



Dear Parents and Carers,

As another term whizzes past, it seems only a very short time ago that the nights were dark and the weather was grey and miserable. Luckily, the weather has improved, the daffodils have bloomed and the sun has managed to peek through here and there throughout the past few weeks. With the brighter days has come a real burst of energy in school and this short term has certainly been a busy one.

The term could not have started in a more abrupt way, with Ofsted informing us on the very first morning that an inspection would take place that week. Ofsted visits are always intense periods where school life must continue as normal, but with the added complication of multiple meetings, observations, discussions and the usual scrutiny that an inspection brings. Despite this, the children made us incredibly proud in the way they welcomed the inspection team to Wessex and demonstrated *The Wessex Way* throughout. They acquitted themselves well in lessons and showed excellent manners and courtesy around school. Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the survey or spoke to inspectors. We were told that the vast majority of parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school. I would also like to thank the teachers, support staff and office staff who worked late and went the extra mile to help the school show its very best during the inspection. It is disappointing that we have not yet received the draft report for fact-checking before publication, but we hope it will arrive shortly after Easter so that we can share the findings with you.

This term's assemblies began by recognising that spring is an important time for many religions. Children learned about Ramadan and Eid, exploring generosity and self-control, and the festival of Holi with its messages of friendship, courage and new beginnings. They also learned about Easter and its themes of new life, fresh starts and hope after difficult times. It has been lovely to see pupils engaging so thoughtfully with these themes and sharing their own experiences of these festivals.

We were pleased to launch OPAL this term and introduce pupils to how lunchtimes will develop. Through our OPAL assembly, children learned about the CINI model and how they will help shape safer, more imaginative playtimes. After Easter, pupils will be able to use any playground at lunchtime as the first step in our OPAL journey. A note that from the first Thursday back, **no balls from home are allowed in school**. Thank you to Mrs Pope and Mrs Patrick for leading the charge on this work, and to parents and carers who have been dropping off loose parts and play resources – please keep them coming.

Our Character Curriculum has continued to strengthen this term, with assemblies on courage, gratitude, friendship, generosity and standing up for what is right. Children have also learned about fairness, sharing and how their actions affect others. It has been wonderful to see these traits becoming embedded across the school, from polite greetings to thoughtful behaviour in shared spaces. The pupils are a real credit to themselves and to the whole Wessex community.

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

It has been a term full of rich experiences across the school, with pupils taking part in a wide range of visits and curriculum events. Year 4 enjoyed a brilliant trip to The Look Out in Bracknell and Year 6 visited Cox Green School to watch their excellent performance of *The Addams Family*. Year 3 visited Upton Court to enhance their learning about the Egyptians and Year 2 took part in an Active 60 Festival at Braywick Leisure Centre. Earlier this month, our choir members took part in the spectacular Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena, performing as part of a massive massed choir – an unforgettable experience for all involved. All pupils behaved impeccably on the trips – we are very proud of how they conduct themselves outside of school.

As part of the Maidenhead Big Read, authors visited school to share their stories and inspire our young readers. Parents' evening was very well received, with everyone together in the hall, creating a supportive atmosphere for conversations about learning and progress. We have also welcomed families in for a number of sharing assemblies which has enabled parents and carers to feel even more connected with children's learning.

The PTA Special Person Gift Shop was a huge success and brought so much joy to the children as they chose thoughtful gifts for someone special in their lives. Year 6 parents joined us for an information session about the upcoming SATs which helped ensure that everyone feels well prepared for the summer term. The school also came together for Comic Relief, enjoying the fun of the day while raising money for an important cause. World Book Day added to the excitement, with pupils celebrating reading through costumes, stories and a range of engaging activities.

As we head into the holidays, we would like to remind families of the importance of regular eye checks for children. If your child has not seen an optician recently, the break is an ideal time to book an appointment. Good vision has a significant impact on learning, concentration and wellbeing. GP practices or local pharmacies may also be able to check children's hearing if you have any concerns. Ensuring these checks are up to date helps pupils return to school ready to learn.

