

# Autumn Term Newsletter 2023



## *Headteacher's Message*

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the longest term of the academic year, It has certainly been a busy one and we can now reflect on so many of the children's achievements!



There has been a big focus on our curriculum to ensure that we offer a challenging, engaging curriculum which meets the needs of all the children we teach and supports the development of children's confidence and resilience. The children have a thorough understanding of the school promises in order to achieve academic success and through the school character traits, children are able to identify their positive qualities and attributes that allow them to be a positive role model in and outside of school. Visitors never fail to comment on how polite, well-mannered and friendly our children are, which shows that they are on the right path to succeed in life at an early age.

The show must still go on and we have our annual Christmas Carol Concert outside on the playground this Wednesday 20th December at 2.15pm with mince pies and hot chocolate on sale! We hope you can all attend and continue to support your child and the school to make this final celebration of the year an event to remember!

It has been wonderful to see so many parents attending the various parent workshops and meetings, class assemblies and celebration events organised by staff in school including the EYFS Christmas Nativity Performance and KS1 Christmas Concert! Your help and support is invaluable as it shows the impact you have in acknowledging the importance of education.

I would also like to thank parent and carers for completing the Parent Questionnaire sent out in November. We had a number of positive responses about our school, which shows that you value how we provide a holistic approach to your child's development. The results of the questionnaire are now also available on the school website under the parents and community tab.

Finally, the Rushey Mead Primary School would like to say goodbye to our School Business Manager. Mrs West will be retiring at the end of this term after over 30 years at Rushey Mead Primary School! Mrs West has been an invaluable member of the school community and has overseen the efficient day-to-day running of the school.

Mrs West has been dedicated, committed and hardworking member of the school team, supporting all staff as well as leading on the school areas including finance, human resources, administration, data protection, premises and health & safety! Mrs West will be sorely missed but we wish her all the very best as she moves on to a new phase of her life with lots of fun-filled adventures ahead!

I am sure children and staff are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break and we wish everyone celebrating, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(Headteacher)



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every student, every day

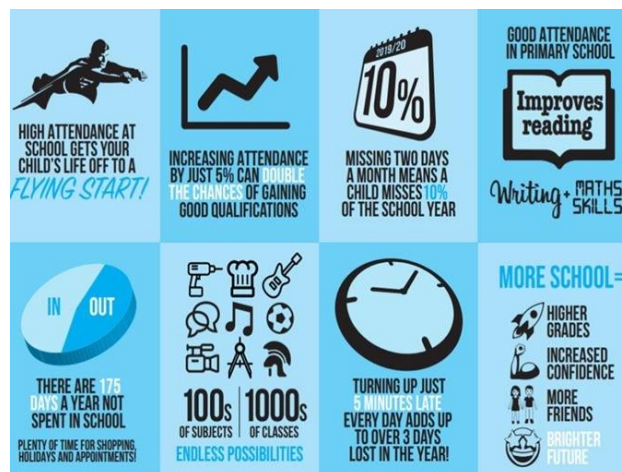


Absences should be reported to the school office before 9.15am on the first day of absence. The school monitors attendance on a regular basis, children's attendance that falls below 92% is picked up by the School Attendance Officer, Mrs Mehta.

It is important for a child to be on time at the beginning of the school day. The school gates open at 8.40am and closes at 8.50am. Lateness can be very disruptive for all children in class. If a child is late and miss's registration, a late mark will be recorded. Obviously, the school will be sympathetic if this is for a good reason. If however a pattern of lateness starts to emerge, parents will be sent a letter and if it does not improve they will be invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher in order to reach a satisfactory solution.

Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more absence a year. If a child's attendance drops below 90% this could lead to them becoming a safeguarding concern. **We would advise parents / carers not to take their child out of school during term time for holidays so as to not disrupt their learning and more often than not children after these extended holidays will have gaps in their learning, which will affect attainment and progress as they move through the school.**

If there is no other alternative, permission is required from the head teacher if you want to take your child out of school during term time as this will be recorded as either an authorised or unauthorised absence. If the absence is unauthorised it could result in the authority taking legal action against parents and could result in a fine or court appearance if a holiday is taken during term time without the school's permission.





## What Parents & Carers Need To Know About Threads



## Year 6 Residential - Blackwell Adventure in Birmingham



Year 6 kicked off their start to the year with an amazing trip to Blackwell Adventure in Birmingham.

