

Year 2 Curriculum Content

In English, we have encouraged the children to read a range of books, including poetry, non-fiction and fiction. They have enjoyed hearing books read aloud to them this year. Some of their favourites have been Hodgeheg and The Dragon Machine. We have studied a variety of writing genres such as narrative, reports and instructions. There has been an emphasis on learning to speak and write in full sentences and to use correct punctuation. We went for a local walk to Sydenham Woods to search for the tunnel when writing our own stories based on 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne.

In Maths, the children have been learning to read, write, order and compare numbers. There has been a focus on both mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction for example using number bonds for mental strategies and number lines for written. The children have learned about measuring time and length, and applying this knowledge to problem solving.

The children studied The Great Fire of London in History and used this event to explore the lives of key people in history, how the past is represented and its effects on our lives now. We enjoyed participating in a workshop which took the children back to 1666 to see what life was like during the Great Fire of London. In addition, we went on a fantastic trip to Saint Paul's Cathedral where we acted out key events from the Great Fire of London and explored artefacts.

This year, in Geography, the children have compared our local area to other localities. In addition, the children have looked at, used and created their own maps of the local area and school. The children have learnt about keys and map symbols. They have also debated and discussed where they would rather live, taking into account the human and physical features of places. We learnt about India and enjoyed using secondary sources to find out about everyday life in other countries.

In Science, the children have carried out a range of investigations. For example, in autumn term we tested different materials; in spring term we investigated how our bodies change following exercise. During these investigations children have been encouraged to ask their own questions, record the results in a variety of ways and use their observations to answer questions. To support our spring term topic 'Animals Including Humans' we went to The Horniman Museum and learnt about various different animals and their habitats.

In Art, the children have experimented with different ways of sketching and printing. They used these skills to sketch different artefacts related to the Great Fire of London, using shading to add depth. In spring term, Dulwich Picture Gallery delivered a printing workshop where the children each created a print inspired by Indian patterns. Children studied various paintings by Picasso and used careful observational drawings to draw a portrait of another child in the class. They then cut the picture into squares and rearranged the squares to create an abstract portrait which they painted in the style of Picasso.

In computing the children have been developing their understanding of how to use algorithms and are beginning to understand that a computer relies on a set of instructions to make something happen or work something out. During Internet Safety Day we learnt about what personal information we should keep private and why it is so important not to share these details when we are online.

In Personal, Social and Health Education we have explored what it means to keep ourselves healthy both physically and mentally as well as looking at how we cooperate with others are part of our identity, society and democracy.

In Music, the children have explored texture and tempo. The children have learnt songs by heart and sung in unison for performances and enjoyment, including for the Christmas play, assemblies and weekly singing sessions. They have used percussion instruments to accompany stories, songs and poems.

In PE, we have concentrated on the basic skills in dance and gymnastics including developing balance, agility and co-ordination. They have improved our personal bests in a range of athletic activities and have particularly enjoyed improving their javelin throwing skills. The class has enjoyed being taught football skills by a coach and learning simple tactics for attacking and defending.

The children have enjoyed studying Hinduism and Christianity in RE. They have learnt about a range of religious festivals and their meaning (e.g. Easter and Diwali); and the special buildings of different faiths. We visited a local Hindu Temple in spring term to support this learning. Year 2 were fascinated to see how many idols were used as part of worship and enjoyed asking questions to the Pujari.