Waverley School
Learning through diversity

PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

October 2026

HUMANITY EQUALITY ASPIRATION RESPECT












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From our Principal and Vice Principal

Mrs S Dosanjh (Principal) and Mr U Malik (Vice Principal)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted with the wonderful start our pupils have made to the new school year. This half-term has been packed with enriching experiences, from our high-energy Rock Kidz assembly and our Black History Month celebrations to trips to the zoo, St Philip's Cathedral, Walsall Art Gallery and a Buddhist Pagoda, as well as workshops that have brought the Stone Age and Ancient Greece to life. These experiences broaden our pupils' horizons and deepen their enthusiasm for learning, and we are very proud of how they have represented our school.

We would also like to remind everyone of the vital role attendance plays in pupil achievement. Regular attendance is closely linked to positive outcomes, and your continued support in making sure your child is in school, on time, every day is greatly valued. Our whole-school attendance so far this year is **94.2%** – thank you to every family who has helped us to achieve this.

As the half-term break approaches, we encourage families to take time to relax and recharge. A well-earned rest will benefit pupils and provide a chance for quality family time.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on **Monday 2nd November 2026 at 8:25am**.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Dosanjh
Principal

Mr U Malik
Vice Principal











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Key Dates – Autumn 2

Please keep this page handy – dates may change, and we will let you know if they do

Fri 23 Oct	Mon 2 Nov	Fri 27 Nov	Fri 18 Dec
End of Autumn 1	All pupils back, 8:25am	Training day – closed	End of Autumn 2

Week commencing Monday 2 November

Mon 02/11/26	**Start of Autumn 2 – all pupils back in school**
Tue 03/11/26	EYFS – West Midlands Police Show and Tell: police car visit
Tue 03/11/26	Parents' Evening (Reception – Year 6), 3:25 – 6:00pm
Wed 04/11/26	Parents' Evening (Reception – Year 6), 3:25 – 6:00pm
	Year 4 – SPARX workshop by Ward End Fire Station
	Year 2 – 'Big Question Day': The Great Fire of London workshop

Week commencing Monday 9 November

Mon 09/11/26	Years 3 & 4 SEND Festival
Mon 09/11/26	Year 1 visiting Asda
Mon 09/11/26	Diwali themed day and lunch
Tue 10/11/26	EYFS & Year 1 Parents' Meeting: Supporting Children with English, 3:30 – 4:00pm
Wed 11/11/26	EYFS Open Events, 9:30 – 10:30am and 4:00 – 5:00pm
Fri 13/11/26	Author Tony Bradman in school

Week commencing Monday 16 November

Mon 16/11/26	Community/Parent Coffee Morning, 9:00 – 10:00am
Wed 18/11/26	Year 3 – Into Film Festival, VUE Star City: 'Super Mario'
Thu 19/11/26	Year 2 – Into Film Festival, Cineworld Solihull: 'Toy Story 5'
Thu 19/11/26	Year 4 – Into Film Festival, Odeon: 'How to Train Your Dragon'
Fri 20/11/26	Children in Need charity event
	Year 4 – MTC Parent/Pupil Workshop, 8:40 – 9:40am

Week commencing Monday 23 November

Wed 25/11/26	Year 5 – Into Film Festival, Cineworld Solihull: 'Super Mario'
Wed 25/11/26	Year 6 – Into Film Festival, Cineworld Resorts World: 'Minecraft'
Fri 27/11/26	**Training Day – closed to pupils**

Week commencing Monday 30 November

Mon 30/11/26	Year 2 – 'What on Earth is that?' science workshop
Mon 30/11/26	1A & 2A Maths Parent/Pupil Workshop, 8:40 – 9:40am
Tue 01/12/26	1B & 2B Maths Parent/Pupil Workshop, 8:40 – 9:40am
Wed 02/12/26	Resource Base – MAC: 'Tales from Acorn Wood at Christmas'
Thu 03/12/26	Year 5 visiting Warwick Castle

Week commencing Monday 7 December

Mon 07/12/26	Community/Parent Coffee Morning, 9:00 – 10:00am
	EYFS – visit to the local post box
	Year 1 – visit to the local Post Office
Wed 09/12/26	Resource Base – MAC: 'Tales from Acorn Wood at Christmas'
Wed 09/12/26	School Council visiting Parliament
Thu 10/12/26	West Midlands Police – social media awareness (Years 5 & 6)

