

July 2025

Newsletter

Every year, the last day of term seems to appear quicker than the year before! As we come to the end of another exciting and successful school year at Putnoe Primary School, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and memorable moments we've shared as a school community.

First and foremost, I must celebrate the outstanding progress our pupils have made across the curriculum this year. Whether in reading, writing, maths or the wider curriculum, the determination and growth we have seen from so many children has been truly impressive. Their hard work and enthusiasm for learning have been a joy to witness.

A special mention must go to the way our children have conducted themselves during the many trips, visits and enrichment activities we've enjoyed throughout the year. From museums to outdoor learning adventures, their excellent behaviour, positive attitudes and curiosity have been commented on time and again by staff and members of the public. They have been true ambassadors for our school. I was fortunate enough to join our Y6 pupils on their trip to the Barbican Theatre and the Science Museum. I was so proud of the way they represented the school at both venues.

One of the most heartening things this year has been seeing how well our pupils have engaged with their learning. They've shown real independence, attentiveness, and excitement in the classroom—and often beyond it! We are so proud of how they have embraced challenges, supported one another and demonstrated a love of learning that we hope stays with them for years to come. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful facilities at Putnoe Primary School. I couldn't be more grateful for the way in which staff have maximised the use of these facilities to make learning fun, impactful and memorable for their classes.

Our 11 school values have continued to underpin everything we do, and we are delighted with how consistently our children live them out each day. Whether it's respect shown to peers and adults, perseverance in overcoming learning challenges, trust in working together, or responsibility in taking care of themselves and others, we see these values reflected in our children's actions every single day.


This year has also been an exciting one on the sporting front. From football and athletics to swimming and sports day achievements, our pupils have given their all and celebrated both personal and team success with great sportsmanship and pride. Well done to all who took part—you've made us incredibly proud!

And finally, a heartfelt goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. As they prepare to start their secondary school journeys, we want them to know how much we will miss them. They've been excellent role models and have left a lasting mark on our school. We wish each and every one of them every success and happiness in the years ahead. We can't wait to hear about the next chapter in this journey!

Thank you to our pupils, staff and families for making this year so successful. We wish you all a restful and happy summer break—and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!

**Warmest wishes,
Mr Petch
Headteacher**

*Have a fantastic Summer, see you back at school on
Tuesday 2nd September*



We have sadly said goodbye to **Mrs Llewellyn**, Business Manager, who retired at the end of May after working at Putnoe Primary for 22 years, and welcome our new Business Manager, **Mrs Dunne**!

We will also be saying goodbye to Kandinsky Class Teaching Assistant, **Mrs Harrison** who is retiring, Degas Class Teaching Assistant **Mrs Malaj**, who is moving on and becoming a teacher and finally Kusama Teacher, Miss Augustine, who is going on to new adventures.

We wish them all well!

HELLO & GOODBYE

Attendance

Well done to all our families, parents, and pupils!

We've been working hard on improving attendance this year, and your dedication and perseverance are truly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain strong overall school attendance.

Remember: Good attendance is closely linked to improved achievement in school – the more time a child spends in school, the more progress they are likely to make.

Here's how we've done so far:

Overall school attendance: 94.91%

Top year group: Year 4 and 5 – an impressive 95.51%

Top class: Rembrandt – leading the way with 96.31%

Let's keep up the fantastic work as we move forward together!



Library News



Summer Reading Challenge 2025

This year, the 'Summer Reading Challenge' theme is Story Garden - Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors.

The annual 'Summer Reading Challenge' is delivered in partnership with public libraries across the UK, and it's free for children to take part. Throughout the summer, children joining 'Story Garden' can discover new books, participate in free activities at their local library, and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together.

We welcomed a local librarian from Bedfordshire libraries into school in July who spoke to us about how to join and prizes on offer.

The 'Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge' launches on **Saturday 5th July 2025**. Children can sign up at their local library to join the adventure.

For more information about the 'Summer Reading Challenge' visit: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.

Booktastic Festival 2025

At the end of June, we were very excited to take part in the 'Booktastic Festival' at the University of Bedfordshire.

Year 2 saw author Rob Biddulph who told us all about his latest books and showed us how he creates some of his illustrations. The children took part in a drawing task and all received a fantastic book from Rob.

Year 5 and 6 saw author A.F Harrold who read lots of his fantastic poetry! All of the Year 5 and 6 children received a book from A.F Harrold and met him for a book signing after the event.



We had a wonderful visit from
Author B.Ware on Wednesday 11th
June and this is what she wrote...



