

A watercolor illustration of a town street scene. The top half shows the rooftops of several buildings with dark grey roofs, several tall brick chimneys, and two prominent gabled dormer windows with white crosses. The bottom half shows the street level with a row of multi-story buildings featuring numerous windows. A wooden bench sits on the sidewalk in front of one of the buildings. To the left, there is a wooden post with blue and yellow items hanging from it. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a mix of warm and cool colors.

# **Alfred Sutton Newsletter**

## **February 2026**



It has been wonderful to see our children and families back after the Christmas break. Although this has been a shorter half term, it has been characterised by hard work, determination and a sense of community from everyone across the school.

Like many settings, we have been hit by the unpleasant flu bug circulating locally, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to our entire staff team for supporting one another during this time. Your care, teamwork and flexibility have ensured that the school has continued to run smoothly while colleagues take the time they need to recover and help prevent any further spread.

This term also marks the selection of the winners of our MACE design competition—an exciting celebration of creativity and problem-solving. We are delighted to announce the winners later in this newsletter.

Thank you as well to our families for your continued patience and perseverance with the ongoing roofing project. We appreciate your understanding, and you will find a further update within this edition.

It was a joy to see so many of you at the Year 4 Learning Assembly. Your presence made the occasion feel very special for the children. We are committed to providing opportunities throughout the year for each year group to share their learning, so that all parents have a chance to join us for something connected to their child's experiences in school.

A special thank you also goes to the parents who supported our recent trips. Your help is invaluable and plays a key role in ensuring these opportunities—and our daily routines—run smoothly and safely.

As we come to the end of this half term, I want to wish all our children, staff and families a very happy, restful break. Thank you for your ongoing support and for everything you do to make our school such a positive and vibrant community.

Best wishes,

Laura Kerr

# MACE Competition Winners

Earlier in the year, Alfred Sutton and Redlands children were invited to take part in a competition to design the MACE hoardings for the new European Weather Centre based at Reading University.

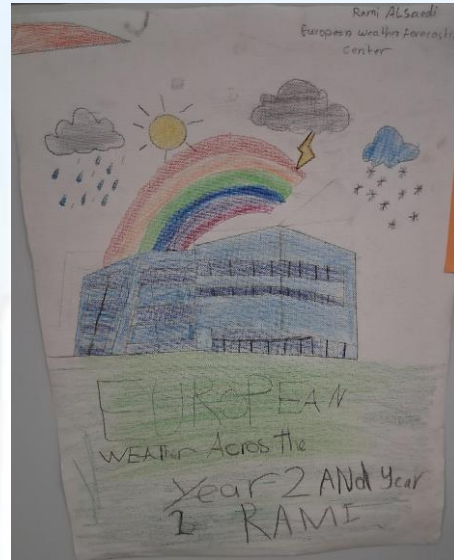
The children were asked to design their dream building.

The prize is to have their artwork produced on the hoardings and a trip to see the new weather centre.

## The winners are:

- Mela L – Butterfly
- Saifaan – Honeybee
- Rami A – Dragonfly
- Thomas C – Squirrel
- Jack B - Hedgehog
- Sam B – Hedgehog
- Filip R – Squirrel
- Angelo RV – Fox
- Melly S – Otter
- Konain K - Otter
- Alfie H – Badger
- Haleema MF - Buzzard
- Muhammadamin – Falcon
- Grace R – Lynx

# MACE Competition Winners



# MACE Competition Winners



# Better Lunchtimes

Earlier this year, we asked children from all year groups how we could improve the school day. The feedback was very related to lunchtimes. Since then we have been working with a company called Better Lunchtimes who have helped us to reorganise our lunchtime schedule and activities. This should make the canteen calmer and the playgrounds a much happier place.

After half term, we will hold assemblies with the children and send letters home to parents so that you feel fully informed.



# The Principles of a **BETTER LUNCHTIME...**

- A calm, smoother running lunch service
- Pupils & staff enjoy lunchtime
- Organised, active & well zoned playgrounds
- Confident, happier, trained & motivated staff
- Healthier, more nutritious lunch boxes
- Increased take up of healthy school meals
- Calm & happy pupils
- A whole school approach to health



# Roofing Update

Thank you for your ongoing patience with our roofing project. We met with Reading Borough Council this week. The awful weather has caused a slight delay to the project and the predicted completion date is the end of May.

