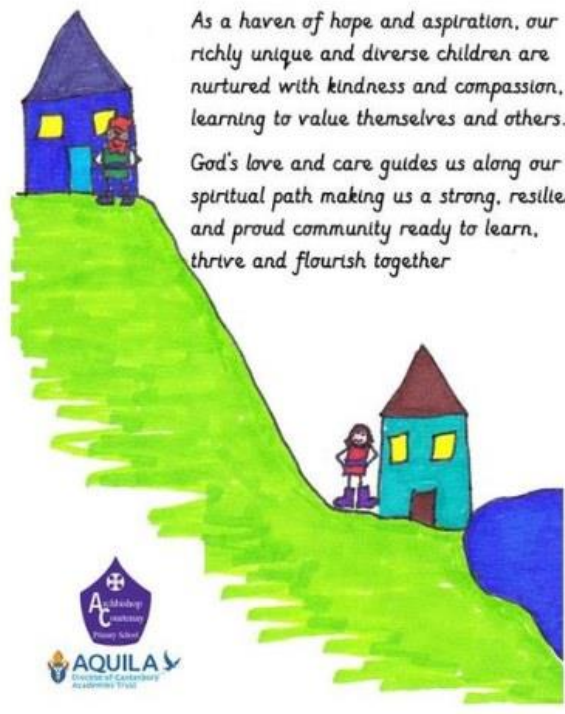




Archbishop Courtenay Primary School -
Friday 23rd January FB



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



Headteacher Welcome

Information for Parents

Wrap Around Information



Dates for Diary

Collective Worship

Reception

Year 1 & 2

Year 3 & 4

Year 5 & 6

The ABC Archie Awards

My Happy Minds Family Survey

Maidstone Light Up Festival 2026

Contact Us

[Headteacher Welcome](#)



Dear Families,

Despite the dreadful weather we're facing at the moment, nothing can dampen the spirits here at ABC!

A huge congratulations to our boys' football team on their impressive 2-1 victory against West Borough yesterday. Even as the rain poured down and soaked them through, the boys showed incredible determination and fought their way to a well-deserved win.

We are so proud of their achievement! A big thank you to all the parents who came out to support the team, and special thanks to Mr. Squelch, who has taken on the challenge of coaching the team alongside his site manager responsibilities.

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming Councillor Fordham, Kent County Council's Leader of Education, along with Maidstone's Director of Education, to our school. We invited Councillor Fordham to witness firsthand the marvellous work we are doing here. She showed a keen interest in how we support all our pupils, including those with SEND, and expressed that she believes we are doing a truly wonderful job. We are delighted by her positive feedback and look forward to welcoming her back very soon.

In other exciting news, our school choir recently travelled to London to participate in the Young Voices concert — and it was an absolute triumph! The children enjoyed every moment, singing their hearts out alongside thousands of other young performers in the arena. I am told they continued singing all the way home on the coach, a true testament to their enthusiasm and joy.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who came to support the choir in the audience. I hope you had a thrilling experience as well. Thank you also for collecting the children promptly after what was a very long day for the staff involved. Special congratulations to Mrs. Smith for expertly organising and leading the choir, and to Mrs. Bond, Miss Makepeace, and Mrs. Mistak for their dedicated care and supervision throughout the day.

A reminder - We have wellie storage for all the classroom, children are encouraged to bring in Wellington Boots for wet/muddy playtimes (children are welcome to bring in 'old trainers' for playtime, as some Year 6 children have told us wellies aren't cool for UKS2!)

Please don't forget to complete our change of age range consultation. There are only a few questions so it won't take long.

Have a good weekend.

Warm wishes

Sue Heather

Headteacher



1 - Nursery Consultation

Spot the ABC Adult!

One evening, the staff at ABC enjoyed a fun activity creating AI plush versions of themselves! Just one of the things we do :) Can the children guess who's who?

















































Image created











Message from Mr Squelch



Well, Done Team 🏆

A strong performance from all players today in the tournament, with a great 2 –1 win against West Borough. Your commitment, teamwork, and positive attitude were excellent throughout. You should all be very proud of yourselves — keep building on this moving forward. 🙌💪

Next cup game:

