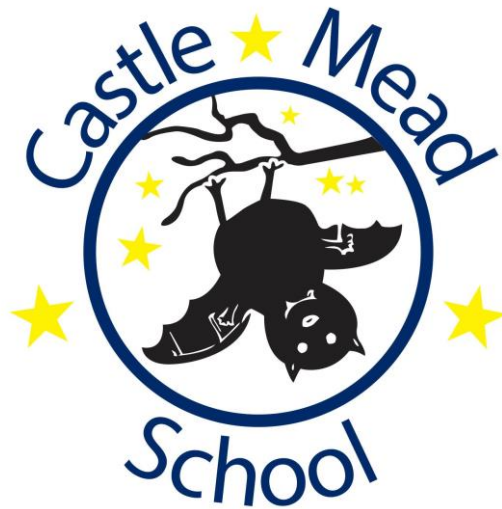


Castle Mead Termly Newsletter, Term 2, 2023



Welcome to our second termly newsletter that is full of information about all the wonderful things that have happened at our school over the last term! It has been full of fun, lots of hard work and many celebrations. We hope you enjoy reading it.

**Top tip: use the grey square icon on the bottom right of your screen to see contents and to navigate the newsletter quickly and easily. Or simply scroll down as usual.*

Attendance this term



Our attendance for the year as a school is 94.5%, which is an improvement on last term! This is still below the national average which is currently 95%.

Year group attendance to date is as follows (*Resource Base children are included within year groups*):

Year R - 94.5%

Year 1 - 94.1%

Year 2 - 96.4%

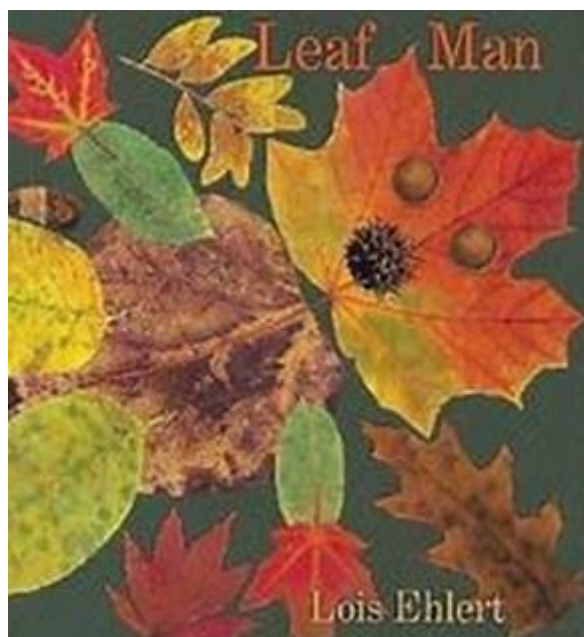
Year 3 - 94.9%

Year 4 - 95.8%

Year 5 - 91.9%

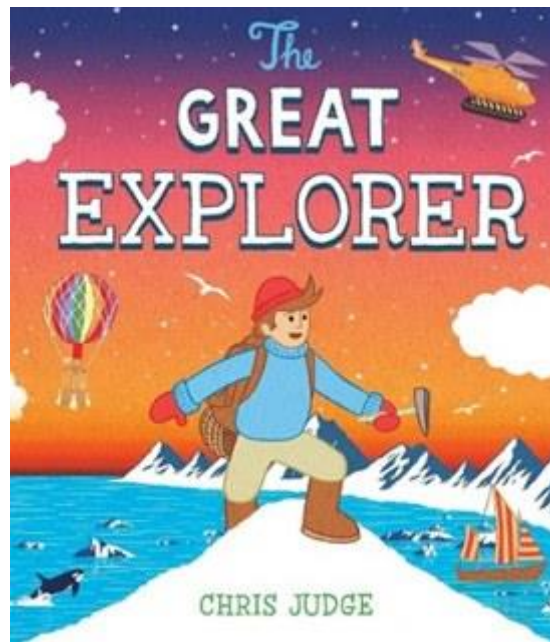
Year 6 - 93.8%

Reception News



Reception have had a busy term 2! We thoroughly enjoyed our woodland walk to the woods, looking for signs of autumn. The children collected lots of different coloured leaves, we then read the story Leaf Man and made our own leaf people.

We have also been reading The Great Explorer and received many letters and parcels from the main character Tom. We made posters and wrote captions for his missing things and observed ice that he sent all the way from the North Pole.



In maths, we have been learning about quantities being equal to, more than or less than! We have also been looking at the whole of something and finding out the parts by using a part-part whole model!





Mouse-eared Bats and Whiskered Bats have also continued their pen disco but have now started writing letters! Everyday, we practise writing a new letter. The children have shown a brilliant growth mindset by learning from mistakes. You will always hear someone say 'mistakes are good, that's how we learn!'.

