

# Newsletter

**As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to thank every member of our Putnoe Primary School community for making it such a successful one.**

Our core school values have underpinned so many features of 2025-26. Values such as respect, honesty, persistency, caring and responsibility have been evident in classrooms, on the playground and beyond. I am continually impressed by the kindness and maturity our children show towards one another, and by the determination they demonstrate when learning becomes challenging.

This year has been full of memorable opportunities. Children have represented the school brilliantly at Sports Days and in football, dodgeball and multi-skills competitions, always showing excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. Children from Putnoe have been singled out by organisers for the positive attitudes they have demonstrated in competitive events across the year. We have enjoyed inspiring visits to the Tower of London, Bedford Library and local churches, while our Year 5 and 6 residential to Condoover Hall in Shropshire provided unforgettable experiences. Watching children conquer the high ropes, abseiling and other adventurous activities with courage and determination was a reminder that growth often comes from stepping beyond our comfort zone.

We were also delighted to welcome a GB athlete to inspire our pupils, and visits to the Shuttleworth Museum and The Higgins Bedford have enriched learning across the curriculum. I am especially proud that some of our children's artwork will be displayed at The Higgins throughout the summer.

Academic success has been another highlight. While we celebrate achievements and outcomes, what makes me proudest is the progress our children have made through hard work, resilience and a willingness to keep trying. Those qualities will serve them well throughout their lives.

The recent hot weather has certainly tested us all, and I would like to thank our staff, children and families for their flexibility and support in helping everyone stay safe and comfortable.

Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued encouragement and partnership. It is a privilege to lead such a caring and ambitious school community. I am immensely proud of every child and every member of staff, and I wish you all a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break.

Kind regards,

Mr Petch

**Have a fantastic Summer, see you back at school on  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

## **Goodbye and good luck**

**to Mrs Scozzari, Teaching Assistant in Kandinsky, and  
Reception Teaching Assistants Miss Pitts, Mrs Roberts, &  
Miss Walton.**

**We wish them all well!**



## **Attendance Matters**

**Thank you to all of our families for supporting your  
children's attendance this year.**

Our whole school attendance for 2025–2026 was 94.76%, with Year 2 achieving the highest attendance at 95.4% – a fantastic achievement. Well done to all of our Year 2 pupils, families and staff!

Regular attendance is essential for children to make the most of their education, build friendships and reach their full potential. Thank you for working in partnership with us throughout the year, and we wish everyone a happy and restful summer break

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



## **School Council Activities**

Recently, the school council came together to taste some new items on next year's school lunch menu. We tried the new cauliflower curry, the vegetarian lasagne and the cheese quiche which were very tasty.

However, we really enjoyed the new puddings, especially the syrup sponge and the blueberry muffins.

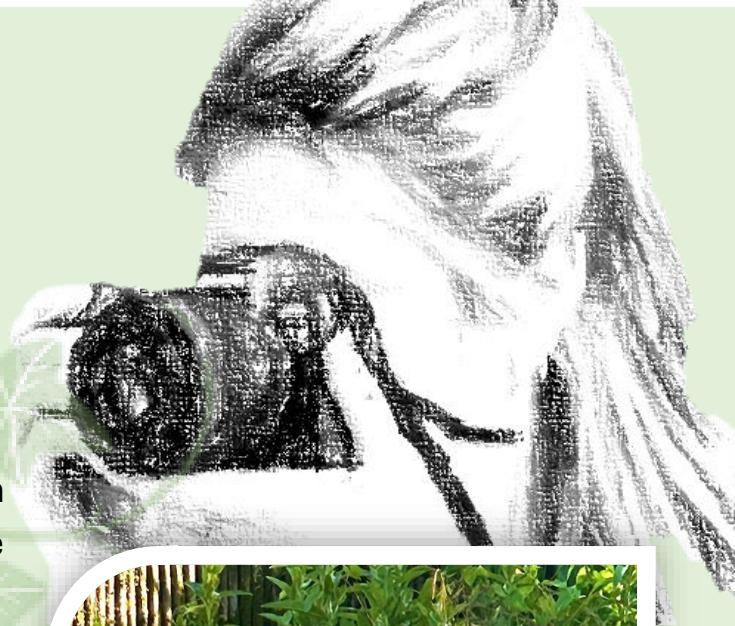
**We would recommend you give these dishes a go when you come back in September!**





## Summer Science Photography Competition

This summer term, our science technicians set the school an optional photography competition, and their chosen theme was ***Animals & Insects***. From the entries received, our technicians whittled them down and then selected their winners, based on the creativity of the image and its link to science.



