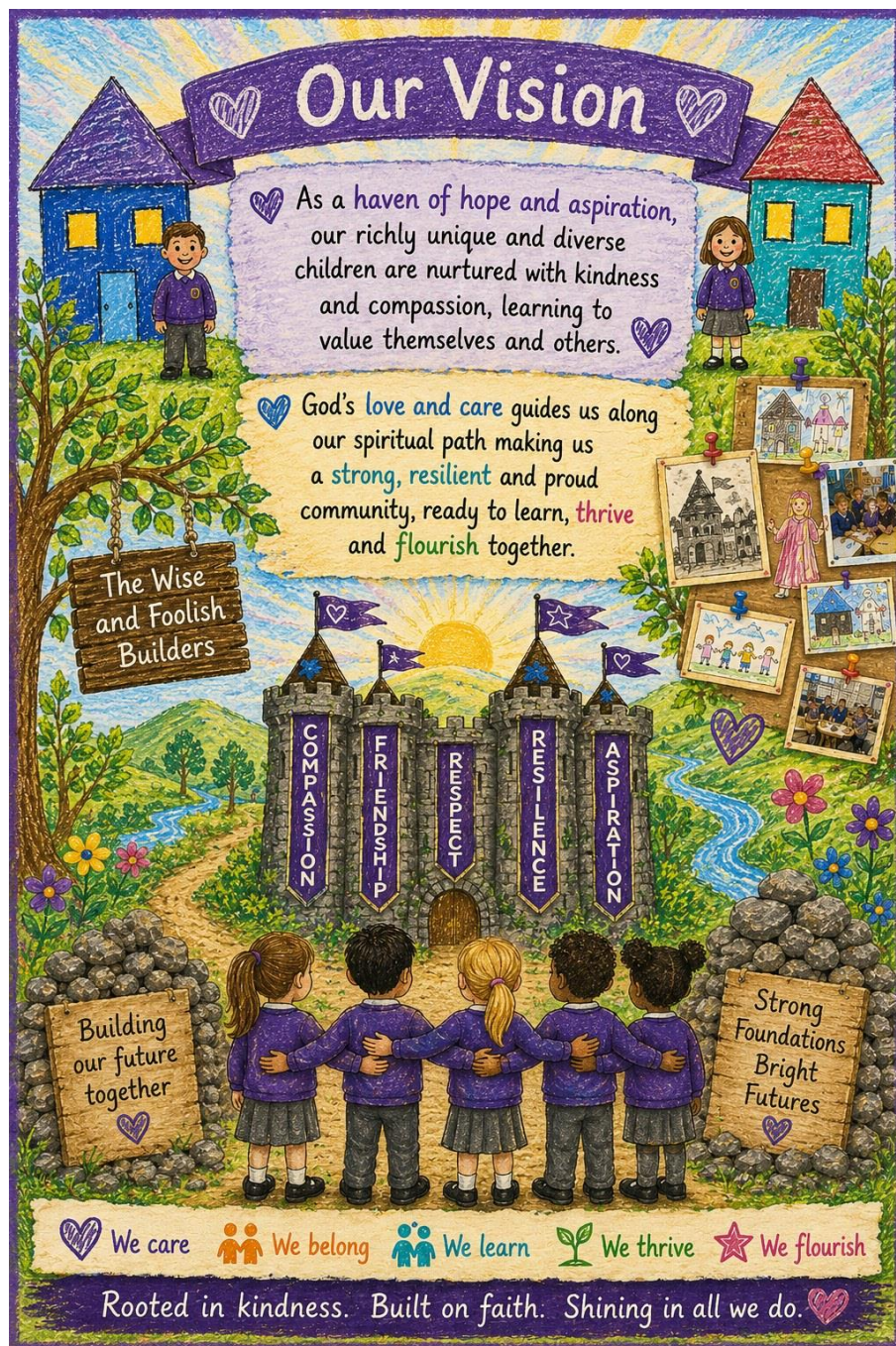




Archbishop Courtenay Primary School -
Friday 11th September

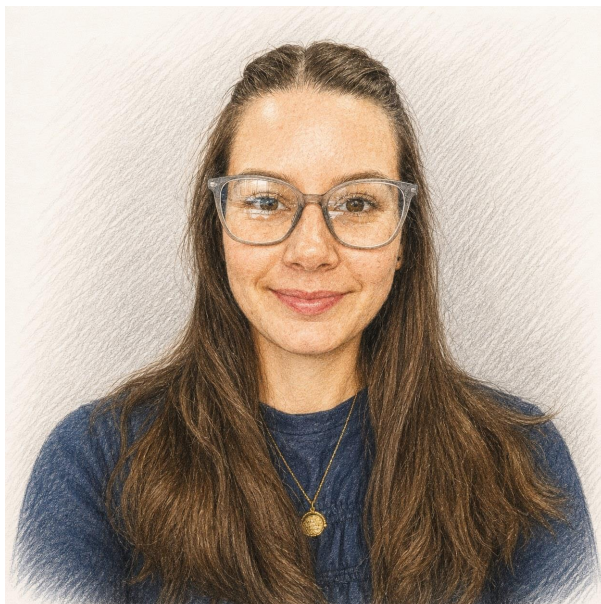


In this issue



Welcome

Welcome



What a busy and exciting start to the new school year we have had at Archbishop Courtenay! It has been wonderful to welcome so many new children into our Buttons ABC Nursery and we are delighted to see them beginning to settle into their new routines, make new friends and explore all that our nursery has to offer.

Our EYFS children have now started their full-time school days and it has been lovely to see them growing in confidence as they become familiar with their classrooms, teachers and new routines. There has been lots of exploring, playing, talking and learning taking place across our Early Years classrooms.

Yesterday was also an important day for our Year 6 children, who sat their 11+ tests. We are incredibly proud of the way they approached the tests and the maturity, resilience and determination they showed. They have worked hard and should be very proud of themselves.

Across the whole school, our classrooms are once again filled with the wonderful buzz of learning. It has been a joy to see children working hard, challenging themselves and most importantly, asking lots of inquisitive questions. We love seeing our children being curious about the world around them and developing a real thirst for learning.

It certainly feels like our school is coming alive again after the summer break and we are looking forward to all the learning, opportunities and adventures that this new school year will bring!



♥ Keeping Our Children Safe: Benedict's Law and Our Nut-Free School ♥

As part of our commitment to keeping every child safe and included at school, we would like to remind families about Benedict's Law and our school's approach to allergy safety.

From September 2026, new statutory guidance has strengthened the requirements for schools in England around allergy awareness, prevention and emergency response. The guidance is known as Benedict's Law, in memory of Benedict Blythe, a five-year-old boy who sadly died following an allergic reaction at school.

At Archbishop Courtenay, we are a strictly nut-free school. This means that children must not bring food containing nuts into school, including for:

- 🍱 **Lunch**
- 🍎 **Breaktime snacks**
- 📦 **Packed lunches**
- 🎉 **Treats or food brought in for special occasions**

We ask all parents and carers to check food labels carefully before sending food into school. Please do not send products containing peanuts or tree nuts, or foods where nuts are an ingredient.

This is an important part of our whole-school approach to reducing the risk of exposure for children and adults living with serious allergies. We recognise that allergies can be life-threatening and that children with allergies should be able to enjoy school safely and confidently alongside their friends.

♥ How you can help ♥

Our nut-free approach only works when we all play our part. Please check your child's snacks and lunch before they come to school and speak to us if you are unsure whether a product is suitable.

Require medication for anaphylaxis?

Following the new legislation, The School Safety Allergy Bill, 'Benedict's Law', parents must now provide schools with an 'Allergy Action Plan', if their child requires medication for anaphylaxis. This will be provided by the hospital or GP.

If this applies to your child, please ensure you bring the information to the school as soon as possible which will work together with the Healthcare. Any queries please email the school office via office@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk¹

Thank you for helping us to make Archbishop Courtenay a safe, caring and inclusive school for every child.

¹<mailto:office@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk>

Attendance and Fundraising



Well, we are back int full swing of school and we hope that you are enjoying being back in routine as much as we are. The children look fabulous in their new uniforms and shoes.

Well done to all the families who have been in on time everyday, we are pleased to say this is the majority of you, so thankyou for supporting us and your children to achieve and be the best.

For our new families and to clarify for everyone, school is open from 8.30am and we would like all children to be in class ready for learning by 8.40am. Anybody arriving from 8.45am must take their child through reception and book them with our lovely ladies in the office so that we know everyone is safe and sound.

