Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Autumn Term 20th November 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Generosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another lovely and busy week in school, with lots of opportunities for our children to celebrate their learning, demonstrate our school values and take part in exciting new experiences.

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated to and supported this year's Poppy Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a fantastic contribution of **£201.43**. It is wonderful to see our school community coming together to support such an important cause, and we are very grateful for your contributions.

This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev'd Lynn into school to lead our collective worship, focusing on our school value of generosity. The children were encouraged to think about what generosity really means and how we can demonstrate it through our words and actions, both in school and at home.

Throughout the week, the children have continued to explore this value during reflection time in their classrooms. Following thoughtful class discussions, they worked together to create acrostic poems inspired by the word GENEROSITY. It has been lovely to hear their ideas and see how they recognise that generosity is not just about giving things, but also about giving our time, showing kindness and helping others.

This afternoon, we enjoyed our Key Stage 2 Sharing Assembly. These occasions are always such a highlight of the week, and it was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers into school to celebrate the children's learning. Thank you for taking the time to join us – having you there makes these moments even more special for the children.

We were also treated to some lovely piano performances from children who have been learning to play. With the support of Melissa, they confidently shared their musical talents at the beginning, during and at the end of our worship. It was a real pleasure to listen to them, and we are very proud of their growing confidence and achievements. Our other budding pianists are already busy preparing to perform for us at Christmas, and we are very much looking forward to hearing them play. It is always wonderful to see the children developing their talents and having the confidence to share them with others.

As we come to the end of another week, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. From your generous donations to the Poppy Appeal to joining us for our sharing assemblies, your involvement makes such a positive difference to our school community.

There has been a real sense of generosity running through our week, whether through giving to others, celebrating each other's achievements or sharing our time and talents. It is lovely to see our school values being brought to life in so many ways.

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Mrs Cook
Headteacher

Each week I receive a safety briefing for schools which I share with staff; however, I read this and thought it may be of interest to parents and families in this day and age of increasing cyber-attacks and fraud:

This year, 'Black Friday' falls on 27th November, with 'Cyber Monday' on 30th November 2026. For fraudsters, it is the busiest stretch of the year, and schools are exposed from several directions at once.

The most recent NCSC and Action Fraud figures show over £11.5 million lost to online shopping scams between November 2023 and January 2024, an average of £695 per victim. Social media featured in 43% of reports, which is where many pupils spend their time. Expect fake giveaways, in-game currency scams and “too good to be true” resale offers.

Not every scam involves a bargain. Report Fraud has just warned that criminals posing as Amazon stole £86,837 in nine days in October, across 110 reports. They phone out of the blue about “suspicious activity” on an account, then talk victims into sharing their screen, installing remote access software or handing over ID. People aged 50 to 79 made up 60% of reports, so make sure pupils keep their grandparents informed.
Suspicious emails can be sent to: report@phishing.gov.uk
Further information: Black Friday warning (NCSC)

Woodpecker Class

We were very lucky to have a special visit from Mr Watson and his tractor! We had the opportunity to look around the tractor while learning all about how it works and what it is used for. We discovered how tractors help farmers with different jobs and why they are so important. The highlight for many of us was being lucky enough to have a sit inside the tractor! We have also been busy exploring magnets. The children have enjoyed investigating a range of different objects to discover which items are attracted to magnets and which are not.





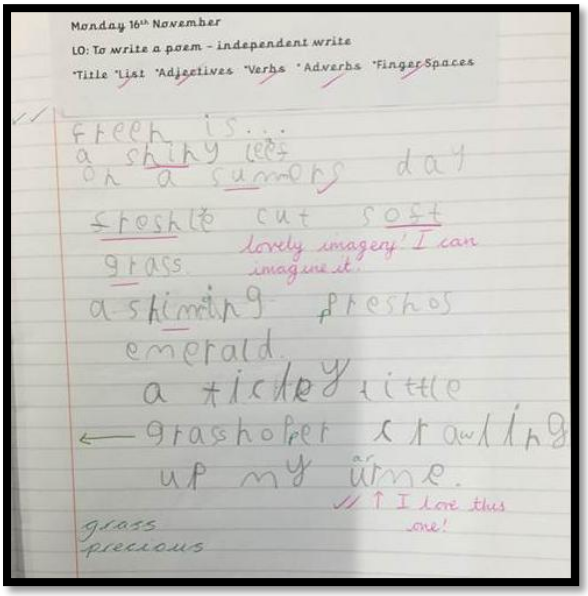




Kingfisher Class

Kingfisher Class have produced some wonderful poems this week, choosing their own colour to describe and write about. They have included adjectives, verbs and adverbs to really paint a picture with their words. They have begun to create pieces of art using watercolour that are linked with their poems for a display.

