

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

February 23

Spring Newsletter

from St Peter's
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has been full of the joy of learning. By far the most wonderful part of working in our school is celebrating success with our learners. It has felt like this term has been a continuous stream of delighted children beaming with pride about their work. I will never tire of sharing in that joy of success - and unpicking mistakes made as children strive for improvements with determination and resilience. This is a golden thread at St Peter's – marvellous mistakes that can lead to glorious success. I have seen children breaking down barriers in their maths to overcome areas of their learning

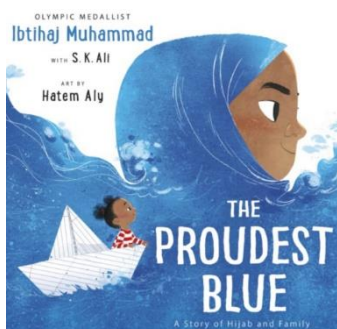


that would have felt insurmountable to them at the start of the year. A question I often ask the children in these circumstances is 'what made you successful this time?' and the inevitable response is always 'practice'!

As always, children at St Peter's are bursting with energy to show off their incredible writing, art, learning in history, science and geography. I have been 'blown away' by the rapid progress made by children in Year 5 in their trumpet sessions and the passion that this ignites for learning music. I have delighted in welcoming 21 children into my office every week for 'books and biscuits and thoroughly enjoyed hearing them celebrate all that they have done to show excellence over the week.

A hugely important piece of work across the school this term has been our work on the zones of regulation. Thank you to Mrs Hunt and Mrs McCullough for sharing our work in this area with so many parents – I know that many children are explaining to adults about how we use this in school and that has even led to some of our children helping adults to use and understand our zones of regulation at home - even highlighting when we might be in the blue or red zone! Emotional literacy for our children is of huge importance and the work that we have undertaken in this area cannot be understated. This has been complemented by our wider curriculum this week and an extensive focus on children's mental health week. This has included a collective worship for the whole school delivered by our mental health & wellbeing leaders, key work on keeping safe online and has culminated in our 'keeping safe' family day today, where we have welcomed many visiting experts from our local emergency services – including animals! My thanks go out to them all for coming into school and the invaluable work that they do to keep our community safe.





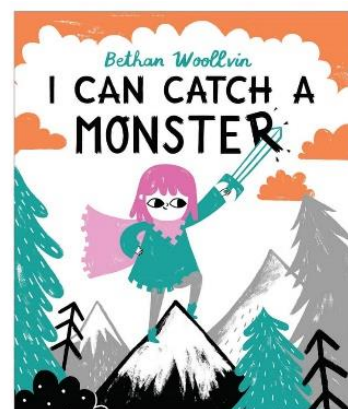
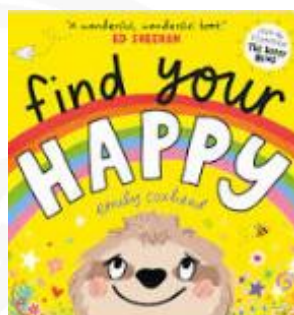
In our Monday collective worship, we have been reading some beautiful stories linked to the British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, and Individual Liberty. We have been inspired by so many of these stories, like 'The Proudest Blue' and children have spoken enthusiastically about their feelings and connections with these texts, drawing on so many aspects which contribute to the values that we also hold dear in being a 'St Peter's Citizen'. I look forward to sharing more of these stories later in the year. Next term, we will begin thinking about Lent as we move into this important time in the Christian calendar.

Finally, you may have heard from our Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6 children that we have invested in some stunning new tables for the lunch hall. We know that lunchtimes are a key time for socialising as well as enjoying lunch and we are delighted that we have been able to invest in something that has not only improved the look and feel of our lunch hall but has enabled more children to talk to their friends in a 'banquet' style setting. This has made a massive difference and so many children have been delighted at the new arrangements. We are awaiting our second delivery soon and will be able to also offer this to years 2,4 and 5 soon!



As we move into the half term break, the dark nights are steadily moving behind us. This week, the sun has started to break through the misty mornings and, despite the cold, spring is clearly on the horizon. My best wishes to you all for a sunny and restful half term break.

