



# The Diamond Times

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## ***A note from Mr Beattie***

*I hope you enjoy reading this edition of The Diamond Times. Last term, we asked the children to provide much more of the content, so you'll read about what they have enjoyed so far this year in their own words!*

*We really enjoyed getting to grips with the iPads during the winter term! Some of the teaching staff attended an iPads conference in February and that really enthused us to try out some new ways of challenging the children and encouraging them to engage with their own work. So far, it's been a great success!*

*Our Choir and lots of individual singers did us proud this term by performing brilliantly at Ballymena festival and our football and netball teams played really well in their tournaments.*

*Massive congratulations to Mrs Davidson, who now has a lovely baby boy called Tommy! And also, a warm welcome to Miss Ford, who is teaching P2/3.*



*Summer term has now begun!*

*Mr Beattie*

*Take Note*

### **SUMMER TERM HOLIDAYS**

**Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd May**

**Thursday 26th May to**

**Wednesday 1st June inclusive**

## 'Ready, teddy, go' with P1 and P2

We have been learning all about Toys and Teddies this term. We have really enjoyed this topic. Here are some of our highlights:



I liked bringing my teddy to school.

- Olivia Arbuthnot -

I liked making our bear headbands.

- Amy Lowry -

I loved the story 'A chair for baby bear'

- Haylee Kirkpatrick -

I loved the teddy bears picnic.

-Tamzin McNeilly -



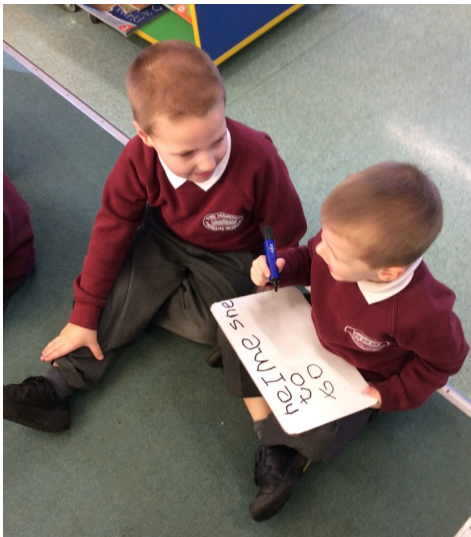
I liked making the puppets.

- Lilee-Grace Gourley -



I liked making my own chair out of junk materials.

- Holly Kyle -



In Numeracy Primary 1 have been learning all the numbers to 10 while Primary 2 have been doing lots of adding and taking away work. We have been learning about money and have enjoyed using all the coins to play shopkeeper and customer.



Another highlight of this term was Pancake Day. We read the story of 'The Big Pancake' and we helped to make our own. We all loved them!!!



Happy Chinese New Year

Thank you to William & Denise who represented Chinese Welfare and Race Relations. They came to school to teach us about Chinese culture and to make us more aware of some of the many different races and cultures across the world.



P2 and P3 think  
animals are really



Our topic for the first half of the term was **Winter Wonderland** and we recently started our new topic of **Animal Allsorts**. We have had lots of fun discovering facts about winter and the many animals we have come across. We learnt about how various animals either hibernate, migrate or adapt to survive the winter.

