



Sandgate Easter Holiday Newsletter

Easter Holiday letter from the Headteacher



Dear all,

As I write this the rain pours down outside, however we have our fingers crossed for the onset of some warmer weather.

We hope of course that we all manage to get out and about during the Easter break, but also after the holidays we are learning outside of the classroom more.

An ambition of the Sandgate curriculum is that we transfer the learning from the classroom to the wider world, this means getting out. You should be seeing a greater number of trips out focused on functional skills, but also outdoor activities and conservation / environmental work.

I absolutely want to hear about our students getting their hands dirty, changing our environment, solving problems, climbing mountains and paddling across lakes. We live in the perfect place to make that happen and have an amazing group of staff that are all committed to learning outside of the classroom.

My reflection is that what we offer is so much more than the academic subjects in our subject based curriculum. The personal curriculum and all in entails deserves to be celebrated, not only centered on IEP targets and EHCP outcomes but on the achievements that we make.

I hope that you all manage to have a great holiday, whether you are off to warmer climbs or staying in the English Lake District.

Take care, be safe and have an adventure!

Dan Hinton

Headteacher.

Parent Support Group



Come and join us for coffee, cake and a chat...

On Friday 28th April 11.45 - 12.45pm

at Sandylands Methodist Church

All welcome.

Term Dates



We return for the start of the Summer term on Monday 17th April.

Half term is Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June.

We finish for the Summer holidays on Wednesday 19th July.

School will also be closed for bank holidays on Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May.



Toddler Group



The Sandgate Toddler Group runs on a Friday from the Methodist Church on Sandylands Road.

There are 2 sessions:

Morning - 9.30 - 11.45am

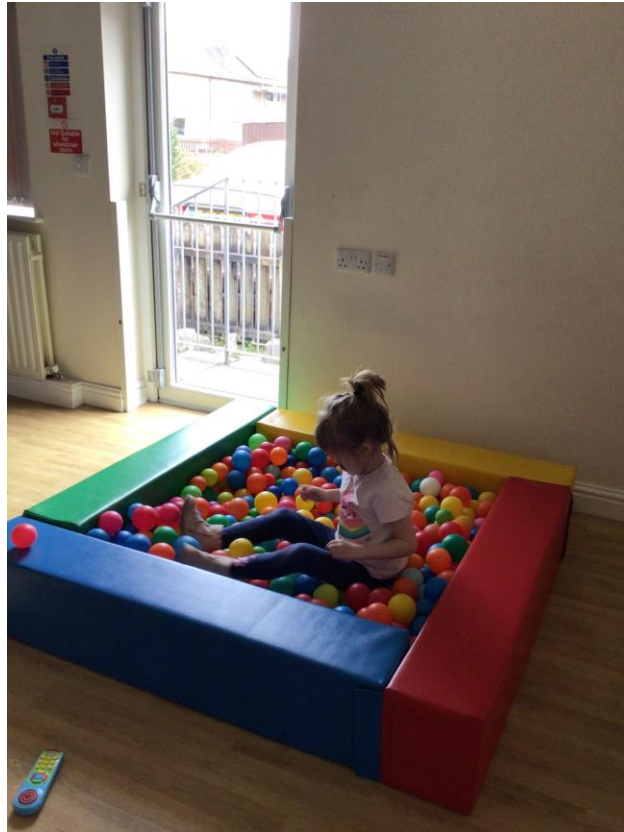
Afternoon- 1.00 -2.45pm

Please get in touch if you would like more information.









Class Updates....



Catbells



Catbells have been very busy this half term, exploring our traditional tale: Jack and the Beanstalk, planting beans, growing caterpillars and making our own caterpillars, beanstalks and butterfly artwork.

We have had lots of fun making yummy dishes in our Fun with Food sessions, which we hope you have enjoyed each week.



This term we have had some great adventures out and about, we enjoyed a lovely sensory visit to SPACE Centre Preston and enjoyed visiting the Lancaster butterfly house and mini zoo to meet the butterflies and animals.

In between all of these we have squeezed in celebrating Red Nose Day, Mother's Day and Rock You Socks Off for Down Syndrome Day.

We are now gearing up for Easter celebrations for the last week of this half term.

The children have just bloomed this half term and it is lovely to see their play and communication continue to develop, they are superstars!











Bessyboot



Bessyboot have had a busy half term!

