

Shillington Lower School

Newsletter

29th January 2021



Our Value this
Month is:

Resilience

Children's Mental Health Week

1st-5th February: look out for our wellbeing activities next week.



In 2021 we are asking everyone to take part in SHINE BRIGHT, WEAR BRIGHT and fundraise vital funds for CHUMS and talk about mental health. The theme this year is **#ExpressYourself**

Wearing Bright can include brightly coloured hair, wigs, makeup, glitter or clothes.

CHUMS has been supporting children and young people for 22 years. In our first year we helped 40; in 2021 it will have exceeded 5,000!

Wear bright on Friday 5th February in school or at home.

Donations to Chums— go to chumscharity.org

Let's Cöunt!

census 2021



On the week beginning the 8th of February 2021 we will be taking part in the Let's Count Census learning programme, which aims to teach the children why the census is so important.

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. This helps to plan and fund public services in your area. The next census is taking place on Sunday 21st March 2021. More information about filling in the census questionnaire can be found here: <https://census.gov.uk/>

We will be taking part in a range of fun and creative activities in school and at home. More information about the activities will be sent to you via SeeSaw by your child's class teacher.

This a wonderful opportunity for us to take part in and show the children maths in the real world.

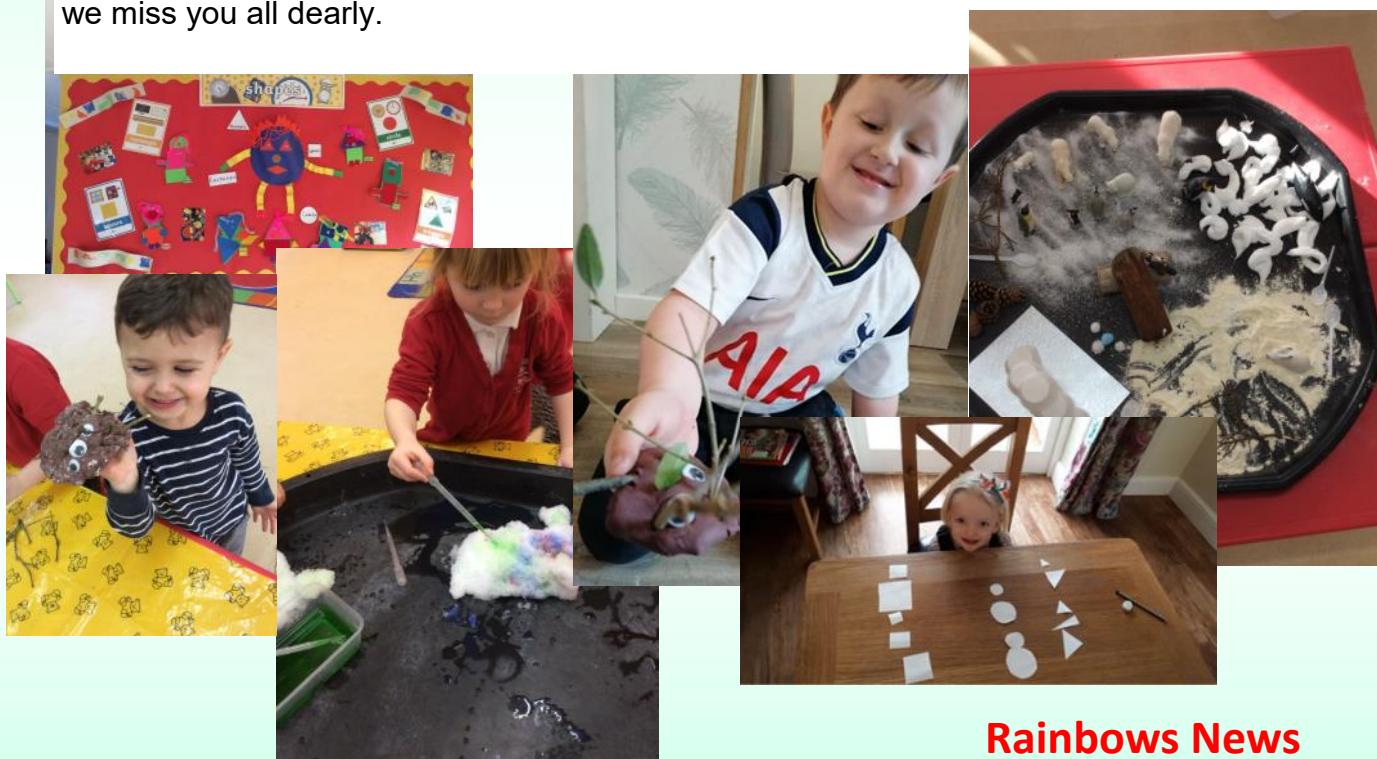
Pixie News

Pixie class have had a numeracy focus on shape for the last few weeks. We have been busy making our own shape monster, and we played a shape sorting game. We have had shapes in all areas of the classroom; fishing for them in the water tray, finding them in shaving foam and tracing around them in chalk. We have really enjoyed seeing all the pictures sent in from home of the children exploring shape.

