Term four

Wessex Weekly

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we bid farewell to a term that began with long nights, dark mornings, and damp days, we find ourselves having come through the sunniest March on record where there is a definite shift towards the summer term with April's warmth and sunshine lifting our spirits. It's been a delight to see our pupils enjoying the use of the field during break and lunchtime, providing them with ample space to play and socialise. The children's enthusiasm for outdoor activities, particularly football, has been matched by very good behaviour on the field.

Looking ahead, we're excited about the prospect of more outdoor time next term, including the much-anticipated picnics at lunch and the potential introduction of grab bags from the kitchen.

Despite this term being only six weeks, we've managed to pack in a wealth of experiences and achievements. Our Year 6 pupils embarked on an enlightening trip to London's Natural History Museum, where they participated in evolution-themed workshops and explored the fascinating galleries. Meanwhile, Year 5 immersed themselves in a Space Project day, planning space probe missions, concocting 'rocket fuel', and handling genuine meteorites and spacecraft components. These hands-on experiences have undoubtedly ignited their curiosity and enthusiasm for scientific exploration. Year 3 headed off to Ufton Court to reinforce their learning about the Egyptians. Children came back having re-enacted the mummification process!

World Book Day saw our school transform into a vibrant celebration of literature, with pupils and staff alike dressing as book characters or coming dressed as avid readers. The day was filled with shared reading experiences, fostering a love for books and storytelling across our school community.

Our charitable efforts this term were equally impressive, with the school raising over £700 for Comic Relief through the sale of red noses, a red-themed dress-up day, and a bake sale. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Mrs Eves for her organisation and to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

In the realm of technology and sports, we've seen some exciting developments. Four of our Year 5 pupils participated in a Crumble workshop at Cookham Rise school, programming Crumbles to control robot monsters of their own design. Who knows? We might be nurturing the next programming prodigy right here at Wessex!

On the sporting front, Mrs Alfred led a group of 12 Year 1 children to a Fencing Festival at Altwood school, where pupils learned techniques and represented our school with admirable determination and spirit.

The PTA Easter discos were a resounding success, with over 165 children in attendance. These discos raised an impressive profit of over £1,500, which help to contribute to vital projects. Last year, we were able to purchase the trim trail and other extras that our school budget can no longer accommodate.

We must take a moment to recognise the incredible dedication of our outgoing PTA chairs, Faye and Kirsty. Their tireless efforts have been instrumental in fostering our school community and supporting our pupils. As we look forward to welcoming a new committee, we anticipate another great year of events that will both strengthen our community bonds and raise essential funds for school extras such as the Christmas Pantomime.

This week, we were honoured to welcome Reverend Joan from the Church of the Good Shepherd, who shared insights on the significance of Lent and Easter in the Christian faith. Meanwhile, our school assemblies this term have covered a diverse range of topics, including Ramadan and Eid, the importance of our school prayer, the British Value of Liberty, and how happiness can be achieved and shared to others. These discussions aim to broaden our pupils' understanding of different cultures and values, while also encouraging personal growth and positivity.

Our Character Curriculum continues to play a crucial role in shaping our pupils into individuals we can all be proud of. This half term's focus areas included being organised for learning, respecting the school environment, expressing gratitude, using the field appropriately, and maintaining a polite tone of voice. It's heartening to see our pupils enthusiastically collecting stickers for demonstrating our Wessex Way and our values, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing these lessons at home.

Sharing assemblies have undoubtedly been the main highlight of this term. We've had the pleasure of witnessing Years 5, 3, 2, and 4 present to their families, showcasing remarkable growth in confidence. These assemblies, reintroduced in part to increase parental involvement and insight into our curriculum, have been met with overwhelmingly positive feedback. The pupils' confident delivery and impressive performances have truly demonstrated the depth of their learning and demonstrate an increased level of confidence.

