

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

April 25

Spring Newsletter

from St Peter's
Primary School



Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another term, it is lovely to take a moment and think back on all the learning and opportunities that have helped our children to grow in knowledge, in character and in confidence over the last 6 weeks. I am sure you will have enjoyed seeing your child's learning and progress in the parents' evenings at the beginning of the term and, for those of you who were able to attend our annual exhibition of learning, you will have seen the wonderful work that children produce in their journey from reception to year 6 at St Peter's.





We have also been blessed with many enrichment opportunities including a range of school trips and visitors, and you will enjoy reading more about these in the class pages of this newsletter. One of my highlights of the term was our visit from Katya Balen and learning, from an expert, how to create the most incredible stories. Katya was so impressed with the children at St Peter's and their creativity and imagination.

This week, we have also seen the entrepreneurial talents of our year 6 children, unleashed, as they planned and organised the most fabulous stalls at the Easter Fair. From doughnuts to ducks and crochet to coconuts - they had it all! Thank you to everyone who supported this event as there was a lovely community buzz in the hall and on the field and it was a great way to end the term.



We have also just returned to school following our Easter service where the children raised the roof of St Peter's Church with their lively rendition of 'Lord of the Dance'! Once again, it was over to the children as year 5 expertly led the service based on their 'Easter in a Box – The Movie' activities, last week. We are really grateful to the creative team of volunteers at St Peter's church



who put this event together and enabled children to think about the Easter story through a different lens.



Finally, I must mention the 'Speggtacular, Eggceptional and Egglectic' mix of entries in our annual Easter egg decorating competition. I do hope that you have had an opportunity to watch our gallery of 'Eggcellence' on our Facebook page! The creativity and imagination that was on show was truly joyful to see. Thank you to everyone who took part and made this such a special event.



So from me (*Mrs Batteaster*), *Mrs Easter Egg Hunt* and our wider team of eggcellent staff, we wish you all a very relaxing break and a Happy Easter!

Kind regards,

Catrin Battista



Author visit

Katya Balen



On Friday 21st March we were lucky enough to have a day with the Carnegie Prize winning author Katya Balen. Katya says that she loves writing stories about bold, brave, wild children who connect with nature and with each other. We have lots of her books in school and they are firm favourites with both the St Peter's staff and children.

The day started with a book signing which was **incredibly** well attended. Katya was amazed by how many children wanted to meet her and how enthusiastically they talked about her books.





The day continued with workshops for Year 3 and 4 around her book 'The Thames and Tide Club'. The children learnt about mud larking and then used some found objects to create their own stories. Katya said the children came up with some of the most creative ideas she has ever heard from any of her school visits! Reception and KS1 had an assembly where Katya explained what it was like to be an author and that you can write absolutely anywhere. We learnt that sometimes she liked to write up a tree!



Years 5 and 6 had their own workshops based on the adventure story 'Foxlight'. They designed their own islands filled with amazing places to explore but also locations filled with peril! Some of the children were so pleased with the results they even asked them to be signed.

We had the most fantastic day and the children really showcased their love of reading, creativity and curiosity.

This event was funded by the PSA so a huge thank you to the committee, everyone involved in organising and running events and all those who support our fundraisers! Together we can make wonderful things happen!

