



Newsletter Thursday 22nd October 2026

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we break up for half term after eight packed weeks of learning, I want to take a moment to celebrate the tremendous progress so many of our children have made already. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of our pupils for their fantastic enthusiasm, and to our wonderful staff team for their tireless hard work and dedication throughout this long first term.

Autumn is now well and truly here, bringing with it some classic, unpredictable weather. Please ensure that your children come to school equipped with appropriate waterproof coats and sturdy outdoor footwear so they can stay warm and dry during breaktimes.

Excitement is building for our upcoming **Bonfire Disco**! Tickets are on sale now, and all proceeds will go towards the Friends of GMSJ project to purchase new sheds and equipment for our revamped reflection area. It promises to be a fantastic event for a brilliant cause.

On a final note, attendance this week has been particularly low. While we understand that autumn bugs have been circulating, a significant number of absences were due to term-time family holidays. Having spent time in classes observing teaching and learning this week, I can guarantee that productive, high-quality learning takes place in every classroom, every single day. The old-fashioned idea that the final week of term is just a "finishing-off week" or "time to play" simply does not exist in modern education. Every day missed means a vital link in your child's sequence of learning is broken, making it significantly harder for them to keep up with their peers.

Thank you for your ongoing support in prioritising your child's attendance. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready to learn on **Monday, 2nd November**. Enjoy a safe and restful break!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Underwood

Headteacher



Dates for your diary

Thursday 22nd October	School Closes 3.30pm
Friday 23rd October	School Closed INSET
Monday 2nd November	School re-opens 8.45am
Wednesday 4th November	Bonfire Disco
Tuesday 10th November	Year 1 Blackburn Museum
Wednesday 11th November	Year 2 Cenotaph Visit
Thursday 12th November	Friends Meeting
Tuesday 24th November	Reception LLV Trip
Thursday 26th November	Goldilocks Pantomime
Tuesday 8th December	Year 5 A christmas Carol
Friday 18th december	School closes at 2pm
Monday 4th January	School re-opens 8.45am

Don't forget : Talk & Tales and Rhyme Time will be running every Tuesday at 3pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Harvest

We would like to say a Massive Thank you to everyone for your generous Harvest Donations. We have received £307.50 in donations for Together in Education UK and Nepal. Thank you so much for all your support.



Year 6 High School Applications

A quick reminder for Year 6 families: High school applications close on 31st October. Places aren't assigned automatically, so please make sure you've registered your child before the deadline!
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/>

Goldilocks Pantomime Performance

On Thursday 26th November, the whole school will have the opportunity to watch a special performance of the Goldilocks Pantomime right here in the school hall! The cost for the performance is £4.00 per child, which also includes a snack for everyone to enjoy during the show. To make a payment for this event, please login to your Arbor app.



Head Lice

Please remember to check your child's hair regularly for head lice. If all parents check weekly and treat any cases promptly, it will really help us keep them under control.

PLACES AVAILABLE!

We currently have availability across most year groups. If you or someone you know is new to the area or considering a school transfer, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office directly with any enquiries or to register for a place.

GMSJ Award Winners



Aviya - Year 6
For Enthusiastic writing on the
circus magazine project.

Competition Winners

We recently ran a colouring competition in school courtesy of Myton food group, who kindly donated prizes and selected a winner from each class. Here are 2 of our winners from Year 2 and Year 4.



Attendance Winners

Attendance Winners w/c 12th
October:
Year 2 100%

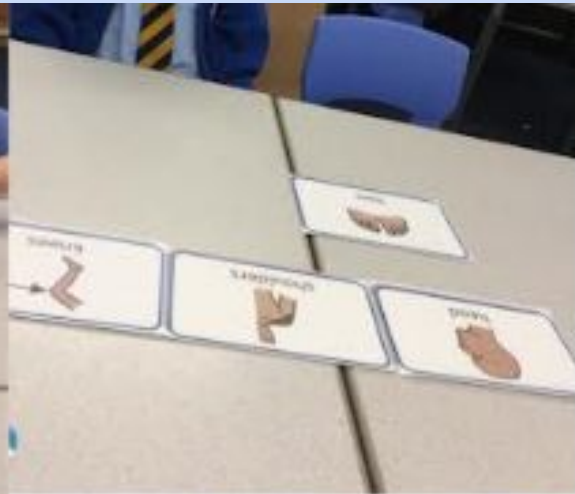
Most Improved:
Year 6



Year 1



Reception



We have
loved
learning
Heads,
Shoulders,
Knees and
Toes this
week!



