



Herrick Primary School



Newsletter – Summer 1 – May 2026

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to our school newsletter for this half-term!

As we reach the end of another busy and productive half-term, I would like to share some highlights from across our school. Our Year 6 pupils showed incredible resilience and focus during their recent SATS. They approached the tests with maturity and managed the week exceptionally well. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work.

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Warner Bros. Studio which brought their learning to life. We look forward to many more exciting educational visits planned for the upcoming summer term. School visits play a vital role in your child's education. These hands-on experiences help to spark curiosity, develop independence and create lifelong memories.

The children have also been enjoying using the new playground equipment which has been purchased through your kind donations for the Walkathon. We deeply value our school community, and we believe that we achieve the best outcomes for our children when the school and its families work closely together.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone who completed our recent parent/carer survey. Your views are incredibly helpful to the school as they provide vital insights that guide our ongoing school developments in order to ensure that the school continues to grow, adapt and improve for the benefit of all our pupils.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a relaxing half-term break.

Miss S. Odedra (Headteacher)

Message from the Chair of Governors

We all want the children to have an enjoyable and rewarding experience during their time at Herrick. The staff recognise how important it is to work closely with parents and carers as children make better progress when parents and carers are involved in their education.

The motivation, attendance and behaviour of pupils is better, and it helps teacher morale to know that parents and carers are working with them to support the children. Good communication between home and school also helps teachers to get to know the children better, so I hope that you all feel able to talk to the school, particularly to the class teachers, on a regular basis.

This half-term, we concluded the election process for two parent governors and subject to various statutory checks, we look forward to welcoming Mrs Punjabi and Mrs Prajapat to the Governing Body. One of their key responsibilities is to work with pupils, staff, parents and the community to understand their views - so another important means of communication with the school.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Stephen Martin - Chair of Governors

School News

Sponsored Walkathon

All of the children and staff in the school took part in a sponsored walkathon on Monday 23rd March 2026. The children enjoyed themselves and showed great resilience whilst doing so.

Thanks to all of your kind donations and sponsorship, the total amount raised was £1145.

Various pieces of equipment have been purchased, and the children have been enjoying playing with these!



Year 5/6 – Football Tournament

A group of children from year 5 and year 6 represented the school at a football tournament at North Mead Primary Academy.

The tournament involved teams from schools across the city playing against one another.

The children represented the school well, and they showed great teamwork, resilience and determination.

We are very proud of their efforts. Well done to all of the children who participated!



Library Visits

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their recent visits to Rushey Mead Library which have sparked an excitement for reading across the classes.

So far, Zephaniah, Rauf, Morpurgo and Dahl Class have been to the library so far, with our remaining classes scheduled to visit in the coming weeks.

These library visits offer invaluable benefits to our children, including access to a diverse world of books and encouraging a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

Thank you to Miss Phipps for organising these visits.



Term Dates 2025/26

	August 2025					September 2025					October 2025				
M		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
T		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
S	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

Autumn Term 1st half

	November 2025					December 2025					January 2026				
M		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
T		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
W		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
S	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	

Autumn Term 2nd half

Spring Term 1st half

	February 2026					March 2026					April 2026				
M		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
T		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
W		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22
T		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23
F		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
S		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
S	1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26

Spring Term 2nd half

	May 2026					June 2026					July 2026				
M		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
T		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
S	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

Summer Term 1st half

Summer Term 2nd half

	Pupil days		Weekends
	School Holidays		Public Holidays
	Disaggregated INSET days		INSET days

Important Dates

Year 3 School Visit – National Sealife Centre in Birmingham

Year 3 children will be visiting The National Sealife Centre in Birmingham on **Wednesday 3rd June 2026**



Year 4 School Visit – London: Natural History Museum and Science Museum

Year 4 will be visiting the Natural History Museum and The Science Museum in London on **Friday 5th June 2026**.



Year 6 School Visit – Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Year 6 will be visiting Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre on **Tuesday 23rd June 2026**.



Year 6 School Visit – Warning Zone

Year 6 will be visiting the Warning Zone on **Thursday 11th June 2026**.



Year 1 & Year 2 School Visit – Twycross Zoo

Year 1 & Year 2 will be visiting Twycross Zoo on **Tuesday 16th June 2026**.



