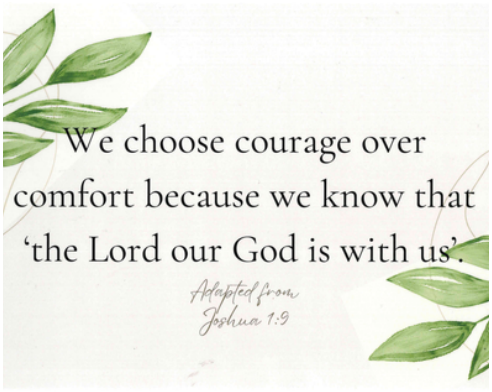
25.09.26

Issue #3

NEWSLETTER







Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

This week, our school has been reflecting on the Christian value of Courage. Courage is not about never feeling afraid; it is about doing what is right even when something feels difficult or uncertain. Throughout the week, I have been delighted to see children demonstrating courage in so many different ways, whether that has been trying something new in their learning, sharing their ideas with confidence, showing kindness to others, or persevering when faced with a challenge.

Our value is beautifully captured in the words of Joshua 1:9:
"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

This verse reminds us that we can face challenges with confidence, knowing that we are never alone. We encourage our children to carry this message with them both in school and beyond as they continue to grow in faith, character and resilience.

A wonderful example of courage, determination and community spirit was seen during our recent Colour Run. It was fantastic to see so many children and families, embracing the challenge with such enthusiasm. The event was a huge success and we are incredibly grateful for the support shown by our school community. The money raised will help support the continued development of OPAL, ensuring our children have even greater opportunities for imaginative, adventurous and meaningful play experiences.

I would also like to remind parents about our current Parent Governor vacancies. Becoming a governor is a rewarding opportunity to make a real difference to the strategic direction of our school and contribute to its continued success. If you are interested in supporting the school in this important role, please ensure your application is submitted before the closing date of Monday 5th October at 10:00am. ELection packs can be found on the website and from the school office.

This week we have also introduced the opportunity for parents to join staff in a series of Alpha sessions at church. Alpha provides a welcoming space to explore life, faith and meaning through conversation and shared experiences. We have 15 places available for parents who would like to take part alongside members of staff. Please take a look at the attached leaflet for further information and details on how to express your interest.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we can continue to encourage our children to be strong, courageous and confident learners who live out our school values every day.
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

S Pearson

Sarah Pearson

Headteacher

School Dates for the Diary

07.10.26 - Open Evening Foundation Starters 2027-2028 (please note change in date)
07.10.26 - First Aid Sessions in School for KS1 and KS2
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

It has been a busy week in reception! We have been exploring our focus's book 'Owl babies' in more detail, and have been using drama and discussion techniques to explore the owls' feelings and make predictions about where we think mummy owl might have gone. We have also been working on our turn taking skills, practising carefully listening and responding to our friend's ideas. In maths, we have been sorting and matching objects, and look forward to exploring length, height and capacity next week. We also took part in our first whole school event - the colour run! The children absolutely loved it, and we had a fantastic time!



Reception enjoying their outdoor provision

Year 1 - Miss Owen

Year One have had a lovely week! We have made a fantastic start to our phonics learning these past few weeks, and the children are trying so hard with their writing. They have shown a brilliant memory, remembering all of the sounds we have been learning. In English, we have finalised our plans for our big write about our visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, which we will be completing next week. The children have worked incredibly hard on this and should be very proud of their efforts. In Maths, we have had a very practical week, using a range of resources to help us with addition and subtraction. We have also been exploring different representations of numbers, including learning how to spell number words. Thanks to their excellent phonics skills, the children were fantastic at this! The highlight of our week was definitely our Colour Run. The children loved getting messy and transforming into colourful rainbows. It was wonderful to see so many smiles and happy faces throughout the event. During provision time, the children have really been getting stuck into their learning. They have been carefully planning their designs and then bringing their ideas to life, showing great creativity and perseverance. In RE, we have been exploring different members of the community and discussing how each person plays an important role. At first, we tried ranking members of the community from most important to least important. However, after a thoughtful discussion, Year One realised that everyone plays an equally valuable role in helping our community thrive. Another fantastic week in Year One. Well done, everyone!