Thank you to the team who are working so hard to ensure the site remains safe, the Year six children are as undisturbed as possible and the project remains on track.



# Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month - March

March is cerebral palsy awareness month and we would like to support an Alfred Sutton family.

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 will be a non-uniform day to raise money for Salem.

All money raised is held by Tree of Hope.

Tree of Hope then play for Salem's therapy. More information about Tree of Hope can be found here: [About Tree of Hope | Tree of Hope](#)



Tree of Hope has been a beacon of support for children and young people in need of healthcare funding that isn't readily available through public services. Originally established to serve families in Bexhill, East Sussex, we have grown into a national charity, helping children and young people across the UK and Ireland access essential healthcare.

# Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month - March

Here is a message from Salem's family:

Salem has cerebral palsy which affects both legs and is currently working hard to learn to walk. To give him the best chance of walking and having as much independence as possible we currently take him to weekly physio, and intensive therapy every few months. To help with his development he attends conductive education and we also attend acupuncture to help ease any discomfort. We are working very hard to ensure Salem has as much independence as he can. He is such a determined little boy, his aim is to be in the Paralympics and we want to do everything we can to help him get there!

We are so grateful for everyone's support as these therapies will be the best chance he has to live the fullest life!

27<sup>th</sup> March – non uniform day at Alfred Sutton to raise funds.

This is the link to Salem's Tree of Hope donation page:

[Salem Potts](#)



# Costume Swap

In preparation for World Book Day, we would like to organise a school costume swap. This is not to raise funds but is to hopefully save money for families and to reuse and recycle unwanted costumes.

If your child has an unwanted costume or has grown out of a costume, **please bring them into school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

We will then create a hanging rail of costumes for families to help themselves to on the playground on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Thank you for your help and support**



# School Governance

Thank you from the Governors:

Following a recent visit to the school and meeting with panels of children, the governors have shared the following message

*We would like to pass on our thanks to all pupils, teachers and staff in assisting the governors on our walkabout on the 20th Jan.*

*The head teachers at Redlands and Alfred Sutton arranged and planned an excellent schedule for us to follow.*

*We were all very happy with what we saw and heard in the lessons. We were particularly impressed by individual contributions from the select pupils and classroom teachers.*

Look out for upcoming parent governor elections:

**In the coming weeks, there will be an online election hosted by Choice Voting to elect a new parent governor.**

**A Parent Governor plays a vital role in representing the views and experiences of our families, helping to ensure that decisions made by the governing board truly reflect the needs of our school community.**

**By taking part in the upcoming elections, you are helping to shape the future of our school and ensuring that parents continue to have a strong, informed voice in how we move forward together.**

# Reception News



What an exciting term we've had in Reception! Here's a roundup of our learning and fun experiences.

This term, we embarked on an out-of-this-world adventure as we explored space!

We read *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy and had lots of fun with space-themed activities. From creating rockets to learning about the stars and planets, the children were truly inspired by the wonders of the universe.

We then journeyed into the magical world of *Where the Wild Things Are*. The children loved creating their own wild things and writing about them. The best bit was *Going on our own Wild Rumpus!* We explored floating and sinking, waterproof materials and built our own boats to travel to an imaginary island.

