

December 2025

Newsletter

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly outstanding few months for our Putnoe community.


First and foremost, I am incredibly proud of our children. They have worked exceptionally hard this term, and we have seen so many examples of fantastic progress across the school. Their commitment to learning, resilience, and willingness to challenge themselves has been evident in classrooms every day, and the results of this effort are clear.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our parents and carers. Your ongoing support makes a real difference—not only in helping your children with their academic learning at home, but also through your enthusiasm and involvement in school life. Your support at school events, shows, and performances has been wonderful and helps create the strong sense of community that Putnoe is known for. Our strong parent partnership group have been an integral part of this community, supporting with the organisation and staffing of some of our community events.

This term has also been a hugely successful one for sport. Our pupils have achieved impressive levels of success in fixtures including dodgeball, athletics, and football. Just as importantly, they have represented the school with pride, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Alongside this, children have taken part in a huge range of exciting clubs and after-school activities, developing new skills and interests beyond the classroom.

Our external trips and visits have been another highlight of the term. Children have behaved beautifully on visits designed to enrich their cultural experiences, including trips to the Higgins Museum, Shuttleworth Museum, the Sister Act show, library visits, and the pupil voice conference. As always, the feedback we receive from hosts and organisers is overwhelmingly positive. We are consistently told that children from Putnoe stand head and shoulders above those from other schools, particularly in their behaviour and in the values they demonstrate e.g. respect, tolerance, persistence, and trust. These values are at the heart of everything we do, and it is wonderful to see them lived out so clearly.



 Wearing my other hat, and thinking about entering the darker winter months, visibility for everyone—pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers—is significantly reduced. It is now more critical than ever that we reinforce vital road safety habits with our children. We kindly urge all parents and carers to make regular, proactive road safety conversations a part of your routine. By working together to instil vigilance and responsibility, we can help ensure that every child's journey to and from school is as safe as possible.

Top Safety Tips for Darker Days

- **Be Bright, Be Seen:** Encourage your children to wear bright or fluorescent clothing in the daytime. In the dark, reflective material (on coats, bags, or snap bands) is essential, as it helps reflect car headlights.
- **Hold Hands to Cross:** Children under eight should always hold a grown-up's hand when walking near roads and especially when crossing, as they can be easily distracted and have difficulty judging speed and distance.
- **Stick to the Code:** Always follow the Green Cross Code together: Stop before the kerb, Look both ways, Listen for traffic, and Think before moving. Never run across the road.
- **Walk the Safest Route:** Plan and practice the safest route to school, prioritising paths with pedestrian crossings or traffic lights, even if it adds a few extra minutes to the journey.
- **Avoid Distractions:** Stress the importance of putting phones and music away when walking near or crossing roads, so their full attention is on traffic and their surroundings.

Thank you to everyone
— children, parents, and staff—for making this such a successful term. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break, and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school in the new year, ready for another exciting term at Putnoe Primary School on Tuesday 6th January.

*Mr Petch
Head Teacher*

Attendance

Autumn Term

Well done to everyone for a strong Autumn term of attendance.

Congratulations to **Rossetti and Cezanne**, our best classes with **97% attendance!**

We would like to say a sincere thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and effort in ensuring your children attend school regularly and on time. Your partnership makes a real difference, and together we can continue to give every child the best possible start to their learning journey.

Hello & Goodbyes

We sadly say goodbye to Hockney Class teacher and Foundation Stage Co-ordinator, Mrs Camino, who has been at Putnoe Primary since 2013! We will miss her and wish her the very best in the future.

Also to Mrs Stock who was part of our cleaning team.

Hello and welcome to new Hockney Class teacher, Miss Firth, Miss Begum, who will be in Kandinsky Class, and new midday supervisor, Miss Urbikaite.

Congratulations to Mrs Loi who will be off on maternity leave in January!

Other news

Congratulations to Miss Callum who has now completed her Level 3 Btec Early Years Practitioner.