Week commencing Monday 14 December

Tue 15/12/26	Attendance Disco Party
Wed 16/12/26	EYFS Nativity (afternoon)
Thu 17/12/26	Christmas Jumper Day and themed lunch
Thu 17/12/26	Christmas Wonderland
Fri 18/12/26	**End of Autumn 2**

Looking ahead: Spring 1

Mon 04/01/27	**Training Day – closed to pupils**
Tue 05/01/27	**All pupils back in school**



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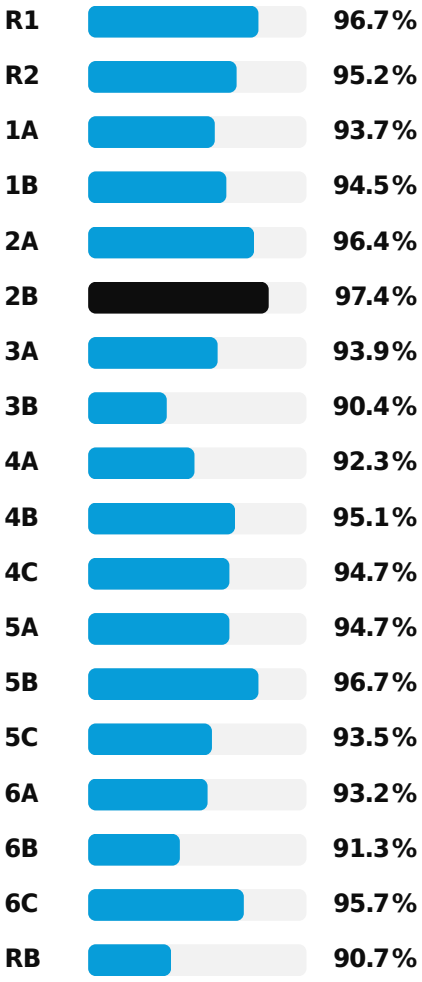
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Attendance

Attend today, achieve tomorrow

Attendance by class



3 September – 20 October 2026. Bars start at 85%.

Our whole-school attendance so far this year is

94.2%

Thank you for your support – every day counts!

Top class

2B

97.4% – a fantastic effort. Well done, 2B!

By year group

Reception	**96.0%**
Year 1	**94.1%**
Year 2	**96.9%**
Year 3	**92.2%**
Year 4	**94.1%**
Year 5	**94.9%**
Year 6	**93.4%**
Resource Base	**90.7%**

Punctuality – be in school, be on time

At Waverley, we monitor punctuality as well as attendance. Persistent lateness can be treated by the law in the same way as irregular attendance, and parents may be prosecuted by the Local Authority if late arrival is not resolved.

The school gates open at **8:25am**. Please make sure your child arrives on time so that they do not miss out on learning. Poor punctuality can lead to:

- feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- missing the beginning of vital lessons
- missing important instructions for the rest of the school day.

Every minute matters!

Being on time is just as important as being in school. If your child misses 15 minutes every day for one week, they will have lost over an hour of learning!



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Spotlight on Safeguarding

Working together to keep our young people safe

What are AI chatbots?

Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini and others, are becoming more common in everyday life. Children may encounter them at school, in games or through websites and apps. While these tools can be useful and fun, it is important for parents to understand how they work, the potential risks and how to keep children safe.

AI chatbots are computer programs that can hold a conversation with a person. They can:

- answer questions (e.g. helping with homework or explaining a tricky topic)
- spark creativity (e.g. helping to write a poem, story or quiz)
- support hobbies and interests (e.g. generating recipe ideas, sports facts or coding tips)
- provide entertainment (e.g. riddles, jokes or role-play games).

Used wisely, chatbots can be a helpful tool for learning and fun.

When conversations can become concerning

Although conversations may start out innocently, there are risks to be aware of:

- **Unpredictable responses:** chatbots sometimes give inaccurate, confusing or inappropriate information.
- **Role-play risks:** a child may ask a chatbot to pretend to be a friend, a character or even a parent figure, which can blur the line between fantasy and reality.
- **Sensitive topics:** children may share personal worries with a chatbot, and the answers they receive might not always be supportive, accurate or safe.
- **Over-reliance:** a child might start turning to a chatbot for advice instead of trusted adults.

