

MAIDSTONE AND CAUSTON

# insight

The newsletter for SET Maidstone Infant School and SET Causton Junior School | *"Providing a foundation for life"*



# Maidstone Infants

## EYFS – Outdoor Learning

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we enjoy learning in our Outdoor Classroom.

- Role Play
- Planning
- Recording
- Working together
- Communicating
- Achieving

Exploring Materials



Baby Clinic

Building

## Lions

Our topic has been **In the Toybox**. We have had great fun!!

We have learnt all about toys from the past and compared them with toys we play with now. We even had the chance to play with some old toys. We particularly liked the spinning plates and the wooden spinning top.

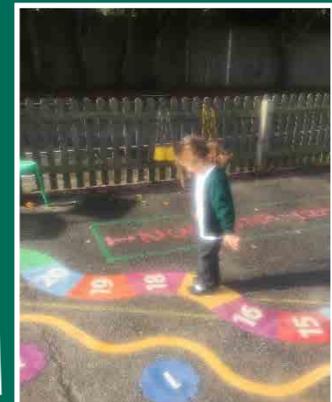
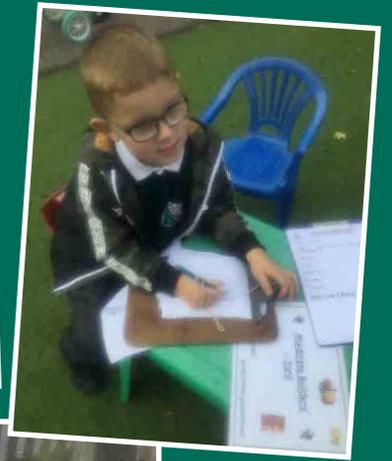
We have also enjoyed reading 'Kipper's Toybox' by Mick Inkpen and 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes. We have learnt all about adjectives and written some amazing descriptions! We have also been learning to use capital letters at the beginning of our sentences, full stops at the end and finger spaces in between each word.

In maths we have worked hard at writing our numbers. We have also been thinking about our number bonds. We had great fun making paper chains to help us!

We had great fun investigating materials, thinking about which material would be best to make a raincoat for our toy bear. We made predictions, tested out the materials and wrote down what we discovered.

Lion class have done a brilliant job following the Maidstone rules, listening, talking and acting respectfully! What a busy half term we have had!

Numbers



## Panthers

Panther class enjoyed Victorian Day. We dressed up in Victorian clothing and played traditional games. During the morning we pretended that we were at a Victorian school. We practised handwriting and followed strict Victorian classroom rules! During the afternoon, we played circle games such as Oranges and Lemons and found out about life in Victorian times. We found out about the toys that Victorian children would have played with.



We are learning to count in twos and threes forwards and backwards. We use the number square in the playground to help us to learn.

We are learning to recognise different coins. We are proud when we are successful!

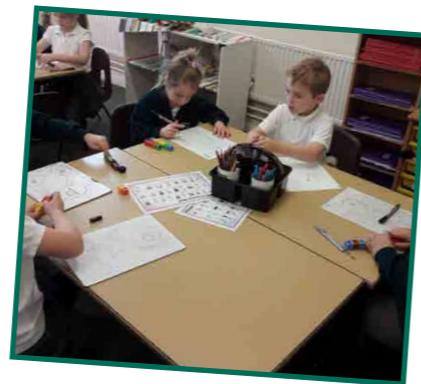
We enjoy reading! We have a story of the week that we share as a class and individual books that are chosen specifically for us so that we can read them independently.



## Tigers

Tiger class have had lots of fun and we have been learning lots!

We have read many books all about toys. Our three favourite have been 'Toys in Space' and 'Traction Man is Here' by Mini Grey, and 'Kipper's Toybox'. We have acted out the stories, written diary entries and retold the stories. We have become super at using expanded noun phrases and Eddie the Exclamation Mark!



We have also all become maths geniuses and have enjoyed learning a song to help us learn our three times tables! We have played lots of fun games to help us learn how to count. We have also learnt about the tens and units and have recently started using our knowledge to help us with adding.

As part of our topic we had a Victorian Day and played with lots of Victorian toys - we even dressed up! To continue our learning we then used the tablets to draw our favourite moment from the Victorian Day and typed captions about them.

We have been artists and we really enjoyed the leaf printing we did on Harvest Festival Morning. We also learnt about the meaning of Harvest Festival and enjoyed comparing it to the Tzedakah Box which is part of Jewish celebrations.



## Reading at Causton Juniors

### Goldcrest

Goldcrests love reading! We have just finished 'Awful Auntie' by David Walliams and after a class vote, we have just started reading 'Gangsta Granny'. We have had lots of interesting discussions about the characters and the events of the story. The class completed book reviews which are going up on our new reading display. Rowan really likes the interesting vocabulary - the funnier the better! Devin likes the funny characters and can tell you the exact page where his favourite things happened. Owen likes it when the characters have funny voices and Louie likes it when funny things happen.



