

Jerounds Journal

A newsletter for our school community - see what the pupils have been up to!

Our investment in OPAL: supporting high-quality play at school

By Mrs Laura Çiftçi, Head of School

More news... We are pleased to share that our school is investing in the **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Primary Programme**, a nationally recognised approach to improving the quality of play for all pupils.

OPAL is based on extensive research showing that children learn and thrive best when they have regular opportunities for **rich, varied and adventurous play**. Through this programme, we are developing our outdoor environments, play resources and staff practice so that playtimes are as valuable and inclusive as lessons in the classroom.

You may notice children engaging in more **open-ended and adventurous play**, such as building with loose parts, exploring natural materials, inventing games, and taking managed risks appropriate to their age. Please rest assured that adventurous play does not mean unsafe play. All activities are carefully planned and supervised, with a strong focus on risk awareness rather than risk avoidance. This helps children learn to make sensible decisions, build resilience, and develop confidence in themselves and others.

The benefits of high-quality play are wide-ranging. OPAL play supports:

- improved physical health and coordination
- stronger social skills, including cooperation and problem-solving
- increased independence, creativity and imagination
- better emotional wellbeing and readiness to learn

Importantly, OPAL promotes **inclusive play**, ensuring that every child has opportunities to be active, engaged and successful during playtimes, whatever their interests, abilities or year groups.

We are excited about the positive impact this investment will have on our pupils' happiness, development and enjoyment of school. Over time, we will share more information and invite you to see how OPAL play is developing in our school. Presently, key staff members are undergoing intensive training and experiencing the '**OPAL mindset**'.

As this provision unfolds we will be looking to host a parent forum - or '**think tank**' - whereby we may collect ideas and initiatives from our extensive parent community to further enhance our playground provision.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term holiday... full of family-fun time and reading!

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

World Book Day - Page 2
Nursery - Page 3-4
EYFS - Page 5-6
Year 1 - Page 7-8
Year 2 - Page 9-10
Year 3 - Page 11-12
Year 4 - Page 13-14
Year 5 - Page 15-16
Year 6 - Page 17-18
Attendance - Page 19-21
Follow us - Page 21
Contact us - Page 21