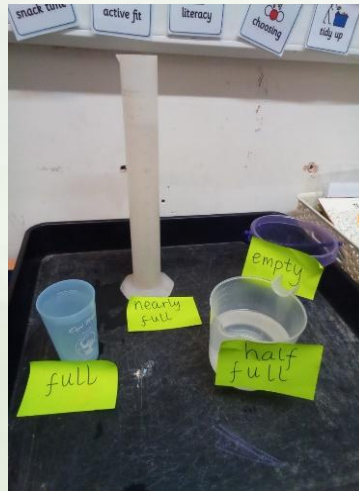
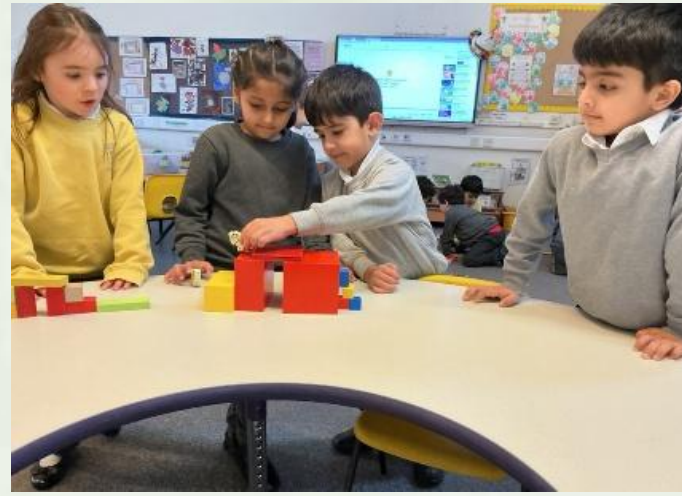
Finally, we visited the Fairy-tale world of Goats and Trolls with the traditional tale *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. We had a go at building our own bridges and learned about resilience and perseverance and to keep on trying when our bridges collapsed.

In maths, we had lots of hands-on learning! The children explored the concepts of one more and one less, which helped them understand numbers in a fun way. They also practised measuring and comparing capacity and weight and represented numbers 6, 7, and 8 in various ways.

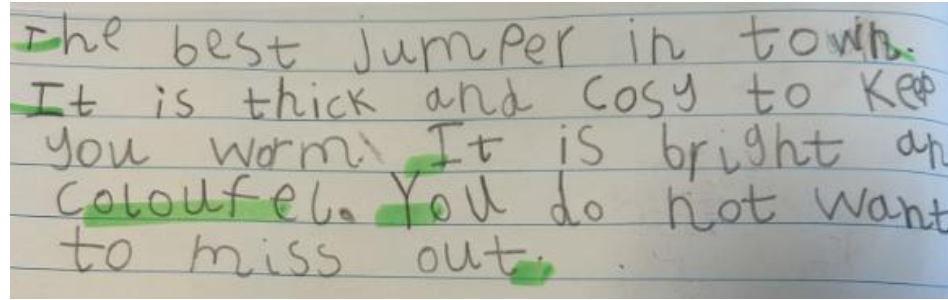
We ended our term with the Chinese New Year celebration! The children learned about the preparations that lead up to the celebration and enjoyed discovering the customs and traditions that take place during the 15-day festival. We had a wonderful time learning and celebrating together!

It's been a fantastic term, filled with lots of learning, creativity, and fun. We can't wait to see what the next term will bring!

# Reception Photos



# Year 1 News



The best jumper in town.  
It is thick and cosy to keep  
you warm. It is bright and  
colourful. You do not want  
to miss out.

We have had a very busy half term in Year 1!

In Writing, we have been reading **'The Big Freeze'** by **Pippa Curnick**. The children really enjoyed this story and engaged well in writing sessions. We designed our own winter jumpers and then created an advert for them. We also wrote a narrative based on the text. The children immersed themselves into creating their own exciting characters for their stories. We are really impressed by how much progress the children are making.

In Science, we have explored materials. We have looked at different types of materials and discussed where we might see these in the classroom. We have also investigated different properties of materials. The children have thoroughly enjoyed thinking like scientists and particularly enjoyed experimenting which material made the best umbrella for our class teddy bears!

