



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

Inside this issue:

Blackwell Book Corner	2
Sports Crew and Art Club	3
Reception & 1	4
Year 2	5 & 6
Year 3 & 4	7 & 8
Year 5	9
Year 6	10
Diary Dates	11 & 12

Blackwell News

Issue 9

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all doing well, especially with the recent challenges caused by the water outage. Our children showed wonderful resilience while learning online at home and have settled back into school life really well.

Over the last couple of weeks, it's been great to see our Sports Crew running fun lunchtime activities that the children are loving. In Art Club, children have been busy developing their drawing skills—make sure you take a look at their fantastic animal artwork on page 3. Across the school, children are continuing to work hard on improving their writing, while also enjoying learning as mathematicians, designers, scientists, and readers.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and finding out more about all the great things happening in our school.

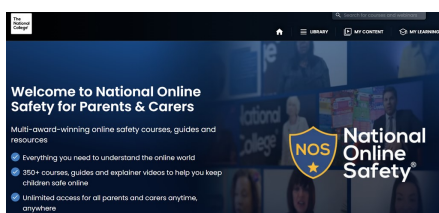
Thank you for your continued support.

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



Blackwell's Book Corner!



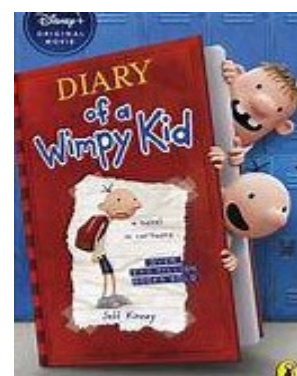
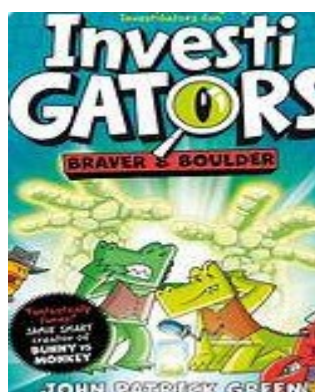
Change your story

We are excited to share that 2026 has been named the **National Year of Reading!**

This initiative, led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust, officially launched on January 13th with the goal of making reading a fun and rewarding part of everyday life. Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for children to get involved, including national storytelling weeks, creative writing competitions and more! Whether it's through music, sports, or family time, we encourage you to join us in rediscovering the joy of a good book. Support is also available through organizations like Book Trust to help even our youngest learners develop a lifelong love for reading.

Reading doesn't just mean books

It includes stories, ideas and information in print, digital and audio – from graphic novels and lyrics to articles, podcasts and games.



Sports Crew

Last half term, our Sports Crew have been doing an outstanding job bringing energy, teamwork, and fun to lunchtimes across the school. Trained by specialist secondary PE teachers from our local through the Mid-Sussex Active programme, the year 5 and 6 children, who represent our Sports Crew, have developed fantastic leadership skills that they are putting into action every day.

Armed with new ideas, confidence, and a real passion for sport, the Sports Crew have been organising and leading a wide range of activities for all learners to enjoy if they wish. From small games to skill-based challenges, they make sure there is something for everyone, helping to create a positive, active atmosphere on the playground.

Their commitment, enthusiasm, and sense of responsibility have made a real difference to our school community. We are incredibly proud of the way they encourage others, model teamwork, and help make lunchtimes more active and inclusive.

A huge well done to our Sports Crew — keep up the fantastic work. You are inspiring others every day.

Art Club

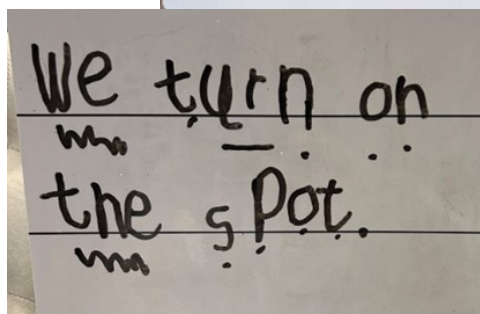
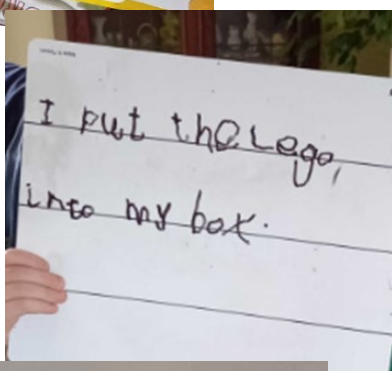
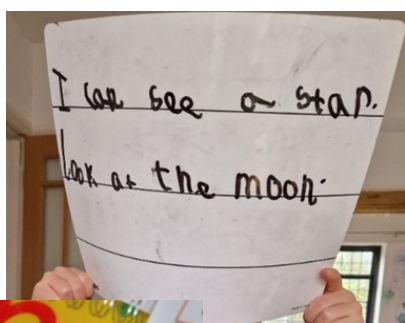
An art club for talented artists is running throughout Spring term. The children attending are aged from Y1 through to Y6. The first session was focussed around drawing skills and using different sketching pencils to draw animals. We used pencils ranging from 6B, 5B, 4B, 3B, 2B, B, HB, F, H, 2H, 3H and 4H. We hope you enjoy our artwork!

