

# Priory Lane Community School Summer 1 Newsletter

## A message from Mrs Leighton

For such a short half term we have certainly packed a lot in. One of the biggest weeks in the school year is the year 6 SATS. This always brings some anxiety mixed with a bit of excitement and also an immense pride. This year was no exception. Year 6 conducted themselves with quiet determination and resilience even when it was tricky. Myself and the year 6 team are immensely proud of their efforts.

This term we have been working hard to update our behaviour and relationships policy and our school expectations. We have made our expectations of the children really clear and precise with 3 expectations. Ready, Respectful, Safe. Children need to be ready to learn and allow others to be ready to learn. Respectful of one another, all adults and visitors in school as well as respectful of our school and everything within it. Everyone has the right to be safe in our school. Children are expected to keep themselves and others safe.

An updated behaviour and relationship policy will be shared with all parents in the coming days. Our policy is evidence informed and based on the work of Paul Dix who has written several books including *When the Adults Change*. Paul also hosts podcasts and a Youtube channel. While his work is predominantly for education he also has material to support parents with behaviour management. Well worth a listen if you are interested.

As year 4 are continuing with their swimming lessons every Friday until the end of term we have made the decision to move the Celebration Assembly to Thursday morning at 9am so that year 4 can be included. This will be for the rest of this academic year. The second half of the summer term is always a special time in school. So many events to enjoy as the children round off the year with sports days and celebrations and prepare for their next steps. All of the events we have booked so far are below for your reference. .



# Priory Lane Community School Summer Term Dates for your Diary

We have lots of exciting things planned for next term. Here are some key dates for your diary.

Celebration Assemblies weekly at 9am from Thursday 4th June until Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Year 4 swimming continues from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June Year 4 Koalas trip to Scunthorpe United

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Early Years Sports Day Event at 9.30am

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Y 4 5 6 Sports Day at 9.30am

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Y 1 2 3 Sports Day at 9.30am

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Priory Lane Annual Garden Party.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July - Transition Day, meet your new class and teacher

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July - End of year reports sent home to parents

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Leavers Assembly for parents 10.00am and 2.00pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July Early Years Foundation Stage Graduation Assembly for parents 2.45pm

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 3.20pm - School closes for the summer holiday

Thank you all for your continued support. Take good care Mrs Leighton.



# Early Years Foundation Stage 1



This half term, we have been learning about farm animals and spring. We have listened to lots of stories, joining in with the repeated refrains and rhyming words. Miss Lyon brought some newly hatched chicks for us to see. We were very excited, especially when we were allowed to stroke them!



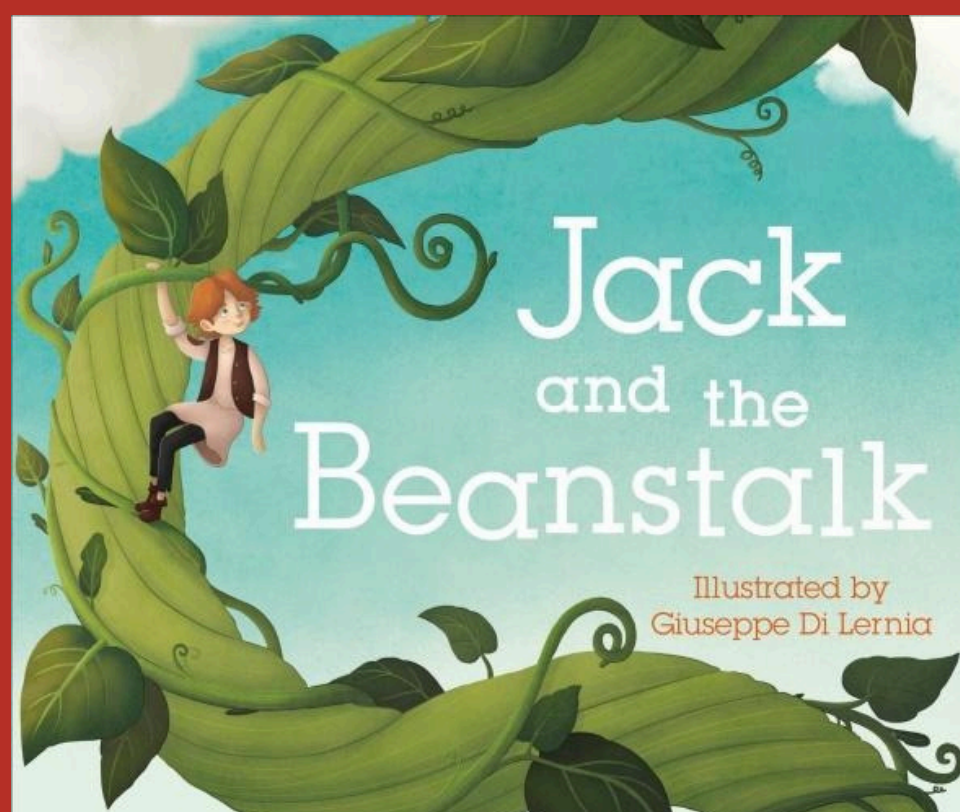
In phonics we have started learning specific letter sounds, following the Read Write Inc. scheme. We can hear the initial sounds in words and are continuing to practise our oral blending with 'Fred' the frog teddy.

