



NEWSLETTER

1st October, 2021

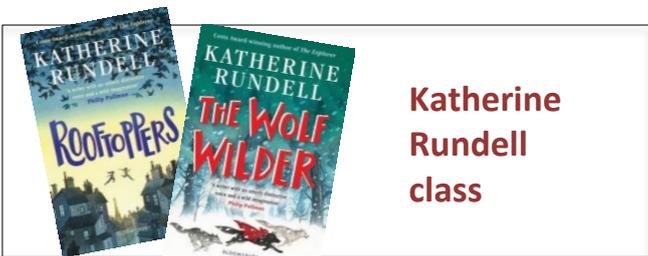
Love – Honesty – Forgiveness – Respect

Collective Worship for Term 1:

As we begin this new academic year, we remind ourselves of the four fundamental Christian values which our school embraces – LOVE, HONESTY, FORGIVENESS and RESPECT. We will do so through deeper engagement with topical stories and issues which have a social, moral and spiritual focus as we develop links between personal, school and community values, using Picture News as the prime resource. We will also be reflecting on Christianity as a world religion, through photographs from different Christian denominations across many countries.

Important Dates

Mon 4 Oct	Harvest
Wed 13 Oct	Individual Photo's Tempest



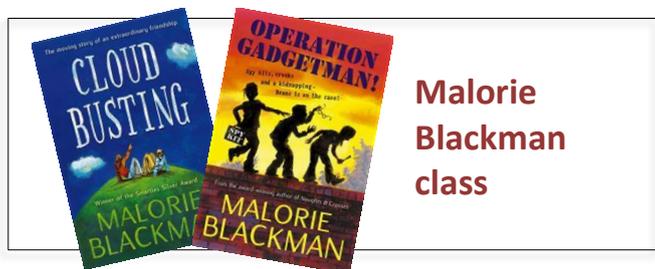
This fortnight we have been diving deeper into our Big Question 'What if there was no erosion?' learning all about how bays and headlands are formed through the erosion of softer and harder rocks. We have then looked at how cracks in headlands develop into caves, arches, stacks and stumps as the natural processes of erosion continue. This was followed by learning how rivers are formed and looking at the features of the upper, middle and lower courses of rivers as they flow from the mountains, through the various landscapes and out to sea.

In English we have been enthralled by our class text, 'Orphans of the Tide' and are left itching for more each time we pause in our reading. We analysed a description that Struan Murphy wrote of Ellie's disorganised workshop and 'maggied' some of his strategies (which included similes, use of opposites to compare, personification and 'the unfamiliar eye') to apply in our own descriptions of a shipwreck. We have then looked at editing our work and making improvements with the support of our learning partners. Next, we wrote a retelling of an event from the book from the point of view of a bystander, endeavouring to further embed these strategies and use our senses to describe the scene.

In maths we completed our focus on place value last week, having ordered and compared numbers and looked at negative numbers in context. We have now moved on to calculation, focusing on addition and subtraction this week, consolidating our understanding of regrouping and exchanging.

In RSHE we had the privilege to welcome Her Honour Judge Sarah Venn into Katherine Rundell class, linking with our discussions on rights and

responsibilities. During her visit, Sarah told us all about her job, what the law is and how people can become judges. We also had the opportunity to try on legal costumes and took turns being the judge in mock cases!



It has been another very busy fortnight in Malorie Blackman class. We have been digging deeper into the Stone Age period, developing our understanding of the vast timeline involved and discussing the three phases within this prehistoric era.

We have created timelines for the period; by working in pairs we were able to undertake research using secondary sources, including books, short films and internet research. We then developed our own timelines, highlighting the information that we had discovered about the period, including when man was first living in Britain, when cave paintings first began to appear and when Britain became an island separated from continental Europe.

Following on from this, we have looked in more detail at the early Stone Age (Paleolithic) and the middle Stone Age (Mesolithic), understanding what we can about human life during these periods, based on the evidence of archaeology. We have discussed why it is more difficult to understand the lives of these people than other periods of history, discussing the availability and sources of information.

In maths we are completing our work on place value, Year 3's are focusing on working with three digit numbers and Year 4's on four digit numbers

and this week we have moved to comparing numbers. As a class we have been using a range of resources to develop and demonstrate our understanding, including using Base Ten blocks, counters and drawings, by utilising these tools we can show what's happening in our brains and share our ideas more readily – this is really important to deepen our understanding.

In English, we have been writing diary entries as though we are Barney in Stig of the Dump. This has meant we write in the first person (something some of us found tricky!) and in chronological order. We have been focusing again on revisiting our writing, to ensure the spelling and punctuation are correct and the vocabulary choices enrich the writing. Year 4 pupils have been focusing on splitting their writing into paragraphs.

Thanks again to all of you for supporting pupils in their reading, there is a real buzz in the classroom around reading and books, and children are continuing to show improvement in confidence and fluency.



In English, Simon Bartram Class have been looking at the poem 'The Girl who went to Space' We have been working hard to text map each planet, to then in turn write a paragraph about each one. So far, we have managed to get up to Mars. We have had lots of fun discussing our favourite planets and which ones we definitely wouldn't like to live on! Did you know that Mercury has 1000 hours in just one of its days?

Year 1 pupils have had a more scaffolded approach to their writing, with the use of word banks and writing templates to help them write

about each specific planet. Year 2's have had the challenge of making their writing more personal and unique to them, by trying to engage with the reader more. Some have even added questions into their paragraph to actually check that Miss O'Rourke has read their work properly! We have also been attempting to write in the first person, which has been another challenge, as we have been imagining that we are each planet. So we need to make sure that our language is correct and that our paragraphs make sense.

