



Langley Hall Primary Academy
Ad Vitam Paramus

Upper School Curriculum Newsletter

The children have been working extremely hard this term with School trips, performances, themed days and lots of fantastic learning!

Year 3...

This term in Literacy we started looking at the story 'Stig of the Dump'. We explored the text in a variety of ways, looking at inference, character descriptions and the imagery and language used. We used the structure of the chapters as inspiration for our own writing and produced some fantastic stories of our own. This linked very nicely with our IPC topic of Scavengers and Setters.

In IPC we learnt all about the Stone Age and looked at pictures of fossils of early man. We thought about what it would have been like to live in those times and what evidence we have to support our theories. We then found out about the Iron and Bronze age and where these fitted into a time line. We visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum and experienced what it would have been like to live during those periods.

In maths we started looking at place value and number order, we then learnt how to do column addition and subtraction. We then moved onto fractions; where all of the children have learnt about recognising and ordering different fractions, adding and subtracting and are able to use the correct terminology.

In Science this term we learnt all about light and shadows and conducted a number of experiments to investigate what makes a good shadow. We then moved onto materials and investigated the effects of friction and well as magnetism.



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Year 4...

In our IPC lessons this term we have been studying world climates and the effects on animal habitats. The children have learnt about the ways in which animals adapt to the various habitats and weather around the world. We have also looked at the water cycle and plant life – both of which affect animals and their habitats. The children have moved forwards and are now able to identify food chains, food webs and recognise how to group and classify animals. They have classified vertebrates and recognised the different categories. They have learnt about using charts and tables, and completed the term by drawing classification flow charts. We visited Henley Rivers and Rowing Museum as part of our learning, and the children have created their own Amazon Rainforest projects and shoebox rainforests – all to be displayed on Open Day.

In Maths this term we have covered a great amount of varying and exciting topics! We have continued to target speed and recall of times tables as an individual theme and through solving worded problems. We have revisited symmetry, Roman numerals, digital and analogue time. The children have used temperatures to enhance their knowledge of negative numbers and have enjoyed extending their learning of rounding and comparing numbers. Written methods of addition, subtraction and multiplication have been practised and extended through the use of worded problems. The children have improved their use of inverse operations for checking subtraction and times tables. We have looked at fractions and decimal equivalents and used data and bar graphs to create worded problems.

In Literacy this term, we have been reading ***Journey to the River Sea*** which has informed a large amount of our comprehension work and inspired some of our creative writing. Children have made predictions, inferences and have drawn conclusions from the text. In Creative Writing, we have looked at recounts, writing effective settings, diary entries, formal balanced arguments and mystery stories. The children have worked closely with their own personal writing tool kits, ensuring that they have included paragraphs, neat handwriting, a good variety of punctuation, figurative language and good sentence openers.



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Year 5...

In literacy this term we have used the theme of space as inspiration, to tie in with our IPC topic area Space Explorers. We have been developing our skills of writing narrative texts. We began by learning a story called The Day an Alien Came to Visit. Using the talk for writing approach we have used story maps to retell the story and then we have come up with our own versions based on The Day an Alien Came to Visit. We have been developing our use of descriptive language and have learnt many techniques to vary our sentence structures and use a wider range of punctuation. We then looked at balanced arguments and had great fun debating whether we should live in space before writing our own arguments. We have then moved on to look at persuasive writing. Children were given the opportunity to evaluate a range of persuasive texts, leaflets and brochures and identify how to make these successful. We used our trip to the Winchester Science Centre as inspiration to create our own persuasive texts and ended by designing our own planets and persuading people to live there.

This term in Numeracy children have been working hard in all areas of Maths. We have looked at Place holders and comparing, Positive and Negative numbers, Roman Numerals, Comparing and ordering fractions, Improper and mixed number fractions, Equivalences, Percentages, Reflecting and translating 2-D shapes and identifying 3D shapes.

In life-skills this term, we have worked in teams to plan and run a tuckshop learning valuable skills such as budgeting, pricing and of course, teamwork. We have continued to develop our skills of philosophy. Children have created their own questions and we now have thought of the week displays. Each week a number of interesting subjects have been questioned and debated. In RE we have looked at ways we can help others and show compassion using a range of stories from the Bible. Children all received a talk from Reverend Grayson about the meaning of Easter and we have looked at the story of the Last Supper.

