

Year One

The Pandas

Class Report

2015-16

We began the year in September with a class of 26 children who settled into their new classroom brilliantly. I started the year with the Pandas in October (after the half term) as I returned to work after maternity leave. The children are a delightful class with so many different vibrant personalities.



In the class there are three children with special educational needs. There are also seven children with English as an additional language. This has been very beneficial for this class as it has allowed the children to gain an understanding of a variety of cultures.

We have been very fortunate in the fact that we have not had a lot of movement in our class. We have gained one boy, who moved across from the Turtles class, and then 2 new admits both of which are girls. Since then our numbers have stayed static at 28 children, 13 girls and 16 boys.

In Year One I have continued to plan using both the EYFS and the National Curriculum. When the children begin Year 1 a number of them are still working very much at Reception level. So to make sure that all children are challenged and all children's needs are met planning is differentiated greatly. By Christmas it is expected that the vast majority of children will be working at National Curriculum levels although the EYFS goals are still used where needed up until Easter.

A big focus in Year One this year has been on reading, we send book bags home daily, and we have had a pretty good response from parents. The majority of the class return their book bags every day after reading with parents at home. Over the year we have had many volunteers coming into class to listen to the children read. We had 2 RGS students who had a fabulous rapport with the children and they loved hearing the children read. We also have a parent volunteer who regularly comes in to hear the children read. The children love to read and are always proud and willing to do so. They visit the library with Dorothy where they have chosen to be a part of the Diamond book club. Here they get the opportunity to listen to stories and choose books to read independently.



The children have made tremendous amounts of progress in their learning. The class are so enthusiastic about everything they take part in and they always give it their best shot. Due to the changes in the new curriculum the expectations have been increased. These new demands have been challenging, but the children enjoy the challenge they face. We have covered so much in Maths, English and other areas of the curriculum. Progress in maths has been fabulous, seeing how the children have blossomed!! They used to struggle with the recording of their work and they were working with numbers to 10. Now we confidently work with numbers to 100, and their recording skills have improved immensely. Mental maths and problem solving was a real push, but we are working successfully at these aspects.



In English we have covered a real wide spread of literature. We have covered lots of both fiction and non-fiction resources. The children are always given lots of opportunities to work in groups or with a partner. We use talk partners in all subjects and they have proved to be very successful.





During the year we have had a few trips including Newcastle castle keep, Whitehouse Farm, and we are hoping to visit Dobbies garden centre as part of our plants and animals topic. And finally our annual summer beach trip in the final term. Taking the children on trips gives them a sense of purpose for topics and allows them to relate to their work.





Over the course of the year the children have been involved with many exciting events. We began the year with 2 sessions of 'Band in a box'. Here the children gained the experience of learning how to play a recorder and jamboree drums. They also put on a performance for their

parents to show off the skills that they had been learning. We have also had a number of visitors who have come in to speak with the children. The visitors have all been topic themed related. E.g. visits from a fireman to talk about his job for Enterprise week, and road safety talks for the children. Another visitor we had was from a fabulous lady artist. She worked with the children to create a Reggio Emilio style of painting. Our whole school was set the task of creating some work in this style and our theme was 'Newcastle' - hence the bridge creation. All the children created a piece of artwork which was then collated together to form the 'Millennium bridge'. The art work that the children created was achieved using a salad spinner!!!



We have celebrated events such as Pancake day, Chinese new year - here the children made and flew their own kites!, Valentines day etc. The children always enjoy celebrations when there is food involved!!





A new topic we looked at earlier in the year was castles. The children loved this and really got enthused by it. They loved all the gruesome tales from long ago!! We had a castle roleplay area in our room and the children loved playing kings and queens!!

Another topic we covered was plants and animals. This term we have focused on plants, and next term we will focus more on animals. Children are loving this topic. When we have done our plant work there have been many comments such as "I love science", "plants are great, so

much to learn!". We are hoping that a visit to Dobbies will further spark their interest and enthusiasm.

We went to Whitehouse farm and the children had the experience of not only seeing some fabulous and unusual animals but also feeding and holding different animals.

We have been growing plants in class, but the children were unaware of what the seed is we all planted. They are loving the suspense and keep a weekly update in their topic books of the progress of their seed. (We have planted sunflower seeds and they are proving to be very successful in their growth).



There have been so many highlights over the course of the year; including our class assembly where the children relayed our year 1 journey. They sang 'St. Elmo's Fire' by John Parr, but with the reworked lyrics of 'Bridgewater fire!!" . Book Week, where children got to dress up as their

favourite book character. We did sports relief where all the classes had to run a continuous relay circuit for 30 minutes. The team spirit and support they showed for each other during this was heart warming. They showed their support for each other so strongly it was a pleasure to be a part of it.



This class have been a fabulous class to work with. It is safe to say that there has never been a dull moment!! They have been a pleasure to work with. They always have the upmost enthusiasm in all that we do, and I will miss them

when they move up to year 2. They have bonded really well and matured as a class. They each look out for one another which is a lovely quality. The Pandas have come such a long way over this year, and I know they will continue to make progress as they all have amazing and unique qualities.