Priory Lane Community School
Final Newsletter of 2025-2026

A message from Mrs Leighton

How quickly this year has passed! Schools are such busy places with things constantly changing and evolving that time often passes without notice. At the end of an academic year, it is always important to pause and reflect on everything that has happened and share in the successes. This year there have been so many successes it is hard to name them all, but I am particularly proud of the increased community engagement we have had this year. The introduction of going to the Church at Christmas and Easter, a Christmas Fair, Christmas Craft afternoons and our established Sports Days and annual Garden Party. This year our Garden Party raised an impressive £1892.24. This money will be invested in providing the pupils with more activities and resources for playtimes and lunchtimes. Thank you all for your support at all of our events this year. Your support and generosity are what makes Priory Lane such a special community.

The changes to the start of the school day have meant that children are learning from the moment they arrive at school. This has really impacted our phonics results in Year 1 with 94% of pupils passing their Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. Well done, Year 1!

January saw the opening of our brand new Nursery. This provision has really enhanced our educational offer and given our pupils a head start on their school career. We have also updated our behaviour and relationships policy to reflect our relational approach to managing behaviour.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to three much loved staff members at this term. Mr Maxwell is leaving us as his sport coaching apprenticeship comes to an end. We wish him all the very best of luck with his next adventure. Mrs Wraith left us at the end of June to return to working in industry. Finally, Miss Walker, our teaching assistant based in the Early Years, is leaving us for a new position which allows her more time to spend with her own child. We wish all of them the very best for the future. We will miss them.

Joining us in September are three new members of staff. Miss Welch and Mrs Holey are joining our teaching team. Miss Welch will be teaching in Year 5, in the Year 5 Panthers class. Mrs Holey will be teaching in Year 4 in our new Year 4 Kangaroos class. Mrs Holey is covering Miss Wiliams' maternity leave as she leaves us to have a baby at the end of the month. We also welcome a new teaching assistant, Miss Browne. Miss Browne will be joining Mrs McClue and Miss Welch in Year 5.

As we look to September, I need to share with you the exciting news that Priory Lane have been successful in an application to the Local Authority to open a Specialist Resource Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Educational Health Care Plans. The formal consultation for the Department for Education will be at the beginning of September. We will share more details with you, when we have them in September. Our new provision is scheduled to officially open in January 2027.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year. It is a privilege to work with such a fantastic community. Have a wonderful summer holiday, and we will see you all in September. Mrs Leighton.



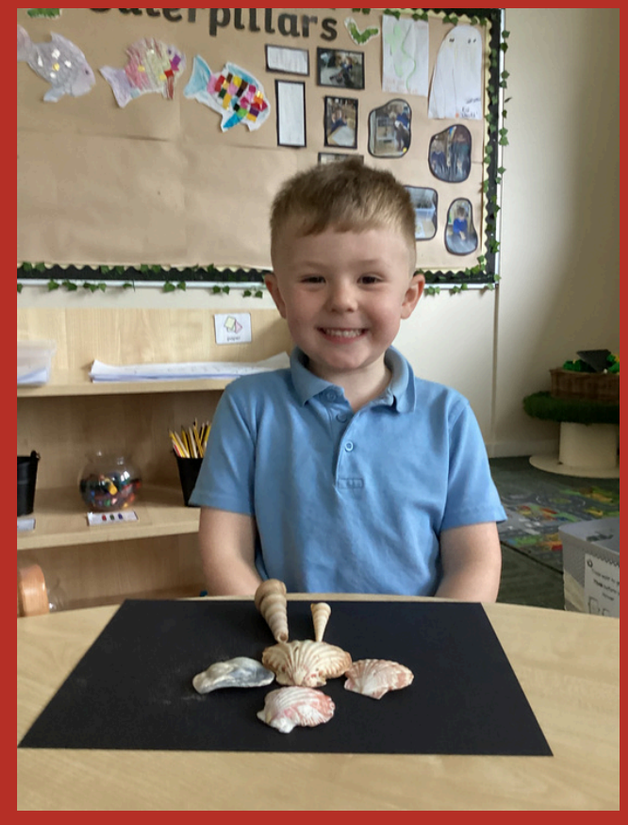
Early Years Foundation Stage 1



This half term we have been learning about Under the Sea. We have read lots of stories, such as Fidgety Fish, Sharing a Shell and Tiddler, but Rainbow Fish was our favourite! At the craft table, we practised our cutting and sticking skills to create our own Rainbow Fish collage. After reading an information book about sea creatures, we explored the small world resources in the water tray. We have learnt the names of lots of new weird and wonderful animals that live in the sea.







