

Spring 1

Year 1 Newsletter

Forest Fun and Fresh Air

In Forest School, the children took part in the largest citizen science project, the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026, in our fantastic outdoor area. The children used their senses of hearing and sight, and an identification sheet to spot birds. They used their maths skills to record and count the number of different birds. Following on from this, the children used mixed media to create their own beautiful bird artwork, inspired by what they had discovered outside, and also made bird nests. There was plenty of puddle splashing, and outdoor games too. The children have shown fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm, throwing themselves into every activity with energy and excitement.



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Presence ● Understanding ● Risk Taking ● Possibility ● Love of Learning ● Empowerment

Spring 1

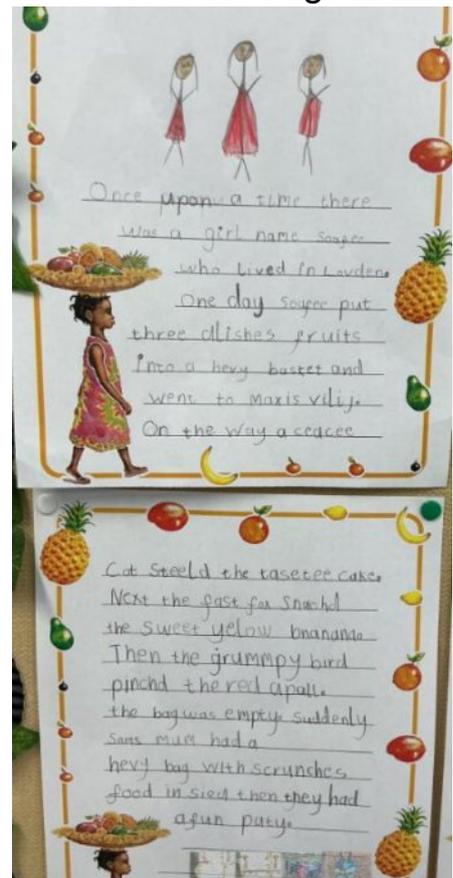
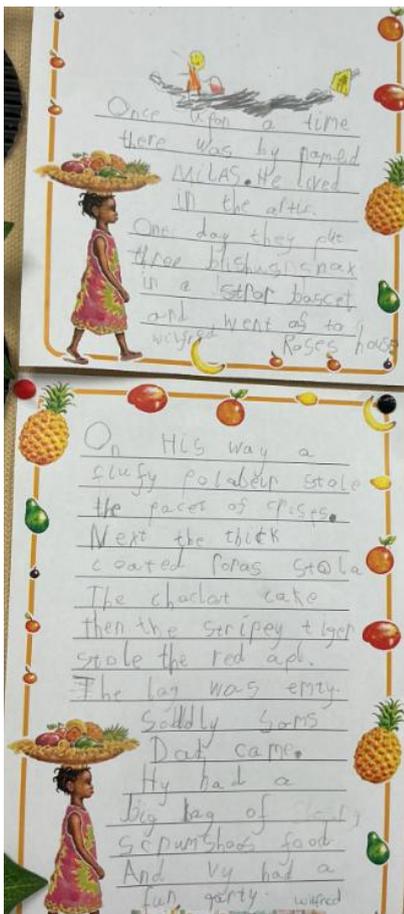
Year 1 Newsletter

Storytelling Superstars

This half term, Year 1 had lots of fun reading and writing *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne. The children explored exciting adjectives to describe the fruits and animals, chose fabulous verbs to show how the animals moved, and practised starting sentences using conjunctions such as *first, next and then*. They then created their own versions of *Handa's Surprise*, coming up with their own settings, animals, foods and solutions to the problem. We saw some wonderfully creative ideas, including jungle and arctic settings, pancakes and pizzas, and even grandmas and zookeepers saving the day! We loved reading their stories, and they looked AMAZING on display in our

classrooms. The children are also continuing to

work hard on neat handwriting, remembering finger spaces, capital letters and full stops, and using their phonics to help with spelling. Superb effort all round!

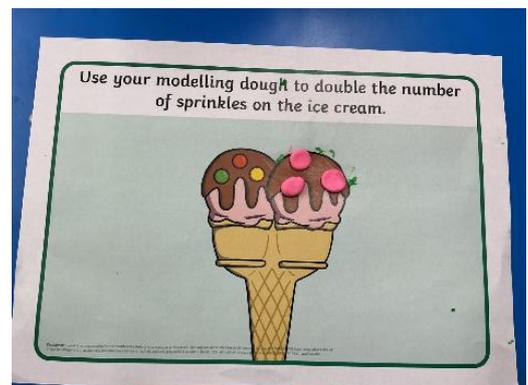
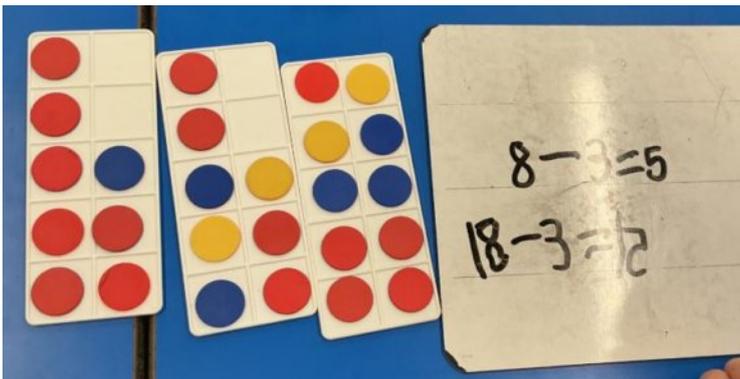


