

Colindale Primary School Newsletter

March 2021



In this newsletter, as parents and carers are not able to come into school at the moment, I have included an article from every class. I hope you enjoy reading it. Thank you very much for the support you have given to your children and the school this term.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and restful break and look forward to seeing you back at school on 19th April.

Lucy Rodgers, Headteacher.

In **1FS** both children and teachers were absolutely delighted to come back to school.

The children were enthusiastic and chatty, charged with positive attitudes and thirsty for knowledge.



In maths, the children have been learning to count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. They used counters, cubes, Numicon pieces, lolly sticks and grouped them into 2's, 5's and 10's. The children practised how to count larger amounts of objects by grouping them first, before counting in multiples of 2, 5 or 10.



In Design and Technology, the children have been learning about different types of enclosures. First, the children looked at various animal enclosures and they talked about their size and safety features.

Then, the children thought about their own designs and created a sketch of their animal enclosures. Next, they explored making the animal enclosures with various building blocks such as Lego, multilink cubes and wooden blocks. In our next lesson, the children will be testing different materials and trying out various joining techniques before creating their very own animal enclosures!



One of the things the children in 1FS most enjoyed learning about was during **British Science Week**. We carried out five different experiments; the children were particularly interested in the 'Bubble wand' experiment, where they investigated whether the shape of the bubble wand made the shape of the bubble change. First, the children talked about what they know about bubbles, and made their predictions about what will happen. Next, the children made different shaped bubble wands with pipe cleaners and tested them outside. This is what they found out; *Diana 'The bubbles stayed the same shape.'* *Muhammad: 'The bubbles didn't change'*



As you can see from the photographs the children not only learnt a lot but had lots of fun!



Since we have been back, **RT** has been very busy exploring the Reception area and meeting their old friends. Every child rushed into the classroom on the first day, emanating excitement and showing they missed school enormously.

During the first week back, we celebrated Science Week. We have undertaken different experiments; we looked at which materials float and which sink; we thought about the word 'innovation' and used it to make waterproof boats. Some children have gone a step further with their creations and decorated the rafts with their favourite cartoon characters (PawPatrol). The children had a go at making bridges and tested how strong the creations were by placing the "Big Billy Goat Gruff" on top of the bridges.

Another big focus in RT has been the Volcano painting. Staff told the children that there was a special ingredient in the paint that would react when they sprinkled vinegar on top of their pictures. The children had a go at guessing what the ingredient was and came up with various ideas such as: "flour", "salt", "water", "coke", "Fanta" or "cake soda". The teacher then revealed the secret ingredient at the end of the day, explaining that the vinegar, which is an acid, will sizzle and bubble when poured over the bicarbonate of soda, which is a base. Overall, we learned many new things and had lots of fun doing this! **RT** has had a fantastic time back in school!



The children in **RD** have been very happy to be back in school! They have enjoyed being reunited with their friends and teachers.

The children loved reading 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' during Science Week. We carried out lots of fun activities, such as building bridges and rafts using recyclable materials. The children tested their bridges to see if they were strong enough for the small world goats. They also enjoyed testing their rafts in the water tray to see if they would float or sink. They were then fascinated to experiment with different materials to see which ones were waterproof.



At the end of Science Week, the children also planted some grass seeds in a cup. They waited patiently for the grass to grow. We had discussions about the grass needing sunlight and water to grow. We also attached our photos on the cups, so the growing grass looks like spiky, green hair!



It has been amazing since the school reopened as we have all enjoyed being back in class, learning, working together and having fun. **3G** has settled very well and the children are ready to learn.

In PSHE, we have been following a social and emotional wellbeing programme, Heads Up Kids. It aims to create a shared emotional language in the classroom, where we have the words to express



our feelings and become more resilient, so that we are more able to solve problems, have more empathy for others and work better together. We have shared our feelings and emotions, what the things we are looking forward to are, now that we are back in school; what we are proud of; how we can recognise the body clues that show our feelings; and have a toolbox full of ideas that can help us with our friendships and feelings.

