

Dear Parents,

We've had a busy week, with rehearsals and workshops taking place alongside our normal lessons.

On Thursday morning, Rachel visited us from the UK Parliament to deliver an assembly and a workshop. The children, along with the rest of Key Stage 2, learnt about how new laws are passed and the role of the three different chambers of parliament. Following this, Year 5 and 6 took part in a workshop in which they explored the election process in more detail. They began in their different constituency groups, before moving around and forming parliamentary parties. In their parties, they created a manifesto and a party political broadcast, intended to gather votes from the constituencies around the room.

The parties were challenged to come up with one new idea for our school that would benefit learning. The fantastic ideas ranged from covered outdoor play areas that featured comfy seating areas, music and dance areas and reading areas (all to be built with the DT, maths and teamwork skills of our pupils) to wildlife areas that could benefit our learning in science lessons. Their speeches were really well planned and delivered confidently. After the broadcasts had taken place, the children returned to their constituencies to elect an MP for each table, who then assembled at the front of the room. The party with the most elected MPs (In this case, the 'Yorkshire Lions' party) were then invited to form a government. This was a really simple and effective demonstration of how 'first past the post' elections work, and the children learnt lots about our democratic process.

We have been working on reasoning this week in maths, with the children completing a reasoning mat on multiplication and division. The questions offered a wide range of different challenges and required a real understanding of the concepts involved - factors, multiples, primes, long multiplication, bus stop division and multiplying and dividing by powers of ten. As always, the children were challenged to explain and prove their theories in order to develop their reasoning skills.

In writing, the children have been editing and redrafting either their narrative writing or their technical writing based on 'RUIN', the sci-fi animation we have been inspired by recently. The class also learnt about personification in poetry, which was inspired by the heavy frost on Tuesday. We took our books out into the frozen world outside and tried to look closer, look 'like writers', at the ways in which the overnight frost

transformed everyday sights. We then personified the arriving frost as a character, and wrote some free verse poetry about their visit, their personality and the ways in which they transform the world around them.

Our writer of the week is Ella, for her exciting, fast-paced and descriptive narrative DADWAVERS writing inspired by 'RUIN'. We will be choosing our next writer of the week on Monday, based on the children's poetry from this week.

In grammar, we have been working on recognising main clauses in sentences, and separating them from subordinate clauses using commas. Comma use is always an important area to work on in Year 5; their sentences become so much longer and more detailed, and so require so many more commas to help punctuate them and keep them in order. Being able to recognise clauses within sentences is really helpful when deciding where commas are required.

Our spelling focus for the week has been regular and irregular verb endings in the past tense. We learnt the definition of regular verbs (verbs that we simply add '-ed' to when we move them into the past tense, such as jump - jumped) and irregular verbs (verbs that change in a different way, run - ran or seek - sought, for example) before being challenged to transfer verbs between tenses and work out the correct spelling of the new verb form.

We've also been rehearsing for Panto Pandemonium, which, as I'm sure you know, is taking place on Monday at 7.30 at the Galtres Centre. Thank you for the costumes you've sent in with the children - they're going to look just as good as they sound on stage!

Have a great weekend,

Tim Easton