

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow! What a whirlwind of a term it's been!

From launching our brand-new after-school club Night Owls, to marking the VE Day anniversary, taking part in Walk to School Week, and of course, the very popular Break the Rules Day, the past few weeks have been bursting with energy and excitement. And that's all on top of our usual calendar of class trips, sporting fixtures, and Owl Class's Curious City Showcase.



*Winners Air House receiving their trophy from our
Chair of Governors, Mr von Clemens*

It was great to see so many of you at school today for our Sports Day—thank you for your support and enthusiasm. A huge congratulations to Air House for taking the victory this year! All the children's team spirit and sportsmanship were fantastic.

A special well done to Heron Class, who completed their SATs last week. The class showed remarkable friendship, resilience and focus, fully embodying our school values. I know they'll join me in giving a huge thank you to Mrs Hall and Mrs Rose, who came in extra early to prepare our now-legendary SATs breakfasts—truly the best not only in Gillingham, but possibly all of Dorset (and beyond!).

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who sponsored and supported me in my recent 10K run. I'm delighted to share that we've raised an incredible £945 so far! It would be amazing to hit £1000—every pound takes us a step closer to our exciting new play area. If you'd still like to contribute, please [CLICK HERE](#) for the link. Thank you for anything you can give!

As we end this term and head into the last of this academic year, I couldn't be prouder of our pupils, staff, and school community. Thank you all for your continued support—it really does make all the difference.

Kind regards

Ed Birkett



May 2025**#005**

FALCON CLASS NEWS

We have had a wonderful start to the Summer term in Falcons!

For our Enquiry 'How are you helping to save the planet?', we became Scientists and have been comparing the lifecycles of different animals and plants.

As Geographers, we have been learning about climate change and investigating renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Finally, as Engineers, we have been analysing bird boxes and then developing our own bird box design. For our Enquiry Challenge we held a 'Falcon Class Green Week' to coincide with Walk to School Week and Eco Day! We also chose our own ways of making small changes to be more green both at home and at school, including making posters about endangered animals and feeding hedgehogs!



As Authors, we read a book called 'Jumanji' by Chris Van Allsburg, which inspired us to write our own 'finding tale' about children who find a mysterious game at school. We had great fun developing and writing about our own creatures that come out of the game and cause mayhem in the classroom! After that, we were inspired by the story 'The Boy Who Grew a Forest' by Sophia Gholz, which is based on the true story of a man who planted one tree a day for 40 years in India. This inspired us to write some fantastic persuasive letters to Mr Birkett to encourage him to help make our school more wildlife friendly! The children have been working really hard in their writing this term, and have impressed me with their enthusiasm and growing stamina for writing longer texts. Keep it up Falcons!

In Maths, we have been learning to measure and draw angles, read and plot coordinates and we had fun recently using mirrors to help us identify and draw reflections.

As Athletes, we have been developing our tennis skills; perfecting our forehand and backhand technique and the accuracy of our aim. In athletics we have been practising our track and field events, including learning to pace ourselves for long distance running, hurdles and long jump.

I have been really impressed with the whole of Falcon Class this term, both in terms of their attitude to learning and their positivity outside of lessons. They have shown lots of teamwork and friendship while working together in lessons and at playtimes, which has been lovely to see. It is also great to watch them grow in confidence and maturity, with several of the class volunteering to do the Charleston in front of the whole school on VE Day, and lots of enthusiasm for starting and running a lunch time art club! Keep up the fantastic effort everyone!

Miss Cheetham



HERON CLASS NEWS

The first half of the summer term has been a super busy one in Heron Class with VE day celebrations, Enquiry questions and of course SATs.

We have been incredibly proud of all our Herons for their amazing attitude throughout SATs week. They have shown determination, resilience and have made us incredibly proud. SATs breakfast was enjoyed every day of the week which gave the class a chance to relax with friends before sitting their tests.

