



Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Easter Holidays each class wanted to share a summary of their highlights from the past two terms. I am the very lucky one who gets to see learning happening across the school as I visit the classes daily. I think what impresses me most is how happy and engaged our children are in school and how they, with their staff teams, make the most of every minute in school together.

### Class R

Class R have had a busy couple of terms enjoying their learning through the themes of 'Winter wonders', 'Once upon a time' and 'An egg is quiet'. We were out and about in the village in January enjoying the crisp, sunny weather on our winter walk.

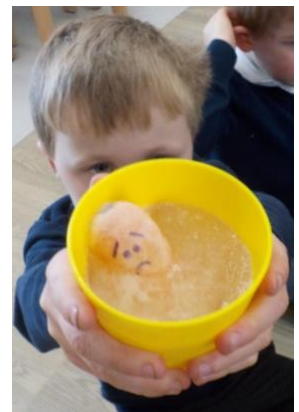
Celebrating Chinese New Year was a highlight for us with dancing, dressing up and a wonderful Chinese banquet. We learnt all about the traditions and festivities associated with this festival.



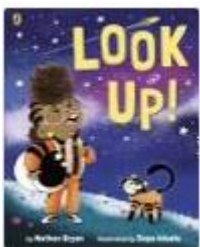
We had great fun exploring and experimenting with bubbles during science week. We created bubbles of all shapes, sizes and colours and investigated which bubbles lasted the longest.

Unfortunately, the Evil Pea has been up to his usual tricks creating havoc in the classroom, hiding and freezing our vegetables and leaving us cheeky letters. Luckily Class R came to the rescue, and laid traps to

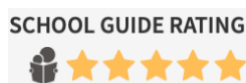
catch the Evil Pea. We decided to blitz him into some yummy pea soup, he certainly won't be bothering us again!



### Class 1



This term our book in focus has been 'Look Up!' by Nathan Byron and has helped shape our topic on Space and significant women in history. We have particularly enjoyed learning all about Mae Jemison and her role in history as the first black woman to travel into space. The class found this astounding. Below are some biography's we have written about Mae having watched a video all about her. We are really looking forward to our trip to 'We the Curious' in Bristol next week which will be a great way to round off our learning.

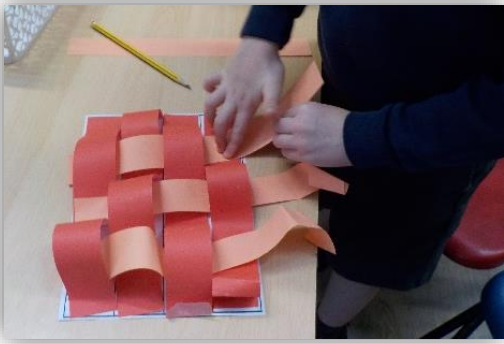


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SCHOOL

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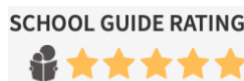
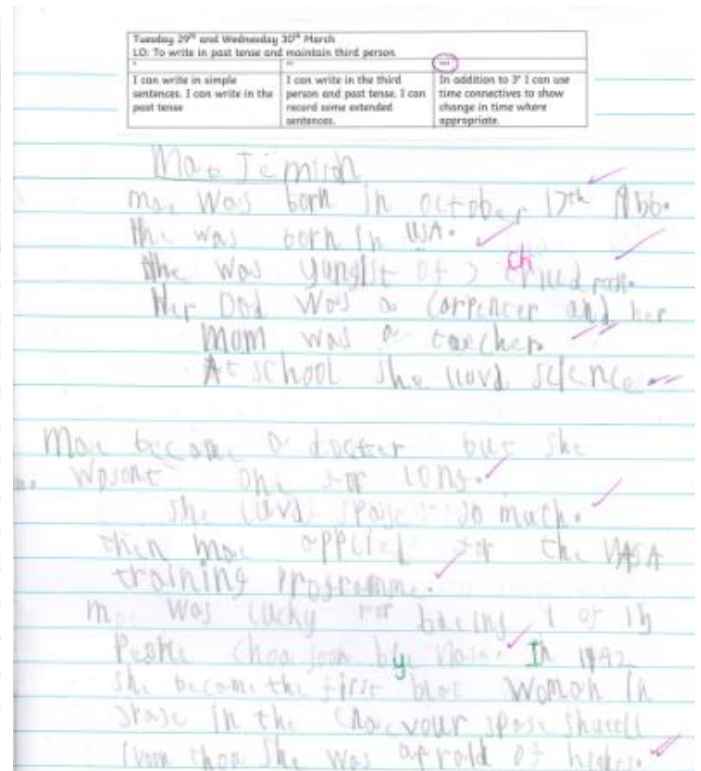
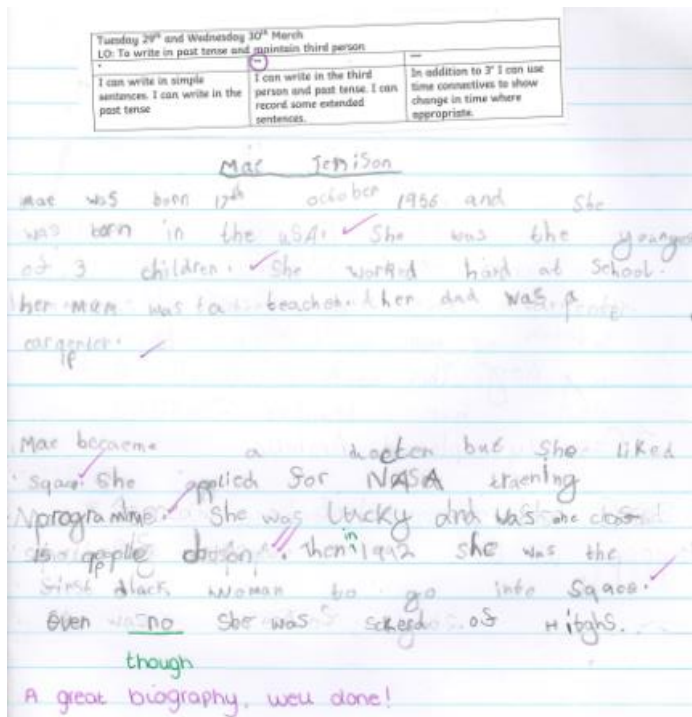