I would like to extend thanks to our school governors for their unwavering commitment to shaping a positive future for our school. These unpaid volunteers play a vital strategic role in supporting and improving our school through setting vision, ensuring accountability, overseeing finances, and maintaining high standards of achievement for all pupils. We are incredibly fortunate to work alongside such dedicated members of our school community.

As we look ahead to the Easter break, please remember that we return to school on Tuesday, 22nd April. We all wish you a restful and enjoyable holiday and look forward to welcoming our pupils back for what promises to be an exciting summer term filled with learning, achievement and more!

Mr Beavan

Dates and reminders

Wessex Weekly

Diary dates coming up

Tuesday 22nd April
Start of the Summer Term - 8.45am to 8.55am

Thursday 24th April
Mufti day for Lancaster for housepoint reward

Friday 25th April
Year 4 Swimming at Braywick starts

Wednesday 30th April
Class Photographs

Monday 5th May
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY - No School

Thursday 8th May
BIRCH Class Trip to Braywick Nature Centre

Friday 9th May
BEECH Class Trip to Braywick Nature Centre

Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May
Year 6 SATs week

Attendance

This term, attendance across the school has been very positive. Compared to this time last year (94%), our attendance (95%) has improved. Compared to our attendance figures of April 2023 (92%), our attendance is transformed.

In April 2023, over 25% of pupils had an attendance below 90% and therefore were considered to be persistently absent. That figure is now just 13% which brings the data much more in line with national figures.

Thank you for all of your support with ensuring your children come to school.

Lower School: Birch Winners with 98.1%

Upper School: Poplar Winners with 98.3

School attendance this week

92.9%

Yearly average is 94.9%

Aiming for 97%

Curriculum information

As you know we have worked hard to develop the curriculum for the vast majority of our Foundation subjects. Please do have a look on the school website under Key Information - Curriculum where you can see a copy of the 'Long Term Mapping Grid' for each subject which shows what your child will be learning across the year. You will also find a copy of the 'Key Learning Document' for each subject, which tells you the precise learning objectives for each lesson in each term alongside the vocabulary children are embedding.

In the Children section of the website, you will find the Class pages, which include this year's curriculum maps which also give you information about what each year group is learning.

Housepoint updates

The final housepoints for this term are as follows:

York - 2495
Lancaster - 2539
Stuart - 2147
Windsor - 1536

Congratulations to Lancaster for earning the most house points this term. Your reward of a mufti day will take place on the first Thursday back in term 5 on 24th April 2025 as Year 4 will be swimming on Friday 25th.

Feedback

We very much appreciate the feedback which we receive from parents and carers. Whilst we have not got the full information to share relating to last week's parent surveys, we can say that next year we are changing the dates of our assessment calendars and parents evenings so that they are closer together. Next year, we will hold parents evenings after our assessment weeks so we can share up to date information relating to how your child is progressing. This decision has been made after a few parents mentioned this in their surveys - thank you!



Attendance

Wessex Weekly



The following children have attended school every day this term! Congratulations!

Dylan M	Dylan L	Henry F	Reema K	Olivia B	Callum T
Isabella N	Elsie T	Leo W	Abigail C	Peter L	Charlie B
Xavi R	Hugo B	Luka B	Charlie W	Daisy W	Isabelle C
Ella B-H	Isaiah M	Oliver E	George T	Kiwi K	Jake W
Elliott A	Medi G	Sophia M	Jacob W	Leo C	Kieran D
Henry G	Oliver G	Amelia N	Nola W	Tanaaya S	Liam K
Isla T	Anya C-W	Aralola E	Cheryl K	Theo S	Mason B
Sienna M	Derriyan V	Ava F	Daniel PT	William T	Zoe A
George P-W	Isaac L	Charlie W	Darasimi A	Aleena A	Amy S
Harry C	Joshua H	Ellis T	Eliana F	Annabel T	Ben R
Kiara N	Kaysen B	Harriet W	Ellie S	Emaan K	Hannah A
Maya F	Victory A	Indie R	Natty S	Freda G	Henry D
Niamh PM	Amber C-P	Lily W	Oscar B	Harlow R	Ingso L
Rosie A	Arthur G	Louise A	Zedan H	Magnus L	Jasmine L
Sophie B	Callum B	Megan D	Adam F	Valentine B	Maicie R
Amelie P	George A	Michael C	Ellie-Louise G	Zayena T	Sophia W
				Betsy B	Tylar S

The following children have met our school attendance target of 97%+ this term! Congratulations!

