



Building Bright Futures

Responsibility:
make good choices
because your
actions matter

Respect:
value everyone
and everything in
how you listen,
speak and in what
you do

Compassion:
show care and
understanding for
everyone

Courage:
be brave; believe
you can

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Blackwell News

Issue 8

9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school looking refreshed, settled and eager to learn.

The children have already been immersed in their new learning this term. These topics include:

- *The Animal Kingdom*, we were especially excited to welcome a hedgehog visitor, which sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful questions.
- Also, the children have also enjoyed identifying a 'mystery egg' and developing their observation skills.
- As scientists, they have been investigating different materials, exploring their properties and asking scientific questions.
- In another thought-provoking discussion, the children have been debating, "*Should we stop eating chocolate?*", encouraging them to think critically and share their opinions.

Alongside this, the children continue to thrive as artists, mathematicians and readers, building new skills and confidence every day – and there is much more exciting learning to come.

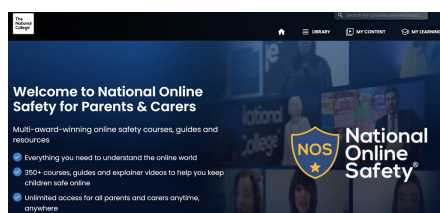
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a fantastic term ahead.

Sarah Martin
Headteacher

Keep me safe online'

We want to help you to keep your child safe online, so please find below a couple of resources to support you. The QR Codes below provide you with easy access. Do take the time to have a quick look as there are step-by-step instructions, as well as short videos.

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/#choose-parental-controls-guide



Year R

For our 'hook' to our new topic, 'The Animal Kingdom', Squirrels class had a visit from some Hedgehogs as this week we are learning about British Wildlife. Graham runs a Hedgehog rescue charity and he brought along two Hedgehogs to visit us. He taught the children all about how Hedgehogs live and survive and also how we can help to protect them in our own gardens too. A big thank you to our Squirrels parents who have contributed towards a donation to the animal charity **St Francis Animal Care**.



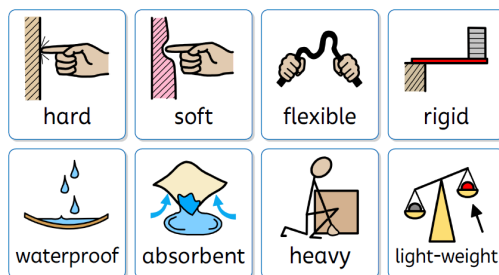
Year 1

We have had a stunning start to Term 3 in Year 1. The mystery began with the children following giant footprints leading into their classrooms, sparking immediate curiosity. Working scientifically the children used posters as visual guides, taking on the role of researchers to identify the "mystery egg." The transition from discovery lead to "digging for bones" introduced the concept of palaeontology in a tactile, memorable way. So much wonderful engagement from all the children.



Year 2

This week, the children have enjoyed the launch of our science topic, all about materials and their properties. We kick started our learning with a hands-on activity where the children had to group materials and then sort them based on their properties. There was a variety of materials to sort such as wood, metal, foam and fabric. We then spent time understanding key vocabulary such as rigid, flexible and absorbent. Finally, we re-grouped the materials based on their properties. The children had lots of fun!

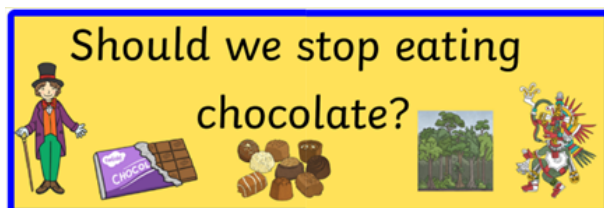


The children really enjoyed an extra special snowy Woodland Activity session this week. As you can see, there is nothing more fun than playing in the snow with your friends! The whole class worked really well together to make these enormous snowballs using the snow from the field.

In Curious Quest this week, we have been focusing on writing sentences that use commas in a list. We thought it would be fun to write some extra sentences about a snowman that linked to our snowy session!



Year 3 & 4



We have enthusiastically begun our new Learning Journey to help us answer the question 'Should we stop eating chocolate?' Through our Design Technology learning, we have become product designers with our first task to be product testers. We spent a snowy afternoon tasting white, milk and dark chocolate as well as an array of toppings for the chocolate including marshmallows, biscuits, cereal, jellies and more! The children had to assess the taste to identify the sweetness level of the chocolate and select one for their chocolate bar. Then they identified which two toppings they would like and explain why. Finally, the children created a template of the layout of the ingredients in layers.