Book of the Week

Well done to everyone who put forward a 'Book of the Week' for this Autumn Term.

The books that are put forward for Book of the Week are always incredibly popular the week after.

This is enabling the children to expand their choice and knowledge of what we have available in the library. Here are just a few of the books that have been recommended.

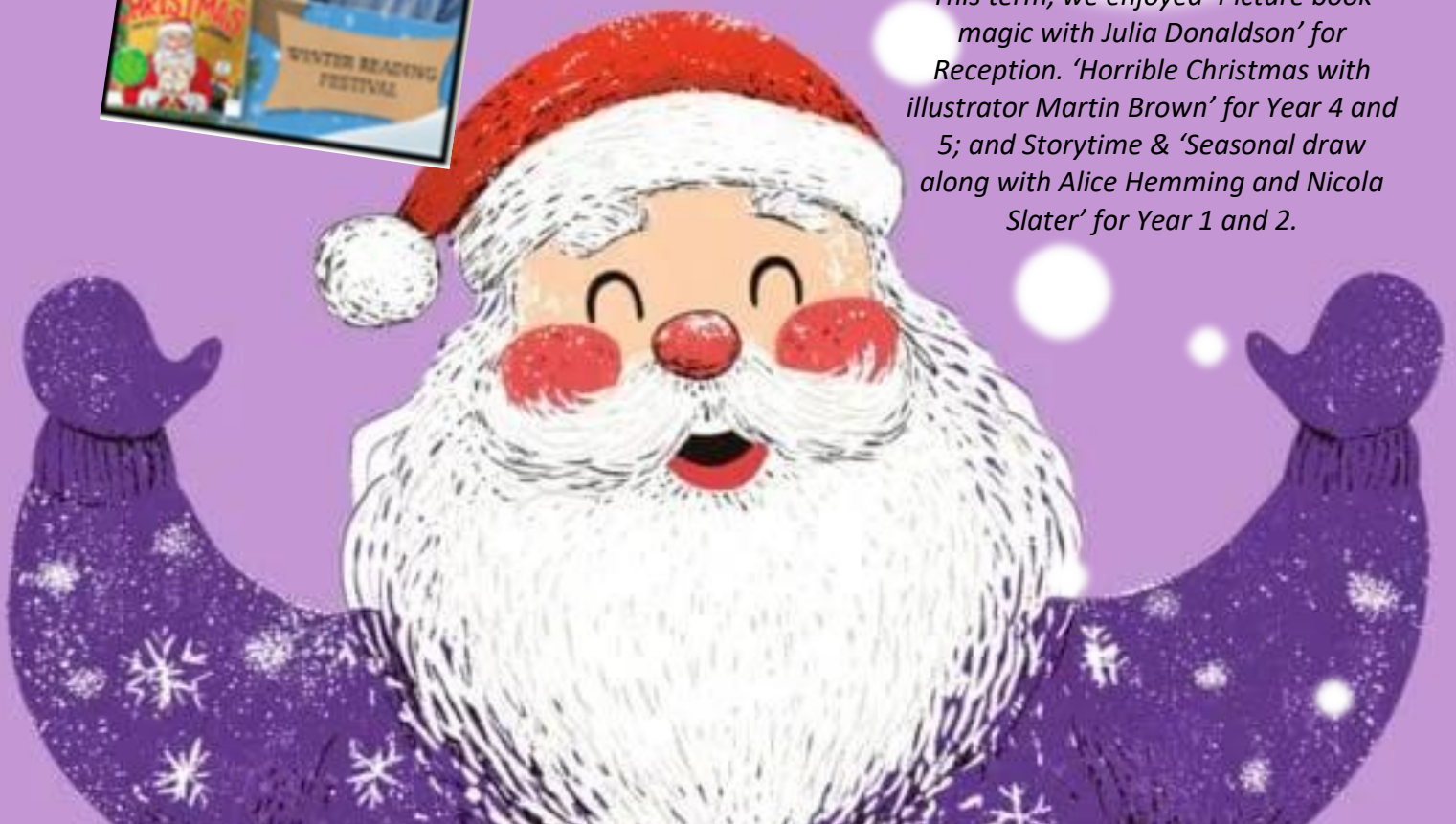
Library news



Virtual Author Events

Each term, we want to make sure year groups are experiencing different authors and participating in a range of events. This promotes reading for pleasure and we often find these books are the most popular in the library after the event.