*Here are our winning entries!*



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

Our Reception children had a fantastic day at Mead Open Farm, enjoying an exciting hands-on learning experience outside the classroom. The children showed great curiosity, asked thoughtful questions, and demonstrated excellent listening and teamwork throughout the day.





From the moment they arrived, the children were full of enthusiasm as they met a variety of friendly farm animals, including goats, sheep, rabbits, and pigs. They loved learning about how the animals are cared for and had the opportunity to get up close to some of them.

A collage of photos showing children in purple shirts interacting with farm animals at a petting zoo. The main photo shows three children in the driver's seat of a yellow tractor. Smaller inset photos show children feeding goats, a child driving the tractor, a child feeding a pig, a child feeding a sheep, a child feeding a rabbit, and a group of children looking at a pig.



# Year 1 Safety Day

In Dali and Mondrian, we had the most EXCITING day where we learnt how to stay safe in different situations!



In the morning, we practised calling 999 and saying where our address is, which we later used with a 999-call operator to decide what we should say in a range of emergency situations.



There was an ambulance on-site and we tried on the uniform and lifted the heavy equipment. We got to go inside the back of the ambulance and we also pretended to drive at the front. We got to try on different emergency services uniforms and role play with a range of vehicles with our friends. It was so much fun!

Mr Petch showed us a police car and we got to sit inside it and listen to the loud sirens. He also taught us that when we cross a road we must: STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK to keep us safe.





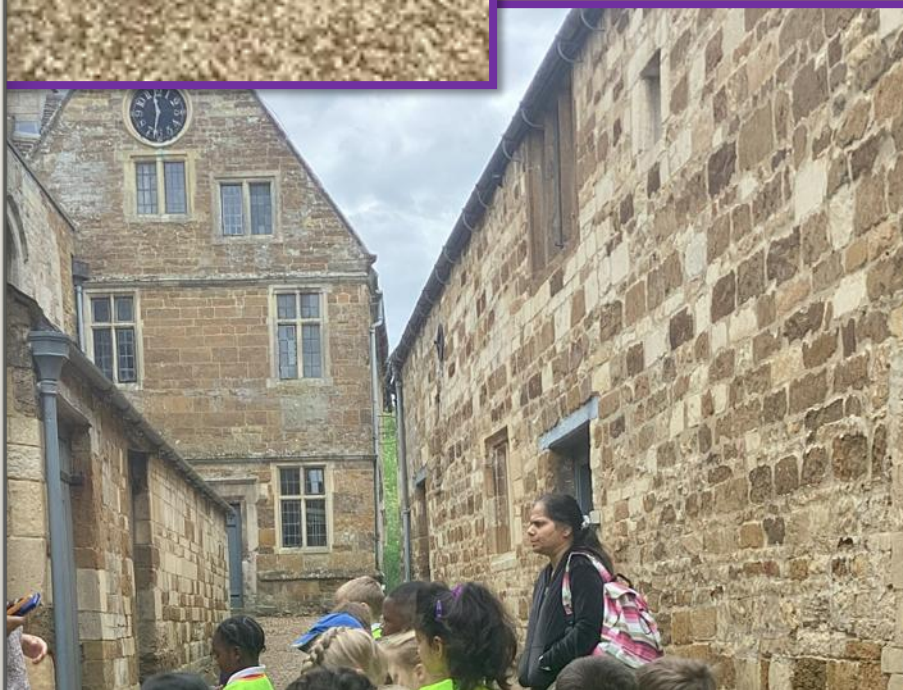
**In Dali and Mondrian, we had  
the most AMAZING day at  
Rockingham Castle!**

We travelled  
on a coach  
and then went  
on a factual  
tour!

We had a  
lovely picnic  
with our  
friends and  
got to see the  
beautiful  
castle gardens  
as well as the  
dungeon!



