

Newsletter

Date: 20th February 2013

Issue: 14

Dear Parents,

Everybody here at PDO School would like to wish you all an enjoyable and safe Half Term. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 25 February fully rested and ready to learn!

Please be aware that on Wednesday morning next week the children will be having their class photographs taken.

For those of you that joined us for the International Market day last Thursday, we are sure you will agree that everyone worked hard to pull off a wonderful event. Some of the highlights included the wonderful demonstrations, stalls and traditional costumes. It was great to see so many adults and children fully entering into the spirit of the event.



Just a few images that capture the
true International Nature of
PDO School!



There were so many wonderful moments we couldn't include them all!
Please see the PDO School website for a larger selection of photographs!

Since the last newsletter we have also seen two Sports Days and the Early Years Fun Days. Many thanks to all of you who supported – it really does make a difference. A particular thanks to all the children who participated – you are a credit to your school!

Swimming commenced this week and all classes from P1 to P7 will once again be able to enjoy swimming on a weekly basis. Unfortunately we are unable to offer swimming to the Nursery classes due to the level of support required by having so many new swimmers. However we would urge all parents with children in the Nursery classes to take them to the swimming pool and help develop their water confidence.

Kind regards,

The PDO School Team

Learning in P6R

We all know that PDO School has a 'Passion for Learning', and over this half term P6R has been indulging in that passion!

In **IPC**, our unit for this half term focused on 'Black Gold – The oil industry'. We started the unit off with an exciting 'Entry Point' investigating how to clean up an oil spill, and some of the effects on wildlife, such as birds.

As part of 'Explaining the Theme' - which helps the children to see the 'big idea' of the unit of work before embarking on the subject learning – we visited the 'Oil and Gas Exhibition Centre' and 'EcOman'. These were very interesting experiences and provided a lot of new knowledge which we referred to throughout the topic.



In Geography we found out some ways that energy is produced, as well as the effects on people's lives. Our main learning target was developing our ability to collect and record evidence to answer geographical questions. This involved researching using a variety of sources and recording relevant information.

We then looked at using different ways to communicate our knowledge. For one activity we worked in groups, using a particular 'multiple intelligence', to present our learning.



During the Science section of the unit, we consolidated the skills involved in conducting a scientific investigation, in particular: explaining and justifying our predictions and conclusions. We investigated how porous, permeable or hard a selection of rocks were.



We have also linked our Music this term to the 'Black Gold' topic, and are using it to tell 'the story of oil'. We are focusing on the learning targets of being able to compose a musical piece within a structure, and performing as part of an ensemble.



During **Literacy** over the first half of this term, we have focused mainly on non-fiction writing. We have learned about recounts, explanations, newspaper reports, as well as information reports. Where possible, we have linked our writing to our IPC topic, such as by explaining how oil is formed and writing a newspaper report about an oil spill.

For **Numeracy**, we have just completed a unit on 'Data Handling', which involved:

- Deciding what information needed to be collected to answer a question and how best to collect it.
- *Constructing frequency tables* to collect and organise our data.
- Using graphs to show our findings.
- Explaining what these graphs tell us and considering questions that they raise.

We investigated a wide variety of questions, ranging from which 'multiple intelligence' is our 'strongest' through to the types of books children would most like to see in the library.

So as you can see, there is a real love of learning in P6R, and to quote a famous saying, "A love for learning will never end in heartbreak."

Keeping an eye on IPC



IPC Learning Visits

What does learning look like?

This question can be answered in many different ways. For some, learning will refer to a classroom with children sitting at a desk. For others, learning might look like two children interacting together. Learning can take place in many different shapes and forms.

Learning is not restricted to the classroom. For children to learn certain skills and develop an understanding of specific concepts it can be more valuable to take the learning out of the classroom and go on an IPC learning visit, or have an expert visit the school, to share specific knowledge and skills.