This term, we enjoyed 'Picture book magic with Julia Donaldson' for Reception. 'Horrible Christmas with illustrator Martin Brown' for Year 4 and 5; and Storytime & 'Seasonal draw along with Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater' for Year 1 and 2.



Year 1 trip to Putnoe Library

In November, Mondrian and Dali visited Putnoe Library. We had a fantastic time!

When we arrived at the library, James, who is in charge of different libraries in Bedfordshire, greeted us. We explored the range of books Putnoe Library has and even found out if you have a library card, you can borrow 20 books!

If you would like more information on how to join the library, please visit

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/347/libraries>

Silence

Silence is being respectful to the soldiers who died in WW1.

Silence feels like I'm supposed to close my eyes and imagine the soldiers fighting for us.

Silence sounds like birds tweeting and wind humming.

Silence is like a moment of remembrance.

Silence is like the wind blowing past and waves crashing on the shore.

Silence feels like being in the ocean and the waves gently move you.

We remember them in the moment of silence.

Written by Cale, Connie, Amelia, Finley, Leo, Mikael and Chayla

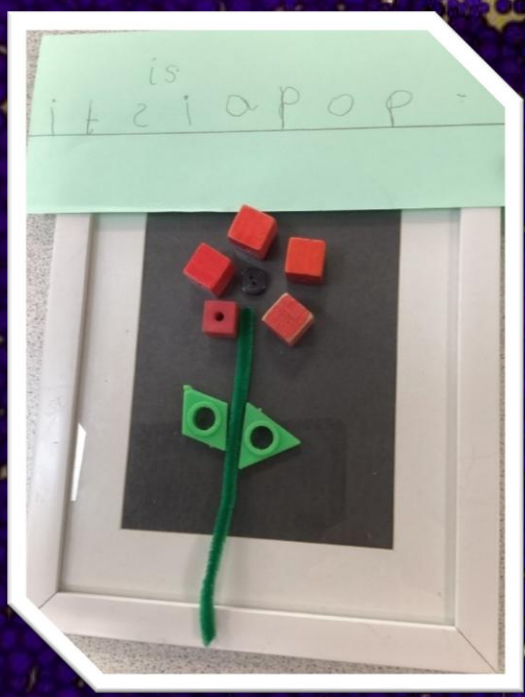
Remembrance Poetry and virtual author event

On Remembrance Day, we took part in a virtual author event. This was a livestream event for WW2 Remembrance and the D-Day Story; with special guest, Tom Palmer.

Miss Pedley and Miss Giles also asked the children to create their own Remembrance poetry. We were so impressed with the effort, creativity and vocabulary used. Above is the poem that was chosen to be broadcast on Remembrance Day and was read in assembly by the children who wrote it.



Reception



**We made
loose part
poppies on
Remembrance
day.**



Reception



Warhol and Hockney classes have worked hard on their performances of the Nativity.

The angels danced beautifully! Singing and dancing Stars!

Shepherds and Kings visited the stable!

Joseph, Mary and donkey!

Year 1

Year 1 were very excited to visit Putnoe Library this term! We walked to the library and practised crossing the road safely - STOP, LOOK, LISTEN!



We were welcomed by the Librarian who explained how to get a library card and told us all about the library. We all chose books to look at and listened to a story before we walked back to school.



