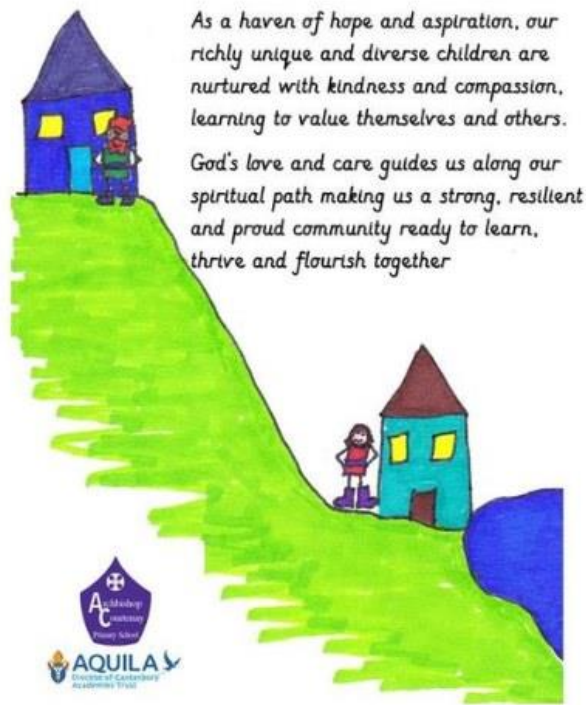


Friday 26th September

Archbishop Courtenay Primary School





As a haven of hope and aspiration, our richly unique and diverse children are nurtured with kindness and compassion, learning to value themselves and others.

God's love and care guides us along our spiritual path making us a strong, resilient and proud community ready to learn, thrive and flourish together

In this issue



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[Mrs Heather's Welcome](#)



Dear

Another busy week in the lives of all at ABC!

The children are thoroughly enjoying their learning, and it is wonderful to see classrooms filled with rich evidence of what our pupils know and understand. From vibrant displays of their work to enthusiastic discussions, it's clear that our pupils are engaging deeply with their lessons.

We are delighted that so many children are arriving at school by 8:30am. This makes a huge difference to their day and ensures they do not miss any learning opportunities or chances to talk to their friends before the day begins.

Please remember that punctuality is very important. Late marks after the register has closed are recorded as unauthorised absences and can negatively impact your child's overall attendance record. We strongly encourage all families to aim for arrival by 8:45am at the latest.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who donated and bought cakes at today's Macmillan Coffee Morning. As many of you are aware, this charity is very close to our hearts, and raising funds makes such a difference to their ability to support those affected by cancer. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our whole school community.

As a healthy school, we encourage our children to eat nutritious meals that support their focus and energy throughout the day. Recently, we have noticed some children arriving at school having eaten sweets, and some bringing cold hamburgers, chips, and other unhealthy snacks such as chocolate for lunch.

While treats like chocolate are enjoyable, eating these during lunchtime can lead to lethargy and reduced concentration in the afternoon. Please consider healthier options for your child's meals and save sweets and chocolate for after school or special treats. This small change can make a big difference in helping your child engage positively with their learning.

Thank you all so much for your positive response to Lexia, and 3P learning. I am aware of a few teething problems which I hope are now resolved. Like any new initiative it takes a while to get used to

Have a wonderful weekend and see you all on Monday.