This is us reading with Austin, our therapy dog. He loves listening to the boys reading and gives out special stickers. Here we are doing a group reading of a Dr Seuss book, reading a page and passing it to the next person.

### Puffins

Puffins are reading 'The Abominables' by Eva Ibbotson.

What do you think of 'The Abominables' so far?

"I like that the yetis came to Britain because that would never happen." - Kai

"I like the story because the yetis go to the zoo and let the animals out." - Erika

"I like it because I don't know what is going to happen next." - Fay

"It is an exciting and interesting book because lots of things happen." - Braiens

What have you learnt?

"I have learnt how to remember a story for a long time." - Faye

"I have learnt that yetis can break things easily." - Logan

"I have learnt new vocabulary that we can use in our own sentences like lavatory which means toilet." - Olivia

What do you like about reading?

"I like to read funny stories." - Luca

"I like learning new things like about history." - Leo

"I like books because they have amazing adventures." - Freddie

"I like reading to give me ideas for when I write my own stories." - Jess

## Kestrels

Last half term we read 'The Diary of Anne Frank'. The children were surprised at how unkind Anne could be at times about her class-mates which brought up a lot of discussion about the way we write in diaries compared to how we write other forms of prose. This helped with showing their opinions and feelings when we wrote diary entries based on the book 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies, even though the subject matter was very different.

This half term we are reading 'Illegal' by Andrew Donkin and Eoin Colfer, a graphic novel tackling the issue of illegal immigrants and their fight for a better life. The issues are hard-hitting and difficult to understand and the children are really using their discussions with talk partners to get to grips with the motives of the different characters. The children are enjoying the format and style of the story and many wrote their own graphic 'piece' about Guy Fawkes.



## Kingfisher

We have created a reading area to focus more on the volume of books children can be exposed to in class. We are making a conscious effort to get children off reading scheme books where they don't have phonics gaps and onto appropriate free reader books to improve self esteem.

Mrs Thompson used the time after class assembly for parents to do a shared reading of our class book which is 'The Abominables'. The book has raised a lot more discussion points than I expected, for example talking about animal cruelty has been a huge one!

We have read some lighter hearted books too. The children lapped up 'Funny Bones' by Allan Ahlberg and made up their own poems which they performed for an audience. The children like bringing in their own books too and where there is time we share some of them as a class.



## Eagles

We have been reading 'Clockwork' by Phillip Pullman and once the story is wound up it has to unwind...

The children have very much enjoyed it, comments have included: "It's scary", "there's always a cliffhanger" and "you can't predict what's going to happen".

Louis said that "it's well paced with lots of excitement and tension" while Ellie was interested in the 'scary' idea of clockwork - can it make you alive?



## Robins

We are currently reading 'The Magic Faraway Tree' by Enid Blyton. Here's what the class think:

"I've learnt more words and their meaning."

"I think reading helps me to listen better and I find it easier to concentrate.."

Paige talked about how she likes that she doesn't know what's about to happen in the story. We discussed this as being suspense.

Daisy Mae says she finds it relaxing to listen and she finds Enid Blyton books really enjoyable because they are funny and make her laugh.

## Wrens

So far this term we have been reading 'How To Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell, 'Odd and The Frost Giants' by Neil Gaiman and 'Norse Mythology' by Neil Gaiman.

The children have found the stories exciting and reading is something they look forward to, particularly the creative tasks around reading the story and how the story is told. The stories have helped deepen their knowledge of Norse Gods and Viking pastimes. The class like to read stories about people in history, real stories about real people.



## Owls

We have just finished reading 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. Most children have really enjoyed it and some have been reading other books from the series at home and in class reading time. As well as the guided reading sessions we have done both fiction and non-fiction work based on the story: PE with Gobber the Belch and designing a fake website about a dragon.



## Sparrows

We finished 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis and now we are reading 'Why the Whales Came' by Michael Morpurgo.

What do the children think of it?

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:

"Sad and happy, because the Evil Queen tried to kill Aslan and they defeated the Witch."

"I felt excited and sad, because there was a wardrobe that took you to another dimension and Aslan almost died. I felt nervous, because you didn't know what was going happen to the characters."

Why the Whales Came:

"I think it's mysterious, because the Birdman is always covering his face."

"I felt shocked because in the past they ate dogs on one of the islands."

What have they learnt?

Don't judge a book by its cover.

Never trust strangers.

Never keep secrets.

Never fight.



## Swans

Swan Class have been reading 'Sky Song' by Abi Elphinstone as their class book.

What do the children think of it?

"It is good to all read a book together, because we can have a good discussion about it and everyone knows what we are talking about."

"We can learn how to pronounce words that we haven't heard before."

"We can learn about the characters and give our opinions about them."

Our Guided reading book is 'Why the Whales Came' by Micheal Morpurgo. The comments were very similar, but they also added that reading together is helping them to read faster.

## Contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments.



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