Ciara M	Jessica R	Xanthe B	Nermine N	Jack M	Cristian B
Andreeas P	Jude B	Mia D	Sam G	Chester C	Emily P-M
Ivy Blue B	Keya B	Kaiden A	Scott T	Kaiden B	Oliver C
Jude W	Eloise M	Maylene M	Freddie F	Saindhavie J	Samah N
Eleanor B	Jolie L	Darcey K	Jaida C	Summer C	Declan T
Scarlett B	Joseph W	Finley B	Maddison M	Francesca L	Willow B
Lottie H	Tallula M	Aiza H	Alessia P	Migers H	Ariz K
Aiden C	Aiden T	Alexander T	Amaan Z	Zach P	Emily P
Milo V	Isabella A	Daniel U	Amelia D	Aanya B	Imogen K
Beatrice S	Jacob W	Harry S	Olivia S	Isla M	Leo S
Jessica B	Tariro M	Imogen A	Russell I	Maiya P	Shelyne L
James C	Zannah R	Ash M	Abigail S	Oliver S	Zack M
Jasen G	Harry M	Harry A	Aidan G	Alex M	Reggie M
		Mia B	Ajwa A	Zachary W	

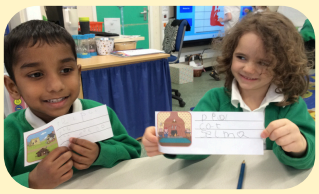
EYFS Term four

Wessex Weekly

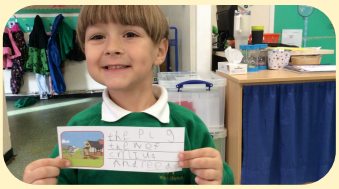
One of our favourite stories to read this term was The Three Little Pigs. We were able to use the story to learn across many areas of the curriculum including literacy, maths, science, DT and much more! We are learning about the different parts of a story: characters, setting, problem and solution. Can you identify the different parts in stories you read at home? When reading we look at the language and discover new words. We are trying to use these new words in our play.

Rummaged Trotted Wicked Toppled Raced Raged Scrambled Mighty

Can you use any of the new words we learnt ?













The pigs tried very hard to build sturdy homes. We built houses using different materials and structures. We had to use lots of skills to make them and discussed if the wolf would be able to blow the houses down!

We were invited to visit Cox Green Library earlier this term. The children walked there and back and talked about road safety, including how to use a zebra crossing and a pelican crossing. The children all walked very sensibly and fairly energetically! When we arrived at the library we were greeted by the team who spoke to us about all of the different books they have, and how to use a library. The children then had the opportunity to browse through lots of books and share them with their friends and grown ups. The session ended with a story which we enjoyed so much that we borrowed it: 'The Hug'. We would recommend the library as a place to visit as a family, but be prepared as you are permitted to borrow 30 books at a time!









In Outdoor learning, we have explored our environmental area and observed where we could see signs of spring. We have watched the trees begin to blossom and flowers begin to grow in our school. We discussed what else we might see in spring and talked about all of the spring animals having newborns and the weather getting warmer. We loved making our nature crowns where we foraged to find unique items to decorate our crowns. We found flowers, leaves, grass twigs and even feathers!





We have loved learning about Easter. This started with learning about Shrove Tuesday when we all got to make and eat a yummy pancake! We were very lucky to have Reverend Joan come tell us the Easter story which taught us a lot about life of Jesus. In class, we have been busy making Easter chicks, designing, drawing and painting our own Easter eggs and making our very own bunny ears to wear during Easter. We all worked together to make an Easter wreath for the classroom full of colourful eggs all which had our own unique and personal designs.



