



Dear Parents and Carers

Another term is brought to a close in fitting style. Children have very much enjoyed breaking all sorts of rules today where they have been able to dress in red, drink squash and bring in teddies to cuddle. Again, a huge thanks to all who have supported this event today raising yet more money for the PTA to put towards future projects. Initial count totals an amazing £420.

As we reflect on this term, there is so much positivity to report. There have been so many opportunities for pupils to explore extra curricular sessions and visitors alongside their usual classroom learning. We wanted to share a few highlights with you here.

This week has provided the opportunity for our pupils to experience the wonder of the arts: Year 6 walked the short distance to Cox Green School to see their fantastic production of Grease whilst pupils from Chestnut class took part in the annual school sport partnership dance festival which took place at Braywick Leisure Centre. Huge congratulations to all of the members of Chestnut class for their effort, commitment and dancing skills. Their dance, themed on the book *The Day the Crayons Quit* was creative, imaginative and choreographed based on the children's own ideas. Thanks must go to Jane Douglas, the dance teacher from the sports partnership, who helped choreograph the dance, Miss Henderson for her dedication, attention to detail and meticulous organisation and to Mrs Brown for her support for the dance and at the leisure centre. Also thanks to Mrs Eves for volunteering as a parent helper and to Mrs Belozanski for supporting the pupils throughout the day too.

The dance festival only comes to fruition with our close working relationship and membership of the Ascot and Maidenhead School Sports' Partnership. Through this partnership, we are able to offer many pupils opportunities to perform, represent and compete in a wide range of events and disciplines. We look forward to continuing our fantastic relationship with the partnership well into the future.

On the subject of partnerships, we maintain a very good relationship with Maidenhead United, who many of you will know are currently playing in the National Football League. Warren, or Coach Brown as he is often known to the children, supports learning in the classroom and also coaches pupils in the clubs that he runs throughout the day he is with us on site. Warren is a wonderful role model to our young people, especially those with an interest in sport. His positive attitude and upbeat demeanour mean that many of our children look up to him as a positive role model - what an excellent position to be in.

This term saw our second Share my Learning session where we opened the doors of the school to welcome parents and carers to see the classrooms, walk the corridors and look at the learning in children's books.

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

Thank you again to everyone who attended this event; it was nearly a third of the school who had someone visit them. We understand that not everyone will be able to attend these events due to work commitments but we very much value the role that parents and carers play.

To that end, we remain steadfast in our drive for parents and carers to be more involved in the school and next term, we see the return of our sharing assemblies where pupils get the chance to practise public speaking and sharing all about what they have been learning about. Keep an eye out in the newsletters for these dates and we look forward to welcoming you again into the school to share pupils' successes!

Earlier in the term, we enjoyed participating in Maidenhead Lion's Swimathon to help raise funds for sports equipment at school. The pupils who represented the school should be proud of their achievements and effort. Mrs Cox masterminded the whole event so thanks must go to her too!

We welcomed drama coaches into school in the first week of the term where they took the books that children would be studying and created drama workshops relating to these. Children thoroughly enjoyed becoming the characters and creating scenes to explore the books and stories which helped them later in the term when they started studying the books. It also allowed pupils the opportunity to develop their confidence

A recent edition, yet a firm highlight, in the school calendar is the trip to the O2 for our Young Voices choir. Mrs Eves and Mrs Phillips had been ensuring that rehearsals for the trip to the O2 were thorough and children knew all of the words to the songs. Mrs Pope also accompanied the choir along with Mrs Bryan and the children had the most wonderful time performing as part of the massed choir comprised of thousands of children!

A number of yeargroups have welcomed visitors to the school this term too. Years 3 and 4 had the pleasure of Tamesine, one of the local road safety officers, coming to speak to them about staying safe on the roads and the importance of wearing helmets when scooting or cycling. Children should be able to tell you the difference between a puffin and penguin crossing. Ask your child if they can explain the difference between the two; you may be pleasantly surprised with their knowledge and ability to recall this information.

