



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 10

6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another fortnight of great learning, with pupils engaged in a wide range of exciting activities.

Our learning has taken us from exploring Great Athletes to celebrating our own great athletes, recognising the effort, perseverance and teamwork shown by the children. We have also delved into the animal kingdom, where curiosity and enthusiasm have been on full display, and the children have enjoyed being scientists, investigating and exploring through hands-on learning.

Also, pupils have taken part in Bikeability, developing their confidence and important road-safety skills. We have also embraced technology by using AI to generate drawings from pupils' written descriptions, comparing the outcomes and discussing how clearly our ideas are communicated.

Looking ahead, next week continues to be a busy one. We are excited to welcome Animazing into school, and Year 5 will be visiting Sackville's show, which promises to be a fantastic experience. We will also be marking Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day, alongside holding our parents' evenings.

We look forward to seeing you next week and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

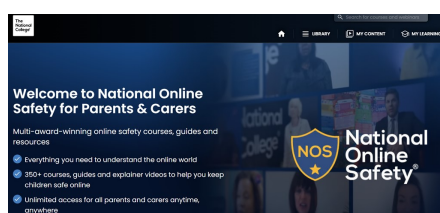
Kind regards,

Mrs 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



Athlete Visit

Great Athletes Sponsored Event

We would like to say a huge thank you to anyone who donated money to the sponsored Great Athletes Event. The children had a really fun time and we managed to raise a great amount of money as well. It was inspiring to find out about an Olympic Athlete and to have fun doing challenges as a whole school. Once all the funds have been completed we will let you know the total amount raised. It will also be great to be able to use this money to add to our sporting equipment in the school.



Blackwell Sport



In addition to being selected for the U10s Sussex Cricket Pathway this coming 26/27 season, Freddie has recently received even more exciting news. He has been chosen for the Pathway Plus programme, recognising exceptional promise and talent in both batting and seam bowling.

Freddie was selected from a group of over 80 boys on the initial Pathway Programme, with only a handful invited to join this elite group. As part of Pathway Plus, he will attend additional specialist batting and bowling sessions during half term at the Sussex County Cricket Ground.

A fantastic achievement — well done, Freddie!



In addition, Cameron has qualified for 50m back stroke in the Kent County finals. This is a result of demonstrating resilience and courage throughout the year, after an ankle injury in October. Cameron has hugely benefited from the advice and experience of his Piranha's coach and is looking forward to working hard during his weekly training sessions in readiness for next year's County qualifiers.

Year R

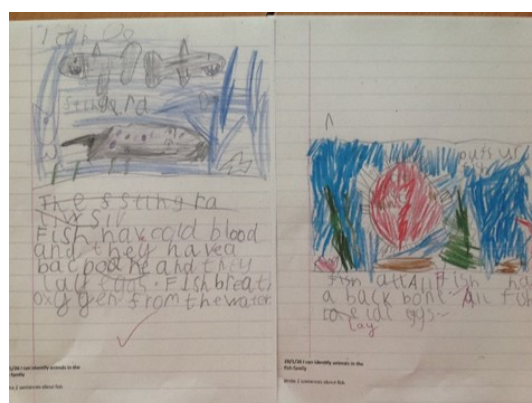
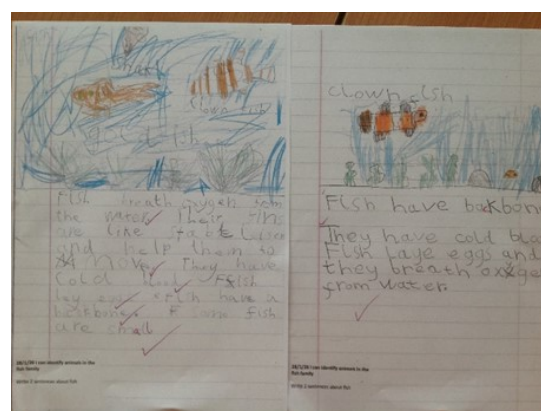
Children in Squirrels Class have been learning all about the animal kingdom, and last week our focus was on minibeasts. After an exciting minibeast hunt around the school grounds, the children were inspired to create their very own minibeast hotel in our outdoor area. With fantastic support from our parents, we gathered a wide range of natural resources and worked together to construct the hotel. It was wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic and engaged, taking the lead and bringing their ideas to life.