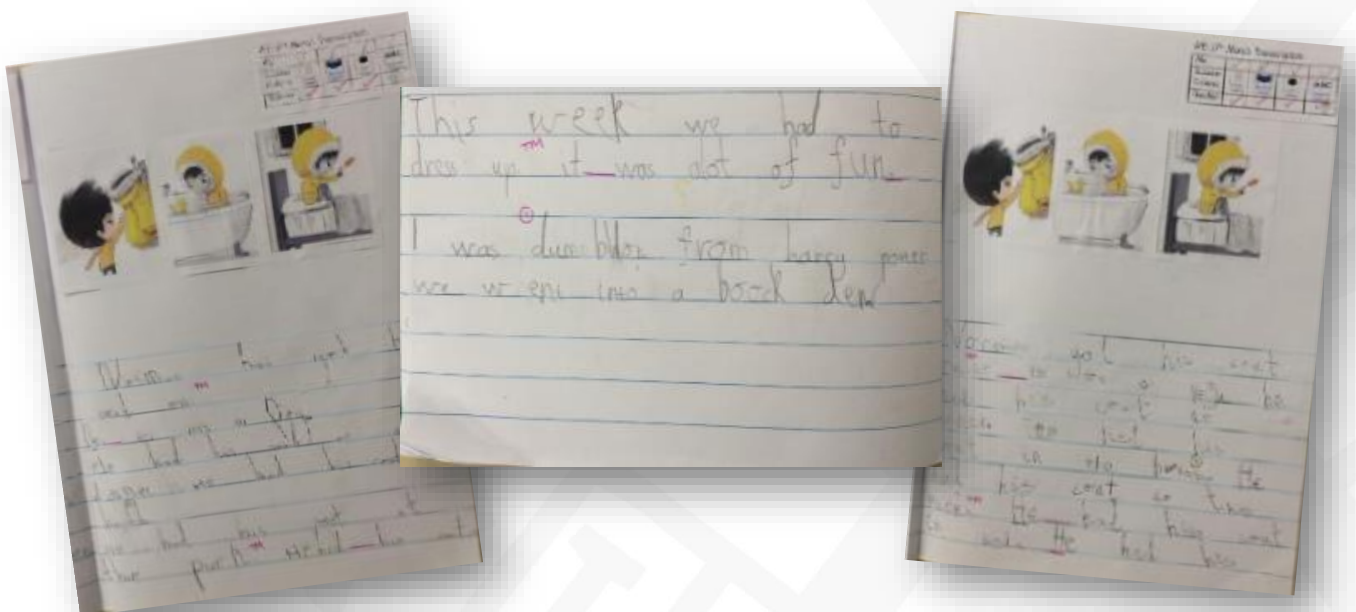


Reception

In Phonics, we have completed Phase 3 Mastery and have now started Phase 4! This will include new common exception words and adjacent consonants. These can be found in the reading records! We have been so impressed with the children's progress and it has been a joy to watch them all go from strength to strength.



In writing, the children have started to showcase their strong knowledge within their writing. Additionally, we have also started to ensure that all our sentences begin with a capital letter, have finger spaces after each word, and end with a full stop. The children have written about a variety of topics this term, from World Book Day to a recount of 'Perfectly Norman' (written by Tom Percival).





We have also made bread rolls in the shape of hedgehogs this term. The children were able to follow simple instructions and used their strong fine-motor skills to carefully pinch the spikes of the hedgehog into the dough. We think they did a fantastic job!



We are artists!

In Art, we have continued to develop our expertise as artists this term - this time we explored using watercolour paints! The children were able to utilise their fine-motor strengths to precisely draw an outline of spring flowers and then carefully used watercolour paints to bring their drawings to life! The children took such care and precision to produce wonderful pieces of art.



Another of our focus texts this term has been 'Michael Recycle' by Ellie Bethel. In the book, the children learnt about what we can do to look after our environment and keep our planet healthy. The children have also been learning a variety of recycling songs in Music too. For Mother's Day, the children used a variety of recycled materials! They were able to precisely cut out petals for their flowers using recycled magazines, stuck on a button and drew a stem to complete the flower.



In the Hub, the children have been using a variety of recycled objects to create their own models. We learnt about 'upcycling' and how old materials can be used to create something new. It has been a joy to watch the children have an idea and then follow the necessary steps in order to bring their ideas to life. They were also able to use their knowledge of joining techniques to combine their materials. The pride they have shown when finishing their creations has been a delight too!