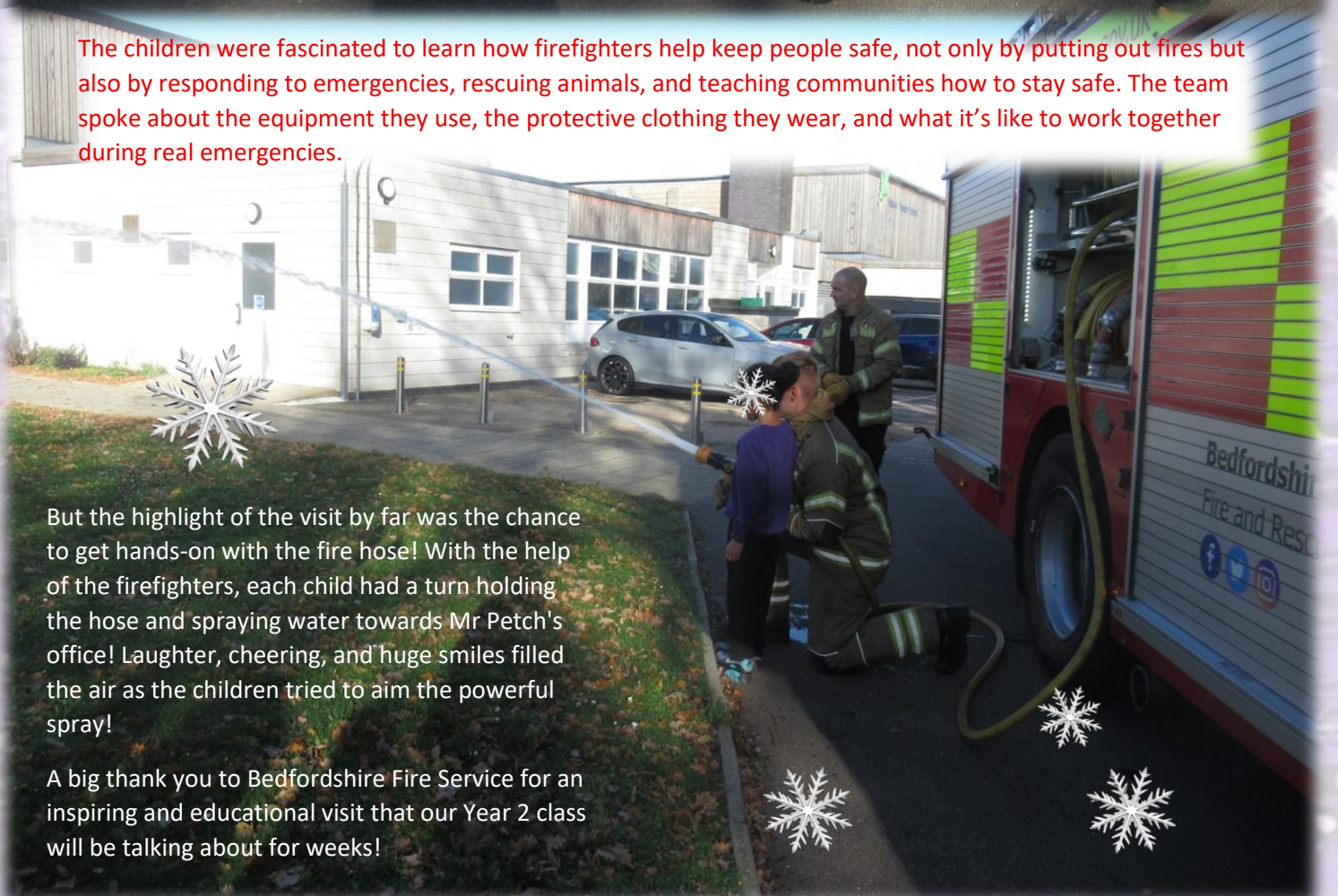
*A fantastic visit from
Bedfordshire Fire Service!*

Year 2



Our Year 2 children had the most exciting surprise—a special visit from the Bedfordshire Fire Service!