🆚 Boughton Monchelsea

🏠 Home

📅 Date: TBC

Play Equipment

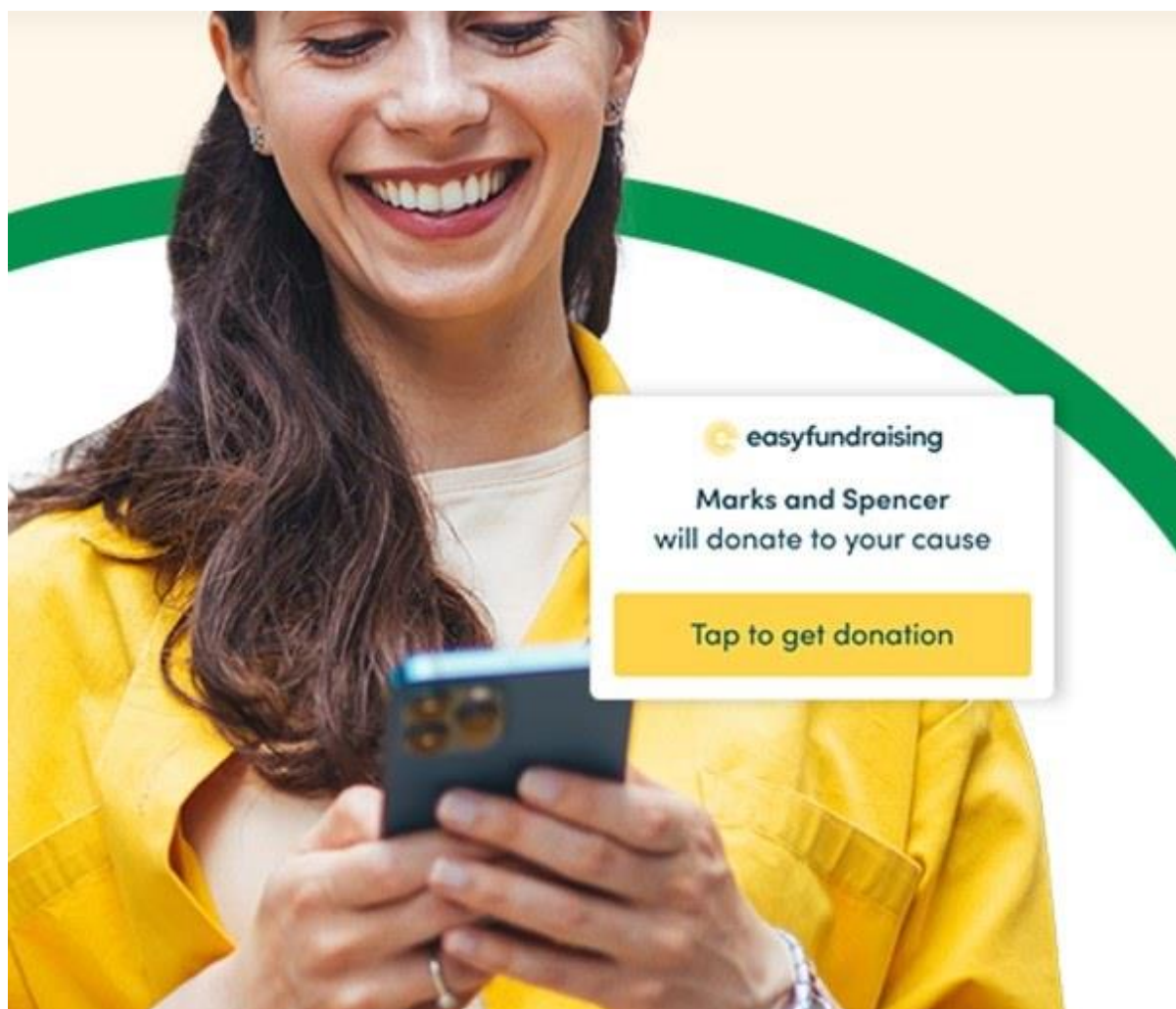


Today, the Year 6 children addressed the whole school about the importance of taking care of our play equipment. Unfortunately, our VET play area has been significantly damaged, with some items broken or taken.

We understand that some younger siblings enjoy playing in this area when they come to collect their brothers or sisters. While we want everyone to have fun, we kindly ask parents to supervise their children closely to help ensure that these spaces are respected and kept in good condition.

Thank you

Raise Money at no Cost!



Support Our School at No Extra Cost!

As many of you know, schools are facing financial challenges, so we are exploring simple ways to raise funds. One easy and cost-free way to help is through Easy Fundraising. When you make purchases online via Easy Fundraising, the company donates a small percentage to our school—at no extra cost to you!

The more families who sign up, the more funds we can raise to support a variety of exciting projects and activities for our pupils.

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/archbishop-courtenay-primary-school>

