

## Oak class - Autumn term 1

Our topic title this term has been 'Extreme Earth' and Oak class have been trying to answer the question 'What makes the earth angry?'

In English, we have been reading the book 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo, which tells the story of a young boy called Will who is caught in the Boxing Day Tsunami in Indonesia, and gets carried away into the jungle by an elephant called Oona. We started the term writing setting descriptions based on pictures before and after a tsunami, using exciting vocabulary and different sentence openers.

We have also researched different natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanoes, wildfires and floods using websites and non-fiction books, and written a non-chronological report about one



of them. This has linked our learning in English with our geography topic and computing, as we have summarised our reports in a PowerPoint to share with the class in our end of term environmental summit, drawing together all of our learning to try and answer the big question. Our art work has also



been linked to our topic, colour mixing and sketching to create our own versions of 'The Great Wave' by Hokusai.

In maths, we have focused mainly on place value, identifying the value of each digit in larger numbers, comparing, ordering and rounding. We have solved problems involving negative numbers and used Roman Numerals. Towards the end of term we have been working on the four operations for calculation, starting with addition and subtraction.

In science, we have been learning about the earth, moon and sun and how the movement of the earth gives us day and night and seasons. We have learnt about the planets in the Solar System and investigated the phases of the moon.

RE has seen the class trying to answer the question 'How does religion help people when times get hard?', focusing on Christianity, Hinduism, and also considering people who have no religion. There have been some thought-provoking discussions, and as part of this work, the class wrote extremely thoughtful messages of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II, which were included in the book of condolence at the church. In PSHE we have been focusing each week on a different one of our values, unpicking what it really means to demonstrate each one.



In PE, the class have been developing their football skills with Kat, ending the term with an inter-house tournament, and taking part in a Daily Boost every day for 10-15 minutes. This has included a daily mile around the playground (we have worked out that 32 laps is needed for a mile!) and various activities in the classroom including yoga, kick-boxing, dance and a mountain bike challenge (on chairs rather than bikes!) Year 5 and 6 boys had the opportunity to take part in a football tournament whilst year 4 joined with year 3 for a tri-golf day.

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One of the highlights of the term has been starting to learn to play brass instruments with a visiting teacher from the Leicestershire music service. Everyone is now making a sound and the children are starting to learn some simple pieces of music.



Mrs Grimes, a language specialist teacher from Brownlow school, has been teaching French to the class, and also joined us to deliver a German taster session for the European Day of Languages. The class really enjoyed learning some animal names in German and joining in with a German song about Snappi the Krocodil!

Every Friday, we spend some time winding down at the end of a hard-working week with our 'Feel Good Friday' session. After our visit from the Wombles during National Recycling Week, one of our Feel Good Friday sessions involved a litter picking walk around the village, which made us feel good to be doing something to help the local community, and hopefully made others in the village feel good to see a tidy and litter-free park!

Phew! What a busy first term.

