



School News

Spring 1 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding half term, I wanted to share a few positives that we have been working on over the last two weeks.

We have seen excellent progress across the curriculum, with a particular focus on improving handwriting. The children have worked with real determination, and we are looking forward to sharing their individual achievements with you at Parents' Evening after the break.

In the next term, we are looking forward to making some improvements to the school building. These changes will create better spaces for small-group work and interventions, allowing us to support pupils even more effectively.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a restful half term break and I look forward to welcoming the children back for another great term of learning and growth.

See you all on the Tuesday 24th February!

Best wishes

Mrs Harding

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 24 Febraury

Thursday 26 February

Thursday 5 March

Monday 9 March

Tuesday 10 March

Thursday 12 March

Monday 23 March

Tuesday 24 March

Thursday 26 March

Wednesday 1 April

Thursday 2 April

Parents Evening

Parents Evening

World Book Day

Buckland Abbey Year 4

Stay and Play Reception 9am

Compassion Assembly led by Year 3

Send parents meeting 2.15pm

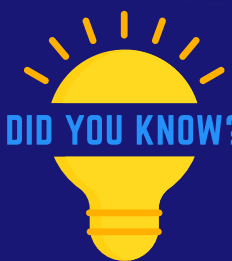
Tempest Photography Class Photo

Integrity Assembly led by Year 5

Way of the Cross assembly led by Year 6

Celebration Assembly 9am

Please ask in the office if you would like another paper copy of the school calendar for 2025-26.



DID YOU KNOW?

Detailed curriculum information regarding your child's learning this term can be found on the school website on the Class Pages under 'Our School.'

Housepoints



2nd

Pankhurst

3447

3rd

Thompson

3446

4th

Stephenson

3384

Discipleship Awards



Frankie

Lara

Isaac

Libby

Keshav

Caroline

Dawid



Whole School Events



We recently held a highly successful Careers Event, giving the children the chance to learn about a wide range of professions. They explored what it's like to work in nursing, journalism, and mechanics, and they were fascinated to discover the variety of roles available within a large company such as Princess Yachts.

The children asked thoughtful, enthusiastic questions throughout, and it was wonderful to see their curiosity and ambition shine. We hope the experience has inspired them as they begin to imagine their own future pathways.

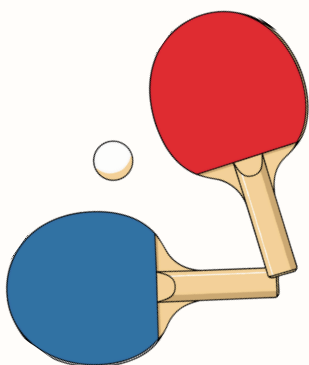


Whole School Events

The children let us know that they would like a chess club at school so Miss Saunders kindly set one up! A chess team was then selected to compete at a local competition – a first for the school and very exciting! They did themselves proud, showing amazing concentration and thinking carefully about their moves. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and outstanding behaviour, showing respect to their opponents and supporting each another. Miss Saunders was very proud of their effort, courage and positive attitude.



Cooking club has been really popular. They have baked cakes, biscuits and scones and they have also made some savoury items such as sausage rolls, pizza and carbonara.

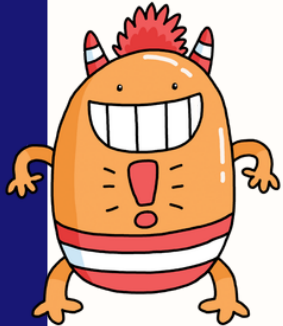


Many congratulations to Olivia Rukowska who has been crowned the Under 11 Table Tennis champion for the whole of Devon. Olivia tells me that she has achieved this through hard work and lots and lots of practice. She is an inspiration to us all of what you can achieve when you work hard at something! Well done Olivia!



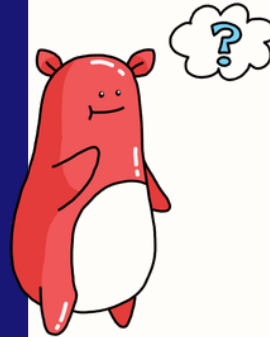
Learning Behaviour Awards

Problem- Solving



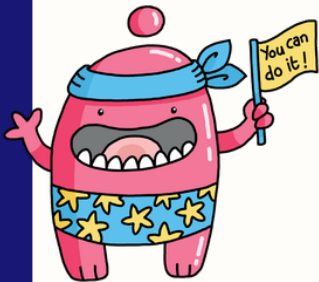
Mia
Liyana
Aimee
Joshua
Alarna
Hannah
Alfie