Year 1 Term four

Wessex Weekly

We've had an awesome time in Year One this term! Our stories have taken us to the beach with our favourite teddies and we've have lots of fun being creative in DT and Computing.



We started the term reading Stanley's Stick, then used this as inspiration for our own stories about magical objects. We had to choose an everyday item and decide what it could turn into - the only limit was our imagination! 'The Sea Saw' told a story about a girl and her lost teddy bear. We wrote Missing Posters which were put up around school - we were relieved when Bear was returned to the classroom.



In computing, we have been using a piece of online software called Sketchpad. We explored its variety of tools, creating pictures from stories, repeated patterns and even self-portraits. We loved using an iPad to create works of art.

We had a great time learning different joining techniques in DT. We designed our own puppets, then put our new skills to the test, cutting, joining and decorating to create our masterpieces. It was tricky but we persevered and are proud of the results!





In maths, we've mastered using different units of measurement to measure length, weight and capacity. These inlcude non-standard (e.g. cubes) and standard (e.g. cm) units.

Weather-watching has been the name of the game this term. We've kept a weather diary to track changes, learnt the names of capital cities and compared the weather in different countries in the UK. We've also looked at atlases, locating UK countries.



In RE, we've found out about Judaism, focusing on the synagogue and home. We had an interesting time listening to Rabbi Rene who talked to us about his special job and were intrigued by the Jewish artefacts observed. We even got to try some challah - the special bread eaten on Shabbat.



In science, we have been learning about the needs of animals and how best to care for them. We have discovered there are 5 main animal groups; mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians. We learnt about animal diets and the new words carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. Our investigative skills have developed as we've been sorting in different ways and recording data.



Year 2 Term four

Wessex Weekly





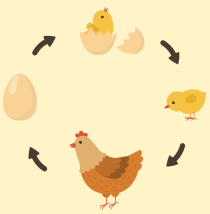
This term we read 'Tadpole's Promise,' a story about a caterpillar and tadpole who fell in love. Unfortunately, the tadpole grew into a frog and the caterpillar into a butterfly, and the frog accidentally ate the butterfly! We created our own versions of the stories and loved sharing these ideas with one another. We also read 'Grandad's Camper,' a story where a Grandad tells his Granddaughter all about his memories. The book was full of beautiful illustrations that helped up think of descriptive noun phrases.

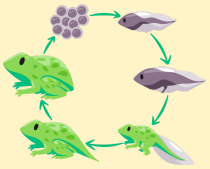






In science have been learning about lifecycles of different animals and we learnt the different stages in a human life cycle. We did an experiment where we measured children from each year group and learnt that as you get older you grow. We also challenged ourselves and completed the daily mile each day to see what would happen if we exercised consistently. We found that we were able to run more laps of the mile at the end of the week and found it easier to do so.









In history we have been answering the question 'How did we learn to fly?'
We started by learning about the Wright brothers. Orville and Wilbur were brothers who flew the first plane. Ask us how long the first flight was!
We also learnt about Bessie Coleman, the first female of colour to get her pilot's license and Amelia Earheart who flew across the Atlantic Ocean on her own.
We ended the term learning about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peak. Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon and Tim Peak worked on the international space station.



In art we have been using clay. We have been exploring how to shape and join clay using the 'score and slip' method. We made a pinch pot and also used different tools to make marks in the clay.
We have also been learning about Rachel Whiteread a famous sculptor who has won the Turner Prize. We then designed and made a tile of a house.



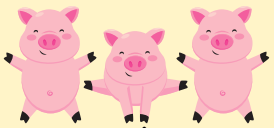








This term we have been learning about pitch (how high or low a sound is). We have learnt that notations (how the music is written) are read from left to right and that the pitch patterns can be high or low. We have learnt to sing a song 'Once a man fell in a well' and play it on an tuned percussion instrument. The song has 4 musical phrases and the pitch changes from high to low.



