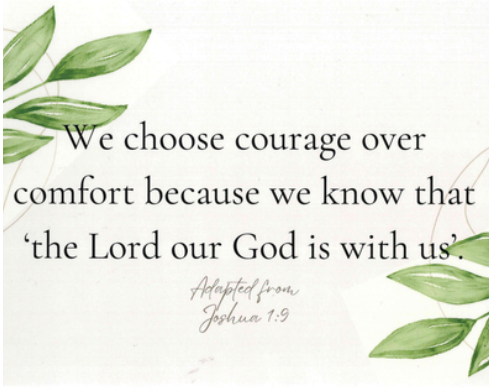
6.11.26

Issue #8

NEWSLETTER







Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first week back after half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful start to this new chapter of learning.

Walking around the school this week, I have been reminded of the many ways our school family brings our Christian vision to life. The words from **1 Corinthians, "Let all that you do be done in love,"** can be seen in classrooms, on the playground and in the daily interactions that make our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Love is shown in the encouragement children give one another when attempting something new, in the patience and care of our staff, and in the kindness that helps everyone feel welcomed and valued. It is reflected in the enthusiasm with which pupils have returned to their learning, the friendships that have been renewed and the positive attitudes that have filled our school during this first week back.

As a Church of England school, we believe that every child is uniquely created and deeply valued. Our aim is not only to help children achieve academically, but also to nurture compassionate hearts, strong character and a sense of responsibility towards others. This week has provided many examples of children demonstrating these values through acts of kindness, cooperation and respect.

As we look ahead to the weeks to come, we do so with excitement and hope. There will be many opportunities for learning, growth and celebration, and we pray that love continues to guide all that we do as a school community.

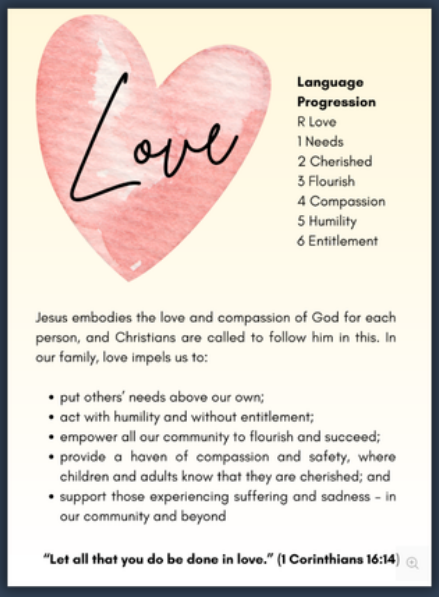
Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that our children flourish in an environment where they feel safe, valued and inspired to be the very best version of themselves.

Best Wishes.

Miss Cave
Assistant Headteacher

School Dates for the Diary

12.11.26 - Y6 Bletchley Park Trip
13.11.26 - KS2 Prime VR Day
16.11.26, 17.11.26, 18.11.26 - Parents Evening
19.11.26 - Y2 The Deep Trip
20.11.26 - Non Uniform Day/Chocolate Tombola
23.11.26 - Individual/Sibling Photographs
24.11.26 - ALPHA Session at Church
24.11.26 - Whole School Panto Trip
27.11.26 - Lockdown Drill
8.12.26 - EYFS Performance - 2pm & 5pm
11.12.26 - Ethic of Excellence Assembly
14.12.26 - KS1 Nativity - 2pm & 5pm
15.12.26 - Christmas Jumper Day
15.12.26 - Christmas Dinner Day
15.12.26 - Christmas Discos
16.12.26 - Christmas Service at Church - led by Y4
18.12.26 - LAST DAY OF HALF TERM



YR - Miss Martin

This week in Reception, we have been exploring the celebration of Diwali and have loved learning all about how it is celebrated around the world. The children enjoyed discovering the traditions, stories, and special activities linked to this Festival of Light. In Topic, we focused on Bonfire Night and discussed how to stay safe around fireworks and bonfires. The children shared some fantastic ideas about keeping themselves and others safe. In Math's, we have been concentrating on the numbers 1,2 and 3, exploring the composition of each number and finding different ways to represent them. In English, we have been learning facts about Owl's. One of our favourite facts is that owls are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and are awake at night! During our Outdoor Learning session, we made bird feeders using oats, lard and apple. The children worked together to mix the ingredients before placing the bird feeders around our outdoor area. We are excited to see which birds come to visit!



