

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

April 26

Spring Newsletter

from St Peter's
Primary School



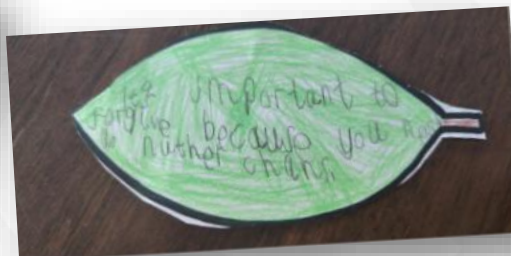
Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, it is always a great moment to pause (for just a minute or two!) and reflect on the learning, enrichment and growth that has taken place so far this year. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to parents' evenings earlier in the term, and I hope you found these meetings both informative and encouraging as you shared in your child's progress. Our annual exhibition of learning was also a highlight, offering a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the breadth and quality of work produced by children across the school, from Reception through to Year 6 – not to mention the fabulous egg decoration entries, this year!

This week, we have also been delighted to see the entrepreneurial spirit of our Year 6 pupils in full swing as they planned and delivered a truly sp'egg' tacular Easter Fair! From hair braids to sunglass decorating, there was something for everyone! We must also give a special mention to the year 6 team and parents who have been so encouraging of our young 'dragons' and for all the staff who were sporting enough to be 'sponged' during the event! Thank you to everyone for coming along to take part in the fun and fundraising—there was a real sense of community both in the hall and out on the playground, making it a very sunny and happy way to round off the term. The leavers will certainly be celebrating in style at the end of the year!

This term, we have been exploring the value of forgiveness. I have been incredibly impressed by how thoughtfully the children have engaged with what can be quite a challenging concept. We are fortunate that 'Peter' is such a powerful role model—not only in terms of the mistakes he made, but also in the way he was forgiven—and there is much we can all learn from this. We know that none of us are perfect, but

we are fortunate to have second chances and the opportunity to make things right. Over the past few weeks, during class worship, children have been invited to create leaves for our Forgiving Tree. Just a couple of the lovely messages can be seen below, and they truly capture the ethos of our school community: we understand that we will all make mistakes from time to time, but we are always able to put things right and have the chance to start again.



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

01275 843142

enquiries@sppschoool.uk



Today, has been a wonderful day of celebration that started at St Peter's church with our Easter service. This was beautifully planned and led by our House Captains and Year 6 Worship Leaders, together with Reverend Rob. As always, the children of St Peter's School raised the roof with some of their favourite Easter songs, including Lord of the Dance and Celebrate!

Finally, it would not be Easter without our traditional rendition of 'Spring Chicken'! Blessed with some April sunshine, the whole school was able to take part on the field - singing and dancing with great enthusiasm! A fantastic way to end a very successful term!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 20th April.

Warm Wishes,

Catrin Battista

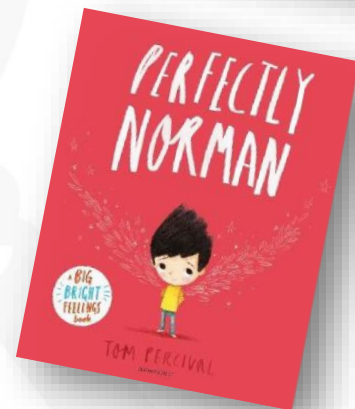


Reception

In Phonics, we have completed Phase 3 Mastery and are now moving on to 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 of sounds and how to build a sentence. We are ensuring 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 to make the dough 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 and lots told us how delicious they were!

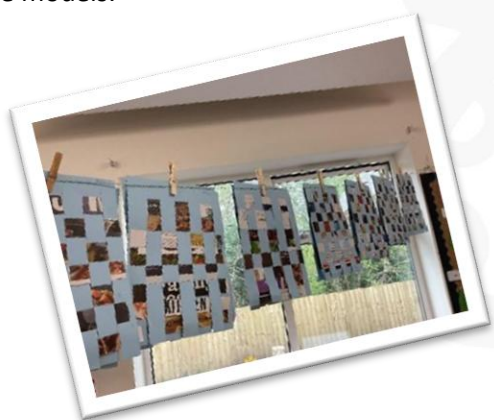




We are artists!

In Art, we have continued to develop our expertise as artists this term. We did an observational painting of spring flowers 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.

One of our topics this term has been recycling, we learnt about 'upcycling' and how old materials can be used to create something new. We have used recycled materials to create our lovely Mother's Day cards as well as using them to create a woven place mat. The children have also learnt about how to successfully join materials together to create models.



Reception enjoyed their first trip to the church this week for an Easter Extravaganza! Whilst there, we had an Easter egg hunt, we coloured in Easter crosses and enjoyed an egg and spoon race! Reverend Mark spoke to the children about the Easter story and its importance to Christians. We would like to say a huge thank you to Reverend Mark, the St. Peter's Church, and all the incredible parent/carer volunteers for such a lovely morning.

We hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable Easter break!

