

# NEWS

## from the Primary Phase



Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Dear Parents and Carers

This half term has seen a wealth of enriching opportunities for our children across the primary phase. Our Reception classes have enjoyed their first school trip – a visit to Beaulieu Motor Museum as part of their 'Terrific Transport' topic! Our Year 1 children celebrated the end of their 'Space' theme with an alien dress up day. Year 3 had the opportunity to listen to a story from their focus text 'Tales Told in Tents' being read to them by the author of the book herself, Sally-Pomme Clayton; their teachers made this particularly special by creating a tent inside their classrooms for the story-telling to take place in! Our Year 2 and 4 children have continued to excel in their weekly swimming lessons at the Little down Centre. Year 5 have been busy panning for gold, whilst our Year 6 students have made their own spring rolls – a favourite meal choice of the protagonist in their Power of Reading text, 'Skellig.' Some wonderful memories have certainly been made and our classrooms continue to be alive with enthusiasm!

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated World Book day for which the children were invited to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. From this, the children shared their favourite stories and talked at length about their preferred authors. A fantastic day was had by all and the children looked just wonderful! To coincide with World Book day, we were lucky to host our yearly book fair. Thank you to everyone who supported this. The sale of books has resulted in us earning £550 in rewards which will enable us to purchase more books for our school library. Well done to Sara and Oliver for winning our 'Reading River' challenge!



As a community, we have embraced the season of Lent and challenged ourselves to think of those less fortunate than ourselves. We have had a real focus on community outreach and charitable giving. First, we had a visit from Steve Deadman who is a representative from CAFOD (The Catholic Association for Overseas Development) who talked about the plight of people in forgotten countries and introduced this year's Big Lent Walk. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, all children in the school took part in walking over 1000km to raise money for CAFOD. This was a huge success as we surpassed both our kilometres walked and the total raised! Our donations will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. We have a hugely generous community!



Raised  
**£765**

Distance travelled  
**1,052 km**



Our Worship Council have also introduced a new collection pot on everyone's prayer tables to collect any small donations for our school charity: 'Reaching the Unreached'. This is a constant reminder for our children to think of others. In the last couple of weeks, we have raised £43.36. These pots will be a constant addition to prayer tables, so please do send any pennies or pounds in with your child when you are able to! The money will be collected at the end of every week and will be sent to those who need it the most.



Mrs Carr has also driven away from school today with a car full of your generous donations which will travel to those in need in Ukraine, many thanks! We hold the people of Ukraine in our prayers, in the same way we do all those who are caught up in war. We pray for peace.

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we invited 'Mother's or Important Others', into each classroom. They shared time with their child, heard a beautiful song, shared in a prayer for Mothers and were all gifted a card- created with love. This was a lovely celebration and allowed our parent community to see our learning environment.

This half term we have welcomed our Year 4 and 5 parents and families into our Chapel space to share in their class masses on the themes of 'Forgiveness' and 'Reconciliation'. We are hugely grateful to Father Darryl for coming into school and giving his time to us on such a regular basis.



In our continued preparation in Lent, our Key Stage 2 children have had the opportunity to take part in Reconciliation with our parish priests: Father Darryl, Father John, Father Denis and Father Paul. It was also lovely to see some of our children who have not celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion, taking up the offer of simply talking to Father John. It is enlightening to see how relaxed and comfortable the children were in approaching Father. As an extension to the sacrament of Reconciliation, children were also invited to engage in their own moments of reflection at prayer stations set up along this theme. It is always a joy to see the way our children engage so actively, yet reverently as they communicate in different ways with God.



We are blessed to have been in school for the start of Holy Week. All classes marked 'Palm Sunday' through our Celebration of the Word, listening to Sunday's gospel. We sang out 'Hosanna' in welcome to the Saviour. Mrs Malone was so impressed with the understanding our children have of the liturgical year and their responses that show Jesus rode a donkey because he came to earth for every person, rich or poor.

Our Worship Council then worked hard to portray the Stations of the Cross for Years 2 to 6 with care and concern for the story that leads up to Jesus' death on the cross. We are so proud of the ownership our children have of their spiritual journey and commitment to sharing all they have learnt.

Our Year 1 children also had the chance to act the story out and really impressed us with their adaptation of Jesus' journey to the cross and their thoughtful responses and singing.



We have been incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to work with Kate, from the charity Sustrans, over the last two terms to investigate air pollution and promote sustainable ways of travelling to school.