Best wishes

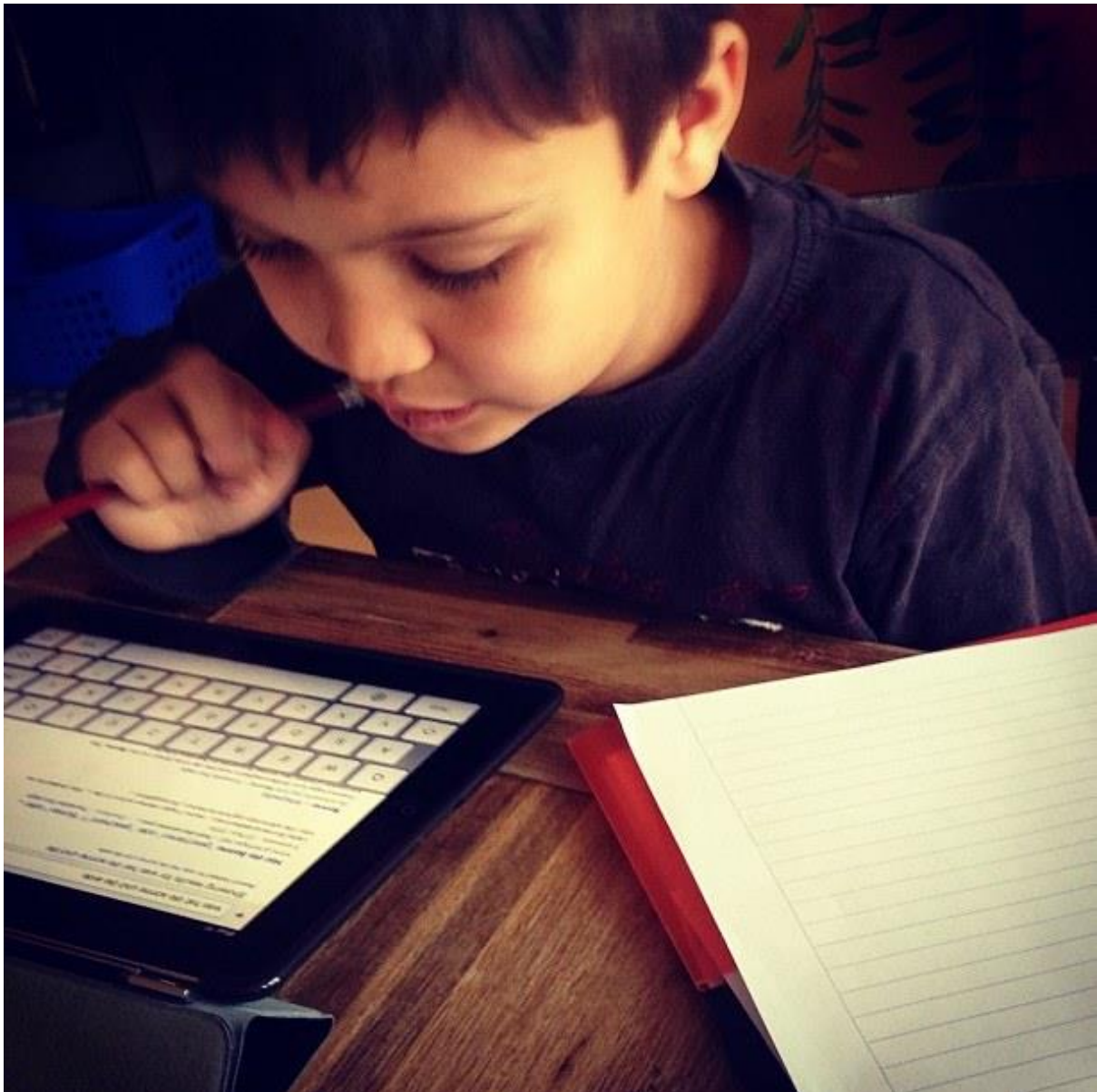
Mrs Heather

## Information for Parents



**PARENTS**  
INFORMATION

## A Message from the Headteacher: Embracing New Learning Tools



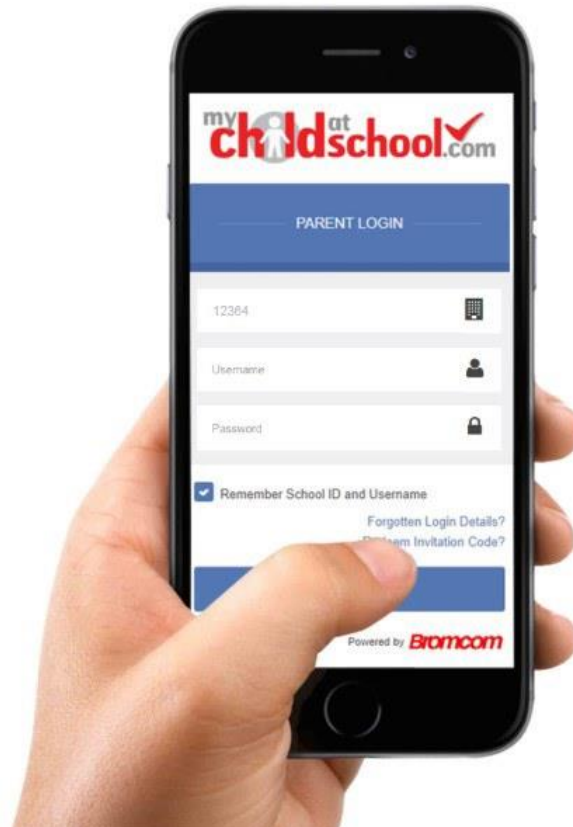
Thank you all for your enthusiastic and positive response to the introduction of Lexia and 3P Learning in our school. As with any new initiative, there have been a few initial teething problems, which we are confident have now been resolved.

Research shows that high-quality, evidence-based programmes like these make a significant difference in developing key reading and maths skills, especially for pupils who need targeted support. Lexia supports essential reading components such as phonics, vocabulary, and fluency, while 3P Learning enhances rapid recall of key maths facts through engaging, concrete strategies.

We appreciate your patience and commitment as we embed these tools into our daily practice. Together, we are building a strong foundation for our pupils' academic success and lifelong learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

## MCAS - ATTENDANCE



Today, we have introduced a new feature on MCAS that allows you to inform us directly of your child's absence.

