

Dear Parents,

We began the week by joining up with the Year 6s to carry out some maths investigations. This week, the problems focused on working systematically - thinking of methods of approaching problems in order to ensure that all possibilities are covered. One example was a really simple premise based on the highest scoring football league game of last weekend: Lincoln City 6 - 2 Port Vale. The children were challenged to find and list all of the possibilities for what the half-time score could have been and to be able to prove that they found all of them. Initially, they mostly chose visual representations or tables in order to find the outcomes (there were 21 possible scores). We then worked backwards to find a more efficient system that we could apply to other matches; we found that multiplying the scores together doesn't work as it doesn't take into account the possibility that either team are on 0 at half time, so we actually needed to add 1 to each score before multiplying the scores together (hence a 6-2 score-line becoming $7 \times 3 = 21$). It's great when so much mathematical discussion and exploration can come from something as simple as a football result!

In our other maths lessons this week, we've been focusing on calculating missing angles on straight lines and around a point. We decided to tackle this subject while we're covering our current topic of addition and subtraction, as the skills involved are exactly the same - finding the inverse, part-whole diagrams and column method calculation. Next week, we'll be moving on to our next topic - multiplication and division.

Our English and DT lessons have been linked together this week under the theme of plastic. We discussed the impact that plastic is having on our planet, learnt about the material properties that make it so problematic and carried out some research into the scale of the problem, which is staggering! We learnt about the 4 Rs - 'Recycle, Reuse, Reduce and Rethink' and how they apply to plastic in our everyday lives. The children then wrote persuasive texts about the negative impact that our current plastic usage is having on the planet, and what we can do to reduce it. The focus for this writing was using the higher-level sentence types they've been developing over the last week and also embedding relative clauses in their sentences to include extra detail. In grammar this week, we've been working on prefixes and suffixes.

As part of this project, the children are going to be 'upcycling' - making a product of their design out of plastic waste, so if you could save any bottles and plastic packaging that is destined for the recycling, that would be great!

We've also been trialling a brand new website called 'The Spelling League'. This is a really engaging spelling-based game, similar to TT Rockstars, in which the children can develop their spelling skills while earning points to spend on new stadiums and kits for their team. We've been working with the team who run the website to help get over some initial teething problems, and hopefully these will be sorted soon, as the class love the concept and are really keen to get started - more on this in the coming weeks.

Have a great weekend,

Tim Easton.