



# Southborough Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

Value of the Term  
**COMPASSION**

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This week we thought you may like to hear about the class reading books and linked activities the children have been enjoying so far this term as part of their topic. Here are reports from each year group.

## Diary Dates

6<sup>th</sup> February – Football home match v St James

13<sup>th</sup> February – Sportshall Athletics

14<sup>th</sup> February – Football home match v Paddock Wood

**15<sup>th</sup> February – End of Term**

## Reception

**Rupert** remembers that our story is called **Bedtime for Monsters**. The monster in the story wants a goodnight kiss but everyone thinks the monster wants to eat us. **River** thinks the monster is a kind monster. **Finley** told us that we made lots of monster signs because we had to scare the monsters away. **Chloe P's** sign said, 'No Monsters Allowed.' Everybody in Reception has made their own monster puppet and they are now living in our classrooms. But don't worry they only want to give you a big sloppy kiss.

## Year 1

In English lessons this term the children have been looking at 'One Day, On Our Blue Planet... In The Savannah.' The children have been exploring a different geographical setting and the numerous animals that can be found there. They have researched and written about lions and have written engaging descriptions of the African Savannah.

Joshua "The Savannah was peaceful until one of the lions roared. It was pandemonium in the woods! The last few pitter patter of paws went away as the sun came up."

Bastian "The scorching sun beamed down on the dry Savannah land. The porcupines roamed behind bushes. The bats flew across the sky. The black rhinos crunched on the bottle green grass as the lions protected their territory. A bush baby hid behind a bush from the predators."



## Year 2 – The Fox and the Star

Our text for the term is 'The Fox and the Star' written by Coralie Bickford-Smith. The children will be using this fantastic book to create list poems and odes. They will be creating rich word lists to support all their writing, including written stories, persuasive letters, riddles and in oral story telling. The text will also be a stimulus for note taking, which will support their non-chronological report writing. Its beautiful illustrations will inspire our Art this term. We have begun to look at Van Gogh and the children will be creating their own interpretation of his famous 'Starry Night' painting. We are also learning about animals and their habitats and forests around the world.

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, children are invited to dress up as their favourite fictional character from

one of the texts we have explored in Year 2 this academic year.

Here are some ideas for costumes:  
Term 1 Text – Traction Man – Be creative, you could dress up as Traction man or even scrubbing brush

Term 2 Text – The Princess and the White Bear King – You could dress up as the troll, a polar bear or a princess.

Our new Term 3 Text – The Fox and the Star – Maybe dress up as a fox, the star or another woodland creature. More details to follow.

## Year 3

In Year 3 we are reading Oliver and the Seawigs by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre. We have enjoyed being introduced to Cliff, the talking island, Iris the unusual mermaid, and bossy Mr Culpeper the albatross. We have read about the Thurlstone, an evil island intent on winning the famous Night of the Seawigs, and used our detective skills to infer facts about the character of Stacey de Lacey, the mean teenager who is the enemy of Oliver. We have created our own dramas about how we would like the story to end, and we are excited about making our very own seawigs in art.

"It's a really exciting book!" – **Ava, N3**

"We don't really know what's going to come next, we're in suspense!" – **Scarlett, N3**

"The sea monkeys are hideously evil!" – **Ted, N3**



#### Year 4

This term Year 4 have been focusing on the text 'Jemmy Button' by Alix Barzelay. The book explores the journey of a young boy who leaves his home in Terra del Fuego to travel to England. This week we have developed our poetry skills analysing the poem 'Windrush child' by John Agard and used this as a model to write our own collaborative poems. We tried to include key features such as verses, repetition, propositional phrases and strong vocabulary. This week we also worked as teams to practise and perform our poems focusing on the tone and volume of our voices as well as speed, pace and actions.



#### Year 5

This term, Year 5 have been reading the book *Way Home* by Libby Hathorn and Gregory Rogers. We have been using the images to really unpick the idea of mood and atmosphere in a text. We have also enjoyed linking this book to different aspects of the curriculum, including science where we have been learning about properties and changes of matter. We have been discussing how different reactants could be used by the protagonist in our story. In geography, we have been learning about maps and how our use of maps has changed over time. We linked this to how our protagonist may be travelling

around the city he lives in. Then, we drew our own maps of the school.

#### Year 6

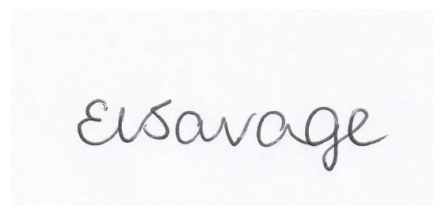
This term, Year 6 have embarked on a journey into England's Fenland landscape through our text 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick: isolated and abandoned on the ever-shrinking island of Norwich, Zoe has no option but to escape. Before long, she finds herself on another island, the isle of Eels; life here for her is even more complicated than it was previously. Riveting, with twists at every turn, this text has allowed the children to immerse themselves in a world that could one day easily be their own. From persuading characters over what their future actions should be, to writing detailed narratives, children have been able to develop their wide range of literary skills, adapting for the different audiences.

As a consequence of the rich story line, we have been able to make links to many other aspects of our curriculum. Within science, we have explored electricity, applying our knowledge as to how this would have been useful for Zoe: who knew certain fruit and vegetables could give us power! The picturesque Fenland landscape has allowed us in art to create ink drawings, focusing on the finery of details of many features of this watery world. We still have much more on the horizon too, with an exploration of the history of the Fens (and what may lay ahead) to come, and of course, discovering the fate of our heroine with the conclusion of our novel!



I hope you have enjoyed reading these reports, which will link in with World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March when all children are invited to dress as one of the characters from the texts they have explored so far this year, such as those above.

Don't forget, you are also invited to our open classroom event from 2.40 p.m. – 3.10 p.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, to share a story with your child.



Mrs E Savage  
Headteacher