Sports Day

This academic year, sports day will take place on **Thursday 25th June 2026**.

Parents/Carers are welcome to attend to support their child on the day during the following times:

9am – 10am: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Classes: Rosen, Murphy, Bryon & Donaldson

10.30am – 12pm: Year 3/4

Classes: Dahl, Morpurgo & Rowling

1.30pm – 3pm: Year 5 & Year 6

Classes: Zephaniah, Rauf, Almond & Blackman



Year 5 – Residential Visit

The final payment of £80 for the residential visit to Rock UK's Frontier Centre is due by **Friday 26th June 2026**.



Assembly Dates

Autumn 1:

- Friday 3rd October 2025 – Year 3/4: Morpurgo – Harvest assembly
- Friday 10th October 2025 – Year 3/4: Rowling – Class assembly
- Friday 17th October 2025 – Year 6: Almond & Blackman – Diwali assembly

Autumn 2:

- Friday 7th November 2025 – Year 3/4: Dahl – Class assembly
- Friday 21st November 2025 – Year 2: Bryon – Class assembly
- Friday 5th December 2025 – Year 2: Donaldson – Class assembly
- Wednesday 10th December 2025 – Reception: Rosen – Nativity assembly
- Friday 12th December 2025 – Year 5: Rauf & Zephaniah – Hannukah assembly

Spring 1:

- Friday 30th January 2026 – Year 3/4: Morpurgo – Class assembly
- Friday 6th February 2026 – Year 1: Murphy – Class assembly

Spring 2:

- Friday 6th March 2026 – Year 5: Zephaniah – Class assembly
- Friday 27th March 2026 – Year 2: Bryon & Donaldson – Easter assembly

Summer 1:

- Friday 24th April 2026 – Year 3/4: Dahl & Rowling – Vaisakhi assembly
- Friday 15th May 2026 – Year 5: Rauf – Class assembly
- Friday 22nd May 2026 – Year 1: Murphy – Eid assembly

Summer 2:

- Friday 26th June 2026 – Reception: Rosen – Class assembly
- Friday 3rd July 2026 – Year 6: Almond & Blackman – Leavers' assembly



Attendance

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for children to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time. Absence during school time has a negative impact upon a child's education.

Children are expected to attend school every day unless they are unwell. If your child will not be attending school, please inform the school office no later than 9.30am.

There is no entitlement to leave from school during term time and leave will not be authorised.

Unauthorised absence from school is likely to result in a Penalty Notice being issued

All absence and lateness will be monitored and may be referred to the Education Welfare Service if it occurs regularly.

Good	Worrying	Serious Concern
Attendance is 95% and over	Attendance is below 95%, but above 90%	Attendance is below 90%

Class Attendance for the First Half of the Autumn Term

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Reception – Rosen – Miss Lewis	96.61%
Year 1 – Murphy – Mrs Jamal	97.59%
Year 2 – Bryon – Mrs Purewal	98.21%
Year 2 – Donaldson – Miss Shah	97.59%
Year 3/4 – Dahl – Mrs Shukla	95.29%
Year 3/4 – Rowling – Miss Kaur	98.77%
Year 3/4 – Morpurgo – Mrs Chelley	96.49%
Year 5 – Rauf – Miss Saddington	96.49%
Year 5 – Zephaniah – Mrs Nai	94.01%
Year 6 – Almond – Mr Maile	97.2%
Year 6 – Blackman – Mrs Patel	96.43%

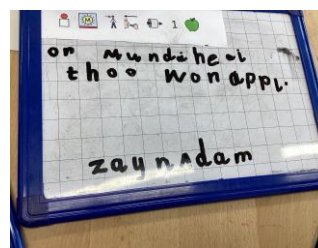
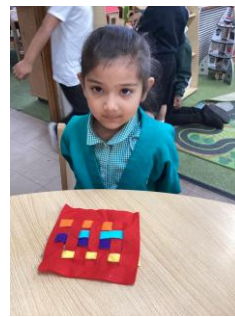
Reception - Rosen

Life Cycles – Caterpillars to Butterflies

This term, children have been learning lots about life cycles. We started by learning about the Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and the lifecycle of a butterfly. The children have been observing real caterpillars as they have grown and made chrysalises. We are patiently waiting for butterflies to emerge.

