

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

Oct 26

Autumn Newsletter

from St Peter's
Primary School

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Executive Head teacher's message

As we reach the end of another busy term, there is so much to celebrate across our school community. I hope that many of you have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with teachers this week to hear about your child's learning and progress. Whilst academic achievement is, of course, important, we are always mindful that progress is about so much more than what we see in books. It is also reflected in how our children are growing day by day as kind, courageous and responsible St Peter's citizens, developing the values and characteristics that will serve them well throughout their lives. We are proud to have a school with such fantastic young people!

This term, we have enjoyed some very special Harvest celebrations. Our youngest children welcomed families into school for a lovely Reception Harvest celebration, whilst children from Years 1 to 6 gathered at St Peter's Church for a service led beautifully by Year 4. Through their legacy learning project, they challenged us all to reflect on what it means to belong to a community where people support and care for one another. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Portishead and Clevedon District Foodbank. Your kindness will make a real difference to local families this Christmas. Further on in this newsletter, you will find a letter we have recently received explaining the impact of your donations, along with the 'Looking In, Looking Out and Looking Up' reflection shared so thoughtfully by our Worship Leaders during the service.

This term has also seen the launch of several exciting new initiatives at St Peter's, with our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme quickly becoming a much-loved part of the school day. You will hear much more about this as the year unfolds, but it has been wonderful to see children spending more time outdoors, learning, creating and playing together. Even our Reception children have embraced these opportunities enthusiastically. The sense of community, creativity and children looking out for one another has been a real joy to witness. Thank you to everyone who has generously donated resources and equipment. The ever-growing mountain of LEGO remains incredibly popular, and the dressing-up resources have certainly sparked many imaginative adventures!

I cannot finish without mentioning the fantastic Year 6 residential visit to Mill on the Brue. What an adventure it was! It was a genuine privilege to spend time with such an incredible and resilient group of young people. They were exceptional ambassadors for our school throughout the week, demonstrating courage, teamwork and determination in abundance. We could not be prouder of all they achieved: challenges overcome, lessons learned and memories made that will undoubtedly have a lasting impact. Thank you also for the many lovely messages of appreciation received by the staff team. They were very much appreciated, although spending that time with your children was truly a pleasure in itself.

Wishing you all a very happy half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Catrin Battista

Reception

We are incredibly proud of how wonderfully our Reception children have settled into school life at St Peter's! It has been a very busy and exciting few weeks, and the children have embraced every new experience with enthusiasm, curiosity and plenty of smiles!



We have learnt all about our school rules of being ready, safe and respectful as well as our daily routines. It has been lovely to see the children grow in confidence each day, showing that they are ready to learn and making many kind and respectful interactions with new friends.

One of the highlights so far has been meeting our Year 5 buddies! All of the children spent time reading stories with their buddies and enjoying a playtime together on the playground. The friendships between the children are already blossoming and Reception very much look forward to seeing their buddies on the playground at lunchtimes!

We would like to say a big thank you to the Year 5's for making Reception feel so welcome at our school!

This term, we have been learning Phase 2 sounds and common exception words (CEWs). It has been great to see how quickly children have become phonics experts and showed so much resilience with the challenge of writing sounds and blending them. These are our Phase 2 sounds and CEWs so you can practise them at home to help your child secure them in their long-term memory!



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Reception have also been learning all about Harvest and what happens at this time of year and why it is important. We have discussed where our food comes from, how it is harvested and how we can be thankful for the foods we eat. The children took part in a lovely Harvest service run by Reverend Mark and Mrs Battista and very much enjoyed singing for an audience!

We hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you in Term 2!

The Reception Team 😊



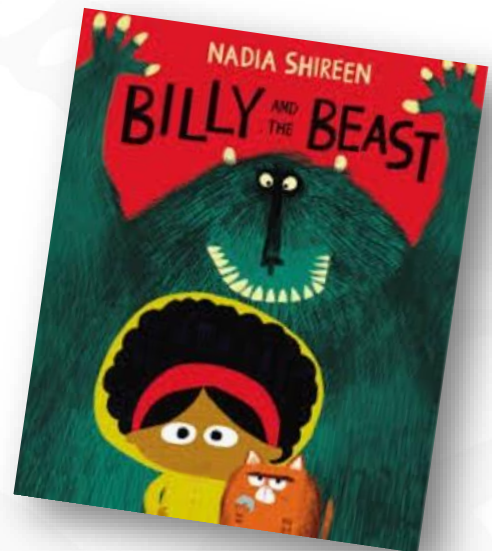
Year 1

Year 1 have made a fantastic start to the year!