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

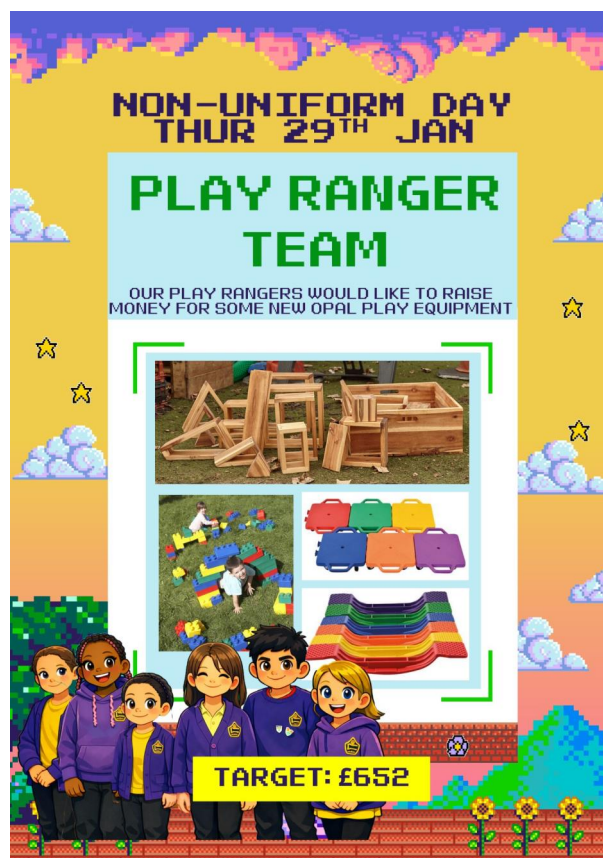
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Dates for Diary



- Monday 26th January - Year 6 Lancaster Questionnaire
- Thursday 29th January - Family Trust Assembly
- Thursday 29th January - Non-Uniform Day (Play Rangers)
- Wednesday 4th February - Magistrates Visit (Year 6)
- Tuesday 3rd February - UKS2 Netball Match - Allington
- Thursday 5th February - World Book Day
- Friday 6th February Reform, Restore, Respect - Year 6
- Friday 6th February - Maidstone Light Up Festival
- Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 12th February - Year 6 Online SATs Stress Assembly
- Friday 13th February - Last day Term 3
- Monday 23rd February - Term 4 Begins
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Friday 6th March - British Science Week begins

OPAL Play



2 - The Play Rangers would like to raise money for some special OPAL play equipment (giant Lego, large wooden blocks, balance boards and push along scooters) . **They would like to raise £652!** To start the fundraising off, we are going to have a non-uniform day on Thursday 29th January. Cash donations are welcome on the day, however we will open an MCAS option for donations between Friday 23rd and Friday 30th January.

We are coming to the end of our very first year of OPAL play, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support: from raising money to bringing in donations from home. Our children's play has vastly improved and it wouldn't be possible without your support. We still have many new areas we want to set up for the children from a new woodland walk, to sandpits and water play!

How can you still help? Things we would still love to have...

- cable reels
- tractor tires
- lorry tarpaulin
- wooden hat rack
- role play hats, microphones and fancy dress
- Easter themed items for next terms role play area
- Sandpit toys (shovels, spades and buckets)

Collective Worship



This week in Collective Worship, we were delighted to celebrate our first class-led worship, led confidently and thoughtfully by members of Luther King Class. This marked a special moment for our school, as it provided another meaningful way for lots of children to become actively involved in leading worship. The children did a wonderful job and showed great confidence, respect and understanding throughout.

Our theme this week has been “Jesus preparing for his ministry.” We explored the important role of John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Jesus, focusing on the passage from Luke 3: 1–20. The children learned that John encouraged people to think about their actions, to be kind, fair and generous, and to make positive choices. We discussed how

John's message reminds us to prepare our own hearts by treating others well and doing the right thing, even when it can be challenging.

We then reflected on the Baptism of Jesus from Luke 3: 21–22, thinking about why this moment was so important. The children learned that Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his ministry and showed his obedience, humility and willingness to follow God's plan. We talked about how God's love and approval were shown at this moment, and how this can reassure us that we are all valued and loved too.

Across the week, children were encouraged to think about how they can follow the example of John the Baptist and Jesus in their own lives—by making good choices, helping others, showing kindness and being brave enough to stand up for what is right.

EYFS: Darling and Rashford



It's been another busy and exciting week of learning in EYFS, full of movement, creativity and imagination!

In P.E. (Gymnastics), the children explored a range of apparatus and practised balancing, moving with control and maintaining balance. They showed fantastic bravery, resilience and aspiration as they tried new challenges, and most importantly, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves! It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as the sessions progressed.