St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

St Peter's Church of England Primary School,
Hallett's Way, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 6BT

01275 843142

enquiries@sppschoo.uk

Towards the end of Term, children in Reception visited St. Peter's Church for an Easter extravaganza! Whilst at the Church, the children were able to explore the Church, create Easter cards and even have an egg and spoon race - some parents joined in too!! The children were amazing for the whole morning and listened beautifully to Reverend Mark who explained the importance of Easter and what it means to Christians. We would like to say a huge thank you to Reverend Mark, St. Peter's Church, and all the incredible parent/carers volunteers for such a lovely morning.

We hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

St. Peter's Reception Staff





Year 1

Year 1 have had a busy term learning all about Dinosaurs. In History, the children have been learning about the palaeontologist Mary Anning and are looking forward to going on their trip to the museum on the 27th March.



St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

St Peter's Church of England Primary School,
Hallett's Way, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 6BT

01275 843142

enquiries@sppschoool.uk

To prepare for our visit, the children had their Dinosaur WOW Day where they were dressed as an explorer or as a dinosaur. The children started the day by learning facts about different dinosaurs and then practiced their hunting skills out on the trim trail. They had great fun applying skills learning from science by classifying and sorting different dinosaurs in a hunt outside before learning a dinosaur dance. In the afternoon the children created their own dinosaur fossils using strips of paper. The children loved their day!

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter break and look forward to welcoming you all back for the summer term.

Best wishes,

Year 1 Team

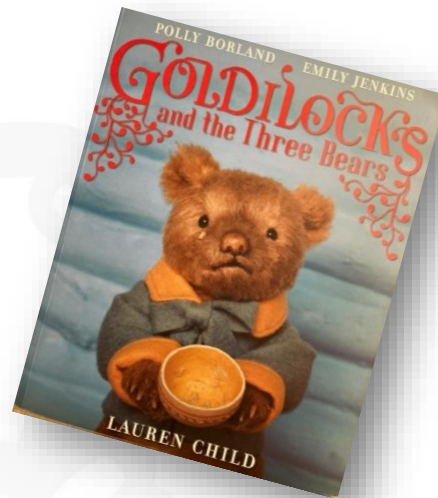
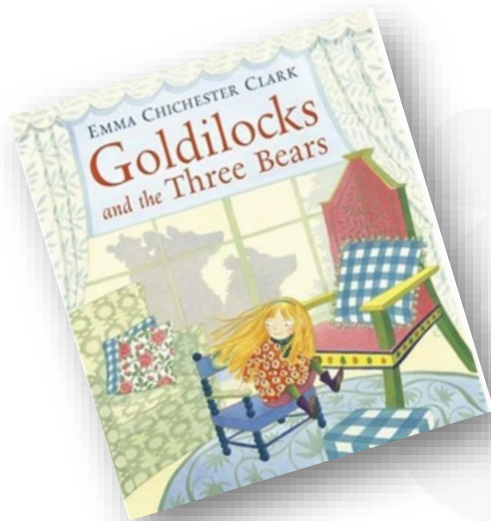




Year 2

This term in year 2, we have been exploring the text 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' by Emma Chichester-Clark. We learned how to orally retell the first part of the narrative so we could write it using our expert writing skills. We have learned how to use apostrophes for possession and have practised our skills of using conjunctions to extend sentences.

After exploring this text, we compared it with Lauren Child's version. We particularly loved the illustrations which were created from photographed scenes. Ask us what happened to Goldilocks' little red shoes!



In our art lessons this term, we have been focussing on self-portraits inspired by the work of Quentin Blake. First, we identified the difference between a portrait and a self-portrait. Then, we investigated how artists use a range of mark making skills to portray different textures in their sketches. We had to think about proportion and shape to create our facial features. Look at our fabulous outcomes!





