



Dear Parents and Carers,

Although this has been our shortest term of the school year, it has certainly not been short on activities! We began the term with Kingfisher Class's Curious City Showcase and their wonderful art gallery. The children really do love sharing their learning with you, and it was lovely to see so many of you there supporting them.



A big thank you also to Warren from Three, who generously shared his expertise in Computing and spoke to the children about the safe use of AI. It was a valuable opportunity for them to learn more about technology and how to use it responsibly in today's digital world. One highlight for me was seeing Heron Class's greenscreen videos. There is definitely some fantastic presenting potential among them and perhaps even a future David Attenborough in our midst!

Talking of Heron Class, they also joined other Year 6 pupils from local Pickwick Schools for a very special day in London. The trip included a walking tour of some of the main landmarks, pizza and then a brilliant performance of Disney's Hercules at the Drury Lane Theatre. A special thank you to the kind and patient parents who were here to collect the children in the early hours of the morning after a very long but memorable day.

We also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, thank you to our Reading Champions and Mrs Turner for organising such a fantastic day. There were some brilliant costumes on display too, well done to everyone who took part!

This term we also said goodbye, for now, to Mrs Hodge as she begins her maternity leave. We send our very best wishes to her and her family at this exciting time, and I know her class are already looking forward to meeting Baby Hodge when the time comes. We are very pleased to welcome back Mrs Scammell, who has taken up the reins during Mrs Hodge's absence and has already made such a positive start with the class. We are delighted to have her back as part of the team.

Thank you to Friends of Wyke for organising the Mother's Day sale, and we hope all our mums had a lovely day and enjoyed their thoughtful gifts.

Of course, we have also marked Red Nose Day, enjoyed Year 3's trip to the Earth Science Centre, and Year 4's residential visit to Hooke Court. What always stands out on these occasions is how well our children represent both the school and their families when we are out and about, thank you for your continued support in helping them be such excellent ambassadors.

Finally, thank you for joining us for our Easter Celebration at St Mary the Virgin Church. We have not held a church celebration for quite some time, so there were certainly a few nerves beforehand, but it proved to be such a lovely way to begin reflecting on Easter together.



Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April for the start of the Summer Term.

Kind regards
Ed Birkett
Headteacher



GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

It is with sadness that we would like to let you know that Miss Bryan will be leaving Wyke, with today being her final day with us.

Miss Bryan has been a much-valued and highly respected member of our team, and we are very sorry to see her go. She has made a positive difference to school life through her care, commitment and the strong relationships she has built with both children and staff.

Miss Bryan is moving on to a new opportunity in a nursery setting, and while we will miss her greatly, we fully support her decision and wish her every success and happiness in this next stage of her career.

We are sure you will join us in thanking Miss Bryan for all she has contributed to our school community and in wishing her all the very best for the future.



YEAR 4 TRIP TO HOOKE COURT

Our Year 4s had a fantastic day in the sunshine at Hooke Court last week. We had a really fun team-building day exploring lots of new skills. We did some orienteering where we learnt to read maps and explore the extensive and beautiful grounds. We also tested our physical skills on the low ropes course where we had to work as a partnership to try not to fall on the floor!

Our final challenge was to try to transport a container across the moat. We really had to work collectively to build a structure, make sure our ropes didn't fall in the water and get our container to the other side. A fun day out, well done everyone!



Big Walk and Wheel Event

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Big Walk and Wheel event over the last fortnight. The children have been really motivated to play their part in planet-friendly travel and creating a cleaner school environment. Each day the children have recorded their journeys and we can now announce that Heron Class are our winners! This means they have won themselves a 'wheels session'. This will be planned in next term, with details to follow. Although this event has come to an end, we hope children continue to 'walk and wheel' when possible to embed green and healthy habits! Thank you.

Mrs Turvey



Updated Privacy Notice

We have updated our privacy notice for pupils and parents, which can be found by clicking [HERE](#).



