

Dear Parents/Carers,

Weather!

Well done to our resilient children for making the most of our changeable weather this week. When the weather is inclement we check the site prior to the start of the day, morning break and lunchtime to ensure conditions underfoot are safe and levels of rain and wind are not unsuitable.

It is so much better for the pupils to get fresh air and exercise twice a day and as such we only stay inside if the rain is torrential, winds are extreme or underfoot is icy.

It is therefore important that pupils have appropriate leather footwear and warm coats worn to school. It is their responsibility to put their coats on when they go outside.

Year 5

In Year 5 English, pupils have been working hard creating detailed expanded noun phrases for a character description of a mystery character! This is alongside the character description of Uncle Andrew from *The Magician's Nephew*, our current class text.

In Maths, we have started our unit on fractions which will take us right to the end of the term! Pupils have been doing a great job identifying different fractions and simplifying fractions so far. We have had quite a few discussions about the importance of knowing timetables and how that will help with their fraction work. Please keep up with timetable practice at home!

This week in Year 5 French, we have been looking at words that sound similar, mean similar and are spelt similarly - cognates, and discussed how non-French speakers would be able to identify what the words mean, such as *docteur* and *éléphant*. We also looked at French words that appear in the English language, such as *cul-de-sac* and *grand prix*, and talked about how English is made up of over 10,000 French words and other languages too.

Year 6

Well done to Year 6 for approaching this week so positively with the mock SATs coming up next week. In Maths the children have worked hard across a range of fractions calculations such as adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions as well solving a wide range of problems involving fractions.

The children are becoming more and more confident in the wide range of the Key Stage 2 curriculum and know that next week's tests will be a good opportunity to find out what needs to be focused on between now and May.

Year 7

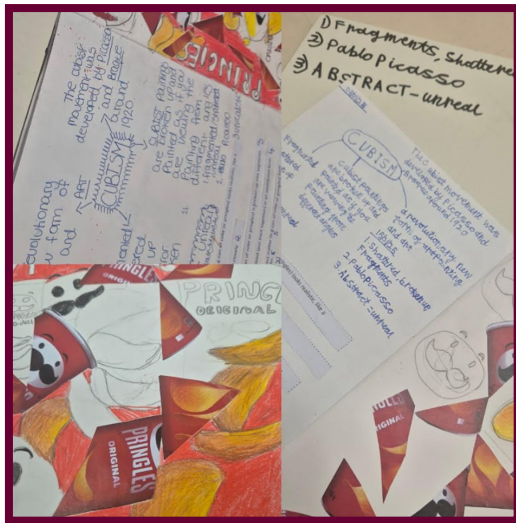
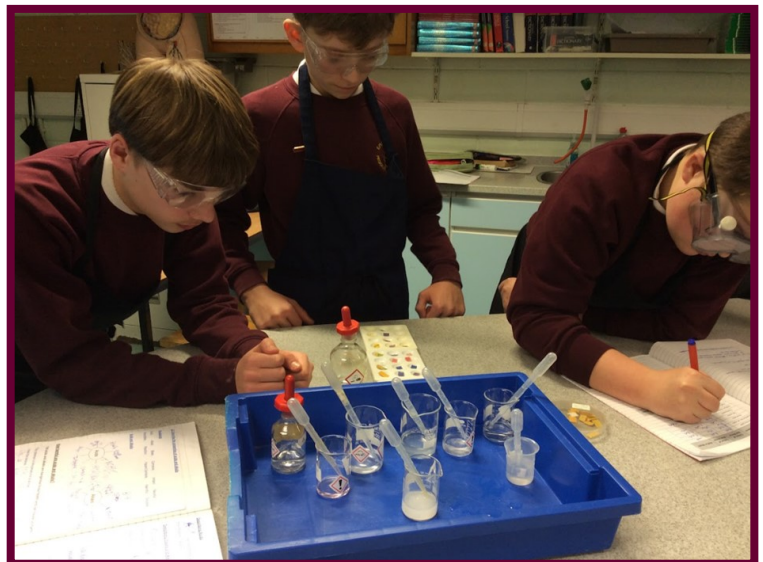
In Year 7 Maths the children have been using their knowledge of place value and calculating to solve a variety of problems including those involving charts and tables.

Year 7 have had great fun in History this week deciding who the best and worst medieval kings were. They used their persuasive writing skills to decide who stays on board and who is ejected from the hot air balloon. Having studied William I, King John and Edward I pupils used their learning to decide who History could do without!

Year 8

In Y8 English we have just finished a formative assessment for dystopian writing. The pupils are currently reworking sections following teacher feedback.

In Year 8 Science we are currently studying Acids and Alkalis. The children conducted experiments involving indicators, they even made their own cabbage indicator!



In Year 8 Art this week have been looking at CUBISM, distorting and ABSTRACTING their Still Life compositions.

KS3 Sparx Science

Having listened to the comments raised concerning the hand-out and hand-in dates for the Sparx Science HW, it has now been changed to be in line with Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader.

The initial rationale was to space out the homework, with the intention being that students avoid all the homework due on the same day. However, having listened to many of the comments from both parents and students, it appears that the consensus is that the majority would prefer a consistency across the Sparx expected homework tasks. Therefore, Sparx Science will now be issued on a Friday at 3pm and expected to be completed by the following Friday at 2pm.

This means the next Sparx Science homework will be issued on Friday 24th January due for the following Friday.

Many thanks for all your support and feedback.

Indoor Athletics

The Year 5 and 6 Indoor athletics team took part in a competition at Ferndown Upper school on Monday 20th January. All pupils competed in both track and field events and did extremely well. Unfortunately, we didn't make the county finals this time, but it was a great experience and good practice for the summer athletics.

Well done to all of them.

All that is left is to wish everyone a great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday.

Mr Rob Christopher and
Mr Alister Barker