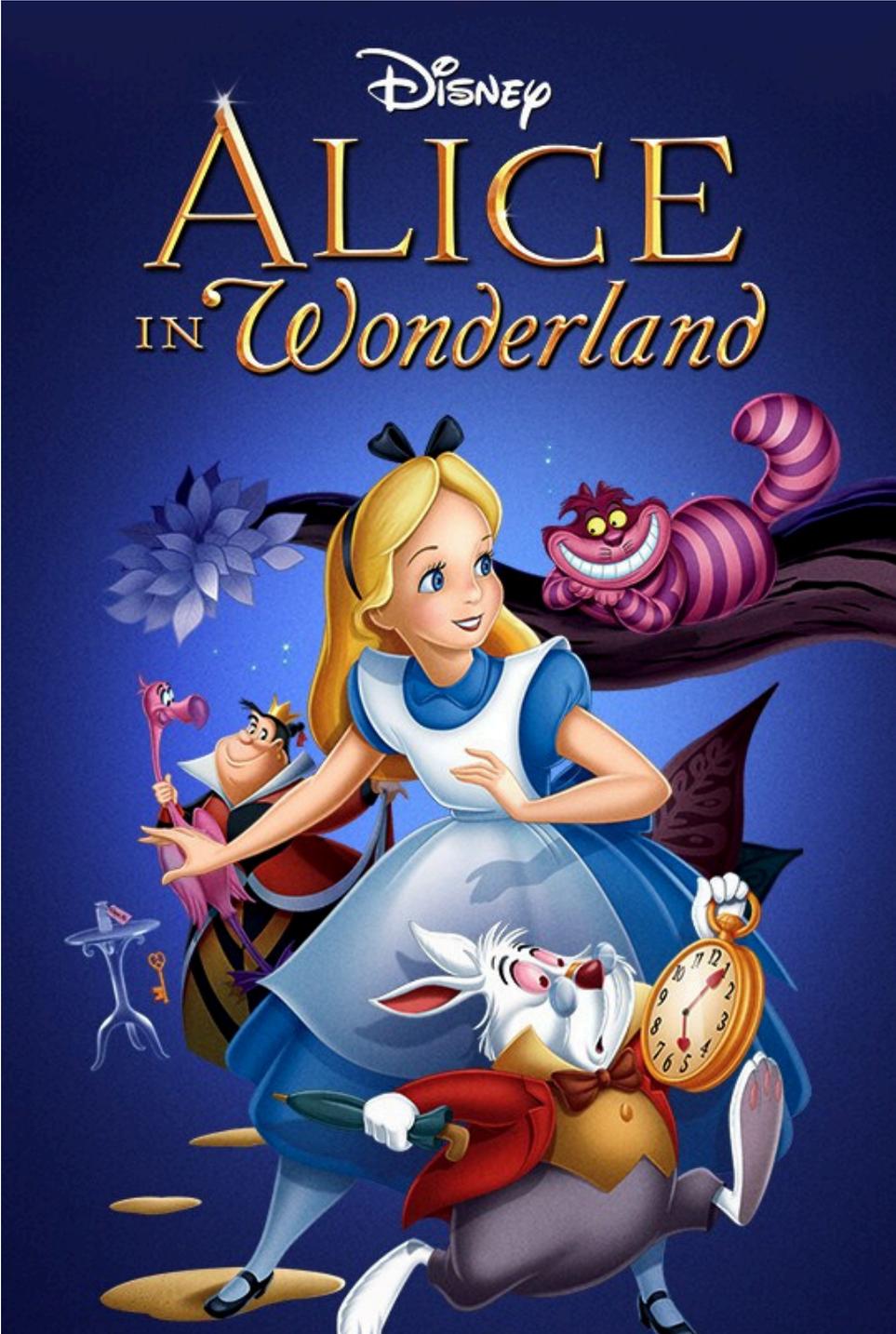




SAVE THE DATE.....

Thursday 5th March 2026

WORLD BOOK DAY!

A vibrant Disney movie poster for 'Alice in Wonderland'. Alice, with her signature blonde hair and blue dress, is the central figure. Surrounding her are the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, the King and Queen of Hearts, and the Mad Hatter. The title 'Disney ALICE IN Wonderland' is written in a mix of gold and white fonts against a dark blue background with a starry sky.

Disney ALICE IN *Wonderland*

Alice in Wonderland

"We're all mad here." –
Cheshire Cat

*"Curiouser and
curiouser!"* – Alice

*"Why, sometimes I've
believed as many as six
impossible things before
breakfast."* – White
Queen

"Off with their heads!" –
Queen of Hearts

*"You used to be much
more... muchier. You've
lost your muchness."* –
Mad Hatter

*"If everybody minded
their own business, the
world would go around a
great deal faster than it
does."* – Duchess

Nursery

By Mrs Balci

Nursery have had a fantastic few weeks, exploring the stories 'Colour Monster' and 'The tiger that came to tea'. The children created their own Colour Monsters, practised their threading skills and sorted objects to the correct colours.

Nursery also made jam sandwiches and practised their cutting skills, cutting out characters from the story. They have been practicing their communication and language skills by role playing and inviting their friends for 'tea'.

The children have been learning about patterns and created their own, using natural materials and finger painting.

They have had a fantastic first half term and have settled in so well. Thank you for all your support this half term and I hope you all have a restful break.



"Excuse me, but i'm very hungry. Do you think I could have tea with you?"

The Tiger Who Came to Tea





EYFS

By Miss Miles and Miss Merrington



The children in EYFS have continued to enjoy a busy and engaging few weeks of learning across the curriculum.

In Maths, we have been exploring doubles and number bonds to 8. The children have been using playdough to physically double amounts, carefully counting and matching groups to find doubles. We also looked at butterflies and noticed how their wings show doubles, which helped the children to visually recognise and talk about equal amounts. These hands-on experiences have supported their understanding in a practical and meaningful way.

In Literacy, our focus story has been *The Snail and the Whale*. The children have loved exploring the different types of transport used throughout the story and discussing the journey the characters go on. They have also shown wonderful imagination when thinking about what the snail might have said to the whale, developing their speaking skills and storytelling ideas.