A highlight of term 4 has definitely been our trip to the SS Great Britain! During the trip, we took part in a fantastic workshop. We went down into the dry dock to see the iron hull and learned how it was made using thousands of rivets. We even acted out how to put some in ourselves. We then travelled back in time to 1843 and re-enacted the launch of the SS Great Britain. We loved dressing up in clothes from the Victorian era and seeing how different we all looked. The workshop leader was amazed at just how much we knew about Brunel.

As part of the trip, we also explored the ship and the museums. It was fun to explore the different artefacts and see models of the ship.

Year 2 would like to say thank you to all the parents and grandparents that helped to made our trip possible.



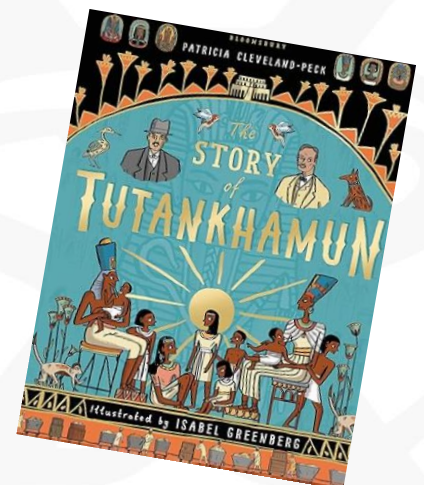


Year 3

Year 3's highlight has to be our Ancient Egyptian WOW day. Therefore, our history learning about Ancient Egypt has been very popular this term. We saw some incredible costumes on and the children loved the visit from the Egyptologist, Ali. Since then we have discovered the ways in which the River Nile was used, learnt the process of mummification and explored the hierarchy of different jobs during this period.

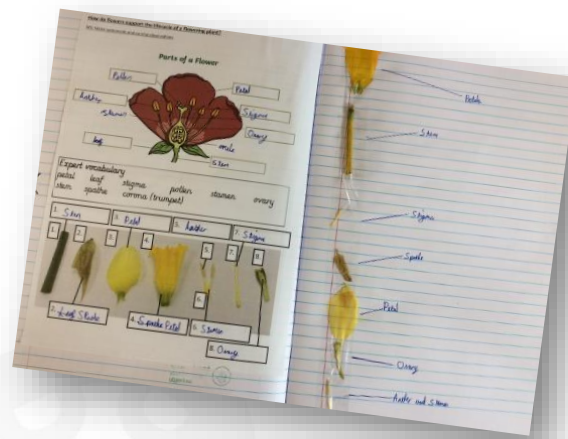


Learning on Ancient Egypt has also trickled into our English this term. First, we read *The Scarab's Secret* and practised using adjectives and adverbs to write a setting description. Next, we used speech punctuation to help us retell the story. Finally we have explored Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We tested our writing skills to write in the style of a biography! We also looked at a new text, *Our Tower* by Joseph Coelho (one of our house authors!). We imagined we were in the story and wrote in the style of a diary.





In science, we have become biologists exploring plants in more detail. We dissected a daffodil and discovered the purpose of each part of a plant. We also did an experiment to see how water was transported around a plant. We used food colouring to see where the water travelled!



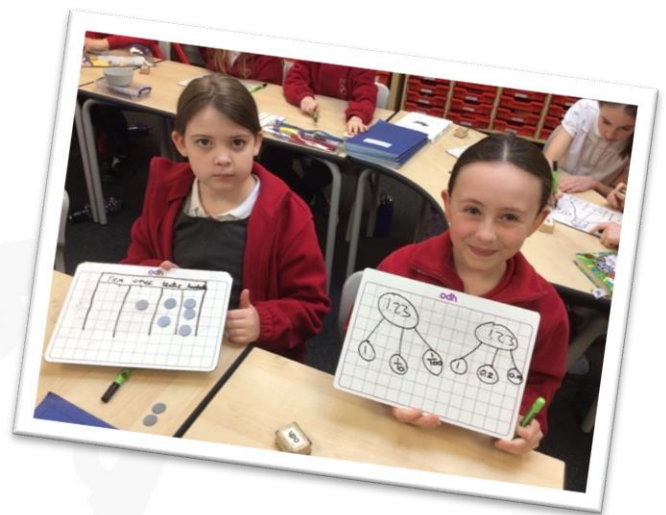
Finally, Year 3 loved exploring fractions this term in Maths. We explored fractions of quantities and how this linked to our division learning. We even had a go at adding and subtracting fractions. We have also been busy learning to tell the time to the nearest minute!