We are really looking forward to the summer term! Let's all have an enjoyable spring break!



In **6N** we have been reading **The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes**. We studied the style and vocabulary of the poem to act and then write additional descriptive scenes. Here are some extracts of our work for you to enjoy!

The smile dropped from her face like a theatrical mask to be replaced by a look of sheer terror. Every word he spoke dripped with venom and hate, "I leave you with no choice." An ear-piercing gunshot ripped through the air. The silence was pierced by the screech of a gull – a sound like a cold omen that sent a chill down their spines. **By Ruby**

As the highwayman galloped away into the darkness of the stormy night, he glanced up at the ghostly fleet of the almost-hidden stars up above. Huzzah! He thought, for they had shone gracefully behind the mighty storm clouds, like sparkling jewels, in the form of success! A bright source of courage and determination lit the highwayman's almost-empty heart for he longed for nothing more than his bonny beloved and his shimmering riches. A thirst for jewels quenched his soul; greed overtook him. He thought Bess was angel of the light and day, whilst he was the devil of the darkness of an ice-cold night (though he did not realise this). Swollen storm clouds lashed with their heavy loads, violently showering the eerie forest below with powerful raindrops as heavy as metal bullets- but nothing could interfere with his romantic fantasies, of him and with his bonny lass, playing in his head. **By Christlyn**

Black clouds covered the sky, and that very darkness filled the entire town. The Highwayman's French-cocked hat was ferociously hit by the strong gust of wind. The trees swayed violently, but nothing would put the Highwayman off from finding a gift for his Bess. He rode his horse, with the tall, slim trees towering above him like clouds. The exciting thoughts of sweet and joyful moments with Bess travelled through his mind, lighting up his mood.

By Niyam

It was almost dark when the unrelentless rain started. The moon was a ghostly galleon and the sky was jet-black. Crunch! Crunch! Crunch! Went the dead twigs and leaves as the mighty hooves crushed them. The wind soared past his ear which created an unpleasant sound. A shiver ran down the highwayman's spine as an owl swooped by. But his determination to deliver his present to Bess spurred him on. The twisted trees shivered in the bitter cold. Suddenly, a stroke of anger flooded through his veins as the screams of the innocent souls he butchered gathered around him. **By Cyprian**



We had a fantastic start back to the term in **2C**. We really enjoyed taking part in 'Science Week.' During Science Week all our topic lessons were based around different investigations and experiments. The theme for this year was 'Innovating for the Future'. We thought about how different inventions have evolved over time and what it may be like in the future.

We learnt about 'Mars Rover Perseverance' and thought about what type of robot we could design to explore a different planet of our choice. We also had a lot of fun designing and building our own towers and took part in a competition to see which group could build the tallest tower! It was great fun.



In **5J** in science we have been investigating which solids will dissolve in a liquid. The liquid we used was water and the solids we investigated were sugar, salt, soil, cocoa powder and Alka-Seltzer. Cups, spoons, measuring cylinders and an electronic weighing scale were used to conduct the investigation. We discussed



which variable is changing (the type of solid) and the variables that remained constant (mass of solids, volume of water, number of stirs, type of liquid and temperature of water). We discovered that sugar, salt, cocoa powder and Alka-Seltzer are soluble in water and formed a solution. Soil is insoluble in water as it formed a layer separate from the water at the bottom of the cup. We really enjoyed working in groups to carry out the investigation!



2N have really enjoyed being back at school and have settled back into school life brilliantly! I am very proud of how the children have coped and dealt with these difficult times.