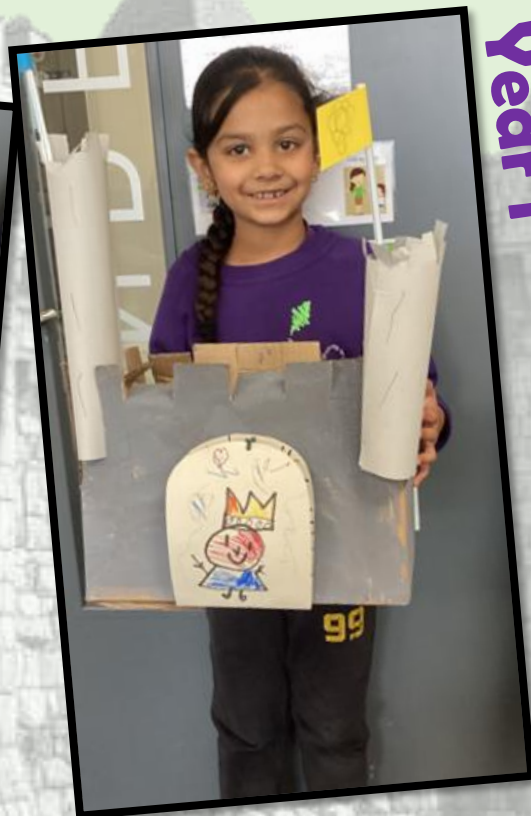
**Year 1**





As part of our Year 1 Design & Technology topic we also have designed and made our own castles. Making turrets, drawbridge, and battlements using our designing and cutting skills.

## Building Castles



Year 1

**Year 2** had an excellent time at Sports Day this year and demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship throughout the event. They showed great determination, encouraged one another, and took part with enthusiasm. We were very proud of how they supported their classmates and represented the school so positively.





**Year 2** had a fantastic time exploring *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* in their English lessons. They loved retelling the story and bringing it to life through their own creative ideas.

In Design and Technology, the children designed and made their own tiger puppets using felt. They carefully investigated the best ways to join the felt before creating their finished puppets.

Using their wonderful creations, the children confidently performed and acted out their own imaginative versions of the story. It was a fantastic opportunity to combine creativity, storytelling and practical skills.