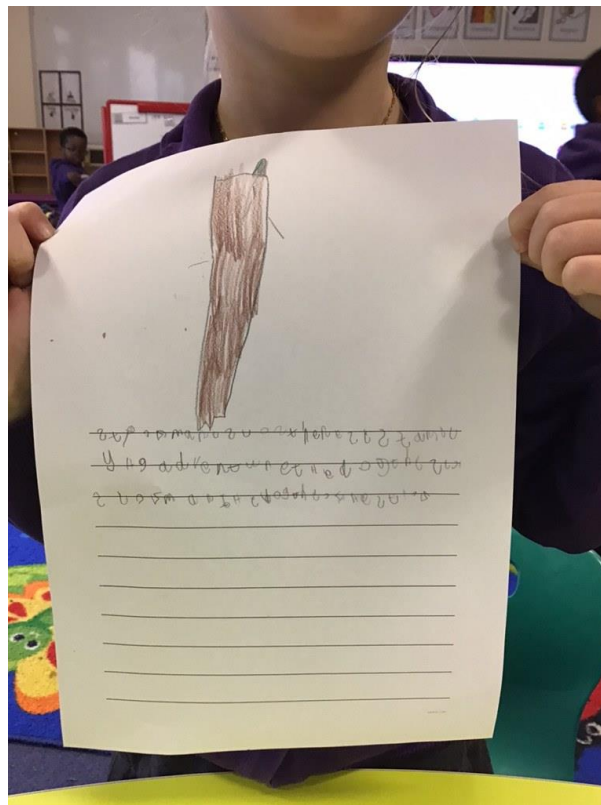
Our Drawing Club sessions have been inspired by our focus book *Stick Man*. The children drew Stick Man and described him using their own words before creating a family tree and thinking carefully about Stick Man's family and how they felt when he didn't come back. During Adventure Time, the children planned their own adventures for Stick Man, imagining

where he might go next. Stick Man sounds very lucky now, with trips planned to Legoland, Disneyland, the zoo, the farm, and even our own school! The children showed great imagination and made excellent attempts to apply their phonics when writing words.

In Maths, we have been learning about the numbers 6, 7 and 8. The children enjoyed finding numbers in the environment and matching amounts carefully. We focused on saying one number name for each object to ensure accurate counting, and the children worked hard to develop their confidence and understanding.

Rashford Class have also been doing brilliantly in their balance bike sessions. The children have enjoyed going with Mrs Woodall, following instructions carefully and developing control over their bodies as they move the bikes using their feet. Well done to everyone for their focus and effort!

What a fantastic week of learning—well done EYFS! 🌟



Year 1 & 2 Rowling, Attenborough and Frank



Another wet and soggy week has passed, but that hasn't dampened our spirits here at school! The children have been busy engaging in a variety of learning activities across different subjects, and it's wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity shining through.

In **Maths**, Attenborough class has been working hard on adding and subtracting across tens. They are developing a solid understanding of number relationships, which is crucial for their mathematical foundation. Meanwhile, Rowling class has been exploring the difference between tens and ones, as well as finding number bonds to 20. It's fantastic to see them grasping these concepts and applying them in their work. In Frank class have embarked on an exciting journey into multiplication and division, discussing equal and non-equal groups. Their engagement in these discussions is impressive, and it's clear they are beginning to appreciate the importance of these operations in everyday life.

In **R.E.**, we have been reflecting on how Jesus' good news brings peace to our lives. This week, we watched a thought-provoking video about the thankful leper, which prompted a lovely discussion about gratitude. The children shared their own thoughts on what they are grateful for, fostering a sense of appreciation and mindfulness within our community.

Our **Science** lessons have continued to focus on the animal kingdom, and this week we turned our attention to birds. The children have been learning how to name and identify different types of birds, which has sparked their interest in the natural world around them. It's delightful to see them so engaged, and I encourage you to take some time at home to observe the birds in your garden or local park together!

In **ICT**, we have been having a lot of fun with the Beebots. The children are learning how to programme these little robots to move in different directions to follow a map. This hands-on

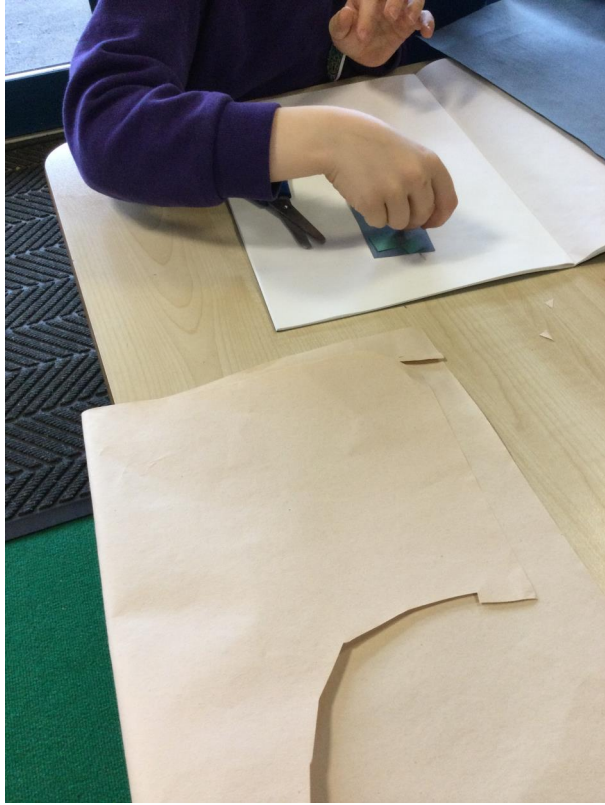
experience not only enhances their understanding of programming but also develops their problem-solving skills as they figure out how to navigate the Beebots through various challenges.

