



Langley Hall Primary Academy

Ad Vitam Paramus

Upper School Curriculum Newsletter

The children have worked extremely hard this term with School trips, Beauty and The Beast and lots of fantastic learning!

Year 3...

This term in year three we have been exploring the IPC theme of 'Active Planet'. We have learnt all about earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. We have had an amazing time creating earthquake proof shelters and even making our own erupting volcano! The science dome visited and we consolidated our learning about rocks, volcanoes and earthquakes and found out all about super volcanoes.

We have journeyed up mount Merapi, in Literacy, with Lila from 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. We explored the language and dramatic effect caused by sentence structure and even wrote adventure stories of our own.

In Numeracy we have learnt all about shapes, lines, fractions, decimals as well as number work on place value, number sequencing, adding and subtracting large numbers using the vertical addition and subtraction method and word problems. It has been a truly wonderful but very busy term and all the children have learnt so much!

Year 4...

A highlight of this term was our trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, where the children became Egyptian detectives in some very enjoyable workshops led by the museum staff. This supported our IPC work on Ancient Egypt. They have learned about the importance of the River Nile and how the Ancient civilisation benefited from the river. They have learned about houses, settlements and the lives of Egyptian families. Some interesting class discussions have been shared about farming and food crops in Ancient Egypt; there was much amazement that the tools and food used and grown then are similar to those used and crops grown today! The children have done a lot of research homework which has been used in their class work. They have made posters about Pharaohs, and the fascinating beliefs of the afterlife. They were enthralled to learn about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, seen through the eyes of a water boy. They will be completing the topic in January with some instruction writing on 'How to mummify a Pharaoh' and an Egyptian themed day.

In creative writing this term we have covered a variety of genres including newspaper reports, fantasy and space stories, rewriting fairy tales for a younger audience and narrative poetry. The children have enjoyed writing from differing points of view. Our grammar lessons have covered the use of apostrophes, using a ' and an ' correctly, word classes and conjunctions. We encourage the children to improve their grammatical and spellings work in their written work across the curriculum. We have used a variety of text types for our comprehension work this term including *The Railway Children*, *Tomb Raider* and non fiction texts.

In maths lessons this term, the children have explored a variety of numerical concepts. They have manipulated numbers using the context of place value through a variety of word based and numerical based problems. The children have revisited the concepts of multiplication and division and further understood the use of inverse as a method of checking their work. Towards the end of term, the children have developed their knowledge of the features and properties of shapes.



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Year 5...

In literacy this term we have looked at the book *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We chose the book to link in with our IPC topic of Making New Materials. We have all now become familiar with Talk for Writing and have been using actions and pictures to learn texts. We began by writing instructions. We looked at how to trap a Stone Giant and then adapted the text and wrote our own instructions on how to make an Iron Man. We then looked at diary writing and re-told key parts of the book from the perspective of different characters. Next we studied newspaper reports. We had great fun when a gingerbread man invaded the playground and we wrote newspaper reports about this, later an Iron Man invaded the school stage. Inspired by *Beauty and The Beast* we then looked at writing fairy tales and created a class book.

In numeracy we have looked at using mental and written methods for all 4 operations. Children are developing their ability to solve word problems and choose their own calculation methods. We have looked at place value and how we can use this to multiply and divide by multiples of 10. We have practiced our rounding skills. We have learnt the value of decimals and how they relate to fractions. We have continually practiced our times tables. Year 5 have been very enthusiastic and competitive with their weekly times table tests. We have used our times table knowledge to identify factors, multiples and prime numbers. We have also looked at the properties of 2d shapes and angles. Arithmetic testing is a key skill that we have been building to supplement our numeracy work.

In IPC we have looked at Making New Materials which the children have really enjoyed. We learnt about the properties of different materials and all about solids, liquids and gases. We have used our science lessons to build the children's investigative skills. They have been learning to predict and record outcomes in a scientific way recognising that any testing must be fair and can identify variables that can be changed. Amongst our investigations, we have had great fun testing thermal insulators, melting points of different materials, making cakes to learn about irreversible changes and making our own clay. The highlight was the visit by the Science Boffins where children were treated to a fantastic science show and made their own ice cream.

In other areas of the curriculum we have studied programming in ICT and children have designed and evaluated their own games using Scratch. We have also learnt about British Values and studied a range of different religions, observing different religious festivals that have occurred throughout the term. In lifeskills we have learnt about hygiene. We have developed our philosophical thinking skills and all Year 5 classes now have a Thought of the Week display where questions are displayed and discussed.



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Year 6...

