



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 11

27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a wonderful and restful half term. It has been a pleasure welcoming the children back to school — they have returned ready to learn, full of enthusiasm, and eager to get started!

It was also lovely to see so many of you before the half term break during Parents' Evenings. We always value the opportunity to share the children's progress and celebrate their achievements together. Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to:

Squirrels' Handwriting Success

Take a look at Squirrels' fantastic handwriting progress! The children have been working incredibly hard on letter formation, consistency, and presentation. We are so proud of the care and effort they are showing in all of their written work.

"Where Will Stories Take Us?"

Our exciting theme, *"Where will stories take us?"*, has inspired the children to become story detectives! They have been exploring characters, settings, and clues within texts, asking thoughtful questions and making predictions. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and imagination flourish.

Evaluating Our Vehicles

As part of our design and technology learning, children have been evaluating their own vehicle creations. They have considered what worked well, what they might improve, and how their designs met the original brief — developing fantastic reflective skills along the way.

Rapid Recall of Multiplication Facts

Across the school, we continue to focus on the rapid recall of multiplication facts. Regular practice is helping the children build confidence and fluency — an essential skill that supports so much of their maths learning.

Woodlands – Designing Wooden Toys

In Woodlands, the children have been busy designing and creating their own wooden toys. They have shown great creativity and resilience while learning new practical skills, and the finished products are something to be very proud of!

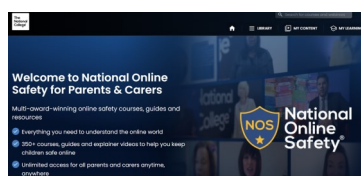
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another busy and successful half term together.

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



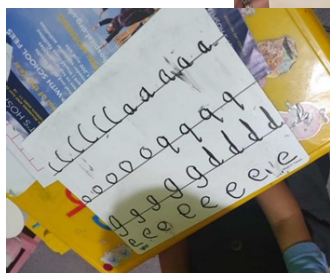
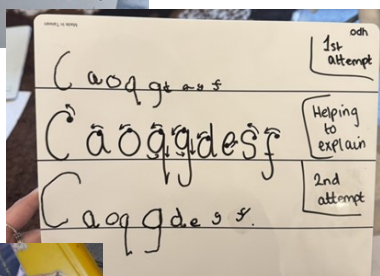
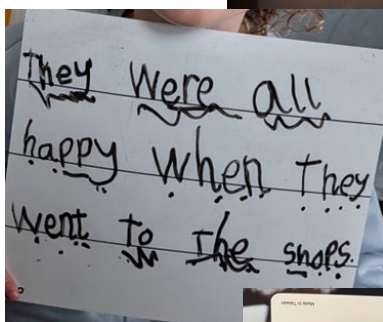
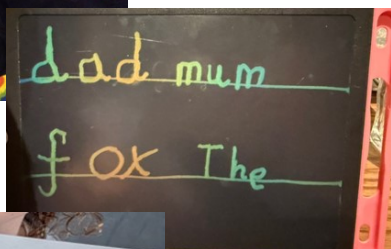
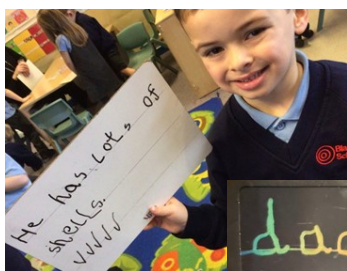
Year R

Squirrels Class Handwriting Success!

The children in Squirrels class have been working incredibly hard on improving their handwriting, and we are so proud of the progress they are making. They have been focusing on forming their letters correctly, making their writing smaller and more controlled, and ensuring their letters are sitting neatly on the line.

We have seen fantastic improvements across the class, and this is a real credit to the children's effort and determination.

We would also like to say a big thank you to parents and carers for supporting this at home. Your continued encouragement and practice make a huge difference, and we truly value your partnership. A big well done to everyone in Squirrels class — keep up the excellent work!



