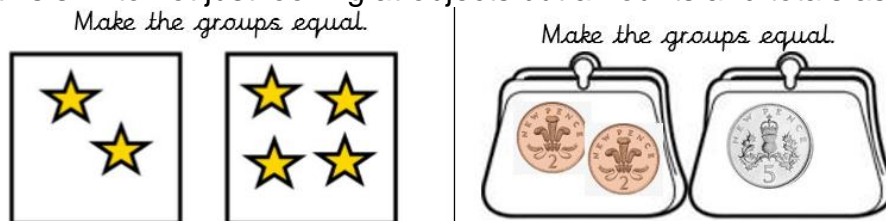


Dear Parent/Carers,

Following on from our learning last week in English about the features of non-fiction texts, each child has invented their own country and has started to write a fact-file about it. We have been very impressed with the accuracy of the children's work so far! They had a lot to think about as they wrote including ambitious vocabulary, conjunctions and punctuation (capital letters, full stops, question marks and commas).

We have also focused on putting verbs into the past tense by adding the –ed suffix as our spelling rule. This will be the focus of our spelling work for several weeks now as the –ed form of verbs is one that is used frequently in lots of different types of writing. Perhaps as your child is reading to you this week at home, you could be 'verb detectives' and go on a hunt for –ed verbs!

In Maths, we have been learning how to recognise equal and unequal groups. We transferred this skill to not just looking at objects but amounts and totals as well.



We then extended our understanding further by solving problems such as this one. See if your child can show you what we did.

*I have 20 cubes. Find 4 ways I can put them into equal groups.*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ equal groups with \_\_\_\_\_ in each group.

One key aspect of Maths is fluency. It is important for children to have a range of number facts at their fingertips which they can use flexibly to help them solve problems and calculations. These range from addition and subtraction strategies (e.g. doubling, number bonds to 10/20/100, near doubles, number bonds within all numbers to 10 etc) to multiplication and division facts. Here are some useful websites to help develop fluency in maths when recalling facts such as number bonds to 10/20 and times tables:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10> (choose Level 2 to begin)

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

In addition to these tools, White Rose Maths Hub have released a free app called "One Minute Maths" which is suitable for devices running Android and IOS. It is aimed to help children in Reception and Key Stage 1 develop their addition and subtraction fluency skills and to recognise key facts quickly. Many of the key facts practised on the app are key for children in Year 2 to have automatic recall of. Feel free to download the app from the App Store and use this as an additional tool at home to support your child's mathematical development.

In CCL, we have learnt vocabulary to help us describe different types of weather that are found around the world (e.g. thunderstorms, hail, blizzards, sandstorms, cloud, rain, sleet, gales) and decided whether they are found often, rarely or never in the UK. We also became weather reporters and had a go at presenting the weather forecast in front of the rest of the class. We had to think about the weather for the four countries in the United Kingdom. Ask your child to see if they can remember what the four countries are called.

Our Outdoor PE lessons have seen us start a new topic of bat and ball skills. In this unit, we will learn how to hold a racquet correctly, how to hit a ball towards a target with increasing accuracy, how to hit a ball that has been thrown to us and how to apply these skills into team games. It has been great to see most children in school with the correct outdoor PE kit so that they can dress warmly and appropriately for our outdoor sessions, even in these chilly and sometimes wet conditions.

Many thanks for your support,

**Mrs Collins, Mr Bale, Mrs Gooseman and the Year 2 Team**