

Year 1 Learning for the week beginning 7th November 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you have had a restful half term.

We have started our new Learning Challenge topic 'Are we there yet? This is a history topic exploring changes in transport over time.

The question for the coming week is 'Who invented the train?' The children will learn about the evolution of the passenger train as a mode of transport. They will also learn about George Stephenson. Attached is a fact sheet which will help you talk to your child about this important historical figure.

R.E. We have started the theme of Advent. The children talked about times when they had to wait for something important to happen (e.g. a birthday) and how we prepare during this waiting time. We will continue to discuss this.

English We will be reading Mr Gumpy's Motor Car by John Burningham.

The sounds for the coming week are: *ow* (brown cow), *ai* (snail in the rain) and *oa* (goat in the boat).

Maths: We have begun to look at 3D and 2D shapes and will continue to focus on this in the coming week.

Please practise counting in multiples of 5s. There are many good songs on youtube to support this.

Home Learning for the week

- Words for home reading sheet
- Research George Stephenson and the history of trains
- CLIC 4

A good resource for practising phonics: 'Mr Thorne does phonics' videos on youtube.

Upcoming events

Year 1 Reading Meeting - Thursday 10th November at 2:40-3:10

Nativity Play - Wednesday 30th November at 1:45 & Thursday 1st December at 9:30

Thank you!

The Year 1 Team.

Below you can find some information about *George Stephenson* to share with your child.

George Stephenson was a self-taught English civil and mechanical engineer sometimes called **the "Father of Railways"**.

He developed the '**Rocket**', an early locomotive, with his son Robert and pioneered rail transport and the development of the first passenger railways.

Most of the world's railways run on the standard rail gauge (a fixed spacing between railway tracks), sometimes called '**Stephenson gauge**', which he established.

1. Stephenson was one of six children born into a poor mining family in **Wylam, Northumberland** on 9 June 1781.
2. His father, Robert, worked on the engines that were used to pump water from the mines and the young George Stephenson longed to be in charge of these steam-driven engines.
3. As a young boy he had a number of jobs before **going down the pit** to mine coal at the age of ten. At 14 he became an assistant fireman and later worked on the winding machine which pulled the cages of miners up from the pit face.
4. **George did not know how to read or write until he was 18. He went to night school and taught himself over a three-year period. He wanted to learn as much as possible about engines.**
5. After George's wife died, leaving him with a young son, Robert, George decided to go to Scotland and **study engines**. Later Robert helped his father on many projects and became a famous engineer and bridge builder in his own right.
6. In 1811 George fixed the broken pump engine at a local flooded mine and impressed the owners. This led to him being promoted and acknowledged as a local expert on engines.
7. He persuaded local backers to support his plan for a locomotive engine. In 1814 he built '**Blucher**', his first locomotive, which travelled at 4mph whilst pulling a load of 30 tons.
8. In 1823 Stephenson opened a locomotive factory in Newcastle. Two years later the first journey of his '**Locomotion No 1**' with its carriage '**Experiment**' took place. The '**Locomotion**' cost £500 to build, could carry 450 passengers and travel at 15mph.
9. In 1828 the Railway Board announced a competition to determine which was the best engine. **Stephenson's 'Rocket' beat four other entrants on the grounds of weight, speed, power and reliability.** The '**Rocket**' successfully completed ten laps of the track at Rainhill achieving the dazzling speed of 29 mph on the final lap.
10. **The Stockton to Darlington line was the world's first passenger railway.** The Manchester Liverpool Railway was opened in 1830 and in 1838 the line from Birmingham to London was completed.