And finally, the children were amazing in our Christmas nativity Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. The children loved singing the songs and saying their lines.

Out of school achievements

Amelia Hamblin in Year 3

- Took her modern and tap exam last weekend - she was the only one to take it on her own amongst the older girls!*
-



Gracie Kettle in Year 2

- *Achieved her half marathon wristband at 2km Junior Parkrun.*

- Gracie has run 11 times at King George V Park in Melksham.
-



Louie Johnson in Year 3

- Louie earned his medal for taking part in a football match.*

- He was the top goal scorer!*

Parker Latham, Harlan Latham and Cruz Philips

- They all ran at the 5km parkrun at Southwick Country Park.*

- Parkrun is not a race but it is a good way to test your fitness levels.*

- This event is open to children and adults!*







Hollie Sumner in Year 4

- Hollie was nominated as player of the week at her football club back in term 1.*
 - She has also completed stage 4 swimming and is now in stage 5.*
-



Aria Morrison in Year 2

•Aria has now completed stage 3 swimming and is moving on to stage 4.

•She has also achieved her 10m badge!



Elliot Boyd in Year 4

- Elliot has passed his Stage 4 swimming!*

Mrs Emery

- Mrs Emery ran the White Horse Gallop on 22nd October.*
 - The race was 7 miles long.*
 - Part of the route went straight up the Westbury White Horse!*
 - 1 hour, 30 minutes and 12 seconds*
-



Miss Morgan

- *Miss Morgan climbed a mountain in the half term!*

- *Pen Y Fan in Wales is 886m high.*

Mrs Young and Mrs Emery

- *They both ran at Over the Hills.*

- *The race was 7 miles long.*

- *It was very muddy!*

- *Mrs Emery: 1 hour, 23 minutes and 31 seconds*

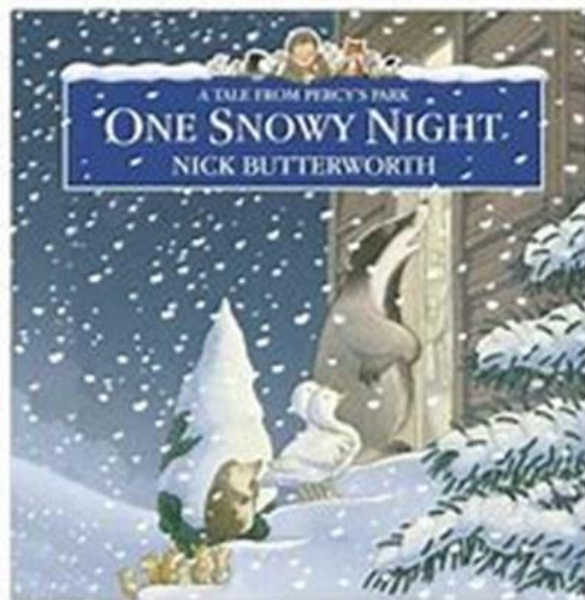
- *Mrs Young: 1 hour, 27 minutes and 47 seconds*
-





Congratulations to each of you!

News from the Nursery





The children have been exploring the season of winter reading 'One Snowy Night' and the 'Robin's Winter Song'. We have been learning about how to wrap up warm in our coats, hats, scarves and gloves.





In nursery this term, the children have been exploring artwork by the artist Andy Goldsworthy, who uses natural material to create magnificent pieces of art. The children have created their own art uses natural resources such as stones, pinecones conkers and leaves. The children have also been making Diwali art this term, creating Rangoli patterns from rice and lentils and using loose parts such as gems and hoops. Some of the children carefully made their own patterns on paper plates using paint and cotton buds.





Year 1 news

Science

This term, we were very lucky to be gifted a bird box that Year 1 enjoyed building as part of their science lesson. All the pupils worked as a team to attach the sides together. We needed to make sure all birds had shelter this winter. Once our bird box was built, we walked around the school choosing a tree we wanted to put our special bird box on. Year 1 decided on a deciduous tree which they know lots of facts about.



Literacy

This term, Year 1 have been inspired by the book The Everywhere Bear written by Julia Donaldson. All of Year 1 enjoyed taking the Everywhere Bear home to experience their journey to and from school, with an overnight stay. Year 1 have also produced some of their own amazing stories using their creative imagination. We have read our stories to lots of different members of staff and they have all been wowed! Well done Year 1.



Welly Walk

To answer our enquiry question – “What is the weather like in Autumn?” Year 1 went on a welly walk to the local woods. We enjoyed using our checklist to spot the different types of trees and their features. Every group were able to confidently spot the evergreen and deciduous trees and explain the differences and similarities. Year 1 were looking for different animals getting ready to hibernate during the winter and enjoyed using all their senses to describe the leaves.



