

## Spring Term Curriculum Review – Year One

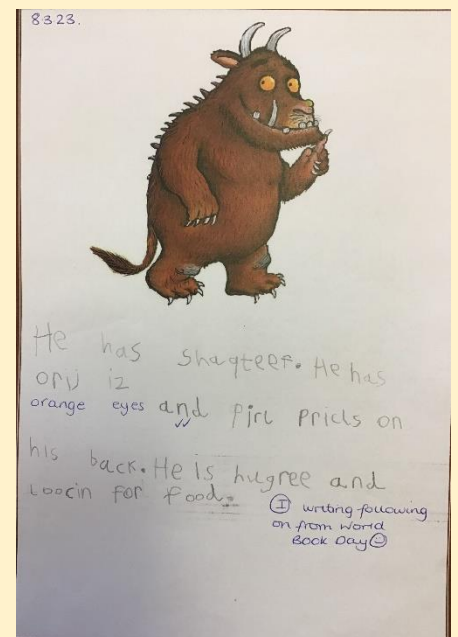
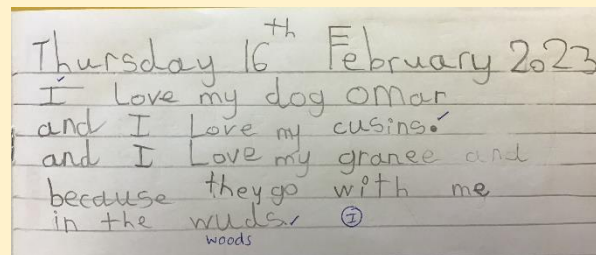
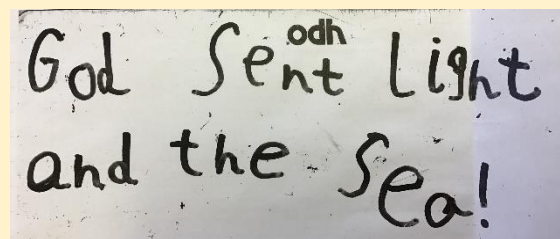


Although the Spring term is shorter, it is by no means less busy! The Year One children have been busy bees this term and after Christmas has seen a noticeable shift in their independence, resilience and confidence when completing learning challenges within our provision. To welcome us back after Christmas, we absolutely loved reading and sharing the book 'The Invisible String'. This allowed us to really think about our connections with people and places and we talked about why and how we feel connected to others. We talked about things that connect us too, such as 'children who have a sibling', 'children who have a pet', and 'children in green house team'



Progressing on from the Early Learning Goals, Year One children have been enjoying learning across the foundation subjects, including science, geography, computing and design technology. We are becoming more focused on completing learning challenges and the year one children are responsible for these, taking ownership of their work and achievements.

In our literacy learning, we have been perfecting writing sentences independently, without support from our teachers. We all know now that our sentences must have capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. When writing longer pieces we are thinking about where we stop one sentence to begin another. The children have been encouraged to generate their own creative ideas for writing too and then thinking of ways to make their sentences even better, through expressive language to add detail. Here are some examples of our independent writing pieces across Year One.



We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating all things number for our Number Day in school! There were some very creative costumes and we had a day of all things number. We organised our whole school according to age and then height, created a penny path from the entrance hall to Class 4 and loved the anticipation of bingo in class too! Maths this term has focused on developing our deep understanding of place value with 2-digit numbers, using different methods to solve subtractions and identifying



patterns with number sequences. We have also revisited the days of the week in maths and tried to solve problems using everyday language linked to this too. We have enjoyed using cubes and then rulers to measure length accurately and again, maths is embedded and consolidated through play and challenges.



Alongside other learning, we have launched our overarching topic of Australia. We enjoyed coming into school as global explorers, sharing artefacts, our family links with Australia and tasting some crunchy grubs and bugs! We have begun to explore map work, looking at where Australia is in comparison to us here in the UK and our continent from last year, Antarctica. The children have explored the map of Australia and looked closely at the different states.



We have also generated lots of questions as to what we would like to learn more and have developed our keyboard and typing skills, typing up our questions. We have used the internet to research and found lots of interesting facts!

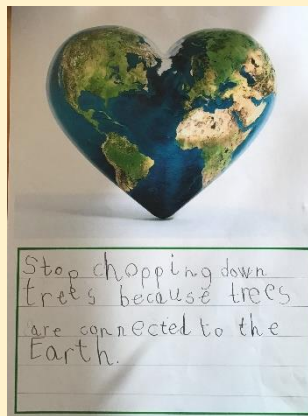




As always, we strive to encourage a natural love of all things reading! This term we absolutely loved World Book Day, exploring all things Julia Donaldson! The children were familiar with so many of her great stories and it was wonderful to introduce some of her more recent stories. We enjoyed writing about some of her characters and finding out more about her as an author. Reading together as a whole school in the hall was also a treasured moment. Emily from the Darlington Library also visited our class and shared a lovely story with us and all of the children were given their very own copy. We played rhyming games in the hall with her too and began

to think imaginatively about our ideas for the story writing competing. Ivan McGregor from our class was the deserving winner! A very well done to you Ivan!




It was lovely to welcome parents into school for our 'Show the Love' assembly in February. The children worked collaboratively to raise the profile of protecting our planet in and around school, designing and displaying posters. A huge thank you for your kind, welcomed donations to help us buy something to extend our learning around this topic.



This term, there has been a big push on developing our long-term memory by retrieving previous learning and concepts continuously throughout our teaching and learning. This way, our children are accessing their 'sticky knowledge' more often, making their learning much more embedded and secure. Often, their independent learning challenged are based on previous learning and the children have really enjoyed demonstrated their learning in this way. The concept of retrieval is evident in all year groups and we are now pros at sharing our 'sticky knowledge'. Revisiting prior learning in phonics happens each and every day, as we review previously taught sounds alongside

new sounds. In June this year, Year One children are to complete a phonics screening check. This is a short, statutory assessment activity to determine if your child has made the expected progress in early phonics. For this check, children must use their 'Fred talk' to decode words into sounds out loud and then blend into words. The test includes real and nonsense (alien) words. We will be focusing on this lots in class and I will be sending additional activities/resources home to help your child to be as confident as they can be for this assessment.

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