

# THIS WEEK AT ST FAITH'S

25th February 2022

**Dear All,**

We began the second half of term on Monday with an assembly on the theme of kindness, and we considered the impact that our words can have on those around us. In listening to an adaptation of the story of the White Lily by Jane Tyson Clement, we reflected on the way in which all our actions have a legacy. We also heard descriptions of some of the actions that had led to the award of kindness certificates this term, and we thought about ways in which we could be kind to those around us.

## Year 7 Science

In Science, Year 7 have been finishing their topic on Elements, Compounds and Mixtures. Pupils have enjoyed the practical tasks designed to reinforce their learning. Here are a few examples:

- To demonstrate the change in properties when elements form compounds, pupils used iron and sulfur to make iron sulfide. They were intrigued to find that, despite containing iron, it was not magnetic.
- To appreciate that compounds contain elements in fixed proportions, our Hoffman Voltmeter was used to split water by electrolysis, producing double the volume of hydrogen gas compared to oxygen.
- Pupils have also considered how the melting and boiling points of a mixture vary with composition. The pupils found the temperature of salt-water ice cubes was well below 0°C and were able to apply this knowledge to explain why salt is used on roads in the winter.
- In preparation for their assessments, some pupils have been tackling some complex GCSE-level questions to challenge their knowledge and to apply it to new situations. As an example, they have calculated the number of protons and neutrons of different isotopes to test their understanding of atomic structure.

## Year 5 Humanities

Year 5 have been studying the tropical rainforests. Having learned about their vulnerability and unique features, pupils have discussed the threats to the forest posed by a growing world population and deforestation. Pupils finished the topic with some lessons on what we can do to protect and save them and the children in 5K produced some impressive posters, two of which can be seen below.

[SAVE OUR RAINFOREST BE FOREST FRIENDLY](#)

## Year 6 English

Continuing the rainforest theme, Year 6 have been reading 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson, a wonderful story set largely in the Amazon Rainforest. As part of their writing, they had to create an informational PowerPoint (mentioned in the newsletter on 11.2.22) about animals, plants and people of their choice, and then they presented these to each other in class, and peer assessed each other's work.

Part of the challenge was, firstly, to use the relative clauses and other subordinate clauses they had been learning about. They also set out to find the most original creatures in the rainforest. The results have been enjoyed by all, and the final step was to create a display board with a selection of their best slides. As they began to run out of tissue paper 'trees', they realised that this, in itself, was a very real problem in the rainforest – so they then created special 'logging' areas as well. A reminder that this stunning place is seriously in danger of disappearing.

## Year 2 Visit to the Sedgwick Museum

This week, Year 2 classes took it in turns to visit the University of Cambridge's Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences. The fascinating sessions, led by Sedgwick Museum staff, focused on fossilised teeth and feet and what we learn about dinosaurs from the fossils. The children asked lots of interesting questions and even got to hold a fossilised T-Rex tooth and brain. Staff and pupils alike thought that it was remarkable that the tooth was the larger of the two! Additionally they were excited to discover that Hippos were once found just down the road in Barrington. The children were excellent ambassadors for St Faith's and their teachers were proud of how maturely they engaged and behaved on their visits.