Autumn Term Newsletter 4

Friday 13th November 2026

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Growing our community together

'Welcome, Nurture, Grow, Flourish'

Dear St Mary's Community,

It has been another wonderful fortnight here at school, with so much for our whole community to celebrate. Earlier this week, we welcomed our School Improvement Partner, who was thoroughly impressed by the focused and purposeful learning taking place across every classroom. I have had the pleasure of leading two more very positive tours for prospective families looking ahead to Reception 2027 and across the school, the children have been producing fantastic work, including brilliant writing in Year 6, impressive mathematics in Year 5, and exciting visits from various 'Role Models' in Year 1.

Our staff team continues to work exceptionally hard, which was warmly praised during a very positive Interim Executive Board meeting this week too. To build on this great work, we are looking forward to our staff visiting St Paul's on Friday 20th for partnership training, before we welcome the St Paul's team to our school on Friday 27th.

Finally, I had an excellent meeting with our new Parent Staff Association, and plans are already well underway for our upcoming Christmas Fair and Santa Run. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I hope you all have a lovely, restful weekend.

Mrs Emily Evans (Headteacher)

Attendance update

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
87.7%	92.7%	92.8%	95.9%	91.4%	97.1%	93.5%

Whole school attendance	93.5%
National Average	95.7%

THANK YOU from Chessington Community Pantry

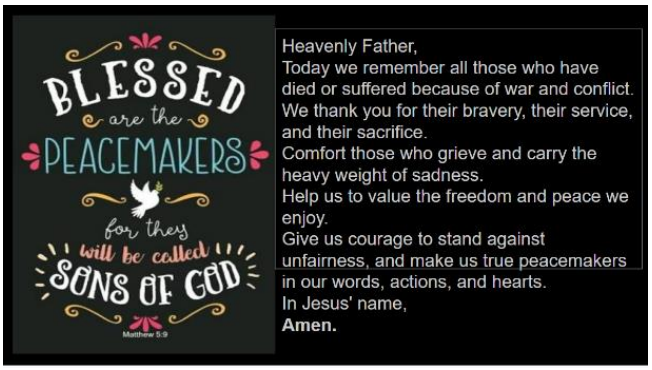
The volunteers at Chessington Community Pantry have contacted us to say a big THANK YOU for your fabulous donations as part of our Harvest celebration at school. Your generosity has made a big difference to the families they help and we are very grateful for your support for our local community.



Collective Worship Round Up



This week we have explored Remembrance through the Christian themes of Courage, Love, Sacrifice and Hope. We have learned about the symbolism of the Poppy Cross and the lives of Noel Chavasse and Edith Cavell, and how their strong Christian faith inspired their courage, compassion and selfless service during the First World War. Their stories remind us of the importance of remembering those who have suffered and died in conflict, putting love into action and working for peace.



Teaching and Learning News

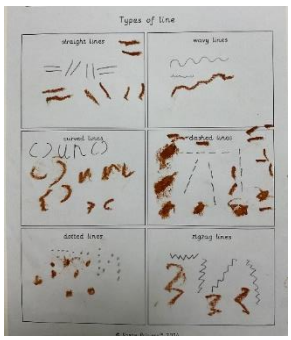
This half term **Butterfly Class** are learning about Celebrations. This week we have been learning about Diwali and firework safety. Children created their own candle holder using flour and salt for the base and then after they decorated it with paint and glitter. They have also learnt about the story of Sita and Rama. They used images to retell and sequence the story.



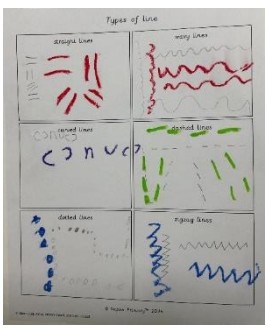




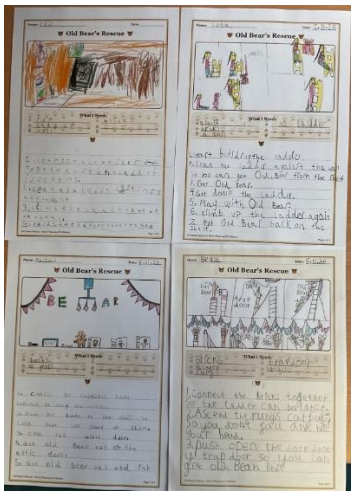




In **Squirrel Class** we looked at some artwork by Bridget Riley, an artist who uses different lines to create her artwork. We then had a go at drawing different lines using different media such as pencils and oil pastels and seeing what happened when we applied different pressure to these tools when drawing our lines.



In **Hedgehog Class**, we have just finished our final piece of writing for Old Bear. The children have created a set of instructions for how to rescue Old Bear from the attic, and published them ready to create a class instruction manual!



In **Fox Class** children have been exploring different bibles and finding out that it is a collection of books and found parts that they were familiar with from previous RE lessons and collective worship.