If your child is unwell and going to be absent from school due to illness or for any other reason please put a message on MCAS.

School finishes at 3.15pm if for any reason you are going to be late please let us know and we again can ensure your child is kept nice and safe until you arrive.

It's wonderful to be back, hearing all the lovely summer stories and adventures and meeting our gorgeous new reception children as well as welcoming the nursery into our family.

Reporting an absence:

Please record a pupil absence via the MCAS app rather than calling into the school office. You need to update MCAS by 9am each day of absence. If a pupil is absent for two days or more without explanation, a home visit may be made and Police Welfare Checks can be requested - this is in line with KCSIE 2026 and CME statutory guidance.

Please visit our school website for further details.



School Year 2026 - 27

Headteacher: **Sue Heather**
Telephone: **01622 754 666**
Start time - **8:30am**
Gates close - **8:45am**
Finish time - **3:15pm**

For latest School information go to:
www.archbishopcourtenay.org.uk
or email:
office@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk
f ArchbishopCourtenay

KEY
 Bank Holiday
 Holiday
 1:30pm Finish

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We have reached our 1 year anniversary!

Thank you for all of your support!

Join our school lottery and help raise funds for our school PTFA.

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/archbishop-courtenay-primary-school?utm_campaign=tickets-share-panel&utm_source=cause-admin&utm_medium=social&utm_content=Hyperlink

Special Education Needs

senco@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk



Welcome to a new school year and to our little space in the newsletter where we will share news and ideas about SEND & Inclusion at our school. At ABC, we view our school as a family. We celebrate all the things that make us different and believe that every person is special and important. No matter where you come from, how you learn, what you believe or what you can do, everyone belongs at ABC. Guided by our faith, we treat everyone with kindness, respect and care. We want every child to have the support and opportunities they need to learn, grow and be their best. We know that being fair doesn't always mean giving everyone the same thing — it means giving each person what they need to succeed. This year, we are working to make ABC even more inclusive, especially for children with SEND, different ways of learning and those who speak different languages. We will also help children understand and manage their feelings so they can feel happy, confident and ready to learn.

Above all, we want every child at ABC to feel safe, valued, understood and included, so that we can all learn, grow and flourish together.

Wrap Around Information



Wraparound:

<https://archbishop-courtenay.cbfs.uk>²

Breakfast (7:30am-8:30am) £4.15

Social Club (3:15pm-4:15pm) £3.10

Wraparound (3:15pm-6pm) £12.50

Tax-free childcare vouchers = 20% off

Universal credits = claim up to 85% back

FOR SUPPORT CONTACT:

archbishop-courtenay@cbfs.uk

²<https://archbishop-courtenay.cbfs.uk/>

01444 523 335

OPAL Play



As an OPAL Play school, we believe that children should have the opportunity to enjoy outdoor play in all seasons and weather conditions. We therefore encourage all children to keep a pair of wellies or old trainers in school so that they can continue to access outdoor play during wetter weather.

We also encourage children to keep a puddle suit or rain overalls in school where possible, helping them to stay dry and comfortable while enjoying our fantastic outdoor play opportunities.

This week we have been creating these little woodland creatures in our Woodland Walk area!





**SPORT ON YOUR
DOOR-STEP**

DOORSTEP SPORT,
BRINGING SPORT TO YOU

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



YOUTH CONNECT

MULTI-SPORT PROGRAMME



WEDNESDAY
4.30PM – 5.30PM



**RANGE OF
DIFFERENT SPORTS**
BOXING • FOOTBALL
DODGEBALL • TENNIS



FREE
ALL WELCOME!



**OPEN TO ALL
YOUNG PEOPLE**



**ARCHBISHOP OF COURTENAY
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
ECCLESTON ROAD, TOVIL,
MAIDSTONE, ME15 6QN

*DOORSTEP SPORT,
BRINGING SPORT TO YOU.*



BE ACTIVE



BE CONNECTED



BE YOU

**HAVE FUN.
MAKE FRIENDS.
STAY ACTIVE.
BE PART OF IT!**

**FUNDED BY
SPORT ENGLAND**



DOORSTEP SPORT,
BRINGING SPORT TO YOU

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Archbishop
courtenay
Primary School



AQUILA
Diocese of Canterbury
Academies Trust



**SPORT
ENGLAND**

GIRLS FOOTBALL

SESSION



THURSDAY
4.30PM – 5.30PM



**GIRLS ONLY
FOOTBALL SESSION**
ALL ABILITIES
WELCOME!



**OPEN TO ALL
GIRLS**



FREE
NO COST, JUST
TURN UP AND PLAY!