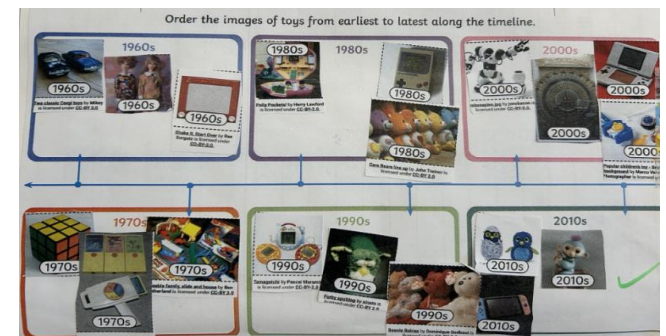
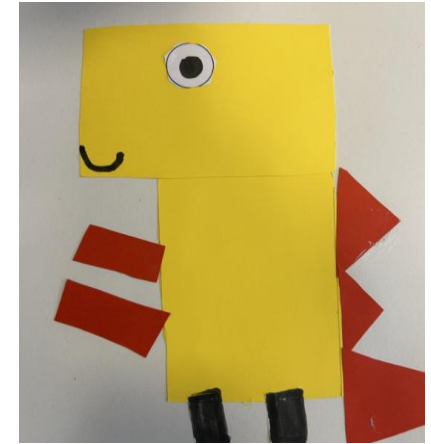
In Art, we have been looking at collaging. We experimented using different materials to create collages. We then drew around different shapes to create a template for our own dinosaur pictures. The children were incredibly proud of these!

In History, we have been learning about toys in the past. We have discussed how toys have changed and what toys were made of in the past. The children have enjoyed exploring what toys in the past were like and comparing them to toys they play with today.

The children are continuing to impress us with their commitment to our core values: diversity, inclusivity and aspiration. It has been wonderful to see the children displaying these values in their everyday learning.

The children have had another brilliant half term in Year 1. The children have worked incredibly hard and are making excellent progress. We are very proud! We wish them a restful break and are looking forward to welcoming them back after the half term.

Miss Wright, Mrs McKenna and Miss Clarke



# Year 2 News

In Writing, the children have been reading 'The Great Paper Caper' by Oliver Jeffers and 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne. The children have enjoyed participating in drama activities inspired by these books and were brilliant when they acted out news reports as though they were live on TV! The children created their own characters, settings and plots inspired by these narratives. They enjoyed sharing these with their peers.

In Science, the children have been learning about 'Animals including Humans'. The children enjoyed learning about the life cycles of a range of living things. The children created life cycle spinners to demonstrate their learning. The children enjoyed our visit from 'Tom's Talking Reptiles' at the end of the Autumn Term where the children were able to touch and hold a range of reptiles such as a lizard, snake, tortoise, stick insect and a cockroach.

In Geography, the children have learnt about Hot and Cold places. The children can identify location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles. The children discussed whether they would prefer to live in a hot or cold place. Some of the children created a hot or cold place for a homework activity- the Year 2 teaching team were very impressed with the effort that the children had put into their homework this term.

In Art, the children have been learning about the artist 'Victoria Carter'. The children explored the collaging techniques that Carter uses to create her artwork. They then had a go at applying these skills to creating their own collages using a range of mixed materials including newspaper, tin foil, sticks and tissue paper.

In DT, the children will be designing and making their own puppets. They are really looking forward to this!

In Computing, the children have continued to learn about programming using the Beebots. The children have enjoyed creating algorithms to direct the Beebots.

The children learnt about Chinese New Year and participated in some fun creative activities. We hope the children have a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming the children back to school ready for the second half of the Spring term.

# Year 2 Photos



# Year 3 News

Well done to Year 3 for another busy and successful term. It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm for our history topic on the **Ancient Egyptians**, and to hear the fascinating facts the children have been researching. The children have also enjoyed experimenting with **reading and writing hieroglyphs**, with some impressive results!

In English, inspired by *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx* by Joe Todd-Stanton, the children have written some very effective setting descriptions, using a wide range of ambitious vocabulary.

In science lessons, the children have started learning about animals, including humans. So far, they have studied what animals need to survive and the three different types of feeders i.e. herbivores, carnivores and omnivores.

In DT, the children enjoyed making their own model houses from recycled materials.