Kate has delivered 2 fantastic assemblies for us where the children were engaged in learning about the transmission of gas from idling cars and the difference that we can make to the world by making small changes to our routines. We finished the term with a great finale, Clean Air Day, which was a showcase of our learning about sustainability. Thank you to all who came to see our displays in the hall and tested out the 'smoothie bike'.

Kate had promised that one child would win a scooter by completing the home learning tasks set by Sustrans over the last term or so. The lucky winner of a new scooter was Oskar in Year 1. Congratulations - what a prize to win 😊



I do hope that you enjoy reading about the children's achievements from this half-term in the newsletter to follow. I wish you all a spiritual Holy Week and wonderful Easter break.

*AMalone*

Mrs Malone

[ame@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:ame@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk)

### Primary Phase Diary Dates

<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Summer Term Commences</b>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Forest School Commences RBW, 1RM, 2LM (Group 5)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA Quiz Night - 7pm Iford School Hall
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	RBW Class Mass 10:45am - Parents Invited
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 1 Science Dome Trip
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	RBC Class Mass 10:45am - Parents Invited
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 5 Winchester Science Trip
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Spelling Support Workshop for Parents 2pm and 6pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	1RM Class Mass 10:45am - Parents Invited
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception Height and Weight Checks
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Mass for the Feast of Ascension - Children only
W/C Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	1SM Class Mass 10:45am - Parents Invited
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	PTA Disco (details to follow)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	May procession for Mother Mary
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	SEND coffee morning 8:30am – Iford Hall
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Class Photographs
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 4 visit to Poole Lighthouse Theatre
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
W/C Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Forest School Commences - RBC,1SM, 2SC (Group 6)
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	6RA Retreat Day – Southbourne, 8:20am to 2:30pm <i>(children to be dropped off and collected from the Southbourne site please)</i>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	6HH Retreat Day – Southbourne, 8:20am to 2:30pm <i>(children to be dropped off and collected from the Southbourne site please)</i>
W/C Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	4JR Retreat Day – Southbourne, 8:20am to 2:30pm <i>(children to be dropped off and collected from the Southbourne site please)</i>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	4HW Retreat Day – Southbourne, 8:20am to 2:30pm <i>(children to be dropped off and collected from the Southbourne site please)</i>
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Fathers' Day Celebrations TBC
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Taster Afternoon Southbourne
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 3 and 4 choir – Bournemouth Music Festival
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Treehouse Theatre - Great fire of London
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Fire Safety Officer Visit
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Transfer Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Whole School Mass
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day and Summer Fair TBC
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Ethos Day
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 production – evening performance
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	First Holy Communion Celebration Mass
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 production – evening performance
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	School Reports Go Home
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July - Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Residential - Fairthorne Manor
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Presentation Evening
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Celebration Mass
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>School Ends for Summer Holidays</b>

## SEND News

The spring term has seen the introduction of our Lunchtime Nurture Club. This takes place on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday to support those children in Key Stage 2 who find the noise and bustle of the busy lunch hall and playground a little too much at times. A small group of children are accessing this provision and really benefitting from the social opportunities afforded on a smaller scale. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Richardson, Mrs Barrington, Mrs Lee and Miss Allen for making this possible by taking turns to staff our group.

We have also held two of our SEND coffee mornings now. Thank you to those families who have been able to support this new venture. It has been so lovely to see parents offering each other understanding and advice where they may have experienced similar challenges. This week, Lyndsey Hewitt, our Navigator, was able to join us and provide a wealth of information about the services and support available from the Somerford Family Hub. Our **next SEND coffee morning** is going to be held in the school hall on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**, from **8:30am**

Earlier this term, I was fortunate enough to attend a Dyslexia training course and picked up a number of helpful **strategies and resources to support children who struggle with spelling**. I would like to share these with any interested parents and plan to hold a **workshop** on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May**. I am going to run two sessions, one at **2pm** and one at the later time of **6pm**, so that hopefully everyone who would like to attend has the opportunity to. There will also be the opportunity to purchase a pack of resources at the workshop, so that you have everything you need to get started should you wish to.

