



Message from Ms Cooper...

We have reached the end of another exciting term.

I thought it pertinent to spend a moment reflecting on the incredible journey that John Rankin Schools has embarked upon. It's been a term full of excitement, learning and growth and I could not be prouder of our school community.

Our children have shown all the traits of being brilliant Purple Learners, demonstrating resilience, adaptability and focus as they have settled into their new school routines, new classes and making new friends. Their enthusiasm for learning has been truly inspiring. Whether it be in the classroom, on the playground or during extra-curricular activities, their energy and curiosity have shone through.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated and passionate teaching staff. They have worked tirelessly to create a nurturing and stimulating environment for our children. Their commitment to providing the best for our children is commendable. It is evident across the school that children are 'buzzing' with their learning in the 'Brave, New World'.

We have welcomed new staff across the school this term who have quickly become a part of the John Rankin Family. As we know, change is always a constant in schools - we are very happy to announce that Mrs Booth will be taking the lead of SENCO (whilst Ms Demeza is on maternity leave) in the afternoons (whilst remaining class teacher every morning) alongside Ms Street, who is currently Inclusion Manager in another local school. They will begin a full transition with Miss Demeza after half term and Year 6 will be receiving a letter to update them on teaching arrangements after half term.

Looking back over the term there have been many new exciting opportunities. We've had our first House Art Competition, House Multi Sports competition, library assemblies, new leadership group recruitments, among so many other exciting activities and trips.

As we move into the new term, there will be many more exciting things on the horizon. We will continue to be brave with the curriculum, providing opportunities for pupil leadership and exploring new ways to engage our community. Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and activities as your support makes a significant difference.

We are looking forward to the journey ahead as we work together to provide an exceptional education and the opportunity for every child to flourish.

Governing Board Bulletin...



On behalf of the governing board, our thoughts go out to those involved in the tragic recent traffic accident in Valley Road.

I would like to thank everyone in the whole school community for responding in such a sensitive, thoughtful and compassionate way, particularly in reassuring and comforting the children.

The school won praise from the police and emergency services for the way this terribly difficult situation was managed.

It's at times like these, thankfully very rare, that we realise that the school is a family, and we all need to work together and support each other.

Take care, stay safe, and have a great half-term. I hope to see lots of you on the Scarecrow Trail next Friday!

David Marsh, Chair of Governors

FS2 News...

In FS2 we have been using the wonderful book “You Choose” to create our own fantasy worlds. This led us down a magical path of mythical creatures and fantasy.



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FS2 News...

In FS2, the children have been excited by Dinosaurs. Imagine if they still existed?!

We watched some eggs hatch...

Explored a dinosaur swamp...

& made dinosaur crafts...



Thinking
like a 

palaeontologist



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Year 1 News...

Imagine if we could explore the world! This term, the children really wanted to learn about exploration of the world using different vehicles. In history, they learned about Christopher Columbus and his explorations in boats, The Montgolfier Brothers and their invention of the hot-air balloon, and The Wright Brothers and their invention of the aeroplane. Following their learning of Christopher Columbus, the children made their own boats and then tested them to see if they would float. It was great to see the children using scientific knowledge, designing their boats, and making improvements when needed.



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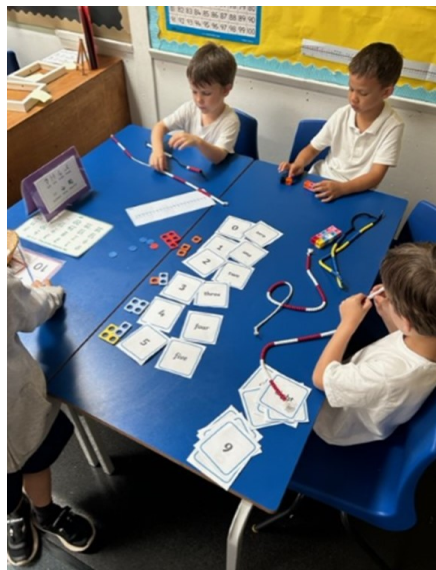
Year 1 News...

Continuous provision

Year 1 have been learning through a mixture of teacher inputs as well as independently in the classroom. It has been amazing to see what the children are exploring and investigating. The provision and activities this half term have provided some engaging and interesting conversations and led to further learning opportunities for the children based on their interests and findings. Here are some things they have been taking part in...



