



Modern English School Cairo

Primary Newsletter

Issue 2

1st October 2017

Reading, Leading, Succeeding

Research carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on education and reading suggests that children who choose to pick up a book for pleasure are more likely to succeed in life. With this in mind, reading has been the focus for our start of year homework programme. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day and make it part of your daily routine. Books aren't just about reading the words on the page, they can also present new ideas and topics for you and your child to discuss. One of the weekly highlights for many of our students is their visit to either the KS1 or KS2 libraries which stock books supporting the curriculum but also books that match students' own interests, sparking their enthusiasm for reading.



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In FS1 Orange...



...we had another wonderful week exploring and learning about our first topic 'Marvellous Me'. The children are getting used to being at school and enjoy taking part in lots of lovely activities in the pod and classroom. In Phonics, the children have been playing a wide range of musical instruments and experimenting with the different sounds that they make. They practised making really noisy sounds, very quiet sounds, then playing their instruments very fast and very slow. They had lots of fun!



In FS2 Orange...

...it has been a very busy week learning all about 'Pirates'. The students had a mysterious treasure box sent to them by their pirate friend called Pirate Pete. Unfortunately it was locked and we discovered that Captain Lizard, a naughty pirate, stole the key from our classroom. All of the students have been busy writing letters, drawing wanted posters and thinking of ways to recover the key. We have plotted and planned making treasure maps of the school and asking others if they have seen the key. The students have loved investigating real pirate artefacts and looking after our pet jellyfish who lives in our role play area 'Treasure Island'. They have enjoyed reading different stories such as 'Teatime Pirates' and 'Mrs Pirate'. The students amazed us with their enthusiasm and creativity designing their own telescopes, boats, name banners and painting pirate pictures. Finally for Mathematics this week the students enjoyed teaching Pirate Pete to count and order with numbers up to twenty. As we say in FS2 Orange, "Ahoy me mateys!"

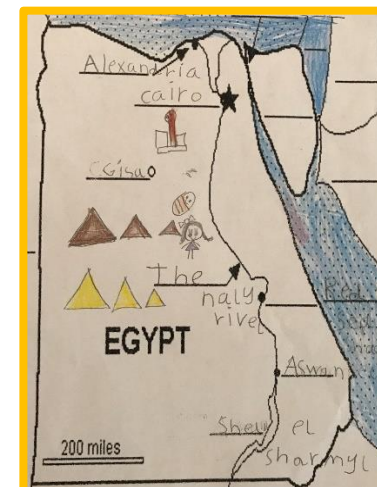
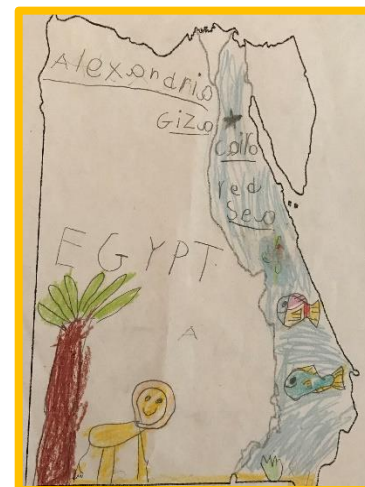
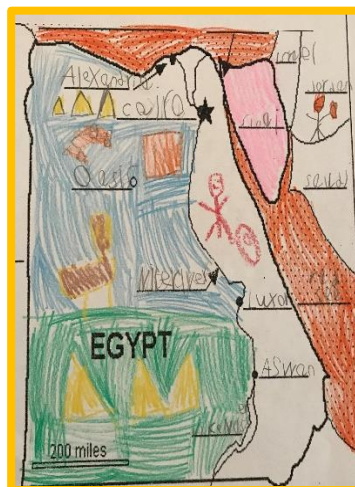




In Year 1 Orange...