One of our parents has asked me to share with you some information regarding her work which may be a huge support to some of our families:

*My name is Maria. I am a Mum to a boy in Year 2 and I want to take the opportunity to talk to you about the link between vision and learning.*

*I have been an optometrist for much longer than I care to admit and I take great pride in my work. I have a passion for helping people, especially children who are struggling to read and write or generally to engage with their learning.*

*I work in a practise in Bransgore - Nicholson Eyecare (although it sounds miles away it is only 15 mins from the school - really easy to get to). This is where I offer my NHS eye tests. All children that are in full time education up to the age of 19 are entitled to a free eye examination.*

*I understand that if your child is struggling with any aspect of their learning, you may have been recommended to have their eyes checked. This is great. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. Regular eye tests ensure that the eyes are healthy, no large angle squint and that light is properly focusing on the retina (or if glasses are needed for this to happen).*

*I have done extensive training to become a neuro-developmental optometrist (aka behavioural optometrist). As such, I take a much deeper look at the visual system as a whole. It is a complex system involving many layers of the brain and integrates with the rest of the body to enable us to move and interact with the environment. We should be able to use and access all layers of the visual system without effort.*

*For some children who struggle in school, they are not using their system efficiently. It requires so much effort to access what the eyes see that there is not much left to be able to interpret what is seen. This manifests in misreading words such as saw instead of was, confusing b&d, writing backwards, skipping lines and a general avoidance of work. That is just to name a few typical symptoms.*

*So what I look at is:*

- Do the eyes work together as a team and is there a comfortable range and action?
- Do they move in a coordinated fashion and can track across a page?
- Can the eyes change focus quickly and accurately?
- Are we using the whole of the visual field?
- Can we cross the midline; we need both sides of the brain for vision?

I also assess gross motor patterns and primitive reflexes as this tell me what might have happened and how to better address the difficulties.


I then write a report that tells you what works well and what areas can be improved. It includes recommendations and adaptations. It may recommend the use of special glasses; coloured lenses or overlays. Most likely I will recommend vision therapy (VT). VT is a little like physiotherapy - it is active therapy where I teach someone how to access the visual system fully and get better and stronger and more efficient. I would be able to give you an idea of how many sessions would be expected after the evaluation. It very much differs from person to person.

Many parents understandably think that their child must be OK after passing the school vision screening. The screening program is important but it is very basic and can miss important problems. Going to the local optician is a good start. Behavioural optometrists though are few and far between.

For any further questions, please visit my website: [www.abcvisiontherapy.co.uk](http://www.abcvisiontherapy.co.uk).

Many Thanks, Maria Wheeler BSc (hons) MCOptom


Finally, I would like to share news of a local parenting course running at St. James' CE Primary Academy after Easter. Places are on a first-come-first-served basis:



## Time Out For Parents The Primary Years

Sessions for anyone parenting children aged 5 - 11

Thursdays, 1.00 - 3.00pm  
2nd May - 13th Jun (not in half-term)  
St. James' CE Primary Academy, BH7 6DW  
Course Cost: £10 (includes handbook)  
Contact: Nikki Sparrow  
nsparrow@stjames.academy  
School Office: 01202 426696




## Time Out For Parents The Primary Years

Positive Parenting Time Out for Parents courses from Care for the Family provide common sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship.


If you have children aged 5 – 11, then Time Out for Parents – The Primary Years is for you. Over six sessions, you'll increase your skills and confidence as a parent and discover practical tools to make your relationship with your child even better.

### The sessions

- Session 1 What being a parent's really like
- Session 2 Children's needs
- Session 3 Feelings and listening
- Session 4 Boundaries and parenting styles
- Session 5 Keeping children safe
- Session 6 Building strong families



Care for the Family Garth House, Leon Avenue, Cardiff CF15 7RG  
Tel (029) 2081 0800. [www.careforthefamily.org.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk)  
Care for the Family is a registered charity (England and Wales 1066905, Scotland SC038497).  
A company limited by guarantee no. 3482910. Registered in England and Wales



Best wishes, Liz Pritchard

[EWN@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:EWN@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk)

## Reception News

Wow, what an action packed half term Reception have had! Our new topic started with a mysterious present arriving in our class - attached with a little note saying 'This is for you.' We then had a game of pass the parcel and, as we opened each layer, we found a clue. The last clue, 'I hope you are a good driver', led us to discover that our new topic was 'Terrific Transport'.

We introduced our new Power of Reading text, Naughty Bus, by Jan and Jerry Oke. The story is very funny and it really got our creative story juices flowing. Our own Naughty Bus has been on some fantastic adventures at school (making a mess in the construction area, going down the slide and hiding in the sand pit). This has ignited our story writing and we have loved thinking of our own ideas and putting them into sentences.

We have created a bus station, made buses, trains, cars outside using what we could find, looked at and created maps, compared old and new transport and designed and finally made our own individual buses.