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Year 1 Newsletter

Busy Brains and Brilliant Numbers

Year 1 have been working hard on numbers to 20 and are growing in confidence every week. They can compare and order numbers and are getting really good at number bonds to 20. We've been exploring addition and subtraction by learning doubles and using these to help with near doubles. The children have been adding and taking away using practical equipment, drawings, number lines and number sentences. They especially enjoyed the challenge of finishing the unit with some tricky missing number problems!



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Year 1 Newsletter

Terrific Transport in DT

This term in DT, Year 1 are about to have great fun designing and making their own moving vehicles. The children will learn how to join materials safely and carefully, cut with scissors, and use simple tools to make wheels and axles that actually move. They will test their ideas, make changes when things don't quite work, and talk about what went well and what they would improve next time. There will be lots of excitement (and possibly a few dramatic crashes!) as the vehicles are tested. A brilliant mix of creativity, problem-solving and hands-on fun! Watch this space...



Silent Disco

Year 1, wearing their disco gear, practised their best dance moves for the silent disco. With headphones on and big smiles, the children danced, giggled, and had a fun-filled time.



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Year 2 Newsletter

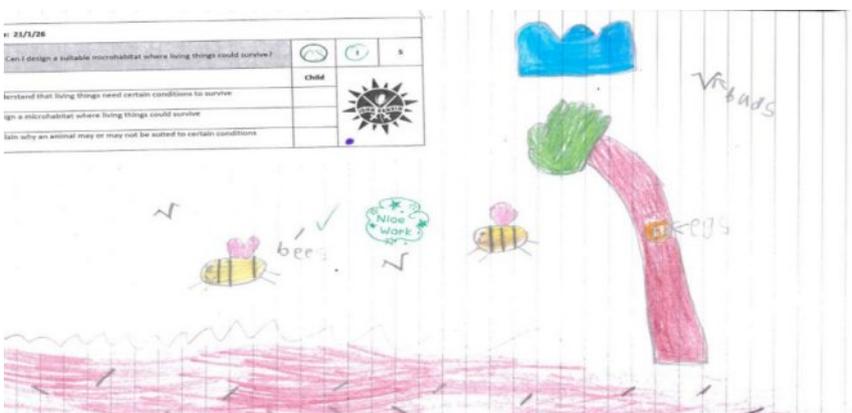
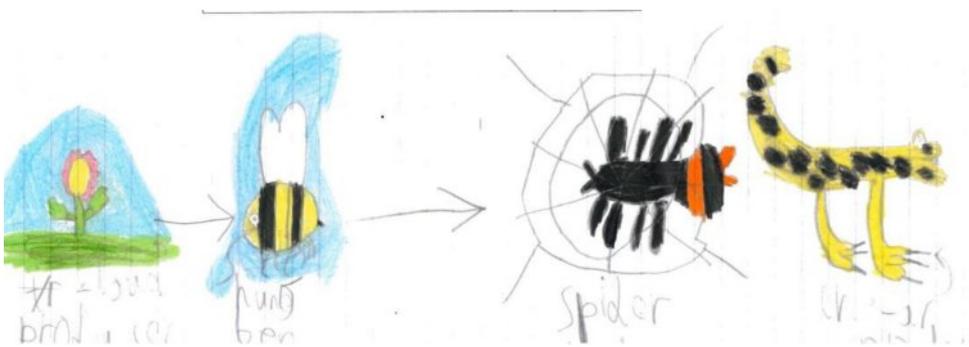
Science

This term we have been looking at Living Things and their Habitats. The classes went on a classification walk discussing things that are living, dead and have never been alive.

Another lesson that was taken outside the classroom, involved identifying plants and animals in a microhabitat. By gently moving logs near to the pond area we discovered many living minibeasts including worms, spiders and woodlice. Magnolia Class also met a very friendly frog!

Further learning included designing microhabitats, finding out that animals will only live in a habitat that provides them with enough food to eat and looking at how a food chain works.

The children have produced some great work in their books.



Spring 1

Year 2 Newsletter

History

In History this term, Year 2 have loved learning about what school was like in the past and how it compares to school today. We began by thinking about our own experiences at school and using words such as *today*, *now* and *present* to describe modern school life. The children enjoyed walking around the school, observing different areas and discussing what we do in each space.

As we travelled back in time, the children were fascinated by Victorian schools. They were particularly interested in how children were disciplined and how strict lessons were in the past. Using old photographs, the children became history detectives, carefully spotting differences such as wooden desks, chalkboards and the lack of technology.

One of the highlights of the topic was role-playing a Victorian classroom. The children loved sitting up straight, keeping their hands still and writing with chalk, and they were eager to share how different this felt compared to lessons today! These activities helped them to really imagine what life at school may have been like for children long ago.

