



Edna G Olds Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher's Newsletter

21st January 2022



Headteacher Update

Dear parents/carers,

What a wonderful start to the year!!! Children across school are eager to learn and have enjoyed being introduced to the historical concepts within their topics.

Children are exploring and investigating the following topic questions. Our children and staff team look forward to sharing their learning and findings with you at the history curriculum showcases being held during w/c 31st January 2022.

Year 1 – How has the area of Lenton changed over the years?

Year 2 – How did the Norman invasion shape the Nottingham we know today?

Year 3 – Reflecting on the Tudor period, how far has society progressed?

Year 4 – In what ways have Victorian practices and procedures influenced our lives today?

Year 5 – Why did multiple countries become involved in fighting during the first world war?

Year 6 – What lessons did society learn from World War II and how do these lessons still impact us today?

Already this term, there have been many exciting teaching and learning opportunities taking place.

Year 1 are finding out about how Lenton has changed over the years. Last week, they enjoyed embarking on a creative walk around the local area to gather evidence about some of the changes that have taken place over historical periods.



Year 3 have been practising their creative skills using the medium clay. They have taken inspiration from their class artist Akio Takamori and designed and made their own figure sculptures using clay.

Since returning from our Christmas break, nursery have been investigating numbers through weighing scales and have been learning about 'more' or 'less'. The children have been developing their use of mathematical vocabulary. It has been lovely to observe children using their imagination when accessing the wide range of resources within the construction area.

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed interpreting a wide range of artefacts and sources related to their World War 2 topic. Through the use of these historical sources, they have been able to piece together information to find about key events during this period for themselves. There has been some excellent debate and discussion which has led to the children thinking deeply about how we learn about the past.

In year 5, children are having a fabulous time exploring their new history topic. Children are learning about the significance of trenches during World War 1, creating their own comics on a typical day living during this period and are identifying significant events in the 1900's.



This week, our year 4 children extended their topic learning and understanding of the Victorians during their trip to the Black Country Museum. The children experienced an immersive day in Britain during the industrial revolution, learning all about the money systems and people's daily lives during this time. They also participated in a school session in an old Victorian schoolhouse!



Also, year 2 plan to visit Nottingham Castle on Friday 21st January. This will really bring their local history topic learning to life, enabling our children to explore the castle and take part in a workshop depicting '1000 years in 1000 seconds' in order to learn the history of Nottingham Castle.

Children and staff really look forward to sharing all their experiences and learning from this trip with you in our next newsletter.

In addition to this, our Art Ambassadors visited the Nottingham Contemporary Art Gallery on Thursday 20th January 2022. The children spent time viewing the current exhibition – 'Our Silver City' – and meeting the Nottingham based artists to discuss their work.



Here are some of our art ambassadors' views after viewing the exhibition and meeting the curators...



"We learnt that we are the experts in play and play can happen anywhere." (Sahara Yr 5)

"The artistic process is long. From the imagination of the artist, to the installation of the piece in the gallery, many professionals are required to complete the project." (Mia Y5)

"Contemporary Art is more than drawing or sculpture." (Ahmed Y5)

"Moving forward, using our Art Shack, we will continue to provide exciting art opportunities for the children at Edna.G. Olds Academy." (Tara Y5)

Within our Early Years unit, the team have been adopting the Curiosity Approach and are working towards our accreditation in this specialist provision of early years teaching pedagogy. The ethos of the Curiosity Approach is to use examples of early years teaching across the globe, promoting a mindful curriculum where we use senses, the weather and seasons of the year to ensure the children are engaging with the natural world. We foster a sense of awe and wonder and use this to promote the resilience and problem-solving skills of the children.

The classroom provides a wealth of opportunities for the children to drive their own learning, ask questions and become curious about the world around them. We are truly passionate about this approach and the children have enjoyed the benefits of a stimulating yet calming environment with real life objects to explore and excite. We embed this approach in all activities we do, ensuring there are purposeful opportunities to develop the language, writing, mathematical, social and scientific skills of the children.

With this in mind, our supportive early years parents have been wonderful at collecting natural materials from family and friends to donate to our Curiosity Approach resources. It would be amazing if our wider school community could also help with this, by sourcing natural materials, rather than plastics, to help assist with our whole school curriculum.

I wish to say a special thank you to Ms Kelly (early years parent) who contacted friends and neighbours in order to source a wide variety of natural resources for our early years setting. This has really helped us to kick start this exciting approach.






Our amazing curriculum subject leaders are taking part in a whole school competition. Our teaching team are currently beavering away in school to each create the most fascinating subject display areas within our school corridors. Leaders hope to encapsulate teaching pedagogies and subject specific intrigue, unique to their subject teaching. We can not wait to share photographs of these subject display areas as they develop over the next few weeks. Please look out for exciting updates.

Finally, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 the government has added an additional Bank Holiday for Spring 2022 and moved the existing Bank Holiday date.

The Spring (or Late May) Bank holiday will be moved from Monday 30 May to Thursday 2 June 2022 with an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June 2022.

As we would be on the half term break during that week, an extra day's holiday will be added to the 2021/22 academic calendar. This will be on Friday 27th May, meaning the term will end on Thursday 26th May 2022 (a day earlier than that first published). Please see the attached updated holiday calendar and below a snapshot of May's school holiday calendar below.

May 2022							June 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
										1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30	31											

	School Closed/Holidays		Teacher in-Service Day (no school for students)
	School Closed/Bank Holiday		

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Pemberton
Headteacher

Attendance

Your support with ensuring all children have a good level of attendance is wonderful. Please do remember – excellent attendance leads to amazing achievements. This week we have achieved 96% attendance as a whole school. Our year 2 class are overall attendance winners this week with 100%.

Attendance – wc 17th January 2022	
Reception	94.6%
Year 1	99.2%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	91.7%
Year 5	92.2%
Year 6	98.8%



Star of the Week



Nursery	Haron – for working hard with his now and next board. Sareenah - for helping her new peers in nursery.
Reception	Miray - for fantastic effort in her writing task this week. Antonio - for showing great respect for our environment and being a responsible member of our class.
Year 1	Isla - for a super effort to use full stops and capital letters in her writing when retelling the story of Six Dinner Sid. Ismail - for conducting an excellent interview with his dad about how shopping has changed in recent years.
Year 2	Mustafa - for writing a detailed description of a dragon with excellent sentence structure. Wijdan - for using adjectives in her dragon description.
Year 3	Hannah - for her creativity and attention to detail during our art lesson. Abdullah - for consistently using creative word classes across his writing.
Year 4	Saley - for settling back in to school with a positive attitude and motivation to learn. Sabreena - for pushing herself to achieve higher in maths by applying her learning and being creative.
Year 5	Prince - for taking personal responsibility for his own learning and identifying how to improve. Zeenat - for showing great courage during swimming and showing super creativity in art.
Year 6	Azaan - for using his personal responsibility to complete every task. Keep up the positive attitude. Eylul - for her immaculate presentation in every piece of work she completes.