



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all managed to enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend, despite the awful weather on Monday! The children have all been working really hard at school and learning about a lot of exciting things.

At school we are all trying really hard to improve reading for pleasure. We are building reading areas in each class, reading stories and poems to children daily. We are also buying a lot more exciting books for children to read. Thank you to everyone who has really engaged with reading at home. It is so important and is one of the best ways you can help your child because reading helps you to access all curriculum areas, and as we all know, lots of regular practise helps us all improve.

Reception

This term our topic is Splish, Splash, Splosh and we have had lots of fun investigating water. We had an interactive assembly from Severn Trent, who taught us all about the water cycle and how to save water. We have been scientists and carrying out experiments, predicting and recording our results about what floats or sinks. We have also been investigating animals that live in water and doing lots of creative activities. During this term we have had art week in which we used our water theme to create an underwater sea creature piece inspired by the artist Van Gogh and his famous piece "Starry Night." We were so proud of what we created. Our children love reading and we want to encourage a variety of books to be read and enjoyed so we have started a class library. The children have loved picking their own book to take home for the week and share with a grown up, some didn't even want to return their book, they enjoyed it so much!

Year 1 and 2

Our topic this half term is called 'A Walk on the Wild Side' where we will be predominantly looking at big animals and their habitats and looking at the life and work of Sir David Attenborough. We are hoping to have a visit from 'Jungle Jo' with some of her animals soon.

This week the children have been working with Simon Murray, looking at his work as an author and illustrator and focusing on the Icky Doo Dah series of books, they have had great fun and have all managed to draw the character from the book with great detail.

Next week we have an obstacle course coming into school on Thursday for the whole day, this will be really exciting and the children may well need an early night!

Year 3 and 4

In Year 3/4, we have started our topic on 'Shine a Light'. So far, we have enjoyed reading the book 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' and we have now created our own versions of the story e.g. 'The Bunny that was Afraid of Carrots'. We also had a really amazing visitor, Simon Murray, who inspired us to read and illustrate. We learnt step-by-step how to draw Icky Doo Dah! As part of our exciting art week, we studied impressionists and have produced our own sunset paintings in the style of Monet. We have some exciting science planned for next week investigating shadows so, fingers crossed, for some more lovely sunshine!

Year 5 and 6 have become quite famous after taking part in the Belper Poet-Tree event. We hope you have been able to pop to St. Peter's Church to see their wonderful display of poetry. We even made it on to East Midlands Today and Radio Derby last week. The children were very excited to see their poems on the news.



We started this term with an amazing visit from Jungle Jo, who fascinated us with her knowledge of animals. Jo taught us how to really appreciate the animals around us and showed us not to be afraid of the creatures she had brought – even the huge snake! We all got to touch the animals and held some of them. Jo got our 'What a Wonderful World' topic off to a great start and told us so many new facts about animal classification.

It was a fabulous day.



Simon Murray, author of the children's series – 'Icky Doo Dah', introduced us to the wonderful world of illustrations and creating great characters for stories. We had lots of fun learning how to draw our own Icky Doo Dah and have since been writing information pages about this strange yet wonderful creature. We are busy deciding what mischief Icky Doo Dah will get up to next.

Our artist for this year's art week has been Robert Delaunay. The children have really enjoyed focussing on a different type of art and weaving in their knowledge of animals to create a modern water colour inspired by the work of Delaunay. We hope you get to see your child's work around school.

On-line Safety

It has come to our attention that a small number of children in school have accessed and witnessed unsuitable or inappropriate images online out of school hours.

We have also been made aware of a case whereby a child has been victim to online insults which for obvious reasons is very distressing.

Please be extra vigilant about your child's use of I.C.T and check that they are age appropriate. Many social media sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, and Skype require users to be at least 13 years old. Whatsapp users it is 16. These are just a few examples of sites being accessed for social purposes.

Bullying of any nature is taken very seriously at Pottery Primary School and will not be tolerated and as it stated in our Anti Bullying Policy: "All reported incidents of bullying will be investigated and taken seriously by all staff members".

If you would like more information about "Online Safety for Children" please do not hesitate to contact us in school, refer to our E Safety policy on the school website or visit the NSPCC website who provide up to date information and guidance for subjects such as "Setting up parental controls," or "Talking to your child about online safety".

Coming Soon:

Tough Rower - Thursday 6th May (Key Stage 2)

Ozzie's Obstacle Course -Thursday May 13th (Key Stage 1)

Lea Green - Friday May 21st (Year 6)

Jungle Jo - date to be confirmed (Year 1/2)

Mrs Marriott, our wonderful 'Head Chef', is knitting blankets for vulnerable families and would appreciate any donations of wool from staff or parents.



A huge thankyou for all your time Mrs Marriott.

It has been great to see peripatetic music and after school clubs resuming and having visitors back in school has been lovely for the children.

A reminder that parents evening will be taking place on **Monday 24th May, Tuesday 25th May and Wednesday 26th May**. More details to follow.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Peach

