Weekly memo 5#

**This unit on ‘Explorations’** was indeed engaging and interesting as the children went through loads of information collected from different sources. The unit books from the library as well as the downloads from the unit proved to be very informative. The children are now ready for the summative assessment which will be given to them this week. They have been working in pairs on a famous explorer of their choice and will write an expository text on their findings i.e. they will synthesise the information gathered on the three lines of inquiry. Moreover, they will also write a biography of their explorer using a world map to mark the route this particular explorer took. All the work done will be used for the summative assessment. On the whole, the children have been very focused and engaged in reading about how these explorers made the world a better place to live in.

**The reading workshop** is proving to be even more challenging than usual. Finally, finally the children are handing in their reading journals faithfully and are recording the books they are reading. This is giving me an over view of what they like to read, however, the reading responses are really very superficial in the sense that when they respond they are reverting back to prediction or visualisation as strategies to respond. The prediction and visualisation done is so poor that there is no evidence of the thinking going on at all. Very few children are reflecting their thinking while reading and using inference as responses while reading. So I have found a solution for this!!!! I will type out the sheet with the relevant reading strategy for the week. This week during the reading workshop I will use prediction as a strategy and then give children the typed up sheet to respond in their reading journal. Hoping that this will work for all the children in my class for the ensuing weeks.

**The writing workshop** is proving to be highly entertaining to the children. They have really enjoyed the writing of dialogues where a situation has been given to them. Most children have understood the use of punctuation marks in a dialogue and are using them appropriately. Amazingly, children took the initiative to write other words for ‘said’ and this really made me thrilled to see their work. This week, they will participate in holistic writing and apply whatever they have learnt in narrative writing. This will give us teachers an overall idea if children can apply the strategies learnt in order to make their writing interesting for the reader. Moreover, there are still some children either not using capital letters when they should, or they are not putting full stops wherever needed. So this week there will be mini lessons on these for those children only.

**The Maths Workshop** this week will involve children in various stations completing their work started here. All children are working at their own pace and understanding. This week we will concentrate on ***revising*** odd and even numbers done last week as the children could not write down the properties of these numbers. Secondly, we will look at prime numbers which was again done last week in the stations. I have realised that the children have not followed the instructions given hence, the prime numbers especially the properties of these numbers has not yet been observed. This is why many children have included numbers which are not prime. Thirdly, the concept of polygons needs to be readdressed. This week will be introduction of fractions namely adding and subtracting of fractions with related denominators. I have put time as a concept too if we do not get the time to do it, it will be postponed to the following week.