Thinking like a geographer -
Making the world's continents



Thinking like a mathematician - Making numbers, matching words and finding one more and one less.



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Thinking like a computer scientist - Programming the floor robots using algorithms.



Thinking like an artist and scientist - Mixing colours to paint pictures on animals

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Thinking like an engineer - Designing and making vehicles.



Thinking like a historian - Making booklets and posters to share our knowledge of key people in history.

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Year 2 News...

Year 2 have been excited to take part in the Forest School learning this term. For their first lesson, the weather was kind to them, and they spent time learning the rules and exploring the secret garden. In small groups, their task was to find certain objects including the smallest leaf and mini beasts!



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Year 2 News...

In Design and Technology, children had to think like a designer to make a paper airplane that could fly the furthest. They were given examples of successful designs, and were then expected to design and make their own. It was great to see children sharing their knowledge and understanding between each other. A class competition was held with the winning paper airplanes being subject to much discussion and scrutiny.



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Year 2 News...

As part of our 'Imagine if we travelled the world' focus, children have been enjoying finding out about the female pioneer pilot, Amelia Earhart. They had to plot her final journey on a map showing which continents she flew over. Children then had to programme the Bee-bots to trace this journey.



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Year 3 News...



Thinking like
an artist



Cave
Paintings

In Art, Year 3 have been exploring and creating Stone Age cave paintings. We became archaeologists and hunted around the 'caves' in the classroom looking for paintings. When we found them, we described what we saw and what we thought they represented. We used clues from the paintings to understand what we were looking at such as animals, tools, symbols, etc.



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Year 3 News...



Thinking like a scientist - Rocks

Oak class sorted rocks with different characteristics into Venn or Carroll diagrams. They looked at the texture and colour of their rocks as

well as deciding if they were natural or man-made.



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Year 3 News...



Thinking like a historian

Life in the Stone Age.

In History, we have been learning about life in the Stone Age. We were lucky enough to have some artefacts to explore from the West Berkshire Museum which helped us understand more about what life was like in the Stone Age. We took our spears and axes (that we made in design and technology) out into the forests and caves. We learnt about the roles of hunters and gatherers and then went off to find food. We avoided the dangers such as wild animals, poisonous plants and finally brought our kills back to our camp to cook and eat!



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Year 4 News...

Year 4 have immersed themselves in their Brave New World learning this term exploring the statements of "Imagine if we travelled to a new world" and "Imagine if we could protect our planet".



Their learning has taken them from Ancient Greece to the creation of Judaism; from looking at the future power sources of our world to the importance of today's natural habitats. We have explored local history by looking at the Greenham Common protests and how they sought to protect peace in Europe, and had a day immersing ourselves in country life at the Farleigh Wallop estate.

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Year 4 News...

A highlight for the children across the year group has been the creation of their own Brave New Worlds through looking at how to design and model dioramas. In addition, we have been also been so impressed with how they have embraced their swimming lessons each week. We look forward to an equally busy and exciting rest of the year!



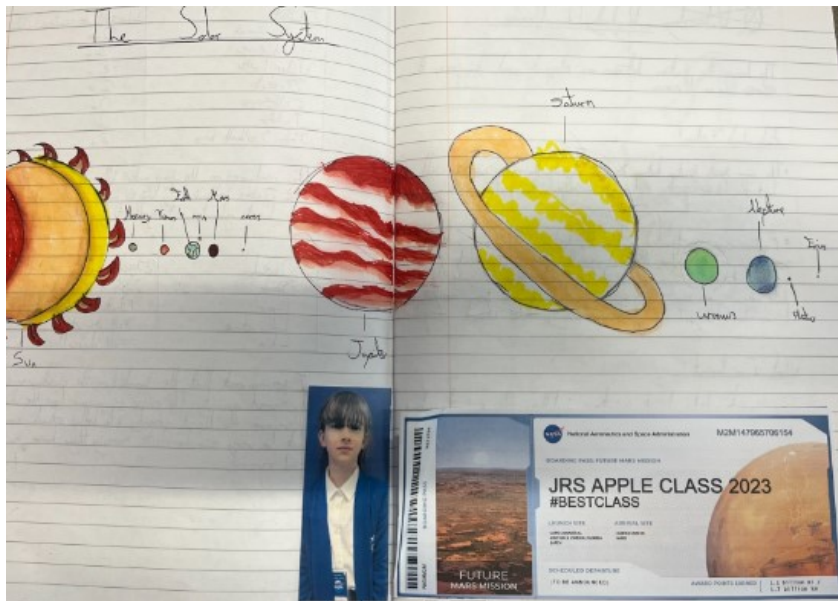
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Year 5 News...