It is so lovely to read what each year group has been working on this term in these newsletters. We hope that you get as much joy hearing about the learning and opportunities pupils have at school as we do.

Have a great week and we look forward to seeing everyone a week on Monday, 24th February.

Mr Beavan

Dates and reminders



Wessex Weekly



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

Diary dates coming up



Monday 24th February

Start of Term 3 - 8.45am to 8.55am

Friday 28th February

Mufti Day for YORK house for the most housepoints last term

Thursday 6th March

Year 6 trip to the Natural History Museum

Friday 7th March

PTA Bags 2 School

Monday 10th March

Year 3 trip to Ufton Court

Thursday 13th March

Year 5 Sharing Assembly - 9am
Upper School Hall

Thursday 20th March

Year 3 Sharing Assembly - 9am
Upper School Hall

Good News Certificates



EYFS: Elliott and Reggie

Year 1: Oliver and Aiden

Year 2: Azaria and Jacob

Year 3: Harry and Jake

Year 4: Mia and Jackson

Year 5: Rudy and Elisa

Year 6: Liam and Darcey

Attendance

**Lower School: Birch
Winners with 98.1%**

**Upper School: Poplar
Winners with 98.3%**

**School attendance
this week**

95%

**Yearly average
is 94.3%**

Aiming for 97%



Pencil cases

We very much appreciate it when children are fully-prepared for lessons. However, please can you talk to your child if they have a number of pencil cases at school which hold an inordinate amount of items of stationery. Older pupils only really need to have a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and gluestick in their pencil cases. Some pupils are currently bringing in a number of huge pencil cases to school each day. Please do support us by speaking to your children about whether or not the size of - or number of - pencil cases they bring in is necessary.

Housepoint updates

The final housepoints for this term are as follows:

York - 2,622
Lancaster - 2,798
Stuart - 2,049
Windsor - 1,928

Congratulations to York for earning the most house points this term. Your reward of a mufti day will take place on the first Friday back in term 4 on 28th February 2025.

ANPR update - School street

Please find attached an important letter regarding the ANPR camera installation for the School Street.

Late to school?

We are finding that more children are arriving at school late. A reminder that the school gates open at 8:45am and our registers are taken by 8:55am. Any child arriving after this time is marked as late and has missed many learning opportunities - we often use our morning work for pupils to work on targets relevant to them.

Following guidelines set by the Department for Education, any child who arrives after 9:30am is considered to be absent from school and their register mark is recorded as U - "Arrived in school after registration closed". Any child with ten unauthorised absences in a space of ten weeks may be subject to a fine.



Quotes of the week

"I really liked dancing, I felt nervous before but really happy after I did it" Henry, Year 2

"I loved dancing at the Dance Festival, it was fantastic and I feel proud of myself" Scarlett, Year 2

"My favourite part of the term was making a fact file about tea" Aadriti, Year 3

"I enjoyed art because we got to look at different artists and used different materials" Talia, Year 4

"I enjoyed DT because we are making pop up books" Isla, Year 5

"I enjoyed going to watch Cox Green School perform Grease" Amy, Year 6



Safer Internet Day



Wessex Weekly



This week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day – have a look at the things we have been getting up to.

Year 6 spent time discussing scams and ‘phishing’, using this acronym for SCAM to help us identify whether or not things are trustworthy:

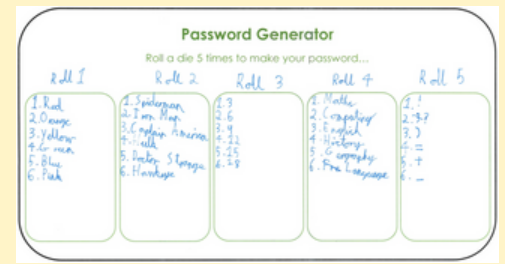
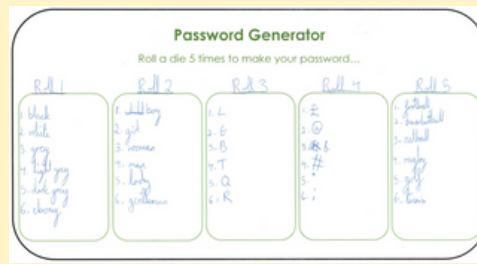
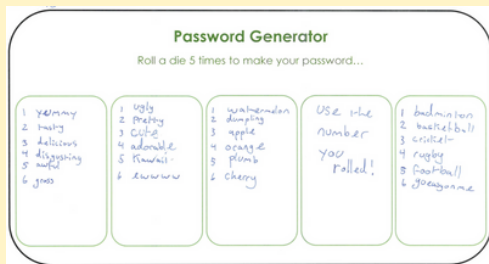
S – Seems too good to be true