Dear Diary,

I was up at dawn this morning and on the road at 5.15am, headed for a school 200 miles away. But despite feeling a little weary when I climbed out of the car, the moment I set foot inside Putnoe Primary, I felt revitalised. The library at this school – the first thing you encounter when you enter the building – is out of this world! As is the school librarian, Miss Pedley! Once again, she kindly accompanied me throughout the duration of my visit. And with two back-to-back assemblies and three whole-year-group workshops timetabled, I couldn't have done without her amazing help!!!

The pupils were beautifully behaved during each of my assemblies and listened attentively whilst I read the opening chapters of **WARNING: May Contain Dragons**. I was delighted when pupils during the second assembly kept responding aloud to my narrator (in whispers) every time he broke the fourth wall and spoke to them directly. There were some super ideas for future stories I should write in the **Words of WARNING** collection, too! (It was, however, agreed that the boys wouldn't read ANY stories about fairies. Hmm... we'll see about that!!!)

My first workshop of the day was for Year 3, a group of around sixty pupils. They were fast workers and came up with some fantastic stories, poems, raps, and letters during this session. Certificates went flying out to all number of pupils, and we managed squeeze so many rounds of reading aloud into 75 minutes. (I always love it when everyone is keen to share their work!) I especially liked A.J's story entitled Dragon Farts vs Zombie Farts and Ameerah's story about a dragon hiding under the bed.

After lunch, it was time for a session with 90 Year 4 pupils. It was a noisy affair, but mainly because so many pupils chose to work in pairs or groups. And once again, we somehow managed to hear so many pieces of work read aloud. My certificate stash was further depleted at a rate of knots, as there were so many wonderful pieces of work produced. But my favourite pieces during this session would have to be Alana's story about a dragon hiding under her bed, Angelica's story written under the title Sorry, Sir, but a Dragon Ate My Homework, and Shyla's story about her teacher who's a dragon.

The final workshop was for around 60 Year 5 pupils and by this point, there was no denying that time certainly works differently at Putnoe Primary, as it seemed to have run away with us by the time we got started, then we suddenly had more than enough time to hear dozens of masterpieces read aloud! (Does Putnoe Primary have the ability to freeze time as and when it suits?!) It was especially nice to hear that some of those that read in front of their peers were pupils who wouldn't normally be brave enough to do so. It was also super sweet to hear Leo ask another pupil (who was working alone) whether he'd like to join his group and work as a team. And the pupils in Year 5 were such attentive listeners, falling silent immediately every time someone read aloud. I thought Darcey's story about a dragon hiding under her bed was great fun!

Freya's diary entries were lovely, too:



Marcus' story about a dragon hiding under his bed was really well written, as was Sarah's story written under the same title (this title was very popular today)

B.Ware



It really meant a lot to me when the headteacher kindly commented on how well I interact with students. And I was touched when Miss Pedley got in touch after I'd returned home to let me know what an impact I'd made on all the staff and pupils. But looking through my photos of the day and spotting "inspired by B. Ware" written at the bottom of Olivia's story was the icing on the cake!

Zofia's letter about her teacher being a dragon was also brilliant:



I really do love visiting this school, and I hope to return for many years to come, as I couldn't have had a more fabulous day! The pupils are always so happy and friendly, and there's such a sense of calm there, as though the school building itself protects you from all the stresses and strains of normal everyday life. (The students' purple uniforms do match the cover of **WARNING: Magic Can Be Dangerous!...** so perhaps there's magic at play at Putnoe Primary.) And the cherry (or should that be the mashed potato?) on top of the icing on the cake of this wonderful visit was that there were no stairs to negotiate, so my author trolley was able to move freely for the very first time this week (for which my aching back was very grateful)!!!

Giacometti Class have enjoyed learning about how things grow and change, and also about traditional tales...

We have enjoyed releasing our froglets and butterflies into the environmental area. We have planted and grown our own sunflowers.



We have had fun acting out lots of stories on the outside stage and using the climbing frame bridge to act out 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We enjoyed making gingerbread men and taking them home to taste them.



Reception had an amazing time at Mead Open Farm on our school trip!



We stroked bunnies, fed the lambs and brushed the pony's mane.



We also fed the goats and visited the pigs!





A highlight was eating lunch and having a tractor ride!



Year 1

Back in March we welcomed 'Little City' into school and Year 1 had the opportunity to try out different professions.



Through dress up and roleplay, the children magically transformed into mechanics, vets, bakers and many more.



