



Herrick Primary School



Newsletter – Autumn 2 – December 2025

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to this term's school newsletter!

What a term it has been – engaging lessons, incredible assemblies, amazing trips, theme days and so much more!

At Herrick Primary School, we endeavour 'to give each and everyone a chance' so that all of our pupils leave the school ready for secondary school and beyond. Thank you to all of the children, staff, parents/carers and governors for working together to create such a positive school community.

I hope that you all have a wonderful break over the Christmas holidays. 'Happy New Year to you all and for those members of our school community who will be celebrating Christmas, 'Merry Christmas!'



Message from the Chair of Governors

Much of our work as Governors is carried out in meetings that take place after school. However, to gain a real sense of whether the children are enjoying their time at school, how learning is progressing and how well they are behaving, we regularly visit during the school day. I have to say it is always a pleasure to be greeted very politely and to see the children enthusiastic, interested and engaged in their learning.

On 27th November I was lucky enough to join Year 6 on their trip to Bletchley Park. They were a credit to Herrick; thoroughly enjoying the activities, listening when adults were talking to them and prepared to ask and answer questions. One of the guides congratulated our children on how enthusiastic and well behaved they had been. Of course, the children are also a credit to you, their parents and carers.

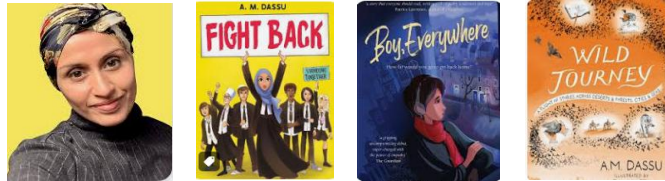
As Governors we are very aware that your role is key to giving children the support and encouragement to progress at school. As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you for that continued support and wish you and your family an enjoyable festive season and a very happy New Year.

Stephen Martin (Chair of Governors)

School News

Author Talk – A.M. Dassu

During the term, years 5 and 6 had the exciting opportunity to participate in an interactive Author talk with A.M. Dassu. The children thoroughly enjoyed the interaction and learning more about the author and her experiences.



Fundraising for Charity

This term, the school has raised money for a number of charities. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation towards these causes.

Children in Need

Children in Need was celebrated in school in November, and we raised a total of **£120**.



Poppy Appeal

The school supported the British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppies and other small gifts in school, and by doing so, raised a total of **£387.44**.



Unicef and Action for Children

Congratulations to a group of our year 6 children who raised money for Unicef and Action for Children. The children worked hard to craft bracelets, bookmarks, scrunchies, Christmas pockets and coin flippers. Thank you for all the children who purchased these items. The total raised was **£143.18**.



Term Dates 2025/26

	August 2025					September 2025					October 2025				
M		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
T		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
S	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

Autumn Term 1st half

	November 2025					December 2025					January 2026				
M		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
T		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
W		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
S	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	

Autumn Term 2nd half

Spring Term 1st half

	February 2026					March 2026					April 2026				
M		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
T		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
W		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22
T		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23
F		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
S		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
S	1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26

Spring Term 2nd half

	May 2026					June 2026					July 2026				
M		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
T		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
S	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

Summer Term 1st half

Summer Term 2nd half

	Pupil days		Weekends
	School Holidays		Public Holidays
	Disaggregated INSET days		INSET days

Important Dates

Reception School Trip – Stonehurst Farm

Class Rosen will be visiting Stonehurst Farm on **Thursday 26th March 2026**. Letters will be sent out after the holidays.



Year 5 – Swimming Lessons

The children in Class Rauf and Class Zephaniah will be going swimming for 11 weeks from **Wednesday 7th January 2026 – Wednesday 25th March 2026**.



Year 5 School Trip – Warner Brothers Studio

Class Rauf and Class Zephaniah will be visiting Warner Brothers Studio on **Tuesday 5th May 2026**.