Reflective



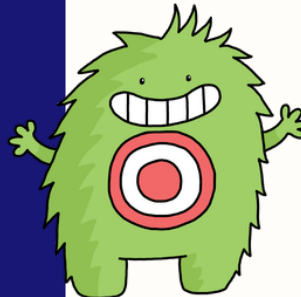
Irah
Hattie
Sade
Mia-Louise
Freya
Jacob
Ayla

Perseverance



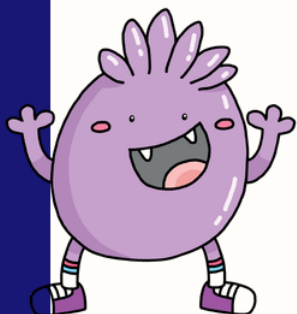
Grayson
Conall
Triumph
Zayn
Niko
Sonny
Isaac

Aspiration



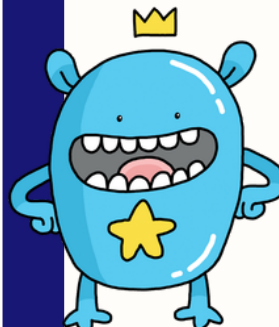
Olaf
Jaxon
Atlanta
Mia O'B
Albie
Ashwal
Gerard

Independence



Frankie
Alexander
Maisie H
Alan
Nevaeh
Autumn
Dominick

Co-operation



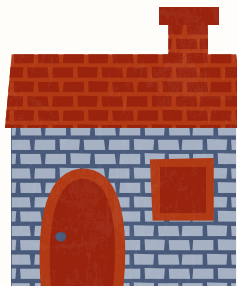
Nehal
Noah
Archer
Sean
Lana
Arlo
Antoni

Reception Class

Reception Class have been learning all about how we use oil pastels. We experimented with drawing lines and shapes and blending, before using what we had learnt to draw African animals and their patterns.



We built houses out of bricks and sticks for the Three Little Pigs and acted out the story using masks we had made.



We have been exploring ways of making 5 then 10 in Maths using Numicon and making our own patterns using numbers and shapes.

We welcomed our families to join us for a Stay & Play session and showed them how we learn through play in Reception.



Class One

This half term in History, we have been learning about Mother Teresa and the Taj Mahal. We were very excited to welcome Kartik's mum, who came in to talk to us about her visit to the Taj Mahal. We found out that elephants helped to build the Taj Mahal and that visiting it is a very unique experience. Kartik's mum told us that it has a calm and quiet atmosphere. We really enjoyed listening carefully and asking lots of questions to help us learn new information.



In Art this half term, we have been exploring the work of animal sculptor Pippa Hill. We talked about the unique qualities of her sculptures and shared what we liked and disliked about different pieces of her work. The children then practised their sketching skills, focusing carefully on animal features. After this, we designed our own animal sculptures before moving on to using clay and other materials to model our creations. We had lots of fun getting messy with the clay and were very proud of our finished animals.

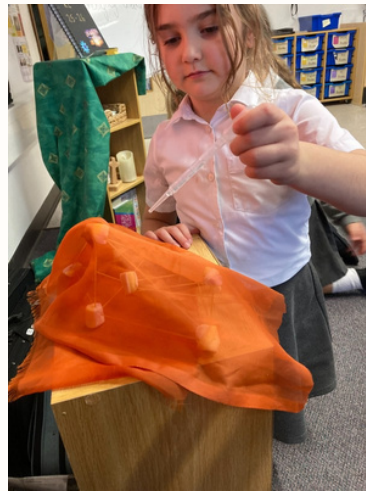
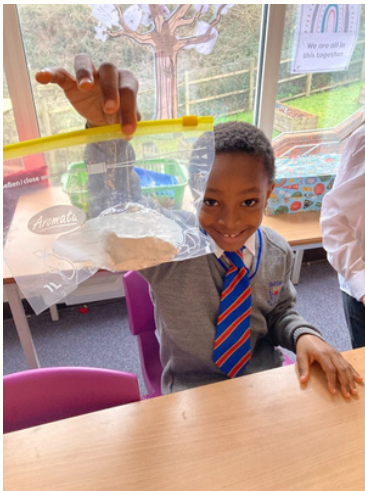


In English this half term, our focus text has been *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright. We read the story carefully and explored different features of the book. We then worked on using prefixes, suffixes and adjectives in our writing. After this, we planned our own versions of the story by changing the characters. We took great care and concentration when writing our stories, trying hard to remember everything we had learnt. To practise our Oracy skills, we read our stories to some of our friends and Mrs Harding. Miss Holt was very impressed with our writing.



