



HARMONY
Primary School

HARMONY

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2
DEC. 24

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK AT HPS

Promoting Respect and Kindness



This term, during Anti-Bullying Week, our students focused on the powerful theme of Choosing Respect. Through a series of creative and thoughtful activities, they explored the importance of treating each other with kindness, understanding, and empathy.

One of the standout projects of the week was our Anti-Bullying Poster Campaign, where we combined our artistic talents with positive messages of respect and inclusion. The posters were bursting with vibrant illustrations and inspiring slogans designed to promote kindness and encourage everyone to be mindful of how they treat others. Each poster was unique, reflecting the diverse ways our students understand and embody respect in their everyday lives. These eye-catching designs now decorate our school hallways, acting as a daily reminder that respect is at the heart of our community.

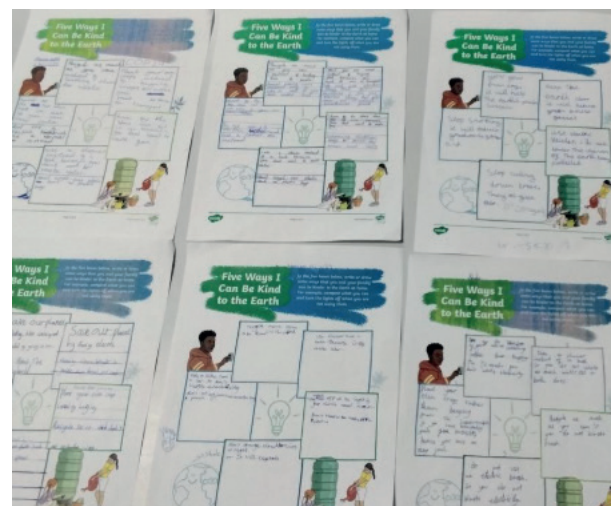
In addition to the posters, students took their creativity even further by writing acrostic poems using the word "ANTI-BULLYING." Each letter of the word was used to begin a line, crafting powerful messages about the values of kindness, empathy, and standing up against bullying. The poems were a heartfelt expression of our students' commitment to building a positive and supportive school environment.



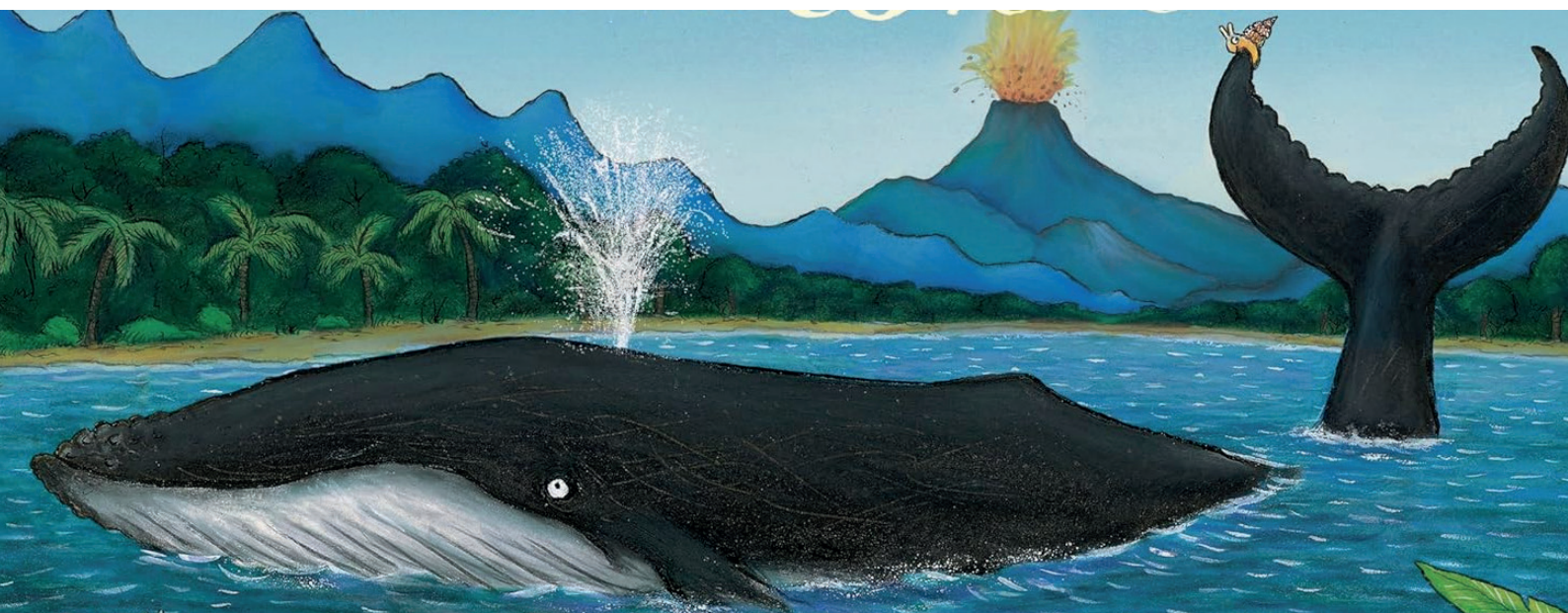
This half term, inspired by our environmental awareness project, every class took part in an activity focused on reflecting and pledging ways to care for the Earth. Year 4 students led the charge by dedicating an afternoon to writing personal pledges to make a positive impact on the environment.