Class Photographs

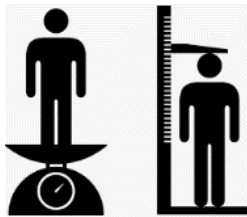
Tempest photography will be in school on **Wednesday 25th March 2026** to take class photographs.

Please make sure that your child is in the correct school uniform on this day.



Reception and Year 6 – School Height and Weight Check

The school nursing team will be in to check the height and weight of the children in Class Rosen, Class Almond and Class Blackman.



Year 5 – Residential Visit

The second payment of £80 for the residential visit to Rock UK's Frontier Centre is due by **Friday 20th March 2026**.



Assembly Dates

Thank you to all of the parents and carers have been able to join us for the assemblies that have taken place during the autumn term.

Please take note of the assembly dates below so that you are aware of when your child's class assembly will take place

Autumn 1:

- Friday 3rd October 2025 – Year 3/4: Morpurgo – Harvest assembly
- Friday 10th October 2025 – Year 3/4: Rowling – Class assembly
- Friday 17th October 2025 – Year 6: Almond & Blackman – Diwali assembly

Autumn 2:

- Friday 7th November 2025 – Year 3/4: Dahl – Class assembly
- Friday 21st November 2025 – Year 2: Bryon – Class assembly
- Friday 5th December 2025 – Year 2: Donaldson – Class assembly
- Wednesday 10th December 2025 – Reception: Rosen – Nativity assembly
- Friday 12th December 2025 – Year 5: Rauf & Zephaniah – Hannukah assembly

Spring 1:

- Friday 30th January 2026 – Year 3/4: Morpurgo – Class assembly
- Friday 6th February 2026 – Year 1: Murphy – Class assembly

Spring 2:

- Friday 6th March 2026 – Year 5: Zephaniah – Class assembly
- Friday 27th March 2026 – Year 2: Bryon & Donaldson – Easter assembly

Summer 1:

- Friday 24th April 2026 – Year 3/4: Dahl & Rowling – Vaisakhi assembly
- Friday 15th May 2026 – Year 5: Rauf – Class assembly
- Friday 22nd May 2026 – Year 1: Murphy – Eid assembly

Summer 2:

- Friday 26th June 2026 – Reception: Rosen – Class assembly
- Friday 3rd July 2026 – Year 6: Almond & Blackman – Leavers' assembly



Attendance

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for children to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time. Absence during school time has a negative impact upon a child's education.

Children are expected to attend school every day unless they are unwell. If your child will not be attending school, please inform the school office no later than 9.30am.

There is no entitlement to leave from school during term time and leave will not be authorised.

Unauthorised absence from school is likely to result in a Penalty Notice being issued

All absence and lateness will be monitored and may be referred to the Education Welfare Service if it occurs regularly.

Good	Worrying	Serious Concern
Attendance is 95% and over	Attendance is below 95%, but above 90%	Attendance is below 90%

Class Attendance for the First Half of the Autumn Term

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Reception – Rosen – Miss Lewis	94.15%
Year 1 – Murphy – Mrs Jamal	94.31%
Year 2 – Donaldson – Miss Shah	94.57%
Year 2 – Bryon – Mrs Purewal	95.12%
Year 3/4 – Dahl – Mrs Shukla	91.15%
Year 3/4 – Rowling – Miss Kaur	96.47%
Year 3/4 – Morpurgo – Mrs Chelley	96.67%
Year 5 – Rauf – Mr Carvell	96.25%
Year 5 – Zephaniah – Mrs Nai	96.81%
Year 6 – Almond – Mr Maile	98.21%
Year 6 – Blackman – Mrs Patel	95.09%

Reception - Rosen

Phonics and Reading

Class Rosen have had a busy half-term. Children have been taking part in regular reading sessions using their phonics skills and have been amazing the adults with their progress.

Colour-Mixing and Observational Drawing

We have been learning all about naming animal body parts, we have investigated more about nocturnal animals. In addition to this, children have also been working on developing their colour mixing skills and their observational drawing by making some self-portraits.



