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No. 6

School Newsletter

February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was an absolute joy to welcome everyone into school yesterday for our World Book Day celebrations - the effort, creativity and thought that went into all the children's costumes was fantastic (although I am still struggling to remove my eye-liner)! We all enjoyed a day of book-themed activities and learning which I hope the children will have shared with you when they came home yesterday - the book orienteering seemed to be a particular favourite.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Kind regards

Ryan O'Hearn



Inter-house sports competitions

Over recent weeks, we have been pleased to see the return of some of our inter-house sports events. To celebrate the rugby six nations, we held our own 'Freegrounds 4 nations' tag rugby tournament. Representatives from years 5 and 6 for each of the 4 houses took to the rugby pitch at lunchtimes to compete against each other with onlookers from across the school cheering their house on. With help from Alex our sports coach and sports leaders, players followed tag rugby rules with Empire claiming overall victory on our final day of competition.

On Tuesday, we held our own pancake flipping sports contest with children using tennis rackets and flat sports markers to see how many pancake flips they could achieve in 1 minute. Again, children were competing for victory for their houses, achieving a sense of sportsmanship by encouraging participation and offering support to others in their house.

Thank you to all those who have taken part in these events and watch this space for our next inter-house sports competition coming soon.



Family Support Worker News

Cooking with Michelle Evening Session

What a successful evening we all had cooking together in our kitchens before half term. I was so impressed with your children's cooking skills— we need to do it again soon!!

It brought a real sense of community and I hope it left the children feeling so proud of themselves. I want to thank all of you who joined in for supporting this, as without you we wouldn't be able to run such events!

The next evening will be the **30th April from 6.30pm**. Recipe and details to follow but keep half an Easter Egg if you can!!



Coffee Mornings Mums, Dads, Carers, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles are ALL welcome to attend our regular coffee morning sessions in school. There is always a short presentation (20 minutes) focusing on parenting advice and support and information, followed by an activity where your child can join in. Coffee and Breakfast always provided.

Why come in for a coffee morning?

- Meet other parents
- Chat to your friends
- Have a coffee / snack
- Learn something new
- Feel involved in school life and up to date with what's going on
- Spend time with your child

Wednesday 19th March at 9am: Managing Stress: Progressive Muscle Relaxation session (a blanket & pillow can be brought in from home).

Thursday 3rd April at 9am: Bingo & Breakfast: All about 5C needs – feeling connected and feeling like we count.

Feedback from parents/carers on our coffee mornings:



- *Please do make more of these again...so helpful & positive – just what I needed*
- *Interesting to hear how children's brains develop and the time it takes*
- *Very good, informative*
- *Really nice to have the children join...*
- *5Cs really useful*
- *Lovely to see so many people*
- *Incredible – so much fun and really enjoyed the interaction with children and adults*
- *I liked the engagement with children*
- *"I really found the session useful. It was also really nice to chat to other parents that I don't usually chat to and also to find out we're all in the same boat!"*
- *the jar is a brilliant idea – I'll be using this daily*

Year 3

At the beginning of the month, we had a special visit from the local police, which was an exciting experience for the children. They had the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions about how the police help keep our community safe, explore the inside of a real police car, and even try on some old police uniforms! This visit linked perfectly to our PSHE and topic work on 'Community,' as we have been learning about the important roles people play in keeping us safe. The children were full of curiosity, and it was wonderful to see them making real-world connections to their learning.



In DT, we have been learning all about different vegetables, their nutritional value, and how they can be used in cooking. The children have enjoyed exploring different types of seasonal produce and discussing how we can make healthy food choices. As part of this learning, we will soon be preparing to cook a delicious seasonal meal using fresh ingredients. Over the coming weeks, we will also be starting a gardening project where the children will plant and grow their own vegetables. This hands-on experience will help them understand where food comes from and how they can use homegrown produce to create a nutritious dish.

It has been a busy and exciting month in Year 3, and we are incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work!

Year 4

Pine and Beech classes have had a very busy February moving from our 'Survivor' topic last term into our new topic 'All Creatures Great and Small'.

In English last term, we read 'Wild Robot' and wrote our own chapters considering the question: how do I make my reader feel a sense of wonder and curiosity? We set the scene with Roz exploring the island in a thunderstorm and used figurative language, onomatopoeia and ambitious vocabulary to describe the robot's feelings as she discovered the forest. There were some beautiful descriptions of the setting.

In maths this term we have been learning how to find the perimeter of squares, rectangles, regular polygons and rectilinear shapes. We have solved problems in meters and centimetres, by counting squares and adding lengths and widths. We have also practised converting between mm, cm, m and km.

This month, we have also celebrated Safer internet day, where we engaged in a BBC live lesson that taught us all about how to spot scams. We learnt the importance of keeping personal information private. We also talked about the impact of positive and negative content online on our mental and physical wellbeing. We now know how to ask for help when we need it from people we trust.

