

Weekly Woodpecker Class News (4.11.16)

This week, in English, we continued our next writing unit on explanation texts. First, we identified layout/organisation and language use features of existing explanation texts – from this we created a checklist and set our own targets for the unit. Next, we text mapped an explanation text about how chocolate is grown and made; we will be learning this orally to help us with the structure of the text type (this is a Talk for Writing technique).

In Maths this week, we completed a cold task on using efficient written methods of subtraction for arithmetic (non-context) questions - we then developed or extended our abilities. We also began to identify the place value of digits in decimal numbers (linked to fractions).

We continued our Earth and Space Science unit by planning and undertaking a fair test investigation on how shadows - caused by the sun - can be used to explain the rotation of the Earth around its tilted axis (creating day and night). We also watched and evaluated our final edited Solar System Stargazing programmes.

In Topic, we tasted and compared different ways of making hot chocolate in an Ancient Maya way – they didn't make hot chocolate with milk and sugar like we have it, but with water, honey and chilli. We got a chance to try this recipe out in two ways: with cocoa powder and with cacao powder (a more pure form of chocolate).

We also used looked in closer detail at the architecture of Ancient Maya cities – building some with Lego and using computers to model them in 2D, from a birds-eye point of view.

Elsewhere, we had a fascinating visit from Mr Nasir who talked about Islam: his religion, faith and way of life. He started the day introducing the whole school to the Five Pillars of Islam in assembly. He then ran a workshop with our class about the Qur'an and the prophet Muhammad, reciting passages and showing us that most of the people included in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible are also included in the Qur'an. This visit helped us to prepare for our trip to the mosque in a couple of weeks.

To view regular updates and photos of some of the activities we do, visit the school's Twitter page (you do not need to be a member or follow us to see these): [www.twitter.com/ClipstonSchool](http://www.twitter.com/ClipstonSchool)

Homework Tasks (Year 6):

- **Reading Comprehension:** Please complete and mark the 'Holes' task in your CGP Targeted Question Book (pg 4&5)
- **GPS:** Please complete and mark the 'Formal and Informal Writing' task in your CGP Targeted Question Book (pg 27-29)  
*Please hand in your **marked** Reading Comprehension and GPS Targeted Question Books and Learning Log by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.***
- **Spelling:** A spelling test, on the list of words given, will take place on **Friday** morning.
- **Multiplication facts:** A test of a variety of multiplication facts will take place on **Tuesday**. **Please practise all facts up to 12 x 12.**
- **Reading:** You are expected to do **at least 1 hour** of independent reading at home, **every week**. *Please get a parent/carer to sign below to show that you have done this, as there is no home reading records in Woodpecker Class:*

**Signature:**.....

Pupil Feedback	Parent Feedback