Refreshed and invigorated the primary students have returned to school after the half term break ready for the new term ahead. New topics have begun across the school and the students have been using all of their 5R skills. We believe that our children’s understanding of the 5Rs will give them the perfect springboard to achieve the Graduate Profile as they progress through MES Cairo, and this week’s newsletter is brimming with some of those attributes already! Confidence is abound with our oldest students presenting their learning to others in class whilst the ability to collaborate with one another is in full flow lower down the school as students investigate science problems and create boats to take them down the Nile! But above all our students are courageous; they are risk takers who never shy away from a challenge and our Cougar footballers demonstrated all of these attributes last week at the Hayah International Academy football tournament. They were courageous, confident and collaborative making not only themselves and their parents very proud but their coaches and their school too.
In FS1 Blue...

...over the past half term, we have transformed into little scientists. During our space topic, it was our mission to learn everything we could about space; naming and describing planets and learning about the sun and moon. We cannot wait to share all of the interesting facts with our friends during our assembly at the end of the month.

Our new topic is all about transportation and we have continued to use our science skills by investigating using trial and error. This past week we have been making boats out of different materials and testing to see if they will carry our small world people from one end of the River Nile to the other. We can’t wait to use our investigating skills next week to make car ramps, paper airplanes and many other exciting inventions!

In FS2 Blue...

...we have had a busy week! We started our new topic ‘Up, Up and Away’ and have been finding out all about rockets and space. We have also been learning about 3D shapes in Maths, and used our shape knowledge to help us construct rockets out of recycled materials. We managed to use cylinders, pyramids, cuboids and cubes to create amazing rockets and also dressed up as astronauts so that we were ready to go up, up and away into space.
In Year 1 Blue...

...we have been very excited about beginning our new topic, 'Circle of Life.' We have already learnt about the life cycle of a sea turtle, a shark and a sea horse and expanded our scientific vocabulary by using words such as, 'hatchling' and 'juvenile'. We then used our new knowledge to work in small groups to make information posters all about these sea creatures. Miss Alison was very impressed with how well we worked together and all the amazing facts that we were able to recall.

In Year 2 Blue...

...we got a chance to show off our crafty side when we went on our class trip just before the half term break to Fagnoon Art Centre. We tried four different activities whilst we were there including; pottery, metalwork, weaving and ceramic painting. We had so much fun getting our hands dirty and making clay pots, but a lot of the children said that the highlight of the day was feeding the baby goats!

All of the children were excellent ambassadors for MES Cairo during our trip and demonstrated all of the 5Rs during the day. In this picture, you can see Abdel Hamid being a real risk taker and trying out a new skill working with the instructor in the metalwork shed. He used various tools to make a sword and was very proud of his handiwork when he was finished.
In Year 3 Blue...

...just before the half term we had a celebration day where we all dressed up in costumes associated with Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. Our topic last term was all about Myths and Legends and we had learnt some amazing stories from these ancient civilizations. Each of us carried out research at home about our favourite God or Goddess to help us make our fantastic costumes which we loved wearing! As well as researching our costumes, we thought about food and drink associated with Ancient Civilizations and set up a series of refreshment stations in the classroom; there was a range of salads, sweet delicious fruits, juices, savoury items and cakes made with honey as a substitute for sugar. We planned the entire event by ourselves and made sure that every single one of us had responsibility for a particular area. We had a great day and Ms Pearl was very impressed with our excellent organisation skills and our enthusiasm!

In Year 4 Blue...

...we started our new topic on the Living World. We began by playing the ‘yes/no’ game. We could ask up to twenty questions to try and help us guess the name of an animal on the card but the answer had to be yes or no! This proved more difficult than we thought at first but as our confidence grew we realised the key was a combination of careful thinking and teamwork! By using a process of elimination and building on the previous questions we were able to reduce the number of possibilities to find our answer. Later, we went outside to examine some leaves so that we could observe the similarities and differences between them. By making these observations it would then be possible to distinguish one from another by their shape, edge pattern and the arrangement of their veins. We look forward now to turning our leaf investigations into a scientific identification key using our ‘Yes/No’ questioning techniques to help the reader find the answer!
In Year 5 Blue...
...we have been embracing technology recently by bringing our own laptops and tablets to school, supplementing the school iPads, with use in our Topic lessons. As part of the ‘Go With the Flow’ river study unit, we began with a study of our own River Nile, before branching out to select a river that particularly interested us to produce a presentation for the rest of the class. We chose rivers as diverse as The Amazon, Hudson, Murray River and The Yellow River. We carried out all of our research on our own devices which was invaluable in encouraging us to be independent in our learning. Mrs Lawrence was really impressed with the quality of our presentations as well as the confidence that we exhibited whilst delivering our talks. We all learned a lot about the rivers involved and polished our presentation skills too. We can’t wait to use this valuable learning resource again in the future!

In Year 6 Blue...
...this week, we have been presenting our own work and research about different animals. Our new topic is ‘Staying Alive’, so we all researched an animal of our choice and then presented this to the rest of the class. We chose a wide range of animals including; white lions, pigs and even the pygmy marmoset monkey! We learnt about their habitats, where in the world they can be found, if they were endangered or not and also investigated their food cycles. Some of us used PowerPoint presentations or videos, whilst others made posters to help us present our information. One creative member of the class even made everyone a cake of her animal, which was a nice delicious treat! Miss Bennett was really impressed with how hard we had all worked in preparing our presentations and we all thoroughly enjoyed learning new facts about different animals.
On Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March the boys and girls Cougar Teams attended their first football tournament of the year at Hayah International Academy. The Cougars were split into two girls’ teams and two boys’ teams who represented MES Cairo against several other schools including CAC, Malvern College, Metropolitan School and Hayah. The girls were eager to show their progress having improved massively since the start of the coaching season. They approached their games with confidence and enthusiasm and this was translated on the pitch where the first team managed to win most of their games, ending with 11 points, which left them joint top, only missing out on first place on goal difference. The Cougar player of the tournament for the girls first team was Amina Farag, and Kenzy Hassan for the second team. The boys were keen to keep up their winning form, having not lost a game all season. The first team played with skill and passion and ended the tournament in first place having won all their games and tying one game against the MES Cairo second team, who ultimately came in third place after some very good performances. The Cougars player of the tournament for the first team was Omar Zaazaa, and Hassan Serry for the second team. Overall, the Cougars represented MES Cairo with a great deal of sportsmanship and exemplary behaviour. They continue to make their coaches, parents and indeed their school very proud! Well done Cougars!

In Year 2 we kicked-off our new topic this week, ‘Living Things and their Habitats’, with an adventurous living and non-living hunt around the MES Cairo grounds. We thought that there was no better way to collect data than with... an iPad of course! We used our resourcefulness to snap photos of evidence with the camera tool and then mashed it up onto the Show Me app for analysis! We could also have used the iBrainstorm app to sort our evidence as both apps allow images, text, and photos.

What other free apps could you download and use at home to collect evidence and sort things scientifically around the house or garden? Upload your ideas and mash-ups to MOODLE, for a chance to be featured in your Key Stage news next week!

Coming Up Next...

Sunday 12\textsuperscript{th} March
Summer Uniform Begins

12\textsuperscript{th} – 15\textsuperscript{th} March
‘Mary Poppins’ Whole School Production

Tuesday 21\textsuperscript{st} March
24 Hour Run for Egypt
FS1 Mother’s Day Celebration

Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March
Year 1 to 6 Science Day

Thursday 23\textsuperscript{rd} March
Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day