

## Primary 5 Second Newsletter

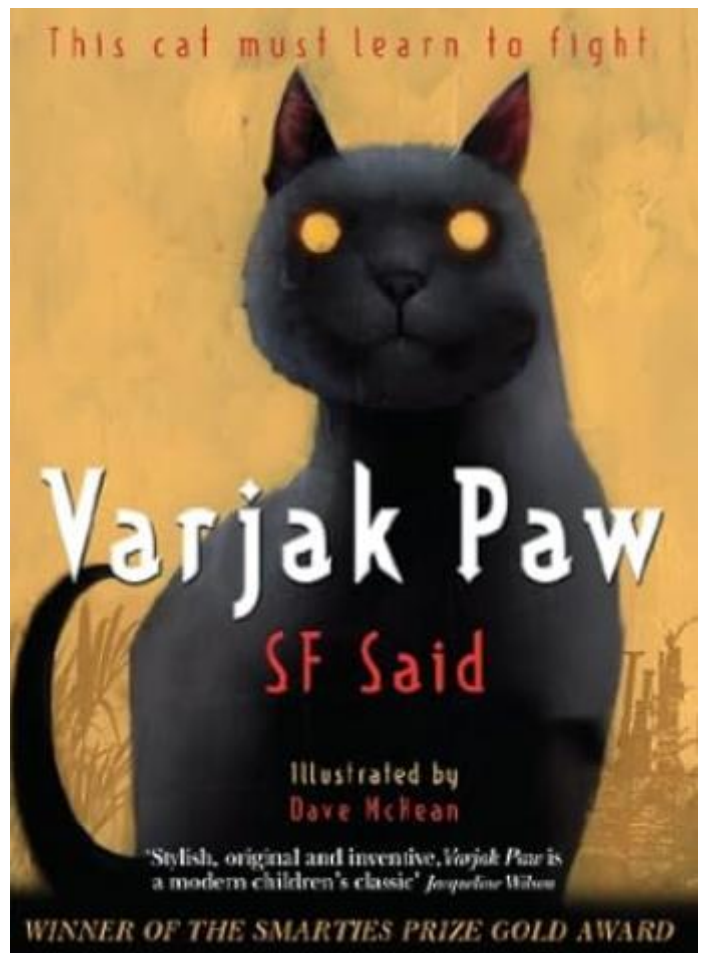
Hello and welcome to the second newsletter for Holmston's P5 class! We've been busy in term 1, sorting out our routines and classroom expectations and we are working very hard to complete our tasks in a timely and high-quality manner. I have been so impressed with our work so far in P5 and I am excited to see it continue.

### Literacy

In literacy, we have been exploring the novel "Varjak Paw" and using it as our inspiration for our own creative writing endeavours. We learned the suspense genre of writing starting from a "cold task" writing piece, doing lots of different activities all about how to create our own high-quality pieces and culminating in a final, "hot task", where the children wrote their own suspense short story. When you come to visit our class for the next open afternoon, please ask to see them as the children have worked exceptionally hard and created some wonderful examples of this genre.

We have been learning a lot about decoding and encoding, to support our spelling, reading and writing in class and have been using the English Alphabetic Code to support our investigations into different sounds (phonemes) and how we can represent them through spelling (graphemes). This has had great impact on our writers' independent application and spelling throughout our work and the children have loved trying to trick each other with tricky phonetical spellings of known words.

We are continuing with the Accelerated Reader Programme and will be learning as a class, a range of reading strategies, as well as engaging in self-led development of our reading skills.



### Numeracy

In numeracy we are developing our understanding of problem solving and mathematical analysis by looking at bar modelling and wordy maths problems. We are learning a lot about multiplication and division problem solving through the context of area and perimeter this term. We will continue to develop our numerical strategies using regular maths challenges like the ones found on <https://nrich.maths.org/>. In mathematics, this term we will be learning more about angles and symmetry through our work with Miss Taylor on Thursday, (who also teaches us PE on Thursday mornings).

### Topic

The children are just finishing up the end of our collaboration with our partner school in Indonesia, thank you so much for your cardboard donations to our junk modelling project. Our final presentation is taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, online with our partner school. The children have been planning group building projects to make wind turbines and will be comparing and collaborating with their Indonesian counterparts on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, before showcasing their work next Friday.



After this topic, we will be moving on to a series of mini-topics which will be based on our upcoming Talk for Writing projects, all about non-fiction fact files and moving on swiftly to a story called “The King of Fishes”.

### Other important information

**PE days are Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons.**

Please ensure your child’s PE kit is marked with their name. It is usually kept in the school for the term, in a bag on their hook. PE kit should ideally include a pair of indoor shoes, a change of top and shorts/trousers/leggings etc. Please note, drop (‘dangly’) earrings should not be worn on PE days as they can cause injury.

Please ensure all personal items like lunchboxes, pencil cases, water bottles and all items of clothing have a name on them in some fashion to allow missing items to be reunited with their owners. I have been encouraging children to keep all personal items in their bag or on the lunch trolley so they are not misplaced.

If you have any updates to allergy information to report, please do so as soon as possible.

I can’t wait to see where the rest of this academic year’s learning will take us, and I am so excited to continue working with all our wonderful P5s! They are a credit to you all. 😊

See you soon,

Mr Gaffney

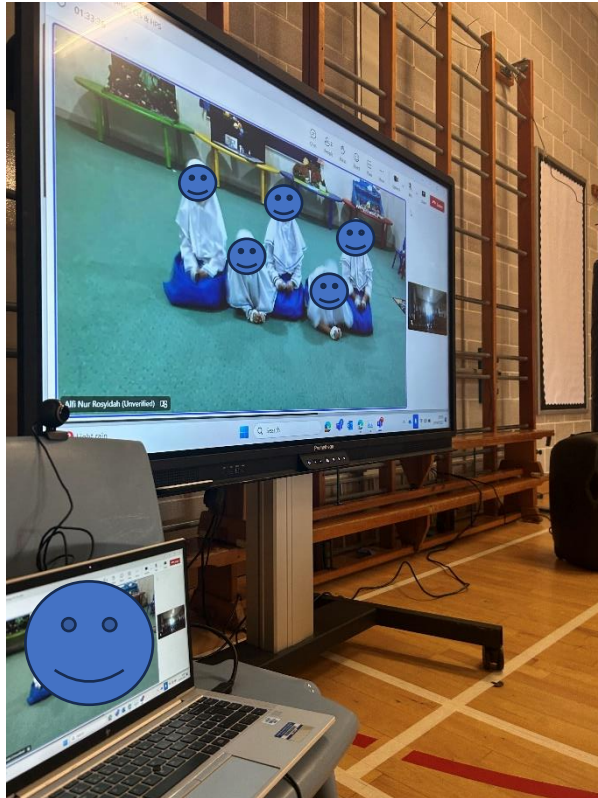












Our online meeting with the school in Indonesia! 😊 We showed off our Scottish Ceilidh Skills and these Indonesian pupils showed us a traditional dance performed with ropes.