Then we started to compare to other life cycles such as the life cycle of a tadpole. Children made their own stories inspired the Very Hungry Caterpillar.

We have been learning about different abstract artist and creating work inspired the artists. Children have also been building on their threading and weaving skills to sew a butterfly.

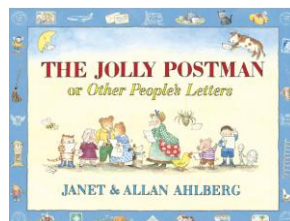


Making Instruments

The children have also been learning about a range of instruments, and they have created their own instruments using junk modelling. They also composed some music and performed it on their instruments.

The Jolly Postman

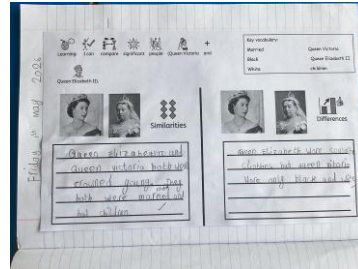
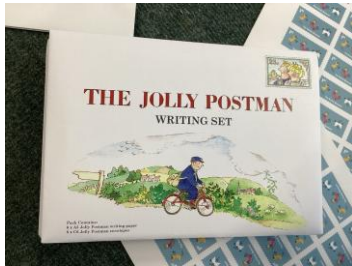
Children also enjoyed a virtual lesson with The Postal Museum based on the The Jolly Postman by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Many were inspired to then write to the characters. These have been sent to the Postal Museum in Coventry, and some letters may be displayed in the museum.



Year 1 –Murphy

Royal Mail Learning - Jolly Postman

This term, Class Murphy enjoyed a special treat with a virtual "Jolly Postman" session hosted by Royal Mail Learning. The children had a wonderful time learning Makaton signs to go along with the story which they practised as we read. Thanks to a kind donation of letter-writing sets from the Royal Mail, the pupils also practised their writing by sending postcards to their favourite characters from the book.

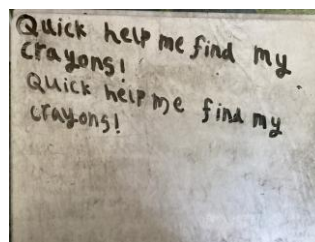
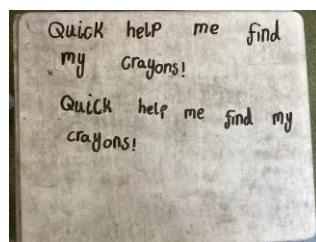


History – Kings and Queens

This term, the children have been learning about the history of Kings and Queens. The children explored the lives of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II, comparing how their reigns shaped the country and how life in Britain changed during their time on the throne. They were also particularly fascinated - and a bit surprised - to learn about the dramatic lives and fates of King Henry VIII's six wives. It has been a great term of discovering the people who helped shape the UK.

Computing – Digital Writing

In computing lessons, the children have been learning about digital writing. The focus has been for the children to write using technology. The children learnt how to change the font type, as well as how to make the font bold, underline it and use italics. This knowledge was then used to create a missing poster for Ted the Teddy Bear. The children then went on to discuss their preferred method of writing - a pencil and paper, or using technology.



Phonics

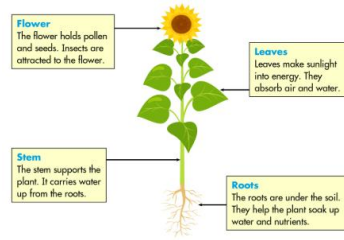
In phonics lessons this term, the children have explored different ways to make the same sounds, such as the 'ay' in play and the split digraph 'a-e' in shake.

From learning the 'ea' in words such as each and head, to spotting the 'ph' in phone, the children are becoming real 'sound detectives.' They have especially enjoyed finding the differences between sounds like the 'ie' in pie versus the 'ie' in shield. It is wonderful to see them using these new sounds to become more confident and independent readers every day!

Year 2 – Bryon & Donaldson

PE – Striking & Fielding Games

In PE lessons, the children have been exploring a variety of striking and fielding games. They began by mastering the fundamentals, including proper bat grip and the mechanics of an overarm throw. After practicing their strikes using a tee, they successfully transitioned into simple games of cricket. Additionally, the children have focused upon net and wall games, where they have developed their serving techniques and learned various racket grips.