They spent 3 brilliant days team building, overcoming fears, pushing themselves to try new things, practicing their swimming and becoming more independent with the support of their friends and teachers.

Some of the many fantastic activities were:



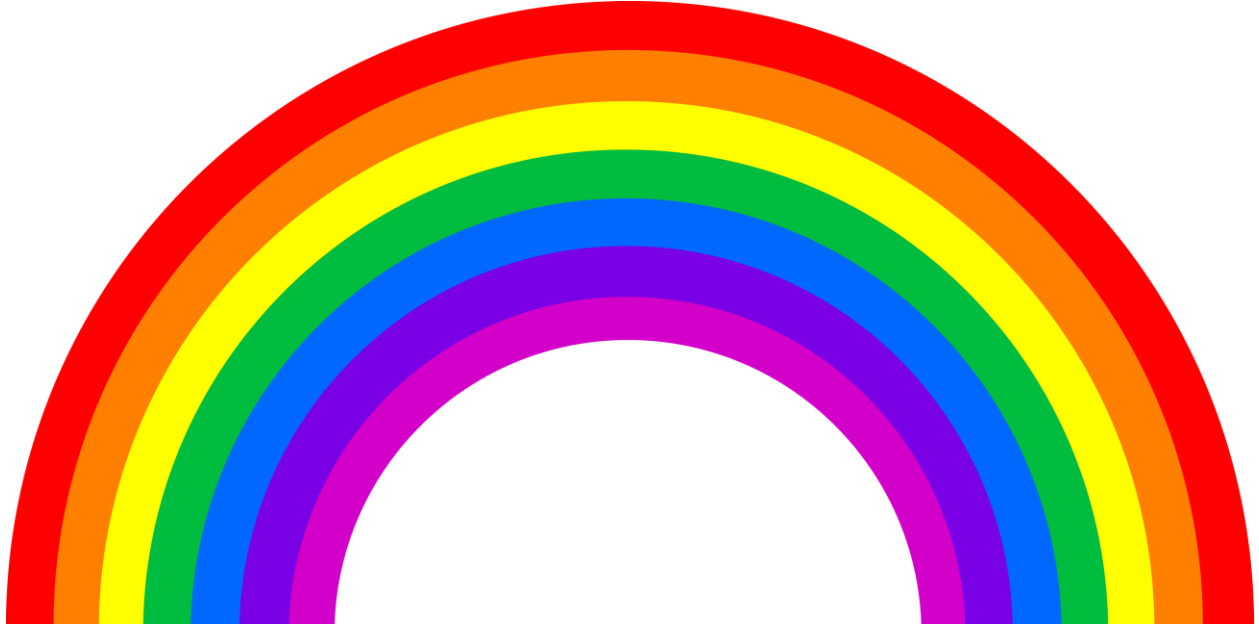
- Rock climbing
- Zip wire
- Bush craft
- 3G Swing
- Archery

On the last night, they spent the evening singing and toasting marshmallows around a campfire. It was a great few days and the best way to start year 6!



We can't wait to return to Blackwell Adventure in 2024 with next year's Year 6 children!

## *Rainbow's Nurture Group*



This term the Rainbows Nurture Group have been using their communication and team building skills to work together to build a Kapla Tower. They've also been improving their listening skills by completing Listen, Think and Do.

During our snack time we have been continuing to use our listening skills when we share our feelings and also demonstrate respect for each by giving out the juice and biscuits.

Well done Rainbows!

Mrs Sheerin & Mrs Shepherd



## Nursery



The children have settled in really well this term and are getting to grips with nursery routines! We have enjoyed exploring our new environment and making new friends.

For our topic Once Upon a time...we enjoyed learning about the stories of Ten little Fingers and Ten little Toes and Little Red Riding Hood. We have now started to use Talk for Writing to help us retell both stories.