In maths, we have continued learning about numbers to five and developing skills such as counting out a specific amount from a pile and representing amounts on our fingers.
We have also continued to learn phonics in our Read, Write Inc. sessions. We can recognise a number of letters, and our oral blending is improving too! To support our writing development, we have been practising our pencil control and creating writing shapes, such as lines, circles and swirls. Some of us are even writing our names now ready for going into Reception in September.

As it's been so hot, we have learnt how to stay safe in the sun. We've been very vigilant, remembering to put our sun cream and hats on. We've even remembered to water our plants and vegetables to make sure they don't start wilting.





Early Years Foundation Stage 2





Our theme this half term has been 'People Who Help Us'. By reading stories, we have learned about lots of different occupations, even ones we didn't know existed! We have talked about the skills needed to do those jobs, such as being caring or good at maths. During our exploring time, we have role-played some of these jobs, making resources in the workshop to support this.

In our Jigsaw PHSE lessons, we have thought about what skills we have developed since starting in Reception. Reflecting back on our memories, we realised how much we have done and learnt.



This half term, we have continued to learn about numbers in our maths lesson. We have been practising our quick recall of number bonds to 10 and doubling facts. We had great fun being cartographers, drawing maps of school and our local area. We looked on Google Maps to help us see where the places were positioned.

In Read, Write Inc. we have been developing our 'Fred in our Head' and sight recognition of red words. We have been practising our spellings using set 2 sounds, sounding out the words ready for Year 1.

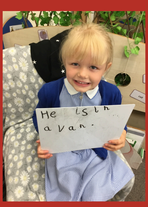






Each week we have read a book and written sentences about what we have heard. We are not only using our 'Fred Talk' but using punctuation and capital letters too! One of our favourite stories was 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryan. Rocket, the main character, wants to be an astronaut when she is older.

This initiated lots of fun making rockets, including a large one a child could actually sit in! We practised using the flap and slot techniques to ensure the resources stayed in place.





We had great fun at Sports Day and our Garden Party, including 3 winners from the competitions. We appreciated so many of you coming to join us for both events!

In the hall for PE, we have been playing 'tig' games. Releasing our friends by running under their arm has been our favourite, especially when the adults try to go under too!







Our recommended read for next is What jobs could you do? By Catherine Barr

Something to consider for the summer holidays... North Lincs Council have designed a bear hunt trail around Scunthorpe. More information can be found at this link https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/schools-libraries-and-learning/were-going-on-a-bear-hunt-scunthorpe/

It looks like great fun and it is FREE to complete.



Year 1



What a final half term! I cannot believe that it is now the end of the school year. Coming in as little chicks in September to now fully grown emperor penguins ready to continue their learning journey.

In English, the children have really enjoyed their innovative writing based on 'Goldilocks and Just the One Bear'. We shared many laughs whilst listening to the story. All of the children loved innovating this story with their own character getting up to mischief.

In History, the children have explored different modes of transport and how they have changed over the years. The 'Penny Farthing' raised quite a few questions and laughs. The children were amazed at how much cars have changed from the first one by Karl Benz to the modern day cars.

During the first week back, the children created their own Clarice Cliff inspired artwork, and they were incredible. They applied their painting and mixing skills perfectly for the end piece.









In DT, we have loved creating and tasting our own smoothies. The children developed skills with cutting soft fruits and using a juicer. The children were then able to select their ingredients for their own smoothies. All of the children did amazingly well with their Phonics Screening Check, and it really shows how much their hard-work and determination has paid off. It was so lovely to hear how much the children utilised the videos.

My recommended read for summer is a newly published book called 'Sleep Tight, Disgusting Blob' by Huw Aaron. This book is a warm, loving and slimy rhyming delight which ends with a kiss and sweet dreams for all. Proving that even disgusting, scary and monstrous creatures need to snuggle down to sleep, this hilarious rhyming picture book is the perfect quirky addition to bedtime reading.



I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you for your continued support this year.

