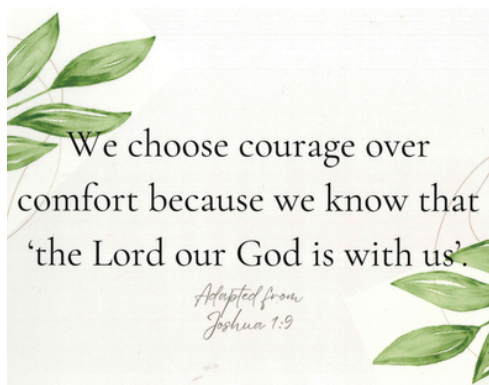


NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

A very warm welcome back to all of our children and families, and a special welcome to those who have joined our school community for the first time this year. I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic summer break and had the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.

It has been a busy and fulfilling first week back in school. The children have settled quickly into their new classes, renewed friendships and embraced new opportunities with enthusiasm. I have been particularly impressed by how many children are already living out our school vision of "Courage over Comfort" inspired by Joshua 1:9. Throughout the week, we have seen children demonstrating courage in many ways: trying new things, meeting new friends, stepping into new routines and taking pride in their learning. These moments help our children to experience life in all its fullness, and it has been a joy to witness.

There is so much to look forward to this half term. Alongside exciting learning opportunities in the classroom, we have a range of events planned including educational visits, our highly anticipated Colour Run, and enrichment clubs starting. We are excited to continue creating memorable experiences that help every child grow academically, socially and spiritually.

Information Sharing

New Wraparound After-School Club

We are delighted to see that our new wraparound after-school club, provided by The Lime Trees, has already proved incredibly popular with families. The club runs from 3:30pm to 6:00pm each day and costs £10 per session. Children can enjoy a wide range of engaging activities, tailored to their interests, providing a fun, safe and stimulating environment at the end of the school day. If you would like your child to attend any sessions, please visit www.thelimetrees.co.uk and click on the "Book Now" option to make a booking.

Welcome Meetings

We will be holding our Welcome Meetings on **21st September**, with sessions taking place at 4:00pm and repeated at 5:00pm. These meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, explore the learning they will experience this year, view their learning environment and discuss any questions you may have with class teachers.

Colour Run

Following its tremendous success, our Colour Run is back by popular demand on **24th September**. Information has already been shared regarding the event, and we hope many families will come along and join in the fun. This is always a fantastic community event and an important fundraising opportunity to support the development of our OPAL provision.

Key Stage 2 Derby Faith Centre Visits

We are delighted to be offering children across Key Stage 2 the opportunity to visit the Derby Faith Centre. These visits provide valuable experiences for children to explore different places of worship, learn about a range of cultures and deepen their understanding of the diverse world around them. Further information will be shared soon. Whilst the visit itself is funded by school, we will be seeking contributions towards transport costs.

New School Menu

Our new catering manager has worked hard to refresh our school menu. The updated menu aligns with the latest government recommendations, places greater emphasis on seasonal produce and introduces children to a wider range of flavours and healthy food choices. We are excited for pupils to enjoy these new options and develop positive attitudes towards healthy eating.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a wonderful term ahead filled with learning, growth, courage and joy.

Kind regards,

S Pearson

Sarah Pearson
Headteacher



School Dates for the Diary

- 14.09.26** - Enrichment clubs begin
- 14.09.26** - Choir Auditions
- 17.09.26** - Y2 Creswell Craggs visit
- 18.09.26** - Pupil Leadership Closing date
- 21.09.26** - Welcome Meetings
- 21.09.26** - Y3/4 Cross Country
- 22.09.26** - Y5 Space Centre visit
- 24.09.26** - Colour Run
- 05.10.26** - Open Evening Foundation Starters 2027-2028
- 08.10.26** - Harvest Festival led by Y5
- 12.10.26** - Y3/4 Derby Faith Centre visit
- 15.09.26** - Y5/6 Derby Faith Centre visit
- 19.10.26** - Half term
- 02.11.26** - Children return to school

YR - Miss Martin

We have had a wonderful first week in Foundation! The children have been very busy this week exploring their new classroom, getting to know their friends, teachers and discovering all the exciting areas in provision. We have had lots of fun learning all about school life and choosing our learning within the classroom and in our outside area.

The children have spent lots of time cooking and baking in the home corner and have particularly loved getting creative with their drawings and crafting skills in our creative area! We have also been busy learning our new classroom routines and expectations, and during topic time we have worked together to come up with our own class rules which are to be kind to our friends, listen to each other, take care and show respect to our classroom and choose it, use it, put it away! In English, we have also explored lots of different stories in particular "The colour monster" and we have enjoyed learning about different emotions and how these may make us feel.

