

Class Updates - 19.06.2026



Reception Butterflies update

The weeks are flying by in Butterflies! This week we have been continuing our learning about the seaside, reading poems, stories and non-fiction books about life by the sea.

The children have amazed us with their writing, creating their own books based on the story of the Sea Saw by Tom Percival, using all the sounds and tricky words they have been learning.

In Maths we are looking at sharing and grouping, sharing out food between plates and working out how many fields we need to group the farm animals.

In RE we read the Islamic story Bilal and the Beautiful Butterfly which teaches of the beauty of everything in Creation.

We have also begun practising for Sports Day in our PE sessions, getting ready for the races!



Miss Nicholson and the Reception team



Year 1 Ladybirds Update

We have had an incredible week this week and had lots of fun at Linton Zoo. Photos will be included in next weeks newsletter.

PE: This week we focused on team building. We played several games where we had to work together as a team to travel across an area. We had lots of giggles and fun problem solving!

Forest school: We enjoyed some time in the sunshine making elder beads, exploring the sensory ladder and playing with the water toy!

Maths: We have been busy counting within 100 this week, comparing numbers and counting backwards and forwards. Next week we are going to be counting and identifying money!

Mrs Holmes and the Year One team





Year 2 Caterpillars Update

This week in Maths, we have continued to build on our knowledge of shape. The children have confidently identified and labelled a range of 2D and 3D shapes, as well as describing their properties, including the number of sides, vertices and faces.

In English, we have continued exploring our new class text and developing our descriptive writing skills. The children have been using a variety of sentence types to make their writing more engaging, while also applying their prediction skills to learn more about the characters and their actions as the story unfolds.

In RE, we have been learning about a range of religious and non-religious worldviews and how people express their beliefs through their actions and choices. The children have enjoyed discussing different perspectives and considering how beliefs can influence the way people live their lives.

In Topic, we have continued our learning about the Bayeux Tapestry. The children matched images from the tapestry to their corresponding captions and explored the events leading up to William the Conqueror's coronation. This has helped them develop a deeper understanding of the significant events surrounding the Norman Conquest.

A gentle reminder: if your child has any school reading books at home that they have finished reading, please could these be returned to school as soon as possible. This will help us ensure that all children have access to a wide range of books.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Brown and the Year 2 team.





Year 3 Grasshoppers Update

.This week, we began a new Maths unit on shapes and angles. The children have been learning to identify different types of angles and have enjoyed spotting examples of angles in the world around them. In English, we continued our persuasive writing unit, using *Zerraffa Giraffa* as our focus text.

In Science, our focus has been on working scientifically. We started by recapping our learning from our Light unit before carrying out an investigation using data loggers. The children measured and compared lux levels in different locations, collecting and analysing data to draw conclusions.

In PE, we have been busy practising for athletics events and Sports Day, developing our running, throwing and jumping skills while working on teamwork and perseverance.

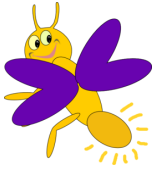
In RE, we learned about the significance of a mosque to Muslims. We explored the different parts of a mosque, their names, and the purpose they serve within Islamic worship and community life.

In History, we compared life in the Iron Age with the Stone Age and Bronze Age. The children considered the advantages and challenges of each period before deciding which age they would have preferred to live in and explaining their reasoning.

We have had a fantastic week of learning and look forward to another busy week ahead!



Mrs Potter and the Year 3 team



Year 4 Fireflies Update

A busy week down in Fireflies class!

In **Maths**, we have continued our topic of 'time', focusing on the difference between analogue and digital clocks and the difference between the 12 and 24-hour clock. The class have managed this really well with lots of hands-on practical activities. Please do try to give your child lots of opportunity to see the time in on different displays, both 12 and 24-hour, to really reinforce this learning.

In **English**, I have been really impressed by the letters the children have produced, as cave explorers. We have focused this week on expanded noun phrases and possessive apostrophes for singular nouns, but it has been so lovely to see how the class have tried hard to include lots of different Year 4 features in their writing. I have also seen an increase in children wanting to share their pieces with the rest of the class at the end of the lesson and some great editing ideas during our starters. A big well done, Fireflies!

