

Woodfarm Literacy and Numeracy Newsletter



Level 3 Numeracy Benchmark:

I have spotted and explored patterns in my own and the wider environment and can copy and continue these and create my own patterns.
MTH 0-13a

By Lauren Harkins

The Maths Department have been focusing on strategy and applying various algorithms to solve the most mind-boggling



puzzle of our time...the RUBIKS CUBE. The Rubik's Cube is a 3-D combination puzzle invented in 1974 by Hungarian Ernő Rubik and has become one of the most iconic puzzles in the world.

Level 3 Reading Benchmark:

I regularly select and read, listen to or watch texts for enjoyment and interest, and i can express how well they meet my needs and expectations and give reasons, with evidence, for my personal response. I can identify sources to develop the range of my reading.
LIT 3-11a

By Sylvia Kennedy

The love of reading is more important than social background in determining academic achievement'

OECD: 'Reading for Change: Literacy skills for the world of tomorrow'

It is now several years since the OECD published its findings about reading but the message remains - reading is the key to success in academia. Of course you do not need to tell that to English teachers who are fighting against a tsunami of technology and myriad of fast paced distractions which take pupils away from the simple pleasure of reading. In response to this, at Woodfarm, this

NUMERACY FACT OF THE MONTH:



The original Rubik's cube has 8 corners and 12 edges. There are $8!$ ways to arrange the corner cubes.

$$8! = 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 40,320$$

Each of the 8 corner cubes have 3 possible orientations (3 stickers). However, only 7 of the corners can be oriented independently (the eighth corner depends on the other 7). This means there are 3^7 possibilities

$$3^7 = 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 = 2187$$

There are 12 edges and so $12!$ ways to arrange each edge.

$$12! = 12 \times 11 \times 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 479,001,600$$

However, as the top half has already been solved by this point, we can divide by 2

$$479,001,600 \div 2 = 239,500,800$$

Each of the 12 edge cubes have 2 possible orientations

However, only 11 of the edges can be oriented independently (the twelfth edge depends on the other 11). This means there are 2 possibilities

8 corners	$8! = 40,320$
3 orientations and 7 possibilities	$3^7 = 2,187$
12 edges	$12!/2 = 239,500,800$
2 orientations and 11 possibilities	$2^{11} = 2,048$

session we are launching a new reading programme which will focus on reading for pleasure in S1-3. In order to promote and establish a reading culture within the school the first ten minutes of every English lesson will be reading. We will be asking pupils to carry a book with them at all times and their main homework for English will be 20 minutes reading every night. The programme will be supported by a structured library programme - mobile in the current circumstances – and we will enlist help from parents and senior pupils. In addition we would like you to join us in reinforcing reading and will be in touch to tell you the ways in which you can do that. The programme is at its embryonic stage and will be revealed to pupils, staff and parents after the October break.

We need your help to make this a success. Our aim is to make pupils to feel as if they are part of a reading community; a school which values reading and talking about books. We look forward to enlisting you in some of the activities which will make this ethos come to fruition. Watch this space for more information.

~Greek Word of the month~

Character = the combination of traits and qualities distinguishing the individual nature of a person or thing. From Greek *kharaktēr* engraver's tool, from *kharassein* **to engrave, stamp** Heraclitus, the wise Greek philosopher said famously **"A man's character is his fate"**

$$8! \times 3^7 \times 12! / 2 \times 2 = 43,252,003,274,489,856,000$$

This is approximately 43 quintillion ways to solve!

We now have some Rubiks Cubes in the Maths department so please come along and have a go!



Digital Citizenship Deliveries 2020

By Ioannis Panayiotakis

Students need digital citizenship skills to participate fully in their communities and make intelligent choices online and in life.

Digital citizenship will be especially important this autumn as high school students across the country return to school. Students will be on their devices, communicating, collaborating, and creating with digital tools more than ever before.

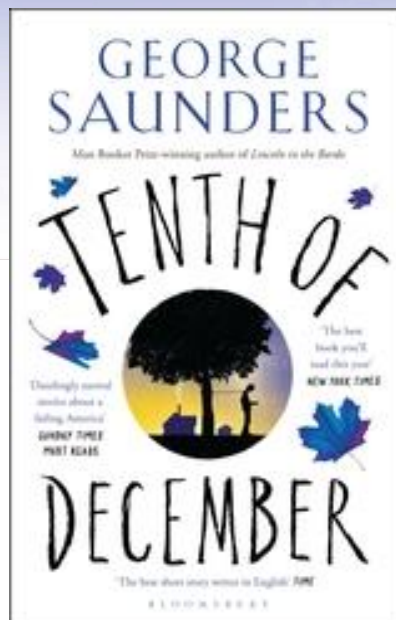
As a school librarian I understand that educators may not have as much instructional time for things like digital citizenship and prepare to take on this uncharted territory. With the kind help of the English department two deliveries have been made to all S1 and S2 students.