Towards the end of the unit, the children explored what has changed and what has stayed the same. They created timelines, compared classrooms from different decades and discussed similarities such as having teachers, learning to read and enjoying playtime. This topic sparked lots of excitement, thoughtful discussions and a genuine enthusiasm for learning about the past.

Spring 1

Year 2 Newsletter

English

In English this term, Year 2 have absolutely loved working with the poem '*The Owl and the Pussy-cat*'. The children were highly engaged and enjoyed returning to the characters each week while developing their grammar, vocabulary and writing skills.

The children enjoyed making predictions about the story and discussing how characters might behave, using conjunctions such as *when*, *if* and *because* to explain their ideas.

They had lots of fun creating lists and noun phrases, imagining what the Owl and the Pussy-cat might need for their journey, and explaining their choices using clear sentences and conjunctions.

As the weeks progressed, the children explored adjectives and suffixes such as *-ful* and *-less*, creating new words and using them confidently in their writing. They also enjoyed learning about the past progressive tense through drama and role play, particularly when interviewing the Owl and the Pussy-cat and answering questions in character.

The children were especially enthusiastic when writing commands and instructions to help the Owl and the Pussy-cat on their honeymoon journey, using verbs with the prefix *un-* and, for some, adding adverbs and conjunctions for extra detail. Towards the end of the unit, they loved exploring rhyming words, identifying nouns and verbs in the poem and beginning to create their own innovated versions of the story. It has been a joy to see their confidence, creativity and enjoyment of writing grow throughout the term.

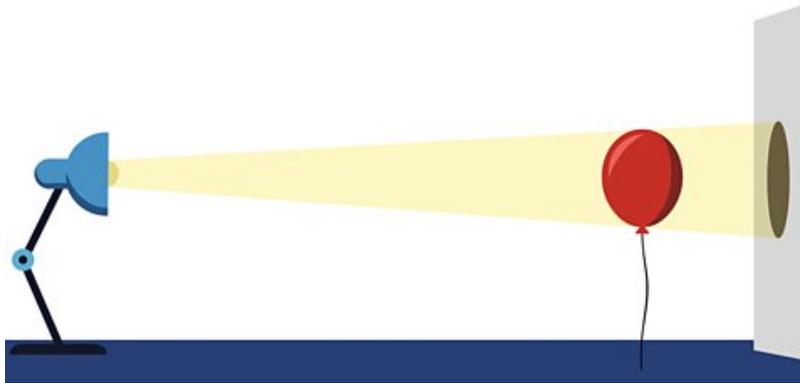
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Year 3 Newsletter

Science

This half term in Science, we have been learning about light. We explored the difference between natural and artificial light sources and discussed the importance of keeping ourselves safe in the sun. We learned why sunlight is important and how to protect our eyes and skin when spending time outdoors.

We also investigated shadows and how they are created when light from the sun is blocked by an opaque object. Through practical activities, we explored how shadows change depending on the position of the sun and the object. We discovered that shadows can change in size, shape and direction, helping us to understand how light travels and how it behaves in the world around us.



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Year 3 Newsletter

Music

We are so excited to have started our ukulele music lessons with Mr Christmas from Good Vibes Academy. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the instrument and exploring how to play it successfully.

We have already earned our One Star Award by playing along to a song, which we were extremely proud of. The lessons have helped us to develop our musical skills, including rhythm and coordination, and to build our confidence as musicians.

We are really looking forward to continuing our lessons after half term and becoming even better musicians.



PE

Swimming has been a great success this half term! We have loved attending our sessions, improving our swimming skills and having lots of fun along the way.

We have received several positive comments from the staff at Northcroft and the bus company about the excellent behaviour and manners of the children.

Well done, Year 3 – we are very proud of you!

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Year 3 Newsletter

DT

In DT, we have been learning how to make fabric Egyptian collars. We explored how to use different stitches and appliqué techniques to join and decorate fabrics. We also learned important skills such as threading needles, knotting thread and joining pieces together securely.

As part of our learning, we studied traditional Egyptian colours and patterns and then designed our own collars to reflect our personalities. We created a detailed plan for our designs, carefully making them as symmetrical as possible.

We can't wait to share the finished results with you!



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Year 3 Newsletter

History

We have really enjoyed our History unit this half term, where we have been learning about life in Ancient Egypt. We explored ancient tombs and put ourselves in the shoes (or sandals!) of the kings and pharaohs who ruled over Egypt thousands of years ago.

We especially loved following the exciting journey of Howard Carter and learning about his discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. This helped us to understand why this discovery was so important and what it taught us about the past.

Throughout the unit, we have also practised and improved our questioning skills, asking thoughtful questions to help us find out more about daily life, beliefs and traditions in Ancient Egypt. This has helped us to become curious historians and deepen our understanding of the past.