"The sea is deep and the world is wide! How I long to sail!"

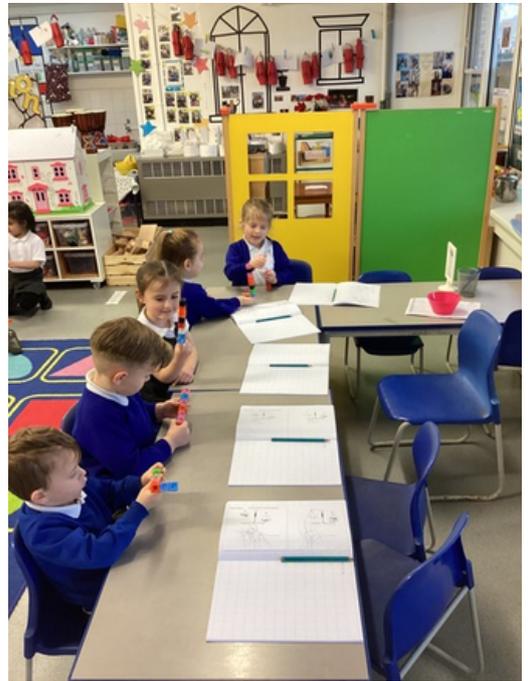
The Snail and the Whale

As part of Understanding the World, we have been exploring seascapes. The children experimented with mixing colours to create different shades of blue for our sea, observing how colours change when combined. We also looked at boats from the past and present, discussing how they have developed over time and how transport has changed.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity the children continue to show in their learning. We look forward to building on this over the coming weeks.

Wishing you all a lovely half term spent with families and friends.

EYFS Team



Year 1

By Miss Compton and Miss Micheli



What a phenomenal half term we've had!

From our fantastic art workshop in preparation for World Book Day, the children have shown huge enthusiasm, creativity and pride in their work. It has been wonderful to see them so engaged and excited about their learning.

In English, the children are in the final stages of Talk for Writing and are now moving confidently into their independent writing. We have been extremely impressed by their creativity and resilience as they develop their ideas, and they are truly beginning to shine as budding authors.

In Maths, the children have been exploring counting in 2s and 5s, using a wide range of practical resources in the classroom. This hands-on approach has supported their understanding and helped build confidence with number patterns.

In Geography, we have come to the end of our unit on the United Kingdom. The children have enjoyed learning about the countries that make up the UK and developing their understanding of maps and key features.

We hope the children enjoy a well-deserved rest over the half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming them back refreshed and ready for the next half term of learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.





Year 2

By Mr Ripa and Miss Tonge

With Week 6 completed, the children have once again showcased their brilliant skills as individuals, consistently demonstrating our school values both inside and outside the classroom!



English

This week, the children have written their very own independent diary entries and we could not be prouder of their efforts. They have shown fantastic creativity, filling their writing with wonderful ideas and ambitious vocabulary. It has been particularly pleasing to see them confidently using commas in lists to add detail and clarity to their work. The progress in both their independence and technical accuracy has been fantastic to see and their personalities have really shone through in their writing.

Maths

In maths, the children have been exploring fractions of an amount. They have been using their multiplication and division knowledge to help them find fractions confidently and accurately. To support their understanding, they have used interlocking cubes to represent amounts pictorially, helping them to see how quantities can be shared into equal groups. This hands-on approach has strengthened their reasoning skills and deepened their understanding of how multiplication and division link directly to fractions.

