



Deer Park School

LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Dear Families,

It will not have escaped our collective attention that *The Odyssey* is having something of a moment. To be fair here, Homer's work has had many moments over the last 3,000 years; its story arc is so widely recognised as a plotline that it's become its own genre, and it's been reproduced in many, many forms. 'Ulysses', 'Cold Mountain', 'Space Jam' (which I'm sure we can agree is the greatest cultural artefact of the 20th century), and so on. Christopher Nolan has certainly helped chivvy in this latest bout of fashionable spotlighting, but so too has Emily Wilson: *finally* classics has its own rock star. No disrespect intended to Tom Holland or Natalie Haynes here (no not *that* Tom Holland - I mean the historian), but Wilson has managed to make Homer vivid and alive and readable in a way that past translations just haven't. She's also an out-and-out academic, a professor at UPenn, and a public taker of zero nonsense. This is not to mention her latest well-published salvos deploring Nolan's epic for its lack of introspective examination of Odysseus the man, which came shortly after he was very nice about her books and thus were all the more left-field and brutal. But, she's brilliant; irrefutably and evidently brilliant, and also seemingly quite cool, which is - for the popularity of three-millennia-old poems at least - a good thing. But I (as usual) digress.

What's good for us and our children about the *Odyssey* rearing back into public life, is that it's a magnificent story. A soldier returning from war, interfering gods, shipwrecks, revenge, disguises, witches, cannibals, and - most famously - the best starting line-up of monsters to be found anywhere. The cyclops, Scylla's writhing mass of teeth and heads, the sirens whose beauty and allure conceals lethal predatory intent, the man-eating giants and colossal whirlpools: they are the blueprint for the monsters of later literature, the many-headed, many-limbed embodiments of our unnamed fears. And, *and*, unlike in a film, it's our imagination that does the work. The monsters look slightly different to all of us, because our own imagination adds details that make them specifically frightening to us personally. Depending on what age you read and re-read the *Odyssey*, the monsters and perils look slightly different in your mind's eye, because you are slightly different: it's the old same same-river-twice analogy, except you're the river. And yes ok I've digressed again: on to the point. If you've made it this far, you deserve a point of some kind.

Beyond the big, bad monsters and the classicists who reinvent them, what's extraordinary about the *Odyssey* - famously so, in fact - is its layers. Beneath the adventures is a meditation on what it means to be human, on the limits of human agency, on loyalty, loneliness, and temptation and endurance. That being clever does not save us from suffering, that being courageous does not make us invulnerable, that finally returning home doesn't mean your old life is waiting for you. You can, therefore, read the *Odyssey* because the monsters are cool and the journey exciting. You can also read it as a contemplative treatise on the human condition (just in case you don't have plans this weekend). Both readings are equally legitimate, and we can do both at different stages in our lives.

This is one of the great wonders and pleasures of reading, that our children do not need to understand everything that is happening in every book they read. Our children might read Geraldine McCaughrean's [excellent children's version of the Odyssey](#), and enjoy the monsters without meandering into thoughts on existential isolation. Or they might read it as a story about coming home, or about identity, or about what endurance really is: the book won't change, but they will change and grow around it. A child who reads more acquires not simply the infrastructure of reading, not just more words, but more ways of imagining. We (rightly) talk about vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and the substantial academic and life-long advantages of becoming a confident reader, but there's more than that for our children. They encounter courage before they can say what courage is, grief before they've learned to analyse it, and moral ambiguity before they know what either of those words mean. They learn that frightening things can be exciting and fascinating, that heroes can be horribly flawed and unlikeable, that stories can be much more than they appear on the surface, and that people can too.

