

# CVPS NEWS

February 2021



We have reached the end of February and I know that it has been another month of challenges for all of us. However, throughout this time, our Chipstead Valley community have yet again come together and I am so very proud of what we all continue to achieve in these tricky times. Our children are showing wonderful resilience and determination and you, our families, are helping to hold us up and support each other with the most difficult task of learning at home!

We now know we will all be back together from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This morning I sent home letters regarding the details for your children returning to the school site and I encourage everyone to read these carefully for any changes specific to your child(ren)'s year group.

In the meantime, as we prepare to welcome everyone back, we wish you a lovely weekend with what appears to be the first of the spring sunshine!

Mrs Rackham



## Connecting Classrooms

Following the success of our e-book project and the use of [padlet](#) to share our Connecting Classrooms work, we were asked by the British Council in Nepal to produce a short video interview with a pupil to share their feelings about our work. On 17<sup>th</sup> February, the British Council in Nepal hosted a 'Climate Café' in which the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma, COP26 President Designate, attended.

He learnt about some of the activities and initiatives that schools in Nepal

are doing to educate young people and take action about climate change. Our Connecting Classrooms Through Global Learning project, *United Against Waste* featured in the event, where some young people across Nepal talked about the activities they are engaged in via video messages. During this event, the [video from one of our pupils](#) was shown, along with one from our partners in Nepal, to showcase the importance of global learning and the benefits of working on an international project. Our padlet and e-books were also shown to Mr Sharma. We were excited to be invited to share our project as part of this high-profile event in Nepal. [Click here for the full press-release.](#)





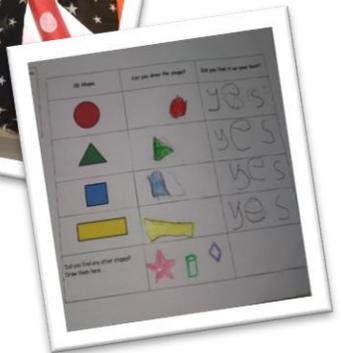
## Music

It's been an interesting month for music with the classes attending live online sessions. It was lovely to hear the children singing from home. In a way the pandemic has opened up new pathways to learning with Years 5 and 6 engaging in new music software. It's been enormous fun doing online African Drumming with Year 4, whilst Year 3 have been singing songs about the Vikings to fit in with their Discovery topic. Year 2 are now highly skilled at reading and writing their own rhythm patterns.

## EYFS Update

### Nursery

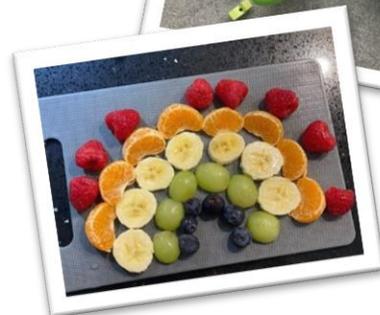
We have continued to keep extremely busy in Nursery and for the first week of February, we focused on the story, 'How to catch a star'. We started by looking at 2D shapes and extended this by going on a shape hunt around our homes and local area. We then made shape rockets using a variety of materials.



We also talked about night and day and what provides us with our light. We also had the opportunity to explore light and dark using torches in our dark den.

We marked Children's Mental Health week by looking at the story 'The World Made a Rainbow' and discussed the importance of keeping positive during lockdown and the children created their own rainbows to display as a symbol of hope.

The rainbow theme continued with our next book 'Wow Said the Owl' a story all about the colours of nature. We looked at mixing primary colours to make new colours. The children enjoyed predicting what might happen and experimenting with the paints.

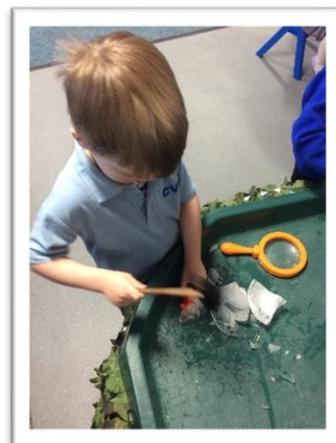


We then marked Chinese New Year, the Year of The Ox, by making dragon masks and lanterns, exploring noodles and chopsticks in the sensory tray and role playing a Chinese meal. We had lots of fun learning about another culture and traditions.

