

Reception Class Learning Blog – Spring Term – Week 5

Friday 10th February 2023

What seemed so distant only a few weeks ago has finally arrived...It's half term! The children have worked so very hard this week and indeed this half term. I know we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Butler. She has been an integral part of Bledlow Ridge School for many years and I don't think there is a parent or child she doesn't know. We would like to thank Mrs Butler from the bottom of our hearts for all the hard work and support she has given all the children and also to me – without her, we just couldn't get the job done. We wish Mrs Butler all the luck in the world on the next exciting step in her life's journey as she becomes a Mummy in just a few short weeks.

We look forward to meeting her little bundle of joy soon.

Over the past half term, we have been learning our focus story, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. We have learnt to use story language, identified settings, understood the importance of adjectives and retold the story to music. This week, we invented our own story called, *We're Going on a Treasure Hunt*. We selected our own settings, chose adjectives to bring the settings to life and created sound descriptions. With the help of our new story map, we retold the story and will publish it in the form of a book, which will be housed in our reading box in the classroom.

We have continued to use our ongoing phonics knowledge to help us during our learning through play, where we have spent time labelling our drawings and writing captions for models we have built. We are all learning how to use the grapheme mat to help us with our writing and have made a real effort to practise our letter formation too.

Maths has been exciting this week. Currently we have a role play shop in the class and we have been practising making values up to 10p and 20p using 1p, 2p, 5p and 10p coins. We have learnt that there is no 3p, 4p, 6p, 7p, 8p or 9p coin, so we have revisited our number composition knowledge to help us make these values. We have enjoyed challenging ourselves to see how many different ways we can make an amount, and of course we couldn't resist practising our odd and even knowledge too.

This week, an interest in South America was shared. We found this continent on the map and identified ways that we could travel to it. We also learnt the names of the countries that made up South America. We were particularly interested in Guatemala because we read a story called *Silly Billy*, who was a bit of a worrier and made worry dolls to help him be happy. We learnt that worry dolls come from Guatemala and are placed under your pillow after being told your worries. We used dolly pegs to make our own worry dolls.

We also had the chance to finally play with our beach huts this week. We have enjoyed developing the resources around them this week and have been inviting our friends over to share a cup of tea and a slice of cake (which was bought from the class shop) and a spot of sun bathing, despite the temperature being below freezing!

Congratulations to our Star of the Week certificate recipients:

- ❖ Vincent, for making a real effort to follow our class expectations.
- ❖ Yusuf, for trying very hard with money problems and never giving up to complete them.

Our Writer of the Week certificate goes to:

- ❖ Charlie, who has tried really hard with his pencil control and completed the patterns accurately.

We would like to say an enormous THANK YOU to all our parents for your support, cooperation and understanding. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all as we welcome Miss Ingleby to the fold after half term.

Well done Reception Class! Have a lovely half term!

With every best wish,
Mrs Dowling & Mrs Butler