Miss Cantillon



Year R

The children in Squirrels have been working hard on writing short sentences. They are learning to remember finger spaces between words, to begin each sentence with a capital letter, and to finish with a full stop. We are very proud of the effort they are putting into their writing skills. It has been wonderful to see the children remember what they need to write a good sentence, and here are some examples of sentence writing at home. Well done Squirrels!



Year 1

Our Year 1 mathematicians have been busy exploring the world of shape.

The children have been identifying and naming 2D and 3D shapes. They especially loved the hands-on challenge of building with 3D solid shapes while discussing their unique properties and differences. We are so impressed with their growing shape knowledge showing great engagement and enthusiasm for learning. The children's progress in this area has been nothing short of amazing! Well done Year 1.



Year 2

In PSHE lessons the children have been learning how to work collaboratively. We discussed the importance of sharing resources, equipment and ideas. Also we talked about how we needed to listen to each other, take turns, not be bossy and to make sure we used kind words when talking to the people in the group. We then put all of these skills into practise to work as a group to design and make an animal in a habitat. It could be real or imagined. It was fun working with different people and making sure that everyone was included and that we worked as a team.



Year 2

In Design and Technology this half term, we are designing and making our own vehicle for Mrs Armitage. This week, we were investigating wheels, axels and chassis'. We worked in groups collaboratively and found that the axel did not rotate with the wheels when the axel was taped onto the chassis. The masking tape was not strong enough to hold it completely still either. The car did not move easily on the ground so when we make our own vehicles we will do so using a rotatable axel.

PLEASE START SENDING IN JUNK MODELLING



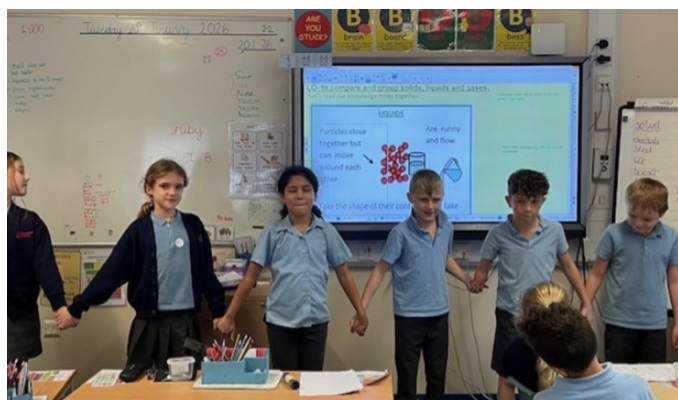
Year 3 & 4

Science

After reading about the chocolate palace that Mr Willy Wonka made for an Indian prince, we discussed why that was not a sensible choice in a hot country! We then began to find out about the three states of matter – solids, liquids and gases. We acted out being the particles in each state to help us understand their properties.



In liquids, the particles are still close together, but they can move around each other. This is why they can pour and flow but keep the same volume.



