

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of this action-packed term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we have achieved together. A massive thank you for your generous donations for our Harvest Assembly on Tuesday. These contributions have now been delivered to Gillingham Foodbank, making a real difference in our community.

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school full of enthusiasm for their learning, and it was great to see so many of you at our parents' evenings earlier in the term.

Thanks to last year's fundraising efforts, the whole school had the opportunity to get 'hands-on' by packing the bags that will be sent to Gambia through our School Council's charity, 'School in a Bag'. Continuing our charitable endeavours, we are also thrilled that our old school sports kits will soon be sent to various developing countries, where they will find a new life and benefit those in need.

On a more poignant note, we recently welcomed the family of Steve Gibbons, our former Chair of Governors who sadly passed away last year, for the planting of a memorial tree in our school grounds. It was a touching tribute, and we are grateful for the opportunity to honour Steve's lasting impact on our school community.

We've also had plenty of exciting experiences this term. Our Year 6 students had a fantastic residential trip to the Isle of Wight, where they showed such courage, teamwork, and tenacity —truly living out our school values, particularly Friendship and Resilience. Kingfisher, Woodpecker, and Falcon Classes had the chance to become budding scientists when the Explorer Dome visited for a morning of sound, light, and space exploration. We also celebrated World Poetry Day and welcomed the Air Ambulance team to visit Year 6, making for an inspiring term of enquiry and learning.

As we head into the half-term break, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable time with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in November. Don't forget that the clocks go back this weekend, bringing darker evenings and hopefully some brighter mornings too!

Kind regards

Ed Birkett



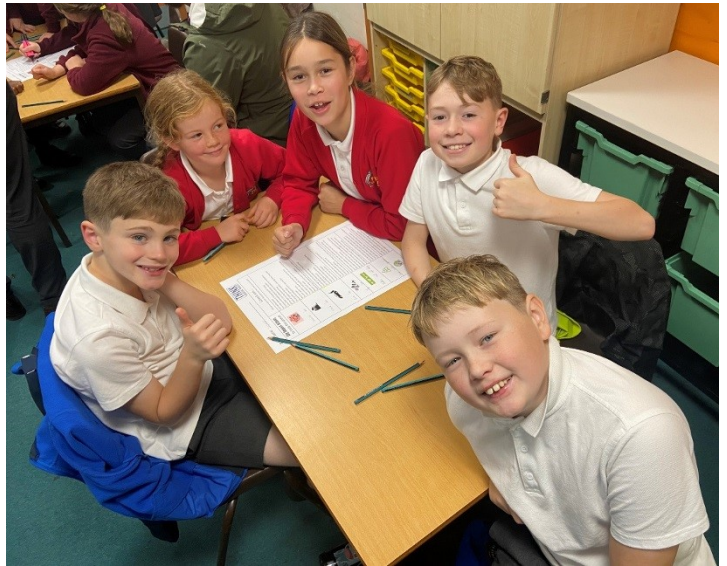
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WYKE'S ECO-COUNCIL

Some of our wonderful Eco-Council members recently attended a local event at Pickwick Schools, where they discussed simple yet impactful steps we can all take to make our daily lives more sustainable.

Throughout the year, they will continue to develop and refine their ideas, which they will share with the school community in preparation for the Sustainability Summit to be held here at Wyke in the summer term.



OUR SCHOOL VALUES

At our school, we are proud to uphold the core values of Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Friendship, Trust and Responsibility. These values are not only central to the way we guide and teach our pupils, but they also form the foundation of our school community. It is important that our children not only practice these values in school but that we, as adults, model them in our interactions with each other, our teachers, and staff. By fostering a shared commitment to these principles, we create a positive and supportive environment where every child can thrive.

Thank you for joining us in upholding these values.

NAME LABELS

Please, please label your child's clothing! This doesn't have to be a sewn-in or ironed-on label—simply writing your child's name, or even just their initials, on the clothing's tag will make it so much easier for us to return lost items to the correct owner.

Thank you so much for your help with this!