Our book this week and next is 'Stick Man'. We have been reading the book, making our own stick man from play dough, and went on a fantastic journey through grass, water, snow and sand- just like Stick Man!

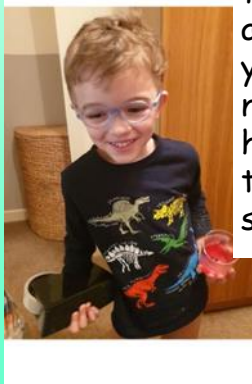
Our story has linked in beautifully with the weather this week, and the children have loved exploring the snow. We built snow castles, used pipettes and food colouring to squeeze into the snow, and used it in our small world play.

Thank you again for sending in all the wonderful photos from home. We love seeing them all, as we miss you all dearly.



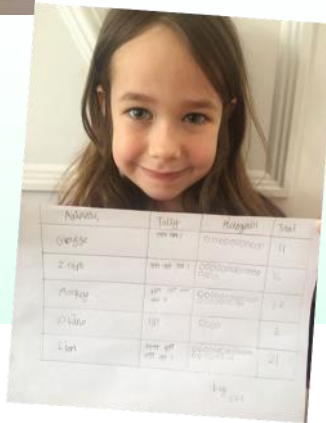
Rainbows News

We've had a lovely week in Rainbows. In maths, we have been exploring weight and capacity, and I have been extremely impressed with home learners' home-made balance scales: they have been fantastic - well done!! In phonics, we have now introduced ourselves to ALL the phase 3 sounds and have been looking at tricky words. I have been particularly happy with everyone's sentence writing and have seen examples of excellent spelling, blending and letter formation - you guys are amazing! We've also had loads of fun making more erupting volcanoes with our grown-ups and also learning to draw robots! The art work that has been produced is phenomenal! These are but a few of the amazing things that Rainbows class has achieved this week - what a lucky teacher I am to have such a bright, determined, enthusiastic and committed class! Thank you!



Unicorns News

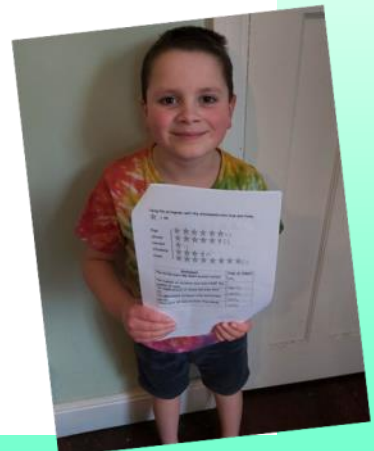
The Unicorns have been busy learning to subtract! The children have been using a number line to help them, counting backwards to find the answer. They have also been learning related facts and using a bar model to represent amounts. Our writing has been based around our story, Pig the Pug—we have written adjectives, examined prefixes and made a fact file about our own animal, ready to write our own story. We have been loving carrying out lots of different science experiments, predicting what will happen then checking our results afterwards. We are all so super proud of all the children in school and at home for their efforts. A huge well done to all the Unicorns!



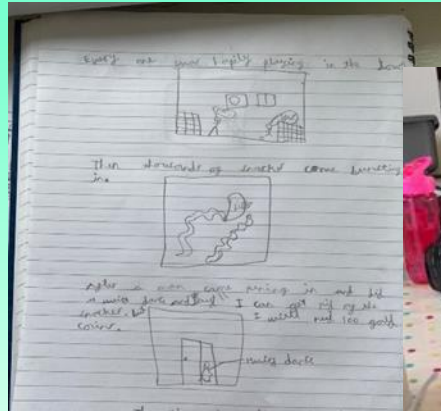
Dragons News

We have been super busy in Year 2! We finished our work on division in maths and

have now moved on to statistics. We went on a virtual safari and counted how many animals we saw, we then put our data into a tally chart and a pictogram. In science we have learnt lots about different animals and how these animals can survive in hot climates. We learnt about these hot climates in Geography, we wrote and performed our own weather reports. We held a friendship day and did lots of arts and crafts to celebrate our friends, because even if we can't see them at the moment, they are still our friends!



