

# Class Updates - 21.11.2025

## Reception Butterflies update



It's been cold outside but that hasn't slowed down Butterfly class! We have wrapped up warm and stayed busy inside and outside.

We have continued to progress through phonics and spellings, learning the sounds v, w, x and y and using them in our writing and spelling.

In Maths we have looked in depth at the numbers 4 and 5 and taken part in lots of activities to recognise, build and represent numbers.

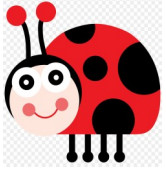
Our topic focus this week has been the celebration of Diwali and we have been making Diwa lamps from salt dough and painting and decorating them.

In RE we are talking about the Christmas story and practising our Nativity songs. We will all be angels in the production. Please see Tapestry for a message about costumes.

In PE we have been enjoying creating obstacle courses, developing gross motor skills and strengthening our core.

Have a lovely weekend and stay warm!

**Miss Nicholson, Miss Hunter and Miss Murnane**



## Year 1 Ladybirds Update

A chilly week full of fabulous learning!

**Maths:** We are nearing the end of our addition and subtraction within 10 topic. This week we consolidated this and ended the week comparing addition and subtraction number sentences.



**English:** We have continued reading Meesha makes Friends. This week we have written our own poem verse, written character thought bubbles, sequenced the story pictures and retold the story.

**Science:** This week we went exploring around the school grounds for signs of winter. Now that the temperature has dropped and the trees are bare, we have been able to use our observation skills to identify signs of winter.

**Courageous Advocacy:** We have been exploring 'is it fair to share our plastic rubbish?' and looking at how other countries are being impacted by the plastic we send. We decided as a class recycle and reusing was better for our environment. In the coming weeks we will be creating a Christmas decoration made from lolly sticks to sell at our Christmas fair.

**DT:** We have began researching different slider and lever mechanisms and decided which one we would like to use for our Christmas card. We used the iPads to create a rough design which supports our chosen mechanism.

## Mrs Holmes and the Year One team



## Year 2 Caterpillars Update



### Maths

This week, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction using the *formal written method*. The children have been working hard to make sure their digits are lined up correctly in the ones and tens columns before calculating. We have been very impressed with their determination and growing confidence in setting out their work neatly and accurately.

### English

In English, we continued our story work with *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. We used the five senses to describe how Plop felt when he saw the fireworks lighting up the dark sky. The children created some fantastic descriptive sentences, thinking carefully about what Plop might see, hear, smell, feel and even taste! Their imaginations and vocabulary choices were brilliant.

### Science

Our Science learning has been all about things that are *alive, never alive, or once alive*. The children sorted a variety of pictures into the correct categories, using criteria such as whether something needs water, can move, or requires nutrition to survive. They showed excellent reasoning and great teamwork during this activity.

### Nativity Rehearsals

Finally, we have been rehearsing our Nativity—and what a fantastic job the children are doing! I am incredibly proud of how well the performance is coming together. Many of the children have already learnt their lines, and everyone is putting in so much effort. Well done, Year 2!

We are looking forward to another great week of learning ahead.

### Mr Brown & the Year 2 Team





## Year 3 Grasshoppers Update

What a wonderfully busy and engaging week we've had in Year 3!

This week we began our new unit on multiplication and division. The children have been practising and applying multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4, and 8 times tables. We've been exploring patterns, using arrays and building confidence with quick recall. In English, the children have been writing their own imaginative stories inspired by *Winter's Child*. We focused on story sentences, use of vocabulary and ensuring we included the different parts of our story mountain. The creativity on display has been fantastic!

In Computing, we explored digital art by using an online drawing app to create our own pictures. This led to a thoughtful discussion about the differences between hand-drawing and digital drawing and which methods the children found easier or more challenging. As part of our work on healthy lifestyles, we examined and compared different food labels in Science. The class then used their findings to plan what a healthy eating day could look like. They showed great reasoning when discussing balanced choices!

This week in RE, we discussed behaviour, how we learn it, and who influences us.

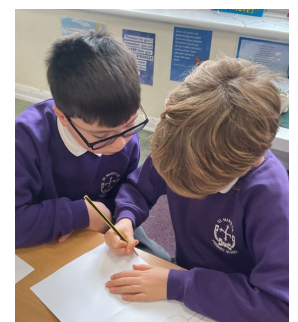
We continued our conversations around fairness and equality, broadening our thinking to fairness around the world. The class learned that one of the United Nations' global goals is for everyone to have clean water and sanitation, which introduced us to World Toilet Day on 19th November! The children loved finding out more about this important issue. Inspired, they carried out school toilet surveys and created informative posters about the importance of clean sanitation—both locally and globally.

We wrapped up our week with an exciting local field trip. In groups, the children explored our local area to identify human and physical features. The fieldwork was a great success and the children were enthusiastic geographers throughout!

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another week of curiosity and learning!