Our 'Terrific Transport' topic was enhanced with our first school trip to the wonderful Beaulieu Motor Museum. We had a fantastic time looking at different transport through the years, riding on a vintage bus and going on a transport hunt. You couldn't take the smile off our faces all day. This led to an impressive writing recount which wouldn't have been possible without this amazing experience. Thank you to all the parent helpers who came with us.



In maths, we have been focusing on building 9 and 10. We have been using our 10s frame to look at how many more we need to make the amount of 9 and 10. This has been a great way to introduce number bonds. We have continued our subitising skills and have enjoyed challenges with this by looking at different sized objects and remembering to use our grouping skills.

In RE we have been looking at the topic of 'Lent'. In this unit we have been working towards answering the 'Big Question' How can we love and care for others this Lent? We have been looking at the Gospel reading of Bartimaeus. We learnt how Jesus performed a miracle and healed Bartimaeus using his hands. We also enjoyed learning all about Holy week and the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, we even had a go at doing this with our friends. We have thought about how Jesus showed kindness, care and love using his hands and how we can do this during Lent.



We really enjoyed bringing in our Easter decorated scooters and parading them round for each other to see.

Thank you for another successful half term and your continued support. Have a wonderful Easter break. The Reception Team x

## Year 1 News

What a busy half term we have had in Year 1! The children have immersed themselves in our Space topic which has been amazing to see. Additionally, it was so lovely to see so many of our lovely mummy's come to our Mother's Day celebrations. It was so nice to showcase our song and show our mummy's how grateful we are.

As part of our RE this term, we have been exploring Lent and the preparation for Easter. The children have been so reverent when discussing Jesus' journey through Lent as well as asking some thoughtful questions. As part of our learning, we have been making Lenten bookmarks full of symbols to represent Lent. The children took so much time and care over these which was lovely to see.

In Maths, we have been moving on to our bigger numbers all the way to 50! The children have been using hundred squares as well as dienes and ones to explore partitioning numbers up to 50! In the later part of the term, the children have been exploring capacity and volume and have loved doing this practically using our key words: full, nearly full, half full, nearly empty and empty.

In our Literacy, we began our Space topic by focusing on our Power of Reading text, Beegu. The children considered the thoughts and feelings Beegu would have felt throughout the story and created a diary entry of Beegu's journey on planet Earth. Following on from this, we have been learning all about the planets in our solar system. We have learnt so many facts about each planet and are currently writing our fact files all about each one!

In our humanities lessons this term, we started with a history focus thinking about the astronauts Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. We created timelines of their lives and then answered the big question 'Why are Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake important people in history?' We then moved on to our Geography where we have been creating a 'Guide of the United Kingdom' for Beegu. We have learnt all about each country in the UK and will consolidate our learning by deciding which country in the UK we could take Beegu to and why.

Year 1 have been extremely lucky to have had a visit from the Science Dome this half term. We took part in an immersive planetarium experience where we learnt all about the planets, stars and the International Space Station which was incredible. The children listened so nicely and the experience was definitely one to remember.

To finish, we just want to say thank you to all grown-ups for supporting their children with their phonics and reading at home. We hope you have now all received their phonics folders to access at home. If you have any queries regarding these, please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher.

Thank you so much!

Miss Maguire, Mrs Ryan and Mrs Mudge



## Year 2 News

We have had another busy term in Year 2. We started our new topic, Tangled Tales, reading our Power of Reading text 'Goldilocks and Just the One Bear'. We had a dress up day linked to World Book Day where the children came dressed as their favourite book character (with a twist). We had so many different characters, from 'Little Blue Riding Hood' to 'The Big Friendly Wolf'.



We have been lucky to receive new books for our book corner and we chose one to explore on World Book Day - 'Inside the Villians' by Clotilde Perrin. The children took part in a range of activities and inspired others to read the book.

In Literacy, the children have explored and read a range of traditional tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs. As well as this, the children have listened to some tangled tales including Goldilocks and Just the One Bear and The Wolf's Story. We have been so impressed with their story telling skills and they have become brilliant authors to their own stories. The children have also written diary entries in role of the different characters. They have all been working incredibly hard during their 'Big Writes' this term and we were blown away with their setting description based on The Three Little Pigs cottage.



In Design & Technology, the children have designed, made and evaluated their own carriage for a fairy tale character of their choice. They learnt about wheels and axles and how they work together. They created mock up carriages including wheels, axles and chassis and used their problem-solving skills to work out what they needed to change in order to make it work. They also got to put on their safety goggles and have a go at cutting their own axles in the DT room. The children were extremely sensible and loved having a go at something they hadn't done before!