This term we also said a very fond farewell to Rev'd Joan, who has led assemblies at Wessex for many years with warmth, care and enthusiasm. As she now retires, we want to thank her sincerely for the time she has given our school community and the positive impact she has had on so many pupils over the years. She will be very much missed and we wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

As always, I want to acknowledge our staff team for the huge amount of work and care they put into every single day. Whether teaching in classrooms, supporting children across the school or helping things run smoothly behind the scenes, every member of staff contributes to the warmth and consistency that make Wessex such a special place. I hope you will join me in wishing them a restful and well-deserved break.

Likewise, we wish you all a very happy Easter break and look forward to seeing you on the 13th April.

Mr Beavan

Dates and reminders



Wessex Weekly



Positivity



Honesty



Hope



Pride

Diary dates coming up



Monday 13th April

Start of Term 5 - gates open 8:45am

Tuesday 14th April

Year 4 swimming begins

Thursday 16th April

Netball match vs Braywick Court (home)

Friday 17th April

Windsor House in mufti

Monday 27th April

Year 5 Wonderdome experience

Tuesday 5th May

Hexagon singers rehearsal at Courthouse

Week beginning 11th May

SATS Week

Year 4 TT Rockstars Easter Competition!

Get ready to rock, Year 4! Over the Easter break, pupils are encouraged to log in to TT Rockstars, practise their times tables, and earn as many points as they can. Every correct answer helps your class climb the leaderboard!

Certificates will be awarded to our top rockstars at the end of the break. Let's see who will take the crown this Easter - good luck and happy rocking!

Attendance

Lower School: Cherry
Winners with 98.9%

Upper School: Holly
Winners with 96.1%

School attendance
this week

94.4%

Last week = 93.6%
Last year average = 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

Value of the week



This week's assembly focused on Hope. We explored how hope can guide us through difficult moments and remind us that things can always get better. The children learned how the Easter story shows sadness turning into new beginnings, with themes of fresh starts, light after darkness and the belief that challenges can be overcome. We talked about the small ways we can choose hope each day, such as looking forward, staying positive and supporting each other when things feel tough. By building hope, the children are learning how to stay resilient, keep trying and recognise that even in hard times there is always the possibility of something brighter ahead.

Housepoint updates

The scores on the doors are in! Huge congratulations go to Windsor house.

Windsor - 2,220
Lancaster - 1,882
Stuart - 2,103
York - 2,050

As a reward, Windsor house may wear Mufti on the first Friday back, 17th April.

Character Curriculum

This week's assembly focused on the importance of good table manners. We talked about how our behaviour at lunchtime helps everyone enjoy a calm and respectful space. The children learned simple habits such as chewing with their mouths closed, talking only when their mouths are empty and using a knife and fork correctly. We also discussed the importance of keeping our dining area clean by picking up any dropped food or letting an adult know, as well as staying in our seats once we have sat down. By practising these behaviours, the children are learning how small acts of consideration help make shared spaces pleasant for everyone and reflect the pride we take in our school community.

How to have good table manners

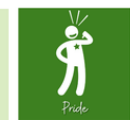


- Chewing with your mouth is closed
- Talking only when your mouth is empty
- Using a knife and fork correctly
- Picking up any food or letting an adult know if any food is dropped
- Staying in your seat when you have sat down

Attendance



Wessex Weekly



The following children have attended school every day since September!
Congratulations!

Barney A	Harris K	Beatrice S	Alina K	Ash M-M	Jessica D	Theo S
Harry T	Daniel A	Medi G	Ava F	Alexander T	Adam F	
Isla T	Charlie W	Kaiden A	Sam G	Freddie M	Johar C	
Jude W	George D	Kiara N	Nola W	Charlie W	Penelope S	
Dylan M	Rosie A	Henry F	Summer P	Chloe K	Ellie-Louise G	
Rose S	Jessica B	Amber C-P	Reema K	Olivia B	Arran B	
Evie M	Aiden C	Ciaran M	Robin T	Jaida C-R	Daisy W	

The following children have met our school attendance target of 97%+ since September!
Congratulations!

