



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel No: 01928 564053

Headteacher: Mr A Hilldrup

Email: head.haltonlodge@halton.gov.uk

Website: <http://haltonlodge.haltonschools.info/>

NEWSLETTER 08

22nd October 2021

Thank you so much for all of the gifts that have been sent into school today. We will be able to create at least 7 wonderful hampers that we will raffle off next term, in the run up to Christmas.

Thank you also to everybody who has signed up to taking part in the Christmas Surprise Room. It looks as though we will have to go out to buy lots of items for the children to choose from.

We really appreciate all of your support and incredible generosity.



The children in our Reception class continue to astound us with their positive attitudes, ability to follow our rules and expectations, and to produce what many children of their age would find incredibly tricky. They are doing so well!

This week they have been reading *Room On The Broom* (by Julia Donaldson) and have been telling everybody about what they will be doing, and dressing up as, for Halloween. They have even been using the initial sound of words (such as 's' for 'spider') to label the pictures they have drawn in their writing journals.

The children are now up to learning all about the number 6 and looking at different ways of making six (2+2+2, 3+3, 4+2, etc) and are proving themselves to be incredibly brilliant mathematicians. They have also been taking part in lots of different parachute games on the playground, which they have really enjoyed.

This week, the children in Year 1 have been exploring the local area. They went on a local walk on Monday – to become geographical detectives – and took lots of photographs of the things that they found interesting. They have been using maps and aerial photographs to locate the different human and physical features that they discovered; and have been developing their geography skills by carrying out more fieldwork and investigations within the school and around the school grounds. They have been producing lots of memory maps and have been finding out about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom (UK).



Amongst all of this, the children have been proving themselves to be great mathematicians – solving problems involving addition and subtraction – and have written some fabulous stories; demonstrating that they can be authors just as good as Jill Murphy (who is the author of 'Peace At Last').



In The Fawns, the children have been looking at various examples of landscape art,

including mosaics, linked to their local geography topic. This has involved looking at key landmarks (and features) in Runcorn and within the school grounds. They have also been using different size brushes with paints, to see which are best at producing different shapes whilst painting, and have been exploring which different types of lines can be produced, using oil pastels, when producing their own piece of art.

The children have also demonstrated a good understanding of the important online safety rules that they need to follow when they are using different forms of technology; and they have also been learning about what happens at a baptism, the places people go to get baptised, and have been talking about the different physical and human features of churches and other places in the local area. They have been exercising every day too and are aware of the importance of maintaining good hygiene at all times.

This week the children in Year 2 having been comparing life in the UK with life in Kenya. The children have been joined this week by Mr Wimbury (a final year primary education university student from Manchester Metropolitan University) who will be based at our school until mid-February; who has shared with them his experience of visiting Africa.



The children have also been recapping their knowledge of the seven continents and the world's oceans, using world maps and atlases, and have been looking at images to help them identify different human and physical features. Today they have been producing African paintings – using different coloured paints to create an African sunset and selecting different silhouettes to use to depict an African animal.

The children have also written letters to the main character in the book they have been reading this term, 'The River', warning him of the dangers he would face on his journey – and advising him of how he could overcome each of these obstacles.



Over the last few weeks, Year 3 have been designing and using the Playpod equipment to build large traps to capture the Iron Man. They have used this experience to write explanatory texts to explain how and why the Iron Man needs to be captured. They have also been making comparisons between what happens in the book by Ted Hughes with the events in the film 'The Iron Giant'.

The children have also enjoyed making magnet fishing games and learning how to perform 'Let Your Spirit Fly' – a R&B track that has been the focus of their music lessons this half term. They have been showing great perseverance

with solving increasingly more complex addition and subtraction calculations in Maths – and now know what they must do when they need to ‘cross the tens’.



The children in Year 4 have been looking at various sculptures created by Jaume Plensa, who created The Dream (in St Helens). They have tried to apply the different skills that they have learnt to create a sculpture of a large head using papier-mâché.

The Year 4 parents have also been treated to a whole class performance of Mamma Mia (by ABBA) via Seesaw, and the children have demonstrated what it takes to be a confident and professional singer. They have enjoyed learning about Diwali – especially making diva lamps out of salt dough, which they decorated with Rangoli patterns – and producing sun safety leaflets (as part of their work in Science).

Year 5 have also been having a Topic Week this week, during which they have been finding out about rainforests and the Yanomami tribes. They have also been learning about the different layers of the rainforest – and got to see a video of Miss Eustace’s zip wire across a rainforest in Costa Rica so they could see these different layers.



As the children have been comparing what life is like in Brazil to what life is like in the UK, they have also been looking at different areas of Brazil (including Barra Da Tijuana and Rocinha), to ensure they realise the whole country is not covered in rainforest and so they could find out about how richer and poorer communities live. They have also been finding out about the different biomes and climate zones around the world, and can now locate lots of different South America countries (and capital cities) using an atlas. They have used graphs and charts to compare the rainfall and temperature in Brazil with that in the UK and have impressed their teachers with their knowledge of political and physical maps – as well as their ability to use digital maps and Google Earth – to reinforce their understanding of physical and human features that can be located on each of these.

To conclude their unit of work on ‘The Errand’, they have also written an instruction manual for a magical courier (delivery) service and are looking forward to finding out more about space (and space travel) as they start their new English topic after half term. This will also enable them to find the answers to many of the questions that they still wish to know more about following their Science topic on Space this half term.

Over the past three weeks the children in Year 6 have been learning about Anne Frank and the impact that WWII had on her life. Over the last two weeks, the children have been writing a bravery award speech, for Anne Frank, to capture what they have learnt and all of the key writing skills they have



been focusing on this half term. These are really impressive.

This week, the children have been learning about the changing power of the British monarchy. They have explored the impact King John, Henry VIII, Queen Anne and Queen Elizabeth II each had; and have considered how influential the British monarch is now (compared to others in the past). All of the children have worked exceptionally hard and produced some beautiful pieces of work.



Today we had over 180 children taking part in Golden Activities as a reward for earning over 66 stamps for their hard work and effort since September. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying their time, with their friends and children from other classes.

We are really looking forward to sharing the children’s work with you, at our Parents’ Evening in November. Please put aside some time, before or after your appointment, to look through your child’s work books (if you chose to come into school for a face-to-face conversation).

Whatever you have planned for next half term, we hope you have a wonderful time. Take care and enjoy the extra time you will have, together with your family.

Children In Need



Every year we try to support BBC Children In Need, which will be taking place on Friday 19th November this year.

In return for a £1 donation towards the charity, we will be inviting the children to come into school on 19th November dressed in their pyjamas. During the day, the children will spend time in the hall – taking part in a disco with their friends.

If any of the children wish to raise any extra money for Children In Need, they may wish to collect sponsorship money to take part in the danceathon; or to come to school dressed in something ‘whacky’.

