

Newsletter

April 2026

Welcome to our Spring Term Newsletter!

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our wonderful children for their brilliant effort and positive attitude. Their enthusiasm for learning and determination to do their very best each day have been a pleasure to see, and they should be extremely proud of all they have achieved. So many of the children undertake roles within the school that support other children – these include sports leaders, lunchtime monitors, science technicians and cultural and online safety ambassadors. It is fantastic to see such a large number of children being so keen to help others.

I would also like to commend the children for the way they have represented our school at external sports fixtures and cultural events. Whether at the Higgins Gallery, Barbican Theatre, or sporting venues, their behaviour, teamwork and sportsmanship have been exemplary, reflecting our school values so positively within the wider community. It is typical that children from Putnoe Primary School are singled out for praise from event organisers.

This term has seen strong academic progress across the school, alongside high standards in sport and music and the arts. It has been a joy to celebrate so many successes and to witness the wide range of talents our pupils continue to develop.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of parents and carers. It was particularly lovely to see so many of you at this week's parent/carer consultation evening. Your engagement and encouragement play a vital role in the children's success, and we truly value our partnership with you. In the summer term, we will be asking you for more of this support as we tackle some extremely challenging topics such as online safety and the principles of exploitation. Your investment in these pieces of work will make a huge difference to their impact.

There have been some truly memorable experiences this term. A particular highlight was our Year 6 visit to London, where the children had the incredible opportunity to perform with the London Symphony Orchestra. This was a very special occasion, and the children represented the school with great pride and professionalism. During the same visit, they also explored the Tower of London, a site of immense historical significance. From its origins as a royal palace and fortress to its role as a prison and treasury, the Tower has witnessed nearly a thousand years of British history. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to bring their learning to life in such an iconic setting.

As the term draws to a close, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and restful Easter. I hope you enjoy the break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 14th April.

Warm regards,

Mr Petch

Headteacher

Science Week

This year's theme for Science Week was Curiosity: What's Your Question?

At the start of the week, each class received a delivery of frogspawn so that they could observe the lifecycle of a frog firsthand.