5 ways to keep your child safe when using AI chatbots

1. **Talk together**
   Ask your child if they have used a chatbot and what for. Show interest in their curiosity.
2. **Set age-appropriate limits**
   Many chatbots are designed for older users. For younger children, supervised use is best.
3. **Use child-friendly versions**
   Some companies are developing age-appropriate AI tools with stricter safety filters.
4. **Encourage critical thinking**
   Remind children that not everything a chatbot says is true. Check facts together.
5. **Put people before technology**
   Reassure your child that if they are worried, upset or have questions, they should always talk to a trusted adult first.

Key message: AI chatbots can be a useful tool, but they are not a replacement for safe, supportive human relationships. With guidance, supervision and open conversations, parents can help children explore this technology in a safe and balanced way.



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Waverley Rocks!

Our Rock Kidz assembly – 'Don't Stop, Never Give Up'



ROCK KIDZ 2026

WAVERLEY ROCKS!

'Don't Stop, Never Give Up'

A rocking start to the year

This half-term, Rock Kidz returned to Waverley – and what a show it was! Pupils across the primary phase filled the hall for a high-energy concert packed with music, lights and plenty of dancing.

Beyond the fun, this year's theme, **'Don't Stop, Never Give Up'**, carried a powerful message about resilience and perseverance. Children thought about what it means to keep going when things get tricky – whether that is tackling a hard maths problem, learning a new skill or trying again after making a mistake.

It is a message that sits at the heart of our HEAR values, and one we will keep celebrating in assemblies and classrooms every day. Thank you, Rock Kidz!

Keep the message going at home

- **Praise effort, not just results.** Notice when your child keeps trying.
- **Add the word 'yet'.** "I can't do it" becomes "I can't do it yet".
- **Share your own stories.** Tell your child about a time you didn't give up.
- **Celebrate mistakes.** They show we are learning something new.



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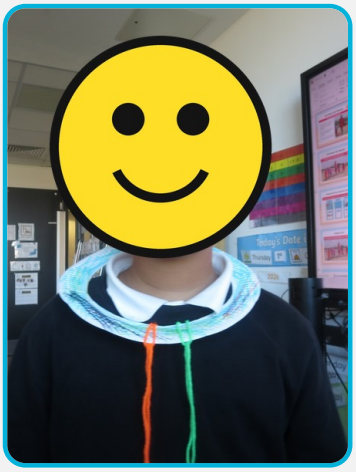
Resource Base Team

Ms Khatoon (SENDCo), Miss Pearcey, Miss Jama, Miss Ali, Ms Begum, Mrs Hussain, Miss Liaqat and Mrs Kausar

English

In English this term, the children focused on the stories 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters'. They began their learning with an exciting hook activity, making gingerbread house pictures. They then used colourful semantics to write parts of the stories, and some children learnt how to use adjectives to describe characters and settings. The children have also been making great progress with their reading and phonics. Excellent work, Resource Base!







Maths

The children are continuing to make brilliant progress in Maths and to develop their number skills. Activities have included counting to 20 and beyond, and using these skills to add and subtract with a number line to help them count on. Some children have been practising their times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars, while others are learning to sort and identify 'more' and 'less'. We are really proud of how our children are engaging in their Maths lessons.



Topic

This term, our topic was 'Traditional Tales'. Linked to our story 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters', the children learnt about Africa, and some can now find Africa on a map or globe. They also found out about Tinga Tinga art and made African necklaces.

As part of the school's Black History Month celebrations, the children learnt about Floella Benjamin and Mary Seacole, and thought about the jobs they would like to do when they are older. Keep up the wonderful work, Resource Base!





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Nursery Team

Ms J Gohil, Mr M Hussain, Ms A Patel, Ms A Bibi, Mr Akter, Mrs Hussain and Mr D Jones (Director of Learning – EYFS)

Settling in

We are so pleased that our Nursery children are settling into their new routines with their friends and teachers.