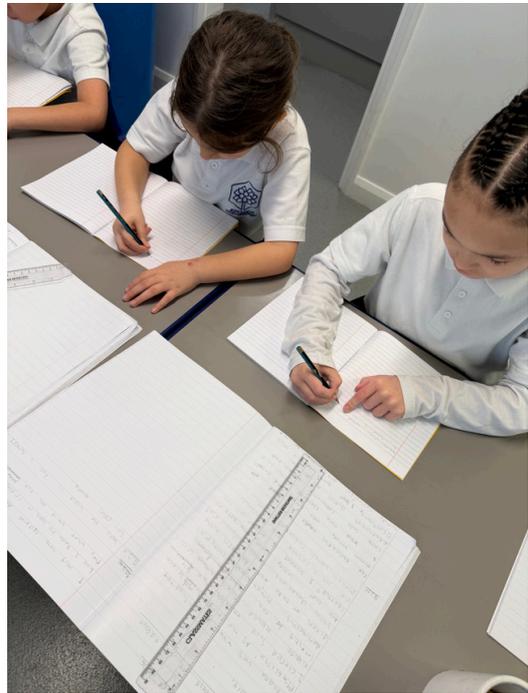
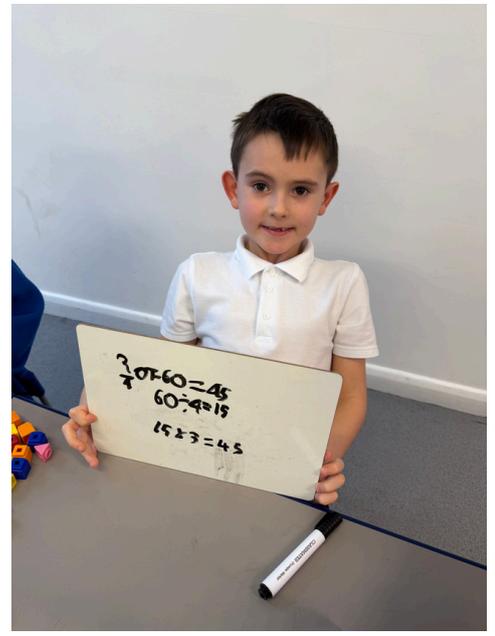
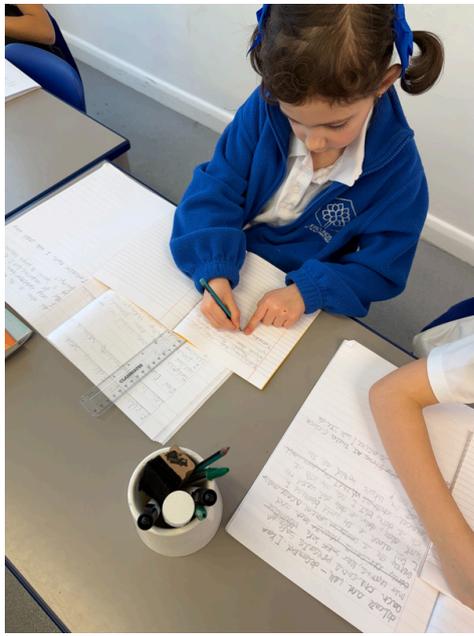
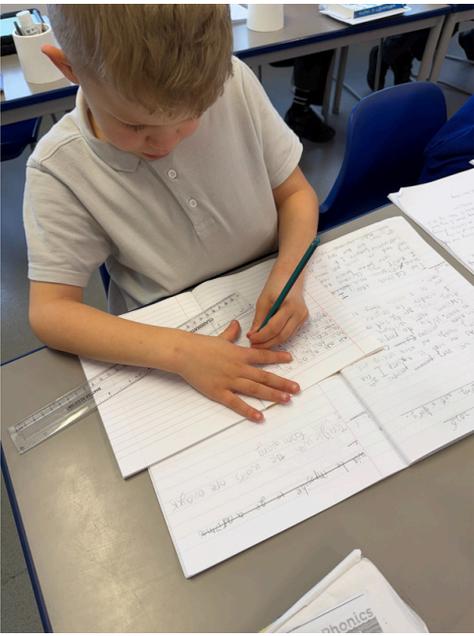
Guided Reading

In guided reading, the children have been captivated by a text about sheep, camels and llamas. They have been developing their retrieval and inference skills, tackling challenging questions with enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see them holding onto key information while applying metacognitive strategies to support their thinking. Their growing confidence and ability to reason with the text has been a joy to witness.