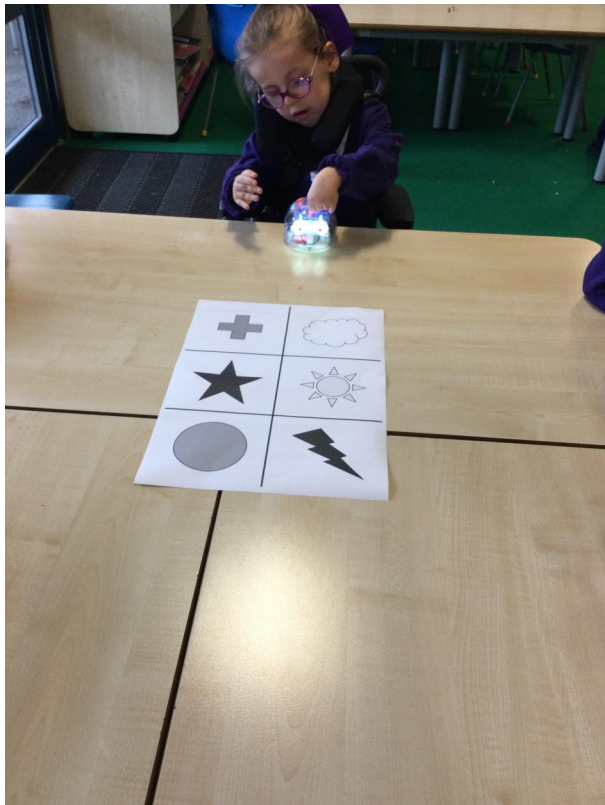
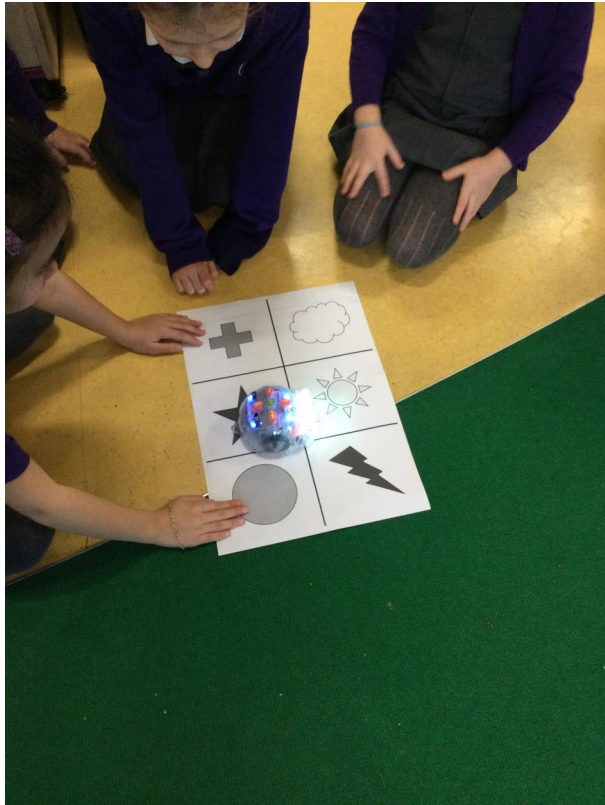
As we continue to navigate through this term, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. It truly makes a difference in our children's learning experiences. Let's keep the momentum going, and we look forward to sharing more updates with you next week!

Warm regards,

The KS1 Team







Year 3 & 4 Jobs, Shakespeare and Pankhurst



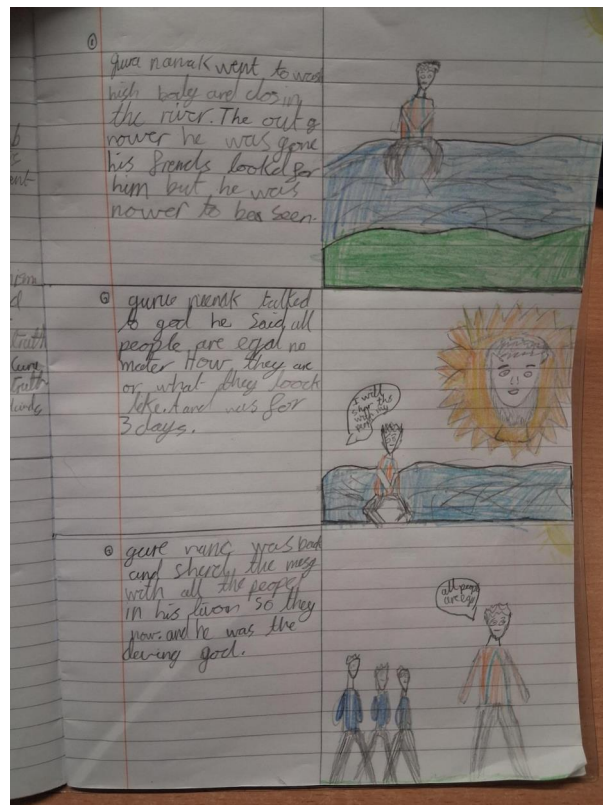
We've had an interesting and exciting week in LKS2!