Lina A	Isabella N	Leo T	Maya F	Austin B	Derriyan V	Finley B	Daniel P T	Olivia S	Jack M
Torvi B	Scarlett B	Jasen G	Hunter H	Leo W	Shivaay S	Aiza H	Tylar B	Malik K	William T
Ethan M	Xavi R	Lottie H	Callum B	Mikey H	Harriet W	Harry S	Thomas C	Jackson D-K	Kiwi K
Jessie G	Ciara M	Jessica R	Hughie G	Abdilatif M	Aadriti J	Gracie S-B	Anaya T	Demi-Lea B	Georgie W
Henry T	Adam K	Milo V		Isabella A	Harry M	Michael C	Russell I-B	Alessia P	Tanaaya S
Finley C-G	Ellie B	Ava H	Mitransh K	Sophia M	Amelia N	Jacob W	Peter L	Lexi D	Isla M
Mason J	Elliott A-D	Victoria T	Oliver E	Eloise M	George T	Freddie D	Cheryl K	Fynn W	Jacob J
Elspeth M-M	Oliver G	Hugo B	Isaac L	Tariro M	Chanez A	Abigail C	Oscar B	Emaan K	Chester C
Marko P	Isaiah M	Jude B	Ariana R	Joshua H	Eliza C	Megan D	Flossie T	Ariella C	Leo C
Onara S	Amelie P	Sophie B	Tallula M	Inaaya A	Jamie B	Imogen A	Zia S	Eva M-W	Dominic E
Casper B	Harry C	Faith I-P	George A	Zannah R	Darcey K	Xanthe B	Ellie S	Maiya P	Freda G
Holly C	Oliver S	Abigail K							

EYFS

Term 4



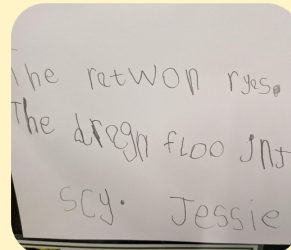
Wessex Weekly



The children had a fantastic World Book Day, arriving in an array of colourful costumes inspired by different stories and genres. They enjoyed talking about their favourite books and characters, sharing why those stories mean so much to them. A highlight of the day was meeting up with friends in Year 4, who joined us to read together and celebrate our love of reading. It was a wonderful day filled with imagination, creativity and stories brought to life.



The children are becoming increasingly confident writers, now able to use their phonics knowledge and Fred Fingers to write simple phrases and sentences. They've been enthusiastically mark-making and writing in continuous provision areas such as the Chinese restaurant, vets, outdoor kitchen and messaging centre. It has been lovely to see them proudly showing their learning, enjoying their writing experiences and growing in confidence every day.



We have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and have celebrated in style! We learned whether we were born in the Year of the Rat (2020) or the Year of the Ox (2021) and that this year is the Year of the Horse. We watched some traditional lion dancing and used our giant lion head and drums to make our own dances. We were very lucky to have some food donated by the local restaurant, Mr Leung's. The children tasted prawn crackers, noodles and egg fried rice – it was devoured by most of the children!

Rev. Joan from the Church of the Good Shepherd led a special assembly and spoke to the children about the meaning of Easter. We learned about what Christians believe happened to Jesus during Holy Week and why Easter eggs are used as a symbol of new life and hope. We learned that Easter and springtime is a time to celebrate new beginnings. The children made chocolate Easter nests to eat. We had to measure, pour, mix and scoop to make them. They were delicious! We also tasted hot cross buns – they have a cross on them to symbolise Jesus on the cross. Finally, we made bunny ears to show how spring is a time to celebrate new life. Look out for some cute Easter bunnies leaving Ash and Alder today!



Year 1 Term 4

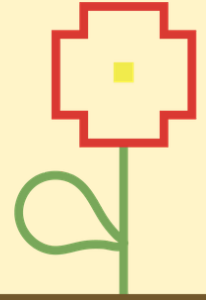


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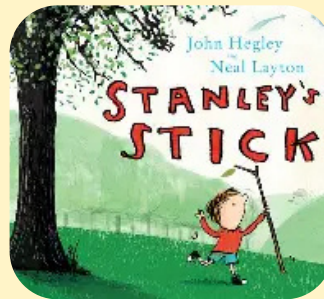
Year One have had lots of fun this term. We are proud of how hard the children are working.

