28.02.2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing half-term holiday. As we move into the Spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic learning that took place last term and share the exciting topics we have ahead!

Looking Back on Spring 1: Power and Plenty

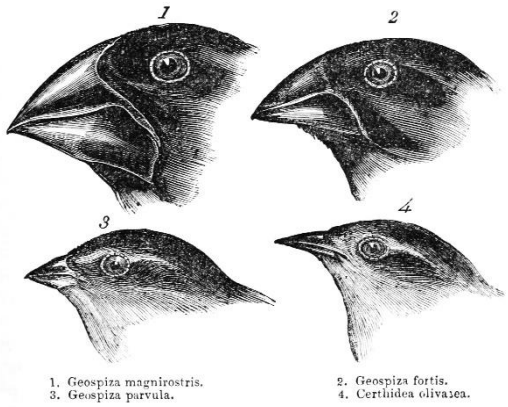
Our topic, Power and Plenty, had a strong geographical focus. The children developed their map skills; mastering latitude and longitude as well as 4- and 6-figure grid references. They explored time zones across the world and deepened their understanding of the water cycle. We also looked closer to home, investigating how Nottingham has changed over time, linking back to our history work on the Industrial Revolution, to see how Nottingham grew from a provincial medieval town to a major centre of the textiles industry in the 19th century. This encouraged the children to think critically about how industries, transport and population growth have shaped our city.

In English, our learning connected to the global theme, focusing on the Amazon Rainforest. We wrote rich, immersive character and setting descriptions inspired by *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson, transporting our readers into the depths of the jungle. The children also created detailed non-chronological reports about the layers of the rainforest, showcasing their research and organisational skills. Our adventure story writing was a particular highlight, as the children crafted gripping tales of survival and resilience when faced with the unpredictable and untamed Amazon.

Our art lessons also took inspiration from nature, exploring ancient Aboriginal art. The children studied its cultural significance and experimented with traditional techniques, producing vibrant dot paintings and storytelling symbols that reflected their own interpretations of nature and community.

Looking Ahead to Spring 2: Change and Adapt

This term, our whole school topic is Change and Adapt. Building on our previous work in science, we will dive deeper into Darwin's theory of evolution, investigating how animals have adapted to their environments over time. We will explore fascinating case studies, including the peppered moth, whose camouflage has evolved in response to industrial pollution and the rock hopper mouse, demonstrating the incredible ways species adjust to survive in harsh conditions.



In English, we will embark on an exciting historical journey, stepping into the shoes of Charles Darwin himself. The children will craft diary entries that capture the sense of wonder, discovery and adversity that Darwin experienced on his famous voyage aboard the Beagle. Through vivid descriptions and reflective writing, they will bring his incredible findings to life.

Maths will be filled with hands-on learning as we explore perimeter and area, the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, angles, coordinates, and an introduction to algebra. These key topics will be brought to life through practical investigations, problem-solving activities and challenges that encourage logical thinking. Alongside these areas, we will continue to consolidate essential arithmetic and English grammar skills in preparation for the KS2 SATs, ensuring every child feels confident and prepared.

We are incredibly excited about the journey ahead and can't wait to see the children continue to develop their curiosity, resilience and passion for learning. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With best wishes,

Mr de Malplaquet