For the remainder of this term, you may continue to notify us via email or telephone. However, starting from Term 2, MCAS will be the *only* method for reporting your child's absence.

If you do not yet have MCAS, please ensure you download and register for the app as soon as possible to avoid any disruption in communication.

## Parking



We kindly ask that you do not park in the staff car park at any time. While we understand it may be tempting, parking in this area can cause difficulties for our staff, especially if they arrive late and need to find alternative parking. This situation can also make it harder for parents to park safely and conveniently in the afternoon.

## Attendance



Today, Mrs. Heather sent a letter to all parents reaffirming our commitment to working closely with Aquila Multi Academy Trust to monitor and improve pupil attendance. We are incredibly grateful to the vast majority of our families who consistently prioritise regular attendance, ensuring their children benefit fully from their education.

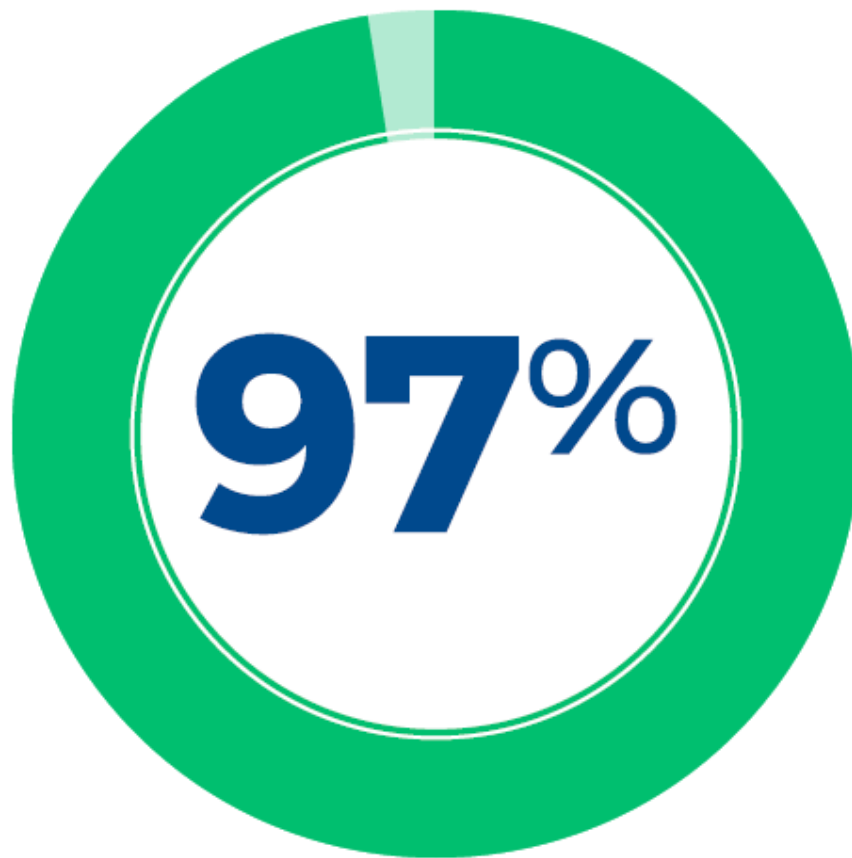
We appreciate that illness is sometimes unavoidable. However, we would like to remind all families that absences for birthdays, haircuts, and holidays during term time are not authorised and can negatively affect your child's learning and progress.

It is important to note that if a pupil is absent for five or more days within a 10-week period due to unauthorised absences (such as holidays), parents may be subject to a fine as part of the national strategy to improve attendance.

If you are facing any challenges in getting your child to school regularly, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to support you and your child to overcome any barriers to attendance.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in helping every pupil thrive.

## Our Attendance Target



## Wrap Around Information



### **Wraparound:**

<https://archbishop-courtenay.cbfs.uk>

**Breakfast** (7:30am-8:30am) £4

**Social Club** (3:15pm-4:15pm) £3

**Wraparound** (3:15pm-6pm) £12

Tax-free childcare vouchers = 20% off

Universal credits = claim up to 85% back

FOR SUPPORT CONTACT:

archbishop-courtenay@cbfs.uk

01444 523 335

## Dates for Diary



**Tuesday 30th September - UKS2 (year 5&6) Visiting Maidstone Museum**

**Wednesday 1st October - Phonics Workshop @2pm - Dove Room**

**Friday 3rd October - KS2 Author Visit**

**Monday 6th October - Football Match - Jubilee 3:30pm TBC**

**Tuesday 7th October - Outstanding Achievement Assembly (invitation only): Year 5 & 6 @9am; Year 1 & 2 @2:30pm**

**Wednesday 8th October - Outstanding Achievement Assembly (invitation only): Year 3 & 4 @9am**

**Thursday 9th October - Whole School Flu Immunisation**

**Friday 10th October - Harvest Festival**

**Monday 13th October - Year 5 and year 6 Football Tournament**

**Wednesday 15th October - individual School Photographs**

**Thursday 16th October - Restart a Heart Day**

**Friday 17th October - Last Day of Term 1**

**Monday 3rd November - First Day of Term 2**

***Please note we are currently planning school trips - these will be added in due course.***

## Collective Worship



This week in Collective Worship, we continued our exploration of *People of Faith*, focusing on the inspiring story of Ruth, a shining example of loyalty and friendship. We began by thinking deeply about the word “loyal” —what it means and why it’s such an important quality in our relationships with others. The children reflected on their own friendships and shared thoughtful ideas about what it means to stand by someone, even when times are tough. We then delved into the story of Ruth and Naomi, two women bound by love and loyalty. After facing great loss, Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, traveling with her to Bethlehem even though it meant starting a new life with no money or certainty. The children were struck by Ruth’s selflessness and her determination to support Naomi, no matter the challenges. This story led us to think about how friends support one another, not just in good times, but especially during difficult moments. We discussed how we can be


“Ruths” in each other’s lives—kind, dependable, and caring friends. Later in the week, we heard the next part of Ruth’s journey: how she met and eventually married Boaz, a kind and generous man who admired Ruth for her loyalty and hard work. The children saw how Ruth was rewarded for her faithfulness, not only with security and love, but also by becoming part of a bigger story—one that continues to inspire us today. This week’s worship reminded us all that loyalty, kindness, and friendship are qualities that make a real difference in the lives of others. We encourage you to speak with your children about the story of Ruth and Naomi, and ask them what being a loyal friend means to them.

## Reception



We’ve had a wonderful week of learning in EYFS, full of excitement, creativity, and lots of fantastic progress!

**Phonics Focus** This week, we learnt the phonemes i, n, m, d and we are becoming *blending superstars*! The children are now confidently blending sounds to read simple words such as pan, map, mat and nip. It’s been a real joy to see their confidence grow each day. We also began our Reading Lessons, where we’ve been practising key reading skills – decoding, using prosody (reading with expression), and building our comprehension skills by talking about what we’ve read. The children are already showing great enthusiasm!

 **Literacy – Drawing Club** In Drawing Club, we explored the beautiful story *Cloud Boy*. We thought deeply about the main character, Bobby, and how he felt when trying to fit in, compared to how he felt when he was free to fly and soar. The children created some wonderful drawings of Bobby and used their phonics knowledge to write CVC words linked

to the story – such as *map*, *man*, and *nip*. We are so proud of their imaginative ideas and growing writing confidence!

**12** **34** Maths Moments In maths, we've been working on our matching and counting skills. The children have been matching objects to pictures, practising careful counting, using their subitising skills (recognising small amounts without counting), and even matching items by orientation. It's been fantastic to see their mathematical thinking develop in such a short time. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

We're so proud of all the children and how settled and engaged they are becoming in their learning journey.

## Year 1 & 2



This week has been bursting with exciting learning adventures across our school! In My Happy Mind, the children dived deep into understanding their brains and how our feelings play a crucial role in team H.A.P's happiness or sadness. We explored key brain components, including the amygdala, prefrontal cortex, and hippocampus, helping the children connect their emotions to these vital areas. It's wonderful to see them making these important links!

In maths, our young mathematicians have been tackling the concepts of comparing numbers, mastering the greater than, less than, and equal to symbols. It's been a joy to witness their confidence grow as they engage with these concepts!

The Frank Class has continued their thrilling quest of curiosity, meeting all sorts of new and interesting characters. Each encounter sparks their imagination, leading to some truly remarkable stories and discussions.