Our focus this term for Science and IPC has been Space Explorers. We have looked at the planets, discovered all about the moon landings as well as writing and presenting news reports about the landings. Practical experiments have included discovering all about craters and creating pin-hole viewers. We have also discovered how far apart the planets actually are and how amazingly large space is. Along the way we have used raps and songs to help us learn and memorise all the facts.

Year 6...

This term in Literacy we have had a huge focus on writing this term. The children have shown a great interest in a number of texts, most noticeably, 'Skellig' and 'The Viewer'. The children have engaged in a number of text types including newspaper articles and poetry. These texts have been brought to life through a vast arrangement of drama activities. As well as improving these text types the children have been far more confident at including more mature and sophisticated elements of grammar and punctuation. They have included subjunctive form, passive voice, colons, semi-colons and varying levels of formality within their writing. These elements have all ensured that the children are writing at a level which is beyond a Year 6 standard. Within comprehension the children have developed their use of the 'Point, Evidence, Explain' to support their understanding of three mark questions within comprehension activities.

In Maths this term, we have been focusing a lot on SATs style questions and topics. The children have worked really hard and have made some pleasing progress. We have been completing Arithmetic questions every day, along with a formal Arithmetic test every Friday. This term we have covered a variety of topics including: Fractions, algebra, nth term, shape, percentages, word problems, decimals and BIDMAS to name just a few. The children have really benefitted from mixed ability groups and their reasoning has improved as a result. The final push is on now in the run up to SATs with a lot of revision and consolidation of key topics.

In Foundations this term, the children have learned about many religious and cultural celebrations. Some of these celebrations included: Easter, St. Patrick's Day and the history of Mother's Day. The children have had some very rich and thoughtful discussions about topics such as bullying and resiliency and had the opportunity to voice their ideas about matters that are important in their life. The students of year 6 also had the opportunity to express all of their skills in different ways; they expressed themselves through technology, drama, dance, poetry, literacy and art that brought together the topics of our Foundations subject this term.



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Drama...

Year 3 have been involved in the rehearsals for Hoodwinked this term. We have done a lot of hot-seating, which they have really enjoyed. This exercise helps them build their characters and think about their way of life living in Sherwood Forest!

Year 4 have worked extremely hard on their production of Hoodwinked, and there have been some real stand out performances. They have been learning more theatre terminology, working as a team, and building in confidence on stage.

Year 5's focus this term has been on characterisation. We have looked at separate aspects of making a character, such as their voice, their physicality, their past. We have been learning tricks to help us find out as much as we can about a character from a script, and then building on that by making a profile for our character of their likes/dislikes etc.

Year 6 have been doing Trestle Mask work this term. We have been looking at how we can portray an emotion with our bodies, when our faces are covered by a structured mask. They have worked extremely hard, and they have certainly impressed me with their maturity and passion for the unit.



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P.E...

All children have been working really hard this term. Year 6 children have enjoyed going to East Berkshire College for Hockey lessons taught by the EBC sports students. Girls have enjoyed Jazz/Gym as well as Netball. Boys have been improving Rugby and Football skills.

Our pupils have done so well with fixtures and have played netball and football matches with vigour and determination. Year 6 girls played two tough matches, they won one and drew one. Year 5 girls played their first match against fierce opposition and drew, a great result! Boys have played well winning 8 matches, losing 5 and drawing 1, well done to all children.

Year 3 children have risen to the opportunity of going the East Berkshire College for their PE lessons taking tag rugby with the EBC sports students. They have also enjoyed their Basketball lessons at the Mencap hall.



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French...

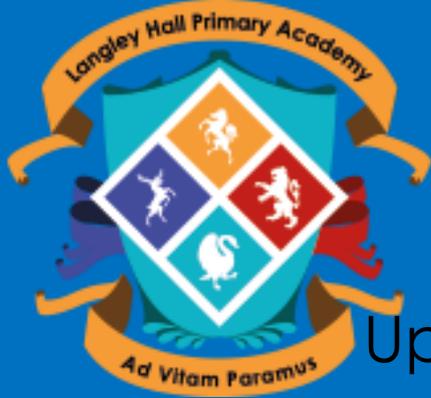
Year 3 have been increasing and consolidating their understanding of French action verbs as they listen to and join with the story “Les Quatres Amis”.

In Year 4 we have been continuing the theme of our IPC lessons, learning the French words to describe some of the animals of the river bank and their habitat.

“Notre Système Solaire” (Our solar System) has been explored by Year 5. A tool we found very helpful on our way was a bilingual dictionary. This equipped us to find the meaning of some tricky new vocabulary in a series of short texts about the planets.

