THE FRIDAY FOCUS

Issue 90

6th November 2026

The fortnightly Friday Focus is the chance for every class at Clavering to share their learning with the Clavering school community. This is a great opportunity to find out what each year group has been up to and engage in conversations around learning.

RECEPTION

We have been enjoying watching the seasonal changes of Autumn and all the beauty it brings. We read the book Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert and decided to create our own Leaf Men and Leaf Ladies using leaves we collected at school and home. They all look wonderful and so different.

"WHERE LEAF MAN GOES, ONLY THE WIND KNOWS."



YEAR 1

Year 1 enjoyed a special Great Fire of London workshop. They went back in time to 1666 and pretended to be living during The Great Fire of London.

Children enjoyed pretending to be different characters including Samuel Pepys and Thomas Farriner. They pretended to bake in the bakery, run from the fire and buried their special belongings just like Samuel Pepys did back then.

They made noises like the fire and worked in groups to stretched up high to look like tall buildings. We had a lot of fun!







YEAR 2

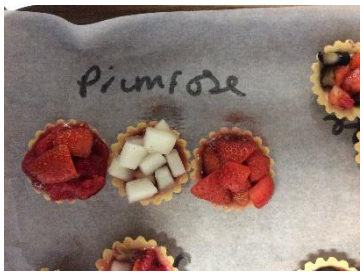
In Design Technology, Class 2 began by tasting a variety of fruits and discussing their flavours. They then designed their own fruit tarts, choosing ingredients to create individual recipes. After making their tarts, the children tasted and evaluated them. Most agreed that they were delicious, especially because of their sweet flavour!

Here are some pictures of our finished fruit tarts:











YEAR 3

In Year 3, we have now completed our autumnal art project! Throughout the unit, we explored a range of artistic skills and techniques, learning the importance of taking our time to observe and draw carefully, experimenting with different ways to capture texture, exploring landscape compositions and experimenting with autumnal colour palettes. Along the way, we took inspiration from the work of artists and illustrators, including Beatrix Potter, David Hockney, Georgia O'Keefe and others, exploring how different artists use line, colour, shape and detail in their work. For our final piece, we brought all of these skills together to create our own beautiful autumnal collage pieces, taking inspiration from Eloise Renouf. We created a collage background using cool-toned greens and blues before drawing and painting tree shapes using our autumnal colour palette. Once the paint was dry, we added detailed textures and patterns to our trees, carefully cut them out and arranged them within our landscapes.

The children showed great creativity and care throughout the process, creating individual pieces that showcased everything they had learnt along the way!








YEAR 4

This week, Year 4 have continued exploring Shackleton's Journey by William Grill. Using a range of reading resources, images and videos, the children imagined how the crew might have been feeling throughout their expedition and, in particular, as they found themselves stranded on Elephant Island.

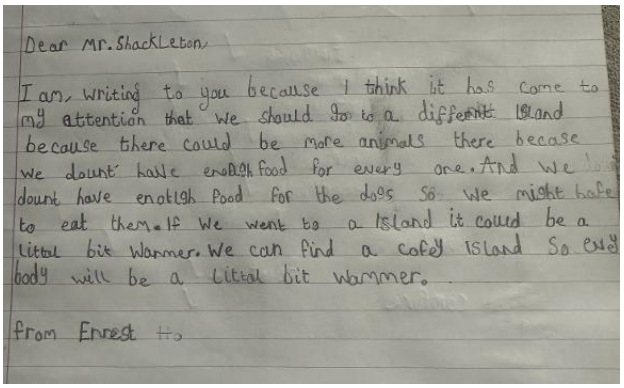
We discussed the difficult decision facing Shackleton: should he remain at Patience Camp with dwindling supplies, or risk setting off in the small boats in search of help? The children explored arguments for and against leaving the camp, considering the risks and challenges of both options.

To bring their ideas to life, we took part in a 'Conscience Alley' activity, where the children stepped into the shoes of the crew members and used modal verbs to persuade Shackleton and express their thoughts and concerns.

Concluding the lessons, in role as members of the crew, the children wrote letters to Shackleton, explaining whether they supported leaving Patience Camp or staying behind, using persuasive language to support their views.

It has been wonderful to see the children developing their debating, persuasive writing and empathy skills while immersing themselves in this exciting and challenging part of Shackleton's expedition!

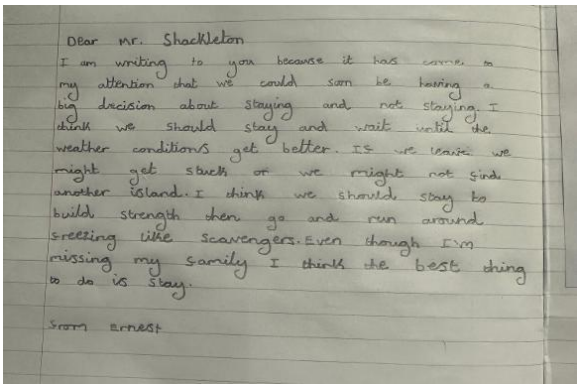




Dear Mr. Shackleton

I am, writing to you because I think it has come to my attention that we should go to a different Island because there could be more animals there because we dount have enough food for every one. And we dount have enough food for the dogs so we might have to eat them. If We went to a Island it could be a little bit warmer. We can find a cafe Island So our body will be a little bit warmmer.

from Ernest



Dear Mr. Shackleton

I am writing to you because it has come to my attention that we could soon be having a big decision about staying and not staying. I think we should stay and wait until the weather conditions get better. If we leave we might get stuck or we might not find another island. I think we should stay to build strength then go and run around freezing like scavengers. Even though I'm missing my family I think the best thing to do is stay.

from Ernest



YEAR 5

Year 5 have been exploring Greek food as part of our Design and Technology project. Before half term, we researched Greek flatbreads, explored different ingredients and tasted a selection of traditional Greek foods. This week, we put our ideas into practice by designing and making our own Greek flatbreads, choosing from a range of toppings to create our finished products. The children enjoyed making and tasting their creations! A big thank you to our parent helpers who gave up their time to support us this week.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have continued their Georgia O'Keeffe inspired artwork. Before half term the children sketched out their poppies and did the red layers of acrylic paint. The children chose from cadmium, burnt sienna, crimson and scarlet to complete the petals – often combining more than one of the shades. The next part, we will be fine lining with black acrylic paint.



Watch out for the next edition of the Friday Focus on 20th November 2026!