Catrin Battista



Some of our texts from
books and biscuits this term

Reception

Despite being a relatively short term, Reception have achieved a lot over the last six weeks. We have now completed Phase 3 of our Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme and have started mastering all of our new sounds. The hard work continues to really consolidate these GPCs into our long-term memory!



This term, we have enjoyed all things space related. This has included: listening to stories from astronauts in space, learning space facts from encyclopaedias, creating rockets from junk modelling and much more! To end the term with a 'big bang', we celebrated all our learning in a WOW day that was out of this world!



The introduction of 'Mystery Readers' has been a great success in Reception as well. We have absolutely loved welcoming parents/carers into the classroom to share both their, and their child's, favourite book. Not only has this created awe and wonder around reading but has also contributed towards our value of belonging. We look forward to continuing 'Mystery Readers' in Term 4.

From all the staff in Reception, we hope you have a well-deserved break over the half term.

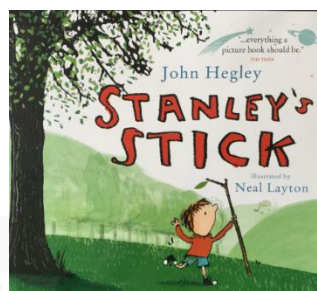




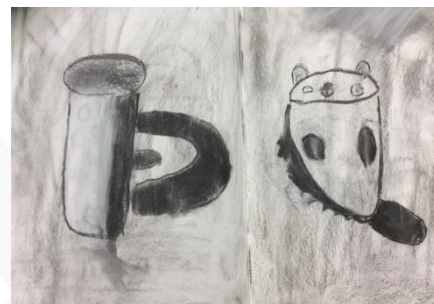
Year 1

English – Stanley's Stick

In our English lessons, we have been reading the book 'Stanley's Stick' by John Hegley. We spent time learning the main events of the narrative using a story map. Once we had secured this learning, we then innovated the story to 'Peggy's Pebble'. Following the same sequence as Stanley's Stick, we then wrote the story with our new ideas. It is our first piece of story writing in Year 1. We are all very proud of what we have achieved, so please do ask us about it!