Year One completing a sequencing activity for their recounts.

Y2 - Mrs Marshall and Mrs Turvey

What a busy week we've had in Year 2! This week in Maths, the children have been learning how to partition numbers into different sets of tens and ones using part-whole models. They have explored how numbers can be represented in different ways and have also been introduced to number lines. In English, we have been writing character descriptions about Little Red, focusing on her personality and using a range of exciting language features, including adjectives, exclamations and conjunctions such as because to extend our ideas. In DT, we explored suitable products for a picnic and discussed what makes a food item appropriate for an outdoor meal. In RE, we learned about the Parable of the Prodigal Son and created thoughtful 'Welcome Home' cards to reflect the story's message of forgiveness and love. Next week, we will continue to explore number lines in Maths and begin learning more about life in the Stone Age by researching what daily life was like during this fascinating period of history.



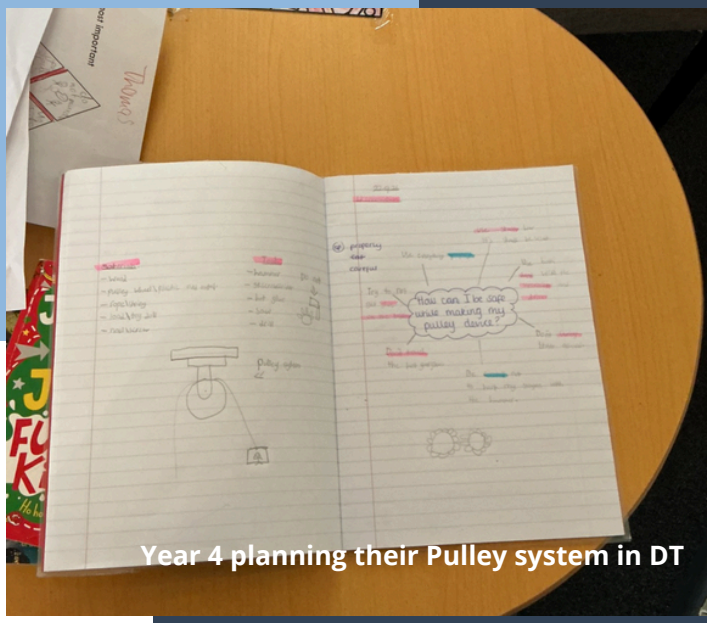
Reception enjoying their outdoor provision

Y3 - Miss Bower

This week in Year 3, we have been busy across all areas of our learning. In English, we have been completing our exciting Wanted Posters, using persuasive language and presentation skills to create eye-catching pieces of work. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of numbers to 1000 by creating number lines and ordering numbers accurately. In Design and Technology, the children have enjoyed designing their own catapults and thinking carefully about how they will work. In RE, we have been exploring the qualities of Christians and discussing how these values help people to support and care for others. In PE, we have continued to develop our skills in both street dance and handball, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and creativity. Well done to all of Year 3 for another fantastic week of learning!

Y4 - Miss Buckley

In English, we have been starting to think about writing a flashback narrative linked to The Whale. The children have been exploring how flashbacks can be used to reveal important events from the past and have begun planning ideas for their own narratives. In Maths, we have been comparing and ordering four-digit numbers. The children have been using their understanding of place value to identify which numbers are greater or smaller and have been developing their confidence when ordering numbers from smallest to largest and vice versa. In Science, we have been exploring real-life examples of gases and thinking about where we encounter gases in our everyday lives. The children have been considering the properties of gases and how these relate to their behaviour as a state of matter. We used balloons to show how gases mould to their surrounding and enjoyed releasing them down again! In RE, we have been creating a diamond nine to consider the order of events in the Creation story. We have also been introduced to the Ten Commandments and have been thinking about their importance and the guidance they provide. In Music, we have been exploring how changes in tempo can alter the meaning and feeling of a song. The children have been listening carefully to music and considering how speeding up or slowing down can affect the way a piece is experienced. In History, we have been exploring evidence linked to the Magna Carta, looking at both primary and secondary sources. The children have been considering what different sources can tell us about the events surrounding the Magna Carta and how historians use evidence to build an understanding of the past. In Design and Technology, we have been learning how to stay safe when working with wood and using tools. Together, we created a class agreement outlining the important rules we need to follow during woodwork, including how to use equipment safely and responsibly.