In maths, we have been securing our knowledge of addition and subtraction, and the children have been using a range of manipulatives to demonstrate this. In continuous provision, the children have really wowed us by taking it upon themselves to practise their precursive handwriting. We have been very busy rehearsing our Nativity and we cannot wait to perform in December! Everyone has been given their roles and lines, and we have been keen to rehearse these.



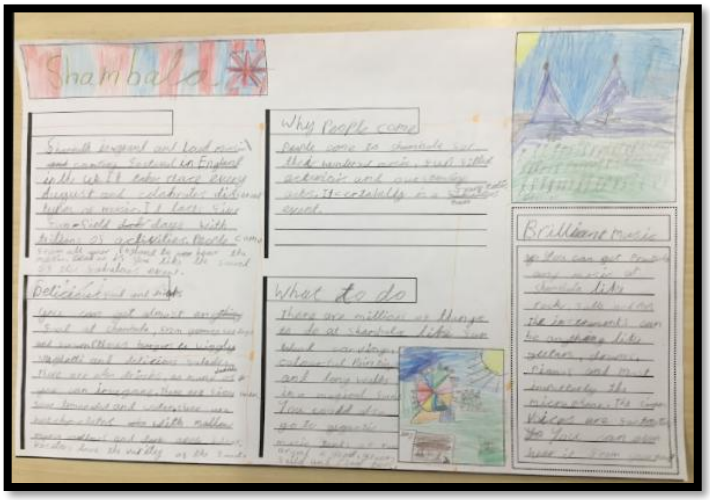


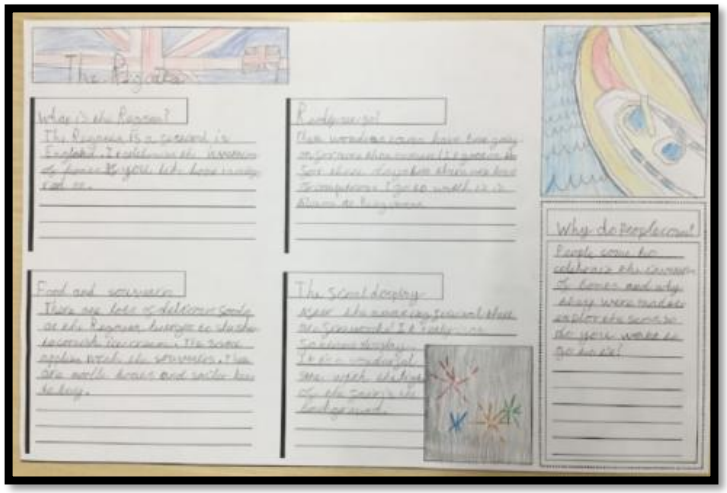


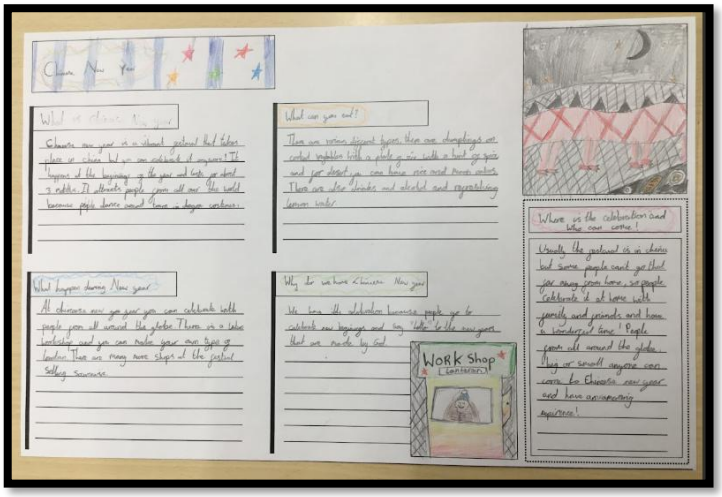


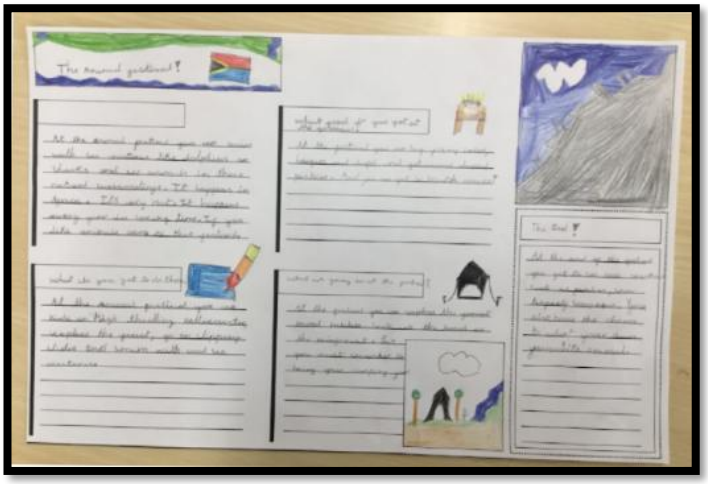
Nightingale Class

This week, Nightingale have been busy developing their writing skills by creating informative texts about a festival or celebration of their own choice. Using their vivid imaginations, the children have invented some wonderfully intriguing festivals, celebrating, among other things, feet, dogs and Star Wars! They have enjoyed sharing fascinating facts and presenting their ideas in a clear and engaging way. In Science, we have begun our exciting new topic on Food and Nutrition. We started by exploring the different food groups and discussing why a balanced diet is important for keeping our bodies healthy. The children have already shown great curiosity and asked some thoughtful questions about how the food we eat gives us energy, helps us grow and keeps us well. It has been another fantastic week of learning, and we are looking forward to discovering even more in the weeks ahead.









Skylark Class

We've had another busy week in Skylark. The children have been writing some fantastic descriptive narratives, based on the book **'Wisp-A Story of Hope'**. They've demonstrated their understanding of relative clauses and how to use correctly punctuated speech to convey character and to move the action on. In Science, the children have continued exploring Forces and had fun carrying out some investigations into the effects of surface area on air resistance. They really enjoyed working in groups to build 3 different-sized and shaped paper aeroplanes, before sending them on test flights to see which would travel the furthest and why. On Wednesday, four of our Year 6 children went to Haileybury College to take part in the first round of the East Herts 'Maths Masters UK' tournament. All four of the boys who took part were recognised for their amazing enthusiasm, engagement and resilience throughout. At the end of the competition, which was extremely challenging, we were delighted to find out that George and Sam had won 3rd place. As they are amongst the top-scoring teams in the county, they have also qualified for the U11 Hertfordshire final next month. We are excited to see how they get on at the next round!







Woodpecker **Kingfisher** **Nightingale** **Skylark**

Max **Lio**