We tried something new this term in DT – learning how to sew! We had a great time learning how to do a running stitch and using different materials to weave in and out of fabric.



Maths has seen us measuring and using the language of comparison. We know to use the word 'tall' when talking about height and 'long' when talking about an object's length. We've also used non-standard measures like blocks to weigh items and have discussed whether to use g or kg to measure them. We held a kilogram weight and were surprised by how heavy it is!

We also used number lines to subtract, carefully counting backwards.



In English we had a great time using our imaginations while playing with sticks. We explored what they could be – a dragon, a fishing rod, a magic wand. This introduced us to the book Stanley's Stick. We also wrote our own stories using story language, showing how an everyday object can become something special if you just believe. We've also visited the beach and helped to find a lost teddy bear with The Sea Saw. We are working hard to remember to use question marks.



What's the weather like today? We've been keeping a check on the weather and thinking about the seasons. Now we know what the symbols on a weather chart mean. We've spotted the signs of the different seasons and learnt a song.

This term, science has been all about animals and the five different groups. Can you name them? We discussed the diets of animals and used tricky words like **herbivore, carnivore and omnivore**. Did you know that bats are mammals and not birds?

Art has been created on iPads this term! We've used online software called Sketchpad to create patterns and pictures – including designing Red Noses. It was hard to select the right tool and colour but we persevered and are proud of the results.

Music has seen us using our voices and instruments to accompany the story of The Three Little Pigs. We had a lot of fun doing squeaky voices for the pigs and loud, low voices for the wolf. We hope we didn't scare you!



In RE we have continued to explore the religion of Judaism. Each week we check that we understand the vocabulary we're learning and our teachers have been impressed with our recall. We've learnt about the festivals of Shabbat and Pesach – how and why they are celebrated and the foods eaten.

Open the Book have told us the story of Easter through their assemblies – in class we discussed why it is important and identified Easter symbols.



Year 2 Term 4

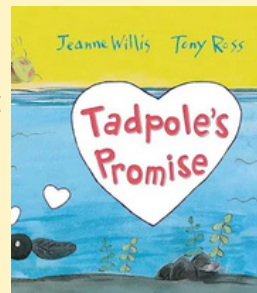


Wessex Weekly



We are so proud of all of the children and what they have achieved this term. We really hope you enjoyed our class assembly and we were thrilled to see everyone taking part and speaking so clearly.

Our reading texts this term have taken us all over the globe. We started with a book called 'Too Small Tola' which is set in Lagos in Nigeria. The children used comparison skills to identify what similarities and differences they had to the main character Tola. Following on from this, we studied a menagerie of frogs from every continent in the book 'Fanatical About Frogs'. We hope the children have shared some weird but wonderful facts about frogs and toads with you.



For our writing this term, we recreated our own version of the story 'The Tadpole's Promise'. The children loved the surprise ending and wrote using adverbials to retell the tale. After this, the children studied the Owl and the Pussy-Cat Poem and wrote some poetry of their own. We have also been busy learning spellings and practising our joined handwriting too!



In science, we have been learning about how animals change through their life cycles and the adaptations they need to survive. We learnt how polar bears have thick fur to keep them warm and how camels store water to survive in the desert. In addition, we learnt how to stay healthy and follow a balanced diet.

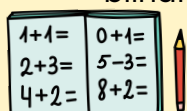


In Art this term, we have studied the artist Romare Bearden, who is famous for his collage work. The children experimented with colour and mixed both primary and secondary colours. They made different textures by using a variety of tools and applying paint to them. Then they created their own collages.