Within PDO School we value the different learning styles and multiple intelligences of children. During IPC learning visits children are triggered to learn in different ways, using their learning styles and multiple intelligences, as well as their personal goals.

A few examples

Children in Early Years went on a visit around their houses, during their unit 'Houses and Homes'. This was a great opportunity for the children to show their house and bedroom to their classmates. They had to show respect for each other's belongings and they had to



communicate with each other. It also gave them a chance to observe and talk about similarities and differences between different houses and homes.

Even in Pre-Nursery the children went on a trip to the PDO beach, as part of their learning about 'Sand and water'. They were challenged to build a sandcastle.

Children in Milepost 1 recently went on a school trip to the 'Al Ansab Wetlands'. The children are currently learning about the environment and part of their Geography learning focused on different habitats and geographical features in their environment.

After having explored the school grounds it was great for the children to experience a different habitat and expand their knowledge as well as developing their skills outside of school. They had to observe carefully to identify different types of birds, which was quite challenging. When reflecting on their school trip they all agreed that they had to be resilient.



In Milepost 2 they have enjoyed the visit of a few experts who came into class. During their unit 'Young and Old' several people came in to talk about the 'Rights of Passage' in different cultures. They also had the opportunity to ask questions to a mum with a new born baby and an elderly person. This links in with their skill development of using different sources to gain new knowledge. During their last unit on 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes' a geologist came into class to share his expertise. The children truly enjoyed this experience and it raised lots of questions, which helped them extend their learning.

In Milepost 3 they are currently learning about 'Black Gold', also known as oil. As part of their learning they have been to the 'Oil and Gas Centre' and the 'Eco Oman Centre'. These visits have provided them with great learning opportunities, such as learning about; the history of energy and alternative energy types and how they work. The children had lots of opportunities to use their different learning styles.



ISAs – Information for Parents

The ISAs are an International test originating from Australia. They are carried out in October because this is towards the end of the academic year in Australia. Therefore it is worth noting that our children had only been in their new classes for 6 weeks following a long break.