C – Contact you did not expect

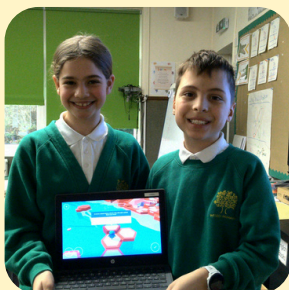
A – Asked for personal information

M – Money or trade being asked for.

We then discussed our online profiles and how to keep our personal information safe through secure passwords. Why not use one of our ‘password generators’ to create yourself a secure password!



Year 5 spent time looking at the website where we explored the world of Interland. Through interactive games, we learnt about the different challenges we can be faced with online. The children showed great interest in learning about how to keep themselves and others safe online, with some wanting to go home and complete more of these games to help them become internet awesome!



Safer Internet Day



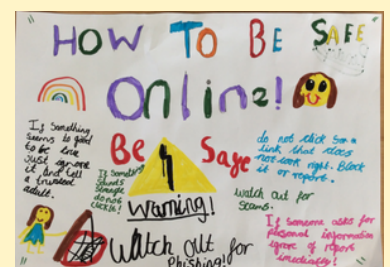
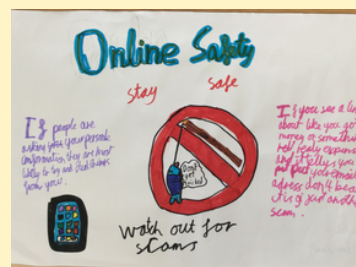
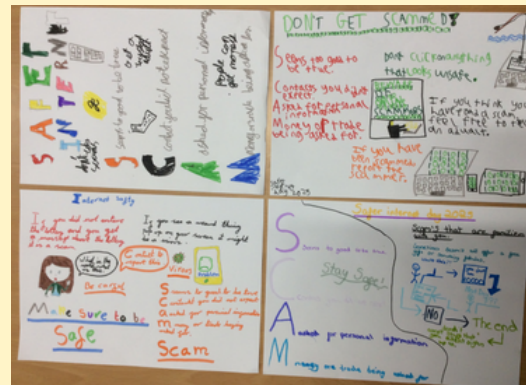
Wessex Weekly



This week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day – have a look at the things we have been getting up to.

Year 3 and 4

Both year groups watched the online lessons through the BBC website. We discussed the importance of staying safe online. We watched a video about phishing and scams and why it's important to always speak to a trusted adult if ever you are concerned about anything. Often, we might come across an advert that sounds too good to be true or something that we really want to click on. The children learnt that these can be used as hooks to draw us in and take private information from us. Year 4 designed their own posters to share awareness.



Year 2

We spent time watching Maddie and Joel from CBBC delivering an online lesson relating to spotting scams and phishing emails.

From the online lesson, we now know what the recipe is for a good password – it is three random words, a number and a special character.

“I learnt not to share my email address with anyone” Jacob, Chestnut

“I learnt to not tell other people my passwords” Henry, Chestnut



Year 1 followed the adventures of Zork the Alien who wanted to show his parents he could use his new Astrolink (tablet) responsibly. We discussed what to do if pop-ups appear asking for your private information; a video is scary; or someone sends you a nasty message. Here some of what we learnt:

- Show a parent
- Don't give your address to strangers
- If someone's calling you who you don't know, don't answer.