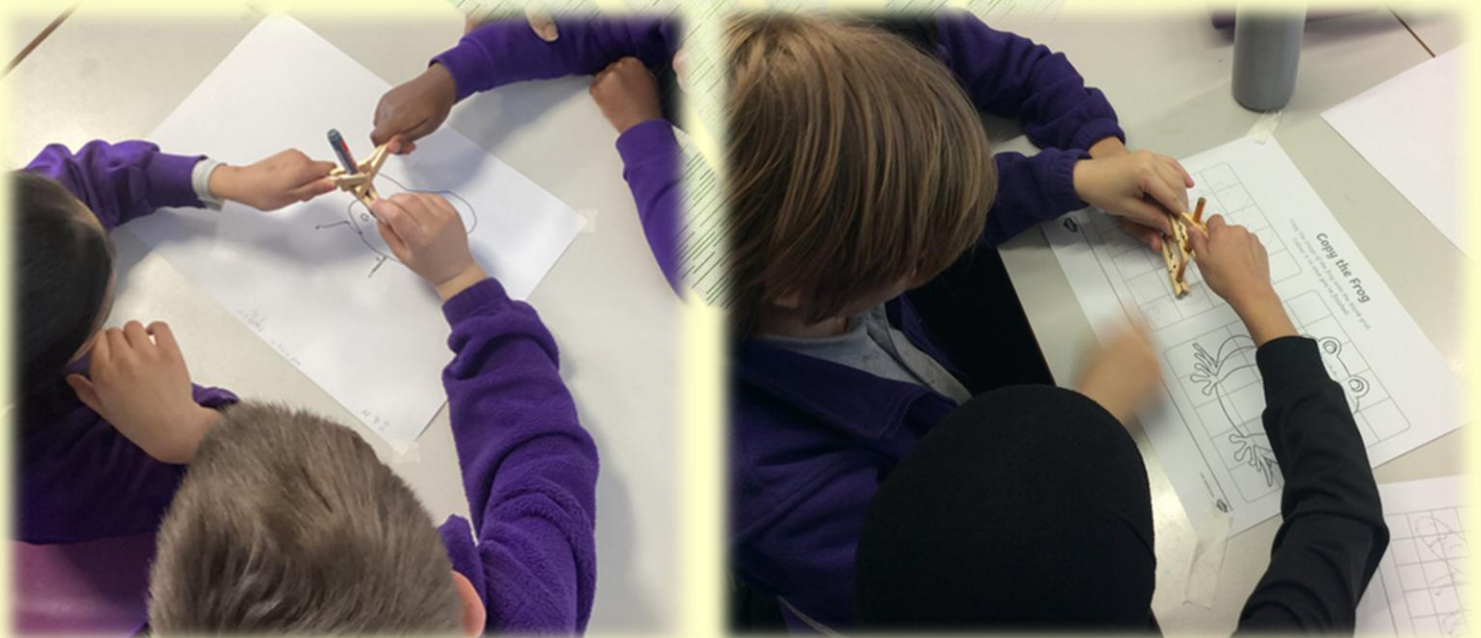


Over the course of the week, pupils took part in experiments to answer scientific questions. Some made and tested aeroplanes, while others created their own ecosystem webs.



The children also took on a team challenge to replicate a science-related image whilst all holding onto the same pen. The challenge encouraged teamwork and cooperation.

Our KS2 Science Technicians chose three winning creations, and the winning teams selected a new science book for their respective classes.





**Children also had the opportunity to head outdoors and take a picture that answered the question:
‘How do we know it’s spring?’**

Many of the images taken were truly spectacular, and the winning entries were chosen by our technicians.

Here are some examples...



Reception had great fun dressing as their favourite book character and sharing their favourite story on World Book Day!



Making junk modelling rockets!

Enjoying using the Space-themed writing resources during Discovery Learning!

Reception began the year with the topic 'Into the freeze!' which included learning about snow and ice including The South Pole. We made ice sculptures and used 'shaving foam' snow.

Do you like our snowmen paintings?



Plants

Year 1

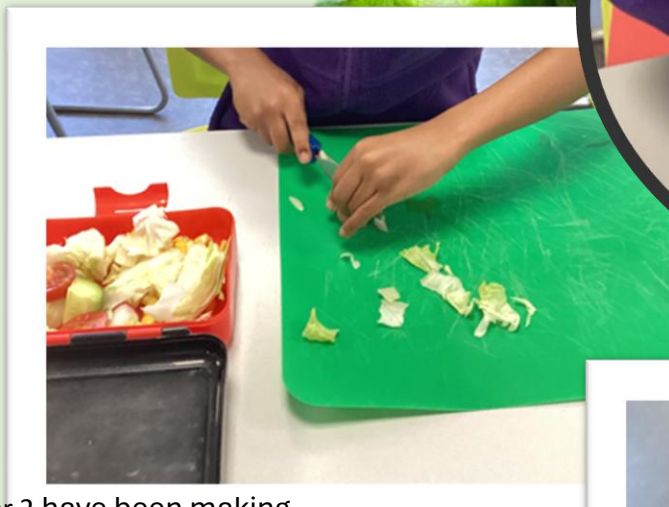
This half term, Year 1 have been busy learning all about plants! We planted the seeds in the soil and understood what they need to survive. The plants are growing so well and the children can't wait to take them home!



In our *Arttopic*, we have been creating flower sculptures, inspired by Pheobe Cummings. We practised our sculpture by using playdough and then created our final design using clay.



Year 2



Year 2 have been making

salads this half term. The children enjoyed developing their cutting skills and evaluating the choices they'd made for their salad.



Year 2

We had a wonderful trip to the library, where we walked safely together as a class and enjoyed the journey.

When we arrived, we listened carefully as we learned about everything the library has to offer. After that, we had time to explore, and everyone enjoyed looking through the shelves to find their favourite books.