The Tiger Who  
Came  
to Tea



Judith Kerr



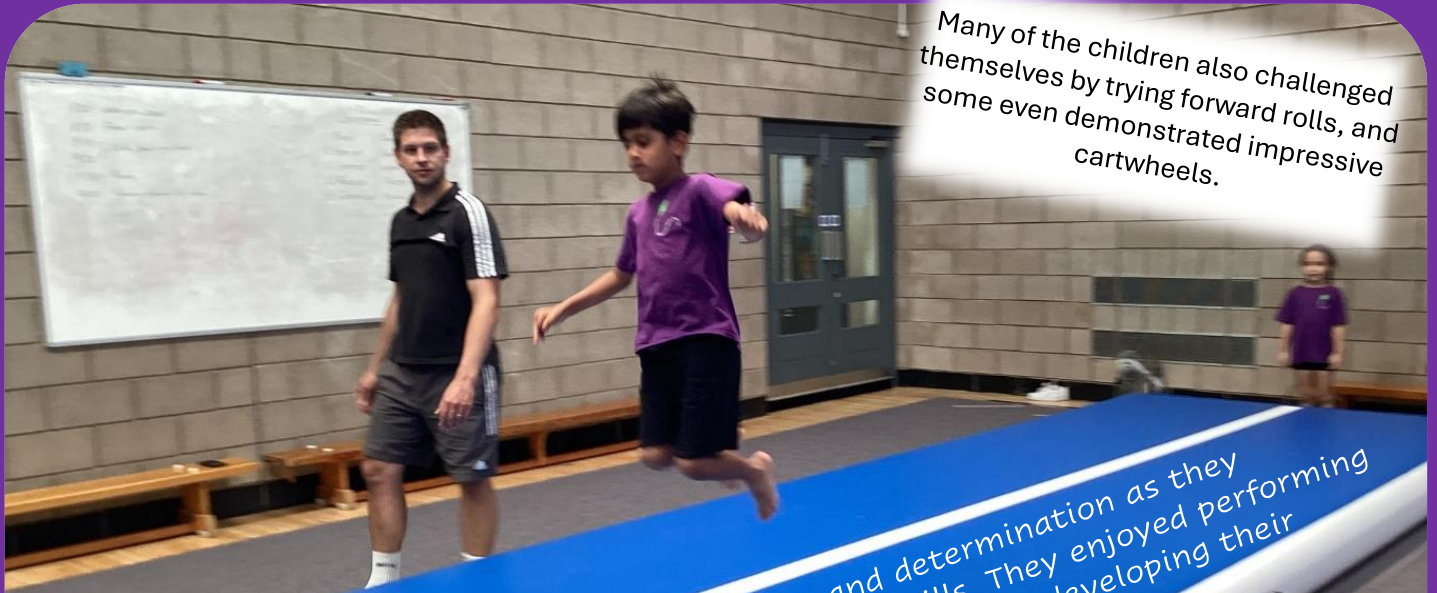
# Year 2 Air Mat Experience

As part of Sports Week, the Year 2 children had an incredible opportunity to use the air mat, and they absolutely loved every minute of it! They were full of excitement from the moment they saw the equipment and couldn't wait to have a go!

Many of the children also challenged themselves by trying forward rolls, and some even demonstrated impressive cartwheels.

The children showed fantastic enthusiasm, confidence, and determination as they practised a range of different movements and gymnastics skills. They enjoyed performing star jumps, tuck jumps, and small controlled jumps on the air mat, developing their balance and coordination while having lots of fun.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces throughout the session. The children encouraged one another, celebrated each other's achievements, and embraced every challenge with positivity. The air mat experience was a real highlight of Sports Week, creating lasting memories and helping to build confidence, resilience, and a love of being active.







This term in **Science**, Year 3 have been budding botanists as they explored the fascinating life cycle of plants! From discovering how pollination and germination help plants grow to learning about the many ways seeds are dispersed, pupils have enjoyed every step of their learning journey.

A highlight of the term was exploring our environmental area, where they searched for and identified the variety of plants growing around the school grounds.

To round off the topic, the children put their creativity to the test by becoming botanists and designing their very own flowering plants. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity, enthusiasm, and growing knowledge blossom throughout the term!