This term, we've been exploring the work of artist Henri Rousseau, with a special focus on his painting *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised)*. Our budding artists have been developing key skills such as line work, colour mixing, pattern creation and printing to create their own masterpieces. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and have set up a beautiful art gallery in the Year 1 area to showcase their work.



In English, we have been busy reading and writing about *The Odd Egg* by Emily Gravett and Billy and the Beast by Nadia Shireen. The children have worked hard on composing their own sentences, focusing on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We have also enjoyed learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives and were thrilled to apply this new knowledge in our writing.



This term, we've enjoyed growing into confident readers by strengthening our phonics skills. We've reviewed Phase 4, and the children are very excited about learning the new Phase 5 graphemes and common exception words in term 2.

To help support their progress, please continue to read at home at least four times a week and record this in their reading records. It's also a great idea to go over the common exception words and sound mats with your child regularly to help store this important learning in their long-term memory. These resources can also be found in their reading records.



In Geography, we have been learning about the seasons and weather patterns. We have been developing our observation skills by keeping our classroom weather charts up to date, tracking the ever-changing English weather! We have also been thinking about the different types of clothing we would and wouldn't wear in each season, and how we can choose suitable clothes to keep us comfortable in different weather conditions.

The season is...

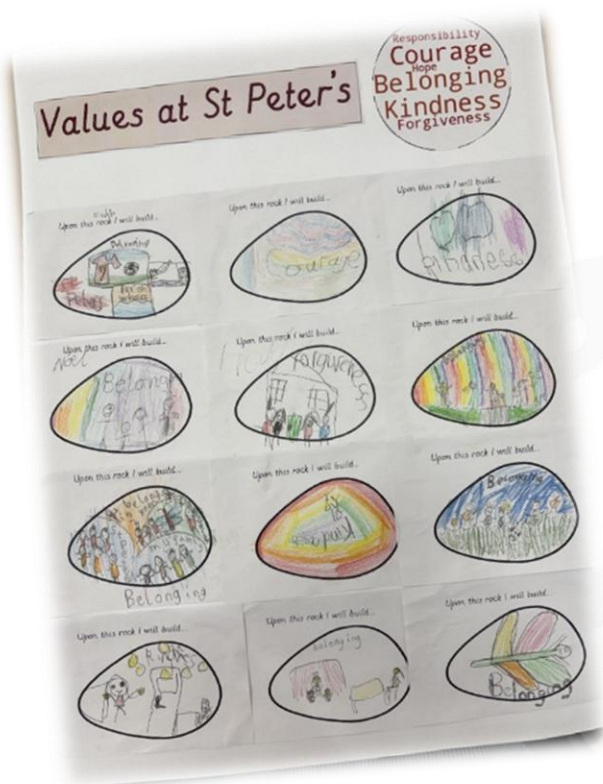
and the weather is

In Science, we have been exploring a range of different materials and investigating their properties. We put on our scientist hats to carry out an exciting investigation to discover which material would be the most suitable for making a winter raincoat for the Gingerbread Man! We tested different materials to see which would keep him the driest and help him stay safe from the winter rain. The children had great fun making predictions, testing their ideas and discussing their findings.



Year 2

Year 2 have made an amazing start to the school year. They have settled brilliantly into their new classes and have been showing what fantastic St Peter's Citizens they are, through how well they have grasped their new learning and how they are respectfully following the new structures and routines. Well done year 2, you should feel very proud of your strong start to the year!



LOOKING OUT



LOOKING IN



LOOKING UP...



This term's school value is 'Belonging'. During whole school worship on a Monday and Class Worship times, we have been exploring this through stories and discussion, thinking about 'Looking In' (how does this make us feel), 'Looking Out' (how does this change how we respond to others and the world around us) and 'Looking Up' (how does this shape our thinking about things greater than ourselves).

In English, we have read 'Little Red Riding Hood' by Emma Chichester Clark and 'Little Red' retold by Lynn Roberts. The children have written a character description and retold elements of each story.



22nd - 24th September 2026
LO: To write a narrative.

Context: Little Red Riding Hood

Narrative Retell	
Teacher	Me
✓ Capital letters and full stops ABC	✓
✓ Finger spaces	✓
✓ Phonics for spelling	✓
✓ Common exception words	✓
✓ Letter Formation	✓

Once upon a time there was a little girl.
She lived in a house at the edge of the woods.
She liked to wear a red cape and people called her Little Red Riding Hood.
She always walked with her mother and visited her Grandma.
One day her mother could not go and she visited Grandma by herself.
She promised to keep to the main path.
She packed a basket of bread and butter.