Year 4

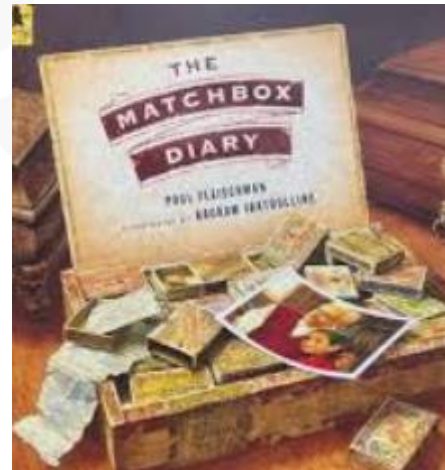
Maths

In maths this term, we have been learning about decimal numbers. We have learnt about tenths and hundredths. We partitioned decimal numbers into fractions and decimals. After this, we learnt how to divide by 10 and 100 where the dividend is smaller than the divisor and quotient is a decimal number.



English

In English, we have been reading through *The Matchbox Diaries*. A story of a man who kept objects in matchboxes to remember his journey from Italy to America as he did not know how to read or write. We have used subordinating clauses to further develop our writing with complex sentences! We imagined what object we would put in our own matchbox and described the story behind its importance to us.





Science

In Science this term, Year 4 have been exploring Sound. Looking at how sound travels to our ears and how volume and pitch are affected by changes to the sound waves. We have conducted experiments to test the insulation of sound using different materials. This week we will be putting our findings to the test by creating our own pairs of ear defenders!



Art





Year 4 have been learning about the life and art of David Hockney. We have been inspired by his colourful landscapes. In art, we have learnt how to use depth to create perspective. Through developing our understanding of colour and mark making we are creating our own David Hockney inspired landscapes. We used water colour paints to add colour to our final landscapes.

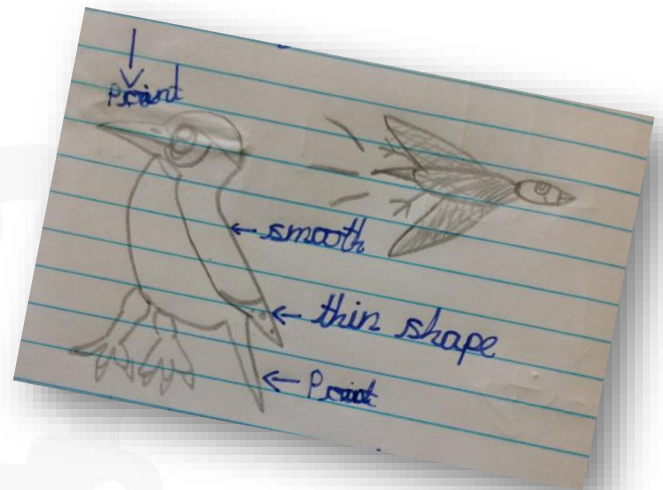
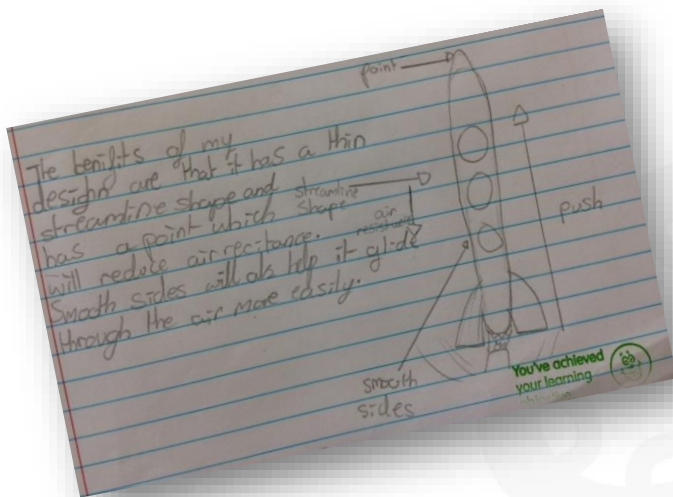




