

Weekly Woodpecker Class News (9.12.16)

This week, in English, we continued our unit of work on newspaper article recount writing, based on the Moon landing in 1969. We created introductions (bylines) that give the 5W's information (When? Who? Where? What? Why?). We then focused on using different effective grammar aspects for the next few paragraphs about the main event being reported: verbs, adjectives, adverbs, as well as direct speech punctuation and layout for quotes. We also completed a reading SAT-style assessment paper for Autumn Term.

In Maths this week, we continued to develop strategies to solve mastery reasoning and problem solving tasks for addition and subtraction. Also, most of us saw great improvements in our ability to add/subtract with efficient written methods for arithmetic (non-context) questions. We then completed a cold arithmetic task for using efficient written methods for multiplication. We also completed a reasoning SAT-style assessment paper for Autumn Term (Year 6 went through the answers in more detail afterwards).

In Topic, we painted our Ancient Maya hieroglyphs for individual syllables of our names - or logograms for certain words - onto coffee-stained, gluey paper (this was supposed to mimic the fig-tree bark that the Maya people used to write on to create codices). We also made clay Maya stepped 'pyramids'.

For our PE lesson, we linked it to Science. We took part in a 'Train like an Astronaut' STEM challenge.

Elsewhere, we practised our songs and speaking parts for the 'Junior Carols' event which takes place next Thursday evening (15th December).

We also got to decorate our classroom for Christmas in Woodpecker Class' traditional style – everything, anywhere!! The result is quite...‘festive’ ☺!

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

Homework Tasks:

- **GPS:** Have a go at the online grammar and punctuation test set for your age group by logging in to www.spag.com with your username and password. *SPaG.com provides children with the opportunity to take practice grammar tests online which cover all elements of the raised expectation national curriculum. These tests help familiarise children with the types of questions they will be exposed to in SAT tests and as a teaching tool to highlight 'gaps' in the children's grammar knowledge. Also note: the test should take 45 minutes to complete (as this is how much time is given in the SATs tests) and no score will be given if you do not answer all of the questions. If you have issues with the website, then the test can be completed in school. A glossary of grammatical terms can be found at www.theschoolrun.com/primary-literacy-glossary-for-parents. Please complete this task, online, by **Wednesday 14th December**.*
- **English/Christmas:** Learn the words for your two parts in the 'Junior Carols' event **next Thursday evening**.
- **Spelling & Punctuation:** Your dictation exercise, on some of last week's spelling words, will take place next **Friday**.
- **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