Wishing you a wonderful summer break,
Mrs F Keighley



Year 2



I can't believe we have reached the end of another school year! It has been such an enjoyable year, and it has flown by so quickly. I have loved watching the children grow in confidence, develop new skills and make wonderful progress in all areas of their learning. It has been a pleasure to teach such a fantastic class, and I am incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

This half term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed their Design and Technology learning, where they explored the different food groups and learned about the importance of a healthy, balanced diet. They put their knowledge into practice by designing and making their own healthy wraps, which were sold at the school Garden Party. We hope you enjoyed tasting them as much as the children enjoyed making them!











In Science, we have been learning all about plants. The children have loved carrying out practical investigations to discover what plants need to germinate and grow successfully. They carefully dissected a runner bean seed to explore what is inside a seed and understand how it develops into a plant. They have also enjoyed growing their own sunflowers and observing the changes over time.

In English, one of our favourite texts has been Grandad's Secret Giant. The story captured the children's imaginations, and they produced some excellent descriptive writing inspired by the characters and setting. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and writing skills continue to flourish.

Our History learning has focused on significant people who have made a positive difference to the world. The children have enjoyed learning about Marcus Rashford, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, exploring the important impact each of them has had on history. They have shown great curiosity and thoughtful discussion as they learned about kindness, equality, determination and standing up for what is right.

This year has truly been amazing, and I feel very lucky to have shared it with such a wonderful group of children. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year—it is greatly appreciated.

I wish every one of our Year 2 Dolphins the very best of luck as they move into Year 3 Giraffes. I know they will continue to work hard, be kind and achieve great things.

Have a fantastic summer with your families and enjoy a well-deserved break!
Best wishes,
Mrs Franco

Year 3



What a fantastic, but very busy, final half term we have had together in Year 3!
In our writing lessons, we have focused on the book 'Zeraffa Giraffa' by Dianne Hofmeyr. This is a wonderful true story about a giraffe travelling from Egypt to France. We have enjoyed learning about the Jardin Des Plantes in Paris, where Zeraffa lived for 18 years in the menagerie. We have created freeze frames of parts of the story, written letters to Charles X, the King of France and researched the Jardin des Plantes on the iPads. Our final piece of writing was a persuasive leaflet about Jardin des Plantes. The children did a fantastic job!

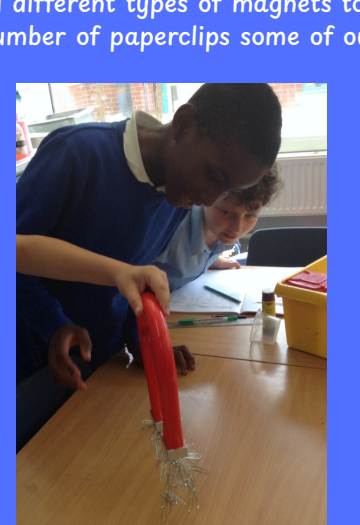




In Geography, we have learnt about Europe. We have learnt about some of the countries within Europe, including their physical and human features. We have used maps, information texts and iPads to find out more information about these countries. We particularly enjoyed finding out more about Italy, including physical features such as mountains, volcanos and lakes. We were also amazed to find out that there is a country (Vatican City) within Rome.

In Science, we have enjoyed learning about magnets and forces. We carried out an investigation into friction by rolling a car down a ramp with different surfaces on it. We found out that smoother surfaces create less friction. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about magnetism and exploring how magnets work. We learnt about how opposite poles attract and like poles repel. We also tested different materials to see which were magnetic and which were non-magnetic. We tested different types of magnets to see if they were all the same strength. We were amazed by the number of paperclips some of our magnets could pick up!







In Art, we have developed our drawing skills. We looked at how artists use shape within their drawings, and then practised drawing using basic shapes. We then focused on sketching seeds and bulbs. We learnt how to shade by applying more and less pressure with our pencils. We then applied these skills when we drew a plant using our imagination. Finally, we used the programme, Sketchpad, to develop our designs.

Mrs McClue and Miss East wish you all a very happy summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in September.



Our recommended read for the summer holiday is 'The Council of Good Friends' by Nikesh Shukla.
Vinay, Musa, Inua and Nish are best friends. Nothing can separate them…until one day when Vinay's cousin comes to invade his bunk bed haven (i.e. share his room). When a prank war starts, can the friends remember what really matters?
This is a fabulous story with fun artwork.