Across all year groups, students explored simple yet powerful actions they could take, such as reducing waste, recycling more effectively, conserving water, and planting trees. With creativity and care, each class designed their pledges with colourful drawings of nature, showcasing their enthusiasm for protecting the earth. These pledges were then shared in class, allowing students to inspire one another and discuss how they could implement their ideas in their everyday lives.

The activity helped our students realise that everyone has an important role to play as stewards of the environment. It was wonderful to see how engaged and passionate they were, not only in writing their pledges but also in encouraging one another to make lasting changes. We hope that these actions, big and small, continue to inspire us all to be more mindful and proactive in caring for the environment.



Sailing Through Stories: Year 1's **Adventures with The Snail and the Whale**



This term, Year 1 embarked on an exciting journey inspired by one of their guided reading books *The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson. The story inspired activities across English, Guided Reading, and Art, allowing the children to immerse themselves in its engaging language and dynamic illustrations.

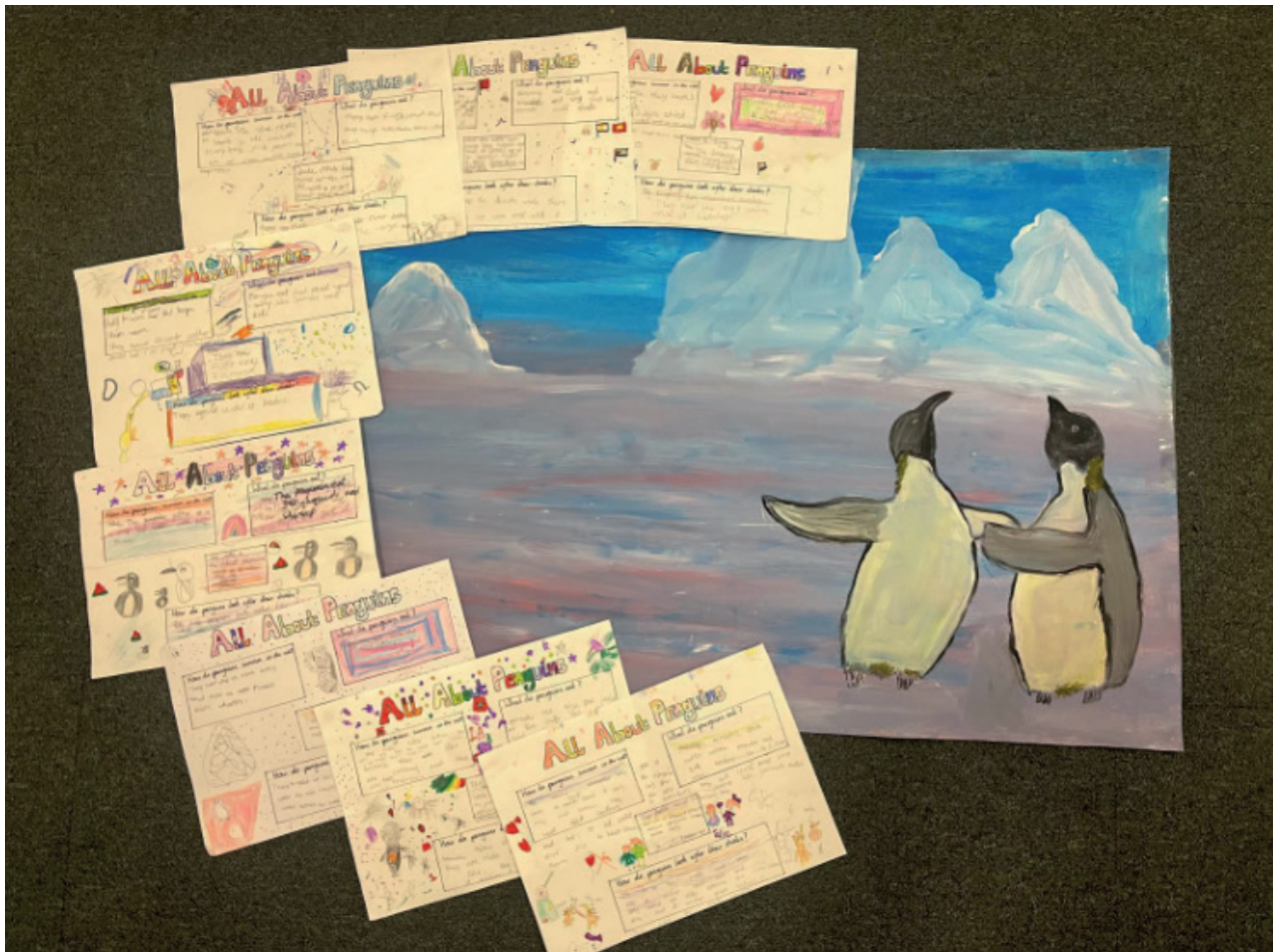
In Guided Reading, the children explored the author's techniques, identifying rhyming pairs, repetition, and alliteration, which they annotated and color-coded in extracts from the text. Building on this in English, they applied their knowledge to poems, practicing spotting and using these techniques in new contexts.

The class also created enlarged mind maps, highlighting standout noun phrases describing characters and settings, as well as interesting adjectives used by the author. They illustrated these mind maps to deepen their engagement with the story's imagery. Building on this, the children explored the emotions and perspectives of the snail and whale, expressing their understanding through short diary entries and monologues.