The children were fascinated to learn how firefighters help keep people safe, not only by putting out fires but also by responding to emergencies, rescuing animals, and teaching communities how to stay safe. The team spoke about the equipment they use, the protective clothing they wear, and what it's like to work together during real emergencies.



But the highlight of the visit by far was the chance to get hands-on with the fire hose! With the help of the firefighters, each child had a turn holding the hose and spraying water towards Mr Petch's office! Laughter, cheering, and huge smiles filled the air as the children tried to aim the powerful spray!

A big thank you to Bedfordshire Fire Service for an inspiring and educational visit that our Year 2 class will be talking about for weeks!

Year 1

This term, in Design Technology, Year 1 have been learning about healthy eating. We tried tasting some different fruits including pineapple, kiwi and blueberries. We loved the strawberries! We have designed our own fruit kebab with our favourite fruits and enjoyed eating it at snack time.

We also had a special visit from Trunk Theatre. They put on an exciting show all about the Great Fire of London. We learned how the fire started and how quickly it spread across the city. The actors asked us to join in and pretend to be people from the past, which made it really fun! We enjoyed taking part, and we now know even more about this important event in history.

Year 2



Trip to the John Bunyan Museum

They had a fantastic trip to the John Bunyan Museum and church, bringing their history learning to life. They explored replica scenes from the Stuart Era—including Bunyan's kitchen and prison cell—and handled real and replica artefacts to uncover their stories.

At the church, the children admired the beautiful stained-glass windows and discovered how *The Pilgrim's Progress* is retold through its vibrant panels.

It was a brilliant day out, and the children loved seeing their classroom learning come alive!



Year 3



LEAP Stop Animation Computing Project

The children combined creativity and technology in an exciting stop-motion animation project! They choreographed their own dances using five different motifs, then brought them to life by filming each movement with a stop-animation app. The results were fantastic—full of imagination, teamwork, and brilliant digital skills!



DT Food and Nutrition

In DT, the children explored seasonal foods and researched ingredients grown, reared, or produced in the UK. They put their learning into action by creating delicious seasonal vegetable pitta pizzas using cutting, slicing, and grating skills. They prepared their toppings while also learning vital kitchen hygiene and safety.



Science: Force- Magnet Strength

The children had great fun testing the strength of different magnets, experimenting with both bar and horseshoe types. They were amazed to see how many paper clips each magnet could lift—and even more excited to discover which one was the strongest! Which magnet do you think came out on top?

Year 3

Art

Sustainable Structures

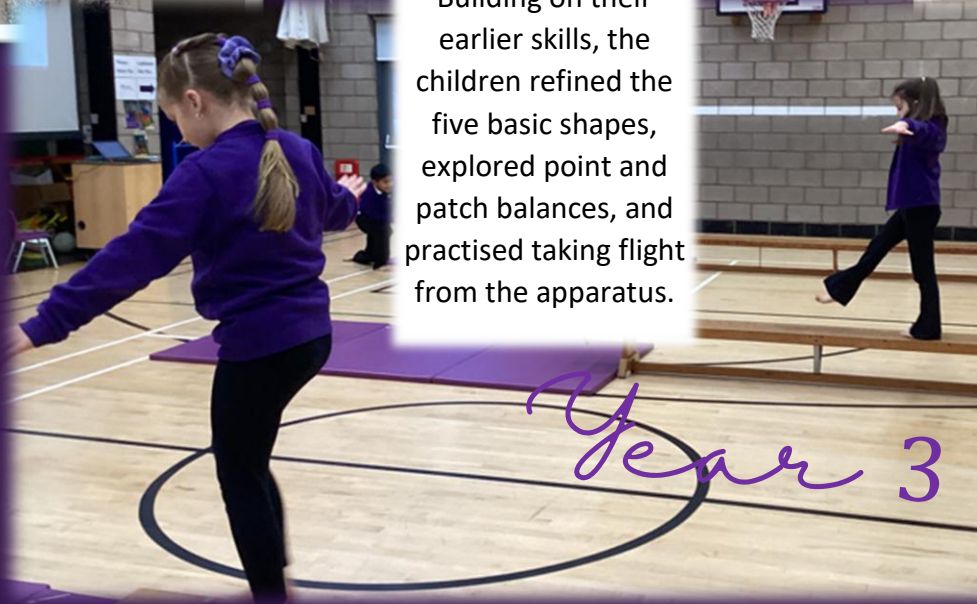
The children have been learning about sustainability and put their creativity to the test by building sculptures from scrap materials. Inspired by Sokari Douglas Camp and *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, their eco-friendly creations were imaginative, bold, and brilliantly unique!