Our pencil control is developing as we have been practising our writing shapes. Some of us are starting to write our names ready for starting Reception in September.

As part of our creative development, we have been practising our cutting and sticking skills.



In maths we have been learning how to copy and continue patterns, singing counting rhymes and subitising amounts to 3.



Our recommended read this half term is a family favourite and much loved traditional tale - Jack and the Beanstalk

# Early Years Foundation Stage

## 2



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. In art, we have been making observational drawings of different plants. We have looked carefully at the different shapes and colours.



We drew fresh flowers, 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 instructions and making them to to different pictures of flowers.



We were very excited about going on a bug hunt around the school grounds. We learnt to identify different insects and discussed how they help in the garden. We found worms, snails and lots of ladybirds 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. Doubling and halving 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.

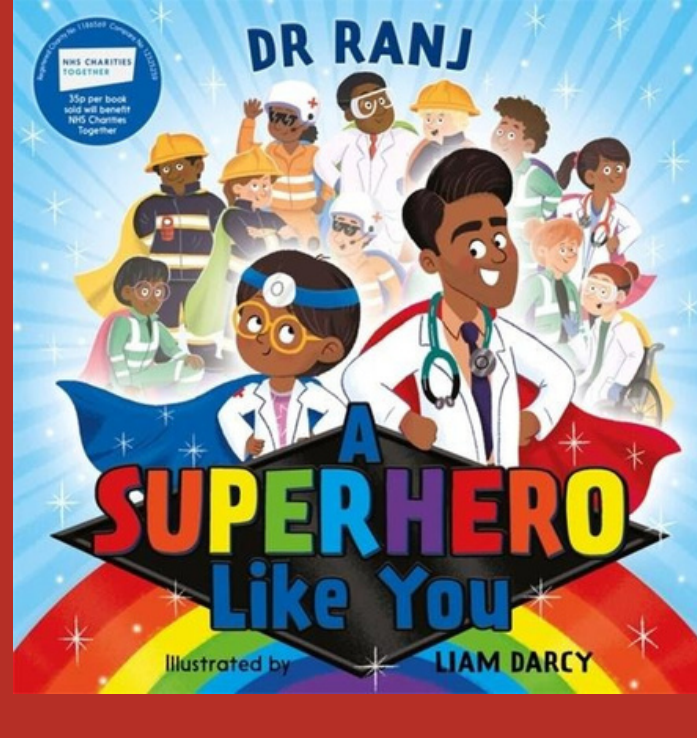
In the hall, we have been developing our ball skills. In particular, rolling, kicking, throwing and catching. Our aiming skills are becoming more accurate.

As part of our PHSE sessions, we have been talking about friendships and what makes a good friend. We have also discussed bullying and what to do if someone is upsetting us.