Reception Team

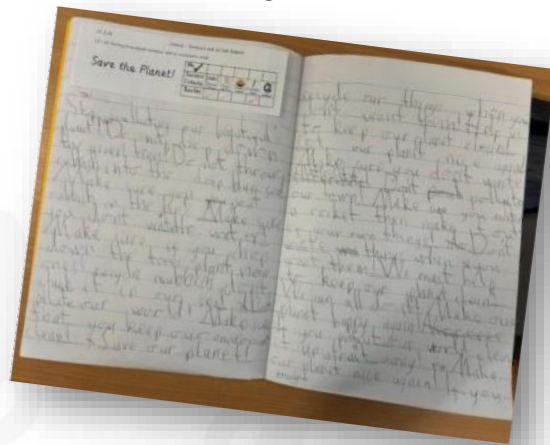
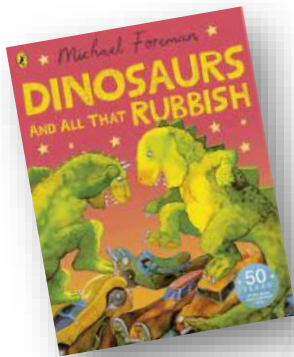




Year 1

English

In English, we have been exploring the text 'Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish' by Michael Forman. This story is based on a man ruining the Earth and wanting to find new place to live, only to return to Earth to find the dinosaurs looking after the world and making it beautiful once again. As an Eco school we strongly believe that looking after our planet is especially important, so we wrote some commands using exclamation marks to tell people how to look after the Earth.



History

As budding historians, we have been fascinated by The Great Fire of London. We have explored how the fire started, why it spread so quickly and how it was eventually put out. Did you know that the fire started from just a small spark in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane?

To add a touch more excitement to our learning, we had the chance to practice putting out the fire ourselves using the methods and techniques they would have used in 1666. We practiced using fire hooks, water squirts and a bucket chain and soon discovered that these methods were not the most effective. We were very pleased to learn that the firefighting techniques have advanced a lot since then.





Science

As young scientists, we have been on an exciting journey learning about animals, including humans. Our term began with a deep dive into the main parts of the body and how these parts enable us to use our senses effectively.

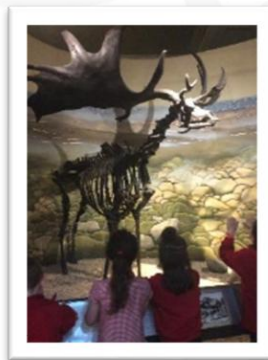
Continuing our exploration, we shifted our focus to the animal kingdom. We have been busy identifying and categorising the animals commonly found in our school environment and those we would not typically encounter. We have also been investigating the diverse diets of animals and exploring their varied body structures and parts. It is amazing to see how our scientific knowledge is growing—we are becoming quite the experts!



Trip

To end off our very busy term we had the pleasure of visiting The Bristol Museum. We had a lovely day exploring all of the artefacts, being true historians by observing and asking questions about all of the things we saw.

We also experienced an art workshop where we got to think about the hidden stories behind some of the great paintings displayed at the museum. We had the chance to let our imaginations run wild and create our own stories based on magical items. We came up with a wealth of fabulous ideas.

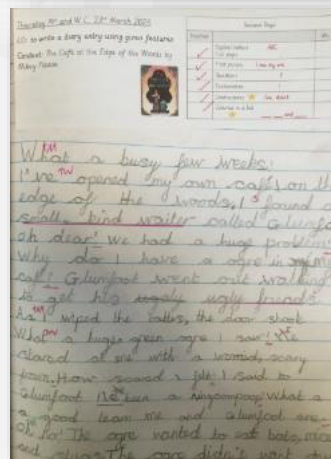
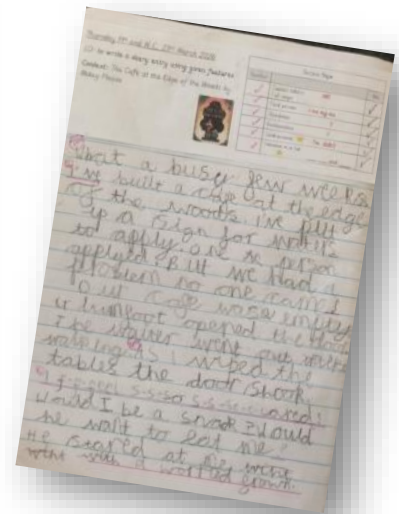
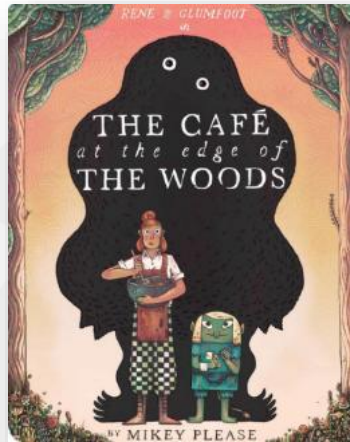
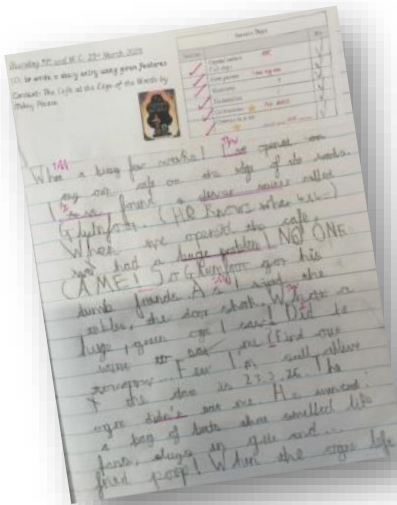




Year 2

This term in year 2, we have been exploring the text 'The Café at the Edge of the Woods' by Mikey Please. Rene starts a café at the edge of the woods with the help of her waiter, Glumfoot, but they receive some surprising customers who like to eat equally surprising dishes.