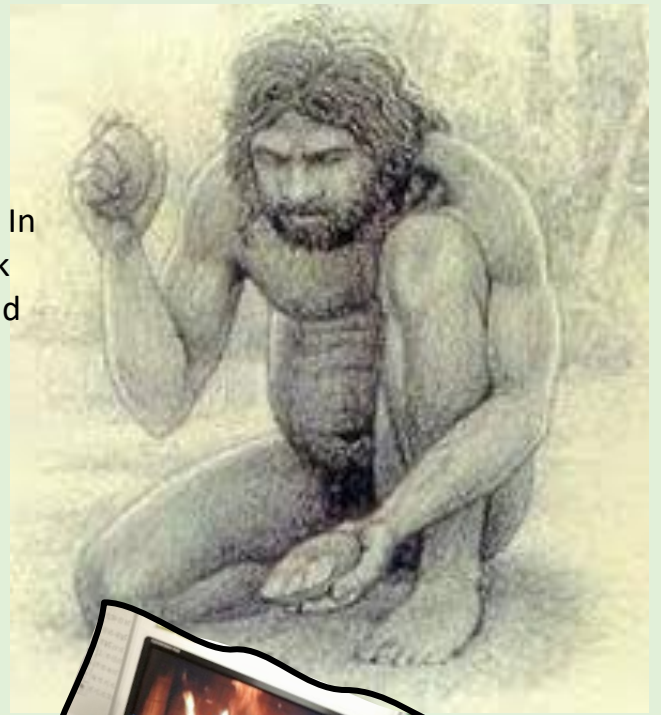
We were excited to discover that library membership is free, which means we can visit again and borrow books whenever we like and were amazed that you can borrow 20 books at one time!



We looked at the many different types of books they have; Picasso class especially liked the Harry Potter books and the non-fiction section.



This term, we had an exciting Stone Age Day! The children came in Stone Age outfits and completed different activities. In the gym, they used the ropes to jump over the 'chalk pit'. Inspired by our book 'Stig of the Dump', they had to take back Granny's stolen treasure.



Year 3

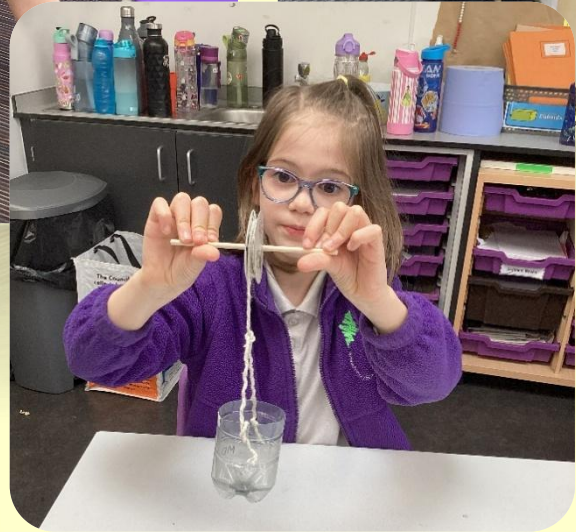
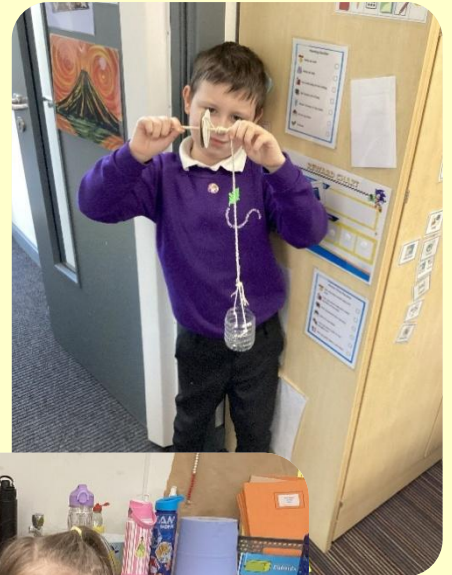


We explored the food that Stone Age people ate and discussed how they caught and cooked it, and looked at animal skin. We explored what life was like in their homes and what cave life would have been like.



DT- Pulleys

This term in DT, the children were investigating how pulley mechanisms work. They planned for the design brief: *To design and make a pulley system to transport tomatoes down a mountainside.* Firstly, the children tested different pulley systems and explored how they worked, then they designed and made their own pulley system.



