



The learning so far...

Having completed 'Danny the Champion of the World' topic, P5 found themselves facing all the planning for Christmas. We decided to take on a mini topic – jewellery making. In Art, the children examined the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh both as an artist and designer. We also went back in time and looked at some fashion moments, in particular, Punk Rock. We then created some wonderful bracelets using safety pins. We also made interesting pieces out of rags and recycled jewellery.

However, Christmas crept up on us and all too soon it was Sparkle Afternoon, where the children made 'Raggedy Wreaths', again by recycling. These were very successful and can be reused every Christmas. The children worked extremely hard on the Christmas show by learning their song words and dance routines. We hope you were entertained.

In Literacy, the children have been 'breaking down' their writing and using their senses to create wonderful descriptions of settings in a story. They have also identified the various ways of opening a story and have used their imaginations to create their own masterpieces.

In Maths, we have been working on 2D and 3D shapes; how they fit together and how they are used in the world around them. The children have also been introduced to 'Big Maths' which is a programme designed to improve core Maths skills and speed up response times.

They all enjoy this immensely and look forward to their CLIC sessions each day. (Counting, Learn its, It's nothing new and Calculating) However, they especially love the Big Maths Beat That challenge every Friday when they're up against the clock!

Learning across the curriculum

Literacy

We are continuing to

- Develop the use of VCOP in all our literacy tasks.
- develop our enjoyment of reading by 'Reading Around Scotland'
- concentrate on our spelling strategies and use them in all pieces of writing.

Numeracy

We are learning to...

- Explore fractions, including fractions of quantities, equivalent fractions & mixed numbers.
- Apply our knowledge to real life situations.
- To link our knowledge of fractions to multiplication & division fact families.

Health & Wellbeing

We are learning to...

- Become more aware of the journeys which food makes from source to consumer through studying the lives of farmers in the Rainforest linked to Fairtrade.
- Develop our skills in physical education by working closely with a partner to build skills, trust and success.

Inter-disciplinary learning

This term, our topic is The Rainforest. We will be covering a variety of curricular areas with a particular focus on Science and Ecology. We will be studying the habitats of animals and plants of the rainforest to identify how resourceful they can be and how they adapt to their environment.

We will be running a Fairtrade café to raise awareness of the plight of some of the farmers in the Rainforests of South America and will be examining several case studies where Fairtrade has helped improve the lives of these people. P5 is showing real empathy already!

We will identify how the Rainforests are vital in keeping the planet healthy and looking at other ways of being ecologically aware. We hope to make our own Rainforest music and also perform some short dramatic pieces. The children would also like to decorate the classroom, transforming it into a virtual Rainforest!

Ideas/strategies to support your child's learning

- Continue to support your child as they do their homework tasks.
- Please continue to practise times tables and addition/subtraction work as much as you can.
- Look for opportunities to speak about fractions in everyday tasks, eg when having pizza or cake or even a bar of chocolate-Yum!
- Encourage your child to use his/her spelling strategies.