Maths

In maths, children have been exploring the properties of shapes and are beginning to recognise composition of simple numbers.

Christmas Nativity

We have been learning about Christmas as a Christian celebration and we explored building nativity scenes and churches in our provision. The children also put on a spectacular Nativity performance for the school and their parents/carers.

Family Book Time

Class Rosen have also enjoyed a visit from the library services, who came to deliver a wonderful and hilarious story session. Thank you to all of the parents/carers who attended, and to those who attended the reading workshop which focused upon supporting the children to read their reading books at home



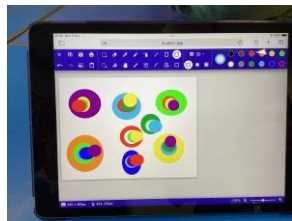
Year 1 – Murphy

Computing

The children have been working hard to apply their newly learnt paint skills. This has included using the paint brush, rubber, paint can to fill and experimenting with creating a range of shapes. The children have created their own art work in the style of range of artists such as Mondrian, Matisse, Kandinsky and Seurat. The children examined the art work and used the paint app to replicate these. The children used real paint to compare which types of painting they liked best – using technology or using a paintbrush.

Geography

In Autumn 1.2, Year 1's Murphy class has been actively engaging in Geography by exploring simple maps and the concept of routes. The children highlighted a simple route to school, learning what a route entails and its significance in everyday life. To support their understanding, they created a bird's eye view of our classroom, working in pairs and small groups. This hands-on activity encouraged teamwork and rich oracy discussions, allowing the children to articulate their thoughts and ideas, thereby supporting their learning.

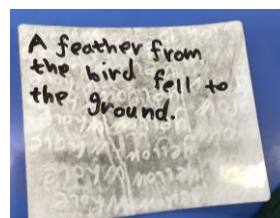
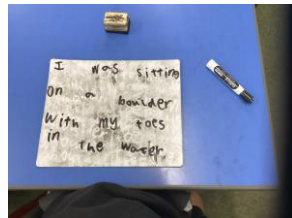
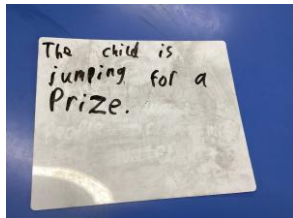


Letters & Sounds

Year 1 children have been working incredibly hard in their Letters and Sounds sessions! The children have been learning a range of new Phase 5 GPCs, including both digraphs and split digraphs. The children are continuing to learn that digraphs can make many different sounds. Year 1 are challenging themselves to read and write sentences containing their newly learnt GPCs, as well as tricky words. The children have shown their confidence in matching pictures to words, as striving to improve their letter formation.

Guided Reading

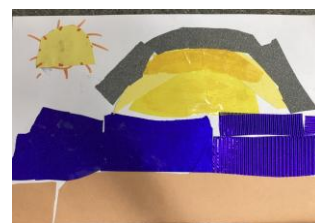
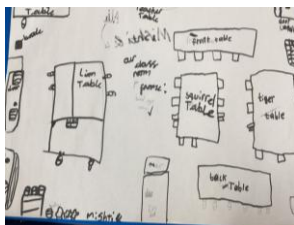
In guided reading, the children are continuing to learn three main skills. These are decoding: to sound out words. Prosody: to add expression to their reading by changing their voice, and comprehension: to answer questions about what they have read and provide their opinion. Can your children read the sentence out loud? Can your child identify the digraphs and trigraphs? Is there any punctuation in the sentence?



Year 2 – Bryon & Donaldson

Geography

For geography this term, children have been using maps. They have practised finding routes using digital mapping tools, created their own maps from a bird's-eye perspective, and taken a walk around the school grounds to observe how different locations relate to one another.



