ST JAMES
Preparatory School

Year 2 Newsletter: Summer Term, Week 6

What have we explored this week?

This half term we have been exploring Super Scientists and their inventions! This week we learned about Alexander Graham Bell and his invention of the telephone. We compared modern telephones to the very first one and spoke about the pros and cons of both. We then made our own string telephones and took turns whispering code words to see if our partner could hear them!

During our Talk for Writing lesson, we took a deep dive into our model text, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson. The children worked in groups to explore four key aspects of the story: **likes, dislikes, puzzles**, and **patterns**.

Each group took on one focus area:

Likes: What parts of the story did we enjoy?

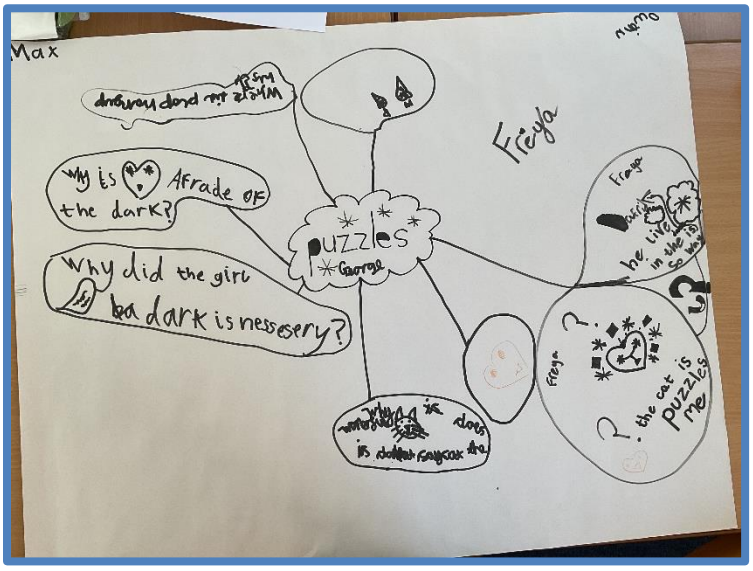
Dislikes: Was there anything we didn't like? Certain words or how it made us feel?

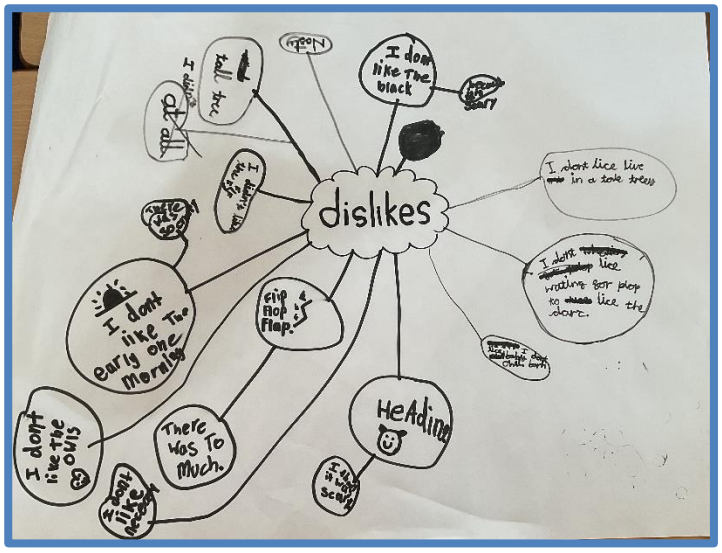
Puzzles: What did we find confusing or want to know more about?

