



Calow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School

'Aiming High
Together'

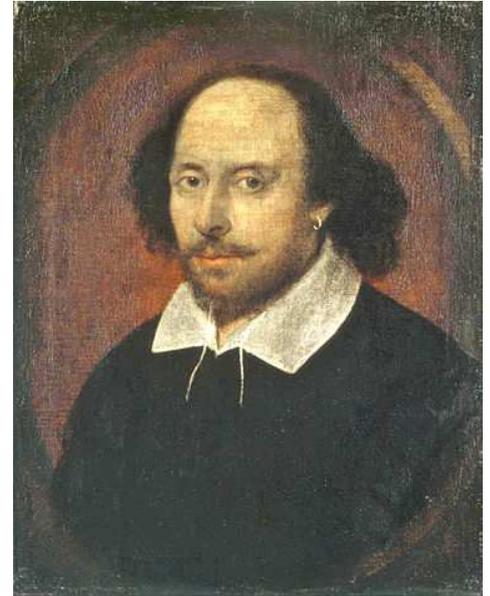
Newsletter

Special Edition - March 2016

School Website: <http://calowschool.createprimary.net/>

Shakespeare Week is from 14th to 20th March. More than 7,000 primary schools are registered to participate in the national commemoration of William Shakespeare and Calow Primary is one of them!

William Shakespeare (born on 26th April 1564 and died 23rd April 1616) was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. His works consist of approximately 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and a few other verses. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were comedies and histories, regarded as some of the best work ever produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth*, considered some of the finest works in the English language. Shakespeare died at the age of 52, within a month of signing his will, in which he begins by describing himself as being in "perfect health". No source explains how or why he died. Shakespeare is buried in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-Upon-Avon.



From Monday 14th March all children at Calow Primary will be engaged in activities relating to the life of William Shakespeare and/or his work. Outlined below is some information about the learning taking place in each class.

Reception Class

The children will be comparing pictures of Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Elizabeth II. They will be drawing detailed pictures of both Monarchs and then identifying at least three differences and three similarities and writing them as a list. They will be thinking about 'travelling back in time' to meet Queen Elizabeth I and writing questions we would like to ask her. Pupils will be sorting pictures of forms of transport into 'present day' and 'in the past'. They will be painting pictures of the ways in which the people travelled in Elizabethan times. The children will be finding out about important people including William Shakespeare and discoveries such as 'the potato' made during the Elizabethan age.

Class One

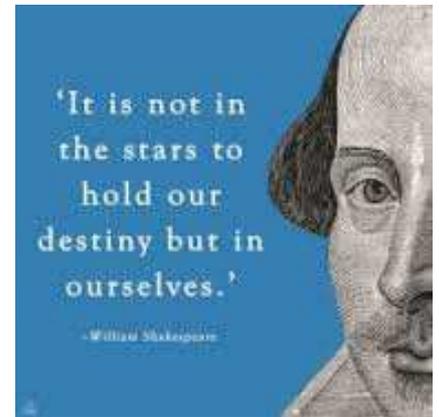
During Shakespeare week children in Class One will be learning about who Shakespeare was and what his life was like in Tudor England. Throughout the week the children will compare aspects of their own lives to that of Shakespeare's including what it was like to live in Tudor England and where people would have lived. We will also be comparing our own daily routine and completing the week with a day in the life of Shakespeare to compare and contrast an average school day. The children will use all of their knowledge learned about Shakespeare's life to write an information text. The children will also have the opportunity to use drama and PSHE to understand the main themes in many of Shakespeare's plays and begin to understand the processes needed to put on a play. During this time children will have the chance to make masks and design their own costumes for actors to complete a performance.

Class Two

Class Two will be finding out about the life of William Shakespeare. They will recount his key life events in chronological order. A particular focus will be on what it was like to go to school in those times. On dressing up day children will experience some of these routines. They will discuss the themes of his plays. After they will learn about what it was like going to the theatre in Tudor Times, including how plays were performed by actors and viewed by the audience.

Class Three

Class Three will begin the week by learning about the life of William Shakespeare and the period of history in which he lived during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. We will then read some of his famous pieces of work including the plays 'Anthony and Cleopatra', 'Macbeth' and 'Romeo and Juliet'. At the end of the week we will write Shakespeare inspired stories but with a twist!



Class Four

In Class Four we will be looking at play scripts including acting out part of a play and then hot seating some of the characters to investigate how they feel and why they make the choices they do. We will also be looking at sonnets and linking them to our work on poetry. We will be analysing why characters make the choices they do linked to PSHE work about what makes a good leader and how others can have an influence on the choices we make. We hope to be able to look at some of the costumes worn on the stage and the roles played by men in the theatre (during Shakespeare's time all theatre parts were played by men only).

Class Five

Throughout the week Class Five will learn about Shakespeare and answer key questions such as who he was, what his job was and why he is an important figure today. The children will read and listen to a range of plays and discuss the key events in each one. Throughout the week children will compare and contrast the language in several famous works including Macbeth and Hamlet and identify archaic language to use in their own writing. Children will be given the opportunity to write in a range of genres and styles including developing a timeline, writing a modern day ghost tale with a warning and writing a non-fiction text about Hamlet.

Class Six

Class Six pupils will look at a range of Shakespeare's plays and the characters in them. They will create and write their own play using the types of words and phrases that Shakespeare used. Pupils will find out more about Shakespeare and his life by writing an interview containing questions that they want to find out about and researching answers. Sonnets will also be looked at so the children can use their creativity to produce this style of poetry. At the end of the week, it is hoped that the class can link with a 'live lesson' on Shakespeare from the BBC in partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Dressing Up Day on Friday 18th March



On Friday 18th March all children are asked to come to School dressed as either William Shakespeare, someone from his life, Queen Elizabeth I or a character from one of his plays! We are sure this will be a fun day for the children but also an opportunity to find out about the character they are dressed as. There will be two independent judges visiting School during the morning. There are many prizes to be won including 'wind up Shakespeares' and Shakespeare ducks!



Further Information

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has a website with lots of information that parents may find useful. You can visit their website using <http://shakespeareweek.org.uk/home/families/> There's even a competition to design a football shirt for one of Shakespeare's characters, in association with Sunderland Football Club!