

# Upper Phase Newsletter



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## Literacy

Year 5 have been learning to write vivid descriptions by using a thesaurus to look up new vocabulary. Why not ask your child about some of their 'wow' words! They have also been using drama to bring to life scenes from The Firework Maker's Daughter, which has really helped with writing.

Year 6 have continued to work on their persuasive speeches, as well as writing powerful diary entries about their day out at the O2 arena.

They are continuing to improve their grammar and punctuation skills, through taught lessons and independent practice using the online SPaG tests.

## Maths

Year 5 have been solving addition and subtraction word problems by choosing an appropriate written method. They have also been working on multiplication by practising mental strategies and learning written methods for that operation too.

Last week Year 6 were learning about handling data. Miss Smith's group were practising interpreting pictograms and bar graphs while Mrs Wright's group collected their own data and presented the results in a pie chart. This week Miss Smith's group have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes and have practised drawing them with millimetre accuracy ready for SATs. Mrs Wright's group have learnt to rotate, reflect and translate 2D shapes.

## Science

Year 5 have been comparing the sizes of the Earth, Sun and Moon, and learning about the distances from each other. They have been discussing the reasons why we have day and night.

Year 6 have carried out an investigation with a living organism – yeast. The children discovered that when it reacts with sugar and warm water it can produce enough gas to inflate a balloon. They are now learning how to record all the steps in an investigation including their predictions, observations and conclusions.

We have received information in school about the University of Cambridge Science festival at the beginning of March. There are several workshops and demonstrations suitable for children. Look at the website for more details. [www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk)

## Young Voices

On Monday this week Year Six travelled to the O2 arena in London to take part in one of the largest children's choir concerts in the world. It was the culmination of many weeks working on the songs and proved to be a day to remember for everyone. The atmosphere was electric and the children had an amazing time, as did the adults! There will be photos on the Winhills website next week. If any parents would like to purchase a DVD, details are available on the Young Voices website. [www.youngvoices.co.uk](http://www.youngvoices.co.uk) This is something for Year 5 to really aspire to when they are in Year Six!