The children have continued to 'wow' us in their Computing lessons this half term. They have started to become skilled programmers and have used the 'Scratch Junior' app to program their 'Sprite' (character) to complete different actions. They have worked extremely well together and have learnt so much from one another. Their ability to program the character to walk, spin, talk, ask questions or change scene has been incredible, and seeing their progress from start to finish has been so rewarding for them.



We began the Lenten season by writing our Lenten promises. These promises were stuck onto our Lent display board to show the journey we were making towards Easter. So many of the children have been updating us on how well they have kept to these promises and are so proud of themselves for this. The focus in our RE lessons has been on forgiveness and how Jesus would want us to forgive. The children have listened to and discussed a number of parables such as 'The Unforgiving Servant' and 'The Lost Sheep'. They have also learnt about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and how this brings us closer to God. As always, their responses have been thoughtful and reflective.

Thank you so much for all of your support this term. We hope you have a restful and sunny Easter break 😊.

The Year 2 Team

## Year 3 News

The children started the term with an amazing, hands on food experience as an introduction to our new topic, Tent-tastic Tales, which introduced them to the exotic, distant part of the world we would be studying for the rest of the term, Central Asia. During the day, they tasted a variety of different foods that are eaten within Central Asia.



An afternoon session with the author, Sally-Pomme Clayton, surrounded by amazing artefacts from central Asia, inspired the children to delve deeper into our power of reading text, Tales told in Tents. Pomme's retelling of 'Zarina's Orchard' captured the children's imaginations and allowed them to write their own versions of this tale. We were so proud of the outcomes of the children's writing and it is fantastic opportunities such as these that enrich and inspire their work.

In Science, the children learnt about how light travels and investigated shadows. The children worked in groups to create shadow puppets and then used them to retell a story. Through this activity, they were able to learn about how shadows can be made larger and smaller, darker and lighter.

The work of Henri Matisse and his 'Cut-Out' pictures, allowed children to learn about primary and secondary colours, alongside contrasting and complementary colours. Year 3 were inspired by Matisse; how he managed to continue creating his work even whilst facing physical challenges as his health deteriorated. The final part to their art project was to create their own carpet of dreams with a twist on the 'batik technique' using wax resist with oil pastels and water colours, which they added to their textured carpet designs.



World book day was great fun as we dressed up as some of our favourite book characters. It tied nicely into our big reading push, with the children being encouraged to get their reading records signed more regularly and read more. We love seeing how their own interests and choices of books that they are reading at home are developing. More and more book worms are being seen!

In computing, children explored the idea of moving pictures by making their own mini-flip book. They were then introduced to the imotion app on the ipad, and the technique of 'onion skinning'. After working in pairs to create a simple storyboard, they used the imotion app to make a short animation.

We wish that you all enjoy the Easter break, and are able to get out and make your own special memories and tales!

The Year 3 Team

## Year 4 News

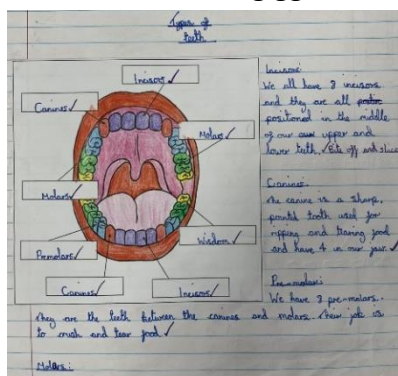
Extra! Extra! Read all about it! And this is exactly what Year 4 have been doing this half-term throughout their Amazing Arachnids topic.

Initially, the children began by learning that an arachnid is actually a type of arthropod (an invertebrate with an exoskeleton and segmented body parts), e.g. a spider or scorpion. They then went on to identify the key characteristics of arachnids; that they are cold blooded, live mostly on land, have eight legs and also lay eggs. This research led us nicely to the beginning of our class text, 'Charlotte's Web'.



Before long, our Year 4 children were deeply invested in learning about the fate of Wilbur the pig and his adventures on Zuckerman's farm. The children then used their knowledge of the text to rewrite Chapter 1 of the story using their three action sentences, direct speech and fronted adverbials - something they did to an extremely impressive standard! Whilst continuing with our story, we were also introduced to the other animals on the farm. Following this, the children quickly identified the caring and selfless nature of Charlotte, the spider, who spun intricate webs to highlight to everyone just how magnificent Wilbur was and to save him from the usual fate of nice, fat little pigs. We also discovered the intriguing personality of Templeton, a rat who was a little bit selfish but enjoyed a fantastic day at the county fair! The children were then asked to imagine what he got up to and continue the story from this point as he overindulged and gorged himself on the scraps of humans. The children were incredibly creative with this task and managed to make use of the 'show not tell' technique when conveying a character's emotions through their actions.