Art

This term's art unit has focused on the work of Henri Matisse. The children explored collage techniques using cutting and tearing skills to create their own expressive pieces. They also learned about the art of overlapping and applied this skill in their sketching as well

PE

In PE this term, the children have been focusing on gymnastics. They have learned a variety of balances and rolls, and have worked collaboratively to create their own gymnastic routines. They have also been practising giving and receiving constructive feedback to help refine and improve each other's performances



Writing

Year 2 have been working really hard this half term from writing descriptions in English. We have been really delving into writing descriptions of our class novel's main characters – The Twits! We have tried to use our senses to produce some really well-written descriptions along with using great adjectives to up-level our writing.

Science

In science lessons, we have learnt about the seasons and the difference between a weather forecast and the climate. We have been looking at which symbols correlate with each different type of weather in order to record it correctly on our own weather record. The children have found learning how to make shadows and learning about how shadows are made very interesting.

Year 3/4 – Dahl, Rowling & Morpurgo

Severn Trent Assembly and Workshops

The children in year 3/4 had an assembly and participated in workshops delivered by Severn Trent Water. The children learnt about how they can save water, and about how water is treated by Severn Trent before it reaches our homes. Children looked at different scenarios focusing upon how two families used water for their daily activities. Children were then encouraged to think about the different ways in which they could save water.



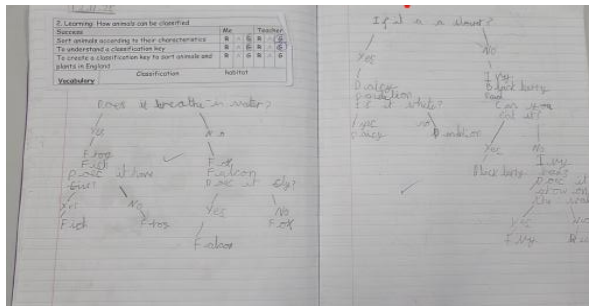
Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, year 3/4 have learnt how to cross-stitch, stitching sequences, stitch on buttons and practice their tacking skills. All of the children produced fantastic pieces of work



Science

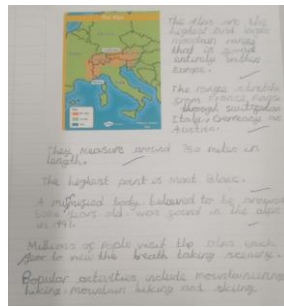
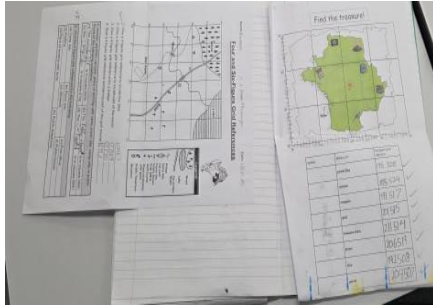
In Science, we have learnt about the animals in different habitats and the threat humans can cause to their habitat such as deforestation and plastic pollution. We have also learnt about how animals can be classified, and the children then created their own classification keys.



Year 3/4 – Dahl, Rowling & Morpurgo

Geography

In geography, the children have learnt about the symbols that they can find on an ordnance survey map. We have also been learning about 4-digit and 6-digit references, and we have learnt about the difference between the UK, Britain and the British Isles whilst comparing the physical features between the UK and Europe.



Abstract Printing

During a, we have been experimenting with abstract art and looking at some strange works of art. We experimented with printing using different tools to create different patterns. Using the tools, we created abstract bowls of fruit.



Salt Dough Recipe

Salt Dough Recipe – Make sure to ask an adult first!

2 cups all-purpose (plain) flour
1 cup fine table salt
Up to 1 cup warm water

Mix to make a dough and then create shapes of your choice.

Oven bake: An adult needs to place the shapes on a baking sheet and bake in a preheated oven at its lowest setting (around 200°F/90°C to 250°F/120°C) for 1-2 hours or until completely hard and dry. Thicker items will take longer to bake.



Year 5 – Rauf & Zephaniah

PE

In PE we have been looking at 'Dance Through the Ages.' Focusing on different styles of dance throughout the 20th century. The children have looked at using choreography to create a sequence and how to recognise good timing, execution and performance skills.