Year 1 - Making Firework Pictures

Year 1 - Miss Owen

What a fantastic first week of term! In Year One this week, we have enjoyed lots of practical and engaging learning. In English, we have started exploring our class novel, Robot and the Bluebird. We have been re-enacting scenes from the story and learning about nouns (a person, place or thing) and adjectives (describing words). The children have worked brilliantly in pairs, thinking of different ways to describe Bluebird. We have heard some fantastic adjectives, including soft, fluffy and feathery! In Maths, we have started our new topic of Addition and Subtraction. This week, we introduced the subtraction symbol and began learning how to take away. We used ten frames to support our understanding of subtraction. The children looked at number sentences on the board and used the ten frames to help them take away and find the answers. They did brilliantly and are beginning to understand different ways to solve subtraction calculations confidently. In RE, we have started learning about the Nativity and exploring why Christmas is special to Christians. We took part in a statement hunt, where the children discovered different reasons why Christmas is important to Christians. Afterwards, we came back together and shared everything we had learned during our hunt around the classroom. It has been an amazing first week back in Year One, and we are looking forward to another week of exciting learning!



Foundation Stage - Making Rangoli Patterns

Y2 - Mrs Turvey and Mrs Marshall

Year 2 have settled in well after a the half term and have thrown themselves straight back into their learning. In English, we have been exploring our next text called Flotsam. We have written descriptions linked to underwater photographs and have been trying to use different sentences openers to make our writing interesting for our audience. In maths, we have started to explore addition and subtraction by recapping number bonds and related facts. We have enjoyed lots of practical learning to help us with that. In science, we have been out to explore seasonal change by hunting for signs of autumn! In geography, we have started to explore pollution in the water by recapping our learning on light pollution in Y1. Next week, we look forward to writing more about underwater worlds in English and continuing to look at incarnation in RE.

Y3 - Miss Bower

What a lovely week we have had in Year 3!

In English, we have started our new text, The Iron Woman. We have been exploring how to use our five senses to help us write descriptive sentences, thinking carefully about what we might see, hear, smell, taste and feel to bring our writing to life.

In Maths, we have continued to develop our subtraction skills, focusing on using the column method and learning how to exchange when subtracting. We have been working hard to build our confidence and accuracy with this method.

In History, we have been learning about the history of Bonfire Night and exploring different historical sources to find out more about the past. We have enjoyed looking at the clues these sources can give us and thinking about what they can teach us.

A real highlight of our week was our lovely trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park! We had a fantastic time exploring the park, discovering the different sculptures and enjoying the beautiful surroundings. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience art outside the classroom, and the children were a real credit to Year 3!



Year 3 - Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Y4 - Miss Buckley

We've had such a busy and exciting first week back in Year 4!
On Tuesday, we visited Trent Lock, where we learnt all about rivers and flooding. The children represented St Mary's brilliantly throughout the day, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored their learning beyond the classroom. While we were there, we made boats from wood, plastic bottles and elastic bands. We were able to test if they could float and add our own cargo. We also managed to see a barge passing through the lock from the canal into the river! In Maths, we have been focusing on our 3- and 6-times tables, developing our multiplication knowledge and practising our recall. In English, we have started exploring the water cycle in preparation for writing an informative piece. We have been building our understanding of the different stages and the key vocabulary we will need. In Geography, we have been identifying countries across Asia, developing our knowledge of the continent and its location on a world map. In Music, we have been introduced to the notes B, A and G, beginning to explore music notation and how these notes can be used to create melodies. In RE, we have started our new learning about the Trinity, exploring the Christian understanding of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We have also been thinking about our own interpretations of the Holy Spirit.


