



Newsletter – 17th February 2023

RECEPTION

Reception have had a brilliant term learning about our topic 'Under the Sea'. We have been reading the story 'Rainbow Fish' and talking about different sea creatures from this story, how we can be kind to our friends and the importance of sharing. Reception have created their own Sea creatures which have been displayed in our role play cabin. We have been learning about submarines and what they are used for and we followed instructions on how to draw a Submarine and they were fantastic!

We have been investigating Magnets and how they work. We explored this by trying to catch magnetic fish with our Magnets.

Reception have also been looking at colour mixing and have been very creative at mixing primary colours together to make different colours.

In Maths the children have been learning about Capacity and they have learnt the terms 'full', 'half full', 'nearly full', 'nearly empty' and 'empty'. The children used the water tray to demonstrate their knowledge.

Reception have been learning lots of new sounds in Phonics and have been doing well at segmenting and blending CVC words. We have been working hard at our letter formation and using our Fred fingers to spell words too!

Fantastic work Reception!



YEAR 1

Year 1 have loved reading our key text 'Traction Man' this half term and have produced some excellent writing using adjectives as well as writing sentences using exclamation marks. After reading the whole story Year 1 were able to write their own short narrative using first, next, then, and finally. In Science Year 1 have continued to learn more about materials and have been investigating which materials are the most absorbent as well as which materials can be recycled. We found out that the sponge and fabric were the most absorbent and that lots of different materials including paper, plastic and glass can be recycled and re-used to make new things. We have enjoyed our new History topic learning about 'Building Bridges' and used the iPads to research the Mersey Gateway Bridge. We found out how bridges are built and that bridges are made from strong material. This topic linked to our D&T project of designing and building a bridge. Year 1 were fantastic engineers and were able to use different materials to build their own bridge.

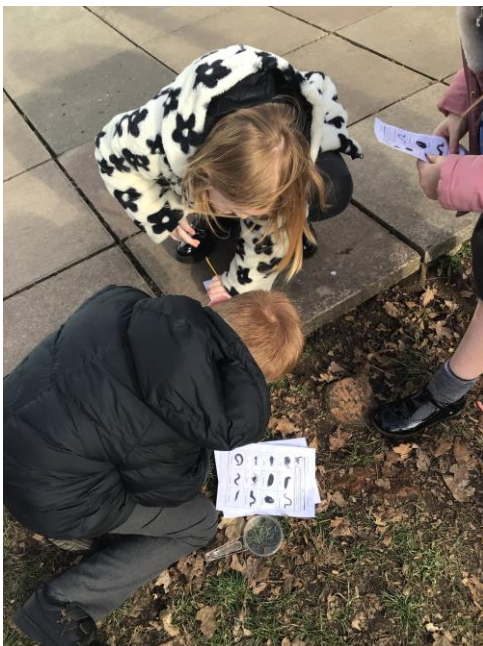
Well done for all your hard work this half term Year 1.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed learning about our class story 'One Day on our Blue Planet.' We have loved reading the story and researching all about the African Savannah and its animals. Year 2 have used iPads and the computer to carry out their own research – this was so much fun! Throughout our science topic, the children have been learning about 'Living things and their Habitats.' Not only have we been learning in the classroom, we have also been in the woods and around our school grounds exploring living things. Our favourite thing that we did this term was going on a worm hunt.

We sang and danced down the corridor before exploring our woodlands and finding some AMAZING worms. Year 2 are excited to continue learning about new things after half term.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have really enjoyed their 'Victorian Era' topic this half term. We have learned lots about what life was like living in this period, and how difficult it was for families who were poor. Children from poor families would have to go out to work to earn money from the age of 6 years, working very long hours and often in very unhealthy and dangerous conditions just to survive. We compared their lives to children of wealthy Victorian families and to living as a child in current times.

We also looked at some notable figures from the Victorian Era including Dr Barnardo, a benevolent man who set up his 'Ragged Schools' to provide free education for children too poor to receive it elsewhere, and whose charity still exists today. We have also studied the designer William Morris, learning about his famous furniture and fabric design that is still used all over the world today.

All of this history has been brought to life whilst reading our English text 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens – it's fair to say the children have been enthralled by the story of the poor orphan Oliver and his life.

Other highlights this half term have included our cricket lessons where we have learned how to throw, bowl, bat, wicket-keep and field with increasing skill and our fantastic class assembly celebrating Chinese New Year.