In **Science**, the class explored temperature and how this is measured with thermometers. They worked in pairs to take readings inside and outside, comparing temperatures in the sun to those in the shade, as well as different water temperatures. It was great as always to see their collaboration and sharing of ideas.

In **RE** this week, we have focused on Christian Bible teachings which link to sacrifice. The class considered how Holy Communion, Baptism and Jesus' Crucifixion represent sacrifice and thought hard about what this teaches Christians in their daily lives.

Wishing you a restful weekend,

Mrs Tagg and the Year 4 team.





Year 5 Busybees Update

This week, Year 5 completed their end-of-year assessments. We are proud of the children, who all worked hard, showed resilience, and tried their very best throughout the assessment period. Their positive attitudes and determination have been wonderful to see.

In PSHCE, we completed our anti-racism unit by creating artwork that celebrates inclusivity, equality, and equity. The children produced thoughtful and creative pieces that reflected the importance of respecting and valuing everyone.

In Science/RSE, we explored different emotions, discussing how we might feel in a variety of situations and learning healthy strategies to manage and cope with our feelings. Next week we will be moving onto changes and how they will impact their bodies.

In English, we continued learning about Jean-Michel Basquiat, focusing on the next stage of his life and how he became a world-famous artist. The children enjoyed discovering how his unique style, life experiences and determination led to his success.

In Geography, the children identified the largest deserts on each continent before using the iPads to research other deserts around the world. They discovered fascinating facts about these unique environments and compared their climates, wildlife, and locations.

Mr Pike, Mrs Smith, Miss Humphreys, Miss Driscoll



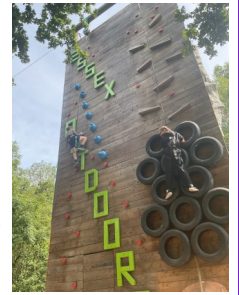
Year 6 Residential Trip—Danbury Trip

Day 1

After an exciting journey, we arrived safely at Danbury and got settled into our cabins. Some of the children approached unpacking with military precision... while others appeared to be preparing for a permanent relocation! Several of the girls have transformed their cabins into luxury accommodation, complete with fairy lights and enough belongings to survive for several months.

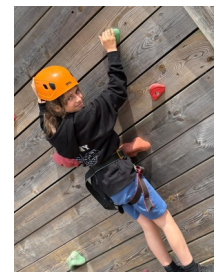


Once we were settled, it was straight into our first activities. Some groups tackled the climbing wall, where Mr Clarke was challenged to beat the class record of 17 seconds. We'll let your children tell you whether he managed to rise to the occasion or not! Other groups took on the low-ropes obstacle course and quickly discovered that balancing, climbing and squeezing through obstacles was much trickier than it first appeared.



Next, it was time to put our brains to work. Groups headed off to take part in problem-solving challenges, orienteering activities and even fire-making. It was fantastic to see the children working together, showing resilience and encouraging one another as they tackled new challenges.

All that activity had certainly built up an appetite, and dinner was very well received. The menu featured various forms of spaghetti, garlic bread and a chocolate pudding dessert, which disappeared remarkably quickly!



In the evening, we headed out onto the fields for some energetic games. The children played three different versions of 'It' before finishing with a highly competitive game of bulldog!

To round off our first day, we enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits before heading back to our cabins. We are now settling down for what we are sure will be an early night and lots of sleep for Mr Clarke, Ms Driscoll and Mrs Burgess... although experience suggests that optimism may be doing quite a lot of



heavy lifting in that sentence!

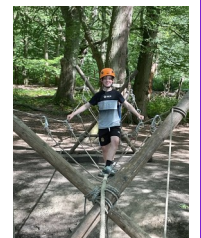
Day 2



Well, it turns out that yesterday's optimism about an early night was rather sorely misplaced! While the staff were hoping for a peaceful evening, many of the cabins were still busy chatting well past midnight. One particular boys' cabin even managed a double whammy by staying awake until gone 12 and then being up and ready for the day again at 4:30am! Quite how they are still functioning remains one of the great mysteries of the residential.

