

Priory Lane Community School Summer 1 Newsletter

A message from Mrs Leighton

It is hard to believe that I have only been Head teacher at Priory Lane for 5 weeks. I already feel very much at home. It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you over the last few weeks and I am really looking forward to getting to know more of you over the coming months.

During my first few weeks, I have set the children many challenges in an effort to get to know them better and also build an even more positive school culture. So far they have shown how courteous they are, wowed me with their homework about VE day and worked as a class team to complete a 'Random Acts of Kindness' challenge. I have been very impressed by the childrens' enthusiasm for these challenges and how engaged they have been.

The summer term is always very busy in any school and Priory Lane is no exception. Last week our year 6 pupils completed their statutory assessments. The way they conducted themselves during these tests was exemplary. Every single child rose to the challenge and completed their tests with maximum efforts. I was proud and impressed in equal measure. I must give huge thanks to Mr Renney and Miss Cawkwell who organised all of the arrangements with precision and ensure the whole process was as easy as possible for everyone.

We have also held a series of class assemblies with Year 5 and Year 3 sharing their learning about how to keep safe over the last two weeks. Please check the Key Dates at the end of this letter to find out when the rest of the class assemblies are and also the sporting highlight of the year, our sports days and annual garden party - something I am particularly looking forward to.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break - I hope the sun shines for us all.

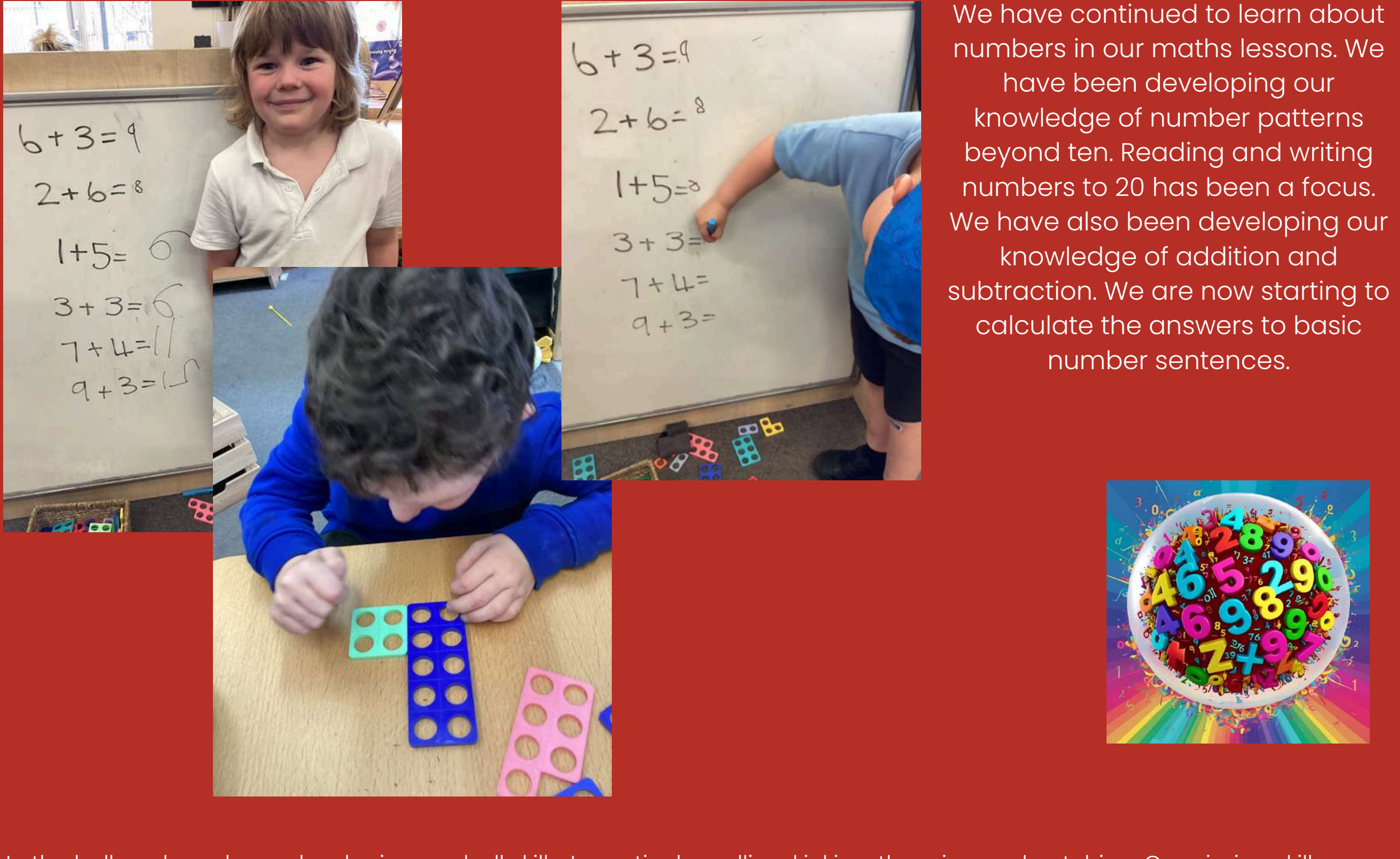
Take good care.

