

School Newsletter December 2015

The Play (by Molly)



This half term we have been working on a play about Gladys Aylward. We have had a huge amount to do. We have learnt lots of lines and songs. Mrs Hurley, Mrs J. Gulliford and Miss Burgess have put a lot of hard work into making our play a success. However, it has gone very well as when we started we had a few problems with props and costume changes, so we have had to alter it. The play has been really fun and enjoyable for us all.

[Editor's Note: This year's play was written by all the KS2 children as part of their literacy work. Miyah and Rebekah also wrote the words for 'The Orient Train' song. It was performed to rapturous applause on 16th December with everyone remembering their lines and delivering them clearly. Well done and a big thank-you to all who helped with costumes, props and equipment.]

Español (by Miyah)

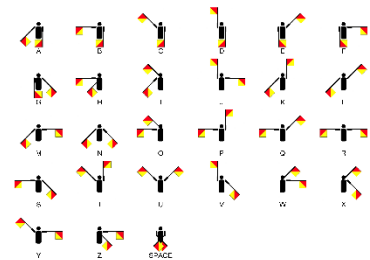
Miss Burgess has taught us Spanish every Monday since the summer holidays. We have learned words for the body, numbers, colours and days of the week. We have sung songs, e.g Yes Jesus Loves Me and a song about days of the week.

Miss Burgess has taught us how to read and write Spanish, about the accent on top of a letter, and masculine and feminine words.

In the last lesson of the year we recorded a video of us singing to some children in Spain. Their names in English are Isaac, Laura and Ruben. That day we wrote some Christmas cards with a message in Spanish. We wrote Dear Ruben, Isaac or Laura in Spanish.

Communication (by Molly)

This half term in Topic we have been carrying on with our project on communication. It has been so fun. Firstly we looked at Semaphore. We found out that the French invented towers with metal arms on the end. Depending on the position of the arms it meant different letters. The towers were placed on mountains so everyone could see the message. Later the English made new Towers. These had shutters on them. When the shutters closed they made different letters.



However there was a problem. People couldn't send a letter to a friend. Everyone would see it. Then a man called Samuel Morse invented a code. It was dots and lines they would make up words. These could be sent to just one person. This code is now called Morse Code.

We made flags to wave and sent signals to each other. Later on we looked at how the radio was made. A man called Marconi experimented with radio waves. This made the radio. Finally we looked at the TV. We found out some really cool information and KS1 made cardboard TV's.

The topic had been very fun and we have learned lots about Communication.

Play Equipment (by Isaac)



We have some fantastic outdoor equipment in our playground. Mr Kington made us a beautiful play house and a super outdoor kitchen. The kitchen has a sink, a tap, an oven and even a toasted sandwich maker. We like making mud pies for our teachers!

Mr Gulliford has made us log seats and a table with his chainsaw. They look nice and are right next to the play house.

We have some new basketball/netball nets too. I like the lunchtime basketball/netball games with my friends, Miss Burgess and Mrs J. Gulliford. I am getting pretty good at throwing the ball through the net.



I know that we have a new metal detector but I don't really know where it is kept. Maybe one day I will get a chance to have a go with it. I wonder what we will find in our school playground?

Science & DT (by Matthew)

This term the older group studied electronics with Mrs Montaro in DT. We learnt about the difference between series and parallel circuits. In a series circuit the current passes through all the components but in a parallel circuit the current is split between components.



We each chose a project which involved using light bulbs, buzzers and/or motors. I chose to make a buzzing elephant because it was the most realistic of my ideas. My favourite one, though, was one where you sit on the sofa, the lights get brighter and a fake spider and snake drop from the ceiling. But this would have been too difficult to make.

Part of the circuit in my buzzing elephant was parallel and part of it was in series. Also, the elephant has a 9 volt battery which will make the light bulbs brighter and the buzzer louder. The buzzer was the elephant trumpeting. The light bulbs were the eyes and they lit up. Most of the circuit is enclosed in a painted cardboard box with cardboard ears and a trunk coming out of it.

The Postal Museum (by Rebekah)



On the 25th November 2015 we went on a school trip to the Postal Museum in Bath. We travelled by car then bus. On the way we stopped at a café for break. When we were outside of the Postal Museum we took a picture with a hexagonal post box.

When we went inside the museum a man called Nick pretended there was a boy called Harry in the displayed post box. Nick told Isaac to pretend that Harry was there in front of the teachers. We learned that there were people called highway men who attacked post men and stole letters.



Later we had lunch. After lunch we went to the gift shop and bought some souvenirs. Eventually we had to go back to school.

The RNIB (By Imogen)

The RNIB stands for the Royal National Institute for the Blind. This half-term a lady named Anila came to visit our school. She works for the RNIB and was really nice.