The children had such a lovely afternoon, and it was delightful to watch them play so well with their class.

To end our topic of Castles in both History and DT, Year 1 took the coach to Rockingham Castle. It was a beautiful day, and we had such a lovely time. We saw what the inside of the castle looked like, climbed the spiral staircase to see if we could spot any enemies approaching from the battlements, and even braved the spooky dungeon!



Africa Day

Year 1 were able to celebrate all things 'Africa', following our Geography and English topics this half-term. The children made African inspired masks and jewellery and enjoyed two workshops where we were all transported to the second largest continent in the world: Africa!



Year 1 welcomed some very important people into school this term. We learnt all about the emergency services and learned what to do in an emergency and how we can keep ourselves safe. We particularly enjoyed exploring the police car and the ambulance.

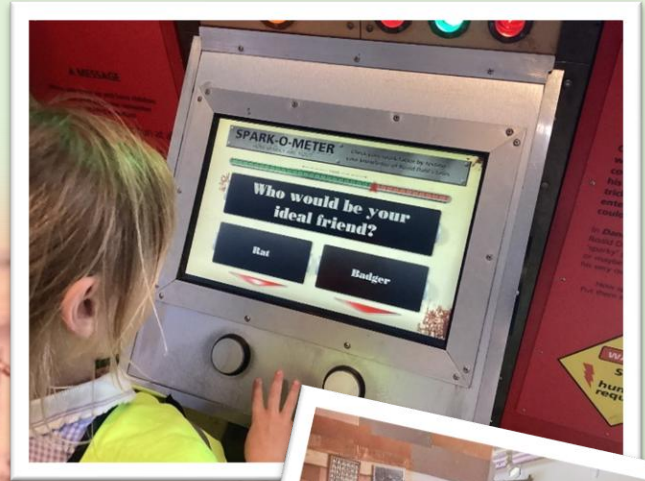


Emergency Day



Year 2 had a wonderful visit to the Roald Dahl Museum

They loved exploring the exhibits and learning more about their favourite stories.. It was a magical day full of fun and learning!



The children also enjoyed a peaceful walk to the nearby church, where they saw Roald Dahl's grave



Dressing up as characters from his books was a big hit!

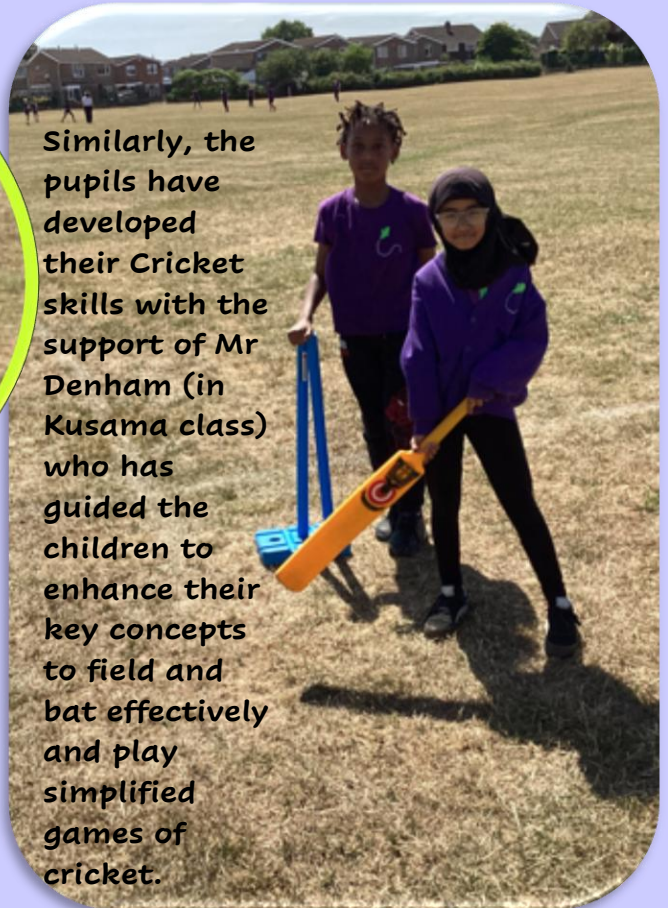
Year 2

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Pupils in year 3 enjoyed their educational visit to Queen's Park, where they took part in the Faith Tour. During their day they visited the Church, similarly, they explored artefacts and the history behind some of the important ceremonies that happen in the place of worship. This visit enriched their learning from school and supported our British Values of mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.