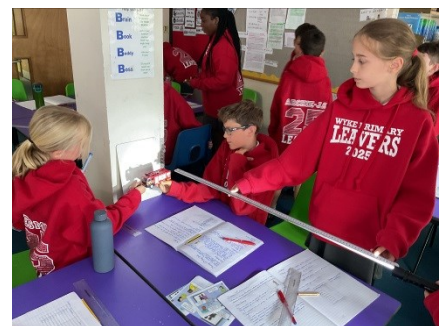
Our Enquiry this half term, entitled "Why are shadows important?" has seen us being both scientists and artists. We have learnt about how we see things and how light travels and used our artistic skills to sketch objects with shadows behind them. We also carried out a scientific experiment to find out what happens to the size of a shadow when the distance between the light source and the object increases. We had to think about fair testing, what equipment we would need and how we would record our results which we then transferred into a graph. Being scientists, we then tried to explain the science behind our results.

This week, we have started to design our batik cushions which we will continue to make over the coming weeks, using skills such as painting, waxing, sewing and ironing. These will hopefully be reminders of our time at Wyke as we move onto secondary school.

We have also been allocated our parts for our end of year performance and have begun learning the lines for those. Rehearsals will continue after half term and we look forward to sharing our performance with you in July.

Enjoy a well earned break Heron Class, ready for more fun and exciting activities after half term.

Mrs Rose



May 2025

#005

WOODPECKER CLASS NEWS

It may have only been a short half term but we have certainly squashed in a lot of super learning in Woodpeckers! Our enquiry has been 'why are food choices important?' which is always a popular one as it involves lots of cooking and tasting!

We started our enquiry with a visit to Asda. We had a super time exploring the store, we even got to go 'behind the scenes' and see in the storerooms and freezers. We each had the opportunity to learn how to use the tills and were all able to scan an item. Emma, the very kind Community Champion for Asda, then had lots of different foods for us to try. We explored lots of exotic fruits and also a variety of vegan alternative foods. Afterwards, some of us were too full to eat our lunch! We are really grateful to Asda for such generous hosting.

We have also been practising our chopping and baking skills. We made dips and dippers where we used different knife grips to chop the veggies. We also baked bread from scratch, it was absolutely delicious paired with honey from the beehives of one of our school cleaners! Our final challenge involved making a pasta salad to our own recipe. These were also devoured quite quickly and there were some very interesting combinations!

As part of this enquiry, we have also been scientists and learned all about how our digestive systems function. We had lots of fun recreating the way our food is digested, although it was rather revolting! We also found out the names of the different types of teeth and made models of mouths using mini marshmallows.

As well as all of this fabulous enquiry learning, we have also written fabulous biographies of Joan Procter, the famous animal expert. Our Maths learning has been focused on decimals and we have become very proficient in writing numbers to two decimal places. We are now learning to calculate with different amounts of money.

We had a great time joining in with the whole school for VE Day celebrations. A big thank you to Mrs Martin who volunteered her time to teach us the Charleston Stroll, it was tricky but we mostly got the hang of it in the end!

Wishing you all a restful half term,

Mrs Turner, Miss Sheere and Miss Pollard



May 2025

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WREN CLASS NEWS

Wren Class have really enjoyed this term's enquiry called 'What Lives and Grows Near Us?' We've had lots of fun exploring the school grounds and seeing just what is all around is!

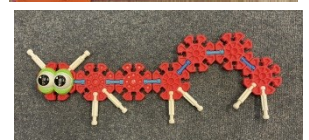
We've spotted new leaves and blossom on trees and bushes, tulips, and daffodils and lots of dandelions! We picked a small selection of flowers to bring inside - even though we knew the flowers wouldn't last as long once picked. The children then had the opportunity to create careful observational drawings - making sure to only draw exactly what they could see. It was a tricky task but they did amazingly!

The children loved the class texts of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and the alternative version called 'Jum and the Beanstalk' and were very keen to grow their own beanstalks... So, we planted some beans and WOW they have grown very tall, very quickly. We don't think the beanstalks are magic beanstalks as one of the children said the beans we planted 'look like normal and not golden like magic ones must be' but we hope they continue to grow tall and produce some beans!