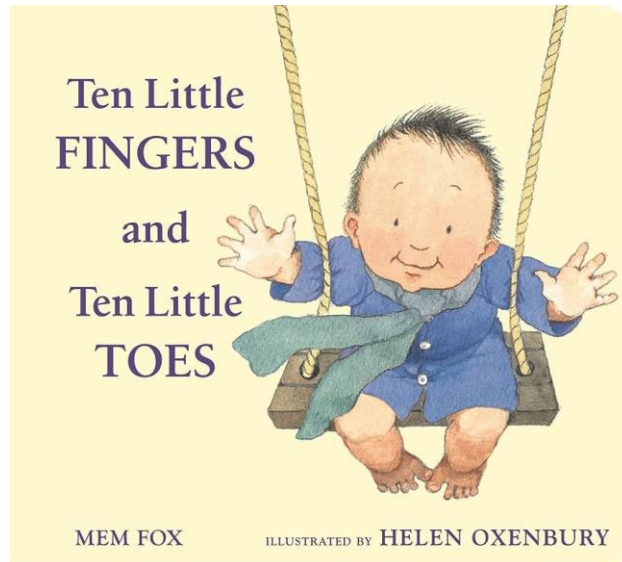
For Maths we been learning all about the number 1 and number 2 and we have also been searching for circles around our school!



For Phonics we have been going on a sound hunt and learning about different environmental sounds, different sounds that our voices can make and what sounds we can make using our body!

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and a wonderful holiday!

Nursery Team.

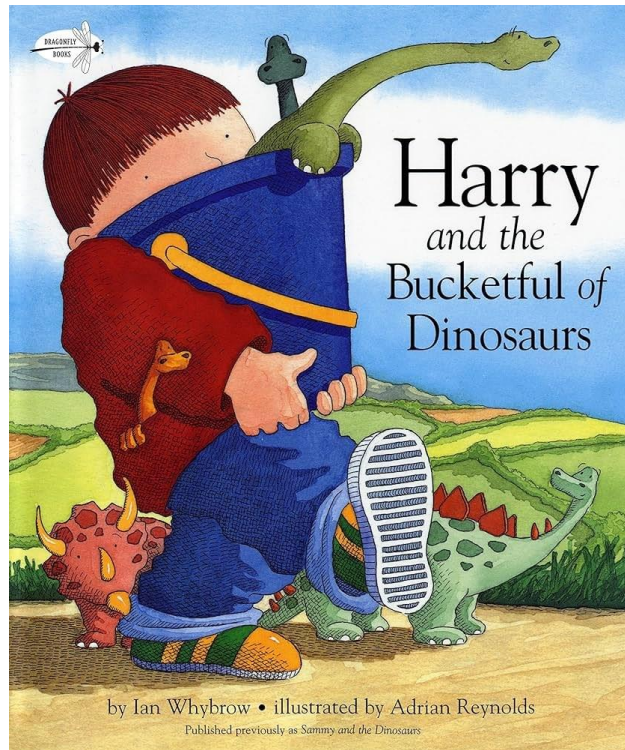


## **Bonsai Class (DSP - Designated Specialist Provision)**



This half term the children have been discovering different topics and learning new skills. We have been reading and learning about Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs in English and have been exploring our emotions and families in PSHE and the police visited us, which was very exciting!

In cooking, we have developed our fine motor and cutting skills, and have been following instructions to make some tasty food such as dinosaur pizzas, vegetarian sausage rolls and peppermint creams for Christmas. Through Forest school sessions, the children are becoming more independent with exploring the outdoor area. Children have also enjoyed making natural sparklers, bird feeders and ice painting.



## Reception



The Autumn Term has been very busy in Reception. The children settled into school and quickly made new friends. They started the term sharing information about 'Ourselves and Our Families.' The children learnt about many of the different festivals that our community celebrate. Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our wonderful Diwali afternoon!

Reception children have also been learning about their immediate school surroundings and their home city of Leicester. They have used simple maps to identify key features in the school grounds and have learnt to recognise some of the notable buildings in Leicester. Many of the children recognised the National Space Centre but were excited to learn that there is a huge dinosaur skeleton in the New Walk Museum here in Leicester.

Reception have welcomed many visitors this half term. There have been visits from a nurse, a crossing patrol officer, firefighters, paramedics and a vet. The children listened very carefully as each of our visitors explained about their work. All were lucky enough to try on the uniforms, including the helmets. The children particularly enjoyed squirting the hose of the fire engine and making the sirens sound. These visits have given the children fresh ideas about the type of career they would like to have when they grow up.

In English, Reception have shared many stories and have started to make progress in identifying each phonic sounds and retelling stories using actions. In Maths, the children have been learning about 2D shape as well as recognising and naming each numeral and securing their counting through joining in with number songs and rhymes.