In PE this Summer we had a very hot but successful Sports Day, Turner Class were the Leading Champions from the year group, however all the children presented excellent sportsmanship and school values whilst participating in all the events. We absolutely loved the toddler run at the end!

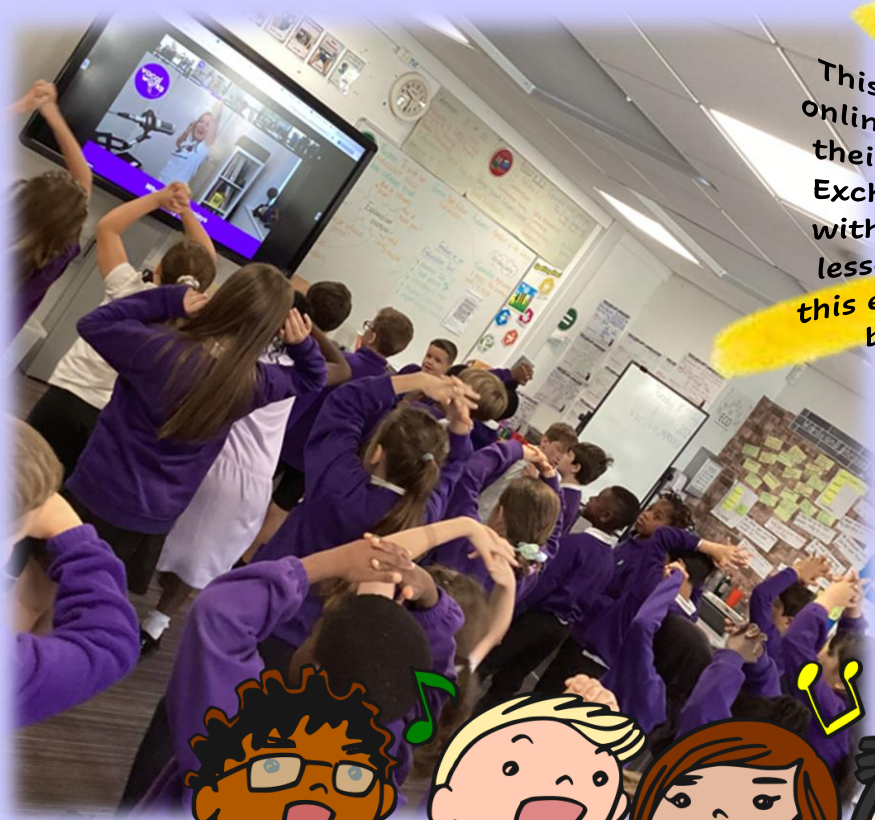
Similarly, the pupils have developed their Cricket skills with the support of Mr Denham (in Kusama class) who has guided the children to enhance their key concepts to field and bat effectively and play simplified games of cricket.

