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No. 8

School Newsletter

April/May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will see from our newsletter, it has been a busy and enjoyable half term full of learning, hands on experiences and celebration!

Well done to all of our Year 6s this week who have taken their SATs tests. We understand that this can be a tricky time but have been so impressed with their preparation and attitudes in the build up to and during these papers - well done everyone!

We are fully into our summer term now and have some fantastic community events coming up - our school colour run (next Friday) and our Summer Fayre, which is joint with the infants, on the 28th June, to mention just two. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

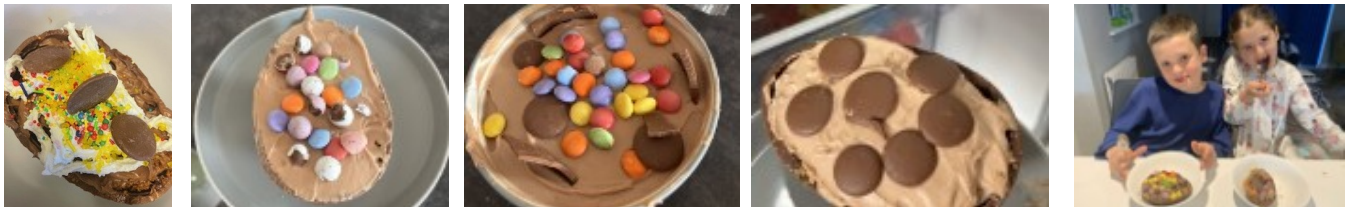
Have an enjoyable, sunny weekend!

Best wishes

Ryan O'Hearn

Family Support Worker

We had a really fun online cooking session where we made a cheesecake in half an Easter egg. This was a great opportunity to interact with our friends online whilst making something yummy!!



The next event is **Wednesday 21st May** How to support your child's busy brain. To sign up for this event, please complete and submit the google doc (link below).

<https://forms.gle/bPFkaZCp6KHGqUPW6>

Here is some feedback from some of the children who attended my 'Managing Stress coffee morning' We need a full body relaxation. They said....

'I liked it because it felt professional with the smelly thing, it was calming and helped me to focus when I went back up to class, I normally fidget'

'it woke up my body, when I clenched my fists. I liked doing it with my Dad, it is quality time spent with him'

'he said he liked being with his family and cosy in the blankets. I like tightening my muscles and letting them go'

'We also had a fun online cooking session with Michelle. We made a cheesecake in half an easter egg'

Michelle Brightwell
Family Support Worker



Year 3

This half term, Year 3 have been learning all about our planet and the environment around us through our new topic, Blue Planet. It's been a busy few weeks full of hands-on learning, new experiences, and important discussions. The children have shown fantastic curiosity, creativity, and care in everything they've done.

A real highlight was our trip to Lepe Beach, where we explored the shoreline and searched for marine life. We were able to identify different creatures, and we found lots of crabs, which caused a lot of excitement. It was a great opportunity to learn outside the classroom and apply our science and geography skills in a real-world setting.

In Geography, we've been learning about the effects of oil spills on marine life. To help us understand the challenges of cleaning up after a spill, we carried out a practical activity where we tried to remove oil from trays of water using different materials. It was tricky, and it really showed us how damaging these spills can be to animals and their habitats.

In Art, we've been working on weaving techniques and have created woven seascapes using ribbons, fabrics, and other materials. The children have shown great patience and creativity in their designs.

In RE, we've been learning about different celebrations, with a focus on Wesak, an important Buddhist festival. We explored how and why it is celebrated, and the values behind it.

English lessons this term have been inspired by the activism of Greta Thunberg. We have been writing persuasive speeches about deforestation, using rhetorical questions, emotive language, and imperative verbs. The children have written powerful messages and shown real awareness of environmental issues.

In PE, we've been doing Dance, and the children have been developing a performance piece that contrasts machinery with nature. This has helped them think about how human activity affects the environment in both positive and negative ways.

In Maths, we've been learning about money – recognising different coins and notes, and working out how to make different amounts. It's been a useful and practical topic that links well to everyday life.

We've also taken some time to focus on our school environment. The children have been gardening and litter picking, helping to look after our school grounds and thinking about the importance of looking after green spaces.

Overall, it's been a great half term. The sunny weather has helped us make the most of outdoor learning, and the children have really engaged with the theme of protecting our planet. We're looking forward to building on this next half term.



Year 4

Pine and Beech classes have been enjoying this sunny start to the Summer Term. This month we launched into our History topic of Anglo-Saxons with a trip to 878AD and City museums in Winchester, incorporating this into lots of our learning. It has been a busy one celebrating VE day with an afternoon street party, practicing our times tables and don't forget ... saving our pollinators!

