



16th February 2018

What a fantastic start to the New Year!

Attendance

We are currently at 95.5%. This is a positive start and we hope that it continues along this track for the rest of the year.

Values

This half term we have focused on the values of Hope and Empathy. For Hope, the children heard the story of Pandora's box, where only hope remained. We also looked at Martin Luther King, Junior who had a dream that changed the world! Special thanks to Rico for doing extra research for Mrs. Foster!

The children also looked at the aspirational young boy in Maldon who wanted to help the homeless in his area. He set up raising awareness and gathering items together to make backpacks. See the link below to find out more.

[Support for the homeless](#)

Mrs Ward was so moved by the plastic pollution in the sea, shown on Blue Planet 2, that she has set up plastic recycling in school for single use plastic containers. Every little helps and we use 195 four-litre milk cartons every year in school. All of these are now destined to be recycled.

We learned that WE CAN change the world for the better, by focusing on what we want to change and taking small steps to improve it.

For Empathy, we have imagined 'walking a mile in someone else's shoes.' This has been relevant to our learning this half term, both for the Romans and for Space Exploration. Lower School have literally marched a mile in Roman sandals, while Upper School imagined what it would be like to be in space – either as an animal or an astronaut.

Having Empathy allows us to understand other people better and to alter our behaviour accordingly. As Dali Lama said, "Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."

Alien Visitor

Upper School returned after half term to discover a curious Alien, named Glurg, had visited their classrooms, eating biscuits, leaving footprints and leaving a letter in each class.

This has then sparked our interest further in our topic of 'Where in the Universe am I?' all about Earth and Space. We have written back and are waiting to see whether he visits again!

A taste of Italy by Amelia Khalid

To start our topic on 'What have the Roman's done for us?' Lower School tasted typical Italian food – olives, pasta, bread dipped in Olive oil and Gelato (ice cream). We also got to play a game answering questions with 4 possible answers. Unfortunately, Amelia was out on the first turn! The children really enjoyed trying the food. We also learned how to say the numbers up to 20, which is why they are still in the hall to remind us throughout this topic.

Rotten Romans

Poor Upper School were just working quietly when legions of Rotten Romans (from Lower School) invaded their classes and changed what they had to do!

Lower School imagined it was a real war and I felt kind of blood thirsty! It was great to do something really exciting as we are normally writing. It was really fun to feel like a teacher, as we were in charge, telling everyone what to do. We also taught them about Roman Numerals and some Latin.

William Class 7

Thank you, William for that great insight. It was so exciting to see the children engaged and active in their learning. We all learnt a lot from the experience, even the teachers.

DEAR

As a whole school, we are now doing a daily 10 minute DEAR session. DEAR stands for Drop Everything And Read. It really is inspiring to see EVERYONE engrossed in their reading books for 10 minutes – even the adults. Try it at home!

Holocaust Memorial Day

Friday 26th January, we looked at the Power of Words, to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day – which was held on Saturday 27th January. The children thought about the impact that their words can have, both positive and negative. They produced some thoughtful acrostic poems, based around the word HOPE – our current value, to remind everyone about the Power of Words.

Happiness spreading through the World,
Our community coming together,
Perseverance is needed,

Everybody being loved.

By Freya W, Class 4

Happiness doesn't cost any money,

Opportunities to be kind,

People to love,

Empathy for others

By Minnie and Daisy, Class 4

Happiness all around,

Optimistic thoughts every day,

People being loved,

Everyone matters

By Zoe, Class 4

National Storytelling Week

To keep alive the art of storytelling, all the classes, during their DEAR time, shared, made up and told stories all week. Pobble365 was a great website to give us beautiful pictures to inspire our stories. We hope that the children continued to share these with you at home too.

Porchester Parliament

Our class representatives were fortunate enough to be invited to the Civic Centre to meet with the Mayor of Gedling! They had biscuits and juice and spoke to the Mayor herself. They even visited chambers at the Civic Centre.