# Music: Sing On!

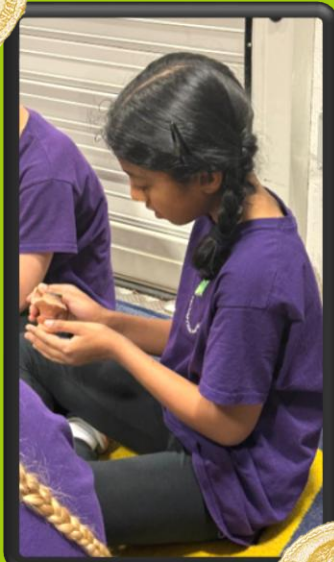
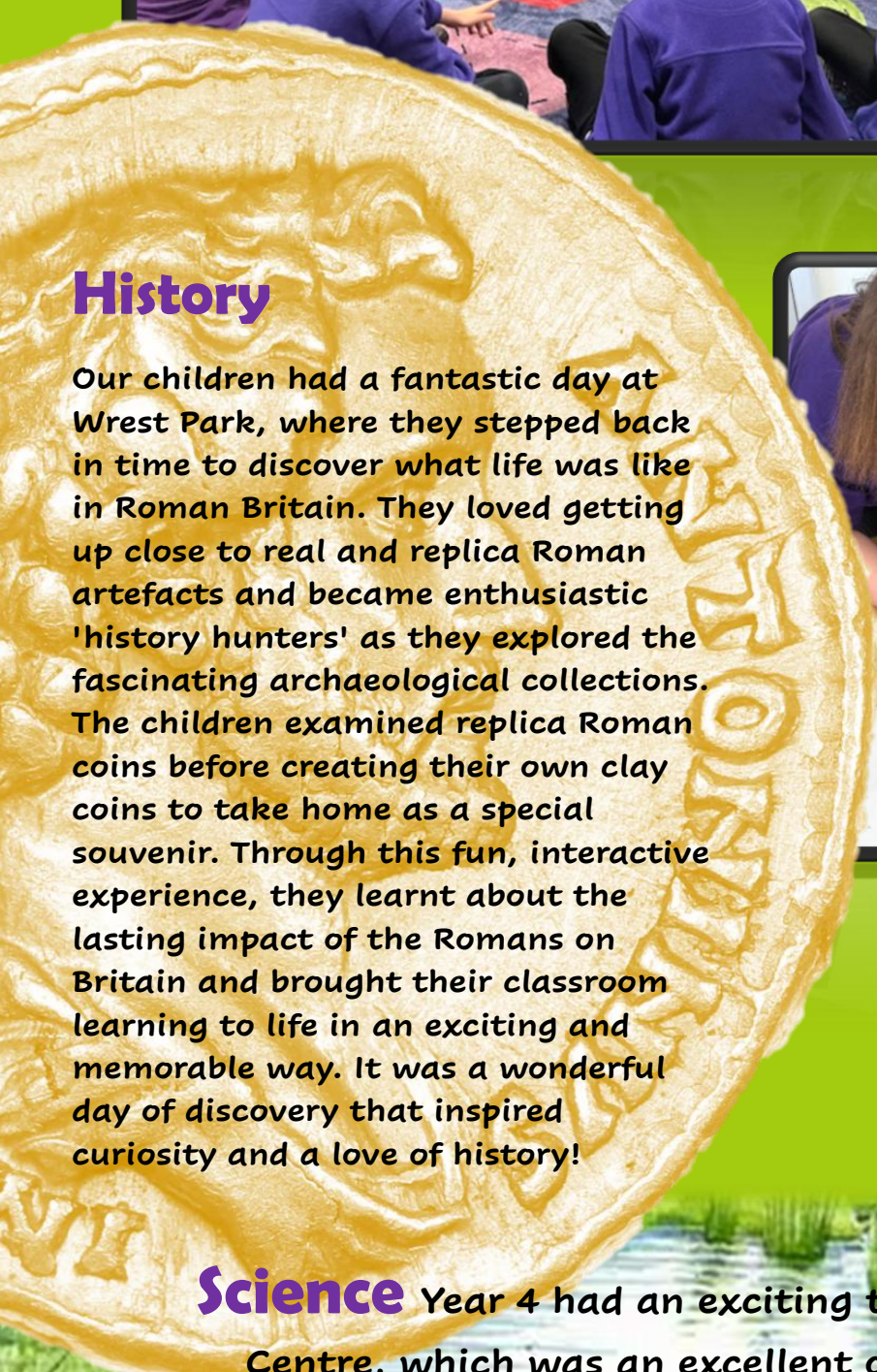
In Music this term, Year 3 have been enthusiastically preparing for Sing On, a wonderful musical celebration that culminated in a special concert at the Bedford Corn Exchange on Tuesday 14th July. Throughout the term, the children have been learning a range of songs, practising their dance moves, and developing their confidence as performers. Every rehearsal has been filled with singing, dancing and plenty of laughter, and it has been a joy to watch their enthusiasm and teamwork grow. We are incredibly proud of all their hard work and enjoyed to welcoming families to the concert to celebrate their achievements. Let's get dancing...

## Art: Painting Volcanoes

The children have been bursting with creativity this term as they painted their own vibrant volcanoes, taking inspiration from Andy Warhol's 'Vesuvius' and Deyanira Harris's 'Volcano Madness'. Building on their growing confidence with colour mixing, they worked in carefully planned stages, blending reds, oranges, and yellows to create swirling brushstrokes that capture the drama of an erupting volcano. Their artwork shows not only their developing technical skills but also their excitement in exploring bold colour, movement, and







## History

Our children had a fantastic day at Wrest Park, where they stepped back in time to discover what life was like in Roman Britain. They loved getting up close to real and replica Roman artefacts and became enthusiastic 'history hunters' as they explored the fascinating archaeological collections. The children examined replica Roman coins before creating their own clay coins to take home as a special souvenir. Through this fun, interactive experience, they learnt about the lasting impact of the Romans on Britain and brought their classroom learning to life in an exciting and memorable way. It was a wonderful day of discovery that inspired curiosity and a love of history!

## Science

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. The children loved getting up close with nature and learning about local wildlife.

Year 4



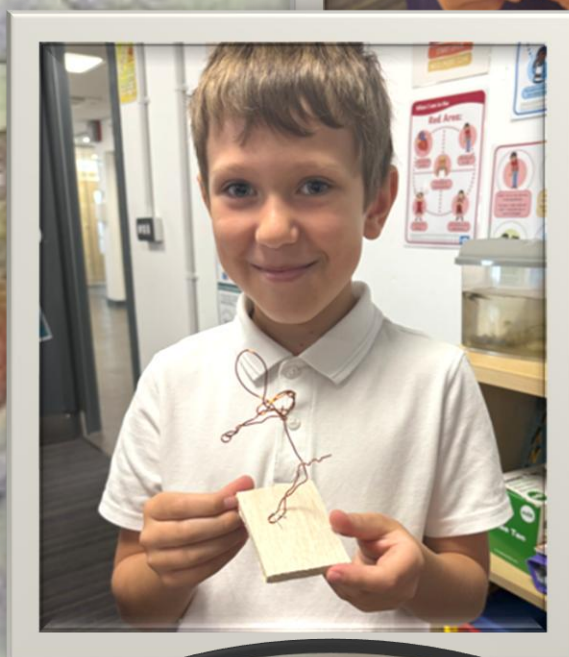
# Art

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.

