Blog w.e. 04.05.18

Unbelievably, another week has come to an end!

As we continue to focus on attendance, may I say - What a super week we had last week! Our weekly attendance was 96.5%, an increase of 1.7% from the previous week. If we keep this up, our yearly attendance will continue to move towards national expectations and our school target. There was only 0.1% separating the top three classes– it couldn’t be any closer! Our winners this week are **Ravenclaw SC** with an amazing 99%, closely followed by **Slytherin HJ** and **Ravenclaw MF**. I wonder if next week we will be able to get even closer to our target of 97.5%. A huge well done and thank you also to everyone for making sure that all your children are in school on time; this is a whole team and community effort!

There have been some important issues discussed during our School Council meetings this year! The representatives are supported by Mrs Darlington and have the important leadership role of ensuring that the children in school contribute to decision making and drive school improvement priorities. They democratically consult, propose, debate and vote within their class council meetings and leadership meetings too. As one of their responsibility areas, Mrs Blackhurst has given the council the responsibility of improving healthy lifestyles in our school. In their meetings, they have been discussing ways in which we can make changes to improve the healthiness of the foods, snacks and drinks that children and teachers are consuming daily. The children have presented their concerns and proposals to me in a very important meeting this week! Their next steps are to consult with all children, parents/carers, staff and food suppliers in school before they firm up their changes and directives. I am confident with them at the helm of this development area, our school will be much healthier very soon!

The School Council have also been working with Miss Brown to organise "One Book One School". All of our teachers have voted for a favourite book that they want the children to read and explore during our end of year transition projects. The council have had the job of shortlisting the three books that their friends will be democratically voting on following a competitive campaign between Miss Wynne, Miss Morris and Mrs Darlington. We can't wait to see our teachers campaign strategies and tactics to influence the voters in electing the winning candidate and book – watch this space!

Moving onto our learning in each year group, you can see for yourselves below that that the children access a curriculum that is broad, balanced curriculum that they enjoy (Teaching and Learning Review March 2018)

This week in Year 3 Gryffindor, the journalist children have been continuing with writing their newspaper reports – the focus has been about quotes. They have also been learning about the function of inverted commas, conjunctions and a range of other writing features. They have enjoyed active learning through ‘hot seating’, taking on the role of others, to find out how people felt about the tsunami which hit Sri Lanka – what super writing skills they are developing! In maths, they have been progressing their learning about measure and length – adding, subtracting and comparing different measures, they have even used some of the classroom objects to do this. Can they apply their skills to household items too? As well as this, they have also been researching the River Nile! They completed a non-chronological report all about our findings and also sketched and painted it using water colours!