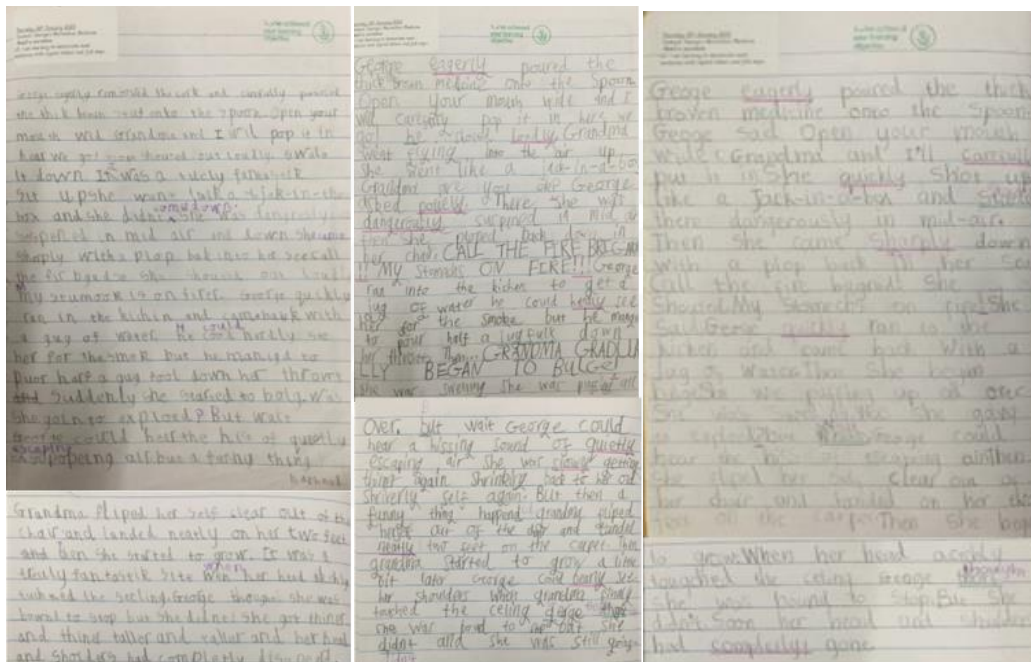
Art – Drawing Through Stories



In Art this term, we have been developing our observational drawing skills by using charcoal. Inspired by the artist Joseph Wright, we started by making marks using charcoal. We discovered that charcoal was very different to mark making with pencils, as we could smudge and rub its residue to create different effects. We also noticed that it was a useful tool to use when creating light and dark tones on a page. After creating our own story scene full of light and dark tones, we then used our observational drawing skills to sketch it onto paper. We even wrote a sentence to explain our story idea.

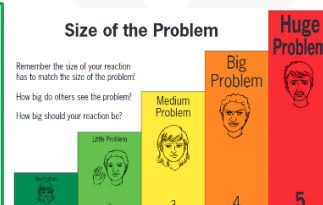
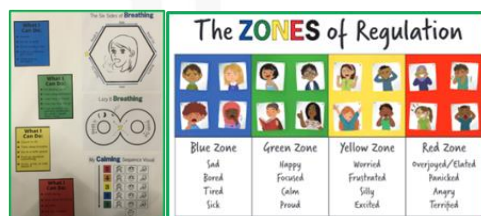
A cartoon illustration of a young boy with blonde hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and blue pants. He is holding a brown glass bottle in his right hand and pouring its contents into a glass held in his left hand. The bottle has a white label with some illegible text. The background is plain white.

This term, Year 2 have had a great time exploring the story of 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. We have written character descriptions about George's very grumpy Grandma and have designed our own marvellous medicine, writing instructions about how to make it. Our most excellent piece of writing this term was retelling the chapter 'Grandma Gets the Medicine'. Look out for our use of expert story language and how we have used adverbs to add interest...



As a school we have been exploring 'Zones of Regulation'. We have learned how we feel in each zone and have looked at 'tools' we can use to help us re-regulate when our emotions become unsettled.

Me in the BLUE ZONE	Me in the GREEN ZONE	Me in the YELLOW ZONE	Me in the RED ZONE
			
<p>My face and body clues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>sad down</u> <u>crying</u> 	<p>My face and body clues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>head up</u> <u>smiling</u> 	<p>My face and body clues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>sideways</u> <u>double to one foot</u> 	<p>My face and body clues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>feeling hot</u> <u>not heat</u>

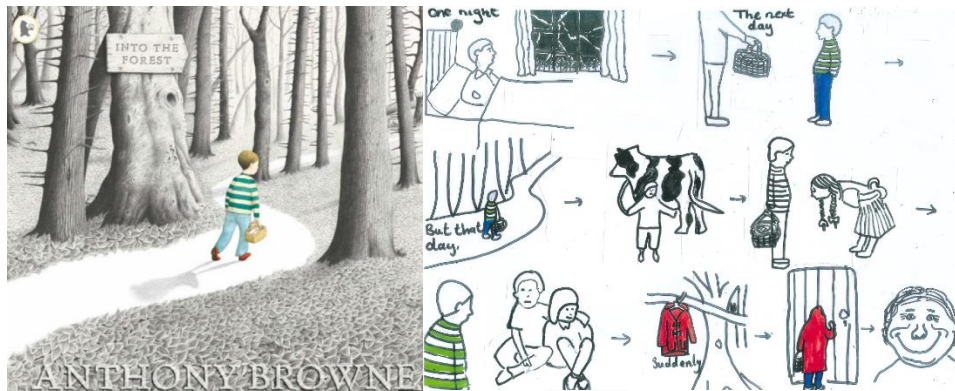


Year 3

It may have been a short term but we have learned a lot in just a few weeks!

English

In our English lessons, we have been enjoying the book *Into the Forest* by Anthony Browne. We looked very carefully for the links to different fairy tales before retelling the story. We have innovated the story and included different characters including an ugly troll, wicked witch and menacing wolf. We have been working on improving our expanded noun phrases and we are working towards achieving our special handwriting licences. Ask your child if they can retell the story using the story map below.