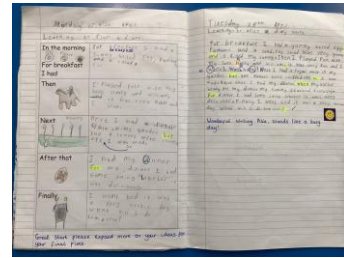


Science – Identifying the Parts of a Plant

In science, the children have been learning about plants and identifying the different parts of them. They have also learnt about the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees, identifying the different parts of them as well as comparing them to plants. It was really exciting to be able to look for different plants around the school as well as finding out whether some of the trees on the school grounds are deciduous or evergreen.

Mathematics - Measurement

In maths lessons, the children have explored the practicalities of measurement using both centimetres and metres. They developed a strong awareness of size by determining which unit was most appropriate for various objects. To deepen their understanding, they investigated the lengths and heights of items throughout the school, even challenging themselves to record more precise measurements to the nearest half centimetre. Following this, we moved over to fractions, where the children applied their knowledge to both shapes and numbers. They successfully used bar models as a visual strategy to calculate both unit and non-unit fractions.



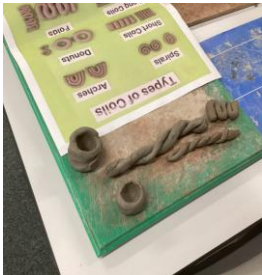
English – Diary

In English, the children authored a 'day in the life' diary from the perspective of a monarch. To build their narratives, they collaborated in groups to brainstorm the daily routines of the Royal Family and participated in a **hot-seating** session as King Charles. Within their final writing pieces, the children were able to successfully employ a variety of conjunctions and descriptive adjectives, focusing upon sentence expansion to bring their writing to life.

Year 3/4 – Dahl, Rowling & Morpurgo

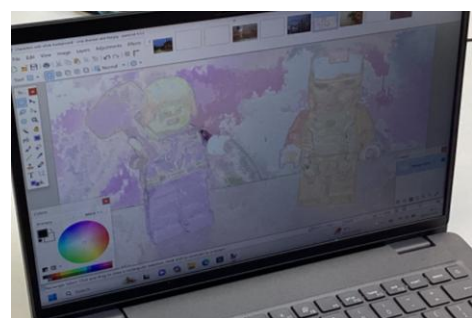
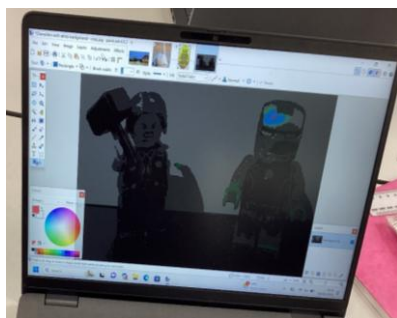
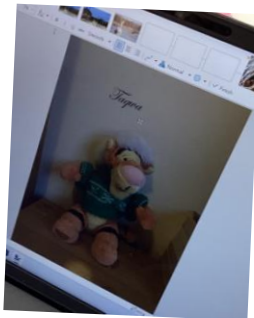
Art – Clay

In art lessons, the children have had an opportunity to experiment with clay creating different types of coils. They evaluated their creations and considered why certain types of coils broke, as well as considering how to improve their final piece. The children then went on to create, paint and glaze their very own clay pots.



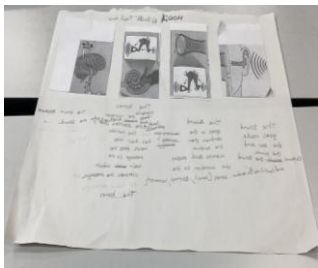
Computing

In computing, the children have used Paint.NET, including features such as crop, effects, rotate and adjustments for editing and manipulating images. Here are few examples:



Science

In groups, the children used the Oracy Skill, Step up the Story, to explain how the human ear hears sound. The children have learnt how sound is produced and how we can hear sounds. They have experimented with different musical instruments and even created their own instrument to explore high and low pitch.