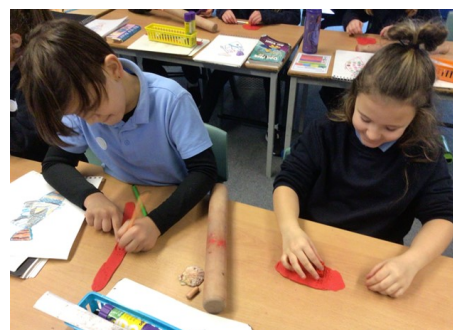
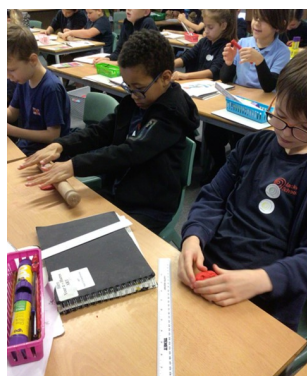
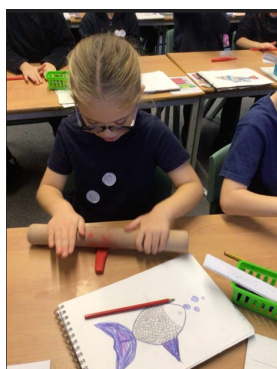


DT is awesome this week. We loved the testing and tasting session for our chocolate bar designs. We identified great flavour combinations, textures, and shared ideas with our partners. Did you know that toffee popcorn works well with dark chocolate? Did you know that white chocolate doesn't go well with fizzy Haribo?



Year 3 & 4

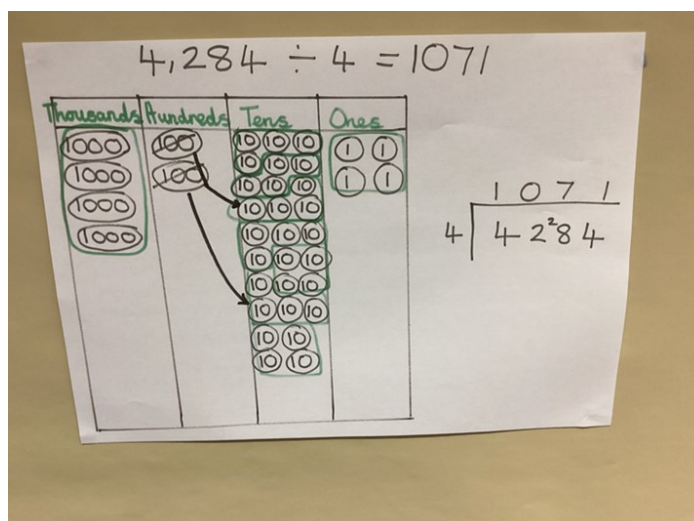
In Art, Years 3 and 4 have been exploring the art of fish sculptures through history, particularly during the time of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We have appraised a favourite piece and stated why we think it should be displayed in a museum. We have also developed our own skills in manipulating clay through the medium of plasticine. We warmed it up then rolled and flattened it then explored using a variety of objects to mark make. From this we then drew our own design of our fish and labelled which markings we plan to use and which mark making implement we shall use.



We then followed our plan to reproduce our designs in clay. The final touch was to paint them and coat them in PVA.



Year 5



Currently in Year 5 Maths, we are focusing on short division and have focusing on using manipulatives to solve division questions. The children can now explain what a divisor, dividend and quotient. They have worked hard at neatly setting out their workings.



In Guided reading, Year 5 are diving into an exciting fantasy adventure. The children are astonished that Ned Waddlesworth believes he is completely ordinary, until the night before his 13th birthday when strange visitors arrive at his house and his world begins to change forever.

