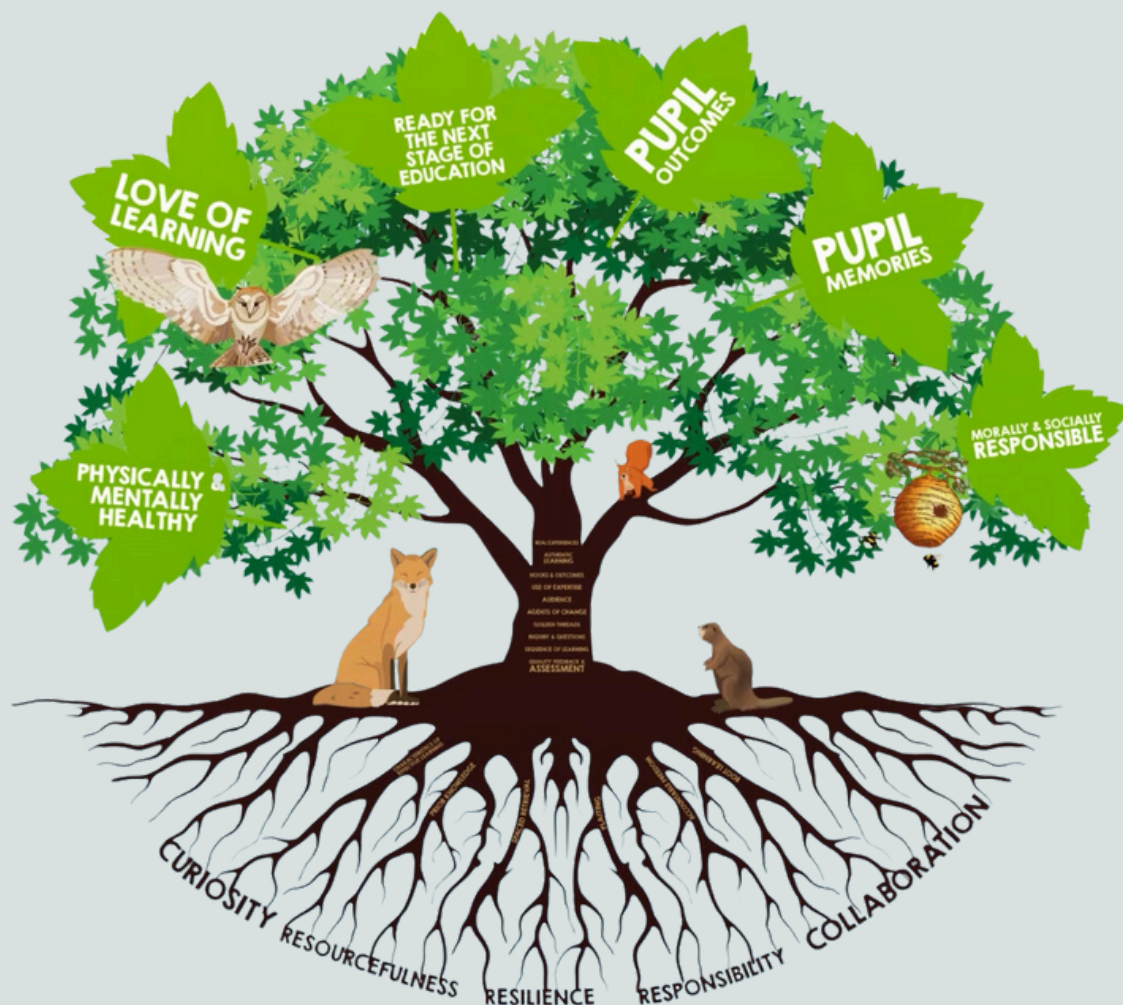




BLEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Prospectus





The Blean Curriculum

The Blean Curriculum has been designed over time by all staff, children, parents and governors. Our concept for curriculum design is 'REAL' and this is at the heart of everything we do: Real Experiences, Authentic Learning. Our curriculum is represented by a tree because we believe that we all continue to grow when we are learning together to enjoy and achieve.

The roots represent our school values, key learning approaches and the characteristics of effective learning which provide an anchor for the rest of our curriculum. Root learning begins in EYFS where carefully planned continuous provision enables children to learn skills, challenges their thinking and helps them to embed concepts. The trunk of the tree demonstrates our different approaches and delivery styles for the curriculum. Our children tell us that they like to learn in different ways and this gives our curriculum tree its shape and supports our REAL outcomes.