VERY IMPORTANT—NUTS & GRAPES

A reminder please that we are a **NUT-FREE SCHOOL**. Please do not send your child to school with any nuts or products containing nuts, including chocolate spread.



We have children in school who suffer from potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis if they come into contact with nuts or nut dust.

Also, a reminder that if your child is in Key Stage One, please cut their grapes in half lengthways to minimise the risk of choking. Thank you for your co-operation.

KINGFISHER CLASS NEWS

It has been a very busy and productive start to Kingfisher Class! We have all been really impressed with how the children have settled in to their new class, and also moving up into Key Stage 2.

We have just completed our first enquiry entitled 'Where does the darkness come from?'

In this enquiry we have mainly been Scientists, but also Engineers and Geographers! We started off by learning about what light is and where it comes from. We knew that the sun is our main source of light, and that we must protect our eyes by never looking directly at the sun. We then moved on to learning about how we have daytime and night time depending on the position of the sun.

It was great fun investigating how shadows are formed, especially when we had a visit from the Explorer Dome in school. We carried out lots of experiments inside the Dome and were amazed at how different shadows could be created, how light splits in to many different colours and how we could prove that light travels in straight lines by using a laser. During a science investigation, we found out the closer the light source is to an object, the larger the shadow of that object will be, whereas if the light source is a long distance from the object, the shadow will be smaller. Isn't Science amazing?!

Our enquiry challenge was to create and perform a shadow puppet show of the story of Rama and Sita. Once we had learnt, ordered and written play script scenes from the story in English, we made shadow puppets for a group scene. Once each scene was filmed, we then put it all back together to tell the whole story of Rama and Sita! The final scene also used the diva clay lamps that we all made, as the lamps guided Rama and Sita home to safely. We are sure you will agree we have a very creative class! The children were amazing at using all of the skills they had learnt throughout the past weeks to showcase all of their understanding and creativity in their puppet shows – well done everyone!

As Mathematicians this term, we have been learning a lot to do with addition and subtraction crossing tens and hundreds, as well as using the grown up column method to add and subtract 3-digit numbers. The children are all being really resilient as there are lots of new written methods to learn in Kingfisher Class.

Starting to learn French has been a real highlight for the children, and they now know some of the colours and some basic conversational language.

Wow! We think our Kingfishers deserve a good rest over half term and look forward to another busy term ahead in the lead up to Christmas. Well done everyone! *Mrs Abbott, Mrs Simpson, Miss Long, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Pollard*



Would your child like to learn a musical instrument?

Music teacher David Gassman offers tuition on the following instruments for Years 3 to 6:

BRASS -Trumpet/Cornet, Trombone & Tenor Horn

WOODWIND - Flute, Clarinet

He also offers Alto Saxophone tuition for children in Year 4 and above.

Cost of tuition:

20 mins = £10

30 mins = £15

Groups 2-4 = 30 mins (cost divided)

Payment is by BACS.

Instrument hire is normally £60 per year but if your child has taken part in the Musicianship Programme (class tuition for the term) in the last 12 months, they may be eligible for free instrument hire for the first year. This 'free period' is called 'Next Steps' which you need to inform the school about and they can activate this with Dorset Music Service (DMS).

If outside this window then it's £30 for first year and then £60 per year for the remaining years while in school education in Dorset. More info on DMS website.

David is DBS checked and Pan-Dorset SCP Foundation in Safeguarding Children.

A short bio from David:

"I went to school in Marnhull and Sturminster Newton learning both the trumpet and clarinet. I went on to study Grade 8 on clarinet and joined Her Majesty's Scots Guards Band for 22 years in London where I played at many of the traditional tourist events (Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade, performing in the London concert halls, etc.) as well as performing around the world.

I was able to start woodwind and brass teaching in London at the same time and once my family returned to Gillingham, this continued in the local primary schools around me via Dorset Music Service and now on a private basis once again. I've been teaching woodwind and brass for approximately 25+ years.

Any questions do get in touch, I look forward to helping your child on their musical journey."