On Wednesday children from our phase joined Mrs Smith at the O2 arena in London for the Young Voices Event - the children were highly praised by not only our staff team, but staff teams from other schools for their conduct and behaviour. Well done to everyone who took part we are so proud of you!

This week we have been making super use of our class I-pads in all of our lessons. Year 4 pupils took part in the national Emile Multiplication Times Tables Cup on Wednesday and Thursday - we are currently awaiting our results - I wonder who will come 1st, 2nd and 3rd this time?

Year 4 also completed their No More marking story writing assessment this week - we had lots of stories of wizards and magic to enjoy.

In RE we have been thinking more about the similarities and differences between creation and foundational stories in RE and looked in particular at the origins of the Sikh faith. Children acted out the story in class, predicting events and looking closely for comparative features. They then wrote their own versions of the story of Guru Nanak.



Year 5 & 6 Simmonds, Curie and Luther-King



We've had another busy and productive week of learning in Luther-King Class, and the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm across all subjects. Below is a more detailed snapshot of what we have been working on in class.

 English

We have continued reading *Arthur and the Golden Rope*, focusing on identifying key characters, settings, and themes. The children have enjoyed comparing the Norse gods from the text with well-known Marvel characters, discussing similarities and differences in personality, powers, and behaviour.

Today, we used a short scene from the film *Thor* as inspiration for writing a narrative describing a battle between Thor and Loki. We explored how filmmakers sometimes change characters, events, or settings compared to the original story, and how these changes can affect the way a story is told. This discussion helped the children understand when and why writers begin a new paragraph to show a change in action, setting, or speaker. The children worked hard to include descriptive language, exciting vocabulary, and clear paragraphing in their writing.

Maths

In Maths, the children have been learning about ratios. They have practised identifying ratios, simplifying them, and explaining what a ratio represents in real-life contexts. The children then applied their knowledge to a range of reasoning and problem-solving questions, demonstrating growing confidence in explaining their thinking and using mathematical vocabulary accurately. We have been particularly impressed with their perseverance and willingness to challenge themselves.

RE

This week in RE, we continued our learning about Humanism. The children explored what Humanists believe about kindness, responsibility, and making positive choices. As part of this learning, they designed a slogan for the side of a bus to communicate key Humanist values and messages. This activity encouraged creativity, thoughtful discussion, and clear communication of ideas.

History


In History, we continued learning about the Mayan civilisation. The children used their iPads to research different aspects of Mayan life, such as daily routines, achievements, and beliefs. They practised note-taking skills by identifying key facts and organising information clearly. This research will support their upcoming non-chronological report, where they will be combining their history knowledge with their writing skills.

Thank you for your continued support at home. Talking to your child about what they are learning, encouraging reading, and practising times tables or key facts all make a huge difference. If you have any questions or would like further information about our learning, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mayan Gods & Beliefs


Powerful Gods

The Maya believed in many gods. Each one controlled things like rain, sun, corn, and death.




God of Rain

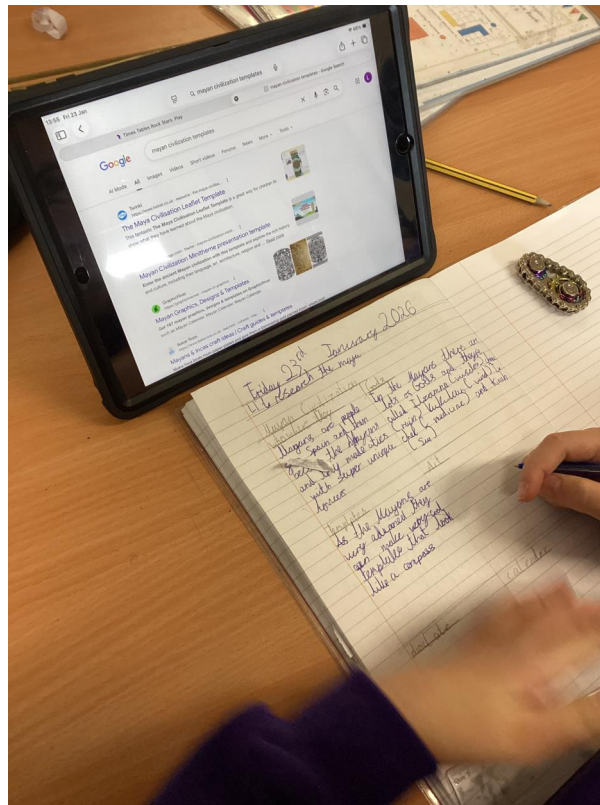
Chaac was the rain god. Farmers prayed to him for good crops. He had a long nose like a snake!



