



King's Academy Oakwood

Dare to be Remarkable



Head of Primary News

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying a huge thank-you to all of you for your patience and understanding this week whilst a huge number of staff members (9 in total) have been absent from KAB and KAO primary phases. We have had to make some difficult decisions including cancelling after school clubs and closing two of our classes at KAO for 2 or 3 days each. Thank you for being so understanding in your responses to the short notice changes.

The teachers and staff who have been in school have worked tirelessly all week, missing breaks and lunchtimes to support in covering the gaps where they have occurred. Please do thank your child's class teacher and other staff members for this if you get the chance. Our staff members who have been absent due to illness have also been working hard to ensure that children isolating have access to work, for which I am grateful.

We are hoping that our absent staff will return next week and that we will have a more settled few weeks. Please do bring all children to school on Monday (unless they are currently isolating) and assume that clubs are running. We will let you know in advance if there are any changes to the week.

We continue to look forward to a time when all children are in school and able to take part in all of the wonderful learning opportunities we have planned.

Kind regards,

Mrs Tate
Head of Primary

Opportunity and Success on a Global Stage

Kings Group Academies is a company registered in England and Wales with company registration number 09017776

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Executive Principal: Mrs Sarah Howells

Willow

Word of the Week:

Last week: Beloved

This Week: Twitcher

Our previous pet visits fuelled the children's curiosity and desire to talk further about their own pets, so Willow class enjoyed learning more about one another's beloved pets while sharing their pictures on Tapestry. We also looked at different pet food whether dry or wet; whether presented in individual pouches, tins or in larger paper food bags. The children enjoyed experimenting with balance scales to determine the weight of different food packaging as they filled different sized containers and food pellets in an attempt to define their weight. They had even more fun taking turns being shopkeepers and customers in our new pet shop, selecting and weighing pet food to box up and sell.

This week, our topic took a new turn as we focused our attention on British garden birds. In preparation for the RSPB's Big School Birdwatch, the children have been learning the names of different birds that may inhabit our beautiful Berkshire. They prepared bird kebabs paying particular attention to alternate dried fruits and bread to make patterns. They also planned to make bird feeders to give the birds something to feast on during the winter months. Our curious twitchers are all set and ready to take part in our exciting Bird Watch at home on Friday afternoon.



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Ash

Word of the Week:

Last week: outskirts

This week: dense

Ash Class have had a fantastic couple of weeks! In English, we have been focusing on lots of books written by Emily Gravett. We have been learning how to include conjunctions to make our sentences more interesting and character descriptions; using lots of adjectives! All the children chose one of her books we have read and are currently writing some beautiful book reviews on them.

In Art, we have begun to make our habitats out of shoeboxes where the children have chosen, designed and now begun to paint their habitats. I am always so impressed with the art in this class. The children take such care and work extremely hard to ensure they produce their best work. I can already see these habitats are going to turn out so beautifully!

I love seeing the children's enthusiasm when it comes to Geography and learning about our topic this half term of 'Continents'. This week we looked at Africa! We looked at a variety of landmarks, facts and used some QR Codes to watch some videos to learn more about Africa. The children knew some fantastic facts about the wildlife that live there and we had a go at role playing some of the animals.



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Birch

Word of the Week: Biome

Birch Class have had another great week with lots of creativity! We have been doing some creative writing, writing our own fairytales based on Jack and the Beanstalk. The children loved coming up with their own evil characters and magical creatures.

As well as stories, the children have been very creative in art. They thought about words that would describe them the best including things they enjoy or like and cut these words out from newspapers to make a word collage. The children came up with such great pieces of art work as well that they should be really proud of.

Science and Geography has been all about climate and thinking about the environment. We looked in detail on how plastic is recycled and have begun making our own recycled paper! The children had great fun shredding and mixing the paper in. Next week we hope to squeeze out the water, flatten then dry it so we can have our very own piece of paper!

In our R.E. we are focussing on different sacred books followed in different regions and why they are important to them. This week, we looked at Judaism and the Torah and how many Jewish people have special boxes above their doors called Mezuzahs. Inside they have small stories or prayers from the Torah. The children made their own versions of a Mezuzah and inside they made a little scroll of a promise, prayer or something they are thankful for. They all looked so beautiful about our door!



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Chestnut

Word of the Week: abrasive

In English this week, we have begun a new English topic based on diary writing. I have been really impressed with the class' ability to refer to previous learning in Year 2 on diary writing and their ability to recall some of the key features of a diary. We are going to imagine we are in India and write our own travel diaries. We explored a range of videos and images of life in Mumbai and used these to inspire our diaries. I have been really impressed with the varied sentence starters and the vocabulary choices of the children.

In Maths, we have been using our times tables knowledge, as well as our understanding of multiplying by multiples of 10 to multiply 1 and 2 digit numbers using the method of short multiplication. This is a tricky concept to grasp but the children have demonstrated great perseverance.

In Geography, we have been comparing life in Mumbai, an urban city in India, to the Rural village of Chembakolli. We have compared education, housing, land use, transport and pollution in these two places and then wrote explanations of where we would rather live and why.



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Pine

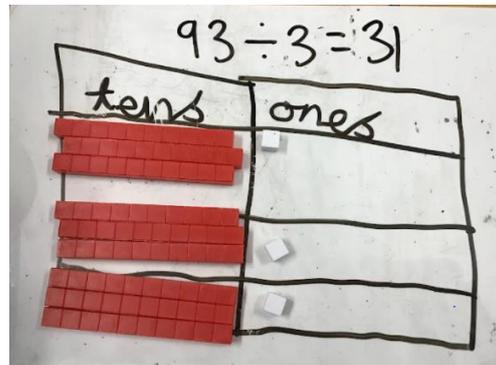
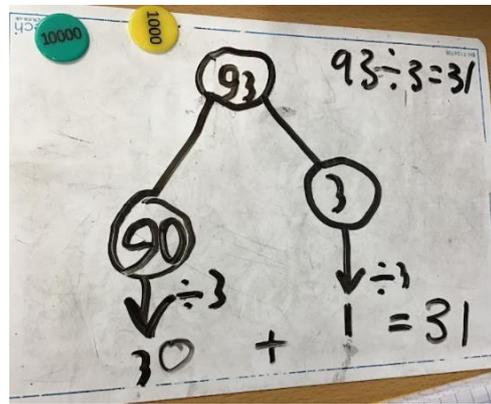
Word of the Week: Controversy

There's been lots of excitement in Pine class recently. After our English Learning on newspaper report, Year 4 had the perfect opportunity to practise their skills when some extraordinary pictures of what appeared to be a dinosaur were discovered on the school CCTV. Pine set out to investigate and discovered numerous clues including 3 eggs. The children interviewed witnesses and sought expert advice before writing excellent reports.

In maths, we finished our unit on multiplication and division by investigating various methods of division, initially using maths equipment before moving on to learning short multiplication. This week children have learnt how to find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares.

In geography, the children presented their own research on an Eastern European country then, at the start of this week, they began learning about the Chernobyl disaster and nuclear power.

In science, the children learnt what happens to food from the time it enters your mouth (including teeth types) until it exits the body!



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