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

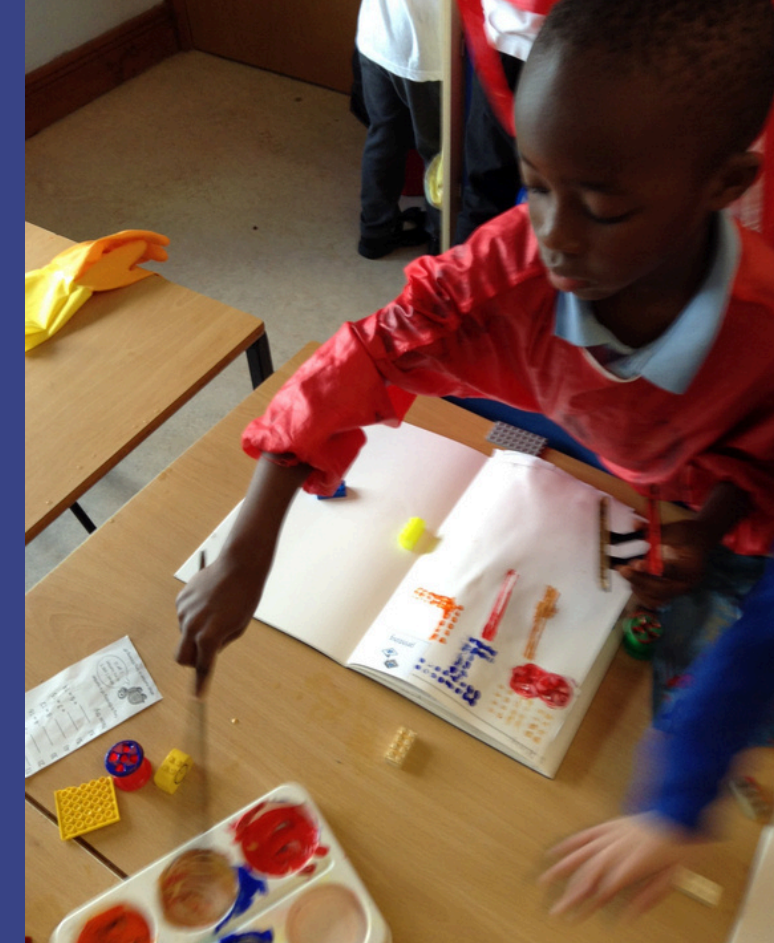


## Year 1



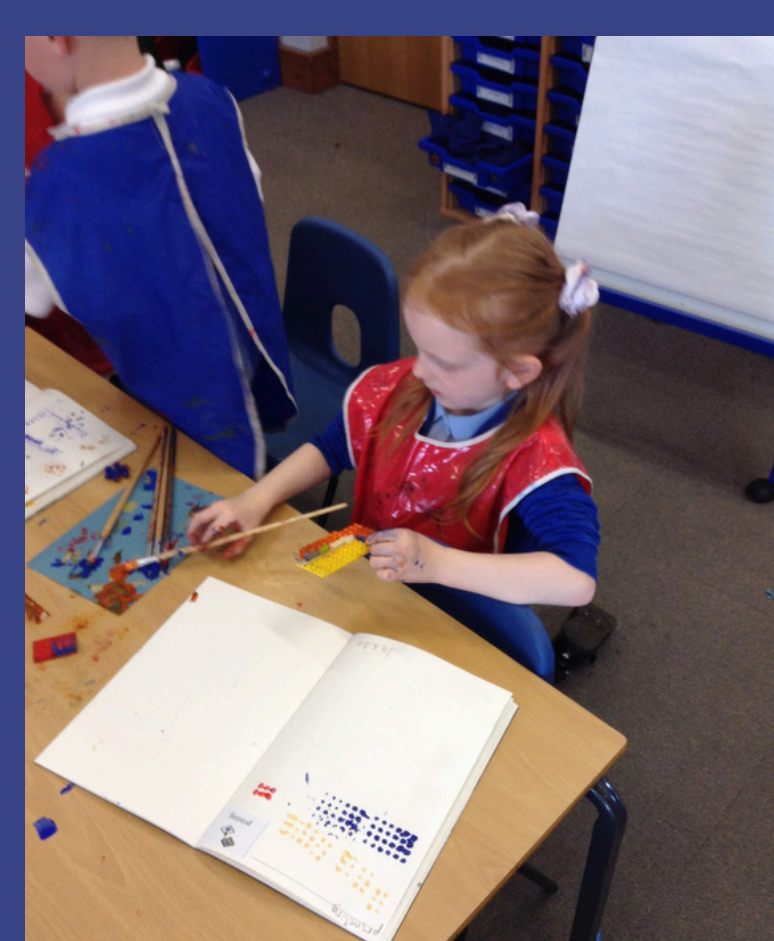
It may have been a shorter half term however it has been packed full. The children have really embedded our expectations of being ready, respectful and safe.

