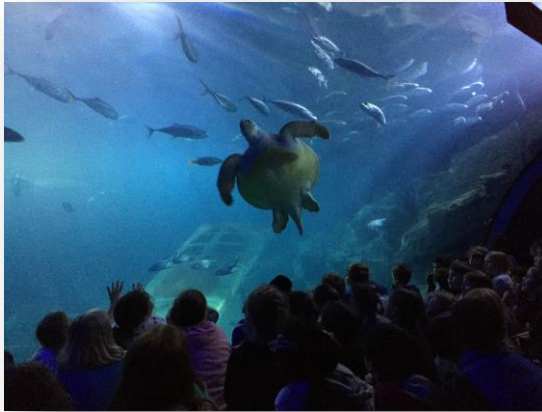


Stoke Hill Federation

Newsletter



Friday 2nd February 2018



TTRockStars

The unanimous answer amongst the Junior School teachers when asked 'what would make the biggest difference to the children's learning in maths', was 'if they all knew their times tables really well'.

We are doing lots of things in school to help the children learn their tables, and an extra thing you can try at home is to have a go at **Times Tables Rock Stars**.

The children have a school login, and if you download the free app they can log into our account and have a go.

It's really motivating, and helps enormously with fluency. Here's a challenge – **can you beat Ben in 6M's score of 104 correct answers in a minute?**

What about if you are just 5 or 6?

Learning how to count accurately in ones and then in 2s, 5s and 3s builds firm foundations for children to later learn these all important 'times tables'.

So with your younger child try:

- learning some counting rhymes
- counting in 2s, 5s etc. as you walk up or down a flight of steps – somehow steps help with the rhythm of counting
- noticing door numbers on one side of the street - if you are lucky you can sometimes find houses or flats 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 etc.
- play 'double the number' which forms the x2 of any times table (learn the 'doubles', double 4, double 2, double 8 etc.)

Start practicing early in fun ways and you will have helped your child secure a skill for life, and maybe future TT Rockstar fame...!

Water City

It's true and it's actually happening! After almost 18 months applying/waiting for funding and for an inspired design company to turn our dreams into a plan – the holes have been DUG!

To a theatre of children, Jim and Joff from Copper Beech Designs have begun excavating the foundations for our huge and exciting 'Water City', where water will flow from shoulder height, through troughs and gulleys the children can play in, to form a mini stream that gently soaks away to be re-circulated and used once again.

If that is hard to imagine, then be encouraged to take a look each day from the tall windows to see how the work is progressing, or follow us on Twitter.

Our **Vision** and **Value** statements say that: 'The content of our curriculum is personalised to our schools'.

From snowdrops to giant turtles, this week our children have had the opportunity to wonder at our world and learn too, to care for it.

As Stoke Hill children grow up they will no doubt face environmental uncertainty. We are passionate that the Federation's curriculum reflects an understanding of this aspect of their future. We hope you enjoy talking to your child about what they have learnt this week.

Year 5 Sleeping with the Sharks

On Wednesday evening, Year 5 had an incredible experience – they spent the night at Plymouth Aquarium sleeping with the sharks.

Here are some of the facts they came back with:

'The sharks only eat 7 fish a week each because life is so easy for them and they don't use up much energy hunting'

'Coral is a plant, an animal and a rock. It has some of the characteristics of each of these things.'

'Clownfish families only have one female, and if the female dies one of the males becomes a female to replace her'

One fact we weren't surprised about was that some 9 and 10 year olds don't actually seem to need any sleep at all!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff who took the children on their unforgettable adventure, which really helped bring their 'Into the Blue' topic to life.