Mrs Leighton - Headteacher

Early Years Foundation Stage

Our topic this half term has been 'Growing'. We have planted fruit and vegetables in our outdoor area and learned how to help them grow. We wrote labels to identify what we had planted and made a scarecrow so the birds wouldn't eat our seeds.

Each week we have shared a book and written sentences about the events in the story. We are now composing our own sentences and using finger spaces and full stops too! One of our favourite stories was 'Little Sunflower' because we learned about the life cycle of a plant. We then planted our own sunflower seeds and observed them growing. We were very excited about going on a bug hunt around the school grounds. We learnt to identify different insects and how they help in the garden. We found a HUGE worm in our outdoor area.



We have continued to learn about numbers in our maths lessons. We have been developing our knowledge of number patterns beyond ten. Reading and writing numbers to 20 has been a focus. We have also been developing our knowledge of addition and subtraction. We are now starting to calculate the answers to basic number sentences.

In the hall, we have been developing our ball skills. In particular, rolling, kicking, throwing and catching. Our aiming skills are becoming more accurate.

In art, we have been making observational drawings of different plants. We have looked carefully at the different shapes and colours. We drew daffodils, and then drew them again when they were starting to wilt and dry. We discussed the changes.

Trying to programme the beebots to go where we wanted was lots of fun, although a little confusing. Over the half term, we have improved giving them directions to move from flower to flower.



After the half term break, we will be learning about occupations, which link to the school driver Aspirations. We will be learning about different jobs and how people in our community help us.

We will also continue preparing for our transition to Year One.

Our recommended read for next half term is 'A Superhero Like You' by Dr Ranj



Key Stage 2 Years 3 and 4

This half term, we have been biologists when we have been learning about plants. We have been learning about the role of the flower in the life cycle of flowering plants. We enjoyed taking part in a spring walk through the school grounds, when we identified signs of spring. This then led onto our learning about how plants are pollinated, how they form seeds and the different methods of seed dispersal. We have learned about two types of pollination - wind and insect - and the vital role of pollinators. We have learned the different parts of the flower and the role they play in pollination and seed formation



History and Geography

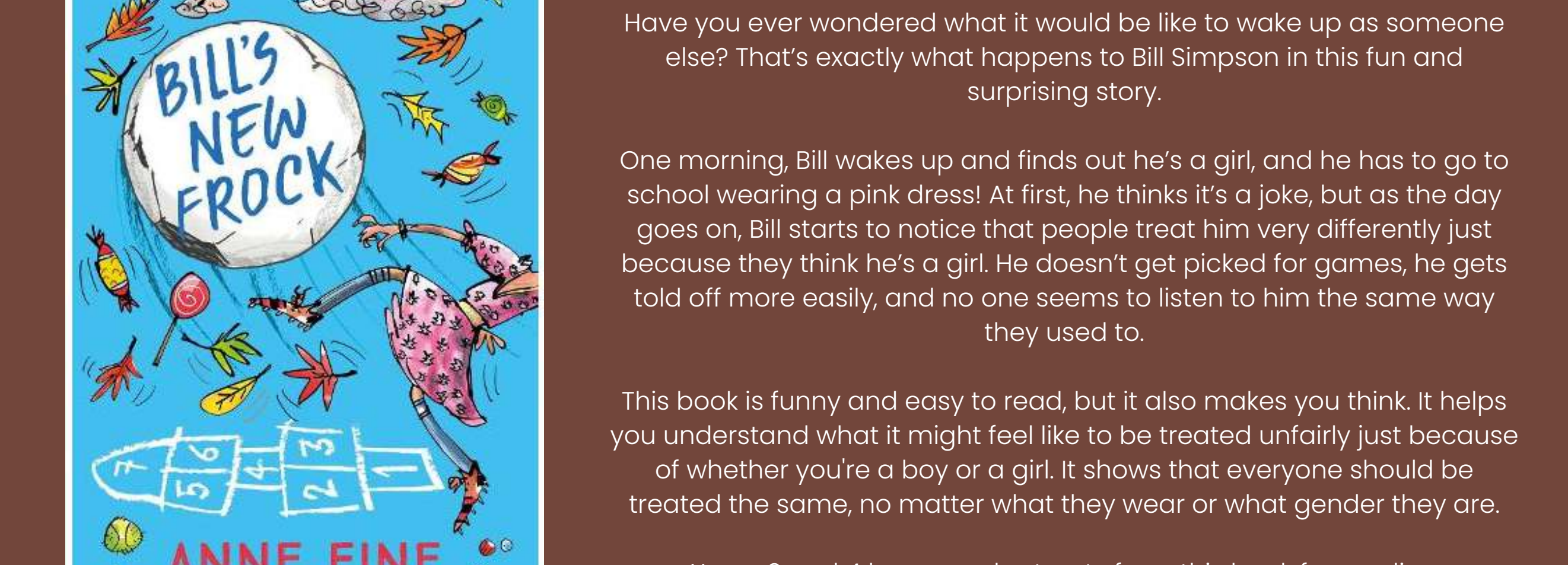
In history, we have focused on how the Ancient Greeks influenced the western world. We have utilised our research skills, making use of both written sources of evidence and ipads. We have found out that the Ancient Greeks have greatly influenced our lives in many different areas including: democracy, language, sport and medicine. We even carried out a class debate to decide in which area the Ancient Greeks influenced the western world the most. In geography, we have learned the largest mountains in the United Kingdom. We have also located the largest mountains in the world, as well as locating the longest mountain range. We have learned about the different mountain types, such as fold, fault-block and dome, and how they are formed. We have also learned about different types of volcanoes - active, dormant and extinct. In art, we have learned about two famous architects - Antoni Gaudi and Zaha Hadid. We have enjoyed exploring their architecture and comparing how their styles differ. We have practised our observational drawing skills when sketching an image of Athena's temple. Lastly, we have begun to learn about clay sculptures and the techniques for joining and carving clay.