We have been building skills to write a diary entry in the role of Rene, through learning how to form contractions such as wasn't, I've and he'd. We have also been learning to use commas in a list to write about the foods on the menu and some of the foods that were not! You must ask us what the ogre liked to eat...!



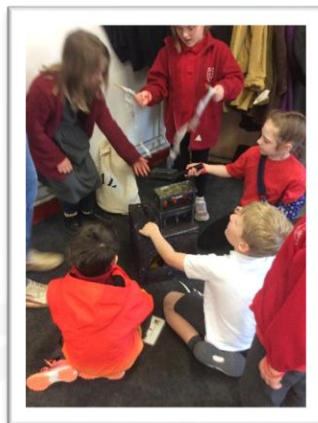
In our art lessons this term, we have been focussing on self-portraits inspired by the work of Quentin Blake. First, we identified the difference between a portrait and a self-portrait. Then, we investigated how artists use a range of mark making skills to portray different textures in their sketches. 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 who helped to make our trip possible.





This term Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our Open the Book collective worship sessions. During this time, members of St Peter's Church visit us to bring to life stories from the bible. Often, they enlist the help of some excellent volunteers! This term we have thoroughly enjoyed thinking about the events leading up to Easter.



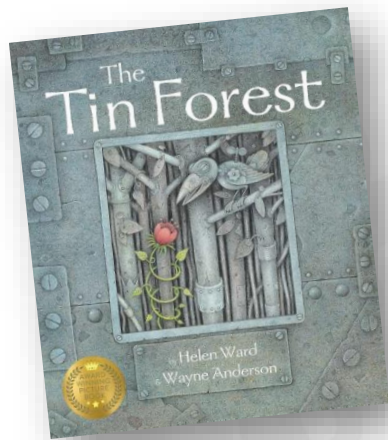
In computing we have been learning how to use data to create pictograms. We have used tallies and charts to turn this information into a pictogram. We have explored attributes such as eye colour, hair colour, favourite colours, numbers of minibeasts found on a virtual hunt and our favourite subjects at school. We have compared our findings to discover what was the most and least popular.



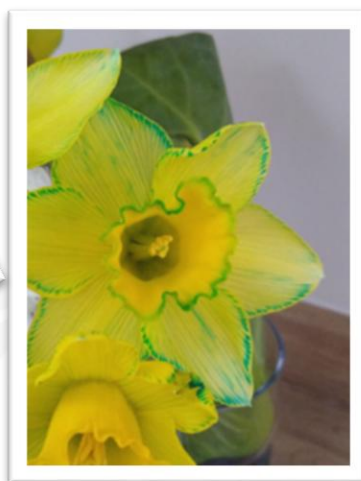


Year 3

It has been a busy term in year 3! The children have worked incredibly hard and should be extremely proud of all that they have been able to achieve. In English this term, we have continued to focus on ways to make our writing more interesting to read. This has ranged from using expanded noun phrases, prepositions, adverbs, use of complex sentences... The list goes on! We have centred this learning around two books this term, 'Our Tower' by Joseph Coelho and 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward. Both of which have really inspired the children and ignited a passion to protect our world - a passion that is particularly evident within our persuasive letters! As a result, children have been able to create such wonderful pieces of work, and we can't wait to see where this takes them for the remaining two terms.



In science this term, the children became biologists! The children have continued to think like a scientist by dissecting plants to discover the purpose for each part of the plant. We also conducted an experiment to see how water is transported around plants. Coloured water showed how the roots absorb water and transport it up through the stem to the flowers.



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The children have also made tremendous progress in their maths as our focus has switched to fractions and time. We have loved exploring fractions, and it has been a joy to see their understanding thrive as a result. The children have also shown great resilience with our learning on time!

From all the team in year 3, we wish you a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you in the summer term!

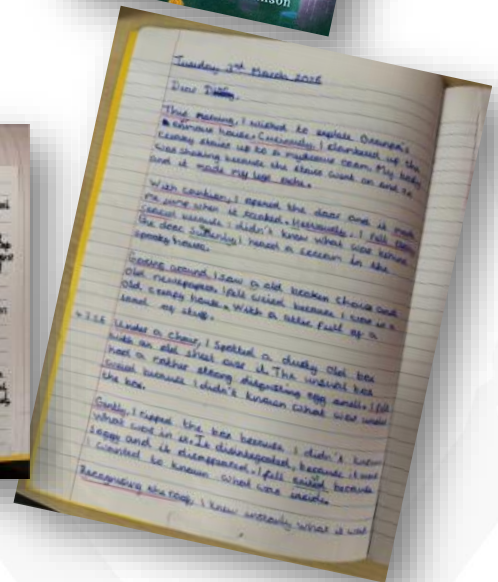
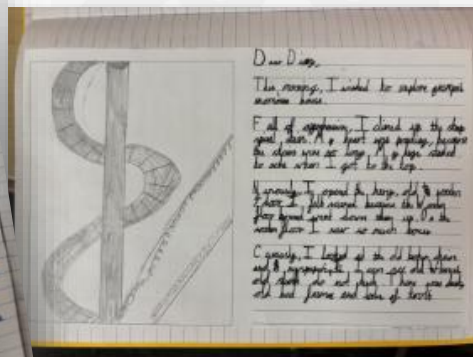
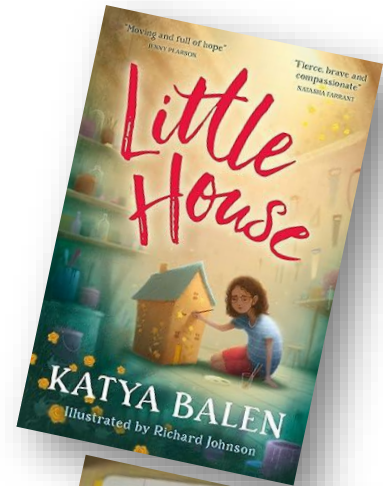