History

To help us answer our enquiry question- "What was our school like in the past?" Year 1 looked at some old photos of the school before it was built and some of the building process. We then prepared some questions that Year 1 wanted to find out. We were very lucky to have a special visit from Mrs Jacobs who helped us answer our questions. Year 1 also had the opportunity to visit the new building works which the school is currently having. We had to put our helmets on and a Hi-Vis jackets before going to have a look.



International Coffee Morning



We had another fantastic International Coffee Morning this term. It was lovely to share cakes, coffee and catch up. We are planning an exciting event on the 24th January 2024 to get more people involved - a bring and share party. Look out for more information via email over the next few weeks.

News from the Resource Base

This term, the children in the Resource Base have been learning about beliefs and celebrations. With the help from parents, the children have talked to their peers about their own beliefs and experiences of celebrations and they have all really enjoyed birthday, Halloween, Diwali and Christmas-themed sessions throughout the term. Just after Diwali, Chittal (from Wise Moves Dance Company), visited the school to deliver a Diwali-themed workshop which was a real success and provided the children with an example of how special events can be celebrated through dance. At the end of the term, the children also had the opportunity to visit a local church where they met Vicar Allan who shared his beliefs about Christmas. To complete the project, the children performed in the Resource Base Nativity 'A Bundle of Joy', which they were able to link to Christian beliefs about the first Christmas.









Cross Country Event at Clarendon

A team of Y5 runners attended this event after school near the end of term. Many of the children experienced great individual achievements with lots of our runners finishing in the top 10 of their race. Congratulations to Parker L who was the outright winner of the Y5/6 boys' race and a huge well done to everyone for their support of each other - a real credit to the school!

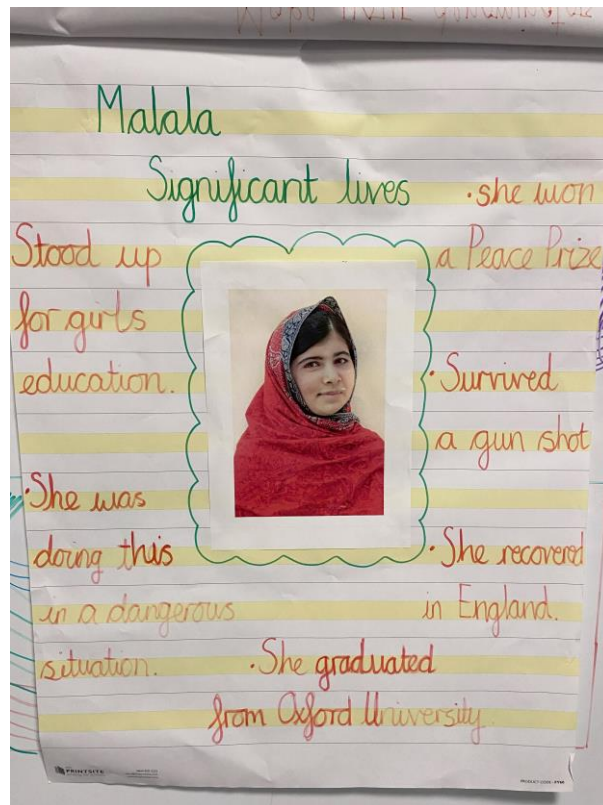




Significant Lives

In term two, each year group has learnt about their first significant figure. We then had a brilliant assembly to share our learning with the rest of the school. It was fantastic to hear the children's learning and to discuss how each person shows our FREDICE values.





