

THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM

We have recently carried out a detailed review with the Local Authority of the impact our new approach to teaching history, geography and topic based subjects has had on children's learning. We trialled the new approach during last year and have now adopted it on a permanent basis since September.

As reported in a number of our newsletters last year we have spent some time working with other schools to develop an approach which provides children with as much time as possible to develop their learning as creatively and independently as possible. The approach taken centres around children being taught key skills and information during the first few weeks of a topic and then being given time to put those skills into practice independently for one or two weeks afterwards. Children are encouraged to choose their own projects which they then plan, research and carry out themselves. They chose for themselves what they want the finally outcome to be e.g. a multimedia presentation, a piece of artwork, a booklet or a 3D model.

Currently Children in Key Stage 2 are studying the Tudors. Children in these year groups have chosen a wide range of projects to carry out for instance one small group has researched the key details of the Battle of Bosworth and are in the process of making finger puppets to re-enact the battle. Others have researched what it was like to attend school in Tudor times and are in the process of making a detailed 3D model of what life would have been like in a school room. Another small group of children has researched the style of clothing worn by the rich and poor during the period and are now making their own detailed versions to dress dolls that they have brought in. Other groups have chosen to create multimedia about the kings and queens of the period.

Children in Key Stage 1 are currently studying what it is like to live in Yate and have been set the task of designing a number of improvements that they would make to the area.

The visit by the Local Authority was a very useful one and confirmed the school's view that the children were thoroughly enjoying their time working on their projects and that they were becoming far more creative and independent learners.



NATIONAL SING UP DAY

As mentioned in our last newsletter we are currently working towards achieving one of the national 'Sing Up' awards. These are presented to schools that provide opportunities throughout the school day for children to sing on a regular basis. On Wednesday of this week we took part in the national Sing Up day. All of the children across the school were asked to perform a song to the rest of the school in the hall before having their lunch. This proved to be a very popular activity with the children and staff and one that everyone enjoyed. At the end of the day children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 invited their parents into school to sing a number of songs that they had learnt in class. We were delighted with the very high turnout from parents who attended the event. We would like to thank Miss Jackson for all of the time and effort she put into making the day so successful.

Diary Dates

Friday 18th February Last day term
Monday 21st - Friday 25th February Half Term
Monday 28th February INSET
Tuesday 1st March Children arrive back
Friday 4th March open afternoon 2.15 - 3.15
Tuesday 8th March Parents' evening
Wednesday 9th March Parents' evening
Wednesday 30th March Yr 5 London
Thursday 31st March Yr 5 London
Friday 8th April Last Day Term
Tuesday 26th April Children arrive back

HOLIDAYS

This is to remind parents that unfortunately we are unable to authorise any holidays which take place during Term 1 and Term 5 (26th April - 27th May 2011). This is following advice from South Gloucestershire Local Authority who highlight the disruption it causes children settling into their new classes at the beginning of the year and due to assessment and testing which is carried out during the early part of the summer term. We strongly urge all parents not to book holidays during these periods - thank you.

SWIMMING

Last weekend a number of children represented our school at the annual South Gloucestershire swimming competition. All of the children competed very well and were delighted to be presented at the end with the 'Fair Play' award in recognition of the way that they had supported each other and children from other teams. We would like to say a very special thank you to: Katie P, Katie P, Caitlin-Rose B, Ryan P, Dominic R, Eddie H, Taylor M, Zoe R, Chloe B, Michael H, Jay T, Reece R and Toby B - we are very proud of you all!

PARENTS' LUNCH

We would like to thank all of the parents in Years 1 and 2 who joined their children for lunch last week in school. The kitchen served over 160 portions of roast dinner followed by chocolate crunch and pink custard. Many of the parents who attended commented on how much they had enjoyed the occasion and how good the food was. We would like to thank Helen and Julie in the kitchen for all of their efforts on that day. It is intended that parents from other year groups will be invited to join their children for lunch later on in the year.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH AWARDS

We would like to congratulate the following children who have been presented with Good Citizen of the Month awards in assembly this week: Jack Charles, Dexter Hodges, Charlie Jones, Thomas Dewar, Ellie-Elise Toy, and Jacob Whitlock