



END OF TERM NEWSLETTER MAY 2025



We knew this term would fly by when we saw there were only 23 days of school across the five weeks. Therefore, where teachers have been planning the learning for next term, some topics from this term may continue for a week or so next term to finish off the learning before embarking on new topics and books.

We have seen several school trips and visits taking place alongside Year 6 tackling SATs head on. We have enjoyed yet another Share my Learning session which saw over 70 parents and carers visit the school to see children's work and class environment - around 25% of families attending.

An exciting addition to school life this term was the introduction of some optional homework after requests came through the parent survey in March. We decided to opt for a topic based approach to homework and so our first challenge was the Treasure Box challenge. Around a quarter of pupils said they had taken part and they got to bring their treasure boxes to assembly this week to celebrate their achievements! Next term's homework challenge will be based around reading. Watch this space!

There have been a number of sporting events this term in which pupils from Wessex have competed. On Tuesday this week, a team of Year 5 & 6 attended the Quad kids competition at Newlands Girls school. Everyone competed in four events and were fantastic representatives of Wessex. The long distance run (in the heat) was the toughest, although Alex and Leo relished the challenge, Alex winning his race. They also had to run a sprint race, standing Long Jumps and Vortex rocket throws. It was a great event run by all the Newlands sports leaders.

We had some excellent mathematicians also represent the school this term: Sam, Zedan, and Archie took part in the Year 4 Rotary Mathematical competition in Cookham Dean, finishing an impressive 2nd place out of eight schools. Their teamwork, determination, and enthusiasm were outstanding. Each received a book voucher—well done, boys!

Of course, now our attention turns to Term 6, which we know is jam-packed with events and activities, along preparing for transition to classes or different schools next year. Year 6 have their residential, production, parties and many other events to mark the end of their primary school careers!

Have a great half term *break*
Mr Beavan



Quad Kids
Oliver,
Magnus,
Jasmine,
Alex,
Leo,
Tylar,
Evie,
Annabel
Georgie



Maths champs
Sam
Archie
Zedan

Ten of our brilliant Year 6 students recently tackled the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge - a tough 60-minute test with 25 brain-teasing questions. We're thrilled to share their fantastic results!

🏆 Gold Award: Ben

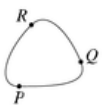
🥈 Silver Awards: Risith, Mio, Leo

🥉 Bronze Awards: Oliver, Charlie

Well done also to Isabelle, Tylar, Georgia, and Alex for their great effort and participation. Mrs Oliva is incredibly proud of everyone!

Try one of the challenge questions below - can you solve it?

The map in the diagram shows three towns and the roads between them. The length of the road between any two towns is a whole number of kilometres. The route from *P* to *R* via *Q* is twice as long as the direct route from *P* to *R*. The route from *P* to *Q* via *R* is three times as long as the direct route from *P* to *Q*. Which of the following could be the length of the route from *P* back to *P* via *Q* and *R*?



- A 74 km
- B 81 km
- C 95 km
- D 108 km
- E 124 km

“ Quotes of the term

Highlights from term 5

“This term we have been doing the amazing bear hunt and learning about space and how rockets take off”
Ellis, Reception

“This term in maths we have been adding fractions together $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$ ” Amber, Year 2

“My favourite moment of the term was making 3-D models in art, I am excellent at it now” Ash, Year 3

“My most enjoyable part of the term was learning about money in math's” Dara, Year 4

“My favourite part of this term was the athletics competition. I had a great time competing for Wessex” Magnus, Year 5

“My favourite moment of the term was the relief of my hard work after SATs”
Reggie, Year 6



Dates and reminders



Wessex Weekly

Diary dates coming up



Monday 26th to Friday 30th May
HALF TERM

Monday 2nd June
INSET DAY

Tuesday 3rd, Thursday 5th & Friday 6th June
Year 5 Bikeability course

Wednesday 4th June
FS2 Reception – Height & Weight Screening with the School Nursing Team

Good News Certificates

EYFS: Estella and Lola C

Year 1: Dylan and Faith

Year 2: Isaac and Henry

Year 3: Robin and Nola

Year 4: Penelope and Olivia

Year 5: Kiwi and Zayena

Year 6: Chloe and Ben

Attendance

We're really pleased to see that attendance has continued to improve this term—thank you for your support! Our average attendance is currently 96.5%, which is slightly higher than this time last year (96.1%).