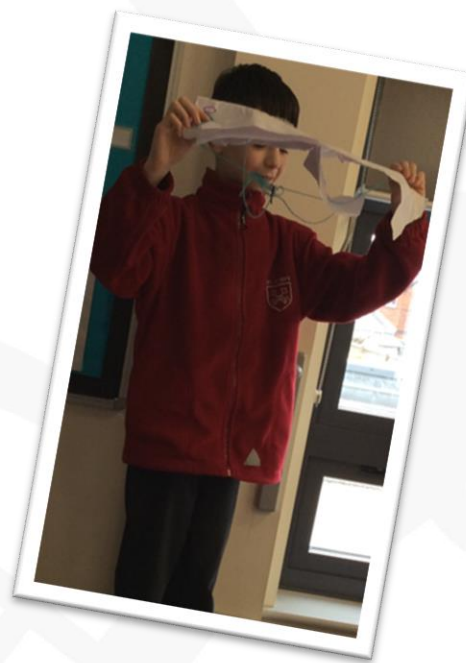
Year 5

In science, we've been finding out all about forces. We built on our learning from last term to help us understand how gravity affects everything on Earth and it blew our minds to find out that objects with the same shape but a different mass will fall at the same rate! Galileo did this from the Leaning Tower of Pisa but we proved it with two water bottles.

We also extended our knowledge of friction from year 3 when learning about air and water resistance and identified features that can reduce the impact of this.



We then worked out how to increase air resistance when designing and testing our own parachutes.

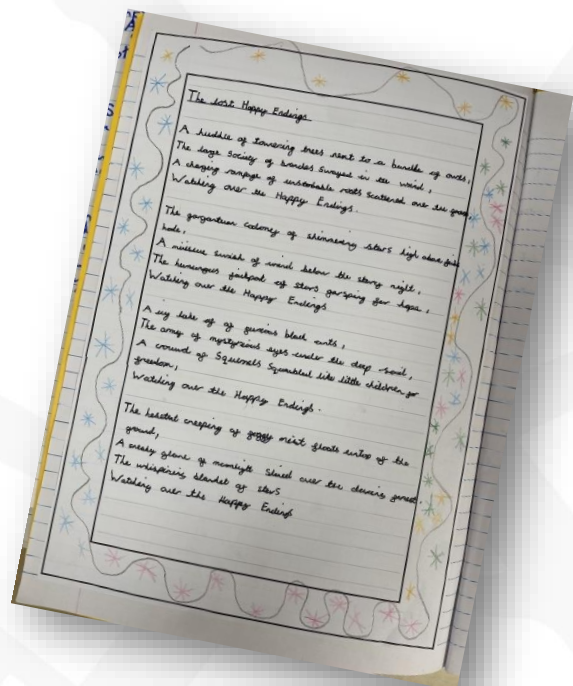
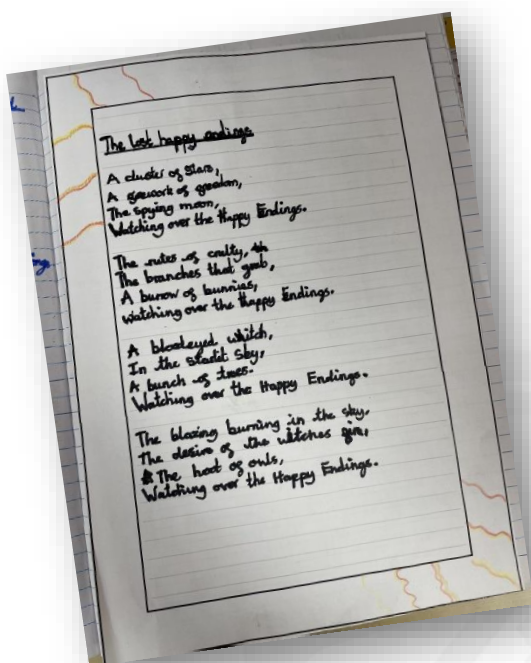