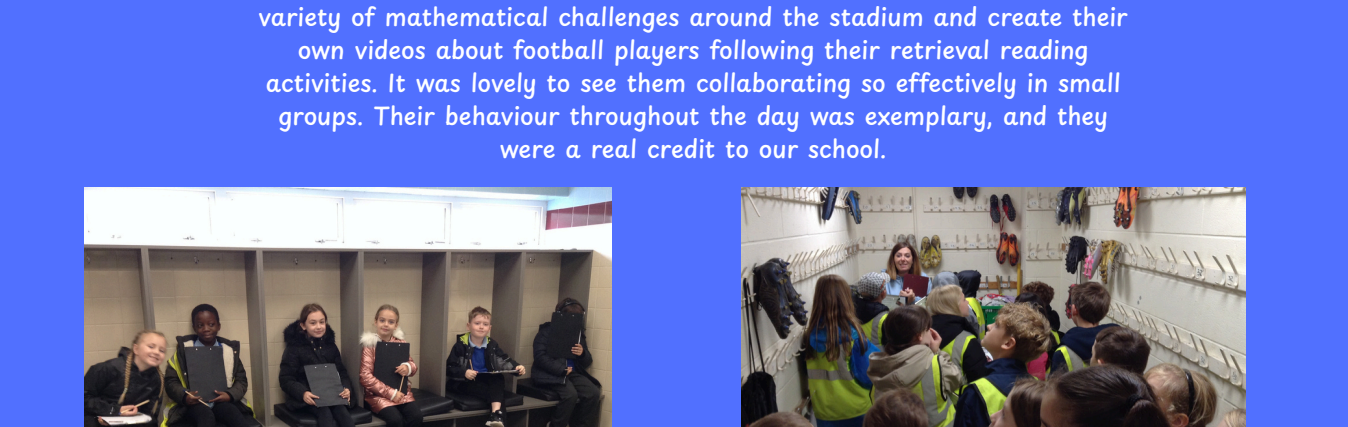
Year 4



As we come to the end of our final half term, the Koalas have continued to enjoy their weekly swimming lessons and have shown fantastic enthusiasm and determination in the pool. The children also worked brilliantly together as "Team Koalas" during Sports Day. It was wonderful to see them encouraging and cheering each other on throughout the morning.

One of the highlights of the half term was our fantastic trip to Study United. The children had the opportunity to explore the grounds, solve a variety of mathematical challenges around the stadium and create their own videos about football players following their retrieval reading activities. It was lovely to see them collaborating so effectively in small groups. Their behaviour throughout the day was exemplary, and they were a real credit to our school.





In English, the children have been exploring Shakespeare through Julius Caesar. They have acted out scenes, investigated the features of play scripts and finished the unit by writing and performing scenes of their own.

In Science, the children have been learning about electricity. They have investigated which appliances are powered by mains electricity and which use batteries, as well as exploring which materials are conductors and which are insulators.

In Geography, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the USA. They have explored its key physical and human features, discovered what makes up a state and investigated the wide range of climates found across the country.

The children also enjoyed their transition day, where they met their new teachers and had the chance to experience life in their new classrooms.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say what a privilege it has been to teach the Koalas. Whether I have taught your child for the last one, two or even three years, it has been an absolute pleasure to watch them grow in confidence, resilience and independence. I am incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and will miss them all very much. I wish every one of them the very best as they move on to Year 5.

I know they will continue to shine and make us all proud.
Miss R Outhwaite

My recommended read for the summer is Varjak Paw by S. F. Said. This exciting adventure follows the story of Varjak, a curious young cat who must leave the safety of his home and face the challenges of the outside world. Along the way, he learns about courage, friendship, loyalty and believing in himself.

I have chosen this book because it is packed with action, mystery and memorable characters that keep readers hooked from beginning to end. It also encourages children to think deeply about themes such as resilience, making difficult decisions and overcoming fears. The vocabulary and descriptive writing make it an excellent choice for developing reading skills. I hope the children enjoy reading Varjak Paw over the summer holidays as much as I did.
Happy reading!