Art lessons brought a collaborative twist as the children worked in teams to create vibrant large-scale posters of their favourite story settings. These projects emphasised teamwork and attention to detail, and brought their favourite illustrations to life.

The story also inspired a moment of real-life kindness when some children discovered a snail in the playground. Declaring it to be on its next adventure to Harmony Primary School, they carefully moved it to safety, reflecting the story's themes of compassion and exploration.

It has been a truly important and inspiring term for Year 1, combining creativity, teamwork and development of key foundational skills across the curriculum!



Emperor Penguins: Life on Ice

This half term, Year 2 students journeyed to the frozen land of Antarctica through their current read, *An Emperor's Egg*, to explore the fascinating life cycle of the emperor penguin. The life of ice captivated their imaginations as they delved into the unique roles of male and female penguins, using the text to practise their guided reading skills. Students worked on retrieving key facts and inferring deeper ideas from the illustrations, while also developing their ability to research independently during a computer session. This activity challenged them to explore material above age-related expectations, strengthening their confidence and phonics knowledge.

Their findings culminated in the creation of vibrant posters, where students presented their discoveries with creativity and collaboration. They also brought the penguin's journey to life through art, applying their knowledge of lines, shapes, and colour theory to illustrate the remarkable voyage of the emperor's egg. This immersive experience fostered curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper appreciation for the wonders of nature.



Rivers: Lifelines of Nature, Powering Life and Shaping Our Future

This term, Year 3 explored the importance of rivers and their many uses, gaining a deeper understanding of how they shape and support our world. The students focused on specific aspects of river usage, which allowed students to develop a range of skills while building their knowledge of this vital natural resource.