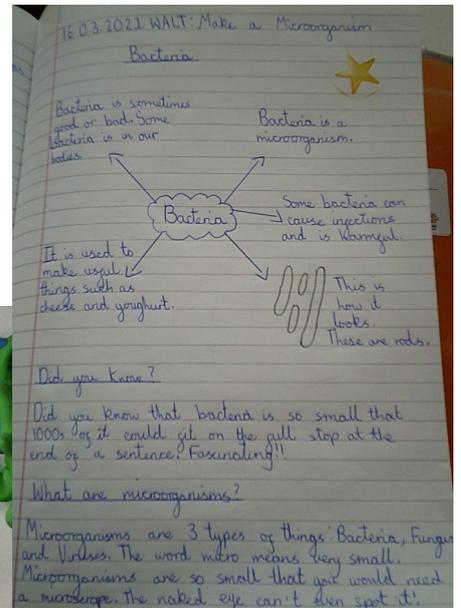
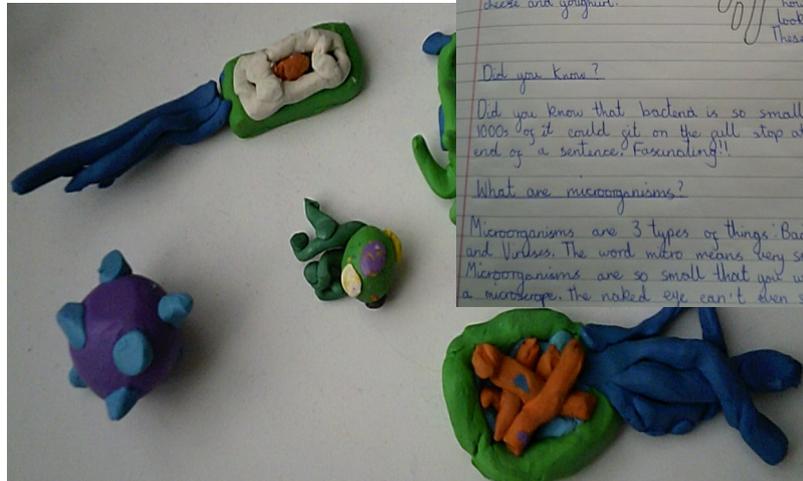
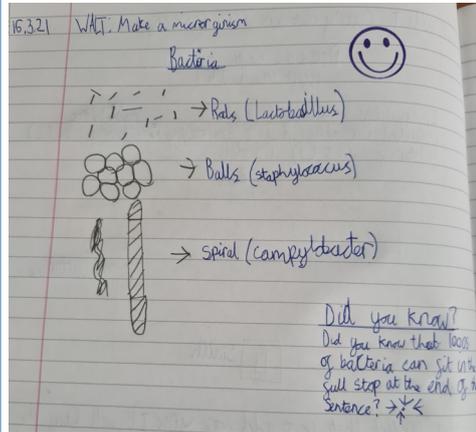
Since being back we have been learning lots and the children particularly loved Science week! They carried out an experiment involving a rose, water and food colouring. We predicted what we thought would happen and observed the changes over time. We also planted our own sunflowers. The children came up with their own method to follow. They really like going to the greenhouse to check their plants progress.

We also had a tower building competition to see which group could make the tallest tower. The children had to work together to create a structure that was strong and sturdy. Great work by everyone!