Despite the lack of sleep, the children have had an absolutely fantastic day and have thrown themselves into every challenge with enthusiasm.

One of the highlights was the Leap of Faith. It was wonderful to see the children encouraging one another to climb higher, push through their nerves and take the leap. Mr Clarke also had a go and received plenty of encouragement from the children too - although their chants of "Fall! Fall! Fall!" suggested it may have been a slightly different kind of support!



Elsewhere, groups explored the caving system, squeezing through tunnels and navigating dark passages, while others put their map-reading skills to the test by tracking down clues during orienteering activities. The children also worked together to build bridges and enjoyed a well-earned marshmallow treat after building more fires.

The children have also been keen to share some of their own talents during downtime by teaching Ms Driscoll how to do a headstand. We're not sure the St Mary's school insurance covers her potential injuries though!

We rounded off the evening with some French cricket, followed by a football match against another school. After all that excitement, it was time for the now-traditional hot chocolate and biscuits before heading back to the cabins.

Day 3



After the sleep-related chaos of the previous night, we were very impressed with the maturity shown by the Year 6s. Before bed, we had a chat about how important a decent night's sleep would be before the third day of residential, as it is usually the busiest day of the week. The children took this on board and, whilst nobody was exactly racing to get into bed early, all of the cabins were asleep by 11pm. Compared to the night before, that felt like a major victory!

We've had a brilliant day because of it.

Today's activities included aerial trekking, where the children tackled an obstacle course suspended over 30 feet in the air. There were some nervous moments at the start, but everyone got stuck in and gave it a go.

We also headed out mountain biking through the forest trails, completed team obstacle challenges and saw our final groups take on the Leap of Faith.

This evening, we all gathered around the campfire for a ghost story and some marshmallows. Fortunately, nobody was too traumatised by the story - but Mr Clarke did get them with a jump-scare! Once the fire was finished, we headed onto the field for a few games of 'It' before making our way back inside.

We then continued the residential tradition: hot chocolate and biscuits. Tonight's entertainment afterwards was the England match. Unfortunately, bedtime arrived at half-time, so we had to leave the children on a cliffhanger. We are sure there will be plenty of excitement tomorrow morning when they find out the final score.

The children are doing really well. They're definitely tired now, but they're still having a great time and making the most of every activity. Interestingly, all three groups have told us that the best activities are still to come on Thursday, so there is plenty of excitement still at hand.

Hopefully the sleep success continues tonight. We won't get too confident after yesterday's false dawn, but we're feeling cautiously optimistic!

Day 4

It's hard to believe that we're already approaching the end of our residential. The children have packed a huge amount into the week and today was no exception.

The big attraction for many today was the zipline. It was great to see how differently the children approached it. Some were immediately asking to be spun around and were attempting various poses while flying through the air, while others took a little longer to build up their confidence before stepping off the platform. Regardless of how they felt at the start, every child gave it a go and should be proud of themselves for doing so.

We also had a fantastic time at archery. As always, a healthy dose of competition quickly emerged, with various challenges and contests taking place throughout the session. Despite the children's best efforts, however, Ms Driscoll remained undefeated, even when they combined all of their scores together against hers and the instructor's!

One group also had the opportunity to head out onto the water in canoes before the other two groups tackle the canoes tomorrow. They were so impressive that the instructor told us they were able to attempt more challenges than most groups because of how well they worked together. At one point, they even managed a challenge where everybody had to swap boats at the same time without ending up in the lake (a task which sounds much easier than it actually is!).

The children have been brilliant all week and today was another example of that. They've thrown themselves into every activity, encouraged one another and shown a lot of resilience when faced with challenges. A huge amount of energy has been expended over the last four days. They've run themselves ragged, had a lot of fun, and I think they're all more than ready for our final day tomorrow.

