

# Fritwell School Newsletter

Spring Term 1

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks leading us into half term and it definitely feels like time for a breather!

Stingrays had their Roman workshop this week which was a fantastic way to bring their topic to life. The children showed total engagement, and experiences included marching in formation and swearing an oath as a Roman Soldier to protect the school!

On a sporting note, children in years 5 and 6 went to a sports hall athletics event in Bicester. They took part in various disciplines in track and field events and made the very most of the opportunity. A big thank you to Mrs Weaver and Mrs Lyons who accompanied the children.

There was a phenomenal turnout for the Disco last Friday which raised £402.40 for the school. The children had a great time with Aaron Williams leading the entertainment. Thank you to all staff and parents that volunteered to supervise the event, the children are hugely appreciative!

Next term we have the year 6 Yenworthy trip. A week away on residential is an absolute highlight in primary school. The children will have the chance to practise and hone the life skills we focus on with the Fritwell Footsteps and no doubt they will be making many memories. I look back on my own residential experience in primary school with the fondest of memories, as I am sure many of you do too. It is a huge commitment by staff to spend a week away from their own families, so we are all hugely appreciative of Mrs Churchill, Mr Protherough and Mrs Lyons accompanying the children on this trip. I am sure a great time will be had by all.

At the start of next term, we have parent's evenings. We look forward to welcoming you into school to discuss your children's progress. You will also have the opportunity to look at books and see what your children have been learning and the progress they have been making.

Our Fritwell Footstep next term is resilience where we will focus on pushing past doubts, not giving up, and being prepared to change if what you are doing is not working.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful half term.

Jon Jeffries  
Executive Headteacher

# Seahorses

We have had a fabulous start to our "Road Trip through the USA" topic this term. Our journey through the Wild West with the Pioneers, Cowboys and the Native Americans have helped us learn the names of the states both old and new. The children have thoroughly enjoyed our class book which is helping us learn about tribes of the Native Americans and also what a street in the 1800s might have looked like.

In Art, we have learnt all about the American artist Roy Lichtenstein. We used the dotting method to create self portraits using pen and paints and have also used the technique with everyday objects just like Lichtenstein.

We danced like explorers, using the idea of Columbus' crew reaching the shores of the Americas and performed some motifs in small groups. This has helped us use both our value, **Inspired Minds and Wisdom**, and the footstep of **Imagination**, especially when spotting champion dancers.



# Stingrays

Stingrays have had a full and exciting term. This week they enjoyed a superb Roman workshop led by the Roman centurion Lucius. They had the opportunity to dress up in a number of different outfits and use some replica objects. They then re-enacted a battle charge and defence positions. They were so full of enthusiasm and this can be seen in the recounts that they wrote afterwards.

In Science, they have been learning about electricity. They set up some model circuits using sweets to represent the different components before going on to use the real thing.

Gymnastics sessions this term have been focussed on collaborative work, particularly balancing. They are brilliant at setting up the large apparatus in the hall and using this creatively to show off their balancing skills.

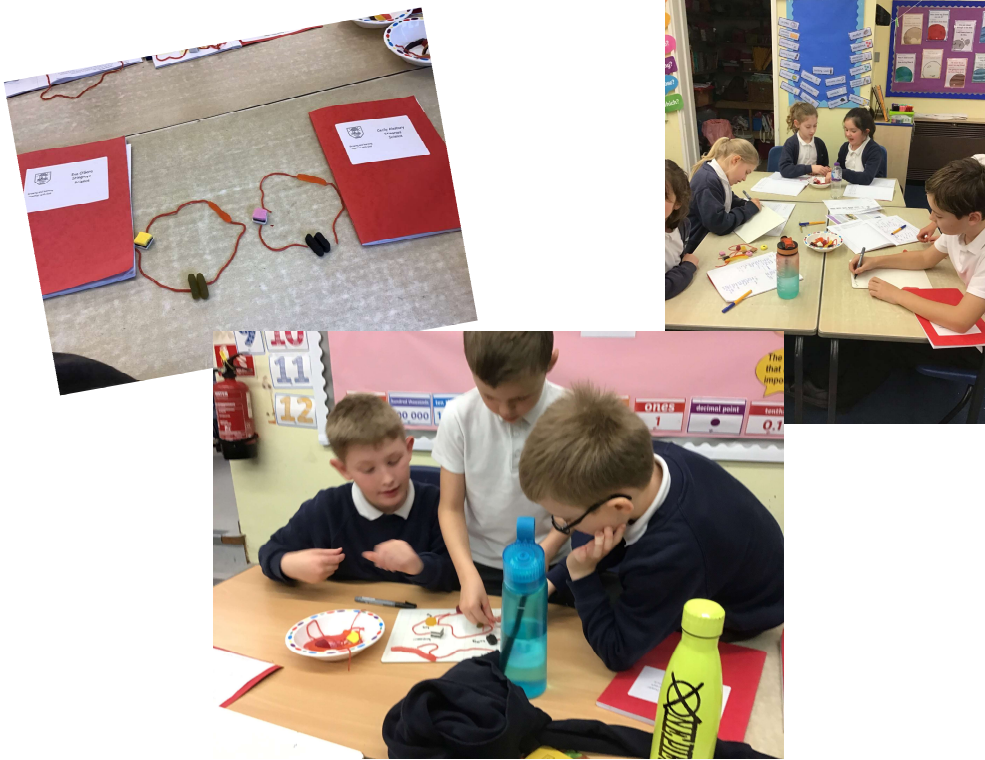
Well done Stingrays for a superb term 3.