## Year 4

# 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. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended, their support added to the day's excitement and made it truly memorable. Well done to this year's winners Degas Class.

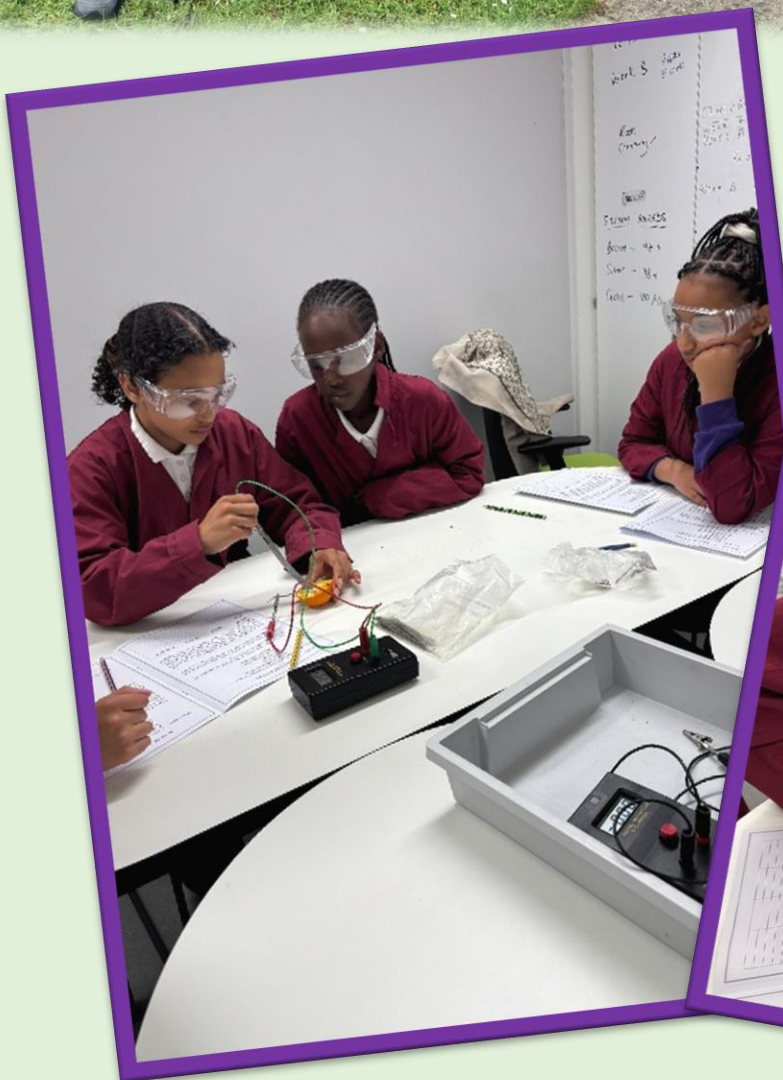




# Year 5

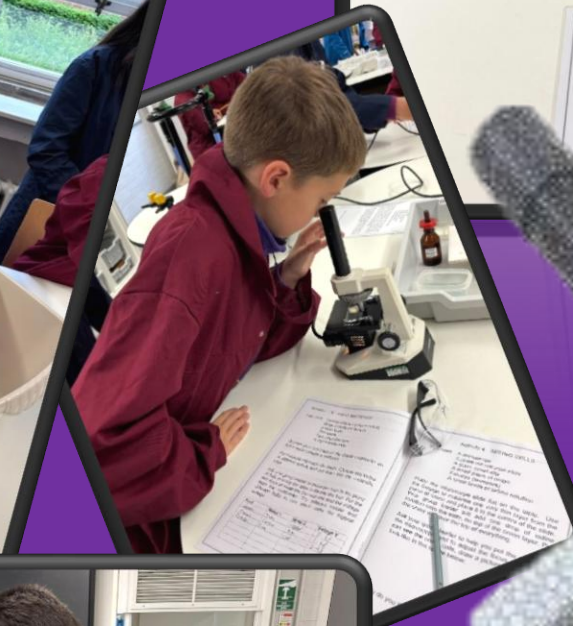


We recently took a small group of Year 5 pupils to Bedford School for an Enrichment Day, where they tried some different activities. Subjects on offer included drumming and choir, learning mandarin, cricket, creative writing and anatomy. After a delicious lunch, there was a thinking and learning activity where each group built a tower with minimal materials. Although not a winner, our girls' team got an honourable mention for their creative design. Everyone enjoyed their day at Bedford School, although it made us very grateful for our air conditioned classrooms back at Putnoe.





They also completed a range of scientific experiments. We measured the effectiveness of fruit batteries using voltmeters, viewed onion skin cells under a microscope, explored water pressure and buoyancy with Cartesian divers and investigated the PH of several household chemicals.



All of the Year 5 staff have been pleased the effort and attitude the children have shown in preparation for Sport's Day. We enjoyed the children demonstrating their skills at the Athletic Stadium on the 10th July.



# Year 6

The **Art** unit focussed on Sculpture and Surrealism. Pupils looked at the work of Keith Haring, Anthony Gormley, who created the Angel of the North, and Giacometti. Children used their work as stimuli for their own sculptures. They sketched figures then created their sculptures using pipe cleaners, foil and modelling clay. It was great fun and got quite messy! The children finished by painting their sculptures.



In the summer term in

Year 6 our **History** unit focussed on WW2 and the local area. Pupils looked at photos of children who had been evacuated to Bedford and they wrote letters home showing empathy.

They also investigated the work of the Code Breakers at Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes and pupils had a go at using 'Caesar Cipher Wheels' to encode and decode messages.





**From 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June, 49 children from Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to Condover Hall near Shrewsbury for an exciting week of adventure!**

Each day was packed with adventure, with four activities taking place across the morning and afternoon, followed by evening entertainment including a campfire and disco. Throughout the week, the children challenged themselves, showed great determination and encouraged one another to step outside their comfort zones.