Year 1 - Miss Owen

It has been a brilliant first week of the school year in Year 1! The children have settled in beautifully and are already following our new routines and expectations with confidence. I am so proud of how quickly they have settled into Year 1 and the enthusiasm they have shown towards their learning. To start our week, we enjoyed an exciting trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The children had a fantastic time exploring the park, seeing so many amazing animals, and sharing lots of smiles throughout the day. One of the highlights was taking part in a workshop where we even had the opportunity to touch a blue-tongued skink! It was a wonderful experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. In English, we have begun our new topic, where the children will be writing a recount of our visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. This week, we have been recalling our trip by creating story maps together as a class and have started learning about time adverbials to help make our writing more detailed and engaging. In Maths, we have started our Place Value topic. This week, the children have been sorting objects by size, colour, and shape. They have done an amazing job and have shown a great understanding of the concept of sorting. We are looking forward to building on this excellent start as we continue our Place Value learning over the coming weeks.

Y2 - Mrs Marshall and Mrs Turvey

This week in Year 2, we have been working hard across all areas of our learning. In Maths, we have been exploring place value, identifying tens and ones through practical activities and recording our understanding in our books. In English, we have been enjoying the story Little Red, writing sentences using coordinating conjunctions and creating exciting exclamation sentences. The children have also taken part in role play activities, making predictions about how they think the story might end. In History, we explored the concepts of the past, present and future, sharing our ideas and drawing our understanding of these important words. During provision, the children have been busy building marble runs, painting in the art area, writing their own stories, creating structures with Lego, and working hard to complete a range of design briefs. Next week, we will continue our learning about place value in Maths and further explore Little Red before writing our own character descriptions. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and effort the children are showing in their learning!

Y3 - Miss Bower

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 3! We have started our exciting new English topic based on The Iron Man, where the children have been getting creative and writing their very own wanted posters. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value, exploring how many tens and ones are in different numbers. Our Science lessons have been lots of fun as we have been investigating friction, testing different materials to see which creates the most friction. In DT, we have begun designing our very own catapults, thinking carefully about how they will work and what materials we might use. The children have shown lots of curiosity, enthusiasm and creativity throughout the week, and we are very proud of their efforts!



Foundation Stage children exploring their outdoor area



Foundation Stage children exploring their small world area



Year 1 children enjoying their visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Y4 - Miss Buckley

This week in English, we explored the features and structure of newspapers and how journalists use language effectively. We then began planning our own newspaper reports based on our class text, The Whale. In Maths, we strengthened our understanding of place value by partitioning numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens and ones, and practised counting forwards and backwards using number lines. In Science, we investigated the properties of solids and liquids, testing a range of materials and discussing how they can be classified. In Design and Technology, we learned about pulley systems and created mood boards to develop ideas for rescue devices. In Music, we listened to Debussy's La Mer and explored how tempo can change through accelerando and ritardando.

In History, we learned about the events leading to the signing of the Magna Carta, acting out key moments and creating timelines. In Computing, we began our coding unit by exploring how to create simple programmes and make design choices. In RE, we compared different versions of the Genesis creation story and reflected on the beauty and diversity of the world. We expressed our ideas through drawings inspired by God's wonderful creation. In P4C, we explored the concept of consent and linked it to our learning about King John and the Magna Carta. We discussed why listening to others and respecting their choices is important.

Y5 - Miss Wright

Year 5 have been very busy during our first full week back; we have been exploring diary entries through a drama-based hook lesson filled with hot seating and hunting down the features. We've also had a go at writing various numbers in Roman numerals and also revisited some place value where they have shown lots of resilience. In RE the children made an information poster all about Israel and the beliefs of Muslims, they were very interested and respectful! In Art we have researched a new artist called M C Ascher who's love for Art and Maths lead him to a very unique style! In Science, we have delved into the Earth and the moon with a practical lesson, looking at shadows caused by the sun! We also looked at, how the orbit and spinning of the Earth on the axis impacts days, seasons and even the sky. The class are looking forward to beginning their drawing in Art, writing the final parts of our diary entry and looking at the sun and moon in Science in more detail!

