

Class Updates: Friday 23rd October 2026

Reception: Butterfly Class



And just like that, we have reached the end of our first half term! The children have worked so hard and settled into school life and routines. They have absolutely earned a well-deserved break!



We have completed the first stage of our Phase 2 phonics, and it has been lovely to see the children beginning to use their new sounds in their writing and spelling. We have also enjoyed some excellent number work within 5, shared lots of wonderful stories and got creative with arts and crafts in the classroom.



On Friday, we celebrated Light Day with the rest of the school, focusing on “Jesus is the Light of the World” and thinking about how we can share light, love and kindness with others.

We also had a fabulous African drumming workshop, where the children loved exploring different rhythms, making lots of noise and joining in with the music!



We enjoyed a lovely, chilly but sunny morning at Forest School, with plenty of fresh air, exploration and physical activity!



We are so proud of all the children have achieved this half term and how much they have grown in confidence. Thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful, restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for more learning, fun and adventures!

Miss Nicholson and the Reception class team

Year 1: Ladybird Class



A fun-filled week in year 1 for our final week of this half term!

In honour of Black History Month, we had a brilliant African drumming workshop, where the children played different rhythms, listen and responded, learnt how using different parts of their hands on the drum makes different pitch and showed off their drumming skills! In addition to this, we have looked closely at Dr Martin Luther King and his 'I have a dream' speech. We came up with our own special dreams we wished for every child to have.

PE: This week we played our own ball games. We created our own games, invited different people to play, explained how to play and encouraged each other to try each other's games. We learnt to share equipment and spoke about appropriate reactions and emotions to have towards one another when game playing.

Art: This week we used charcoal to create aboriginal patterns. It was tricky trying not to smudge it!

Maths: We have been busy adding within 10 this week. We have been using cubes, our fingers, pictorials and more!

Light Day: Year 1 focused on the Chinese Lantern Festival and created lots of fun crafts to celebrate this!

After half-term, can toys from home stay at home please. We hope you have a relaxing half term and enjoy your time off! ***Mrs Holmes and the Year 1 team***



Year 2: Caterpillar Class



We've had another busy and exciting week in Caterpillars!

In Maths, we've been learning to count forwards and backwards in tens from any number. The children have been working hard to spot patterns and understand how the tens change while the ones stay the same.

In English, we've been writing our own diary entries imagining that we had blasted off into space to visit the Moon or other planets! The children have produced some of the best writing we've seen so far this year, with some wonderful descriptions of their adventures. It's been particularly pleasing to see how much their hard work on capital letters and full stops is paying off!

In Art, we finally got to create our own prints inspired by the work of Andy Warhol! The children had a brilliant time experimenting with colours and repeating their designs to create their own Pop Art masterpieces. There were some fantastic creations, and it was lovely to see the children putting everything they've learnt about Warhol's style into practice.

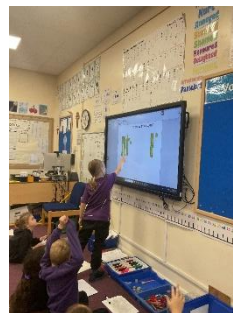
In Music, we were lucky enough to have some special visitors who came to teach us about African drumming! The children had a wonderful time exploring different rhythms and getting the chance to try out the drums themselves. There was certainly plenty of noise and enthusiasm! A big thank you to Mr Brown for organising such a fantastic experience.

For PE, we put our dance moves to the test with some Just Dance – the enthusiasm and fun even tempted the office ladies out of their comfy den to join us in busting some moves!

Finally, in Geography, things took a rather dramatic turn when Captain Redbeard launched a surprise attack on Caterpillars! He stormed into the classroom, soaked everyone with his water cannon and then made a speedy escape before we could catch him! Thankfully, Captain Blackbeard soon arrived and led us on a mission to track down the troublesome pirate. Our search eventually took us all the way to Australia, where the children had a fantastic time exploring this fascinating country. We looked at its weather, landscapes, wildlife and homes. Can your child tell you anything about the weather, landscape, wildlife or homes there?

Have a wonderful half term break, Caterpillars!

Mr Clarke



Year 3: Grasshopper Class



What a fantastic first half term we have had in Year 3! The children have worked incredibly hard, settled into their new routines and shown growing confidence, independence and resilience in their learning. We have explored Ancient Egypt, compared important religious ceremonies, investigated magnets and forces, created Egyptian-inspired artwork and written some wonderful letters and stories.

This week, we have continued to build on our learning. In Maths, we have been using the column method to add and subtract, developing our understanding of how to set out our calculations carefully and accurately.

In English, we have been writing the openings of our own desert stories. The children have been using fronted adverbials to describe the setting and create atmosphere, as well as varying their sentence lengths to engage the reader and build suspense as their mysterious creatures begin to appear.

In Science, we made our own compasses and explored how they help us to find directions. We have also rounded off our learning about forces and magnets by designing and making our own magnetic board games. The children have enjoyed putting their scientific knowledge into practice and testing out their creations.

We have also enjoyed some special experiences this week. Our drumming workshop was a wonderful opportunity to explore rhythm and music while celebrating Black History Month. We also enjoyed our Light Day, learning all about Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and exploring its significance and traditions.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this first half term. The children have achieved so much and I hope they feel proud of everything they have accomplished.

