



27th November 2020

Newsletter No. 125

St Dunstan's, Cheam, C of E Primary School

Message from the Deputy Headteacher

The last two weeks have flown by and I hope you enjoy reading about the exciting changes we have made to the teaching of writing as outlined by Mrs Cordery below. Please do take time to read this, together with some of the children's responses to the new approach.

As I write this Newsletter it doesn't seem possible that this Sunday is the first in Advent and Christmas is around the corner! Although Christmas this year will look different to previous years, our preparations and celebrations will continue to remind us of the first Christmas and God's gift of Jesus to us.

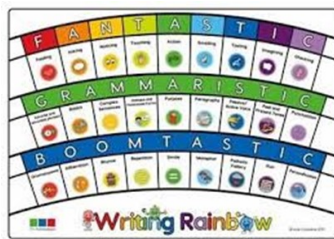
As the first candle is lit in many churches this Sunday and symbolises the prophecy candle and hope for what is to come, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit you may be rich in hope.'

Romans 15:13

Mrs Porter

'The Write Stuff' – our new approach to the teaching and learning of writing.

We have recently introduced a new approach to the teaching of writing at St Dunstan's called 'The Write Stuff'. It is an approach created by Jane Considine - a teacher, author and education consultant with a passion for reading and writing in primary schools. Year 6 successfully trialled this approach during the first half of the autumn term and the rest of the school, from Early Years upwards are now introducing it into their teaching and learning.



The approach centres around the use of 27 lenses on a three-tiered rainbow – 'The Writing Rainbow'. By focusing on different lenses through carefully modelled sentences, the children get to see how sentences can be built to convey meaning, for effect, to have a positive or negative impact, and much more.

The lessons in Years 1 to 6 consist of 'Experience Lessons' and 'Sentence Stacking Lessons' which build a 'guided' text over a few lessons. Following these lessons, the children plan and write their own independent text, using the writing skills that they have been taught. The

sentence stacking lessons are delivered in a specific manner: they begin with a picture/video clip/story excerpt/idea that the children are asked to 'chot' about. The term 'chotting' comes from 'chatting' and 'jotting' and during this section, the children talk to a partner and write down their vocabulary ideas that they have shared. This is followed by 'Kind Calling Out' where the children call out some of their 'chottings' for the teacher and rest of the class to write down. The next step is for the children to watch the teacher as they model the writing of a sentence using the chottings and with a specific lens from the Writing Rainbow as the focus e.g. complex sentence, feelings, rhetorical question and so on. The children then take the modelled sentence and the chottings and create their own version of the modelled sentence making sure that they include the focus lens. This takes around 15 – 20 minutes and is repeated twice more with a different lens focus for each section. By the end of the lesson, the children have produced a paragraph of writing that will form part of a longer piece.



The skills and knowledge of punctuation, grammar and vocabulary that children need in order to be able to write well are woven through this approach as the children see how the teacher, and they as writers, make choices about vocabulary and apply the techniques which are necessary for effective and accurate writing. Spelling continues to be taught separately, but is then incorporated into their writing.

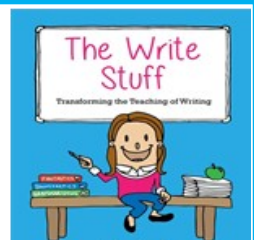
We are the very early stages of our journey with this approach, but already there is a buzz of excitement in every classroom around the quality of the writing that the children are producing.

We are incredibly grateful to the PTFA who have funded the unit plans for this approach and have bought folders for the children to store and present their published writing in.

We would also like to thank an anonymous donor who has given us the funds to buy a 'Writing Rainbow' poster and set of 'Writing Rainbow Lenses' for each class. All of these resources will allow us to further develop all of our children as writers. Thank you.

Please do talk to your children about this new approach and look out for more tweets about our writing on the school Twitter page. Jane Considine is following us and has already commented on how impressed she is with the vocabulary choices in Year 2!

Mrs Cordery – Writing Subject Leader



Virgin London Mini-Marathon

We were so proud of the amazing achievement of all our children who completed the Virgin London Mini-Marathon back in October. The children showed great grit and determination, completing 2.6 miles in total (approximately 30 laps of the school field). They had enormous fun, and really enjoyed participating. It was certainly the 'cherry on the cake', when three boxes of bright and shiny medals arrived at school! It has been a joy to see the huge smiles on the children's faces, as they received medals to reward and celebrate their efforts!



Mrs F Cowley



Calendar Competition: Thank you to all of the children who entered the calendar front cover competition. We had lots of amazing entries and we were so impressed by everyone's hard work. Everyone who entered should feel very proud of themselves.

A huge 'congratulations' to Elisabeth E in Year 4 whose entry was chosen as the overall winner and will be the front cover for the calendar.

Christmas Raffle Donations: Thank you for all your kind donations for our online Christmas raffle this year. Further information will be sent out next week regarding how you can purchase tickets and providing details of the exciting prizes to be won.

School Uniform Donations: We have a replacement shed and we hope to be able to take donations of second hand uniform very soon. We welcome all donations of good quality and clean uniform that is no longer required. Further information will be circulated to explain how you can donate this to the school in due course. Thank you.

PTFA

House Points

St Andrew

723

St George

749

St David

777

St Patrick

714

Attendance

The attendance figure for w/c 16 /11 /2020 was:
97.9%

'Stars' of the last two weeks.....

Nursery	Oscar	Victoria
Venus	George D	Georgia B
Pluto	James R	Sonny
Neptune	Sofia R	Jack
Mercury	Viktor	Lami
Jupiter	Julia	Kamilly
Saturn	Talia	Tommy
Delphinus	Ben F	Nefeli
Phoenix	Shayaan	Gilbert
Orion	Giana	Aaradhana
Pegasus	Kaveri	Imaan
Unicorn	Bob	Matias
Hercules	Zac Mc	Bashir
Aquila	Jess B	Ronnie
Cygnus	Daniel J	Teodora

Bakers in the making

In Year 3, the



children researched, planned, wrote and tested their own 'Healthy Mug - Cake Recipes' as part of their Scrumdiddlyumptious writing unit.



"I washed my hands, got out my ingredients and mixed them carefully to make my Strawberry Mug Cake. I had lots of fun when I was putting the egg in it. I think it will taste delicious- my mum is going to eat it." Chloe, Phoenix Class.

ONE SMALL STEP



This week, Year 5 have been publishing their story recount, using the 'One Small Step' animation for inspiration.



"It was really fun learning in steps, and learning with Luna." Alfi. "It showed us a lot of feelings that a person can go through." Cobi. "It shows us that if something bad happens to you, you should keep trying, as good can happen as well." Lauren.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Dates may be subject to change)

December

Thurs 3rd

Fri 18th

January

Mon 4th

Tues 5th

Yr2 'Discover Christmas' Workshop
Break Up at 1.30pm

INSET DAY

Children Return to School