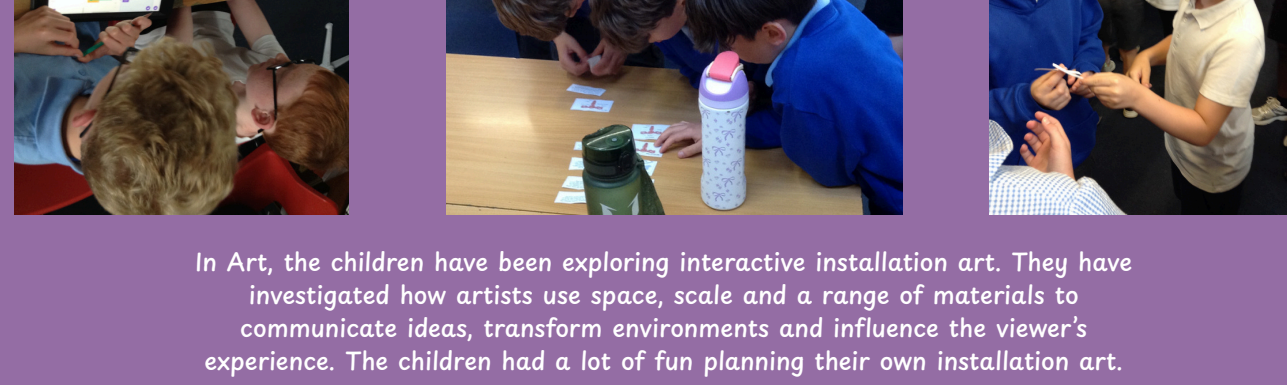


Year 5

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting term, we would like to share some of the fantastic learning that has taken place in Year 5.
In English, we have been studying the beautiful text Radiant Child and learning about the life and work of the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. Using their knowledge, the children created informative texts suitable for display in an art gallery. Throughout their writing, they focused on using adverbs of possibility, relative clauses and cohesive devices to make their work engaging and well organised.

In Science, our topic has been Growing Older. The children have explored how humans change throughout their lives, learning about childhood, puberty, adolescence and old age. They have also investigated how mammals have different gestational periods and considered the similarities and differences in life cycles across species.

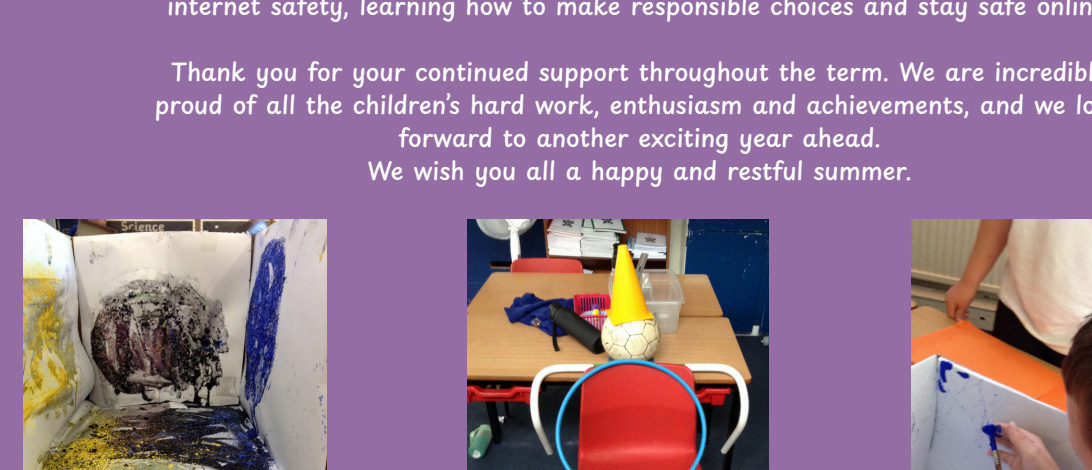
Our History topic has taken us to Baghdad and the Middle East during the Islamic Golden Age. The children have learned about the remarkable achievements, discoveries and innovations of this period, gaining an understanding of why it remains one of the most significant eras in world history.



In Art, the children have been exploring interactive installation art. They have investigated how artists use space, scale and a range of materials to communicate ideas, transform environments and influence the viewer's experience. The children had a lot of fun planning their own installation art.

In Computing, we have been learning how to programme music using coding skills. Alongside this, the children have continued to develop their understanding of internet safety, learning how to make responsible choices and stay safe online.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We are incredibly proud of all the children's hard work, enthusiasm and achievements, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.
We wish you all a happy and restful summer.



Our recommended read is Malamander by Thomas Taylor



Year 6

As we reach the end of another school year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout your child's final year at primary school. It has truly been an incredible year, and we could not be prouder of everything the children have achieved.
Our final half term has been especially memorable, with the children embracing every opportunity to learn, create and celebrate their time at school.
In Science, we explored the fascinating circulatory system. The children thoroughly enjoyed bringing their learning to life by making models of a working heart, creating their own 'blood', and constructing a giant circulatory system on the playground. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity as they investigated how the human body works.