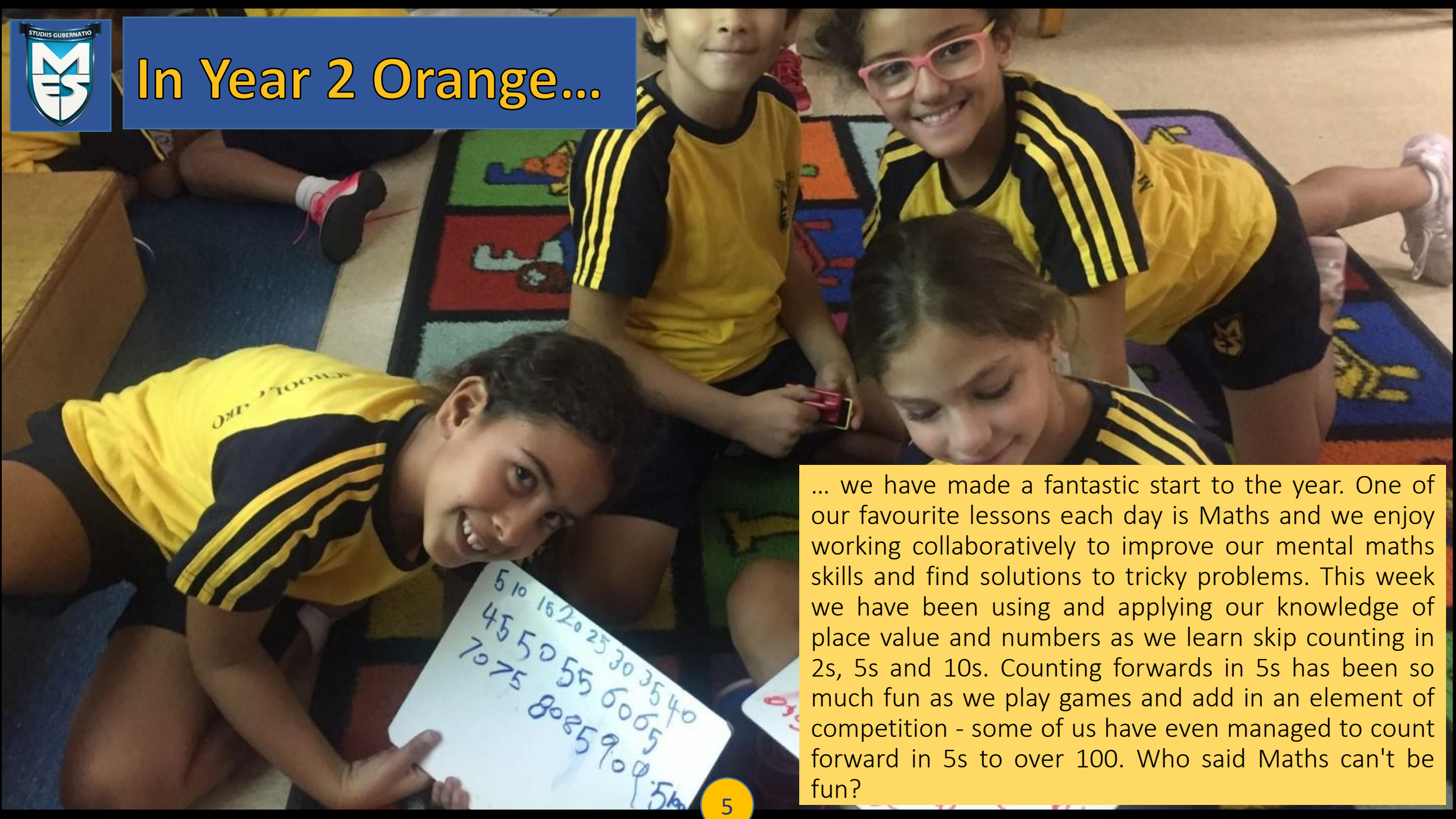


... we have continued our busy and wonderful start to Year 1. Students in Orange class have loved the excitement of Topic and Science lessons. In Science, we discovered Mr. Shilley's secret job as a weather forecaster. Students enjoyed watching Mr. Shilley and Mr. Euan's weather reports to help inspire them to write their own weather reports. We will continue working on our reports this week using 'Talk for Writing' strategies. In Topic, we have broadened our understanding of our locality by mapping out Egypt. We labelled cities, the Nile River, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. We completed our maps by adding images of symbols of Egypt such as camels, pyramids and the flag of Egypt. Miss Courtney has been very proud of our resilience and hard work as we have continued to transition into our busy Year 1 day.





