay races, impressive throws in the javelin and ball throw and overall 'never give up' attitude helped us to score strongly in a wide range of events. All of this meant that, out of sixteen schools involved, our boys team finished in fifth place and our girls team were ranked fourth.

Handball

New to our sporting calendar this year was the Stevenage Handball Festival. Handball is a fast-paced, action-packed sport that requires excellent catching and throwing (and a lot of running around). After a term spent practicing in Handball Club with Mr Butler, our team put in a great effort at the Festival, finishing fifth overall.