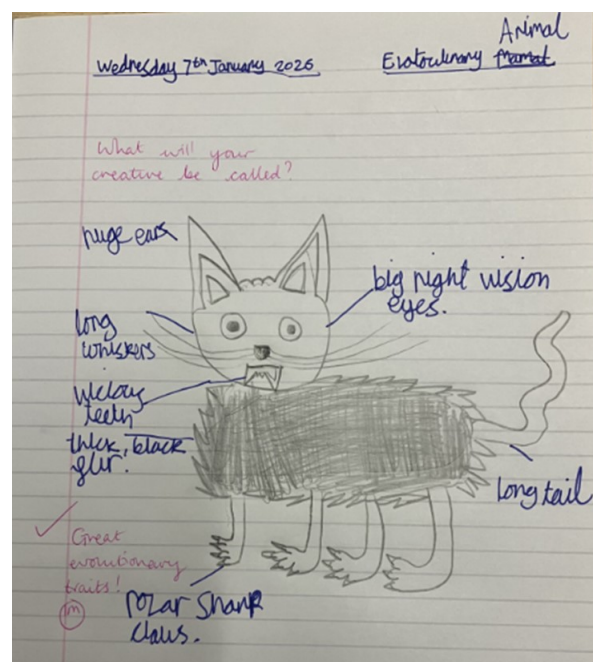
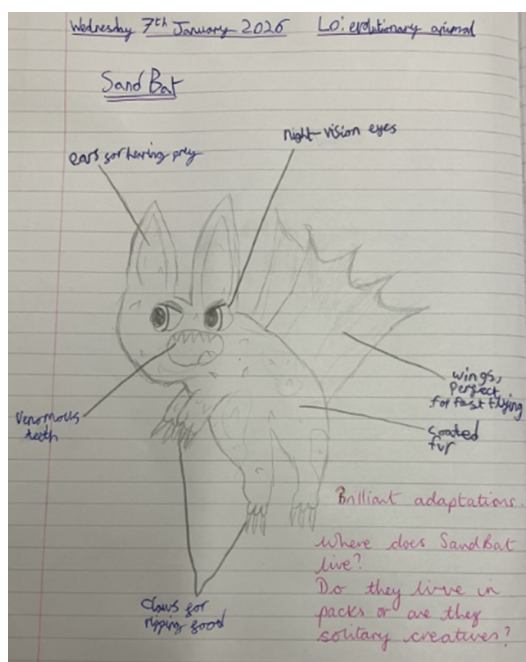
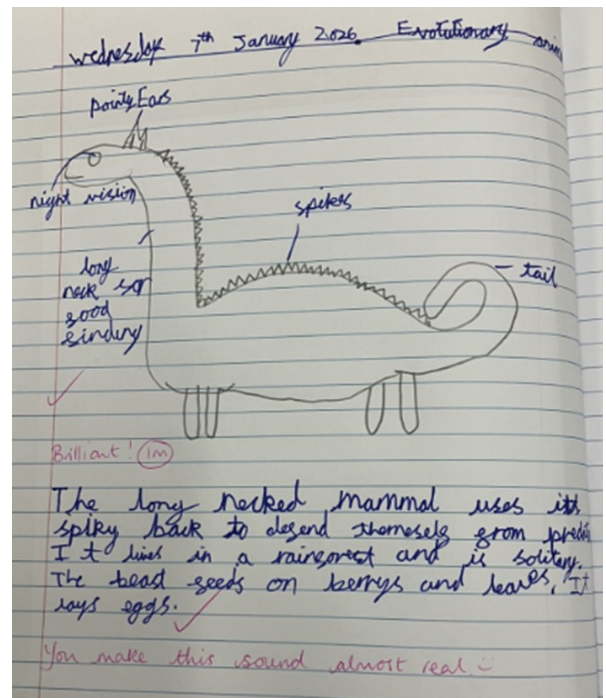
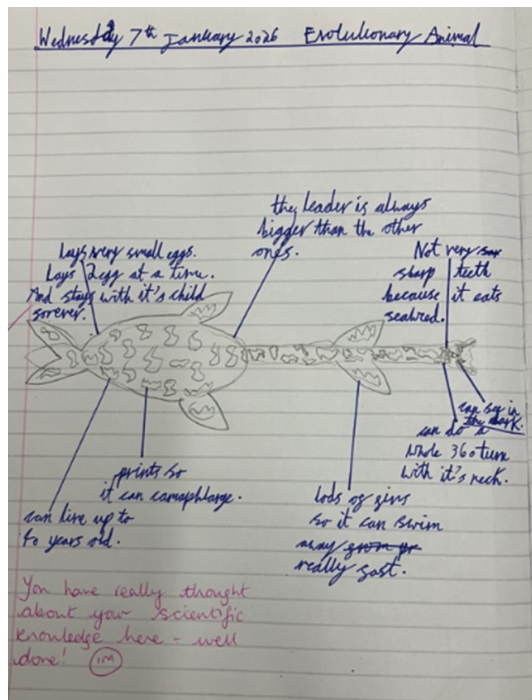
We are looking forward to discovering some secrets, with mysterious characters and hidden powers. In school we are listening to this book on Audible, feel free to join the journey at home too!

Year 6

Year 6 have started their new writing unit with gusto! We are tasked to write a non-chronological report on a made-up animal. We are using our scientific knowledge of evolution and adaptations to make the animal have a good chance of survival and almost sound real.

We will write descriptions of our animals for our report and then put these into an AI image generator to see if it matches our original drawings.

We'll keep you posted on how we get on!



January 2026	
13th	Ash class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
14th	Parents' Forum—8.50am—9.50am
20th	Robins class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
21st	Parenting workshop: 'Positive Communication', 9.00am—10.00am.
22nd	Year 6 Parents and Carers SATs meeting 6.00pm—7.00pm. Please ensure you attend this important meeting.
27th	Hares class assembly 9.00am parents invited
28th	Para-athletic event

February 2026	
11th	Animazing in for Squirrels class—more details to follow
16th—20th	Half term—School closed to children
23rd	INSET Day—School closed to children
24th	Children return to school

March 2026	
3rd	Cedar class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
4th	Parents' Forum 8.50am—9.50am
10th	Rabbits class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
11th	Parenting Workshop, 'Supporting my child to emotionally regulate', 9-10am
12th	Year 6 Ashdown Forest—9.00am—3.00pm (more details to follow)
16th-20th	Year 6 Bikeability
17th	Puffins class assembly 9.00am parents invited
19th	Year 3 & 4 Amberley Museum trip (more details to follow)
24th	Ladybirds class assembly 9.00am parents invited
26th	Rocksteady Concert—9.00am—9.30am parents invited
30th March — 10th April	Easter Holidays —School closed to children

April 2026	
13th	Children return to school
21st	Goldfinches class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
22nd	Squirrels class trip to Herstmonceux Observatory—more details to follow