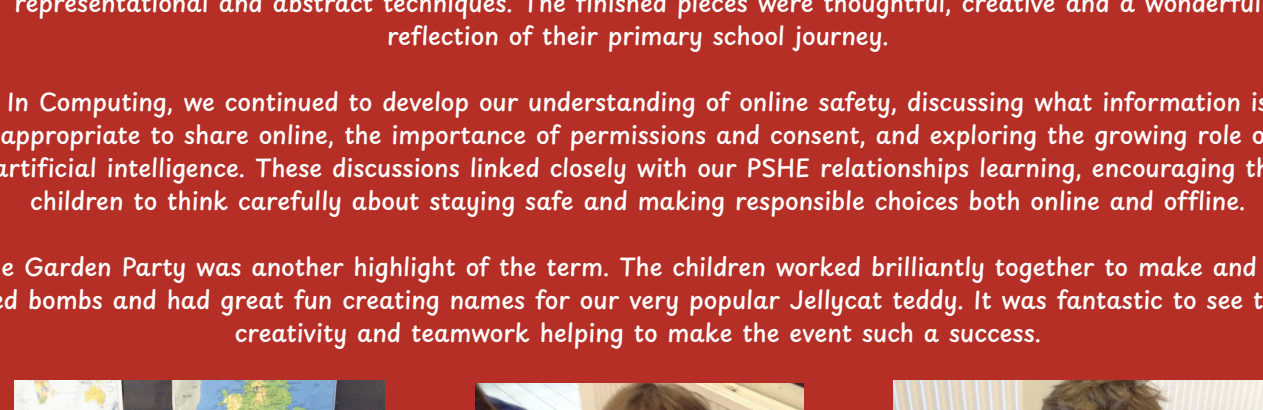


In Geography, we completed our topic on climate change before moving on to learn about world trade. The children discovered where goods come from, explored the UK's imports and exports and considered how countries around the world rely on one another through global trade.

Our Art lessons focused on 3D sculpture, inspired by the children's memories of their time at school. They created beautiful clay sculptures alongside relief sculptures made from cardboard, exploring both representational and abstract techniques. The finished pieces were thoughtful, creative and a wonderful reflection of their primary school journey.

In Computing, we continued to develop our understanding of online safety, discussing what information is appropriate to share online, the importance of permissions and consent, and exploring the growing role of artificial intelligence. These discussions linked closely with our PSHE relationships learning, encouraging the children to think carefully about staying safe and making responsible choices both online and offline.

The Garden Party was another highlight of the term. The children worked brilliantly together to make and sell seed bombs and had great fun creating names for our very popular Jellycat teddy. It was fantastic to see their creativity and teamwork helping to make the event such a success.





Perhaps the most special part of this final term has been preparing our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly. The children have reflected on their many happy memories of primary school and worked together to create a truly personal celebration. They have taken ownership of every aspect of the performance, from selecting songs and poems, to creating their own playscripts and sharing treasured memories. It has been a wonderful opportunity for them to celebrate their achievements and the friendships they have built over the years.
We wish every member of Year 6 the very best for the future and hope they leave with many happy memories that they will treasure for years to come.
Have a wonderful summer, and we wish you the best of luck at your new schools.



Eco-Council

We are delighted to announce that our school has once again been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award in recognition of the fantastic work carried out by our Eco-Council and the whole school community.

This award celebrates our commitment to caring for our planet by raising awareness of environmental issues and encouraging everyone to make a positive difference. Throughout the year, our pupils have worked incredibly hard to help protect the environment, look after our school grounds and support our local community through a range of eco-friendly initiatives.

This year, we have continued to support the Schoolcycled scheme by collecting plastic bottle tops. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our children, families and staff, we earned enough Earth Tokens to exchange for two beautiful recycled planters and a table and chairs set, all made from recycled plastic bottle tops. Members of our Eco-Council thoroughly enjoyed planting flowers in the new planters, which now brighten up the entrance to our school and provide a warm welcome to visitors. Our Foundation children are also making great use of the recycled table and chairs set in their outdoor learning area, where it has become a popular place to play, learn and work together.





We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and families for their fantastic support in collecting and sending in plastic bottle tops throughout the year. Your contributions have played a vital role in the success of this project and have helped us earn these wonderful recycled resources for our school. We are looking forward to continuing our collection when we return in September, so please keep saving your bottle tops over the summer if you can. Every bottle top makes a difference!