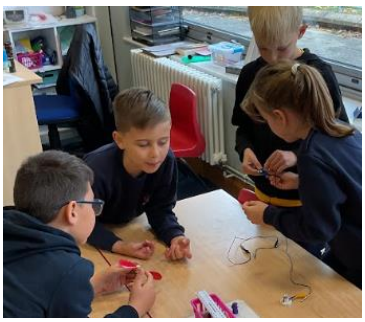






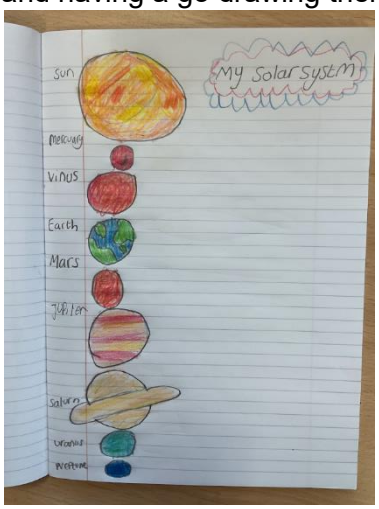
Otter Class have started their new DT unit focussing on electrical systems with the end project of them designing and creating their own torches. For the first lesson, we completed electrical circuits and created switches from split pins and cardboard.



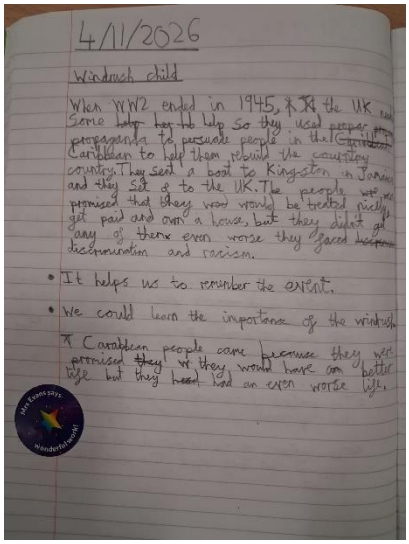


Owl Class have started our new topic (The Solar System) in science this week. We have really enjoyed learning about the planets and having a go drawing them in order!





Falcon Class have been exploring a new text in English this half term - Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephania. It tells the story of a 10 year old boy coming to Britain from Jamaica with the promise of a better life. The class have been learning about this period in history in order to better understand the book and have been thinking about why it might be important to learn about events from the past.

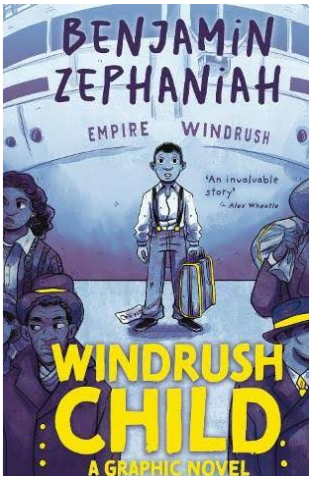

4/11/2026

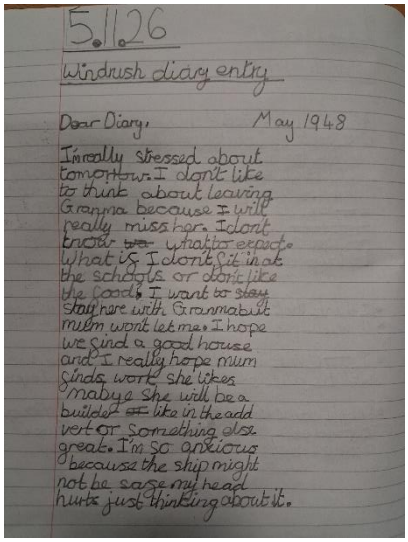
Windrush child

When WW2 ended in 1945, & the UK was Some help how to help So they used propaganda to persuade people in the Caribbean to help them rebuild the country. country. They sent a boat to Kingston in Jamaica and they sat of to the UK. The people who were promised that they would be treated nicely, get paid and own a house, but they didn't get any of them even worse they faced discrimination and racism.

- It helps us to remember the event.
- We could learn the importance of the windrush

& Caribbean people came because they were promised they & they would have an better life but they had an even worse life.