In maths, we have been exploring place value and addition and we are working on quick fire recall of basic number facts such as doubles, number bonds and counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s to help us solve **near** calculations more efficiently.

LO: To add three one-digit numbers, bridging ten

1. $9 + 4 + 6 = 19$
 $1 + 4 + 6 = 11$
 $3 + 2 + 1 = 6$
 $13 + 10 = 23$

2. $7 + 8 + 3 = 18$
 $3 + 2 + 9 = 14$
 $5 + 8 + 9 = 22$
 $15 + 18 = 33$

3. $2 + 8 + 9 = 19$
 $4 + 3 + 6 = 13$
 $3 + 2 + 4 = 9$
 $9 + 13 = 22$

4. $4 + 1 + 2 = 7$
 $1 + 5 + 9 = 15$
 $5 + 5 + 6 = 16$
 $10 + 11 = 21$

We are mathematicians

addition: $1 + 10 = 11$, $1 + 9 = 10$, $2 + 8 = 10$, $3 + 7 = 10$, $4 + 6 = 10$, $5 + 5 = 10$, $6 + 4 = 10$, $7 + 3 = 10$, $8 + 2 = 10$, $9 + 1 = 10$, $10 + 0 = 10$

subtraction: $10 - 1 = 9$, $10 - 2 = 8$, $10 - 3 = 7$, $10 - 4 = 6$, $10 - 5 = 5$, $10 - 6 = 4$, $10 - 7 = 3$, $10 - 8 = 2$, $10 - 9 = 1$, $10 - 10 = 0$

multiplication: $1 \times 10 = 10$, $2 \times 5 = 10$, $3 \times 3 = 9$, $4 \times 2 = 8$, $5 \times 2 = 10$, $6 \times 1 = 6$, $7 \times 1 = 7$, $8 \times 1 = 8$, $9 \times 1 = 9$, $10 \times 1 = 10$

division: $10 \div 1 = 10$, $10 \div 2 = 5$, $10 \div 5 = 2$, $10 \div 10 = 1$

number bonds: $10 = 1 + 9$, $10 = 2 + 8$, $10 = 3 + 7$, $10 = 4 + 6$, $10 = 5 + 5$, $10 = 6 + 4$, $10 = 7 + 3$, $10 = 8 + 2$, $10 = 9 + 1$, $10 = 10 + 0$

LO: To add three one-digit numbers, bridging ten

$7 + 5 + 2 = 14$
 $6 + 8 + 1 = 15$
 $4 + 6 + 5 = 15$
 $2 + 6 + 3 = 11$
 $5 + 6 + 5 = 16$
 $3 + 3 + 7 = 13$
 $3 + 6 + 6 = 15$
 $2 + 8 + 6 = 16$
 $8 + 4 + 2 = 14$



As part of our learning in science, we have been finding out about animals and their habitats and have been working scientifically to investigate habitats and microhabitats in the school grounds. We undertook an investigation to find out where woodlice like to live. We asked simple questions, observed closely, used simple equipment and recorded our findings. Our results revealed that woodlice like a habitat that is damp and dark.



Year 3

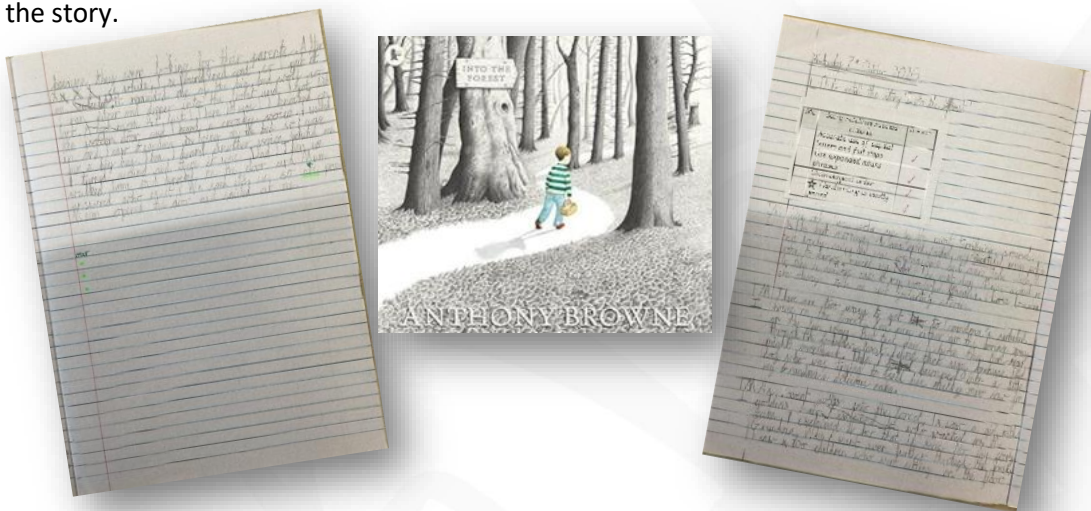
It has been a wonderful start to the new school year in Year 3. The children have settled in brilliantly and it's a joy to see so many children coming into school with huge smiles on their faces! We have also been thoroughly impressed with the way the children have seamlessly taken on the extra responsibilities of Key Stage 2!