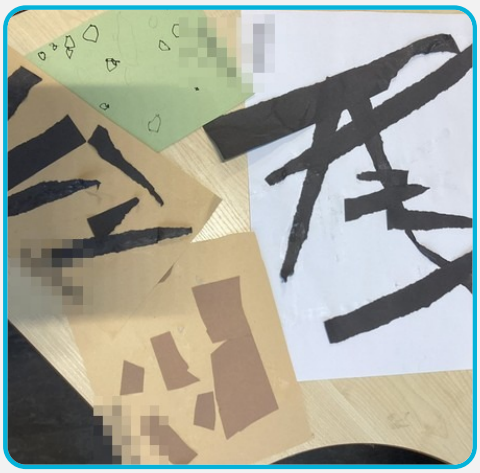
Big Nursery have been exploring different activities to help develop their fine motor skills. During water play, the children used their finger and hand muscles to collect and transfer water with syringes and droppers. The syringes were tricky to use, because we had to pull to collect the water and push to squeeze it out!



Maths

In Maths, we have been saying the number names in the right order, counting autumnal objects and counting actions.

We have also been looking at shapes and patterns all around us and exploring them with all our senses.



Black History Month

We have also been developing our finger muscles by exploring animal patterns as part of Black History Month. We tore, rolled, cut and scrunched paper to make our own patterns, and some children used other media to represent theirs. We have had lots of fun!

Mealtimes

Nursery children have their own dining space, and we have been working very hard to use a knife and fork to cut up our own food. It is a bit tricky, so we need lots of practice to build up the finger muscles we need to use cutlery correctly.

We are getting better and better at this new skill each week. Well done to all our Nursery superstars!





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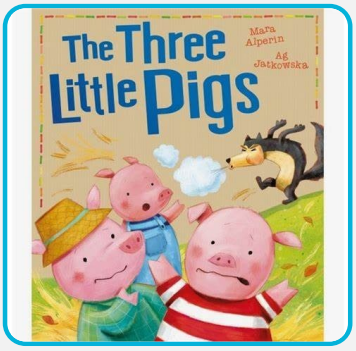
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Reception Team

Mrs T Akhtar, Mrs A Santos (Year Group Leader), Ms B Kausar and Mr D Jones (Director of Learning – EYFS)

Literacy

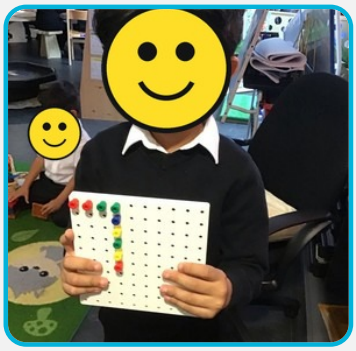
The children have immersed themselves in the exciting story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. We began by discussing what a fairy tale is before moving on to the repeated refrains in our topic book. The children have become great performers, taking on the roles of the characters and acting out the story using Talk for Writing, text maps and puppets. We then built on this by matching initial sounds to pictures, and the children have even started to read words such as 'pig' and 'big'!



Numeracy

Numeracy has focused on repeating patterns and deepening the children's understanding of the numbers 1 to 3. The children have been fabulous number detectives through practical activities such as finding numbers, representing them and even creating numbers on peg boards!

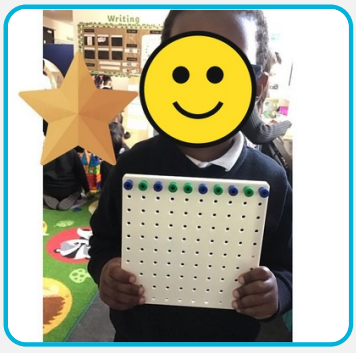




Artist of the Half-Term

Our Artist of the Half-Term has been Picasso. The children have explored how bright colours and abstract art can be used to show faces from different angles. They have also been working hard on their fine motor skills by recreating some of Picasso's line drawings of animals and applying these skills to their own drawings!





Foundation

Our foundation lessons have been all about learning who we are! The children have been learning about themselves and their families, and how we are all unique and different. We have also been learning about the people who help us in our community and how to stay safe at different times.