We have enjoyed keeping an eye on the school pond - at first spotting frogspawn and later tadpoles. We brought some tadpoles into the classroom and made them a lovely temporary home in a tank. The children have been mesmerised with them - checking every day to see how much the tadpoles have grown - obviously rather enjoying their diet of lettuce and ham! Great excitement occurred one morning when back legs were spotted! We've had to release them back into the pond as half term is almost here but we'll be enjoying our visits to the pond after half term to see if we can spot any froglets!

We've loved reading books by Eric Carle (which fit very well with our enquiry) starting with one of our favourites, The Hungry Caterpillar, and talked about healthy foods versus treats. To make it extra fun, we used our new class BeeBots to guide them to healthy foods and away from the less healthy ones! We then discovered another of Eric Carle's books about a very grumpy ladybird called 'The Bad-Tempered Ladybird', the children have just loved this! It's been such a fun term of new life and life cycles and the anticipation around this has been palpable. Our Wrens are just flying with their learning and becoming wonderful authors and fabulous mathematicians - we are looking forward to the next seven weeks and seeing them bloom!

Have a lovely half term break and see you all soon for some summer fun! *Mrs de Villiers and Mrs Turvey*



May 2025

#005

ROBIN CLASS NEWS

For such short half term, Robin Class have certainly managed to squeeze in a lot of amazing learning! Our enquiry this term has been 'What grows near me?' We began the enquiry by being Scientists and by looking in the school garden to see what was growing there and which plants we knew the names of. We then went on a walk around the local area to see what plants were growing in our community. We spotted some we knew and then used a plant identifier to find the names of the ones we did not. We learned about the basic structure of a plant and that the main parts are the roots, the stem, the leaves and the flower. We also found out about deciduous and evergreen trees. We created the two different types of tree using sticks and leaves found in our school grounds. They were very good!



As Geographers, we were amazed that plants can be grown in all sorts of different places including roof gardens, window boxes, allotments and city farms where the environment is much more urban than rural Gillingham!

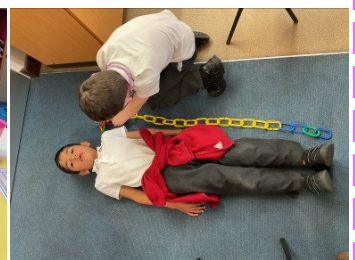
As Engineers, we sorted fruit and vegetables into groups based upon where they grow - on a tree, on a bush or underground. We then were very careful using a peeler and knives to prepare carrots for a snack.

Finally, as Artists, we completed observational drawings of fruits. First, we used pencil to concentrate on shape, line, pattern and texture, and then we drew another fruit but this time we concentrated on the colour.

For our final enquiry challenge we are creating storyboards to write our own version of The Last Tree, a story by Ingrid Chabbert that we have enjoyed reading. We are going to use our skills as Artists to create a front cover and illustrations, and our fantastic Author skills to write the story.

Alongside our enquiry we have been measuring in Maths. We measured length, height, mass, capacity and volume. We really enjoyed all of the practical learning! We have also been really focused on learning our sounds in Phonics. We have all made brilliant progress and Mrs Beales knows we are all going to do brilliantly in our Phonics screening in June!