During Science week, year 3

chose to complete an Eco-Systems activity. As a class, we discussed how all of the animals within the eco-system are connected, then the children explored what would happen if there was a 'break/loss in connect' within the eco system, for example what would happen if all of the trees were chopped down?

During our light and shadows topic, the children have been investigating materials that reflect light. They planned the investigation and then used their observational skills to rank the materials in order from most reflective to least



WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM?

Ecosystems are communities of living and non-living things in an environment. They can include animals and plants as well as water and soil. This fun activity shows you how everything in an ecosystem is interdependent, and that the loss of one connection has knock-on effects...

BLUE TIT

SOIL



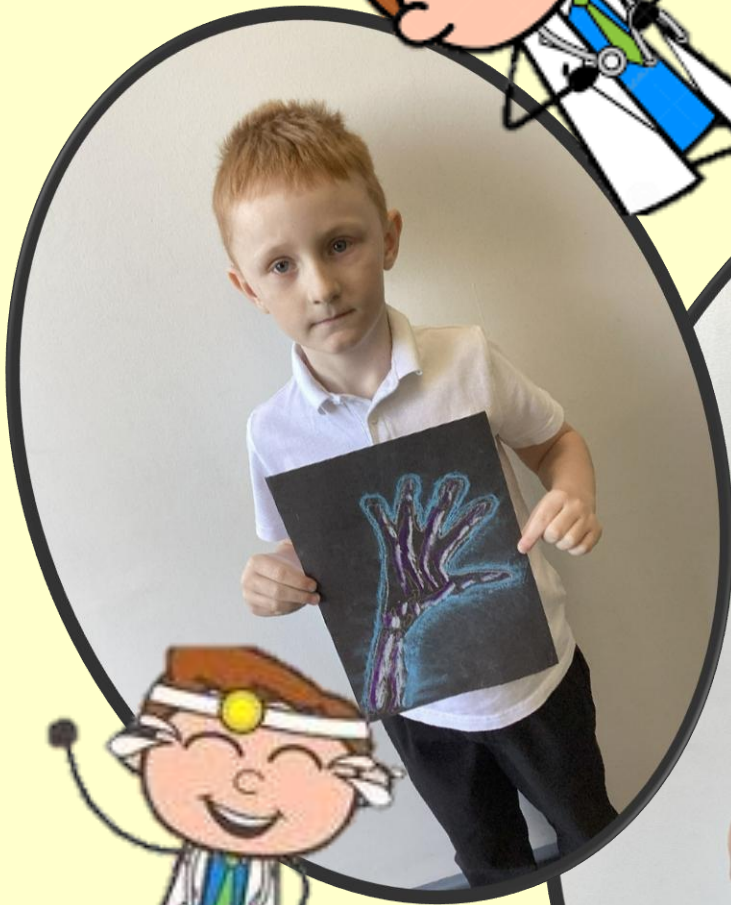
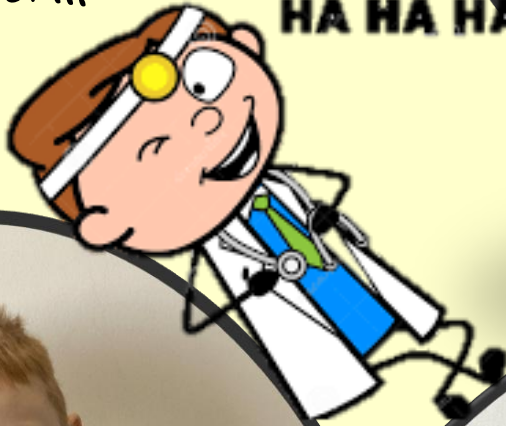
Art Display

This term we completed our display on 'Putnoe Comedy Cabaret' where children were invited to tell jokes in front of the year group practising their oracy skills. From this, our artwork was inspired by 'doctor doctor' jokes. We drew around our hands and drew the bones inside. Using chalk and pastels, we made our hands look like an x-ray!



Doctor, doctor...

HA HA HA...



Doctor, doctor...