Art

The children have been creating Mayan masks using clay in relation to a previous History unit. They enjoyed exploring different designs and then creating their own. We used the score and slip method to add features onto our masks.



RE

In RE children are looking at how new life is welcomed into the world by different religions. They enjoyed learning about it as well as sharing their own opinions and beliefs.

English

This term, we have been reading 'Wreck of the Zanzibar' by Michael Morpurgo and our literacy and reading lessons have focused on this book. Our first write was a diary entry, then we looked at setting descriptions of a storm!

We have looked at metaphors, similes and personification in our descriptions when thinking about the effect on the reader. Finally, we looked at Leatherback Turtles which led us to our final write- a non-chronological report.

Year 6 – Almond & Blackman

Visit to Bletchley Park

Year 6's visited Bletchley Park this term as part of their history topic and learning about WW2. Whilst there, they learnt about decoding the German messages in order to win the war. A major breakthrough that took place at the park itself by a large team of carefully chosen intellects. Most of them were selected from Oxford and Cambridge universities as well as people who had fast problem-solving skills and knew the German language fluently.

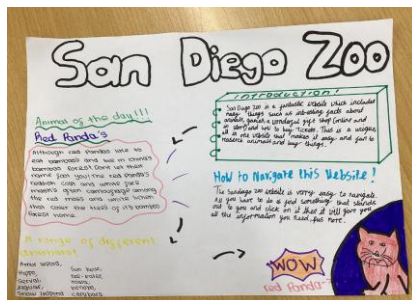
The children were fascinated by the enigma machine and also how the morse code worked. On return to school, they added to their non-chronological report for the War.



Computing

The children in Year 6 have been working to create their own webpages. The involved using the websites Google Sites and Google Slides. The children also used PowerPoint in the planning stages.

The children have learnt about how to consider copyright and how to gain permission for content that features on their website. The children studied the San Diego Zoo website as an example of what an interactive website looks like.



PE

During our PE lessons, the children in year 6 have been developing their team building skills so that they are able to work together effectively and communicate clearly to one another.

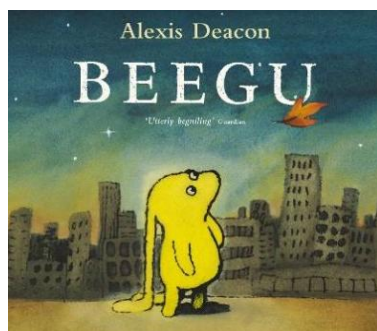
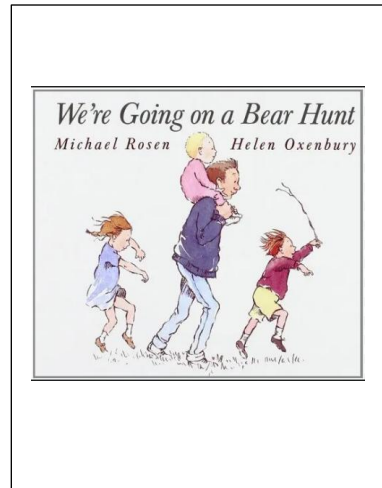
Recommended Reads - Staff

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Mrs Patel recommends: *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen

'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' is a children's story about a family who set out on a journey to find a bear and on the way, they face obstacles like tall grass, a deep river and a snowstorm. The story is great as it's an adventurous trek of challenges with repetitive phrases which can be acted out.

Mrs Patel thinks this book is a fantastic way of helping children to remember a story in a fun and engaging way through repetition using expression, actions and voice intonation. There is suspense and adventure which the family are able to enjoy together.



Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Miss Kaur recommends: *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon

When Beegu lands on planet Earth, Beegu has to search for a friend.

Miss Kaur thinks that Beegu's story helps us all think about how important it is to be friendly and kind and be a helper of others.