Class Two

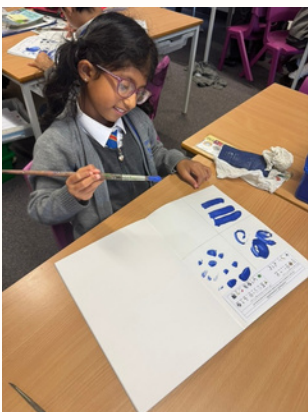
In Science, we have been investigating materials and their properties. We have carried out lots of experiments. We built houses from different materials such as wood, plastic, and fabric, and then tested their strength and whether they were waterproof. We also tested shock absorbency. In this investigation, we dropped eggs wrapped in different materials from a height to see which material prevented the egg from cracking. Finally, we discovered why tyres are made of rubber by rolling balls made of different materials down a ramp to see how far they would bounce back off the wall. We now know that rubber is the best material for a tyre because it absorbs shocks well and bounces back, making it strong and safe to use.



Year 2 presented a fantastic assembly focused on the Gospel value of Courage. We reflected on what it means to be brave and to stand up for what is right in our daily lives. We showed great confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm.



This half term in Art, we have been exploring the work of the famous artist Vincent van Gogh. We have been developing our drawing and painting techniques while studying Van Gogh's iconic *Starry Night*. We have enjoyed practising lines, swirls and dots, mixing colours, and experimenting with brushstrokes to create texture and movement in our artwork.



Class Three



We had a brilliant time at Kents Cavern where we got to handle artefacts and learn all about life in the Stone Age. Don't worry the skulls were only replicas! Thank you to our parents and carers for making contributions to the trip!



During our visit to the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, the children took part in Mass and had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist. Father Ignatius welcomed us warmly and guided the pupils through the different parts of the Mass, helping them recognise the prayers, responses, and moments of quiet reflection that shape our worship.

We learned that the Eucharist is a special time when Catholics remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. They explored the meaning of the bread and wine, understanding how these become powerful symbols of Jesus' love, and sacrifice. Many pupils were especially interested in seeing the altar up close and learning why it is such an important focal point during Mass.



Class Four

In Art, we have been exploring the imaginative work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, the artist famous for creating portraits made entirely from fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other natural objects. Using his playful style as inspiration, we created our own pastel portraits, carefully blending colours and choosing objects that could form facial features. We experimented with shading, texture, and composition, and had great fun seeing how everyday items could be transformed into expressive, characterful faces.



We created and led whole-school worship on the Gospel theme of Justice. We chose and wrote the prayers and readings ourselves, thinking carefully about how to share the message with others.

Everyone took part in delivering the worship to the whole school, and we felt proud to lead our community in reflecting on what justice means in our daily lives

In our Sound unit, we have been learning how vibrations travel and how sound moves from one place to another. To explore this, we designed and made our own string telephones, experimenting with different materials and lengths of string to see how these changes affected the clarity and volume of the sound. We loved testing our telephones around the school and were fascinated to discover how well sound can travel through a tight, stretched string.



Class Five

Welcome Miss Bentley!

We have had great fun getting to know our new teacher Miss Bentley and have taken real pride in helping her to settle into the Year 5 team. We have shown kindness, and a wonderful sense of welcome, making sure she feels part of our school community from the very start.

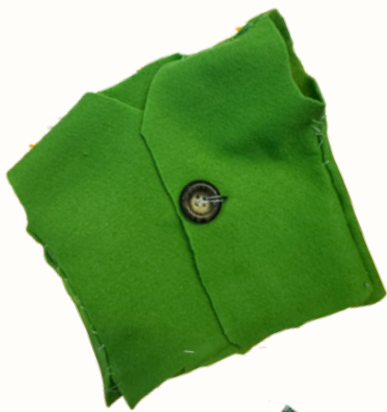


In DT, we have been creating our own pop-up books, experimenting with levers and sliders to make characters and scenes move. We have loved exploring how these mechanisms work and have shown great creativity in bringing our ideas to life.



Class Six

Y6 have been working incredibly hard as we continue our preparations for the SATs in May. In the run-up to half term, we completed our mock SATs – a great opportunity to practise test conditions and show all the progress we've made so far. Mrs Davenport is extremely proud of the maturity, focus and determination we have shown throughout the week. We approached each paper with a positive attitude and gave our very best!



We have been busy putting our Design & Technology skills to the test by creating our very own waistcoats – specially designed for a stuffed toy! Working from a design brief, we carefully measured and produced templates to make sure our fabric pieces were accurately shaped and sized. We learnt and practised key sewing techniques, including running stitch and blanket stitch, to join our materials, as well as how to securely sew on a button. Some of us went even further by using appliqué to add pockets and decorative details, showing our creativity and individuality. We are incredibly proud of the care, perseverance and craftsmanship we demonstrated – the finished waistcoats look fantastic!