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Gracy for being a helpful member of Woodpecker class.

Teddy W for showing perseverance with his handwriting.

Nightingale

Logan for the hard work she has put into joining her writing.

Myles for always being helpful in the classroom and his positive attitude to learning.

Kingfisher

Ivy W for demonstrating growth in independence, particularly in maths.

Bertie for working hard with his writing and demonstrating skills in imagery and vocabulary in his poetry.

Skylark

Sofia for her super descriptive writing.

Emma for her increased confidence and contributions in maths.

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

William G for superb focus and progress in his English writing.
Lila for incredible progress in her writing and phonics.
Dougie for his enthusiasm in writing his own book.
Chloe for great focus and progress in her English writing.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARD

Beth

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week –91.5%

Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact school **every day** of any absence. This can be done by calling **01279 777344** and leaving a message.

If you are going to be late and will need to order a school lunch, you can ether make your own selection on Arbor before 8.15 am or ring the school office before 9.15 am. Orders placed after this time may not be accepted.

MENU w/c 23rd November 2026	
Day	Menu
Monday	Pork Sausages & Gravy Red Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue
Tuesday	Mexican Bean Burrito Red Mac n Cheese (v) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue
Wednesday	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy Red Roast Quorn Fillet, Stuffing & Gravy (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) Blue
Thursday	Chicken Pie & Gravy Red Breaded Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue
Friday	

Friday 20th November	KS2 Sharing Assembly
Thursday 26th November	Decorating Day (KS1 am, KS2 pm)
	FPSA Disco 5.30pm
Friday 27th November	Occasional Day
Tuesday 1st December	Reception Class trip to Audley End
Friday 4th December	FPSA Christmas Fair 3.30 – 5pm
Tuesday 8th December	Skylark – St Michael's Carol Service
Wednesday 9th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 9.30 am
	Christingle 2pm @ St Mary's
Thursday 10th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity performance 2pm
Monday 14th December	Panto @ South Mill Arts
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	Christmas service 2pm @ St. Mary's
Friday 18th December	Term ends at 1.30 pm
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET day
Tuesday 5th January	School opens for pupils
Friday15th January	Reading Café and Café Church

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

Donations of festive food or treats for the FPSA Christmas hampers should be brought in to school on Thursday for collection.