Gymnastics

Building on their earlier skills, the children refined the five basic shapes, explored point and patch balances, and practised taking flight from the apparatus.

Year 3



Year 4



Over the course of this half term, the pupils have been looking at seasonal foods. They were eager to try a range of different seasonal vegetables and smell different aromas such as garlic and ginger. The pupils enjoyed preparing, washing and chopping different ingredients for their seasonal stirfry. We were very proud to see so many "budding" chefs.

Science has sparked lots of questions around sounds. They have looked at how sounds are made and what causes a sound.

It was great to see how well they are developing their investigation skills and wanting to know about the world around them.

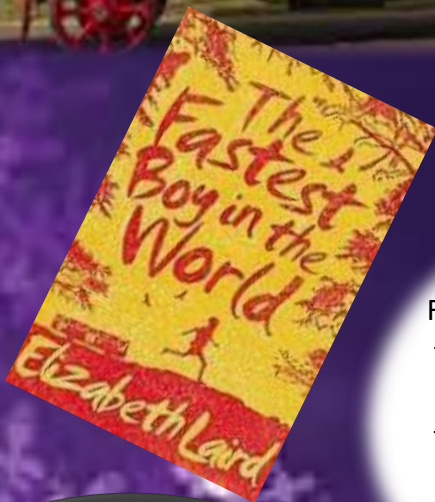
The pupils in Year 4 have been looking at the Nutcracker dance in their indoor PE lessons. They have created their own motifs, battle scene and group pieces and have worked hard to perform in front of others. We hope you enjoyed their performances as they worked so hard and we are extremely proud of their effort and motivation to present to others.



Year 5

We started the year by visiting Shuttleworth Museum, learning all about life in WW1.

We were lucky enough to see some of the planes and transport used and even have a ride on a bus from WW1. This ended our theme on World War 1 brilliantly and we had a great day!



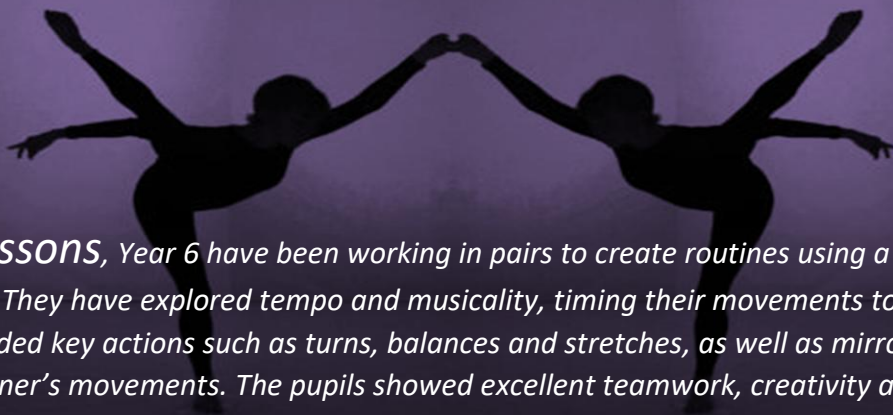
From World War 1, we headed to Africa. This was inspired by our novel 'The Fastest Boy in the World'. The story is set in Ethiopia, following Soloman's adventure to the capital, Adis Adaba.