Year 3 children have also been busy practising and performing their class assemblies, this half term. We hope that you enjoyed watching your child's performance.

Next half term, we are excited that we are going on our trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park to support our learning about sculpture in art. It is a fantastic place to visit and the children are feeling very excited. We will use the sculptures we see as inspiration to design and create group 3D sculptures involving joining slabs of clay and creating designs on them. In physics, we will learn about light, including sources of light, reflection and shadows. We will be working scientifically when we use data loggers to collect data about the amount of light passing through materials. We will also be observing how shadows move position throughout the day and the reason for this. In geography, we will learn about how earthquakes are created and measured. We will also learn about how earthquakes affect the lives of people who live in these areas and the adaptations they make to cope with them. We will be using digital mapping to track earthquake and volcano activity across the world, as well as locating them on a world map. In DT, we will be learning about food. We will be tasting and evaluating a range of sausage rolls. This will then inform our group's recipes for creating sausage rolls. Children will create a cross-sectional diagram of the sausage rolls they plan to create and consider both the ingredients and the equipment they will require. We will create some initial batches of the sausage rolls to see how successful they are before modifying and improving the recipes in order to sell them on our Garden Party stall for you all to try.

Year 4 children will also be performing their class assemblies this half term, which we are hope you will enjoy watching



Our recommended read for this half term is Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to wake up as someone else? That's exactly what happens to Bill Simpson in this fun and surprising story.

One morning, Bill wakes up and finds out that he's a girl, and he has to go to school wearing a pink dress! At first, he thinks it's a joke, but as the day goes on, Bill starts to notice that people treat him very differently just because they think he's a girl. He doesn't get picked for games, he gets told off more easily, and no one seems to listen to him the same way they used to.

This book is funny and easy to read, but it also makes you think. It helps you understand what it might feel like to be treated unfairly just because of whether you're a boy or a girl. It shows that everyone should be treated the same, no matter what they wear or what gender they are.

Years 3 and 4 have used extracts from this book for reading comprehensions, so we're sure that they would love to know what happens in the rest of the story.

Key Stage 2 Years 5 and 6

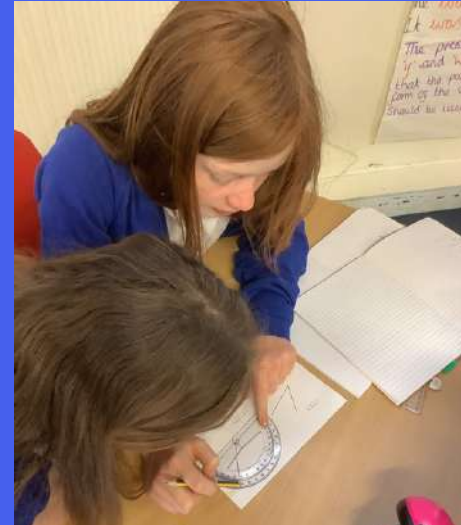
This half term we have been learning about many new things. Within our science, we've been developing our knowledge as physicists when we have been learning more about different forces. As part of our learning, we've been learning about gravity and air resistance. We're looking forward to working scientifically to explore our understanding and prove (or disprove) different theories.