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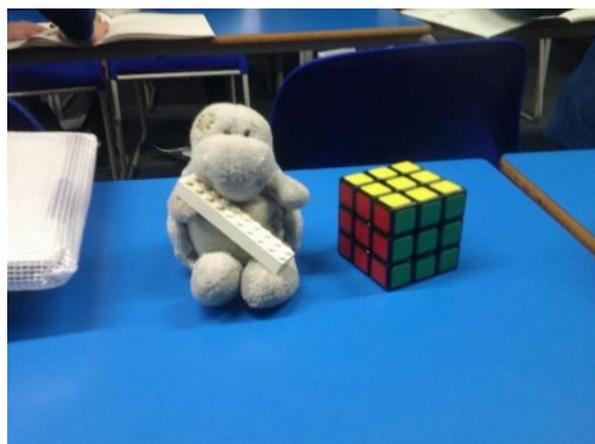
Spring 1

Year 4 Newsletter

Art

This half term in Art we have been exploring still life. The children were shown a range of artworks from artists including Paul Cezanne, Hilary Pecis and Bas Meeuws. We then responded to these artworks by making visual notes in our books.

Later in the half term, the children had the opportunity to create their own still life artwork. First, we selected up to three objects for our still life and then took a photograph. Next, we drew the outline of the objects in our still life, making sure that everything was in proportion. Finally, children added paint or shading to their outlines to highlight the detail. At the end of the half term, we had an opportunity to reflect on our own and others' work and discuss strengths and improvements.



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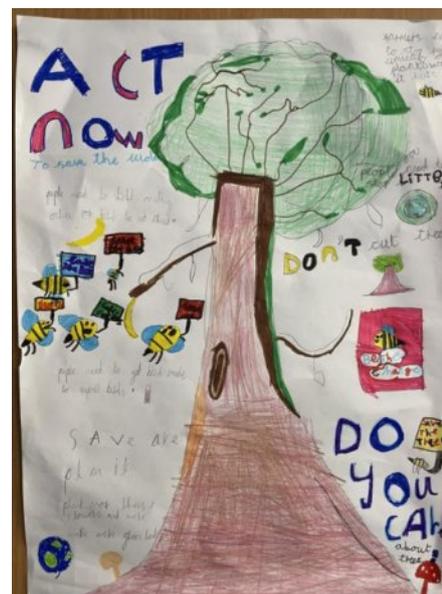
Year 4 Newsletter

Science

This half term in Science, we have been learning about animals and conservation. We have explored ecosystems around the world and how they are affected by changing seasons. We then investigated deforestation, air pollution and water pollution. The children were truly amazed about the impact humans have on the environment.

Towards the end of the unit, the children thought about their water usage at home and ways they could save water. The children created a poster with 5 top tips for saving water and shared these with their class.

To end the unit, the children were given the opportunity to design their own conservation area for a chosen animal or plant species. It was wonderful to see the children's fantastic ideas about protecting animals.



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Spring 1

Year 4 Newsletter

Forest School

This half term, we have really enjoyed getting our hands dirty in nature by taking part in Forest School sessions.

We have explored a range of different activities and challenges. These involve working as a team and collaborating with other children to be successful.

In one week, we took part in RSPB annual birdwatch which was engaging for the children. We learned the names of several different UK species and were able to identify some in our school environment.

In another session, the children took part in tree climbing, tightrope balancing and undoing giant knots as a team! We are currently working on building a frame using natural materials.



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Year 5 Newsletter

We can't believe how quickly this term has flown by! It has been a wet but wonderful term, with all children showing fantastic progress across all subjects. The children's curiosity in science, geography and art has been infectious, and we cannot wait for another exciting term of learning ahead.

PE

Year 5 have had a fantastic term in PE, developing their hockey and badminton skills with great enthusiasm and determination. The children were especially excited to work with a specialist hockey coach, who helped them refine their techniques and build confidence in their gameplay. It was wonderful to see their skills progress so quickly during these sessions.

Our badminton lessons have been full of energy, with a wonderfully competitive spirit spreading through the class! Pupils have worked hard to improve their forehand and backhand shots, showing excellent teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout.

We have been incredibly impressed with the *purple learning* taking place in lessons, as children challenge themselves, learn from mistakes, and strive to improve each week. Well done, Year 5, for showing such commitment and enthusiasm in PE this term — keep up the great work!



English

In English this term, the children began by writing cliff-hanger stories inspired by *The Nowhere Emporium*, focusing on building suspense and developing their use of figurative language. The incredible work produced was not only extremely well written, but also left us all wanting to read what happened next in their stories!

Our final unit started with a very funny lesson hook, where the children were asked to write instructions explaining how to make a jam sandwich. They quickly realised that their

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Year 5 Newsletter

instructions needed to be much more precise if they wanted them to be followed correctly! Through this unit, children learned how imperative verbs, modal verbs, relative clauses and parenthesis are crucial in making instructions clear and easy to follow.

We have been so impressed with the progress and creativity shown in their writing this term.



Art

Year 5 have been working brilliantly on their architecture and model-making project this term. The children have filled their sketchbooks with thoughtful visual notes and creative ideas, showing growing confidence in drawing techniques to help them observe and design structures.