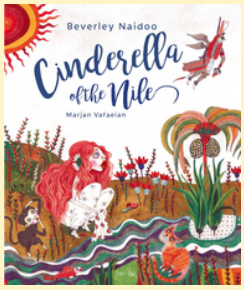


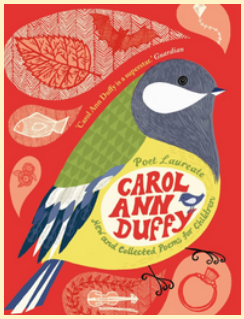
This term we enjoyed programming on scratch Junior. We learnt the purpose of different blocks and how to change the characters, backgrounds and add voices to different characters. We created a program for the 'Three Little Pigs' story.

Year 3 Term four

Wessex Weekly

Another fantastic term of learning!





This term was dedicated to the Ancient Egyptians. One of the most fascinating and historically rich civilizations influenced our Art, History learning and we wrote our own versions of a traditional tale based on our writing book,' Cindrella of the Nile' which was set in Ancient Egypt.

The writing journey began with the discovery of a bottle containing a map and message. The children reported this using present perfect tense. They developed inference skills before exploring the author's language and effects on the reader. The used conjunctions and prepositional phrases to compare the traditional Cinderella story to the version we studied leading to their own version of the Cinderella story showing how the main character overcame adversity.

Earlier in the term, we explored the theme of hope and healing through our book 'The Last Garden'. In a war-torn city, a little girl tends to the last garden. everyone has to leave, and the garden is all alone now. Inspired by true war gardens around the world, children used abstract nouns, dialogue, prefixes and suffixes and possessive apostrophes to write their own extended narrative based on the book.





Through our History lessons, we discovered what was important to ancient Egyptians, investigating the River Nile, ancient gods and goddesses, beliefs about the afterlife and the significance of the Rosetta stone.
The highlight of the term was our trip to Ufton Court to enhance our Ancient Egyptian learning. We were so proud of the children's engagement with all the workshops and the way they represented our school. We experienced a drama workshop about 'What happens to law breakers in Ancient Egypt?' Every child was involved in the 'Embalming and Mummification' process including the funeral procession. We learnt the Ancient Egyptians beliefs of what they would face on their journey to the 'Afterlife' through games.







Art this term guided the children in understanding and applying the styles, patterns and techniques of ancient Egyptian Art. The learning included designing scrolls, making paper and creating contemporary responses using zines.









In Maths, we started the term with 'Fractions' and are currently learning about 'Mass and Capacity'. The children began by using grams and kilograms when exploring mass before moving on to capacity. This unit provided the opportunity to use and understand scales in real life situations. The focus was on dividing 100 into 2/4/5/10 equal parts using number lines, before applying this skill in various contexts. By working out what the interval gaps are on a number line, children became more experienced at reading scales.

The children greatly enjoyed learning how write and send an email in Computing. They can confidently send emails to each other with attachments and know how to spot junk emails.







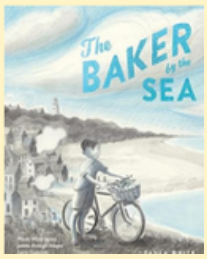
Year 4 Term four

Wessex Weekly



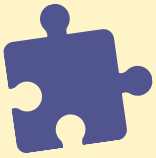
This term, our focus has been on the Vikings, as we have explored their world through the lens of two significant literary works. We commenced our journey with "Viking Voyagers," a rich source of factual insights into their migration from Scandinavia to England and their daily existence. Following this, our attention turned to "Norse Mythology," where we encountered the tales of revered Norse gods such as Odin, Thor, and the cunning Loki. These texts have provided us with a comprehensive understanding of Viking culture and mythology.





The books that have inspired our writing this term have been “The Baker by the Sea” and “The Matchbox Diary”. We have enjoyed learning new vocabulary, debating how we can rebuild a village, and understanding the four sentence types more. We have produced some amazing brochures to tempt tourists to the village by the sea.