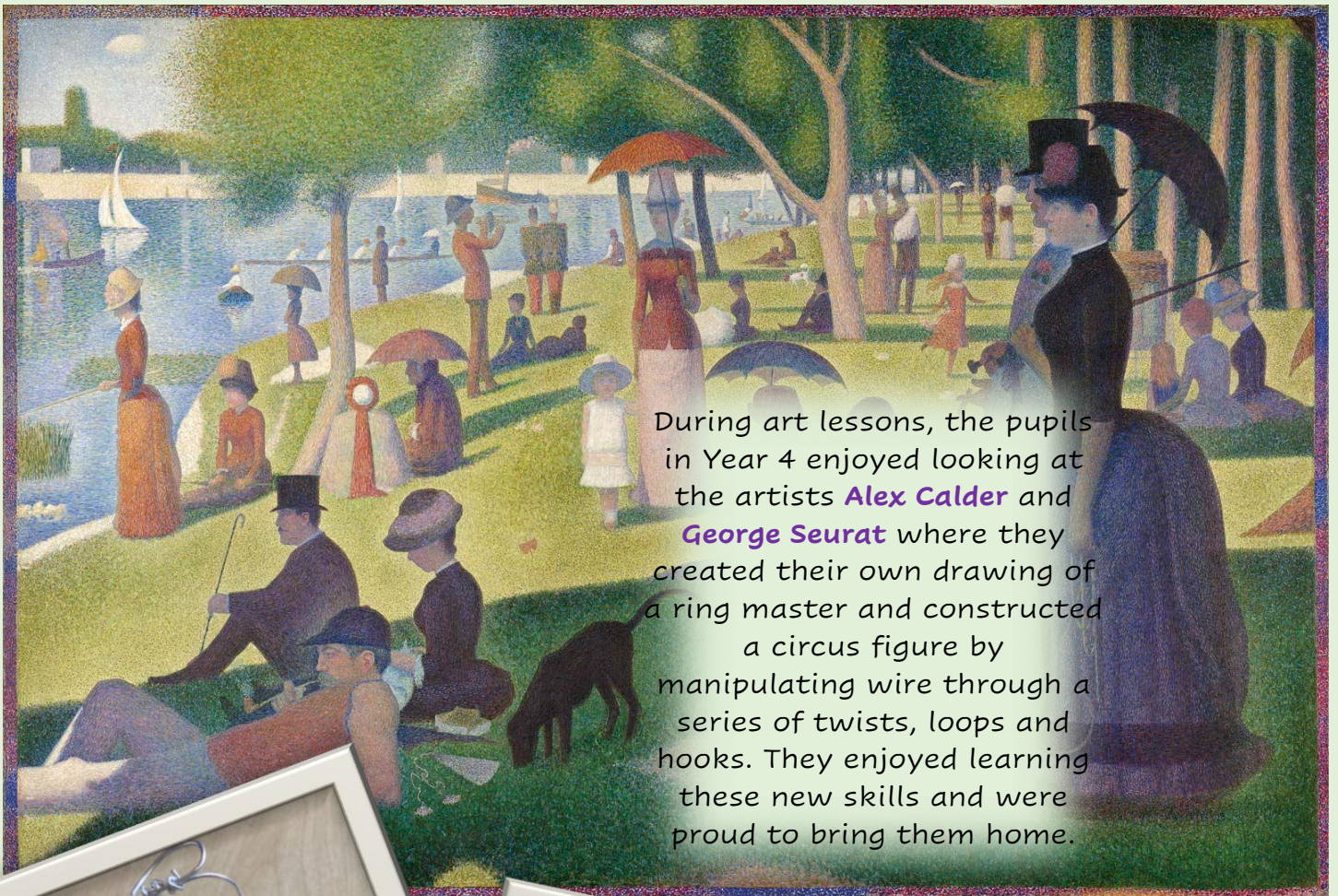
Art: Painting Volcanoes

This term Year 3 have been learning about volcanoes in their geography lessons. Similarly, they studied different artists that have sketched and painted volcanoes. The children had a go at mixing colours to paint volcanoes erupting. Their work was inspired by Deyanira Harris' 'Volcano Madness'. Their artwork was also inspired by their written explanations about 'How Volcanoes Erupt'.

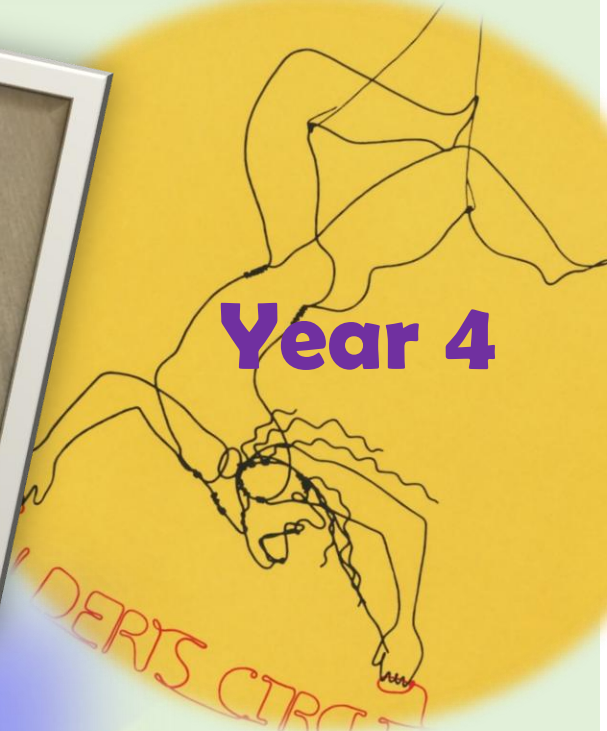


This term, Year 3 have participated in online singing lessons in preparation for their Sing On performance at The Corn Exchange. They have practised 5 songs with actions, in and out of their music lessons. They have thoroughly enjoyed this experience, and this will most likely be one of their most memorable moments from Year 3.





During art lessons, the pupils in Year 4 enjoyed looking at the artists **Alex Calder** and **George Seurat** where they created their own drawing of a ring master and constructed a circus figure by manipulating wire through a series of twists, loops and hooks. They enjoyed learning these new skills and were proud to bring them home.



