



Friday 1st of February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today is a very unusual Friday with the school closed due to the difficult weather. Hopefully you will have received the email from the school yesterday, suggesting some links to online learning that your son might find helpful in continuing learning on 'snow days' like this.

I wanted to inform you about a new system we are gradually introducing at school to measure pupil progress, called SAVI. Historically schools have had a very narrow focus on measuring academic development. Whilst we all recognise the vital importance of measuring progress in maths and English, we feel that it is important to capture alongside these subjects, the progress our pupils make in other areas.

For example, some pupils here have challenges with regards to social communication, or behaviour or the ability to work collectively with others or with emotional regulation, or engagement in learning. Each specific pupil has their own specific need and as a school community we want to do all we can to support pupils in those broader areas, and of course to measure that progress.

SAVI is a tool that enables us to do just that. It measures progress across a broad range of areas. Our staff are currently working on the system and over the coming months we will share additional information with you. Please can I underline the fact that this in no way takes the focus away from core academic skills - it simply allows us to address and measure the wider needs of our pupils, which are central to their development.

Please do feel free to contact the school should you have any further questions.

Have a good weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

Principal

Pluto:

This week in Pluto we have been Roman soldiers writing informal letters home from battle as part of our English lessons. In their writing the boys used a letter structure, informal language, wrote in the past tense and used adjectives to describe the battle. In Maths the boys have impressed me this week with their maths skills and have learnt how to solve division calculations using the short division method. In History we looked at how the Romans built Roman roads in Britain and improved our map reading skills to find the Roman roads on maps.

Mercury

This week the boys have had a good week in class. In Maths we have been learning to tell the time. The boys were able to engage with this and recognised when it was half past and o'clock. They were able to do this independently and enjoyed alternative ways of learning in the classroom. In English and History we have been focusing on our topic The Romans. The boys got to participate and take part in a real life battle, and pretend that they were Roman gladiators. The boys enjoyed learning new skills, getting to experience life as a real gladiator and taking part in a real life war zone. Using what they learnt, the boys were able to create a written piece, describing what it was like to be in a war zone. The boys used their imagination to create some wonderful written pieces about what they saw and felt during the battle.

Neptune: This week the boys have shown much better engagement within English. Their task has been to create their own travel brochure to a destination of their choosing. The destination could be real or made up and there have been some really amazing ideas from African safari holidays staying in underground compounds, luxurious lodges in the North Pole and a train on wheels driving holiday on route 66! The boys are so engrossed in this we will probably continue our learning into next week.

In Maths we have continued our learning in geometry and measure. The boys are all showing a good understanding in this area and making progress.

In Geography we have started looking at the climate and extreme weathers and the impact we have on climate change.

Saturn

We have had a very icy week in Saturn where the boys enjoyed playing in our garden with the frozen sand and water. In Maths we have learnt about 2D shapes and their properties and about symmetry lines. In English, we have written poems, pattern poems, using animals and their sounds. In Science we have looked at the suitability of material for different purposes. In History they boys have looked at a Roman time line where they had to put events in order and used pictures and words to match using Roman vocabulary like aqueduct, roman bath and centurion.

Titan:

We have had another week in which the boys have worked incredibly hard. The class have looked at some grammar in standard English such as, expanding simple noun phrases, modifying prepositional phrases and verb inflections. In Maths, the boys have all developed their understanding of time; they have been solving problems that involve converting a range of units of time. The class has continued to enhance their map reading skills and have looked at main roads that would be used when planning journeys.

Mars: Mars have had another excellent week. We finished our recount stories demonstrating a solid understanding of the features we must include in order for it to be a recount. We checked each other's work a fed back in a positive and constructive way to help develop our own understanding and skills. In maths we have been exploring the world of estimates; comparing heights, weights, temperatures and volumes has been lots of fun and given us a better understanding strategies we can use to "get close" to the answer before being precise with our measurements. Another fabulous swimming lesson showed some superb leg actions in backstroke and the introduction of the arms demanded real concentration and focus. Good effort boys. Well done.

Brantridge Weekly - Roll Of Honour!

TOP OF THE LEAGUE



Jayden, Felix, Jacob

TITAN

MARS

King of the Credits

Jayden

King of the Credits

Felix

Star of the Week

Jayden

Star of the Week

Jayden P

SATURN

PLUTO

King of the Credits

Charlie

King of the Credits

Jacob

Star of the Week

none

Star of the Week

William

JUPITER

NEPTUNE

King of the Credits

n/a

King of the Credits

Justin

Star of the Week

n/a

Star of the Week

Joe

MERCURY

King of the Credits

Leo

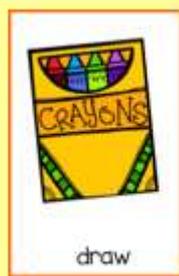
Star of the Week

Aaron

Therapies:

The whole school has been targeting **'Make a good choice'** over the past week in our Social Communication Programme. This target is to encourage our pupils to make a good choice when faced with a decision.

In class groups our pupils talked about what good choice strategies are and when we are having a difficult time making a good choices with our behaviour. The classes also discussed how easy it is to make a decision at times. It might be useful to have this discussion at home, talk about what your families' good choices look like e.g taking a time out, going to our bedroom, taking deep breaths, siting in an agreed area, having a drink of water.



Next week the Social Communication Programme target is **'Fine to Finish'**. This target is to help to support the children to know it is ok to finish a discussion or task.

Outdoor learning

This week in outdoor learning, we have enjoyed the snow and icy weather but not too much. We have been making Roman Bulla which are a necklace with a small woven bag worn around the neck by boys to contain trinkets and lucky charms.