Year 5 have immersed themselves in their Brave New World learning this term exploring the statements of "Imagine if we travelled to another world" and "Imagine if there was no gravity".

We became trainee astronauts, and explored the planets. We used fruit



and toilet paper to make a life-sized representation of the planets and measured their distance from the sun, we then drew our own models. In classes we sent our name to mars, and received our departure tickets and re-enacted a rocket launch!

Children have taken part in experiments, testing friction. They have investigated different forces, and we have used newton –meters to measure the mass of objects, to make predictions on how it will be affected by gravity.

In Art, we have been inspired by Peter Thorpe's Space Rockets, and children experimented with their own style, through mixing colour, shades, and tones, and selecting varying media.

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Year 6 News...

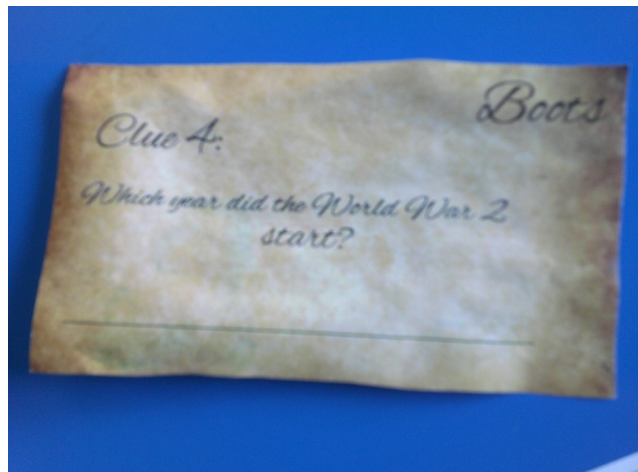
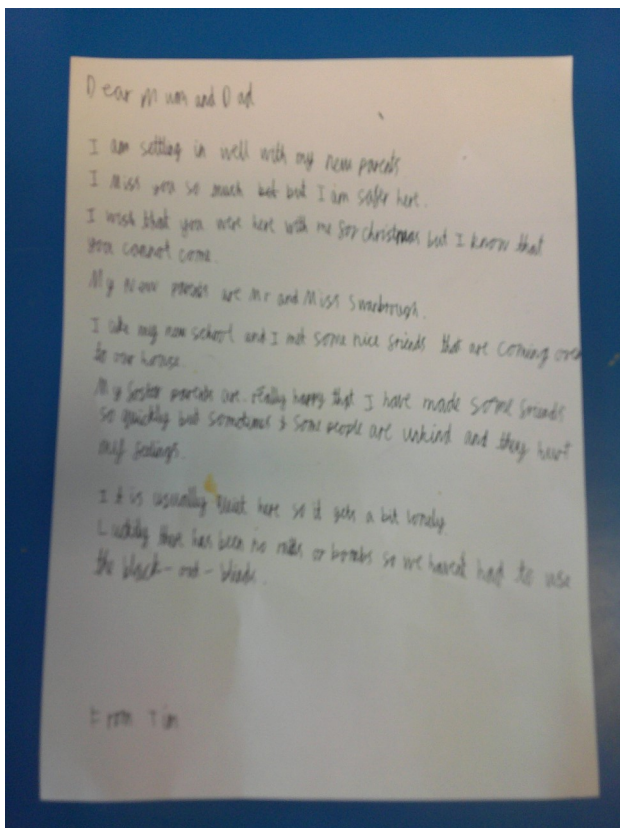
BRAVE NEW WORLD

Imagine if...you were a child in Newbury in World War 2.

We learned all about WW2 and particularly how it affected Newbury. We found out about the many children who were evacuated to places like Newbury from London, to keep them safer from the risk of bombing. We are reading *Goodnight Mr Tom*, a novel which tells the story of a young boy evacuated from London to the countryside.

Think like a Historian...

We use a range of historical sources to support our learning: photographs, interviews, radio broadcasts, news articles, speeches and letters. We then planned our own projects to demonstrate what we have learned.



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Year 6 News...