Thanks to our weekly lessons with Mr Samson, our trumpet playing is going from strength to strength. We can play all the way from low to high A and can perform a whole range of tunes, including Lean on Me and the riff from Seven Nation Army.



Our main text in English has been *The Lost Happy Endings* by Carol Ann Duffy. As well as crafting poems, we've learned about different types of figurative language and have used these in some stunning character and setting descriptions. We are currently innovating the narrative and using our creative minds to bring our own versions of the story to life.





Year 6

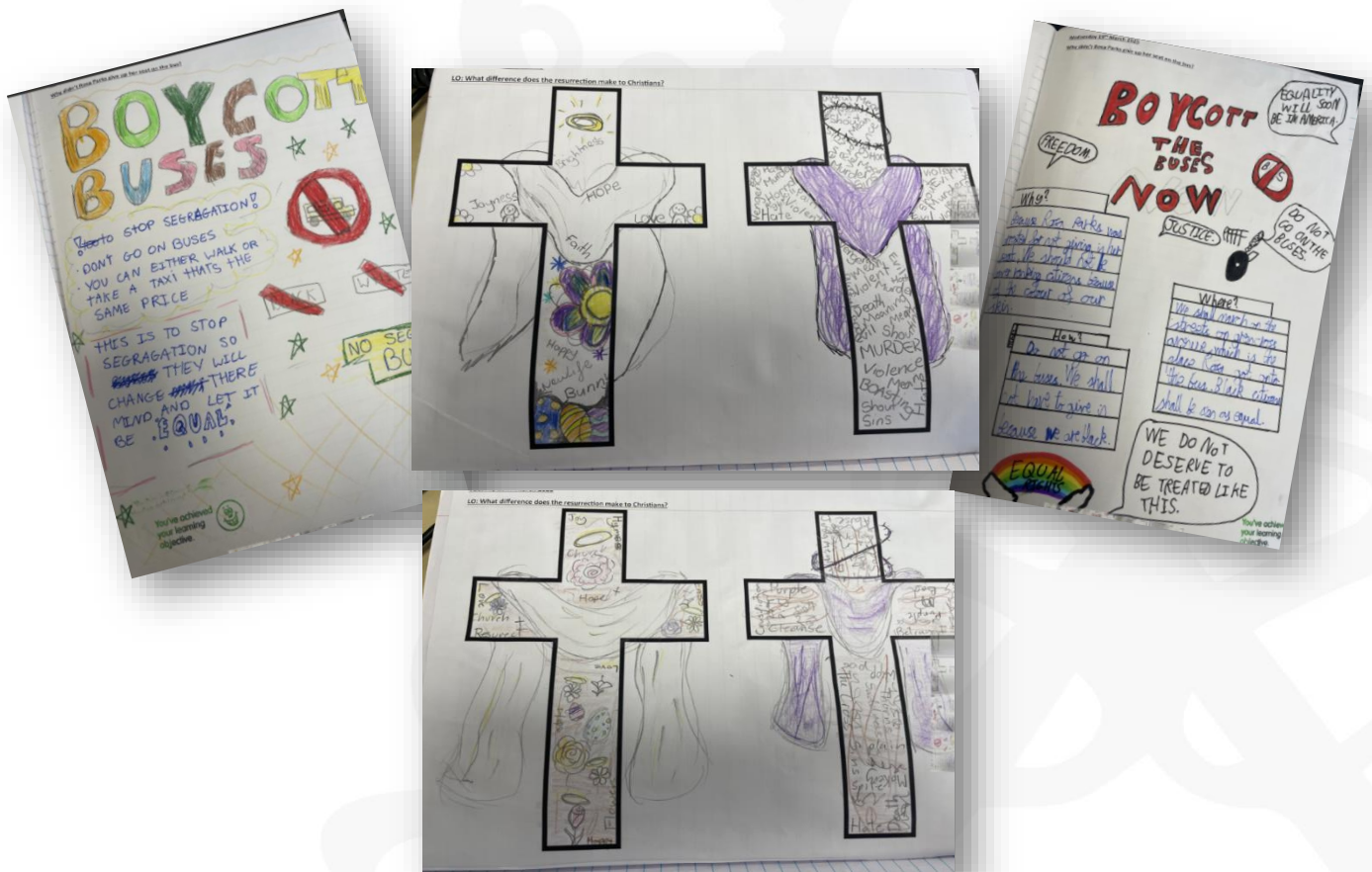
In English this term, we have been enjoying learning about the suffragettes, who courageously and bravely fought for the right to vote. We were inspired to think about whether children deserve the right to vote. As a result, we wrote a letter to a MP to share our thoughts on this matter.