This term in Year 6 we have been very busy. The children have settled in really well to Year 6 and are dealing with the higher expectations. The new Maths scheme has been working brilliantly and the children are really enjoying mixed ability groups. We have covered a range of topics including word problems, fractions, algebra, 3D shapes, 2D shapes as well as covering a range of arithmetic areas. The children have responded well to working in groups as well as staying in their original classes. Nearly every Friday the children completed an Arithmetic test which will stand to them for SAT's in May. The children's homework has been based on their learning in class and this is really consolidating their learning. As well as class homework, some children have been completing the Rising Stars practice book, which is again enhancing their learning. They have made a great start and are all budding Mathematicians.

In Literacy this year we have had a huge focus on improving our writing and grammar. We started the year looking at the Grimm tales. We re-wrote a story called the riddle after completing lots and lots drama based activities. When writing these we improved a number of elements of our grammar including colons, semi colons and passive voice. These all allowed the children to create sophisticated sounding stories which were written to create an effect on the reader. We then started our new topic of 'Skellig' which really excited all the children within the Year 6 and we will carry this on after Christmas.

In IPC this term, the children investigated forces in fairgrounds. They got an opportunity to experience forces first-hand through practical experiments in class. At our trip to Lego Land, the children got to see the forces come to life in front of their very own eyes – rides that twirled, spun and went side to side. The children also created a car that tested gravity and friction and experienced trial and error by building and re-building their cars.

In the second half of the term, the year 6 travelled back in time to the Maya civilisation. The children explored the rich culture of the Maya people and learned about their traditions, sports and religion. They even learned that the Maya people still exist today! Through this topic, the children strengthened their research and presentation skills and learned what the Maya cities looked like then and now.

A big focus throughout the half-term has been around the topic of bullying. Year 6 children have spent a great deal of time discussing what they know about bullying and what they can do to help those who may experience it, how they can report it and ultimately what can be done to prevent it. The topic has been covered in; Lifeskills lessons, where the children have discussed the strategies that they can use to deter and prevent bullying; Philosophy lessons, which have provided them with the opportunity to discuss the topic and produce role plays where they act out different scenarios and put forward how they would deal with that scenario. Within our RE lessons, children have continued to learn about different cultures and beliefs and have been very successful at comparing them with their own beliefs and others that they have learnt about this year. In particular we used our IPC topic to inspire some of the discussions as we were able to make comparisons between modern day religions and beliefs and those held by the Maya civilisation. Computing lessons have continued to build on the children's work from the start of the Autumn term as they have been working hard to decide on the best way to create their apps and allocate positions and tasks accordingly within their groups. Moving forward to next half term, the children will have a better understanding of the time frames that they will be working to when completing the various tasks required to bring the project to fruition.

Drama...

Year 3

In year 3 this term, the children have been using the Active Planet IPC topic to create devised and scripted performances. They have learnt how to use facial expressions and body language to show characters.

Year 4

The children in year 4 have looked in depth at characterisation this term; they have particularly enjoyed changing their voices to create particular characters. They have learnt what stage directions are and have been able to follow them when using script extracts based on their Ancient Egypt IPC topic.

Year 5 and 6

We have had a wonderful time putting on Beauty and the Beast this term with all children having a very important role. As well as children taking on the lead roles; some children are learning how to create stage make up, while other children are learning how to operate technical equipment ie; the lighting and sound desk and microphones. All children in their drama lessons have learnt about objectives, subtext and staging.



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P.E...

This has been another very busy term for the PE Department.

All children have been assessed and tracking shows great all-round improvement from all children. It is so nice to see the children really enjoying their Sports lessons and we very much appreciate all the encouraging comments from parents – thank you.

Year 3 & 4 children have been rotating groups and progressing with netball, hockey, football and rugby skills. Year 3 children have been enjoyed visiting the East Berkshire College and have learned many new skills for short tennis. This is a fantastic opportunity not only for our pupils, but also for the college students, as they can build up their coaching hours towards their course. Our children are 'buzzing' when they return to school! This link will continue into the Spring term, with Yr3s returning to the EBC for touch rugby and Yr6s going over for some hockey. Three of the college students are currently helping out with gym, netball and girls's football after school clubs.

Year 5 & 6 children have been working hard and again staff have seen a remarked improvement and progression in all skills. Children have been training hard for fixtures. We have had 6 netball matches and have won 5 out of the 6 games played.

The year 6 boys entered the Wycombe Wanderers EFL National kids cups football competition and got through to the quarter finals. Our year 4,5 and 6 children entered into their first swimming gala against Ryvers and Long Close and came first – a great start well done!

We have many fixtures planned for the Spring, please see the Sports calendar on laser for details.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Mrs Forster

Head of PE.



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French...

Year 3 have been growing and consolidating their understanding of French Phonics with their “Phonics Friends” work. For example, they are learning how to pronounce j and th correctly and to recognise these and many other graphemes in a variety of written words. They have also been building on their knowledge of Numbers 1 to 12, improving their recall and pronunciation of these numbers when in random order.

