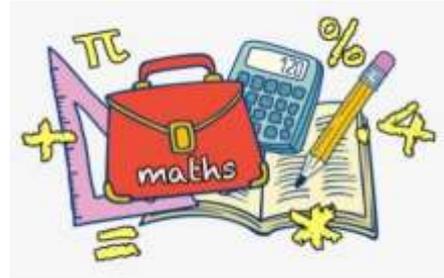


Summer in Class 6

Maths

In maths this term, we spent some time consolidating the learning that we did during the period spent in lockdown. We covered angles, volume and capacity, area and perimeter. As well as improving our maths knowledge and recall of tables



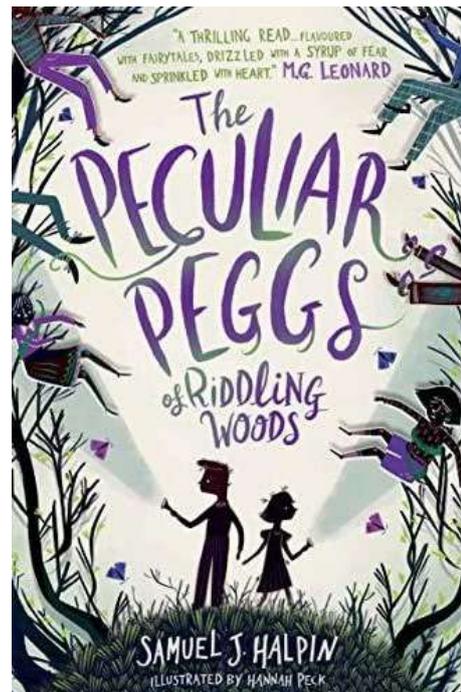
facts, we spent a lot of time improving our problem-solving skills. We learnt how to calculate percentages looked at how percentages, fractions and decimals are related.

We took concepts we had covered in our maths lessons and answered multi-step questions involving a range of mathematical ideas. We carried out some investigations and worked very hard on our independence and resilience.

English

When we returned after the Easter holidays, we started another class reading book called *The Peculiar Peggs of Riddling Woods*. The story is all about a girl called Poppy who goes to stay with her gran in the mysterious town of Suds.

We really enjoyed reading the story and couldn't wait to hear what happened next! Each day a different group of children would be in the 'dictionary corner' and when we identified any



unfamiliar words, we found them in the dictionary and read the definition. After a while we got really good at using the dictionaries and had fun trying to guess what the words meant by using the context of the sentence.

While we read the story we used some of the characters and settings to inspire us to write character descriptions, story settings, short stories and play scripts which we acted out in front of the class.

As we listened to the descriptions of the characters in the story, we used the information in the author's words to help paint a picture of the character in our minds and drew sketches of how we imagined



the characters would look. The idea of 'painting a picture in the reader's mind' is an important one when writing stories and we tried to use it in our own work.

After reading the story, we reviewed it and watched an interview by the author, Samuel J Halpin, which was about the art of storytelling.

Science

In science this term, we found out about the life cycle of flowering plants and the different ways in which plants disperse their seeds. We went on a nature walk and collected some different types of seed heads in varying stages of development (such as poppy, nigella and dandelion).

Since plants flower at different times in the year, we could see plants which were newly flowering, plants which had gone to seed and some plants in the stages between.

We researched the different seed dispersal methods and worked in groups to create a poster showing each method.

We also looked at how plants are pollinated and the anatomy of a flower. We collected lots of different types of flowers and carefully took them apart and identified the flower parts we had learnt about. Some plants, for example, have tiny stamens while some, such as the lily, have large stamens.



In our next topic, we looked at properties of materials and grouped materials according to their properties. We carried out investigations into dissolving and made predictions about which materials would be soluble or insoluble.

We made our own querns (a Stone Age hand mill for grinding corn and wheat) using stones with different properties and used them to investigate which stone properties produce the finest powder.