We finished the week with love in the air by celebrating St. Valentines day. We enjoyed making individual cards for our loved ones and sharing with our peers why our families are special to us. We also played a Valentines phonic matching game and enjoyed heart threading to develop our fine motor ability.



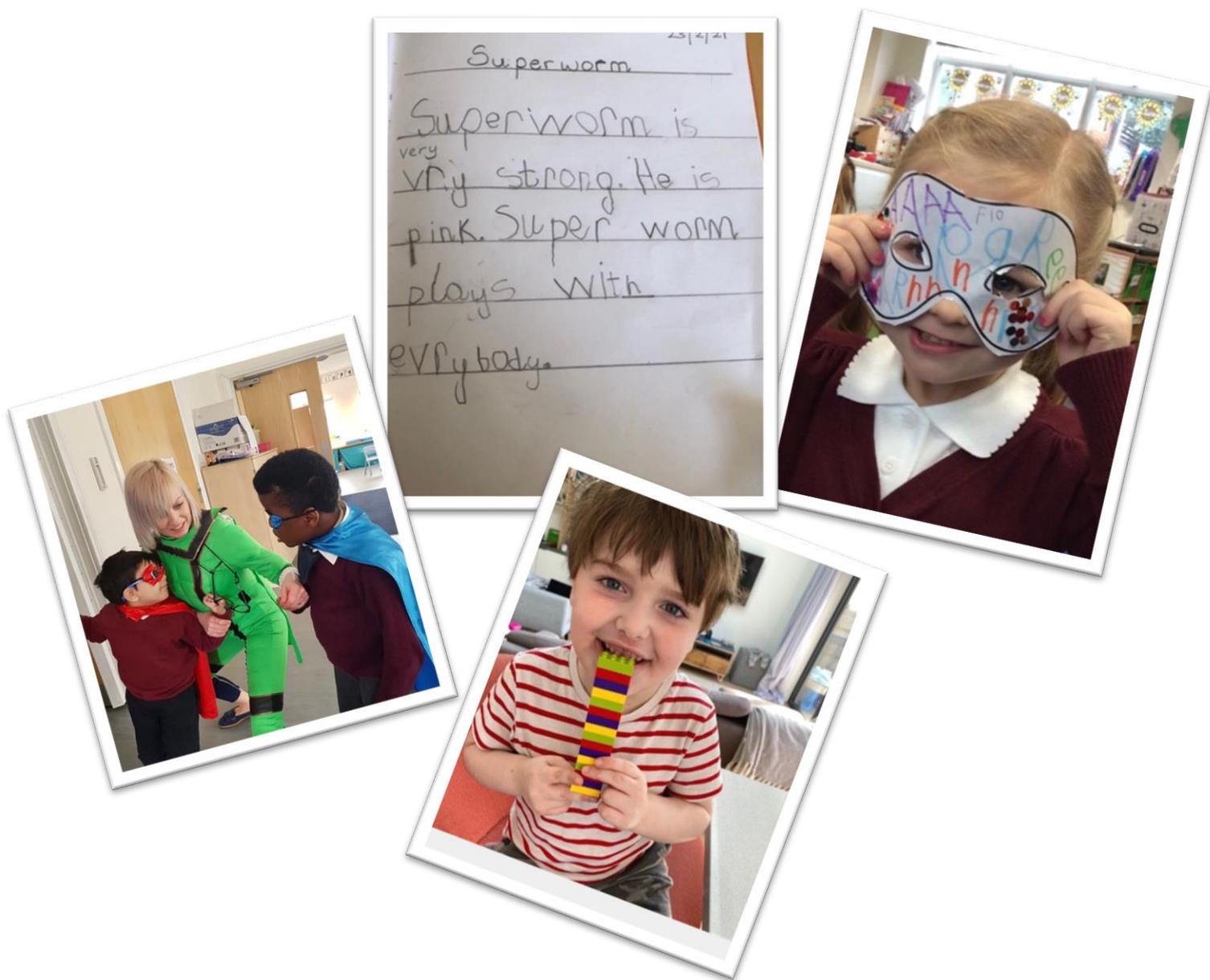
The final week this month has been spent looking at dinosaurs. Our focus book has been 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' and we had a go at lots of engaging activities including sensory tray dinosaur role play, hand print stegosaurus craft and investigating frozen dinosaur bones with hammers and magnifying glasses. We have also been perfecting our dinosaur roars in the Nursery garden!