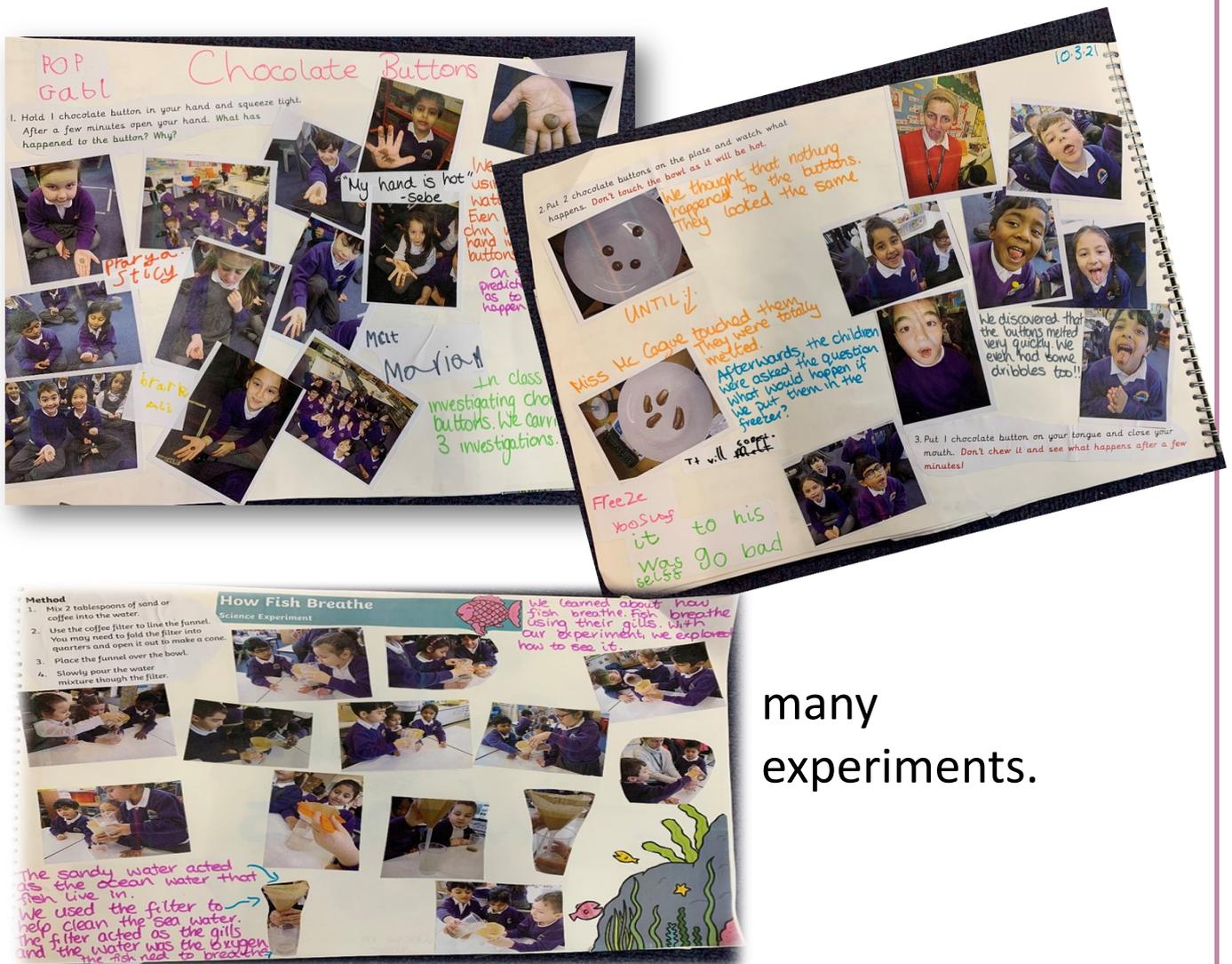


In **6M** science we have been learning about micro-organisms such as fungus, virus and bacteria. We learnt about what they are and whether they were harmful to humans or not. Did you know that yeast is a fungus that is used to make yogurt, wine and many other food products? We also used plasticine to re-create the way different micro-organisms look. We conducted an experiment to see how different things like dampness, heat and light, can make mould grow on bread. The damp bread was covered in green, disgusting mould after just five days.

By Hassam Omari 6M



In **1M** During Science Week the children took part in



many experiments.

Since returning to school **3K and 3F** have settled into the routines very well! On the first week back it was **Science week**, we learnt everything you need to know about the human body. We learnt how to find and measure our active and non- active pulse. We did this by going out onto the field and doing different exercises.