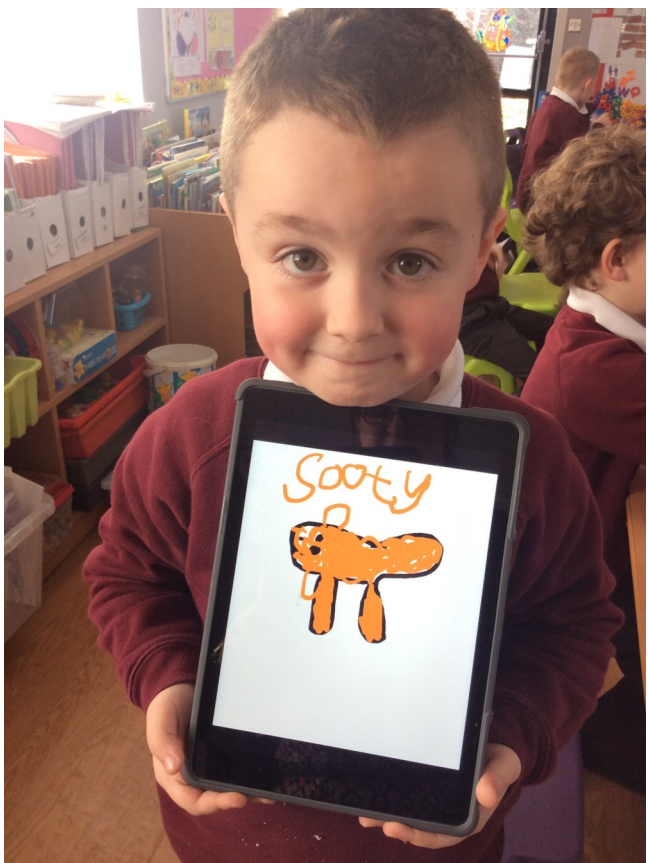
In order to find out more about the weather, we carried out an ice egg experiment to find out how ice melts, and what we can do to speed up the process. We used different materials (sand, salt, warm and cold water, tin foil and direct sunlight) to see what would cause the ice to melt the quickest. The children had great fun trying to make their ice eggs melt.

As part of our Animal Allsorts topic, we have been focusing on pets, looking at various animals to decide if they would make good pets or not, and talking about the basic needs of different animals. We also looked at the important role that guide dogs have within the community. We learnt lots of really interesting facts about guide dogs, and got to see what a day in the life of a guide dog involves.



We found that the warm water was the best for melting ice.

- Joshua Wright -

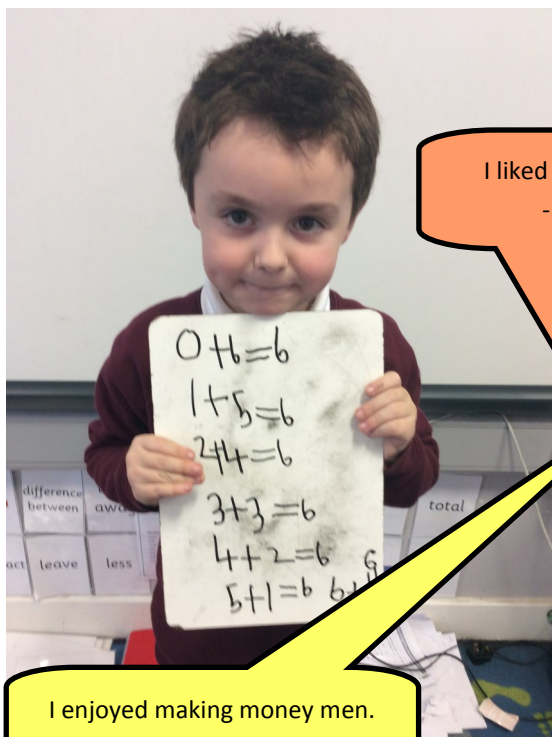


We have also been discussing ways to help care for others. We talked about the importance of staying safe during the winter, and ways to care for ourselves and others in the community. We also made posters to tell people about how we can take care of our pets.

In Numeracy both classes have been learning about money, looking at the various coins and sorting them in different ways. Both classes have also been learning about number bonds. P2 have been focusing on the stories of numbers 1-7, while P3 having been finding about the number bonds of 1-20.



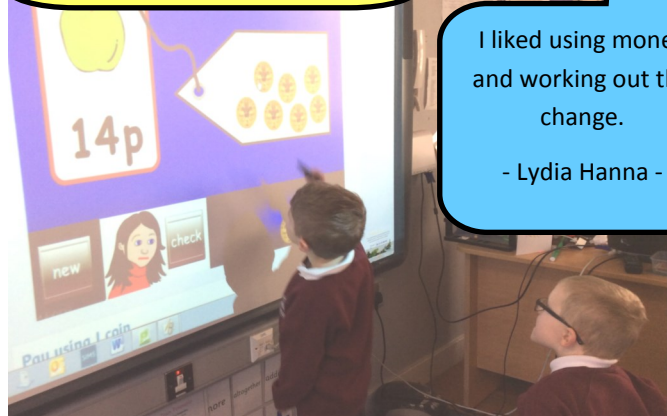
I liked learning the story of 10.  
- Lennox Wilkinson-