A huge thank you to our parents for their amazing support, which allowed the children to truly run with their idea and turn it into a brilliant learning experience.



Year 1

Our little scientists in Year 1 are having a blast! 🌟 We've been exploring the amazing world of animals and humans, learning all the fancy scientific names for their features including scales, fins and gills. The highlight has been our big group chats about what every creature needs to stay happy and healthy. It's been so wonderful to see so many hands up and so much excitement in the classroom!



Year 2

The children have enjoyed investigating the properties of materials in our science topic. We tested materials to see which would make the best mast for Mrs. Armitage. We all found that wood would be the best material to make a mast because it was rigid and strong. We also found that hard plastic would be a good material however soft plastic was too flexible and prone to breaking.

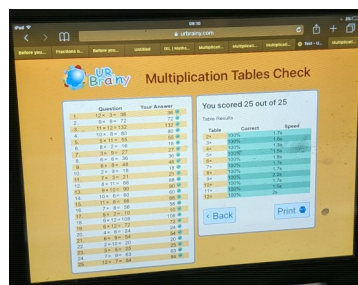


Year 3 & 4

This term we are practising on speed on the URBrainy MTC website. Getting a perfect score of 25 out of 25 is great. But these children are moving at light speed with times comfortably in the green zone.

What is the Green zone? The Green zone is when you answer a question in under 3 seconds. Correct answers will appear highlighted in green. Some children are getting all 25 question correct and getting them all green. That's impressive.

Keep working on your tables and keep trying. You can do it.



Year 3 and 4 have been continuing to find out more about changes of state in their Science lessons. They watched an old advert for Minstrels that used the slogan 'The chocolate that melts in your mouth not in your hand'. This led them to ask what makes different chocolates melt at different temperatures. They carried out a fair test to see how long it took milk, white, dark chocolate and Minstrels to melt. They then looked at the cocoa content of each type of chocolate and found a pattern in their results. They also concluded that Minstrels had a higher melting point because they had a crispy sugar coating that insulated the chocolate inside.

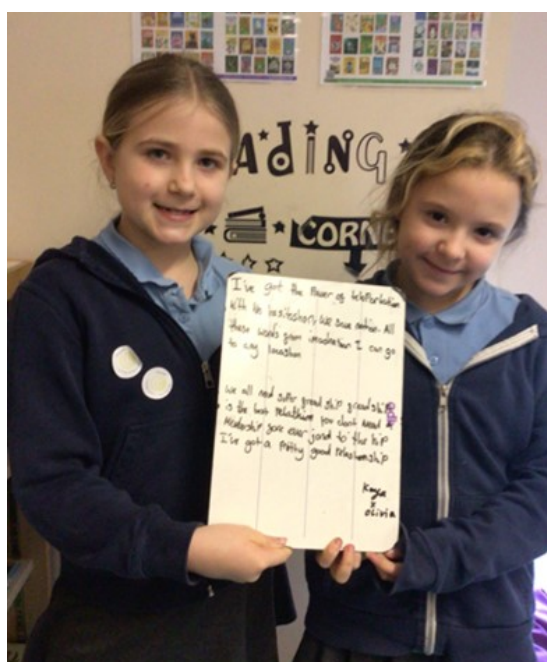
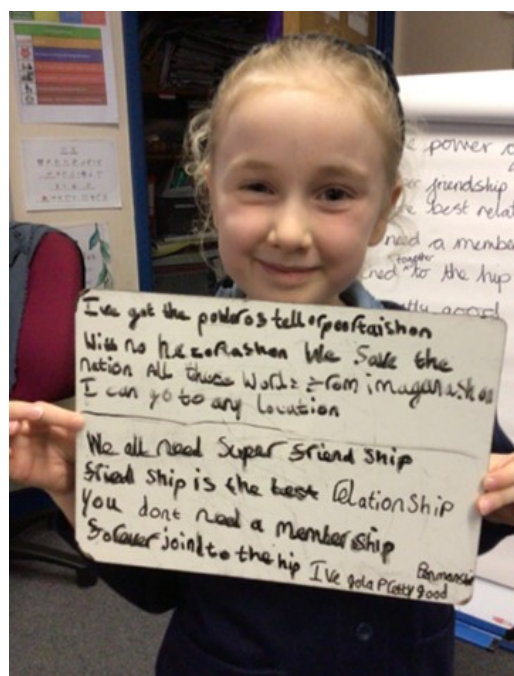
They have also been researching the nutritional value of chocolate. They have looked at what food groups are in chocolate and how much energy they give. They drew graphs of how many calories are in different chocolate bars and discussed how different exercises are important to keep us active and use up those calories.



