

Dear Parents,

Our English and Art lessons have been linked this week, as we have been continuing our mini-topic on mountains. The children practiced their watercolour painting techniques by firstly creating a wash, before painting their own mountain using shading skills - the finished items look fantastic!

This artwork has also provided inspiration for our writing this week. We looked at some examples of fact-files about famous peaks such as The Eiger, and the amazing feats that humans have performed to be able to stand on top of them. The children then became mountain experts - describing the technical features of their own mountain. This linked to all of our geography learning about the formation of mountains and the challenges they pose. We thought about the information we'd expect to find in an information text, the audience we were aiming our text at and our purpose.

As the class created fact-files on their own mountains, they linked in their grammar learning this week by including colons (using the description: detail sentence structure) and dashes (after we had mastered the 3bad - dash sentence type). These 'Alan Peat' sentence structures provide the children with the tools to arrange their great vocabulary and ideas in structures that also support their understanding of higher-level punctuation.

In Maths, we have been finishing off our topic on addition and subtraction. Monday's learning was all focused on spotting errors - the children were challenged to identify and correct deliberate errors made in calculations, and reason as to why they think the mistake was made. This is a really valuable activity, as it will support their self-checking skills, and give them a deeper understanding of how the formal calculation methods work. We have also been learning how to add and subtract decimal numbers using the column method using the golden rule 'put the decimal points in first' - we discussed how this rule helps to keep the place value of each digit lined up correctly, and carried out some money-based problem solving using this new skill.

Homework is on a loose sheet with accompanying squared paper, and is due next Friday.

Have a great weekend,
Tim Easton