



News on the Ninth

Gusford Celebration Newsletter – Issue 69 – 9th November 2015

Science Day



There was a buzz of excitement throughout Gusford on 20th October as we had a Science day, posing questions and experimenting to find our answers. The day was launched by Mrs Shanks with her magical assembly as she made water disappear and showed through drama that life without science is pretty hard to work.

We loved sharing our discoveries with parents at the end of the day too. We are looking forward to our next curriculum day this half term.



Science Day - Nursery



Children in the Nursery explored 'food changes' for the 'Science day.' We firstly investigated how paint changes when we added spices such as 'cinnamon' and 'ginger.' Then we predicted what changes would happen to chocolate once we put it into the microwave and then into the fridge. We loved eating the crispy cake results! Finally we explored adding water to cornflour, and found out how much fun it can be to make marks in the mixture!



As we walked around the school throughout the day we saw experiments to stop apples turning brown, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda exploding bags, disappearing letters and colours off M&M's and layering liquids.





Science & Dance

On 23rd October, the juniors had the pleasure of watching a dance all about the environment. It involved fire, water, pollution, nature and other planets. Throughout the dance they were heroes trying to save our planet.

Inspirationally, it made us think about how we act and what we do to the environment. This includes recycling everything that can be, taking care of our nature and not just standing on it and swinging on trees. If we all work together on doing these things then it might make the world a lot better place to be in.

The dancers were all heroes. One was water and the other two were fire and other planets. If we all have this in us and be heroes, then we would have an amazing world to live in.

Megan Gray-Cullum 5S

Y5 Never Ending Story



On Friday 6th November, Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to watch "The NeverEnding Story," at Cineworld, Ipswich. Gusford belong to an organisation called Into Film and through this we were offered free tickets to see the film. The pupils (and staff) really enjoyed the film, a fantastical animated story, and also liked having the pick of the best seats in the cinema. This opportunity will be available again next year and we will offer the chance to another group of pupils. For some of us, it was our first experience in a cinema. We couldn't believe how big the screen was! We all loved the film. It really captivated us as we never knew what was going to happen next – it kept surprising us the whole way through. It will really help us to get our brain juices flowing for when we have to write our own Myths later this month! Well done Year Five for being such good Gusford ambassadors.

Mrs Shanks & Mrs Skippins

Y4 AbracaDavid



On the 2nd November Year 4 launched their Science and History topics with a visit from AbracaDavid. The children were enthralled by his magic tricks which also made very clear links with Science and promoted Scientific reasoning and thinking as a magical concept. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and the children were given the opportunity to participate and share in some memorable activities using cabbage water as an indicator of acids, water vapour as a force which was strong enough to shoot plastic cups from a target. Static created with balloons enabled the magician to balance metal spoons on his face (6 being the record). Cups disappeared through a magic worm hole portal. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a fantastic way of engaging pupils in their learning.

Year 1 learning



One of the topics in year 1 this term is learning about the 4 Seasons. They have been looking at the Autumn colours. As you can see by the picture it is a fun way to discover colour.



Inspiration

Y2 Farm Trip



At the end of last term year 2 went to Foxburrow Farm which is a 130 acre mosaic of farmland and wildlife habitats. As we had been learning about living things and their habitats we were keen to explore a few of the habitats found here including: mature woods, meadows, an orchard and many ponds. To start the day we walked into the woods which we were quite pleased about as the rain was not as heavy there. We were blindfolded and led by our partner to feel a tree and then after turning us around several times we had to guess what tree it was. We used magnifying glasses to see what was living in the bark and looked for evidence of animals that may be in the area. The most popular evidence was the different animal droppings and the burrows made by moles and rabbits. After that we went pond dipping. It was extraordinary how many different creatures live in a pond and we were thrilled when we found a very big newt. We ate our lunch in a big barn and then walked through the meadow into the orchard. Here we went on a mini beast hunt and found loads of different insects. One child was even certain they had seen a giraffe but sadly it was missed by the rest of us! Even though it rained all day and we were very wet and muddy we had so much fun we did not even notice until we got back into class. It was a fabulous day!



Collaboration

Parent Council

The Parent council met on 5th November and discussed the following:

Things that Gusford does well:

- Curriculum days and engaging ways to keep children engaged eg Science Day
- Keeping parents informed of issues in school via parentmail eg the recent fire alarm and police chasing someone in a neighbouring garden
- Clubs and activities throughout the age range

How can we promote the school in our local community?

- Look at developing a choir that can sing in the community eg Old People's homes.
- Celebrate items we achieve in the paper

Is Gusford Twitter helpful?

- Twitter is helpful to keep parents informed. Some yeargroups such as Nursery & Reception are using this very well.

Our next meeting is on 14th January 2016. Do please contact us if you are interested in joining the Parent Council.

Reception Family Cafe

Last week Foundation Stage held their second 'Family Café'. For this event the children welcome their parents into their classroom to work alongside them, sharing a special snack time too.

For this months family café Reception classes were showing their adults how amazing their 'Fred Talk' is becoming, as they watched clips of Fireworks, discussed good adjectives to describe fireworks, and then wrote them together, by 'fred talking' the phonemes they could hear in the words and writing them. Some of them even made them into poems about fireworks! They finished by creating colourful firework pictures.



Inspiration

Y6 Hilltop trip



During the last week of September 2015, 44 Year 6 pupils travelled to Hilltop Outdoor Centre for the Year 6 Residential.

During the week, the activities encourage the children to develop their confidence in a number of adventurous tasks. Over the week, they take part in abseiling, climbing, high ropes and bridges, zip wires, mountain biking, archery, orienteering and more. Many valuable skills are learnt concerning the physical skills and knowledge attached to the tasks. However, they also learn vital social skills about how to work in a team, how to encourage each other and how far they can push themselves. Over the week I saw so many heart-warming moments where pupils were encouraging each other and achieving things they never thought they were capable of. All the activities are totally safe so the children can test their risk taking skills in a safe environment. We were all scared at times over the week but overcame fears, tried new activities and were proud of ourselves for achieving something new.



It's also so fun to share a room with mates, discuss the day around the dinner table and find clues in the woods after dark with a torch!



We all had an amazing time and I would be back there in a heartbeat. Fully recommended! Thanks to all the pupils for making it such an awesome trip. You were an absolute pleasure to take and we all had a ball!

Mrs Smith



Inspiration

6H Balloon Magic



On 'Science Day' 6H carried out an experiment to find out in which conditions yeast reacted most quickly. Working in groups, the pupils raised their own question to investigate. For example, 'How does the amount of sugar affect the rate at which yeast reacts?' They then planned a fair test to find an answer to their question. One method of identifying the speed of reaction is to put a balloon on the end of the test tube. As the yeast releases carbon dioxide, the balloon inflates. By measuring the circumference of the balloon the pupils were able to identify which condition caused the greatest amount of reaction.

6H Magic Microbes



Linked to their work on micro-organisms, 6H designed their own bacteria. The pupils had to decide whether it was helpful or harmful and give it a Latin-sounding name. Once designed they created a 3D version using modelling materials.

