

Dear Parents,

We've celebrated 'National Poetry Day' in our own way this week through our English lessons, which have all followed the theme of flight. We began by reading a poem by John Gillespie Magee Jr, a WW2 pilot who was so overawed at the sensation of taking flight in his Spitfire that he wrote the poem 'High Flight' about his experiences. We read the poem and discussed the language and imagery he used, before choosing our favourite snippets to put in our 'Magpie Zone' (language to use later in our own writing).

The children then watched a video, which was an account of a boy who had discovered that he could fly. As he tells the story of how he grew up with and developed his ability, we realise that his flying is a metaphor for creating music. The children thought about the things they do that make them feel like they're flying - something that they excel at, which could be anything from dancing to singing, playing sport to creating art. They wrote about these experiences as an extended metaphor, describing how they feel when they're doing their favourite thing, but through the sensation of flight. We used all of the fantastic language we came across in John Magee's poem, as well as sharing the great vocabulary, phrases and sentences the children came up with themselves.

The children performed the poem, as well as playing a recording of their own writing, in our poetry day assembly on Thursday.

In Maths, we've moved on to our addition and subtraction topic, and have been exploring inverse operations. The children encountered a wide range of different question types and problems, which dealt with partitioning, part-whole models and bar models, and applied their column addition and subtraction skills to them. We also played a great new game - talking partner challenge. This involved a dice game to fill in a place value grid with the highest possible number (or closest number to a chosen target number) before using difference skills to calculate the winning margin. We finished the morning with a class vs teachers game, which was won by the teachers by a margin of only 399 - quite impressive as the score could have potentially been in the ten millions!

In science, the class have been carrying out some follow-up work on the reversible and irreversible changes explored in last week's practical lesson. In geography, we've continued to look at the mountain ranges of the UK using the new online platform for Google Earth, with 3d mapping of mountain ranges - very cool.

Apologies for the cancellation of the bake sale we were due to deliver this week - we felt with the widespread sickness bug in school it might be wise to postpone it. As soon as we've decided an alternate date, we'll let you know.

Have a great weekend.

Tim Easton