However, Templeton wasn't the only one thinking about food this half-term as in Science we have been learning all about the human digestive system, the different types of teeth and creating food chains. This has led to the children producing a number of outstanding pieces of work just like you can see below. Despite this, the highlight for many was getting to make their own version of the human digestive system and watch what happened as food travelled from one end to the other... with a few giggles and gagging noises along the way!



Food has also been something that has helped us with our Maths work when learning about fractions. It is amazing just how much more focussed we are when talking about slicing up pizzas and cakes, and sharing them equally. This focus has so far enabled us to count and identify fractions on a number line, convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions and recognise equivalent fractions. We will soon be calling upon this knowledge again as we move on to the addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers.

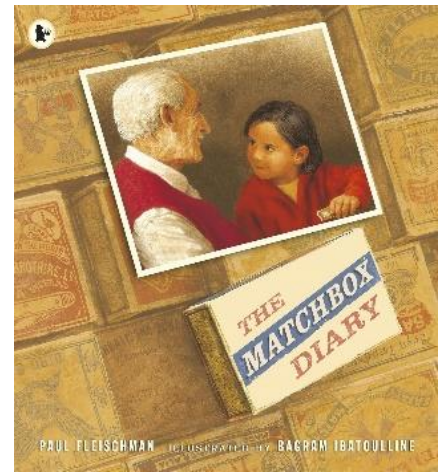
Finally, in amongst this hive of activity in our Year 4 classrooms, we have also been thinking in RE about 'How can we use Lent to make more space in our lives for God?' Something that we all admitted we could improve upon, both adults and children alike. This led to us looking at why we need Lent, how Jesus made space in his life for God, and how prayer, fasting and almsgiving are ways of doing exactly this.

Thank you for all your support throughout the Spring term, we really are very grateful and wouldn't have been able to do it without you. A special thank you to all of those parents who helped us when walking to Littledown for our swimming, even when the weather wasn't particularly kind!

Have a wonderful Easter! The Year 4 Team

## Year 5 News

This half term, Year 5 have been busy learning about migration as part of our topic, *The Goldrush*. As we progressed through our Power of Reading text, the Matchbox Diary, the children followed the migration story of the central character, the Great Grandfather. We learnt that as he was unable to read and write, he collected objects which he stored in matchboxes to remind him of important memories. Having made predictions, the children learnt that he migrated to America, as many Italians did during the nineteenth and twentieth century, following his father who migrated to America for work due to a severe drought in Italy. As a migrant, the Great Grandfather faced discrimination upon his arrival. The children wrote diary entries to document his journey and the struggles he encountered along the way. To add extra information, we learnt how to use parenthesis marks, including brackets, dashes and commas.



The children learnt that another way to document a life story is through an autobiography. We focused on building cohesion by using a range of language features: fronted adverbials of time, linking ideas and using conjunctions focused on cause and effect.

In Art, we studied the illustrations from our class text by Bagram Ibatoulline who creates realistic pictures which are easily mistaken for photographs. We learnt the skills of shading and the pencil sketching techniques. After learning how to produce portraits in proportion, the children enjoyed the challenge of producing their own portrait drawing to put into their own personal matchbox diary.



With a secure understanding of migration, we then explored the push and pull factors of the Californian Gold Rush, unpicking the events and the effect such migration has upon an area's geography. As part of this, the children were tasked to research their own family's migration stories which were later shared with the class as part of our geography lessons. Thank you to everyone who contributed as it gave the children a personal insight as to the impact of migration!



This term in Science, we have been learning how to separate different materials through filtration, evaporation and separation. Additionally, we have been exploring reversible and irreversible changes. During our Topic Morning, Year 5's final challenge was to apply this knowledge to pan for gold, just like a Forty Niner during the Gold Rush, by separating golden nuggets from the rest of a mixture.

During RE, we have been thinking out why change is a key theme in Lent. The children enjoyed writing a modern-day version of the Temptation of Christ and practicing resisting temptation in their day-to-day lives.

We wish you a joyful and restful Easter holidays.

The Year 5 team.