I enjoyed making money men.  
- Corbin Anderson -



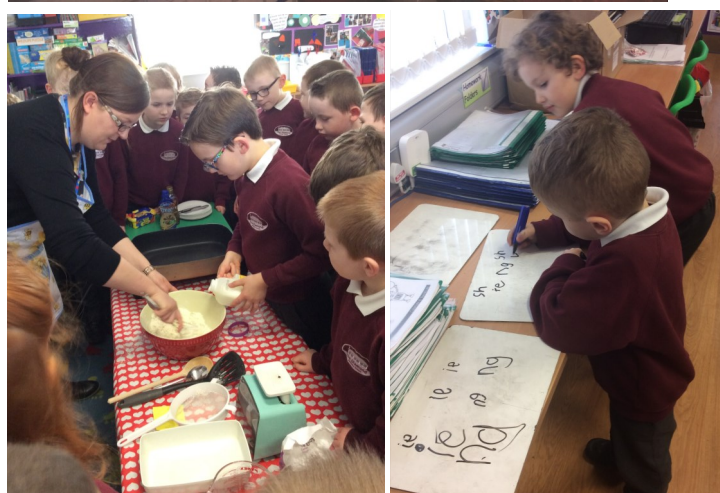
I liked using money  
and working out the  
change.  
- Lydia Hanna -



We have been focusing on instructional writing recently. As part of our Winter Wonderland topic we also created instructions for building a snowman, describing the process in detail from start to finish. After making pancakes last month, we worked together as a class to think of all of the main steps we had carried out. Then the children wrote a set of instructions to match this.

P2 are getting on really well with their phonics, recognising lots of double sounds and sounding out in their work.

We have really enjoyed sharing stories together, and this term one of the most popular books was 'Keep Going Brenda.' We had great fun writing to Brenda to offer her encouragement on her long migration journey from Canada to Ireland!



# P4 and 5 take a walk on the **WILD** side!



We had lots of fun doing Africa day this year.  
We tasted lots of fruits, the pears were my favourite and I liked the blood orange too.  
Everyone's costumes were brilliant. We got into groups and made pic collages.  
- Kirsty Rodgers -



This year I have been learning about Africa.  
It has been really interesting learning about how other boys and girls live, what their school life is like and how they survive.

- Craig Getty -

We skyped a lady who had been in Madagascar.  
We made African shields, drums and masks.

- Jacob Logan -



I love writing because I really like making stories. Once I made a story that was two A4 pages long. That's a lot to me. Plus it means I get to use all my crazy ideas and that is why I really like writing.

- James McFetridge -



In Literacy we have been dressing up as characters from books for World Book Day. We have done report writing. My favourite thing was homophones because it was fun to work out the different meanings.

- Ella Kyle -

I enjoyed learning about suffixes. It is interesting to find a group of letters to change the meaning of another word.

- Matthew Cahoon -

I love numeracy, doing multiplication - the harder the better. I also have enjoyed tessellation work. Problem solving was interesting and I learned not to rush my work.

- Samuel Bailie -

My favourite thing in Numeracy was making money men. I made his head and arms with 1ps and his legs with silver coins.

- Scott Greer -

We had a lot of fun using IZAK 9 cubes. We built them up smallest to biggest and then we built them in a random order. We had a lot of fun using the cubes.

- Kirsty Rodgers -



Ballymena



The School Choir took part in the recent Ballymena Music Festival.

Here they are ready and waiting to perform on stage.

We also congratulate the 16 pupils who took part in the solo competitions.





# Happy Baking Days



We always have a fab time in Cookery Club! We have enjoyed making Snickerdoodles and pear and blackberry crumble to name but two! As you can see we have an amazing bunch of cooks at The Diamond.