This is an amazing opportunity for the children and not one that everyone gets the opportunity to do.

Well done Porchester Parliament for representing us so well.

Safer Internet Day

This year we focused on Fake News - raising children's awareness that not everything they see on the internet is true. The internet is an amazing system that has the answers to many questions and inspiration for more, but the children need to remember that not everything they read or see is real.

Valentine's Day

To celebrate the most loving day in the calendar, we sold beautiful, wooden roses, with a label for the children to write a message for a loved one. At only £1.00 they were a real bargain, raising funds for school too to help buy resources throughout the year. We made over £175 in sales of our roses alone.

Chinese New Year

According to Chinese customs, this year is The Year of the Dog. People born in the Year of the Dog are usually independent, sincere, loyal and decisive according to Chinese zodiac analysis. They are not afraid of difficulties in daily life. These shining characteristics make

them have harmonious relationship with people around. Some of our Year Sixes are born in the Year of the Dog, and can certainly be described in those terms.

All children were given a traditional, lucky red envelope containing a packet of sweets – exactly as the Chinese do this time of year.

Thank you for allowing the children to come dressed so splendidly – they looked amazing.

Homework

Upper School have produced homework that is out of this World this half term. We have seen amazing airplanes, terrific Top Trumps, super song titles, Hopeful Hope messages, interesting interview questions and perfect Planet timings. Some children even decided to dazzle us with their own homework – Solar Systems, facts, dioramas, posters and Lego models, to name but a few.

We are all really impressed with their positive learning attitudes and how they are continuing to learn outside of school – true Life-Long Learners.

Partake

Lower School were fortunate enough to have Partake visit the school and show them even more about the Romans. They learnt to march and even held the shields and wore helmets – literally walking in someone else's shoes. Partake offered them traditional Roman food – bread, oil, fish sauce and olives all washed down with pomegranate juice. I think this really made the children question whether a Roman life was the life for them!

Upper School Reflection – Where in the Universe am I?

Thank you for coming to see what Upper School have been learning. There were so many of you that took the time to come to see our work. We hope you were blown away by the interesting facts that the children were able to tell you. This reflection was all their own work, in their own words, presented in their own way.

Thank you for supporting your child. It means so much more when they get to talk to a real audience and it gives their learning meaning.

Lower School reflection – What have the Roman's done for us?

How many times do you get to see a Roman Museum in your own school? Well, that's what Lower School presented to their parents/carers this week. As with Upper School, there were lots of you that took the time to come and learn about the Romans. We are certain that there were some facts you didn't want to know!

Thank you for supporting your child and the school. When children explain what they have learned it solidifies their understanding and makes the learning deeper. For them to be able to produce a museum and talk you through it, shows how well they understood their topic.

Dates for next half term

| Date | Event |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fri 16 th February | Chinese New Year – Year of the Dog* |
| | Break up for half term |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAYS | |
| Mon 26 th February | INSET day – school closed to children |
| Tues 27 th February | Welcome back |
| | World Kindness Day |
| Thurs 1 st March | World Book Day* |
| | Year 5/6 visit to Lakeside - Class 6 and Year 6 of Class 5 |
| Fri 2 nd March | Year 5/6 visit to Lakeside - Class 4 and Year 5 of Class 5 |
| Mon 5 th March | World Maths day |
| Thurs 8 th March | International Women's Day* |
| Sun 11 th March | Mothering Sunday |
| Wed 14 th March | Sing Up Day* |
| Wed 21 st March | Sports Relief* |
| w/b 26 th March | Lower School reflection* |
| | Upper School reflection at 2.15* |
| Thurs 29 th March | Easter Activities* |
| | Break up for Easter |
| Easter Holidays | |
| Mon 16 th April | Return to School |

* more information to follow

Key dates for the coming year

Mon 4th June - INSET days

Wed 25th April – Fri 27th April - Year 6 residential

Mon 14th May – Thurs 17th May - Year 6 SATS week