## Reception & Treehouse

### Superheroes in Reception and Treehouse

It has been lovely to start the second half term with our fantastic new topic of Superheroes. The children in Reception and Treehouse have embraced this topic by learning about the adventures of Superworm by Julia Donaldson, dressing up as Superheroes as well as considering their own superpowers.



In maths, we have been measuring with non-standard measures as well as revising some practical addition strategies. The children have been comparing sizes of height and superhero footprints.

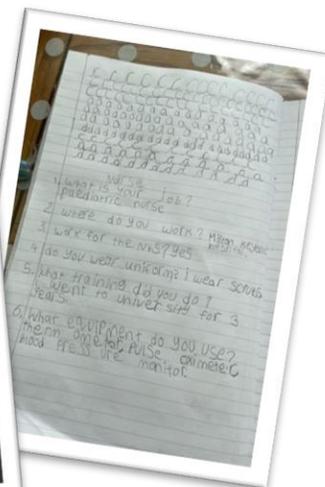
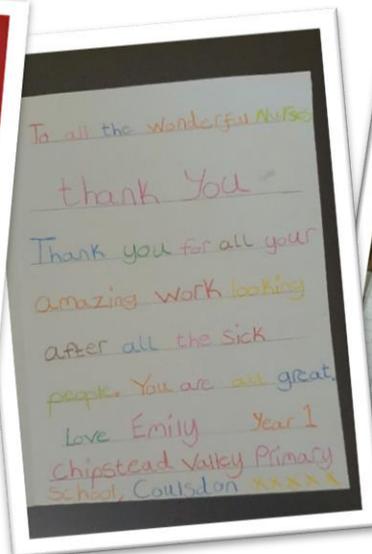
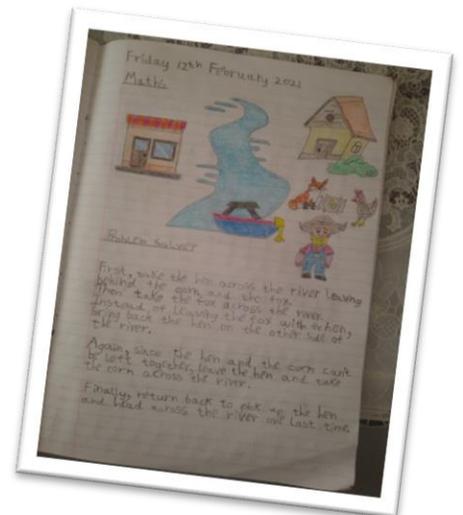


We have seen some outstanding work both in school and on Tapestry and the whole Reception and Treehouse Team has been overwhelmed by the responses from children and their families. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support with the children's learning and we are particularly excited to be welcoming our classes back on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## Key Stage 1 Update

### Year 1

We have been really impressed with quality of the learning throughout. Children have been working hard on their handwriting, phonics and in particular we have seen some outstanding maths learning. Many children participated in the trust maths challenges and we were particularly impressed with the videos and photos we received showing the children's problem solving and thinking around the challenges.