Have a great weekend, and do remember to read.
Yours as ever,

Yours as ever,

Alex Lee



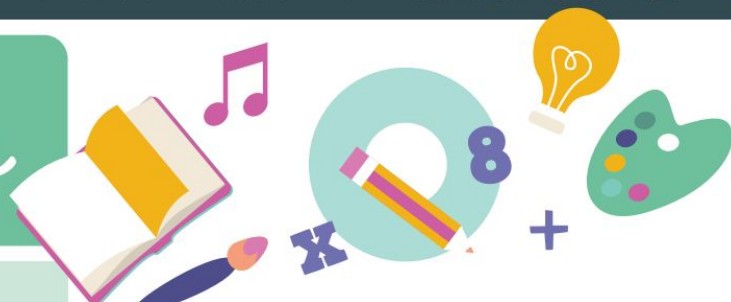
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Class Updates



Sambar Class



Mrs Blaxland



Ms Philip



Mrs Lambelin



Miss Wilkinson



Mr Owen

Our Learning

What have we learned?

- What a wonderful first week we have had in Reception! We have loved getting to know all of the children and their families.
- The children have been familiarising themselves with their new environment and have had a great time exploring the different areas of our indoor and outdoor classrooms.
- We have been busy learning all of the new routines and finding out lots of information about our new friends through our talk partner work.
- Today we read the book 'Sharing a Shell', and we will continue to read this book next week, talking about why it is important to share all of our resources with our friends.
- In Maths, we have been singing lots of number songs.

Our highlights:

We have been so impressed with how well the children have settled into their new routines and have loved watching them all have so much fun together!

In other news

We will start our PE lessons the week beginning 21st of September. Sambar class will have their PE lesson on Mondays and Fawn class will have their PE lesson on Wednesdays. The children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

Next week, we will continue to explore the book 'Sharing a Shell'. We will learn about the 'Zones of Regulation' and talk about our feelings. In Maths, we will be sorting and matching different objects.

Trips and events:

Wednesday 16th of September - EYFS Family Curriculum Meeting 2.30pm in the hall.

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Adrian and Yimu



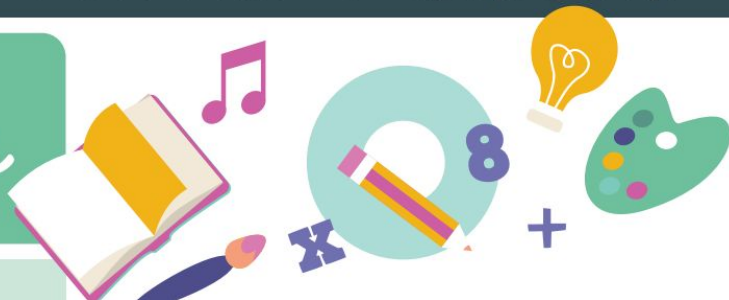
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Class Updates



Fawn Class



Miss Corrigan



Mrs Gordon



Miss Wilkinson



Miss Susie

Our Learning

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Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Aavya and Vitalina



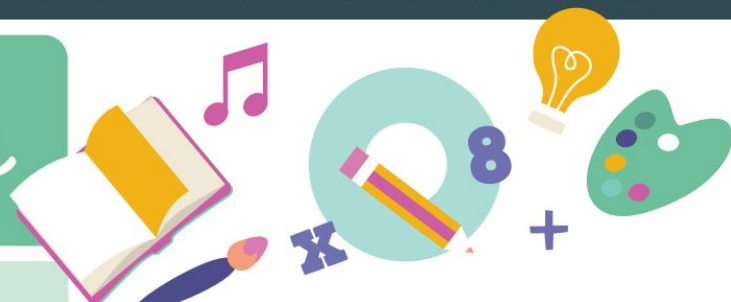
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Class Updates



Roe Class



Miss Bennett



Miss Charlotte



Miss Melissa

Our Learning

What have we learned?

We are absolutely delighted with how well all Year 1 children have settled into their classrooms. They have adapted to their new routines with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm! The children have particularly loved exploring their rainbow challenges—-independent activities set up around the classroom that help them stretch their learning and earn their coloured challenge sticks.

English: We have been diving into the wonderful world of *The Jolly Postman*. The children have been practicing writing complete sentences about the characters, focusing closely on using capital letters at the start of sentences and finger spaces between their words.

Maths: Our focus has been all about mastering numbers! We have been practicing how to count objects accurately and have been investigating number bonds—finding all the different ways we can add numbers together to make 5.