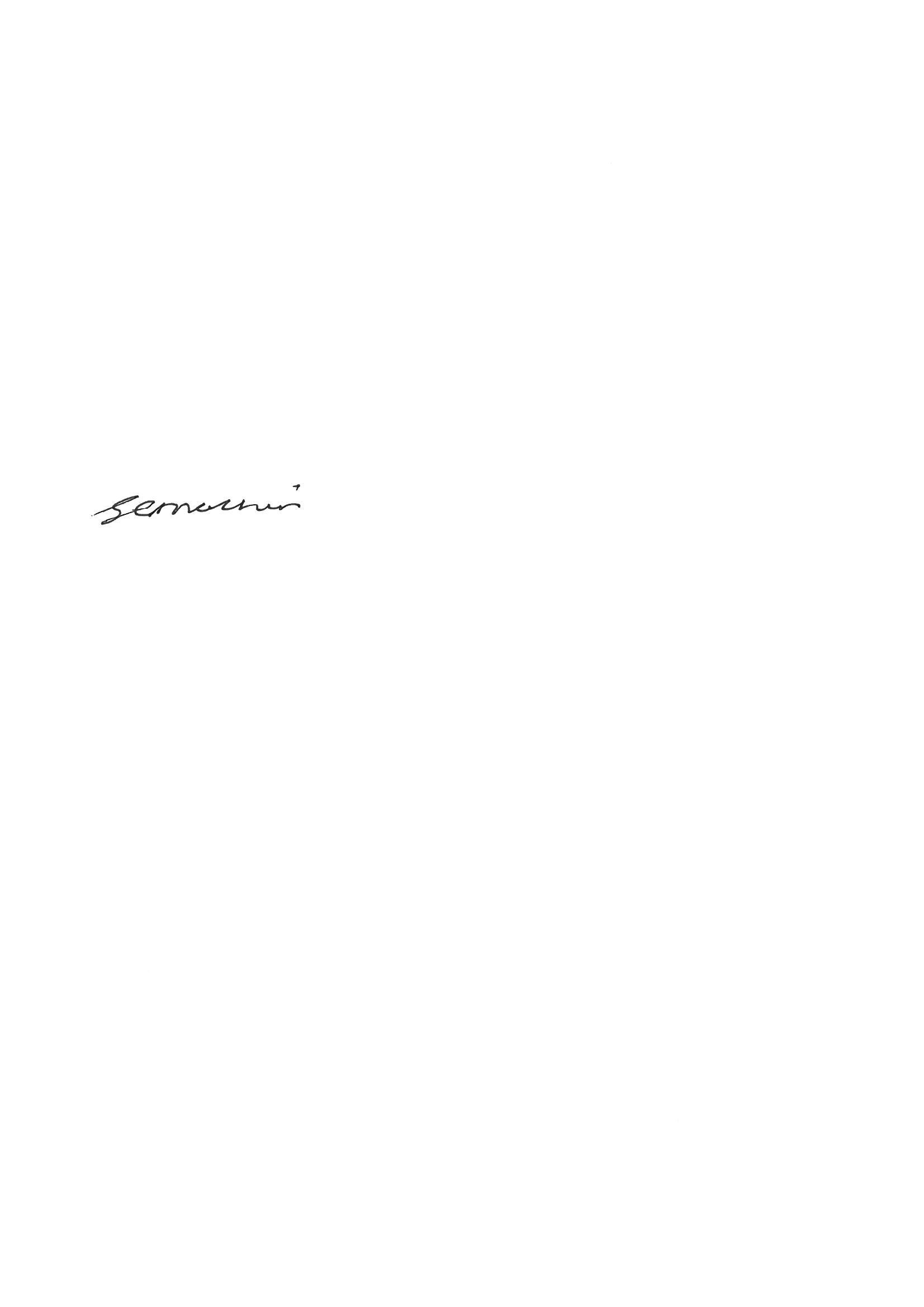
In Year 4, the children have been creating pictures with words: writing descriptions of their mystical creatures in the style of a David Attenborough report. They have applied skills such as using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to describe the way their creature stalks its prey. How does the giraffeopotomus make its advance? Ask the children in Hufflepuff and they will tell you! The sketches that the children are developing of their creatures are progressing very well and now have watercolours added for detail – I am very excited to see their finished products! In maths, the children have been measuring the lengths of different objects within the classroom and around school too. Building on their Year 3 learning, they have learned to convert between mm and cm, cm and m and even m and km. This has been challenging but nothing is too tough for our Year 4s – they have shown resilience and determination with their MAGIC attitudes to help them to succeed.

This week Ravenclaw have enjoyed being challenged by new learning in all subjects. In English, they have started to develop their learning of dashes to join independent clauses. The children have had fun pairing up main clauses and have written some witty second clauses which have amused their teachers. In Maths, Year 5 are showing improving confidence with their understanding of fractions. Multiplying fractions has the been the main focus this week in Year 5 and children have showcased their progress brilliantly through a concrete, pictorial and abstract approach - they have produced some wonderful work in their books. During Reading, Year 5 have honed in on the impact of language on audience (particularly through the use of figurative language). As part of their topic focus, the children have begun to show greater confidence in their knowledge of the United Kingdom through identifying physical and man-made landmarks such as Ben Nevis, the River Thames, and the Trafford Centre. Go ahead and test them on their knowledge – it will really help them to consolidate their geographical knowledge.

It has been another busy week in year 6 where the children have further developed their knowledge and skills across the three core subjects. They have continued making excellent progress in their SATs preparation and should certainly be proud of their efforts. Their teachers and Mrs Morrall certainly are; as I am of course! The children only have one more week of final preparation and then it will be time for them to showcase the skills that they have been working so hard on throughout their Key Stage 2 learning journey. Keep up the hard work Year 6; you are nearly there and we are so very proud of your efforts and attitude!

As I sign off, just a reminder that Monday 7th May is a Bank Holiday – so please enjoy your long weekend and I look forward to seeing all of the children back in school on Tuesday 8th May.

Best wishes,



Mrs Machin