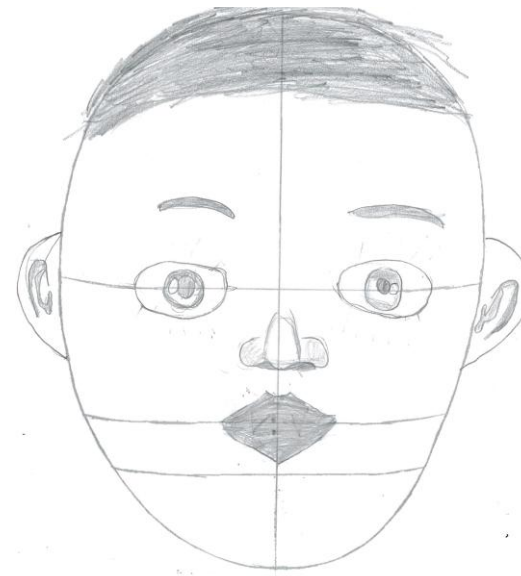
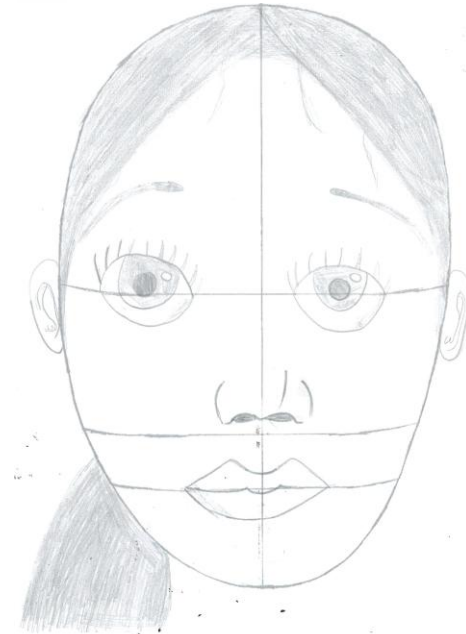
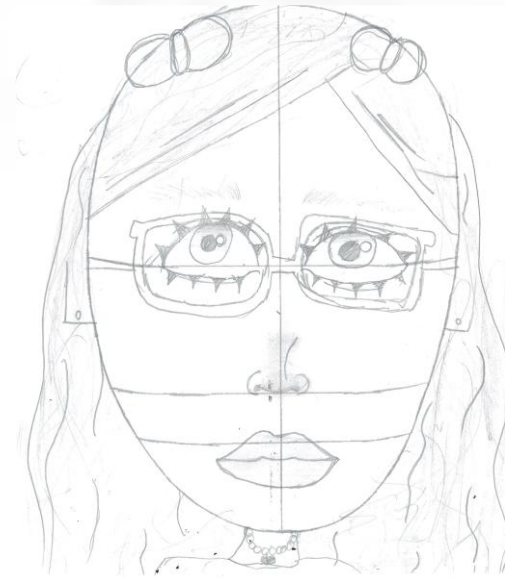
Hedgehog class have enjoyed their swimming lessons and the children look forward to resuming them next term.

Squirrel loved swimming in the autumn term. This term, they have been catching up with their art lessons which they did not have while swimming. Learning drawing and sketching skills, they have produced some impressive portraits. Here is a selection of some.

Hard work has continued in maths, with children gaining confidence in written calculation methods as well as improving their recall of **times tables**. Practising times tables at home—through recitation or using **Times Tables Rock Stars**—really makes a difference in helping children secure these essential skills.

We hope all Year 3 children and their families have a lovely and restful half term.

**The Year 3 Team**



# Year 4 News



The new year has got off to a wonderful start. Year 4 have been busy learning about different genres in their writing lessons and linking topics such as reading, geography and science.

The year started with an exciting visit to Reading University, where they explored how the campus uses its land to support local wildlife. This linked in with how the indigenous people in the Amazon still use their surroundings in everyday life. The children carried out a pond survey to discover which creatures rely on this important habitat and how the local community use the University grounds.

