

Class Updates - 07.02.2025

Reception Butterflies update



This week has been Children's Mental Health Week and Butterflies have been learning about what 'mental health' means and how we can take care of our 'mental health'. We have talked about what makes us special, our skills and things we find challenging. We all decided what we would like to get better at. We also talked about all the emotions we experience and how we can express them and things we can do to cope when we feel angry or sad or worried. We have practiced mindfulness and relaxation techniques in the classroom. Our favourite is the rainbow meditation which you can also practise at home too! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1bBI-BT9c4>

We have also been learning about odd and even numbers in Maths and how to find doubles with the help of the mysterious, magical doubling box! In Phonics we have been learning how to chunk up longer words to make them easier to read.

Our topic theme this week has been the planets of the solar system. We have learned the order of the planets from the sun and a facts about each planet. We made some messy marbled planets and sculpted them out of playdough.

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





Year 1 Ladybirds Update

This week was Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. To celebrate this, we ended each day with mindfulness breathing. We participated in the daily mile before collective worship, shook off our sillies after phonics and completed some mindfulness colouring as our morning task. In Forest School, we had a great time talking about hibernation, playing a game called hibernate and making clay models of bats, hedgehogs and dormice! Some of us helped with the weeding in the eco garden. In RE, we thought carefully about the word hope and wrote down some of our own hopes. Some children hoped for housing for the homeless, others hoped for time with their families. In PSHCE we discussed the correct terminology for our body parts using the PANTOSAURUS resources created by the NSPCC. We discussed which parts were private and those that are not. In science, we used our senses to describe salt and sugar, investigating which sense was the most useful— of course it was our taste! We have noticed many more reading prizes are going out each week, thank you for your efforts in supporting us with this at home and well done Ladybirds!!!

Mrs Holmes, Ms Tickle, Mrs Slade and Mrs Tagg





Year 2 Caterpillars Update

We have had another productive week in Year 2. Here is an update for what we have achieved this week:

Maths: This week in maths, we've been diving deeper into division. The children have been practicing dividing numbers by 2 and understanding how division is the inverse of multiplication. We've worked on visualising division through different methods to strengthen their understanding and confidence.

English: In English, we've been focusing on the key SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar) skills needed for our adventure stories. The children have been learning how to use compound words, prefixes, and commas correctly to improve their writing. This will help them add more detail and excitement to their adventure narratives.

Geography: Our geography lessons have continued with a focus on learning about the world. This week, the children researched flags from various countries, learning about their designs, colours, and meanings. It has been a fun and informative way to explore different cultures and the geography of our planet.

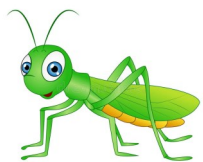
PSHE: In our PSHE this week, we have focused on Children's Mental Health Week. The children took part in various different activities with a real focus on our strengths. It was lovely to see the children see themselves in a positive way. Well done Year 2!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Brown, Mrs Wulfse and Miss Sykes



Year 3 Grasshoppers Update



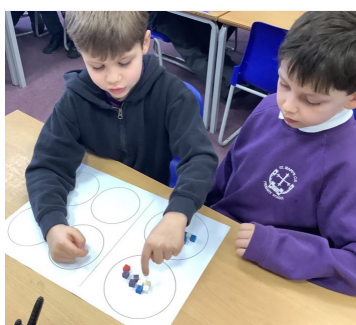
This week, in Maths, we have started our fractions unit. The children didn't feel hugely confident with fractions so we are currently re-visiting the year 2 focus of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$. This has really helped and they have enjoyed seeing how they can use their times tables knowledge to help solve these fraction problems.

In English, we have come to the end of the Stone Age Boy unit by writing the opening to their own version of the story.

In Science, we looked at reflective surfaces and used the torches to test out different materials to find the most reflective for a book bag design.

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week so in PSHCE we have focused on the theme of growth and what we are good at and want to improve. We have also started our art for the Children's Mental Health Art Exhibition that is coming up after half term (date to be confirmed). It's lovely to see the class thinking positively about themselves and what they excel at.

