

Reception Class Learning Blog – Spring Term – Week 10

Friday 17th March 2023

Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all!

We have today been celebrating as a class, as some of our group have family which originate from Ireland. We have taken part in a range of activities. We learnt that St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, where he introduced Christianity to the people there. Some of our children identified that they were also Christians. We looked at photographs of Ireland and used our recently acquired atlas skills to find the country and identify the colours of the flag. We learnt that the flag was called a tricolor, because it is made up of three colours.

We made leprechaun models by following some very complicated instructions and took part in a leprechaun hunt around the school. We discovered that leprechauns are magical elf-like creatures, who live in the woods and eat berries, nuts, edible flowers and leaves. Did you know that leprechauns are protected by UNESCO?

The party atmosphere continued throughout the day as we had a go at some Irish dancing and listened to a range of wonderful Irish folk music.

In Maths, we have been learning about measuring. Our focus has been on weighing this week and we have been practising using the vocabulary light, heavy, lighter, heavier and equal. We used pan scales during our comparison investigations and identified that when an object is lighter, the pan hangs higher up on the scales and when it is heavier, it hangs lower down. We used cubes to weigh items around the classroom, first making a prediction of how many we would need to use and then checking by placing the cubes into the empty pan. We used the central marker to make sure that we weighed the items accurately and made sure that the arrows connected before counting out the cubes.

We are continuing with our non-fiction book focus during Talk4Writing. This week, the title of our focus book was, *Fire Fighters*. We recapped that a non-fiction book can be read in any order. We reviewed our Contents Page knowledge and identified facts we already knew about Fire Fighters and asked questions about things that interested us about the work that they do. We will continue to develop our knowledge in this area over the remainder of the term.

We have completed the development of our Police Station role play area. There have been many opportunities to write about the work that Police Officers do and our 'most wanted' list continues to grow. The children have been applying their phonic knowledge to complete incident and crime reports, as well as issuing fines, speeding tickets and taking finger prints. Be careful! Our Police Officers are *very* strict in Reception Class.

During the week, we had a special visitor. Lorraine came to visit us with her therapy dog, Dillon. Dillon is a 9-year-old miniature poodle. We learnt that Dillon liked to eat sausages. He also liked doggy fish pie and doggy camp fire stew. We had to be careful that we did not touch his paw and his nose because they are very sensitive. We had the opportunity to read with him and showed off our excellent phonic skills.

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

Congratulations to our Star of the Week certificate recipients:

- ❖ Nathan, for making a fine effort with his blending to read words.
- ❖ Finley, for devising an excellent explanation to identify when objects are lighter or heavier when weighing them.

Our Writer of the Week certificate goes to:

- ❖ Alizah, for drawing her own map and labelling countries using her phonic knowledge.

We would like to wish all our Mums (and any other special ladies who help us!) a wonderful Mother's Day this Sunday – may you be pampered to your heart's content!

Well done Reception Class! Have a lovely weekend everybody.

With every best wish,
Mrs Dowling & Miss Ingleby