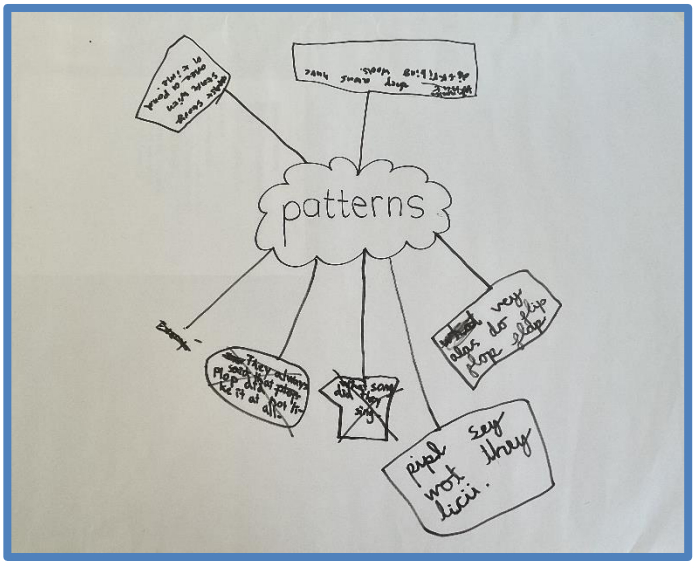
Patterns: What repeated ideas or phrases did we spot?

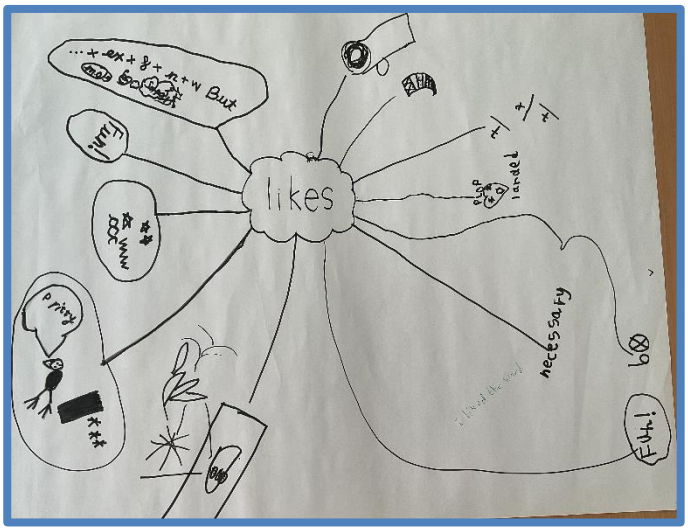
Together, the children discussed and jotted down their ideas. Afterward, each group shared their ideas with the class using sentence prompts such as "I noticed that every time...", "What does it mean when...", "I didn't like it when..." and "My favourite part was...".

It was a great activity to practise working in teams, think deeply about how we experience a story as a reader and collect ideas for our future writing!









Thank you for joining us for our first family lunch! It was such a success, we look forward to welcoming you again soon!

Things to remember

- There will be a Book Look for all classes on Wednesday 4th June at 8am.

- Parent Teacher Interviews for Year 2 will take place on Friday 13th June. Please book your appointment on SchoolCloud.

- Children need to play 2 x 5 minute sessions per week on Times Tables Rock Stars on "garage mode".

- We have set the children up with **Spelling Shed** log ins for them to practise their spelling using the spelling games. The log ins are in the back of their yellow book. Once logged in, go to assignments. There is one assignment for the week's spelling words and the other two assignments will be active throughout the year for the children to practise exception and common word spellings. Please reach out if you have any questions. The use of Spelling Shed is optional.

- **Please note that children must wear a hat a breaktime.** This can be the St James peak cap or the straw hat.

- If you have any questions or would like to inform me of anything, please do not hesitate to contact me via the office (office@stjamesprep.co.uk), via Class Dojo or at the end of the day.

A note about PSHEE

To coincide with our PSHEE topic of 'Changing Me' over the next half term, we will also be discussing the NSPCC's Talk PANTS rules in our lessons. During these discussions we will aim to teach our children the following important safety skills without giving explicit information or telling scary stories. These are the PANTS rules:

P: Privates are private.

A: Always remember your body belongs to you.

N: No means no.

T: Talk about secrets that upset you.

S: Speak up, someone can help.

The lessons empower children, in an age-appropriate way, to recognise their rights to their own bodies, say no to touch that is unwanted, and tell someone if they feel uncomfortable. The lessons include activities which help children understand:

- Appropriate and inappropriate touch
- Their right to say no to things that make them feel upset or uncomfortable
- The names for parts of the body
- Who to turn to if they ever feel upset or worried

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's campaign, including a short film and parent guide to help you continue the 'Talk PANTS' conversation at home, more information can be found at:
nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.