## Year 6 News

This half term, Year 6 have enjoyed reading our Power of Reading text, *Skellig*, as part of our class topic 'Where Your Wings Were.' In this story, the main character Michael encounters an unfamiliar creature, known as Skellig, living in his garage. Understandably, Michael is confused yet intrigued by the creature he discovers; he is also concerned with moving to a house in desperate need of renovation as well as his younger sister's poor health. Using our skills of inference, we wrote an internal monologue from Michael's perspective, documenting his growing worries and concerns. As part of this, we focused on using the subjunctive mood to outline his fears, hopes and wishes for the future.

Throughout the story, Skellig would often request pork char siu and vegetable spring rolls from the local Chinese restaurant. In class, we looked at various takeaway menus and restaurant brochures, analysing the persuasive writing features that were evident within these. We used this as inspiration to write our own persuasive brochure, convincing people to visit a new Chinese restaurant. Year 6 then had a go at making their own spring rolls and reviewing them, along with their restaurant, in a TripAdvisor review. In particular, Year 6 focused on their use of exaggerated language as well as ensuring a balance between fact and opinion.

In Science, Year 6 have been learning about the 'Theory of Evolution.' Year 6 first investigated how the shape of a bird's beak adapts over time depending on the food available in a certain environment, just like Darwin first observed on the Galapagos Islands. The children also learnt about inheritance and variations, identifying how certain genes are passed onto future generations depending on how dominant or recessive they are.

In Geography, Year 6 have been exploring the concept of biomimicry in order to answer their key enquiry question: *what impact has biomimicry had on human development?* As part of this, Year 6 have been exploring the aviation industry, considering the social, economic and environmental impact of this.

Earlier this half term, Year 6 enjoyed participating in World Book Day where they focused on the picture book, *Varmints* where a small creature struggles to survive in nature as a world of destruction and chaos slowly begins to take over. The children unpicked the important themes of this story and created some *Varmint*-inspired artwork using different artistic mediums. It was excellent to see all of the children's wonderful costumes and to hear them discussing their favourite stories and recommending books to others. By the end of the day, everyone had a new book that they wanted to read from our book corners!



Once again, we have been amazed by the resilience and attitude to learning shown by our Year 6 children – it is wonderful to see them arriving at school each day with a smile and a readiness to learn.

Thank you for your continued support – we hope you have a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday.

The Year 6 Team.

## Sporting News

### Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival

Ten children from Year 2 were lucky enough to be invited to a Multi-Skills festival at the Secondary site, being led by the Young Sport Leaders from Year 10 and involving over ten local schools. The activities were particularly engaging and worked to improve the fundamental elements of PE and Sport, including Agility, Balance Coordination, Throwing and Catching. Examples of some of the activities completed included Badminton,



Netball, Sprinting and Gymnastics, all specially adapted for the age of the children and broken down into enjoyable mini-challenges. We really enjoyed working with the older year groups from Southbourne, who always provide a brilliant example for our children to follow. Well done to all those who took part, including Olivia, Alex, Eric, Lucas, Elijah, Amelie, Annie, Zoe, Hugo and Harper.

### Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Competition

Tag Rugby is extremely popular at the Primary school, and our mixed Year 5/6 team were recently invited to take part in a competition hosted by Bournemouth Rugby Club. 25 schools from across Dorset and Hampshire were taking part, so we knew that competition was going to be fierce! The team started with group stage fixtures against Longfleet (won 4-2), St Joseph's (won 4-2), Christchurch (won 6-3), Ferndown (lost 5-3) and Haymoor (Won 4-2). Our excellent record of four wins and just one defeat saw us finish top of the table, ensuring we would be taking part in the finals during the afternoon, with a chance of winning the tournament. The standard of Rugby increased significantly, but the team were more than up for the challenge, finishing with wins against West Moors (2-0) and St Ives (5-4) and a narrow defeat against Lythett (5-4). Agonisingly, we missed out on the grand final by just 1 point, and so had to settle for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> play-off where we would face St James. The boys managed to overcome the disappointment of missing the final and produced their best rugby of the day, overcoming a very strong competitor to win 6-4, and claim 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the competition. Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> from 25 schools is a fantastic achievement and is testament to the effort the team have put in throughout curriculum lessons and at the Rugby club. A massive well done to Jack, Liam B, Ben, James, Thomas G, Thomas L, Liam L, Olly, Jacob, Kasper, Fionn and Oliver.



