



JANUARY Newsletter

18th January 2019

Dear parents/carers,

Another busy week of learning at Virginia Primary School. Year 4 have begun their Artburst project which will culminate in a performance at the end of term. It is very exciting! I am really looking forward to school journey with year 5 next week. We are going to Sayers Croft in Surrey. It might even snow! Here's what else we have been up to this week:

Air Pollution

We had an assembly about air pollution on Wednesday delivered by James from Queen Mary University. He talked about a research project called CHILL (Children's Health in London and Luton) which will be investigating the impact of measures the council has introduced to make London air cleaner.

Although there have been improvements in air quality, there is still a long way to go. Air pollution has been shown to have a detrimental impact on the growth and development of children's lungs leading to long term respiratory issues. In phase assemblies, we talked about things we could do to make a difference and we thought of the following:

- We walk or cycle to school when we can (good for us and the environment!)
- We use public transport when we can
- We ask our families **not** to leave engines running when cars are parked
- We campaign for the road next to our school to be closed to traffic
- We campaign for cleaner vehicles

I am sure you all support us in helping to keep the air our children breathe clean and safe. Thank you.

Sharing Good Learning

The following children shared their learning this week:

Year 1: year 1 are reading the book Beegu. Sameen, Jazmine, Yamin, Maisha, Aseeya and Amelia read out captions they had written for pictures at the beginning of the story. Beegu is very sad.

Year 2: year 2 have been learning all about food chains. Ibrahim and Maryam explained what a food chain is and explained that producers are plants and are always at the beginning of a food chain.

Year 3: year 3 have been learning all about bones in the human body. Cailey, Johnny, Hannah, Adyan and Khalil told us some interesting facts. Did you know we have 206 bones in our body and the longest one is the femur (thigh bone)?

Year 4: year 4 have been looking at weather forecasts from around the world. Ayyan, Suhan, Katya, Suzanna, Leilia, Adeela and Winston showed us how they had recorded their findings and talked about the differences between countries. I didn't know that Beijing in China got so cold!

Year 5: year 5 have been learning about the life cycle of a flowering plant. Adam F, Isaac, Zahra, Aman, Zac, Ismail, Kareem and Kalid acted out germination and showed us seeds they are germinating.

Year 6: year 6 have been investigating light. Mahsin, Ibbby, Iqra and Izyan shared with us different scientific questions they had thought of to investigate. They were working like real scientists!

Special Mentions: Emily and Alice mentioned Labibah for always producing amazing homework, Salma mentioned Lila for fantastic learning in literacy, Shay mentioned Teo and Tahid for incredible maths learning, I mentioned all of year 2 for being focused learners when we were learning about food chains, Zahirah mentioned Aaliyah for trying their hardest in maths and Yahya mentioned all of year 6 for being inclusive and playing with each other. Well done everyone, we are very proud of you!

FSU News

As you may know, Gloria our nursery teacher has been unwell this week. She is now making a good recovery and we hope she will be back with us by the end of next week. I am sure you all join me in sending her love and best wishes.

What a tremendous week we had in Reception! We started reading the book How to Catch a Star and we all became excited about the adventure the boy is going to go through to catch his star. Our topic is exploring and we decided to do our job properly and research some non-fiction books about stars. The children were fascinated with the facts we found. Amira said, "The stars twinkle because the stars have light in them." We discovered that the stars are made of gas and Zaheer commented, "Gas is like the air in the tyre and when it goes flat you can fill it up again at the petrol station. Stars twinkle because they have to give light to the people." We also learned about our galaxy the Milky Way. "Milky Way is like a curl and some people say there's a hole in it" explained Amelie. "There's 100 stars. There's more, I can't even count them. It's infinity,



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the biggest number in the whole world.” We also learned about how a group of stars together make a constellation. The children made their own constellations using glitter and shiny pens. “My constellation looks like a digger” said Danyal. The children have learned so many things this week that it’s impossible to mention all of them. Please continue to speak to your children about their exciting learning at school. They have a lot to share!

Attendance and Punctuality Table

Year Group	Number of pupils late	Ranking	Attendance	Ranking
Reception	2	5th	94.33%	6th
Year 1	0	1st	86.79%	7th
Year 2	2	5th	96.91%	4th
Year 3	2	5th	99.64%	1st
Year 4	1	3rd	99.33%	2nd
Year 5	1	3rd	97.86%	3rd
Year 6	0	1st	95.00%	5th

Well done year 3. I am very proud of your attendance! There has been a real improvement with lateness this week. Keep it up!

Forthcoming events

21 st January	Year 5 school journey Sayers Croft for 1 week
30 th January	Year 3 visiting Sutton house
4 th February	Year 4 visiting Hyde Park
5 th February	Year 5 visiting Westminster Abbey
11 th Feb to 15 th Feb	Year 3 intensive swimming every day for 1 week
15 th February	Year 2 family assembly@9.10
5 th March	Year 3 British Museum
7 th March	World Book Day
11 th March to 22 nd March	Year 5 swimming (2weeks intensive)
12 th March	Year 1 London Zoo
15 th March	Red Nose Day
28 th March	Reception to Hyde Park
28 th March	Year 4 Artburst Performance
4 th April	Poetry Slam Assembly@2.45
5 th April	Attendance and Achievement Assembly@9.10

Dates for the rest of this Year

18 th February to 22 nd February 2019	Half Term	School Closed
8 th April to 22 nd April 2019	End of Term	School Closed
6 th May	Spring Bank Holiday	School Closed
27 th May to 31 st May 2019	Half term	School Closed
4 th June 2019	Occasional day	School Closed ** Date to be confirmed
22 nd , 23 rd & 24 th July 2019	Inset Days	School Closed

Best wishes,

Kate Gooding, head teacher