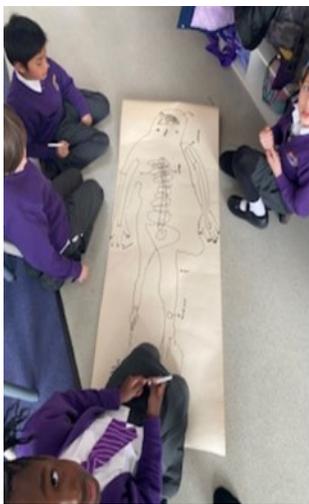
In **Art**, we created a background choosing a scene from the book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* using a layering technique. We combined elements such as watercolour, plasticine, collage paper, oil pastels and even learnt how to use a hot glue gun!

This term Year 3 have begun a **gardening project** to revamp our garden area! We began by clearing out the beds which were full of weeds, this was so much fun, and we managed to clear all the weeds!

In **Maths** we were learning about length and perimeter and used a meter stick and trundle wheel to measure the beds and mark out seven new ones for each year group to use soon! In our greenhouse we planted lots of different vegetables and bulbs such as, peas, sweetcorn, sun flowers and daffodils! Thank you to our local garage, First Mr Clutch who donated tyres to Year Group, which we upcycled into beautiful planters!

During **English** we wrote a letter to BBC Garden Rescue to invite them to our school to help us transform our garden area! We hope they reply!!

We are so happy to be back to school and be reunited with our friends and teachers! We especially love our **Guided Reading** sessions where we can work in small groups and listen to each other read some of our favourite books!



6D Sketching and Painting in the style of Henri Rousseau

This term, **6D** have been learning about the famous French artist, Henri Rousseau, as part of the Rainforest topic. They learnt that Rousseau painted many pictures of rainforests but never actually visited one and, in fact, never even left France!

The first activity was to talk about a few of the paintings and discuss what they noticed about them - from the bold, vivid colours to the large oversized plants. The class then practised using some of these techniques to draw their own idea of a rainforest scene.

Once the children were happy with the plans of their sketches, they re-drew them onto card ready for painting and then gave them a 'wash' of colour before applying paint. The final stage was to paint them in a range of rainforest colours. Overall, the children have had a great time discussing the artist's work and learning to create their own piece in a similar style.



The science topic for **year 4** this term is 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. During **science week**, we went on a hunt for living things in our environment. *"What I enjoyed the most is that we had the opportunity of exploring a habitat to find animals and insects."* (Summer 4B) We were able to spot smaller insects hiding under the logs and in the quieter areas of the Golden Garden. We used an identification key to name a variety of minibeasts. When we returned to our class, we drew the animals we were able to find and labelled our sketches too. We also used our knowledge of grouping animals to make our own classification keys. We used closed questions with yes or no answers to identify different animals. *"My favourite part of Science Week was when we went outside to look for minibeasts!"* (Reda 4J.)

We also had so much fun sharing own experiments with our class! *"I enjoyed seeing my friends' experiments and I got to try my own. I made a volcanic explosion with vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and food colouring. The bicarbonate of soda made my volcano explode when it reacted with the vinegar"* (Aleeza 4P)



In **RW**, the children have loved exploring electricity at the investigation table. They have had fun touching the plasma ball lamp with their finger to make a 'lightning bolt'. We discovered that if you are wearing light up shoes the plasma lamp will light them up when you touch it without you having to move. We have learnt that many things use electricity in our classroom including the lights, computer and torches. We have enjoyed challenging ourselves to build an electrical circuit to light a bulb. Some of us managed to add a switch. We have persevered with the difficult crocodile clips which we used to attach the wires to the batteries and the bulb.



How to survive on an isolated island—5T

Introduction:

Have you ever found yourself in a deserted island all by yourself? Would you like to know how to survive? Well do not worry because this guide will help you live long enough to get rescued. To find out more details about how to find food, search for water and so on, read on. **ALERT:** if you do not read this guide there is a chance you might not survive. Please read this guide for key information on how to survive on a deserted island.



Collecting items

First, find everything that is washed ashore and gather them up in one place, so you do not lose where you put the items. Stay in one place. Make a hat to protect yourself from the sun and to prevent heat rash.

How to find clean water

Once you have gathered all your items, find water because it is very important to stay hydrated. If you do not, you could die of dehydration. You could get fresh water from trees and the dew from wet grass.