Our highlights:

Without a doubt, our favorite moments have been outside! We have been using our outdoor area to bring *The Jolly Postman* to life. The children have had a wonderful time setting up their very own post office, sorting mail, and brilliantly retelling the story to one another.



In other news

Daily Reading: Please continue to read every day at home with your child. It makes a massive difference to their confidence!

Yellow reading records: Remember to record all home reading in your child's yellow reading record book so we can celebrate their hard work in class.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

English- Writing a invitation to *The Jolly Postman*
Maths- 1 more and 1 less
Science- Materials and their everyday uses.

Trips and events:

24.9.26- KS1 Reading workshop (online)

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Xander, Agnes



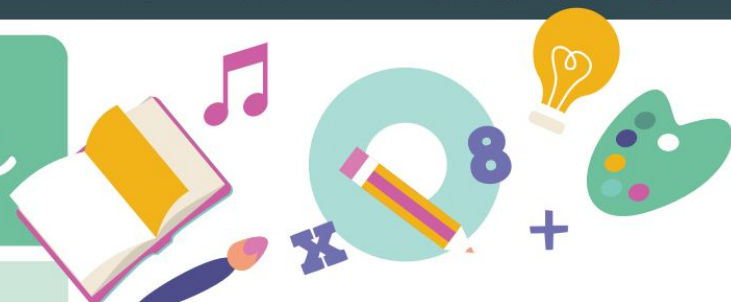
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Class Updates



Brocket Class



Ms Barbara



Miss Drew



Miss Melissa



Miss Denisa

Our Learning

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The next two weeks

We will be learning:

English- Writing a invitation to The Jolly Postman

Maths- 1 more and 1 less

Science- Materials and their everyday uses.

Trips and events:

24.9.26- KS1 Reading workshop (online)

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Aksel, Zaky



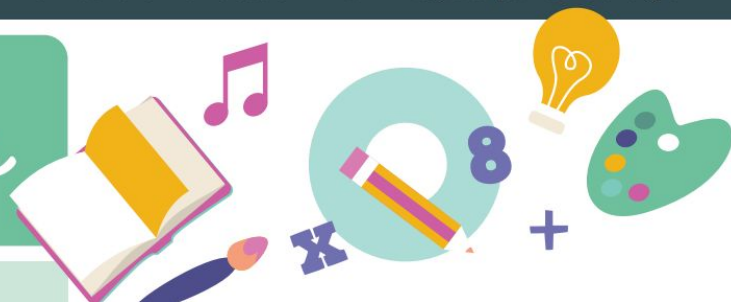
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Class Updates



Marsh Class



Miss Lauren



Miss House



Miss Charlotte

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Marsh class have started their first term in Year 2 with an abundance of Happiness and Enthusiasm! They are eager to learn and looking forward to their new subjects and topics.

In English, we have started generating ideas to write an information report to inform anyone who doesn't feel confident about all the different ways they can be smart (based on the book "All the ways to be smart"). In Maths we have been learning about place value and partitioning numbers into tens and ones.

In History, we started our new topic about how transport has changed over time. The children wowed us all with how much they know about transport already and are excited about their upcoming trip to Richmond station.

In Science, we have been investigating different materials and their properties, discussing what properties make a material suitable for its use and whether materials can be manipulated to change their shape.

Our highlights:

The children have loved starting our new class reading book "The Hodgeheg" and are excited to find out what happens next while we read through a chapter each week over the half term.

In other news

Please ensure anything coming into school (uniform, school bags, water bottles, glasses cases etc) are all clearly labelled with the child's name so they can be returned if misplaced.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

In English, we will be writing our information reports. Then, we will start a new unit based on our reading book - The Hodgeheg. In Maths, we will be continuing our learning about place value and numbers within 100. After that, we will move onto addition and subtraction.