In English, the children have produced fantastic fact files based on sea creatures. The story has given us lots of discussion about environment and litter pollution in the world's oceans.



For the final half term, we will be using 'Goldilocks and Just the One Bear' by Leigh Hodgkinson as a stimulus for our writing. This comical story follows on many years later from the traditional story.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed our art topic this half term. They have explored mixing with primary colours and using objects for printing. During the first week back, we will be applying these skills to create our very own Clarice Cliff inspired artwork.

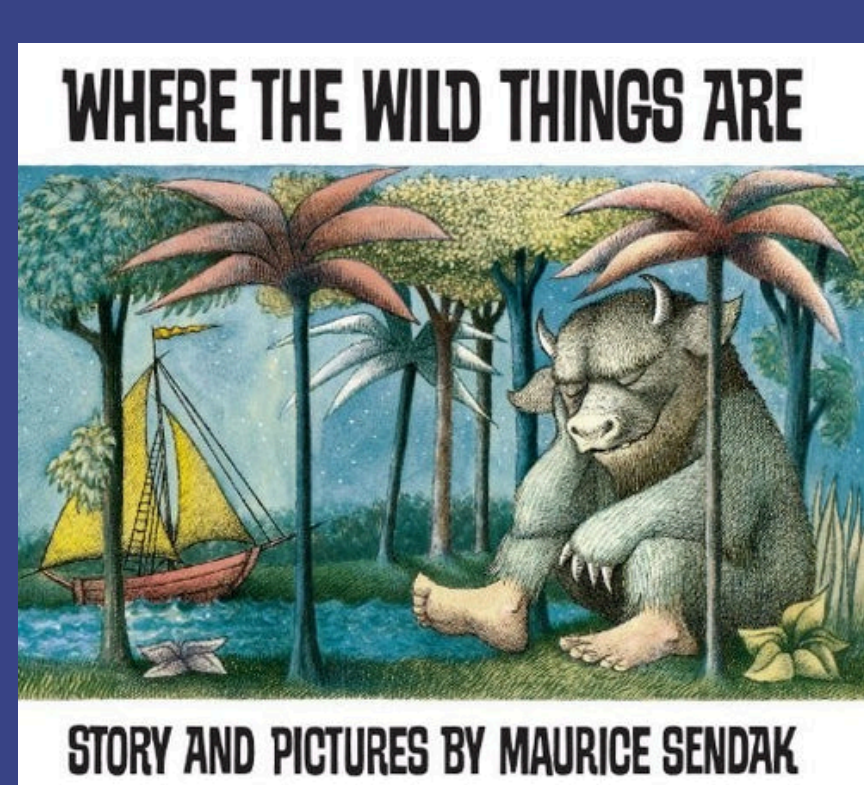


We will be continuing our history topic of 'Transport and Travel' and how this has changed into modern day.

In DT we are going to be focussing on cooking and nutrition. We will be naming fruits and vegetables and where they grow. Our end product will be using these fruit and vegetables to create our own smoothies.

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check will be taking place on the week commencing Monday 8 th June.