English

During the first couple of weeks, we focused on handwriting and really honing in on the skills that will make our writing look excellent. We centered this learning around 'The Sea' By James Reaves. It was amazing to watch the children take such care with their work and we think the resulting pieces of work were amazing!



Following this, we then introduced the children to 'Into the Forest', written by Anthony Browne. We had lots of fun identifying the clues and references to different traditional fairy tales that were hidden throughout the story. As part of our writing, we focused on using expanded noun phrases to create more detail for the reader and then wrote our own versions of the story.



We also read 'The Secret of Black Rock' by Joe Todd-Stanton. During this time, we thought carefully about how we structure our sentences as well as how we can vary their type. We practised using a range of compound and complex sentences to make our writing more engaging and effective.

Halfway through the term, we were also visited by a poet – Daniel Thompson. The children had great fun learning about how to write poems as well as discovering all the different types – the tongue twister poems were by far a firm favourite! Have a go at a snippet from Daniel Thompson's 'Did You Ever See That?'

'Did you ever see a snail with a whale-sized tail? Or a fox buying clocks in the shops? Did you ever see a bear comb his hair with a pear? Or an ox wearing socks in a box? Did you ever see an aardvark bark at a shark?'



Art

We have been getting the blue paint out in art this term! Inspired by the work of Maggi Hambling and her fantastic seascapes, the children explored creating tints and shades to create calm or stormy seas. We also looked at how we could do printing, stamping and sgraffito (scratching) to add further texture to the waves. The children were brilliant and we think their final pieces turned out beautifully!





Science

In science, we have been exploring light. We started this topic by looking at different light sources and conducted experiments to discover which objects are best to reflect light. After that, we were introduced to the words opaque, translucent and transparent and the children learnt the difference between them. The children loved creating their own opaque puppets out of card!



We hope everyone has a restful half term break!

Year 3 Team

Year 4

As part of our Legacy Learning project this term, Year 4 explored what it means to belong to a community and the responsibility we all share in caring for others. Working closely with the Portishead and Clevedon District Foodbank, the children learned how acts of kindness, generosity and service can make a real difference to people facing difficult circumstances.

Through creating posters, organising our Harvest collection, writing prayers and reflections, and courageously leading our Harvest service at St Peter's Church, the children encouraged our whole school community to think about how we can support those in need. They explored how giving our time and resources can bring hope to others and reflected on the importance of speaking up for those whose voices are not always heard.

This project has deepened children's understanding of the wider community and their place within it, helping them to develop as compassionate, responsible and active citizens. It has provided valuable opportunities to show empathy, respect and social responsibility whilst recognising the positive impact that even small actions can have. In doing so, the children have beautifully demonstrated our St Peter's values of **Belonging, Kindness, Courage, Responsibility and Hope**, as well as our vision of "**Excellence in Our Service with Others.**"

Year 4 then proudly led the school's Harvest Service at church. They delivered their poems, prayers, and readings with confidence and expression, making a valuable contribution to this special occasion. The children truly embodied our school's value of excellence in service with others.



Please see below a copy of a letter of thanks from Kelly Croxton at the Clevedon and District Food Bank and – if you would like to find out more about how you can continue to support – please follow the link.

Dear all,

*I am writing to say a huge thank you for supporting **Clevedon and District Foodbank**, covering Yatton, Nailsea and Portishead, through your generous Harvest Festival donations.*

We have already put aside the Christmas items from your donation, which will be used when we pack approximately 600 Christmas hamper bags in December. The remaining food items will be distributed through our regular food parcels, helping local people and families who need support throughout the year.

Without the ongoing support of our local churches and schools, we simply could not continue providing food and essential support to people in our community who need it most.