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# Sharks

## Sharks science

In sharks we have been looking at the human heart this term and how the heart receives oxygen and the nutrients the body needs – exploring how it works. It is a powerful muscle that has different valves and chambers that pump oxygenated blood out into the arteries and then deoxygenated blood back to the lungs through the veins.

We have started doing investigation on how the heart reacts to exercise.

### Human heart

We have been identifying names and the main parts of the human Circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.

### Next Step

Our next step is to describe the changes as humans develop to old age.

And the various different functions of human organs.

### Investigation

We have been doing an investigation on how the human heart reacts when transferring from being in a relaxed state to being in a stressed state after exercise. First, we counted our relaxed heart beat then we did the same amount of exercise (to limit the variables). We also kept the environment the same to keep it fair. Then, we monitored our BPM (heart beats per minute) after the exercise and we presented it in a table and bar chart. We are going to work out the mean averages and check our results to see if they matched our hypothesis.



# Sharks

## Maths this term

In maths we have been learning about ratio and just started doing some work on algebra.

In algebra we have learned loads on 2 step functions, simplifying and writing expressions. We are linking it to our BODMAS learning.

A ratio shows how many times one number contains another. For example, if there are eight oranges and six apples in a bowl of fruit, then the ratio of oranges to apples is eight to six. Similarly, the ratio of apples to oranges is 6:8.

We've worked through some really challenging reasoning and problem solving that includes proportion and scale.

## In History this term we have been learning about the ancient Greeks: the Minoans and the Mycenaean.

### Minoan

This term the Minoans have been one of our History subjects. The Minoans were a group of people who lived on the Island of Crete - they were around about 3000BC-1500BC around the Bronze Age. They were known as amazing crafts people who worshiped Goddesses and Bulls. It's fascinating that they we still don't know what the cause of their cultures end was: war, invasion, famine, disease or a natural disaster.

### Ancient Greeks

The Greeks made important contributions to philosophy, mathematics, astronomy and medicine. Literature and theatre were an important part of Greek culture and influenced modern drama. The Greeks were known for their sculpture and architecture.

### Mycenaean

After the Minoans we started work on the Mycenaean. Both the Bronze Age Minoans and Mycenaean, as well as their neighbours in Bronze Age, acquired most of their ancestry from the Neolithic Anatolian population.

### Next step

Our next step is to explore the Classical age of ancient Greece. We will be learning about the social, religious, political, technological and culture and then seeing how things like democracy have shaped our modern world.



# Sharks

## The Ancient Greeks

This term in English we have been learning about the ancient Greeks - specifically all about their myths and legends.

## Theseus and the Minotaur

At the moment we are focusing on King Minos and how Theseus came through the labyrinth and pretended to be a sacrifice but slayed the Minotaur. This story is based in and around the Minoan period so about 3000 – 1500BC and involves real life figures such as King Minos and Aegeus. There really was a labyrinth found in Crete called Knossos.

We started to explore myths by looking at the language features and themes that can be found in every culture: Gods, monsters, heroes, magic objects and quests etc.

We have been exploring a range of rich creative writing techniques – we have just learned how to use a special type of personification called pathetic fallacy, where the weather and a characters emotions can mirror each other. We have been working in pairs and groups using our imagination and creative thinking.



## Haiku Poems

A haiku poem has five then seven then five syllables that is about nature. We listened to a video to get ideas.

## Drama

We have done lots of drama about the Greeks this term. We did some drama acting out one of the chapters of the twelve labours of Heracles.



## Next Steps

Our Next steps are to write a Greek myth based on the area around us – we will learn about the legend of King Arthur and the Uffington Horse.

Also, we will act out the story of Theseus and the Minotaur

## Dates for your diary

### **February.**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – School Disco

Mon 12<sup>th</sup>- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Half term

Mon 19<sup>th</sup>-Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Yenworthy residential trip

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Hockey Y5/6 (Venue TBC)

### **March**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – World book day

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Girls Football Y3/4 (Venue TBC)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – World Poetry day

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Easter egg hunt

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Easter service led by Sticklebacks

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Last day of term – **finish at 1.15pm**

### **April**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Start of term 4

## **FoFs**

The FoFs valentines disco made a whopping £402.40.

Thank you for your support and to all the volunteers involved.



Don't forget to save the date for the Fritwell

Easter Egg event

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2-4pm





# After School Club

'In After School Club we have just started doing baking/ cooking activities on a Monday each week. Last week the children decorated some cupcakes with butter icing, fondant and sprinkles. It was great to see some of the wonderful designs they came up with. They all enjoyed it so much and many of them gave the cakes to their parents (or at least shared them!)

This week they decorated Heart Cookies to celebrate Valentines Day. We saw some beautiful combinations of icing, chocolate and sprinkles that really showed off the children's imagination and individual personalities.

All of the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was lovely to see the older ones helping the younger ones with the fiddlier aspects of the tasks. We look forward to our first Monday back for more baking/ cooking fun!!'

Quotes from the children-

Peron said 'these are the best biscuits I've ever tasted'

Amber said 'I can't wait to give this to my mum to show her how much she means to me!'

