Sensory Sycamore!

PSHE

This term in PSHE the learners in Sycamore have participated in activities to embed their understanding and knowledge of 'People who help us'. They took turns to dress up as a doctor to check the staffs ears, learned Makaton signs for the names of people who help us and enjoyed lots of role plays and sensory fire making. The learners loved brushing the teeth using model mouths and plastic teeth.

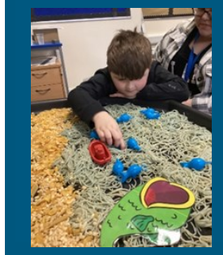




Science

The learners have enjoyed observing how ice melts from a solid to a liquid and created lots of bubbles using plastic straws. They enjoyed watching what happens when you blow into the water using the straws.






National Chocolate Cake Day

Kiora Hall celebrated National Chocolate Cake Day in style. The theme for the event was Willy Wonka's factory.

Each class joined in and prepared chocolate for the whole school to enjoy and Willy Wonka came for the event as well!







The pupils enjoyed watching the chocolate river go down the mountain, there were even edible strips on the wall to reflect the edible wallpaper in the book.

Learners enjoyed dishing out their treats to others, building upon their communication and social skills. Pupils followed and created their own recipes within English and cooking lessons for the event which embedded lots of reading, writing, and comprehension skills.

The stalls that the classes created were interactive. One stall encouraged pupils to create their own chocolate bars, another made chocolate drinks. There was a chocolate fountain, and pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the chocolate dessert.

All staff and pupils enjoyed the event, which enabled the whole school to come together and interact with one another.







Important dates

School closes for half term on Friday 16th February and re-opens on Monday 26th February.

We then close for the Easter holidays on Thursday 28th March and learners return to school on Tuesday 16th April.

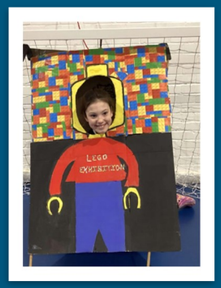
The Voice of Kiora Hall School

Newsletter February 2023/24

Term 2

Kiora Hall Lego Exhibition

This half-term, Kiora Hall held it's first ever Lego Exhibition!
Pupils worked extremely hard designing and producing their Lego pieces for the exhibition. The Lego masterpieces ranged from towers, the Taj Mahal, a replica of the Fun Shack, and a boat with a secret passageway.
Pupils were eager to communicate how they had made their creation and proudly described the features of their models. Each class presented their work with pictures and an explanation.
The pupils either worked independently, bringing their imagination to life with LEGO, or worked collaboratively, embedding social and communication skills.
Parents came to celebrate the pupils' success and entered the hall to twinkling music, a cuppa, and a piece (or two) of cake. What a lovely afternoon!







Music lesson for Hazel class

Hazel class have started music lessons this term. To start their music journey, Hazel class enjoyed exploring Boomwhackers. Boomwhackers are percussion instruments that are lightweight, hollow and color coded tuned to a musical pitch by length. They looked at the different lengths using their maths skills to order them by size and colour, then compared the sounds the percussion tubes made. They were able to use their senses to explore vibrations and sounds on different surfaces. They took turns and listened to each other and some were even able to follow a rhythm!
The class really enjoyed this experience and are looking forward to their sessions in the coming weeks.





Online Safety

What is Doxing?

What do young people want to be? I'm sure you're aware young people are now aiming to become YouTubers, DJs and TikTok stars. For many, these dreams will fade, as they mature into older students and want to break out from beyond the screen into the real world.

However, all their online activity, from posting video clips to dropping a soundtrack on a Spotify account, will remain forever.

This opens a vulnerability window that will never close, as the internet is plagued with individuals who will seek to do harm to the media poster in question. Whether for financial gain or just because they feel like it, online spectators can easily find out key details about an individual's life. Their school, their home address and their identity. But what happens, when these malicious spectators decide to publish this information publicly rather than harvesting it for themselves? The South West Grid for Learning has written an article answering that question.

If interested, please visit their website (www.swgfl.org.uk) and follow the link to their online magazine which contains articles and information covering a range of online safety issues.

NSPCC e-Safety Workshop

Parents were invited into school to take part in a workshop ran by the NSPCC, which aimed to help parents understand how children experience the online world and give them guidance on how to help them stay safe. If you were unable to take part in the workshop but would like some e-safety guidance please visit the NSPCC website, which contains a wealth of articles around the subject of e-safety.

Chinese New Year

This term, the learners at Kiora Hall celebrated Chinese New Year together. They watched 'The Great Race' and had the opportunity to retell it using puppets.
Learners were able to explore and learn all about the wishing tree, a Chinese tradition that people do at New Year. In one of the activities, the learners could decorate and write a wish, then place it on our school tree.
We had lots of other activities set up for the learners to enjoy. They had lantern making, Chinese food tasting, noodle sensory play and Dragon Dancing!



Chestnut class have enjoyed learning new skills this term!

Chestnut class has spent time developing their social communication skills during group activities. During literacy this term, they have enjoyed reading sensory stories, which encouraged listening skills, enhanced reading skills, and provided social interaction with peers and staff. They have enjoyed reading 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett, 'The Tiger That Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr, 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen, and 'Vicious Vikings' by Terry Deary. They have enjoyed exploring the characters, objects, and materials that go with the interactive stories.

The learners have also been developing independent living skills, such as 'understanding and following simple instructions'. They followed step-by-step instructions on how to make the most delicious chocolate Rice Krispie cakes, jam sandwiches for the tiger that came to tea, and they have even made Viking boats. To do this, we had to read and understand instructions, sequence instructions in chronological order, and write instructions step by step using an instruction word mat for support.



Lime Class learn about the Moon and Earth

During our Earth and Space topic this term, we have completed a range of activities to gain an understanding of our Solar System. One of the activities they completed helped them to understand how the movements of the Moon in relation to the Earth and Sun are related to the eight phases of the Moon.



They demonstrated our understanding of these phases using Oreos. The learners shaped the cream to represent the shape of the Moon that is visible to Earth throughout the cycle.

Furthermore, Lime class are also learning to use travel training to build their independence. For their first lesson, they developed their knowledge of road signs and looked for these in their local area. They were surprised to find that they didn't come across as many road signs as they thought they would, especially as we approached North Tees Hospital.



Putting Maths into Practice

Some pupils in Hazel class have been learning about money in Maths. They were then able to transfer that skill into real-life sessions on their shopping trip for cookery.
Pupils follow the process of using the recipe to create a shopping list, walk to the shop, find items, then follow the process of a transaction using their money skills to pay for items.
The children use teamwork to be able to complete all steps and have specific roles during the outing.
They are also able to apply their road safety knowledge when crossing roads, using pedestrian crossings and staying with the group.



Random Acts of Kindness

This week Chestnut have been participating in activities around 'mental health awareness week'.

Learners chose a member of staff from around the school to gift a cake, as part of a random act of kindness. Learners wrapped a cake up in colourful tissue paper and wrote the staff members name independently.