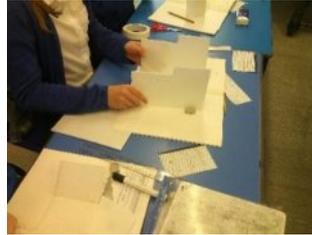
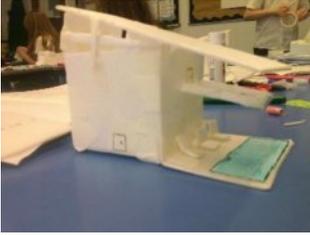
They carefully planned their models, making decisions about scale and features, and then brought these ideas to life through stable and imaginative 3D creations with clear architectural details. Pupils also demonstrated excellent thinking skills when discussing their design choices and how they solved problems along the way.

We were especially proud of how respectfully and thoughtfully everyone took part in our gallery critique sessions, sharing feedback and celebrating one another's work.

We were also so excited to hear how many children have decided to take part in the art competition with the Royal Gallery — we cannot wait to see the wonderful entries they create!

Spring 1

Year 5 Newsletter



Geography

This term, Year 5 have been exploring the fascinating world of volcanoes in Geography. The children have developed a strong understanding of the structure of the Earth and can confidently label the different layers, as well as identify the major tectonic plates on a world map.

They have learned how the movement of these plates causes volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, and can clearly explain these links. Pupils have also been able to label the parts of a volcano and describe what each part does.

The class has enjoyed locating famous volcanoes around the world and researching key facts about individual volcanoes. Their learning was brought to life through descriptive eyewitness accounts, where pupils imagined experiencing an eruption firsthand.

To deepen their understanding, children also explored the advantages and disadvantages of living near a volcano and practised giving thoughtful, balanced opinions supported by reasons.

We are very proud of the curiosity and enthusiasm Year 5 have shown throughout this exciting topic.

Spring 1

Year 6 Newsletter



What a fantastic term it has been in Year 6! We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and positive attitudes the children have shown across all areas of learning. They have worked hard, supported one another, and continued to rise to new challenges — it has been a pleasure to see their confidence and independence grow. As we look ahead to Spring

Term 2, we are excited to begin our new learning topics, including Electricity in science, which will link closely with our DT project of designing and creating a steady-hand game. In computing, we will also be exploring artificial intelligence, helping the children to understand how this exciting technology is used in the world around them. *Next term, we will also be visiting St Nicks church again for a COINS led Easter workshop on the 11th March.*

Online Safety - Whatsapp

We would like to take this opportunity to remind families that the official age limit for using WhatsApp is **16 years old**. Recently, a number of parents have informed us of unpleasant online encounters that some children are experiencing at home, particularly through messaging apps and group chats. We strongly encourage parents and carers to closely monitor their child's device usage, privacy settings, and online interactions, and to have regular open conversations about staying safe and respectful online. What happens out of school is out of our control and we need to work together to help ensure our children are protected, supported, and confident in making safe choices when using digital technology.

More information can be found at:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>



Spring 1

Year 6 Newsletter

P.E

We are pleased to welcome back the St Barts Sports Leaders this term. The children have shown great enthusiasm and engagement in PE lessons, particularly while developing their basketball, hockey and fitness skills. It has been wonderful to see their teamwork, effort and positive attitudes on display. We are also happy to confirm that the Sports Leaders will now be working with us every Friday, providing regular, high-quality PE sessions for the children to enjoy and benefit from. Next term we are looking forward to handball and continuing our sessions with Sports Leaders.



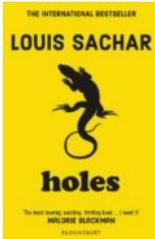
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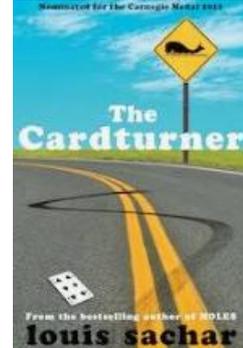
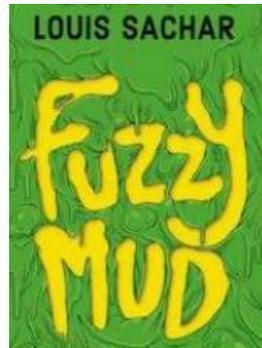
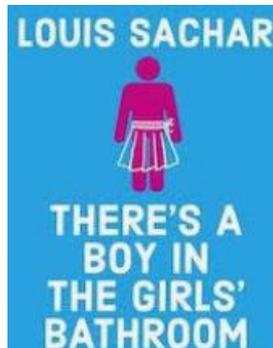
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Year 6 Newsletter

Master Readers

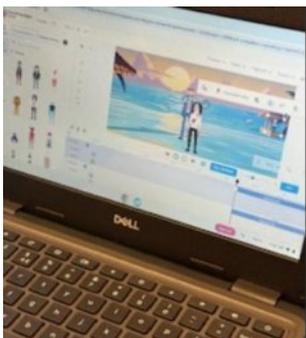


The children have engaged positively with our new Master Reader scheme and have thoroughly enjoyed reading Holes by Louis Sachar! We ended the term by watching the film adaptation and compared the similarities and differences. If your child particularly enjoyed this text, below are some other books written in by the author.