Year 3/4 – Dahl, Rowling & Morpurgo

Art – Developing Drawing Skills

The children have been developing their drawing skills by working on Earth Posters, designing outfits based on our learning and by using 'scribble' art!



Maths -Time and Capacity

We have been learning how to tell the time, and about the difference between analogue and digital time, minutes past, minutes to and the 24-hour clock! We have also been learning about volume and capacity and how to measure in litres and millilitres!



Geography – Diversity within Leicester City

Year 3/4 have learnt about the Commonwealth and how Leicester city became diverse in their geography lessons. Children practised and performed our presentations as 'television presenters' and made short videos.



Year 5 – Rauf & Zephaniah

Art

Year 5 have been focusing upon the work of the artist Andy Warhol and his interest in vivid colours and pop art. The children have been recreating their own art work in the style of this artist.



Geography

In geography lessons, the children have been identifying the countries their uniform is made in. The children were shocked to see how many different places and developing countries their uniform is actually made in.

Music

The children have been learning about the history of Motown music and its importance during the time of the civil rights movement. The focus has been on learning to sing the song, "Dancing in The Street", as well as how to play along on the glockenspiel. The children have also been using the Djembe drums during the music warm up.



English

In English lessons, the children have been reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. In order to provide the children with a close-up experience of the magic of the books, we visited the Warner Brothers Studios. The children were able to see the live sets of different scenes from the films. A highlight for the children was the opportunity to buy souvenirs from the gift shop!

French – Weather

The children have been learning about a variety of weather types. This allowed them to create their own weather report which featured the temperature and direction points for wind. The children have also learnt a variety of verbs, and they enjoyed playing French verb bingo!

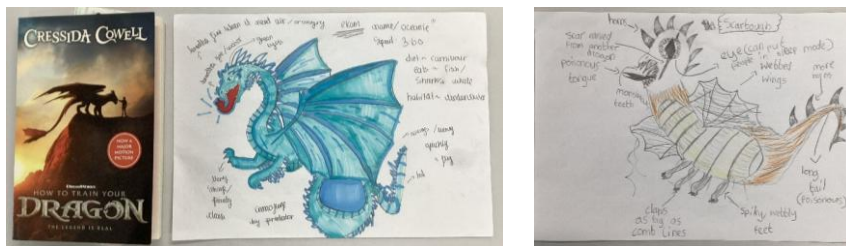
Year 6 – Almond & Blackman

Computing - Tinkercad

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard using the program 'Tinkercad.' The children created a playground, a desk tidy and a photo frame. The involved learning about dimensions, size of object and how to rotate their object to add detail.

English - Reading

We have been enjoying the fantastic novel 'How to Train Your Dragon' in reading and in English. The children have enjoyed learning about the world of the Vikings and the different types of dragons. We are also using the text as inspiration for writing a non-chronological report about a dragon that the children have created themselves. To support this, the children drew an illustrated picture of their own creations.



PE - Cricket

Our first PE unit of the summer term has been cricket. We have been practicing a range of skills such as throwing, fielding, batting and bowling. Following on from this, we have played small sided games in different formats such as diamond cricket. In these games, the children have been encouraged to work as a team by communicating with one another and using positive encouragement.



Art – Greek Statues

The children have been busy sculpting Greek statues as part of their learning in art lessons



Recommended Reads - Staff

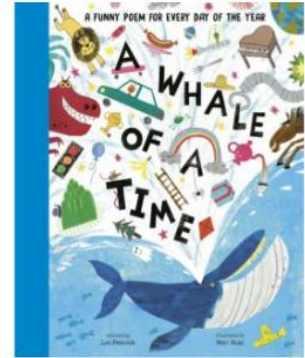
Reception and Year 1/2

Mrs Aydin recommends: A Whale of a Time by Lou Peacock

A Whale of a Time is a delightful book of quirky and amusing poems just right for children to read aloud, or for adults to read to them, and once you start, you won't be able to stop reading ahead!

Mrs Aydin always enjoys dipping into a random page and discovering a new funny poem and imagining children giggling along to the silly rhymes and tongue-twisters inside.

Mrs Aydin would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good laugh and wants to fall in love with poetry one day at a time.