**ARCHBISHOP OF COURTENAY
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
ECCLESTON ROAD, TOVIL,
MAIDSTONE, ME15 6QN

**FREE
FOR ALL
GIRLS!**

**FUN. FRIENDS. FITNESS.
MAKE IT YOURS.**

BE ACTIVE BE CONNECTED BE YOU

**FUNDED BY
SPORT ENGLAND**

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Please complete the form to register your contact details.

Dates for Diary



Term 1

Wednesday 16th September - KS1 TBC - KS2 @ All Saint's Church for Year New Welcome

Friday 18th September - Big OPAL Stay and Play event (more details to follow)

Tuesday 22nd September - Phonics workshop 8:50am (more details to follow)

Thursday 24th September - Athlete Visit

Friday 25th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning 8:30am

Wednesday 30th September - Phonics Workshop 2pm (details to follow)

Wednesday 7th October - Donations for Harvest into school

Thursday 15th October - Individual Pupil Photographs YR-Y6 (sibling photos from the afternoon, nursery pupils included)

*Nursery Individual photos to be confirmed - more details to follow.

School Gates and Collection Arrangements

In the mornings, our school gates will open at 8:25am, ready for children to enter their classrooms from 8:30am. Please ensure that your child is supervised until 8:30am, as staff will not be responsible for supervising children before this time. The gates will close at 8:45am each morning. Any children arriving after this time will need to be signed in at the school office by an adult.

In the afternoons, the gates will be unlocked at 3:10pm, ready for children to be dismissed at 3:15pm. Please note that only Year 6 pupils who have written permission from their parents or carers are allowed to walk home independently at 3:15pm. All children attending after-school clubs must still be collected by an authorised adult. Thank you for standing back at afternoon collection, particularly in the narrower areas of the school, this makes it much easier for class teachers to see you and still allows for other parents to walk past.

While waiting for classrooms to welcome or dismiss children, we kindly ask that pupils and younger siblings help us to look after our outdoor spaces. These areas are carefully set up and prepared for children's learning, and we appreciate your support in keeping them safe, tidy and ready to use.

School Uniform



Wearing the correct school uniform is an important part of being a member of our school community. Our uniform helps to create a sense of belonging, pride and equality, while ensuring that children are dressed smartly and appropriately for their school day. We ask parents to support us by ensuring that children wear the correct uniform: a white or purple polo shirt; purple school sweatshirt/cardigan; grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore, with appropriate black shoes with plain black, white or grey socks/ tights. Children have the option of wearing a white shirt and school tie if they wish.

If you need any support with school uniform, please speak to Mrs Gooding or contact the school office, as we are always happy to help. We also have a selection of second-hand uniform available in school.

Please note that, for health and safety reasons, no jewellery should be worn in school, with the exception of stud earrings, which must be removed for PE. Children should also not wear nail varnish to school.

Our Nursery children are more than welcome to wear our school uniform - you might find the purple polos and jumpers useful items.

Collective Worship



This week our focus has been on the school value of Compassion. The children agreed in Collective Worship on Monday that Compassion is how we show that we care. Children agreed we can care for each other, our family and friends, our toys and everyone who looks after us. This linked into our My Happy Mind Meet My Brain launch and our upcoming athlete visit. We considered how Jesus was a good teacher and looked at scripture from Matthew 5:1, Matthew 11:15. Our I wonder focused our thinking on how we make sure that we are ready to learn. This led us to consider how Jesus made sure that his followers, friends and disciples were ready to learn. The children agreed in school we need to use our 3 learning expectations to ensure that we are ready, safe and respectful in lessons and listen to our teachers. At home we need to do the same and listen to our adults. Jesus said, 'Listen then if you have ears to hear' – this means to learn, you need to be ready to listen.