We have been exploring the local area as part of our Neighbourhood Watch theme, visiting shops and sensory walks, and even made our very own Post Office here in class to practice posting and sorting.



We loved World Book Day and made the most of exploring tactile books as well as our usual songs and rhymes.

We have put our artistic skills to the test and made Mother's Day cards and some very unique handprint keyrings!

As always, we continue to explore our environment in a multi-sensory manner and develop our personal and social skills!











Wetherlam



Wetherlam have had a wonderful half term, we have really enjoyed getting out and about exploring school's local area.

The children have been great when out and about; they have walked and behaved really well and have been a real credit to our school!



The children have explored the area local to school with a hunt sheet spotting all the different street furniture and types of buildings. We went to look at the new bridge and the children enjoyed playing a game of pooh sticks before feeding the ducks.

We have also had a walk to look at Kendal Castle, the children were very excited to see it!









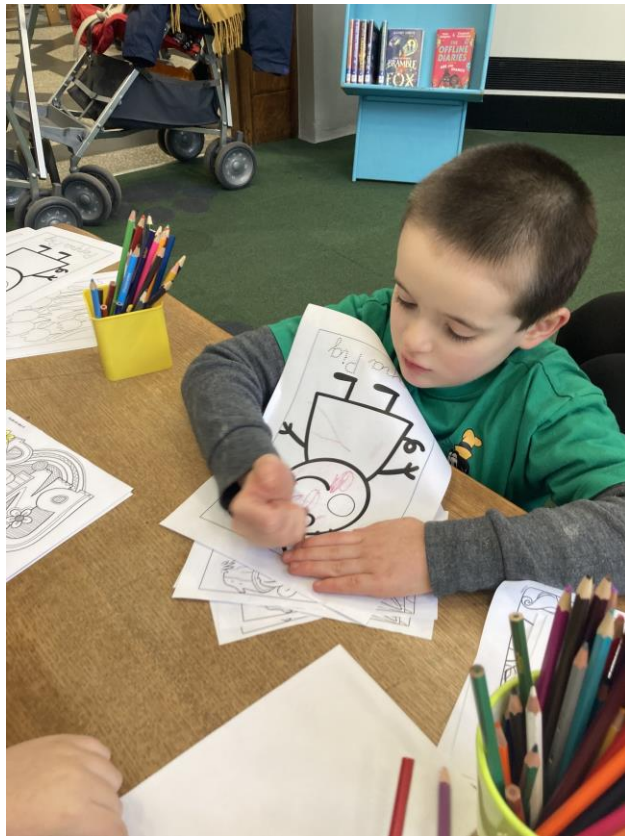


We have also visited the library and had a story session before borrowing some books to take home.

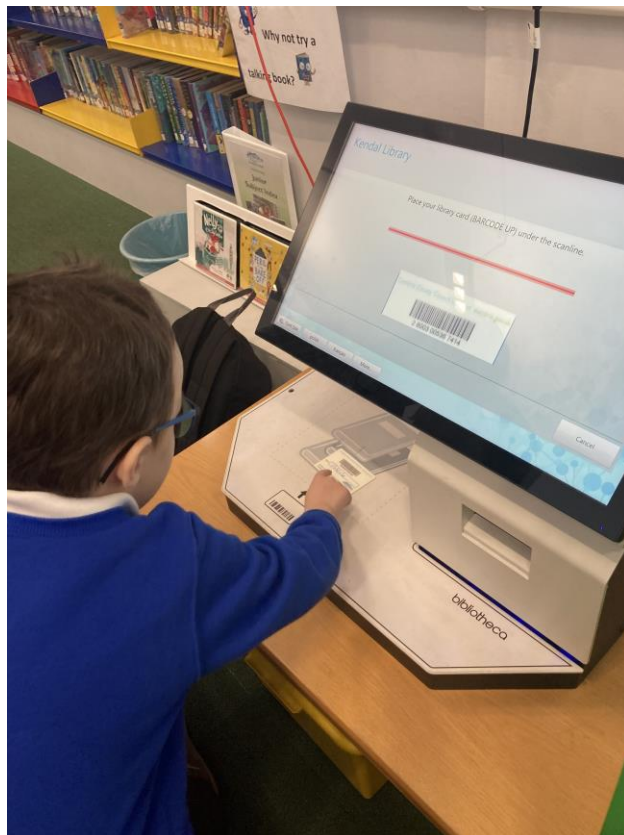
As well as getting out and about we have also had visitors into school; the fire brigade even brought a fire engine for us to explore.