Finally, we would like to thank parents for supporting children by aiding them to learn their lines and joining us for our final performance of 'Wiggly Nativity'. The children have worked so hard and we are all very proud of them.

Have a wonderful Christmas break!

The Reception Team













## *Year 1*

# Welcome to Year One

The term has been truly remarkable for our young learners!

In Year 1, the children delved into the enchanting tale of 'The Jolly Postman', creating their own unique versions of the story and composing letters to the Wicked Witch in the character of the Jolly Postman, which the children did brilliantly.

In maths, we explored addition and subtraction up to 20. The children are growing in fluency in these mathematical concepts and we would like them to continue to practice these core concepts at home.

Our scientific enquiry led us to investigate the ideal material for crafting outdoor bunting and the children look forward to finding this out when they return to school after the festive break.

In history, we embarked on a captivating exploration of childhood, drawing comparisons between toys from the past to the modern-day toys we have today. We also went on an enriching visit to the Newarke House Museum, where the children engaged with their learning and having the chance to explore toys and games and how they have changed over time.

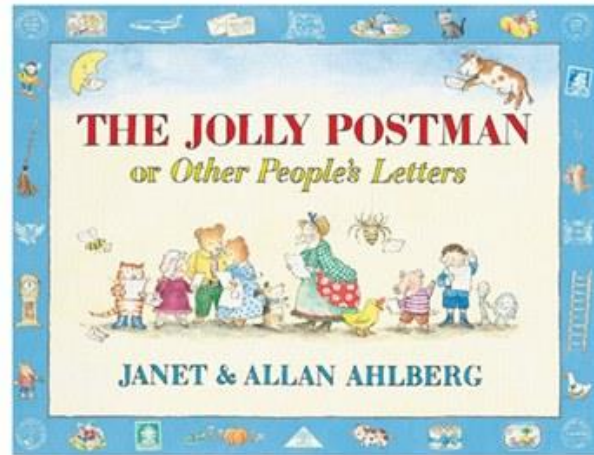
The children have shown remarkable enthusiasm for diving into books, with many children earning certificates for their reading achievements. We also celebrated our first child to achieve the prestigious Diamond certificate, having read an impressive 100 times and they were rewarded with a special gift. We encourage all parents to continue fostering a love for reading at home by ensuring their children engage in regular reading activities.

Our Key Stage One Carol Concert was a true highlight of this term, as the children showcased their talents for singing with actions to the entire school and parents, filling us with immense pride.

We hope you have a lovely festive holiday and we are thankful for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Year One Team



1 - *The Jolly Postman* is a children's book written and illustrated by Janet and Allan Ahlberg.

*The story follows The Jolly Postman as he delivers letters and parcels to various characters from popular children's stories. Among the characters he encounters, he meets Cinderella, The Big Bad Wolf and Jack and The Beanstalk.*



2 - Year 1 children had the chance to explore toys and games from the past through structured hands-on activities, play, mime, rhymes and a specially written story.



## Year 2

# Welcome to Year 2



It has been a busy but exciting term for Year 2! The children had a surprise visit from Snow White and each innovated their own versions of the story. They also enjoyed reading Greta and the Giants which inspired them to invent their own story about defeating a monster.

Our love of reading has grown this term and we have read books from a range of authors including Claire Cashmore and Mini Grey. We also enjoyed listening to Spike Milligan's nonsense poems and had a go at writing our own. Lots of Year 2 children have been awarded certificates for their fantastic achievements in reading at home. We look forward to awarding more of these next term.

In maths, the children have learnt strategies to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations. They are learning to solve word problems using these operations. We would like the children to become secure with their number bonds and timetables so please remember to practice on Numbots and TT Rockstars every day.

In science, Year 2 have been learning about human survival and habitats. They investigated and researched what humans, plants and animals need to survive. The children enjoyed exploring a local habitat in the forest school area.

We have explored significant individuals in history and looked at the impact they have had on how we live today. We particularly enjoyed learning about Rosa Parks and Neil Armstrong. We explored the world we live in for our Geography unit and learnt how to use maps and atlases.

It was lovely to meet so many of you during our Diwali celebrations and Parents Evenings.

Thank you for your continued support.

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

Year 2 Team.