Nursery



What a wonderful first week we have had at preschool! A huge welcome back to all of our lovely returning children and families, and a very special welcome to all of our new children and their families joining us this term. It has been so lovely watching everyone settle back into preschool, making new friends, seeing familiar faces and sharing lots of exciting stories about their summer holiday adventures! ☀️ We have been busy making the most of the sunshine (and splashing through a little rain too!) as we explored our garden, climbed and played on the climbing frame, zoomed around on our bikes and enjoyed lots of fun water play. We have also been getting wonderfully messy indoors with sponge painting, creating lots of colourful and beautiful pictures for our mummies and daddies to take home. We have enjoyed listening to stories, singing and playing doctors this week as well.

A little reminder as we head into the new term — please make sure your child has a spare set of clothes in their bag, as we can get very messy during our preschool adventures! Please also remember to name everything your child brings into preschool, including coats, clothing, wellies, lunch boxes and water bottles. This helps us to make sure everything finds its way back home. 😊

We are so proud of how brilliantly everyone has settled in and we are already looking forward to another fun-filled week! Next week, we will be starting our new topic 'All About Us', where we will be drawing portraits, talking about ourselves, and sharing all about the special people in our families. We can't wait for lots more learning, laughter, playing and creating together!

EYFS: Darling and Rashford

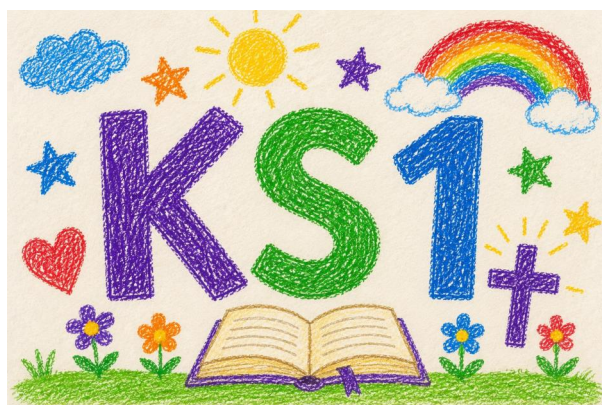


Our Week in EYFS – Rashford and Darling

🌟 What a fantastic week we have had in Rashford and Darling! The children have settled into school life really well and it has been wonderful to see them beginning to make new friends and build relationships with one another. We have been learning about our new routines and rules, including enjoying our lunch together in the school hall. The children have adapted brilliantly and are becoming more confident and independent each day. We have also been having lots of fun with Squiggle While You Wiggle and Dough Disco, helping us to develop those all-important fine motor skills while keeping active and having lots of fun! 🎵👧👦

Our circle times have been a lovely opportunity to get to know each other, listen to our friends and share ideas. We have enjoyed singing lots of familiar nursery rhymes together too, which has helped us build confidence and develop our communication and language skills. It has been a wonderful start to our EYFS journey, and we are so proud of how well the children are settling in. We are looking forward to another exciting week of learning, playing and growing together! ❤️

Year 1 & 2 Rowling, Attenborough and Frank



What an amazing start to Term 1 we have had! The children have settled in so well and it has been lovely to see them already showing our school values of aspiration and resilience in their learning and in the way they approach new challenges.

In Maths, the children have begun their topic of place value and have already been working hard to secure their understanding. They have been practising counting forwards and backwards, recognising the value of digits, and representing numbers in different ways. For example, they have been exploring how 17 is made up of 1 ten and 7 ones, and using practical resources to build and compare teen numbers.

In English, the children have been learning all about polar bears and the importance of taking care of their habitat. They have shown great curiosity as they discovered where polar bears live, what they need to survive, and how changes to their environment can affect them. An example of this learning was when the children discussed how melting ice can make it harder for polar bears to find food and shelter. They then used this knowledge to write persuasive letters and produce fact files, sharing important information in clear and thoughtful ways.

In Geography, the children identified characteristics of the UK. They talked about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom, including England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and located them on a map. They also looked at key features such as capital cities, coastlines and human landmarks, using examples like London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

In RE, the children have continued to discuss the story of the 2 builders and how this story links to our school values. They have thought carefully about the choices made by the builders and how strong foundations matter in both stories and in our own lives. The children also tested the strength of buildings on sand and rock, which led to some interesting conversations about what makes something stable. They have also enjoyed drawing pictures to represent the story.

It was also lovely to see so many of our parents at the open afternoon. Thank you for coming into school and taking the time to share in the children's learning. It was a pleasure to welcome you and we hope you enjoyed seeing the classroom and the work the children have been doing.

