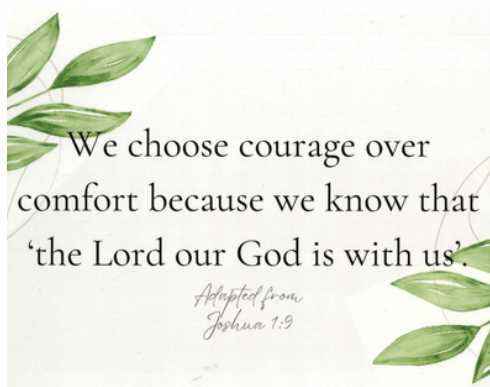


NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first few weeks back at school, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible courage our children have shown as they have begun a new academic year. Our school verse this term comes from Joshua 1:9:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Starting a new school year can bring many changes and challenges. New classrooms, new teachers, new routines and, for some children, entirely new environments can feel daunting. However, our pupils have embraced these changes with positivity, resilience and confidence. It has been wonderful to see children stepping into their new classes with smiling faces, building new friendships, taking on new responsibilities and showing a willingness to learn and grow.

Across the school, staff have been incredibly proud of how quickly the children have settled into their new routines. They have approached learning with enthusiasm, demonstrated kindness towards one another and shown the courage to persevere when things have felt unfamiliar. These are all wonderful examples of living out the message of Joshua 1:9.

As a school community, we know that courage is not about never feeling nervous or unsure. True courage is having the confidence to take the next step despite those feelings, trusting that we are supported by those around us and guided by God's presence. Our children have shown this every day since returning to school.

Thank you to our families for your continued support in helping the children make such a positive start. We look forward to all that this year will bring and pray that our school community continues to grow in strength, courage and faith throughout the months ahead.

Best Wishes.

Miss Cave

Miss Cave
Assistant Headteacher

School Dates for the Diary

22.09.26 - Y5 Space Centre Trip
24.09.26 - Colour Run (afternoon)
7.10.26 - Open Evening Prospective
 Foundation Stage Parents
8.10.26 - Harvest Service at Church led
 by Y5
12.10.26 - Derby Faith Centre Trip Y3/Y4
15.10.26 - Derby Faith Centre Trip Y5/Y6
16.10.26 - LAST DAY OF HALF TERM





Language Progression

R Risks

1 Self-belief

2 Achieve

3 Resilience

4 Aspire

5 Ambition

6 Potential

We are called to create an environment where both children and staff aspire to be, and give, their best. Everyone is emboldened to take risks, overcome challenges and be courageous in their efforts to achieve their potential. Leaders make bold curriculum choices that enable children to:

- gain knowledge, skills and experiences to navigate life in an evolving world; and
- develop characteristics such as self-belief, ambition, and resilience to overcome life's challenges.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you." (Joshua 1:9)

YR - Miss Martin

In reception this week, we have started to look at the front cover of our new text "Owl Babies" and had so much fun outside in the woods on Wednesday exploring where they might live with our 5 senses! We have also been learning about the concept of the dark and night in preparation for next week when we will begin to read the story, exploring the characters feelings and emotions. In maths this week, we have been using our sorting skills to spot the odd one out and using our subitising skills to recognise amounts to 5 without counting. It was lovely to see the children exploring with grouping and sorting objects during their choosing time! We also had our first Dance PE lesson on Monday, which the children really enjoyed.

In art this week, we have been learning all about the primary colours and have been exploring with colour mixing. Next week, we will continue to explore this and begin to look at what secondary colours we can make!

Year 1 - Miss Owen

This week, Year One have made a brilliant start on planning for our big write, a recount of our trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The children have enjoyed talking through the different parts of our day and beginning to map out what they will include in their writing.

In maths, we've begun our new unit on place value, exploring numbers, counting, and recognising tens and ones. Everyone has made a great start. Next week, we will be looking at different representations of numbers, using practical resources to deepen understanding.

In art, the children have been wonderfully creative with their line work, experimenting with different types of lines, varying thickness, and using a range of materials to explore how lines can be expressive.

In history, Year One have been exploring what a family tree is. We've been talking about our past, our families, and how we can show the people who are part of our lives using a simple family tree. The children have enjoyed sharing who is in their family and learning that a family tree helps us see people from the past as well as those in our lives today. It's been a great week in Year One!

Y2 - Mrs Turvey and Mrs Marshall

What a busy week we have had in Year 2! In English, we have started to write our character descriptions based on the character 'Little Red'. We have been working hard to use adjectives, expanded noun phrases, exclamation sentences and coordinating conjunctions too. In Maths, we have still been exploring place value and how to partition numbers into tens and ones in lots of different ways. We are also working hard on how we present our work in our books too. In history, we have continued to explore our new vocabulary linked to our topic on The Stone Age. We learnt a lot more about the Stone Age on our trip to Creswell Crags too! The class built Stone Age shelters, visited caves, practiced their hunting skills and created Stone Age inspired art! In Science, we have started to explore food chains and life cycles and in RE we have been exploring the parable of The Lost Son. In RE, we have also created cards to celebrate The Lost Son coming back home. Next week, we will be finishing our writing on Little Red and continuing with our Place Value learning too. Well done Y2!