Trips and events:

Upcoming Stars of the Week:



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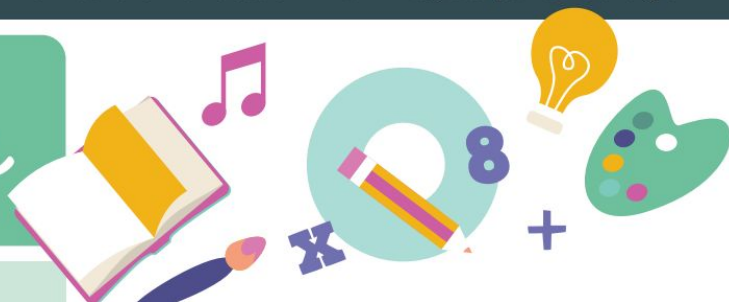


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Class Updates



Fallow Class



Ms Barbara



Miss Brandvik



Miss Lauren

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Fallow class have started their first term in Year 2 with an abundance of Happiness and Enthusiasm! They are eager to learn and looking forward to their new subjects and topics.

In English, we have started generating ideas to write an information report to inform anyone who doesn't feel confident about all the different ways they can be smart (based on the book "All the ways to be smart"). In Maths we have been learning about place value and partitioning numbers into tens and ones.

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Our highlights:

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In other news

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The next two weeks

We will be learning:

In English, we will be writing our information reports. Then, we will start a new unit based on our reading book - The Hodgeheg. In Maths, we will be continuing our learning about place value and numbers within 100. After that, we will move onto addition and subtraction.

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Mari, Gabi, Veja



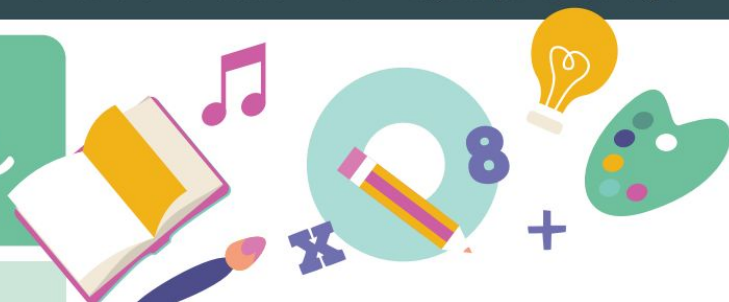
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Class Updates



Kashmir Class



Miss Lauren



Mr Lord



Miss Tejas

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Y3 have had an excellent start to the year, already demonstrating curiosity and putting huge effort into their tasks!

In English, we are planning to write a biography on Mary Anning. We have identified the features of a biography, learnt about the rules of past tense verbs and have joined ideas using conjunctions.

We have been using dienes and the part whole model to prove our understanding of the place value of numbers to 1,000 in maths.

We used our investigative skills in science when looking at rocks, understanding the properties of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. We learnt how each was formed, and understood that fossils are created in sedimentary rock.

Our history topic on the Mesozoic Era has sparked great interest. We have begun by looking at the chronology of the three periods of the Mesozoic Era and it is clear that we have some very knowledgeable dinosaur lovers amongst us! We are very much looking forward to our upcoming trip to the Natural History Museum where we will take part in a 'Dino Dig' workshop.

In other news

PE day is on a Tuesday and Library day is a Wednesday.

A healthy snack can be brought from home to eat at break time.

Please let us know if you have any questions about homework or have trouble logging on to Century Maths.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Time adverbials to show chronology
- Apostrophes for possession
- How fossils are created
- What fossils tell us about the past
- Similarities and differences between dinosaurs
- 10 more and 10 less than 3-digit numbers to 1,000
- How being active can keep us healthy

Trips and events:

National History Museum: Friday 25th September

Upcoming stars of the week: Beatrix and Thomas



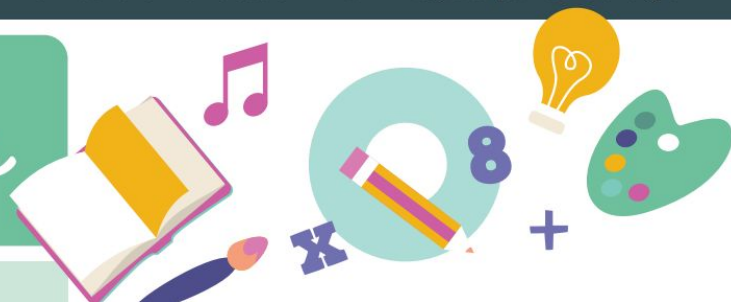
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Class Updates