Year 4

This term, we read 'Little House' by Katya Balen. We were lucky enough to have Katya come to our school last year, so the children thoroughly enjoyed reading one of her stories. We produced some lovely pieces of writing to go alongside 'Little House'. We created excellent diary entries and an innovated narrative based upon the story. The children really applied their knowledge of punctuation to produce some engaging dialogue between characters.

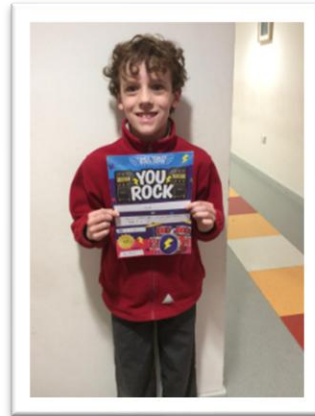
We have also had a go at a non-chronological report about The Titanic where children have showcased an array of interesting facts about the sunken ship.



Maths

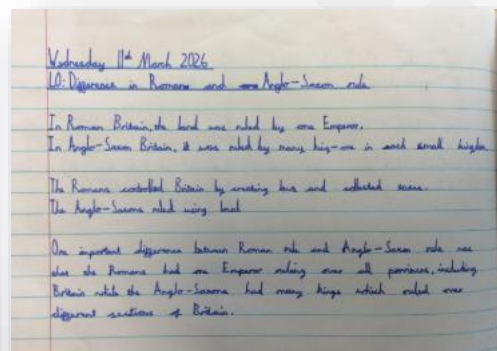
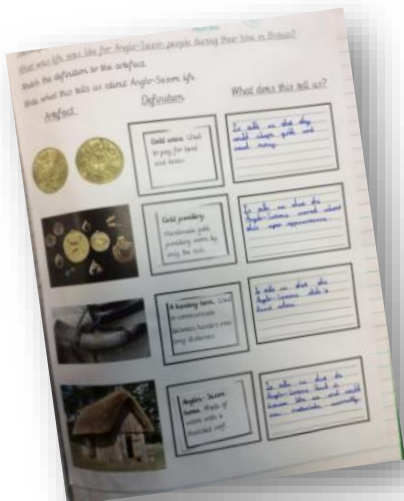
Year 4 have been building their understanding of fractions in Maths this term, developing confidence in recognising and working with parts of a whole. The children have explored fractions of amounts and counted in hundredths, as well as placing fractions accurately on a number line. They have deepened their understanding by learning about unit and non-unit fractions and investigating how mixed numbers are composed. Through practical activities and problem-solving, they have also practised converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers. To bring their learning together, the children have been applying these skills to add and subtract fractions, strengthening both their reasoning and fluency in this key area of Maths.

We have also continued to build confidence with times tables, practising regularly and taking on a range of challenges. The children have been using Times Table Rock Stars to develop speed and accuracy alongside working through fluency booklets both in school and sent home to consolidate learning and support their progress.



History

Year 4 have been exploring the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons in History this term and discovering how life in Britain changed after the end of Roman rule. The children have been comparing the organised towns, roads, and lifestyles of the Romans with the more rural villages and farming communities of the Anglo-Saxons. Through maps, artefacts, and creative activities, they've learned how these two periods shaped Britain's language, culture, and traditions in very different ways and how traces of both can still be seen in modern life today.





Science

Year 4 investigated the exciting topic of Sound in Science this term, learning how sounds are made through vibrations and how they travel through different materials to reach our ears. The children have explored volume and pitch changes using tuning forks to observe how faster vibrations create higher sounds. Through practical investigations, they created and tested string telephones to understand how sound travels and explored a range of materials to discover which are best at absorbing sound. Bringing their learning together, the children will apply their knowledge in a final challenge, designing and testing their own ear defenders using the resources kindly provided.



Art

Year 4 have been developing their artistic skills this term by exploring perspective, taking inspiration from the vibrant and imaginative work of David Hockney. The children have been creating their own landscape compositions, thinking carefully about depth, viewpoint, and how scenes can be represented in different ways. They experimented with a variety of mark-making techniques, building a pattern bank which they then used to fill their detailed pencil sketches using wax crayons. To complete their pieces, the children applied a watercolour wash, focusing on the use of harmonious and contrasting colours to bring their artwork to life.