Offerings

People gave gifts to the gods, like food, flowers, or sometimes jade. It was like saying 'thank you'.

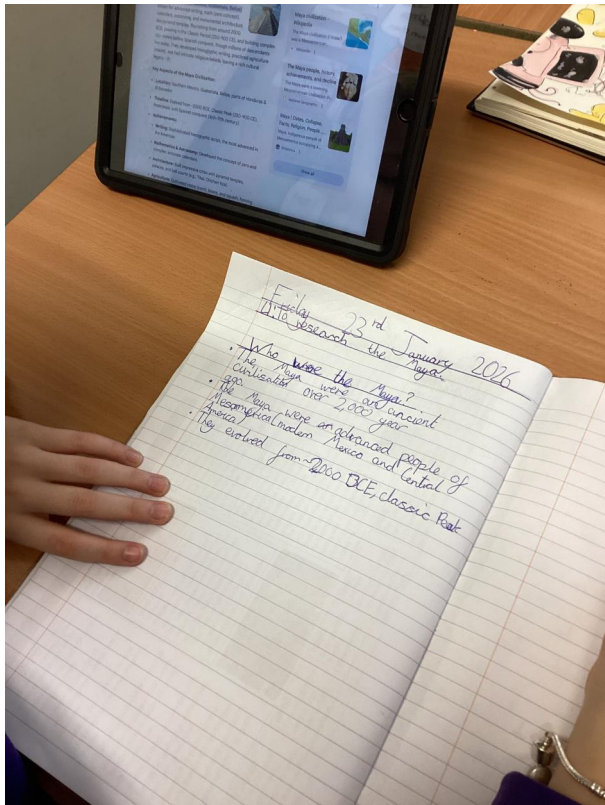
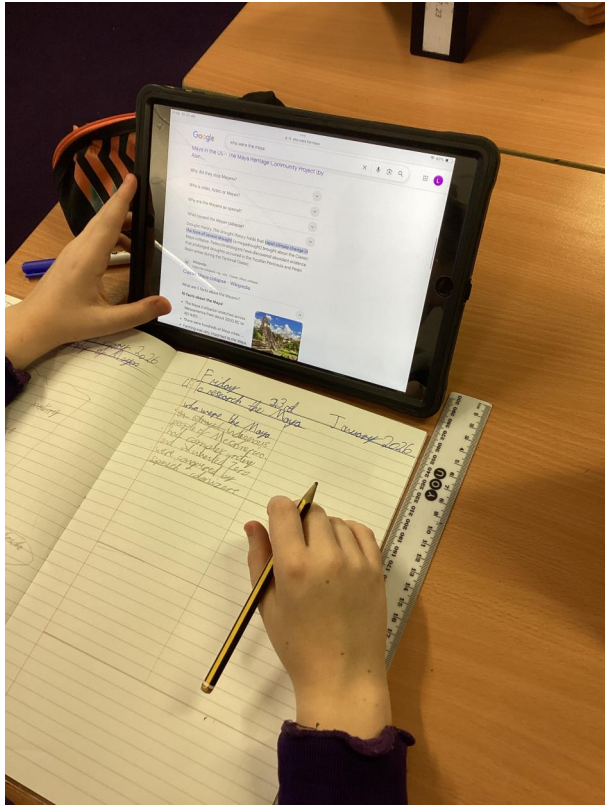


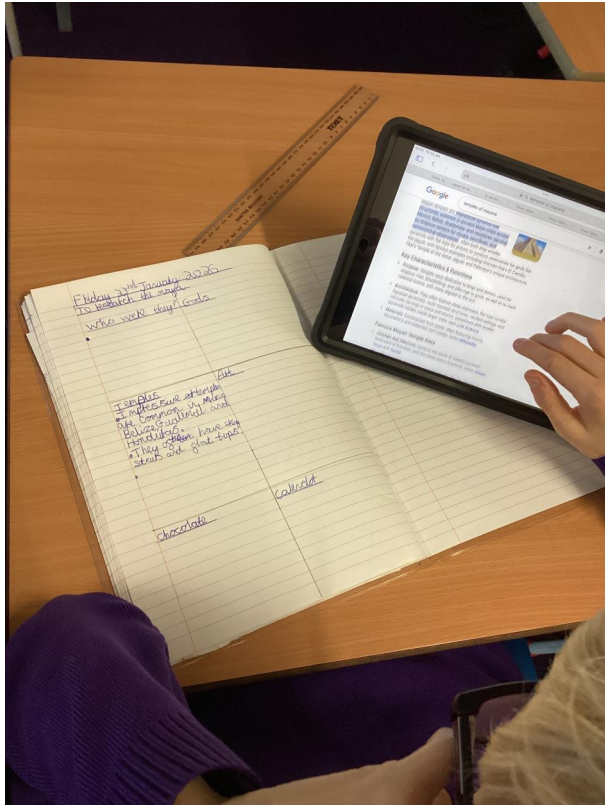


The student's handwritten notes on the notebook are as follows:

