

Jackdaws News



Art Tor Falcon

The past two weeks have been rather fun packed for Jackdaws. Last Thursday we welcomed Tor Falcon (What a name!), to the class. This came about after a chance encounter whilst on our trip to the Castle Museum last year, where she was displaying her artwork on Norfolk rivers. We explored what it is to be an artist and we linked it to JONK. Too many times, I've heard some of the class say, 'I'm no good at art' (and if I'm honest this goes for grown-ups too). The truth of course is that we are all capable of art; we just need to be resilient and more patient.

The session saw us head over to the flood plain (thankfully not flooded) and choose an area to focus on. It was great to see the children really focus. By the way, the buckets were a hit! We will return two more times to draw a Spring and Summer scene and we plan to hold an exhibition at the end of the year.



Swimming:

Jackdaws continue to make great strides (or should I say strokes!) in their swimming lessons. I have been really proud of all of them. Those who can be nervous have shown great resilience and determination to succeed. Those who have mastered the basics of each stroke have been set the little challenge of swimming the English Channel (No not

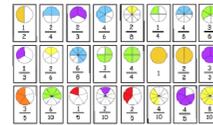
What else have we been up to!

Literacy:



We have been reading the Ice Palace by Robert Swindells. We have used the text to explore features of instruction texts such as cook books or game rules. These use imperative (bossy) verbs and time openers to sequence the information which help make instructions clear. We have then explored the features of explanation texts (the brother to instruction texts) which use causal conjunctions (because, so, therefore, when) to explain why something happens. In the process the class have become something of experts on surviving a night with just the means to start a fire and bring down a tree, (please don't try this at home!).

Maths:



In maths we have explored the wonderful world of fractions. We have discussed what a fraction is (sharing something or things out) and how some fractions are equivalent ($1/3 = 2/6$). We have also considered that $1/3$ can be different depending on what it refers to (i.e. $1/3$ of £10 is not the same as $1/3$ of a £100). We have used this knowledge plus the use of bar models to unpack questions such as $\frac{3}{4}$ of 32, or additions and subtractions of fractions with the same denominator. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to see me on the subject.

literally!). This is to help with stamina and fitness. I thought it was a challenge too far, but as usual the children proved me wrong by swimming 1/3 of the distance in their first session. We're plotting the progress on a map and using our multiplication skills to work out just how far we've got.



If you want you can help work it out too. So far 15 children swam 40 lengths of a 15 m pool in the first session and 35 lengths on the second. The distance to cross the Channel is 33.3km. How far have they gone and how far is still to go?

Karate:

Last week we also welcomed a Karate instructor to the school to show us some of the skills and disciplines required of the sport. The children really enjoyed themselves and looked slightly intimidating! If you would like to trial out, I do believe they have an introduction offer; see the leaflet the class took home for more details.



Science



In science we have explored the world of electricity. We have researched the dangers and safe use of electricity, noting how water and electricity are not the best things to be near each other plus what to do if you see a downed pylon. We have also begun to explore how simple circuits work and the crucial importance of an energy source and a complete loop to get anything going.

Geography:



We are developing our research skills using maps, atlases and the internet to build our knowledge on the different climate zones on Earth. In the process we have considered the short comings of relying on one source for accurate information. As part of this we have explored the fate of the endangered Northwest Pacific Tree Octopus: This is a tragic issue where we are seeing near extinction of this rare and wonderful creature. To find out more and the importance of researching carefully, please visit: <https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>

Next week:

Next week 8 of Jackdaws will be entering a swimming gala on Monday. Parents are welcome to spectate. Please see Reception for further details.