The  
**Dairy Council**

came to visit recently and gave us



as they explained what types of food we should be eating to keep our bodies fit and healthy.

## iPad Videos take learning to new level

As you know, we've recently become very 'high-tech' at The Diamond! Our iPads have really increased the possibilities for learning and the levels of motivation in the classroom. Over the last couple of months – we've been particularly enjoying a number of video apps...

### Why?

Let me use 'writing' as an example of how video apps on the iPad can help children to become better writers and readers. In the past, the end product was the piece of writing – the set of instructions, the creative story, the book report. Now, that has changed – the actual piece of writing is just one result of the work; we can now use video apps to do so much more with the work so that children can further interact. We've also noticed that children are highly motivated to write well if they know they'll be able to present that writing in a video.

### Green Screen

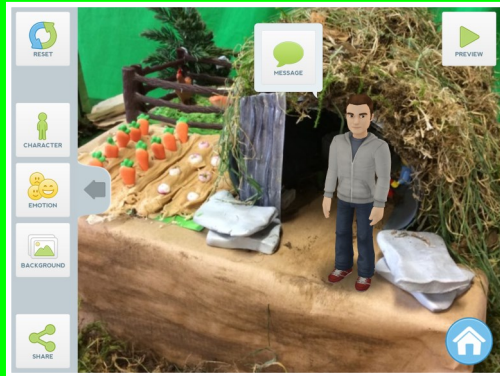
The Green Screen app allows children to film themselves in any place or background. So, recently when the P6/7 class wrote news reports about the launch of Titanic, they were able to read their reports from the Shipyard, or even from the bottom of the dry dock. The P5/6 class were able to transport themselves back to Viking times too.



There has definitely been a buzz of excitement around the  
bringing the topics to life and presenting

Over the next few weeks, our website will  
including videos made sui

## Tellagami



Using Tellagami, children can create a 'character', record their own voice, and then watch as the character speaks the words they have just recorded. If the children have created a craft item or painting related to their topic, they can further interact by using the character to talk about their work. The kids placed a Tellagami character into their work using the iPad and animated them to explain their paintings, which takes the learning one step further.



## Adobe Voice



The Adobe Voice app allows children to create a short movie using photographs, icons and text. It's a great way to present a set of instructions or a book report, but a little imagination makes anything possible. Adobe Voice is a great way of turning a piece of writing into a piece of audio reading, encouraging expression and summarising.

These apps have given the children the opportunity to become both the creator of the work and the audience. They are able to watch and listen to themselves presenting their own work and consider how they might improve. They are able to engage with the context to a much deeper level as they role play and research for the backgrounds, the soundtracks and the fine details.



the school as children have extended their learning using these programmes, to a much wider audience than was ever possible before.

I be updated and you'll be able to view the children's work, ng these apps, in the 'recent news' section.

## P5 and 6 'cut with the hype' to find out facts on Skype!

We have had so much fun this term in school. What I have enjoyed the most this term is World Around Us. We have been learning about the Vikings. I've learnt all about them, what they did, about thralls, their alphabet [runes] and lots more. It has been so much fun learning about what the thralls did - like look after the animals, clean the house, cook and clean the cesspit [the toilet]. We've even been doing about the Vikings in PE. We did a square dance which was really fun too. I've had such a good term.

- Naomi Turtle -



Hi my name is Emily and I am going to tell you some things that I enjoyed doing this term. I really liked our theme this term called 'Raiders or Traders' because we got to Skype the Ribe Viking Centre in Denmark. We also got to make longhouses and I also liked when I got to make a green screen movie with my friends. In PDMU I liked learning about Fair-trade because we learned that if we buy something with a fairtrade logo you will guarantee money for the people who made it or grew it.

I also enjoyed learning about decimals in maths but if I had to choose my top highlight it would have to be 'Coaching4Christ. They came on Wednesdays and it was a lot of fun. I hope they come next year too! I hope you enjoyed reading about my highlights of term 2 in P6.