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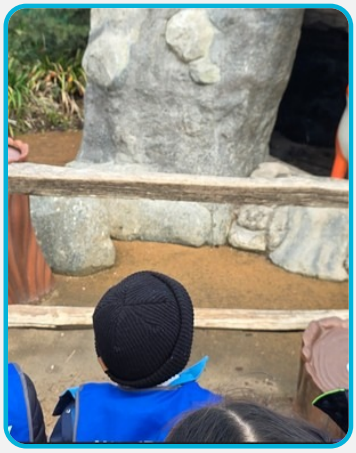
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Year 1 Team

Ms M Akhtar, Miss R Bibby (Year Group Leader), Mrs S Akhtar, Mrs S Akhtar, Mr M Ali, Ms L Hussain and Dr S Bodhanker (Director of Learning)

Year 1 has enjoyed a busy and engaging half-term packed with exciting opportunities for learning, from our memorable visit to the zoo to exploring the local community and making the most of continuous provision. The children have embraced every experience with enthusiasm, settled confidently into Year 1 and shown a fantastic attitude towards new challenges and routines.





English

The children began the year by exploring the traditional tale 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', developing their understanding of sequencing events. We then wrote a set of instructions on how to make porridge – we think Baby Bear was very pleased to receive them, after Goldilocks ate his!

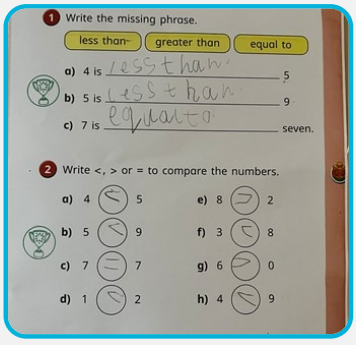
In our second unit, the children enjoyed retelling the story 'Funnybones'. They created story maps and used actions to help them rehearse key events and sentences before writing their own retellings.

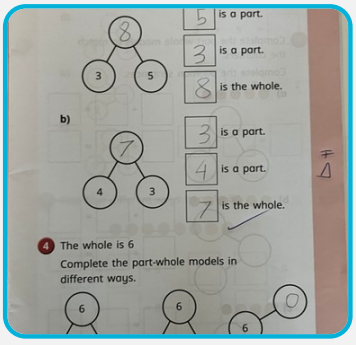
Our zoo visit and topic

Our visit to the zoo was a memorable experience that sparked lots of curiosity about the animal world. The children enjoyed observing a variety of animals and were excited to go on an adventure through 'The Gruffalo' experience.

In Science, they explored animal classification, learnt about different parts of the human body and investigated how their senses help them understand the world around them. In Geography, the children developed their mapping skills by studying aerial photographs and creating simple maps of the school community using keys and symbols.







Maths

In Maths, the children have developed their understanding of place value within 10 through practical activities using resources such as counters, cubes and ten frames. They have practised counting forwards, finding one more and one less, and comparing numbers using mathematical language including 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to'.



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Year 2 Team

Ms N Akhtar, Ms Z Ahmed, Ms H Bashir and Dr S Bodhanker (Director of Learning)

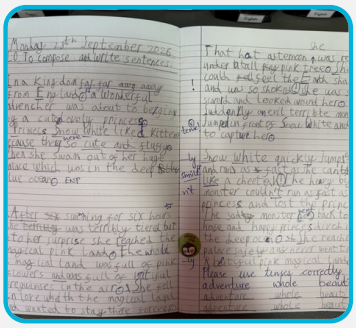
English

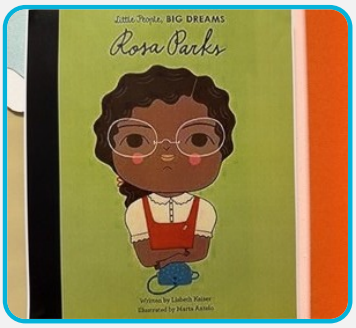
Year 2 have been working hard in their English lessons this half-term, producing a three-part narrative based on mixed-up traditional tales, a recount of their trip to St Philip's Cathedral and a non-chronological report about Rosa Parks. Throughout these units, pupils have focused on key language features, including capital letters, full stops, adjectives, expanded noun phrases and conjunctions such as 'if', 'that', 'when' and 'but'. The children have worked hard to apply these skills to make their writing clear, detailed and engaging.