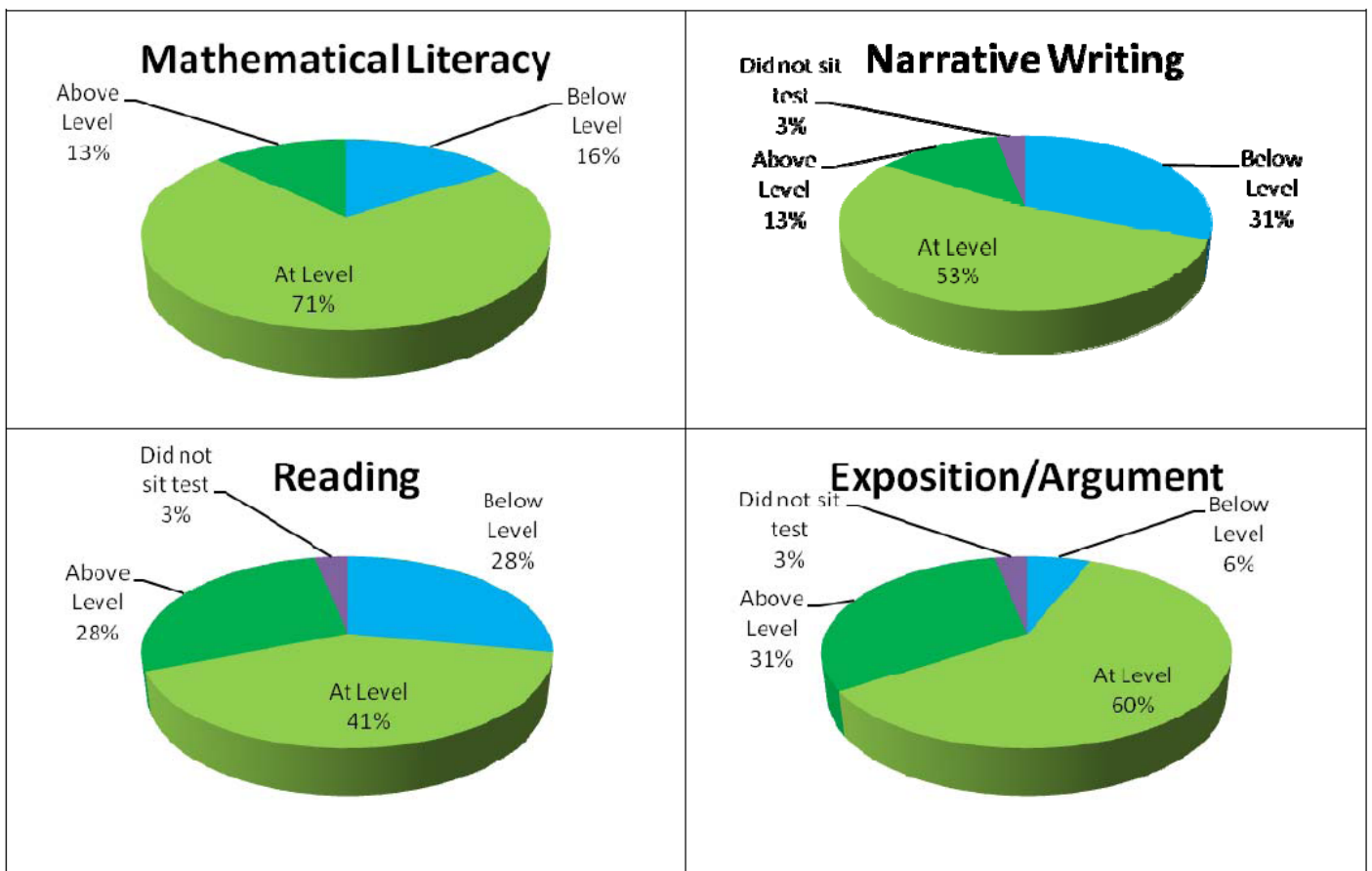
Overall we are pleased with the results and when compared with other 'like' schools, both 'like' schools and PDO School are performing 'At Level'. Please note 'like' schools are determined by the percentages of pupils for whom English is a second language.

Although some of the children have scored below the expected level there are several factors that can account for this.