Have a lovely weekend.

### Mrs Potter and the Year 3 team





## Year 4 Fireflies Update

We have had a really lovely week this week!

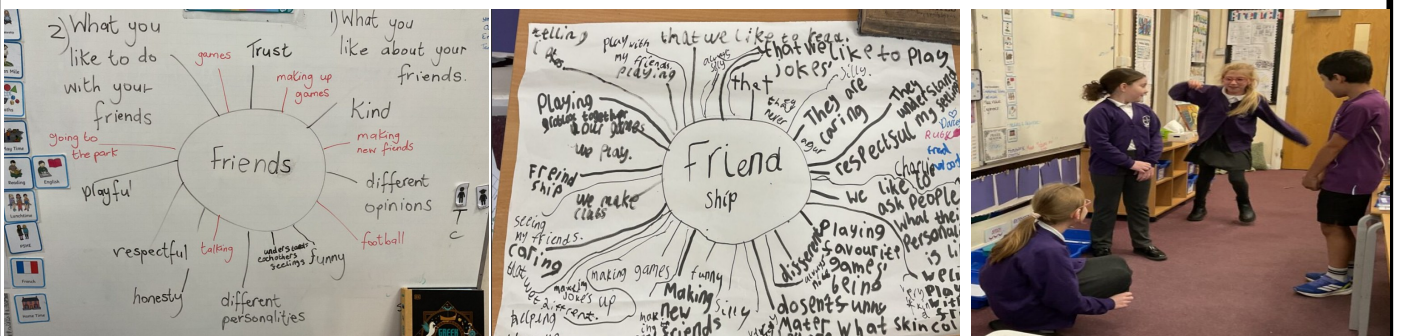
In **English**, as part of our focus on Ancient Greek myths, the children acted out scenes from some pottery images and retold the story. They had great fun and were really enthusiastic, it was lovely to see such wonderful team work.

In **DT**, we are focusing on plans for children's toys, based on dolls and cars from Ancient Greek times. The children spent time conducting research with children in Year 5, to find out which designs and features they preferred, in preparation for the sketching of their final ideas soon.

The focus in **PSHCE** this week has been friendships and what qualities we look for in a friend. The class worked together to discuss scenarios and treatment of others that was acceptable and unacceptable.

Well done on another great week Fireflies, I look forward to the next one.

### *Mrs Tagg and the Year 4 team*





## Year 5 Busybees Update

This week, in maths, we have been practising short multiplication up to 5 digits by one digit. This is a great opportunity for the class to use their times tables skills as well as checking accuracy.

In English, we started our new English unit based around the book, Beowulf. We started by predicting what the story could be about based on the front cover alone. We then spoke about a 'hero' and the qualities they could/should possess. This opened up lots of interesting conversation. We then looked at 'great (mead) halls' and imagined what it would have been like inside one. The children wrote some amazing descriptive pieces using this as a stimulus.

In Science, this week, we were focusing on friction. The class conducted a small experiment using different objects and different surfaces to see which created the most/least friction.

In R.E comprehension, we read 'The Prodigal Son' and spoke in depth about the moral of the parable and how the different characters reacted and how we would have felt in a similar situation.

In Geography, we identified the countries the Alps go through and where they are situated on a map of Europe.

**Mr Pike, Mrs Smith, Miss Driscoll**





## Year 6 Dragonflies update

It's been another action-packed week in Year 6, with a few gruesome facts learnt along the way!

In English, we began writing our own persuasive letters to people we believe can help stop the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef. After watching clips from Blue Planet, the whole class agreed how sad it was to see such beauty and life under threat from human actions. The children have been putting all their persuasive skills to good use—thinking carefully about tone, structure, and emotional impact to convince their reader that change needs to happen.

In Maths, it's been all about angles. The children have been learning how to draw them accurately, measure them using a protractor, and find missing angles in triangles. Can your child explain how to use a protractor correctly?

We also had a brilliant visit to Saffron Walden Library this week. The children learned how to use the Dewey Decimal System to find the books they wanted, and then we revisited our last topic on the Maya civilisation. The class went on a non-fiction fact hunt through different books, and even managed to impress the librarian with everything they remembered!

In History, we travelled back to ancient Egypt and explored their ideas about medicine. The children took part in a fast-paced relay quiz, racing to answer questions about Egyptian medical beliefs. Can your child remember any of the weird and wonderful treatments they used? (Let's just say we won't be trying most of them at home...)

In Computing, we used Scratch to programme a story-novel game, where the user would give input to questions but the game would play out without the user having to move characters! Some of the children were very ingenious in how they ordered their stories and questions, giving different options that had very different outcomes. We even got a chance to play each others' too!

In Science, we've taken a closer look at what's actually in blood. Building on last week's learning about the heart, the children used a range of materials to model the components of blood, including plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Can your child explain what the job of each part is?

Have a fantastic weekend!

**Mr Clarke**