Centaurs News



In English we have been studying the text 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' and identified that this story had a moral. We then went on to write our own version of the story and having our own message behind it. In art we have been learning about the European artist Rembrandt and using light and dark shading we created our own images with a rubber. Science finished our week with an optical illusion science experiment. We have been studying how light travels in straight lines but when travelling through a material such as water it bends, causing the image behind it to change direction, it was so much fun!!



Phoenix News

In Year 4 we have been very busy with our learning! In English we have been reading 'The Iron Man' and have written descriptions, conversations, summaries and predictions. We have worked super hard with our maths when learning about multiplication and division, along with the different methods that we can use. This week we have learnt to calculate the area of shapes, draw our own and compare them. We have had lots of fun learning about our new topic, 'Ancient Egyptians'. We have learnt where Egypt is, what daily life was like for Egyptians and we even created our own Egyptian masks. In French we have been learning about different body parts and created our own exciting monsters. In Science we have enjoyed our topic of 'Sound' and have completed some fun experiments including making our own guitars. Well done Phoenix Class for all of your hard work and determination!

Top Tips for Successful Home Learning

Chunk Learning Time

Have small chunks of learning time with breaks in between.



Keep it Positive

Keep things positive and always end learning sessions on a high



Take Frequent Breaks

Breaks should be long enough the rest and reset but not so long that the learning mindset is lost.



Do What Works for You!

Be flexible and find what works for you and your family. Everybody's situation is different



Don't Worry!!

Even the best plans don't always work out and that's ok! If something doesn't go to plan, try again the next day!



We ❤️ Maths

Top Tips to Support Your Child's Maths Learning

- 1. Be positive about maths, even if you don't feel confident yourself.**
Let's all be positive about maths learning. In the UK we sometimes hear 'I was no good at maths when I was at school'. Over time this has had an impact nationally. Our pupils enjoy their maths - let them share that enjoyment with you!
- 2. Talk and listen to your child about their work in maths.**
Talking through things helps to make meaning of things. Talking work through is great for helping the learning to 'stick'. We do this as adults. This is an important part of maths learning.
- 3. It will help your child if they explain their work to you.**
In class we also ask them to explain their thinking. Pupils like to be teachers too! Explanations in maths are really important. Ask your children 'Why.....?' or 'How did you do that?' - You may be surprised at their answers!
- 4. Help your child to practise number facts. This will build up their confidence. This needs to be fun!!!!**
There are some number facts which pupils need to learn really well. These are things like times tables and number bonds (like 8 add 2 equals 10; 800 add 200 equals 1000 etc) If your child finds this hard then practise two or three facts to make sure they really have them before you move on to some others.
- 5. Give your child lots of praise and encouragement - especially when they work hard!**
Getting stuck is part of learning. Great learning takes place when pupils overcome difficulties and work hard. We like to recognise effort and hard work rather than lots of work.
- 6. Sit with your child as they do their maths - it's helpful to know what they are learning and how they are learning.**
Ask your child to explain their jottings. Or to talk you through the example they have done. Eg What does this mean? Why did you do that? How do you know that answer is correct?

YES We can

We ❤️ Maths

Other things to consider:

- Sharing games with your child.**
*Playing cards and dominoes are really helpful. Try these links
 Domino activities <https://nrich.maths.org/1200>
 Playing card activities <https://www.theschoolrun.com/10-ways-playing-cards-helps-children-with-maths>*
- Involve your child in real life activities which involve mathematics.**
*Eg shopping, cooking, setting timers etc
 It really helps pupils to realise how much maths is part of our daily lives.*
- Draw attention to how much use you (and other people) make of maths in real life situations.**
*As your children grow who knows what their jobs will be? Whatever the job it is highly likely they will use maths learning!
 Think about a carpet layer and measuring or a hairdresser mixing hair treatments, maybe your child might become a designer?!!*
- Encourage your child to access appropriate apps / websites. You may enjoy this too!**
*Talking and discussing the maths is really helpful and is part of the learning. Times table example: <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>
 Number bonds examples <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/addition-and-subtraction>*
- Have fun with maths.**
Let's make sure that our pupils enjoy their maths learning ready for their futures.