Form more information, please contact David on:

Email: dgassmann.music@hotmail.com

Tel: 07947 604544

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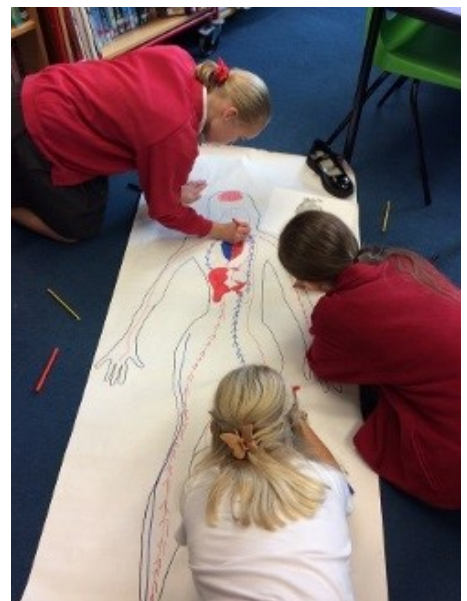
HERON CLASS NEWS

Wow! What an incredibly busy start to Year 6 for Heron Class. We certainly got off to a fun start with our residential trip to the Isle of Wight where we stayed 3 days at PGL Little Canada. We had fun trying out lots of amazing activities: abseiling, the big swing, climbing, fencing, archery, vertical challenge and a sensory trail. Everyone was absolutely brilliant with giving things a go and showing just how resilient and determined they are. We were so proud of their wonderful attitudes.



Back in class, we have been working hard in Maths, tackling long division, multiplication and lots of different arithmetic questions. We read a wonderful novel in English, written completely in prose, which the class absolutely loved and wrote some amazing poems of their own. Our Enquiry, "How are lives saved?" has seen us learning all about the circulatory system, the heart, the blood, having a visit from the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and looking into the advancements in medicine over the years. Linking this with our English sessions, we wrote an explanation text to share our scientific knowledge and compiled a non-chronological report about how to live a healthy lifestyle. We completed our Enquiry by writing and presenting a TED talk about a topic that both interested us and was important to us.

We are looking forward to a well deserved rest over half term. ready to return and continue with some more exciting learning. Well done Herons. You really have made a wonderful start to Year 6. Keep it up!



OWL CLASS NEWS

Owls have had a wonderful start to the year. Year 2 is an exciting year because the children are now the eldest in KS1 and they have been showing this with their thoughtful behaviour.

We have been so busy and have really embraced all our new topics.

A very busy start in Maths, they have amazed me with their willingness to learn more. We have been focusing on place value and number. The children have learnt how to

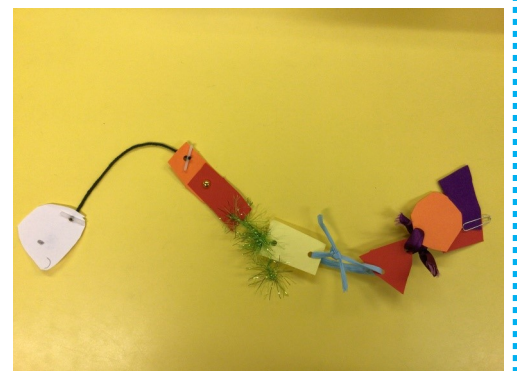
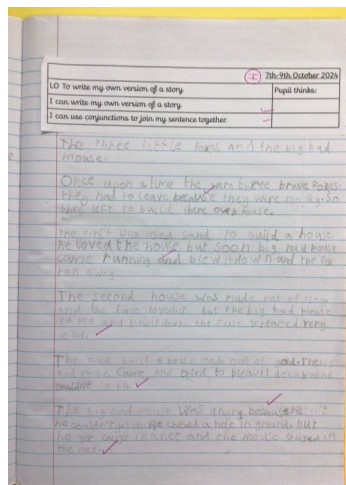
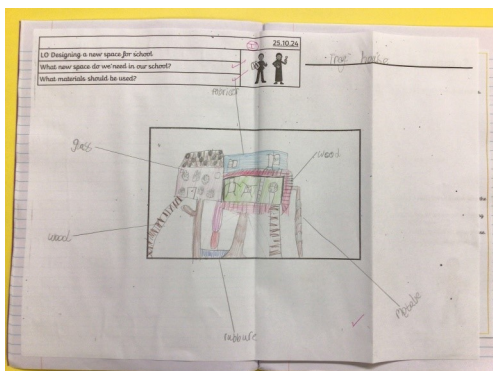
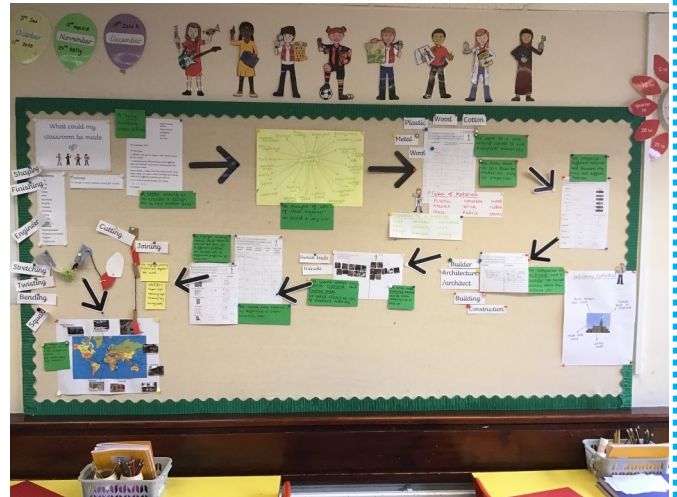
confidently use a tens frame, place value chart and number line and can use these to help with their learning.