Sports Day

The Year 4 Sports Day was a resounding success, showcasing the children's dedication and enthusiasm. Each student gave their best effort across various events, leading to remarkable individual achievements. The atmosphere was filled with encouragement and sportsmanship, as classmates cheered each other on, especially during challenging moments like the relay race. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended, their support added to the day's excitement and made it truly memorable.

Year 4

Year 4 had an exciting trip to the Forest Centre, which was an excellent opportunity to explore nature hands-on.

They completed a range of science-based activities, including pond dipping, mini beast hunting, and identifying trees. One of the biggest surprises was discovering leeches and even a smooth newt in the pond! The children loved getting up close with nature and learning about local wildlife.

It was a fun, educational day that the children will remember for a long time. They represented the school beautifully and several members of the public commented on how well-mannered and beautifully behaved they were.



Science



A particular highlight was the blindfolded trust exercise, which encouraged teamwork and confidence.

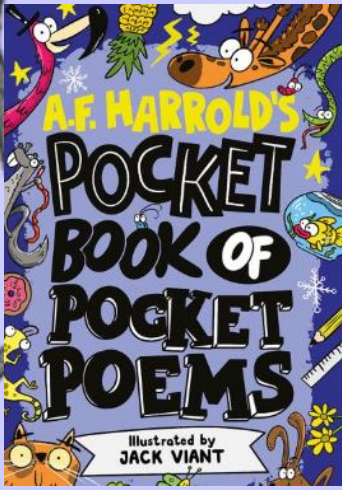


We have had a very busy and successful term in Year 5!

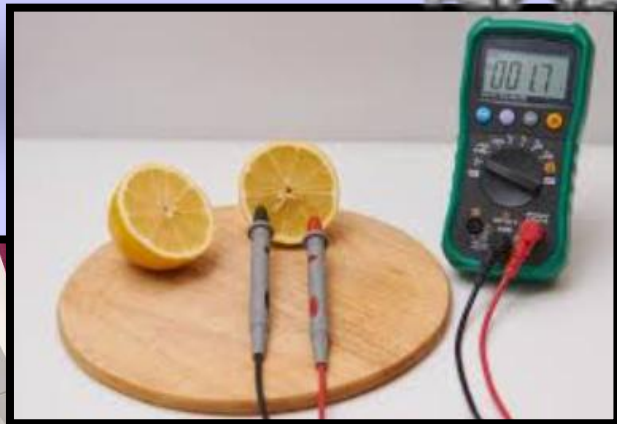
Rembrandt and Rubens classes both took part in the Bedford School's multisport competitions, competing in lots of different sports including: cricket, rounders, athletics, volleyball and netball. All the children had a fabulous time and did us proud by showing all the Putnoe values, well done, we were so proud of you!



Children then visited the Bedford Athletics Stadium for our very competitive Sports Day, where pupils participated in 10 different events. Rubens narrowly took the victory on the day. Pupils, teachers and parents and carers had a fantastic day cheering each other on, what an atmosphere.



We followed this up with a fantastic literary trip to the 'Booktastic' festival at the University of Bedfordshire. Here we had the pleasure of listening to the fantastic poet, A.F. Harrold, sharing his work with us. What an inspiration, he made us giggle lots!



After all this excitement, Year 5 visited Bedford Girls' School to work in their high-tech Science labs. Children took part in four different experiments. A favourite was creating fruit batteries.

On Friday 27 June the Year 6 pupils also joined Year 5 on a visit to Bedford University for an amusing session with the poet A. F. Harrold. They found out all about some of his poems in a funny and eccentric way. At the end all the pupils received a free copy of one of his poetry books!



Art

In the summer term Year 6 have been finding out all about sculpture. The pupils have investigated the work of Keith Haring and Anthony Gormley and have designed their own sculpture. They used pipe cleaners and foil followed by some layers of mod roc then painted their artefacts.



Science

This half term in Science, Year 6 have been exploring the fascinating topic of light and its properties. Through a series of engaging, hands-on investigations, pupils discovered that light is a type of energy that travels in straight lines.

Building on this knowledge, they examined how we are able to see objects and how light interacts with different materials to form shadows.

They also carried out experiments to observe how the shape and size of shadows can change depending on the position of the light source. The unit encouraged curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of how light behaves in the world around us.

This half term in indoor PE, Year 6 Pupils were given the opportunity to create their own original structures or buildings. They used their imagination to develop unique soundscapes, they used their work to create a story or performance, they used their work to create a story or performance. They used their work to create a story or performance. They used their work to create a story or performance.

