



AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER



Afternoon Tea Party

This half term, Harmony Primary School held its first ever bake sale on the theme of the 'Great British Afternoon Tea'. We were privileged to, once again, extend a very warm welcome to all our parents, old and new, and to come together in collaboration with those linked to our growing school community.

We were spoilt for choice as our students brought forth an array of sumptuous delights; ranging from homemade cakes to decadent, desserts, and culinary delights from around the world, reflecting the broad range of cultures and diverse backgrounds that form a part of our school. From banoffee pie to a traditional Italian tiramisu, quaint cupcakes to 'old favourites' like pineapple cake and homemade cookies, we were in for a real treat and fun was had all round.

We would like to thank all our those who participated in making the event a huge success and look forward to planning the next community event at Harmony Primary.

THE POWER OF PICTURE

This half term, we have been guiding our young learners in Year 1 to recognise the power of bringing different strategies together, to develop their early reading and writing skills. They followed the main character in 'Where Wild Things Are' on his journey through the book through a range of different story settings.

We specifically focused on the power of picture in reading books, to understand why an author chooses

certain illustrations in relation to the written text. We guided them to begin to interpret authors' choices, as well as articulate their thoughts through whole-class discussions, and consolidate their understanding through written work and role play.



The students interacted with the text through different mediums, and carried their learning into the art lessons. They enjoyed working collaboratively to choose the settings they wished to focus on, and drew up their own plan in collaboration with the teacher to develop a large piece of art, involving contributions from all members of the class.





BELOW THE WATERS

During this term, Year 2 have been learning about a variety of different types of vertebrates and invertebrates. One of the topics for this term was studying octopuses. Year 2 studied this by focusing on the life cycle, function and anatomy of this aquatic creature. Year 2 discovered

that octopuses are invertebrates; animals without a backbone. We also were fascinated to learn how octopuses use ink to disable their prey and ward off threat of attack. In addition, year 2 further honed their ability to describe the appearance of an octopus by using new terminology such as tentacle, mantle, syphon, and sucker.

INSPIRATION IN EVERY DROP

This Autumn term, year 3 have been studying the water cycle. They have learned the process of water and the importance of it. The young learners have been studying about how water is collected around the earth and about the features of lakes and rivers in different localities. From this stage, year 3 have familiarised themselves with different river features and their formations such as a meander and oxbow lakes.

Plants and their association with water has also been

looked into; the children have gained a greater understanding of the different features of plants and how water plays an integral role in the life cycle of a plant.

For guided reading, Year 3 has been studying 'The Rhythm of the Rain'. As the title implies, a book's central theme is rain and water. Year 3 have worked exceptionally hard to analyse the book in great depth. From comprehending the context of the terminology used in the book, to drawing the reader's attention to a specific meaning or theme, the children became adept at analysing the text through a range of interactive study topics in their guided reading sessions.

A SCIENCE EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER



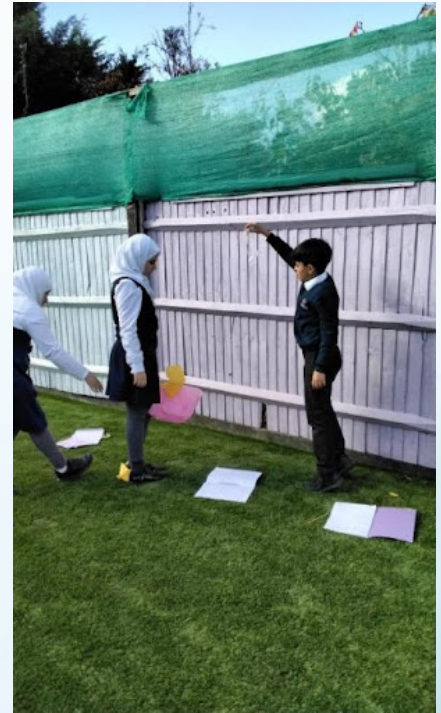
Year 4 take an exciting trip to Wonder lab at the Science Museum. Wonder lab. Children got 'hands on' learning opportunities with an enthusiastic team at the Science Museum who introduced the young learners to the wonderful world of science through a range of practical experiments. Children built on their existing knowledge of science by conducting experiments with the support of the team assigned to Harmony Primary on the day. Among the investigations our Year 4s participated in was how friction works: they

were able to see the effect of using different materials to compare and contrast the effects of moving objects, thus building on their knowledge of physics. They also had the chance to visit the colour room in the light zone and enjoyed experimenting with the different interactive displays stationed within this section. Year 4 demonstrated that they can apply what they have learned through practical experiments while having an enjoyable time with their peers!



Scientific Strategies

Year 5 have had the opportunity to become independent investigators of different forces and mechanisms in science this half term and have been thoroughly enjoying taking part in a variety of investigations. We have built ramps from different materials to test friction, and made parachutes in different sizes to test air resistance. The project has developed their knowledge of contact and non-contact forces, and allowed the students to have the opportunity to formulate their own research questions and hypotheses. Through this, year 5 have been able to practically apply their knowledge to different situations, fairly and accurately testing their theories along the way. They have even had the chance to further hone skills acquired in statistics from their learning in maths, in order to analyse and present their findings in different formats.



Our Changing World

Harmony Primary School's year 6s have embarked on a range of journeys through their learning this term.



The world as we know is constantly changing: as we grow and develop as young explorers, it is clear to see that there is a wealth of knowledge yet to acquire. This term, year 6 have been attempting to rationalise, evaluate and understand the effects that change can bring to their local environment.

From advancements in technology, to the political climate and culture, Harmony's Year 6s have started to learn about the concepts of individuality and self-expression. They have demonstrated a keen desire to express their dreams, wishes and intentions on how we, individually and collectively as a school community, can do our part as Muslims and British citizens to instigate a positive change around us for the betterment of society as a whole. These sentiments have naturally filtered down to some of the younger year groups who are now developing a strong sense of identity and pride at identifying as young British Muslims.

The students are learning not to fear change but to

embrace it: from the changes in the seasons to the changes in our bodies; from one heartbeat to the next, our students have explored how change can be a good thing! Year 6 have become orators discussing some of those changes, scientists educating others and authors writing letters to members of the local council.

Slowly but surely, Year 6 are bringing skills and knowledge acquired within and across all the curriculum subjects to help formulate arguments supporting environmental causes and ultimately, helping to build the foundations for a brighter and greener world.