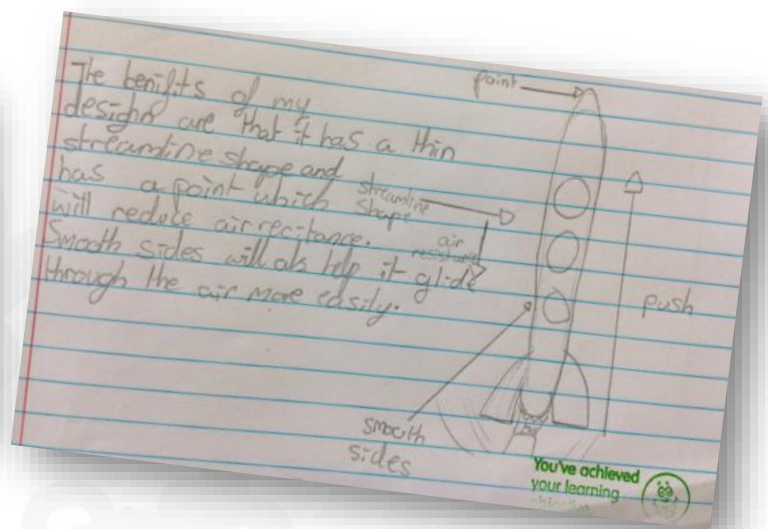
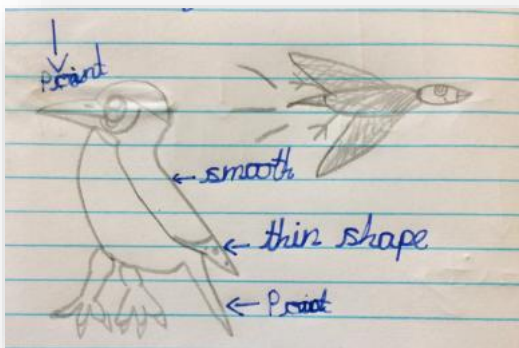




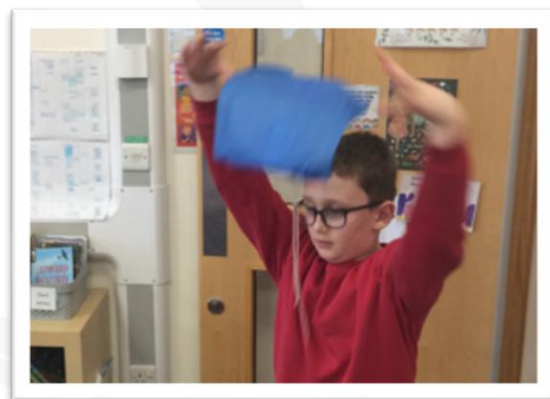
Year 5

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.



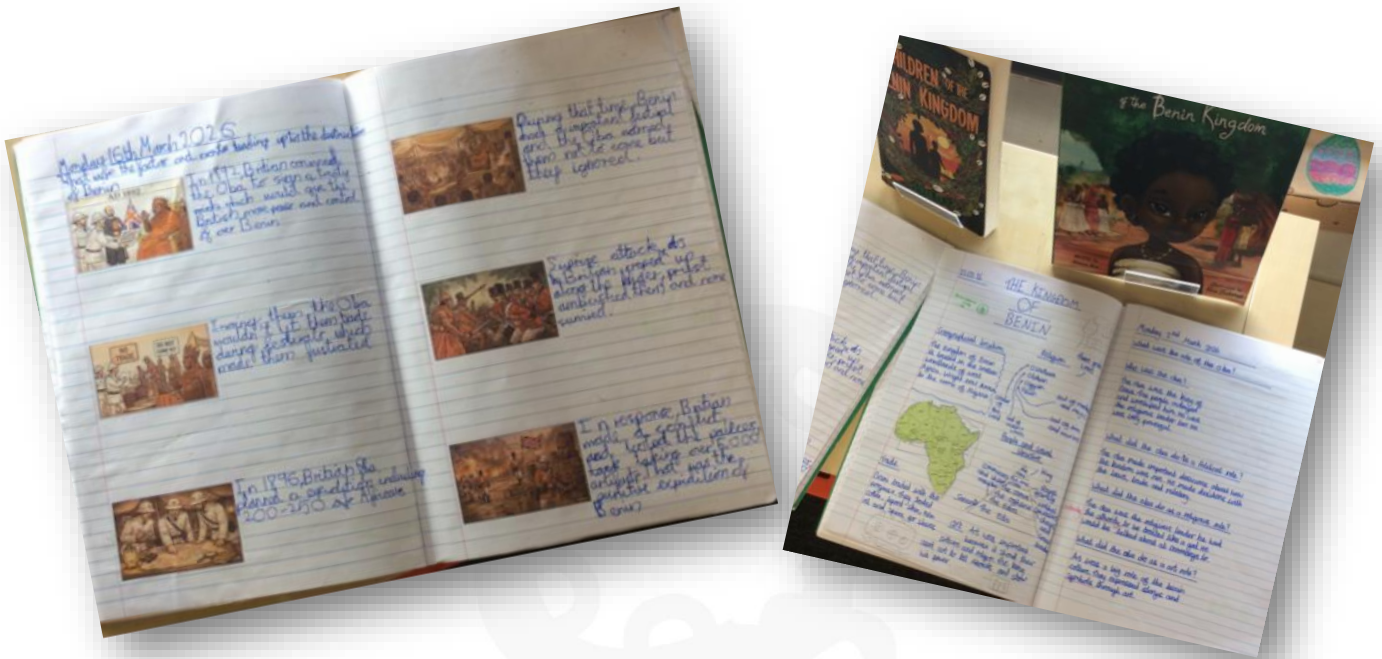
We then worked out how to increase air resistance when designing and testing our own parachutes.





