

Welcome back to school! We have had a fabulous couple of weeks catching up with our friends, getting to know our teachers and generally settling into life in Year 2. To begin with, we have been getting to know the Year 2 routines and reminding ourselves of the school code, considering how to build a harmonious school and class community.

We have been focussing our learning around a wonderful picture book called *The Bear and the Piano* by David Litchfield. In the story, the bear finds a strange object in the woods (a piano). At first, it makes an awful sound and the bear runs away. However, he shows his resilience by going back the next day, week, month and year and eventually he can play the piano beautifully. In response to the text we have created pictures of the bear's home by painting a background and adding collage trees. Then, after lots of discussion and ideas gathering, we created a fantastic class poem called *In the Woods* focussing particularly on using alliteration to good effect. Here is one of the lines we devised together.

In the woods I heard a bog bubbling and burping.

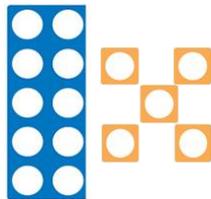
We have used drama techniques to find out a little about the bear and his piano. The bear's piano playing becomes so good that he is overheard by a girl and her dad who try to persuade him to play the piano in the city where he will become famous. We held a fabulous debate in which the children considered whether it was a good idea for the bear to leave his natural habitat and go to the city or whether he should stay at home. The children were fantastic communicators, putting forward their arguments thoughtfully. What was particularly brilliant to see was that the children were willing to adjust their viewpoint based on the arguments that they heard from others. Following our whole school assembly, this term we are focussing on **collaboration** from our Successful Learners Web. This means:

- ✓ *We use our good communication skills to work together so that we can learn from each other.*
 - ✓ *We use each others' strengths to get a better result.*
- We are looking forward to our time together in Year 2!

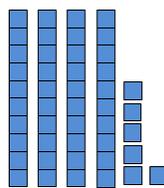
Helping at home

- *Don't forget that next Tuesday (19th September) at 6pm is your opportunity to 'Meet the Teacher'!*
- What can you find out about bears? Where do they live? What do they eat? Can you find any interesting facts about them? It would be great if you could bring your findings in to share with the rest of the class.

Write the following amount in numerals and words.



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In the first few weeks we like to really focus on refining our handwriting ready for the year ahead. We thought it would be helpful to include some letters to practise in your neatest joined up handwriting...

Parent's Comments