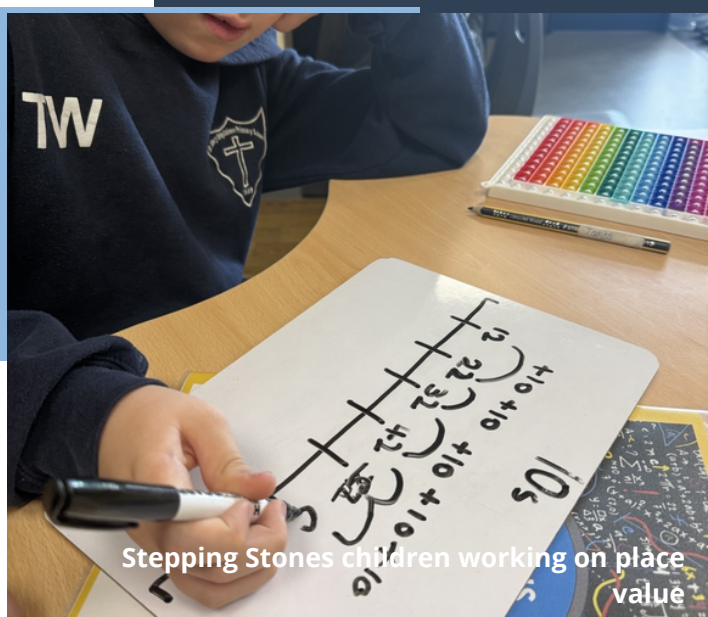
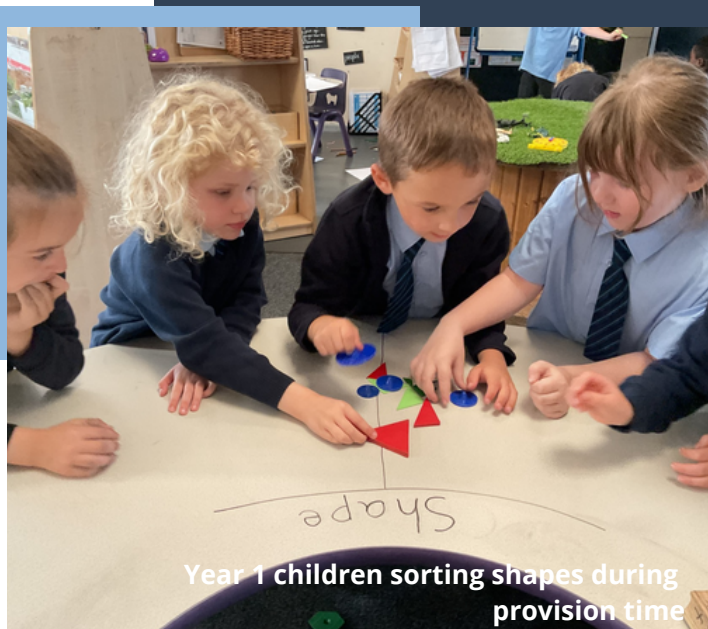
Stepping Stones

What a fantastic first week in Stepping Stones! We have had a wonderful start to the new school year and it has been lovely to see everyone settling in so well. The children have quickly got back into our classroom routines.

In Maths, we have been learning all about place value with larger numbers, exploring the value of each digit and developing our understanding. We have also started thinking about our individual maths targets, giving us a clear focus for our learning and helping us to identify the next steps we can take to become even more confident mathematicians. Our new topic, 'Tastes of the World', has also got us thinking! We have begun exploring different foods and flavours from around the world and discussing what makes a café successful. Over the coming weeks, we will be putting our ideas into practice as we plan and design our very own small-scale café, considering everything from the menu and ingredients to how we could make our café appealing to our customers. It has been a busy but exciting first week, and we are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled in. We are looking forward to seeing their confidence grow as we continue our learning journey together!

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

Year 6 have had an incredibly busy and purposeful first week back, and they've taken every challenge in their stride. In Maths, they revisited place value, determining the value of digits and confidently reading and writing large numbers. Their English lessons were hands-on and atmospheric as they built their own shelters to prepare for an air-raid strike, then crafted descriptive sentences to capture the experience. In Science, pupils explored Carl Linnaeus' classification system and learned how living things are grouped. Their RE work focused on the Trinity, creating artwork to represent its three key parts. In DT, they learned about rationing and the Dig for Victory campaign, linking history with practical understanding. Finally, Computing centred on staying safe online and making sensible choices. Next week, they will begin writing their own diary entry about the war, reflecting on their experiences during the air-raid strike.



OPAL



Highlights

It has been a fantastic start to the new term, with our playground buzzing with excitement, friendship and adventure. One of the most heartwarming aspects of the first few weeks has been seeing children from different year groups interacting so positively together. Our older pupils have been wonderful role models, taking great care of our new Foundation starters and helping them settle confidently into playtime routines. It has been lovely to see new friendships forming across the school community.

There are also lots of exciting developments underway around the school grounds. Work is beginning on the creation of a wildflower garden and a sensory garden, both of which will provide new opportunities for children to explore, relax and connect with nature during their playtimes. We cannot wait to see these areas develop over the coming months.

We are also eagerly awaiting the delivery of additional fixed play equipment, including balance beams and more spinning bars. These have proven extremely popular with the children, and we know the new additions will provide even more opportunities for challenge, physical activity and imaginative play.

During this week's OPAL assembly, we celebrated the fantastic play opportunities our children enjoy each day and revisited some of our key playtime safety messages. In particular, we recapped our tree-climbing expectations, reminding children to always maintain three points of contact and never climb onto a branch that is thinner than their thigh. The children demonstrated an excellent understanding of how to play adventurously while keeping themselves safe.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our next OPAL fundraising event, the Colour Run, which will take place in just a couple of weeks. We are looking forward to a fun-filled event while raising valuable funds to support further OPAL developments and continue enhancing play opportunities for all of our children.