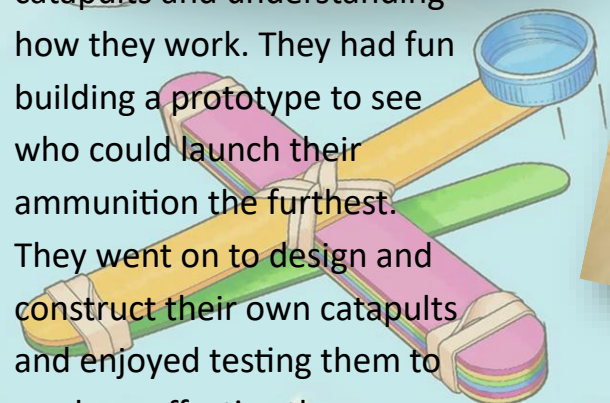
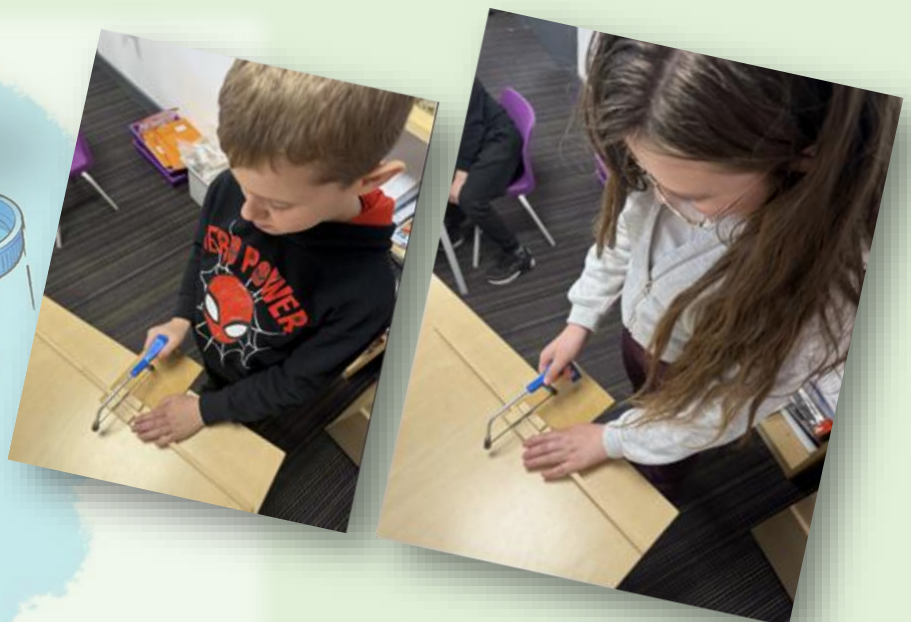


Year 4

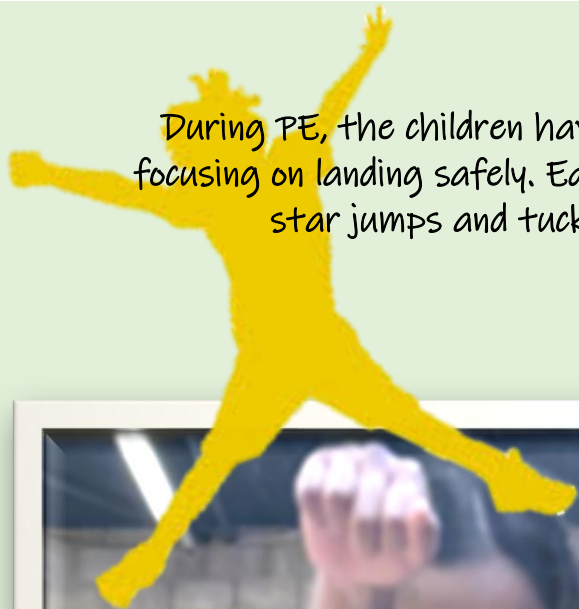
During Science Week, our children took part in a fun and exciting teamwork challenge! Working in groups, they were asked to draw a picture of an animal—but with a twist. Each child had to hold a peg, and together they carefully controlled the drawing tools to recreate their chosen animal.

