

## Inside Our Classrooms

**The Hive** The Hive took part in the inclusion festival of sport on Monday 7th February at St. Pauls. New age kurling (yes, with a 'k' - I checked!) and boccia were two of the things that the children tried. They had a great time and competed against other local schools.

**Thinkers** This week Thinkers have been loving their sessions with their year 6 buddies! They look forward to them every week! They have enjoyed a PE session organised by their buddies, created Chinese dragons for Chinese New Year together and took part in a science experiment observing what happens when bicarbonate of soda and vinegar combine!

**Inventors** have been thoroughly immersed in their Spring Term artist focus, Paul Klee. They have been learning all about the artist's change in style and technique and have been able to discuss in detail what they like and dislike about different pieces of his artwork.

Inventors created an abstract line drawing using watercolours and decided whether they were going to choose warm, cool or a mixture of both colours to block colour their art. They turned out so unique! We have moved onto creating mixed media art in the style of Paul Klee's art 'Castle and Sun', and they are looking forward to adding more detail next week!

### Explorers

In Explorers we have been reading 'The Rainbow Bear' by Michael Morpurgo and describing how we feel about the events of the story. This led us onto a class debate about whether we think zoos are a good place for animals. We split into 'For' and 'Against' groups and shared thoughtful and persuasive statements. We also had lots of fun learning and performing a wonderful dance called 'Monkeys Breaking out of the Zoo!' We have continued to learn about the Polar regions and famous Explorers that raced to be the first ones to reach the South Pole!



**Warriors** This week, Warriors have been learning the story of Boudicca and retelling this in the form of a storyboard. We have also been writing diary entries as Tranio from our class book Escape From Pompeii and tackling dividing two-digit numbers! Finally, we had a fantastic class treat as a reward for gaining 5,000 Dojos!

**Ground-breakers** have been sharpening their pencils and getting their notepads at the ready to report on the famous battle between the legendary Beowulf and the fearsome Grendel. The class have also been adding the finishing touches to their papier maché Grendel masks, with lashings of green paint required. We have started to learn about why the Vikings took such a shine to the British Isles.

**Innovators** The question is what haven't Innovators been doing? This adventurous lot headed off to Bowles Activity Centre for a residential trip. Whilst there, the children got to grips with orienteering, squeezed themselves through colossal rock formations (135 million years old, don't you know!), capsized their kayaks in the pool (on purpose), skied like graceful swans down the slopes (well, some did) and strained every sinew to climb rocks, traverse rope courses and generally exhaust themselves thoroughly. A great time was had by all.

**Trailblazers** have been writing journal entries as crew members of Endurance, recording its sinking. It has all been very emotional! They have been honing their computer design skills, making 3D keyrings using Tinkercad and they have finished designing penguins using different mark-making techniques to create pattern.



## Success At Indoor Athletics

This week saw children from KS2 head to St Pauls to represent the school in Boccia (a form of Bowls) and New Age Kurling - the children worked hard as a team to improve their score each time and showed the Blackthorns values superbly well - well done Josiah, Serena, Jessica, Lance, James, Alfie and Indi! We also took a team of 25 Year 5/6 children to Haywards Heath College to represent Blackthorns at Indoor Athletics taking part in activities such as triple jump, long jump, javelin, speed bounce as well as many running races! Once again, the team showed all of the values particularly teamwork in cheering on all the competitors! The following children did a great job: Thomas, Emilia, Ella, Oliver J, Maisie, Eriko, Maia, Dylan, Reuben, Nat, Johnny, Bella, Zachary, Amelie, Charlotte, Ale, David, Harry, Jack Ba, Immi, Roseanna, Gabriella, Emily S, Holly and Fletcher.

## Dates for your diary:

16th February: Year 4/5/6 Visit to Oathall Community College for a performance of Matilda

21st—25th February: Half term

28th February: INSET

3rd March: World Book Day

4th March: Learning share

7th March and 9th March: Parent Consultations

30th March Zoolab Visit KS1 (Information nearer the time)

### Safer Internet Day

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 8th February. Classes have been thinking about their online interactions. Mr. King led an assembly in Key Stage 2, which asked the children how they thought children should act in a range of different online scenarios that might happen in gaming or messaging. The children showed a great awareness of the right way to act and were very thoughtful with their responses. If you would like more information about helping children and young people stay safe online, it can be found [here](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk) at [saferinternet.org.uk](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk).

### Children's Mental Health Week

7th February— 13th February



This week was Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme was 'Growing Together' and encouraged everybody to think about how they have grown and ways to support

each other to grow. Mr. Still gave an assembly on the theme and classes discussed ways in which we can continue to grow and what mental health means.

More information about the week can be found on the 'Place2Be' website [here](https://www.place2be.co.uk)

### Bowled Over By Bowles

The incredible Bowles Activity Centre was the location for the incredible Year 5 children's residential visit last week. From Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th February, the children of Innovators class climbed, scrambled, navigated, kayaked and skied down slopes until they were nearly a bit tired... but not quite! Once again, Bowles proved to be a magical place where children face challenge, show resilience and watch their confidence grow. The staff at the centre were absolutely fantastic as always, encouraging, instructing and understanding their groups so that they got the best from their experience. Mrs. Highton put in a huge amount of work to organise the trip and the Innovators class rewarded her efforts by representing the school well with their



behaviour and independence. Well done, Innovators! A big thank you to parents who had prepared the children beforehand, teaching them how to make beds and naming their clothing, and to Mr. Luckhurst, Mrs. Allen and Mr. King, who supported the children through their stay, with bags under their eyes, but smiles on their faces on Friday to show for it!



### New Balls, Please!

The academy has recently purchased a wide range of playground equipment for the children to use at play times. There are new skipping ropes, balls, target walls, hoops and much more besides! The children are doing a great job of keeping the equipment safe and looking after it.