*Your donation of **248 kg of food will help to feed 9 families**, which is an incredible contribution and will make a real difference to local families/ people facing hardship.*

*If you would like to support the foodbank further over the Christmas period, please share the attached Christmas appeal poster with your congregation and wider community. We would be very grateful if all Christmas donations could be delivered to any of our four foodbank centres by **Tuesday 1 December**. This allows us sufficient time to organise our annual Christmas Hamper Event, which takes place in mid-December.*

You can find your nearest donation point here:

[Locations | Clevedon District Foodbank](#)

Once again, thank you for your kindness, generosity and continued support. It makes a real difference to families across our local community.

Kind regards

Kelly Croxton

Charity Administrator

We would like to share the reflections that the worship leaders wrote and read so beautifully – it is heartening to know that we have such caring and thoughtful young people in our community.

Looking In

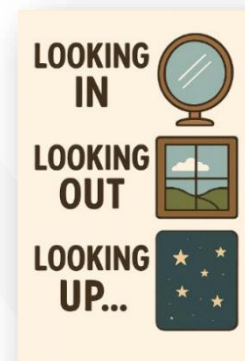
At Harvest time, we can stop and think about ourselves. We can be thankful for the food we have, the people who care for us, and the things we sometimes take for granted. Harvest reminds us to think about how we can be kind, generous and grateful in our everyday lives.

Looking Out

Harvest also helps us think about other people. Not everyone has enough food to eat, and some families need extra support. By donating to food banks, we can help make a difference in our community. Small acts of kindness can bring hope and show others that they are not alone.

Looking Up

As we look up, we remember God and the wider world. We thank God for the earth, the crops that grow, and all those who work hard to provide food. We pray that everyone, everywhere, may have what they need and that God will help us to build a fairer, kinder world for all.