The intended outcomes of our curriculum are represented as the leaves or the fruit. This is what the Blean community strives for and expects for all its pupils, so they grow as confident, well-rounded pupils and use this grounding well in later life.

Our School Values

We believe in developing well rounded, confident and capable pupils who are prepared for the future. Our values of resourcefulness, resilience, responsibility, curiosity and collaboration are at the heart of everything we do. These values underpin our curriculum, shape our ethos and guide how we engage with each other every day.

Here's how they come to life in our school:



Resourcefulness

We encourage our pupils to think creatively, solve problems and adapt to new situations. Through all the subjects taught at school and activities, we provide opportunities for children to develop independence and innovative thinking. Whether it is finding a new way to solve a maths problem, experimenting in Science or tackling challenges during outdoor learning, we empower our pupils to be confident and open to new ideas.



Resilience

Learning isn't always easy, and we teach our pupils that persistence and determination are keys to success. From EYFS, we instil perseverance and determination to succeed through root learning activities. We create supportive environments where children can learn from mistakes, face challenges and grow stronger. At Blean Primary, we nurture and develop a growth mindset where setbacks are seen as opportunities to learn and effort is celebrated.



Responsibility

We promote a sense of responsibility, both for personal learning and towards others. Our pupils learn the importance of taking care of themselves, their peers and their community. From managing their learning and personal belongings to participating in school initiatives and projects, children understanding that they have a role to play in school and in life supporting them to become agents of change.



Curiosity

Curiosity drives discovery and we inspire our pupils to ask questions, explore and seek knowledge. Our curriculum is designed to spark curiosity in every subject, encouraging children to think deeply and investigate the world around them. We believe that a curious mind is an engaged mind, so we provide hands-on real learning experiences, hooks and authentic outcomes and stimulating projects that make learning fun and exciting



Collaboration

Learning is a shared journey and we teach teamwork through the value of collaboration. In group projects, sports and class discussions, pupils learn to communicate, listen and work together to achieve common goals. Collaboration helps children build strong relationships and learn the skills they need to thrive in a diverse and connected world.

How our values are represented

With each value, we have assigned an animal that displays the characteristics of the value and we use this as an effective way of making a potentially abstract concept more relatable and understandable. By associating animals with specific behaviours, children can better understand and remember them.

How our values shape our curriculum

Our curriculum is built around these values, ensuring that every lesson, activity and experience contributes to the personal and academic growth of our pupils. We aim to not just develop knowledge, but the skills and mindset that will aid them throughout life.

Our school is a place where values matter and where every child is given the chance to shine. Together we build a community of learners who are ready to take on the world and become agents of change with inquisitive minds, courage and care.

5 Golden Threads

Our curriculum connects to real life, promotes thinking as a global citizen and develops skills to make meaningful contributions to society. Following our work with Dr Debra Kidd, our curriculum is underpinned by five pillars and five golden threads, these are important to us because they serve as key concepts or principles that run throughout our pupils' educational journey. They help connect different areas of learning, ensuring cohesion and continuity in pupils' education. The five pillars are: Creativity, Compassion, Coherence, Credibility and Community.

Golden threads help to create more engaging, meaningful **Real Experiences with Authentic Learning**. By seeing the same themes recur, pupils can more easily grasp and understand complex ideas. It also gives them a sense of progress and continuity, as they can see their skills and understanding develop and deepen over time.

Golden threads can help teachers to plan and structure their teaching more effectively. By having a clear idea of the key principles they want to convey, teachers can ensure that their lessons are focused and purposeful.

The threads are explored through all areas of the curriculum and across the subjects.

Our 5 Golden Threads are:



Sequences of lessons are launched with a hook and crafted around a final authentic outcome, which allows children to become 'agents of change'. These 'REAL' themes are active, engaging and lead to a deeper understanding of the golden threads. Critical thinking and curiosity are sparked through the use of inquiry questions.

Our curriculum provides children with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes they require to explore complex global issues and prepare them for the ever-changing future.

REAL

Real Experiences, Authentic Learning

REAL is our approach to supporting our comprehensive Blean curriculum. REAL reflects our aim to provide real experiences and authentic learning where work is purposeful and linked to the real world we live in.

We effectively do this by using expertise within the community and for pupils to actively take part in real issues that affect their lives.

