

What's on this term...

Aspen Class



MATHS: This term, we've been exploring straight line graphs, forming/solving equations, and mathematical conjectures. Algebra can prove quite tricky, however everyone has showed great perseverance and developed a strong understanding of key vocabulary and concepts. It has been wonderful to see students settling into Place House with growing independence and confidence, taking ownership of their learning and tackling problems with determination.

WRITING: We've been inspired by '*Kensuke's Kingdom*' to try writing our own adventure stories. We've focused on using ambitious vocabulary, figurative language, and first-person narratives to create vivid and engaging pieces. Through shared writes, students have contributed imaginative ideas and demonstrated real creativity in developing characters and settings. It's been wonderful to see everyone growing in confidence as writers, expanding their vocabulary and showing maturity in their storytelling.

READING: This term, we've been enjoying '*Cosmic*' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce during our reading session, alongside engaging in independent reading. Students have listened with great focus and enthusiasm, making thoughtful predictions and engaging discussions. It's been brilliant to see such amazing engagement, and we can't wait to continue reading in Autumn Term 2.

PSHE: Aspen have been developing independence and aspiration. We have studied employability skills and how these can be applied across different careers. We've also delved into our own transferable skills, weaving these into our own CVs and personal statements. Students have participated well in discussions and asked insightful questions about future pathways and careers. We've enjoyed a range of interactive activities, including escape rooms, diamond 9s, and enterprise challenges, all of which have helped students strengthen their understanding and practical use of employability skills.

Project Based Learning: This term's big question is 'What is America like and how does it differ from the UK?' We have used knowledge and skills in Geography, Science and Art to answer this!

Geography - Students have really enjoyed getting hands-on with their learning this term! From building spaghetti and marshmallow skyscrapers to designing bridges and creating postcards, lessons have been full of creativity and teamwork. Our project explores the physical and human features of North America - including the Rockies, the Great Lakes, Hollywood, and the Golden Gate Bridge - comparing these with the landscapes and landmarks of the UK. It's been fantastic to see students so enthusiastic and curious as they bring geography to life through active learning.

Science - Students have shown great engagement and independence this term. Through hands-on enquiries and activities such as classification keys and Kahoot! Quizzes, we've explored how living things are grouped. They have been particularly interested in how adaptations help species survive, and how this links to evolution and inheritance. It's been fantastic to see curiosity, critical thinking, and enthusiasm for science in action.

Art - We've had a fantastic time exploring *Pop Art* this term, creating vibrant pieces inspired by artists like Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. We've experimented with a wide range of materials and techniques, especially printing—who knew you could make art with just a potato and some paint! Through studying American and British artists, students have learned about the history, techniques, and the ideas behind the work, developing their own creative approaches and opinions, producing bold, imaginative artworks in the style of their chosen Pop artist.