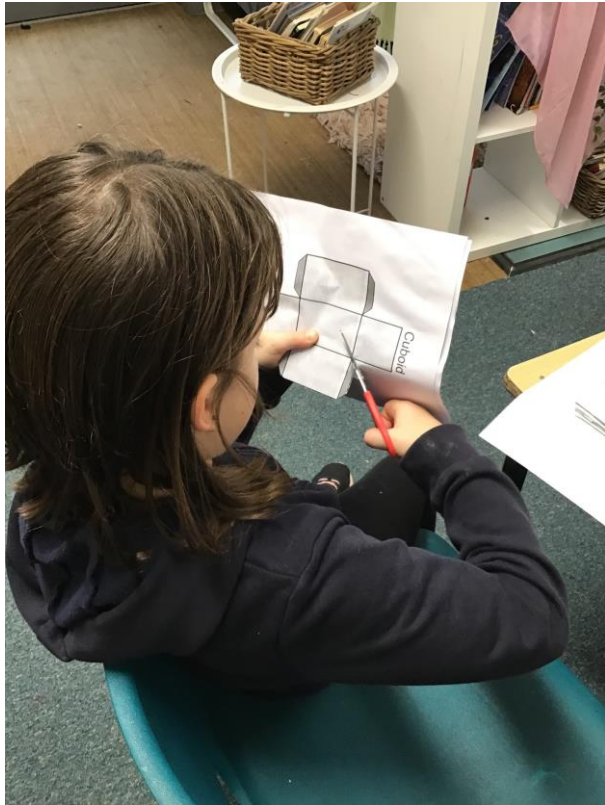
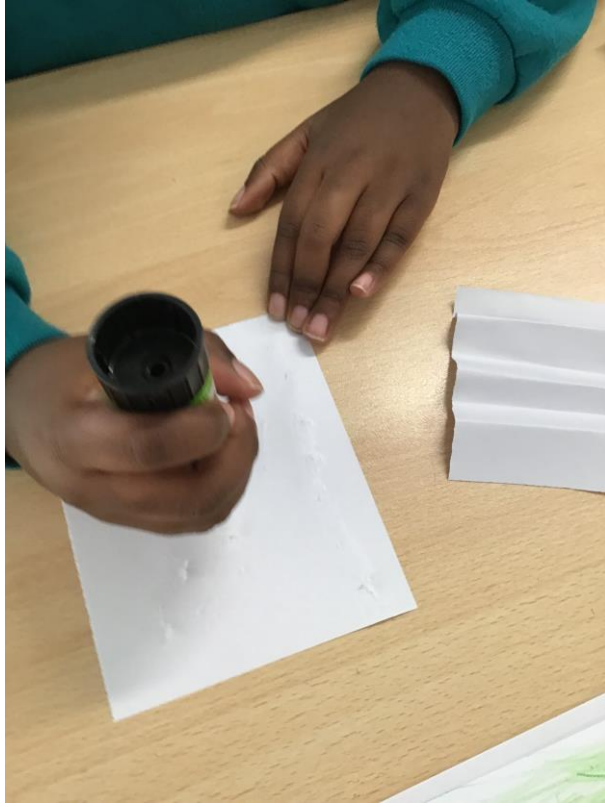
Year 3 highlights of the term

Year 3 have had an incredible term! We wish we could share all of their amazing learning but here are a few highlights.

In computing this term, Year 3 have been learning all about stop-frame animations. Within their learning, Year 3 designed their animations and created each scene and character. They then used the iMotion app to capture each frame to build their animations. Take a look at the QR code below to view some of our animations!

In DT this term, Year 3 constructed a shell structure, a keepsake box for an ancient artefact. They learnt so many new skills including scoring card and building 3-dimensional shapes from nets. They even learnt how to stiffen and strengthen paper using the methods of lamination, corrugation and ribbing.

We can't wait to see what's in store for terms 3 and 4!







News from PE this term

Kit

• PE kit should include the following items...



The t-shirt and jumper do not need to have the school logo but they must be plain without other patterns or logos.









Dance in the Curriculum

It's been a very creative term in PE for most children. KS2 children are preparing for the Buggy Malone show and while many of the children have chosen not to be in the final show, everyone has been learning the dance routines for different dances. It's been lovely to see them practising on the playground at lunch time too! Children in YR and KS1 have been dancing to different themes including transport, fireworks and winter wonderlands. Many have enjoyed using scarves as props too.





Trowbridge Football final results

The final game in the Trowbridge league was played at the start of the term. The team finished in 3rd place overall out of 7 teams with Levi in Y6 being celebrated as the top goal scorer of the tournament. They were all awarded medals for taking part.



Warminster Football

Following the Trowbridge league, the team were invited to the next level of competition at Kingdown School in Warminster. The competition was tough but the team worked hard to win and draw their 6 matches and finished 3rd overall again. The team received their School Games certificates in assembly later on that week.



Stonar Cross Country

Following the success of the Clarendon event, another group of children attended a huge event at Stonar School to compete over 1.2km (Y3/4) and 1.7km (Y5/6) in very muddy conditions. Any child that finished in the top 3 was awarded a very special medal to take home. Congratulations to Harlan in Y3 who did exactly that, finishing 3rd out of 44 runners! The whole team finished 4th overall out of 12 schools.



TMAT Kurling

This term, children from across The Mead Academy Trust were invited to Castle Mead to take part in some friendly games of New Age Kurling. All of the children got to play 3 games of 4 ends each and everything was officiated by a selection of Castle Mead Sports Leaders. Many of these leaders are new to the role this year and did a fantastic job at their first event! The children from River Mead and The Mead were so excited to come along and the Castle Mead children were incredibly kind and friendly to the visitors. Everyone left with a craft bag and a certificate too.