At the beginning of the term we were reading the book 'The Best Part of Me'. It encouraged us to focus on what we love about our wonderful bodies. We had lots of descriptions of fast legs, beautiful eyes and clever hands. We now have a book full of these descriptions to help celebrate how amazing we all are.

Our enquiry, 'What could my classroom be made of?' has encouraged us to look closely at materials. We have enjoyed sorting those materials into categories and learning new scientific language for example 'transparent'. Owls are now able to describe a material and explain some of the properties they each have.

Keep up the amazing work, Owl Class!

Miss Albone



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FALCON CLASS NEWS

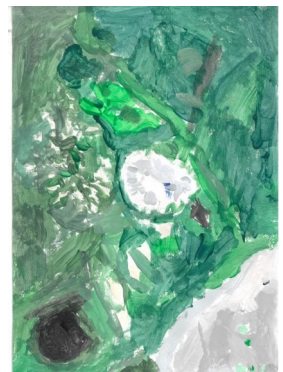
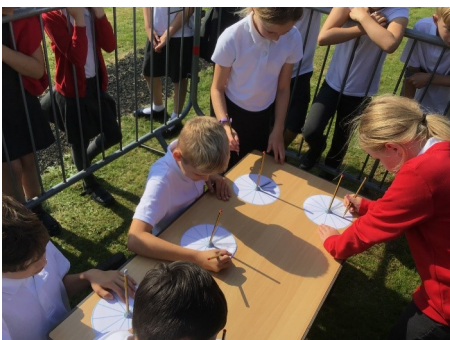
What a super start to the year we've had in Falcon Class! The children have settled brilliantly into the new routines of Year 5 and they should all be extremely proud of themselves for their enthusiasm and determination in their learning. Keep up the fabulous work, Falcons!

For our first enquiry of the year 'What does Earth look like from the solar system?', we have been Scientists and Geographers and learned all about how Earth and the other planets move around the sun, as well as investigating the rotation of Earth and time zones. We were even lucky enough to have a visit from 'Explorer Dome', a large inflatable dome inside of which we experienced incredible images of the planets and constellations. More recently, we have become Artists and have been learning how to create texture in our paintings. For our final challenge, we used these techniques to create paintings of aerial views of Earth.



In English, we have been reading 'Lunar' by Chris Bradford, about a girl who lives on the moon. As Authors we used this as inspiration for our own writing, including a narrative about a meteor strike on the moon and setting descriptions of a new planet. Following this, we became storytellers and learned how to memorise and retell a warning tale called 'Keep Off The Tracks!'. This inspired us to write our own warning stories, in which our characters ignore a warning and get into a spot of trouble!