KINGFISHER CLASS NEWS



It has been another action-packed half term for us in Kingfisher Class. We have thoroughly enjoyed our enquiry entitled 'What is underneath our feet?' Many of the children have said this has been their favourite enquiry so far, primarily being Scientists and Geographers. We began by learning about the different layers of the earth's structure, before finding out about the key features of volcanoes and earthquakes. We located the "Ring of Fire" on the world map and explored what it would be like to live in an area where volcanic eruptions and earthquake tremors occur frequently.

Our trip to the Earth Science Centre in Radstock has been a real highlight of our half term. We loved looking at all of the different rocks and carrying out simple tests and experiments to group and sort them. We also had the opportunity to visit a working quarry and find out about the rock cycle. For the last part of our enquiry, we learnt how fossils are formed and what soil is made up of. Our challenge was to create a flowchart diagram showing the rock cycle and how each part of this worked.

We have loved linking our work as authors to our enquiry. We sequenced, retold and role played the story 'Escape from Pompeii', which was written based on Mount Vesuvius erupting in 79AD. We have also written our own Kenning poems linked to volcanoes.

In Maths we have been learning about fractions. We learnt a secret code: aFiaEpoaW, a fraction is an equal part of a whole! We understand what part the numerator and denominator play in the fraction, and used this to compare and order fractions.

To celebrate British Science Week we had a fun day exploring what makes the best paper aeroplane, helicopter or glider. We experimented with different shapes and designs, some even travelled the length of the hall!

We were fortunate to have another visit from Warren from Three Discovery. The children created books using the Book Creator app, which they loved. We have some Computing champions in the making for a future career!

It was really special to all come together for our Easter Celebration at St Mary's Church this week. We felt really proud of all of our children for their amazing singing and poetry reciting. Thank you for coming to join us.

On that note, we think it is fair to say that Kingfisher Class have worked their socks off this half term and all deserve a good rest. Have a wonderful Easter break with your families and we look forward to seeing you for the start of the Summer term – fingers crossed for continued sunshine!

Mrs Abbott, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Pollard





OWL CLASS NEWS

Thank goodness that the sun has made an appearance close to the end of term, it makes such a difference to our learning when the sun is shining.

Firstly, thank you all for welcoming me into Owl Class and for all your best wishes for Mrs Hodge. All of the children have been demonstrating their great learning attitudes and all of the school values. I have been really impressed by their manners and thoughtfulness.

In our enquiry this term, "What did Brunel do for Great Britain?", the children took on the roles of Engineers, Scientists and Historians. They have loved researching Brunel and discovering the different types of bridges and railways. They then used this knowledge to design their own bridges that were sturdy enough to take a weight on them.

Hopefully the photos will show the engagement and enjoyment that this learning brought them. We also explored the idea of significant people and wrote non-chronological reports about both Brunel and Amelia Earhart. The children were able to make links between dates and timelines when discussing these significant people.

In Maths, we have worked hard on using fractions and finding fractions of amounts and shapes. They have become confident in their talk around fractions, explaining vocabulary like 'unit' and 'non-unit' fractions and using strategies like drawing a bar model to help them solve problems. We will revisit fractions regularly from now on to secure this new learning.

'Rosie Revere, Engineer' was our class book this term and the illustrations and vocabulary really captured our interest. We laughed lots at the helium pants and showed curiosity about the hot dog dispenser. This inspired the children to design their own wacky invention which they then wrote an explanation text about. We created a success criteria to help us remember what we needed to include.

We also marked Science Week with a climbing rainbows experiment too – see if you can spot them on the photos.

Wishing you all a restful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all in April.