As the project progressed, pupils translated their movement into visual art, sketching the shapes formed by their bodies and reflecting on how these might influence the staging of their final performance. They also thoughtfully considered audience placement, exploring how space and perspective can impact the viewing experience.

The unit culminated in a class showcase, where each group performed their finished piece to their peers. Throughout the project, pupils not only deepened their appreciation for dance but also explored how sound, movement, and visual art can come together to form a powerful, multi-disciplinary performance.

PE- Dance and Installation Unit

The ARTS

"We believe our children will prosper and are more likely to know what they want to learn, and how to learn it, if they experience a curriculum that celebrates their various talents, not just a small range of them" Gill Peck, RSA Art's Rich Schools, 2020

We are very pleased to announce that our sculpture, commissioned by Mrs Peck's husband, to recognise the achievements and contributions of Artists in school for years to come, will be presented again this year. Some of you will remember how incredibly passionate Mrs Peck was about the Arts in school. She spoke excitedly about developing the pupils creative and artistic skills and talents. She saw the immense value of the Arts sector for our children, children who otherwise may not be exposed to the opportunities and facilities she was instrumental in providing. This is a legacy we aim to uphold.

This award is presented to a pupil who is Artistic in any or multiple Arts disciplines; Art, Dance, Drama, Music, but this extends further in a wider context, with technical and other less commonly considered creative outputs (film, photography, digital outputs, radio, technicians etc).

Children were nominated, and the winner will be announced during Awards Assembly!

A huge well done to our winner, Mrs Peck would be proud of you!



The Gill Peck Arts Award

The Residential

From 23rd to 27th June, 47 children from Year 5 and 6 went on an awesome trip to Condover Hall near Shrewsbury!

The journey up there took quite a while and we finally arrived around 1pm after stopping at a service station for some lunch.

When we got there, the staff were really friendly and welcomed us. After putting our luggage in our rooms, we played some fun games before going on a tour of the site where we saw the climbing walls and abseil towers. We were very excited and couldn't wait to start all the activities!

Every day, we did four fun activities – two in the morning and two in the afternoon. In the evenings, we got to do even more fun things, like a campfire or disco.

On Friday, after lunch, it was time to head home. We were all tired after our week-long adventure but proud of our achievements! It was such an amazing trip and we think everyone should go if they get the chance!





Some of our favourite activities were the aerial trek, trapeze and the gladiator wall. They were really high up and looked scary. However, they were so much fun to do. Lots of us also loved building rafts on the lake as well as 'Survival' in Condover's wooded area.





Sports Days

Across the week beginning, 16th June, Putnoe held its highly anticipated Sports Days. These always bring with them high energy, friendly competition and lots of fun for everyone involved. The competition is structured so that each class works together as a team, challenging the other classes within their year for the top spot.

The week kicked off with years 5 & 6 making their way to the Bedford International Athletic Stadium battling it out to see which class this year would walk away as Sports Day champion 2025.


Events included the Shot Put, 200m, and Relay to name a few. After day one, the focus then shifted back to Putnoe's home ground where the sports days for the remaining year groups took place across Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Again, there were some closely contested events, including the classic Egg and Spoon, Wellie Boot throw, Standing Long jump as well as the Vortex throw.

Each and every child deserves a huge well done for how they applied themselves throughout, so well done everyone, you were all superstars. After the final activities drew to a close, results were collected and converted into points, determining which classes would top the podiums. Can we give a special congratulations to the following classes who are now Putnoe Sports Day champions 2025:

- 
- Year 1: Mondrian
 - Year 2: Monet
 - Year 3: Turner
 - Year 4: Degas & Michelangelo
 - Year 5: Rubens
 - Year 6: Riley

Sporting performances were strong and displayed athletic talent across all years. Although always great to see, the sporting talent was not the only talked about feature, with complimentary comments from both spectators and staff alike, praising the sportsmanship, determination as well as the supportive nature of our pupils to others in their class as well as towards other classes. This is testament to each and every Putnoe pupil demonstrating multiple Putnoe values.



Finally, our athletes would like to offer a BIG thank you to all the spectators that were able to come along and support them while they took part. It created a fantastic atmosphere at both venues, and defiantly helped the pupils perform at the highest level. Well done everyone!

This year's sports day was an exciting morning where the classes in years 5&6 competed against each other across a series of different events. These included the shot put, vortex throw, 80m and 200m sprints, standing long jump, relay, target throw and hurdles.