We've also seen a drop in the number of pupils who are persistently absent (those with attendance below 90%). This term, it's 10%, compared to 15% at the same point last year.

A reminder to families: holidays during term time can affect your child's learning and, in line with national and local guidance, penalty notices may be issued if holidays are taken during school time. Thank you for helping us give every child the best chance to succeed!

Lower School: Chestnut
Winners with 98.1%

Upper School: Holly
Winners with 99.6%

School attendance this week

94.3%

Yearly average is 94.9%

Aiming for 97%



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

Lost Property

It's completely normal for children to misplace items at school. Thankfully, when items are clearly named, they usually find their way back to their owners.

However, our lost property box is currently overflowing with unnamed items, many of which are school-branded. Unfortunately, we can't donate these to charity shops, and we already have plenty of spare uniform in school—so most of it ends up being thrown away.

Please take a moment to check the lost property box. If you spot something your child needs, feel free to take it—it's likely to be disposed of otherwise. Also, please double-check that your child's uniform still has clear, readable name labels or stickers. Thank you for helping us keep lost property to a minimum!

Housepoint updates

The final housepoints for this term are as follows:

York - 1969
Lancaster - 1907
Windsor - 1796
Stuart - 1696

Congratulations to **YORK** for earning the most house points this term. Your reward of a mufti day will take place on the **first Thursday back in term 6 on 5th June 2025** as Year 4 will be swimming on Friday 6th.

Uniform reminders

Now that we are getting into the final term of school, we must send a reminder about uniform. Whilst school shoes may not still fit as well as they did in September, there are plenty of cheap black shoes available.

Remember that if you are looking at getting PE kit for your children, from September 2025, we expect pupils to be wearing the new PE kit introduced last Autumn. Reminder that uniform can be bought from Goyals, who also have a shop in Maidenhead.

How should you behave on a school trip?



- Representing the school
- Being seen by the public
- Being a good role model
 - Staying safe
 - Asking for support



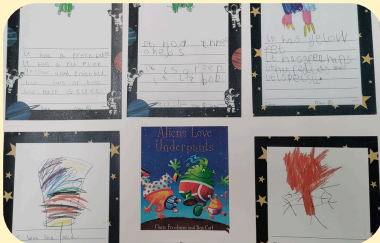
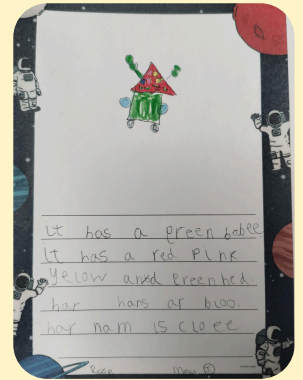
EYFS Term five



Wessex Weekly



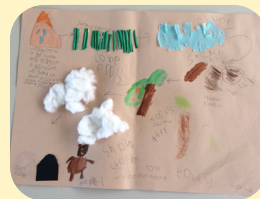
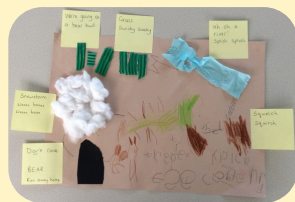
You probably thought aliens came down to Earth with a view to taking over the planet - but, no, they simply want to steal your pants! We thoroughly enjoyed reading the story and decided that aliens are rather mischievous. We created our own aliens and used adjectives to describe their appearance and character. We wanted to warn you about them in case they came to Earth so we used our Fred Fingers to spell and write about them. As you can see the children are developing a great deal of confidence in their writing and writing with description and stamina. We hope you enjoyed reading about the aliens too.



We look for patterns around us in the real world: leaves, stones, cars and even underpants! We designed underpants for the aliens thinking carefully about the colours and patterns we could use.



A firm favourite story this term has been We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen. The children were very enthusiastic to join in with the story and enjoyed the fun language used. We worked in small groups to create our own story maps using collage and were able to retell the story, remembering most of the words! We then used our phonic knowledge to write words and phrases onto the maps. The children ventured outside to go on their own bear hunts during outdoor learning. Some had even made their own binoculars.