Some of the highlights included the aerial trek, trapeze and gladiator wall, all of which tested the children's courage and resilience.

## The Residential

Kayaking on the lake was a particular highlight as was the 'Wet and Wacky' session in the swimming pool, especially with the heat experienced during the week! The weather certainly added to the adventure, with soaring temperatures throughout much of the week. The children coped brilliantly with this, making sure they stayed hydrated, wore plenty of sun cream and looked after one another while continuing to tackle every activity with enthusiasm and determination.

The children represented the school superbly throughout the week. Their excellent behaviour, positive attitudes and willingness to embrace every challenge made it a residential trip to remember.



# 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 (Head Teacher at Putnoe Lower & Putnoe Primary from 2005 to 2019) 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







# Snails For All

Our Cultural Ambassadors have worked incredibly hard this year, dedicating Thursday lunchtimes to supporting the Arts in school. Not only have they enthusiastically shared their display ideas with the whole school, they have also run comedy events and supported a programme of performances at the Cultural Fayre.

The Cultural Ambassador team were recently invited behind the scenes at The Higgins, to see an unpublished book, *Snails For All*, by renowned artist Edward Bawden. Victoria Partridge, Curator at The Higgins Gallery, showed pupils the original *Snails For All* book, which was written for Bawden's two young children. It features some incredible mythical snails with some imaginative names and descriptions. Pupils went on to create art work inspired by these snails with Philippa McDonald, a local artist. Cultural Ambassadors were then invited to the official gallery opening to see their work amongst that of Edward Bawden!

**Snails For All runs until 13th June 2027 at the Edward Bawden Gallery at The Higgins.**

Read more about this on the BBC news page linked below:

[Edward Bawden's unseen snail art goes on display in Bedford - BBC News](#)



# Quadkids competition

## QuadKids Athletics Competition Success 2026

Our athletics team maintained its place amongst the very best schools in the competition, finishing 3rd out of 57 school teams for the second consecutive year. An impressive improvement from 9th place in 2024.

