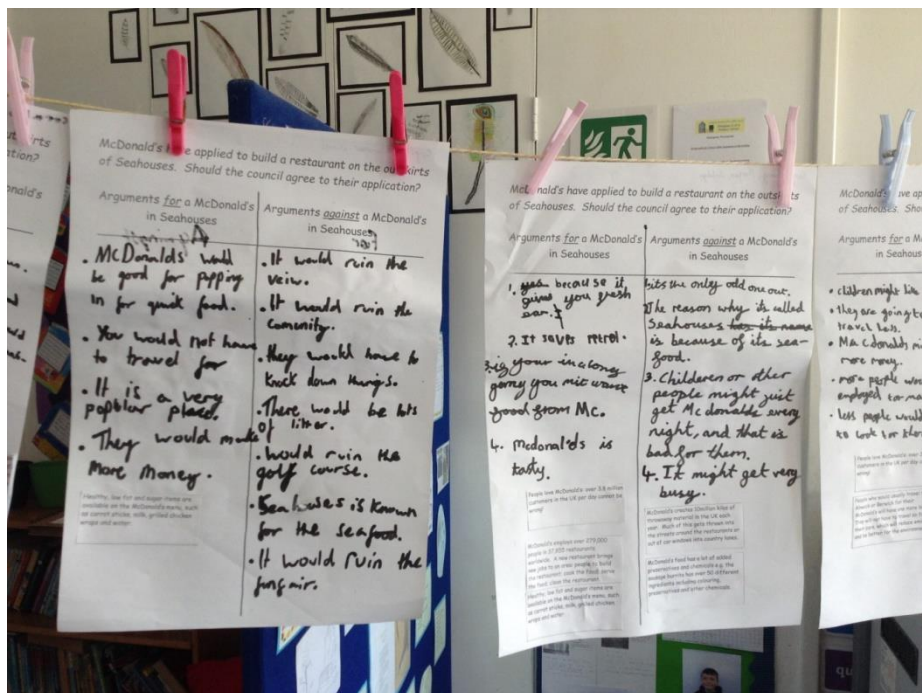


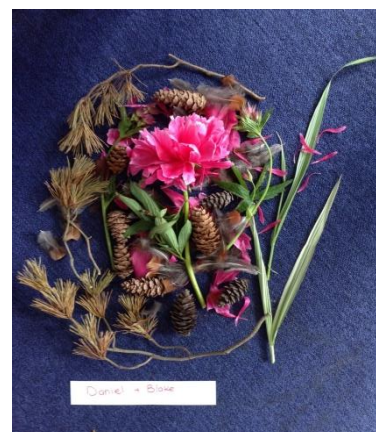
## Earth Works

The last half term just whizzed by in Earth Works. In our last two weeks we practised our skills with graphs, charts and tables in maths; debated whether Seahouses needed a McDonald's in English, and continued our investigations into the wonderful world of plants. Read on to find out more...

Our English unit has been on writing balanced discussion texts. We chose to discuss whether McDonald's should be allowed to build a restaurant in Seahouses. We were joined for our initial discussions by Year 5 during SATS week and the children came up with a whole range of reasons for and against the fast food giant. We talked about the health issues of a diet of Big Macs; the environmental implications of litter, traffic and noise; and the impact on the local community and its businesses. On the plus side, the children suggested that it would bring jobs, visitors and money to the town, and that a McDonald's was a cheap fast food option for families. Our discussions led to some excellent writing. It may come as a surprise to learn that most of the children decided *against* allowing McDonald's to build in the town: "Seahouses is about tradition and fish and chips, not fatty burgers!"



In art, we explored the work of Andy Goldsworthy, an artist who creates sculptures out of natural materials. His land art works are made out of leaves, flowers, sticks, ice and rocks and are often structures which last only a short time, before dissolving back into the landscape. We had a lovely lesson creating our own land art using materials such as pine cones, conkers, petals, shells, leaves and stones. Because it was a blustery day we had to build our land art structures indoors instead of on the field as intended, but this did not affect the children's creativity or the beauty and variety of their imaginative designs. Luckily Phil (our caretaker) has just got a new Hoover...





In science, we watched our bean plants grow into a forest, observing the stages of development of a flowering plant. We investigated what a plant requires to live: light, warmth, nutrients, water and room to grow. Our experiments showed the effect of depriving plants of one of these requirements - or of giving them extra nutrients or warmth. The children were fully engaged in discovering the changes in their plants, which clearly demonstrated the importance of these factors for plants to grow and thrive.



### Our Learning

Here are a few of the other things we have been doing recently in class:

- Creating and interpreting bar charts, pictograms and tables in maths.
- Practising for our drumming performance at the Alnwick Gardens on 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- Learning the names of places in the town in French (En Ville), and drawing and labelling town plans.
- Exploring the day to day life of Roman Britons.

### Coming Up...

- A unit on Time in maths - so please practise telling the time with your child at home over the next few weeks. This is an area which even strong mathematicians can find tricky, so the more practise the better.
- Writing information texts on Roman life.
- Learning about the life cycle of a flowering plant, and the structure and role of flowers and seeds.
- Learning and retelling the story of *Le Petit Bateau Rouge*.
- A variety of sporting and other events, including our music performance, a rugby festival, the end of year play, and, of course, our residential visit.

We are all looking forward to a busy and exciting Summer Term in Earth Works.

### Helping at Home

As always, you can help your child's learning at home through:

- Regularly reading with them and sharing or talking about books and magazines together.
- Helping them to learn their spellings and times tables. Spellings and tables facts need repeated practise, so although we spend time on them in class, most children will need extra help at home to succeed in their weekly assessments.
- Encouraging your child to complete their homework and lending a hand if they find it tricky. Homework is due in on a Monday. Please remind your child to bring their homework in on the correct day.

All home support is much appreciated and pays dividends in helping to move your child's learning forward. Thank You.