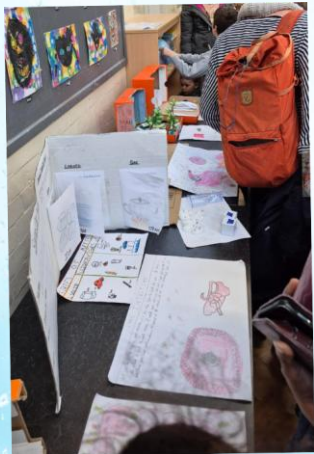
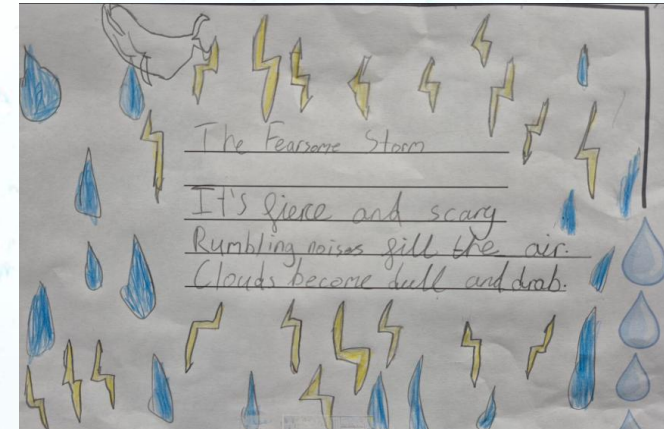
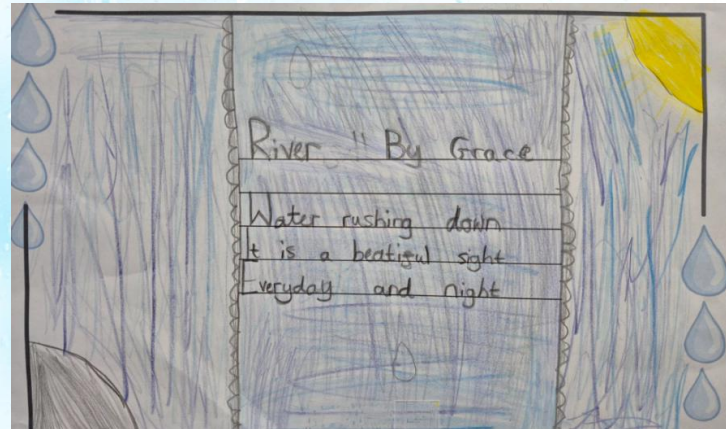
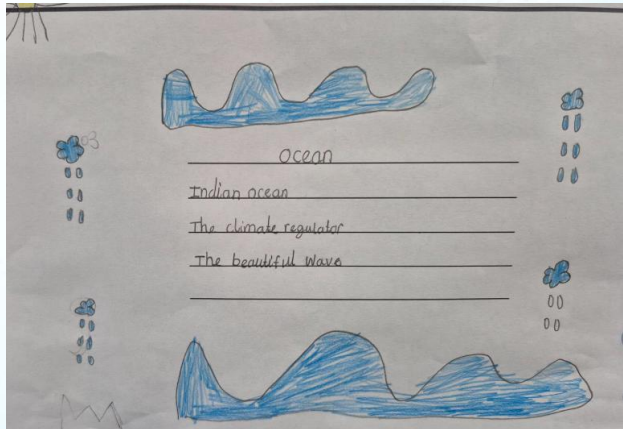
It has been very hands on in science as the children have conducted many experiments. Their favourite, no doubt, was the chocolate experiment where they melted chocolate, wrapped in foil, in their hands. Sadly, the children were not allowed to eat the chocolate, much to their disappointment. They understood how body heat impacted a solid state and changed it to liquid.

Furthermore, they enjoyed making their own water cycle in a bag experiment which allowed them to understand the stage of evaporation and condensation a little more clearly.



# Year 4 News Continued...

Haiku's are a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world. It was an enjoyable task as many children continued to write Haikus in their own time and on various topics such a Coffee and Cherry Blossom Trees. Our class Haikus were associated with our geography topic, Rivers (and related water sources) and the children did not disappoint.



The highlight of this term was the year 4 assembly where children were able to share all the wonderful work they had done. We had drama, singing and a political protest, however it was the bhangra dance that truly stole the show. The parents enjoyed looking through the many projects produced by the children.

We will end this term with the much-anticipated DT session where the children will make their doll houses. Year 4 wishes you a restful half term and Ramadhan Mubarak to all those celebrating.

# Year 5 News

It is hard to believe that we are now half way through the academic year! Year 5 have had another busy and productive half term.