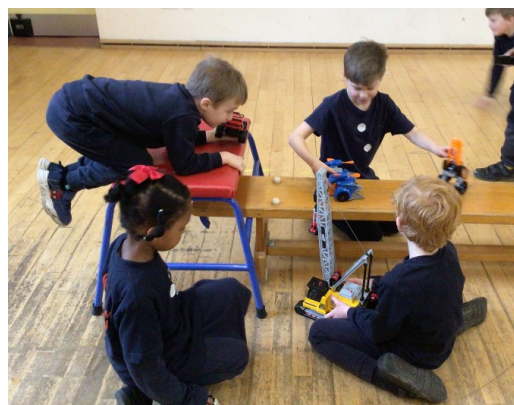
Year 1

We have had a wonderful Stunning Start in Year 1 introducing 'Where will Stories Take us?', the children have been amazing detectives searching for Fairy Tale clues as well as sharing their own clues for specific Fairy Tales. We have also been very busy creating art work inspired by the artist Yayoi Kusama. The Children drew dots onto coffee filters using felt tip pens then watched the magic of colour bleeding come to life producing amazing patterns.



Year 2

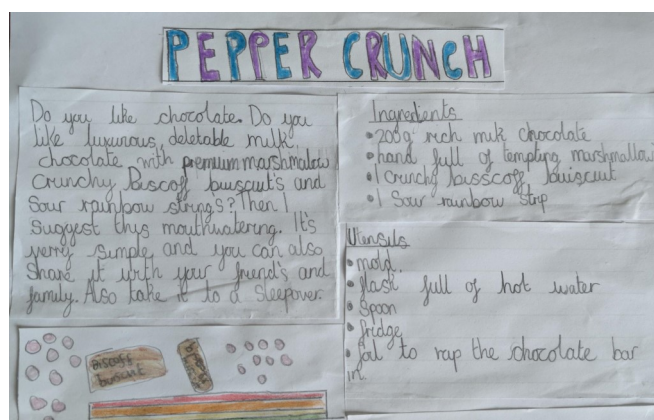
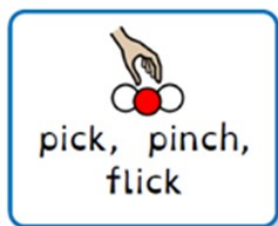
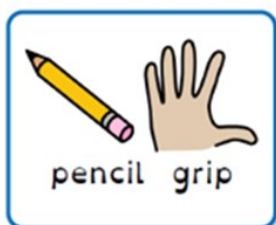
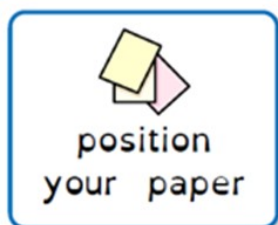
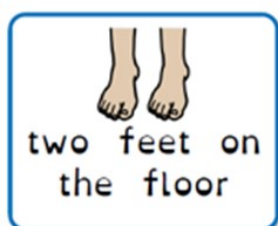
Before half term, Year 2 had a lovely time exploring vehicles in the hall. First, we evaluated the vehicles we made ourselves. We thought about what we liked the best and how we could improve our vehicle if we made it again. Next, we had lots of fun testing our vehicles out in the hall. We raced the vehicles in groups and the winners of each group then had a race. The overall champions, with the fastest and best-made vehicles, were Chloe and Jessica. Well, done girls! Afterwards, we had lots of fun playing with our toy cars from home.



Year 3 & 4

Junior Scribes

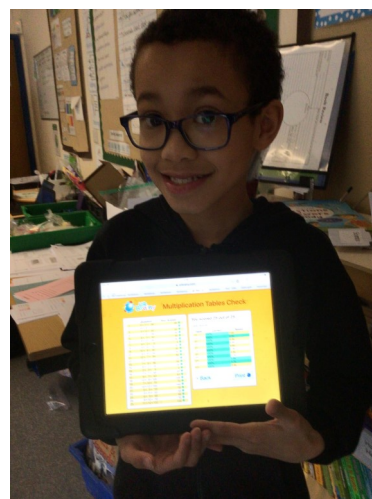
Year 3 and 4 are on a mission to master the art of the pen! We have been making handwriting a focus of our learning to ensure our writing is neat, and legible in all of our work. To help us with our target we have been using our new handwriting pens. Every time we write, we check we are ready to write – seated correctly and using the correct pencil grip. We are concentrating on keeping our writing on the line, checking our ascenders (tall parts) and descenders (parts that go below the line) are the correct height and that horizontal and diagonal joins are correctly formed. As you can see below we have been making great progress.