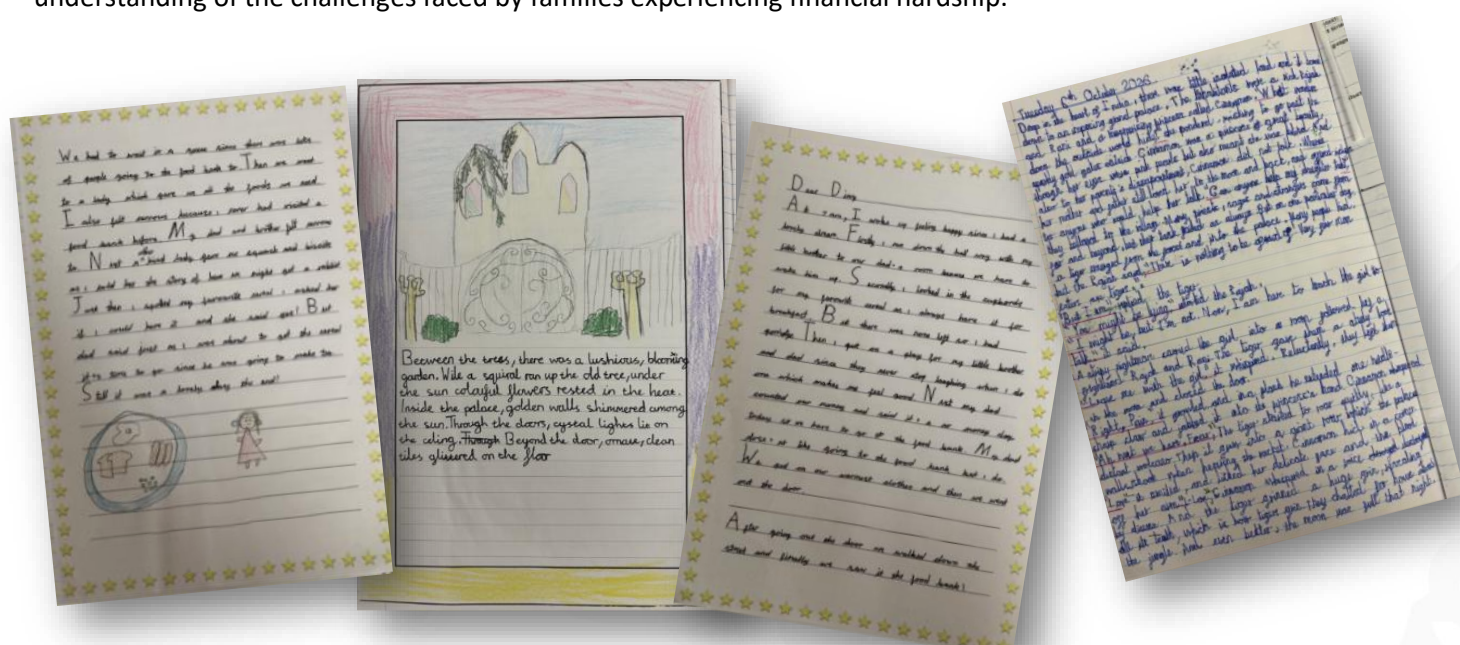




English

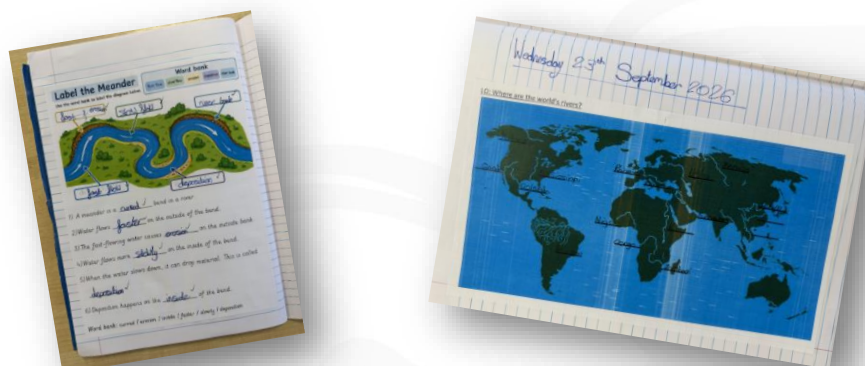
This term, Year 4 has explored two engaging texts: Cinnamon and It's a No Money Day. Through their study of Cinnamon, the children developed their descriptive writing skills, crafted detailed setting descriptions, and selected ambitious adjectives to bring their writing to life.

Making meaningful links to their Legacy Learning project, the children then explored It's a No Money Day. They stepped into the characters' shoes to write thoughtful diary entries, demonstrating empathy and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by families experiencing financial hardship.



Geography

In Geography, Year 4 has been exploring the fascinating topic of rivers. They have investigated how rivers are formed and developed their understanding of the journey a river takes from its source to its mouth. The children have also been building their geographical vocabulary, confidently using key terms such as source, meander, oxbow lake, sediment, and deposit to explain the features and processes associated with rivers.

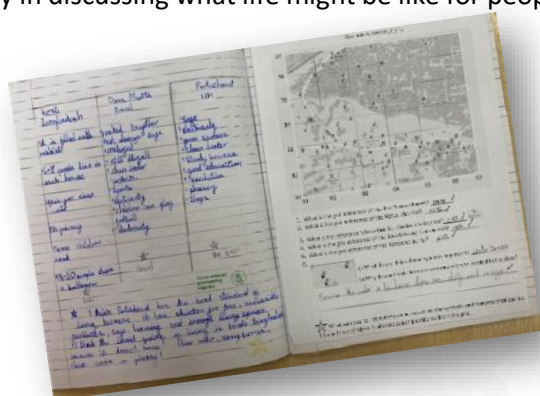




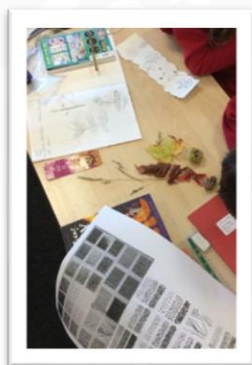
Year 5

Geography

Year 5's topic this term has been Slums. The children developed their knowledge of maps when locating different slums across the world and also learned how to use 4-figure grid references to find features of slums such as clean water taps. They were fascinated to find out why and how slums develop and have shown real maturity and empathy in discussing what life might be like for people living there.



In art, we have been exploring the life and work of Vincent van Gogh. We learnt about his life and what inspired him as well as experimenting with different mediums to imitate pieces of his work. We have even had a go at doing some observational drawings which we will use in our final piece of artwork.



We are very excited to have started our whole class trumpet lessons, which the children are really enjoying. We are really lucky to have the expertise of the music teacher Mr Sansom and with lots of practice, we can't wait to hear the fantastic tunes the children will be playing as the weeks go on. We hope you are enjoying listening to the children practice at home.

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed meeting their Reception buddies this term. They shared stories and read together before heading outside for some playtime, building lovely new friendships across the year groups. Year 5s took great pride in being positive role models for their younger peers, showing kindness, patience and enthusiasm as they helped their buddies settle into school life.

Year 6

What a fantastic start we've had to Year 6!

We started the term with our week of inspirational maths when we were set a range of open-ended mathematical challenges that required logic and teamwork. We explored different patterns within shapes and number squares and tried to find the longest path through a rectangular grid. One of our favourite activities, though, was working in groups to create 2D and 3D shapes using just one continuous piece of string.