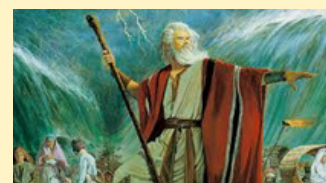


For history, we learnt about flight. We studied Orville and Wilbur Wright and learnt how their design for a plane was significant and changed how people travelled. After that, we studied Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman and learnt how their bravery allowed females to fly planes. Finally, we learnt about the space race and how Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. The lessons allowed the children to act and experience the pilots' lives.

In PE this term, we were lucky to have MNR coaching. They started the term with a visit to Braywick Leisure Centre, where we completed an Active 60 challenge. The children completed Disney-themed activities that included everything from archery to balance biking. Following this event, we had a series of lessons that focused on problem solving and teamwork. The children worked together brilliantly and even led each other while blindfolded. Well done, Year 2.



In maths, we started the term working on weight. We used scales to measure grams and compared objects using the scales. Following this, we learnt about the difference between volume and capacity. Make sure you ask your children to tell you the difference. Finally, we moved on to statistics, made tally charts and quizzed the class on favourite colours or ice cream flavours.

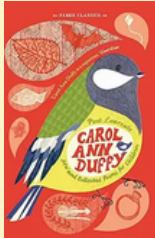


Year 3

Term 4



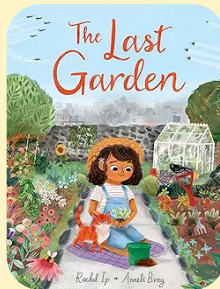
Wessex Weekly



Our reading book in Year 3 has been *The White Fox*, in which Sol encounters an arctic fox at the docks in Seattle. The children understood Sol's feelings of empathy for the fox, as they were both feeling lonely. Could one little fox bring Sol's family back together?

Our second book is a poetry compilation in which the children read a poem about sand. We thought about the nouns associated with sand and the children practised performing poetry aloud.

The book we have used to inspire our writing has been *The Last Garden*. Year 3 have thought about using the present perfect tense in their work and have also practised turning speech bubbles into dialogue, using the rules of speech to punctuate their writing accurately.



Our maths this term has focused on fractions. We have also been measuring mass in grams and kilograms using weighing scales. We started the term by measuring length and perimeter, converting between millimetres, centimetres and metres.

In history, we explored the complexities of Ancient Egyptian civilisation. Our studies covered the process of mummification, the system of hieroglyphic writing and the vital role of the River Nile. Together, these elements reveal how the Egyptians' unique environment shaped their spiritual beliefs and administrative power.



In PE lessons, we have been playing hockey, learning how to hold the stick properly, dribble with the ball and pass to our teammates. In gymnastics lessons, we have learned different ways to travel and rotate, putting these together to create individual and group routines.

In our PSHCE Jigsaw lessons this term, we have been exploring the theme 'Healthy Me'. We discussed the components of a healthy lifestyle, focusing on how a balanced diet and regular exercise support physical growth, mental concentration and overall wellbeing. Additionally, we explored the impact of drugs and how they can affect the lives of children.



In Art this term, we explored Ancient Egyptian culture. To give our work an authentic Egyptian appearance, we transformed white paper into a brown, aged effect using tea, coffee stains and earthy colours such as brown and red. We also created a papyrus scroll by making our own papyrus-style paper.

We have had our eyes opened for our science topic of 'Light and Shadows' this term. We learned about different light sources, materials that reflect light and all about shadows. We had an interesting day observing the shadow made by a post every hour throughout the day. We found that the shadow was at its shortest at 12pm and that it moved in a clockwise direction around the pole.

We worked hard on our sharing assembly - we hope that you enjoyed it!

Year 4 Term 4



Wessex Weekly



Term 4 has certainly flown by! With only five weeks to fit in so much learning, it's been fast-paced and full of excitement – not to mention our class assembly and school trip! We hope you enjoyed watching the children share their learning with you during the assembly and we're sure you loved hearing a glimpse of what they've been working on with their P-bones in music with Miss Grey.

With this being a short term, our focused reading book has been Viking Voyagers. This text is full of fascinating facts about the Vikings, including where they came from, which countries they explored and settled in, as well as what their daily lives and beliefs were like. The children have been able to apply their inference, prediction and comprehension skills while discovering lots of exciting new vocabulary along the way.