YEAR 4

During this half-term, Year 4 have been working super hard and have had lots of fun learning all about the rise of the Roman Empire. This included us understanding who the Romans were and where they came from, the Roman invasion in Britain and famous rulers of the Roman Empire. In art, we researched Roman mosaics and had a go designing and making our very own. We even explored the outdoors during our forest school lessons, searching for mosaics on the school grounds and gathering materials to make an outdoor mosaic. During our science lessons, we have been learning all about states of matter. We looked at how matter makes up our planet and the whole universe and how, on Earth, all matter exists in one of three main states: solid, liquid or gas. We really did enjoy investigating how, depending on its temperature, matter can change state; heating, cooling, evaporating, and condensation are ways in which a material changes state.



YEAR 5

This half term, we started our swimming lessons and are making super progress.

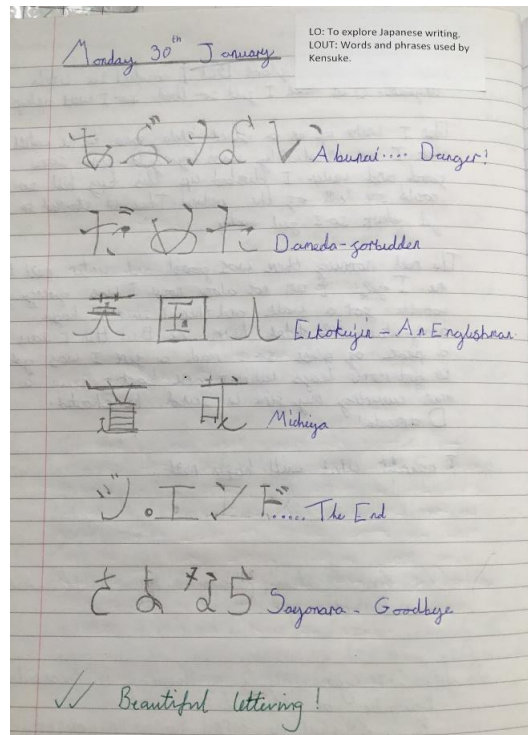


In Science we have enjoyed researching friction by investigating whose shoe is the most slippery?

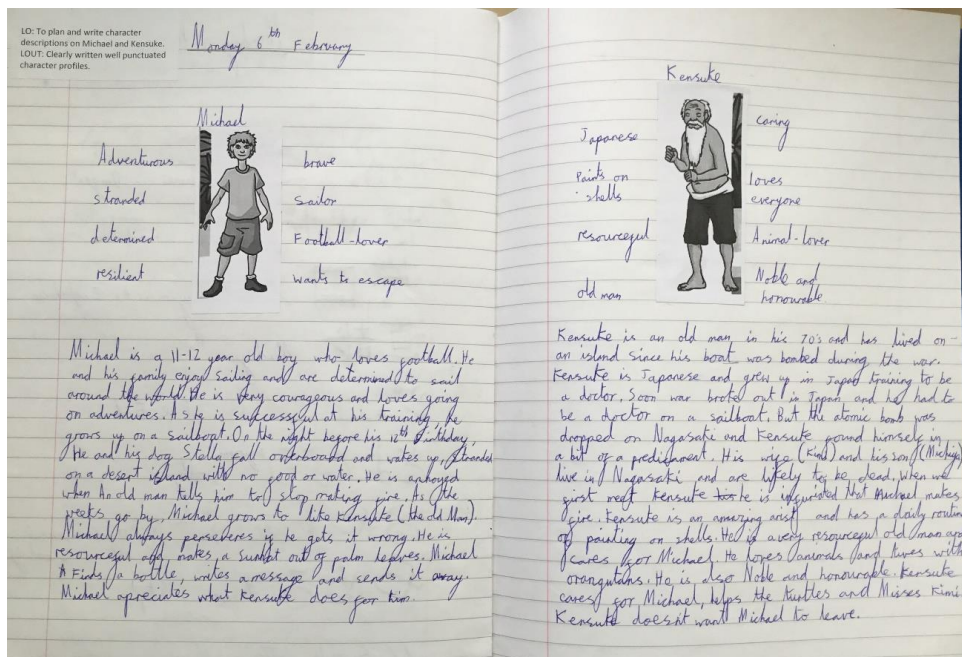


We are also making super progress with our tennis lessons.