Each term, every year group will work towards an 'authentic outcome' because we believe providing purpose to their learning that is real and empowers our pupils to engage with learning differently than only presenting their work to the class teacher. We use our local community to search for 'experts' who can critique their work and inspire them to do their very best.

Examples of authentic outcomes:

Food parcels for the Food Bank

Recycling campaigns

Whitstable beach cleaning event

Exhibition in the village hall

TED Talks



Letters to the Home Office

Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Melissa Davies
Blean Primary School
Whitstable Road
Blean, Canterbury
CT2 9ED

DECS Reference: TRO/1047522/23

18 December 2023

Dear Ms Davies

Thank you for your letter of 08 November 2023 in which you have shared letters written by pupils of Blean Primary School, in reaction to Benjamin Zephaniah's book, 'Windrush Child'. I am responding as the official with responsibility for this area of work and policy.

As you will be aware, Windrush Child is a fictional story which highlights the terrible injustices of the Windrush scandal. It is clear from the emotion conveyed in the children's letters, that the book has made a powerful impression on them. I read all the letters and found them to be very moving.

The Windrush scandal is a shameful episode in our history. The Government has apologised unreservedly to the victims and their families. In addition, action has been taken to reform the culture of the Home Office, so that it better represents all the communities we serve, to ensure nothing like this happens again. The Home Office continues to do everything in its power to right the wrongs.

The Windrush Help Team supports people affected by the scandal to obtain the documents they need to prove their lawful status in the United Kingdom or to become British citizens. The Windrush Vulnerable Persons Team provides help and advice to people contacting the Windrush Helpline, who may be vulnerable and in urgent need of financial or other support.

The letters refer to compensation. I lead the Windrush Compensation Scheme which compensates victims and their families for the losses and impacts they experienced because they could not demonstrate their lawful status in the UK. My teams work very hard to ensure that we pay the maximum compensation available to everyone at the earliest point possible. There is no limit on the total amount of compensation that can be awarded. As at the end of September 2023 the Windrush Compensation Scheme had paid over £73 million pounds to claimants since its launch.

Whilst we recognise that no amount of money will ever make up for the suffering victims experienced, we are determined to ensure that everyone who was affected, receives every penny of the compensation to which they are entitled.

Our dedicated Windrush Engagement Team supports events with people and groups from Windrush communities around the county, to ensure people who were affected, can tell their story about how the scandal affected them, and their family's lives. These events also enable us to ensure that information about the Schemes together with details about the help available from the Home Office is shared with interested people and groups, and the wider public.

Thank you to you and your students for taking the time to discuss, think about and to write to the Home Office on this important subject. We appreciate their interest and enthusiasm, and hope this response provides reassurance that the government is doing everything possible to right the wrongs of the Windrush Scandal and ensure victims are rightly compensated.

Yours sincerely,



Nigel Hills
Deputy Director
Windrush Compensation Scheme – Customer Operations Support Services
Customer Services
Home Office
Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

Mr Aktin, a local guitar maker, supported Year 4 with DT and science



Malaysia and New Zealand Classes
Blean Primary School
Whitstable Road
Canterbury
CT2 9ED

15 November 2022

Dear Malaysia and New Zealand Classes,

I was really pleased to receive an email from you. It is always fantastic to read correspondence from school students in our constituency of Canterbury.

Thank you too for your very kind words about me, I feel very lucky to have such a special job and it is a pleasure to be able to try and help people in our community.

Every single person has a talent in life, and it is so important that they have the chance to express that talent.

I had already heard of Walter Tull before your letter but I didn't know that much about him and his story. Being one of the first black footballers in the United Kingdom, he would definitely have paved the way for generations that came after him. What is just as important however, is his heroic actions in fighting for our country, which sadly cost him his life.

As you said, he not only led a group of soldiers, but saved dozens of men in Italy. It is always a tragedy when someone dies so young but due to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, the stories of heroes like Walter will always live on in our memories.