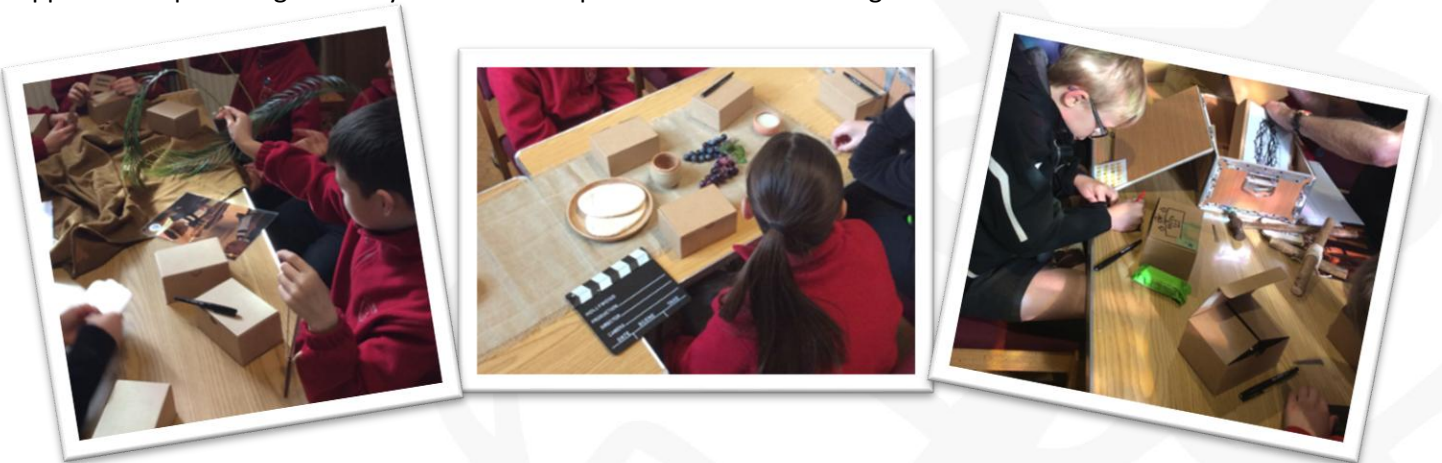
History

Year 5 have been learning about the Benin Kingdom, exploring its rich history and culture. We have studied the social hierarchy, understanding how society was organised and the important role of the Oba as the king and central figure of power. We have also learned about the British punitive expedition of 1897 and its impact on the kingdom, helping us understand how historical events shaped Benin's legacy.



RE- Easter in a Box

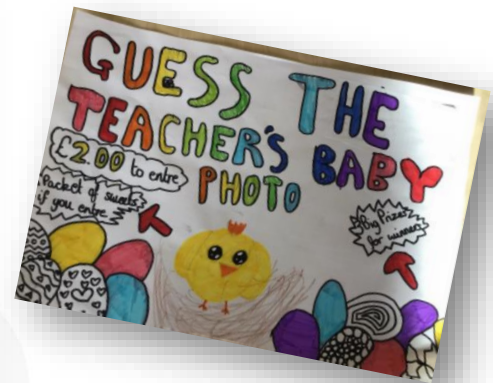
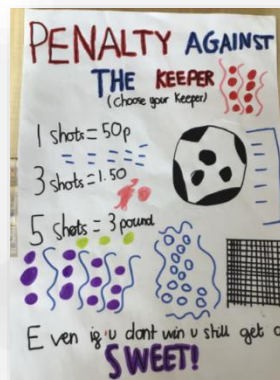
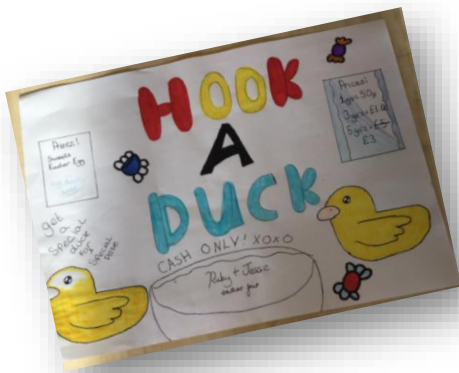
We enjoyed a visit to church where we learned about the Easter story in an engaging and interactive way. We worked in groups, taking on the role of actors on a movie set, recreating different scenes using props. This creative approach helped bring the story to life and deepened our understanding of the events of Easter.