Finally, we have immersed ourselves in the fabulous book: 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. This is an adventurous story about a young boy who becomes stranded on a desert island and befriends an old Japanese man. Both characters learn a lot from each other – Michael teaches Kensuke how to speak English, and Kensuke teaches Michael how to paint and fish. The ending is very moving as both characters part company. Here is a sample of Japanese writing, by Scarlett.



The two contrasting character descriptions of Michael and Kensuke are by Luna:



YEAR 6

For a week this term, Year 6 have been learning how to ride their bikes safely on the roads. They started off with their Level 1 certificate on the yard before venturing off to the streets of Hough Green to practice signalling and riding with real traffic. They learned primary and secondary riding positions and impressed Kevin, their instructor with their manners and ability. A huge congratulations to all of them, as they all impressed with both their biking skills and their manners and attitudes. Well done Year 6!



YEAR 6

National Storytelling Week 2023

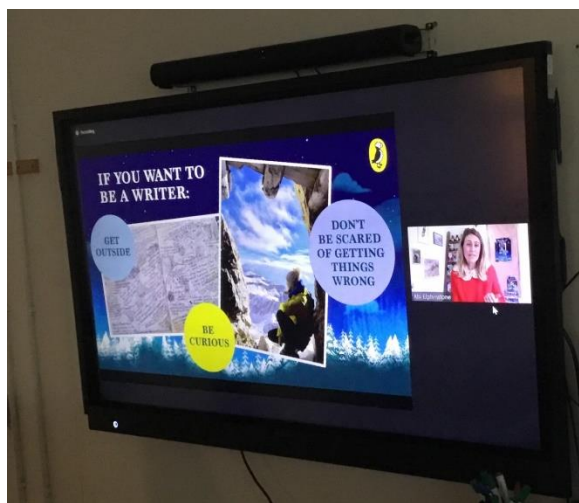
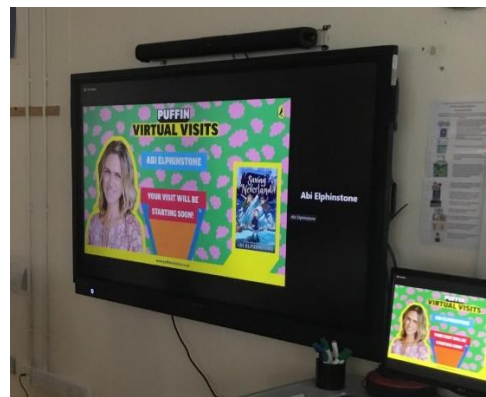
Year 6 were delighted to take part in a virtual author visit with Abi Elphinstone and Puffin books.

We really enjoyed seeing one of our favourite authors on screen and amazingly she said hello to us and said our school name and then answered three of the questions we had submitted before the event! We were thrilled to bits!

She told us how she knew she wanted to be a writer, where she got her inspiration from and how at times, she felt like giving up as it was so hard to get a book published but that she was so glad that she hadn't and so are we!

Her new book Saving Neverland is receiving fantastic reviews and quite a few of Year 6 have bought it and are enjoying it too.

Thanks to Puffin books and Abi Elphinstone for the fantastic opportunity to join this virtual book talk with 14,000 children all around the UK.



RESIDENTIAL TRIP PAYMENT

Year 6 Residential Trip to Plas Menai

Wednesday, 7th June 2023 to Friday, 9th June 2023

Polite reminder of pay dates

3rd instalment of £47.40 should be paid by Monday, 24th March 2023.

4th instalment of £47.40 should be paid by Wednesday, 21st April 2023.

5th instalment of £47.40 should be paid by Friday, 19th May 2022.



SWIMMING GALA

On Wednesday, 18th January Yr5/Yr6 children represented our School in the Widnes Primary Swimming Gala held at Kingsway Leisure Centre.

All swimmers put on an outstanding performance.

Overall, the girl's team came 3rd out of 12 schools and the boy's team also came 3rd out of 12 schools.

WELL DONE TO:

Jack Edgerton, Erin Dourley, Ethan Grant, Daisy Roche, Toby Sinclair, Sam Turpin, Erin Tyrer, Lilly Varley.

Mrs Tansey.



One Way System

Please could we remind Parents/carers that there is an unofficial one way system in operation around the school during drop off and collection times?

When approaching school by car please do so via Ash Lane and exit via Oakfield Drive.

Can we also ask you to ensure you park in a safe place and **NOT** across our neighbours' driveways or on the white lines.

Thank you for your cooperation.