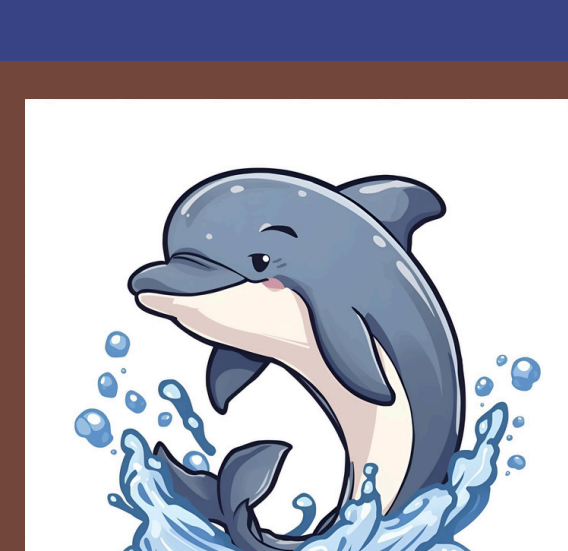
My recommended read for next half term is the popular children's book by Maurice Sendak 'Where the Wild Things Are'. The story is about a lovable rascal called Max whose mother sends him to his room for causing mayhem, it takes a more mysterious turn when, left alone, Max conjures a vivid world of towering trees and vines and sails off to become king of an island of party-loving monsters, before getting lonely and returning home.



As always, thank you for your continued support, Mrs F Keighly



## Year 2



It is hard to believe we have already reached the end of another half term! Although this has been a short half term, it has certainly been a very busy one, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum.

This half term in Science, the children have been learning all about protecting our environment. We have explored different ways that we can help care for our planet, including how to use less water and how to be more efficient with electricity both at school and at home. The children have had some fantastic ideas about how we can all make small changes to have a big impact.

In Art, the children have thoroughly enjoyed working with clay and developing a range of new sculpting skills. They have learnt techniques such as slip, score and impressing, using these carefully to create their own wonderful 3D houses. The children absolutely loved this project and were incredibly proud of their finished pieces.



Our History learning has focused on British monarchs from the past and present. The children have learnt about King John, William the Conqueror, Queen Elizabeth I, and our current monarchy. They found it fascinating to explore how monarchs have shaped Britain over time and enjoyed comparing how life has changed throughout history.



Looking ahead to next half term, the children will return to their DT learning as they take part in food technology. They will be learning about the different food groups, taking part in taste testing, and designing and creating their own healthy wraps. Keep an eye out for these at the Garden Party!



In History, we will be learning about significant people who have made a difference in the world, including Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela. The children will be exploring their lives and learning about the important changes they helped to bring about.