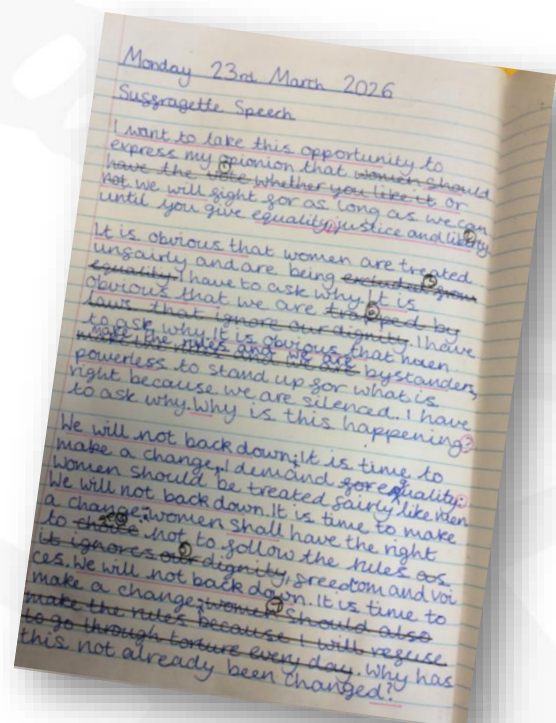
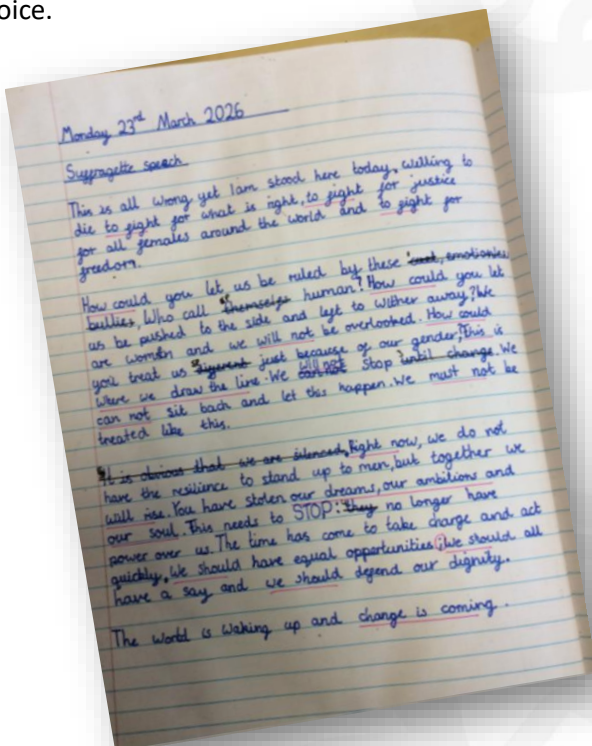


Year 6

This term, we have been enthusiastically preparing for our Easter fair, to raise money for our leavers' events. In small groups, we thought carefully about the stalls we wanted to run and took responsibility for gathering the resources we needed. We spent an afternoon in school creating some fantastic posters to advertise our stalls.

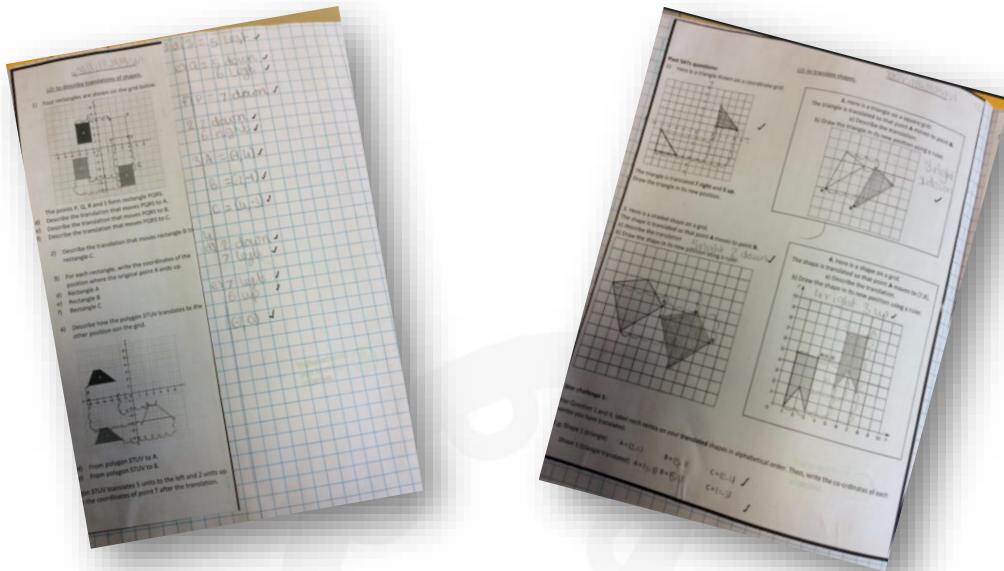


In our writing lessons, inspired by our learning on the suffragettes, we have been producing some fantastic persuasive pieces. We have learned about famous people who have given speeches (like Martin Luther King Jr, Emmeline Pankhurst and Winston Churchill) and used these as examples to produce our own. To do this, we have thought carefully about the vocabulary we've used – and practised delivering our speeches using a persuasive tone of voice.