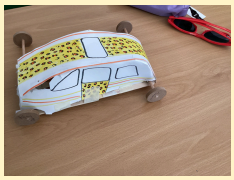




This term in our PSHCE Jigsaw lessons we have been talking about ‘Healthy Me’ We have talked about what makes us healthy and what could influence our health. We have discussed friendships, group dynamics and unhealthy relationships including peer pressure. We have also learned about the effects of smoking and alcohol on our life.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed this term's Design Technology topic centred on the creation of a slingshot car. Guided by a clear design brief emphasizing the development of a vehicle that embodies both aerodynamic efficiency and aesthetic appeal, reminiscent of renowned automobile designs for inspiration, the students embarked on this engaging project.













In History, we have been trying to answer the question: How hard was it to invade and settle in Britain? We have learned about the Anglo-Saxons and where they came from and why they arrived in Britain. We looked at how they lived including making our own ‘wattle and daub’ walls in groups. We also learned about the introduction of Chrisitanity, Alfred the Great and the end of the Angle-Saxon rule.

Our Science topic has been all about sound. We have been investigating how a sound is made, the volumes and pitches of sounds. We know that sound is caused by vibrations that create sound waves. We understand that sound travels through different mediums and tested this theory by making string telephones



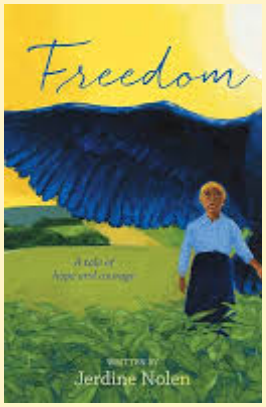
In P.E. the fantastic MNR Coaches have been teaching us the sport of ultimate frisbee. We have learnt about the best ways to throw and catch a frisbee, such as the sandwich and crab catch. We also loved frisbee golf!



We have continued to enjoy our trumpet lessons from the Berkshire music trust. We hope you liked our musical performance in our sharing assembly this week.

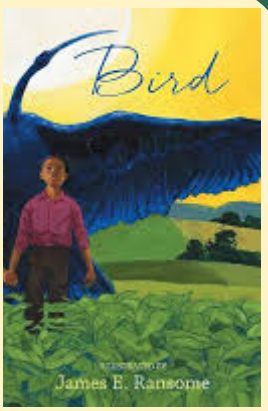
Year 5 Term four

Wessex Weekly



It has been a fantastic end to our Spring term. We loved seeing the energy and enthusiasm as the sun started to appear more.

In English this term we have managed to explore a sensitive topic of slavery through the book Freedom Bird. Following the story of Millicent and John, we learnt the hardships of living and working on a plantation when all you want is to be free. After this, we explored and researched an extraordinary woman, Harriet Tubman.
Once we understood and collected all of the data, we turned this into a biography explaining her achievements.



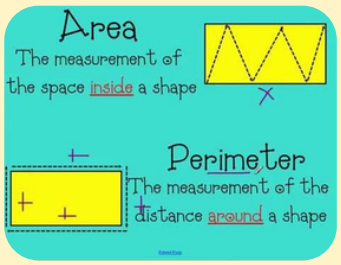
Next, we dived into the world of fairytales. Following Jub's mission to retrieve the lost happy endings, we have been expanding our vocabulary, looking at synonyms and antonyms closely. We have also used speech and dialogue to help portray characters' feelings whilst keeping the action moving forward.



During this term, our first reading book helped us understand the Earth and space. We explored different habititats, species and effects that the night affects. It allowd us to gain a good understanding of what happens around us while we are tucked up in our beds.

Following this, we dipped into poetry with 'The Listener' by Walter de la Mare, delving into the intriguing lives of phantoms and lonely travellers. Exploring new vocabulary has enriched our writing, and the children have even committed parts of the poem to memory!

