

Class Updates - 16.05.2025



Reception Butterflies update

Another beautiful week of weather and outdoor fun for Butterflies. We have been focusing on healthy habits this week. We have read *Oliver's Vegetables* by Alison Bartlett and Vivian French and talking about the life cycle of plants. We looked at the portraits of Arcimboldo and made our own out of real fruits and vegetables, as well as collage paper portraits. In English we have been improving our sentence building skills writing about which vegetables we like and don't like. In Maths, we are focusing on addition skills and recording number sentences.

We took PE outside to the trim trail this week, climbing, balancing and swinging to negotiate their way around the apparatus. This was quite a challenge for some but they all showed great resilience and tried their best.

Well done for remembering hats, water bottles and sun screen! Please continue to send them in ready for the hot weather and fingers crossed the sunshine will continue!



Ms Nicholson, Mr Powlesland, Miss Hunter, Miss Murnane, Miss Marks and Miss Brighten



Year 1 Ladybirds Update

We have had a great week, enjoying the sun and taking our lessons outside. In science, we learnt about the parts of a tree. We sketched a tree from the meadow and labelled its parts. In maths we have been looking at position and direction. We drew our own map using chalk on the playground and guided one another using positional language. In Forest school last week, we built our own instruments using natural resources. We have done lots of writing this week in English including a pledge to save the turtles, a letter and instructions on how to make a smoothie— we all had a taste, it was delicious!



Mrs Holmes, Ms Tickle, Mrs Slade and Mrs Tagg



Year 2 Caterpillars Update



We've had a fun and busy week in Year 2, packed full of hands-on learning and creative thinking!

Maths

This week in Maths, we have been exploring measurement, with a focus on **millilitres**. The children enjoyed using real measuring equipment to find and compare different amounts of water. It was a great opportunity for them to develop their practical measuring skills and understand how we use these units in everyday life.

English

In English, we've been writing across a range of different text types. The children wrote thoughtful **welcome letters** to someone new to the UK, showing real empathy and kindness. We also explored the emotions around **leaving home** through poetry. The poems were heartfelt and imaginative, and it was wonderful to see the children express their feelings through their writing.

RE (Religious Education)

In RE, we learned about the Jewish festival of **Passover**. We focused on the significance of the **Seder plate** and the meanings behind the different items on it. The children showed great curiosity and respect while learning about this important celebration.

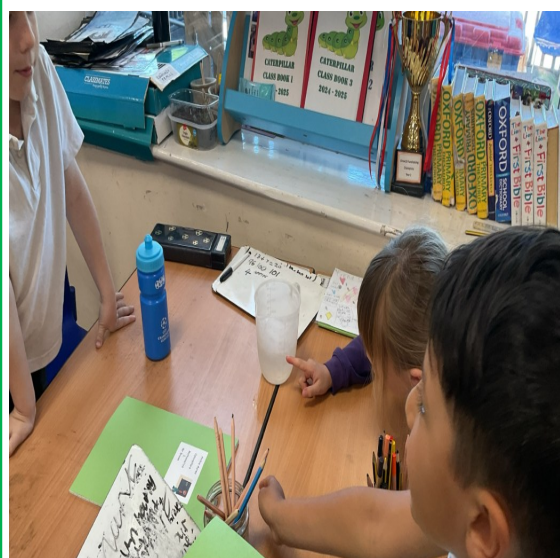
Computing

Our Computing lessons have introduced the children to the world of **computer-generated music**. They've enjoyed listening to a variety of musical styles created by technology, and are looking forward to creating their own digital music pieces in the coming weeks!

Well done to all of Year 2 for their enthusiasm and engagement across all subjects. We're looking forward to another exciting week ahead!

Best wishes,

Mr Brown, Mrs Wulfse and Miss Sykes.





Year 3 Grasshoppers Update

In Maths this week, the children have been measuring objects in centimetres and millimetres as well as reading measurements accurately. We also started looking at how to find the perimeter of given rectangular shapes.

In English, the class organised given sentences into information paragraphs and then watched a video of a trip through a New Zealand cave famous for its ceiling of glow worms. They then had to describe the experience using interesting vocabulary and prepositions.

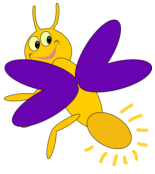
In R.E, we looked at a range of art inspired by Pentecost and started to design their own pieces inspired by this holy event using key imagery and symbols.

In Art, the class painted their fire sculptures using the blending techniques they have been learning. This week we will be finishing them off and sending them home for you to see their amazing creations.

Mr Pike, Mrs Smith and Miss Dye



Year 4 Fireflies Update



In their recent maths lessons, the Year 4 children have been learning how to convert pounds into pence and write amounts of money using decimals. They discovered that £1 is equal to 100p, and practised changing amounts like £2.50 into 250p and vice versa. The children also learned how to add and subtract money written in decimal form, helping them become more confident with real-life maths. They solved a variety of money problems, including working out totals and calculating change.