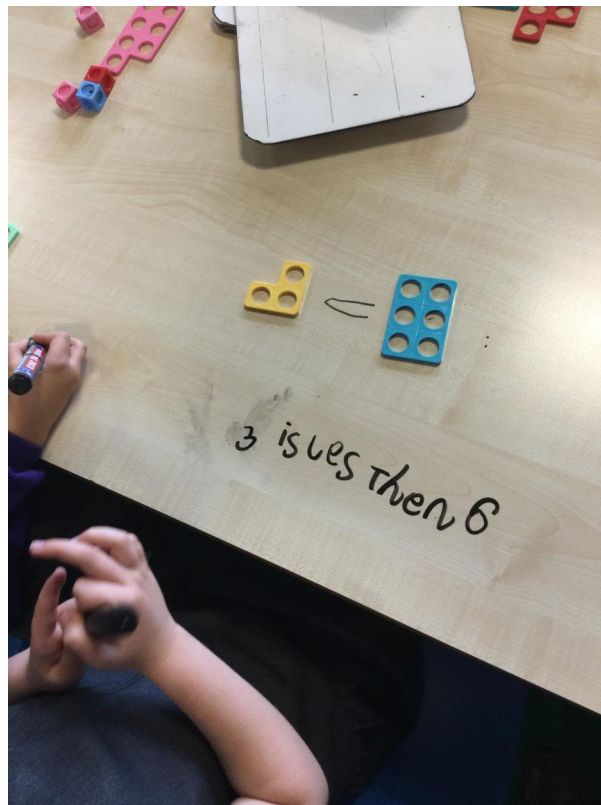
Meanwhile, Attenborough and Rowling classes have been delving into the book *Not Now, Bernard*. This enchanting tale has prompted lively discussions about how to support Bernard's parents in their mission to trap the mischievous monster lurking about. The children have been drawing and labelling pictures inspired by the book and writing short sentences to express their thoughts and ideas. Their creativity shines as they come up with some incredibly inventive strategies!

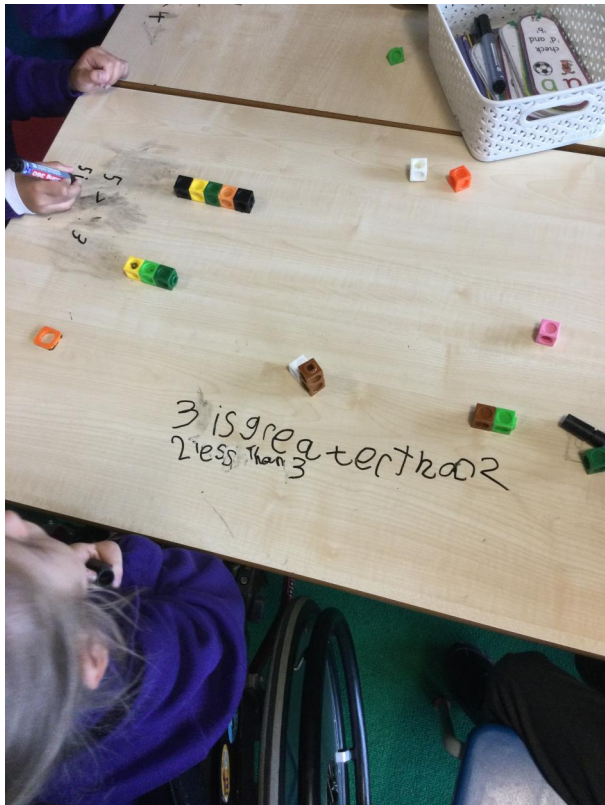
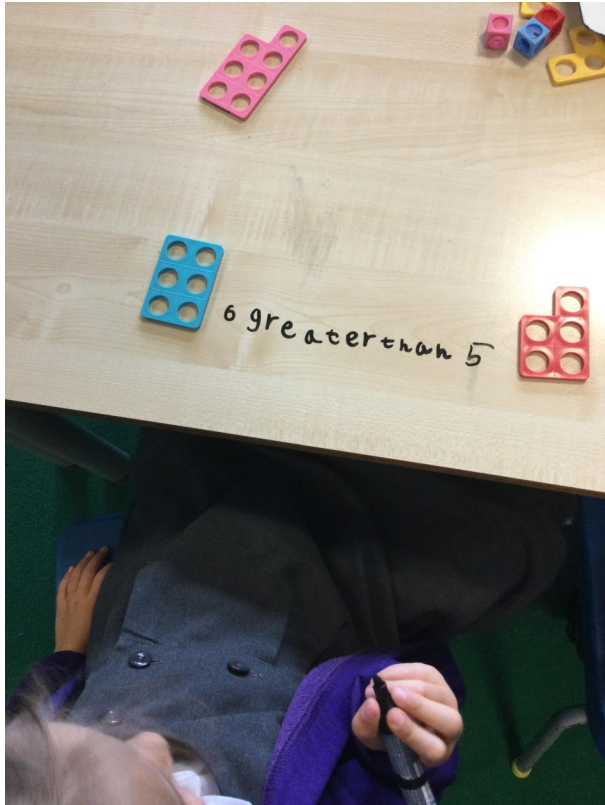
A quick reminder that P.E. lessons are on Thursdays, and please ensure that earrings are removed for safety during these sessions.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see what next week has in store for our wonderful learners!

Best wishes,

KS1 Team







What an exciting week Lower Key Stage 2 have had!

This week our Year 4 pupils have the exciting opportunity to take part in the first Emile MTC times tables competition of the year - when we last checked on Thursday ABC were in 5th place with a recall accuracy rate of 70% What a fantastic start to the year!