For Outdoor Learning and Art, we have been looking at UK artist Andy Goldsworthy. We looked at how he creates art from natural resources. We found he likes to use logs, leaves, sticks and even cow dung! We described his art as colourful and unique. We had a go at creating our own piece based on Andy's work using painted leaves to make natural art!



This term we have loved doing Bikeability for P.E. We have started off by learning about bike safety and why we must be safe when riding a bike. We have learnt different skills to help us balance; like walking on a balance beam and balancing a hoop on our helmets. We have had lots of fun using the balance bikes to whizz around the course practising our turns and keeping our balance. We can't wait to get onto the pedal bikes next term!

Year 1 Term five

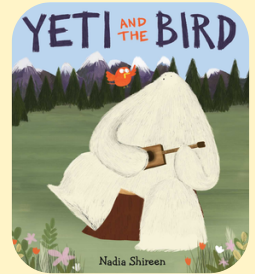


Wessex Weekly



Year One have been extremely busy this term! In the shortest term of the year, we've fitted in not one, but two trips, performed our year group sharing assembly, as well as finding time to produce some super writing and get messy with planting and painting!

The weather may have been warming up here, but in English we travelled to the South Pole to help a lonely penguin find its way home. Through reading 'Lost and Found' we realised your home is who you're with not where you are. We stayed chilly as we travelled to a wintery forest for 'Yeti and the Bird'. Once again, we showed what good friends we are as we wrote letters to Yeti, giving him ideas for making friends. He was very grateful...and came all the way to Wessex to visit us!



History has seen us travel back in time to see how explorers have changed the world. We created human timelines, found out about famous explorers such as Christopher Columbus and discussed how exploration has changed over time.

Some of us had a great time completing our first Homework Challenge and created Treasure Boxes which we enjoyed sharing with our classes.

Art has seen us getting messy with paint as we explored colour combinations. We mixed the primary colours (red, blue and yellow) to make secondary colours - and then challenged ourselves to see what other colours we could make.



Computing has seen us using Sketchpad again, this time to design our own rockets! We had to decide which drawing tool was the most appropriate and some of us added text to label our designs. We had to persevere to use this app but have now been able to create rocket designs which we will make for real and test next term.

In maths, we've been using the multiplication and division symbols. We know multiplication is a quicker form of repeated addition and are getting faster and faster counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We've also been practising sharing into equal groups - using the division symbol to show what we've done.



In music, we've been exploring pitch, tempo and rhythm, using a range of percussion instruments to make different sounds and extend our understanding of these terms.



We've been learning all about plants in Science this term. We started the term by exploring the school grounds for different plants. Back in the classroom we used magnifying glasses to look at the different parts of plants and plant our own dwarf bean seeds. To enhance our knowledge of plants in our locality we visited Braywick Nature Reserve where we touched the trunks and leaves of different trees and looked up high to see their tops. We thought about how trees and their branches can be used. We made dens and watched Maddie the Ranger make and light a wood fire. Then we toasted marshmallows over the fire! Back at school we are now caring for our dwarf bean plants and other vegetable and flower plants which are brightening our patios.

Year 2 Term Five



Wessex Weekly



This term ended with a fabulous workshop from Perform. The children became time travelers and were taken back in time to the year 1666 and discovered all about the Great Fire of London through the media of drama. The children learnt facts about how the fire started and performed a soundscape of the fire. They even took a trip to Pudding Lane to experience what it would have been like to have worked in the infamous bakery.



In science we have been learning about plants and what they need to survive. We conducted an experiment to test what plants needed to grow. We placed one seed in the dark, one in a freezer and one without water. We also planted a seed that had light, water and warmth as a control. It was very interesting to see which seeds germinated. In addition, we planted our own sweet pea seeds which have now been planted in the beds in the gardens. Fingers crossed for some rain so they grow!

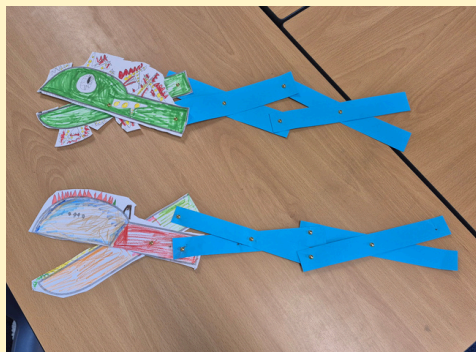


In English, we read the book 'Toys in Space'. The toys in the story are stolen by an alien and taken to space. The toys teach the alien that stealing is not a good choice and help him return the toys to their owners. The children wrote their own versions of the story and included some fantastic speech. They designed their own characters and used noun phrases to describe them.