## **Ning Nang Nong by Spike Miligan**

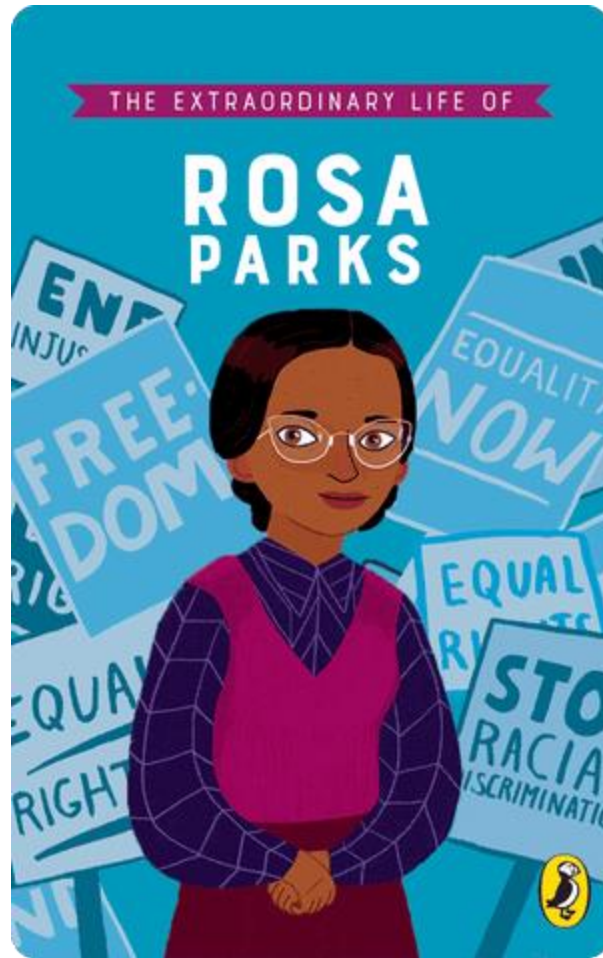
On the Ning Nang Nong,  
Where the cows go bong!  
And the monkeys all say  
boo!

Theres a Nong Nang Ning,  
Where the trees go ping!  
And the tea pots jibber  
jabber joo.

On the Nong Ning nang  
All the mice go clang!  
And you just can't catch  
them when they do!

So its  
Ning Nang Nong!  
Cows go bong!  
Nong Nang Ning!  
Trees go ping!  
Nong Ning Nang!  
The mice go clang!

What a noisy place to  
belong,  
Is the Ning Nang Ning Nang  
Nong!



3 - Rosa Parks



4 - Neil Armstrong





## Inspire - Develop - Excel

Active Together in partnership with our School Sport and Physical Activity Networks (SSPANS), have developed the **INSPIRE-DEVELOP-EXCEL** Framework, which aims to support the wellbeing and development of children and young people in Leicester-Shire & Rutland, as well as tackling inequalities through sport and physical activity.

**INSPIRE** encourages young people to **engage, participate & learn** through **fun** sport & physical activity opportunities that interest and excite them; developing a **positive and meaningful relationship with movement and physical activity**, acquiring lifelong learning and promoting **social & emotional wellbeing**.

Over the course of the academic year, we will be introducing a variety of different **'Inspirations.'** Visit our webpage for more information.

We are launching our New Year New Skill on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

A great physical activity challenge that encourages children and young people to develop new skills on their own, with a partner or a small group.

They can have a go at school or at home.

For more information about how to get involved both in school or at home & to access these FREE resources visit the website links below or scan the QR code.

**Get Involved at School**

**Get Involved at Home**

[www.active-together.org/inspire](http://www.active-together.org/inspire)

[www.active-together.org/active-cyp](http://www.active-together.org/active-cyp)



@ActiveLLROrg  
'Active Together (Partners)'

@ActiveLLR  
'Active Together | Let's Get Moving'

CONNECT WITH US



## Year 3



WELCOME  
TO  
YEAR 3!

Our first term in Key Stage 2 has been very busy but it has been a lot of fun too!

The Year 3 children started the term by reading the book, *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig* and children really enjoyed this and wrote some humorous endings of their own for the story! We then went on to *Stone Age Boy* which linked with our History learning on the Stone Age. The children learned how to use inverted commas to punctuate speech. We are now using our learning from History to write a non-chronological report in English.

We even had a visit from Leicester Libraries, where the children experienced a bit of life in the Stone Age.

Our Science topic on Animal Nutrition and the Skeletal System was interesting, the children learned how their bodies moved and the importance of having a skeleton.