Mr Pike, Mrs Smith and Miss Dye





Year 4 Fireflies Update

In our English module, about Katherine Johnson, we have also looked at other historically significant people ranging from Rosa Parks to Neil Armstrong. On Wednesday, we started a non-chronological report on Usain Bolt, widely considered the greatest sprinter of all time. In a grammar lesson, the word politician was an answer to a suffix 'cian' question. This sparked a conversation based on the British Value of democracy as when asked who their MP was, answers varied from King Charles, the police to Donald Trump! It would be interesting to ask them if they remember who it is now!

Maths has been challenging this week as we have been looking at decimals and in particular number lines. This has encouraged us to use our knowledge of place value, fractions and of 'bus stop' division.

This week in computing, we continued exploring data and recognising how a computer can help us sort it. The data that was gathered came from a data logger that had recorded the temperature of a cup of boiling water as it cooled to room temperature. Having looked at a graph showing this, we looked at how there are different ways to view data. Firstly, we briefly looked at Microsoft Excel then we had an initial examination of Google Sheets.

Each week in music, before singing, we have listened to and appraised different genres of music. Last week it was a classical piece, 'Radetzky Marsch' by Johann Strauss, but this week the children particularly enjoyed a contemporary piece, 'Can't stop the feeling!' by Justin Timberlake from the 2016 film Trolls.

In DT we continued our toys project and got our toys moving, buzzing or lighting up. The children were very proud of their work and the range of new things they had learned about in this lesson.

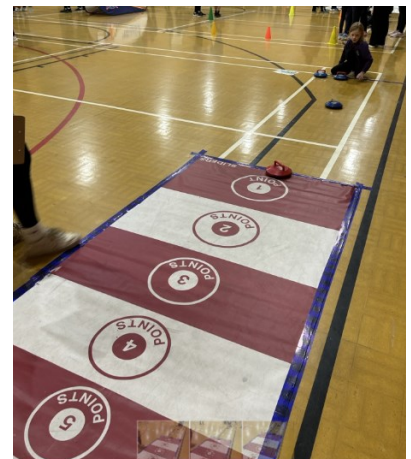
Mrs Dumitrescu, Mrs Norman and Miss Humphreys



Year 5 Busybees Update



Year 5 have had a busy week and continue to work hard. This week has been Children's Mental Health week. We have been thinking about emotions and how they can affect us. We have made Picasso inspired portraits as well as writing letters to ourselves about all the things we are proud of. We also had our second music workshop with Saffron Hall this week. We discussed climate change and the impact it is having on our world and the things we can do to help. We then thought of and wrote ideas for a song which we will share at Saffron Hall after half term. In PE, we have continued to practise our dance ahead of the dance show in March—it is coming together fantastically and the children are working so hard! Also, a huge well done to a few members of the class that attended a sporting event at Lord Butler and came second—excellent teamwork!



Mrs Potter, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Flack and Ms Brighton



Y6 Dragonflies Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week was a week of beginnings - children started lots of work in different subjects that actually ended up needing more than one lesson to cover!

In RE, we explored how Christians use the idea of sacrifice to inspire themselves and others to make the world a better place. The children have been using the computers to design their own posters, which they hope to unveil in next week's update—watch this space!

In Geography, we put our map skills to the test by learning how to find cities using longitude and latitude, as well as six-figure grid references. The class showed fantastic accuracy, and I was really impressed with how quickly they picked up the method. Can your child remember the steps they took to pinpoint a location?

Maths had us tackling some tricky measurement work. Reading scales with different intervals proved to be quite a challenge at first, but the children showed real perseverance. After adding an extra lesson to practise, everyone came away feeling much more confident—great resilience from Year 6!

In English, we began writing our news reports about *The Highwayman*. To get into the mindset of real reporters, we watched BBC News reports and analysed how journalists deliver the news. Some children have gone all out, turning the Highwayman into a full-blown villain, while others have even created their own 'Highwayman News' channels!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr Clarke and Miss Driscoll