Winter Dash day

This term we took part in the School Games Winter Dash! Every child from Nursery to Year 6 joined in with this national running event dressed festively or in winter patterns. It was so lovely to see so many smiling faces on the way around our 'Mile a Day' track. The wonderful medals were donated by Trowbridge based Avon Valley Runners and local events business, Stampede Sports so that every child could have one for taking part! A huge thank you must go to our Y5/6 sports leaders for the organisation of the medals, making signs and cheering everyone on by ringing bells.







PE Stars of the Week

Congratulations to all of these children who have been awarded the PE 'Star of the Week' since September.

Karmen C (Y1)

Filip L (Y5)

Lily A (Y6)

Shaidan C (Y6)

Levi F-B (Y6)

Anas R (Y1)

Lesley F (Y5)

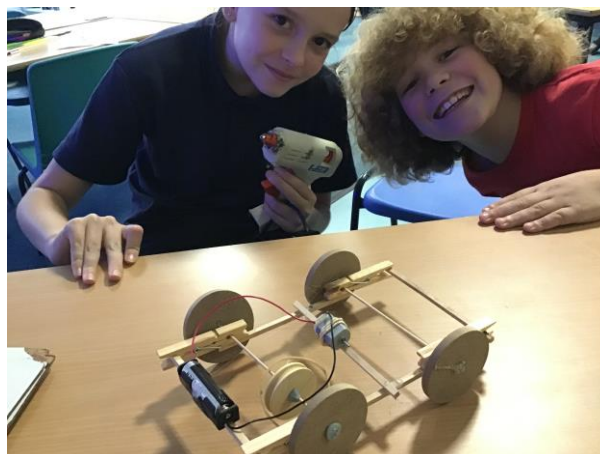
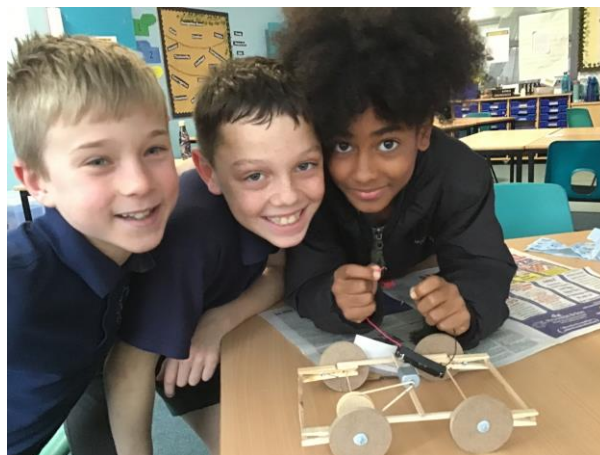
Aleksandra (Y1)

Violet Gooding (Y3)