Year 3 & Year 4

Miss Purewal recommends: *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes

The Iron Giant is a classic story about an enormous, mysterious, metal robot who appears out of nowhere and has begun to consume bits of barbed wire and tractors – the farmers are terrified and unsure of what to do. Only a brave, young farm boy named Hogarth has the courage to lead the robot back to safety and to save everyone when another danger lurks in the shadows.

This story is beautifully written and highlights how we should appreciate our Earth.



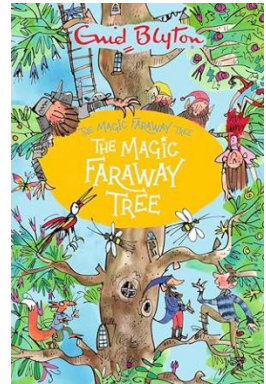
Recommended Reads – Staff

Year 3 & Year 4

Mrs Smith recommends: *The Magic Faraway Tree* by Enid Blyton

A group of children move to the countryside and find a magical land at the top of a tree. They go on lots of adventures and meet lots of new friends.

Mrs Smith thinks *The Magic Faraway Tree* is a great series of books that allow you to get lost in the adventures the children go on and picture in your imagination all the wonderful characters they meet.



Year 5 & Year 6

Mrs Chelley recommends *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*

Percy Jackson is having a bad week. His life has gone from totally normal to monsters from Greek mythology randomly appearing. Worse still, the king of the gods thinks Percy has stolen his all-powerful lightning bolt - and it seems making Zeus angry is a very bad idea.

Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to catch the true lightning thief and stop all-out war from erupting on Mount Olympus.

Mrs Chelley recommends this book because it is where myths meet a 'normal' world. It is packed full of action.



Year 5 & 6

Mrs Nai recommends: *Charlie and the Christmas Factory* inspired by the stories of Roald Dahl

Charlie Bucket is a kind, cheerful boy who lives with his family in a small, chilly house. Christmas is coming, but Charlie knows his family can't afford presents. Still, he's excited because Mr Willy Wonka, the most magical chocolate maker in the world, has announced something amazing...

This year, Mr Wonka has hidden five Golden Snowflakes inside special Christmas chocolate bars! The lucky children who find one will get a tour of his Christmas Chocolate Factory, where the cocoa never stops bubbling and the snow sparkles indoors all year round.

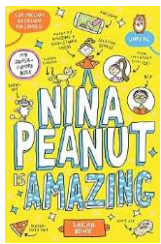


Recommended Reads - Children

Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling

My favourite book is Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets because there are so many mysteries and adventures!

Muhammad– Year 5: Rauf



Nina Peanut by Sarah Bowie

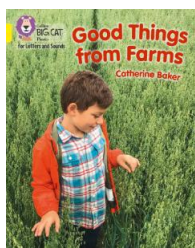
I love the book Nina Peanut because it is a comic book style and the illustrations are so bright.

Samiksha – Year 6: Almond

Hermelin: The Mouse Detective by Mini Grey

My favourite book is Hermelin because the mouse is a detective!

Reet – Year 2: Bryon



Good Things from Farms by Catherine Baker

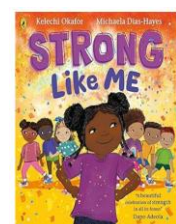
I have learnt about all the different types of food that is grown on farms. Farmers work so hard to harvest food! I have learnt how food starts off on a farm and then ends up in the supermarket.

Mariam – Year 1: Murphy

Strong Like Me - by Kelechi Okafor

I like this book because it is all about being brave! Kamara helps her friends by showing them you should be kind to others. We should always help each other!

Ridhan – Year 2: Donaldson

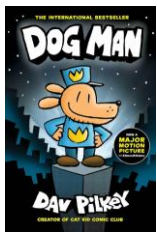
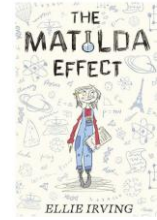


Recommended Reads - Children

The Matilda Effect by Ellie Irving

This book is about a girl called Matilda who wants to be a scientist just like her grandma. Even though there are not many female scientists, I think Matilda will follow her dreams to become a scientist. I like reading about characters who have big dreams.