Year 3 & 4

Just look at these remarkable children—look at the gleam of pride in their eyes. They are winners through and through. Their dedication, persistence, and hard work have all paid off.

Not only have they achieved full marks on the MTC, but they've gone *all green*—a sign that they are not just accurate, but as fast as lightning. That combination of precision and speed is something extraordinary. So let's take a moment to applaud their effort, talent, and the bright future ahead of them. Well done. We are all incredibly proud of you.



In Years 3 and 4 we have been exploring persuasion in our English learning. We have considered how adverts persuade consumers to buy items and have analysed features to create a WAGOLL (What a good one looks like) version. We have started gathering vocabulary including alliteration and superlatives to use in our own chocolate adverts. Here are some photos of Goldfinch class enjoying the sunshine whilst identifying features of persuasive texts.

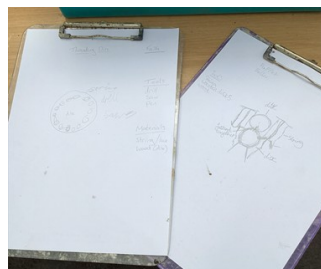


Year 5

This half term, Year Five (Oak) pupils are designing and creating their own wooden toys in Woodland. Working, in pairs children are developing teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills while learning how careful planning leads to a successful project.

Pupils have sketched and labelled their designs, created tools lists used SMART targets to ensure their ideas are realistic and achievable within five weeks. They are also learning how to use tools safely and responsibly, including organising materials and tidying equipment after use.

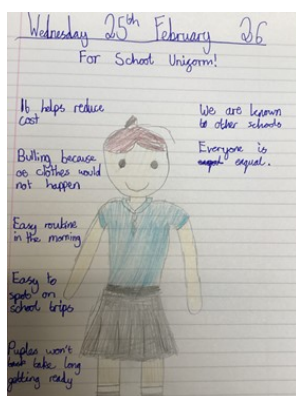
We look forward to sharing their creations soon.



This week, Year 5 began their new English unit on balanced arguments with an engaging hook activity. Pupils explored the question of school uniform by drawing a child split between uniform and their own clothes, generating ideas for and against while justifying their opinions using 'because'.

