

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your children may have mentioned to you this week that we have had some visitors in our school. These are our Regional Leads and this seems a good opportunity to share this development with you.

As you know, since 1st January we joined the Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust. The Academy works on a regional level, and encourages schools in a geographical area to work closely together. In our region we are grouped together in a 'Hub' with St Dominic's School and Grafham Grange School and together form the Surrey and Sussex hub.

In order to share expertise across the hub, six regional leads have been appointed, each with their own specialist area. They are:

Regional Lead's name	Specialist Area
Vicky Perry	Education
Rob Chowns	Safeguarding
Kirsty Glaysher	Integrated Services
Corinne Morgan	Occupational Therapy
Matthew Bell	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
Emily Rackstraw	Speech and Language Therapy

We are delighted to have such a wealth of expertise and experience at our disposal to support us as we seek to provide our children with the richest school provision possible. These Regional Leads will be facilitating training, advice and resources for staff as well as on occasions supporting pupils directly. We believe that this is a significant milestone on our journey as a school.

Finally can I remind you that the school is closed tomorrow – Friday, 23rd November for INSET and will re-open on Monday, 26th November.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Dafydd Roberts



Thursday 22nd November

Neptune:

This week we have started working on Macbeth in English. The boys are really interested in the story and have written poems using the witches spells for inspiration. We have also translated the opening scene of Macbeth into modern English. It's been lovely to see how engaged the boys have been with this.

In Maths we've continued our learning on multiplication and algebra. The boys are showing a good understanding of this.

The weekly swimming session was successful once again. It's great to see their technique improve.

We have continued our work on maps in Geography and cells in Science and the boys are really enjoying their learning.

Titan:

In Titan class this week, the boys have been learning to apply and identify the meanings of further prefixes and suffixes. They have selected appropriate homophones to use within the context of various sentences. In Maths, the class have been working on their understanding of decimals; they have been attempting to convert fractions into decimals and vice versa. The boys have continued to look at crime and punishment within History and have enjoyed some indoor games in PE.

Mars: We have been working really hard in Mars Class this week. In Maths we have been learning about equivalent fractions and we had lots of activities in class to help us, for example we made equivalent fraction ice-creams and had treasure hunt where we had to sort the fractions and match them to their equivalents. This was lots of fun and we learned lots of facts. In English we created our own similes, planned and wrote poems about our own heroes using rhyme, repetition and simile, we then performed these to the class. In Geography, we used google to plan a trip to different areas of North America; we had to find flight and accommodation costs, visa requirements, research time differences as well as interesting places to visit. We were just a little bit disappointed that we couldn't really go!

Pluto:

In English they have been learning about features of newspapers and learning to recognise facts and opinions. In Maths they have been studying fractions. They have been finding fractions of shapes and number. In Science we have set up an experiment on tooth decay. This involves studying how different drinks effects the shell of an egg and they will be monitoring the effects over the next week. In Art they choose a portrait of a famous person and in the style of POP ART added blocks of bright colours to a black and white portrait image. I wish them a good weekend.

Jupiter: A lovely short week for everyone! The boys have been improving their ability to tell the time this week, stampeding through hours only into 5-minute segments with accuracy. I have been very impressed with how the boys have collaborated and helped each other with their learning. They have communicated effectively with each other and listened to help and advice from their peers. In English we have been exploring how the "ee" sound can be made using a number of different letter combinations; it has been really hard but the boys are showing some great resilience during these testing times. Enjoy your long weekend boys.

Mercury

Mercury have had a good week in class this week. In English we have been looking at how to do instruction writing. We looked at writing instructions on how to make a sandwich and the boys seemed to enjoy writing about this. They were not only able to write instructions in their work but also contribute their own ideas into their writing piece. The boys were able to do this brilliantly and were able to use imperative verbs in their writing task. In Maths we concentrated on looking at addition and subtraction this week. The boys were able to do addition and subtraction using both two and three digit numbers. They were also able to problem solving using addition and subtraction. In Geography this week we looked at what a continent is and how many there are in the world. The boys were able to create their own fact file on each of the continents around the world that we looked at, and seemed to enjoy learning about the wider world in which we live in.

Saturn

Saturn boys have had a very busy week. We have had a new pupil starting on Wednesday, which went very well as the boys welcomed him and made him feel part of our class. In Maths we have been focusing on telling the time to the hour and half past and in English we have learning how to use commas in lists. In Science we have learnt about the skeleton and how it is useful to our bodies and in Geography the boys have used atlases to find UK locations. It has been a full on week and the boys have responded well to the challenge. Well done boys!

Therapies:

The whole school has been targeting **'Oops is OK'** this week in our Social Communication Programme.

This target supports our students to understand that it is ok to make a mistake.

Our role as adults is to explain that making mistakes is a part of life but how you cope with the mistake is what counts. Helping them to make good choices when they have made a mistake so that they have a better understanding of what to do if it happens again.



Next week the Social Communication Programme will be focusing on **'Personal Space'**. This target helps children to understand that people need to have personal space and how to manage social situations.

Forest School

This week we've been making salt dough masks, digging and filling a pond, imaginative play, bug hunting and an exciting game of man hunt