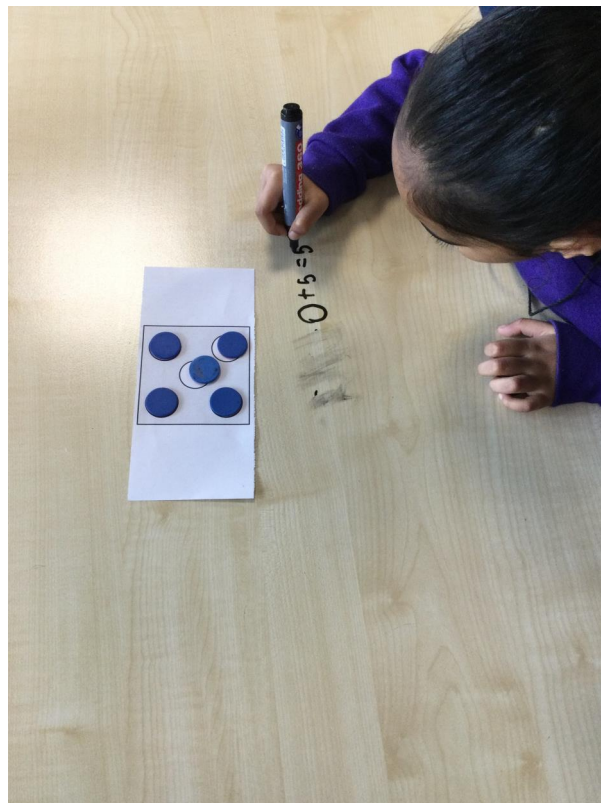
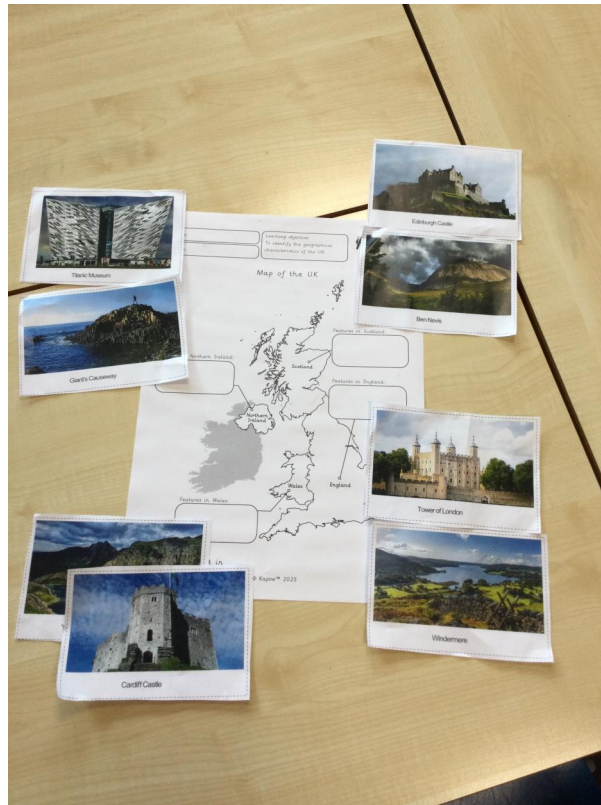
Things to remember:

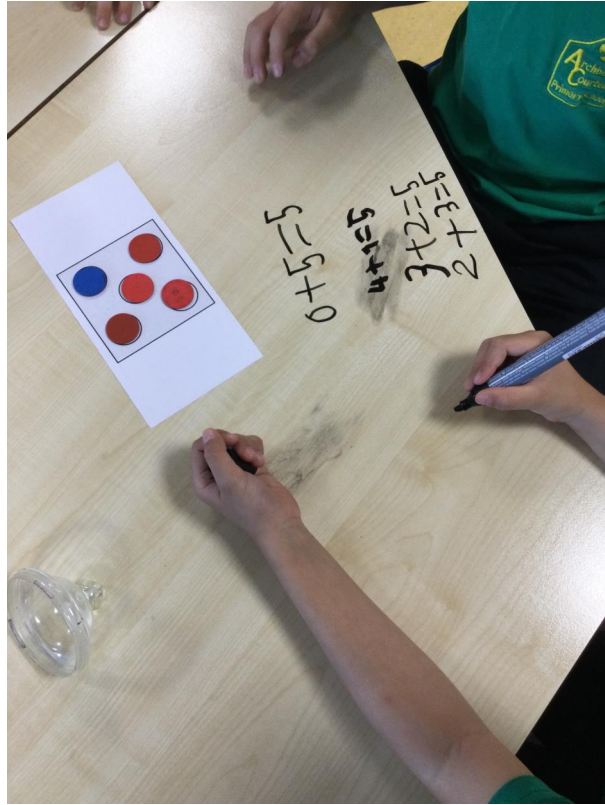
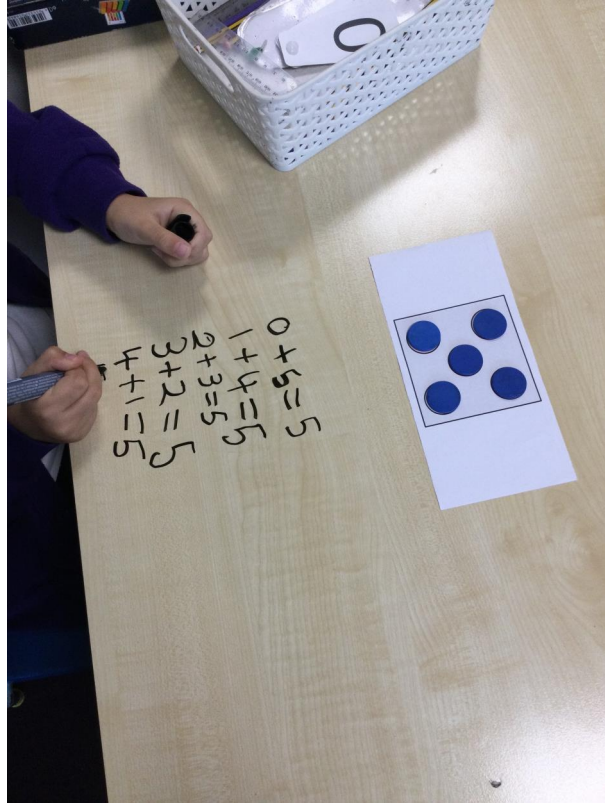
- PE is on Friday, so children should come to school in their PE kit and earrings should be taken out before children come into school, or they should be taped over.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

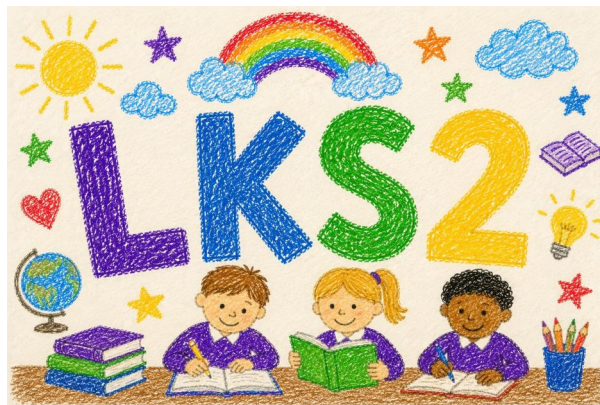
KS1 Team







Year 3 & 4 Jobs, Shakespeare and Pankhurst



What an incredible first week we've had in Lower Key Stage 2! The children have been arriving at school , happy, willing and clearly very able and keen to learn. We have used this week to focus on our first Learning to Learn topic of the year. The children gathered in the hall and met a jaguar! The jaguar told the children about its habitat in the Amazon Rainforest. We also met a logger, who explained how humans need to cut down the rainforest trees so the wood can be used for building and the land used for farming. The jaguar was most upset at the loss of its habitat and went into hiding. Luckily for us the kind and gentle voice of Sir David Attenborough reassured us that it was not too late for the jaguar and that there was hope of the jaguar and humans living in harmony, but that the children would need to help out...

The children have researched jaguars on their i-pads, created speeches in Readers Theatre and written letters to different zoos and animal charities to get support for the jaguar. The power of imagination has been incredible and the work the children have already produced has set a high bar of expectation across the hub. Well done everyone!