Computing has been particularly enjoyable with our work on making and editing videos. The children used CapCut to clip and cut sections but also to add laser eyes, fluorescent spikey hair and brightly coloured faces.

On a more serious note, we continue to teach the children Online Safety to ensure they know and understand how and why they need to be safe when using devices.

Next term, we will start a new topic in History and Science and there is an exciting trip coming up too!

The Year 3 team would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back in January.



**With Accelerated Reader, all the children in Key Stage 2 read an Accelerated Reader (AR) book then take an online quiz, which provides immediate feedback on their understanding of the book. Children respond to regular feedback from their class teacher and are motivated to make progress with their independent reading skills as teachers in Key Stage 2 monitor how often they read and allow the children to change their AR book on regular basis.**

Below are the top 3 children for their reading word count right now:

Student	Read	Taken	Word Count	Read	Taken	Word Count	Total Word Count
M, Niyati	22	22	549,012	--	--	--	549,012
T, Diya	12	12	519,738	--	--	--	519,738
Singh, Abhinoor	23	24	445,464	--	--	--	445,464

Well done to our Key Stage 2 Reading Superstars:

1. Niyati in Ash Class (Year 6)
2. Diya T in Redwood Class (Year 6)
3. Abhinoor S in Ash Class (Year 6)

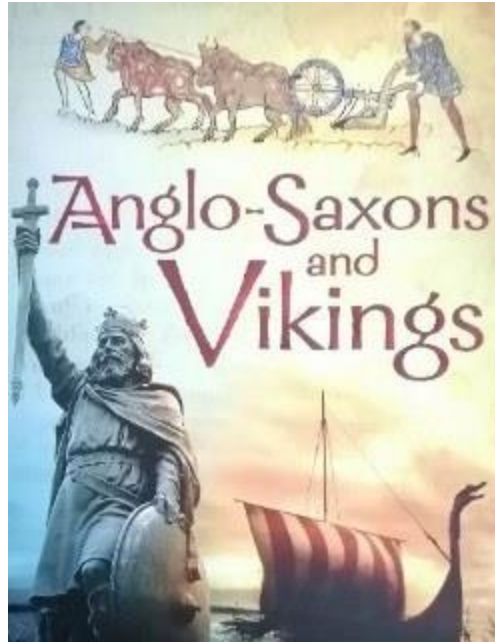
## Year 4



We have had a very busy but exciting start to Year 4 and have thoroughly enjoyed our Invasion topic. The children have settled in wonderfully this term and have continued to work hard and continued their love of learning. We explored Anglo-Saxon and Viking life, accommodated for a special Viking visitor and weaved materials as though we were from the year 406.

Exploring the digestive system was also a unit we particularly enjoyed in Science, especially making poo! In RE we explored Buddhism and welcomed in a Buddhist monk to the school who spoke to us about life in a monastery and really gave our children an insight into different cultures.





In English we focused on using fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and speech effectively. It was lovely to meet you at Parents' Evening and want to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year and cannot wait to continue our learning next term.

Best Wishes,

Mr Lloyd, Miss Brown, Mrs Townsend & Mrs Jenkins

## *Year 5*

# Year 5

Year Five children have had a very busy term; we have completed our history topic based on King Richard III. Pupils were very interested in the various events that took place in the past, like the battle of

Bosworth, and exploring whether Richard had his nephews killed. Pupils also enjoyed reading Richard III – a Shakespeare story by Andrew Matthews. Linked to this unit, children also thoroughly enjoyed the CLS (Creative Learning Services) workshop where they had the opportunity to dress up and take part in different activities, including the art of weaving.

All three classes have been reading a selection of books for the Our Best Book Project, we have voted for our favourite books and submitted the results to Leicester Libraries who will then announce the favourite book chosen by children across Leicester.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing all the children back in January.

Kind Regards,

Year 5 Team.





## *French Curriulum*



Bonjour!

We've had a great start to the year with our French lessons and we've enjoyed plenty of games, stories, songs and rhymes. The new Year 3's have impressed us with how they have responded so positively to their new subject too.

Our older pupils are demonstrating a growing knowledge of French phonics and their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are really improving; they have even begun to say and write some complex sentences!

All our Key Stage 2 classes have the opportunity to work on their French skills in between Curriculum Enrichment sessions with their class teachers too. Keep up the good work everyone!