This activity encouraged communication, patience, and cooperation, and it was wonderful to see everyone getting involved. The children absolutely loved the challenge and did a fantastic job working together, showing great team spirit and creativity throughout!

This half term, pupils have been looking at the use of catapults and understanding how they work. They had fun building a prototype to see who could launch their ammunition the furthest. They went on to design and construct their own catapults and enjoyed testing them to see how effective they were.



During PE, the children have been learning how to jump and balance while focusing on landing safely. Equipment was set out, and the children practised star jumps and tuck jumps. Everyone enjoyed the activities.



Year 5

We have had a very busy and successful term in Year 5 this Spring.

Observatory Visit

At the beginning of the term, a number of eager pupils in Year 5 had the opportunity to visit the observatory at Bedford School when we were studying Space in Science. Students were lucky enough to use their high-tech telescopes to see Venus and Jupiter amongst a number of constellations- what an exciting experience!

For this year's Science Week, pupils in Year 5 participated in a number of exciting activities including a teamwork activity where they had to re-create a drawing of a chosen object whilst holding onto pegs attached to one pen. Children had to find creative ways to communicate in order to replicate the image.

Pupils also took part in a photograph competition where they had to take images of 'Signs of Spring'. We were thrilled to have 5 winners across all three classes in both competitions.

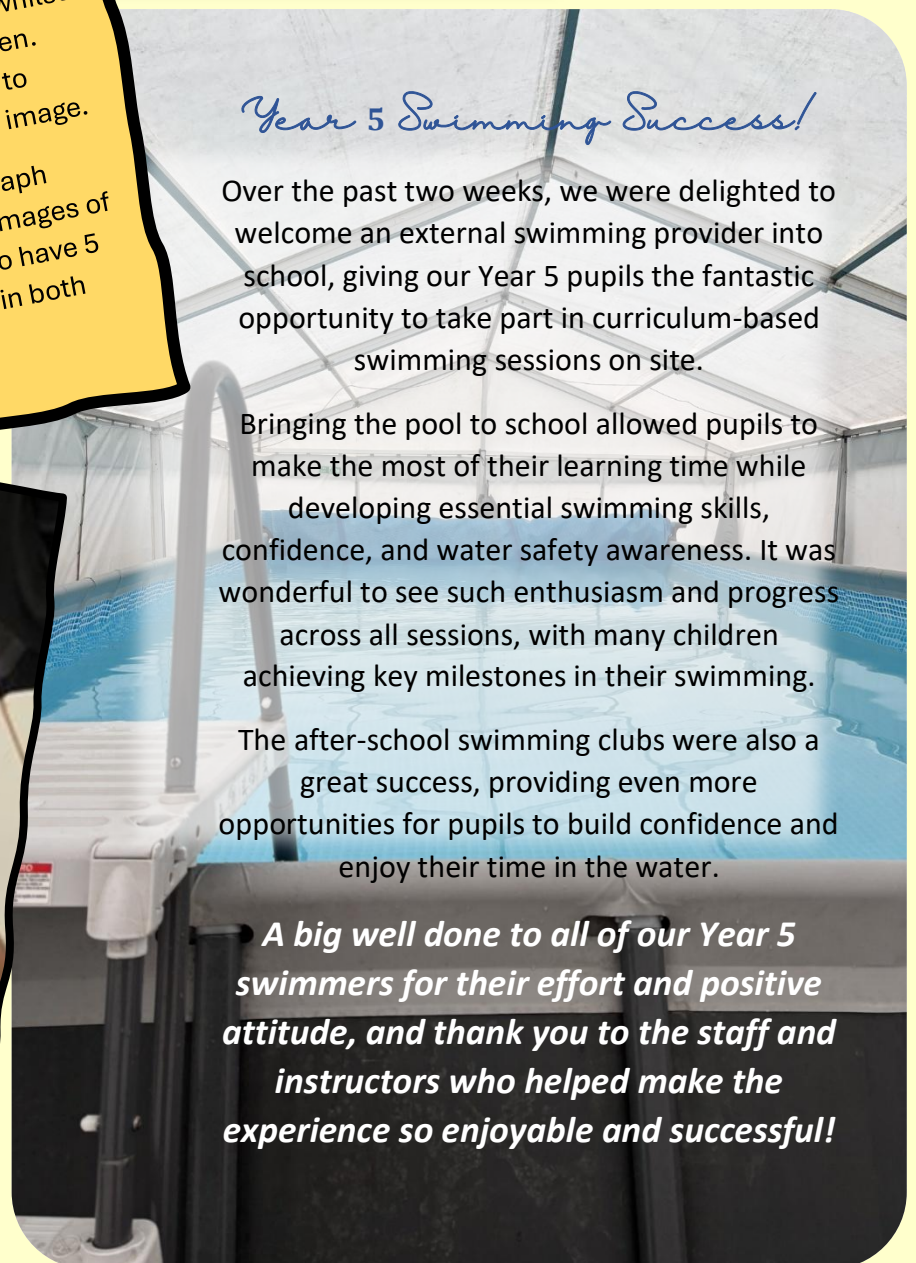
Year 5 Swimming Success!

