

## **Reception Class Learning Blog – Summer Term – Week 8**

*Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

It's been hot, hot, hot this week! Despite the exhaustingly sweltering weather, the children have worked incredibly hard. Now that the children have become accustomed to going out for a morning break, this week, they have been working on another aspect of the transition process into Year 1 – a greater participation in adult led and organised activities.

This week, we celebrated #We are Scientists enrichment week. The children learnt about Marianne North, a British botanical artist. We began the week by listening to a story about her life. She was indeed a pioneer across a range of disciplines – botany, art and conservation. Marianne North lived almost 200 years ago and painted hundreds of pictures of plants in their natural habitats. She was the first botanical artist to use oil paints and contextualise her paintings by including the landscapes and native animals in her work. She was truly a trailblazer, travelling around the world twice on her own!!! (Something which was frowned upon during Victorian times.) She was resilient and courageous, having to deal with ongoing criticism, putting herself in danger and breaking with tradition – doing this all with passion, to move scientific knowledge and understanding forwards. Examples of her work, in some cases, is the only evidence that some of the plants even existed. She also raised conservation concerns linked to water pollution and logging in the Amazon forest.

As a class, we discussed how current these issues continue to be and focused on one particular painting, *Wild Flowers of Victoria and New South Wales*, because they included examples of sunflowers, which we are currently growing in class. We identified that the regions of Victoria and New South Wales are in Australia, and used a map to find all the countries that Marianne North visited. We were informed that Marianne North's paintings are displayed at the gallery in Kew Gardens in London. Our sunflowers are making good progress. They are currently at the seedling stage. We were also able to identify the roots, as some of them are beginning to grow out through the bottom of the cardboard pot we planted our seeds in. We chose to use a cardboard pot, because it is less harmful to the environment and it can also be planted straight into the ground without disturbing the roots, because the pot will decompose over time. Throughout the week, we have continued to water our seedlings and look forward to seeing them mature into the next phase of the life cycle – a flowering plant.

During Maths this week, we have been revisiting our learning of 2D and 3D shapes. In particular, we have been naming and describing shapes. We learnt how to use 2D shapes to make shape arrangements and made a selection of boats, which reminded us of how Marianne North travelled around the world. Later on during the week, we moved into investigating tangram puzzles. We discovered that tangrams were developed in China and a frame is made up of 7 pieces – 2 large triangles, 1 medium triangle, 2 small triangles, 1 square and 1 rhombus. From these seven pieces, 6,500 different shape arrangements can be made. We learnt that when making a shape arrangement using tangrams, each shape must be connected to another by placing the sides or corners together.

We had a go at copying animal shapes. It was quite a challenge, because we had to think about all the animal body parts first, before finding the tangram shapes to represent them.

Our Summer Term Show & Tell Group Rota is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>
Mo 19-06-2023	Woodpeckers
Mo 26-06-2023	Butterflies
Tu 04-07-2023	Honey Bees
Mo 10-07-2023	Orchids
Mo 17-07-2023	Red Kites and Woodpeckers

We look forward to hearing about the interesting items brought in by Woodpeckers on Monday afternoon during Show and Tell. These will be housed in the Show & Tell box to keep them safe throughout the day.

Imogen celebrated her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday this week!

We wish her a very happy birthday from all her friends in Reception Class.

Congratulations to our Star of the Week certificate recipients:

- ❖ Sophia, for always doing as she is asked and trying her best in all areas of learning.
- ❖ Charlie, for making a real effort with his reading.

Our Writer of the Week certificate goes to:

- ❖ Nathan, who used his phonic knowledge to write interesting facts about sunflowers.

We would like to wish all our Dads, Granddads, Uncles and other male role models special to us a Happy Father's Day and thank you all for everything that you do. Do enjoy having a fuss being made of you this weekend.

Well done for all your hard work. Have a lovely weekend everyone!

With every best wish,  
Mrs Dowling & Miss Ingleby