- Emily Stewart -



During this term I have enjoyed PE because Ally helps us to learn lots of new things. I know how to play cricket, this has been so much fun. I love getting into groups to dance to the songs. My favourite time is watching all the groups doing their dances. The groups are very good!

I am learning so much in our hockey after school club on a Tuesday. I am getting better at passing the ball, holding the stick and scoring goals. Netball is also great and I am learning different types of passes.

- Amy Robinson -



This term I have enjoyed doing PDMU. I especially loved learning about Fairtrade and how we should eat healthily. We had to collect things that had a fair trade sign on it. In ICT we had to make a Fair Trade brochure. First we had to use an ipad or computer to find facts and pictures that we would be putting into our brochure and write down the websites so we knew where to get the facts from. Then we went on a computer onto Publisher and made it. I really enjoyed doing that task because I learnt a lot about Fair Trade. I also enjoyed learning about the eat well plate. I found out what I should really be eating each day. I enjoyed doing everything in PDMU.

- Leah Fenton -

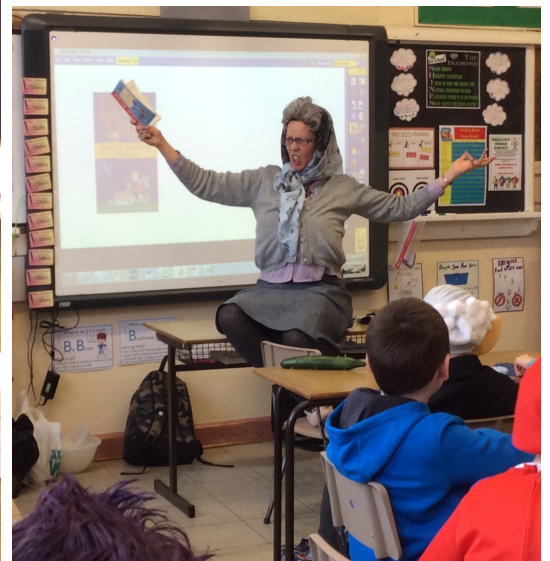


My favourite day this term has been World Book Day. I dressed up along with my wee sister as Thing 1 and Thing 2 which are characters from The Cat in the Hat books by Dr Seuss. It was so much fun dressing up with everyone in school - even the teachers joined in! We played games, had stories read to us, ate sweets and had a lot of fun!

- Callum Murray -



Here is a flavour of some of the things that have been going on in our classroom.



In Term 2, I have enjoyed lots of things. In maths, I really enjoyed learning more about the properties of 3D shapes by making some of my own using straws and play dough. I have also enjoyed using IZAK-9. It is really fun working in groups to complete the challenges. Some have been tricky but we have learned how to work as a team to solve them.

In literacy, we have been learning all about George and Grandma from 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. I really love that book. I made a great grandma when we did our hot seating activity! Mrs Burnside read a bit of it to us on World Book Day. She was so funny! I also really enjoy learning spelling rules in literacy.

In WAU we are learning about WW2. We made our own gas masks and also did some portraits of some of the leaders involved. I did Hitler! This was really, really enjoyable!