Dear Harry and Paddy,
Chris and I are very homesick but happy in the meantime.
We were placed with a lovely couple near a school. He is doing
really well in school, but at times it's a bit hard in the morning.
Today, we had a lesson about the world and how it works and
how we can help it. The teacher said it was a very interesting lesson and
we went to the town market and we got some lovely things to
eat. We are all getting on well and we are having a great time.
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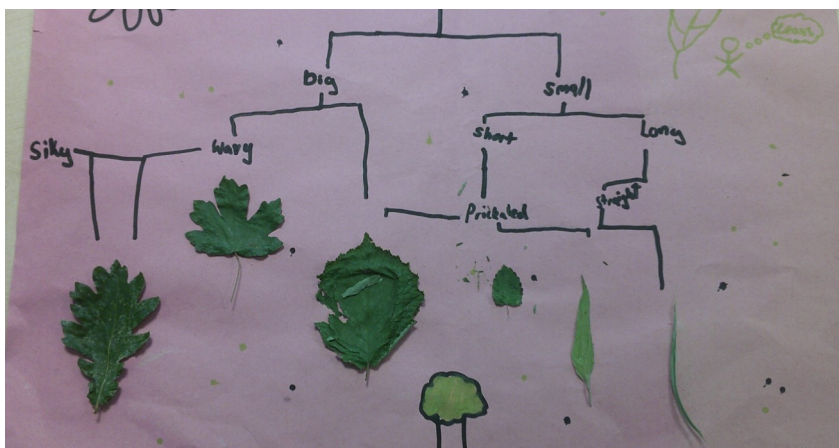
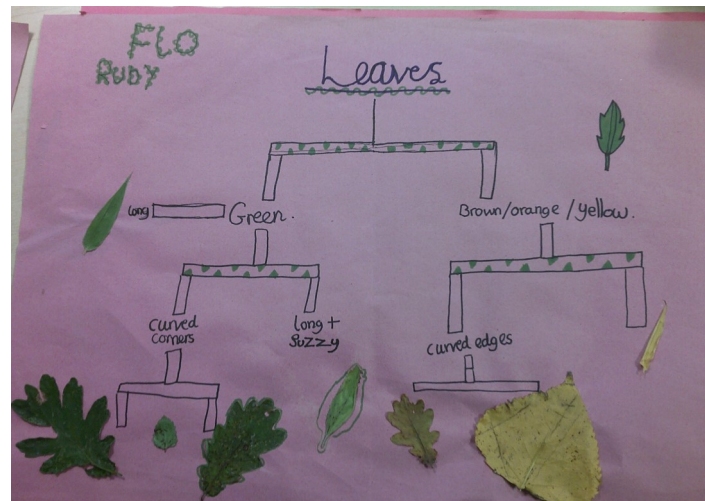
Year 6 News...

Think like a Scientist

We have learned about the work of the scientist Carl Linnaeus. 300 years ago, he devised a system for classifying (grouping) living things. His system has been adapted over the years, and many of his ideas are still used by scientists today.

We have learned about the different classes of animal, particularly vertebrates: mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish.

We have been devising our own ways of classifying living things, including using classification keys to sort leaves from our local environment.