Within our art, we have been exploring textiles. We have really enjoyed exploring our own personal style when we designed our perfect outfit incorporating our batik print design. We enjoyed practising with the batik, and we can't wait to see how our final designs turn out after half term.



Within our geography work, we've furthered our knowledge of the United Kingdom and its regions. We enjoyed exploring lots of different maps with a variety of scales, but we found the counties of the United Kingdom and the Ordnance Survey maps some of the trickiest to read. When exploring the Ordnance Survey maps, we created 6 figure grid references – this was really tricky. Within year 5, the children have been exploring film making within their computing lessons. The children have been recording video, editing this and creating a film to promote our Summer Garden Party. Within our PSHE, we've been learning about community and what it means to belong. Within year 5, we've explored how this links to our environment. Within year 6, we explored how this links to respect and ways to promote diversity.



For the final half term of the year, we're looking forward to learning about many new things. Within our science, we will be continuing our learning as physicists. As part of our learning, we'll be exploring water resistance and continuing our scientific investigations. We'll be completing our final designs in art for our fabric sample. We can't wait for all our ideas to come together in a final piece. Within our history work, we'll be learning about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. We'll be learning about many of the things they created and used, that we still use today. Within year 5, the children will be developing their knowledge within RE, and they'll be learning about key beliefs within Christianity. Within our DT lessons, we'll be exploring structures, and we will be designing and creating our own wooden structures – maybe you'll find some for sale at the garden party. Within our PSHE lessons, we will be learning about money, how to manage this and how to save. We'll also be recapping the key areas of learning throughout the year. Our year 6 children will be developing their computing knowledge within information technology, where they'll be exploring word processing, presenting and developing databases within a variety of different software. They'll also be furthering their learning within computer science as they use Kodu game lab to program different games. We're really looking forward to welcoming you to our garden party later in the term, and our year 6 children are looking forward to writing, practising and performing their final concert (Leavers' Concert) at Priory Lane Community School.



Our recommended read for the next half term is: The First Year by Matt Goodfellow. This is the sequel to the fantastic book, The Final Year which is all about the main character Nate living through the trials of a life and being in year 6. This sequel again rejoins Nate as he enters into Year 7, taking on a new school, new routines and new teachers. This is again written as a verse novel, which makes it an enjoyable and unusual read.



Key Stage 1



How time flies when you're having fun! We can't quite believe that we are heading into the final half term of this academic year!

This half term, the children have really enjoyed their History learning. They have learnt about the monarchs Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. They have used their historical enquiry skills to find out some key facts about their reigns.



In Art, the children have created some fantastic prints in the style of Andy Warhol. The children took inspiration from his artwork and they created a class print of plants. They created a collagraph using a range of resources. Look out for their work in the school Art Gallery.



The Year One children have been learning keyboard skills in their Computing lessons. They have been exploring how to use the cap locks, space bar and return keys to type sentences.

The Year Two children have been learning about the Christian faith in RE. They have been learning about the key Christian values and The Greatest Commandment.

After half term, the children will be continuing their learning about plants and habitats in Science. The children are very excited to be going on their trip to Lincoln Zoo. They will further their understanding linked to their Science learning.

The children will be returning to their Design and Technology learning. The children are going to be learning how to sew. They are going to produce a lovely surprise that will be able to buy from the Garden Party.

The recommended read for next half term is- Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers.

There once was a boy and one day a penguin arrives on his doorstep. The boy decides the penguin must be lost and tries to return him. So they set off on his row boat to the South Pole.

But when they get there, the boy discovers that maybe home wasn't what the penguin was looking for after all.

This is a lovely story to share together about two unlikely friends.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 5th June – Year 1 Trip to Lincoln Zoo

Friday 6th June – Year 2 Trip to Lincoln Zoo

Tuesday 10th June – Year 3 4 Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Monday 16th June – Frederick Gough Transition Day Year 6.

Friday 20th June – Melior Transition Day Year 6

Monday 23rd June – EYFS Sports Day

Wednesday 25th June – KS1 Sports Day

Thursday 27th June – KS2 Sports Day

Thursday 3rd July – Outwood Brumby Transition Day Year 6

– St Bede's Transition Day Year 6

– Meet your new teacher day whole school

Friday 4th July – New EYFS pupils Stay and Play

Wednesday 9th July – PLCS Garden Party

Friday 11th July – Reports sent home to parents

Tuesday 15th July – Year 6 Leavers Production 9.30am and 2.00pm

Wednesday 16th July – Optional Parents Evening

Friday 18th July – School Closes for the Summer Holidays