Book of the Month

Title: Tenth of December

Author: George Saunders

Publisher: Bloomsbury



George Saunders is the author of nine books including Tenth of

December, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. In 2013, he was named one of the world's 100 most influential people by Time magazine. Tenth of December is a collection of short stories. It presents 10 visions of America. It talks more about today rather than the dystopian future it's meant to be describing. The stories may make you laugh yet not for long, the laughter will soon be replaced by immediate concern on the tragic issues depicted. The dark humor and deep compassion reminded me of Kurt Vonnegut and succeeds in capturing the essence of something private without preaching or being too serious.

My favourite story is "Home," an account of a soldier's return from war who finds that things have changed dramatically. It brings to mind a Odysseus returning to Ithaka only to



The S1 pupils were presented the 20 min activity Digital Life 101 (Media Balance & Well-Being). Students learned all the ways we consume, create, and share digital media in our daily lives, then reflect on its omnipresence.

The S2 pupils were presented the 20 min activity Digital Footprint (Digital Footprint & Identity). Students learned to think carefully before posting and sharing information by comparing their digital footprints to things such as a permanent marker, a copy machine, or a jumbotron at a stadium. Students have been very eager to discuss the activities and I will look forward to delivering more presentations.

Reference: Commonsense (2020) *Everything You Need to Teach Digital Citizenship*. Available at <https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship>

National Poetry
Day 1st October
2020

find his wife abandoning him and his family being in a mess. Devalued and betrayed he needs to act.

My second favourite is the "Escape from Spiderhead" where we hear the tale of Jeff who has been sent to an experimental prison where inhabitants are guinea pigs to determine the strength of love.

What I loved in this story is the ethos of this modern day tragic hero who maintained his dignity and upheld his values.

Saunders's stories are about humanity and philosophy. The notion of comedy as political critique remains the greatest weapon against tyranny. We are but the choices we make.

To give voice to timeless human experiences with humor it's the main reason I recommend this book. Thanks to Peter McNally for the recommendation

Poem of the Month

October
BY ROBERT FROST



Robert Frost lived from 1874-1963 in New Hampshire. "October" was written in 1915 and

By Sylvia Kennedy

Many readers will tell you of the benefits of reading and poetry seems to hold a unique way of engaging readers. This is backed up by recent scientific research carried out by Liverpool University. The researchers reported that “more challenging poetic texts ‘lit up’ the volunteers’ brains by their ‘a-ha’ moments of surprise...in a way that we’d describe as a ‘rocket booster’ – suggesting that literature can have a positive effect on the brain and trigger moments of emotional recognition, reappraisal of dull norms and an excited sense of new achievement – all at once.”

On 1st October we celebrated National Poetry Day, the theme of which was ‘Vision’. Just over 200 pupils alongside staff took part in a competition to match the missing line to the poem.

The winners are **Alix Nellany** in S5 and the **Mr Wood**
Congratulations!

Some pupils also wrote poetry on the theme and two of them are printed here.

“Vision of the Future” by Lucy Perston

It’s post-apocalyptic
The world is getting back on track
From Covid-19.

It lasted longer than anyone expected
Over 700 million dead

I’m glad it’s finally eradicated.
After 8 lockdowns
It’s done.

“The Future” by Atiya Dawson

Large flying cars covered the sky
Flooding the air with petrol,
Trees crawled amongst the buildings
Covering the city,

published in “A Boy’s Will”. In Frost’s “October”, Frost wishes for time to be slowed before winter comes, and encourage the reader to focus awareness on the present moment.

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow’s wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes’ sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes’ sake along the wall.

Booking the Library

By Ioannis Panayiotakis

The library offers a fantastic space for all staff to bring classes or small groups to use its resources and facilities.

I am in Woodfarm on Mondays and Tuesdays and Wednesday afternoon. On a Thursday or Friday when I am at Eastwood, you are very welcome to book the library as a supervised teaching space.

To book the library you can use the online system here:

<https://woodfarm.roombookingsystem.co.uk/default> then login using your glow password and then select **Categories**

Other including Library

Houses hovered above the sky
Floating on to the earth,
People flew around the streets
On Hoverboards.

Useful Literacy Fact
More words begin with the letter S than any other
letter of the alphabet

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