Muntjac Class



Miss Thomas

Our Learning

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- Similarities and differences between dinosaurs
- 10 more and 10 less than 3-digit numbers to 1,000
- How being active can keep us healthy

Trips and events:

National History Museum: Friday 25th September

Upcoming stars of the week:

Pearl and Arthur



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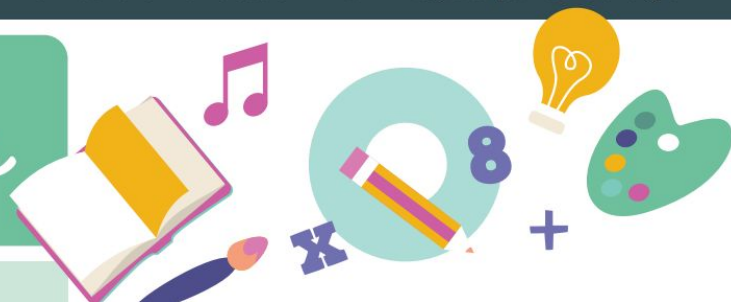


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Class Updates



Sika Class



Miss Melissa



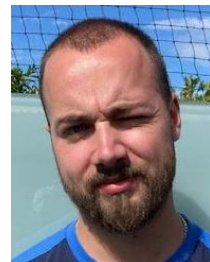
Miss Skewes



Miss Mia



Miss Lauren



Mr Rory

Our Learning

What have we learned?

In English, we are learning how to write a diary entry with fronted adverbials and correct tenses throughout. We have revised types of words like verbs, pronouns, and adjectives.

This half-term we are reading a few short texts including, *The Tin Forest* and *The Culture of Clothes*.

In Maths, we have been revising place value of numbers to 1000 and the different ways to represent numbers with part-whole models, on a numberline and with counters.

The Wild North is our topic in History, and we have been introduced to Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons, Picts and Scots.

In Science, our topic is electricity and circuits. Our first lesson involved revising and learning about electricity safety.

We have learnt about the four types of bullying in PSHE; verbal, physical, social, and cyber.

In French, we revised some language we already know and added some new phrases like, "et toi?"

Mamma Mia is the pop music we will be learning this half term.

We have been introduced to Hans Holbein and his drawings in Art.

Our highlights:

It has been a fantastic start to the new year with all students settling into Year 4. Children are both taking initiative and following school and class rules. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students of Sika!

In other news

Your child should bring their diary to school every day.

Homework will begin in Week 3 and Homework books should be brought in on Mondays to be checked.

Our library borrowing day is Friday and library books should be brought in on Friday to be returned.

Please listen to your child read for at least 20 minutes a day and support them to spend time on TTRS (in addition to Century for their Maths homework).

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- **English** we will be continuing with our diary entries
- **French** we will be learning about how to ask and answer how old we are and introduce ourselves
- **Science** we will start to look more in depth at electricity and building circuits.

Trips and events:

Upcoming Stars of the Week:



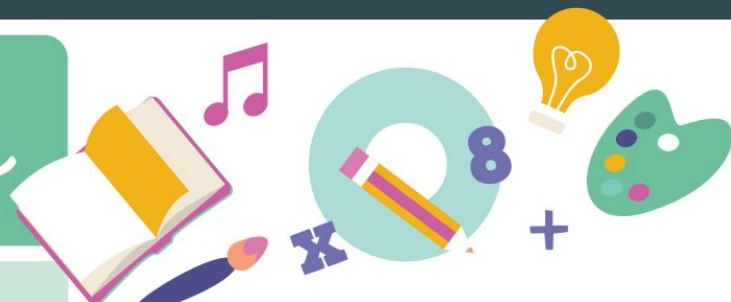
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Class Updates



Taruca Class



Miss Bhatti



Mr Lloyd



Miss Mandy



Miss Amber

Our Learning

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Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Michael A
Charlie



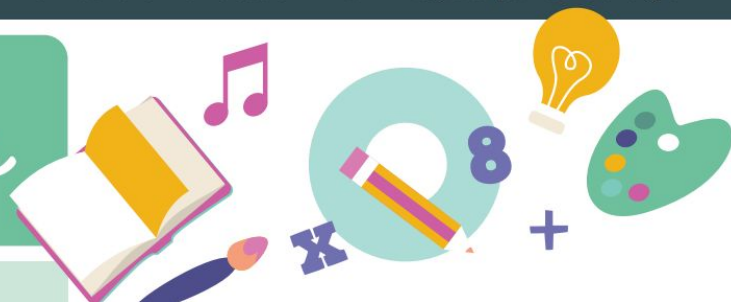
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Class Updates



Caribou Class



Mrs McMinn

Our Learning

What have we learned?