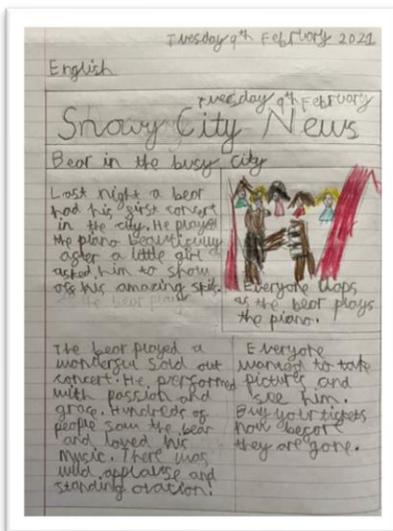
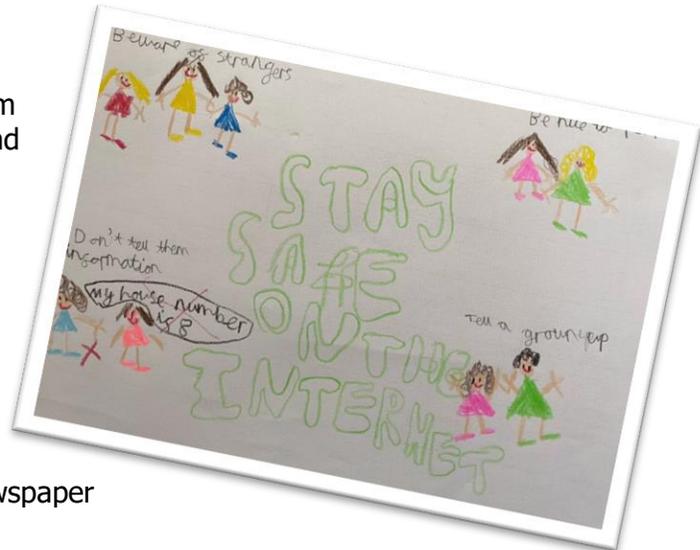


We could not be more proud of how the children have been working and the creativity we have seen throughout all of the tasks. You are all superstars!

## Year 2

Year 2 have continued to work brilliantly throughout the term so far! We have been blown away by the incredible effort and resilience that the children have demonstrated throughout home learning. They should all be extremely proud of themselves!

In English this half term, we started to read the story 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield; making predictions, persuading the bear what he should do, discussing the characters feelings and sequencing the story in chronological order. We then explored the features of newspapers learning about the structure, exclamation marks and the 5W's ready to write our own newspaper report about the bear's first performance in the city.

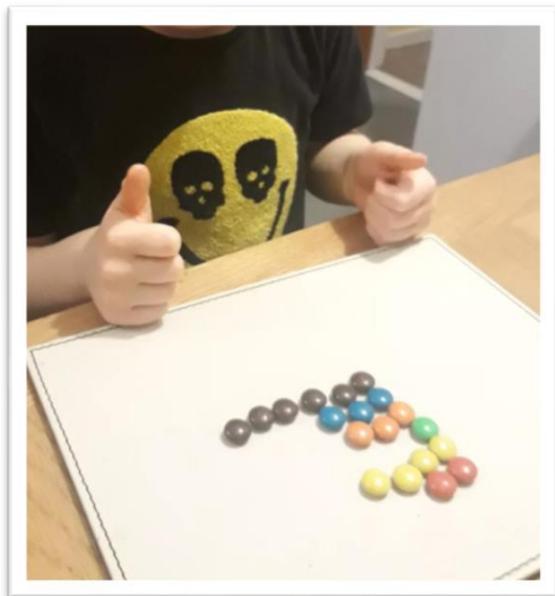


We have now started 'Winter Sleep: A hibernation story' by Alex Morss, Cinyee Chiu, and Sean Taylor, a non-fiction picture book about different types of animals that hibernate during the winter. The children have made predictions about what they think the book will be about, exploring the language used in the blurb and comparing the illustrations between spring and winter.

During Mental Health week, the children did really well and enjoyed the theme of 'Express Yourself.' The children took part in a range of activities such as making worry dolls and boxes and completing art and music lessons.



In RE, we learnt about the importance of The Prophet Muhammad and the Qu'ran and what the religious book teaches us. We have also started to look at the Muslim mosque and the different features such as a minaret. We also celebrated Lunar New Year by taking part in a range of activities such as lantern making, shadow puppets and also learning about it being named The Year of the Ox!



We started this half term in Mathematics looking at the topic 'Statistics'. This involved the children creating their own tally charts using information within their homes. The children were able to understand the varied value of the 'key' to create pictograms and interpret these to answer questions. Finally we looked at 'Block Diagrams', moving from concrete to pictorial, children built block diagrams using cubes, drew block diagrams and finally interpreted these.

Currently we have been looking at the topic 'Shape' exploring the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been able to recognise the shapes using information about number of sides and vertices. The children have used their ruler skills accurately to create vertical lines of symmetry. They have also been able to describe how they have sorted the shapes using key language including sides, vertex and symmetry. Finally, the children have created their own shape patterns in different orientations and being able to recognise that it is still the same shape.

