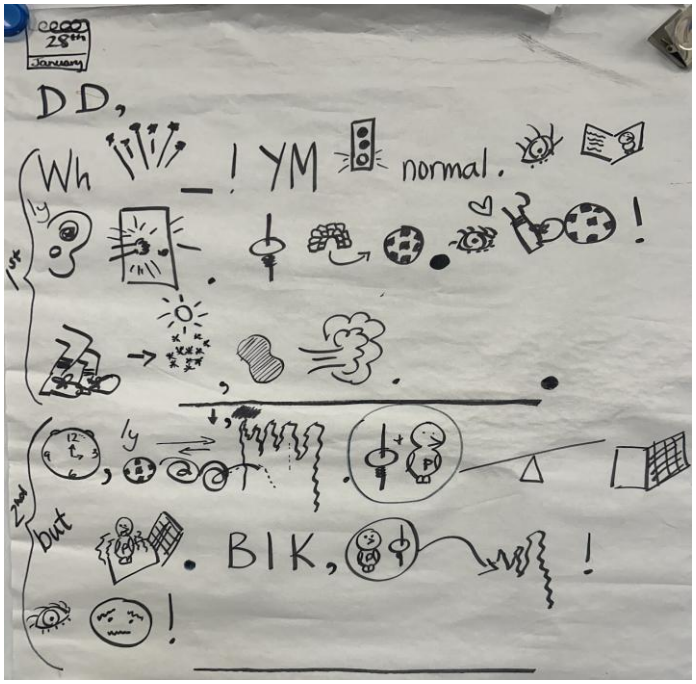
Cracking the Code: A Writing Connection with Canada

As part of our Global Links project, we connected with The Sterling Hall School in Canada through an exciting writing challenge. Miss Fabbri and her Grade 4 students sent us a mysterious message made up of symbols, inviting us to decipher its hidden meaning. Both schools independently explored the clues, developed their own interpretations and shared their ideas with one another. We then discovered how our Canadian peers had used their interpretation to inspire and shape their own creative writing, before sharing their final pieces with us. We celebrated this experience in a whole-school assembly, where our children reflected on the work of their Canadian peers, shared their thoughts and celebrated what they had learned together. This collaboration showed us how curiosity, creativity and a shared love of writing can connect children across the world.

The Challenge

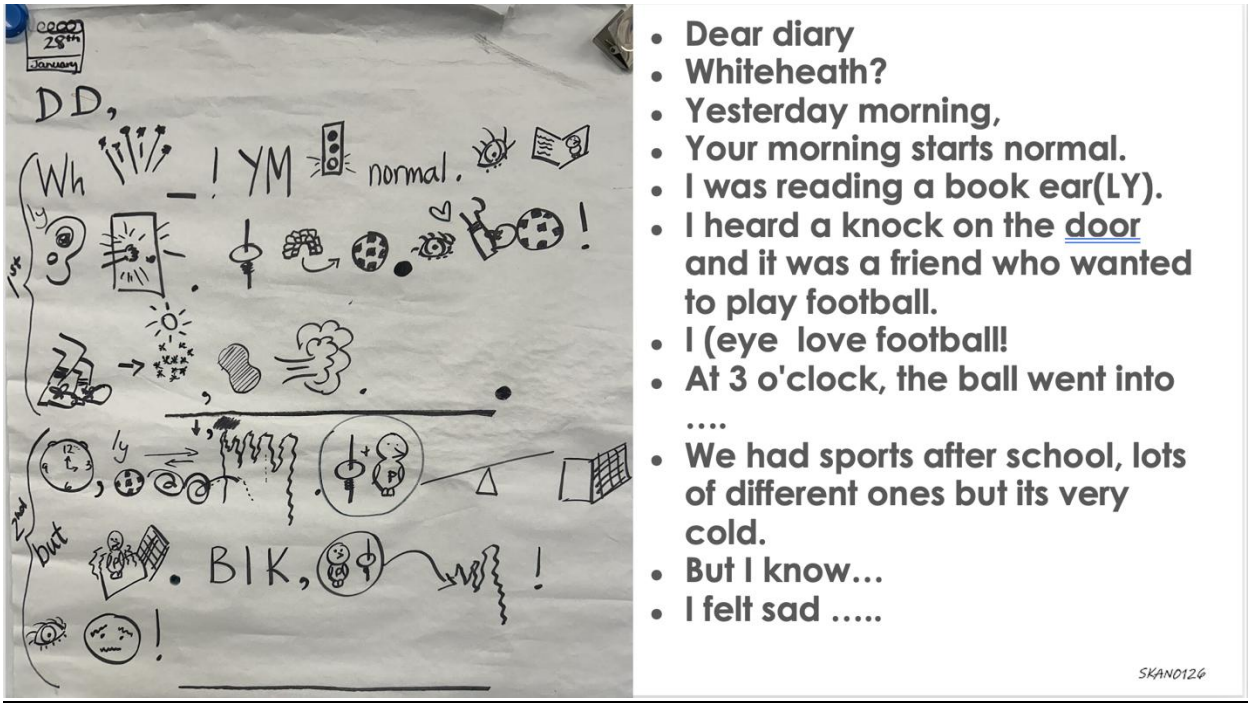
Miss Fabbri and the Grade 4 students at Sterling Hall School challenged us to decipher a mysterious message made up of symbols. Could we crack the code and discover what their clues were telling us?



