

A MESSAGE FROM RECEPTION

Another wonderful half term draws to a close here in Reception. This term, we have been on a geographical adventure as part of our topic 'Near and Far'.

When we arrived back from our holidays, we discovered we had some visitors. Much excitement ensued as we discovered two friendly aliens had joined us to take us on an exciting adventure to places near and far. Max and Ting, our alien visitors, were thoroughly welcomed by the children with an abundance of letters and drawings.

The following weeks, saw the aliens help us to discover all about London and Paris landmarks and buildings. We had 'fry-ups' in our London café and thoroughly enjoyed the patisseries we tasted to support our learning about Paris. We went on bus tours and aeroplane flights in our outdoor learning area. We wrote our first entries in our travel journals as travel experts.

Next, Max and Ting wanted advice on exploring the arctic countries. This meant we got to explore ice, talking about freezing and melting, and learnt lots about the animals that live in the Polar Regions. Did you know that children live in the Polar regions too? They love the same things as us, they just need warmer clothes and have a lot more snow to play with!

Our alien friends also wanted to know about countries around the equator and how hot they are. We focussed on the continent of Africa. Again, we learnt about African animals, the habitat of the African Savanna and we had a wonderful drumming session with Daniel, a real-life musician. Everyone had a drum and he took us on a 'banging' journey into the jungle.

The alien's final stop was to Australia. Here they told us we could find some amazing, yet dangerous, creatures. Lots of snake and crocodile themed activities and writing has taken place. Our dangerous animals vet surgeries have been very popular. We found out more about Australia using our selection of non-fiction texts and video clips. We explored our big science question of 'What makes animals dangerous?'

The dental nurse, also paid us a visit. She knew we had been thinking about animals' teeth and jaws, and also about our own teeth and keeping them healthy. The dental nurse was very impressed with our knowledge and skills. They just helped us 'brush up' on these! Did you know current advice is to not wet your toothbrush and not to rinse after brushing? Let the toothpaste and the circling brush strokes do their job!

Our half term culminated in a brilliant hands-on animal encounter when the company RepTylers visited us. The children were amazed and intrigued by the animals they meet, including the albino python who is over 3 metres long!

So many wonderful stories supported our learning throughout this topic. The Queen's Hat, Everybody Bonjour, The Leopard's Drum and Alan's scary teeth to name but a few.

Our next topic, is sure to be another fun-filled escapade as we disappear into a world of make-believe. 'Can you imagine?' is the title and 'Storyland' is our destination. The topic includes giants, fairies, unicorns, dragons, knights, castles, magic, wonder, imagination and fun! We will meet new characters, discover new plots and settings and welcome the return of some familiar traditional tale characters that we know and love. This will all be supporting our communication and language skills, our reading comprehension and our story writing abilities.

Thank you for all your ongoing support,

... The Reception Team