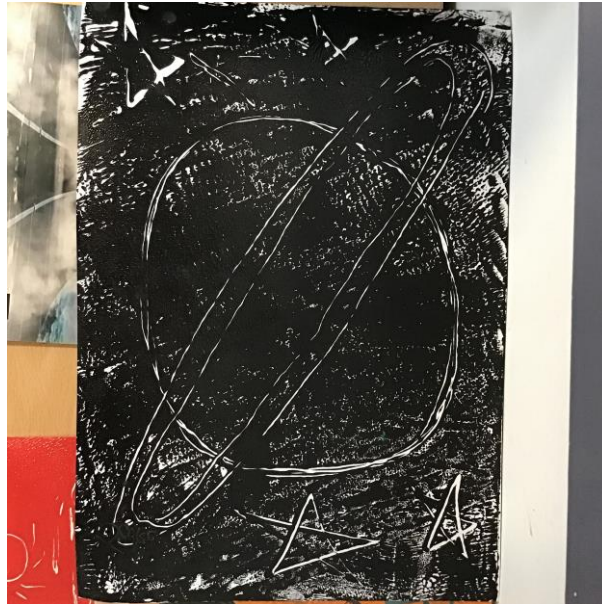
Year 5 News

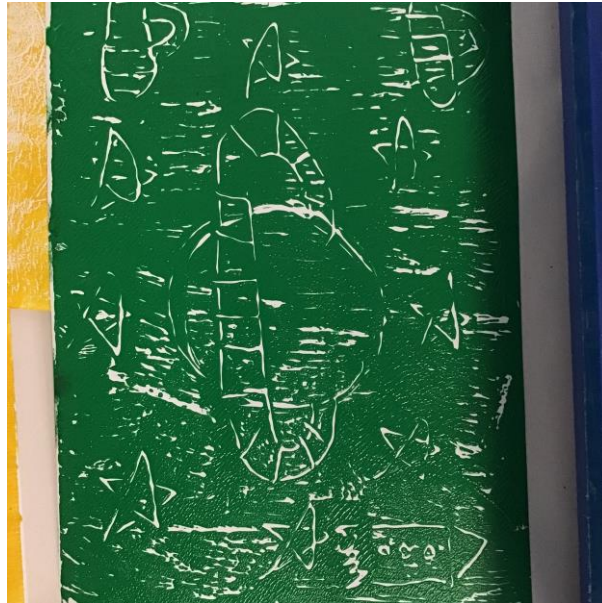
Year 5 have had a wonderful Autumn 2! We have learnt all about the Peasants' Revolt, and the Spanish Armada. We enjoyed 'wowing' our parents at our Y5 assembly with the depth of our knowledge.

In DT, we've built motorised vehicles that utilise a pulley system. Even though they were extremely tricky, we showed resilience throughout. Here are some pictures:



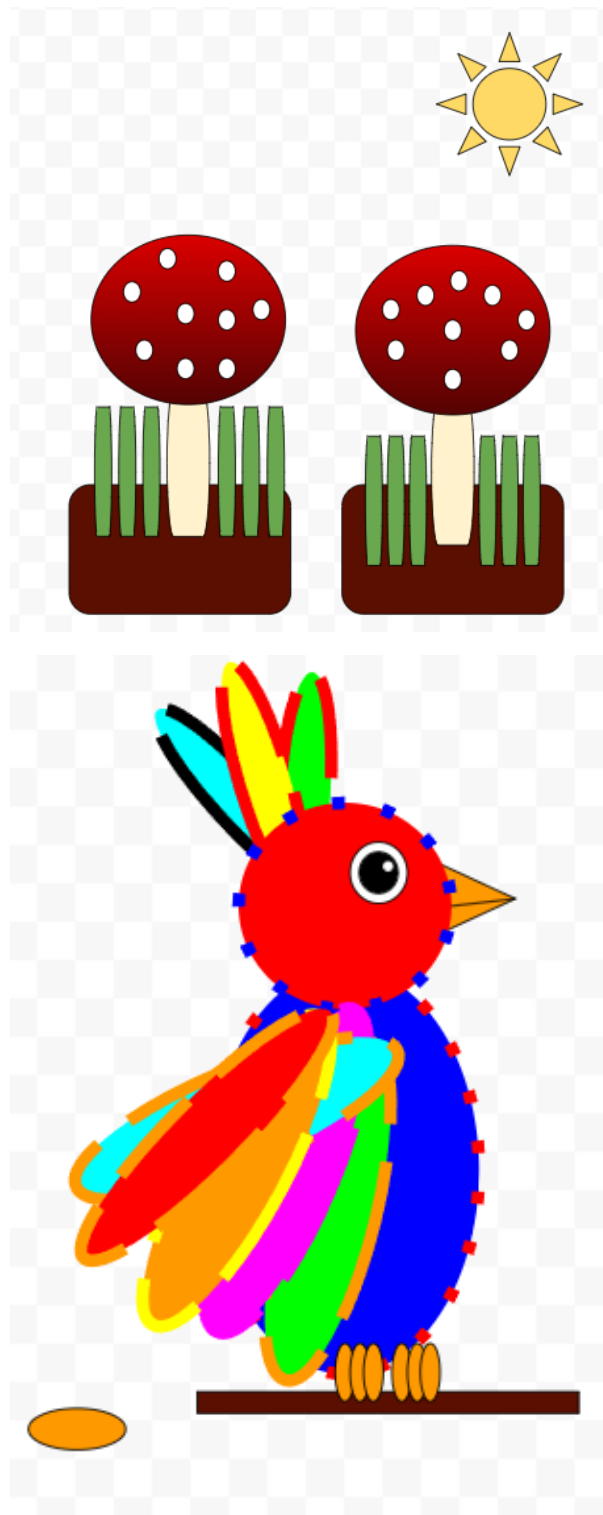
We then explored monoprinting in art. We were set the challenge to create spacescapes. Have a look at some of our fabulous art:





In computing, we've been exploring vector drawings. We've learnt to recolour, resize, copy, paste and group objects.