Years 3 and 4 have been busy designing their packaging for their amazing chocolate bars! They have chosen their colour scheme by comparing warm and cool colours and exploring how they work together. Using this they have altered their net design to reflect their colour scheme. Additionally, they have utilised their computing skills of typing, changing font and font size as well as learning how to fill the colour of shapes as well as the outline. Finally, some of the children have started to learn how to snip images from the internet such as scrumptious soft marshmallows and crunchy Biscoff. We are also very impressed with how well the children are working together, supporting one another and lending their expertise.

Year 3 & 4

We also participated in a live workshop with Alim Kamara as part of the Year of Reading, specifically National Storytelling week. The children interacted with the hilarious and interactive session where the children learned about rap. Alim Kamara performed some of his poetry/rap, we joined in as well and then we worked together with Alim to create two rap stanzas! Here are some of our raps one which was about friendship and the other superpowers!



Year 5

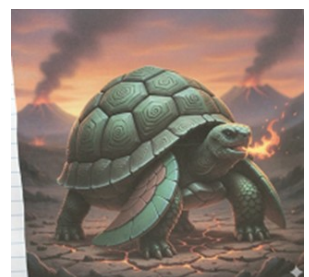
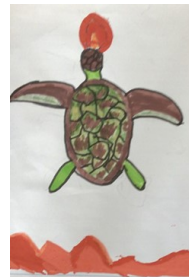
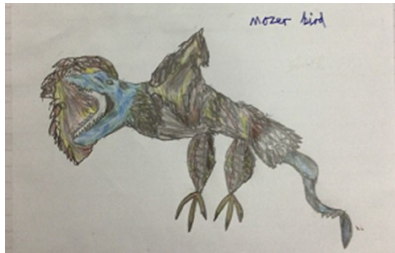
Our Year 5 children recently took part in Bikeability Level 1 training, where they learned important skills to help them ride safely and confidently. The children practised checking their bikes, and helmets, setting off safely, controlling their speed and looking out for hazards. They also learned how to share space and communicate clearly with others. Everyone worked hard and showed great determination, and many pupils can ride independently with confidence. Well done all our cyclists!



Year 6

Year 6 were very excited to conclude their latest writing process this week and share their writing with Year 5.

Putting our written descriptions into AI, we compared our original drawings with the AI generated ones. As you can see, our descriptions were so well written and detailed that we had some very close matches!



February 2026	
10th	Year 5—Sackville School watching production Parents Consultation Evening 3.30pm—6.30pm
11th	Animazing in for Squirrels class
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 Squirrels class—Fire Service visiting (more details to follow)
10th	Rabbits class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
11th	Parenting Workshop, 'Supporting my child to emotionally regulate', 9.00-10.00am
12th	Year 6 Ashdown Forest—9.00am—3.00pm Squirrels class — Police visiting (more details to follow) Year 3 & 4 Amberley Museum trip (more details to follow)
13th	PTA Quiz Night—more details to follow
16th-20th	Year 6 Bikeability
17th	Puffins class assembly 9.00am parents invited
20th	Comic Relief—more details to follow PTA Spring Disco - 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
7th	Polling Day—school open as normal
18th	PTA Cake sale 8.00—9.00am and 3.00—4.00pm Class photos