Well done Robins! Enjoy the fun and rest over the holiday and we look forward to another busy half term when you come back to school in June. *Mrs Beales, Mrs Scammell and Mrs Jones*



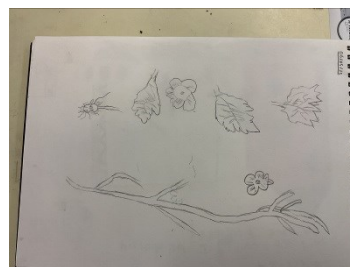
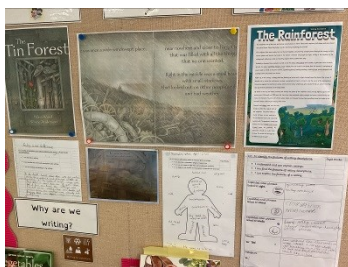
KINGFISHER CLASS NEWS

It has been a very busy and exciting half term for Kingfisher Class. We have thoroughly enjoyed our enquiry entitled 'How do plants die?' We started by sorting a variety of plants in to three categories: 'dead', 'alive' or 'can be revived'. This sparked a lot of interesting discussion – especially the Rose of Jericho plant which can be revived time after time by just giving it some water! We have loved being Scientists predominantly for this enquiry, and learnt all about the different parts of plants and their key functions. We looked closely at a range of plants and carried out observational drawings of each part. One of our highlights was carrying out a number of fair test experiments. Our first experiment was all based around taking away one of the conditions that a plant needs to grow and thrive, and see what difference it makes. In our groups we thought about where we could put each plant to deprive it of one condition, but we kept all other conditions the same. We have been observing, measuring and drawing our plant each day to see what changes have occurred, before completing our conclusion. Our second experiment was based on water transportation. We used different colours of food colouring in the water and then placed white carnations in it, to show how the water travels up the stem like a straw, and all the way up to the flower to change its colour! Our final challenge for our enquiry has been a fun one. We have planned and written a manual entitled 'Diary of a Wimpy Plant,' inspired by the style of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid.' We wrote this in the first person, from the point of view of the plant and tried to include everything we have learnt about what a plant needs to stop it from dying.

In Maths we have been learning all about fractions and money. We have been making different totals using combinations of coins, as well as converting pounds and pence and finding change.

In English, we have been exploring a wonderful text called 'The Tin Forest.' We have done some incredible descriptive writing, trying hard to increase our stamina, whilst remembering to include similes, metaphors and prepositional language. Our writing has improved SO much this year, WOW!

Kingfisher Class have been working their socks off and should feel really proud of everything they have achieved. We wish them all a very well-deserved rest over the holidays with their families, before welcoming them back for our final half term together. *Mrs Abbott, Mrs Simpson, Miss Long, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Pollard*



OWL CLASS NEWS

It has been a busy term for Owl Class! The children have been superstars and have worked so incredibly hard. They have impressed me so much, I am a very proud teacher!

Our enquiry 'How do plants grow near me?' has been fantastic this term. The children enjoyed watching the seeds grow into plants. We have completed experiments to investigate if a plant can survive without water, heat or light. The children enjoyed checking the plant every day and noticing the changes throughout the week. It has been great labelling the important parts of a plant, and understanding why they are important.



We have also been Geographers, learning the names of the continents and oceans, as well as researching plants which live in different areas of the globe.

During English, we have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'The Last Tree', a book about a group of friends who make their home in the forest, but they sadly cut down all the wood to use, except one last tree. Owl Class loved learning about this story and wrote a wonderful diary entry from the point of view of the children in the book.

During Maths we have been measuring mass, volume and capacity. The children have loved using the scales to weigh different objects in the classroom and learning all about why we need to weigh objects.

It was wonderful welcoming you all to our Owl Class Showcase, and giving you the chance to look at all of their fantastic work.

A wonderful term Owl Class! You are all amazing!

Mrs Hodge



And finally...

Our Eco-Council has been busy!



Our Eco-Council has been super-busy making changes within our school to help us become more sustainable.

Here are some of the things they have been implementing...

- Weekly litter picking
- Collecting food waste after snack time to make sure it does not go to landfill
- Checking each class has recycling bins and knows what can and cannot go in them
- Being energy monitors- turning off lights, dripping taps and switches
- Organising a Walk to School Week
- Holding an Eco Day where all printers and photocopiers were turned off for the day
- Beginning to weed our school nature garden
- Planting seeds.

We will soon be asking for help with developing our school garden so please keep an eye out for further details.