### Outstanding Team Achievement

Overall Finishing Positions

2024 – 9<sup>th</sup>

2025 – 3<sup>rd</sup>

2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Top Event Performances – out of 170

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Sprint             | 2nd, 4th, 15th   |
| 600m               | 5th, 17th, 25th  |
| Standing Long Jump | 12th, 24th, 29th |
| Vortex Throw       | 1st, 3rd, 10th   |

### Key Statistics

Highest-scoring boy in the morning competition

Second highest-scoring girl in the morning competition

1st place and 3rd place in the Vortex Throw

2nd place in the Sprint

5th place in the 600m

Four top-5 finishes across the morning events

### Individual Excellence

In the morning competition, 8 pupils represented our school against 170 athletes from across the participating schools.

Among those competitors, we achieved: Highest Scoring Boy in the Morning Competition – 223 points & Second Highest Scoring Girl in the Morning Competition – 183 points

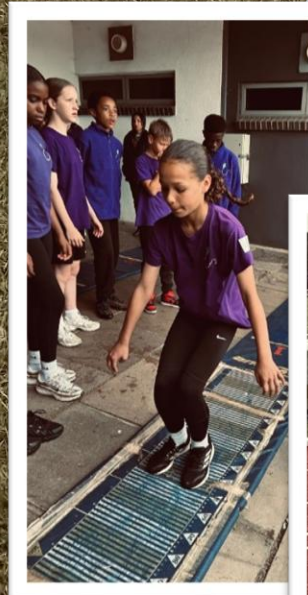
A huge congratulations to our athletics team!

These results are a testament to the hard work, determination and commitment shown by all of our athletes. Well done to everyone involved."





Quadkids





# Sports Day 2026

This year's Sports Days were a fantastic success, with children across the school demonstrating great enthusiasm, determination and teamwork.

Due to the extremely hot weather, we made the decision to rearrange several of our Sports Days and adapt the format of the events to help keep everyone safe. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents, carers, staff and pupils for their flexibility, understanding and continued support throughout these changes.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day was successfully held at Bedford International Athletics Stadium, where pupils had the exciting opportunity to compete in a fantastic athletics venue. To ensure the event remained safe in the warm weather, activities were adapted, additional shade and hydration breaks were introduced, and all necessary precautions were taken.

Congratulations to every child who took part. Your effort, determination, sportsmanship and encouragement of one another made the events a pleasure to watch, and we hope you all had a brilliant time.

*Finally, a huge congratulations to our 2026 Sports Day Champions in each year group. Your teamwork, perseverance and positive attitude throughout the competition were outstanding. Well done to all of our winners, and to every pupil who took part and made this year's Sports Days such a memorable success!*





# Parent Partnership

What a wonderful and busy Summer Term it has been for our Parent Partnership Group! We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our families, volunteers and staff who supported the fantastic events that took place throughout the term. Your generosity and enthusiasm are much appreciated and helped to raise over £2,500 for the school to purchase resources for our Early Years as well as new reading books to be used across the school.

The term began with our Wonderlicious Chocolate Bar Sale which, once again, was a roaring success. There was a real buzz around the school as excited children opened their bars to see if they were lucky enough to win a golden ticket. Thank you to everyone who bought a chocolate bar and helped make the event such a success.

To celebrate Father's Day, we had two special events. Our Father's Day Surprise Shop gave children the opportunity to choose a thoughtful gift for a special father, grandparent or significant adult in their lives while our Father's Day Breakfast was a wonderful chance for families to spend quality time together before the start of the school day. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces enjoying breakfast and creating special memories together.

At the start of July, we held our annual Summer Fayre which, blessed by beautiful weather, was superbly attended. With games, stalls, refreshments, raffles and entertainment from our Year 4 singers, it was wonderful to see so many families coming together to enjoy the afternoon. The fantastic turnout and incredible support from our school community made the event a huge success.

Over the last two weeks, we had our ever-popular End-of-Year Discos where children enjoyed dancing and having fun with their friends. The behaviour was exemplary, with the DJs commenting that they were the best school discos they had ever played at!

None of these events would have been possible without the dedication of our amazing Parent Partnership Group volunteers, the support of our school staff and the generosity of our families. Every ticket purchased, donation made and hour volunteered has helped to raise valuable funds that will directly support enriching experiences and resources for our children.

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the Parent Partnership Group this year. We look forward to another exciting year of events and hope to see many familiar and new faces getting involved when we return in September.