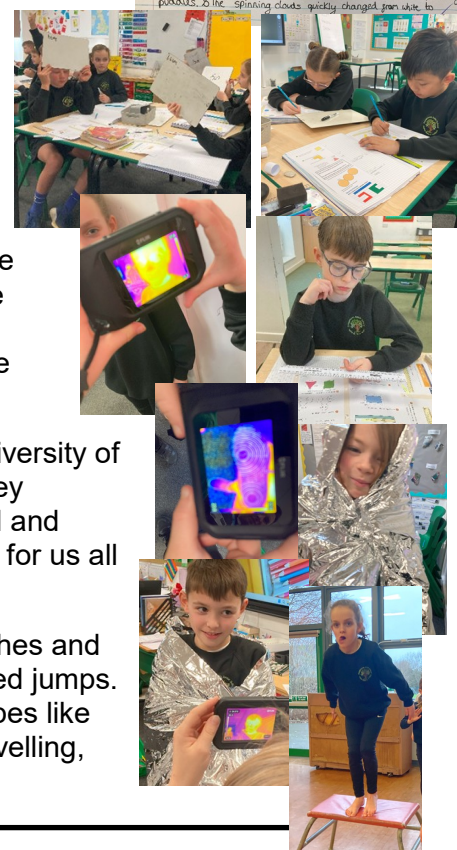
We also marked British Engineering week this month when we invited the University of Southampton in to speak to the children about thermal imaging cameras. They completed investigations into how we keep warm at school, exploring how foil and gloves have an impact on body temperature. It was a fantastic STEM activity for us all to enjoy.

In our PE lessons, we have explored jumping. We practised jumping off benches and boxes ensuring that we showed tension in our bodies to create clean, balanced jumps. When we were confident, we introduced turns (quarter, half and full) and shapes like pike, straddle and dish. We then incorporated them into routines involving travelling, levels, cannon and unison.

Thursday 18th February 2025
Roz is fully equipped with a map of the island. She
gets the thunderstorm and she starts to rain.
She finds the map on the road to make it better.
She finds the map on the road to make it better.
The map shows where to go to the top of the island.
Lightly she starts to see some new trees.
The trees are tall and thin and they are very green.
The water is clear and the sky is blue.
The water is clear and the sky is blue.
The water is clear and the sky is blue.

Thursday 19th February 2025 (Lit focus group)
Tentatively Roz tried to the gloomy, robbing storm.
Boon! She heard the sound of deepening thunder crash
to the ground. The rain pelted to the ground floor.
The trees swayed and the wind whistled through the
leaves with a sound of clouds swooshing the sky.
The water crashed against the rocks and the waves
leaping for my high sign of movement.

Clouds spun as fast as a tornado. Freezing raindrops
crash down like meteors. The shadowy sky was filled with
thunder as loud as a roaring lion. Trees swayed in the wind
as leaves scurried across muddy paths. Water crashed
down rocks into narrow streams and soon turned into deep, muddy
puddles. The spinning clouds quickly changed from white to



Year 5

To conclude our last topic 'Marvellous Mexico', year 5 created their own self-portraits in the style of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Using water colours the children painted their own self-portraits – we worked hard on getting the proportions and position of the facial features just right. The children then cut these out ready to stick on a collaged background. Frida Kahlo was famous for including her interests into the background of her own self-portraits, things such as her love of animals and reference to her Mexican culture. We aimed to do the same, can you spot any subtle references to the children's likes in their backgrounds?

In English, we finished the half term by writing hotel adverts. Our focus was on careful word choices and creating a sense of luxury. We tried to imagine what people would want on an expensive holiday and how to entice them into staying at our hotel.

We have now begun work on our new topic USA road trip. Our main drivers for this unit at geography and music. To set the scene for our topic we have been learning about the different American states. Can you name them all? So far, the children have learnt about county music from Tennessee and picked 2 states of their own to research in further detail. We look forward to finding out what state we will be visiting next.



Year 6

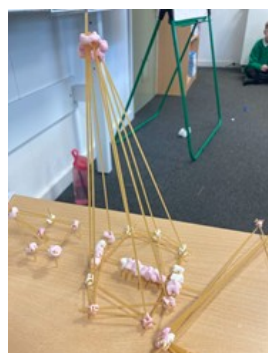
In February, Year 6 have been working incredibly hard on their Arithmetic and reading fluency skills; trying to apply them to a range of questions. This includes: all four operations, fractions, decimals, percentages and the order of operations. In reading, we have looked at skimming and scanning for key vocabulary in a range of texts and reading around the word to decipher what it means. We have then been working to successfully apply this to a range of unseen texts.

In English, have written our own interviews with our 'fantastic beast', based on 'An interview with a tiger' by Andy Seed. This enabled us to use our creativity skills to plan how our beast would answer, depending on the voice we wanted them to show our reader. It was interesting to read how rude, or timid, some of our beasts turned out!

In our Art lessons, we have been working on our drawing skills to record detailed observations of our beast in our sketchbooks. We tried to use the work of Tim Jeffs to inspire us to produce detailed sketches of aspects such as the wings and scales. We also focused on adding tonal contrast and texture to our images.