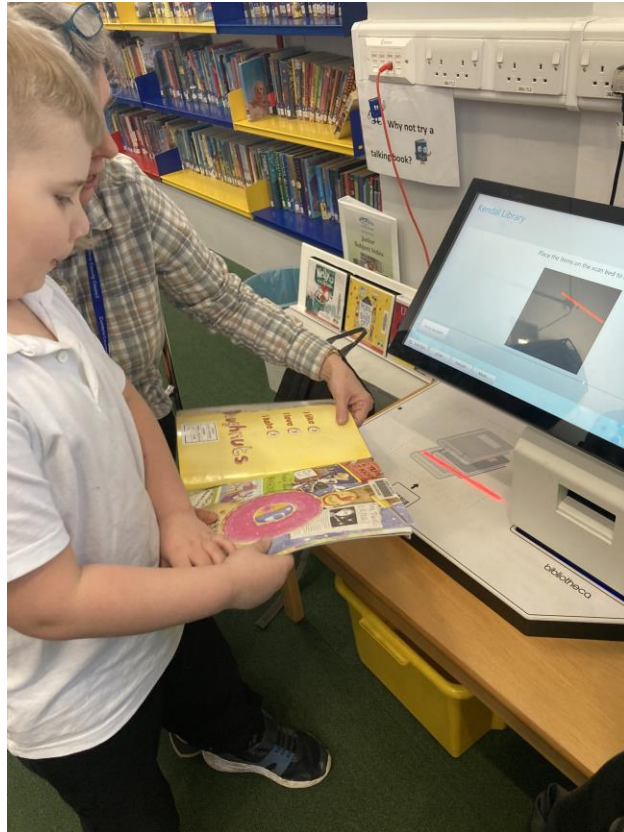
This has been alongside all their other learning too, it has been a lovely, busy half term.











Grassmoor



This half term Grassmoor's theme has been 'Neighbourhood watch'.

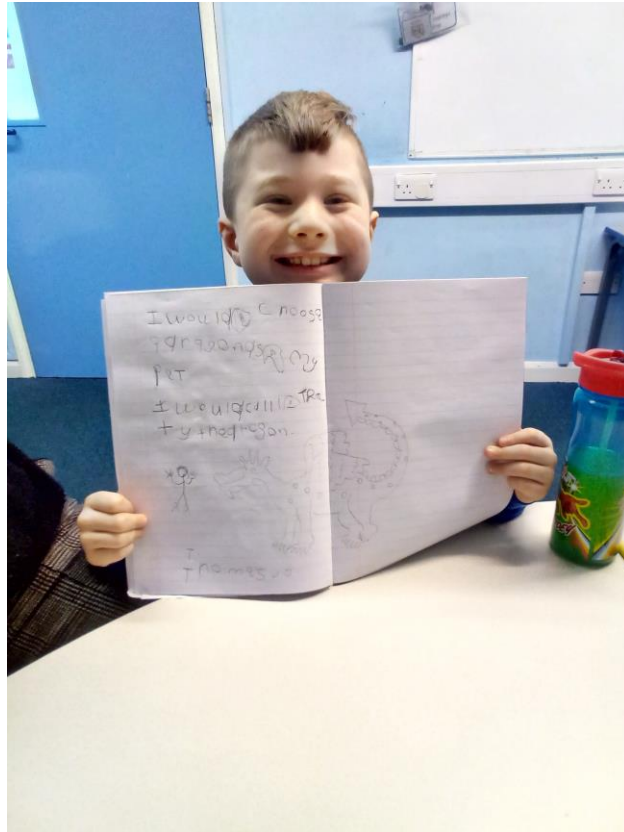
We have enjoyed exploring and identifying where we live as well as exploring areas local to us.



Through Science lessons we found out we are quite a green fingered group, growing our own flowers.

Influenced by our sensory story 'Six Dinner Sid' we also enjoyed making 'Grassmoor Street' composed of the students houses and school.

Another great half term with lots of amazing work by all in Grassmoor.



Blencathra



Blencathra's theme this half term has been Rocky the Findosaur. The children all gathered rocks over the half term break that they brought to school for a series of science investigations, such as permeability and erosion experiments.