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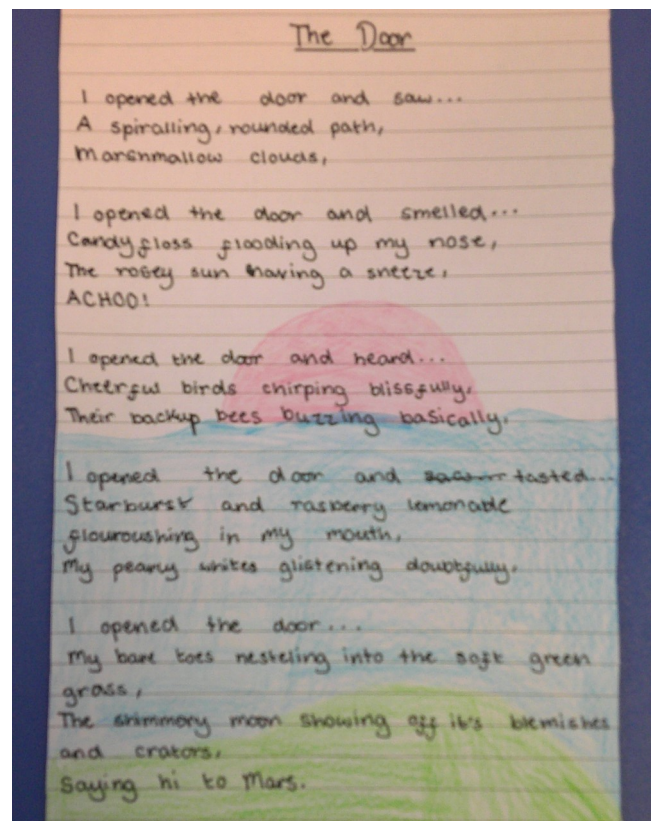
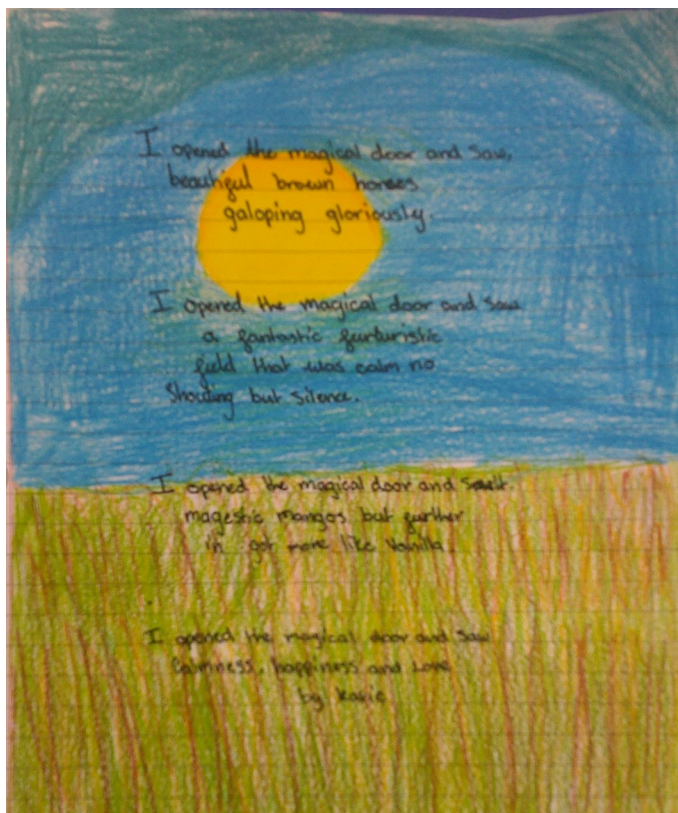
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Year 6 News...

Think like a Poet

We have been studying a wordless story book, called DOOR. This has been a challenge, because we have needed to come up with our own vocabulary and language ideas, and to think about the story from the main character's point of view.