Our first week (and a bit) of the school year has been full of learning for Year 5!

In English, we have started reading 'The Adventures of Odysseus' - which has proven to be very popular - and we have identified features of character descriptions to prepare us to write our own one later in the half-term!

Our Odyssey-filled English lessons link in nicely to our history topic of Ancient Greece. So far, the children have explored the origins of the civilisation and have located and labelled ancient Greek islands and city-states on a map.

As for science, Year 5 have started learning about the human bodies. More specifically, the purpose of our skeletons, joints, and muscles.

In maths, we have been focusing on number and place value - reminding ourselves how we can use place value charts, part-whole models, and 10s frame to represent numbers.

Our highlights:

Some highlights have been introducing the class to Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer' and researching the career of Leonardo Da Vinci.

In other news

The children will be given their homework books on Monday 14th September. Please ensure your child brings their homework book into school on Mondays and their reading records in every day. They also have Maths homework to complete on Century and should use TTRS to maintain their times tables fluency.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

English - Using varied sentence structures and embedded relative clauses

Maths - Comparing, ordering and rounding numbers

Science - The circulatory system

History - Exploring artefacts

PSHE - Voluntary groups and pressure groups

Music - Singing and performing 'Livin' on a Prayer'

Art - using proportion to create accurate sketches

Trips and events:

16/09 - British Museum trip



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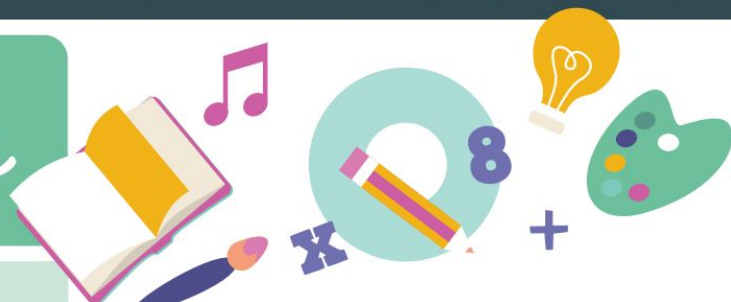


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Class Updates



Elk Class



Miss Amber



Miss Tweedie



Miss Denisa

Our Learning

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Our highlights:

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In other news

We will be starting **rugby** in outdoor PE from next week so please could the children bring two pairs of shoes to school, along with a change of clothes as it might get muddy!

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Maths - Comparing, ordering and rounding numbers

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History - Exploring artefacts

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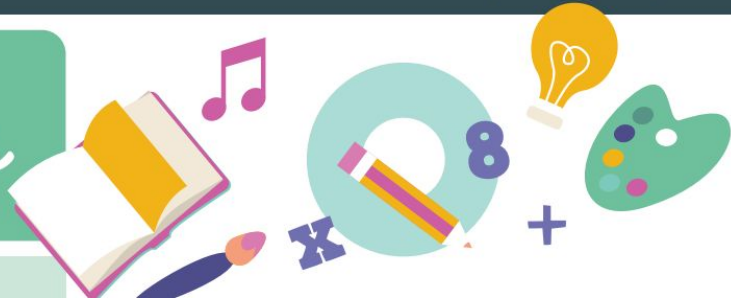


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Class Updates



Red Class



Miss Forshaw



Miss Bhatti

Our Learning

What have we learned?

This week in English we have been reading 'The London Eye Mystery'. At the start of the book, we are faced with a mystery: Salim has disappeared after riding The London Eye. We have studied the features of a newspaper report, and have used both direct and indirect speech to lend our article credibility. We have recapped fronted adverbials and relative clauses to add precise information to our newspaper article.