Year 6 have been learning a wide range of vocabulary and as well as how to conjugate a regular verb in the present tense. They have done so in the context of gaining knowledge about the French-Speaking country of Mali, its people, foods, school-life, and so on.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have learned the key language of The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Ugly Duckling in French. They have then celebrated their hard work by taking part in a dynamic storytelling session with Freshwater Theatre on our action-packed French Day.



Dance...

Year 3 and 4 have learned a piece of choreography before the half term and have performed the same piece of choreography in groups. The remainder of the term has been working extremely hard and have been very focused on their production of Hoodwinked!

Year 5 have learned a piece of choreography which was performed in groups and they started creating their own dances before receiving their audition pieces for Buggy Malone!

Year 6 have learned a piece of choreography performed in groups before the half term. This half term, students have been working very hard to create dances of their own in groups to be performed!

Art...

What a great term for art! The children have produced some fabulous work based around the IPC topics they are studying in their year group.

Year 3 have been creating cave paintings, moving art and more recently creating woven patterns using various materials. Some of their work can be seen displayed in classrooms and corridors throughout the school. They have been working extremely hard.

Year 4 have been juggling their classwork with preparing for their forthcoming production. Even during such a busy time, the children have still managed to create pet bugs from pebbles, drawn beautiful pictures of different animals in their habitats and producing abstract leaf designs.

Within year 5 children have been busy focusing their art work on Space. They have produced nebulae, looking closely at planets through a telescope and producing planets with tissue paper to create a stained glass window effect.

Year 6 have used their art lessons to create new animals by morphing one into another, looking at fossils and then creating their own. The children have also focused some of their lessons, linking to their class book *The Viewer* by Sean Tann, using mirrors they have been sketching their own eye!



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Music...

This term has been even more packed with musical activity than usual! As usual, the highlights listed below are the product of regular weekly music assemblies, Music Workshop classes, after school music clubs, band, orchestra and choir practices, and over 120 individual private music lessons every week.

Year 3 and 4 children took part in 'Music for All' concerts on Friday 3rd February showing the results of their work in Music Workshop on violin, recorder and singing. Selected Year 4 children also made a big impression with their first steps at cello and brass. Year 3 and Year 4 Choirs accompanied by a staff string ensemble sang "Searching the skies" a setting of poems written by Jessica George who died aged 9. Parents gave generously to a collection for Jessie's Fund, a charity set up in her memory. A certificate from Jessie's Fund thanking LHPA for the donation is on the board in the playground. Since the concert, Year 3 and 4 children have been focusing on preparations for their show 'Hoodwinked' with performances on 30 and 31 March.

The Year 5&6 Choir took part in a performance of Ocean World, an ecological musical, in Windsor Parish Church together with nine other Slough Schools. The performance, including two solo songs and a recitation provided by LHPA children, was directed by the distinguished choral director Gillian Dibden, MBE.

Members of the String Orchestra, the Year 4 violin ensemble and selected younger violin players were privileged to take part in a workshop with Greek violinist Jonian Kadesha who won 2nd prize in the Windsor International String Competition. The String Orchestra, directed by Miss Cooper, impressed the visitors with their performance of an arrangement of Autumn from Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'. Jonian impressed the children with his virtuosity. A number of children went to see his prizewinning performance in Windsor Castle.

The Concert Band including brass, woodwind and drumkit took part in a Slough Schools Showcase Concert in St Mary's Parish Church, Slough playing their favourite 'Langley Hall Swing' and 'Postman Pat' arranged by Mr Proom. This concert was also an opportunity for solo performances by four children who gained Distinctions in Associated Board music exams in December. Six of our brass players took part in a Brass Day at Eton College. Together with 70 brass players from other primary and independent preparatory schools, our children received top quality tuition from members of Onyx Brass.

Two informal concerts arranged by Mrs Tugwell were held in the Upper School Hall. These concerts give performance opportunities to children taking individual lessons from our specialist teachers, including those who are preparing for exams. The concerts have also given opportunities for Music Workshop groups and the String Orchestra to perform and for parents to meet some of the music team. The age range of performers has stretched from Reception to LHPA-leavers now in Year 7 and 8 who return to LHPA for after school music lessons.

11 children took Trinity Music Theatre Singing exams and all 11 got Distinctions! This term we have also entered 5 candidates for Theory of Music exams and 23 candidates for exams in piano, violin, cornet, baritone horn and clarinet. Results will be published in a weekly newsletter next term.



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