In Year 2 Orange...



... we have made a fantastic start to the year. One of our favourite lessons each day is Maths and we enjoy working collaboratively to improve our mental maths skills and find solutions to tricky problems. This week we have been using and applying our knowledge of place value and numbers as we learn skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Counting forwards in 5s has been so much fun as we play games and add in an element of competition - some of us have even managed to count forward in 5s to over 100. Who said Maths can't be fun?



In Year 3 Orange...

...we are really excited about all the activities we have been doing as part of our topic on Ancient Egypt. There are so many interesting facts to remember about this time in history so our teacher, Ms Katherine, came up with the idea of turning our learning into a game. We made chatterboxes which are a form of origami and decorated them with drawings and symbols used by the Ancient Egyptians. When we were finished we used them to test our friends with questions about the Pharaohs and life in Ancient Egypt. Some of the students created their own secret codes to hide messages within their chatterboxes.





In Year 4 Orange...

...we have had a lot of fun with our Science learning this week, learning all about the ear and how sounds travel. Did you know that a cat has thirty muscles in its ears? Are you aware that bats have sonic radar? Do you know how elephants communicate? I certainly didn't – but luckily there has been some amazing learning taking place in Year 4 Orange. Aside from this wonderful independent research we also made simple string telephones. It was quite a challenge but, after a lot of tangles, we did manage to send a message to our partner. This experiment showed us how sound waves can travel. We could even feel the vibration in the string.



In Year 5 Orange...

... we have made an excellent beginning to our new class and Year Group. We have begun a unit of work on writing diaries and have already finished the book 'Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine in support of our learning about this genre. In Topic lessons, we have learnt about the explorers Erik the Red and Marco Polo and in Science we have been focussing on the Earth in Space. You can see a photograph of our class working together on a maths challenge, to solve and complete a Tarsia. Ask them about it - it was quite a challenge! The children have worked really hard and with good concentration so far in all their lessons. In addition, this term we are fortunate to be using the dance studio for Expressive Arts led by Mr Billy and this is proving to be the highlight of each week. What a great start to Year 5!





In Year 6 Orange...

...it has been another electrifying week! In Science, we have been experimenting with changes to circuits through a combination of practical activities, investigation skills and also scientific theory. For example, how the brightness of bulb or volume of buzzer corresponds with the number of batteries used. We have been drawing circuit diagrams into our books to record our findings. We really enjoy working in the Primary Science Room as it helps us to understand and prepare for the type of learning that we will experience in our science lessons next academic year when we move into the Secondary Section.





In PE...