Reminders

- **With the weather changing, please ensure your child brings a coat to school each day.**
 - **All clothing and belongings, including water bottles, should be clearly labelled with names or initials, as many popular items look very similar.**
 - **Children are encouraged to use Numbots regularly and to complete a minimum of three EdShed spelling games each week before their Friday spelling test.**
 - **Daily reading aloud is essential and reading diaries should be signed at least three times per week.**
 - **Children should be practising their tables on TT Rockstars in the 'Garage' section.**





Year 3

By Miss Ahmad and Miss Chrzanowska



Just like that, we have completed Spring 1! It has been a very busy and productive half term, and the children have worked incredibly hard.

In English, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed writing their own adverts inspired by our George's Marvellous Medicine unit. The children impressed us with their creativity and enthusiasm. They included features such as alliteration, persuasive language, rhetorical questions and exciting vocabulary to make their adverts really engaging. It has been wonderful to see their confidence in writing continue to grow.

In Maths, we have just finished our topic on geometry. The children have been learning about different types of angles, identifying parallel and perpendicular lines, and recognising 2D and 3D shapes. They have worked hard to apply their reasoning skills to solve a range of problems.

We have now completed our Geography topic on Egypt, where the children learned about the location of Egypt, the River Nile and key human and physical features. Next term, we will be switching to History and diving deeper into Ancient Egypt, where we will explore what life was like thousands of years ago.

In Science, we continued exploring forces and magnets. The children enjoyed investigating how magnets work and testing different materials to find out whether they are magnetic or non-magnetic. They also explored how magnets attract and repel each other. There was lots of hands-on learning and great scientific thinking!

Reminders

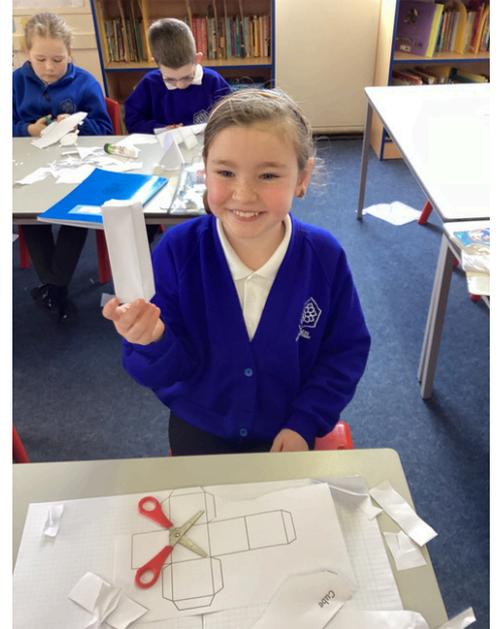
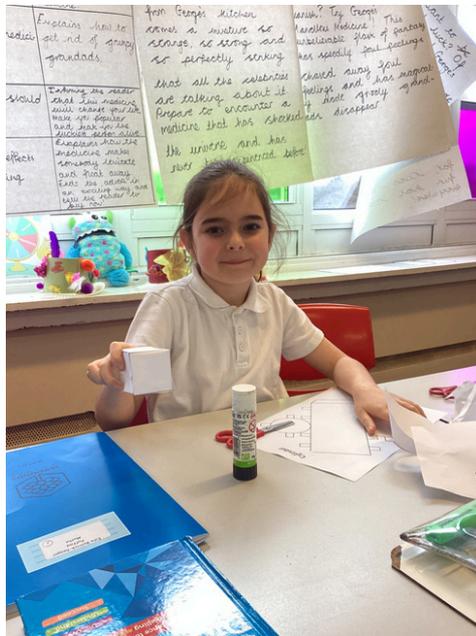
- Please don't forget to continue reading over the half term to earn extra Dojos and keep
- Building fluency and comprehension skills. As well as regular spelling practice and TTRS



Thank you for all of your continued support and for the hard work you put in at home. We are very proud of the children and all they have achieved this half term.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term break!





Year 4

By Mrs Brodie and Mrs Clark-Moran



Where has this first half term gone? It truly has flown by, and we are incredibly proud of all that Year 4 have achieved in such a short space of time.

In **English**, pupils have been immersing themselves in the exciting world of adventure stories, drawing inspiration from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Both classes have demonstrated wonderful imagination and creativity in their writing. They have carefully crafted their own innovative adventure stories, independently planning and developing plots filled with suspense and tension in their independent stories as well. From mysterious sweet factories to eerie haunted houses, their storytelling has truly brought their ideas to life.