The children have started with a strong knowledge of place value in maths. We have recapped values of numbers, compared and ordered numbers up to 10,000,000 and worked out the values of intervals on a numberline.

Michelangelo is the artist we are studying in art. We learnt about themes of the Renaissance period and how society in Florence was impacted by the rule of the Medici family.

In PSHE, we have been reciting the mantra 'clever never goes!'. We analysed different situations in lessons and decided what the safe and appropriate action to take would be.

There have been an abundance of questions about DNA in science lessons - some reaching far beyond primary school curriculum!

Our highlights:

In our unit learning about DNA, we investigated whether plants have DNA. In a practical experiment, we extracted DNA from strawberries!

In other news

Please ensure your child brings their water bottle every day to school.
Please ensure your child's uniform is labelled.

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Round numbers up to 10 million
- Write a newspaper article, ensuring it sounds informative and reliable.
- How to use different types of pencil to create shade.
- Say what time of day I study subjects at school in French.
- How to use sources to describe Tudor society

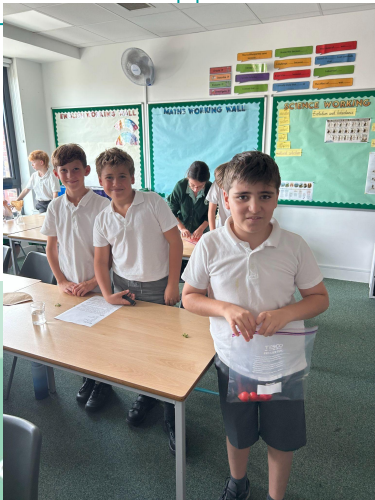
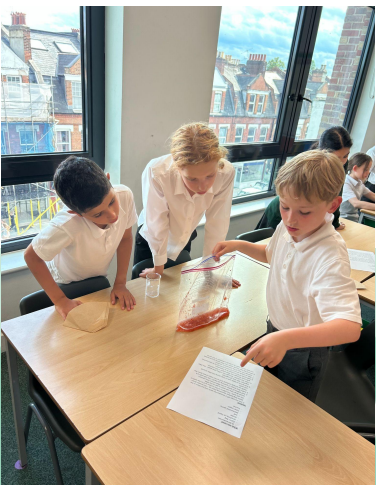
Trips and events:

2nd October - Bridewell Theatre

6th October - Hampton Court Palace

Upcoming Stars of the Week:

Amelie, Ellis



Class Updates



Moose Class



Miss Race

Our Learning

What have we learned?

This week in English we have been reading ‘The London Eye Mystery’. At the start of the book, we are faced with a mystery: Salim has disappeared after riding The London Eye. We have studied the features of a newspaper report, and have used both direct and indirect speech to lend our article credibility. We have recapped fronted adverbials and relative clauses to add precise information to our newspaper article.

The children have started with a strong knowledge of place value in maths. We have recapped values of numbers, compared and ordered numbers up to 10,000,000 and worked out the values of intervals on a numberline.

Michelangelo is the artist we are studying in art. We learnt about themes of the Renaissance period and how society in Florence was impacted by the rule of the Medici family.

In PSHE, we have been reciting the mantra ‘clever never goes!’. We analysed different situations in lessons and decided what the safe and appropriate action to take would be.

There have been an abundance of questions about DNA in science lessons - some reaching far beyond primary school curriculum!

Our highlights:

In our unit learning about DNA, we investigated whether plants have DNA. In a practical experiment, we extracted DNA from strawberries!

In other news

Please ensure your child brings their water bottle every day to school.

Please ensure your child’s uniform is labelled.

Planners must be in every day!

The next two weeks

We will be learning:

- Round numbers up to 10 million
- Write a newspaper article, ensuring it sounds informative and reliable.
- How to use different types of pencil to create shade.
- Say what time of day I study subjects at school in French.
- How to use sources to describe Tudor society

Trips and events:

2nd October - Bridewell Theatre

6th October - Hampton Court Palace

Upcoming Stars of the Week: Jemima, Frens-Willem



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