In Year 4 we have been continuing the theme of our IPC lessons, following the story of Sophie en Egypte. We have learned some verbs of movement and named some animals that lived in Ancient Egypt. We have also enjoyed learning the parts of the body with Jean Petit qui danse, a lively French song which has got the children dancing too! They have then created a picture dictionary using the words they have been learning.

Under the theme “Je Suis le Musicien”, Year 5 have made progress in their ability to compose and memorise spoken sentences. They have been able to express their likes, dislikes and preferences in terms of musical styles. They have used the construction ne...pas to construct a negative statement. They have also described their musical achievements, naming instruments that they can or cannot play.

In Year 6 the children have been learning key phrases for rides found at a theme park as well as how to ask for tickets. They have also been able to navigate a French-language theme park website in order to find key information and they have designed their own French theme parks.

In the second half of the Autumn Term, Years 5 & 6 have worked hard on preparing for their production. Their familiarity with La Belle et la Bête (Beauty and the Beast) has helped them in their French lessons where they have been listening to the song and dialogue from the opening scene of the French film version, working out the meaning of key phrases and using phonics and contextual clues to complete the gaps in a transcript from the film.



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Dance...

Year 3 and 4 have been learning a routine, then adding their own choreography for the final few beats of the song. They then performed their dances to the rest of the class in pairs or groups.

Year 5 and 6 have been rehearsing for the production of Beauty and the Beast all term. I'm sure, if you saw the production, that you could see the amount of choreography they had learnt, it included the waltz, paradiddles and grapevines!

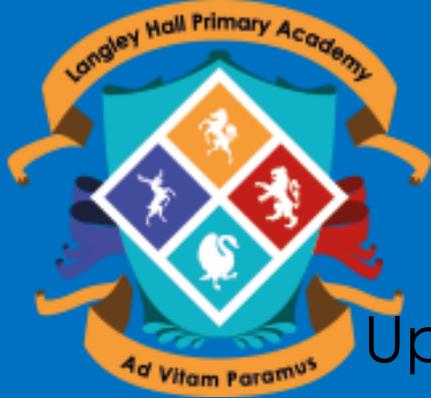
Art...

During this busy term upper school have been producing some very impressive artwork relating to each year groups IPC topics.

In year 3 the children have been learning new techniques in drawing waves, fire and tornedos in various abstract forms. They have produced some fantastic work in their books and for display.

Year 4 have continued with their topic of Temples, Tombs and Treasures and have worked hard to create amulets, canopic jars created from clay, as well as designing and creating headdresses and decorative collars.

Years 5 and 6 have been extremely busy with the recent production of Beauty and the Beast, however, they have still worked hard to create 3D models of fairground rides, creating decorative bowls using recyclable materials and learning techniques to draw shapes in 3D form.



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Music...

All Year 3 children continue with weekly singing, recorder and violin lessons in Music Workshop throughout the academic year. During the term, the children have been placed in Star Groups for violin according to the regularity of their practice and attainment. Half the year-group were selected for the Year 3 Choir, and these children have recently had the excitement of singing at the switching on of the Langley Christmas Lights.

Based on selection in the summer term, a number of children have this term started free Music Workshop lessons on school cellos, cornets and baritone horns. This has been very popular and the children have made a good start. Other children are continuing with violin or recorder, and many also have Music Appreciation lessons. Children starting or continuing these instruments in Year 4 have signed that they will practise at home a minimum of three times every week. This is essential, otherwise they will not progress and the School will not enter them for Grade 1, Grade 2, etc. exams. The Year 4 Choir has performed in a community concert in Windsor and repeated the same work 'The Lord is my shepherd' by Howard Goodall for the benefit of visitors from Ofsted! A Year 4 violin ensemble has been established, with weekly practice sessions, in addition to the String orchestra for Year 5&6 children.

Year 5 and 6 children have a wide range of instruments in Music Workshop, and this term many children have started new instruments including clarinet, flute, African drums and ukulele. Many of those continuing with instruments they started in earlier years are now working towards music exams. The Concert Band has three performances this Christmas, the final one being in the privileged surroundings of Eton College Chapel at a Slough Schools Carol Service. The main musical focus of the term for most Year 5&6 children has, however, been the school show, *Beauty & The Beast* which is as always delivering great benefits for their skills in singing, acting, dancing, teamwork and general confidence.

Weekly singing assemblies for all Upper School children have focused on a wide range of hymns and, more recently, carols leading to two Christmas assemblies in St Mary's Church, Langley on the last Monday of term.

A record number of children at both Upper and Lower School are now taking part in musical clubs and private music lessons at the school. Two early evening informal concerts have given performance opportunities to many of these children. A large number of children are returning to school on December 20 and 21 to take Associated Board music exams. We wish them all the best of luck.



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