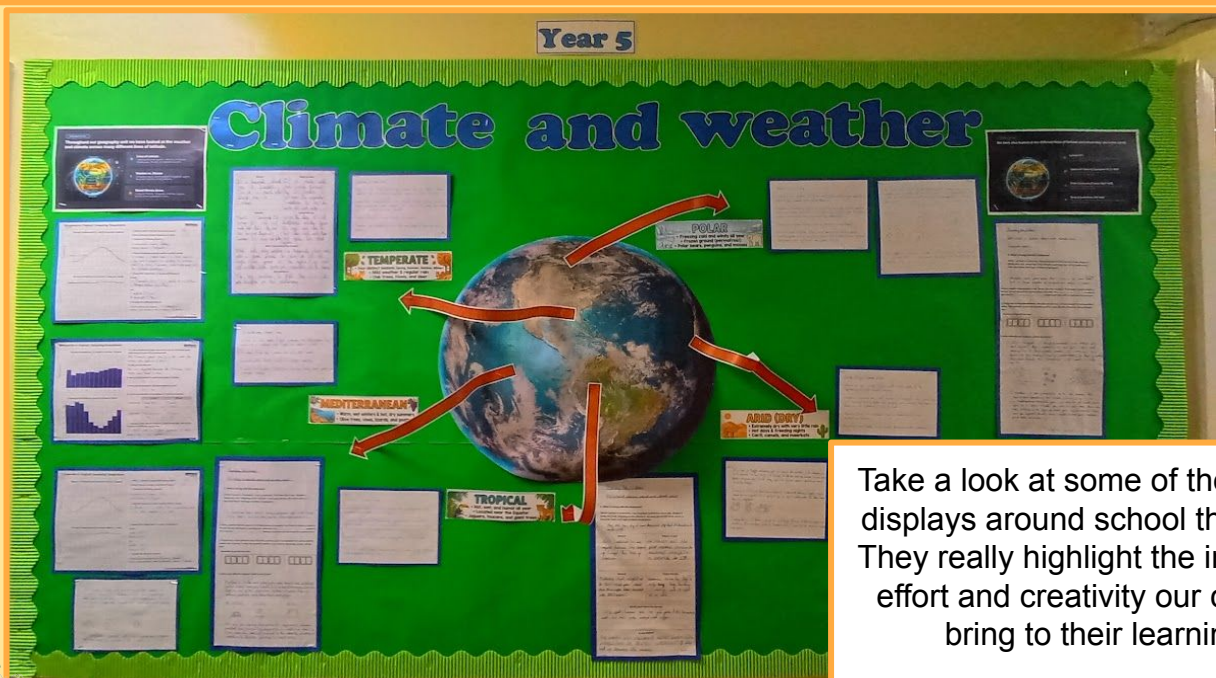
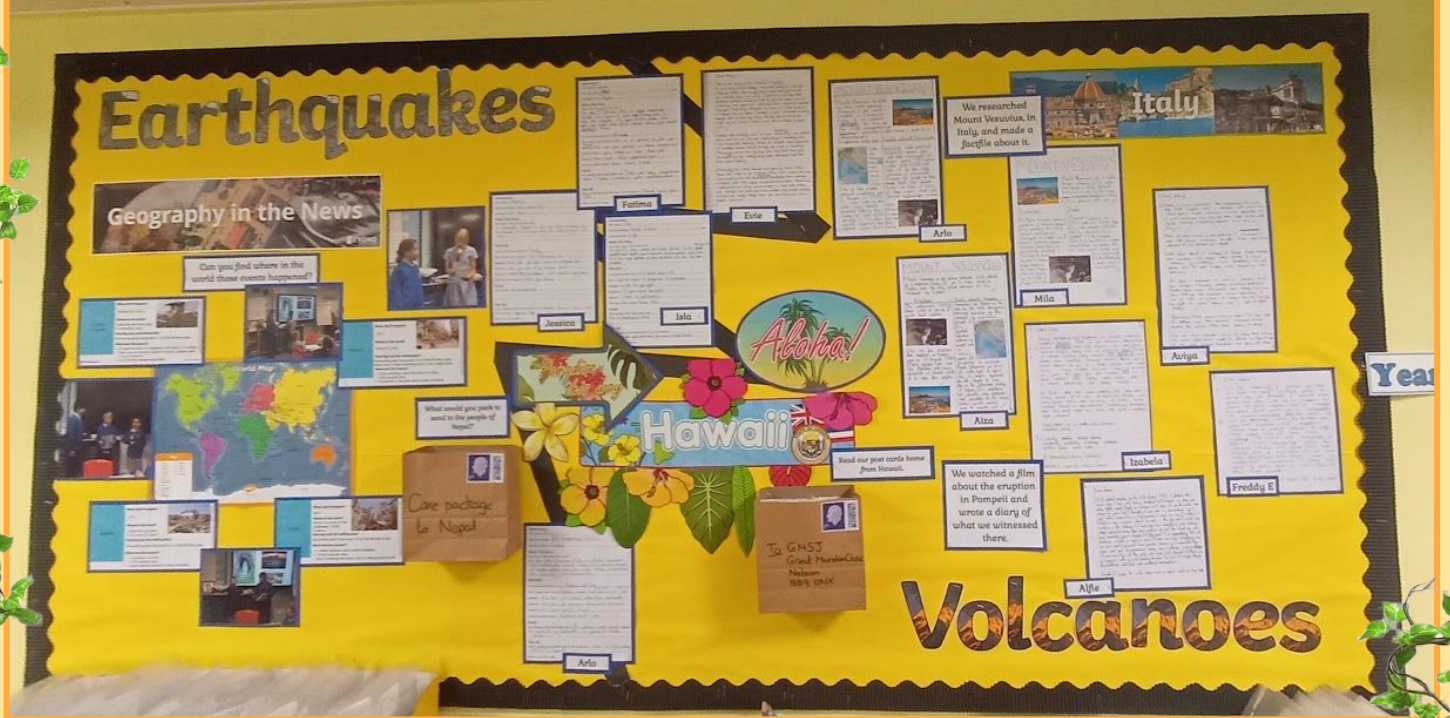