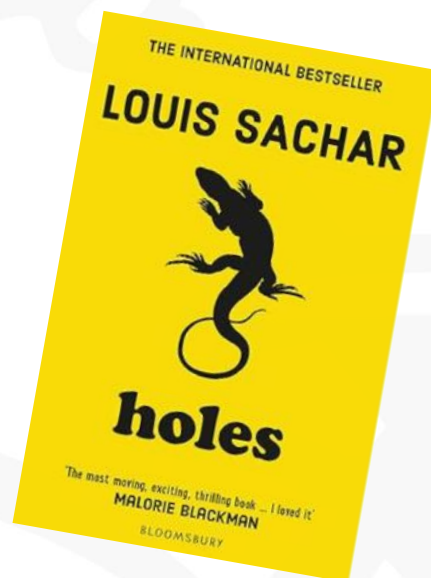
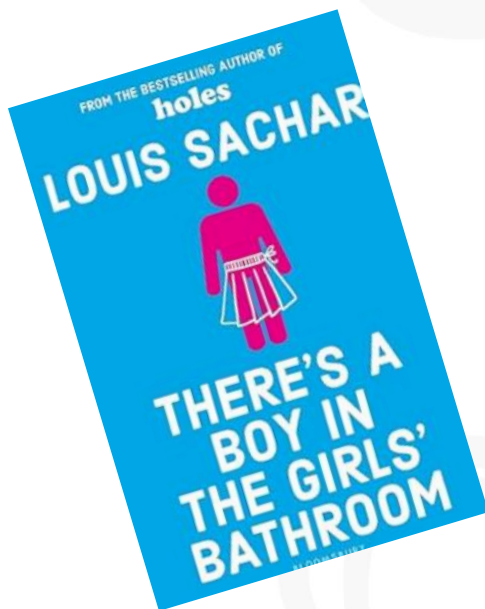




In maths, we have been incredibly busy, learning about many concepts including volume, 3D shapes and calculating angles. Most recently, we have been learning about coordinates and using our knowledge to write coordinates, plot points and translate shapes. We have learned that we always need to use the same vertex when translating shapes and that the x axis always comes before the y axis when writing coordinates.



And, to top it all off, we have really enjoyed our reading sessions each afternoon. We have all been eager to read these books by Louis Sachar.





THE READING CORNER

2026 National Year of Reading



Did you know that 2026 has been officially designated as the National Year of Reading. This nationwide initiative, led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust, is a "once in a generation" campaign designed to help children (and adults!) rediscover the **magic of a good book**.

At St Peter's, we know that reading is the "master key" to the curriculum. Beyond academics, it builds empathy, reduces stress, and sparks imagination. This year, the national theme is "**Go All In**," which encourages children to "read into" the things they already love—whether that's football, gaming, space, or fashion.

What is the National Year of Reading?

The campaign comes at a vital time. Recent data shows that reading for pleasure has reached its lowest level in two decades. The National Year of Reading aims to reverse this trend by making reading feel modern, social, and relevant to our children's digital lives.

How You Can Help at Home?

You don't need to be a "bookworm" to support your child. Research shows that just 10 minutes of shared reading a day can significantly boost a child's life chances and wellbeing.

- Follow their Lead: If they love Minecraft, try a graphic novel about gaming. If they love the Premier League, try a sports biography.
- Audiobooks count! Listening to a story together in the car or before bed is a fantastic way to build vocabulary and engagement.
- Visit the Library: Joining your local library is free and gives you access to thousands of new titles, including e-books and comics.

Useful Resources for Families

To help you find the perfect next read, we recommend exploring these curated resources:

<https://goallin.org.uk/> - The official hub for the year, featuring events and "interest-based" book recommendations.

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/> - The National Literacy Trust's parent portal with activities for all ages.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/> - Fantastic lists of "100 Books for the National Year of Reading" tailored to every year group.



QUICK TIPS FOR READING

MAKING READING THE BEST PART OF YOUR DAY IN 2026!

THE "10-MINUTE HABIT"



Don't feel pressured to read for hours. Just 10 minutes a day of shared reading makes a massive difference in vocabulary and brain development.

AUDIOBOOKS ARE "REAL" READING



Listening to a story builds the same comprehension skills as reading one.

BE A 'READING ROLE MODEL'



Let your child see you reading—whether it's a novel, a newspaper, or a cookbook. If they see you value it, they will too.

FOLLOW THE FUN



Is your child obsessed with Roblox, dinosaurs, or gymnastics? Find books that match their current 'hyper-fixation'.

CREATE A 'BOOK NOOK'



It doesn't have to be fancy—a pile of cushions in a corner or a 'reading fort' made of blankets can make reading feel like an adventure rather than a chore.

THE 'THREE-FINGER RULE'



If your child chooses a book and finds more than three words on a page they can't read, it might be too tricky to enjoy alone. Read it to them instead!

JOIN THE LIBRARY



It's the best free day out! Most libraries have special events for the National Year of Reading throughout 2026, including craft sessions and author visits.

KEEP IT POSITIVE



If they're tired or cranky, skip the reading session. We want them to associate books with cuddles and relaxation, not stress.

TRY 'STREWING'



Leave an interesting book or magazine open on the kitchen table without saying a word. Curiosity often does the rest!

QUICK TIPS FOR READING 2026

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Wellbeing newsletters

You will find this terms wellbeing Newsletters [HERE](#)

It is filled with SEND information and activities and parent advice on topics ranging from Sleep and help with SEND for school placements .