Year 4 planning their Pulley system in DT

Y5 - Miss Wright

Year 5 have had a very busy and interesting week this week! The children have been continuing to grow their place value skills during our Maths learning showing lots of ambition and resilience. They have delved into their next cycle of English writing and explored lots of new adjectives and sentence types in preparation for writing our narrative next week. In music the children have had a go at playing instruments at different speeds and seeing how it impacts the music. In PE the children continued growing their street dance moves and even performed them to the class showing great courage and determination, they really put on a show! In RE we are still looking at the Islamic Faith and this week we looked in depth at one of the five pillars 'Zakat' and in groups they made a poster all about why they think the pillar is important to Muslims. Year 5 were very lucky this week and attended a trip to the Space Centre in Leicester and were incredibly interested in everything we saw, from rockets launching, a historical timeline showing how things have changed over the years and even having the opportunity to go into the planetarium to watch a show!


Year 5 having a fantastic day at the National Space Centre

Stepping Stones - Miss Cave

This week, the children have been busy developing a range of important skills through engaging and meaningful activities. As part of our Tastes of the World Café project, the children have been writing their own recipes, exploring ingredients from different cultures and learning how to present instructions clearly and in the correct order. This has provided a wonderful opportunity to develop their writing skills while learning about foods from around the world.

In maths, the children have been working hard on their individual maths targets, with a particular focus on place value and addition and subtraction. Through practical activities, games and targeted learning tasks, they have been building confidence in understanding numbers and applying their calculation skills to solve problems.

We are very proud of the enthusiasm and determination the children have shown in all their learning this week. Well done, Stepping Stones!


Stepping Stones mastering counting in multiples of threes.

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

This week, Year 6 have worked incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum. In English, the children completed their diary entries based on the air raid bombings, imagining what it would have been like to seek shelter during such a frightening time. In Maths, we began our new topic on addition and subtraction, focusing on developing confidence and accuracy when solving a range of calculations. In Science, pupils created classification systems for different types of invertebrates, using their knowledge to group organisms according to their characteristics. In RE, we explored the meanings of the words omniscient, omnipotent, holy, eternal and loving, and discussed how these attributes are used to describe God. In DT, the children designed their own rationed main meals, carefully considering the ingredients available during wartime, and are looking forward to planning and designing their desserts next week. Overall, the class has had a fantastic week of learning and should be very proud of their efforts.

OPAL

Platinum Award 2024 - 2026



Highlights

What a fantastic week of OPAL play we have enjoyed! Despite experiencing a mixture of sunshine, wind and showers, the children have embraced every opportunity to get outside, be active and have fun with their friends.

Throughout the week, our Potion Station has been a hive of creativity. Children have been busy mixing, stirring and experimenting with natural materials to create imaginative potions, recipes and magical concoctions. It has been wonderful to see their creativity flourish as they worked together, shared ideas and developed their storytelling skills through play.

The construction area has also been incredibly popular, with children using a variety of loose parts to design and build impressive structures. From houses and obstacle courses to imaginative inventions, the children have demonstrated excellent teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills. Alongside this, many children have enjoyed dressing up and taking on different roles, creating exciting games and adventures with their friends.

The highlight of the week has undoubtedly been our fantastic Colour Run! The event was filled with excitement, laughter and huge smiles as children raced through clouds of colour, transforming into bright and vibrant rainbows by the end. It was wonderful to see everyone joining in the fun and supporting one another throughout the event. The atmosphere was full of energy, happiness and a real sense of community.

We would like to thank all families for their support and generosity. We are currently finalising the sponsorship totals and will share the final amount raised in next week's newsletter. Once we know the total, we will involve the children in deciding how the money should be spent to further enhance our OPAL play opportunities and make playtimes even more exciting for everyone.

Resources needed:

Scooters
Balance bikes
Trikes / ride on toys
Sand toys
Pipes / guttering / den building materials