WARNING! Do not drink sea water. It is salty and can harm you. When you find water make sure to boil it first to get rid of any bacteria or infection. If you are unable to find the other ideas, you can try searching for a river or pond.

Making a shelter

Now that you have searched for water, the next thing you must find or make is a shelter. First try to find a cave, if you cannot find one then do not worry, you can make the shelter yourself by using sticks and vines. It would be better to build the shelter in a tree (or on a hill) because it will avoid mosquitoes from biting you (for more information look at the step-by-step guide).

Finding Fresh food

After you have made your shelter, it is time to search for food. First, try to find coconuts. Please do not eat the brown ones they can cause serious diarrhoea. Find the green coconuts because they have water in them.

If you do not want to eat coconuts, you could also eat mangoes and other fruit and berries. If you are not sure if the berries are poisonous, you can rub them on your arm. Then if your hand gets itchy and a rash appears the berries must be avoided. You could try searching for birds that are laying their eggs and boil them for protein. You could also look for clams and snails washed ashore. Make a spear to hunt down animals. (For more information look at the step-by-step guide)

How to start a fire

Once you have found your food, it is time to know how to start a fire. First gather some sticks and rub them until a fire starts. It is important to not burn yourself. If you are unable to do that you can find a piece of glass and shine it towards the sun. You could also rub two sticks together to make a spark.

How to keep calm

Now that you have learnt how to start a fire, you will now learn how to keep sane. You can draw a face on an object you have found to keep entertained. Another tip is that you could meditate and think positive things, for example, to think that you are back home with you family and friends.

How to call for help

Once you have read all the other paragraphs, it is time to know how to call for help. First, look for an aeroplane or a helicopter. Next, make an SOS sign, on the beach, out of rocks. You can also scream for help so someone can hear you and attract their attention. Make a fire so people can see it and save you.

How to build a shelter

First, gather approximately 15 to 20 sticks.

Next stick them in the ground on opposite sides.

After that, place all the other sticks on top and stick them together using vines.

After that, gather some leaves and put them on top of the shelter. Make sure you tie the leaves onto it, so they do not blow away in the night when there is wind.

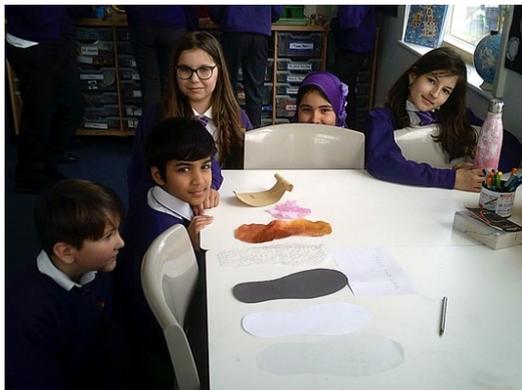
Now you have learnt how to make a shelter!

By Helena 5T

All the **nursery** children settled very quickly into the nursery routines when they returned to school on 8th March. They enjoyed meeting up with their friends and exploring all the wonderful resources in the provision. This term we have put out resources which are 'open ended'. This means that the children decide how they want to use the resources and are given a great deal of freedom to develop their own ideas and thoughts. Working this way has shown how many creative and critical thinkers we have in the nursery.



Science Week in 5N



What is friction and how does it affect us when moving?

What are mechanisms?

What is the difference between the different mechanisms?

These were the questions that kick-started our Science week.

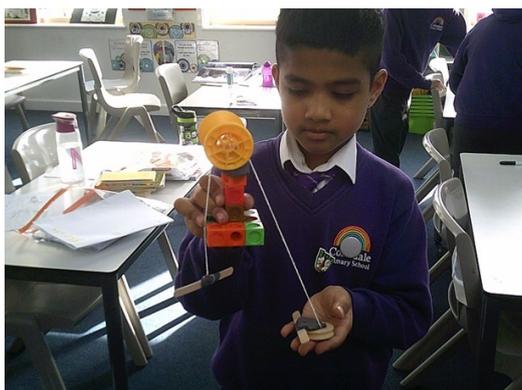


5N's first task was to investigate different materials by trying to walk with them under their feet. They then ordered them to demonstrate which materials caused the most to the least friction.

