



Langley Hall Primary Academy

Ad Vitam Paramus

Upper School Curriculum Newsletter

The children have worked extremely hard this term with Bugsy Malone, trips to the farm and so much fantastic learning that they should all be very proud of themselves!

Year 3...

This term in Year 3 we have been exploring the IPC theme of 'Active Planet'. We have learnt all about earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. We have had an amazing time creating earthquake proof shelters and even making our own erupting volcano! The science dome visited and we consolidated our learning about rocks, volcanoes and earthquakes and found out all about super volcanoes. We have journeyed up mount Merapi, in Literacy, with Lila from 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. We explored the language and dramatic effect caused by sentence structure and even wrote adventure stories of our own. We then went on to explore Narnia in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. We experienced an evacuation and even pretended to be Lucy when she went into the wardrobe. We explored the use of adventurous vocabulary and wrote some amazing diary entries describing using our senses. We looked at character traits and showed good understanding of the text. In Numeracy we have learnt all about shapes, lines, angles as well as number work on place value, number sequencing, adding and subtracting large numbers using the vertical addition and subtraction method and word problems. It has been a truly wonderful but very busy term and the children have all learnt so much!

Year 4...

A highlight of this term was our trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, where the children became Egyptian detectives in some very enjoyable workshops led by the museum staff. This supported our IPC work on Ancient Egypt. They have learned about the importance of the River Nile and how the Ancient civilisation benefited from the river. The children have done a lot of research homework which has been used in their class work. They have made posters about Pharaohs and were enthralled to learn about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.

Our Literacy lessons this term have been linked to our text, *The Time Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Princess*. The children have completed some diary writing and learned about famous historic al diaries. They have written time travel and space stories, having first completed work on character descriptions and settings with a focus on figurative language. The children have also written narrative poems based on a flying carpet journey over Ancient Egypt, describing all the different things they can see, using their IPC books as inspiration.

In Numeracy lessons this term, the children have explored a variety of numerical concepts. They have manipulated numbers using the context of place value through a variety of word based and numerically based problems. The children have revisited the concepts of addition and subtraction and further understood the use of inverse as a method of checking their work. Towards the end of term, the children have developed their knowledge of the features and properties of shapes.



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Year 4 continued...

In Science lessons the children have learned about the digestive system, and the way sound travels to the ear. The water cycle sessions produced some lovely posters which have been displayed in the classrooms. The children enjoyed planting their seeds and creating a mini water cycle.

Year 5...

Year 5 have had a very busy term! In Literacy we have been reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, chosen as it links to our IPC topic of making new materials. We have looked at a range of different text genres. We began by writing narrative stories and using our imagination to get really creative. Then we looked at diary entries, and wrote in character picking different characters from the story. We have also written instructions and looked at newspaper reports. We continue to use Talk for Writing across our literacy work.

In Numeracy this term the focus has been very much on calculation strategies. We have been looking at different ways to calculate a problem and children have been encouraged to explore alternative methods and to explain their reasoning. We have also done a lot of work around fractions, decimals and percentages as well as looking at shape and angles. Year 5 have been very enthusiastic about their times tables and have been working to achieve bronze, silver and gold stickers.

Our IPC topic is making new materials. We have learnt about the properties of different materials and the structure of different states of matter. We have explored what materials make good conductors of heat and electricity and investigated reversible and irreversible changes. It has been a very practical unit with lots of hands-on experiments. A highlight was a wonderful workshop delivered by Science Boffin John with lots of fun science including making our own ice cream and creating explosions. During the last week of term we had an Iron Man invasion as children were asked to create their own using different materials. They were thoroughly tested in the playground for their durability and resistance to water.

Our Science work has been very much linked to our IPC work. We have been working on how to plan our own investigations and how to record our findings in a scientific way. We ended with children designing their own experiments to consolidate their learning.

We have also enjoyed many cross-curricular lessons based around a Buggy Malone theme learning about New York and the 1920s. Children have produced some amazing art work using the New York skyline and have learnt all about the city.



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Year 6...

Literacy

What a wonderful term we had within Literacy! We started off the year with work looking at the Brothers Grimm stories and innovating these to make them our own. We then moved on to our thriller writing topic which we looked at spooky stories and how we need to write for an effect. All children in Year 6 were then able to write a story with thrilling devices in. Later in the term, we were able to develop our understanding of non-fiction writing by linking our IPC topic to our writing and we created non-chronological reports about wolves!

IPC

In IPC this term we started off by looking at fairgrounds. Children looked at what they were, and what rides they include. They then designed their very own fairground parks to showcase all their new knowledge, along with their favourite rides.

Our second IPC topic this term was the Maya civilization. Children explored the Maya culture, learning about their history, and their lifestyle. We looked at their family life, writing, diet, fashion and environment, among other aspect of their culture. We all really enjoyed looking at how different their lives were to ours, and we went on to create posters, write diary entries and reports, and do group presentations to show how much we have learnt.

Science

Our first Science topic this term has been forces. We learnt what forces are, and how they affect our everyday lives. We learnt about forces such as gravity, air resistance, friction and centripetal force one by one, and conducted experiments to see them in action.