In English, after releasing our butterflies last term, we decided to write a persuasive letter to Mr O'Hearn to encourage him to consider what more we can do as a school to attract bees and butterflies into the grounds. He came to our classes, read our letters and replied a few days later with some changes that our Eco reps will be making. He also gifted each class with a box of mixed wild flower seeds that we are going to plant and watch grow over the coming months. We can't wait to see how many bees and butterflies they attract! Some children decided to make an even BIGGER difference by writing to our local MP and some even wrote to King Charles himself! Watch this space for any responses we get...



In Maths, as well as practising our times tables every day in readiness for our MTC check next month, we have been learning about tenths and hundredths as fractions and decimals. We found it tricky to begin with, but have shown great resilience by using counters, place value charts and interactive games to be able to convert fractions into decimals and, more recently, divide one- and two-digit numbers by ten. Phew! What a challenge!



In PE this term, we have been learning how to set, orientate and thumb maps in our Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit. We have learnt how to orientate ourselves on a map of the school and follow the map to various markers around the school grounds. When each control point is found, there is a problem to solve, an exercise to complete or a letter or number to locate. Some great teamwork and critical thinking has been demonstrated this month – well done Year 4!



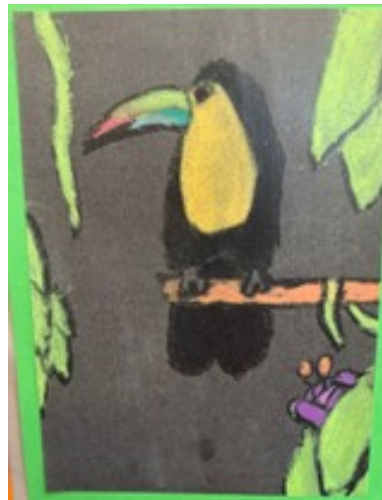
This month, we have created databases in our Computing lessons. We used the J2E data platform to follow, use, plan and finally create a database to sort living things based on their characteristics or attributes. It was tricky writing appropriate yes/no questions to differentiate each creature. Year 4 made some very clear classification keys to identify each creature.

Year 5

This half term Year 5 have been immersing themselves with all things related to the Amazon Rainforest. Starting with our fabulous trip to The Living Rainforest where we got to see a whole range of plants and animals that live in Rainforests – one of our favourites were the little Pygmy marmosets. Some of us were even lucky enough to spot the illusive sloth.



We have used the school grounds to create our own representations of the 4 different layers of the rainforest and learnt about some of the indigenous tribes that call the rainforest home. Unfortunately, much of the rainforest is under threat from deforestation, through learning about what the rainforest gives us – everything from medicines to natural minerals – we have understood why it is important to protect these habitats. Felling inspired and passionate about this cause we have begun writing persuasive speeches to encourage others to stop deforestation. It has been great to see Year 5 take inspiration from people such as Greta Thunberg and understand the cause behind their writing.



In Music, we have been learning about and playing Samba instruments. We had a super time in our Samba workshop with an expert musician, playing Samba call and response games and learning some Brazilian words used in carnival bands. In Art, we have been producing colourful rainforest compositions of different animals using a range of media. Children were able to create some stunning effects using chalk on black paper. Finally in Design and Technology, we are designing and sewing our own soft toy of a rainforest animal. We will be learning different sewing and decoration techniques throughout next week.



Year 6

A huge well done to all of Year 6 for their incredible effort and resilience during SATs week. Every single pupil approached the tests with determination and maturity, and we are so proud of the hard work they have put in over the past term. There's also been lots of excitement as we revealed that this year's production will be High School Musical! Rehearsals will begin soon, and we can't wait to see the talents of our Year 6 stars shine on stage.

In the lead-up to SATs, the children have been working exceptionally hard across English and maths. In maths, they've revised key areas such as arithmetic, shape, and coordinates—tackling each challenge with increasing confidence. In reading, we've focused on building vocabulary, developing retrieval skills, and improving reading fluency. The children have also practised identifying and applying key grammatical terms and spelling rules.

In RE, we've been exploring the concept of ritual. We discussed the different rituals in our own lives before focusing on how rituals are important in religions. Our focus was on Islam, where we learnt about the ritual of Wudu—its steps, when it is performed, and the meaning behind it. We also explored the festival of Eid al-Fitr, looking at when and why it is celebrated and the values it represents.

In Games, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to play rounders. From batting techniques to fielding strategies, they have embraced the challenge with great teamwork and enthusiasm. In PE, we've taken a calmer approach by practising yoga and mindfulness—learning how to tune into our breathing and appreciate moments of stillness.

Our geography lessons have sparked thoughtful discussion as we delved into the issue of climate change. We explored how fossil fuels contribute to global warming and the damage this can cause to our environment. The children then researched renewable energy sources and considered how they might help protect our planet in the future.

It's been a fantastic half term full of learning, teamwork and growth. Year 6 definitely deserve their exciting trip to Paultons Park next week—what a brilliant way to celebrate all they've achieved!





VE Day Celebrations



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	