

Year 5

Hawk Class

Our first topic in Year 5 was the Smashing Saxons. We had a visit from Paul Ullson (a historian and Saxon expert) who spoke to us about everyday Saxon life and we were able to get up close with some real Saxon artifacts while sketching them. Paul also taught us battle tactics, which we then put into use to stage a mock Saxon battle (both groups claim that they won!) We pretended we were Anglo Saxon settlers and decided on the best place to live using our geography knowledge. We also read *Beowulf* (the first ever horror story) and had a go at writing our own versions.



During the second half of the Autumn Term, we looked at our Solar System. During our science lessons, we investigated how the movement of the Earth around the Sun affects our seasons, weather and days on Earth and in English we invented a new Mars Rover. We went to Chichester Planetarium where we got to look at the stars and find out more about what it is like to be an astronaut. We had great fun in the run up to Christmas, practising for our Christmas performance which included a sketch based on *'Twas The Night Before Christmas'* but instead it looked at what all the Thorney Island teachers would be doing on the last day before the holidays!



During the first half of the Spring Term, we got to investigate the sinking of the 'Terrifying Titanic'. We began our learning journey by measuring out how long the Titanic really was, and comparing it to modern day cruise ships. We had a fantastic day when we went to the Sea City Museum in Southampton. We were able to do some fascinating experiments as to why the Titanic sank and to also have a go at using Morse Code. We also followed the story of Sidney Daniels, a real-life person who was on the ship, and when we got back to school we used his testimonies to write our own first person recount. We learnt more about what life was like for people during this time period. We learnt about jazz music and even learnt the Charleston! We pulled all of this together at the end of the half term with a Titanic Day, where we dressed up as passengers and experienced what it must have been like for passengers embarking on the Titanic for its maiden voyage.



We were all very excited for our new topic in the second half of the Spring Term, as it involved one of our favourite things - chocolate! We were able to taste lots of different types of chocolate, deciding which ones we liked best and using these to design and make our own chocolates. In science, we looked at different reversible and irreversible changes and thought about this when we were making our chocolates. In history, we found out about the Maya Civilisation and their links to chocolate and we used this to write an essay about 'What The Maya Did For Us'. In PSHE, we learnt what to do in an emergency with the help of Meon Valley Heartstart who taught us emergency first aid.



Our first topic in the Summer Term was all about rivers. We started our work by learning all about river features and creating some miniature rivers in a foil tray. In English, we used our new knowledge about rivers to write poems about rivers, focussing on using amazing description. As part of this watery topic, we spent a day with the Chichester Harbour Conservancy education team. We created our own rivers in sand trays and labelled their different features, picked the best place to build a settlement and investigated a real-life river. We had a lot of fun getting into the river to conduct our experiments!



This was the topic that a lot of us had been waiting for as we found out about Funfairs! In science, we investigated how forces enable rollercoasters and other rides to be exciting whilst also being safe. This learning was put to use in our DT lessons, as we became fairground designers and designed our own fairground rides and then programed them in computing. To link our learning to the real world, we had an amazing day at Paulton's Park to experience how different forces made us feel. We also had fun exploring the work of Roy Lichtenstein in art and creating our own pop art inspired pieces.