Art

Art has been great fun for and we have been lucky to have our expert artist, Miss Phippen, who has helped us to develop our observational drawing skills and use clay to create sculptures. We developed clay skills, including pinching and scoring, and used these creations to create a collaborative sculpture inspired by Anthony Gormley's 'Field For The British Isles'.



Year 3 Artists



Anthony Gormley



We then applied these skills to design and sculpt our own Canopic jars. The Canopic jar lids were inspired by Charlotte Mary Pack's animal sculptures.

Science

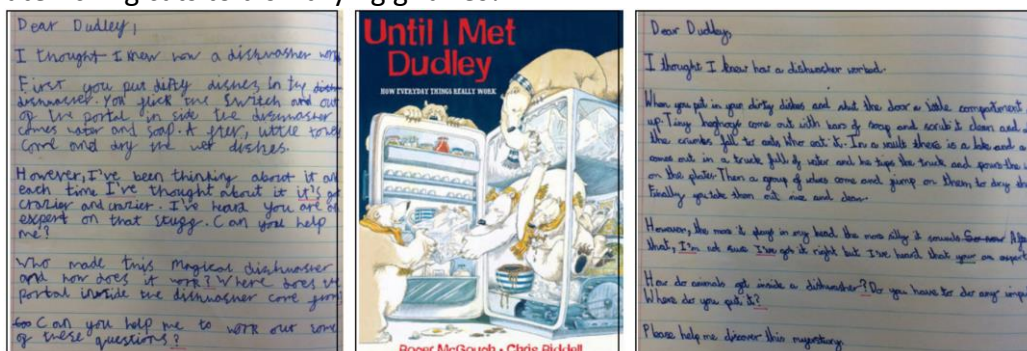
In our science learning, we have been learning all about rocks, fossils and soil. We have had a focus on working scientifically during our investigations. We have observed carefully and tested rocks for durability and permeability. We are starting to learn about fair testing where you only change the thing you are testing and keep everything else the same. The children enjoyed learning about fossils and looking at some too. Watch out for your own fossils when you explore the beaches!





Year 4

In our English work this term, we have really enjoyed our work based on the book *Until I Met Dudley*. In the book, Dudley is an expert on appliances and we have learned some challenging concepts, like how a dishwasher really works. We particularly enjoyed writing our own letters to Dudley, explaining some imaginative ways that we thought of for how a dishwasher or our digestive systems might work – ideas ranged from plate-licking cats to dish-drying giraffes!



In science, we have been learning about the processes of evaporation and condensation. In our experiments, we have explored what happens when we float chocolate buttons above hot water, how quickly ice cubes melt, and how long it takes for beakers of water to evaporate when placed in different areas of our classrooms.



During our geography lessons, we've been learning about different countries in Europe and their capital cities and landmarks. We made some *Top Trumps* style cards with information about these countries, including their populations. Later in the term, we learnt about emigration and the experiences of refugees (including some famous ones, like Mo Farah and Judith Kerr – the author of *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*).

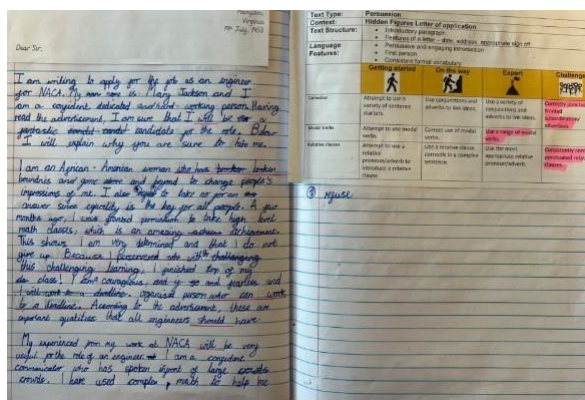
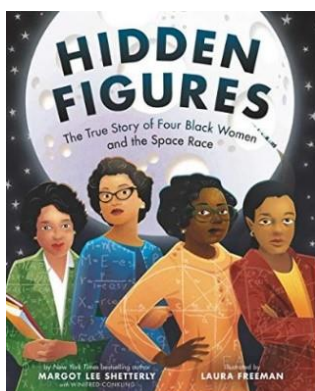


Finally, these are just some of the books we've enjoyed reading in our classes this term.