### Year 2 & 4 Swimming Lessons

Easter marks the end of the Year 2 and 4 Swimming Lessons that have been taking place since just after Christmas. With our proximity to the coast, these lessons can be literal 'life-savers' and the children have shown fantastic commitment and determination to improve throughout the 12 weeks of lessons. They have

displayed maturity and good humour during the walks to and from Littledown, with these usually taking place in drab and dreary conditions! The children have been mixed into three/four different groups during the lessons, with each focussing on different objectives. For those with previous swimming experience, improvement of the four major strokes has been key, as well as improving their stamina and being able to swim for longer amounts of time over greater distances. They have practiced entering the water in a variety of ways and when facing a variety of directions. Children with less experience have had a fantastic opportunity to experience the water, some for the very first time! This has involved becoming use to feeling water over their face, practising their leg kicks, playing a variety of water games and using flotation devices to begin swimming greater distances and improving their confidence.

A massive thank you to all the parent helpers who have walked with us to and from Littledown in all weathers. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to offer this opportunity to the children and it really has been appreciated.

## Music News

### Spring Soiree

Our Year 5 and 6 Orchestra have been exceptionally busy this half term! They meet with Mrs Byles and Mr Motte after school on Thursdays, who are delighted to see that there are some new members joining after Easter! The orchestra's first venture was the Spring Soiree, where they performed 2 pieces to a wonderfully supportive audience. The audience were also treated to performances from children across our whole instrument range – flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, singers, pianists and drummers – as well as magical performances from three of our peripatetic staff – Miss Parfitt on piano, Miss Mann on French Horn and Ms Ashman on saxophone. It was a truly fantastic evening of music making – what a talented group of musicians we have here at St Peter's Primary!



### New Milton Music Festival

Following the Spring Soiree, the orchestra then competed in the "Small Ensemble" category at the New Milton Music Festival, held at The Arnewood School. The orchestra gave up their Saturday morning to play 3 pieces, competing against orchestras from other local schools – AND THEY WON! You can imagine their excitement of winning a shiny trophy to celebrate!



## Reception and Year 4 Nursery Rhyme afternoon

Year 4 have continued to learn the ukulele in their music lessons, focusing on chords that can be found in many popular songs. They learnt to play 6 different nursery rhymes, which they then shared with our two reception classes. Year 4 played their ukuleles for the reception children to sing along to, before the Year 4's helped the younger children to have a go themselves.



## Peripatetic Lessons

If your son/daughter has peripatetic lessons in school, they will have brought home their comments sheet this week from their instrumental teacher – please remember that these are just a snapshot of the work completed, written in note form during the lesson. Please make sure that payment has been made on Parentpay for your son/daughter's lessons to resume after Easter – **no lessons can resume until payment has been made**. Can we also please remind you that we require half a term's written notice if you wish to cancel your child's lessons. We do have a few spaces to learn the violin, flute and clarinet should your child wish to start lessons after Easter – all other instruments remain at full capacity. If you would like to sign up for violin, flute or clarinet lessons, please do so using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/6RduVAmPGV>

And finally.....a huge CONGRATULATIONS to Daniel in Year 6, for passing his Grade 1 piano exam with Distinction – well done Daniel!

## Forest School News

Well what a wild, wet and windy six weeks of woeful weather we have witnessed! Never mind April showers- what about February and March showers?! But this has not dampened the spirits of our intrepid outdoor adventurers at Forest School from RBC, 1SM and 2SC.

All of the groups began their programme with a nature scavenger hunt to familiarise themselves with our outdoor area. We learned about many different types of living organisms in our field including what lichen is, and we also hunted for hidden soft toy animals; the children had a blast!

Reception subsequently enjoyed balancing on our super-long slack line as well as making clay goblins and making animal homes for our little animal teddy friends.



Years 1 and 2 enjoyed sessions having the freedom to choose from a variety of activities including clay modelling, den building, bug hunting, litter picking (now a firm favourite!) and of course balancing on our slack line! They also had a session centered around making their own Forest School "cookie pendant" and choosing their own Forest School animal name and action.

We all enjoyed a special bird themed session where we learned fun facts about our most regular bird visitors to the field. Armed with our binoculars, we then set off spotting different birds we could see and logging them on our checklists.

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed cooking their own chocolate chip Forest School cookies while learning about fire making. They practiced lighting a fire with a 'flint and steel' lighter; this will hopefully be of use on any future camping trips!

Our final session was a fun celebration of all things Forest School with lots of our regular activities on offer. We toasted marshmallows to have with our hot chocolates that are a regular feature of our sessions, and we finished with games involving our huge colourful parachute! What a way to end our programme!

Enjoy the Easter break and let's hope the weather is favourable for lots of walks enjoying our wild surroundings including our wonderful seaside!

Mr Motte  
Forest School Lead

