

Class Updates - 31.01.2025

Reception Butterflies update



The children have been busy little butterflies once again this week! We have been focusing on the numbers 6, 7, 8 in Maths; finding, recognising, subitising and building their numbers.

All the children have been working very hard on their writing skills, segmenting and blending words in Phonics and writing booklets about the seasons.

In RE we have been talking about Chinese New Year and all the traditions that are celebrated.

In PE we have moved on to developing ball skills using our feet, kicking and dribbling the balls using different parts of the foot.

Our topic focus this week has been the stars. We have been learning about how stars are formed and looking at constellations. In Art we made our own star paintings, inspired by the work of Yayoi Kusama.



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



Year 1 Ladybirds Update

This week we enjoyed a trip to Saffron Walden Museum. We had a workshop linked to our history topic– toys. We also investigated old and new toys.

In Forest school, we made the most of the mud and water and created our own mud slides. We jumped in puddles and enjoyed sliding down the big muddy hills. We have finished writing our non-chronological reports in English this week, which sit proudly on our class English display for all to see. In art this week, we used rules to draw straight lines and tissue paper squares to represent our version of Pier Mondrian’s work.

**Mrs Holmes, Ms Tickle,
Mrs Slade and Mrs Tagg**





Year 2 Caterpillars Update

This week has been full of exciting learning across all subjects!

In **Maths**, we have been focusing on multiplication and division, developing our understanding of grouping and sharing and using arrays to solve problems.

In **English**, we have been working hard on our adventure stories. We have been paying special attention to our use of tenses to make sure our writing is clear and engaging.

In **RE**, we have been exploring the Easter story by making our own crosses to represent different parts of this important event. The children did a fantastic job on following each instruction to make these a success.

In **Science**, we have been investigating minibeasts and their microhabitats. The children have enjoyed learning about the different creatures that live in our local environment and what makes each habitat special.

In **PSHE**, we have been discussing British Values, particularly the importance of rules in our daily lives and how they help us stay safe and happy. The children were very engaged and came up with numerous examples of where we use British Values in school and everyday life.

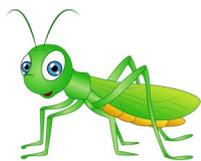
Well done to everyone for their hard work – we are looking forward to even more learning next week!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Brown, Mrs Wulfse and Miss Sykes.



Year 3 Grasshoppers Update



In Maths, we have been focusing on and practising the bus stop method for division. I am happy to see the children now becoming much more confident with this method.

In English, we have been writing diary entries about the boy's experiences with Om's family in Stone Age Boy. The improvement in writing this week has been great to see.

In Geography, we looked at where in the world volcanoes are and the different types. The children labelled pictures of the 2 types of volcano—Shield and Composite and explored the 'Ring of Fire'.

In Science, we used torches to see what impact changing the position of the light source had on shadows. They then drew around the shadows created so show the different positions created.

On Thursday, we went to Lord Butler for an Active Maths afternoon. It was really fun and the children had a really good time combining PE and Maths! Massive congratulations to the children from our class that took part in the Indoor Athletics tournament, coming **FIRST!**

Mr Pike, Mrs Smith and Miss Dye





Year 4 Fireflies Update

It's been another busy week in the Fireflies Class!

As part of our Maths unit we moved on from studying fractions to decimals. This followed Monday's lesson, when the children used great reasoning skills to solve Maths fraction word problems.

In Geography, we have been making models of river basins. We looked at the three stages of river formation: the upper, lower and middle courses, highlighting features such as floodplains and the river mouth.

On Wednesday, the Year 4 indoor athletics team attended a competition hosted by Dame Bradbury's School. The whole team performed really well with some stellar performances by many of the children in their individual and team events. The behaviour of all the St. Mary's pupils was exemplary and they showed great sportsmanship to all the other schools. We would all like to thank Miss Driscoll for her organisation and training for the event.

Mrs Dumitrescu, Mrs Norman and Miss Humphreys



Year 5 Busybees Update



A busy and fantastic week in Year 5! The children have started writing their own stories inspired by Beowulf and have got some fantastic imaginations! In maths, we have been looking at decimals and finding equivalent decimals and fractions. In RE, we talked about who was responsible for Jesus' death and drew a 'responsibility pie' - we then had to justify our choices. This week also saw the start of a music project that we are doing with Saffron Hall. This project has been developed in response to the need to provide accurate, age appropriate, evidence based education around our changing climate and its impact and to explore questions such as: "How can we better understand our connection to the world around us? How can we balance our personal needs with the health of the planet? How can we be positive contributors to a sustainable future?" This immersive project – led by folk musician Hazel Askew and Cambridge University's Sarah Sharp, explores how there are no 'right answers' to these questions, but how in thinking about the future and the decisions we make, we can keep contributing to positive change.

A great week team - have a lovely weekend!



Mrs Potter, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Flack and Ms Brighton



Y6 Dragonflies Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 6 have had a thoughtful and reflective week, learning of some serious historical events and also some out-there thought experiments!

In RE, we learned about the Holocaust and attended a powerful talk by Crina Moreanu, who spoke about the Roma experience during this time and the discrimination they continue to face today. The children were incredibly engaged and showed real empathy during the discussion. They then created their own posters to advocate for inclusion and to spread awareness of how we can prevent history from repeating itself!

In PSHCE, we created our ideal friend, thinking about the traits we value in friendships. The children then reflected on themselves, considering which of those traits they already have and which they'd like to develop further. It was a great opportunity for self-reflection, and they showed real maturity in thinking about how they can grow as individuals.

In Geography, we explored the water cycle, breaking it down step by step. The children drew their own detailed diagrams and labelled each part, showing a great understanding of how water moves through our world. We also considered the problems that might arise when something disrupts the water cycle!

Science had us diving into the mechanics of sight and colour. The children learned how our eyes allow us to see and how light plays a role in creating colours. Can your child remember any of the strange facts about how we see?

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr Clarke and Miss Driscoll

