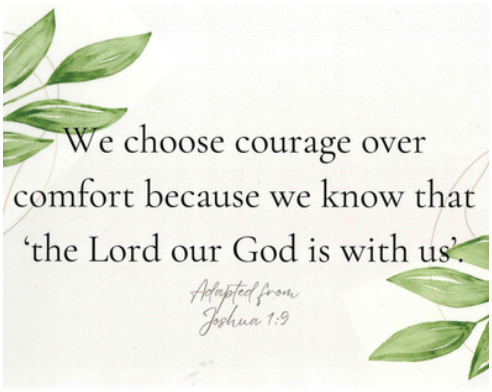
09.10.26

Issue #5

NEWSLETTER





Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

As we approach the final week of this half term, it has been wonderful to reflect on the many ways our children have demonstrated our focus value of courage. Our school vision, "Courage over Comfort", reminds us that courage is not about never feeling worried or uncertain. It is about choosing to take that next step, try something new, speak up for what is right and support others, even when it might feel easier to stay within our comfort zone.

Today, our school was filled with a wonderful splash of yellow as we marked Mental Health Awareness Day. Thank you to everyone who joined in by wearing yellow and helping us to raise money. Most importantly, the day provided an opportunity to remind our children that looking after our mental health matters, that it takes courage to talk about how we are feeling, and that asking for help is always a sign of strength.

Next week is our final week of the half term, but there is still plenty to look forward to. Our Key Stage 2 children will be taking part in Derby Faith Visits, giving them a valuable opportunity to broaden their understanding of different faiths, beliefs and communities.

We are also excited to hold our first Alpha session next week for staff and parents. This is another special opportunity for members of our school community to come together, explore faith and ask some of life's bigger questions in an open and welcoming environment.

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I am incredibly proud of the courage our children continue to show each day. Whether trying something difficult, making a new friend, sharing a worry or standing up for someone else, these everyday acts of courage help our children grow.
Thank you, as always, for your continued encouragement and support.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

S Pearson

Sarah Pearson

Headteacher





School Dates for the Diary

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
03.11.26 - Year 4 Trent Lock trip
06.11.26 - Year 3 Yorkshire Sculpture Park trip
12.11.26 - Year 6 Bletchley Park trip
19.11.26 - Year 2 The Deep trip
23.11.26 - Individual and Sibling Photographs (please note change in date)
24.11.26. Whole School Pantomime Trip

YR - Miss Martin

It has been another exciting week in Reception! In maths, we have been developing our number skills by exploring how to order numbers to 10. The children have enjoyed using number cards to put numbers in the correct sequence, identifying which numbers come before and after. Within provision, the children have independently been using the compare bears to reinforce their learning, matching quantities to numerals and ordering numbers through play!

In English, we have continued with our focus book 'Owl Babies'. We have been exploring the baby Owls feelings before and after Mummy Owl returns, thinking carefully about how the character emotions change throughout the story. This week also saw the opening of our mud kitchen, which has been a huge hit! The children have loved exploring and creating using a range of natural materials we collected during our outdoor learning last week such as pinecones, sticks and leaves. We also had our first visit to church this week to celebrate the Harvest Festival and the children really enjoyed taking part in the celebration, learning about the importance of the harvest. We are incredible proud of them for all of their hard work this week!



Year 1 very proud of their story board.

Year 1 - Miss Owen

We have had another brilliant week in Year One. In Maths, we have been focusing on greater than and less than. We have been enjoying learning about Blockzilla from Numberblocks, using our crocodile arms to identify which number is bigger. Remember, the crocodile only likes the bigger numbers! In English, we have started planning the middle section of our rewrite of Gorilla. The children have been brilliant at retaining information and remembering the features that make an excellent piece of writing. We are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm they have shown. This week, we also had a lovely session on first aid training. The children learnt some basic first aid skills, including how to call 999 and how to place someone into the recovery position. They were fantastic at listening carefully, following instructions and practising their new skills with one another. We have had a truly brilliant week, and I would like to say a huge well done to Year One for being so positive, enthusiastic and hardworking! You have been amazing!


Year 1 children enjoying big movements in their provision

Y2 - Mrs Marshall and Mrs Turvey

Year 2 have had another great week! In English, we have been writing a narrative about Little Red. So far, we have written our opening and build up and we are ready to write our problem and resolution next week. In maths, we have been exploring place value and counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. In DT, the children have been making a picnic and had a wonderful time using their skills! In PE, the class have loved their dance lessons and have been practising their skills in handball too. Next week, we are looking forward to our outdoor learning session on Monday linked to history and shelter building!

Y3 - Miss Bower

This week in Year 3, we have completed our character descriptions and are very proud of the fantastic writing we have produced. Next week, we are excited to begin a new writing unit. In Maths, we have been learning how to add three-digit numbers using the column method and have been working hard to show our calculations clearly. In RE, we have explored what happiness looks like and discussed different ways we can show happiness to others. In Computing, we have continued developing our coding skills and have practised debugging programs to fix any errors. We also thoroughly enjoyed our trip to church on Thursday and would like to thank everyone who helped make it such a special experience.