They children have studied and written about fossils, as well as used different materials to draw fossils and rocks.

The children have learned about Mary Anning, a famous palaeontologist, and written questions to interview her with.

We even had the opportunity to pretend to be palaeontologists by digging for fossils!



As the weather has improved, Blencathra have proven themselves as budding gardeners during a trip to Beezon fields to plant bulbs in the new sensory garden that is being developed.

We have used these skills to plant other plants for our outdoor space at school.









Glaramara





This half term Glaramara have been super busy with a wide range of activities! From playing target games in P.E. to making some delicious treats in Food Technology!





We have also been learning new songs in our Music sessions and learning all about plants in Science.





We have also been looking at the Snail and the Whale and doing some wonderful stories and artwork around the story!





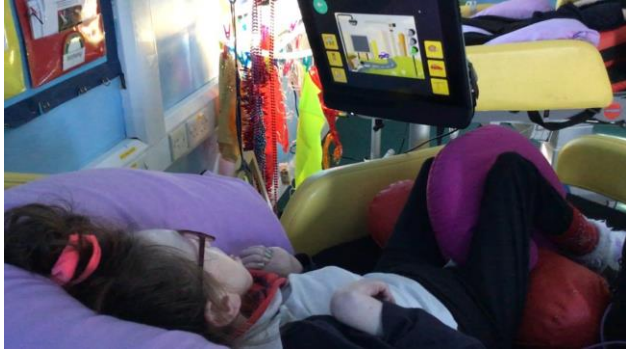
Robinson

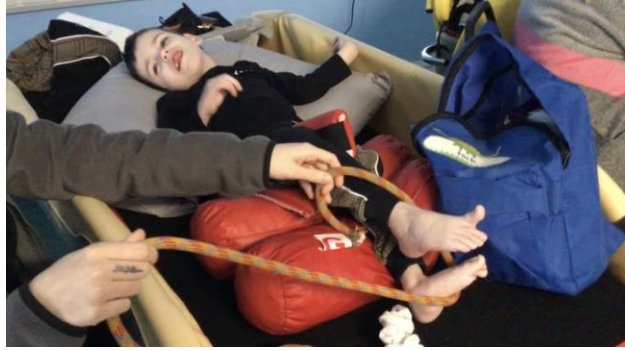


Robinsons students have enjoyed a fully immersive circus theme this half term.

The Hub has been transformed into the big top circus tent where we have enjoyed many sensory sessions. Clowns, spinning plates, tightrope walkers, juggling and elephants have all visited the tent in various exciting and engaging ways!







A big thank you to Bowfell Bistro for hosting a fantastic session for our students. Both staff and children thoroughly enjoyed saying hello to familiar and new faces at SGQKS.

We look forward to next half term looking at all things wild in our new theme “Where The Wild Things Are”.