Mrs Scammell





FALCON CLASS NEWS

This term in Falcon Class we have been super Scientists! Our enquiry has been 'how can Science help the vulnerable?'. We began the enquiry by thinking about what the word vulnerable meant and learned about a charity called Shelterbox who help homeless people. We have completed a lot of fun Science investigations where we explored materials. We identified the properties of different materials and discussed how they are chosen for a purpose based on their properties. We have learnt some new vocabulary, particularly the words 'soluble' and 'insoluble' as we mixed different substances with water to form solutions. We then explored what happens when we left a salt water solution to



evaporate, as part of an investigation into reversible changes. We also discovered that some changes cannot be reversed where we had fun with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar, breaking eggs and even see what happens when we light a match. A lesson on separating mixtures was a particular highlight, where we learnt about the methods of filtration, decanting, magnetism and sieving. Our final two investigations were thermal insulators and conductors, and the absorbency of different materials. All of the fantastic knowledge we have gained from these investigations has helped us to design an item that would help a homeless person. We evaluated products that were already in production, like the EMPWR coat which turns into a sleeping bag, and the Weatherhyde tent which both insulates and reflects heat, dependent on the weather outside. We have worked in groups to come up with our own fantastic ideas for products to help vulnerable people, selecting suitable materials based on the properties we have learned about.

In English, we have been really honing our letter writing skills. We looked at how to be polite and persuasive and have asked Mr Birkett for some new graphic novels as we love them so much! Mr Birkett was kind enough to reply so watch this space! We then got even busier with letter writing, composing letters to our favourite authors to tell them what we enjoy about their books. They have been sent off in the post and we await their responses!

We really enjoyed our Three Discovery workshop with Warren at the start of term. We created Lego scenes and used the Lego people to create Stop Motion animations. We particularly loved adding the title pages, background music and sound effects!

In PSHE we have been learning about keeping healthy. Our topics have ranged from smoking and vaping, alcohol and body image. We also had a lesson on emergency first aid where we learned about how we might be able to help someone who is hurt or unwell. We all had a go at putting a friend in the recovery position and did very well at it!

A HUGE well done to our Year 4s as well who have been putting in lots of practise with their times tables. We can really tell the children who have been using Timestable Rockstars at home as their scores are improving every day! Keep up the good work!

We hope you all have a lovely Easter and enjoy lots of chocolate and hopefully sunshine!

Mrs Turner and Mrs Beales





WREN AND ROBIN CLASS NEWS



Our Curious City enquiries this term have been ‘How Do We Move?’ in Wren Class, and ‘How Can We Move?’ in Robin Class. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring these questions through fun, hands-on activities.

We began by learning about how humans move. The children were fascinated to discover that, although our bones support our bodies, it is actually our muscles that do the hard work! Exploring our bodies, skeletons and muscles sparked lots of curiosity, and the children loved learning about what’s inside us.

Next, we discovered all the amazing ways that animals move. We were amazed! The children had great fun imagining what it would be like to have wings and fly like birds, or no legs and slither like snakes... and so on! Robin Class also had fun looking at movements inside books - exploring how parts move and how the mechanisms work. Pop up books

provided lots of fun reading!

We then all moved on to transport, discovering how vehicles—particularly wheels—help us travel faster, further and for longer distances. The children enjoyed experimenting with ramps, tubes and bridges, with lots of excitement and valuable learning through play - we explored the forces of push and pull and realised how these movements are everywhere!

One of the highlights of the term has been reading *The Hundred Decker Bus*, which inspired the children to create their very own 30-decker bus! It was so long it wouldn’t even fit in the classroom. The children imagined wonderful decks for their buses, including swimming pools, cafés, gyms, cinemas and even a party deck! It sounds a great bus to travel on! The children then got busy creating a bus they could ‘travel’ on in the classroom - this led to lots of talk and rich learning—using money, making tickets and thinking about what a bus driver might say to passengers. Lots of them haven't had the opportunity to ride on a real bus - so there's an idea for the Easter holidays!