In art we have been weaving and sewing and even had a go at trying this outdoors in forest school! It was quite tricky to begin with but we persevered and now have quite a few mini experts within the class.

Science week was super fun, bubbles were enjoyed by all! We made our own mixture and



then set up experiments to try and answer some of these questions:  
 Which object made the best bubble wand?  
 Are all bubbles 3D?  
 Are all bubbles the same colour?  
 Does adding more washing up liquid make the bubbles have more colour?



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## Class 2



Class 2 has had a busy term. Spring Term 1 began with the children constructing egg box dragons. The class were reading the story Egg Box Dragon

by Richard Adams and produced some excellent writing using the story as inspiration.

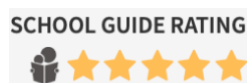


The story had a London theme and so did much of our work this term, to link with our learning about London in geography. We had three class experts; Eva, Evie and Leo who produced and delivered impressive presentations on London. In computing the children learnt how to safely search using a children's safe search engine.



They then used their skills to research more about London and produce PowerPoint presentations in partners. In art, children worked in groups to produce London themed textiles and we were lucky enough to be selected by local artist, Kathryn Gray, to have our work exhibited in the Telephone Gallery. It was even in the local paper! [Art gallery housed within Cotswold phone box to open this weekend | Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard \(wiltsglosstandard.co.uk\)](http://www.wiltsglosstandard.co.uk)

Spring Term 2 has been based around the book Look Up! By Nathan Bryon. The children learnt all about the astronaut Mae Jemison and wrote their own biographies about her. Continuing with our biography theme, children researched an inspirational person of their choice that has helped shape our world. They wrote their own biographies about their chosen person. Some of the people selected were David Attenborough, Florence Nightingale, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Cleopatra and Mary Anning. Linking with our space themed story, the class visited 'We The Curious' in Bristol and enjoyed a fantastic space themed workshop and planetarium show. What a brilliant way to end a busy term!



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### Class 3

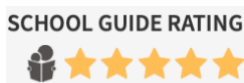
Wow what a fantastic term Year 3 have had! We have thoroughly enjoyed all of our learning this term and all of the staff in Class 3 are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and effort. In Science, we have studied famous Scientists, from Albert Einstein to Stephen Hawking, asking questions about their contribution to forces. We worked in groups to produce posters displaying our learning. We've also just had several weeks of 'working scientifically'. Throughout, the children have carried out investigations, including producing scientific write-ups: predictions, variables, method, equipment lists and even conclusions. We've been so impressed with their effort.



In Geography, we asked the question 'How is the UK put together?' which built upon our Geography learning last term about our local area. Some of the children were Geography 'experts', researching and working at home to produce presentations on a specialist area. The presentations were captivating and extremely informative, even the teacher's learnt some new facts about the UK!