In writing, we began the term by exploring the book *The Baker by the Sea*, which tells the story of a boy who dreams of becoming a fisherman but eventually realises that his father's job as a baker is just as important. By the end, he has a change of heart and decides he wants to be a baker just like his dad. For our final written piece, we created our own brochures to entice tourists to visit the village from the story. We used persuasive writing techniques such as rhetorical questions, command sentences and wonderful imagery to describe the beautiful village.



Our second book of the term was *The Matchbox Diary*. This story follows a great-grandfather sharing memories of his life with his great-granddaughter, using small treasures he has kept inside matchboxes over the years. We used this book to develop our writing by retelling the events in clear chronological order.



In Science this term, we have been exploring the world of sound. We investigated how sounds are created, how pitch and volume can change and how sound travels from one place to another. The children learned that sound begins with vibrations, which produce sound waves that move through different materials. To test our ideas, we carried out hands-on experiments, including making our own string telephones to see how sound can travel through a solid medium.



We also enjoyed our trip to The Lookout, where we took part in a brilliant workshop all about sound and had lots of fun exploring the interactive science exhibits.



In our PSHCE Jigsaw lessons this term, we have been exploring the theme 'Healthy Me'. We discussed what it means to live a healthy lifestyle and the different factors that can influence our wellbeing. The children also spent time thinking about friendships, group dynamics and how to recognise unhealthy relationships, including situations involving peer pressure. In addition, we learned about the impact that smoking and alcohol can have on the body and on long-term health.



In History this term, we have been exploring the question: "How difficult was it to invade and settle in Britain?" Our learning has focused on the Anglo-Saxons – where they came from, why they chose to travel to Britain and what life was like once they arrived. The children investigated different aspects of Anglo-Saxon daily life and even worked in groups to create their own versions of wattle and daub walls, just as Anglo-Saxon homes were built. We also learned about the arrival of Christianity, the achievements of Alfred the Great and how Anglo-Saxon rule eventually came to an end.



$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{5} =$$

In Maths this term, we have been focusing on fractions. The children have learned how to find fractions of amounts, identify and work with equivalent fractions and add and subtract fractions confidently. We have also been converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, helping the children deepen their understanding of how fractions can be represented in different ways.



The children have really enjoyed this term's Design Technology project, which focused on creating their own slingshot cars. Using a clear design brief, they set out to build vehicles that were both aerodynamic and appealing to look at. The children created nets to form the bodies of their cars and used glue guns safely to construct the different parts. Inspired by features of real car designs, they planned, built and tested their models.



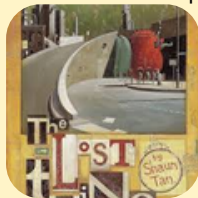
Year 5 Term 4



Wessex Weekly



Term 4 has been an extremely short but incredibly productive term. Despite the limited time, pupils have shown impressive focus, determination, and resilience, working hard to achieve their very best. We look forward to continuing their progress next term, with more time to deepen their understanding, strengthen their skills, and celebrate their achievements.



This term, pupils have taken part in two rich and contrasting units of study, each exploring the theme of being lost and found in very different ways.

We began with *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan, immersing ourselves in a curious and surreal world filled with unusual, forgotten objects. Pupils designed their own imaginative "lost things" and considered how they might guide them to a place where they truly belong. Using this creative work as inspiration, they crafted their own fictional narratives, maintaining the central theme of searching, belonging, and discovery.



Our focus then shifted to a much more sobering historical context as we learned about the life of Anne Frank. Pupils explored her experiences in the Secret Annex, her thoughts and feelings, and the challenges faced by families forced into hiding during the Second World War. These lessons prompted thoughtful discussions about fear, resilience, and the impact of war on children and their families. Drawing on their historical understanding, pupils then wrote detailed newspaper reports recounting the Frank family's time in hiding, the efforts made to remain undiscovered, and the later discovery of Anne's diary—now one of the most significant personal accounts of the period.

