

Totnes St. John's Weekly Newsletter

Class: Year 6 - Chestnut Class

Friday 7th January 2020

Home learning

Having focused on reading, writing and maths learning over recent weeks, we will turn our attention to grammar next week. In preparation for this, choose a page (or more) from your reading book and find examples of words from the eight word classes: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, determiners, prepositions and conjunctions. There are plenty of examples on your homework sheet to help you with your search.

Class news

Year 6 is not all about maths and English, although we have been busy again, digging deeper into Jon Scieszka's dramatic story about the 'dust bunny' who transforms into the 'dust demon' and who possibly eats grandma... The children have discovered many different effective writing patterns within the text and have now planned stories drawing on these ideas to build drama into their own writing. Emjay said that drama builds suspense and that short sentences can achieve this effect. Tyler L decided that drama is 'shorts bursts of action for effect' and Tyler R concluded that it is the drama that makes a story come alive.

To link to our investigations into dramatic writing, Lisa Richards, a local artist, came into school to talk to us about how artists can create drama in their work – in this case by using light. The children tried out a range of techniques using charcoal and pastels to create light and shade and then went on to produce their own spectacular pictures contrasting a dark silhouette against the light of the moon.



Attendance

Walnut	Willow
94.9%	91%
Oak	Elm
98%	98.5%
Beech	Chestnut
96%	97.3%

Please ensure your child attends school every day.

Every day missed is 6 hours of learning lost.

Reflections on the week

This week we have been discussing our school mission statement: spurring each other on with the courage to make a positive difference for ourselves and for others. It has been evident many times over the course of this week how much encouragement Chestnut children give to each other on a daily basis. For example, Max and Alfie exchanged ideas for story writing and Tyler L and Roxy challenged each other in their maths learning, checking answers together and celebrating their successes.

The Week ahead

Next week we will complete our story writing unit, with the aim of sharing our writing with each other at the end of the week.

We will continue to build on our art learning by further investigating how artists use light for dramatic effect and by creating more complex pictures using charcoal, pastels and chalk.



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Trust news

Sam Ward is the Trust's Food and Nutrition Lead. Sam is often at Totnes St John's working with teachers, children and kitchen staff to develop our curriculum around health and wellbeing. Sam has won many awards for her work with education around food, permaculture and nutrition. She has been instrumental in developing our school gardens area and developing our strategy around improving children's awareness and understanding. Photographs of our Trust central team can be found on the Trust website <https://www.acexcellence.co.uk/our-people>