Have a wonderful, well-deserved half-term break. Enjoy some time to relax and recharge and I look forward to seeing everyone back soon for another exciting half term in Year 3!

Mrs Potter



Year 4: Firefly Class



The final week of a very busy half term down in Fireflies class!

In **Maths**, we have ended our focus on addition and subtraction by estimating answers and checking strategies. The class have worked hard to draw upon their knowledge of different methods and decide which is the most efficient for specific number problems. There has been lots of collaboration in the class and on top of this, they have all shown a great commitment to their times tables. I have seen an increase in fluency across the class, and I am very proud of them all.

In **English**. We have finished our non-chronological reports based on Katherine Johnson. The children used their own independent research and thought really hard about how best to apply their grammar learning, to make their pieces factual and exciting to read. Well done, Fireflies!

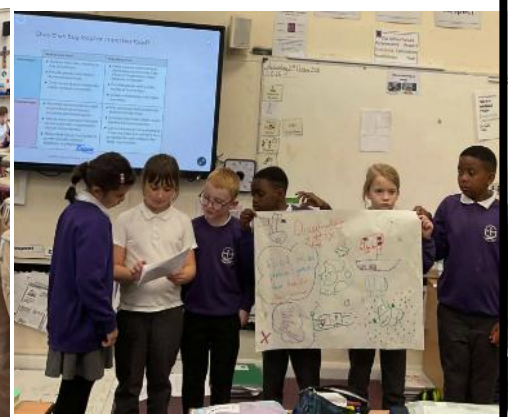
We concluded our **Geography** topic by recapping our learning from this half term about where our food comes from, what it means to trade sustainably and the impact of food miles on our environment. The children worked in groups to argue the pros and cons of foods which are sourced locally and food which is imported. They then presented their arguments and as always, I was impressed by their collaboration and efforts.

We were lucky enough to participate in an African drumming workshop this week and the class had lots of fun learning about different drum types, following different drumming patterns and creating some of their own for the whole class to follow! It was lovely to see their enthusiasm and creativity.

As we wind down for a half term break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and their individual personalities over the last eight weeks. Seeing their confidence grow in all aspects of learning and most importantly, within themselves, has been an absolute pleasure and I am so excited to see what we achieve as a class in the coming months.

Wishing you a restful week,

Mrs Tagg and Mrs Tickle



Year 5: Busybee Class



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 5! The children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum, and I am very proud of their efforts as we reach the end of this half term.

This week, we have been working very hard in maths! We have been using number lines to develop our understanding of place value and using intervals to help us divide and calculate missing numbers. The children have shown great perseverance as they have tackled these challenges.

In English, we have finished our diary entries based on the life of Bessie Coleman – well done, Year 5! The children have written brilliantly, making excellent use of the key features of diary writing. I have been particularly impressed with their fantastic vocabulary choices and how they have taken the time to peer assess their final pieces, helping them to reflect on and improve their work.

In RE, we have completed our unit exploring our big question: *Creation vs Science – Complimentary or Contradictory?* The children came up with some fantastic responses, discussing how some Christians may believe in the Big Bang Theory and evolution, while others may interpret the creation story in Genesis differently. It has been wonderful to hear the children sharing their ideas and explaining their thinking so thoughtfully.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed their drumming workshop this week! They learned about African drumming, explored some of the history behind music in Africa and had the opportunity to practise different drumming rhythms and patterns. I was really impressed with how enthusiastically the children engaged with the session and worked together to create music.

As we break up for half term next week, there will be no homework set. The children have worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks, and I hope they enjoy a well-deserved rest and spend some lovely time with their families.

Thank you, Year 5, for all your hard work, enthusiasm and positivity this half term. I am very proud of everything you have achieved!

Have a fantastic half-term break, and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for another great half term.

Best wishes,

Mr Brown and the Year 5 Team



Year 6: Dragonfly Class



I cannot believe we have already completed the first half term of year 6! It has been great to see the class settle so quickly into being top of the school. They have been fantastic buddies to the Reception children and taken on their other roles and responsibilities confidently.

This week, we have completed a range of assessments to help us understand the children's starting points and identify any gaps in their knowledge. These included a reading assessment and three maths assessments, following SATs-style procedures in preparation for the SATs in May.

In English, we explored creative writing inspired by Blitz pictures. The children used their senses to bring their descriptions to life and create vivid imagery for the reader.

In RE, we finished our unit by reflecting on our Big Question, *"What does it mean to be human?"*, and our sub-question, *"Is being happy the most important thing?"* The children thought deeply about these important questions and produced some amazing responses.

On Thursday, we had a fantastic African drumming session! Each child had their own drum and learnt how to hold and play it correctly. They took part in listen-and-repeat activities before performing to the rest of the school to showcase their new skills. It was certainly very loud but lots of fun! The session was also a brilliant challenge for developing timing and coordination.

We also enjoyed our half-term reward, which the children had worked hard to earn! This included some football fun as well as an afternoon of arts and crafts. It was lovely to see the children enjoying some well-deserved time to relax, be creative and celebrate their hard work.

Have a lovely, restful half term and I look forward to welcoming the children back for a busy Autumn 2.

Mr Pike, Mrs Smith & Miss Driscoll