Computing

This term in Computing, Year 6 have been working on our Creative Animation unit. The children have explored a visual programming platform, learning how a visual paradigm can be used to create animations rather than writing text-based code. They developed their skills by designing their own scenes, inserting characters and props, and adding movement to bring their ideas to life. Throughout the unit, pupils demonstrated creativity, problem-solving and perseverance as they refined their animations and tested how different actions affected their final outcome.



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Spring 1 Notices



February half term Creativity for All Ages

Make February half term creative
Workshops and courses at City Arts Newbury



1. Glass hearts
2. Mosaic frames
3. Teen/ adult willow hearts
4. Tree stump printing
5. Winter Gelli plate printing
6. Beetles, bugs doodle workshop
7. Children's pottery wheel workshop



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Spring 1 Notices



Tuesday 17 February | 10.30am – 12pm | Free

A relaxed morning for children with additional needs and their families to enjoy the Museum when there is less hustle and bustle (as we are closed to the public on Tuesdays).

The downstairs museum galleries will be open, and there is an opportunity to take part in a craft.

Book online:

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on

West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AS
T: 01635 519562 E: museum@westberks.gov.uk



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Spring 1 Notices



**MOVIE IN
THE HALL**

SHAW HOUSE

Fantastic Mr. Fox

Tuesday 17 February | Adults £5 Child £3
Doors open at 10am, film starts at 10.30am

The café will be open serving cinema sweets and treats.

Book online: www.westberkshireheritage.com/whats-on

Certification: PG | 2009 | Running time 1h 28min | Searchlight Pictures

 **West Berkshire
COUNCIL**

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Spring 1 Notices



FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAYS

SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING,
LASER TAG, NERF WARS, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

OPEN EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY



Kennet Leisure Centre

Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LJ

9.00am – 4.00pm

Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) - 12

FROM £29.50 PER DAY!

Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!

Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Refillable Drinks Bottle.



Scan the QR code for more information,
call 01344 508008 or email info@lets-play.org.uk
Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk



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**ADULTS AND PARENT & CHILD
LESSONS AVAILABLE**



**To book please visit:
aquablue.org.uk**

The Downs School Compton and
Brockhurst and Marlston House School



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Spring 1

Notices

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN HISTORY

17th Century

DAY OUT at

Shaw House

Experience 1644 ~ in 2026..!



SHAW HOUSE, NEWBURY, RG14 2DR
Saturday
March 7th 2026
10.00am - 4.00pm

+ Living History
inside Shaw House
+++ Raffle! +++
~ ALL WELCOME ~



SCAN ME

Discover what life was like for those people who lived through the Civil War of the 17th Century.

Witness soldiers training to use swords, muskets and pikes and visit some of the tradesmen and civilians who accompanied the armies.