## Key Stage 2 Update

### Year 3

In Year 3, we have been working really hard with our home learning as well as the learning that has been completed by our key worker children in school.

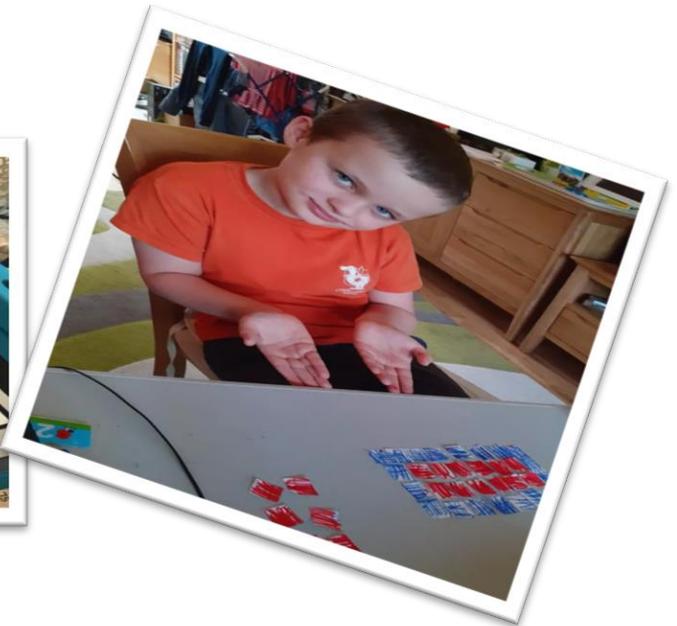
#### English

In English, we have been completing a range of writing types all linked to one of our Discovery topic of 'plastic waste'. The children have been writing non-chronological reports on the effect of plastic pollution on the world's oceans. We have also been writing formal letters to local supermarkets, asking them to take action on the amount of plastic still being produced by the specific companies.



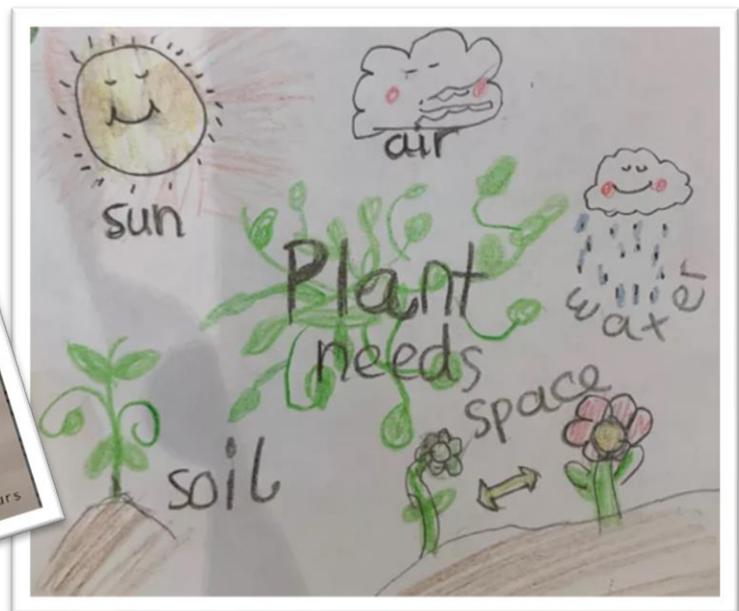
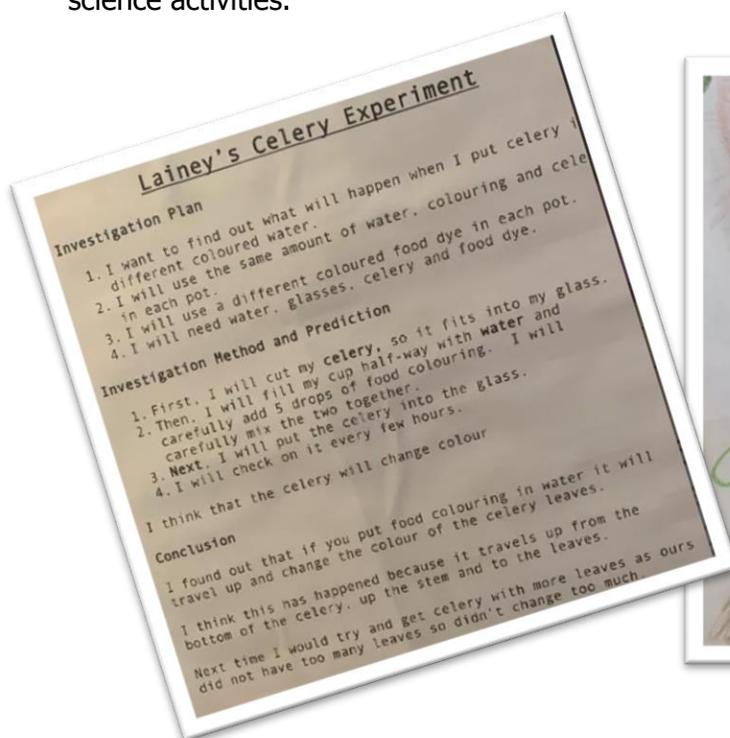
## Maths