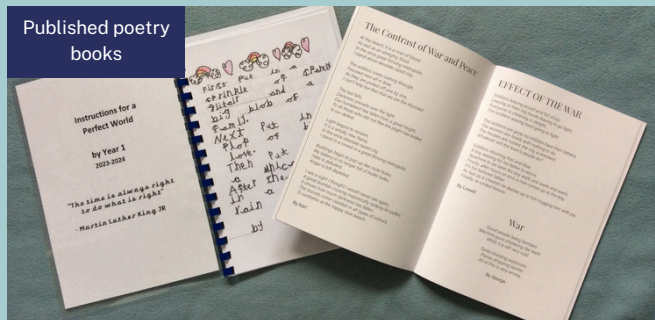
The Military Cross is an incredibly prestigious award, but undoubtedly one that Mr Tull deserves. Following your letter, I shall write to the Government's Defence Secretary and put forward your request and I will share any response I receive with you all.

Wishing you all the best,



Rosie Duffield MP

Published poetry books



Year 4 Parent Share

This term, Year Four have been learning about the life and significance of Walter Tull. The children thought it would be great to create a model of Walter Tull, as they believe that he achieved great things in his life despite the hardships he faced. The children based their designs on the work by Alberto Giacometti. It was wonderful to have the children's adults in to help and we all really enjoyed making these clay Walter Tull sculptures.



Root Learning



The roots of our tree serve as the metaphor for the values and skills that underpin the learning that takes place in school. Just as roots provide stability and nourishment to a tree, our values and the characteristics of effective learning provide a solid foundation for the skills we teach. These principles form the basis for our root learning sessions and the menu we offer our EYFS and Year One pupils.

By providing carefully constructed activities that emphasise the characteristics of effective learning and our school values of resilience, collaboration, resourcefulness, curiosity and responsibility, we ensure that our curriculum not only equips our pupils with academic knowledge and skills but also fosters character development and citizenship.

Plaiting of subjects and spaced retrieval are two powerful cognitive strategies that enhance learning. Our menu of choices offered to pupils in their root learning time, involves mixing a variety of topics or types of challenge, while the use of spaced retrieval ensures that we repeat practice over time, to support the embedding process of knowledge and skills into long term memory.

| | |
|--|--|
| Use the resources on the table to make a ladybird puppet. | Retell the story, "What the ladybird heard". |
| How long are these objects? Record your findings. | Role Play Area |
| Experiment with printing using natural materials. | Explore this game on the ipads. |
| Carefully trace the William Morris patterns using the resources on the table. | Practise forming a question marks and capital letters in the sand trays. |
| What would it be like without sight? Explore completing the tasks on the table whilst wearing a blindfold. How do you think you could communicate with others without having that sense? | Role Play Area |
| Use the number lines to count back and solve the subtraction number problems. | Use the small world resources to retell the Easter story. |
| Take a number card and build it in tens and ones using the resources on the tables. | Practise your Badminton skills to carefully bounce the fluffball. Record your number of bounces in one minute! |
| Can you balance all of the balls on the tees before the sand timer is finished? | Role Play Area |
| Play this game using an ipad. | Can you follow the written notes to play a tune? |
| Play this game using an ipad. | Remember to tidy up when you have finished an activity! |

Wrap Around Care

We understand the importance of flexible and reliable childcare for our families. To support our community, we offer comprehensive wrap-around care that ensures a safe, nurturing, and fun environment for children beyond regular school hours. Our services include:

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7:30am to the start of the school day. Children can enjoy a nutritious breakfast to kickstart their day, with a variety of healthy options including cereals, fruits, toast, and drinks. During this time, children can also engage in quiet, supervised activities such as reading, drawing, and puzzles, allowing them to ease into their day.

- Hours: 7:30am - 8:40am
- Activities: Breakfast, quiet play, reading, and games
- Cost: £6 per session

After School Club

Our After School Club is designed to provide children with a safe, engaging, and enjoyable environment after the school day has ended. With a variety of activities on offer, from arts and crafts to sports and games, there is something for every child to enjoy. We also provide a light snack to keep them energized until they go home.

- Hours: End of school day - 6:00pm
- Activities: Arts and crafts, sports, outdoor play, board games, and more
- Cost: £11 per session
- Light snacks provided

Our Commitment

Our dedicated and experienced staff ensure that children feel comfortable, engaged, and well-cared for throughout their time with us. We strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where every child can thrive and build friendships.

While we strive to accommodate all families, please note that our wrap-around care services are very popular and spaces are limited. Unfortunately, we may not always be able to meet every request, but we will do our best to find a solution that works for you. For further information, please get in touch with our extended school lead, or the school office.

Blean School Library



We have recently updated and have re-launched our new library to promote reading for pleasure. Our library is relevant and accessible to diverse audiences, including all ages from 4-11, by offering a range of reading materials presented in different formats (fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, magazines).

