

Dear Parents

Topic.

My goodness, what an exciting time we have had since September! We now know a great deal about the Victorians. We have researched and found out about the lives of both Queen Victoria and Dr. Barnado. We have looked at the clothing throughout this period and made our own crinoline dresses with scaffolding and carefully chosen materials. Like rich aristocratic women, with little else to do, we have spent many an afternoon embroidering; You will love the results! We have made our own wallpaper in the style of William Morris; read 'Dickens'; found out about the British Empire and discussed how the Victorians radically changed life as we know it, here and abroad, and whether these changes were all good. What an awesome topic! As well as the Victorians, we touched briefly on world War 1, finding out about the trauma that the soldiers went through and the reasons behind the war, creating stunning battlefield silhouette pictures in dedication to the men that lost their lives. We also spent a week looking at our local environment; at the geography and the history of our own 'fantastic fenlands'.

Literacy.

In literacy, we wrote a Christmas narrative, describing Victorian settings and using powerful imagery to make it feel like our stories were really set during this period. We looked closely at the contrast in the lives between the rich and the poor and recognise the importance of people like Dr. Barnado for improving the lives of the poor, especially the children who were often homeless and starving with nowhere to turn. Following our narratives, we moved on to 'discursive texts' and learnt how to write a balanced argument using the correct terminology. We wrote a clear and interesting argument as to whether children should work and decided that, although there are benefits of doing light household chores (thank you parents!), that they should not work, especially long hours and in dangerous and arduous employment.

Maths.

Maths is popular in Hawks! We love calculating and challenging ourselves to solve problems, explore pattern and solve puzzles and develop our increasingly masterful mathematical skills. We enjoy nothing more than tackling a set of 'tough' calculations, trying to get them all correct and trying to work out where we went wrong if we went wrong. We have learnt the mathematical language, so important to supporting our understanding and know that our times tables are essential in helping us to solve calculations quickly and accurately. We are really looking forward to developing our mathematical understanding next week through 'Christmas maths' (symmetrical baubles, polygon ceiling decorations etc.) Hopefully, we will be able to show these to you when they are complete.

Science.

In science, we have learnt a great deal about electricity. We know about the history of electricity; what a circuit is and what the different components are called; we can build circuits and understand why a circuit might not work by observing and identifying faults. We can draw the symbols for the different components and we know how to make a light brighter and a buzzer louder. We also know what an insulator and a conductor is and can decide whether or not a material will make a good insulator or conductor. We understand the need for these materials with regards to safety and efficiency.

Music.

We do hope you enjoy our songs that are now on our website. We were blown away by their voices and the passion they put into both songs and we think they would give Leona Lewis a run for her money any day. Chloe, please remember that it was Miss. Brown that discovered you if you are ever rich and famous one day!

Hawks News December 2020.

Spanish.

It never fails to amaze me just how quickly children master new languages. They have picked up the basics (greetings, numbers, colours etc.) so quickly and can even sing a couple of songs, pronounced perfectly, in Spanish. Ask them to sing 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' for you!

P.E.

In P.E, we have done our best to keep active and get outside. With the restrictions covid has placed on us, we have been extremely inventive and have managed to continue developing skills and deepen our understanding of the importance of keeping active whilst remaining socially distanced!

General.

It has been a truly amazing term! From the first days back to today, the children and the adults have been on an incredible journey, learning, having fun, understanding the importance of being ready to learn and wanting to do this. We have formed some excellent relationships and bonds. I, personally, cannot thank the children and grown-ups enough for all of their efforts and cannot wait for the next term, the next topic and the next adventure.

Happy Christmas to one and all! Love Miss. Brown x