Year 2 enjoying their DT project

Y4 - Miss Buckley

In English, the children have been putting the finishing touches to their fantastic flashback narratives, using description, atmosphere and carefully chosen vocabulary to move effectively between the present and the past. In Maths, we have continued developing addition skills, using place value and different strategies to calculate accurately and explain our thinking. Science has seen our learning about the water cycle come to life through practical experiments exploring evaporation and condensation, while in RE we have reflected thoughtfully on the importance of forgiveness. In Spanish, the children have used their growing language skills to create comic strips featuring conversations about birthdays.

In Design and Technology, the children have proudly completed their pulley systems, putting their measuring, cutting, drilling and assembling skills into practice. We hope you enjoy seeing their finished creations at Book Look! Our P4C discussions have focused on mental health and wellbeing, with children sharing mature and thoughtful ideas linked to World Mental Health Day. Finally, as part of our First Aid training, we have been learning how to respond in an emergency, including staying calm, seeking help and knowing important personal information. Please support your child at home by helping them to learn their full home address, so they could share this clearly with the emergency services if ever needed.



Year 5 and 6 Handball competition

Y5 - Miss Wright

Year 5 have had a very busy week this week, we started and ended the week writing our setting descriptions, tailored to the book the Viewer by Gary Crew based on Tristain's bedroom. The children had lots of fun coming up with revolting and chaotic words to describe using their senses. We are still focussing on addition and subtracting in Maths, improving out estimations skills by using rounding and inverse operations to check the answers. We have continued our Science information pages all about the planets and our solar system. In RE this week we have focussed on Harvest, we thought about why it is important and how what we use every day is provided by the Earth. We have continued our Spanish learning about breakfast item this week, learning how to ask what is for breakfast and telling a person what we would like for breakfast. We practised this speaking and also writing it down. Year 5 have worked especially hard this week on our Harvest festival service at church, practising lots of songs, our words and how we can be respectful and grateful at Harvest time.



Year 4 proudly displaying their DT project

Stepping Stones - Miss Cave

This week in Stepping Stones, we have been working incredibly hard towards our individual Maths and English targets. The children have shown great determination and perseverance as they have focused on developing the skills that are most important for their own learning journeys.

We have taken a short break from our exciting Tastes of the World project to concentrate on grammar activities tailored to each child's individual targets. The children have engaged positively with these focused sessions and have worked hard to improve their understanding and confidence.

Alongside our academic learning, we have been spending time thinking about ways to help ourselves feel calm and regulated. Each day, we have been using playdough as part of our calming routines, following specific sequences that encourage a range of hand movements such as squeezing, rolling and poking. These activities have helped us to practise mindfulness, develop our fine motor skills and learn strategies that we can use when we need to relax and refocus.

We are very proud of the effort, resilience and positive attitudes shown by all of the children this week.

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

This week, Year 6 have continued to work incredibly hard and should be very proud of all they have achieved. In English, the children completed their informal letters written from the perspective of William Beech, demonstrating excellent understanding of character and language choices. In Maths, they have conquered long multiplication and shown great perseverance when tackling increasingly challenging calculations. In RE, the class explored Proverbs and the seven things God detests, leading to thoughtful discussions about values and behaviour. In DT, the children designed and prepared a fantastic two-course meal consisting of cheese and potato pie followed by a range of delicious cookies. They all did exceptionally well and thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their cooking skills. In Computing, pupils learnt about different types of flowcharts and how they can be used to represent processes and algorithms. During P4C, the children spent time completing activities centred around World Mental Health Day, encouraging reflection on wellbeing and the importance of looking after ourselves and others.



Children enjoying OPAL

OPAL

Platinum Award 2024 - 2026



Highlights

What a lovely start to the week we have had, enjoying some of the last warm days of summer. The children have made the most of the wonderful weather and it has been fantastic to see so many different types of play taking place across our OPAL areas.

This week, children have been busy digging, creating and exploring in the sandpit, dressing up and using their imaginations in role-play activities, as well as challenging themselves physically by climbing, balancing and even hanging upside down. It has been wonderful to watch friendships develop, creativity flourish and children of all ages engaging in active, purposeful play.

As we continue to develop our OPAL provision, we are excited to be focusing on the creation of a sensory garden and quieter outdoor spaces. We are incredibly grateful to members of our local community who have kindly offered to build flower beds for us, helping to transform part of our grounds into a calm and welcoming environment.

To support this project, we would greatly appreciate any donations of:

- Artificial grass
- Large quantities of pebbles or stones
- Windmills
- Wind chimes
- Wind spirals
- Benches
- Trellis panels

Logs for seating

These additions will help us create a peaceful area for all children to enjoy, particularly those with SEND needs and pupils who benefit from having a quieter space to relax, regulate and recharge during lunchtimes.

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide rich, inclusive and engaging play opportunities for all of our children.

Resources needed:

Scooters
Trikes
Prams
Dolls
Natural resources – conkers, pine cones, pumpkins

Welly Award
Year 2

Golden Broom
Aoife