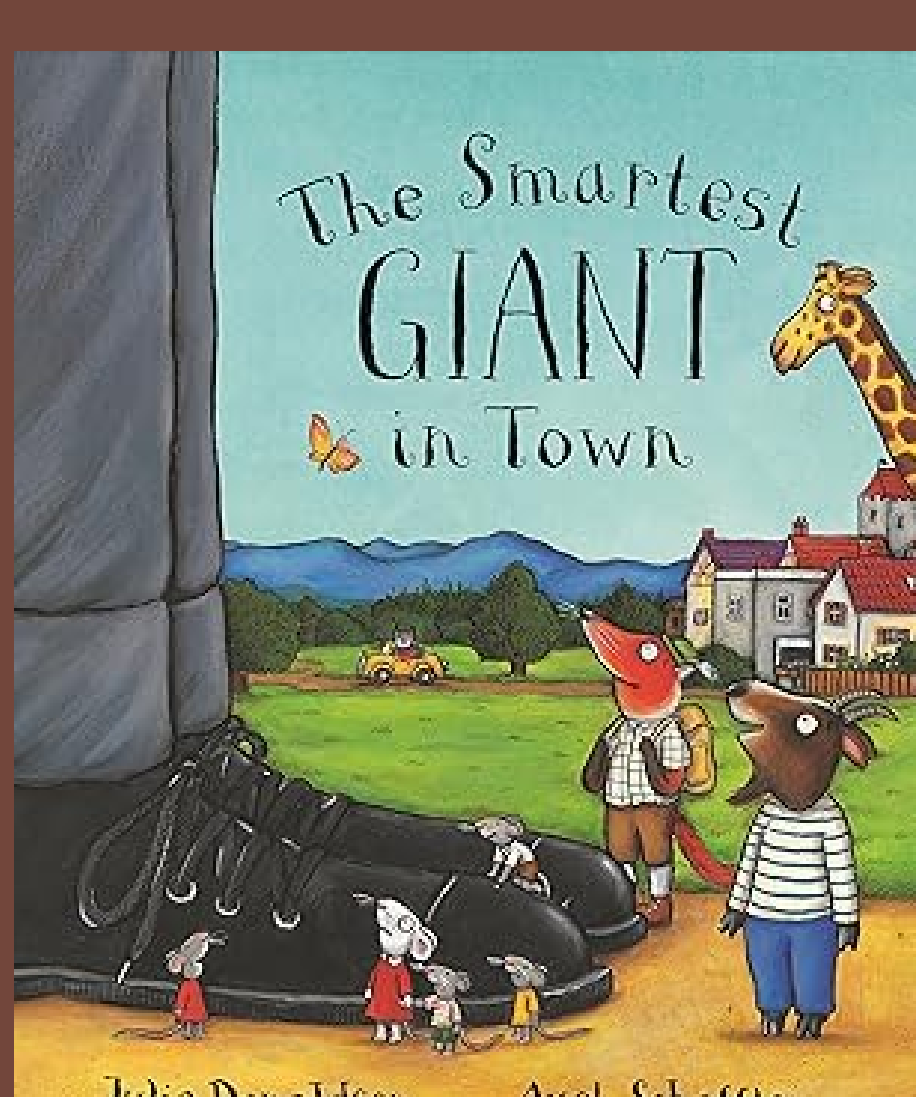
We will also begin our final English unit of the year, based on Grandad's Secret Giant by David Litchfield. Through this exciting text, the children will continue to develop their writing skills by mastering the correct use of tense, applying their knowledge of subordinating conjunctions, and using the suffixes -ment and -ful accurately in their writing.

The recommended read for this half term is The Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson.

This charming and heart-warming story follows George, who is tired of being the scruffiest giant in town. When he discovers a new shop selling giant-sized clothes, he decides it is time for a brand-new look. Dressed in smart trousers, a smart shirt, a stripy tie and shiny shoes, George feels proud to be the smartest giant in town. However, on his journey home, he meets several animals who desperately need help.

One by one, George gives away his new clothes to help them, discovering that true kindness is far more important than looking smart.

A wonderful story to share together, it explores themes of kindness, generosity and friendship, while encouraging children to think about what it means to help others. With its engaging rhythm, memorable characters and gentle humour, it is a lovely book for reading aloud and discussing as a family.



# Year 3

We have had an excellent penultimate half term in year 3. Although it has only been 5 weeks, we have packed in lots of new learning.

We have enjoyed our Geography learning, where we have learned about the difference between climate and weather. We have also learned about different climate zones around the world. We carried out an investigation into the weather in our local area by recording the temperature and rainfall in the morning and afternoon for a week. We have learned that the U.K is in temperate climate zone, and we have compared the location and climate within different climate zones across the world. We have carried out research using atlases and the internet.

In Science, we have built on our KS1 learning about plants, and have learned about what they need in order to survive. We have also learned about the functions of different parts of the plant, such as the roots, stem and leaves. We have carried out many investigations within this unit, which has included planting various seeds and putting them in different locations. We have then monitored their growth over the weeks and used this to help us better understand plants and their needs.

In DT, we have been focusing on structures and applying this understanding when constructing a castle. Initially we learned the features of a castle. We then designed our own castles, using these features and trying to meet the design criteria we were given. Part of the design criteria required us to include both 3D nets and cardboard in our final design. We have spent time learning how to construct 3D nets and how to include these in our designs. We have evaluated the finished product against our original design and the design criteria to see if we were successful or not. Thank you again for sending in your cardboard boxes and tubes. We really appreciate your support!