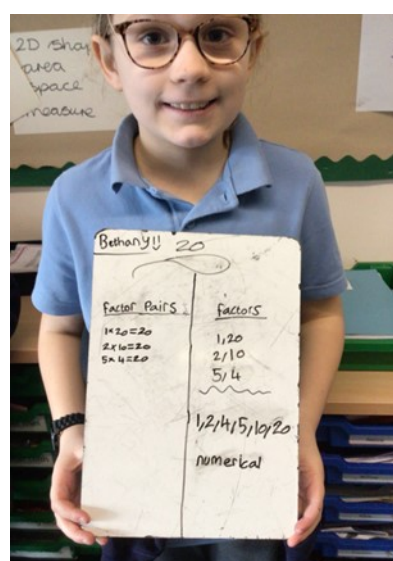
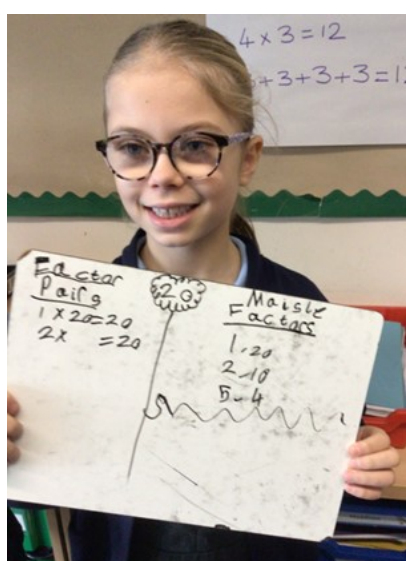
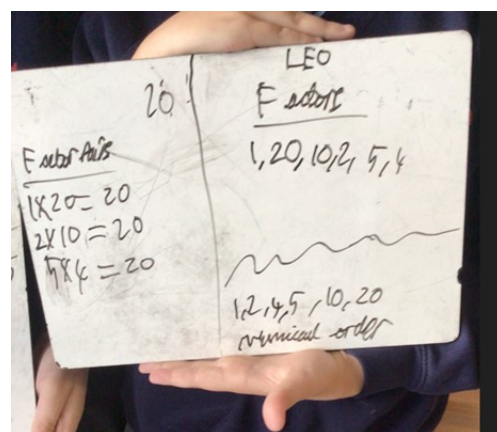
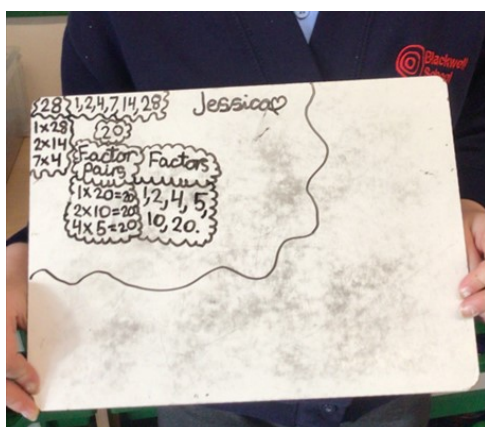
In gases, the particles are free to move apart from each other which is why they will fill all available space and take the same shape and volume of their container.



Year 3 & 4

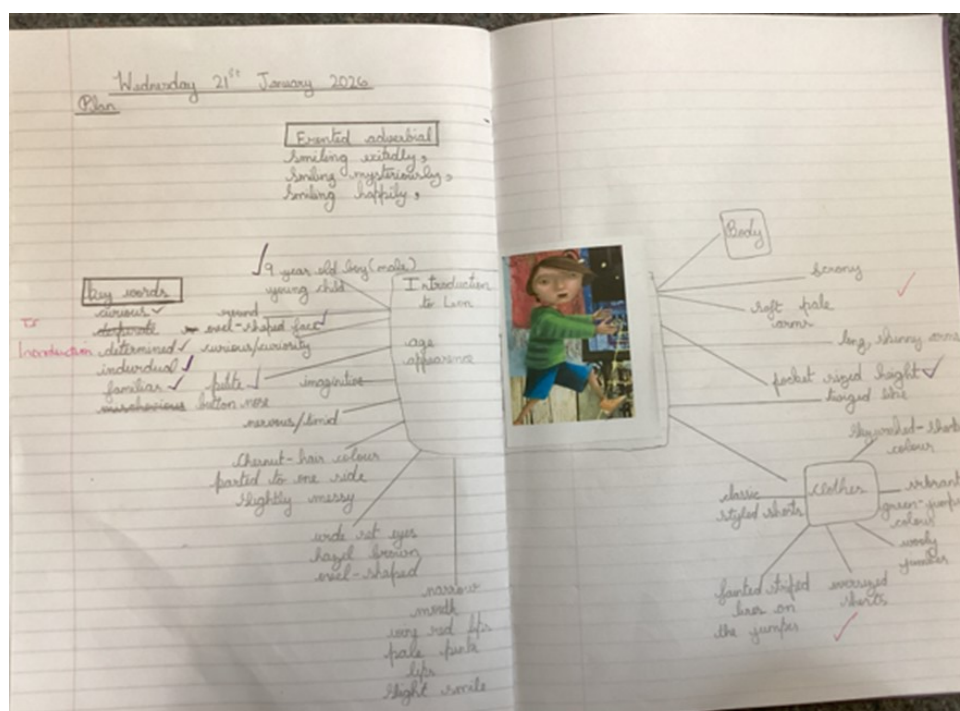
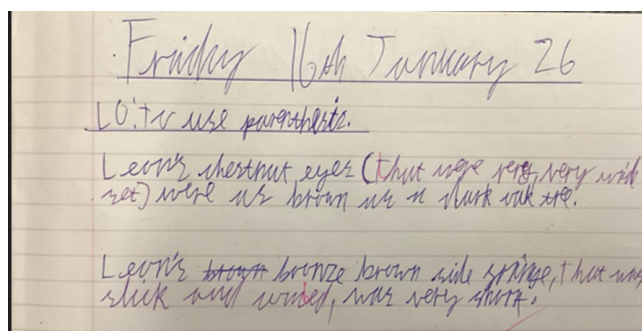
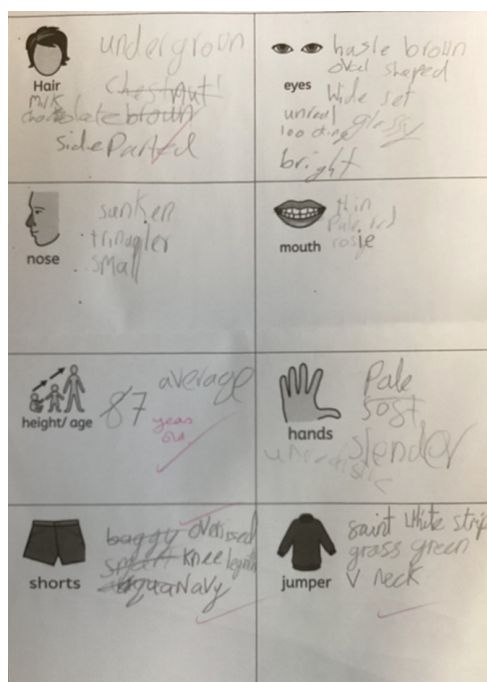
This week, Year 3 and 4 have been exploring the foundational concept of factors and factor pairs. A factor is a number that divides into another exactly, leaving no remainder. For instance, pupils have been discovering that the factors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12. By identifying these "building blocks," children develop a deeper understanding of how numbers are constructed and how multiplication and division are inextricably linked. To help visualize this, we used rectangular arrays, showing how a number like 12 can be arranged into different equal groups.