A Special Well Done to Beau in Shakespeare class who logged the most correct answers in the Hub and 1st place and to Verna in Pankhurst for grabbing 2nd place - these children logged a very impressive +1000 correct answers in the 24 hours of the live competition! We are so proud of you both.

- In English, we have continued to develop and improve our writing, focusing our learning on the use of expanded noun phrases to add interesting detail to our sentences, the accurate use of prepositions to inform the reader of where people and objects are in relation to each other and the conventions of direct speech and ensuring this is correctly recorded and punctuated for clarity and meaning.
- In Maths, the children have continued to develop their understanding of place value and its application in all areas of maths.
- In science, the children have been focusing on purpose and function of the skeleton and comparing similarities and differences across the animal kingdom
- In History, the children have been discussing and exploring The Gunpowder plot in various ways in class and writing diaries that reflect Guy Fawkes involvement with the plotters and motives for joining them

- In Computing, we have been exploring the internet and its functions - both positive and negative in today's world. From our lessons it has become evident that a number of children across the hub have access to mobile devices including tablets, phones and i-Pads late into the evening and that they are from their conversations and confidence at articulating what they are doing, accessing social media sites and posting content on sharing channels such as YouTube. **Please can we urge parents to check their children's devices for access and restrict sites that carry a 13+ age restriction (ALL SOCIAL MEDIA) and also games that carry a PEGI 18 certificate. We also urge you to set a shut off time, so that children cannot access their devices after bedtime. This will help protect your children from inappropriate content which may be upsetting to their current stage of social and emotional development and also encourage healthy bedtime routines and improve punctuality and attendance at school.**

Please can you remember to send your child to school in their **SCHOOL PE kit on MONDAY** - correct kits gains them and their house team a valuable house point! - Gravity socks are perfect for Gymnastics in the hall.

Please can all clothing (jumpers, hoodies, coats) be named - we have a growing number of "lost and unnamed" items.

Your child should have brought home their Lexia, Reading Eggs and Mathseeds login details last week. Please remember that **Lexia can only be accessed through a PC/laptop** and not a mobile phone. Children will be able to access their Lexia accounts in school 3 times a week, so please don't panic if you haven't managed to get it working - we understand it is proving challenging!

Finally, **Homework:**

**Homework will be set every MONDAY** as follows:

**Reading eggs** - online reading platform with digital books and quests for the children to work through

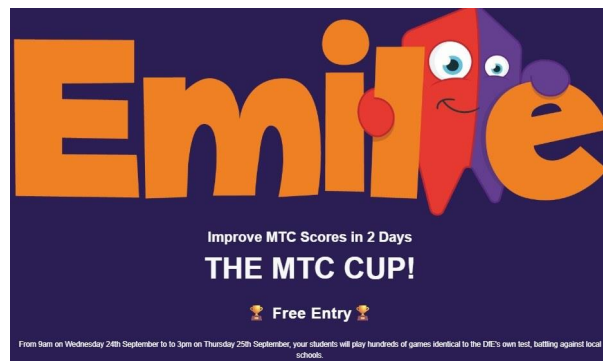
**Mathletics** - children will be set appropriate tasks relating to their current learning - amounts will vary based on successful completion of previous weeks homework - please keep up to date children! The rest of the Mathletics site will remain locked until homework is completed and submitted - so "*Get it done and have some fun*" is our mantra for this year - certificates will be generated for children who score over 1000 points across the week and are deemed to be the Mathletes of the week - so on your marks...

**Spellings:** These will be posted on Class Dojo on a MONDAY for children to work on at home.

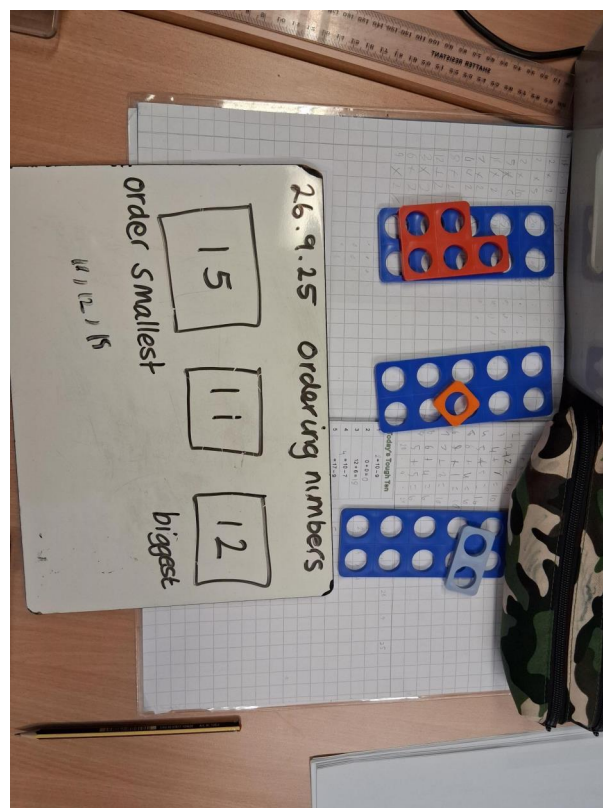
This will start from Monday 29th September