Please encourage your children to continue practicing their French over the Christmas break so that they can remember what they have been taught, using Quizlet, Duo Lingo, YouTube videos, Oak National Academy website, French activity books etc.... Practice really does make progress! Why not ask them to teach you some of the words and phrases that they know?

**Key topics to focus on:**

Greetings, Colours, Pencil case equipment, Classroom Action Verbs, Numbers, Seasons, Clothing, Days of the Week, Months of the Year, Animals and Christmas vocabulary.

Joyeux Noël!

Madame March



**Key topics to focus on:**

Greetings, Colours, Pencil case equipment, Classroom Action Verbs, Numbers, Seasons, Clothing, Days of the Week and Months of the Year.

Looking forward to more fun French sessions next year!

All the best to the Year 6 children moving on to secondary school - go and impress your new language teachers with your fabulous French skills!

Bonnes Vacances!

Madame March



## The Importance of Swimming



Swimming and water safety are compulsory parts of the National Curriculum at primary school to make sure that children are well equipped to enjoy swimming and know how to keep safe in and around water.



The Year 6 swimming data for the 2023-2024 academic year shows that our children are becoming much more able and confident in the water.

This cohort of children were the first cohort to have 3 years of adult support in the pool at Cossington Street Sports Centre. The data is similar to last year's data except there was a slightly lower number of children who could swim 25m this year but more children successfully performing the safe self-rescue skills. This could be partially explained by the larger percentage of pupils who do not swim outside of school compared to last year (there has been of 18% increase).

However, compared to 2020-2021, the final year of children receiving no adult support in the pool, I hope that you can agree the data looks much better and reflects the progress that our school and children have made in swimming!

Year 6 cohort (2023-2024)		
Pupils who have swimming lessons.	Pupils who parents sometimes take them to their local pool.	Pupils who do not swim outside of school.
8%	28%	64%

Academic Year 2022-2023 (3 years of in pool support)			
Percentage of cohort that can swim over a distance of 25 metres	Percentage of cohort that are able to use a range of strokes	Percentage of cohort that are able to perform safe self-rescue	Percentage of cohort that were taught safe self-rescue skills
12%	63%	63%	100%

Academic Year 2020-2021		
Percentage of cohort that can swim over a distance of 25 metres	Percentage of cohort that are able to use a range of strokes	Percentage of cohort that are able to perform safe self-rescue
0%	7%	0%

Keep swimming over the holidays!

Kind Regards,

Mr Rogers

(PE Coordinator & Year 6 Teacher)

## Year 6



As part of their PE curriculum, Year Six children have been attending swimming lessons this term. The children's water confidence has increased whilst practising water safety skills and swimming a range of strokes with and without floats. They have really enjoyed the sessions and have expressed an interest in continuing swimming outside of school. Please see the link regarding swimming times at Cossington Leisure Centre: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sport-and-leisure/sports-and-leisure-centres/cossington-street-sports-centre/swim-timetables/>

The children have also enjoyed reading the books 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and 'Dead Man's Cove' by Lauren St John. They have really engaged with the stories and discovered some new favourite authors.

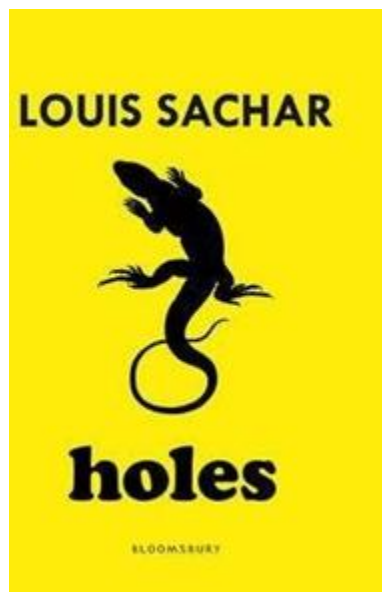
This has led to some of the children borrowing other books by Louis Sachar and Lauren St John from the school and Belgrave Library.

We look forward to welcoming back the children in January and wish you a restful and happy holiday.

Year 6 Team.



*5 - Year 6 children really loved their swimming sessions at Cossington Leisure Centre!*



*6 - A Year 6 recommended read: 'Holes' by Louis Sachar.*



7 - The first book in a gripping adventure series about eleven-year-old ace detective, Laura Marlin, from award-winning author **Lauren St John**.