Some of
our
wonderful
learning in
Reception!



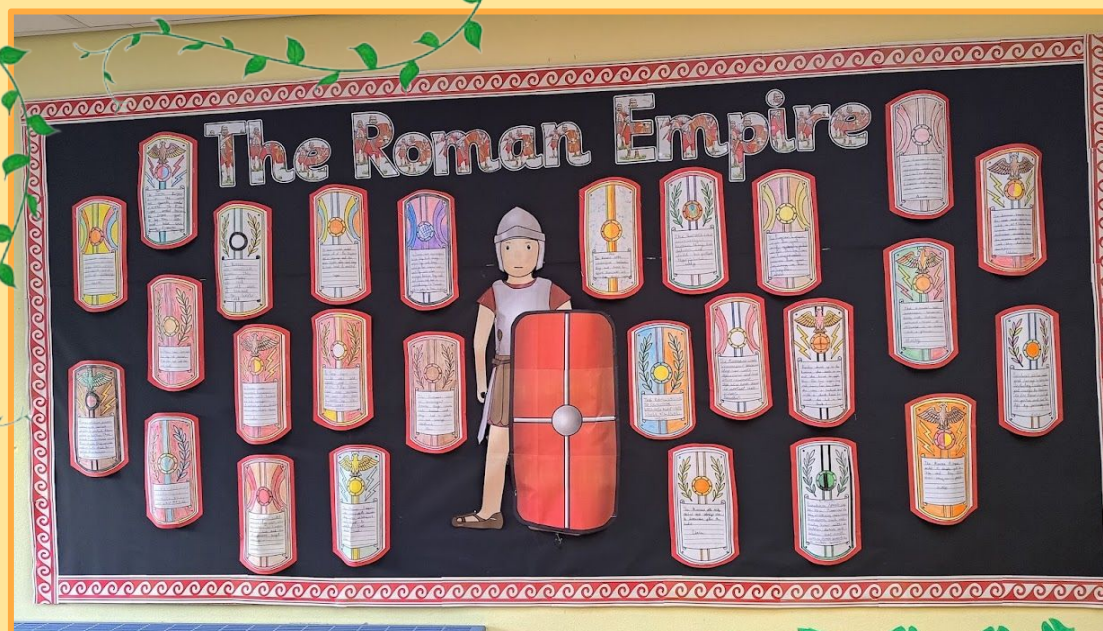
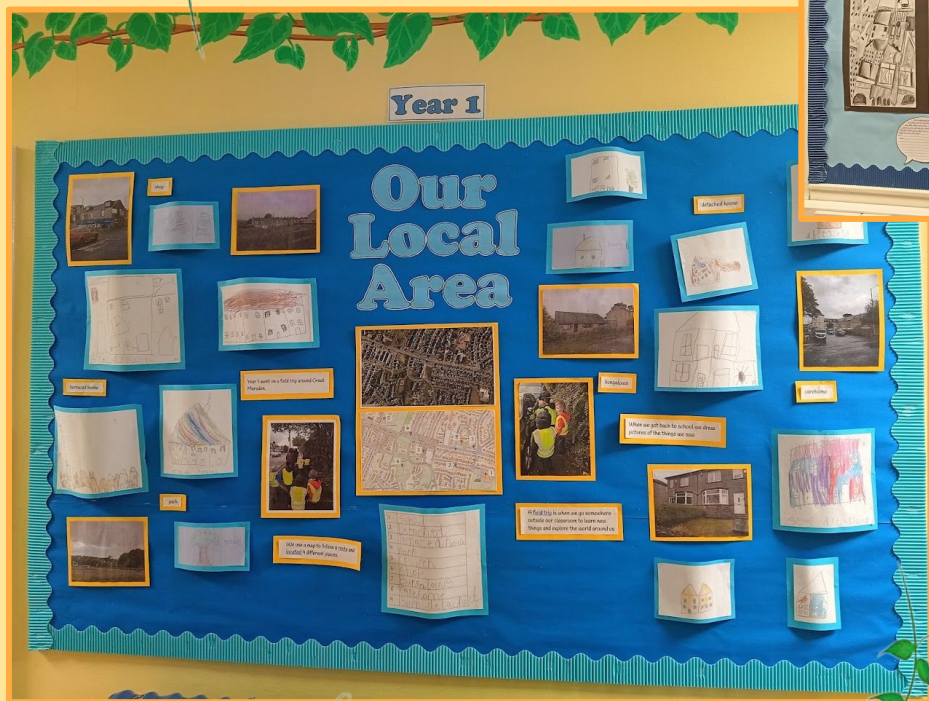
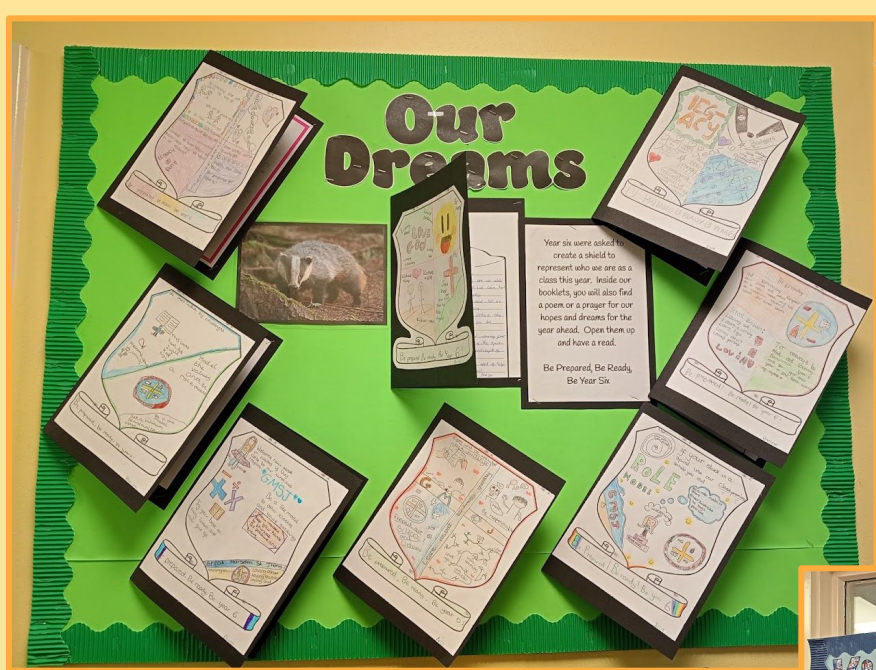
In RE we
learnt what
a disciple
is and who
was one!





Take a look at some of the brilliant displays around school this week! They really highlight the incredible effort and creativity our children bring to their learning.







After School Club

for children aged 4-11

We accept childcare
vouchers and Tax Free
Childcare!

**PALS After School Club is Opening:
at Great Marsden St John's, NELSON.**

Times:

8:00am-8:45am
3:30pm - 4:30pm
4:30pm - 5:30pm
3:30pm - 5:30pm
INCLUDES SNACK



Prices:

8:00am-8:45am £3.50
3:30pm - 4:30pm £7.00
4:30pm - 5:30pm £7.00
3:30pm - 5:30pm £10.00

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: FUN MULTI-SPORTS ACTIVITIES, LEGO
WORKSHOPS, CRAZY STEM ACTIVITIES, ERUPTING
VOLCANOES, ARTS AND CRAFTS, BAKING, PLUS MUCH MORE!**

COMPETITION worth £100!

**Register your child's details below and we will pick one
lucky winner to receive £100 worth of PALS vouchers.**

How to book;

Click or visit;

<https://pals.ipalbookings.com>

Click or scan here



Need help with your booking or have a question? Please contact us;



support@playandlearnscheme.com



07930 924993

**Parents and Carers,
tell us about your
experience of using school
age childcare in Lancashire**



**Scan the
QR code**

lancashire.gov.uk/childcare