Friday 23rd January 2016
to research the Mayan

Mayan Civilisation
 Mayan were people who lived in the Americas from 2000 BC to 1600 AD. They were one of the most advanced civilisations in the Americas. They were very skilled at building pyramids and other structures. They also had a complex system of writing and a calendar. They were very religious and believed in many gods. They were very skilled at agriculture and had a complex system of irrigation. They were very skilled at mathematics and astronomy. They were very skilled at art and architecture. They were very skilled at war and politics. They were very skilled at science and technology. They were very skilled at music and dance. They were very skilled at sports and games. They were very skilled at medicine and health. They were very skilled at education and learning. They were very skilled at communication and language. They were very skilled at social organisation and community. They were very skilled at leadership and management. They were very skilled at innovation and creativity. They were very skilled at resilience and perseverance. They were very skilled at courage and bravery. They were very skilled at compassion and empathy. They were very skilled at kindness and generosity. They were very skilled at honesty and integrity. They were very skilled at respect and dignity. They were very skilled at peace and harmony. They were very skilled at love and compassion. They were very skilled at hope and optimism. They were very skilled at faith and belief. They were very skilled at courage and bravery. They were very skilled at compassion and empathy. They were very skilled at kindness and generosity. They were very skilled at honesty and integrity. They were very skilled at respect and dignity. They were very skilled at peace and harmony. They were very skilled at love and compassion. They were very skilled at hope and optimism. They were very skilled at faith and belief.





The ABC Archie Awards





3 - This week our four Archie's have been awarded to:

EYFS: Sofia for always following the school values and being a kind friend.

KS1: Evaniya for being respectful at all times and very patient and kind.

LKS2: Emily for always showing the school values and modelling these in her work

UKS2: Lily Mc for always being respectful and showing the school values and making everyone feel so welcome

Well done everyone and I wonder who will win the Archie's next week?

My Happy Minds Accreditation



This week The Happiness Heroes met to discuss their next secret mission and we need your help! We are really enjoying our My Happy Mind Lessons in school and need to collect some Parent, Guardian and Family views on how My Happy is helping your children and families at home. We would love as many ABC families to help us!

We will be sending out a survey next week to collect in your views - Your views matter to us.

Thank you so much for your help and support

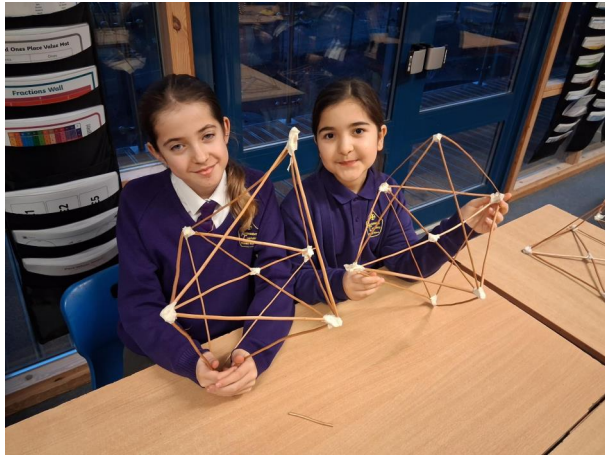
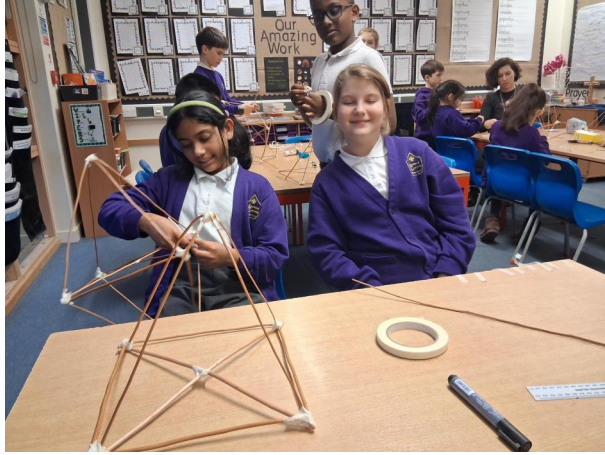
Miss Copley and the Happiness Heroes

Maidstone Light Up Festival 2026



This week a selection of pupils from across the school met with Miss Copley and Mrs Zimmer to start building our school lanterns for the upcoming Maidstone Light Festival on Friday 6th February. The children were incredible! We have been set the challenging task of turning willow cains into skeletal diamond frames. This task was VERY fiddly and required all 5 of our school values to be in action to get our frames built in just 90 minutes! This first session went so smoothly and the children were a real credit to the school! Well done Team Lantern Builders!





Contact Us



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

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