

Dear Parents,

It's been a week of fantastic writing in class 5! We've been revising our use of DADWAVERS and using it to create varied and exciting writing. This way of creating writing helps to give children a much broader range of sentence structures and writing styles through which to express their ideas and ever-expanding vocabularies. The inspiration for our writing was a picture of a forest shrouded in fog, through which the outline of a mysterious cabin was visible, with light flooding out of the top floor window. This instantly got our creativity flowing, with lots of different story ideas for how we found ourselves in the wood, what our reason for wanting to explore the cabin was and what we might find once we cross the threshold! The children were really proud of the writing they produced as a result of using the DADWAVERS structure, and we'll be using these pieces of writing to choose next week's 'writer of the week'.

In maths, we have been tackling long multiplication. This is a key skill in the calculation objectives for the year 5 curriculum, but also underpins so much more of the problem solving they'll be tackling this year. We revised the method, practiced calculations and also carried out some problem-solving with missing digits in the calculations - something that requires a really in-depth understanding of the method.

On Thursday, the children worked in groups on a range of different problems that ranged from logic puzzles to large-number estimation (if you were wondering how many breaths you take in a year, most of our groups calculated it at approximately 20 million, depending on how fit you are and how big your lungs are!).

Our topic lessons have continued to focus on our mini-topic of World War 1, and the children have been bringing in loads of fascinating information about your families' roles in the war. With stories of prisoner of war camps in Germany, medals and pictures of great-great-grandfathers in uniform, we've explored so much of the history of World War 1 in a way that's directly relevant to the children and their ancestors. This is real history - their own history! Thank you for all of your help in collecting the information and trusting the children to bring in such treasured items - we're aiming to finish our family fact-files on Monday.

We also spent some time looking at WW1 propaganda posters: the messages they delivered and how they played on the hopes or fears of the public in order to get their message across. The children are designing and creating their own wartime propaganda posters over this week and the next.

Friday was, of course, Children in Need day, and the money raised through all of our spotty clothing, cake buying and Year 6 challenge-sponsoring has all gone to a worthwhile cause.

You should have received an email about next week's cross country running festival at Outwood Academy Easingwold. All children will be attending the competition, and we will be providing transport on the day. Children will need their PE kit (white tshirt, dark skort/shorts/bottoms, trainers), a coat and a drink.

Rehearsals for this year's Christmas production, 'Panto Pandemonium' have now commenced on Friday mornings (Oh no it hasn't!). We'll be confirming costume requirements in the coming weeks' newsletters.

Homework this week is some long multiplication practice. There are three different levels of challenge, and your child should know which level to tackle.

Have a great weekend,

Tim Easton