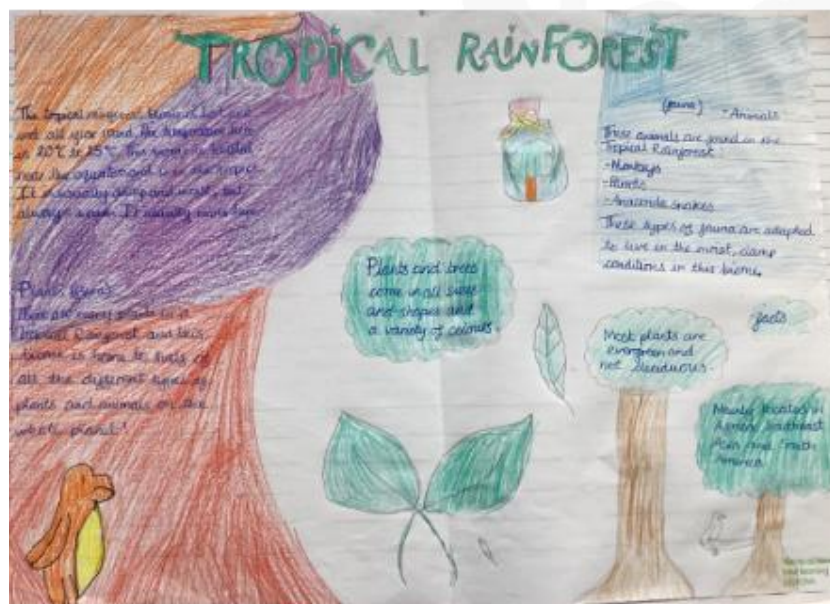


Year 5

This term in Year 5, we have been reading the book *Hidden Figures*, which is all about African American women and the Space Race. We loved the story of these inspirational women in history and this inspired some superb writing. Some of the children's letters of application would certainly get them a job engineering space shuttles! We have also used our legacy text 'Politics for Beginners' to inspire us to write informative guides to democracy in the UK. We have had a great time thinking back to our trip to the Houses of Parliament and how this brought our learning to life.

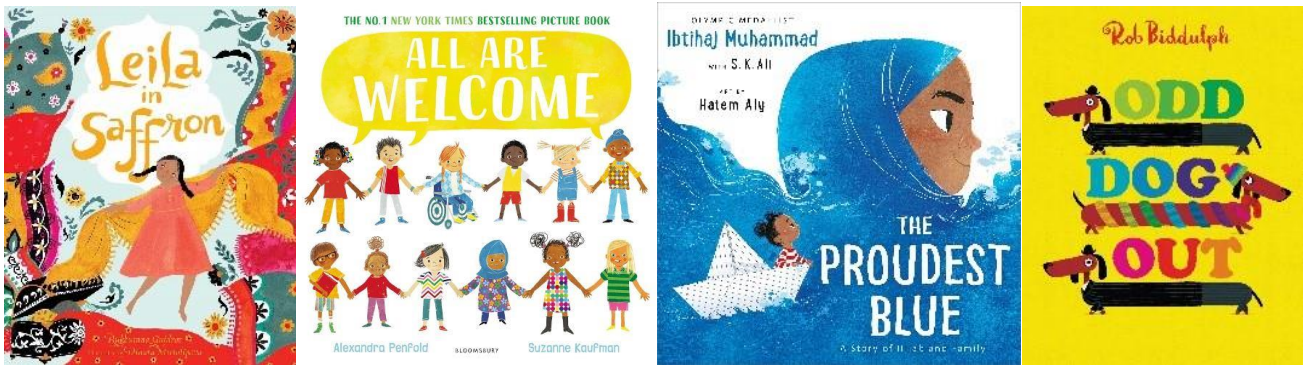


Our geography learning this term has been all about biomes. We produced some beautiful information pages to show off all of our amazing learning as geographers!



Our art this term has been based around Tudor portraits. We studied symbolism and learnt how to draw the proportions of faces using different portraits of Elizabeth I. We have begun painting these and adding lots of detail.