Geography

In geography, we worked on our atlas skills and, in pairs, used atlases and Google earth to research the names of capital cities. After spending time learning their names, we had a class quiz which was fun!

Using atlases, we worked on our ability to locate countries using the index and grid reference. Next, we used Ordnance Survey maps and learnt how to use 4 and 6-figure grid reference in order to find exact places within map squares.

Since the fire department was unable to attend our school to talk about water safety, they asked teachers in school to discuss the topic with the children in their class. Water safety is very important and knowing what to do to keep safe and in an emergency is vital.

After discussing what we already knew about water safety, we went through the slide show and information video sent by the fire department and talked about how to stay safe around large bodies of water. We found out all about currents, tides, commonly seen flags on UK beaches and what they mean and how to summon help if required.



We really enjoyed finding out about how to stay safe around water and know that this could one day save our lives! To summarise what we found out, we each made a large poster about water safety and shared them with the class.

Now that lockdown was over, we could once again get back outside and work on our orienteering skills. Since we had followed each of the permanent courses set up around the school, each week a different group created their own course. The maps were made using a template on a laptop and the cards were written out and placed in the correct position around the school. Of course, each course we created had to be tested before the rest of the class could try it out!

History

Our history topic this term was Stone Age Britain. We looked back at how Britain has changed throughout time and found out that the Stone Age is divided into three main periods (Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic).



Through internet research, class discussion and shared reading of texts, we found out all about the hunter-gatherers of Stone Age Britain: how they crafted tools such as bow and arrows, axes, and ploughs. We found out about the different animal traps early humans would use, such as snares and deadfalls and how fires would be lit and used for warmth, cooking food, light and protection. Using steel and flint, we learnt how to create a spark and lit our own fire which we



used to cook sausages, burgers and vegetables while we imagined we were living thousands of years ago in the Stone Age.

During the Stone Age, the style of shelters and homes which were built changed and evolved over time and we found out how the main shelter types were constructed (and even had a go at building one of our own!).

We carried out a hunter-gatherer activity, searching around the school grounds for hidden cards showing the sources of food available for Stone Age people to eat. Using the information attached, we decided which items to collect which were potentially poisonous!



Art and Design

In our art lessons this term, we researched the work of the group of artists known as the *Impressionists*, artists who rather than painting an exact copy of what they saw painted their *impression* of the scene in front of them. By looking at the style and techniques used by artists such as Claude Monet, Edgar Degas and others, we were able to paint our own scene in the impressionist style.

After researching and collecting some of our favourite impressionist paintings, we chose a photograph showing a scene which interested us and used bright colours and bold brushstrokes to create our own modern take on the impressionist style of painting.

During the previous term's work on El Salvador and the Ancient Mayans, we looked at how chocolate has been used throughout history. After watching a series of videos about the manufacture of

chocolate, we used the raw ingredients and designed and created our own unique flavours of chocolate. Working in groups, we used a basic chocolate recipe, added our own flavourings and made a batch of unique chocolate. We had such fun tasting it and comparing it with the chocolate manufactured in factories today.



After researching tie-dye t-shirt designs and the methods used to create different styles such as

swirls and spirals, we all made our own tie-dye t-shirts. We had fun folding and twisting the material in order to create the pattern we wanted. It was exciting when each t-shirt was unfolded and shown to the class – we didn't know what to expect but they all turned out really well and are perfect for wearing in the summer sun!



Gardening

After a winter and spring spent weeding, preparing the soil, sowing seeds and planting trees provided by the woodland trust, we could

once again get back out in the garden and help Miss Jones with the never-ending task of weeding, watering and the general upkeep of the school garden. The ducks were making good use of the pond we dug out for them and the seeds we helped plant in the spring were growing well.

Climbing Wall

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to organise a residential trip this year but we were able to organise a class trip to Sunderland Climbing Wall. We all did really well and thoroughly enjoyed our day.