GATES

As always, the safety of our children is paramount! Therefore, in order to keep our children safe before and after school, please could we remind parents/carers that the school gates will be closed at 8.25am until 8.50am and at 2.50pm until 3.10pm whilst our children are coming into school and leaving at the end of day. Due to limited spaces please refrain from parking on school grounds. Please park outside of the school gates, but be mindful and considerate to our neighbours where you park. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Change of details

Please could you inform the office if you have any new contact numbers, moved house or if any medical conditions have changed? If your child has been diagnosed with a medical condition, please provide a copy of medical evidence from your GP for our records.



Dogs

Please could we remind parents/carers that dogs are **not** allowed anywhere on the school premises, even on a lead.



POLITE REMINDER – SNACK AND DINNER ACCOUNT

Please could we ask that you keep a check on your child(ren's) snack/dinner account ensuring they have credit on their accounts.

Unfortunately, if there is no credit on your account you will need to supply a packed lunch and a healthy snack from home.



SNACK

Please ensure that if your child is not buying snack from school then they bring in a piece of fruit **ONLY** for their snack at playtime. This is to ensure that all children are having healthy snacks as we are a Healthy School.



Bag2School

After the success of our previous Bag2School collection to fundraise for our school, Our Lady's have organised another Bag2School collection.

Attached to this newsletter is a leaflet of when the bags will be collected from school, which is Monday, 24th April 2023. Also attached is a list of what they will accept and what they won't. Bags can be dropped off at school anytime.





Some of our Year 4 children are starting their preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion, we pray for them as they prepare for these sacraments. Please find below some important dates for your diary.

The Presentation Mass on Feb 26th - 9.30am at St Michael's church,
The Reconciliation Session on Feb 28th - ashes are to be distributed at the end of the session
The Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 9th - 6pm in St Michael's church with St Michael's school

Coffee afternoon – Building Blocks for families

Children have brought home an invitation to a coffee afternoon in the school hall on Thursday 9th March 2023 at 1.30pm. Halton Support Services will be hosting this event and will be able to offer advice/support to parents on a range of things from sleep and screen time to the importance of consistent family routines etc.

We would love to see you all there.

CHILDREN LATE

This is a polite reminder that if your child is late for school in the morning, parent/carers **must** come into school with their child and sign them in on the EntrySign system at the office. Thank you.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

Please could we remind parents/carers that if your child(ren) are absent from school it is expected that parents/carers will provide an explanation of the child's(ren's) absence on the 1st day the absence occurs, at the start of the school day (before 8.30am)

If your child(ren) is absent for 3 days or more, parents/carers should contact the school again and provide an update on the child's(ren's) condition.

Please ensure that your child is in school every day and on time

INDUSTRIAL STRIKE ACTION

The next date for Industrial Strike Action will take place on Tuesday, 28th February 2023.

Unfortunately, there will be no classes open on this day. Therefore, all year groups will remain home for the day.

Thank you for your support in this matter and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. We will of course keep you updated should there be any changes.

EASTER BINGO

On Thursday, 23rd March 2023 @ 6pm we will be holding an Easter Bingo in our school hall.

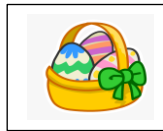


To collect prizes for our Bingo Night, we will be holding the following own clothes days:-

10th March - bring Bottles / Gifts



17th March - bring Chocolate / Easter eggs



HPAN (Halton Primary Arts Network)

We are proud to announce that Our Lady's has taken part in the Halton Primary Arts exhibition in Runcorn Shopping Centre, again this year.

If you get a chance over the half term pop along and see the fantastic art work on display not just from our school but many other primary schools in both Widnes and Runcorn – 'A Step back in Time'.



School re-opens on Monday, 27th February 2023 @ 8.30am children in class by 8.45am

Bag2School



@bag2schooluk

www.bag2school.com



follow us on Facebook

Our next **Bag2School** collection
has been arranged for

Monday, 24th April 23

at *9* .. am / 

Any questions - please ask your
school collection organiser

Lynn Stanley

www.bag2school.com

BAG2SCHOOL

WHAT WE COLLECT

We accept the following **'good quality'** items for RE-USE*:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

** We reserve the right to refuse any unsuitable items*

We DO NOT accept:

- *Duvets and blankets*
- *Pillows and cushions*
- *Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)*
- *Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing*
- *School uniforms with and without logo*
- *Corporate clothing and workwear*
- *Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material*