A key focus of our lessons has been oracy—the ability to articulate mathematical thinking clearly and confidently. By verbalizing their reasoning—for example, stating, "I know that 3 is a factor of 15 because 15 is a multiple of 3"—children are starting to move beyond rote memorization toward a more flexible and permanent grasp of number properties.



Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been working extremely hard in their writing lessons. Inspired by the book *Leon and the Place Between*, we have been planning detailed character descriptions. We have been developing our use of parenthesis, generating precise and ambitious vocabulary, and incorporating fronted adverbials ending in *-ing* into our writing. Using all of these skills, we have created thoughtful writing plans in preparation for composing our own character description of Leon, which we will then input into an AI image generator to create our own unique versions of the character.

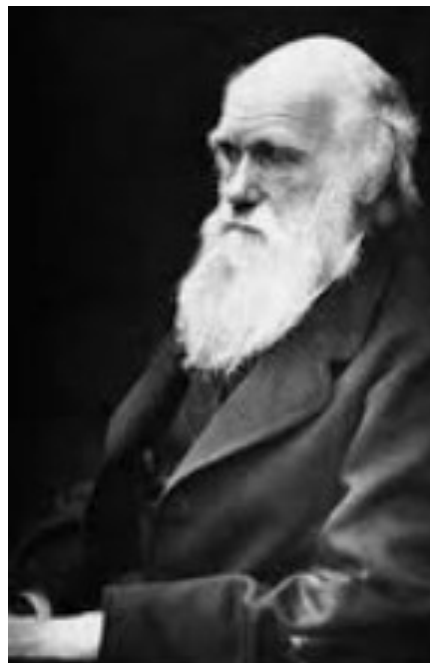


Year 6

Year 6 have been busy scientists this half term learning about evolutionary traits and adaptations. We started the topic exploring two very different Victorian naturalists- Charles Darwin and Mary Anning. We learnt how Mary's fossil discoveries backed up Darwin's theory about evolution.

We have used our scientific knowledge to support our writing where we are writing non-chronological reports on a made-up animal. We have used real-life adaptations to put into our descriptions and we can't wait to share these with you after we have shared with Year 5 and typed our descriptions into AI image generator to see how close a match we can make.

Watch this space to see our results!



January 2026

27th	Hares class assembly 9.00am parents invited
28th	Para-athletic event

February 2026

3rd	Robins class assembly 9.00am — parents invited
10th	Year 5—Sackville School watching production Parents Consultation Evening 3.30pm—6.30pm
11th	Animazing in for Squirrels class—more details to follow
12th	Parents Consultation Evening 4.00pm—7.00pm
13th	Year 4 MTC Parents' meeting 9.00am
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) Squirrels class — Police visiting (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 Year 2—Owls visiting—more details to follow
May 2026	
4th	Bank Holiday—children not in school
5th	Children return to school
18th	Class photos