

Class Updates - 14.02.2025

Reception Butterflies update



This week our theme has been ALIENS! The children have been designing their own aliens, labelling the pictures, and then writing descriptions of them. We have used our phonological knowledge to find initial sounds, sound out CVC words, or write in full sentences with capital letters and full stops! We have made rocket ships out of junk modelling materials and construction toys and made aliens out of playdough reading and following instructions.

In Maths, this week has been all about length! The children have been discovering how to judge the difference between long and short objects, pictures and lines. We have compared and contrasted short, medium and long items, carefully grouping and grading them. We then moved on to measuring height comparing shorter and taller and trying to line ourselves up in height order.

Tuesday 11th February was Safer Internet Day. This week we have been talking a lot about how to stay safe online. The children agreed that if they ever see something on a device which makes them feel uneasy they should immediately tell a trusted adult. We have explored different themes through age appropriate stories from Jessie and Friends, Digiduck and Smartie the Penguin. If you would like to watch them together at home, here are some links:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin/> <https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/> <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/>

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





Year 1 Ladybirds Update

A busy final week of this half term. On Tuesday it was Safer Internet Day. We looked closely at how to stay safe online and discussed personal information. We sorted personal information into safe or not safe to share online. Forest school was busy too! We enjoyed lots of lovely activities and creations, big nests, little nests, big dens, noughts and crosses, drummers footsteps, Gruffalo dominoes and lots of swinging as always! On Wednesday, we continued learning our dance for our dance workshop next half-term. We've started using our faces, as well as our dance moves, to show the crowd what cheeky monkeys we are. This week we finished our final piece of Piet Mondrian art work, using rulers for straight lines and paint for our inspired creation. We have been hard at work with our phonics assessments this week. Everyone has made incredible progress in their reading. Well done Ladybird class!! We hope you all have a restful half term break.

Mrs Holmes, Ms Tickle, Mrs Slade and Mrs Tagg





Year 2 Caterpillars Update

What a fantastic week we've had in Year 2! Here's a little update on what we've been up to.

Maths:

This week, we have been exploring multiplying two-digit numbers by a one-digit number. The children have been using a multiplication square to help them with this and have made great progress. It's been wonderful to see them confidently apply what they've learned to solve problems!

English:

In English, the children have been writing letters and describing characters and settings. I have been so impressed with their handwriting and presentation during these tasks – they've really shown how much care and attention they put into their work. It's been lovely to see their creativity shine!

Science:

We had a brilliant time doing a mini-beast hunt around the school. The children used a tally to count what they found and then created a pictogram to show their results. It was a fun and hands-on way to learn about data and classification!

Art:

In Art, the children completed their final pointillism artwork, all linked to our current topic. They did a fantastic job using this technique to create beautiful pieces of art. I'm so proud of their effort and creativity.

Reminders:

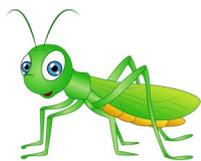
As we approach the half-term break, just a quick reminder that there will be no spellings set over the holiday. However, I would love to see the children reading regularly and filling in their reading record – this helps them keep up their great progress!

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you all have a wonderful half-term!

Best wishes,
Mr Brown, Mrs Wulfse and Miss Sykes.



Year 3 Grasshoppers Update



Wow, this half term has flown by. I can't believe we are already half way through the year!

This week in Maths, the class have been multiplying by multiples of ten, finding fractions of amounts and counting up and down in tenths. After half term we will be diving into ten, comparing and ordering fractions and finding equivalent fractions.

In Geography, we looked at earthquakes and how they occur. The children then drew and/or labelled what they had discovered. In R.E, we consolidated what we have learnt over this unit and answered the question 'Why do Christians called Good Friday, good?' by creating posters/cards showing their understanding of Holy Week and the emotions felt over this period and why it is so important.

In P.E, the children performed their final 'light' movement pieces. Within these pieces, they had to show 3 different light sources and transition between them in an interesting manner using their bodies.

Mr Pike, Mrs Smith and Miss Dye





Year 4 Fireflies Update

As we come to the end of a busy half-term for the Fireflies Class, we have much to celebrate.

Last Friday, four of our class represented St. Mary's in a multi school festival, where they gave a speech and presented a poster, on an environmental topic. Cassia, Masie, Tom and Teddy chose to speak about Greenhouse Gasses and the impact that human-made ones have on Global Warming and Climate Change. Their team worked so hard, giving up break and lunchtimes, to prepare for this event. Mr Jarmain accompanied them and said how well prepared and polished they were.

On Wednesday, our indoor athletics team competed in the Uttlesford finals. The competition was stiff but the children performed magnificently, romping home Year 3/4 champions, with lovely gold medals to show for their efforts!

While the rest of the class were out competing, the remaining Fireflies had a reflective visit to the church. Rev Jeremy met us there and helped inspire us to write prayers based on the principal of compassion.

For Mental Health Awareness week, with the theme: Know yourself, Grow yourself, the children have made fabulous artwork that reflects positive feelings about themselves.

Well done for all your hard work this half term Fireflies. Your teaching team wish you a safe and restful break.

Mrs Dumitrescu, Mrs Norman and Miss Humphreys



Year 5 Busybees Update



This week, in maths, we have been understanding percentages and finding equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. In English, we have been revisiting some key writing skills and using these to write creatively. As it was Safer Internet Day this week, we had a class discussion about what this means and what we can do to keep ourselves safe online and why this is so important. The class were very engaged and articulate throughout this discussion. In PE, we finished our gymnastics unit and continued to add some more parts to our dance ahead of the dance show in March. In Geography, we have started to plan letters to Prince William in his role as leader of the Earthshot Awards to highlight the importance of the world's oceans. Another half term done—a huge well done to Year 5 for continuing to work hard and apply themselves to their learning. Have a lovely break and see you soon!



Mrs Potter, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Flack and Ms Brighten



Y6 Dragonflies Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 6 have had fun final week before they get a well-earned break!

In Art, to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, we created pictures representing what's happening inside ourselves. The children thought carefully about the things that help improve our mental well-being and what can have a negative impact. We also discussed online safety and the ways social media can affect mental health. It was great to see such thoughtful discussions, and the artwork produced was truly reflective and personal.

In Science, we explored refraction with three different investigations to see how light bends when it moves through different mediums. The children were amazed at how objects seemed to shift or change shape when placed in water or glass. Can your child recreate one of our experiments at home and explain what's happening?

In PSHCE, we took on an exciting challenge—working in teams to build a successful colony on Mars! The children had to think about the difficulties of surviving on such a harsh planet while also making sure their colonists stayed happy. Just as they thought they had everything figured out, we threw in a plot twist... the real lesson was all about teamwork! After the activity, everyone reflected on their role in the group, gave constructive feedback, and considered how they can become even better team members.

We also finished off the week with a team quiz on topics from Geography to the staff at St Mary's! The children particularly enjoyed the picture round and the music round!

Have a wonderful half term break,

Mr Clarke and Miss Driscoll