In RE we have focused on our understanding of the school story The parable of The Two Builders. One pupil summarised the story beautifully: *"If we are wise and listen to the word of God we will be rewarded just like the wise builder who built his house on a solid foundation of faith, love and trust in God. If we are foolish and disobey God, our house built upon the sand will crumble and we will need to rethink our choices."*

On Friday afternoon we welcomed you to our first open class event of the year. The children were thrilled that they were able to share their learning and their classroom spaces with you.

Reminders:

Daily: please bring reading books and reading records to school everyday

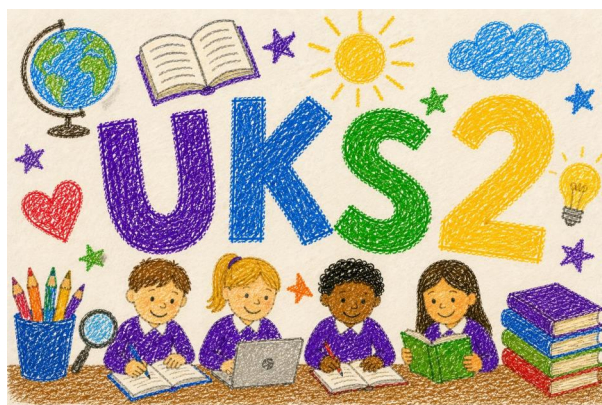
To keep in school: bring a wet weather coat and some welly boots so you can enjoy break and lunchtimes in adverse weather

Thursdays: PE - please wear your PE kits to school - House T-shirt, black shorts/tracksuit bottoms and trainers

Have a wonderful restful week

The LKS2 Team

Year 5 & 6 Simmonds, Curie and Luther-King



What a fantastic first full week back UKS2 have had! All of our Year 5 and Year 6 children have settled in brilliantly and have been busy beavers, getting stuck into their learning and showing fantastic enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see them getting back into their routines, building new friendships and embracing the challenges of their new year groups.

English – Endangered Animals

This week, we introduced our new English unit, where we will be exploring the fascinating world of **endangered animals**. UKS2 have started by learning all about **tigers**, discovering more about their habitats, lifestyles and the threats they face.

We have also begun exploring an important question: **Should a road be built through the middle of the rainforest to give local villagers better access to nearby towns and cities?**

The children have been considering the arguments for and against this idea and, importantly, thinking about the potential impact it could have on the environment and the wildlife that lives there.

There have already been some fantastic discussions, with the children beginning to consider different perspectives and understand that decisions can have both positive and negative consequences.

Maths – Place Value

In Maths, we have started our **Place Value** topic. We have been busy revisiting and strengthening the foundations of our mathematical knowledge, making sure that key concepts are secure before we move on to more challenging areas in the coming weeks. The

children have been working hard to explain their mathematical thinking and demonstrate their understanding. Building these strong foundations now will help them enormously as we progress through the year.

RE – The Two Builders

In RE this week, we revisited the **parable of the Two Builders**. We explored the messages within the story and thought carefully about what it means to make good choices and decisions.

The children were encouraged to put themselves in someone else's shoes and consider how different people might feel in particular situations. We also reflected on times when we have had to make difficult decisions ourselves and what helped us decide what was right.

GB British Values

We have also introduced our learning about **British Values**. The children discussed what British Values are, why they are important and how they influence the way we live together as a community.

This week, we particularly focused on **democracy** and considered the role it plays within our school, our local community and our country. The children shared their ideas about why it is important for people to have a voice and how we can make sure everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

It has been a brilliant first full week, and we are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled back into school. We are already looking forward to all the exciting learning and experiences we have planned for the weeks ahead!

Reminders:

Daily: please bring reading books and reading records to school everyday and reading should be completed 4 times a week.

To keep in school: bring a wet weather coat and some welly boots so you can enjoy break and lunchtimes in adverse weather.

Wednesday: PE - please wear your PE kits to school - House T-shirt, black shorts/tracksuit bottoms and trainers.

Wednesday: Year 5 Swimming- please make sure you have your swimming costume, towel and goggles in a bag with you.

Kind regards,

The UKS2 Team

Kent Fire and Rescue Services



<https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/besafewithus> Please follow the link to Kent Fire and Rescue Services.

Contact Us



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

Archbishop Courtenay Primary School

Eccleston Road

Tovil

Maidstone

ME15 6QN

01622 754 666

Office@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk

Headteacher@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk

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