5.11.26

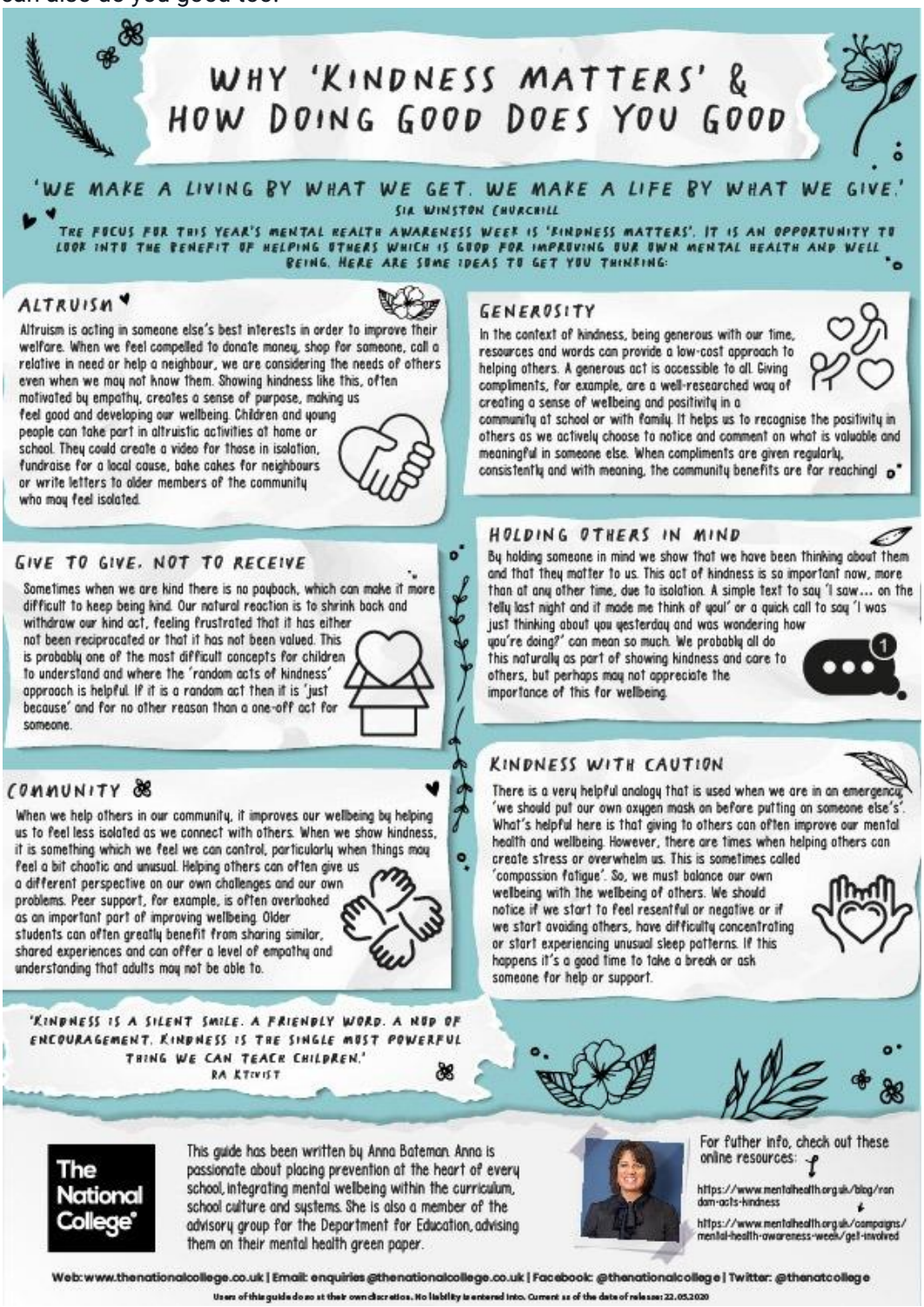
Windrush diary entry

Dear Diary, May 1948

I'm really stressed about tomorrow. I don't like to think about leaving Granma because I will really miss her. I don't know ~~wh~~ what to expect. What is I don't fit in at the schools or don't like the food. I want to ~~stay~~ stay here with Granma but mum won't let me. I hope we find a good house and I really hope mum finds work she likes maby she will be a builder ~~or~~ like in the advertor or something else great. I'm so anxious because the ship might not be safe my head hurts just thinking about it.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Kindness has the ability to strengthen relationships, develop a sense of community and deepen solidarity. That's why during this week of Remembrance and Children in Need, we wanted to help promote the message of displaying kindness and to remind people how often, doing something good can also do you good too.



Diary Dates

20th November	INSET - school closed to all pupils
24th November	Flu Immunisations (in school) Y2 visit Christmas Journey at The King's Centre
30th November	Y5 & 6 visit to The Rose Theatre
1st December	Parent/Carer meetings 4.00 - 7.00pm
3rd December	Parent/Carer meetings 3.00-6.00pm **School closes at 2.30pm**
4th December	Christmas Fair 3.30-6pm
9th December	KS1 (Squirrel & Hedgehog Class) Nativity 2.30pm
10th December	KS1 (Squirrel & Hedgehog Class) Nativity 2.30pm
14th December	Butterfly Class Christmas Celebration 2.30pm (parents/carers invited)
15th December	KS2 Church Service 2.30pm
16th December	Reception & KS1 Church Service 9.15am Christmas Lunch - whole school KS2 (Fox, Otter, Owl & Falcon Class) Christmas Concert 2.30pm
17th December	KS2 (Fox, Otter, Owl & Falcon Class) Christmas Concert 2.30pm
18th December	Last day of term. **School closes 1.30pm**
21st December -1st January 2027	Christmas Break - **school is closed**
4th January 2027	INSET - school is closed to all pupils
5th January 2027	Pupils return to school