## ***Rushey Mead Primary School Diary Dates 2023-24***





Christmas & New Year Holiday: Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2024		
Spring 1		
08.01.24	School Closed for Staff Inset Day	
09.01.24	Children back to school	
15.01.24	Curriculum Meeting for Years 5/6	3:30 – 4:00
16.01.24	Curriculum Meeting for Years EYFS	3:30 – 4:00
18.01.24	Curriculum Meeting for Years 3/4	3:30 – 4:00
22.01.24	Year 6 SATs Parent Maths Workshop	3:30 – 4:00
23.01.24	Curriculum Meetings for Years 1/2	3:30 – 4:00
29.01.24	Year 6 SATs Parent Reading Workshop	3:30 – 4:00
30.01.24	Year 1 Phonics Screening Parent Workshop	3:30 – 4:00
05.02.24	Year 2 SATs Parent Maths Workshop	3:30 – 4:00
05.02.24 – 11.02.24	Children's Mental Health Week & Tech Week	
06.02.24	Online Safety Meeting for Parents with Digital Leaders	3:30 – 4:00
09.02.24	Reception Parent Reading Workshop	2:30 – 3:00
12.02.24	Nursery Parent Reading Workshop	11:30 – 12:00
Spring Half Term Holiday: Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024		
Spring 2		
26.02.24	Children back to school	
04.03.24	Year 2 SATs Parent Reading Workshop	3:30 – 4:00
08.03.24	World Book Day	
13.03.24 & 14.03.24	Parents' Evening	3:30 – 6:30
20.03.24	Spring Disco KS1	4:00 – 5:00
20.03.24	Spring Disco KS2	5:30 – 6:30
22.03.24	Easter Bonnet Parade	
Easter Holidays: Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2024		
Summer 1		
08.04.24	Children back to school	
09.04.24	Curriculum Meeting for EYFS	3:30 – 4:00
11.04.24	Curriculum Meeting for Years 5/6	3:30 – 4:00
12.04.24	Eid-UL-Fitr Celebrations	Home-time
15.04.24	Vaisakhi Celebrations	Home-time
16.04.24	Curriculum Meeting for Years 1/2	
18.04.24	Curriculum Meeting for Years 3/4	3:30 – 4:00
13.05.24 - 17.05.24	KS2 SATs Week	
20.05.24 – 24.05.24	KS1 SATs Week	
Summer Half Term Holiday: Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024		
Summer 2		
03.06.2024	Children back to school	
03.06.24 – 07.06.24	French Week	
10.06.24 – 14.06.24	Year 1 & 2 Phonics Screening Check	
10.06.24 – 14.06.24	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	
June	Year 6 – London Trip	
18.06.24	EYFS & KS1 Sports' Day / Picnic	10:30
June	The Great British Bake Off Week	
25.06.24	KS2 Sports' Day / Picnic	10:30
26.06.24	Summer Festival	3:30 – 6:30
03.07.24	Whole School Transition Day	
10.07.24	End of Year Reports to Parents	
12.07.24	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	9.30
Summer Holidays begin: Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024		

## Leicester City Council: Local Authority School Holidays 2023/2024



### Leicester City Council Local authority school holidays 2023/2024



<b>Term No 1: 34 days (6 weeks 4 days)</b>	
Schools Open	Tuesday 29 August 2023
Schools Close	Friday 13 October 2023
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 16 October 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023

<b>Term No 2: 45 days (9 weeks)</b>	
Schools Open	Monday 23 October 2023
Schools Close	Friday 22 December 2023
Christmas & New Year Holiday	Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

<b>Term No 3: 30 days (6 weeks)</b>	
Schools Open	Monday 8 January 2024
Schools Close	Friday 16 February 2024
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024

<b>Term No 4: 20 days (4 weeks)</b>	
Schools Open	Monday 26 February 2024
Schools Close	Friday 22 March 2024
Easter Holidays	Monday 25 March 2024 to Friday 5 April 2024

<b>Term No 5: 34 days (6 weeks 4 days)</b>	
Schools Open	Monday 8 April 2024
May Bank Holiday (schools closed)	Monday 6 May 2024
Schools Close	Friday 24 May 2024
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

<b>Term No 6: 30 days (6 weeks)</b>	
Schools Open	Monday 3 June 2024
Schools Close	Friday 12 July 2024
Summer Holiday begins	Monday 15 July 2024