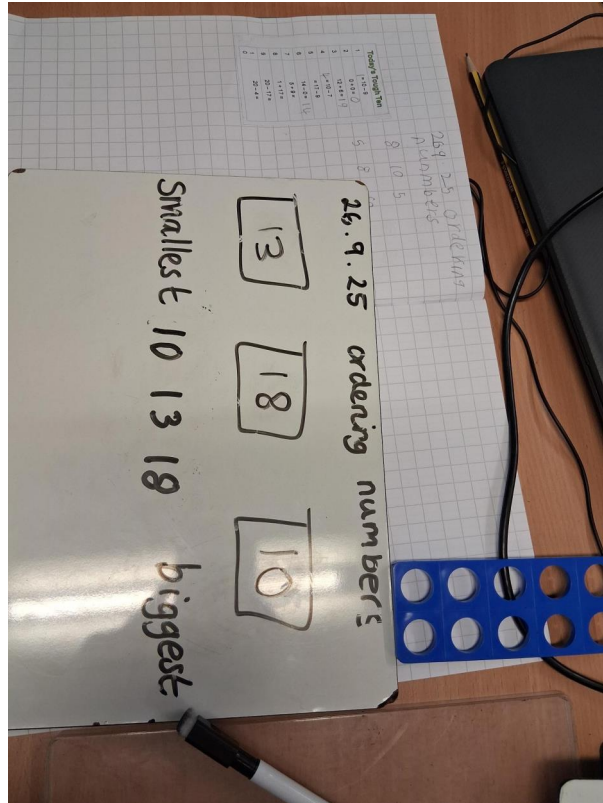
Have a wonderful weekend

The LKS2 Team



1 - This week Year 4 pupils took part in our first MTC Cup challenge of the year - we scored a total of 5587 correct answers in 24 hours!





## Year 5 & 6



We've had a wonderful few weeks of learning, and the children have impressed us with their enthusiasm and effort across all subjects. Here's a detailed look at what we've been exploring together:

 English

This term we have started learning about **Matthew Henson**, one of the first people to reach the North Pole. The children have enjoyed finding out about his determination, courage, and the challenges he faced on his incredible expeditions. We have been practising our comprehension skills through reading activities and starting to think about how we can write in an engaging and factual way.

### Maths

In Maths, Luther-King class have been tackling **factors, multiples, and the rules of divisibility**. The children have been learning how to quickly spot patterns in numbers and apply strategies to solve problems efficiently. We've also been working on explaining our reasoning clearly, which has helped build mathematical confidence.

### Art

Our artists have been inspired by **Stephen Wiltshire**, a British artist known for his amazing detailed cityscapes drawn from memory. The children have been practising sketching buildings carefully, paying attention to perspective and detail. It has been brilliant to see how focused they have been while creating their own cityscapes.

### History

In History, we have been learning about **Alexander the Great**. The children have been fascinated by his achievements as a young leader and how he built one of the largest empires in the ancient world. We have also discussed the qualities that made him a strong (but sometimes controversial!) leader.

### RE

In RE, we have been reflecting on **Genesis 1** and the story of creation. The children have been thinking deeply about the themes of beginnings, responsibility, and how different people might interpret this story today.

### PE

During PE, the children have been developing their teamwork and balance through **counter balances**. This week, we challenged ourselves further by adding in **different levels and using equipment** to create more complex routines. The children showed fantastic cooperation, trust, and creativity in their movements.