Students investigated how rivers are used to produce renewable energy, such as hydropower. They learned about the mechanics of dams and turbines, developing critical thinking skills as they analysed how water flow can generate electricity through kinetic energy.

They were also able to explore how the land around rivers is used for activities such as farming, transportation, and recreation. The kids were able to identify patterns in land use, gaining valuable insights into how people interact with and rely on natural resources.

Finally, students explored the role of rivers in the development of settlements. They discovered how rivers have historically influenced where communities are built and how they have supported trade and cultural growth. Through group discussions and sharing their personal ideas, the children built their confidence in speaking and learned how rivers connect people, places, and the land around them.

Year 3 were able to develop specific skills and build a well-rounded understanding of the many ways rivers benefit people and the environment. This creates a deeper awareness of sustainability and the importance of protecting natural resources for future generations.





Creative Clay Creations!

This term, Year 4 has been getting to grips with clay, exploring its versatility and using it to bring a variety of subjects to life. From the seasonal charm of pumpkins to the mysteries of ancient Egypt and the wonders of marine life, their imaginations have been hard at work!

The first project saw students sculpting pumpkins, focusing on texture and detail to create realistic designs. This tied beautifully with our autumn-themed activities and allowed everyone to practice shaping and moulding techniques. Next, inspired by their art lessons, the class designed clay stones adorned with hieroglyphic symbols, carefully etching patterns that told their own unique stories. Lastly, students turned to the depths of the ocean, crafting shark fossils complete with detailed teeth and fins, linking their artistic skills to their science lessons about marine life and fossils.

Children experimenting with clay offers a wonderful opportunity for creativity and self-expression. As they meld and shape the soft, malleable material, they not only further develop their fine motor skills but also learn about texture, form, and spatial awareness. The tactile experience of working with clay encourages experimentation, allowing children to explore different shapes, sizes, and designs. Whether they are crafting simple sculptures, or even forming abstract shapes, the process fosters imagination and problem-solving. Through this hands-on activity, children gain confidence in their ability to transform an idea into a tangible creation, all while enjoying the therapeutic and fun nature of working with their hands.



Exploring the World Through Words

This term, Year 5 have been honing their skills as travel writers, exploring how to bring destinations to life through powerful descriptions. They have delved into the use of adjectives and sensory language to create vivid imagery and engage their readers.

A big focus has been on improving and re-drafting their work. The children have been learning how to reflect on their writing and experimenting with more precise and impactful vocabulary to enhance their descriptions. This process of revising and refining their work has led to noticeable improvements in the overall standard of their writing.

Well done Year 5!

Year 6 explores the intricacies of the circulatory system with a Heart Physician!



Year 6 had an engaging and inspiring session with Dr Tarique – a Heart Physician, as part of their science topic, Blood Heart. The visit provided students with invaluable, real-world insights into the human circulatory system, advancing their curiosity and enhancing their understanding of the heart's essential role in keeping our bodies functioning.



During the session, students had the opportunity to explore a range of medical tools and equipment used in cardiology. They learned about the functions of devices such as a blood pressure monitor, stethoscope, and ECG (electrocardiogram) machine, observing first-hand how some of these tools are used to monitor heart health and detect potential issues. Dr Tarique also introduced them to a heart pacemaker, explaining its critical function in helping patients with irregular heart rhythms maintain a steady heartbeat.

In addition, students learned about blood types and the science of blood grouping. They were presented with the innovative work of Karl Landsteiner, the Austrian physician who discovered the ABO blood group system. Dr Tarique explained how Karl Landsteiner's discovery revolutionised medicine, making safe blood transfusions possible. Students learned how blood types are classified and the importance of compatibility in transfusions. This new knowledge provided fascinating context for their understanding of blood and its role in the body.

The session was highly interactive, with students asking thoughtful questions about how the heart and blood work together to support life. This hands-on experience allowed them to see the direct application of their classroom learning in real-world scenarios, fostering a deeper appreciation for the importance of heart health.

The visit not only enriched their understanding of the circulatory system but also highlighted the significance of healthy lifestyle choices in maintaining a strong heart. This memorable experience has left Year 6 inspired and more connected to their science studies, bridging the gap between theory and practice in a truly impactful way.