We have been getting outside and enjoying the sunshine during our Forest School lessons. We have been looking out for nature with Mrs Willis and collecting examples in egg boxes such as feathers, stones, leaves, pine cones and even wool from the sheep left on the fence! Mr Jackson's pond talk was really interesting. We learnt that frogs like to stay around the pond but toads only visit the pond when they mate... who knew! We spotted water boatman and shells. Hopefully as the weather warms up we will start to spot more pond life!

Finally, a special mention must be had for our production of Roald Dahl's 'Cinderella'. The children have all worked so hard this term to prepare for the performance and what a fabulous performance it was! Every single child in Year 3 contributed; we had creative prop makers, talented actors and fabulous singers. Well done Class 3, we are so proud of each and every one of you!



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## Class 4



Spring Term has been a busy but very enjoyable term in Year 4. We had the pleasure of Mrs O'Neill's teaching at the beginning of the year and her Geography experts delivered some fantastic presentations on what makes up our world; an excellent example of pupil leadership. We took an adventure with Jemmy Button for writing inspiration and produced some outstanding NCRs on mythical beasts. We also had the pleasure of watching a production by The Old Vic Theatre School of Sammy and the Sea Morgans which inspired the creation of sea creatures for their competition which Ella won!



We then began rehearsals for our production and our literacy looked at playscripts; the children learned how to structure and write a play script to ensure the actors did not say our stage directions. For those that came to see the performances, you will have even heard some of the children's excellent playwriting skills in action; parts were added in, lines were topped up and scenes adapted to suit the children's vision.



Conversations between Miss Chomicz and The Old Vic Theatre School then lead to their prop department coming in to school to work with our Behind-The-Scenes crew to make some additional props for the production. The children learned lots about being resourceful and how to make things big and bold for the stage. Over rehearsals, the children's confidence has increased massively and the productions were FANTASTIC - thank you to all of you who came.



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We have also been continuing our learning away from the production; we have explored the worlds that exist between our whole numbers. Fractions and decimals have been our focus and the children have been fine tuning their knowledge of multiplication and division to apply this in a variety of situations. We have also had some fantastic Forest School sessions with Mr Jackson and Miss Willis who challenged them to build a transportation device for a human with only natural materials and some string. The children rose to the challenge, proving just how well they can work in teams, developing ideas, troubleshooting and testing their products.

In Science, we have been working on our working scientifically skills, learning how to write a full scientific report and follow it to test a hypothesis. They first carried out investigations in to bubbles before planning and conducting their own experiments, writing up their reports independently using the skills they have already learned.

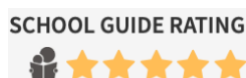


### Class 5

Once again, Class 5 have been working exceptionally hard and have had an all-round brilliant term in all areas of their learning. We have loved splashing around in our swimming sessions this term at Cirencester Leisure Centre, with all of the children engaging fantastically well and making excellent progress under the guidance of the instructors.



In English, the children have been reading the story of Beowulf and have subsequently created their own myths. They are simply stunning and are of a really high quality. All of the children took great pride in their work and worked exceptionally hard. We have also been focusing on persuasive writing this term. We read the book 'There's a Rang-Tan in My



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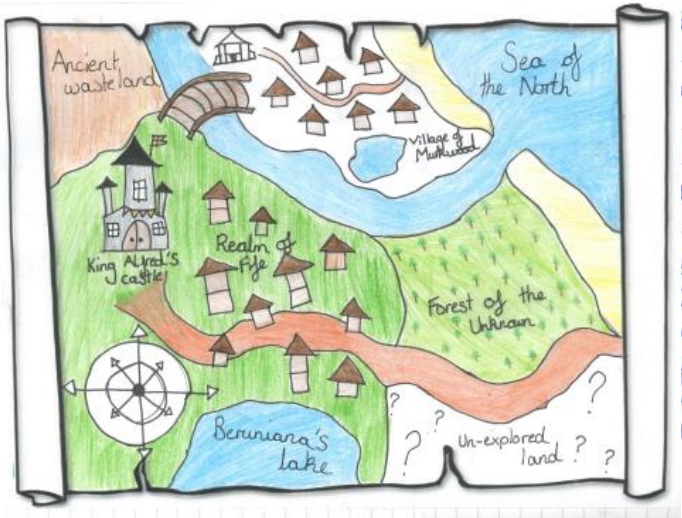
Bedroom' by James Sellick and watched the TV advert before researching the issues with palm oil for orang-utans and how we can help. We wrote letters to supermarkets persuading them to only sell products that contain palm oil if they are RSPO certified (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil). This term, Class 5 have had two specialist play leadership training sessions with Helen Pauling from the Cotswold School Sports Network. The children behaved impeccably during both sessions and engaged brilliantly in all of the different activities. They are now volunteering at lunch times with Miss Seymour to lead activities with children from the rest of the club on a rota basis. Well done Class 5!