In class worship, we have been exploring the value of 'Acceptance' and we have read some beautiful stories to support this. Some examples below were responses to the books we have read.



'Dear God, Thank you
 for making us all
 unique. No matter who
 we are, we are all
 welcome here. Amen'

'Even if you are
 different, you still
 belong.'

'Accept others
 and they will
 accept you.'

In science, we have been learning all about space. When we learned about the phases of the moon, we used Oreos to create a visual to remind us of the order in which the 8 phases come!





Year 6

This term, Year 6 have been learning about the life of Anne Frank. We loved carrying out our own research in order to write some amazing and informative biographies. This has inspired us to learn more about her life through reading a variety of other books outside of school.

Anne Frank biography

A surprisingly average Jew's beginning
Anneliese Marie Frank, who is well known as Anne, was born into a family of three on the 12th June 1929. She was born on the outskirts of Frankfurt Germany where she lived a surprisingly average beginning to her troubled life. While living with her mother - Edith Frank - her father - Otto Frank - and her sister - Margot Frank, she enjoyed playing with her few toys, riding her bike and going to the seaside. Within the first five years of this young girl's life, Hitler began to gain power.

Hitler's rise to power
Hitler had started to blame Jews for World War One and was beginning to make rules against them. Many Jewish people had already lost their jobs due to Hitler gaining more power. In 1933, Otto Frank left the family's apartment to flee to Amsterdam. Soon after, the rest of the family moved to Amsterdam with him where he had started a business, which he did not know would soon be taken away from him. In May 1940, the Germans invaded the Netherlands and quickly made life extremely restrictive for Jewish people: they were not allowed to go to ponds, parks or cinemas and children - just like Anne had to go to different schools. This is when Anne had started going to a Jewish school called 6th Montessori. In addition, anyone over the age of 6 years had to wear a yellow star on all pieces of clothing that they own. It would say "Jood" on it.

The secret Annex
On the 5th July 1942, Margot (Anne's older sister) had received a letter which said that she had to leave home to go to a labour camp: she was the same age. Like many other Jews, the Frank family did not want to send her

away so they had decided to go into hiding. Before leaving, the family left a false trail suggesting they had fled to Switzerland. Otto had already been setting up a place for them to stay behind the business offices he had worked at as a company director. This was named the secret annex. They were later joined by four other Jews - Hermann, Auguste, Fritz and Peter who Anne would later find out was her last love. Surprisingly, the annex was very hygienic and tidy because every week, on a Sunday, they would work together to clean it especially the toilet. A typical day in the annex would be extremely boring and mostly boring for young, innocent Anne. Trying her hardest, she would be silent most of the day so they would not get discovered by the Germans. Every night, Anne's diary, which was given to her for her 13th birthday, was written in and in it she would write her most secret and passionate feelings about her new every day life.

An early end
After spending 761 days in the Annex, all eight Jews were discovered due to someone telling the Germans where they were. October 1944 - after being found - Anne and Margot were sent to a concentration camp together. Edith, their mother, was the first to die because of typhus. Surviving only one month more than her, Margot and Anne died between February and March 1945 due to typhus as well. Young Anne was aged 15 when she passed away and her sister was at the age 19. Her father was the only Frank family member to survive and when he was free from labour camp he decided to get Anne's diary published and it is now translated into over 70 different languages. One of her famous quotes was 'Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart.'

Wednesday 1st February 2023
What challenges can a growing population present?

KIBERA SLUMS

(Biggest slums in the world of Africa!)

and the challenges they face.

Where's Kibera?
Kibera is in Nairobi which is the capital of Kenya (Africa).

UNSTABLE
UNCLEAN
UNSAFE
UNHEALTHY
UNHYGIENE

POPULATION OF SLUM = 1.2 million and 100,000 children are orphans.

75% of the population are below 18.

LACK OF HEALTHCARE!!!

Water is very unclean and can cause disease. When there was a large shortage of water people even went to get water from the river.

Only 10% have electricity.

10 people use 1 toilet.

In geography, we have been learning all about the world's population, including the factors which cause population increase and decrease and the impacts of a growing population in Mexico, UK, Kenya and India. We have become experts at using our key vocabulary to talk like geographers.