Cheered on by excited parents and carers, pupils worked hard individually and as a team to show their vast array of sporting talents. Even though it was very hot, classes displayed their 'never give up' attitude and should have been proud of their achievements.



After all the events were completed, the results were announced. Congratulations to Rubens in Year 5 and Riley in Year 6 who won the year group events!

Quadkids competition April 2025

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Quad Kids competition and made us incredibly proud! They gave it their all in the long jump, sprint, 600m run, and vortex throw, showing great determination and team spirit. It was fantastic to see some personal bests achieved on the day. Their hard work paid off as we finished 3rd overall out of 12 local schools – a brilliant result!



Summer Writing Challenge


This term, pupils were invited to take part in the library Summer Writing Challenge and write a poem or descriptive piece all about 'Summer'. We received over 65 inspiring entries across the school. Here are the winning entries for each Year group:

18.06.22
S-Summer is here.
The sun is out...
Let's splash around
and play.
U Under the trees is
a picnic table...
Let's have a picnic.
M-More yummy
strawberries and
lots of lollies.
Let's dig in.
M-Music is on... if you
hear your ears let's
dance crazy. 🌻 🌻 🌻


Year 1

E-Enjoy every
moment of the
season.
Let's make nice
memories.
R-Ready to roll
Let's splash around
and play.


Spring has passed, the sun is
beaming onto us.
Used to hear rain drops but now
birds singing, the glowing, crystal river and
the wind swaying the trees.
Many butterflies lay onto the bright,
beautiful flowers, they glitter away
to find more.
Magical... mystical and enchanted
forests where hares bound across
pathways and where foxes trot.
Every pathway is like a gate to a
different world.
Right across the night through the
forest you'll find summer.



Year 2



Sitting under the sun
until its lunch
making cold drinks
meeting new friends
Eating ice-llories
roller skating to the park.



Year 3

Year 4

Summer
breat

The summer breeze
so calm and free
The sun shines
In the blue sky
As summer begins
And everyone grins
While children play
And we all say hurray!
Outside, people jump and say...
It's summer BREAK AGAIN!
And we see smiles
from a mile!!!

By Nade Puptumpa

Year 5

I love
Summer

YES the snow is fun to play in,
YES we like splashing in puddles,
YES we look forward to waking up
and seeing presents under the tree,
BUT in summer, you can feel the
luxurious heat rise and go through you
In summer, you can take off your coat
and throw it in the cobord for next
winter.
In SUMMER you can splash around in
your & neighbors' paddling pool, go on
holiday and have FUN!!



A Summer's Day...

[A descriptive piece]

Peace is upon us as bees busily buzz on their way to work going to collect some sweet nectar from the vibrant flowers that cover the meadows in bright and cheerful colours. Butterflies prance over the flourishing flowers as they first lift their wings to start flapping through the gentle breeze. The bird's harmonic singsong drifts through the air into our ears to cheer us up for the day coming.

Now the afternoon sun has come out like a blazing ball of fire, so do the polka dot ladybirds sleepily sitting on a blade of grass with the dew from earlier. The clouds, fluffy like candy floss, look good enough to eat as the gentle breeze chases them across the sky.

As the early evening slowly appears all the creatures and living things think of all the fun they will have tomorrow, their eyelids become heavy and drop as they drift off to a world of their own. The fireflies make a beautiful display in the light of the sun setting on a beautiful summer's day.

Creative

Writing



Lead School for

BLMK. Music Hub



Putnoe Primary School has been awarded Lead School Status for the BLMK Music Hub!

The BLMK Music Hub covers schools within Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. During the assessment visit, the assessors were particularly impressed with the wonderful space and resources we have at Putnoe Primary, as well as observing excellent specialist teaching across the school. They heard from our Cultural Ambassadors who shared highlights from our curriculum and student opinion with regards to Music in school, speaking with passion about their musical journeys. We were also praised for our use of funding, work with professional music organisations, as well as advocacy for all pupils accessing the Arts.

This recognition will help us continue to play a pivotal role in supporting other schools and furthering our reach as a centre of excellence by sharing best practise.

Congratulations to Dulmie, Lily-Mai, Maria, Nikita, Evanthe, Benjamin, Tai, Mackenzie and Nikole who went to the Fiddle Fiesta last week. They performed to a large audience after a short afternoon rehearsal, quite some feat! It was also a real treat to hear ex-pupils Daniella and Valerie play as the soloists for the evening. The pupil's favourite piece, as voted for by the waving of a bow, was the James Bond theme!