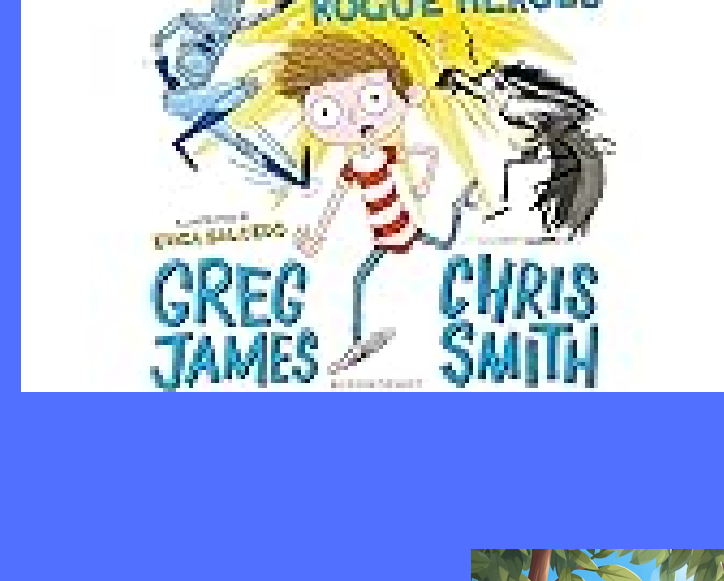
In our final half term of year 3, we will be extremely busy!

In Geography, we will be learning about Europe. We will learn about some of the countries within Europe, including some of their human and physical features. We will also carry out a more in-depth study of Italy, with a particular focus on Rome.

In Science, we will learn about Forces and Magnets. We will begin by trying to understand the forces around us and how objects move on different surfaces. We will investigate how magnets work, which materials are magnetic and how magnets are used in real-life. A lot of our time will be spent carrying out investigations and getting 'hands-on' with magnets.

In Art, we will be developing our drawing skills. We will study how artists use shape within their artwork, develop our shading skills and carry out some observational drawings. We will then use digital programmes to develop our designs.

Our recommended read is Kid Normal by Greg James and Chris Smith. We have thoroughly enjoyed using extracts of this text in our comprehension lessons for the past few weeks. Murph Cooper has a problem. His new school is top secret, and super weird. His classmates can all fly or control the weather or conjure tiny horses from thin air. And what Murph extraordinary skill? Um, oh yeah - he hasn't got one. Just as well there are no revolting supervillains lurking nearby, their minds abuzz with evil plans. There are!? OK, then... It's time for Kid Normal to become a hero!



# Year 4

This half term has absolutely flown by. However, we have still covered so much learning.

The Koalas have really enjoyed our topic around sound in Science, where we have carried out investigations each week involving making and exploring the pitch of instruments and making predictions. In addition, the children have learnt about Thomas Edison and his contributions to the development of sound technology, before creating posters to showcase their learning.

Another firm favourite area of learning has been Design Technology.

The children have absolutely loved designing and making torches after exploring and creating circuits that included a switch. Well done, Koalas!

Our texts this half term have been The Forest by the Sea and Jungle Explorer. These have linked so well and extended the children's learning about the rainforest. From this, the children have created some wonderful non-chronological reports.

The children have also begun their swimming lessons, which will continue into next half term. It has been wonderful to witness their efforts and determination. Keep it up!

Finally, the children will return to school after half term and complete their Multiplication Timetable Check during either Week 1 or 2. Some of the children have agreed to take on the challenge of completing a times table consolidation pack over the break in order to help and support them as much as possible.

We have so much to look forward to in our final term together, especially visiting Scunthorpe United Football Club, which I know so many of the children, will love!

My recommended read for this half term is Super Duper You by Sophy Henn

Sometimes we are loud, sometimes we are quiet, sometimes bold and clanky, sometimes soft and cuddly.

Sophy Henn celebrates all the different, extraordinary and sometimes contradictory things we are in this joyful and colourful rhyming picture book.



# Year 5

We have had a very busy and exciting term across all subjects!