Reception and Year 1/2

Miss Shah recommends: The colour monster by Anna Llenas

The Colour Monster feels mixed-up and doesn't understand his emotions. A friend helps him sort his feelings by giving each one a colour, like yellow for happiness and blue for sadness. By naming and understanding his emotions, the monster feels better.

Miss Shah thinks this book is really important as it helps people of any age to understand their feelings in such a big world.



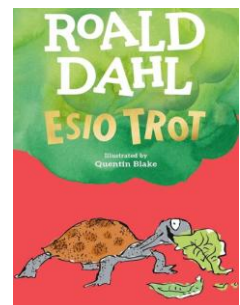
Year 3/4

Miss Saddington recommends: Esio Trot by Roald Dahl

Esio Trot is a heart-warming and funny story by Roald Dahl about a shy man, a kind lady, and a very clever trick involving a lot of tortoises!

Mr. Hoppy is an elderly man who is very lonely, except for two things: his beautiful balcony garden and his secret love for his neighbour, Mrs. Silver. Mrs. Silver is sad because her pet tortoise is small and never seems to grow, so Mr. Hoppy tells her that he knows a magic spell to make tortoises grow!

The story teaches us all about kindness as Mr Hoppy goes through a lot of trouble to make somebody else smile. Miss Saddington recommends this book to anybody who enjoys stories with humour and a little bit of romance!



Recommended Reads – Staff

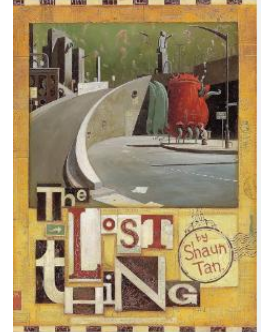
Year 3/4

Miss Phipps recommends *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan

This is a wonderful book about a boy who discovers an intriguing creature. The boy tries his best to show the creature to the world and get the opinion of others. Everyone is so busy going about their day that they don't seem shocked to see the creature.

The illustrations in this text capture an amazing world!

Each time I read this book I am drawn to an image of something I have not seen before. You can follow along and find out whether the creature remains lost, or finds a place to call home.



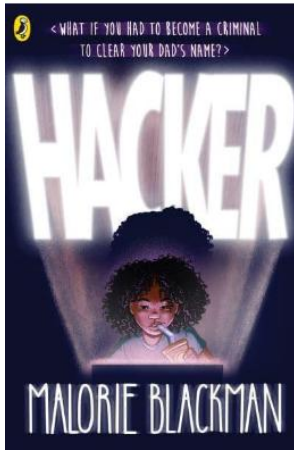
Year 5/6

Miss Patel recommends: *Hacker* by Malorie Blackman

Being biased, I recommend this book firstly because I am the teacher of class Blackman, so this book is written by our author.

The second reason I recommend this book is because in this day and age of technology, and with children being so attached to technological equipment, games and communication it is so important for them to understand the importance of the power and responsibility of technology. As well as this they need to know how it can be used for good and bad purposes.

When Vicky's father is arrested for being accused of stealing



Year 5/6

Mrs Jamal recommends: *The Apprentice Witch* by James Nicol

The Apprentice Witch is a delightful story about a young girl named Arianwyn who fails her witch's evaluation. Instead of getting a grand placement, she is sent to the quiet, sleepy town of Lull as their apprentice witch. Arianwyn feels like a bit of a failure, but she tries her best to help the locals with their everyday magical problems. However, things quickly become dangerous when an ancient, dark magic awakens in the nearby woods.

Mrs Jamal would recommend this because it is a thrilling, magical adventure that you won't want to put down. Arianwyn is a brilliant character because she isn't perfect; she makes mistakes and struggles with her confidence, just like anyone else. This story teaches us that true bravery comes from trying your best, even when you are scared!

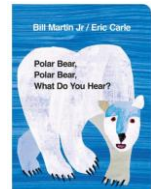


Recommended Reads - Children

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?

I love this book! In this book you learn about many different animals like a walrus and a flamingo. My favourite animal in the book is the lion. I read this book with my friends in the reading corner.

Sana – Reception: Rosen



Storms by Catherine Baker

In this book, you learn about stormy weather. The clouds turn black and the thunder is loud. Rain storms happen when there is a lot of rain at once. If you ever see lightning, you need to stay indoors. This book is non-fiction which means it is full of facts and information.