Y3 - Miss Bower

Year three have had a fantastic week this week, we have finished our report on the Battle of Hastings, and have made this into a published piece. Next week we will be doing an independent write for assessment week. For Maths we have been finding change with money and will be moving on to time next week. For history we have been exploring the Battle of Hastings and looking at what different things looked like during this time. In science we have been investigating different mediums for plants to grow in, we are testing which will grow the fastest. In swimming this week we have been learning about water safety and how to keep ourselves safe near open water. In RE we have been learning about Hinduism and their places of worship and in the features we can find in a Mandir. For computing we have been starting to look at collecting and recording data.



Foundation Stage - Rainbow Breathing



Stepping Stones - Making pizzas!



Stepping Stones - making pizzas!

Y4 - Miss Buckley

Year 4 have had another busy and exciting week of learning. In English, the children completed their newspaper articles linked to The Whale and recorded themselves presenting their reports. In Maths, they explored flexible partitioning to deepen their understanding of place value, while in Science they investigated how particles behave in solids, liquids and gases. In RE, the children considered how instructions influenced the story of creation and began exploring the story of the Fall. They also listened to Debussy's La Mer in Music, using line graphs to track changes in tension throughout the piece. In Design and Technology, they designed pulley systems as part of a rescue device, and in History they completed timelines showing the events leading to the signing of the Magna Carta. Computing lessons focused on developing coding skills through creating programmes with backgrounds and moving avatars, while in P4C the children discussed online safety, considering whether technology can become a "black hole" for young people and generating thoughtful questions for next week's debate.

Y5 - Miss Wright

This week Year 5 have had a very busy yet fruitful week. In Maths we have been working with numbers, both partitioning and writing them up to 1,000,000. We have written a diary entry as if we were Tristan based the book The Viewer and being sucked into the viewer and ending up in a strange world! The children have focussed on charity and sharing money in our RE lessons linking to the 'Zakat' pillar of Islam. In Science we have delved into some more space learning, looking at how the tilt of the Earth on its axis while orbiting the sun impacts our seasons. For our Geography learning this week we have focussed on the countries in which active volcanoes located and how that links directly to the ring of fire. In PE, the children had a go at some street dance and learnt some new moves, they also had a go at applying some passing skills to some games in Handball. Overall, the children have worked very hard and pushed themselves towards ambitious targets in mostly our Writing but also our Maths learning. We cannot wait to see what next week has in store for us!

Stepping Stones

This week in Stepping Stones, we have been busy planning the menus for our exciting 'Tastes of the World' Café. After lots of discussion and careful consideration, we have chosen a range of delicious dishes inspired by the USA, the UK and India. We enjoyed exploring different foods from around the world and thinking about what our customers might like to try.

In Maths, we have been focusing on place value and working towards our individual targets. We have used a variety of practical resources to help us develop our understanding of rounding numbers, negative numbers, and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. The children showed great perseverance and enthusiasm as they tackled different challenges and celebrated their successes.

We also found time to do some baking and enjoyed making our own yummy pizzas. We carefully followed a recipe, measured ingredients accurately and worked together to make the dough from scratch. The pizzas were a huge success and everyone loved tasting their finished creations!

It has been another fantastic week of learning, teamwork and fun in Stepping Stones, and we are looking forward to continuing our preparations for our 'Tastes of the World' Café next week.

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

This week, Year 6 have had another fantastic week of learning across the curriculum. In Maths, the children explored place value in greater depth, focusing on rounding numbers, understanding negative numbers, and ordering and comparing numbers. In English, they began writing their own diary entries based on the experiences of people living through the Second World War air raid strikes. They have produced some excellent pieces of writing and should be incredibly proud. In Computing, the class started their new coding topic and learned how to clone different pieces of code. In Science, pupils investigated how classification trees can be used to identify and group different species. During Geography, they created maps of the school grounds and followed instructions to locate a variety of OS symbols. In DT, the children researched wartime meals and desserts to help inform their own menu designs, while in RE they explored how different Bible texts show God as both holy and loving. Next week, Year 6 will be finishing their diary entries in English and creating their own wartime menus in DT.



Year 1- using practical resources in Maths



Foundation Stage - Exploring our five senses



Year 4 - Following Instructions

OPAL



Highlights

We have enjoyed another lovely week of play, despite experiencing a mixture of sunshine and wet weather! It has been wonderful to see how the children have adapted to the changing conditions and continued to make the most of all the opportunities available during playtimes.

Our Foundation children are becoming increasingly confident in exploring the different play areas. It has been fantastic to see them developing their independence, building friendships and trying new experiences as they become more familiar with our outdoor environment.

One of the highlights this week has been the impressive construction taking place in the mud area. Children have been working collaboratively to design and build dens, demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills. They have shown great creativity in using the available materials and have taken pride in their finished creations.

During our assembly this week, we celebrated the many positive examples of play that we have seen across the school. We also took the opportunity to revisit our scooter risk assessment. Together, we discussed the benefits of scooter play, as well as the potential risks, and thought carefully about how we can manage these safely. The children contributed some thoughtful ideas and showed a good understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe while still enjoying adventurous play.

We also spoke in assembly today about our upcoming Colour Run, which we are all looking forward to next week. The event will be a fantastic opportunity for the school community to come together, have fun and raise additional funds to further develop our play opportunities. Excitement is already building among the children, and we can't wait to see everyone taking part in what promises to be a colourful and memorable event!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our OPAL journey.



Welly Award – Amelia
Golden Broom Award – Y4



Resources needed:

- Plants
- Scooters
- Prams
- Dinosaurs
- Pine cones