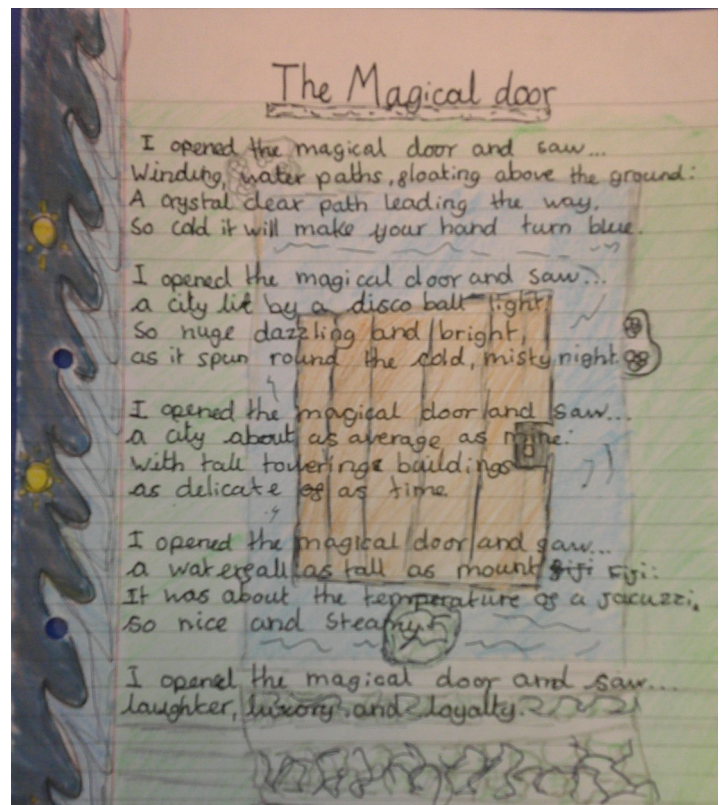
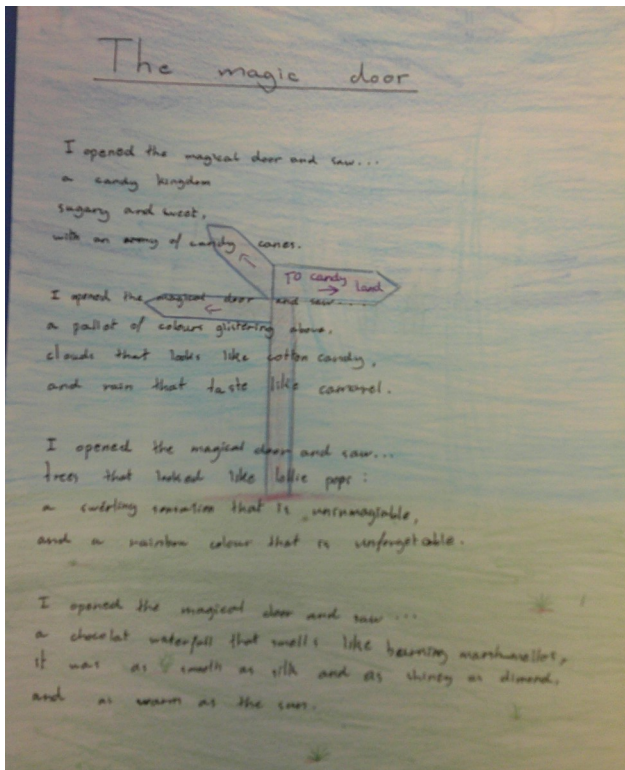
As part of our English learning, we have written poems about our own created imaginary worlds.



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Year 6 News...



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General News...

Celebrating National Teaching Assistants Day

On 29th September is was National Teaching Assistants Day. To celebrate and thank our amazing TAs, we hosted a tea party in the afternoon. Brilliant purple learners from each class baked muffins in the Make It Bake It Room for them to enjoy!



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Reading News...

A huge thank you to the PTFA for funding the Little Library furniture which arrived just before the Summer Holidays. Each Infant class-room now has a tree to shelve all our beautiful new books and multiple sets of tree stump seating pads. Books will be rotated between classes, within a year group, each term so that choices of reading material will be kept fresh and exciting across the academic year. And of course, a massive thank you to Mr Green and Mr Billingham for their hard work in attaching the trees to the walls.



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Food Bank

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, the children collected a huge amount of food for the West Berkshire Food bank. The donations totaled 219.1kgs which equates to 460 meals for West Berkshire Residents.

Well done and thank you.



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Sports News...

It's been a busy first term back for our sports boys and girls with lots of fixtures already being played.

We had two different year 3 and 4 boys teams compete in a new competition called the Adnams Cup. This competition is set up as a league format throughout the year and it allows the schools competing to choose which year group plays and it can vary for every fixture. This allows a lot more children the opportunity to represent the school!

One team travelled to Kintbury and played in a thrilling 7-7 draw to get us on the board with a point. The team was captained by Reggie T and a player of the match performance from Alexander P capped off a great game.

It was then our turn to host Robert Sandilands and this group of boys won 8-0! An amazing team performance with Nathaniel H captaining the team and Archie L getting POTM.



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Sports News...

Our year 5 and 6 boys have been equally busy competing in the group stages of English schools competition. We hosted a tournament involving St Nics, Kintbury, Falkland and Calcot. The boys were excellent beating Kintbury, drawing to Calcot, losing narrowly to St Nics and eventually losing to the overall winners Falkland.

The team this year is captained by James M. POTM was Ted W .

The 5/6 boys also attended the indoor tournament at Trinity and performed amazingly winning 4 out of their 5 games and coming second to Spurcroft. POTM was Harry P .



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Sports News...

Despite being a band new team, the Year 5 and 6 girls picked up where they left off last season topping their ESFA group beating Springfield, Birch Copse and Spurcroft to go through to the next round of the competition. The team is captained by Lucia B-Z and POTM was Tilly C.



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