We found the lesson 'FUN' and 'JOYFUL' and now feel prepared to explore safely.

Reception

In Reception we discussed that children should only use a tablet or phone when an adult lets them and is nearby. Children know if something different pops up on the page, they are to tell an adult straight away.



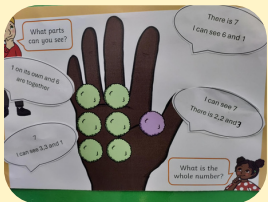
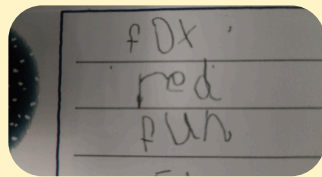
EYFS Term three



Wessex Weekly

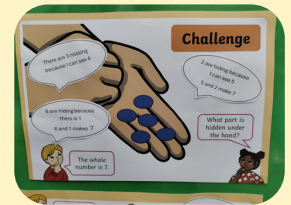


When we returned to school in January, we were very excited to have a flurry of snow one morning! We read *One Snowy Night* as we knew that Percy helped his friends when they were feeling very cold one snowy night in the park. We enjoyed making masks and we re told the story through actions and using different voices for the animals. We used our phonics knowledge to re write parts of the story, some of us can write a whole sentence now! We used chalk to create snowy pictures, learning to blend the chalk to give a snow and foggy effect.



In maths, we are becoming confident knowing the different ways we can make numbers up to 10. We can subitise which means we don't have to count objects or pictures to say how many we can see. We can spot patterns and group numbers to find the total. We are able to share our explanations to others.

'I know there 7 because I can see 5 and 2 more'



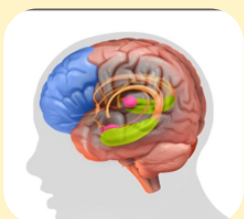
We have read a lot of stories this term but one of our favourites has been *The Gingerbread Man*. The children loved joining in with the repeated parts of the story and were able to act out and sequence the story. They wrote words and sentences from different parts of the story using Fred fingers. The children all baked and decorated their own Gingerbread Man and thought carefully about the baking process. The biscuits were delicious and Mr Beavan ate his quicker than the fox from the story!



At the end of January we learned about Chinese New Year. We listened to the story of the animal race which created the zodiac calendar, then we found out whether we were born in either the year of the pig or the rat. We learned that people decorate their houses with paper lanterns and that red is a lucky colour, so we used our fine motor skills to make red paper lanterns. We watched videos of lion dances in the streets of China Town and then used our own Chinese lion to create our own dances; we added to this by playing drums and cymbals! Mr Leung's, our local Chinese takeaway, kindly donated plain chow mein and prawn crackers for the children to try; considering this was straight after lunch, most of it was wolfed down! Thank you to Bella who brought in a lucky red envelope to show the classes.



In Phonics, we have been busy learning to read storybooks. We work with a partner to work identify any 'Special Friends' then 'Fred Talk-Read the Word' We have enjoyed the challenges of Hold of sentence and using our Fred Fingers to help us spell words.



Our new topic this term is 'Mind Up'. This is where we learn about the different parts of the brain and how it helps us to learn. Our pre-frontal cortex or 'Wise-Owl,' helps us to think and make good decisions. Our hippocampus or 'Hippo' stores our memories and what we have learnt and finally our amygdala or our 'Guard Dog' helps to keep us safe.

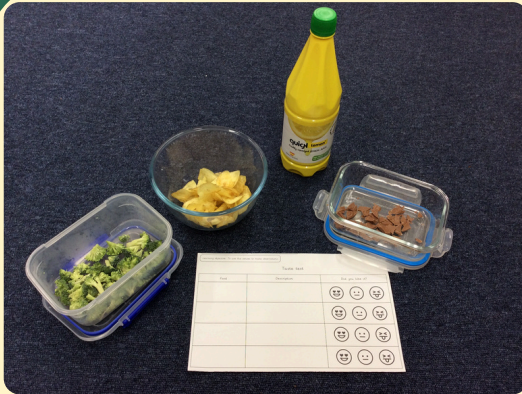
'It has been fun to learn about how important our brain is.'