As Mathematicians, we have been busy learning all about place value, addition and subtraction and are now discovering factors and prime numbers! *Miss Cheetham*



WOODPECKER CLASS NEWS

Woodpeckers have been completely fabulous in their first half term as Year Fours. The adults in the class have been so impressed with how they have settled to the new expectations and they are really showing great resilience.

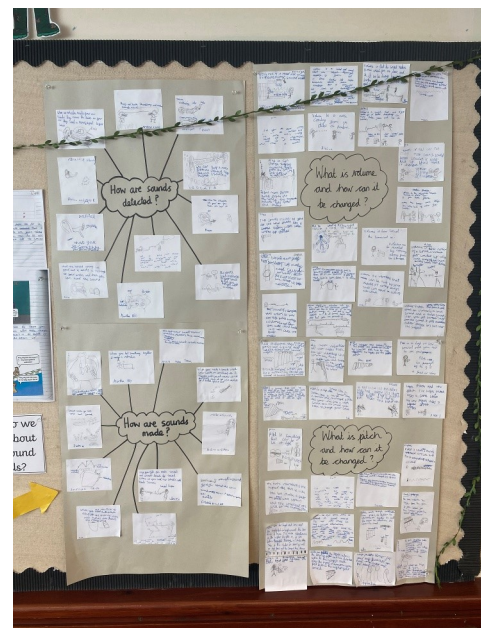
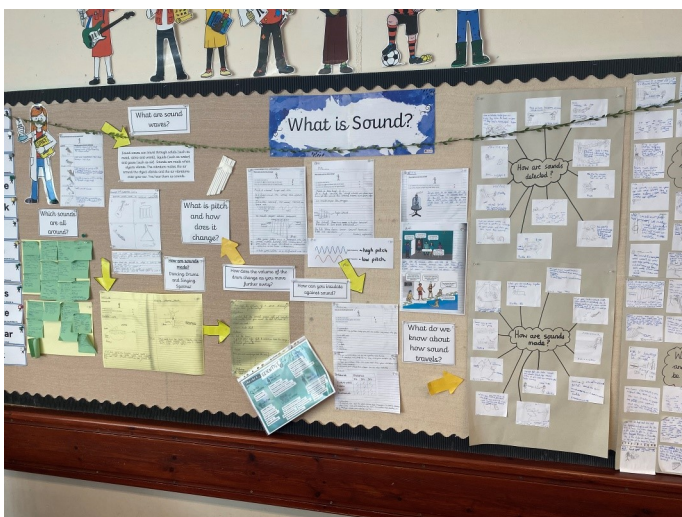
We have been enjoying our first enquiry, 'What is Sound?' which has a really great Scientist focus. We have explored what sound waves are through using musical instruments and by making rice dance and spoons sing! We have improved our scientific investigation skills by exploring how sound waves travel and how we can insulate against sounds. The highlight of this enquiry was the visit from the Explorer Dome where we had a fantastic hands-on experience exploring vibrations, pitch and hearing. We learnt some brilliant facts about bats and thunder and lightning!

The children have been really impressing with their writing and the fabulous ideas they have. We have looked at some fantastic texts; The Barnabus Project and the beautiful poetry book The Lost Words. We have been focusing on Super Sentences and using our great vocabulary and grammar knowledge as well as writing adventure stories, portal stories and narrative poems. As Mathematicians, we have really mastered tricky addition and subtraction with four digit numbers, showing excellent growth mindset along the way. We are also sharpening up our times tables skills and getting really speedy on Times Tables Rockstars!

On top of all of that, we have also been musicians learning to sing Mamma Mia, athletes honing our gymnastic skills and teamwork skills in hockey and our philosopher skills learning why Christians view Jesus as a saviour. What a lot we've packed in!

We wish you a restful and fun-filled half term and look forward to seeing you back and ready for lots of learning about local history and Ancient Egyptians!