Our second Science topic this term was classification. We looked at the classification of all living things, starting at the top of the classification tree, and working our way down to think about the individual species of animals, including humans. As we looked at the different stages of classification, we thought about the difficulties that scientists might face when classifying living things, with creatures such as fungi, dolphins or platypuses. In the end, children created their own classification trees.

Numeracy:

In our Number and Place Value units, children learnt how to read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10 000 000 and determine the value of each digit. They had to round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy. In our Calculations units, they learnt how to multiply multi-digit numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit whole number using the formal written method of long multiplication. They also learnt how to divide numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit whole number using the formal written method of long division, and interpret remainders as whole number remainders, fractions, or by rounding, as appropriate for the context. In our Fractions unit, children used common factors to simplify fractions. In addition, they had to compare and order fractions. In the latter part of the Autumn term, we looked at adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions. In Algebra, children learnt how to use simple formulae and generate and describe linear number sequences. In our Measurement unit, children solved problems involving the calculation and conversion of units of measure, using decimal notation up to three decimal places where appropriate. In our Statistics unit, children learnt how to interpret and construct line graphs and use these to solve problems.



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P.E...

Year 3 children have now settled into US P.E, learning the slightly more structured routine of their Sports lessons. Listening to and following instructions have both improved tremendously. Boys and girls have enjoyed an introduction to a range of sports this term including: football, tag rugby, netball, basketball and hockey.

Year 4 have been working hard to developing all the skills they learned in year 3. Rules and concepts of games are becoming clearer with many children. We may have a couple of football and netball fixtures arranged for next term, so keep an eye on the laser messages.

Year 5's behaviour and respect for each other is improving. Boys and girls have been focusing more on the tactical side of games in netball, football, rugby and hockey. Much improvement on all skills across the year. Preparation and training for quite a few football and netball matches are now underway.

Year 6 have sprung into action showing off some really quite advanced sporting skills for their ages. A good start has been made with the football and netball squads with some very convincing victories in early season matches. Year 6 have also enjoyed going to East Berkshire College and working with their students and taking part in Basketball workshops with Diego from the Bracknell Buchaneers.

Dance...

This term the core focus in dance was taking a look at Elements of Dance: Body, Time, Space and Relationships. Pupils in dance were taught to learn, compose and show. Pupils were directed to develop a phrase of 4-8 actions that can be repeated as a warm up phrase by the whole class together. Developing body actions e.g. shake, march, jump and establishing a repeatable warm up sequence/phrase. Hip Hop Dance learning a sequence of movements from the film Honey (2003), dance film. How can we use constructive feedback to develop Hip Hop Dance skills. Pupils also developed understanding and knowledge about how important dance is and why dance is vital.



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Drama...

In summary, apart from working with Years 5 and 6 on the end of year production of *Bugsy Malone*, and all that that entailed, this term we have covered the following:

1. Developing Breath Control

(a) Children across all year groups were taught a basic game where they took turns to breathe in deeply, using their diaphragm, then see how high they could count out loud with that one breath. This game taught them to be aware of their diaphragm when breathing, and developed their ability to control the release of their breath - useful for acting, singing, and even sporting activities.

(b) This basic game framework was built upon with the addition of 'clarity of diction' into the mix - teaching children to slow the pace of their counting and to ensure each number was clearly heard by their watching, judging and audience.

(c) A further development involved playing this game while the watching audience pulled funny faces and tried to make the player laugh. The children learned about 'corpsing' on stage, and developed skills in how to avoid it; while the audience gained skills in facial flexibility and changing their facial expressions.

2. Mirroring and Mimickry

With 'The Mirror Game' children were divided into pairs, with one child leading and the other following, as if a reflection in a mirror, then swapping roles. Children learned how to observe their partner closely and mimick their moves, with attention paid to timing. Selected pairs were chosen to show their routines to the class, with the watching audience deciding who was 'real' and who was 'reflection', as well as awarding points for complexity of moves and closeness of timing.

Developments upon this basic game involved improvement in timing through anticipation of a partners move, and through giving hidden visual cues to their partner without the audience seeing; standing side-by-side rather than face-on and using peripheral vision; three-way triangular mirroring; and silently lip-syncing while their partner is speaking. The children began to develop a number of skills that will help them when on stage, not the least of which being more aware of those with whom they share it.



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Art...

Year 3 have had a busy term continuing their work on the Active Planet – we have been studying and creating the weather in various abstract forms. They have enjoyed the freedom of expressing their own interpretation of how they understand the weather.

In Year 4, the children have continued to create artwork and artefacts in keeping with all things Ancient Egyptian from extravagant jewellery to canopic jars modelled from clay!

Year 5 have been doing plenty of recycling! They have been creating new and exciting useable products from everyday rubbish! They have been creative in their ideas and worked hard to create something that can be used effectively.

In Year 6 the children have been creating thrilling art work to go alongside the thrilling stories they have created in their Literacy lessons. In addition, they have worked hard on creating posters and other art work focused around the recent production of Bugsy Malone!



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