Year 1 Term three



Wessex Weekly



It's been buzzing in Year One this term! From aliens arriving in a space ship to tasting and smelling different foods, they've had lots of fun.

This term, we kick-started our senses topic by identifying our five senses. Throughout the term, we have tasted foods, smelt some rather intriguing smells (which they had to identify!) and listened carefully to guess the sound. We have also carried out lots of investigations.



In computing, the children have learnt how to take photos using an iPad. They took a series of photos to create a short story and had a great time editing these, adding pictures and words and using colour filters.

Both classes have been enjoying making 3D sculptures out of paper and card. We have refined our skills of folding, twisting and bending.

We have taken inspiration from a 'tree of life' in Milan and Louise Bourgoise (Maman), a rather large spider!



A space ship crashed landed at the start of term and out popped a yellow alien who liked playing hide and seek! The children have been expanding their use pronunciation, getting to grips with question and exclamation marks, as well as learning what a noun phrases is. They have produced some lovely writing inspired by 'Beegu' and 'Leo and the Octopus'.

The children have had a fascinating time investigating toys old and new. Chertsey Toy Museum brought a selection of toys from the past which inspired our topic. It's been interesting for them to see how teddy bears have changed over time. Playing with the old-fashioned toys was rather challenging and required a different skill set.



Year 2 Term two



Wessex Weekly



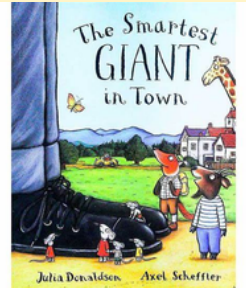
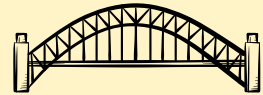
It has been another busy term in Year 2!



This term we have been reading two books about bears: 'The Bear and the Piano' and 'The Bear Under the Stairs,' which linked to the theme of bravery vs fear. We wrote our own version of 'The Bear and the Piano' by choosing our own animal and instrument that they played. Some of our ideas included the 'Parrot and the Guitar' and 'The Salamander and the Drums.'

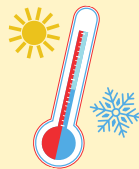


After finding a mysterious furry object in school we read the story 'The Bear Under the Stairs,' a book about a boy called William who was scared of the bear under his stairs. We spent some time writing letters of advice to William and finished by publishing a non-fiction report about bears. We had to research a species of bear and write about its habitat, appearance and diet. We took these home to teach our families about bears.



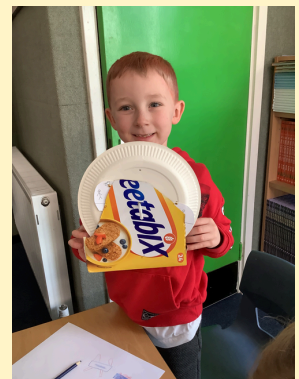
In science we have been learning all about different materials and their uses. We read the story 'The Smartest Giant in Town' to help us with our learning. We started by identifying the different materials objects are made from and why certain materials have been used. We answered questions like 'would you make a teddy bear with glass?' and 'would you want to wear shoes made from metal?'

We conducted some experiments about how we can change the shape of objects by twisting, stretching, bending and squashing. We also tested how we can strengthen materials and we made bridges from paper and tested their strength.



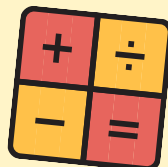
In Geography we have been learning about hot and cold places to live. We learnt that the coldest places on Earth are the North and South Pole.

We also learnt that the hottest places are along the equator and we learnt about what it is like to live in Kenya. We used a rain gauge and a thermometer to conduct some research about the climate that we live in and we found out that we live in a temperate climate!