Year 2 - Practising Sprinting

Y5 - Miss Wright

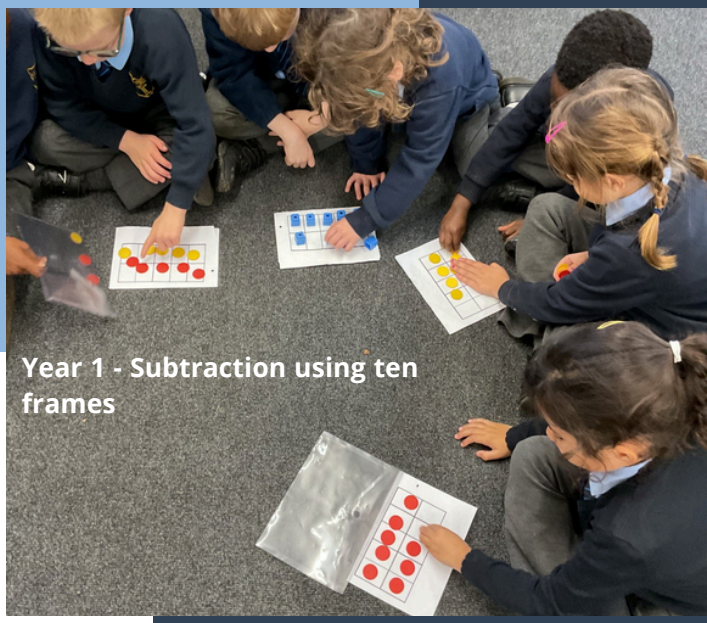
This week Year 5 have had a very busy first week back after the break and have come back with a very positive and hard-working attitude. We have begun our Multiplication learning in our new Power Maths books which the children shown great resilience with and determination to finish. In English, we have looked closely at slavery and the difference in Jamaica and England during these times, basing our learning on the book Freedom buy Catherine Johnson. We continued our learning about slavery in History by looking at how slavery changed over the course of the years and what big things events occurred and help with the abolition of slavery. In DT we looked at the history of the bandana and what it was used for and why the purposes were so important, the children even had a go at designing their own plaid pattern. In Computing we carried on our coding work, looking at how to simplify codes to make them easier to read. To finish the week children had a great deal of fun exploring gravity and air resistance, dropping paper both flat and screwed up from different heights and evening making our own gyrocopters, there may even be some at home for you to have a go with!



Year 4 - Trip to Trent Locke

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

What a fantastic week Year 6 have had! In English, the children have been analysing a formal letter written from the perspective of Zacharius Wrench, ready to plan and write their own. In Maths, we have tackled the challenging topic of long division. Although this has been tricky at times, the children have shown great perseverance and determination. In Science, we have been learning about adaptation and what it means for living things to adapt to their environments. In RSE, we have explored the important topic of consent, discussing what it means and why it matters. In DT, we have been learning about WWII aeroplanes and exploring why they were used and how they supported the war effort. Alongside all of this, the children have completed their very first assessment week and have done incredibly well! They should be very proud of their hard work, positive attitudes and resilience throughout the week.


Year 1 - Subtraction using ten frames

Stepping Stones

This week in Stepping Stones, our pupils have been working hard towards a range of individual learning targets, with our Year 6 pupils also completing their maths assessments. In Maths, children have been developing a variety of skills, including reading time on analogue clocks and subtracting numbers with up to four digits. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and perseverance grow as they tackle increasingly challenging concepts. In English, pupils have been focusing on a range of grammar and punctuation targets. These have included using question marks and exclamation marks accurately, understanding apostrophes for contractions, and identifying and using modal verbs within their writing. We have also begun our exciting new topic, Christmas Around the World. As part of this project, we will be working towards creating and running our own stall at the school Christmas Fayre. This week, pupils have been learning about the Christmas story, exploring Christian beliefs and traditions linked to Christmas, and comparing these with secular traditions and celebrations. The children have enjoyed sharing their own experiences and discovering how Christmas is celebrated in different ways around the world. We look forward to continuing our learning and sharing more of our Christmas Fayre preparations over the coming weeks.

OPAL

Platinum Award 2024 - 2026



Highlights

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after half term and see the playground full of energy, imagination and excitement once again.

The autumn leaves have certainly been a highlight of the season. Children have loved throwing them into the air, creating enormous leaf piles, rolling through them and incorporating them into their imaginative play. It has been fantastic to see how something so simple can spark such joy, creativity and collaboration.

Our dedicated Play Team have continued to enhance different areas of the playground and fields, creating exciting new opportunities for play. Recent favourites have included treasure hunts and homemade see-saws, which have been hugely popular with the children. We have loved hearing pupils enthusiastically share their adventures and discoveries as they return to the classroom.

The construction area has also been buzzing with activity. Children have demonstrated excellent teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills while designing and building obstacle courses that challenge balance, coordination and perseverance. It has been wonderful to watch them work together, support one another and celebrate their achievements.

On the field, our new tree-climbing holds have quickly become a firm favourite. They are providing children with opportunities to develop confidence, strength and resilience while enjoying adventurous play in a safe and supported environment. The sleds have also seen plenty of action, with children enjoying energetic and imaginative games that make the most of our outdoor spaces.

We continue to be incredibly proud of the creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm that children demonstrate during playtimes.

Welly Award – River

Golden Broom Award – Y1

Resources needed:

- Scooters
- Ride on toys
- Dinosaurs
- Small world play
- Mega blocks
- Rope