In Maths, we have been focusing on Money, as well as a range of investigations that we all completed towards the end of last half term. Within our Money topic, the children in Year 3 looked at adding amounts, converting amounts between pounds and pence and finding change.



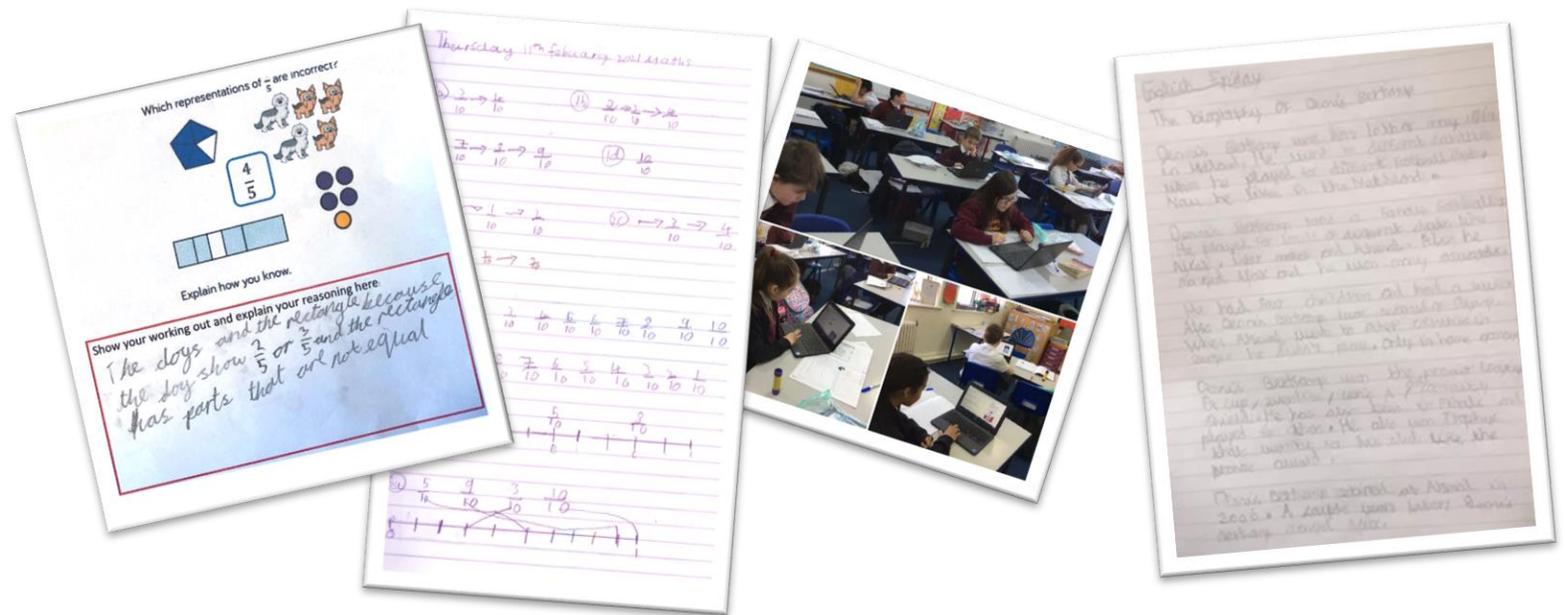
## Science

During this half term, we have been looking at Plants. The children in Year 3 have been looking at germination and pollination, as well as the structure of plants. The children have also really enjoyed taking part in a range of experiments that have allowed the children to really engage with some fun, hands on science activities.