Jiyaan – Year 1: Murphy

Spring is Sprung by Paul Groves

I like this book because a little green man sprouts out from the ground! Andrew gets to know the green man, and he learns how flowers and plants bloom in spring time.

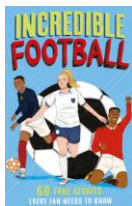
Sanveer – Year 2: Donaldson



Thumper by Liz Miles and Mel Armstrong

This is a funny book! Thumper starts off small, and he jumps in the sink. Thumper then grows and starts crashing into everything. Mum has to send Thumper away into the yard because of all the damage. I like this book because Thumper starts to be helpful when he is picking plums and cutting crops.

Naksh – Year 2: Byron



Incredible Football By Clive Gifford

In this book, you will learn about the game of football and how hard the players have to work. This book is filled with fun facts about players from all around the world. I recommend this book to anyone who likes the game of football!

Aayidh – Year 3/4: Rowling

Grimm's Fairy Tales by Ruth Brocklehurst, Gill Doherty and Raffaella Ligi

This book is filled with many different fairy tales. My favourite is Snow White as she loves to bake. The stories in this book are about kindness, being respectful and helping others. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to be inspired by brave people!

Simran – Year 3/4: Dahl



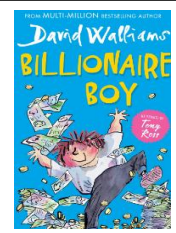
Recommended Reads - Children

Billionaire Boy by David Walliams

The message of this book is that money does not buy you love and happiness.

The main character in this book is called Joe, and he has so much money because of his wealthy father. Joe uses the money to buy himself expensive things and even pays people to do things for him. I recommend this book to anyone who likes funny books.

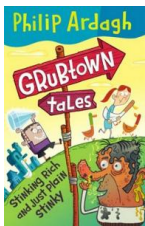
Kian C – Year 3/4: Morpurgo



Grubtown Tales by Philip Ardagh

This book is so funny! There are so many interesting characters who are always trying to stay away from sharks. This is a great book if you like funny illustrations.

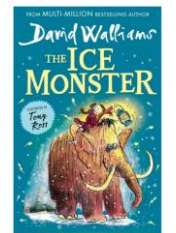
Ayman – Year 5: Rauf



The Ice Monster by David Walliams

I would recommend this book to people who love goblins or monsters. In this book, some workers in a museum team up to bring an ice monster back to life. This animal is a mammoth and it is 10,000 years old!

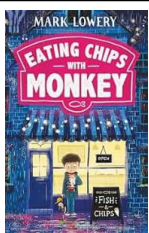
Nishtha – Year 5: Zephaniah



Eating Chips with Monkey by Mark Lowery

This book is about Daniel who has a terrible accident whilst he is waiting to order chips. Daniel's dad takes him to the top ten chip shops in the country as a way of distracting him whilst he recovers. This book has an important message which is that we need to try and cope with the problems that we face.

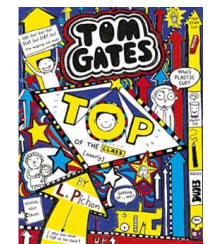
Raghav – Year 6: Almond



Top of the Class Tom Gates by Liz Pichon

This is one of the best comic books that I have read! There are lots of funny parts in this book as well as interesting characters. A great part of this book is when Tom goes bird watching! I would recommend this book to anyone who is a fan of comic books.