In English, we explored the books Brilliant Deep and Coral Reefs. Through these texts, the children learned all about coral reefs, the threats they face, and what we can do to help protect them. The children then used their knowledge to write persuasive information leaflets aimed at encouraging others to consider the effects of climate change on coral reefs. During our writing lessons, we focused on developing cohesion in our writing, using modal verbs and adding parenthesis to provide extra information.

In Geography, we investigated different climate zones and biomes around the world. We explored how animals and plants (fauna and flora) have adapted to survive in these environments and discussed the unique features of each biome.

In DT, we have been developing our own recipes. We explored how food travels from "farm to fork" and investigated different spaghetti bolognese sauces, adapting recipes to improve them. The children considered the nutritional value of different ingredients before designing their own healthy recipes. We have also practised important food preparation skills, including safely cutting vegetables, ready to make our own spaghetti bolognese next half term.

In Science, we studied the life cycles of birds, amphibians, insects and mammals. We also learned about how flowering and non-flowering plants reproduce. As part of our learning, we explored the work of famous naturalists, including David Attenborough, and discussed their contributions to our understanding of the natural world.

Next half term in English, we will be exploring the text Radiant Child and learning about the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. The children will use their learning to create an information text suitable for display in an art gallery. In Science, we will be learning about "Growing Older". This topic includes exploring how humans change throughout their lives, understanding puberty, adolescence, and old age, and learning how mammals have different gestational periods.

In History, we will be studying Baghdad and the Middle East during the Islamic Golden Age. The children will learn about the achievements, discoveries, and developments that made this period so significant in world history.

In Art, the children will explore interactive installation art. They will investigate how artists use space, scale, and different materials to create artwork that conveys ideas, transforms spaces, and shapes the viewer's experience. Finally, in Computing, we will be learning about programming music and continuing to develop our understanding of internet safety and how to stay safe online.

Thank you for your continued support this term!

Our recommended read is A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson.

Daniel Hope has many dreams and goals in his life, but one he especially wants to come true is his dad to love him. This is a story about a boy called Hope who faces many challenges in life.

He's been a bit lonely and sad since his dad left him, his sister and mum four years ago, when he was just seven and his sister was twelve. One day, Daniel finds that his dad has become a TV star and tries desperately to visit him at the TV studio. Can he do it? What will happen along the way.

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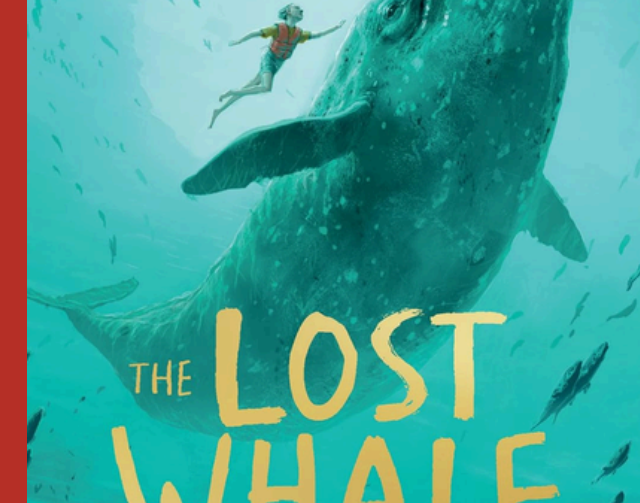
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In Science, we have been learning about electrical circuits and how different components work together to create a complete circuit. We also practised drawing accurate circuit diagrams using the correct scientific symbols. The children enjoyed experimenting with different arrangements and investigating what makes a circuit work successfully.

In Design and Technology (DT), we have started designing and making prototypes for playground structures. The children showed great creativity and teamwork while thinking carefully about stability, safety and appearance in their designs. In Geography, we began our new topic on climate change by exploring the world's climate zones, different types of land use and the impact climate change is having on our planet.

The children worked incredibly hard throughout their SATs and showed fantastic determination and resilience during the week. We were very proud of their positive attitudes and the effort they put into each test. To celebrate completing their SATs, the children enjoyed a fun day together followed by a well-earned ice cream treat, which was a lovely way to recognise all of their hard work and achievements.

Thank you for your continued support this term!

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