In History, we have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We have particularly enjoyed learning about Anglo-Saxon law and the different trials that took place to determine whether someone was innocent or guilty! We have learnt about Sutton Hoo and carefully considered archaeological evidence and written newspaper reports from an Anglo-Saxon perspective describing the Viking raid on Lindisfarne. In Forest School with Mr Jackson and Mrs Willis, we made our own wattle and daub style Saxon homes. We loved getting stuck into this and getting absolutely covered in mud...as you can see!

**Class 6**

Year 6 has been busy these last two terms! We have been reading the story of Beowulf and Grendel and using it to



*Beowulf comes...*

*Quickly, ever so quietly, Beowulf and his men creep through the gap, twitching at the slightest sounds; the horses wrapped in fear blanket off thick mist engulfed the trees. They*

*How big is it?*

*OT*

*eylone*

**est-Doebria**  
Introduction

- native to Southern Asia
- the smallest panda
- Latin name
- discovered from Pandas
- rescue to Scientists
- black & white
- very large eyes
- long neck
- long stick
- appearance
- marks have beards panda like form
- unusual respiratory
- long ears
- tongue

**diet**

- omnivore
- gorges itself on
- ants, small insects
- plants and herbs

**life cycle**

- How long it lives? - 15 years
- family groups

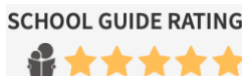
**habitat**

- rain forest
- in Burma
- in Sumatra
- diverse jungles
- warm, wet climate
- climbs trees to hunt prey
- hunted by snakes, birds, big cats

**behaviour**

- escape up the nearest tree
- males fight for mates for life
- hold their ears over their sleeping stomach when threatened

**Scientific name: *Pardus digus***  
General name: The big eyed leopard panda  
(In Latin - *Pardus*)  
Like their cousins - the Pandas

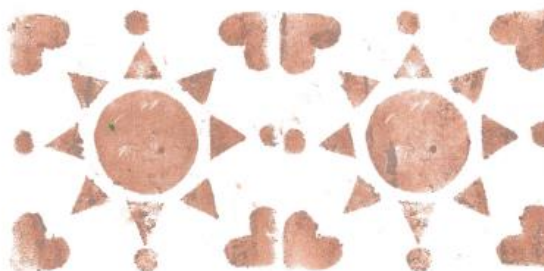


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create atmospheric scene settings, non-chronological reports about unusual beasts or creatures and of course writing our own myths! We are publishing our myths this week and like all good fantasy stories we've made sure that we have included a map at the beginning.

We thoroughly enjoyed preparing and taking part in the Cirencester Mock Trials where we prosecuted and won a case about a stolen mobile phone!

In art we have been learning about and experimenting with different printing techniques from monoprint to block printing and finally to lino printing. We have explored the work of famous print artists as well.



At the end of term assembly 'Heroes and Heroines' we will join together outdoors at 2.30pm on Friday to celebrate our pupils and see how they have been shining. We also have our Year 4 teacher cutting her hair for the 'Little Princess' charity to help make wigs for children who have lost hair due to cancer or other illnesses. I am being given the scissors to chop off Rapunzel's locks. I think Miss Chomicz is incredibly brave and very kind and I know how this is inspiring others. I look forward to seeing many of you on Friday -we have a couple of lovely songs to sing for you which we have learned off by heart as we will be outdoors with no screen. What a lovely way to end this wonderful term together- I hope the weather behaves itself!

Revd Shirley invites you to join the Easter Day service at Holy Cross church and Leigh All Saints Church. Everyone is welcome to our Easter Day celebrations both children and adults. Noise doesn't matter; we'd love you to join us.

Holy Cross at 10am; Easter day celebration worship + communion and Easter egg hunt.

Leigh All Saints at 9am; Easter worship and Easter egg hunt + communion.

Revd Shirley [shirleydanby21@gmail.com](mailto:shirleydanby21@gmail.com)



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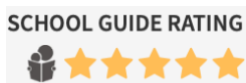
May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and rested Easter. May the sun shine on us all so that we can rest and recharge. I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 8.45am. Please be reminded that the green gates close at 8.55am as staff need to register their classes by 9am so if you arrive after 8.55am, you will need to sign your children in through the main entrance to the school.

With my very best wishes and thanks for your continued support,

*S.L. Saville*  
 Mrs S Saville  
 Headteacher

All dates for the year are on the calendar on the school website on [www.akps.org.uk](http://www.akps.org.uk) to help

Date	Event
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April – Last day of Term 4	Heroes & Heroines 2:30 p.m. playground
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Term 5 - 8:45 a.m.
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Class photos with school photographer
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	End of Term 5



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