In maths, we've expanded our horizons with fractions and decimals, navigating through multiplying fractions by integers, fractions of amounts, and exploring the nuances of decimals, including their conversion into percentages. We have also been exploring the world of shape. Together we have been trying to understand the difference between area and perimeter. We had to make sure we were being super vigilant when coming to missing sides, as sometimes we don't have all of the information we need.





Geography has taken us on a journey to deserts, where we've analysed their uses, climates, resources, and activities. This knowledge has empowered us to compare our local area with the Mojave Desert, weighing the pros and cons of each.



This term in science, we have been looking at the mysterious world of space. Discovering the diffferent solar system models that have been used throughout history and how this has developed today. We also gained a better understanding of how the process of day and night occurs, ensuring that we know that the Sun does not orbit us but infact the other way around.



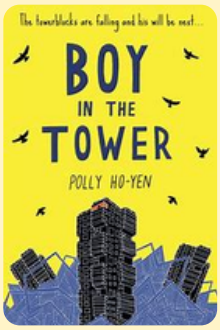
In music, we've delved into the curious phenomenon of synaesthesia, where senses intertwine with music, allowing individuals to associate colours with notes. This understanding has sparked creativity as we've begun composing our musical scores using colours and patterns.

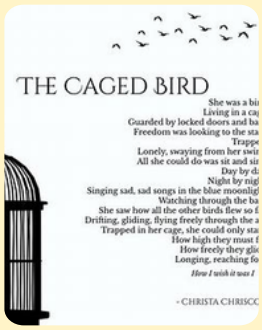
Year 6 Term four

Wessex Weekly

TYear 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.

The children have been enthralled by the topic of Utopia vs Dystopia. In writing, we kicked off the term with The Three Little Pig Project and the children really embraced the unusual nature of the wolf becoming the victim of the story. They produced some wonderful newspaper articles and wrote persuasive speeches about freeing the pigs from prison. Moreover, the children were inspired by the post-apocalyptic story 'The Boy in the Tower' and produced their own stories. Some were a very dramatic read! In reading, the children learnt about freedom and repression when studying 'The Caged Bird' by Maya Angelou and 'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase'. The children brushed up on their oracy skills and performed poetry. We definitely have some budding performers in our midst.







In science this term, the children have been studying electricity. The children learnt how to build a circuit and conducted an experiment to see whether changing the amperage affects the brightness of a bulb. They all made excellent circuits and strived to make the experiment as fair as possible. The children also learnt how to be safe around electricity and produced some wonderful electrical safety brochures.

In DT, the children were given a design brief to make a miniture waistcoat The children learnt how to follow a pattern, cut fabric, stitch a seam and applique their own designs. The children really enjoyed embellishing their waistcoats with sequins and buttons. Some even made pockets! Move over Vivienne Westwood!





In History, Year 6 have been learning about the fascinating Sikh Empire. They began by exploring how the Sikh Empire was established and the impact Sikh beliefs had on society during this time. The class also looked into the importance of Lahore as a key trading centre and researched a major trade route used during the Sikh Empire. Students then delved into the historical significance of Ranjit Singh, one of the most important leaders of the empire, and compared his achievements with those of Sophia Duleep Singh. This comparison helped the children understand the roles these figures played in shaping the history of the Sikh Empire.

One tradition in Year 6 is to learn about the Easter story through the media of Easter Cracked. The children were treated to a visit by Wayne Dixon, who explained the symbology of Easter through an interactive assembly. The children learnt that Easter Eggs symbolise the empty tomb after Jesus was resurrected amongst other interesting Easter facts.



IIn maths, we started off the term by applying our knowledge of fractions to convert into decimals and percentages. The children have also extended their skills in area, perimeter and shape. They have been extremely busy learning how to measure angles with a protractor too! We have also been looking at some statistical work, interpreting information from different types of graphs.

We will be sending home a pack of Easter SATs homework based on 10 minutes a day of Reading, grammar and maths work. It is important that children try and complete this to pratise their skills independently in readiness for SATs.