In our writing this term, we have been reading the story version of Macbeth and used it to produce some excellent writing. After studying the witches prologue, we produced our own spells. We then put ourselves in the shoes of Macbeth himself, writing letters to Lady Macbeth about our unusual encounter with the witches on the heath.

Of course, we have to mention the most exciting experience – our residential trip to Mill on the Brue! While we were there, we pushed ourselves outside of our comfort zones to try a range of new outdoor pursuits. We challenged ourselves with activities involving heights (like the leap of faith and wall climbing), we practised our aiming skills (through activities like axe throwing and archery) and we tried to stay dry whilst canoeing and trying to put together our own rafts. It's safe to say that not all of us successfully remained dry!

It wasn't just the outdoor activities that were amazing. We celebrated birthdays, took part in a quiz night and talent show, dressed up for a disco night, ate lots of amazing home-cooked food and met the site's resident animals – including sheep, chickens, pigs and Nutmeg and Pecan (the owner's dogs).

Please see images of the trip on our Facebook page and on the next page.

St Peter's



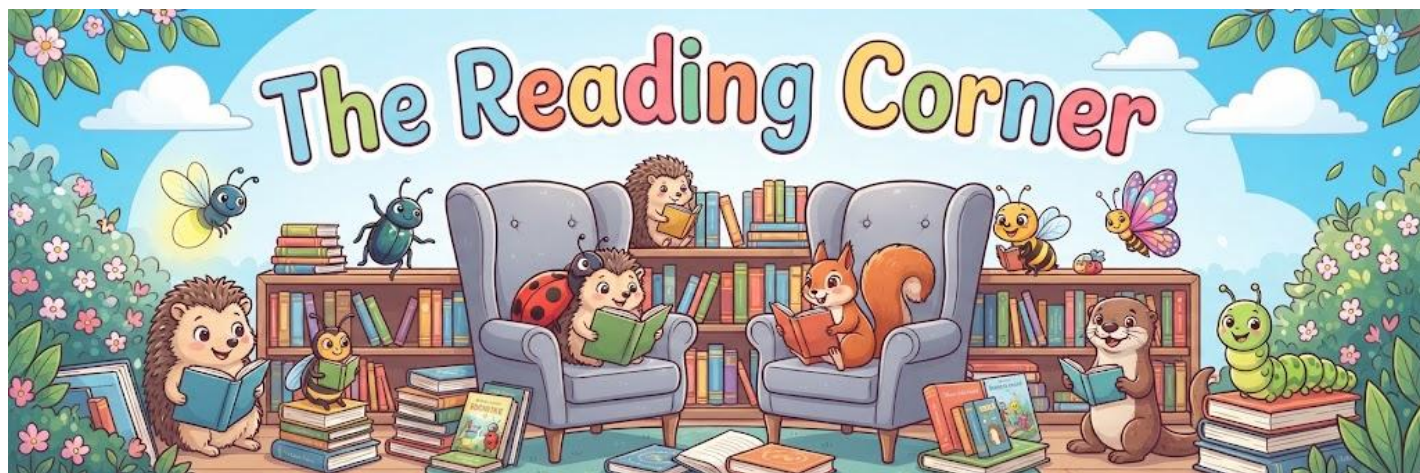
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As we head towards the first break of this academic year we hope that you will find the time to share a story, visit the library, or curl up with a favourite book together.

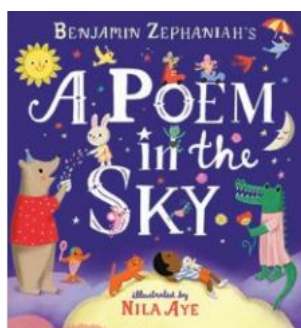
Many of us have fond memories of sharing stories, discovering favourite characters, or becoming completely absorbed in a book we simply couldn't put down. Encouragingly, recent research from the University of Cambridge, has shown that reading for pleasure does far more than support children's literacy skills. Children who read regularly for enjoyment tend to develop stronger language and thinking skills, achieve more highly in school, and experience better mental wellbeing. The research also found links between reading for pleasure, better sleep and reduced screen time.

Thank you for everything you do to support reading at home. Those few minutes spent sharing a book, listening to your child read, or chatting about stories really do make a difference. Together, we can help every child discover the joy, wonder and opportunity that reading brings.