During their maths work, the children focused on area and fractions, where they have used diagrams, bar models and part-whole models to consolidate their growing understanding. In English, the children were given the opportunity to explore biography and autobiography writing. The children produced some outstanding and interesting biographies based on their in-depth research and we couldn't be prouder of them! Their continuous hard work and relentless perseverance has been wonderful to see! Please see some of the pictures of the spectacular work that they have produced.



## Year 5

This month, we continued our 'Let the Force Be With You' topic in science. We had a lot of fun making paper airplanes to investigate air resistance and learned about streamlined shapes. This week, we began our new topic 'Living in a Material World' and made glossaries and posters about the properties of materials.

We've been very impressed with the resilience demonstrated as we covered some tricky concepts in maths this half term. February's maths focused on fractions and spent lots of time working out equivalent fractions, converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and much more! We completed an investigation about sharing





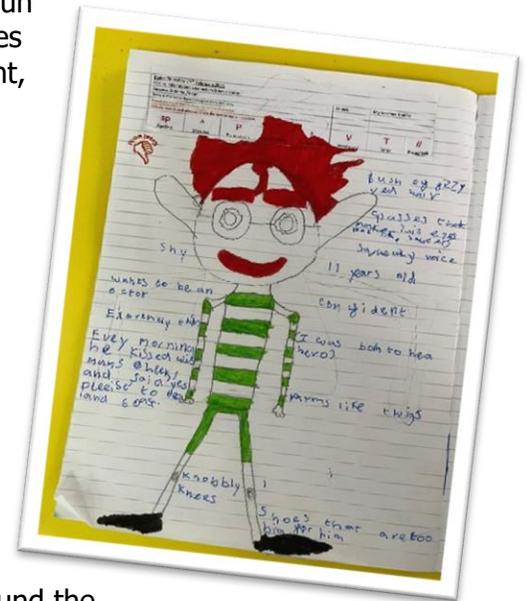
chocolate and finished the half term with a fun maths escape room. The creative approaches to the escape room challenge were excellent, including using dolls to solve the river crossing problem!

In English, we recently started a new book, called *Krindlekrax* and have been analysing the characters, creating character profiles! We are looking forward to reading more of this story and use it to inspire our writing.

### Global Learning!

Just before the half term holiday, we observed Lunar New Year. At this time, many people from countries around the world including China, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore and Tibet celebrate the New Year. We learnt about this festival and created some beautiful arts and crafts to mark the occasion.

In Global Scholars, we are continuing to work through the programme and have modified some tasks for remote learning. We created virtual guides to share sustainable solutions in our local area such as electric vehicle charging points, recycling centres, zero-waste shops and Terracycle initiatives.



### Sustainable city guide



Me as well as almost 400,000 people live in Croydon. That means a lot of waste is produced so recycling is very important. Croydon has implemented bin collection changes improving its recycling rate to 48%. Now everyone in Croydon has their own recycling bins. They are for plastic, paper, metal and glass. Just like the ones shown in the picture here.



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### Local terracycle

Our nearest terracycle is in Tadworth. Follow this link to find out more - [Terracycle Tadworth](#). Find your local terracycle here - [Terracycle website](#).