We have designed the space to appeal to the modern reader, incorporating contemporary literature and popular genres to attract readers who may not have been interested in the older library offerings.

Creating this inviting reading space with comfortable seating, good lighting and aesthetically pleasing décor, encourages our school family to spend more time in the library, fostering the sense of community.

We have ensured that our library collection reflects diverse voices, cultures and perspectives that helps to create a welcoming environment for all readers, promoting empathy and understanding.

Our aim of encouraging reading for pleasure will promote lifelong learning, personal growth and intellectual curiosity, which are essential life skills.

We would like to thank our PTFA for supporting us to make our dream a reality with the financial contributions provided to the school, and thanks to everyone who has supported with the redevelopment of our Blean Library.

We are so proud to offer this space to our community and ask that you will support us in taking the upmost care of the library and its contents. **We will request that any book that is lost or returned damaged is replaced 'like for like' to enable the smooth running of the library.**

We look forward to opening the library at break, lunchtime and after school for our community to use in the near future.



Forest School

Forest School at Blean Primary School offers an exceptional outdoor learning experience that fosters creativity, curiosity, and connection with nature.

Our on-site Forest School programme provides pupils with the unique opportunity to explore and engage with the natural world firsthand. Through child-led, hands-on activities such as den building, tree climbing, and woodland crafts, pupils develop valuable life skills linked to our school values, including collaboration, resourcefulness, and resilience. Forest School ignites a sense of wonder and appreciation for the environment, instilling in our pupils a lifelong love for nature and a commitment to environmental stewardship. Forest School at Blean Primary School truly enriches our pupils' educational journey, nurturing their physical, emotional, and cognitive development.



Outdoor learning at Blean Primary School offers a dynamic, immersive, curriculum-linked educational experience that extends beyond the traditional classroom walls. Providing pupils with invaluable opportunities for hands-on exploration and discovery. From reconstructing ancient Egyptian engineering, or reenacting Silk Road trading, to creative arts and storytelling sessions beneath the canopy of trees, outdoor learning engages pupils in meaningful ways. This ignites their curiosity and fosters a connection with the natural world, making outdoor learning an integral and enriching part of our pupils' educational journey.



Therapeutic Classrooms

To support the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

We aim to create classrooms that cultivate learning through its design, somewhere both teachers and children want to be and somewhere that supports everyone's mental health.

Everything in the room has been specifically chosen to ensure that the space is Trauma-Informed, Attachment-Aware, Inclusive & Neurodiverse Sensitive.

'The average UK classroom is cluttered, uncomfortable, overwhelming and outdated, and is not designed around the needs of our children today. Let's be honest – classrooms haven't changed much in the last 50 years, and that is not good enough.'

Teaching Positive connections, 2023.

The UK has seen a rise in the number of children struggling with their mental health and wellbeing in primary schools. With everyone now focused on wellbeing as part of their agenda, there is one place that is being overlooked... the classroom.



Year 5 Classroom

At Blean Primary School, we have always been outward facing and leading in positive change. Part of this is why we continue to be an outstanding school. We have acknowledged the need and raised our awareness of mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff and in 2023, the school achieved The Wellbeing Award. Part of this journey is to review the environment we work in with the aim to create calm and welcoming spaces.



Year 6 Classroom

Adverse childhood experiences

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences that can have a huge impact on children and young people throughout their lives. ACEs can be anything from abuse, neglect, to parents with mental health needs, family separation or bereavement. It is now understood that 67% of the UK's population have at least 1 ACE and 1 in 8 of the population have more than 4 ACEs. With that in mind, on average, at least 4 pupils in every class may be experiencing many ACEs at the same time, with over half the class experiencing at least 1. Negative stress known as 'toxic stress' can make a difference in the impact on a child's brain and body which can lead to health-related diseases in later life.

By changing our environment, we are not just creating pleasant spaces but we are creating spaces that allow children to feel safe and calm. This year, Blean Primary has signed up to be part of The Nurturing Kent Project which is run by Nurture UK. This is a whole school approach to ensure pupils mental health and wellbeing is at the forefront of our minds, this includes creating an environment that supports this.

As well as ACEs, we have pupils who are Neurodiverse, some have a diagnosis of Autism, ADHD or social, emotional mental health. Some of our pupils experience a sense of being overwhelmed or struggle with sensory overload. It is important we are inclusive and create spaces they thrive and feel secure in.