Playleaders

Our break and lunch times continue to be filled with fun and the children are loving using the play equipment. Thank you to the play leaders who have been encouraging children to participate in a wide variety of games and supporting with play. It has been lovely to see children from different year groups playing together. The children have continued to enjoy their weekly mile, especially now the weather is becoming warmer. We have noticed how successful this has been in improving levels of concentration in the classroom. Next term, we also have some exciting sports events taking place. There will be the annual swimathon at Parish Wharf on the 25th March. More information on this will follow shortly.



Librarians and House Captains

Book Fair

We were so pleased to see the return of the Book Fair to St Peter's this week! House Captains and Pupil Librarians did a fantastic job of helping to set up and sell the books after school. Thank you so much to everyone who came to buy books and raise money for the school at the same time. Thanks to your generosity and support, we have raised around £1,000 which will be used to buy more new and inspiring books for our class reading collections and library.

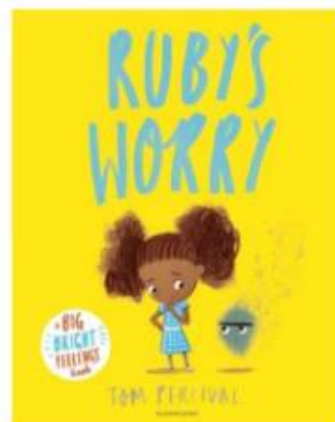
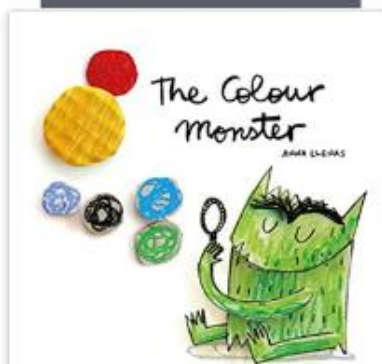
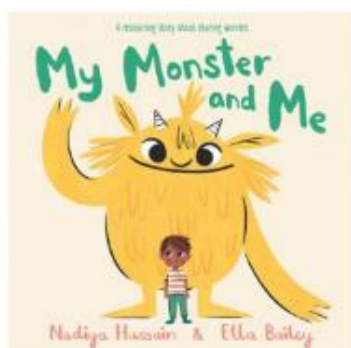
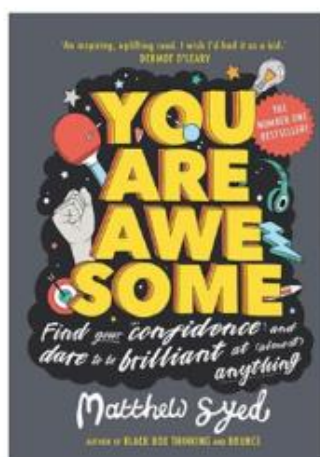
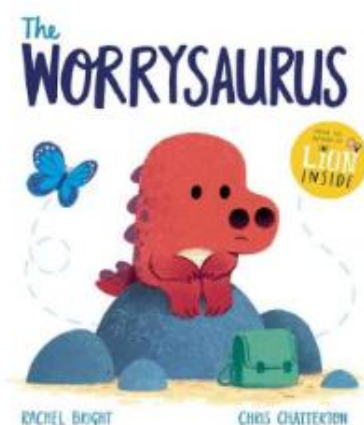
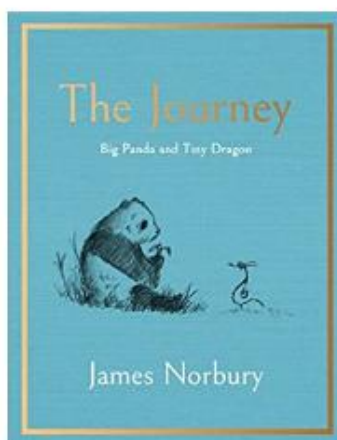