Next half term, we will be exploring The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. This will lead us into writing our own newspaper reports, where pupils will focus on formal language, structure and presenting information clearly for a specific audience.

In **Maths**, we have been learning about multiplication and division and exploring how we can apply these skills to solve real-life problems. We have also been developing our understanding of area and perimeter, looking closely at how they differ and how to use each one effectively when working out the size or boundary of a shape.

In **Science**, we have been continuing our learning on States of Matter. Pupils have been developing their skills in prediction, observation and drawing conclusions through a range of practical investigations and experiments. We are particularly looking forward to celebrating curiosity during this year's Science Week, where children will be encouraged to generate their own scientific questions and design investigations to explore them.

Reminders

As we move into the half-term break, we kindly remind you to continue supporting regular reading at home. Reading widely and frequently makes a significant difference to progress.

Homework platforms, including TTRS and EdShed, will resume after the break.



Finally, thank you to all parents and carers who attended parents' evening. It was a pleasure to share and discuss the children's hard work and progress with you. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

We wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term.





Year 5



By Miss Howland and Mrs Hyde

Ravens and Falcons have had another busy fortnight, filled with lots of learning to end the half term..

In English, the children have completed our instructions unit, completing a set of instructions describing how to prepare for school in the morning. They have been keen to share their work across the classes this half term and have produced some wonderful pieces of writing - which we are sure you enjoyed reading during parent consultations.

We attended the Wonderland Art Workshop organised by Mrs Clark-Moran and the art council. The children have made pocket-watches, which they will showcase during World Book Day. They found the task quite challenging but really enjoyed pushing themselves to make items they are really proud of. They will finish them on the day before parading their costumes.

Reminders

- **Falcons PE sessions** are Monday and Wednesday.
- **Ravens PE sessions** are Wednesday and Friday. Children need to come into school in appropriate PE kit for the time of year.
- Children should be bringing to school a warm, waterproof coat every day. We are outside frequently, and appropriate clothing makes a big difference.
- Children should be bringing a water bottle to school every day.
- **Homework** is due each Friday:

3 x spelling shed games

TTRS set games

3x reading per week



Some key dates for your diaries:

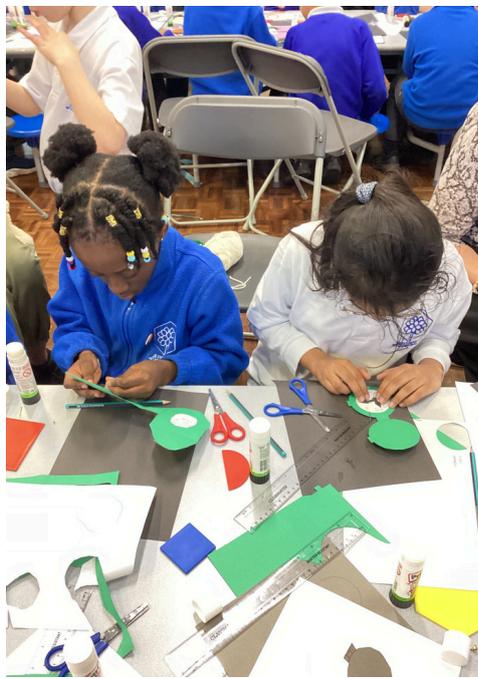
- **Thursday 5th March:** World Book Day (Alice in Wonderland themed)
- **Tuesday 17th March:** Harlow Museum visit (Victorians) - DATE CHANGE
- **Wednesday 25th March:** Visit to Stewards Academy to watch their production of "Grease"
- **Thursday 16th July:** Visit to Essex Outdoors in Harlow