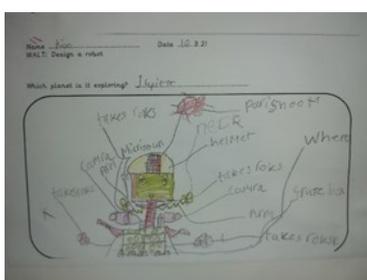
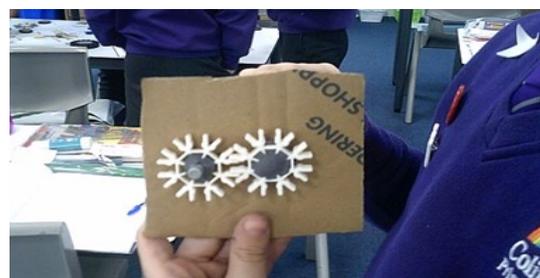
I enjoyed this activity as I didn't realise how hard it would be to try to walk with sandpaper under my feet." Hasenat

The rest of the week we investigated different mechanism, such as pulleys, gears and levers.

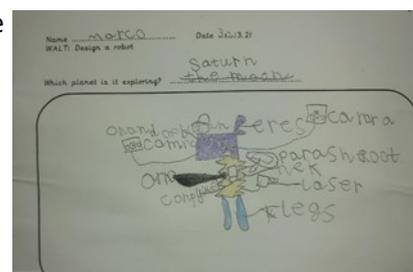
"I was amazed that it worked, however the cubes were not stacked up high enough". Caiden



"I felt very excited to do this, I felt like Einstein!" Akram



2CP have come back with an excellent attitude to their learning. This term, we have been hard at work in **Science**. We started the term with lots of experiments as it was Science Week and this year we have focussed on 'innovating for the future'. We read and learnt about Mars Rover and even designed our own Robots to send up to a planet! Another science experiment



was to work together as a team to build the tallest tower but one that will also carry a toy teddy bear. The teams have worked together and all created towers that could hold the teddy. There was of course a winner with the tallest tower! Recently, we have been learning all about plants and each child now has a sunflower



plant in our Greenhouse and we visit the Green house weekly to water and observe our plants. We cannot wait to see our plants grow into sunflowers!

Since returning to school after weeks of online lessons and home learning, **1A** have shown great resilience, determination, and hard work. They have warmed back to their usual routine with a keenness to learn.

We started our first week back with lots of fun **science** experience for science week which they truly enjoyed. We learnt how to make raisins dance, melt chocolate, make our own bubble wands, and grew our own cress.

In **English**, we began to learn a new story called 'The Tiger who came to Tea', the children were very creative as they innovated the story by changing the main character. They thought of various animals and wrote their own version of the story brilliantly.

During our **maths** lessons we have been learning to count in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s which the children have picked up very quickly. We used different resources such as numicon, cubes, coins, and straws to represent groups of 2s, 5s and 10s. I

In other topic lessons, such as **computing** the children have been using their skills to create an algorithm (a set of instructions) to help them get from one place to the next. The children in 1A very much look forward to our computing lessons every week.

We have also learnt about **road safety**. We went outside to the school car park and learnt how to cross the road safely using our green cross code. The children in 1A are so thrilled to be back at school and have really shown great motivation to learn and it has been lovely teaching them face to face after weeks of online learning.



Important dates for next term

Monday 19th April– first day of term. Term ends Friday 23rd July.

Half term break: Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June.

May day—Monday 3rd June—School closed.

Parent consultation evenings

- 1. 11th and 13th May (Online via Weduc)**
- 2. 6th and 8th July (Hopefully at school)**

To end this month's newsletter a few photographs of children enjoying our new playground markings.