Reading at St Peter's

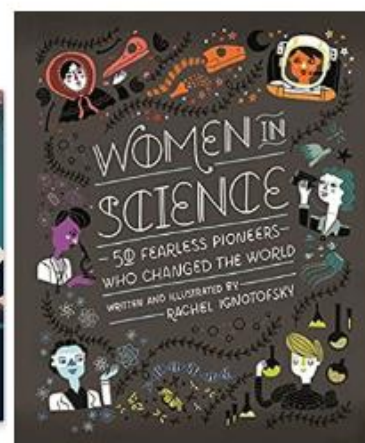
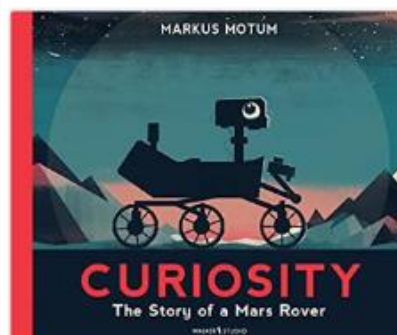
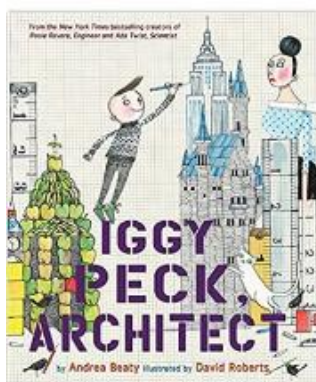
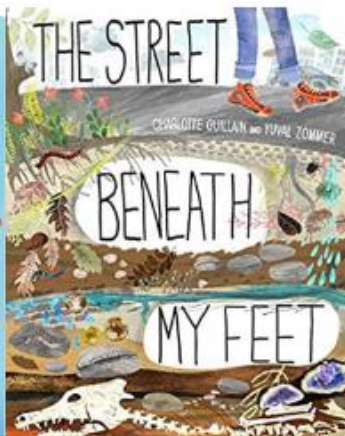
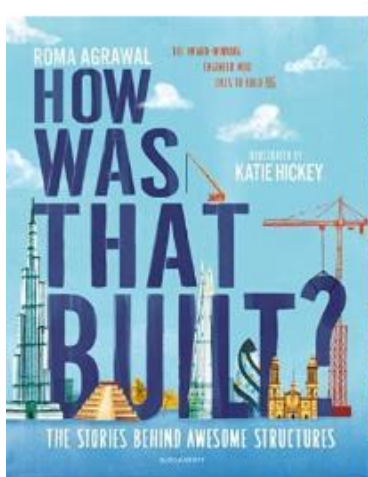
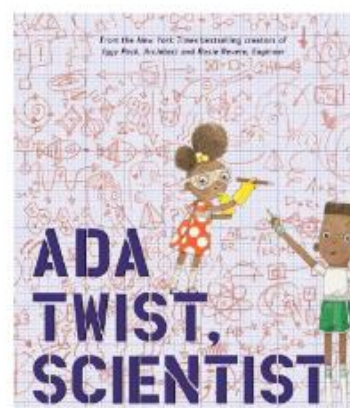
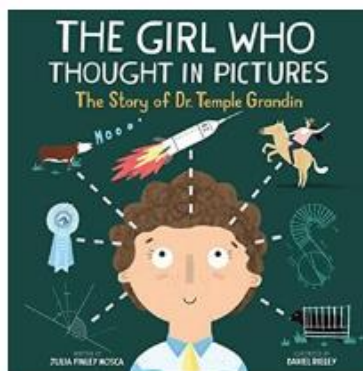
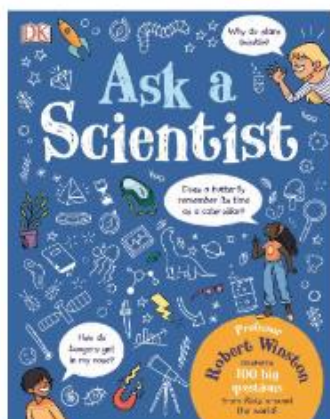
For this term's reading newsletter, I have compiled a list of books linked to Children's Mental Health Week; a list of books linked to National Science and Engineering week; and a list of other quality fiction recommendations. Happy reading!
Miss Jones

Children's Mental Health week





National Science and Engineering Week





Fiction recommendations