We have also been researching modern London and wrote some persuasive posters enticing tourists to visit our capital city.

We have been very busy in maths and have been learning about fractions. We started by learning about halves, thirds and quarters of shapes and then moved on to finding fractions of numbers. It has been a topic that has made us think lots but we have worked extremely hard. We have also been working hard to remember our 2, 5 and 10 times tables which we are starting to recall confidently.

We focused on dynamics in music this term. We learnt to use our voice to create a variety of sounds and in groups created a soundscape for space. We made sure to use dynamics to create a space atmosphere. We listened to Gustav Holst's music who composed music about the planets. We moved our bodies to this music and drew pictures to represent what we could hear.



In Design Technology this term we have been focusing on toys with moving parts. We were tasked to make a moving monster using linkages to make the mouth move. The children were given the design brief of making the toy interactive, bright and scary. They learnt about pivots and used drawing pins to make levers. The final products were a huge success!



This term in computing we have been learning about stop motion. We learnt what stop motion is and then spent time creating our own stop motion videos about space! We needed to make sure the changes between each frame were very small so that our videos were smooth and looked realistic.



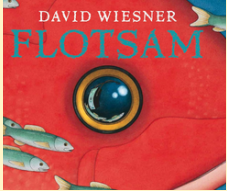
Year 3 Term five



Wessex Weekly



A short and busy term of brilliant learning!

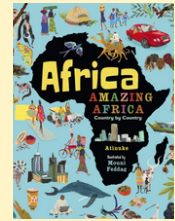


Our writing themes this term were 'Mystery' and 'Wonder.' 'Flotsam' was a great example of a picture book that created engagement through a sequence of images and required high levels of inference. The story began with a lost camera full of mysterious photos for the children to investigate and write their own sequel of who finds the camera next. They wrote their own mystery story using the writing skills learnt in the lessons, such as fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, adverbial phrases to express time, place and cause.



Earlier in the term, the children wrote some outstanding dilemma stories inspired by our book, 'The Heart and the Bottle,' which explored the theme of 'Wonder'. The children included present perform of verbs, used appropriate nouns and pronouns for clarity and punctuated direct speech in their stories demonstrating great use of the writing skills learnt in the unit.

We started the term by exploring the book, 'Africa, Amazing Africa'. This beautifully-written text captured Africa's unique mix of the modern and the traditional, as the author explored its geography, its peoples, its animals, its history, its resources and its cultural diversity.



We enjoyed the nature poems for each day of the year through our book, 'I Am the Seed that Grew the Tree'. The children learnt poetic language and terminology and investigated each season of the year with music matched to evoke atmosphere.



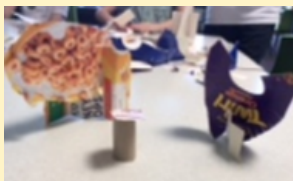
In Science, we investigated 'Plant Reproduction'. We learnt the relationship between the structure and functions of a basic plant.

We understood the needs for healthy plant growth through investigating the growth of plants in different conditions. The children learnt the importance of posing testable questions, making observations over time, recording results and presenting them using bar charts.

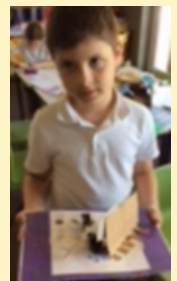
The children could describe the life cycle of a plant and name each stage, ending the unit with exploring seed dispersal.



Our Art unit focused on teaching pupils how to transform 2D card shapes into three-dimensional structures and sculptures. Pupils explored abstract shapes and space, developed skills in constructing 3D objects, and understand the difference between 2D and 3D art. The children set up the classrooms as an Art gallery to show case our work to their peers.



Geography learning was all about 'Settlements', we explored our local area using maps from the past (1800, 1900) to recent maps and were fascinated, how much Maidenhead had changed over time, looking at some key landmarks. We compared Maidenhead land use to New Delhi, India land use and investigated some human and physical features. We investigated settlement patterns in urban and rural areas.