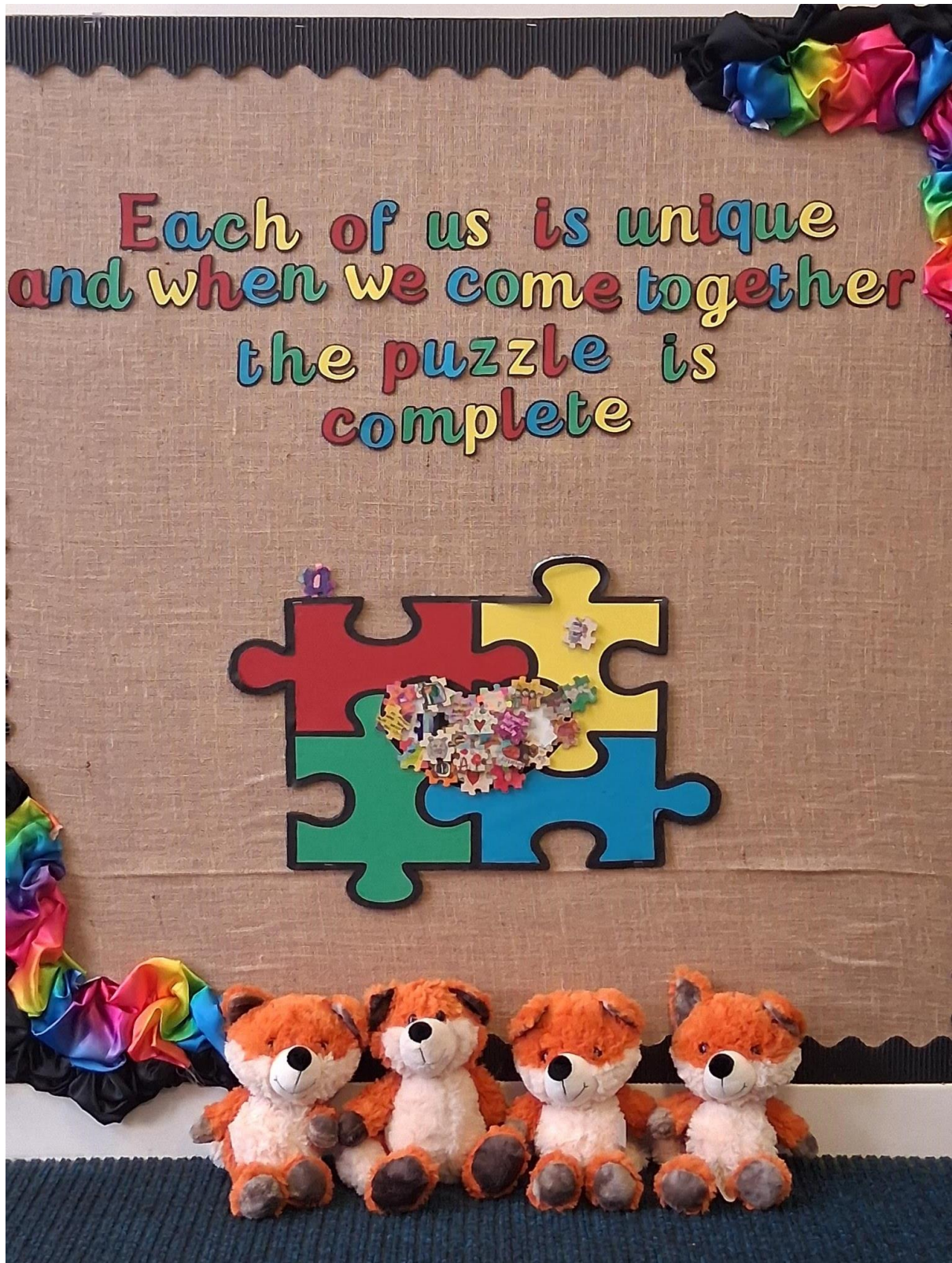
### Upcoming Event!

On **Tuesday 30th September**, we will be visiting **Maidstone Museum** for the morning. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the children to see historical artefacts up close and deepen their understanding of the past.

 Please remember: **all children will need a packed lunch** on this day.

Thank you for your continued support at home. We are very proud of the children's hard work and are excited to see what the next few weeks will bring!

### The ABC Archie Awards



This year to help embed our school values of **Aspiration, Compassion, Friendship, Resilience and Respect** we have introduced the ABC Archie Awards. - it's a bit like a Hollywood Oscar - only better - because you don't need to be famous, you just need to be kind! Each week pupils across the 4 Hubs: EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 are encouraged to showcase the values through their attitude and behaviour for learning, classroom contributions, school wide contributions and breaktime and lunchtime play. Every week, Hub teams nominate the pupil/s they feel truly have shone and stood out as ABC Value Ambassadors and they are awarded their Hub Archie in our Friday Celebration Worship, hosted by our Year 6 students.

*We wonder... When will your son or daughter be nominated for an Archie?*



**2 - Friday 19th September:**

*EYFS: awards will start for EYFS shortly*

**KS1: Mark F** - For having a positive outlook on coming to school and showing all values.

**LKS2: Beau** - for always showing the school values and being reliable and trustworthy.

**UKS2: Julietta** - for showing the values of Compassion and Friendship and Compassion to all children in class.



**3 - Friday 26th September:**

*EYFS: awards will start for EYFS shortly*

**KS1: Malakai** - for being an outstanding role model for his peers and applying his knowledge in class.

*LKS2: Kevin and Cherria - for displaying friendship and compassion towards each other and our new students making them feel welcome and part of the ABC family*

*UKS2: Nicholas - for always following the value of Friendship. He is always happy to go above and beyond to help, support and care for others*

## Contact Us



**We are here to help you so please never be afraid to get in touch**

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