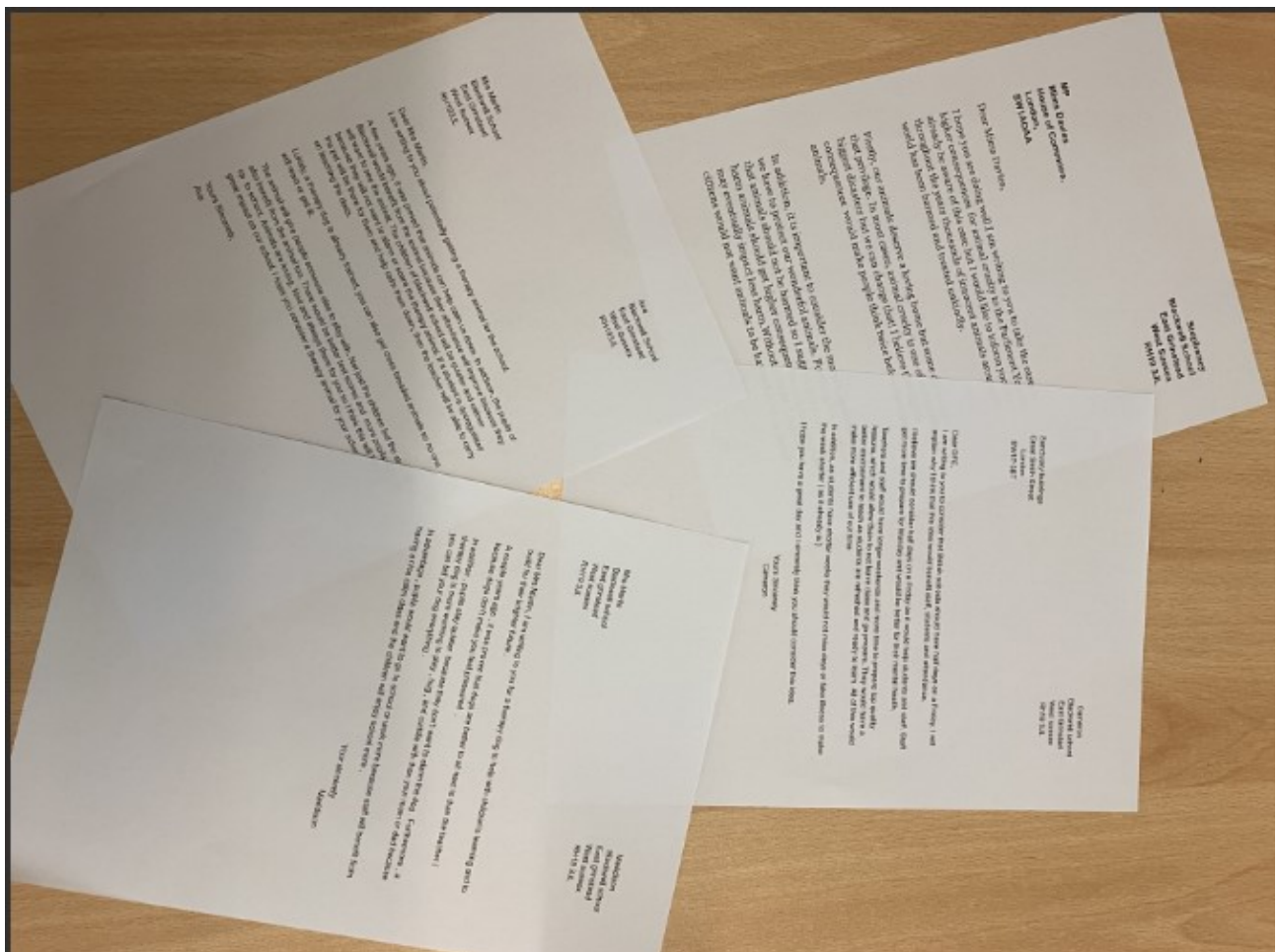
The activity encouraged thoughtful discussion, critical thinking and consideration of different viewpoints. We look forward to seeing the children develop these skills further as they begin writing their own balanced arguments.

The following examples are from Cedar Class.



Year 6

Year 6 have been working on writing one-sided arguments. Learners were asked to write about something they were passionate about and research contacts so that the letters could be sent to the intended audience. We had a huge variety of purposes, ranging from letters sent to Mimms Davies MP, asking for higher sentences for animal cruelty, letters sent to the Department for Education asking them to consider a four-day week and letters to Mrs. Martin asking her to consider a therapy animal for the school. Having a real purpose and audience made this unit come alive for the children and we wait to see for responses!



February 2026	
27th	PTA Uniform sale and Tuck shop
March 2026	
2nd	Book Week
3rd	Cedar class assembly 9.00am—parents invited
4th	Parents' Forum 8.50am—9.50am Squirrels class—Fire Service visiting (more details to follow)
5th	World Book Day
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 7.30pm start PTA Flower Sale—3.00pm outside School office
16th-20th	Year 6 Bikeability
17th	Puffins class assembly 9.00am parents invited
20th	Comic Relief—more details to follow PTA Spring Disco - Reception 2.10—2.50pm, Years 1, 2,3—3.30—4.30pm, Years 4,5, 6—4.45—5.45pm
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
26th	Family Quiz and Bingo afternoon 11.00am—2.00pm—more details to follow

May 2026	
4th	Bank Holiday—children not in school
5th	Children return to school Honeybees class assembly—parents invited
6th	EYFS Transition Evening
7th	Polling Day—school open as normal
18th	PTA Cake sale 8.00—9.00am and 3.00—4.00pm Class photos
20th	Parents' Forum 8.50am—9.50am
25th	Bank Holiday—children not in school
26th—29th	Half Term Holidays—children not in school

June 2026	
1st	Children return to school
5th	PTA Summer Fair—more details to follow
10th	Year 2 trip to Ovingdean Beach—more details to follow
17th	Parents' Forum 8.50am—9.50am