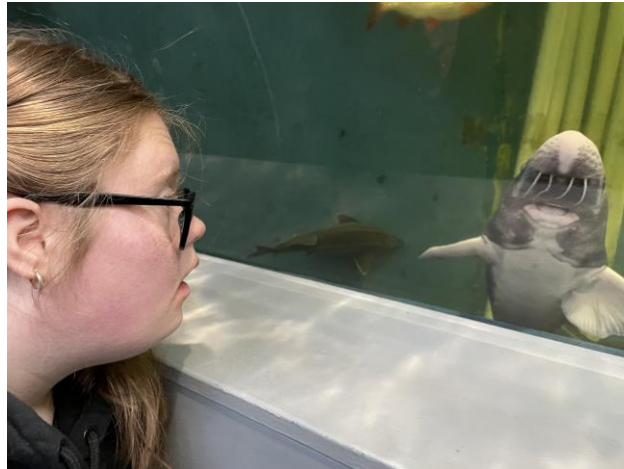
Fairfield

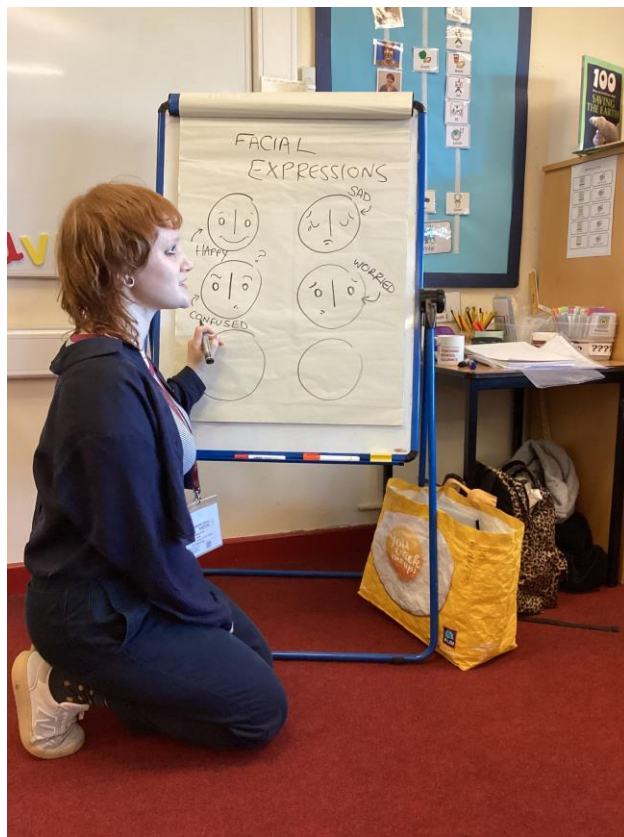


Fairfield enjoyed visiting the aquarium as part of our 'Commotion in the Ocean' theme. We have been studying the course of the River Kent. We're hoping to go up to its source in the Kentmere valley once the weather picks up-probably after Easter now!

Art this term has seen us creating sculptures to reflect plant life under the sea - some amazing creations! We've also written poems about sea creatures and created a comic based on an underwater journey using the silent comic 'The Wanderer' by Peter Van De Ende as inspiration.

Comic artist Mollie joined us for our third session of the Comic Intervention project, focusing on expressions.





Fells



Fells have been busy these last 5 weeks. We have completed Artwork making sculptures inspired by the ocean, visited Lake's aquarium and learned about the River Kent from source to Sea.

We have been reading Kensuke's kingdom and have written some fantastic postcards describing our experiences so far. To stick with the theme, we have cooked delicious food from the Caribbean and Mexico - their skills in the kitchen are fantastic!

We continue to be fit and healthy completing our Virtual Schools challenges, learning about different ways we keep fit and playing sport for fun.



Helvellyn



This half term we have been looking at skills and knowledge of our bodies. In science we looked at hand washing and used a UV light to detect how clean our hands were. We cleaned our feet after making footprints. We drew around each other to name body parts.





We have started a new sensory project in the QKS dance studio based on music from Arabia. We have increased our community presence by accessing cafe's cat cuddling and listening walk.





Pillar



Pillar class this half term have begun to focus on their upcoming residential to Glasgow in June. Students have researched cultural assets in Glasgow and compared Glasgow to Kendal.

In addition to studying what Glasgow has to offer students have been reading poems in Overheard in a Towerblock by [Joseph Coelho](#). Joseph is the 12th and current Children's Laureate. Students have used

written methods like simile, metaphor and alliteration in their own poems about school life and life around them.

More recently, mock exams were sat in preparation for May exams. Year 11s will sit 'live' Functional Skills Entry Level Certificate exams in the classroom in the middle weeks of May. The exams set by Pearson/ Edexcel being sat are English, maths and ICT. Y10 students will sit additional mocks at the same time as the Y11s to practise.

We continue to research the residential after the Easter break and students will begin to plan the logistics of train travel, venue locations, opening times, costs and plan an evening meal as well as where to eat out."



Pillar class were successful in an application to Orchards for Schools. We were given 2 apple trees and 60 hedgerow whips.

We worked with Chris Eastman from QKS we dodged the showers and planted in the Community Garden over the last two weeks.

Videos of our achievements are available on the school Facebook page.





Bowfell

This half term has seen Bowfell continue to progress in their independent cooking and baking skills, grow in confidence out in the community and particularly enjoy reading in class.

College visits to Beaumont have continued for some students as well as work experience at Castle Green Hotel.

Bowfell Bistro has gone from strength to strength with customers from Bessy Boot and Robinson, as well as our cake delivery enterprise producing goodies for Jean at the Methodist Church playgroup each Monday.