Mrs Turner, Miss Sheere & Mrs Brien



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WREN CLASS NEWS

Wow! Our new Wrens have made a fantastic start to the school year! They have settled into school life beautifully, following routines, making new friends, and engaging in lots of learning.

Our first enquiry has been 'Who are we?' and the children have enjoyed learning about their bodies, homes, families and what it means to be a Wren in Wyke.

The children enjoyed sharing their baby photos and guessing who was who—they were very surprised to learn that even the adults in school were once babies!

This week we've been learning all about Harvest, and the children had lots of fun with pumpkins and vegetables! They all enjoyed making and tasting some vegetable soup.

We are incredibly proud of our new Wrens and all they have accomplished in their first term of school. A very busy Christmas term lies ahead so enjoy a good rest next week!

Mrs de Villiers, Mrs Turvey, Mrs Jones, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Else



ROBIN CLASS NEWS

What a wonderful first half term Robins have had! They have settled so well in Year 1 and learned so much already. They have also been very helpful when working with Wrens and have helped them to settle in and make lots of new friends.

Our first Curious City enquiry this term was 'What are we?' in which we were Scientists, Musicians and Artists. We learned about animals including humans. We sorted and grouped animals and found out about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. We looked at the animals carefully to see if they have characteristics which might tell us which group they belonged in. We also then sorted animals into two more groups – those that come from an egg and those that do not. To complete our enquiry we listened to the 'Carnival of the Animals', a musical suite by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. We tried to guess which animals the music was describing. We then had great fun using the instruments to create our own animal music and movement, which Wren class enjoyed watching and guessing which animals we were being.

Our current enquiry is 'What is my hat made of?'. We started this enquiry off with a wonderful hat parade where we all shared and compared our hats from home. As Scientists we have been identifying and classifying materials based on their simple properties. We have looked at the different hats people wear and why they are worn. We are now going to use what we have learned as Engineers as we have to design a hat for autumn. Our final challenge will be to make and test the hat next half term.

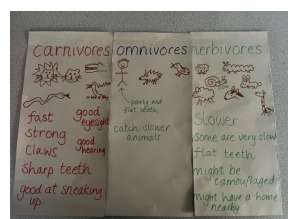
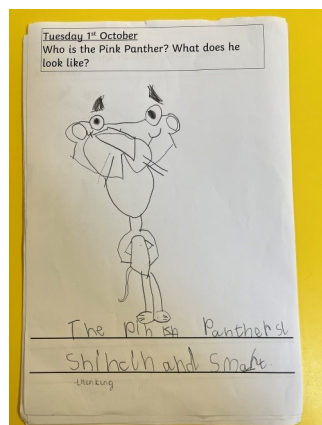
We have all been trying hard in our phonics groups and have learned so many new sounds to make us super readers. As authors, we have carried on with Drawing Club for our writing and Mrs Beales and Miss Bryan have been very impressed with our sentences and how we have been using our sounds to spell some tricky words. We are also getting very good at remembering a capital letter and a full stop for every sentence.

In Maths we have been counting and writing numbers carefully. We have also learned and used lots of Maths vocabulary such as greater than, less than, more, fewer, plus, addition, subtraction, minus and systematically!

We really enjoyed packing the bags for our charity 'School in a Bag'. We were able to see what goes in to each bag and we will be able to track our bags once they are sent to another country very soon.

Well done to all of Robin Class. Enjoy your well-earned half term!

Mrs Beales and Miss Bryan



Code Club

Scratch that itch to learn coding! Join us at Code Club for a fun introduction to the creative world of programming. Suitable for children aged 9 to 12 years.



Gillingham Library

Thursday 7th November 2024
Thursday 14th November 2024
Thursday 21st November 2024
Thursday 28th November 2024
Thursday 5th December 2024
Thursday 12th December 2024
Thursday 19th December 2024

3:45pm – 4:45pm
3:45pm – 4:45pm
3:45pm – 4:45pm
3:45pm – 4:45pm
No Code Club
3:45pm – 4:45pm
3:45pm – 4:45pm

Limited places available.
Contact Gillingham Library
to book your place.

For more information

 **01747 822180**

 Gillinghamlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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