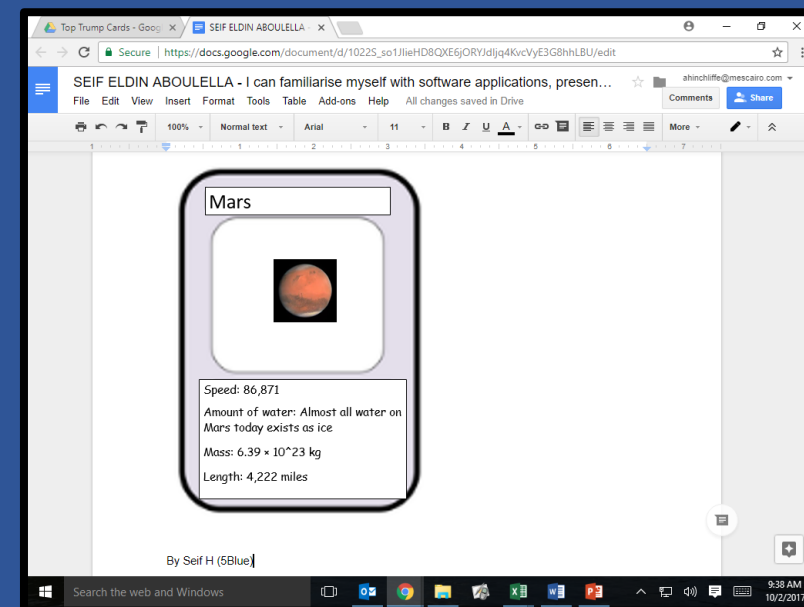
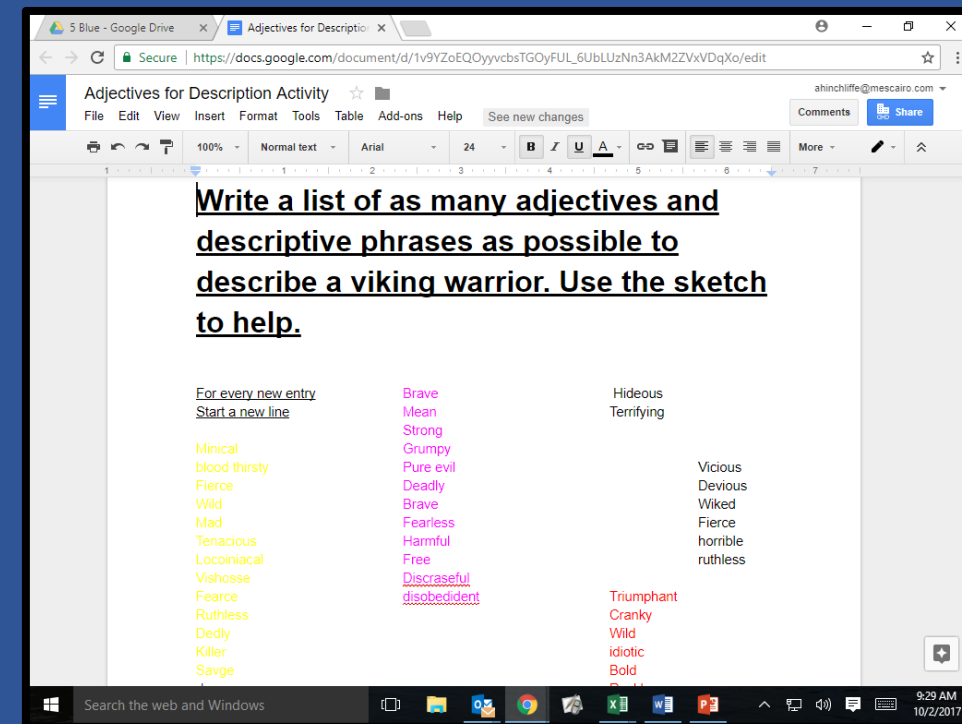
...our teachers have been very impressed with the excellent start everyone has made this academic year. Every month the PE Department will choose one person from each class to be a 'Sports Star of the Month'. There are many different reasons you could be chosen as a 'Sports Star', these include: showing good sportsmanship, following the instructions of the teacher and always trying your best. The PE Department had a very hard choice to make this month but they managed to choose 36 children as 'Sports Stars'. Each 'Sports Star' will be presented with their 'Sports Star' badge in their achievement assembly over the next week. The badge should then be stitched onto their PE uniform so everyone can see they are a winner!





APP of the week...

...the students in Year 5 have been working collaboratively with Google Docs. This application allow us all to work on one document at the same time, helping our friends and developing our sense of responsibility. This week, we have used Google Docs in our English lesson to create a list of adjectives to describe a Viking warrior, as well as in Science to create our very own Top Trump cards about the planets. Our Year 5 students should be very proud of how well they worked as a team to integrate the Google Docs App with their day-to-day learning!





Coming Up Next...

Thursday 5th October

6th of October Holiday – School closed

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th October

Staff In-service days (School closed to students)

Monday October 9th to Thursday October 12th

Primary Science Week

Sunday 15th October

Year 5 Concert

Monday 23rd October

Primary Parents' Day