Mahi – Year 6: Blackman



Dog Man by Dav Pilkey

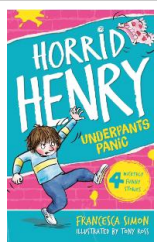
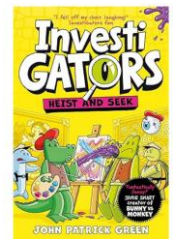
I love reading DogMan because it so funny, and there are some songs in there!

Liththik – Year 3/4: Morpurgo

InvestiGators: Heist and Seek by John Patrick Green

The characters in this book are called Bash and Mango. They are investigators who try and solve mysteries. The mystery in this book is about who is stealing all of the paintings. Mango has a suit that allows him to transform into another person! This means he can pretend to be a painter called Macaroni.

Kanwar – Year 3/4: Dahl



Horrid Henry - Underpants Panic by Francesca Simon

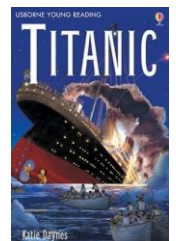
In this book Horrid Henry is trying to play a trick on Perfect Peter! Peter is Henry's brother and Henry finds him very irritating! Henry spends his time trying to find items in lost property for his brother. The teacher made sure to tell Henry to not waste his learning time!

Jayani – Year 3/4: Rowling

Titanic

This book is interesting because it has lots of facts about the Titanic, so you can learn something new.

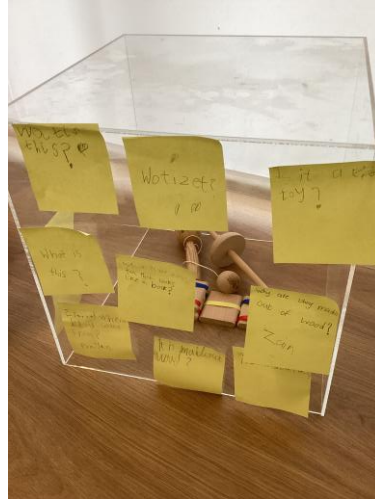
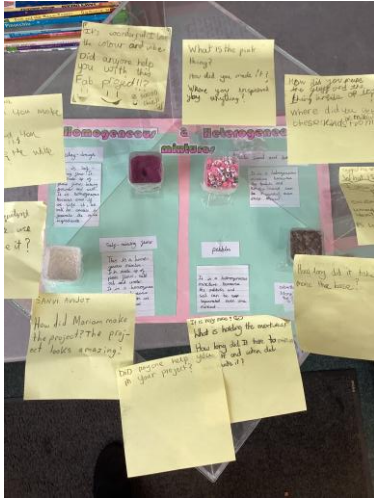
Saif – Year 5: Zephaniah



Curiosity Cubes

Oracy

Our children have been showing curiosity by posing questions about items in their classroom Curiosity Cubes.



Christmas Holiday Activities

During the Christmas holidays, make sure to get outdoors and get some fresh air. There is a lot more to do than just sit in front of a screen! Here are some activities that you might want to try...

Paper Snowflakes

Cutting Christmas snowflakes involves folding a square piece of paper into a triangle, then into thirds (or sometimes halves), creating a pointed shape, and then snipping various shapes (like triangles, curves, and notches) into the edges.



Winter Walk

A lot of changes happen to our environment during the winter. Go for a walk and try to spot things that you can see changing. How are these changes different to the things that you have seen during the autumn? How are these changes different to what you will see during the winter?



Bird Feeder

Birds struggle to find food in colder months, so making your own bird-feeder will make sure that the birds who visit your garden manage to get food during the colder months. You can make a bird-feeder from household items like plastic bottles or milk cartons, cut holes, fill with food and hang them from a tree.