Year 4 Term five

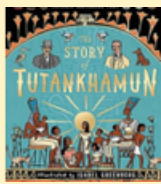


Wessex Weekly

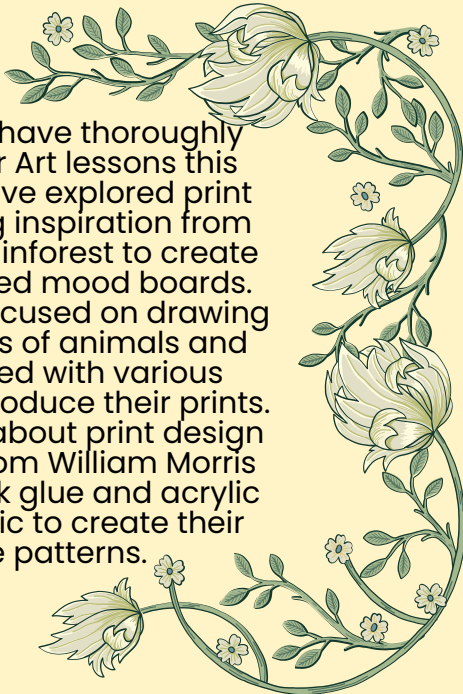


We have enjoyed reading one of the most popular books of the whole year this term, 'The Last Firefox' in which the main character Charlie must find his 'inner fire'. The book was so popular that many of our pupils wanted us to read it all over again!

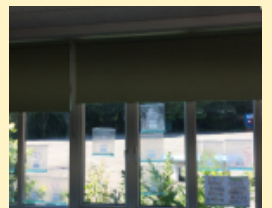
In writing our literacy theme has taken us on a journey of Unearthing civilisations, we have used the books 'The Ever-Changing Earth' and 'The story of Tutankhamun' to inspire our writing. We have written informative leaflets on the Northern lights, poems, cyclical narratives, instructions and diary entries.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed their Art lessons this term. They have explored print design, taking inspiration from the tropical rainforest to create nature-inspired mood boards. The children focused on drawing different parts of animals and experimented with various mediums to produce their prints. They learned about print design techniques from William Morris and used Batik glue and acrylic paint on fabric to create their unique patterns.



Our Science topic has been all about classification and habitats. We have investigated how to classify vertebrates, invertebrates and leaves using different methods such as Carroll Diagrams and branching keys. We have discussed what happens in a habitat when the seasons change, creating four different stories from the perspective of a dormouse. We have looked at the human impact on habitats, researching about plastic pollution in the oceans, deforestation and coral bleaching and the effects this is having on the ecosystems.

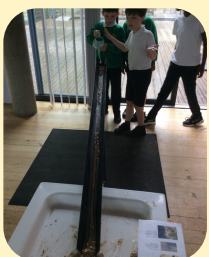


Our Geography topic this term was Rivers. We began by exploring the water cycle making our own working models. We then reviewed the various features that rivers have, such as oxbow lakes, meanders, estuaries, and tributaries. Using atlases, we located the world's rivers and then used Google Earth to zoom in on our local river, The Thames, following it from its source to the sea. We also explored the uses of rivers and compared human and physical features.

To deepen our understanding of rivers and explore our own local river, the River Thames, we enjoyed a fantastic day out at the River & Rowing Museum in Henley.

During our trip, we walked along the river path all the way to the weir and explored the surrounding floodplains. We took part in exciting practical activities and enjoyed the fascinating exhibits in the museum's galleries. One of the highlights was trying out some rowing ourselves on a rowing machine!

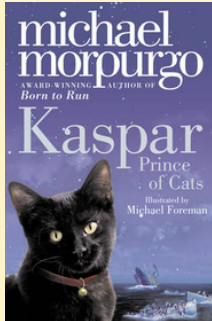
At lunchtime, we sat by the river, taking in the peaceful scenery and observing how people use the river for leisure activities. We even spotted some houses on islands in the river—it's amazing to think people live there!



Year 5 Term five



Wessex Weekly



We have had a fantastic start back to the summer term, sunshine, great books and hard work in such a short amount of time.