Further reading: [Reading for pleasure – and for better health](#)

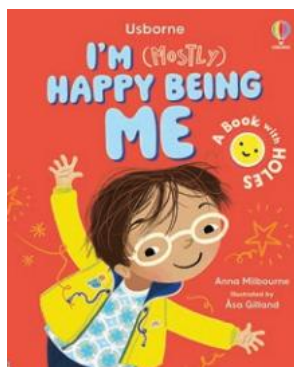
If you are looking for ideas for your next family read here are a few from the recently published Book Trust Great Books Guide 2026:

Reception



A Poem in the Sky Benjamin Zephaniah, illustrated by Nila Aye

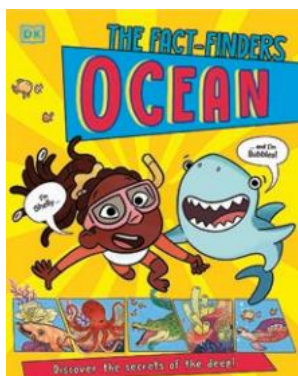
This brilliant poem by the late Benjamin Zephaniah and illustrated by Nila Aye is arranged perfectly so that the text fits to the turn of the page, creating a clever rhythm. The joyous positivity of the words will make any budding writer feel inspired too.



I'm (Mostly) Happy Being Me Anna Milbourne, illustrated by Åsa Gilland

A little boy notices that everyone else is good at things at school. Kai's great at drawing, Frankie's brilliant at football and Jakub tells the funniest jokes. Fortunately, his parents and classmates show him that everyone is different and wonderful in their own way – like pebbles on the beach.

KS1



The FactFinders Ocean Tracey Turner, illustrated by Gillian Reid

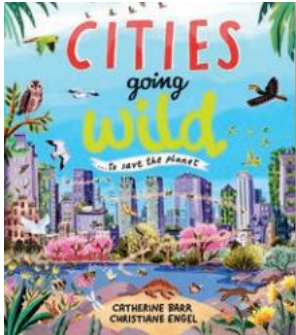
Guided by Shelly and her friend Bubbles the shark, readers are taken on a journey through various underwater environments and habitats, meeting incredible creatures and learning mind-blowing facts along the way about biomes, the water cycle and evolutionary adaptations.



The Future Book Mac Barnett, illustrated by Shawn Harris

There are lots of strange things to learn about the future. For example, the sun is called 'the moon', the moon is called 'the sun', and people don't say goodbye – instead, they say, 'You smell like a baby.' Many other amazing facts are featured within this book, alongside beautiful and surreal illustrations of humans with green fish on their heads.

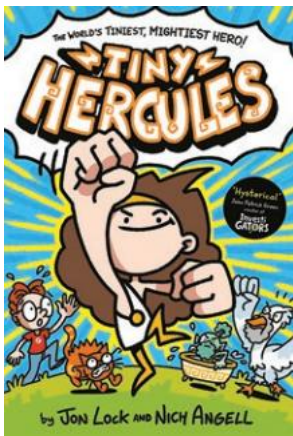
Lower KS2



Cities Going Wild – To Save the Planet Catherine Barr, illustrated by Christiane Engel

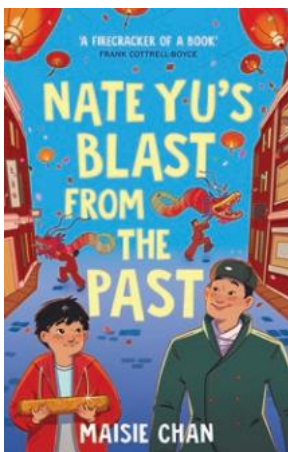
By 2050, two-thirds of people on Earth will probably be living in a city, so bringing nature back into cities is increasingly important. In this informative book, readers will discover real-life examples from across the world, such as pangolin pathways, water snake wetland parks and lizard railway station roofs.

Upper KS2



Tiny Hercules Jon Lock, illustrated by Nich Angell

Tiny Hercules usually lives on Tiny Mount Olympus. Unfortunately, Tiny Hercules has annoyed Tiny Zeus one too many times, and he's banished to the land of the Titans (the human world). There, he crashes into Jeff's life, tries to defeat a 'lion' (Jeff's cat) and complete an epic quest. Then Tiny Zeus appears, disguised as a swan. Will Tiny Hercules prevail?



Nate Yu's Blast from the Past Maisie Chan

Nate Yu Riley is adopted. As he's Chinese and his mums aren't, they've tried to connect him with his heritage, but he's not interested – until the day he sees a vision of a Chinese man, Jirou. Jirou worked for the British in the First World War. What will it take for Jirou to rest in peace?



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Have you ever wondered what happens when you send a message, use a search engine or ask AI a question? This non-fiction book makes modern tech easy to understand, breaking big ideas into bite-sized chunks that are genuinely interesting.

wellbeing newsletters

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

It is filled with activities and parent advice.

