

## Year 2 ~ Autumn 19

Last half term our theme was 'Marvelous Materials', with a particular focus on Science supporting the children in identifying materials, their uses and making comparisons between them. The theme was taught around texts, including 'Stick Man' and 'Traction Man' that provided children with a 'material' stimulus, leading on to scientific investigations and Art projects.

John Boyd Dunlop was the focus of our significant person who has contributed to national achievements. The children followed an enquiry approach into the life of Dunlop and created a wonderful fact file.

All of this work was introduced by having a fantastic Julia Donaldson day. Children reveled in a picnic, listened to many Julia Donaldson stories, watched The Stickman Film and created 3D stickmen pictures.

The children have really enjoyed the Talk for Writing approach to story writing. They have had so much fun learning the story and actions for 'Stick Man' and 'Traction Man'. They have had a great time writing stories this term, particularly innovating them to change the problem to really make the stories their own!

The art work this term has been fantastic as the children have studied the sculptor Andy Goldsworthy and used natural materials to create sculptures in his style. They also enjoyed making willow Christmas trees during our Willow Day with Chaz, a willow craftsman who came to share his willow-weaving skills with us.

During our computing lessons, the children learnt how to program both Scratch and Logo, writing algorithms to move their characters around the screen. They had lots of fun changing their backgrounds and characters.

During the second half term the fun began with our topic 'Amazing Animals' which has a Science focus on "Living Things". The children fully immersed themselves in the story of 'Superworm' and even took on the role of superheroes themselves, when we went out to the environmental area to save the worms from Wizard Lizard's clutches. We then kept them safe in our very own class wormery,



which we observed over a number of weeks to find out all about the seven life processes.

During our Remembrance week, the children learnt about Moina Michaels and her idea of using a poppy to remember people who have suffered during wars. The children wrote a thoughtful recount about her life and we were blown away by their maturity when approaching this topic. We also learnt about Poetry Techniques and learnt poems about the war. We performed these to the class before writing our own emotive poppy shaped poem using alliteration.

In PE, the children have had an exciting opportunity to use their previous learning about balance and co-ordination and apply these skills when learning a line dancing routine with Cat from Euphoria Dance.

In Design and Technology, the children researched, designed, made and evaluated a "Fabric Decoration" for their Christmas tree. They have learnt about The Nativity and why Christmas is important to Christians; the children have acted out parts of the Nativity before writing up their own version of the story.

It is now that time of the year, for glitter, tinsel and sparkle as we start lots of exciting Christmas crafts and prepare for the celebration of Christmas. We are all very excited about our up and coming trip to the Pantomime. What a lovely end to a very busy and productive term!