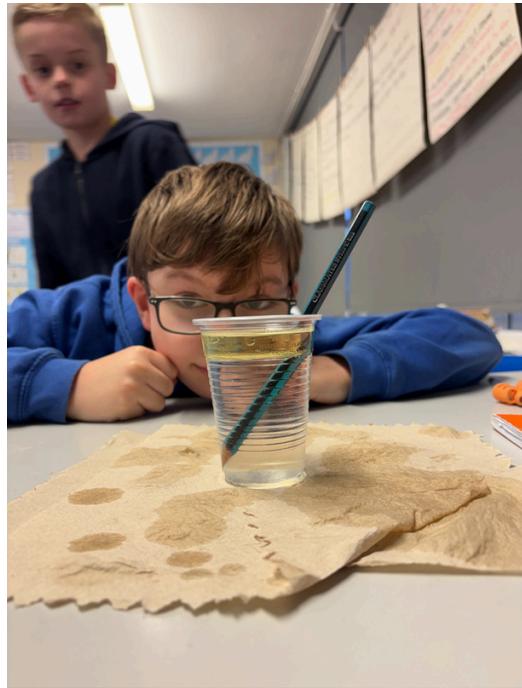
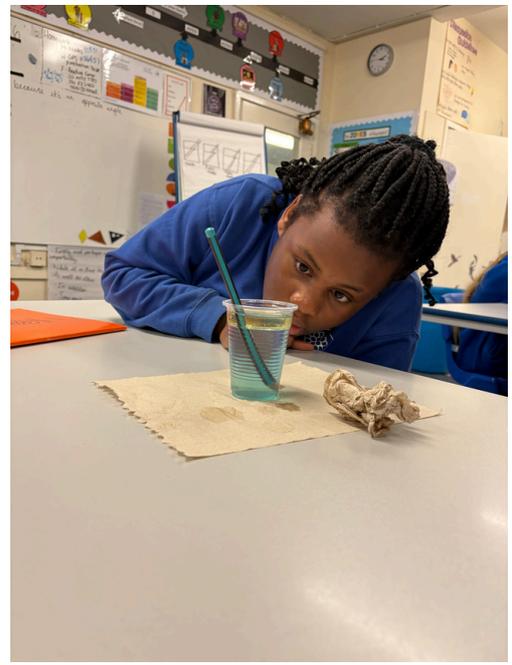
(Please do let us know via the office if you are able to accompany us on either of the visits. Without sufficient adult support, we will be unable to go ahead with the trips. Thank you to those who have already let us know of their attendance).

In Science, the children have looked at reversible and irreversible changes. Acting as scientists, the children sorted different processes as to whether or not they can be reversed. Ravens class even had a go at toasting some bread and melting some chocolate, making predictions before testing them.

Our History unit on the Victorians concluded with a debate: was the Victorian era a Golden or dark age? The children planned good arguments for both sides and were confident in building on/challenging the ideas of others.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Next half term is shaping up to be a busy one - we hope you enjoy a restful break ready for Spring 2.





Is my child too ill for school?

Please take a look at the following NHS guidance on childhood illnesses.

What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms	➤	Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat	➤➤	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)	➤➤	Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards	●	GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before	➤➤	GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)	➤➤	GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)	➤➤	Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness	●	GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash	●	GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty	➤➤	Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm	➤➤	GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash	●	GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus	➤➤	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day	➤➤	Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'	●	GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Working in partnership with

Should my child go to school/nursery today?
Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information
<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers>



Is my child too ill for school?

Our attendance ladder also shows how absences affect your child's learning:

Categorising attendance and learning hours lost

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance (days)	Whole days absent	Lost learning hours	Level of concern
Excellent	100%	190	0	0	Green
	99%	188	2	10	
Good	98%	186	4	20	Green
	97%	184	6	30	
	96%	182.5	7.5	37.5	
Cause for concern	95%	180.5	9.5	47.5	Orange
	94%	179	11	55	
	93%	177	13	65	
	92%	175	15	75	
	91%	173	17	85	
Unsatisfactory	90%	171	19	95	Red
	89%	169	21	105	
	88%	167	23	115	
	87%	165	25	125	
	86%	163	27	135	
Critical	85%	161.5	28.5	142.5	Red
	84%	159.5	30.5	152.5	
	83%	158	32	160	
	82%	156	34	170	
	81%	154	36	180	
	80%	152	38	190	



Attendance Champions!

1st: Kingfishers - 97.5%

2nd: Wrens - 97.2%

3rd: Sparrows - 97.0%

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Contact us...



If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please contact the school office:



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