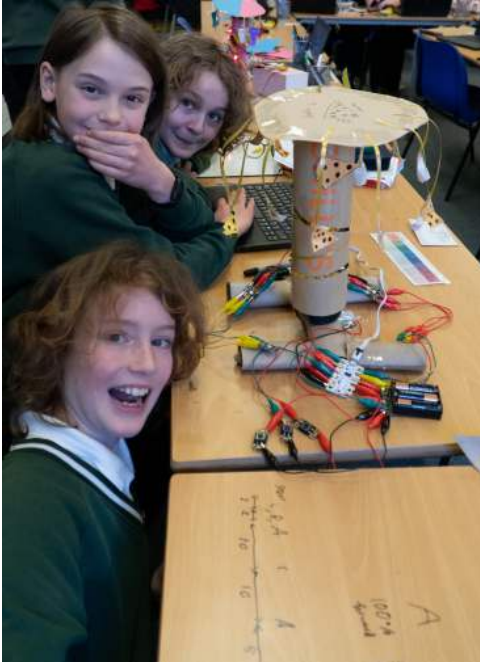


Newsletter



Term 3 Clubs

Monday

Recorder &
Science Book
Review

Tuesday

Stay & Play

Wednesday

SATs Club

Thursday

Sports Club

Friday

Swimming

Computing & Electronics

Class 3 expanded upon their initial work learning about microcontrollers to create code that enabled motors to spin and lights to flash. They fashioned carousels from cardboard and applied mechanical engineering instincts to make their creations physically stable. Using Crumble equipment and exploring microcontrollers more generally, we covered the Year 5 topic of “Selection in physical programming”. This means having actions in an algorithm that would only occur if a condition were true. For example, one group had their motor spin at 100% speed forwards if a

button is pressed, or 50% backwards if a different button were to be pressed.

In a computing project later in the year, we will be looking at sensing movement, using the accelerometer built into the Microbit, or an ultrasonic distance sensor connected to the Crumble. Students will also have an opportunity to see other microcontrollers, such as Raspberry PIs and Arduino to understand that a Crumble is only one type of microcontroller and that many devices fall into this category.

Class 2 became circuit analysts exploring why some circuits worked and others didn't. Through a series of tests they discovered in complete circuits or open switches and learned how a variety of components work together to make electronic circuits.



A big thank you to the PTA for their supply of the Crumbles and other programming equipment to the school making this all possible.

Trust INSeT

On Monday 6th January, all staff attended the Corinium Education Trust's INSeT day, our first training day following our joining of the trust. We heard from Chiquita Henson about trust updates, strategy and opportunities for staff, as well as a talk from a local Headteacher about supporting each other and the gift of insight. All our teaching staff were then able to meet and chat with colleagues from other trust schools during lunch.

Year of Reading

We continue to work closely with local primary and secondary schools to promote a love of reading and to share and observe best practice. We attended many events last year and were delighted before Christmas to win a fabulous box of books!



Literacy and Numeracy

The Year 4s had a great time at the Active Literacy and Maths event. The sports leaders came up with activities based on times tables, reflection, word classes and building sentences amongst many more. The children are now very keen to bring some of the games back to school.



Swimming

We have started our Friday whole-school swimming again this term and everyone is really enjoying it. Swimming is a vital life (and life-saving) skill and the school endeavours to ensure pupils are confident swimmers when they move to secondary.

PSHE

In PSHE this term we talked about keeping ourselves safe. We have covered safe and unsafe situations, places where we feel safe, and we have shared and discussed what we can do if we are in a position where we don't feel safe. We have also been considering differences between a hazard, risk and danger.

All classes visited the SCARF Life education Tent this term, led by Tom from SCARF. Class 1 had a session called 'My Wonderful Body', Class 2 'The Brain' and Class 3 'Decisions'



Class 3 Art Day

Class 3 had a lovely art day this term where they explored activism in art. We started the day by looking at some art activists, such as Faith Ringgold and Shepard Fairey, and discussed the themes of their art. The children identified themes including injustice, politics and climate change. Following on from these discussions, children created an artist page in their sketchbooks showcasing their work, alongside key vocabulary and questions they had asked.

The theme for our activism poster was based on linking our learning in RE to our School and British values. Children created a collage using newspaper

and then painted on their activist message. They did a fantastic job!

French Day

Class 2 had an immersive language day this month, spending a day learning new vocabulary as part of the "Seasons" and then the "Vegetables units". At Down Ampney, we teach languages by focusing on one of three teaching types within each mixed age cohort: Early, Intermediate and Progressive language learning, which gradually build up the children's language skills, through retrieval of previous vocabulary and grammar, along with the introduction of new skills. We provide opportunities to recall previously learnt language but also allow pupils opportunities to use it in new contexts, wherever possible. Our aim is to encourage better memory skills with longer term retention and to also enhance a pupil's overall language learning experience. We spent time exploring what skills are needed to make a good linguist within the four domains of listening, reading, speaking and writing; thinking about how we use set sentence structures, known sight words and similar words to English to guide us.



Children practised a key part of their language learning: phonics, using known and new phonemes

and applying the sounds to words, such as “ou” in “mouton” (sheep) and “oi” in “oiseau” (bird). They rehearsed some short phrases to describe the seasons and practised writing these phrases. We then learnt



some new vocabulary within the new unit of Vegetables, applying and extending our knowledge of how to write plurals in French and learn how to ask for a certain quantity. The day also included a chance to read some French children’s newspapers and watch some short French speaking programmes about children and their pets.

Maths

In Maths, Year 2 have been learning about multiplication and division. We ended our unit by looking at the factor, factor, product relationship when building calculations. We used post it notes to manipulate our calculations and focused on the commutativity of multiplication and that when dividing you must always start with the product.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 4th - Prayer Space Day

February 5th - In the Net Internet Safety

February 10th - Rail Safety Talk

February 13th - Dance Festival at Cheltenham Town Hall

February 14th - End of Term 3

February 24th - Start of Term 4 and whole school bake sale

February 27th - Class 3 School Trip