We began the term with a much-loved class favourite: *Who Let the Gods Out* by Maz Evans. Pupils were introduced to the lively world of Greek mythology through the unlikely partnership of Virgo, a constellation brought to life, and Elliot, an ordinary boy who suddenly finds himself caught up in extraordinary events. Together, they accidentally release a daemon and must work to prevent the world from descending into chaos.



The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Greek gods and goddesses, using humour, modern references, and character analysis to deepen their understanding of how these figures were portrayed in ancient history. This unit linked closely with our History topic on the Ancient Greeks, allowing pupils to make meaningful cross-curricular connections.

In contrast to this energetic and humorous novel, we then shifted our focus to a more abstract and atmospheric piece: *The Listeners* by Walter de la Mare. This mysterious poem follows a lone traveller returning to fulfil a long-forgotten promise, only to find the house inhabited by silent, phantom listeners.



Through this text, pupils explored how poets use language, imagery, and structure to create mood and tension. It offered a valuable opportunity to compare different writing styles and to consider how authors make deliberate choices to evoke emotion and build atmosphere.

In Maths this term, pupils have been developing their understanding of decimals, percentages, and fractions. They explored how these representations are connected, learning to convert between them and recognise their equivalence in a range of contexts. This work has strengthened their number fluency and supported their confidence when tackling multi-step problems.

We then moved on to our unit on shape, focusing on calculating the perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes. Pupils learned the importance of identifying all side lengths before calculating, ensuring accuracy and precision in their measurements.

In PSHE this term, our focus has been on the theme Healthy Me. Pupils explored the importance of making positive lifestyle choices and learned how different decisions can influence their physical and emotional wellbeing. Through discussion and reflection, they developed their own ideas about how to make healthy, informed choices now and in the future.

We also spent time learning how to help others in an emergency while keeping ourselves safe. Pupils practised staying calm, assessing a situation, and understanding when and how to seek help. A key part of this unit involved learning how to place someone in the recovery position, ensuring their safety until further support arrives.

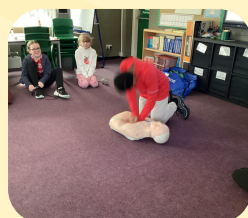
This has been a highly practical and empowering unit, giving pupils valuable life skills and greater confidence in managing real-world situations.

In Science this term, pupils have been investigating forces and how they influence the world around us. We explored the concept of gravity, looking closely at how it works on Earth and how gravitational pull differs across the planets in our solar system.

Pupils also examined air resistance and water resistance, learning how both act as forms of friction that slow moving objects down. Through practical activities, they discovered how different surfaces and varying weights can change the amount of friction produced, and how this in turn affects an object's movement.

This unit has given pupils a strong foundation in understanding the forces they encounter every day, encouraging curiosity, prediction, and scientific reasoning.

If you'd like, I can now combine all your subjects into one cohesive end-of-term newsletter section.



Year 6

Term 4



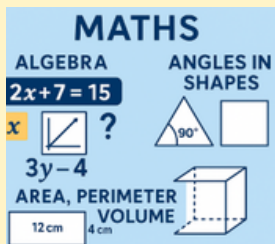
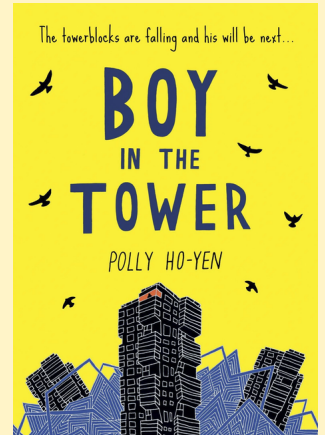
Wessex Weekly



Year 6 have had another amazing half-term. They have shown fantastic academic prowess and are really striving to achieve excellence in the lead-up to the SATs.

This term in English, Year 6 have been studying *Boy in the Tower*, a gripping story about a boy named Ade who must navigate a mysteriously collapsing city after strange plant-like creatures called Bluchers begin to appear. As Ade watches the world around him change, he shows courage, resilience and hope.