Over the past two weeks, we were delighted to welcome an external swimming provider into school, giving our Year 5 pupils the fantastic opportunity to take part in curriculum-based swimming sessions on site.

Bringing the pool to school allowed pupils to make the most of their learning time while developing essential swimming skills, confidence, and water safety awareness. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and progress across all sessions, with many children achieving key milestones in their swimming.

The after-school swimming clubs were also a great success, providing even more opportunities for pupils to build confidence and enjoy their time in the water.

A big well done to all of our Year 5 swimmers for their effort and positive attitude, and thank you to the staff and instructors who helped make the experience so enjoyable and successful!



Our Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed an unforgettable educational trip to London, experiencing two inspiring visits in one day.



London
Symphony
Orchestra

The morning began with a remarkable performance by the London Symphony Orchestra, where pupils were able to experience world-class live music in an iconic setting. The children enjoyed the energy and emotion of the performance, and it provided a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding of orchestral music.

In the afternoon, we travelled to the Tower of London. Here, pupils explored the rich history of this famous landmark, learning about its role through the centuries and seeing key features such as the Crown Jewels and the ancient castle grounds and the execution site of two of Henry VIII's wives.

The trip was a fantastic success, with pupils demonstrating excellent behaviour, curiosity, and enthusiasm throughout the day. We are very proud of how they represented the school and made the most of this enriching experience.

Celebrating Our Attendance Success!

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

We've been working hard to improve 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.

Why attendance matters:

Good attendance is closely linked to improved achievement — 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: 95.08%

Top year group: Year 5 – an impressive 95.51%

Top class: Turner – leading the way with 96.63%

Let's keep up this fantastic momentum as we move forward together!

The Parent Partnership Group are delighted to share the success of our recent Mother's Day events during the month of March.

Our Mother's Day Shop was a wonderful highlight, giving pupils the opportunity to choose special gifts. Thank you for supporting this event, including the 'Pop-Up Shop' on the Friday of that week.

We were also delighted to host our Mother's Day Breakfasts over three mornings in the run-up to Mother's Day. It was lovely to see so many families joining us to start the day together.

Thank you to everyone who supported these events – the total amount raised was almost £800 which is fantastic. This has been used to purchase classroom whiteboards, support the running of school trips and also help fund some of our summer term events.

During the summer term, we have three more events to look forward to: our Wonderlicious chocolate bar sale, Father's Day Breakfast and our Summer Fayre – details of all these will follow!

Congratulations

to teacher Mrs Loi on the
safe arrival of her
baby girl!,



Good Luck to Miss Shakeshaft
& Miss Giles as they begin
their maternity leave.



WELCOME BACK!

We would also like to welcome
back from her maternity leave
Miss Bolter, who will be teaching
Raphael Class.

And a big Welcome to our new
staff, Mrs York, our new EYFS
Leader and Hockney Class
Teacher, Teaching Assisitants Miss
Chimunda, and Mrs Di Gisi, and
Midday Supervisors, Miss O'Brien,
Ms Kaur and Mrs Henry.

Have a fantastic
Easter Break, see you
all back for the start
of
Summer term on
Tuesday 14nd April!