### Better accessibility

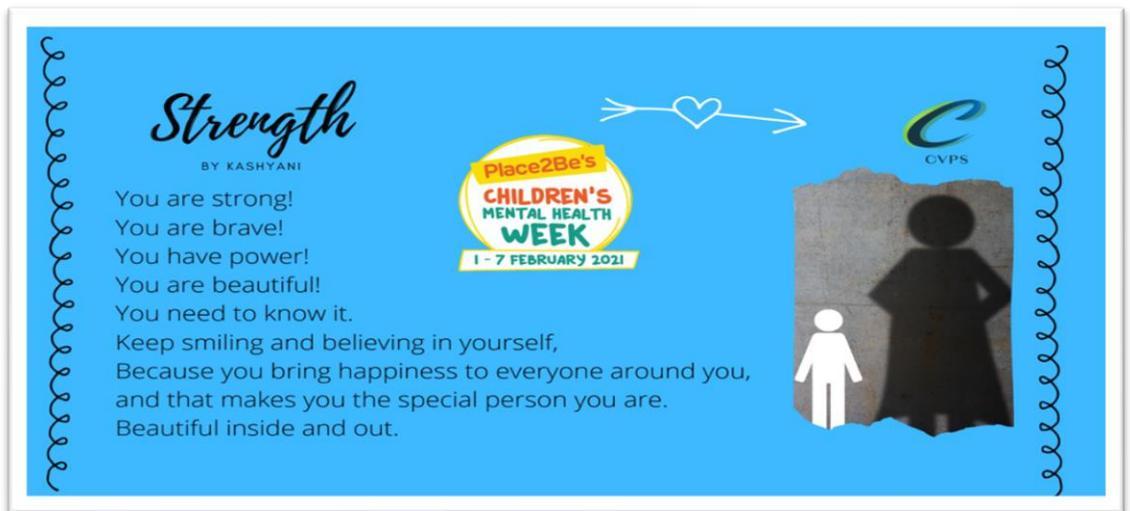
If terracycle bins were included in bin collections and everyone was given a terracycle bin, then people wouldn't have to drive to a terracycle shop. This would mean that less fuel is used, creating less pollution and making people more likely to use terracycle.



Safer Internet Day on 9<sup>th</sup> February gave us the opportunity to explore keeping safe online. We shared tips and created informative posters.



Finally, as part of Children's mental health week, we worked on several activities. It was lovely to see so many examples of work sent through to us such as worry monsters, worry jars, drawing pictures and writing positive affirmations.



## Year 6

### *Iceberg... right ahead!*

Year 6 have dived straight into their new discovery topic – Sub Zero! We now know so much information about the sinking of the Titanic! The children have been writing explanations about blame and fault, giving evidence. We have also looked at lots of historical sources of information and have analysed their importance and reliability. Great detective skills! The children have also written letters to loved ones from aboard the boat – writing in the historical context of 1912.

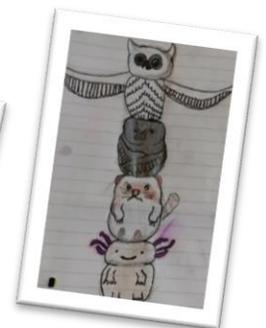
### *Titanic Painting*

This week the children in school have been using their colour mixing and brush skills to create scenes of the Titanic disaster. During the week we built up layers of paint and texture to create the right atmosphere and distance in our work. This included: splatting, flicking, textured brushing, tracing and even finger painting! As you can see, results are fantastic! Well done Year 6!



### *Totem Poles*

As part of our learning last half term, we looked at totem poles and created some our own designs at home. Here are a couple!



### **Wellbeing Worry Monsters**

During mental health week we created our own worry monsters at home. There were some very unique and well thought out designs! They are at home and ready to eat those worries!



### **Lunar New Year**

When learning about Lunar New Year, we created some shadow puppets and put on a show! The children carefully cut out their designs and used



## **Communication**

We know different families have been through a range of difficult circumstances over the past few weeks. We are always here to help, so please do contact us if there is anything we can do to support you.

[safeguarding@chipstead.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@chipstead.croydon.sch.uk)

### **Website**

Our website is regularly updated and we have recently added more content to our 'Remote Learning & Useful Links' section on the Parent Information tab.

### **Twitter**

As always, you can follow us on Twitter! @ChipsteadPri

We also have a new account for our Connecting Classrooms project with Nepal: @WasteUnited

## **Upcoming Dates**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
04.03.21	World Book Day (Remote)	See separate letter
08.03.21	All children return to school	See additional letters
23.03.21.	Parent Consultations	15:45 –17:30 Info to follow
24.03.21.	Parent Consultations	15:45 –17:30 Info to follow
25.03.21.	Parent Consultations	15:45 –19:00 Info to follow
22.07.21.	Year 6 Leaver's Celebration	TBA

## **Mrs Rackham's Book Quote of the month:**

**"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."**

- **Little Women**