Earl Rivers' Regiment Of Foote
www.earlivers.org.uk

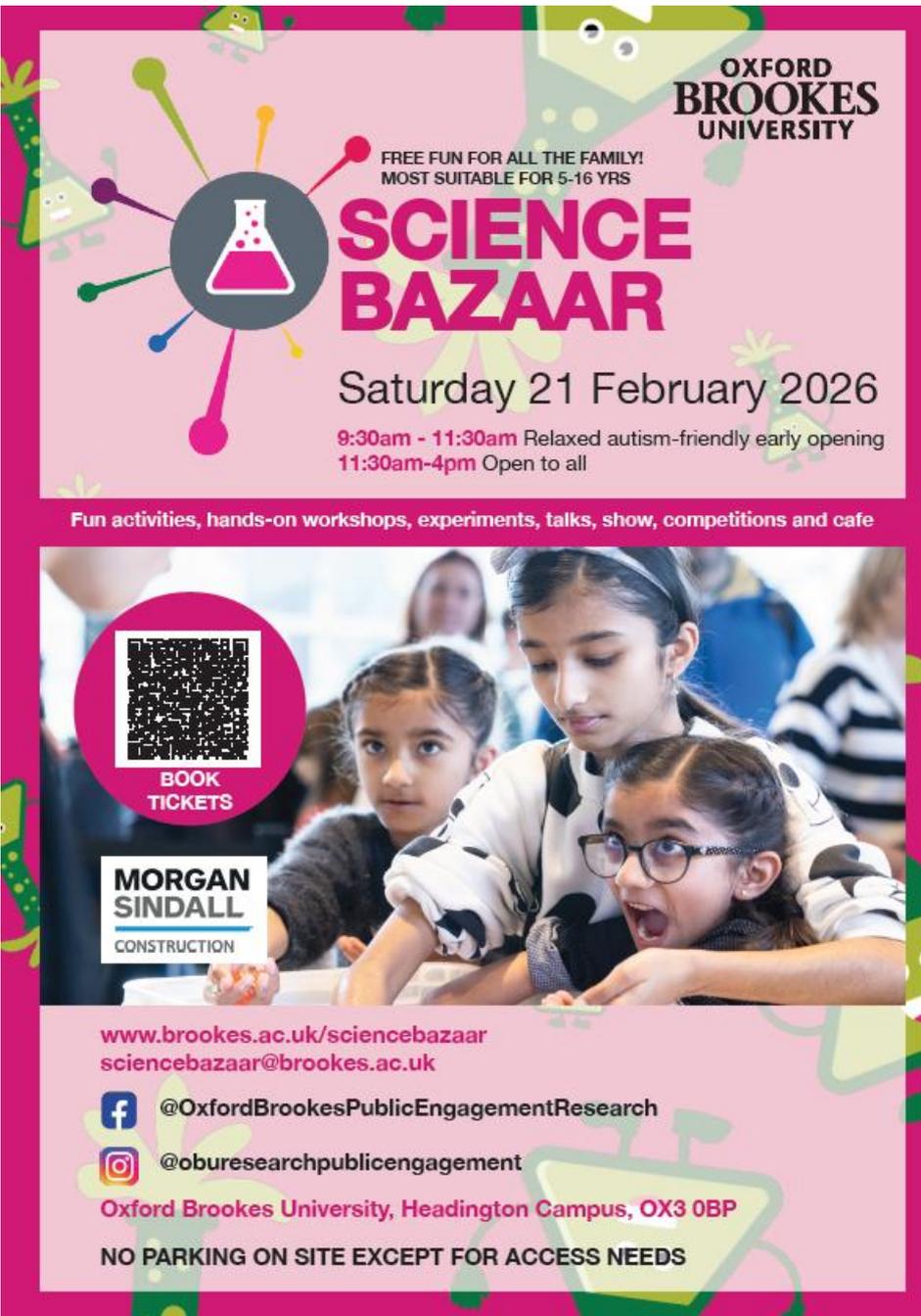


A REGIMENT OF
THE SEALED KNOT
LOVE HISTORY? LIVE IT WITH THE SEALED KNOT

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**OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY**

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR

Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe




BOOK
TICKETS

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar
sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk

 @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch
 @oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

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**CAMP
INFO**

16th - 20th Feb 2020

5-13 Years Old
Standard day: 9:00am - 3:30pm
Extended day: 8:30am - 17:00pm

4 Years Old
Half day session: 9:00am - 1:00pm

What Children Need to Bring

- Packed lunch
- Refillable water bottle
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Suitable footwear

HOW TO BOOK...

-  eliteyouthsports.co.uk
-  info@eliteyouthsports.co.uk
-  01235 415846



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Spring 1 Notices

A promotional poster for Elite Camps Newbury. The top half features a red background with the 'ELITE CAMPS NEWBURY' logo in large, colorful, stylized letters. Below the logo, there are two icons: a calendar icon for 'February Half Term' and a location pin icon for 'Park House School, Newbury, RG14 6NQ'. The bottom half of the poster is white and features a list of activities under the heading 'Elite Activities Include..'. The list includes Laser Tag, Nerf Wars, Soft Archery, Crazy Golf, Parachute Games, Balloon Bash, Hungry Hippos, and 'and much more..'. A green button with the text 'BOOK NOW' is located at the bottom left. On the right side, there is a photograph of children playing. One boy in the foreground is holding a red ball, while another boy in the background is holding a red Nerf gun. The bottom right corner of the poster features the Ofsted Registered logo and the Elite Camps logo.

ELITE CAMPS NEWBURY

 **February Half Term**

 **Park House School,
Newbury, RG14 6NQ**

Elite Activities Include..

-  Laser Tag
-  Nerf Wars
-  Soft Archery
-  Crazy Golf
-  Parachute Games
-  Balloon Bash
-  Hungry Hippos
-  and much more..