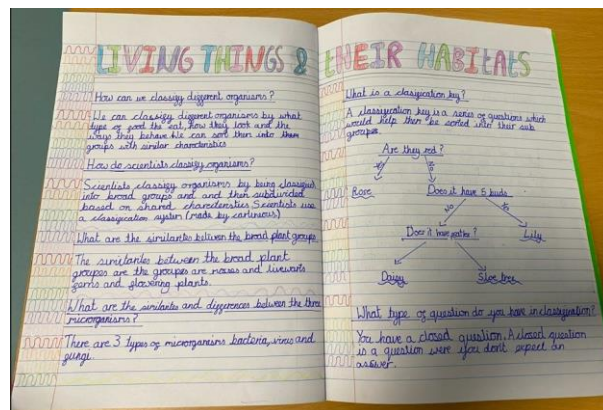
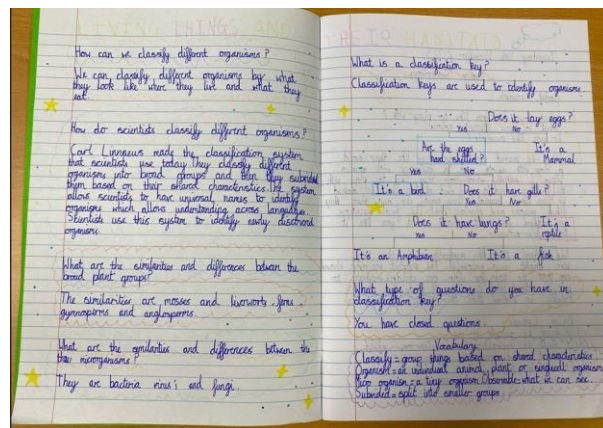
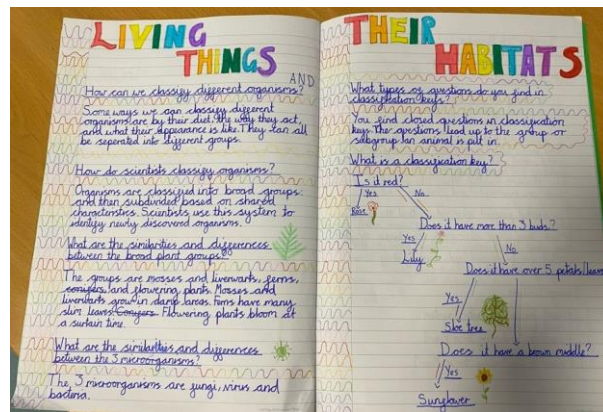
News from Year 6

Year 6 ended last term with a fantastic residential to Kilve Court. The children were amazing, showing brilliant resilience and determination. They took on the climbing wall, cycling track, grass sledging

and a muddy stream walk. In the evenings, they had fun at a disco and playing super team games in the dark.



In science, we have been learning all about living things and their habitats. We have created some beautiful double page spreads to showcase our learning. We have also written some brilliant narratives inspired by Sky Song which we have published in our very own book on Amazon https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0CPYRH7GL?ref=pe_93986420_774957520



We ended this term with an art exhibition. We enjoyed showing our parents, siblings and friends our finished artwork and DT games.



Year 4 news

This term, Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the history of Britain following the withdrawal of the Romans up until the victory of William the Conqueror in 1066. They particularly loved their trip to Westbury White Horse where they, along with children from River Mead and The Mead, re-enacted the Battle of Edington in which the Anglo-Saxons, led by King Alfred The Great, achieved their crucial success against the Vikings.



To complement this learning, the children wrote their own fantastical myths comprising Norse characters, mysterious creatures and Anglo-Saxon gods. They also used their history learning to produce some great information texts about the Vikings.

In addition, the children used this visit to practise their geography learning about grid references, physical and human features as well as how to use a compass to identify the locations of features in the landscape. Back at school, Year 4 also learned about three contrasting countries around the world (Canada, Brazil and Vietnam), identifying their locations and climates, along with examples of their human and physical features.

News from Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy and exciting Term 2!

In geography, we have enjoyed exploring what is around our school. We learnt how to draw maps and keys, as well as learning about human and physical features that can be found around our neighbourhood.

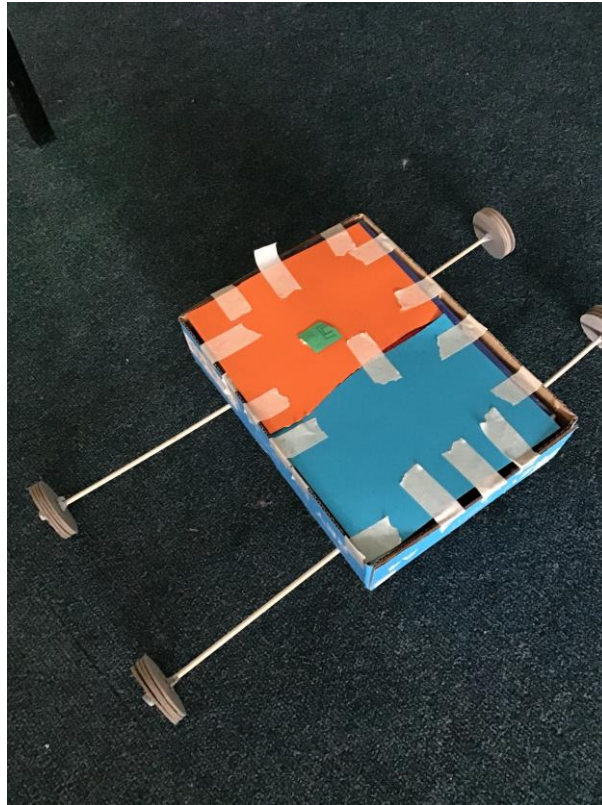
We have been reading 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' and then we created our own narratives. We have also been learning to write instructions. Our class text was a second Roald Dahl