This term, we have had a range of famous authors we have looked into. In writing, we looked at 'Kaspar Prince of Cats' by Michael Morpurgo. The children loved having a cat as a focal point of our story, and it allowed them to connect with the story our characters went through. From starting as a simple bell boy, Johnny Trott managed to work and deceive his way onto the famous ship Titanic. Unfortunately, he was unaware of the fate the ship was going to face. Luckily for Kaspar, Johnny was there to save him and ensure his safe passage back to the mainland. The children loved learning about the events of the great ship and writing a newspaper article from the day after the sinking.

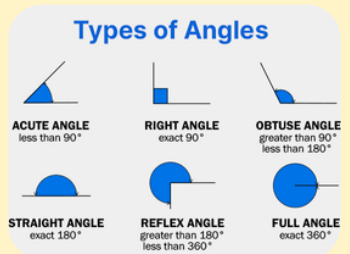


During this term, we started with the amazing book by Emma Carroll, 'Letters from the Lighthouse'. This story took us on an exciting journey set during WW2, showing that even in our darkest hour, we can be brave and help others. In what started as trying to crack the code from when her sister disappeared, it quickly turned into helping refugees seek safety after crossing the English Channel.

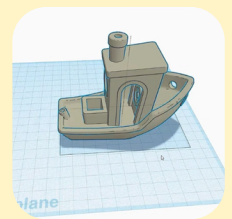


Next, we explored the true story of the famous author Judith Kerr. Judith is well known for her writings, 'Mog the Forgetful Cat' and 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. However, our Year 5s have discovered that her life was not so easy. Through reading 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit', we discovered her love for writing, which came from these challenging years in childhood. Judith and her family fled across Europe to escape the oppression from Hitler and The Nazis. Even during this time, only one thing mattered to young Judith. How dare Hitler steal her pink rabbit!

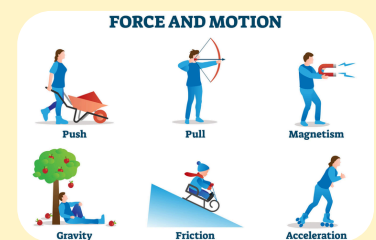
In maths this term, we started to take a more practical view of the world. First, we explored the concept of area and perimeter. Understanding the Perimeter is outside of a shape and the Area is the inside was crucial to our success. After this, we moved into statistics where we learnt how to read and understand line graphs, two-way tables and timetables. These helped us solidify our understanding of time and how different data can be represented. Once we completed this topic, we moved back into the world of shape. However, this time added another dimension. We looked closely at different 3-D shapes and their characteristics. We also focused on how to measure, draw and calculate missing angles, with and without a protractor.



This term in History, we started looking at the Ancient Mayan civilisation and some of the things they discovered that we have in modern society. Mainly, the most interesting being chocolate! We discovered that they originally used the cocoa bean mixed with water to make a drink dedicated to the Gods, similar to hot chocolate today! In computing, we revisited the understanding of how data is used and sent across space. Finally ending in exploring how we can use computers to aid us design! Ask them to show you TinkerCAD!



In Science, we have started to look at and understand the different forces that are all around us. First, we looked at the force that Sir Isaac Newton discovered, Gravity. We explored how this force affects the objects around us. We discovered that two objects of different weights will always hit the ground at the same time if nothing else stops them. We then created parachutes and explored how air resistance works and how surface area determines how slow an object falls. Next, we will be applying this new knowledge into water resistance!



This term, we have been incredibly fortunate to have two PE specialists come in and work with us. For our outdoor slot, we had Maidenhead Magpies come in to support us in learning the fundamentals of Netball. This allowed us to build upon our teamwork and communication. We are also incredibly lucky to have Miss Douglas with us for dance. She allowed us to create and explore the feelings and emotions children might have had during WW2! We even managed to have a go at jiving! The children massively impressed us with their creativity!