A highlight was our trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium. The children behaved very sensibly around the centre and during the presentation and workshop, impressing staff with their scientific understanding of light. The hands-on galleries also gave many opportunities for practical learning. In the Planetarium, the children were shown how to find the Plough and the North Star – perhaps they could practise with the real night sky one evening! The trip really helped bring to life our science topic of Earth and Space.

The children have also used the topic as inspiration for their work in English this term. In reading, the children read the illustrated diary *24 Hours in Space* by Rob Lloyd Jones to find out some interesting facts about life for astronauts on the International Space Station. They then read, tried to memorise and performed poems from the collection *This Rock, That Rock* by Dom Conlon. This focus on reading and oracy also links with the National Year of Reading and the benefits of enjoying and sharing books.

In writing, the children read some further poems and watched the stop motion animation *A Grand Day Out* for inspiration to write sci fi stories about a trip to a space destination, a problem and how it is resolved. In preparation for this, the children practised writing setting descriptions, character descriptions and using speech punctuation correctly. They will also have the opportunity to share their exciting stories with other children.

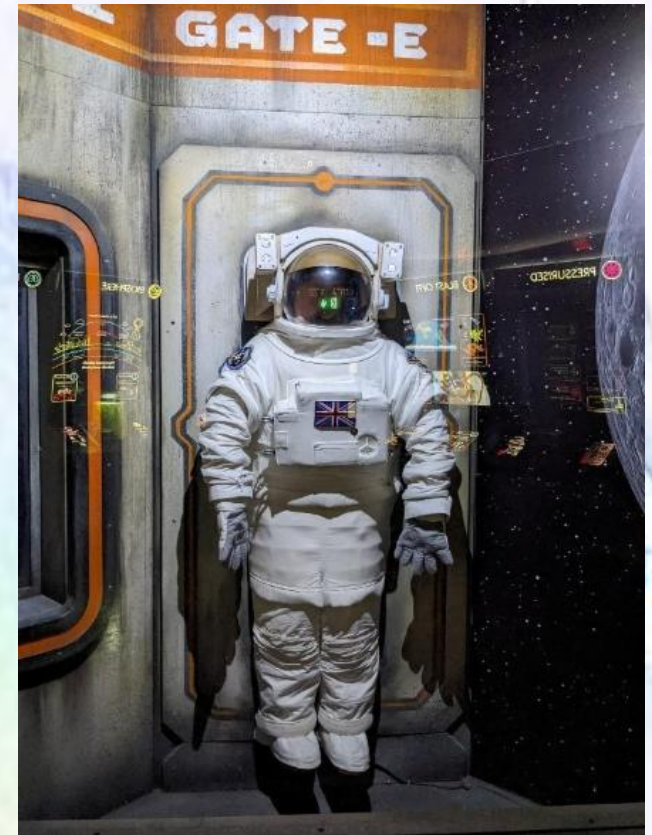
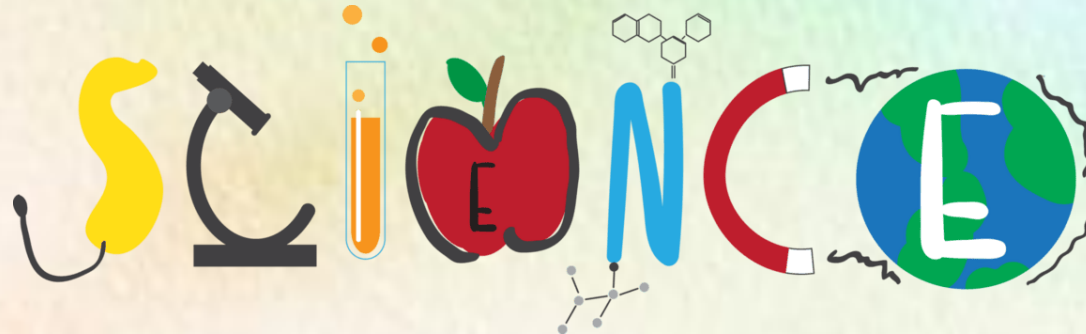
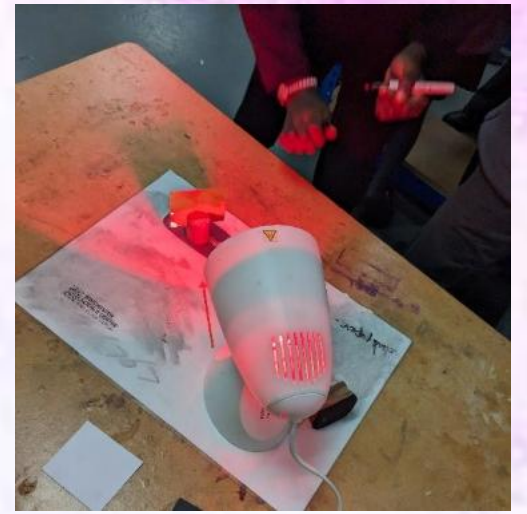
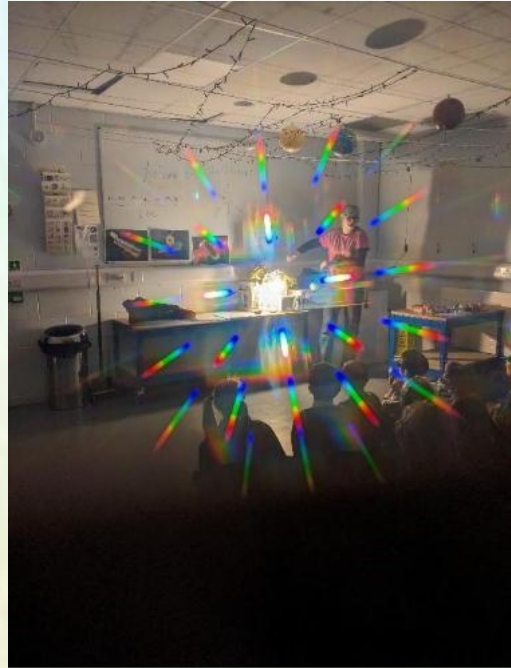
In maths, the children have been working hard at multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 using a place value grid. They have also practised the formal written method for long multiplication to find the product of two numbers that each have two or more digits. Continuing to practise this method and also their times tables will help the children consolidate this further.

