



## Newsletter Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had a very busy fortnight and would really like to thank you all for your patience and support.

### Covid update

Although it appears that cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant are 'levelling off' nationally, this is not yet the case in all areas, including ours. As before, the guidance changes in response to a number of variables and we are all doing our best to keep up with it. Local Authority risk assessments are updated on Fridays which are then sent to schools to process before Monday. We are reporting all cases and will then implement any further measures, if advised.

Currently, children only need to isolate if they have a positive test result but parents and carers are advised to test children if they live with someone who has tested positive. We know that a lot of children are now testing positive without symptoms so thank you to everyone who is managing to do this.

**please contact your child's class teacher or the school office if you have any queries.**

A number of staff have also been affected but we have all rallied round to ensure that we remain open, teach your children whilst maintaining remote learning for those at home. There has been a real sense of community in the school and the children have been a wonderful source of help and support too. We have still had dance lessons, a visit to the church and a visit to Bowes Museum. It really has been business as usual in a most unusual time.

### OPAL

Our OPAL (Outdoor play and learning) work is receiving a lot of interest and one post which has been retweeted is one of the children cleaning the

outside of the school. Taking responsibility is such an important part of personal development and we are seeing a lot of this from the children.



### History across the school.



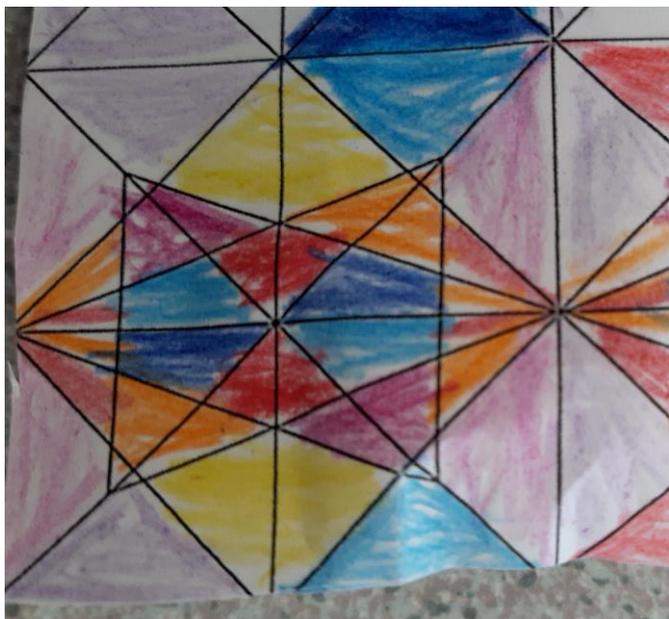
KS2 place events on a large timeline which are displayed across the school. It is really important to see how long some eras were and how much they can overlap.



Here are the year 5 children placing key events from Early Islamic Civilisations on a VERY long timeline!

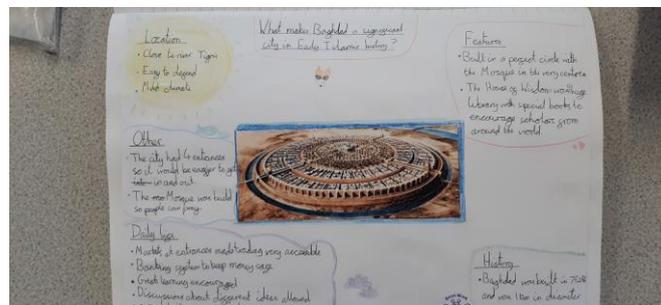
Year 5 then went on to say, "In history, we are learning about Early Islamic Civilisations from around 600 - 1300 AD. We are using our learning from last year's study of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings to help us.

We have also tried drawing some Islamic art with its geometric patterns - this was very tricky but we tried hard!"



### Lesson 3:

Exploring the idea of significance in history: What makes Baghdad a significant place in Early Islamic history?



A flavour of other learning across the school:

### Year 6 pencil portraits

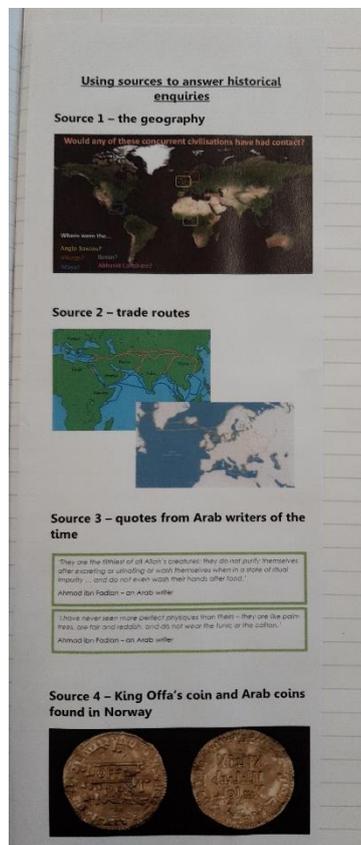


### Maths in reception



### Lesson 2:

Using sources to answer our enquiry questions.: Would the people of the Abbasid Caliphate have had contact with other concurrent civilisations?



### Writing in nursery



### Attendance

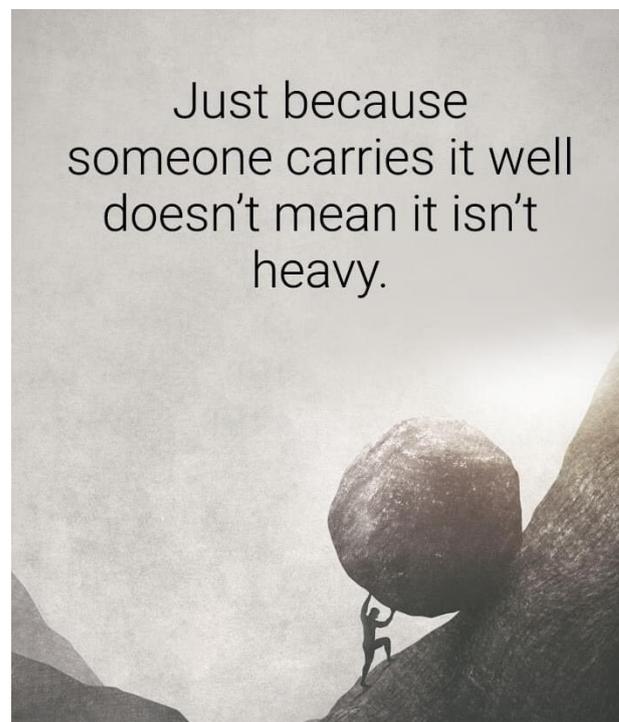
Thank you so much for keeping the office informed about your child's absence. It has been very busy in the office over the past fortnight and so the answerphone has been an invaluable asset in managing essential information.

### Parent/carer questionnaires

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken the time to complete these. The feedback is always welcome – both positive and negative! We want to keep improving so that we can do the best for all children in our care.

Please keep sending these in to school. If you would like a paper copy contact the school office.

We follow Thought for the Day and saw this, which is a good reminder for us all during this time.



### Dates for the Diary:

**24<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 3 Reading Club begins

**25<sup>th</sup> January** - Phonics online meeting for parents and carers

**31<sup>st</sup> January** – Hinduism workshop for years 3,4 and 6

**17<sup>th</sup> February** – break up for half term

**18<sup>th</sup> February** – Additional training day for the Queen's Jubilee