As part of our Design and Technology unit, we made our own soup. Using the skills of peeling, chopping, grating and mashing. We made three delicious winter warming soups. Our favourite was Leek and Potato.

Year 6

A SKY FULL OF STARS



In dance lessons, Year 6 have been working in pairs to create routines using a chair as a prop to Sky Full of Stars. They have explored tempo and musicality, timing their movements to match the music. The children included key actions such as turns, balances and stretches, as well as mirror work to copy and match their partner's movements. The pupils showed excellent teamwork, creativity and control in their performances.

Untitled site

Insert Pages Themes

Simple

Font style

Aristotle

Diplomat

Vision

Level

IMPRESSION

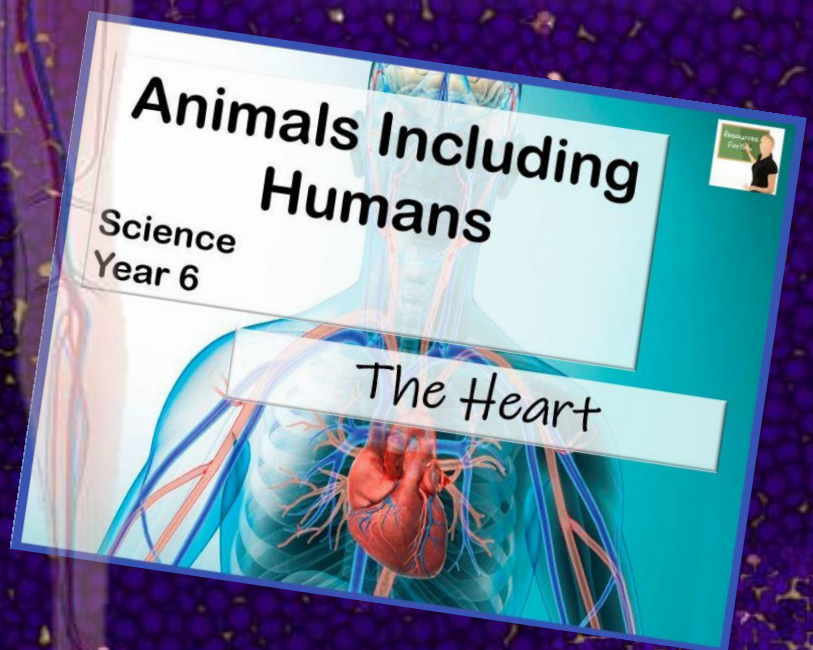
Your page title

Our Year 6 pupils have been hard at work in their **computing** unit on website creation. Using Google sites, the children designed and built their own mini-websites based on an animal of their choice (real or fictitious). Each site includes four carefully planned pages: a welcoming homepage, an appearance page describing key features, a diet page explaining what the animal eats as well as a habitat page showing where it lives. Pupils learned how to organise information clearly, add images responsibly, and create easy-to-navigate layouts. They have shown fantastic creativity and growing confidence with digital tools and we are very proud of their achievements.

Year 6

Science

In Science, our Year 6 pupils have been exploring the topic "Animals, including humans." They learned how the circulatory system works and discussed how legal drugs, such as caffeine and nicotine, can affect the body. To deepen their understanding, the children worked individually or in groups to create a Google Slides presentation explaining how one key factor – either sleep, diet, hygiene or exercise – impacts our health. They developed clear explanations, used scientific vocabulary and presented their findings confidently to the class. We were impressed by their thoughtful discussions and growing understanding of how to make positive choices for a healthy lifestyle.



Branding was a common punishment in Anglo-Saxon times



History

Year 6 have been exploring the fascinating topic of crime and punishment through the ages, focusing on the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Tudor and Victorian eras. We have learned about different types of crimes and discovered that many are still similar across history. Pupils were surprised by how harsh and frightening some of the punishments were. We have enjoyed discussing the fairness of these punishments and comparing them to how crimes are dealt with in modern times.