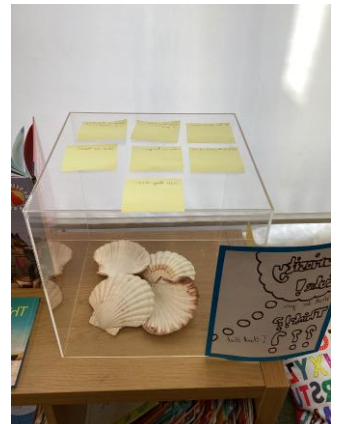
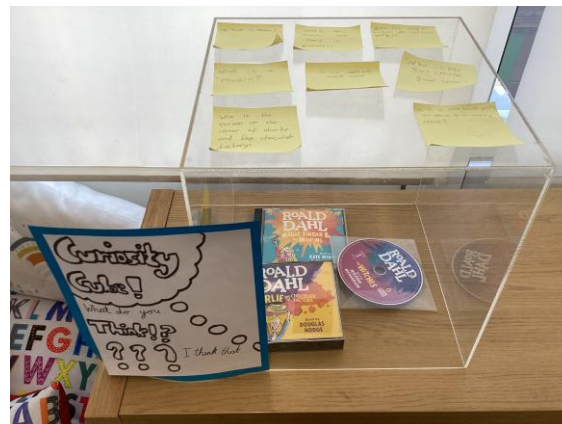
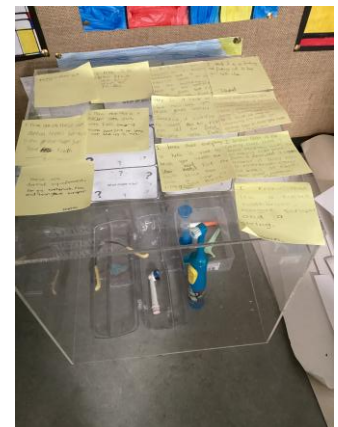
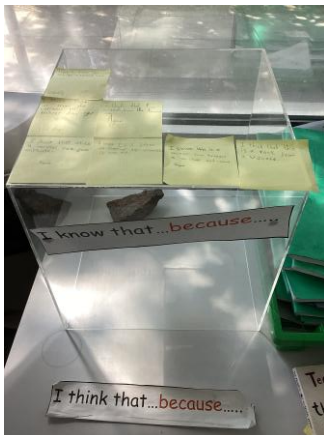
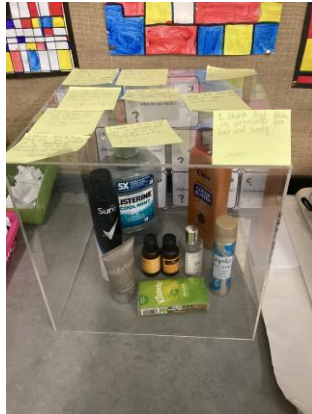
Rian – Year 6: Blackman



Curiosity Cubes

Oracy

Our children have been showing curiosity by posing questions about items in their classroom Curiosity Cubes.



Half-Term Activities

During half-term, make sure to get outdoors and get some fresh air. There is a lot more to do than just sit in front of a screen!

Here are some activities that you might want to try.

Make sure to ask your adults for permission first.

Shadow Art

On a sunny day, place some objects on a piece of paper outside and trace around their shadows. You can then colour these in.



Minibeast Hunt

Head into your garden or local park.

Count how many minibeast you can spot.



Picnic

Plan a menu, pack a bag of food, and head into your garden or a local park for a picnic.



Online Safety



SafeguardED

SIX TOP TIPS

For Parents To Keep Your Children Safe Online

Most parents & carers think their children and young people spend too much time on devices. **DON'T FEEL BAD!** Lots of it is perfectly healthy anyway. Instead, follow these tips to keep them safe, happy and healthy.

Don't worry about screen time; aim for screen quality

Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or video calling Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.



Check the safety settings are turned on

Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or 'go live', are their posts public? What about safe search and Youtube? See parentsafe.lgfl.net for more.



Get your children to show you their apps and games

You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced – they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kidsafe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** reviews.



Don't try to hide news about scary things in the news

If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise in their heads. Why not watch **Newsround** together and talk about how they feel – there is guidance from **Childline** to help you.



Remind them of key online safety principles

There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean, not to get undressed on camera and most important of all... if somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, **THAT'S A LIE!**

If you aren't sure, ASK!

Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at reporting.lgfl.net, including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).



Online Safety

E-Safety Updates – Social Media & Communication

As children grow older, they may become more curious about social media and online communication. Many platforms have age restrictions designed to help keep children safe.

Please talk to your child about:

- Why age limits exist
- Who they communicate with online
- The importance of privacy settings

Remind children that they should never feel pressured to reply to messages and should tell an adult if something feels wrong.



Useful advice for families can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT LIFE ONLINE

Find conversation starters, story time ideas and top tips to reinforce key safety messages at parentsafe.lgfl.net