We designed a ferris wheel in D&T. We were given a design brief stating that our ferris wheel needed to have pods for 8-10 people and needed to be able to spin. We experimented with wheels and axels and then constructed out ferris wheels using cardboard boxes, paper plates and straws.

We have learnt lots about multiplication and division this term. We used practical resources to help us solve problems and we are becoming more fluent with our times tables and division facts for numbers. We have also been developing our understanding of addition and subtraction. We have been adding 2-digit numbers and using the column addition method to regroup the tens!



Chestnut Class worked extremely hard to learn their dance for the Dance Festival that took place on Thursday. Their dance was based on the story 'The Day the Crayons Quit.' They should be extremely proud of what they achieved and it was amazing to see them perform with confidence and pride.



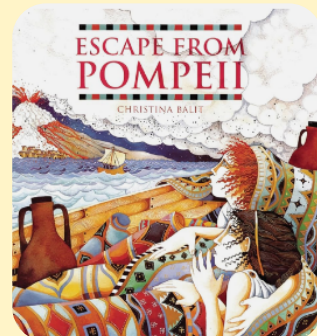
Year 3 Term Three



Wessex Weekly

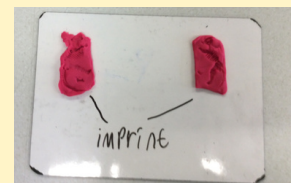


Much of our learning this term has centered around Volcanoes, rocks and natural disasters, which might sound peculiar, however the children have been fascinated and thoroughly enjoyed our themes. Our English began with 'Escape from Pompeii', the fictional story of 2 children escaping the eruption of Vesuvius in which we progressed towards writing our own account of the disaster as Newspaper Report. In conjunction with this, one of our Reading books has been Earth Shattering Events - a fantastic non-fiction book about a variety of natural disasters.



As our key question in Geography has been to find out why some people live near volcanoes, and Science has focused on rocks and soils, the children have truly been immersed in this and can no doubt answer your questions!

We have also read 'Cloud Tea Monkeys' and found out all about tea, researching the history of tea, where tea grows, and becoming Apprentice Tea Tasters in order to support the Royal Tea Taster! We then created our own fact files all about tea and are looking forward to displaying these for others to learn from.



In Maths, we have continued learning our multiplication and division facts, learning about related facts and using our knowledge to solve reasons problems. We also practised dividing a two-digit number by a one-digit number with and without remainders using partitioning and the bus stop method.

We moved on to length and perimeter, using millimeters, centimeters and meters to measure items in and around the classroom as well as learning to convert between units - cm to m or mm to cm.

$$10 \text{ millimeters (mm)} = 1 \text{ centimeter (cm)}$$

$$100 \text{ centimeters (cm)} = 1 \text{ meter (m)}$$

$$1000 \text{ meters (m)} = 1 \text{ Kilometer (km)}$$



We have been introduced to Hockey this term, learning how to dribble the ball, use the stick correctly and start to pass accurately with partners in order to move past opponents whilst attacking, as well as blocking and defending space.

We also used some key Roman images such as chariots, helmets and shields to create a dance by means of mirroring, levels and rhythm.



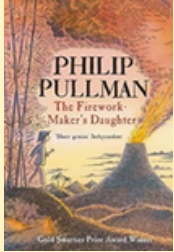
Our DT this term has taught us about foods and where they come from, their 'food miles' and how to make a healthy meal. We made seasonal vegetable tarts, learning how to peel and cut vegetables safely using peelers and knives, and then enjoyed tasting our own tarts!



Year 4 Term three



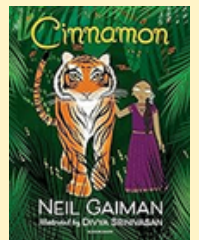
Wessex Weekly



In Year 4, we have enjoyed being transported to far-off places in our Reading and Writing this term. We have enjoyed Reading about Lila's journey in Philip Pullman's 'The firework maker's daughter' and Tamarind's discovery of her past in 'Tamarind and the star of Ishta'. The children have been learning about other cultures, predicting what they think will happen next and summarising chapters.



