

Room 14 Newsletter

Week 5, Term 3, 2020



LITERACY

Reading – As a class, a big focus has been on understanding **synonyms** in order to improve our reading comprehension. We have been exploring that words can have the same or similar meaning to other words and that knowing this can help us to understand more of what we read. It can also help when trying to answer questions when the question uses a synonym of a word in the text, rather than the word itself.

Spelling – During spelling we have been focussing on a couple of particular rules we were having trouble with, such as doubling the last letter when adding the suffix to keep the short vowel sound. We have also been honing in on the correct use of apostrophes and different ways to end words when it changes from singular to plural.

Writing – Our short term writing goal has been to vary our sentence beginnings to create interest. Our long term goal is to write explanation texts using an introduction, three paragraphs that explain and a conclusion. We are currently writing about how Earthquakes occur.

REMINDERS /

NOTES:

- I will be holding parent teacher interviews in week 8.
- Forms will come home with your child soon. Please fill in your times and send back to school ASAP.
- Please give 3 preferences, as it is challenging to juggle everyone's time.

NUMERACY

Times tables have become a huge focus in our class this term. We have been learning tricks to help with particular number facts and have been creating flashcards in order to practise those we are getting stuck on over and over again. There has been a huge improvement with the quick recall of times tables as a result.

The topic we delved into for the first 3 weeks was data. We spent time collecting different types of data using tables and tallies, represented data using a range of different graph types and practised interpreting data by reading graphs carefully in order to understand what they are telling us. We focussed our attention on titles, keys, axes labels and scales to answer questions accurately.

We have currently shifted our focus towards financial maths. We are learning quick ways to add up amounts of coins and practising the 4 operations using money, which requires them to consider the decimals in the numbers.



Here we are creating a human pie graph about eye colour in Room14

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY: We have been exploring Australia's immigration history, learning about reasons why people from other countries have permanently moved to Australia. We have been watching and responding to clips, creating timelines and researching both PUSH factors (reasons why people have been forced to leave their home country) and PULL factors (reasons why people have been enticed to move to Australia). We read *Boy Overboard* by Morris Gleitzman to help our understanding of immigration. It is a fictional story that followed the journey of a young boy whose family tried to get to Australia after being forced from their home country.



SCIENCE: Earthquakes are the topic we're exploring in our science lessons. We have been learning about how and where they occur, how they are measured, damage they can cause and technical vocabulary relating to the topic.

STEM Challenges: Most Wednesday afternoons this term, the students have been engaging in STEM challenges that require them to solve a given problem through designing and creating. The aim is to develop problem-solving skills by having to think outside the box but also to improve teamwork and communication skills as they are in either pairs or small groups for the tasks.

CHALLENGE 1: Egg drop using a parachute



CHALLENGE 2: Formal wear with garbage bags



CHALLENGE 3: Build a bridge the will hold weight