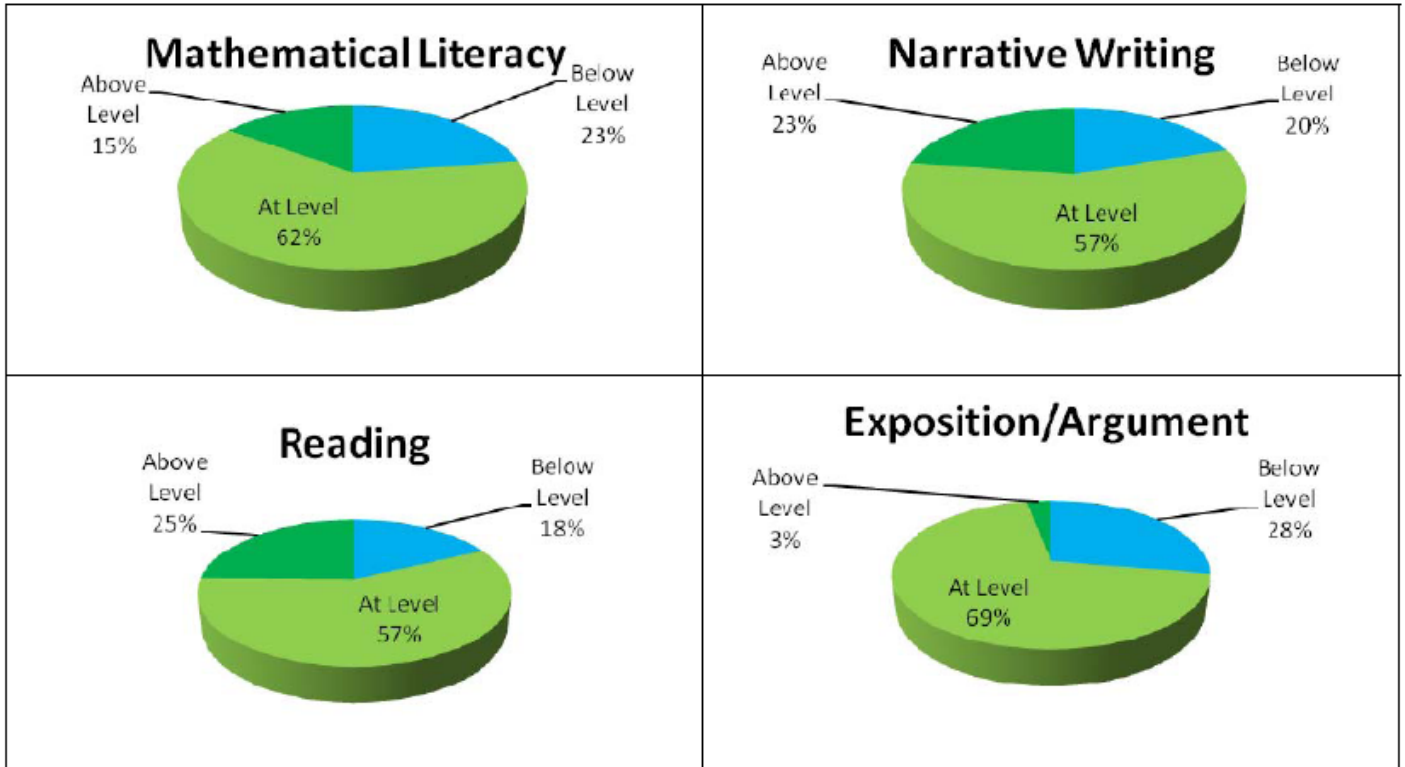
- 55% of the children in P7 and 67% of the children in P6 sat the test for the first time due to the amalgamation of the Dutch stream into the international stream and the arrival of children new to the School. In P5 there are also many children who have changed streams or are new to PDO School.
- The makeup of these classes reflects an international community where the majority of children are from non-English speaking backgrounds.
- Several of the children have Special Educational Needs and are already receiving support with their learning.

All children that scored below level have been identified and we continue to endeavour to provide these children with additional support to cater to their individual needs.