Year 6 Term five



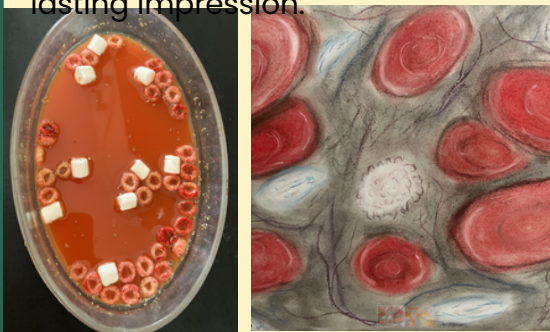
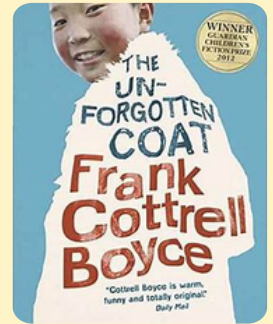
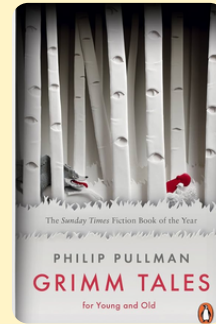
Wessex Weekly



It has been a fantastic term in Year 6. After the first four weeks of revision, the children faced their SATs head on and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. It was lovely to see such 'can do' attitudes and how they took the exams in their stride. Well done again to all involved!

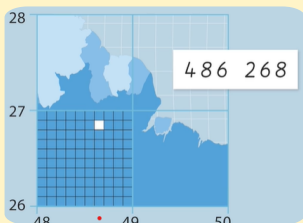
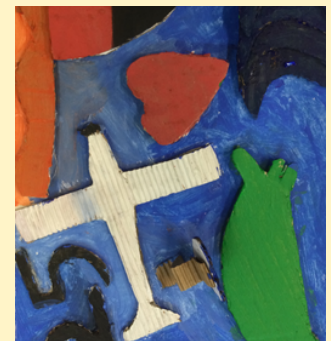
This term in English, Year 6 have dived into a thrilling book called Grimm Tales by Philip Pullman. The tales within the book are based on traditional fairy stories, but with a darker, more "grim" twist—which the children have really enjoyed! The spooky surprises and unexpected endings have kept us all on the edge of our seats.

In writing we have started *The Unforgotten Coat* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, which is a moving and imaginative story about friendship, memory, and the power of storytelling. It follows Julie, a girl in Year 6, as she remembers two mysterious Mongolian brothers who briefly joined her class and changed her world forever. With Polaroid photos, tall tales, and a magical coat, this short but powerful book blends humour with heart and leaves a lasting impression.



This term in Science, Year 6 have been learning all about the circulatory system and how it keeps animals (including us!) healthy. We discovered how the heart works like a pump and explored the different parts of blood. To help us understand, we even made our own "blood soup" using ingredients to represent red and white blood cells, platelets, and plasma—messy but fun! We also talked about what helps keep us healthy and what can harm our bodies, using real-life scenarios to suggest healthy changes. Looking through microscopes at blood cells was fascinating, and we used what we saw to create amazing pastel artwork inspired by artist Andrew Mason. To finish, we carried out an experiment to see how exercise affects our heart rate—and got our hearts pumping in the process!

In Art this term, Year 6 have been exploring the theme of memories through our Sculptures and 3D unit. We've been learning how to turn special memories into expressive sculptures using a range of materials and techniques. The children have developed their creative skills by planning, building, and reflecting on their artwork—making thoughtful artistic choices along the way. It's been a fantastic chance to turn personal stories into powerful pieces of 3D art!



In Geography, Year 6 have been busy carrying out their own independent fieldwork with Mrs Denning. They chose enquiry questions based on different areas around the school and designed their own ways to collect data. Using grid references, they mapped out their routes, gathered information, and then analysed their findings. Finally, they presented their results and answered their enquiry questions like true geographers!

Our topic for PSHE has focused on relationships and how relationships can be healthy or not. The children learnt about mental health and how some relationships can affect this. We recognised how some people can try to assert power and control over others and how to negotiate these relationships. The children also learnt how to be SMARTT online.

This term in PE, Year 6 have been taught by the PE coach Mr Baker playing Quidditch! Inspired by the famous game from the Harry Potter series, the children have learned to work as a team while developing their movement, coordination, and strategy skills. Each student took on different roles—Chasers, Beaters, Keepers, and of course, Seekers—as they raced to score points and catch the Golden Snitch. It's been fast-paced, exciting, and full of great sportsmanship!

WESSEX PTA
PRESENTS

Wessex Primary Summer Party

3:20-
5:00PM

FRIDAY 20
JUNE 2025

BOUNCY CASTLE
TOMBOLA
SLUSHIES & SNACKS
AND MORE!

SCHOOL FIELD
WESSEX PRIMARY SCHOOL