

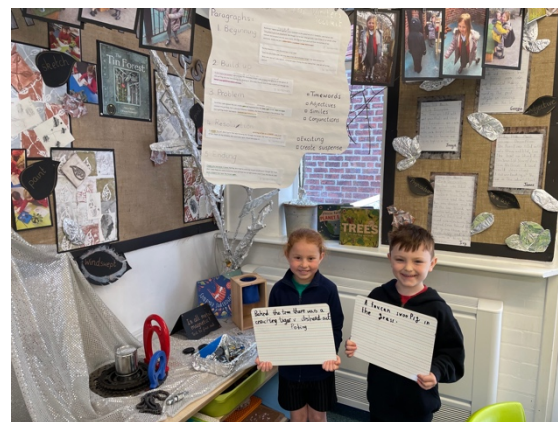
Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 2: Saving Our Environment Topics

Robins

The Tin Forest has been a wonderful text to explore this half term! The illustrations have really captured the children's imaginations and as a result, they have produced some excellent writing including a setting description and an adventure story. In Art, the children have used recyclable materials to create a wonderfully interactive display (pictured below) and this also showcased the value of reusing items to create something new and exciting. Our story begins in a forest made of metal and we tied this into our Science lessons by focusing on forces such as attraction and repulsion using magnets. The children loved becoming real life scientists and experimenting with different metals to see which were magnetic or not!

The important message that the children took away from this topic, is the concept of nature conquering all and to really respect and nurture our environment.



Woodpeckers

This term started off with a bang with our immersion day! It was fantastic to see how enthusiastic all the children were about our Spring 2 topic 'Saving Our Environment'. This term, the Woodpeckers have been using the text, 'Old Enough to Save the Planet'. Their extended piece of writing was a persuasive letter, using our core text and other research about fossil fuels, global warming and renewable energies, the children wrote a persuasive letter to the Prime Minister. They used lots of the persuasive techniques including imperative (bossy) verbs, exaggeration, facts and opinions, rhetorical questions and powerful vocabulary to really show the Prime Minister how big this issue is.

In Art, we have been using recycled materials to make sculptures. We looked at lots of different ways we could join the different materials together and the outcomes were brilliant! Geography, has been all about our local area. We have identified where we are on a grid reference map, used compass points to describe our location, identified the human and physical features of our local area as well as the services available to us. And finally, in Science we have learnt all about electricity. We have looked at the dangers and how to keep safe when using electricity, how it flows through appliances, how to build a circuit using a bulb, cell, wires and buzzer and investigated what materials are conductors and which are insulators.



Owls

During the second half of the term, we focused on 'Greta's Story' which produced a wealth of stunning writing including a balanced argument, discussing the key question, 'Do Children have the Right to Strike for the Environment?' The children focused on drafting, editing and assessing their own, and each other's, writing before finally publishing their arguments. Towards the end of the term, we also held a debate. The children excitedly worked in teams to generate arguments for and against the proposal, 'Should Children be allowed to Strike for the Environment?' Not only were there some very powerful speeches, the children also demonstrated excellent respect for each other's views.

In Geography, we studied human and physical features in the local area. We were then able to apply our theoretical knowledge during a field trip to study Longford Brook and the surrounding area. We collected data about river flow, water quality, litter, fauna, flora and land use and presented these.

In collaboration with the Woodpeckers Class, we studied the Paul McCartney song, 'Love Song to the Earth' in our music lessons. It was a very powerful piece written in 2015 and linked perfectly with our topic. We focused on the structure of the lyrics and then wrote our own verses, continuing the environmental theme. The children thoroughly enjoyed singing their own verses using the original tune.