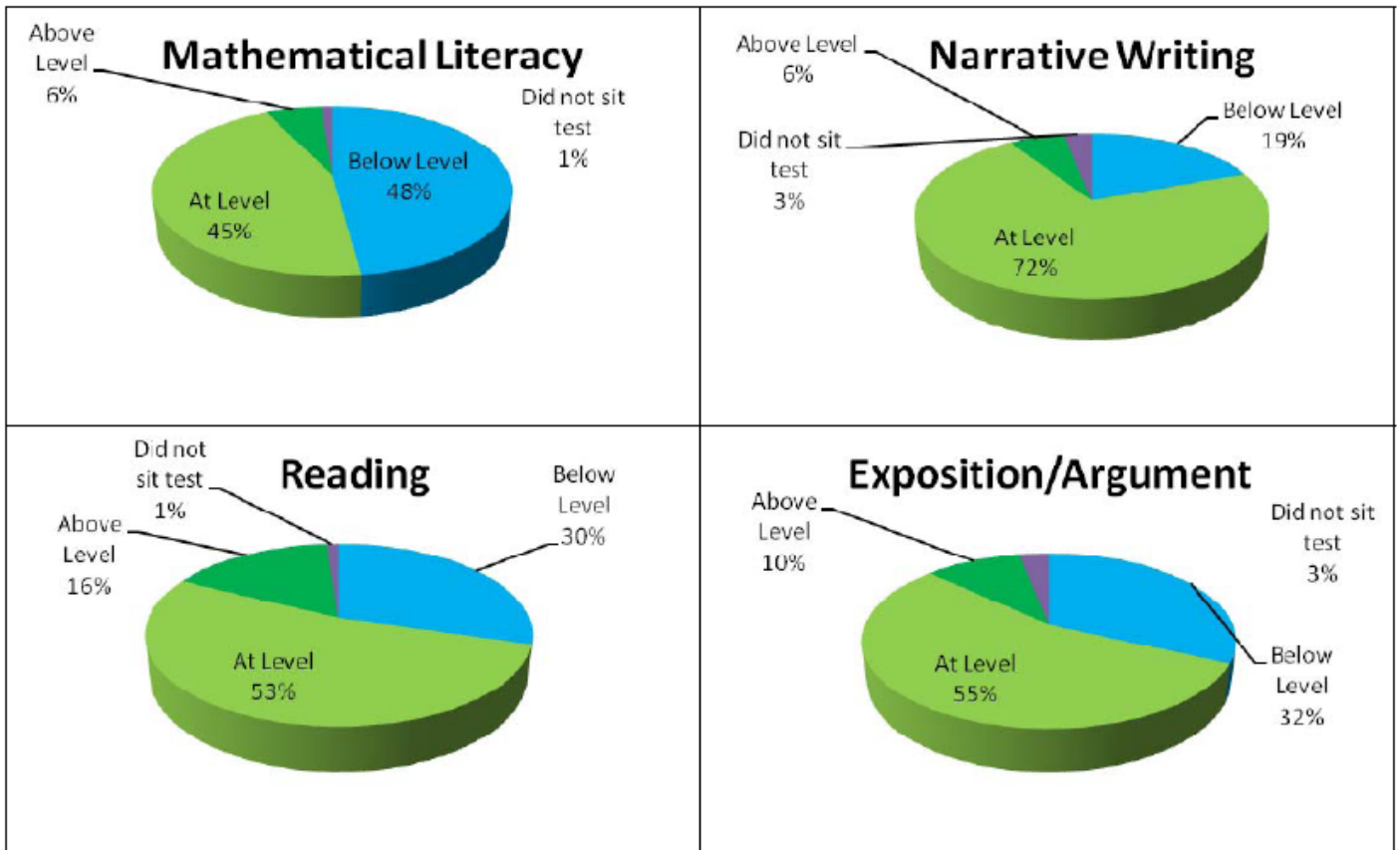
Results for P5



Results for P6



Results for P7



Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA would like to thank everybody for their efforts and enthusiasm before and during the International Market Day. As there cannot be a charity event without customers, we would like to thank you for your generous spending. We raised 2,500 RO!! We will keep you informed as to how the money will be spent.

The beauty of this type of event is that its made by people for people; International Market Day is us!! It wouldn't be such a success without all of you!

Safety First in Cars

Many thanks for your continued support in ensuring that the car parks and roads are a safe place to be. Please continue to be vigilant and if you see unsafe behaviour please let us know. A quick reminder that when the barrier at the entrance to the School car park is closed it is not appropriate to either block it or park in the road. **This entrance is needed for emergency access at all times.**

After School Activities

PDO School is proud to be able to offer a variety of after school activities and a considerable amount of time and effort goes into both organising and running these clubs. If your child has been assigned an activity there is an expectation that they will be committed to attending each session. Therefore if for any reason your child is unable to attend, please inform the activity leader. We thank you for your help in ensuring that the after school activities are as successful as possible.

Dates for your diary

Please find below important dates that are coming up soon. A reminder that all term dates are available on the school website www.pdoschool.com . Please click on the tab labelled news to access the calendars.

Date	Event
21 st -24 th February	Half Term
27 th February	Class Photographs
27 th February	Reports Out
27 th March	End of Term 2
13 th April	Start of Term 3
1 st – 5 th June	Half Term
3 rd July	End of Term 3