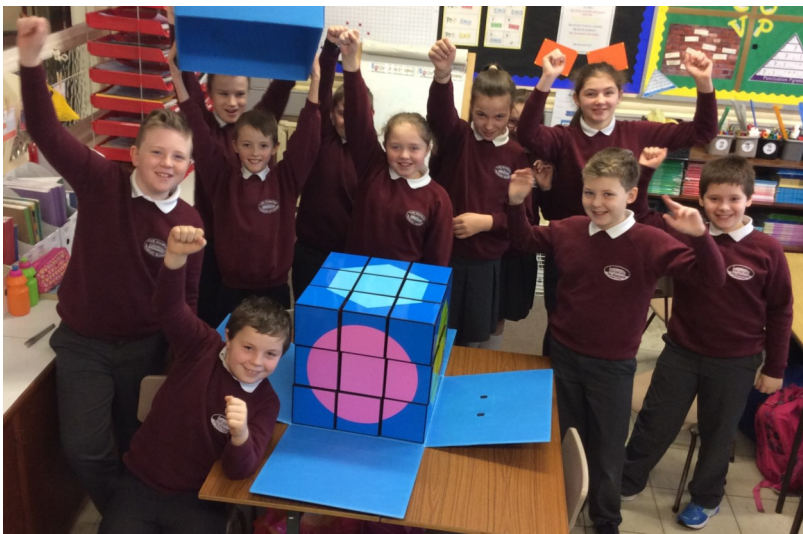
- Philip Speers -

Term 2 has been brilliant! In numeracy, I have especially enjoyed learning all about circles and designing circle patterns with compasses. I was surprised at how well mine actually turned out! We have also been using IZAK-9 to problem solve. I think it is brilliant working in groups.

In literacy, I liked it when Mrs Burnside came to read 'George's Marvellous Medicine' to us. It was great because Mrs Burnside added a lot of expression when she read it. I also enjoyed when we did our autumn poems at the start of the term. Going outside was a lot of fun and gave me great ideas for writing my Haiku - even though it was very chilly!

We have been busy in our WAU work this term. We finished our Titanic topic and enjoyed learning all about Belfast at that time. My favourite activities were green screening, investigating icebergs and creating our Titanic disaster models. I am so excited about our new topic WW2. So far, we have made gas masks and learned all about the Axis and Allied powers. It is very interesting. I am very keen on WW2 planes and after reading 'Grandpa's Great Escape', I dressed up as Grandpa for World Book Day. I built a Spitfire plane as part of my costume. It was a brilliant day!

- Henry Kernohan -

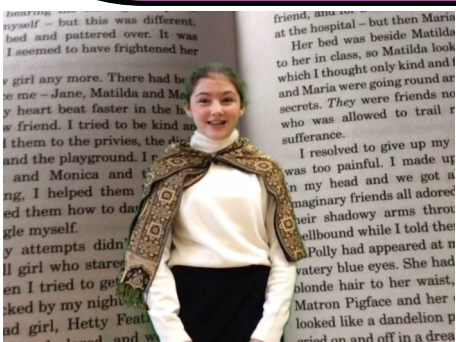


The best part of WAU this term was doing our green screen reports about the Titanic. I got to do the recording of the report using the iPad. I have enjoyed learning about World War 2 and have really enjoyed making an air raid shelter as part of my project.

In numeracy, I enjoyed learning more about circles and using this information to make circle patterns with compasses. In literacy I have enjoyed Accelerated Reader and have passed 27 out of the 28 books I have read. On World Book Day I really enjoyed reading to the P1s. Writing recipes for Grandma from 'Georges Marvellous Medicine' was lots of fun too.

I have also enjoyed our school visits in term 2. The Bee Safe event was really interesting. INOV-8 at Cullybackey College was another visit I enjoyed because we got to take part in science experiments.

- Ella Gillespie -





My favourite thing in term 2 was getting the chance to go swimming. I was in the deep end along with some of my other friends and every week I got stronger. On the day of our certificates I achieved 24 lengths!

I love cookery club on a Friday where we've made apple berry crumble, snicker doodles and key lime pie! It's my favourite club of all four.

On 9th February, it was Pancake Day so as a class treat we made some pancakes! We put toppings on like Nutella, jam, sprinkles, sugar, syrup and so on.

I have really enjoyed Accelerated Reader this term! It has really encouraged me to read a lot more so that I can build up points to exchange for prizes.

World Book Day was also great. I dressed up as Old Mother Hubbard. Mrs Burnside came in dressed up as Gangsta Granny and read us a few chapters from 'Georges Marvellous Medicine' which made us all roar with laughter.

- Sarah Shaw -



## WW2 Wow!!!

As part of our World Around Us the class made their own **WW2 Anderson Shelters**.

We were 'blown away' by the effort and detail everyone put into these masterpieces!







# SPORTS

## updates



The Netball Team have now got their new team strip; don't they look the part!!?  
The P5/6 class took part in a fantastic Athletics competition at Northern Regional College.



### iPad Club



### Scripture Union





## Viking Day



# WORLD BOOK DAY