Across the wider curriculum, the children have continued to explore different ideas and questions. Our history topic this term has been looking at the Vikings in Britain, with children thinking about topics including daily life and law and order. In RE, the children have considered what Sikhs learn from different stories. In PSHE, children have been thinking about mental wellbeing and also safe internet use. The children have also been exploring databases in computing and mixed media work in art. Falcon class have been enjoying their swimming lessons, which will continue after half term.

We hope the children enjoy a well-earned break over half term and look forward to seeing them next term, when our new geography-based topic will be Oceans.

Thank you for all your support with the children's learning. The Year 5 team

# Year 5 Photos



# Year 6 News

This term we have learnt a myriad of compelling topics! Our brains are buzzing with information and we would like to share our knowledge with you all.

## Maths

In Maths this term we have covered a variety of topics such as: negative numbers, function machines (input and output), long division, as well as, multiplying 4 digit numbers. We also did some work in a year 7 booklet! Towards the end of this term, we started learning about algebra and how to solve formulas in Maths reasoning.

## English

Throughout this term we have went through many broken pencils! We kicked off this term with a factual non chronological report about the fierce Komodo dragon. We wrote about their appearance, habitat, behaviour, diet and how these reptiles defend themselves. In our Grammar lessons we learnt about relative clauses and how fundamental they are to add extra information in a text. We are now learning about a narrative short story writing based on the book Wonder in our class reading.

## Science

We were lightning fast in Science! This term we learnt all about electricity and circuits. Our first lesson was all about the basics of how to stay safe near electricity. We continued learning about components in an electrical circuit and what their role is. Also we drew the symbols to represent the components.

## O2 Young Voices Choir

This year, we spent some time practising for the O2 choir, which was a blast filled with songs! The O2 team was so impressed with our singing, that some children were interviewed. A section of the songs was from the one and only Wicked film.

## Art

This term in Art, we learnt about LS Lowry. Did you know that Lowry did perspective art and painted what he saw outside his window? His art came to life when he saw and painted random pedestrians going around their daily business. We made our very own Lowry inspired paintings.