The children have produced some fantastic pieces inspired by the novel, including detailed character and setting descriptions that bring Ade's world to life. They have written a newspaper article reporting on key events from the story and explored Ade's emotions and thoughts through an internal monologue. Pupils also enjoyed creating informative fact files about the mysterious Bluchers, drawing together clues from the text. To deepen their understanding of contrast and atmosphere, they wrote descriptive pieces comparing life before and after the arrival of the Bluchers, showcasing their growing confidence in using language for impact.



In Maths this term, Year 6 have been strengthening their arithmetic skills through regular practice, helping them build confidence and accuracy across all operations. The children have also been exploring a range of key topics, including algebra, where they learned to use symbols and solve simple equations. In geometry, pupils have been studying angles within different shapes, using their knowledge to identify, measure and reason about a variety of angle types. They have also deepened their understanding of area, perimeter and volume, applying these skills to practical and problem-solving activities. The class have shown fantastic focus and determination as they begin preparing for their SATs next term.

In Science this term, Year 6 have been investigating the topic of light, exploring how it travels and how we see the world around us. The children learned that light travels in straight lines and used this idea to explain shadows, reflection and how mirrors change the direction of light. They carried out practical activities to explore how light is reflected, how shadows change size and how refraction can make objects appear bent or distorted in water. Pupils also built on their understanding of how the eye works and how light enables us to see. Through hands-on experiments and careful observations, the children have developed their scientific enquiry skills and deepened their understanding of this important physics topic.



In History this term, Year 6 have been studying the Sikh Empire, exploring how it was formed, led and remembered. The children learned about the remarkable leadership of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who played a vital role in unifying the Punjab and establishing a strong and stable empire. Through this unit, pupils have explored key historical terms such as unification and absolute power and examined the skills and qualities of leaders who contributed to significant change. Using a range of sources, pupils have been making deductions and inferences, evaluating interpretations and applying criteria to judge historical importance. They have explored why different accounts of the past can vary and have discussed the achievements of the Sikh Empire with growing confidence. This unit has helped the children develop their critical thinking and enquiry skills, preparing them well for the challenges of Key Stage 3 History.

In DT this term, Year 6 have been designing and making their own bags. The children began by exploring a range of textile products, thinking about how they are used, how they look and their impact on the environment. They then developed their own designs by creating pattern pieces and simple prototypes, using labelled drawings to show how everything would fit together. Pupils learned to cut, fold and join fabric accurately, using stitches or knots to secure pieces and adding decorative details to personalise their bags. Finally, they evaluated how well their finished products met the design criteria and considered what they might improve next time.



TIMES TABLES
ROCK STARS

BATTLE
OF THE
BANDS

Year 4 Easter battle

FROM: 09:00 - 27 th MARCH

UNTIL: 23:59 - 12 th APRIL

WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD MUSIC BURSARY

Due to a recent donation from the Price Philip Trust Fund we have been able to launch a bursary to help students in the Windsor and Maidenhead area. The bursary itself contributes £60 per term towards the cost of music activities with Berkshire Music Trust (lessons/ensembles).

£50 of the bursary comes from our Windsor and Maidenhead fund and £10 is from Berkshire Music Trust.

In order to apply for the Windsor and Maidenhead music bursary you must meet the following criteria:

- a) Your child attends a primary school in Windsor and Maidenhead.
- b) Your child is not in receipt of Pupil Premium.
- c) You have a gross household income of less than £3,900 pcm or £46,800 per annum

How to apply

- 1** For new customers please visit our [website](#) and follow the REGISTER HERE instructions to create an account and register interest in a course. Existing customers will already be setup on our system so don't need to do this.
- 2** Both existing and new customers will then need to apply for the bursary by clicking [here](#)
- 3** Please follow all instructions including emailing us proof of earnings and arrange for the school to email us support of your application.
Proof of your earnings can be any of the following:
 - Employed staff: Last three wage slips for each person in household.
 - Self-Employed staff: Latest tax return for each person in household.
 - Families on tax credits/income support, please provide us with your most up to date statement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email
contact@berksmusictrust.org.uk