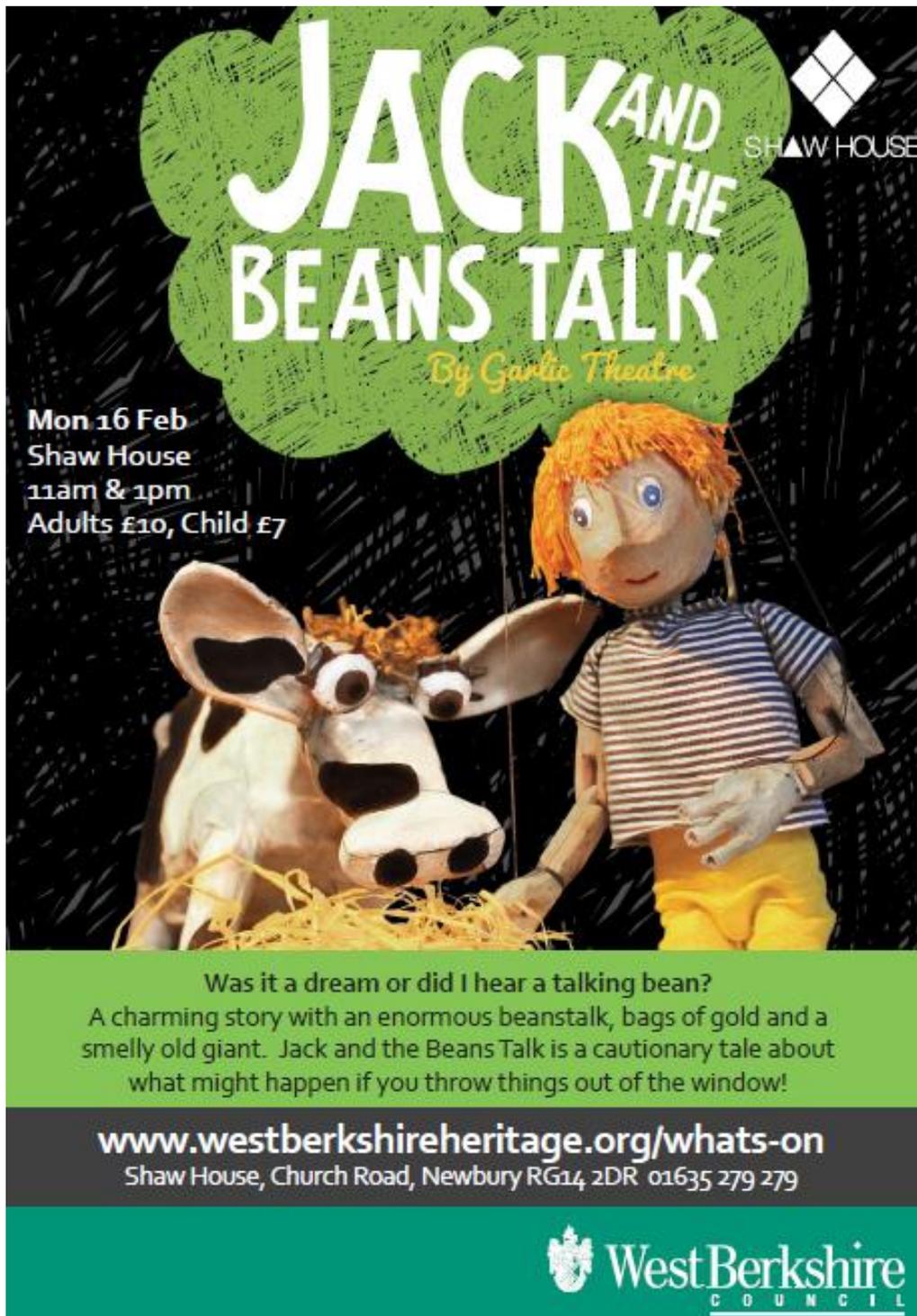
BOOK NOW

Igniting Passion ● Empowering Learners ● Transforming the Future

Presence ● Understanding ● Risk Taking ● Possibility ● Love of Learning ● Empowerment

Spring 1 Notices



JACK AND THE BEANS TALK
By Garlic Theatre

SHAW HOUSE

Mon 16 Feb
Shaw House
11am & 1pm
Adults £10, Child £7

Was it a dream or did I hear a talking bean?
A charming story with an enormous beanstalk, bags of gold and a smelly old giant. Jack and the Beans Talk is a cautionary tale about what might happen if you throw things out of the window!

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on
Shaw House, Church Road, Newbury RG14 2DR 01635 279 279

 West Berkshire
COUNCIL

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Spring 1 Notices

Next Thing EDUCATION PRESENTS

LIMITED SPACES
BOOK BY
6TH FEB

FEB HALF TERM 2026

Coding & Robots + Circuitry & Inventions + LEGO Engineering + Minecraft Madness + Tech Fun

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

Different activity theme each day, please check our website for your camp activities.

16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY - LIMITED SPACES

What Parents Say

"Absolutely Fantastic!
First time attending &
my son loved it!"

★★★★★

HOW TO BOOK

STEP 1
SCAN THE QR CODE

STEP 2
FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP

STEP 3
BOOK ONLINE SPACES LIMITED

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

W: WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION
E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

TECH CAMP

FEBRUARY CAMPS 2026

St Gabriel's School, RG20 9BD
£39.99 PER DAY OR £175 FOR 5 DAYS
9 AM - 4PM, AGES 5-11

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE
www.nextthing.education

Children's Vouchers WE ALSO ACCEPT TAX-FREE CHILD CARE

SCAN ME

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Spring 1 Notices



Menstrual Health and
Period Education Advocates

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

All Yours Period Boxes

In December we celebrated our 5th birthday and are delighted to be able to offer period boxes again in 2026 to anyone who is struggling to access period products, for whatever reason. We are happy to support both adults and young people through this service.

You can request a free, confidential All Yours Box here:

<https://www.allyoursbox.co.uk/request>

Please note: If you are requesting boxes for more than one person (for example, multiple family members), please indicate the number of boxes needed and any specific product requirements in the comments box on the request form. This helps us make sure everyone receives what they need.

Boxes are prepared and delivered by volunteers, so please allow up to 21 days (though most arrive much sooner).

If we can't deliver to you directly, we'll let you know how to find your nearest collection point.

Period Pants – collection points

Unfortunately, we cannot deliver period pants to individual addresses but if you live in West Berkshire there is a small stock of period pants at Newbury, Thatcham and Burghfield Common libraries. They have a range of sizes, and you are welcome to collect a pair of pants to try for free.

We hope to be hosting more Period Pants Parties at locations across West Berkshire in 2026 so please keep an eye on our social media for more details. We are @allyoursmonthly on both Facebook and Instagram.

With best wishes,

All Yours

All Yours Period Box CIC – www.allyoursbox.co.uk
Facebook & Instagram - @allyoursmonthly

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