Classrooms

Decor

Rooms have been designed so they feel calm. Soft lighting is provided and chairs are padded to allow comfort throughout the day. There are different types of seating options, allowing children to move around the room depending on their needs that day. There is a calm area where children can break away if things are getting too much. The tables are purposeful and allow for easy communication, team-work and group work.

Flexible Seating

Often, pupils who are Neurodiverse or have experienced trauma or ACEs feel as though they have limited choices or choices have been taken from them. The therapeutic classroom layout allows them to have some control and choice. It empowers them to take ownership of their learning and choose the place that suits them the best for that particular lesson. It enables collaboration with pupils they may have not sat with before.

Creating a buzz!

Since introducing therapeutic classrooms in Year 6 and 5, there has been a real desire to try out different seating positions. Over time, the pupils will learn which spaces are more appropriate for them depending on the lesson being taught. Of course, the teacher may instruct pupils to sit in certain places if they feel it will be more beneficial.

Before & After Year 5 Classroom



Before & After Year 6 Classroom





Extra-Curricular Activities

We believe that learning extends beyond the classroom. Our extra-curricular clubs provide opportunities for pupils to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build confidence. Whether your child is passionate about sports, arts, music, or technology, we have a variety of clubs and activities designed to enrich their school experience.

Why Participate in Extra-Curricular Activities?

Engaging in extra-curricular activities helps pupils:

- **Build Confidence:** Trying new things in a supportive environment helps pupils gain self-assurance.
- **Develop Teamwork Skills:** Working with peers in clubs and sports teaches cooperation and leadership.
- **Boost Academic Performance:** Many studies show that pupils who participate in activities outside the classroom perform better academically.
- **Discover New Interests:** Our diverse range of activities allows pupils to find and nurture their passions.

Timetable and Registration

Our extra-curricular activities are held during lunchtime and after school. Please visit our school office or website to view the current timetable and register your child for their chosen activities. Spaces may be limited for some clubs, so early registration is encouraged.

Parent Involvement

We welcome parent volunteers to assist with our clubs. If you have a skill or passion you would like to share, please contact the school office.

Encourage your child to take part in these exciting activities and watch them grow, learn and thrive outside the classroom. At Blean Primary, we are committed to nurturing well-rounded, happy, and confident individuals.

Activities Offered

Sports

Our sports clubs focus on physical fitness, teamwork, and fun. A few examples of what we offer are:

- **Football:** Focusing on developing ball skills, strategy, and sportsmanship.
- **Netball:** Team-based games that encourage coordination and team-building.
- **Hockey:** introducing pupils to the fundamentals of hockey, emphasising teamwork, agility and skill development.
- **Athletics:** Running, jumping, and throwing activities to build speed, strength, and agility.
- **Dance:** A creative way for pupils to stay active and express themselves.



Music and Performing Arts

Blean Primary School has a vibrant arts community where pupils can explore their creativity:

- **Choir:** Open to pupils who love to sing and perform. The choir takes part in local events and school productions.
- **Instrumental Lessons:** From violin to piano, pupils can learn a variety of instruments.
- **Glee Club:** Develop singing, dancing and acting skills, along with confidence.



Creative Arts

We encourage artistic expression through various clubs:

- **Art Club:** Painting, drawing, and crafting for pupils who love to create.
- **Crafts and Design:** Activities ranging from pottery to woodworking, helping pupils develop fine motor skills and creativity.



Wellbeing

We prioritise the mental and emotional wellbeing of our pupils:

- **Gardening Club:** Teaching children about nature, responsibility, and the joys of nurturing plants.
- **Eco-Club:** Encouraging pupils to care for the environment through recycling projects, working towards the Wilder Kent Award and community clean-ups.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths)

For pupils curious about the world of science and technology:

- **Coding Club:** Introducing pupils to the basics of programming through fun, interactive projects.
- **Pod-cast Club:** pupils learn how to plan, record and edit their own podcasts, discussing topics they are passionate about. A great way to build speaking, listening and digital skills.
- **Lego Club:** encouraging creativity and problem solving as pupils build models, explore engineering concepts and engage in fun challenges.
- **Timetable Rockstar's Club:** designed to make learning multiplication tables exciting. Pupils can compete in friendly challenges, improve their maths skills and earn rewards as they become 'rockstars' in multiplication.