

Year 3 and 4 pupils have settled back into school brilliantly and after a few nerves to begin with, have made an enthusiastic start to showing us what they can do.

The past two weeks have been primarily focussed on promoting the health and wellbeing of the children, getting back into routines and friendships and giving the children the opportunity to demonstrate what they can do, in order for us to plan and build upon these skills moving forward.

We have been finding out about our brains and how we learn, thinking about the skills and attributes we require to have a 'can do' attitude and develop resilience in our learning. This is called having a Growth Mindset.

As a class we have started on our intriguing class novel, 'The Magician's Elephant' by Katie DiCamillo, which has been a highlight in our day. We have also been studying the book, 'Here we are: Notes for living on planet Earth', by Oliver Jeffers. This is a Power of Reading text and has been especially planned for Covid 19 2020 use in schools, with the aim to help children re-connect and re-engage with school life.

The centre for Literacy in Primary Education wrote:

'We chose this book to build a sequence of work around because it provides a powerful vehicle for children to reflect on and make sense of the world we are all living in. The words and pictures work together to help children to understand their place in the world and to move forward together in a positive and constructive way.'



The children are really enjoying the work around this book and have had opportunities to write letters, read poetry, explore Google Earth, the constellations and the idea of eternity, as well as debate about the benefits/restrictions of lockdown and their impact on our planet. The beautiful illustrations and our artwork piece, based on 26 jigsaw pieces of the world, has drawn us together as a class. This has led to discussion and the production of a collective class charter which we aim to use to guide our behaviour and interactions in school.

Influence is one of our key concepts this term and we have discussed the meaning of the word and what types of things influence us. We are also thinking about the idea of ourselves as an influence on others, especially now that we are getting older.

Sikhism is the main religion that we are studying this term and our key question related to this is 'What do we mean by truth?' We have started by exploring the key beliefs that Sikhs hold and are comparing them to Christian beliefs and those of other world religions.

Maths assessments are going well and myself and the children are learning an awful lot about the concepts and methods that they feel confident in using and those that we will revisit. Handwriting and spelling assessments have also been woven into the day alongside hearing children read and helping them to select books at an appropriate level.

We shall be starting on our history topic shortly on Anglo Saxons and studying the legend of Beowulf. Unfortunately, Covid makes it difficult for us as a school to participate in a trip to West Stow as planned but if any of you felt like a family trip out, it would be a fantastic place to take your child to give them a grounding in the subject before we study it. It would be great for them to be able to share their experiences with the class. We hope to be able to find a video tour of the site or Sutton Hoo as well.

So, as you have heard, it has been a busy and successful first two weeks, the start of many more exciting weeks to come I am sure.

Mrs Howard