Writing this term has been focused on the books Frindleswylde and Cinnamon. We have put ourselves in the character's shoes, writing from different viewpoints using letters and job adverts. Our writing culminated in a sequel to Frindleswylde... Frindleswylde returns!



We have been continuing to learn our multiplication tables up to 12x12 in maths in addition to learning more formal methods for multiplication and division. We have then been studying lengths such as mm, cm, m and km and converting between them to solve problems. We have also started to learn about perimeter by counting squares and using our multiplication facts.



Our Science topic has been all about changes of states. We started by sorting materials into hoops based on whether we thought that they were solids, liquids and gases. We have also performed many different experiments such as investigating the evaporation rates of different temperatures of water. We used terms such as evaporation and condensation to describe the water cycle.



In our Geography curriculum, we have explored the investigative question: "Where does our food come from?" This inquiry has led us to significant discoveries regarding the impact of our dietary choices on the environment. We delved deeper into the concept of food miles, examining the distances our food travels to reach us, and traced the journey of the invaluable cocoa bean. The students have displayed a keen interest in understanding the principles of fair trade. To conclude the topic, they have engaged in constructing balanced arguments, both advocating for and against the practices of purchasing locally versus importing food.



In our art lessons, we have been studying the concept of tint and shade, and how incorporating both lighter and darker areas into a painting can create a three-dimensional effect. We have explored the works of renowned artists such as Paul Cézanne, Clara Peeters, and Audrey Flack to draw inspiration for our own still-life compositions and paintings.

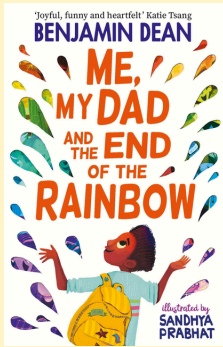


In P.E. we have enjoyed playing tag rugby, working on our attacking and defending skills alongside ball carrying and passing. This finished with our own mini 'six-nations' in class with a friendly tournament.

Year 5 Term three



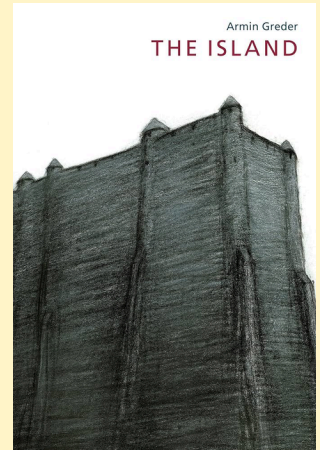
Wessex Weekly



It has been a productive start to the year with the children working hard with their learning. It is perplexing to think we are almost half way through the academic year.

This term in English we have been focussing on the book 'The Island' by Armin Greder. This story allowed us to focus on themes of discrimination, fear, prejudice and the unknown.

Throughout the book, we explored the idea of how people can react when they are unsure of what is to come, and how some people may react negatively to this. After this exploration and discussion, children were able to recognise the way we should embrace change and newcomers into our lives and be as inclusive as possible.



The children then wrote their own story continuing from the end of the book. A lot of the themes that children used showed a clear contrast to our class text, showing their understanding of how to treat others.

In reading, we have been reading some of our favourite texts in year 5 so far. Me, my dad and the end of the rainbow allowed us to explore themes of change, diversity and acceptance. With the world continuously evolving around us, this text gave a child-friendly view of how some of these challenges can present and how we can go about trying to make steps to resolve them.

After this, we started our new book 'Who Let the Gods Out?'. We were surprised with how many pupils understood the reference to the song! This book shows us how humour can be an amazing way to engage the reader, bring real-world references into the story and ultimately make for a more enjoyable reading experience. This has linked fantastically with our history topic of Ancient Greece.

Within Maths this term, we have been working hard to master some tricky concepts to help with our overall mathematical knowledge. First, we explored the realm of multiplication methods, discovering how we can use short and long multiplication to work out problems.

After this, we moved into the world of fractions. We explored the world of multiplying fractions by an integer and converting our new improper fractions into mixed numbers. We then moved into finding fractional amounts and finding the whole amount using the parts we knew. We then used these newfound skills to solve more complex problems.