In English, the Year 4 children have started writing their own first-person adventure stories. They have been learning how to write from the main character's point of view, using personal pronouns like "I," "my," and "we" to make their stories feel more exciting and personal. The children are focusing on using fronted adverbials to add detail and variety to their sentence, to build suspense. They are also practising writing in the past tense, using powerful verbs to describe action and movement. To bring their characters to life, the children are including dialogue, using speech marks correctly and choosing words that show emotion and personality. It's been a great opportunity for them to be creative while developing important writing skills.

In history, Year 4 have been learning all about Viking laws and how they helped to keep order in Viking society. The children discovered that the Vikings didn't have police like we do today, but instead used a system of local meetings called **Things**, where important decisions were made and disagreements were settled. They learned that punishments could be very harsh, and that honour and loyalty were extremely important to the Vikings. Through role-play and discussion, the children explored what it might have been like to be part of a Viking community, deciding what was fair or unfair. They were fascinated to find out how some Viking ideas about justice still influence our legal systems today.

Year 4 have been continuing their exciting science topic on **states of matter**, focusing this week on how materials can change from solids to liquids. To explore this, the children carried out a fun and hands-on **jelly experiment**. They observed how the solid jelly cubes melted when heated and transformed into a liquid. more clearly and encouraged them to ask thoughtful questions about how materials react in different states.

In PE, we are continuing our focus on **cricket**, building on the skills they've already learned. The children have been practising key techniques such as **bowling, batting, and fielding**, and are developing greater accuracy, control, and teamwork. They have enjoyed learning how to **hold the bat correctly, hit the ball with power**, and **aim their throws when fielding**. Through a variety of fun drills and small games, the children are gaining confidence and improving their coordination.



Mrs Dumitrescu, Mrs Norman and Miss Humphreys

Year 5 Busybees Danbury Update



Day 1—A successful first day here at Danbury! The afternoon saw groups taking part in caving, zip wire and bush craft. The children were fantastic - getting involved in all the activities and supporting each other.

After the activities, it was back to the cabins for a little rest before dinner which was roast chicken, potatoes, yorkshire pudding and vegetables with a delicious chocolate cake for dessert. After dinner, children had a choice of a movie evening, games outside or games in their cabins. A drink and snack before bed at 9pm ready for another day on adventure on Tuesday!

Day 2— After a (not long enough) sleep in the cabins, everyone was up early. Breakfast was sausages, bacon, beans and hash browns with a selection of cereals, fruit and toast - as well as lots of caffeine (for the adults!).



After breakfast, groups 1 and 2 headed to the lake for kayaking and canoeing. We all had a fantastic time which ended in all of us swimming at the end! Group 3 took on the problem solving and zip wire before we all met back for lunch. Lunch was pizza, wedges and salad which, after a busy morning, resulted in very few leftovers!

The afternoon saw Group 3 take to the water having an equally brilliant time whilst the other groups got involved with problem solving, aerial trekking, bush craft and the climbing wall.

Back at base, dinner was tomato pasta or pasta bolognese. The children have been fantastic eaters; trying everything and waiting for each other to finish before leaving the table.

This evening we will be heading out for a walk and some games before the tired children make their way into bed where the adults are hopeful that all will be out like a light!

A morning of activities await us on Wednesday before we head home after lunch.

Day 3—After a much better sleep all round, the children were up and packing which took some much longer than others! The wandering belongings never cease to amaze us! Our last breakfast did not disappoint with sausage baguettes, croissants and cereal on the menu.



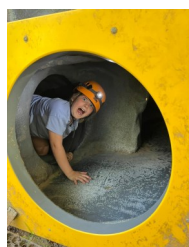
After breakfast, the groups headed off for their final two activities which included caving, aerial trekking and the climbing wall.

We then headed back for our final meal of jacket potatoes before heading home.

It has been incredible to watch these wonderful children take on challenges and really push themselves. Not only in the activities but also by being away from home. We are so proud of them as I'm sure you are too. They have been fantastic company and we hope that they have learnt and grown from the experience.

Thank you for your support in preparing them and to all the staff, without whom these trips would not be possible

Mrs Potter, Mrs Flack and Ms Brighten





Year 6 Dragonflies update

A huge congratulations to Year 6 for completing their SATs this week! You tackled every paper with focus, determination and maturity, and we couldn't be prouder of the way you handled yourselves. Even when you'd finished your tests, you didn't stop —you kept going, checked through thoroughly, and showed just how resilient and hard-working you all are. The whole school is incredibly proud of you, and even the governors who visited during the week were full of praise for your excellent manners, your calm attitude, and the way you supported one another throughout. You truly showed what it means to be a team.

We would like to also thank the staff members who leant a hand in invigilating the tests, and to Mrs Norman for buying all the food for the lovely Year 6 SATs breakfast—everything ran really smoothly and I'm sure it helped the children feel relaxed that everything was in hand.

Another massive well done from Mr Clarke, Ms Driscoll, and the whole St Mary's staff. *You did it, Year 6!*

Mr Clarke and Miss Driscoll