book, James and the Giant Peach. We enjoyed finding out about the minibeasts that lived inside the peach! We also had an exciting trip to the library.

In maths, we spent the term focussing on addition and subtraction. We have been using dienes to build questions to help us clearly understand how we might rename numbers.

In DT, we spent time making carnival floats. We learnt how join axels to the main structure and decorated and then evaluated our designs.





Music news

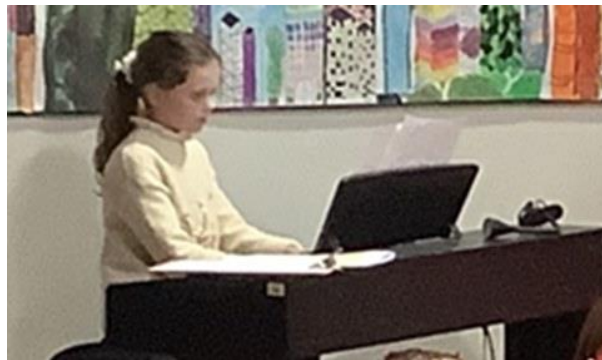
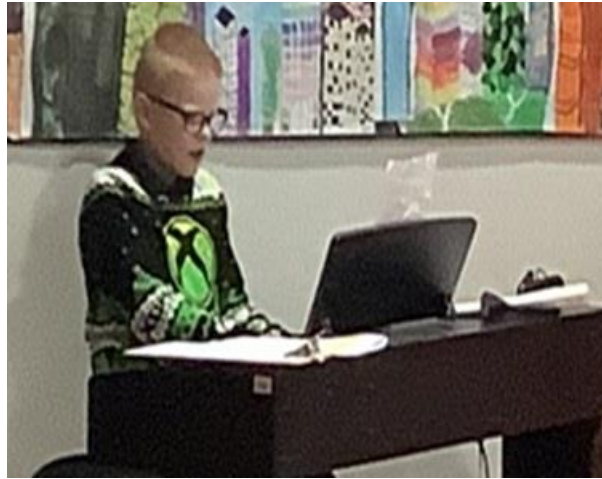
Wow, what a term it has been for all the pupils at Castle Mead School. As well as continuing with their amazing curriculum music, the children have all been working hard rehearsing for their performances. They have all been absolute superstars.

Year 1 and 2 have enjoyed learning how to play the combi bells and boomwhackers. They have shown how they can keep a steady pulse as well as following different melodies. They also learnt the words and actions for their amazing performance of 'The Twinkly Nativity.'



Year 3 and 4 have also had a superb term of music lessons. Year 3 have enjoyed their recorder lessons as well as listening to different pieces of music which tell a story including 'Peter and the Wolf.' Year 4 have continued with their ukulele lessons and have been building on their skills with both chords and TAB. Most children can now play four chords, and can perform a number of different pop songs. Both classes performed beautifully for their 'Winter Celebration' with many highlights including year 4 and their wonderful ukulele playing and year 3 performing the lyrical song 'Somewhere Only We Know.'





Year 5 and 6 have also excelled in music this term. As well as developing their understanding of different composers and genres of music, they have also been working towards their performance of 'A Winter Celebration.' Year 5 have been continuing with their learning of the ukuleles. Nocule Bats even did an impromptu performance of 'Lean on Me' in singing assembly. Year 6 have enjoyed experimenting with the glockenspiels and chime bars. A special thank you to Miss Selway for her rap- lots of fun was had by all.





Singing continues to be a positive feature throughout the music lessons and the children enjoy this aspect. Singing Assembly features regularly on the assembly rota and is enjoyed by all. The Young Voices choir also performed in their respective 'Winter Celebrations' and are looking forward to their forthcoming trip in January. The children have worked hard at learning all the songs and some of the dance moves.

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of taking some pupils to Trowbridge Oaks to perform to the residents there. To witness the joy that the children brought to the residents was beautiful. I hope that we are able to continue with this tradition and make it a regular event. The children were an absolute credit to the school and we have already been invited back for their annual summer picnic.