This term we have been looking at the topic of Ancient Greece. The children were extremely excited and engaged in the learning due to our previous reading book 'Mythologica'.



We discussed how they helped introduce democracy to the modern world, and how this developed into the representative democracy.

We also looked at the great minds that the Greeks gave us and how they influenced modern-day teaching and how we think about the world.

This led us perfectly to understand the legacy that this brilliant civilisation left behind.

This term we have been privileged to have amazing MNR coaching come and teach us a new game that everyone was excited to learn QUIDDITCH! This mixed multiple skills and games into one. We used skills from handball, dodgeball and football all in one! All the children have been super excited every week to join in the learning.

Finally, we have been creating some amazing interactive pop-up books based on a children's nursery rhyme. This then will be able to read to a Year 1 class to celebrate our efforts!

Year 6 Term three

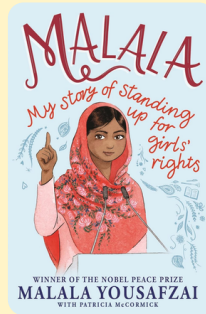


Wessex Weekly



This term has flown by and the children have continued to work hard and produce some fantastic work. It's hard to believe we are half way through the academic year!

In Literacy, we have enjoyed reading *The Little Matchstick Girl Strikes Back*, a story inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Match Girl*. We have also been reading the incredible story of Malala Yousafzai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her fight for every child's right to education. In our writing lessons, we have been working on *Resist*, a book based on the true story of Audrey Hepburn and her challenging childhood during World War II, where she was part of the Dutch resistance. The children have written fantastic biographies based on her life story and the important work she went on to do as part of UNICEF.

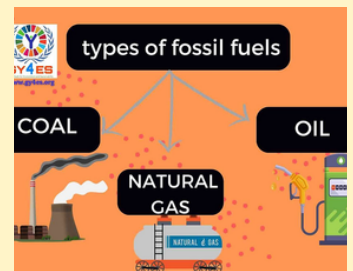


In Science this term, the children have been learning all about light! They explored how we see, how light travels, and conducted experiments to investigate how the distance from a light source affects shadows. They worked carefully to ensure their experiments were fair by focusing on variables and keeping certain factors the same. To put their learning into action, the children even made their own periscopes—just like the ones soldiers used in the trenches during the war!

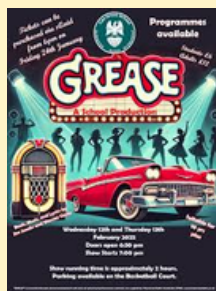
In Art, our Year 6 students have been exploring the exciting world of photography! They have learned creative photography techniques, experimented with photomontage to make unique images, and even created photorealistic self-portraits. Using photo editing, they have designed amazing record album covers and enhanced photos taken around the school. Their creativity has truly shone through!



In Geography, the children have been learning all about power sources and the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy. They compared energy use in the United States and the United Kingdom to see which sources are preferred in different parts of the world. To put their knowledge into action, they took on a problem-solving challenge! Given details about a new village's human and geographical features, they had to decide which energy sources would be best and explain their choices. Great decision-making skills in action!



One tradition in Year 6, is a visit to Cox Green to watch a performance from the drama students. This year we were invited to see *Grease*. The performance was fantastic and has given an insight of what it may be like to join the drama group in secondary school for those budding performers!



In Maths, we kicked off the term with algebra, and the children have really enjoyed it! Algebra is a great topic for Year 6 as it introduces a new way of thinking and helps build a strong foundation for secondary school. We have also explored ratio and decimals—both challenging topics—but the children have shown fantastic perseverance and problem-solving skills using a great growth mindset!

Children have been set homework each week since September, but we are finding that only a fraction of the classes are completing it. As we head towards SATs and Year 7, please can you help us by encouraging your child to complete the homework each week and bring it in by Monday of the following week at the latest. Children should also be reading 20 minutes each day