In maths we have been looking at partitioning two digit numbers using the part, part whole method. Year 1's have been working on numbers to 20 to make sure they are completely secure in this method. They have been looking at the numerous possibilities of partitioning, and are linking this to their number bond work. Year 2's have also been working on their partitioning skills, albeit in a slightly trickier way. They have been looking at some missing number problems that have had to make them think really carefully about what each number is made up of and all the alternative ways you can partition any number.

In our Topic lessons we have been looking at Tim Peake and Neil Armstrong. We have been comparing both astronauts by looking at the differences and similarities to both. Discussing who our favourite is and why? We have had lots of fun investigating how astronauts eat and clean their teeth when in space too!



We have been having a fabulous time exploring texts by Eric Carle as part of our big question, 'What's going on in the garden?' Last week, we read 'The Very Busy Spider'. Some spiders appeared in our tray in class. They were covered with a spider's web. We had to use tweezers to

rescue them from the strips of paper and pom poms they were buried in. We also had some spiders outside in amongst the twigs and sand. They just get everywhere! To round off our week, we told the story and sang 'Incy Wincy Spider' in celebration assembly. We also showed our model spiders which were fantastic! We have put a video and photographs onto Tapestry so please have a look - you will be very proud.

In phonics last week, we covered the letters p, i and n. This week, we are learning m, d and g. We introduce the sound and collect objects that start with the same sound. The children love looking at the collections we make. We then practise how to write the letter correctly.

We have been doing some counting this week and we have made our own number line 1 - 10. The children have so enjoyed this and we stand in front of it and count out loud. We are beginning to look at how each number is made up, so that the children can state how many objects they see without counting them 1 to 1.

In RSHE last week, we thought about our feelings. We looked at some photographs of children and sorted them according to their expressions. We then matched these to the zones of regulation. This week we are looking at working together and considering each other's feelings. We will also talk about looking after each other and our environment.

Harvest Celebration

On **Monday 4th October**, we will be celebrating the annual Harvest Festival at school. Unfortunately, due to the limited capacity in the school hall, we will not be able to accommodate parents as we remain vigilant around the spread of COVID. The safety of our pupils and staff is paramount.

This thanksgiving celebration, however, is an important one in the school calendar as we take

the opportunity to remind us of all we have to be thankful for. We encourage the children to bring in a food offering as this year we support the Rye Food Bank. Fresh food is welcome but packets and tinned food are particularly needed by the charity.

Children should bring their gift straight into the hall as they enter the school on Monday morning.

PSA (Parent School Association)

Our PSA is very keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining! They are on the lookout for parent volunteers who may be willing to do their part to contribute to supporting the school. If you have a little time to give and would like to get involved, please leave your contact details with the school office.



School Photographs

The school photographer will be in on **Wednesday 13th October** to take individual photographs of the children. Please ensure your child is wearing the full school uniform, and that their hair is appropriately tidy.

Parent Library

We remind parents of our Parent Library which we hold at school. We appreciate that there is no more demanding job than parenting and it is one that comes with many challenges – some expected and others confronting. To support and empower you through the vast array of parenting challenges, we have a range of highly recommended books covering all manner of parenting issues from Behaviour to Confidence, Relationships to Sibling Rivalry. We also have Family Activity and Wellbeing Boxes which contain activity bags for 0-4 year olds and 5-11 year olds. The bags contain items such as Woodland Trust nature trails, Healthy Eating top trumps, and a variety of books and games to play together.

All books and boxes are available to borrow from the school office, where you can find the catalogue with more details.

Open Morning: 11th November

We remind you to share with friends, family and the wider community, our upcoming Open Morning for prospective parents.

A poster for an Open Morning event. At the top, it says 'PLAYDEN S. MICHAEL'S' with a crest and icons of children. Below that is 'St. Michael's CE Primary School'. The main text reads 'Open Morning: Thursday 11th November, 2021'. A central image shows children in a garden. To the right of the image are logos for 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND OUTSTANDING' and 'Ofsted Good Provider'. Below the image is a list of school features: 'Enquiry-led curriculum', 'Strong pastoral care', 'Outdoor learning & on-site Forest School', 'Breakfast & After-school Clubs', 'Inclusive Church of England vision & ethos', and 'Extra-curricular clubs for all key stages'. To the right of this list, it says 'Tours from 9.15 am' and 'Talks from 9.45 am'. Below that, it says 'We invite prospective parents to see our school in action where you will have guided tours of the school, with talks by children and staff.' At the bottom left, it provides the school's address: 'Houghton Green Lane, Playden, Nr. Rye TN31 7PJ', phone number '01797 280277', email 'office@playdenschool.com', and website 'www.st-michaels-playden.e-sussex.sch.uk'. At the bottom right, it says 'We request that adults wear face coverings on site unless invited to remove them.'

Headteacher Award

Awards for outstanding achievement go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Elyse

Simon Bartram Class: Harper

Malorie Blackman Class: Lilly-Angel

Katherine Rundell Class: Zana

Last week:

Eric Carle Class: Tomos

Simon Bartram Class: Charlie

Malorie Blackman Class: Henry

Katherine Rundell Class: Jack



Closing Reflection

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

(Psalm 150:6)

Good Citizen Award

Awards for helping others to feel welcome go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Hattie

Simon Bartram Class: Isobel

Malorie Blackman Class: Bonnie

Katherine Rundell Class: Natty

Last week:

Eric Carle Class: Caelan

Simon Bartram Class: Grey

Malorie Blackman Class: Vinnie

Katherine Rundell Class: Sophia