In Geography we have continued to look at how structures can be 'earthquake proof'. We used marshmallows and spaghetti to construct our own buildings and then put them in a wobbly jelly base to see how successful we were, once an earthquake hit!

In our PE lessons we have looked at the theme of 'Stamp, Clap' dance. So far, we have used loud, confident actions to create music for our performance and used counts of 8 to produce 'stamp, clap phrases'. This enabled us to use our teamwork skills to stay in time.



Empowerment Approach Sessions

Following on from our online behaviour session before half term where Kit Messenger introduced the Empowerment Approach which we have adopted as a school, please find attached an electronic flipbook of resources to add to the information shared at the session.

We had nearly 50 families join us for the live session and, looking at the feedback received, we are so pleased that so many of you found it interesting and engaging. For those of you unable to attend, please spend some time looking through the flipbook which also contains video clips to help you understand more about our new behaviour policy.



For those of you interested in finding out more about how the Empowerment Approach can support you with strategies to use at home then please see the link below to Kit Messenger's Changing Chances website where she runs online parenting sessions:

[Courses for professionals and parents - Changing Chances CIC](#)

Kit Messenger has also written a book about her approach called 'Curious not Furious' which the Empowerment Approach is based on:

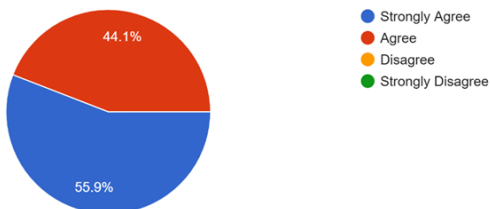


As a school, we will also be offering further bite-sized online sessions and videos for the website around the key areas of the Empowerment Approach so please look out for more information on these.

OVERVIEW SESSION FOR PARENTS & CARERS 2025			
FLIPBOOK COVER	QR CODE	LINK	PASSWORD
		https://online.flipbuilder.com/ChangingChances/ebum/	None

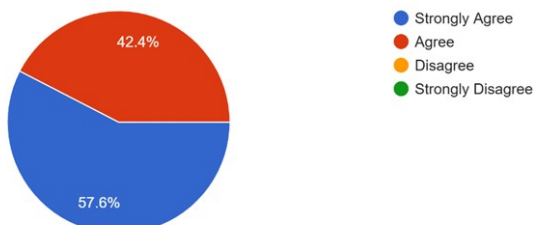
Feedback from our recent online behaviour session with parents and carers

As a result of the information session I have a better understanding of the theory and thinking behind the policy
34 responses



“Fantastic course really insightful and informative. School processes have changed so much since we went to school and it’s been really useful to learn how the behaviour process works. Thanks for putting in extra work in addition to the demands of your normal workload.”

I heard something during the session that I am going to try at home with my children
33 responses



“We really enjoyed the session and found it very interesting. The presenter, Kit, was brilliant and her energy was inspiring. We also appreciated that the session was online and in the evening which meant it didn’t clash with our jobs so we could both attend. Thank you for a great online session.”

“Very happy that this approach has been introduced at the school, will teach our children such valuable skills. Thank you.”

School Terms And Holidays 2025 – 2026

Determined programme of school term and holiday dates for county and controlled schools for the
academic year 2025/26

INSET DAYS – 03/09/25, 06/10/25, 01/12/25, 13/02/26, 29/06/26

SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025							NOVEMBER 2025						
M	1	8	15	22	29		M		7	13	20	27		M		3*	10	17	24	
T	2	9	16	23	30		T		7	14	21	28		T		4	11	18	25	
W		10	17	24			W	1	8	15	22	29		W		5	12	19	26	
T	4	11	18	25			T	2	9	16	23	30		T		6	13	20	27	
F	5	12	19	26			F	3	10	17	24 #	31		F		7	14	21	28	
S	6	13	20	27			S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	7	14	21	28			S	5	12	19	26			S	2	9	16	23	30	
DECEMBER 2025							JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026						
M		8	15	22	29		M		5*	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23*	
T	2	9	16	23	30		T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24	
W	3	10	17	24	31		W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25	
T	4	11	18	25			T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26	
F	5	12	19 #	26			F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27	
S	6	13	20	27			S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28	
S	7	14	21	28			S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22		
MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026							MAY 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13*	20	27		M			4	11	18	25
T		3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28		T			5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29		W			6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26		T	2	9	16	23	30		T			7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27 #		F	3	10	17	24			F		1	8	15	22#	29
S		7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25			S		2	9	16	23	30
S	1	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26			S		3	10	17	24	31
JUNE 2026							JULY 2026							AUGUST 2026						
M	1*	8	15	22	29		M		6	13	20	27		M		3	10	17	24	31
T	2	9	16	23	30		T		7	14	21	28		T		4	11	18	25	
W	3	10	17	24			W	1	8	15	22 #	29		W		5	12	19	26	
T	4	11	18	25			T	2	9	16	23	30		T		6	13	20	27	
F	5	12	19	26			F	3	10	17	24	31		F		7	14	21	28	
S	6	13	20	27			S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	7	14	21	28			S	5	12	19	26			S	2	9	16	23	30	