We've enjoyed visits to Morecambe and Lancaster as well as taking two teams to play in a Boccia tournament in Barrow.

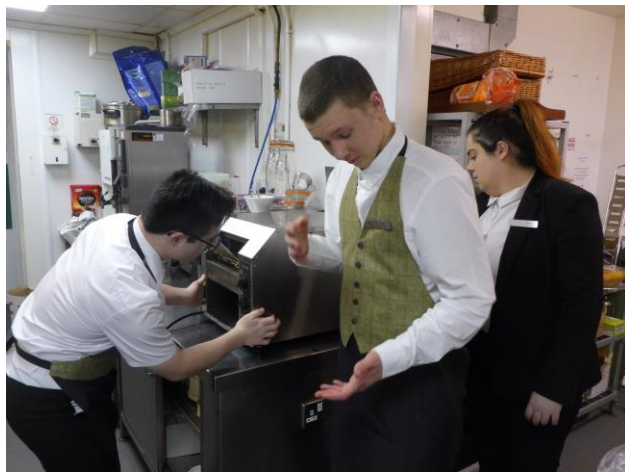
A busy half term all round!

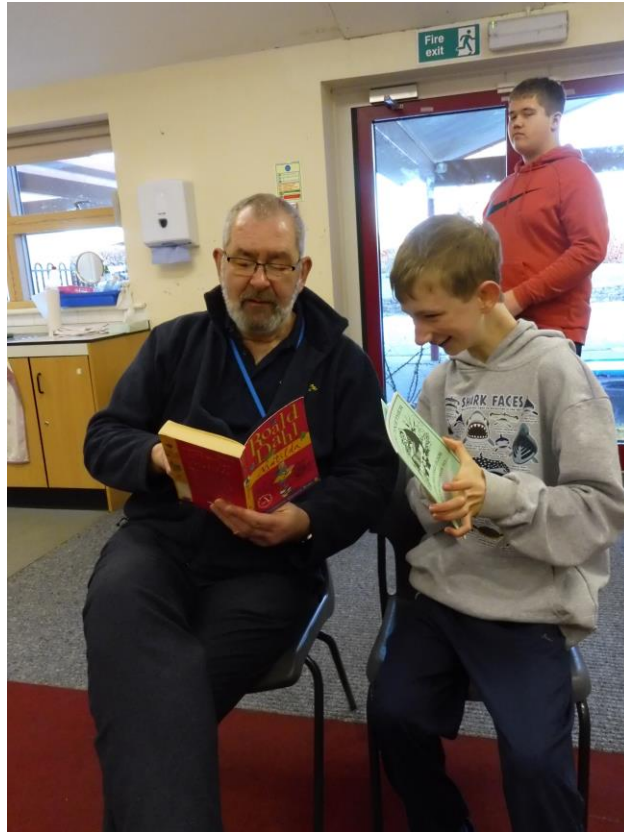










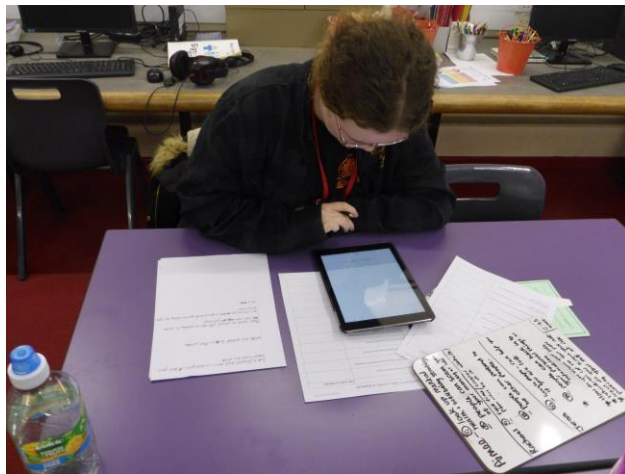


Scafell



Scafell have had a busy term continuing with their learning and working towards BTEC Awards. Students spent time focusing on how to keep themselves safe on the internet. They produced a class video and have each made a leaflet to share with others.





We have also been continuing with our work experience and volunteering. All students are enjoying the opportunity to develop their skills.



We attended a Careers Fair in Kendal which was a great opportunity to speak with local employers and colleges

In preparation for some warmer weather and the summer months we have started to look at independent travel. We have looked at timetables and students used their problem solving and team work skills to plan a trip out. We went to the hot chocolate shop in town. It was really good to see the class working together and keeping safe. We all enjoyed the hot chocolate too.