She brought in loads of cool things like the tea gadget. How it works is, there are 3 points on a buzzer and when the tea touches the two longer points it buzzes. When you pour in the milk the shorter point buzzes. The reason why blind people use this is because if they didn't have this then their tea (or coffee) would overflow.

Another amazing thing that most of us didn't even know was that under the traffic light button, if there is no sound for the traffic lights there is a cone that turns. They can feel underneath the button to know when to cross.

She brought in some scented pens that smelled like fruits, sweets and other things, so that you would know what colour it is by the smell. She also showed us some funky glasses so we could see what it's like for blind people.

Cross Country (by Rufus)

On the 5th December 2015 we did Cross country races. When I ran, I came 26th out of 95. The first race was on 21st November. I was really excited and a little bit nervous because it was my first ever cross country race. I came 13th out of 99.

There is a big hill it is very slippery and it's quite hard to run up, especially as it is at the end of the race. I saw a boy fall over on the hill!



Isaac, Dan, Rebekah, Miyah and Immie also ran and we were really pleased with how well everyone ran. Afterwards we all had some chocolate.

We train on Monday afternoons after school at the village green. Sometimes it's quite hard work, especially if you get a stitch.

Art (by Dan)

In art we have been learning about printing. We used textiles, cardboard, orange peel, bubble-wrap, potato and a few others. We would roll paint onto our textiles and then print them onto a piece of paper. Lots of students made prints of houses with stars and planets in the background.

A week later we started making our own design on cardboard tiles. We put different colours on our design. On December 1st we made a pattern in foam by using our pencil to dig into the foam. You had to push down really hard. Most of the students gave their pattern a title. A week later in art we printed our pattern. We used a roller to paint it. We could only use one colour. After we had painted them we got a piece of paper and printed it down. Then we got another piece of foam and made our second picture. We then painted and printed that onto a card. After that we dried the foam by using a hair dryer and added a few more details. Next we got a different paint colour and painted it; once we had painted it we stuck it down on the card in exactly the same place as the first print. We then left the foam to dry.

Ice skating (by Tilly, Iyannah and Esme)



We went ice skating at Cribbs Causeway. There were lots of people. There was a castle. There was a point on the castle and Father Christmas was in the castle.

There was a carousel. There was a seal that helped Tilly and Esme to skate. Iyannah went on a seal.

Tilly fell over about 20 times but Iyannah didn't fall over. When we fell over it didn't hurt. We all had so much, so much, so much fun.

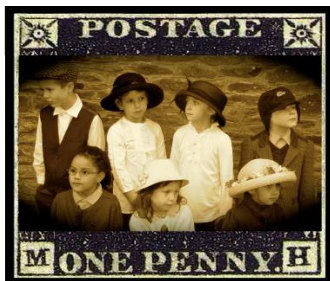
Luke Hall MP

Following the general election we invited our new MP (who lives less than a mile away) to visit the school. He told us what it was like to be a member of parliament and what issues were important to him. He asked us what laws we would like to see introduced. The suggestions covered a wide variety of topics including social care, smoking, wage caps and rabbit pie!



Mr Gulliford reminded us that the Bible tells us to obey our leaders and to pray for them that they would be able to do their job well and to God's glory.

Fridays



Do you know why Rowland Hill is famous? Ask the Ezra, Leah, Jonathan, Iyannah, Tilly or Juliana and they will tell you. We have been finding out about letter writing, the post office, the Penny Black and much more!

Everyone enjoyed making ink, 'old-fashioned' paper, quills and then writing letters sealed with wax. Do you like our Victorian postage stamp? Enlarged for your inspection, there may be some characters you recognize.

Welcome

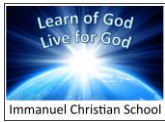
Welcome to Esme who has joined us this term.

Attendance

Attendance this half term has been an amazing 99%. Well done to Imogen, Rebekah, Isaac, Rufus, Iyannah and Tilly who have 100% attendance since September. Also well done to everyone else, who has at least 95% attendance.

2016 Term Dates

- Mon 11th Jan – Fri 5th Feb
- Mon 15th Feb – Fri 18th Mar
- Mon 11th Apr – Fri 27th May
- Mon 6th June – Tues 19th July



Notable Dates

- 14th January – Monthly prayer meeting
- 16th January – Third cross country race at KLB
- 6th February – Fourth cross country race at KLB
- 11th February – Monthly prayer meeting
- 10th March – Monthly prayer meeting

Staff Changes

At the end of this term Tabitha Burgess will be leaving the school. She has made a huge contribution to the school over the course of this term and will be missed by staff and pupils. We thank God for her and pray that she will know his blessing as she continues with her studies.

Karuna Monteiro will also be leaving at the end of this term because of the imminent arrival of her baby. We are grateful to God for her time with the school both as a teacher and a volunteer.

Next term we will be joined by Rebekah Walker-Cox for two mornings a week in January. Rebekah is a qualified teacher with primary school experience.

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