Our challenge from Sterling Hall School: could we crack the code?

Cracking the Code

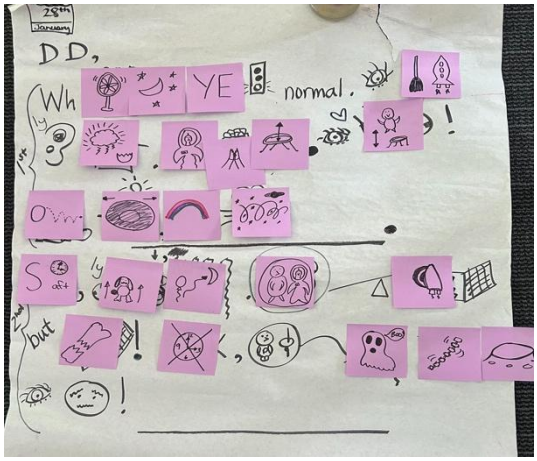
We studied the symbols, shared our thoughts and brought our ideas together to decipher the message. By discussing the clues and considering different possibilities, we developed our own interpretation, ready to share with our Canadian partners.



- Dear diary
- Whiteheath?
- Yesterday morning,
- Your morning starts normal.
- I was reading a book ear(LY).
- I heard a knock on the door and it was a friend who wanted to play football.
- I (eye love football!
- At 3 o'clock, the ball went into ....
- We had sports after school, lots of different ones but its very cold.
- But I know...
- I felt sad .....

We explored the clues and brought our ideas together to work out what the message might mean.

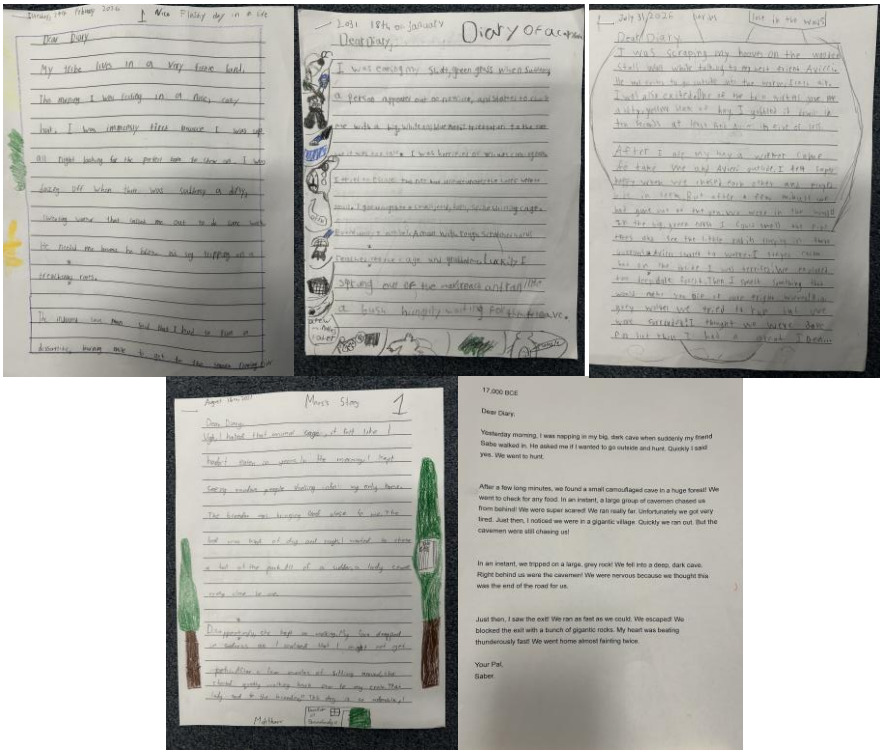
Sterling Hall's Interpretation



Our Canadian peers were exploring the same mystery, developing their own interpretation of the symbols. They shared their picture clues with us, giving us an insight into their thinking and showing how the same mysterious message could inspire different ideas.

From clues to creativity

Sterling Hall School used its interpretation of the mystery as inspiration for its own creative writing. We were excited to discover how their ideas developed into a finished diary entry and how they transformed the clues into an original piece of writing.



Sharing Our Learning

We shared our experience in a whole-school assembly, where our children reflected on the work of their Canadian peers, shared their thoughts and celebrated what they had learned together. We discovered how curiosity, creativity and a shared love of writing can connect children across the world.

A final thought

One mystery, two interpretations and a shared learning journey - proof that great ideas can travel across the world!

> "This collaboration gave the children an authentic opportunity to explore ambiguity, share interpretations and recognise that the same clues can lead to different ideas. By connecting with their peers in Canada, they were able to see how curiosity and creative thinking can develop in different ways. Sharing the experience in assembly allowed us to revisit our thinking, celebrate the work of others and reflect on our learning together."

Mrs Kan, Global Links Lead