Skiddaw



This term in Skiddaw we have been learning about unit and non-unit fractions, and here we are, two thirds of the way through the school year! Anyone in Skiddaw will be able to tell you that two thirds is a non-unit fraction: we've been noticing them everywhere! For instance... sixth ninths of the class have been taking part in Animal Studies at Lancaster & Morecambe College over the past 5 weeks. It's been a fantastic experience, as these comments testify:

'I've enjoyed handling the animals in Animal Care and finding out more about where they come from' (Oliwia).

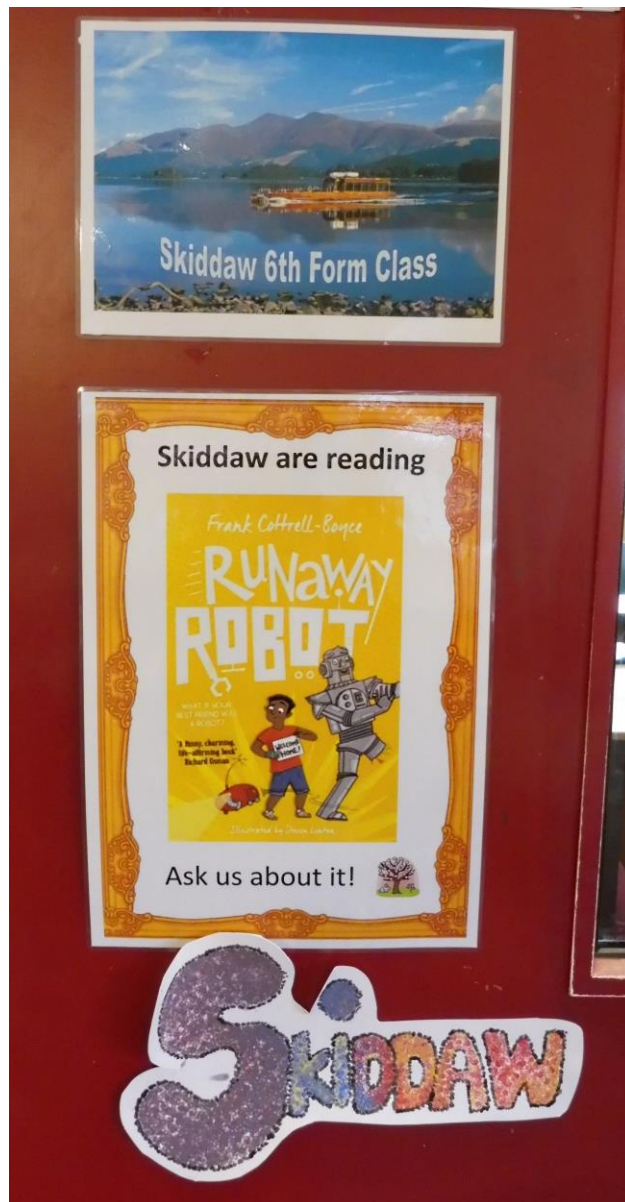
'The environment at college is nice and welcoming and the staff are really friendly. I enjoyed holding the rat' (Rach).

'I really liked holding the Chinchilla and getting used to holding the snakes. The staff are very helpful and friendly' (Billy, pictured with a rabbit).



This term we have also been working on our problem-solving skills, reading instructions and working out how to complete the Koboca physical challenges. In addition, we've looked at weather forecasts to problem-solve how to travel to and from the swimming pool: it seems to have been quite a wet and windy half term!

One of the highlights of the term was World Book Day, where we focused on our rights as a reader, shared our thoughts on this term's class reader, 'Runaway Robot' (see the photo for our Runaway Robot poster), and enjoyed an Alice in Wonderland tea party. We've also been working on PowerPoint presentations of chosen topics, incorporating key features of non-chronological reports. The presentation topics range from Poland to Pizza, and we have been impressed by the students' IT skills and research findings: watch this space for live presentations after Easter! All of this hard work will contribute to the students' BTEC Digital Skills portfolio, which we're on track to complete this year. Well done everyone - we look forward to the final one third of the year (a warm and sunny unit fraction)!



Have a wonderful holiday from all at Sandgate