This final week has been all about exploring the meaning of Easter. The children have shown great interest in the Christian story of Easter, while also enjoying a range of Spring and Easter-themed activities. They also really enjoyed visiting St Mary’s Church and singing some Easter songs to everyone!

Robin Class have also completed their learning on moving mechanisms and the season of spring by creating their own moving spring pictures, which they are very excited to bring home. They have worked incredibly hard on these and are very proud of them!

Over the recent months, we have very much enjoyed having Grace, a student, with us. She returns to college after Easter and will be greatly missed by us all. Thank you Grace, for being so fantastic—please do come and visit us soon!

We hope the lovely sunshine continues into the Easter holidays and that you all have a fun and restful break.

Happy Easter, everyone!

Mrs de Villiers, Mrs Turvey, Mrs Jones and Grace





WOODPECKER CLASS NEWS

We have had a busy and exciting term in Woodpecker Class, with lots of opportunities for the children to explore, investigate and be creative across the curriculum.

This term, our enquiry question has been “How can Science help the vulnerable?”. The children have taken on the roles of Scientists and Engineers, developing their investigation and design skills. As Scientists, they carried out a range of investigations into reversible and irreversible changes, as well as learning to separate mixtures.

They then explored the properties of different materials, including whether they are waterproof or absorbent, and whether they are good thermal insulators. Using this knowledge, the children evaluated existing products designed to support vulnerable people before designing their own innovative solutions.

In English, we have been developing our persuasive and creative writing skills. The children wrote letters to Mr Birkett, persuading him to buy more graphic novels for our school. They worked hard to include persuasive language, sharing their own opinions alongside facts gathered from their research. Following this, we wrote letters to Jamie Smart, the author and illustrator of the popular Bunny vs Monkey graphic novels, asking thoughtful questions about his work and career. We have also enjoyed writing some beautiful Spring poems.

Year 4 enjoyed a lovely trip to Hooke Court (more on page 2) and worked hard preparing for the Easter service at the church. Meanwhile, Year 5 had a visit from Wessex Water, where they explored the theme of rivers and flooding. As part of this, they compared different surfaces to investigate infiltration.

All the children have shown great enthusiasm and determination throughout the term, and we are very proud of their hard work and achievements.

Miss Cheetham



PIC-COLLAGE





HERON CLASS NEWS

This half term, our Enquiry has been "Who were the greater engineers - the Ancient Britons or the Victorians?" This is always a popular enquiry as we have the chance to be both Historians and Engineers. As well as studying the different materials and engineering techniques from both the Stone Age to the Iron Age and on to the Victorian era, we also had the opportunity to put our own engineering skills to the test by designing, building and evaluating our own bridges. Engineering Day was, as you can imagine, a very popular day in Heron Class!



This term, we also had an amazing trip to London with lots of other children from local schools. We visited some of the sights including Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and Big Ben together with crossing over Westminster Bridge to visit the Covid Wall. In the evening, after dinner at Pizza Express, we walked to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, where we watched Hercules, the musical, which was absolutely incredible.

Last week, we were also lucky enough to receive a visit from Wessex Water who ran a workshop for us in which we had to cost up, buy and build a whole water system enabling water to travel from a water tower to local amenities such as the school, a hospital and a library. We had the chance to be Mathematicians, Engineers and Quantity Surveyors whilst completing the challenge and learnt about the numerous jobs that can be applied for when working for Wessex Water. A great experience for the class who worked brilliantly together in their teams.

In addition, we took part in a workshop with Three Network in which we were given the opportunity to create our own mini film clips using a greenscreen. This was so much fun and the class were highly creative in their chosen films. We thoroughly enjoyed watching them as a class.

Finally, we visited Gillingham School to take part in our second Merck Curiosity Cube experience. This session focused on Synthetic Biology and we learnt about gene modification through hands on activities which was absolutely fascinating.

It has been an extremely busy half term and we have had some wonderful experiences. We look forward to next half term with more learning and excitement.

Mrs Rose