In history, we have been learning about civil rights. We have learnt about key figures within this movement, such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. We enjoyed designing posters to persuade people to join in with Rosa Parks' bus boycott. It was interesting to learn about how Bristol was impacted by the movement and the protests that happened against the bus company.

Our topic in RE has been on salvation and, as part of this, we have been learning about Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We decorated and annotated two crosses to represent the different days. On the Good Friday cross, we chose to use darker colours to represent mourning and sadness. In contrast, the Easter Sunday cross has bright colours and flowers to represent celebration.

Earlier on this term, we enjoyed our trip to the Lifeskills centre. We learnt lots of important skills such as making phone calls to the emergency services, detecting gas smells and road safety.

Throughout the term, we have loved getting to plan and design our stalls for the Year 6 Easter Fair. We hope you enjoyed it.





Eco Update

Spring is certainly in the air in the allotment! The children have been delighted to see the bulbs they planted grow into flourishing, bright daffodils and blooming crocuses.

Garden gang with eco team members have been busy getting the ground ready by digging out the many weeds and turning over the soil. They have enjoyed getting the compost we made over the year and adding it to the raised beds. We are beginning to plant seeds now and can't wait to see what grows! This year, we are hoping to grow carrots, beans, peas, sugar snap peas (these were a great hit last year), broccoli, tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, strawberries and of course pumpkins (we have some giant ones to grow and this year, we are trying out zombie pumpkins too!).



We have started our Sustrans walk and wheel to school with great success, already achieving silver award and heading towards gold so thank you to all of you who have walked/wheeled to school!



**Silver badge: 607
journeys**





Wellbeing



You will find the Newsletter as an attachment to the ParentMail this newsletter has been attached to.

It is jam packed with holiday activity links and has a Autism awareness focus.

It is well worth a look.

PSA Update

We held our AGM this term and have re-elected the two official posts: Katy Nelson as chair and Nicola Jones as treasurer.

Spring term is very quiet for fundraising activities, but we've cashed in by receiving £270 from Asda from their cash pot scheme. We have also been given 1,000 as a charity top up from a parent's employer. If your employer offers a scheme of matched giving please let us know as it's very easy money and can make a big difference our school.

Finally, reception and y1 disco is straight after we're back. Tickets on sale at...<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/spps-psa/index.cfm?event=login>