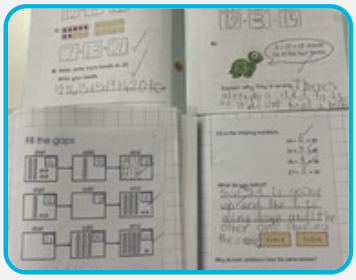
Maths

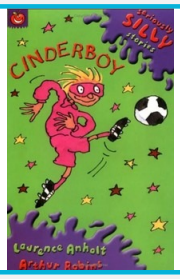
In Maths, pupils have been developing their understanding of place value and strengthening their addition and subtraction skills through a range of practical and engaging activities. They have explored numbers using resources such as Base 10, part-whole models and number lines, and have practised a variety of methods to solve addition and subtraction calculations.

Alongside this, they have tackled problem-solving and reasoning challenges, explaining their thinking, making connections and applying their learning in different contexts. It has been wonderful to see pupils grow in confidence and resilience as they take on increasingly challenging mathematical tasks.









Reading

In Reading, we have enjoyed a range of high-quality texts that have supported and enriched our learning in English. We read 'Cinderboy' and 'Rosa Parks' from the Little People, Big Dreams series, which helped pupils deepen their understanding of their writing units.

In whole-class reading sessions, we explored books such as 'Snow White and the Seven Aliens', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Wangari's Trees of Peace'. Pupils developed key reading skills, including retrieval, inference and vocabulary, and practised applying them through SATs-style questions each Friday.

Geography, Science and DT

This half-term, Year 2 have been busy in Geography, Science and DT. In Geography, they explored different types of weather and climates around the world. In Science, they learnt about a range of materials and carried out an experiment to investigate which were absorbent and which were waterproof. In DT, the children designed and created a cape for Superhero Sam, practising their cutting, joining and decorating skills with fabric. Throughout these lessons, pupils developed their observation, investigation and design skills while working creatively and collaboratively.



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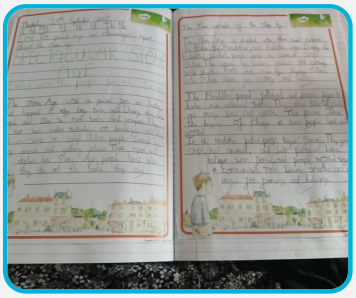
Year 3 Team

Ms Mohamed, Ms Saddique (Year Group Leader), Ms Amin and Dr Bodhanker (Director of Learning)

English

Over the past few weeks, Year 3 have explored the Stone Age, researching key aspects of prehistoric life before writing their own non-chronological reports. To celebrate Black History Month, we also studied the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah, exploring his themes, language and rhythm before performing his poems with confidence and creativity.







Maths

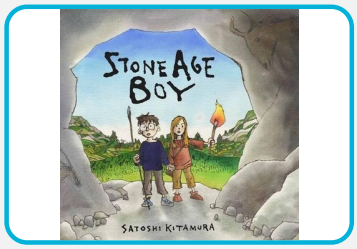
In Maths, we began by exploring place value up to 1,000, helping children to understand the value of each digit in a number. We then moved on to a range of addition and subtraction strategies, including exchanging across 10 and 100 using the column method. To support their learning, children used place value charts, part-whole models and bar models to visualise and solve problems accurately.

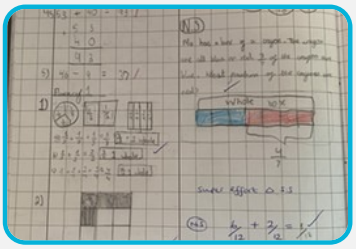
Alongside this, children have been practising efficient arithmetic strategies in their daily fluency sessions to improve their speed and accuracy. They have also been learning their 3 times table, laying the groundwork for confident multiplication. Please encourage your child to keep practising their times tables on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS).

Topic

Throughout Autumn 1, Year 3's topic has been the Stone Age. We began with a Stone Age workshop, which sparked the children's curiosity, and went on to explore how early humans lived, worked and interacted with their environment.

We have learnt about the development of tools and the significance of fire, and how these innovations shaped daily life. Discussions about cave paintings and early art have also sparked our curiosity about the culture of this period.





Class 3B assembly

Class 3B delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking assembly for Black History Month on the theme 'Honouring Our Community'. Pupils confidently shared their learning about community heroes, both local and from around the world, highlighting the positive impact people can have through service, leadership, courage and kindness.



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Waverley School
Learning through diversity

NEWSLETTER
October 2026

HUMANITY EQUALITY ASPIRATION RESPECT

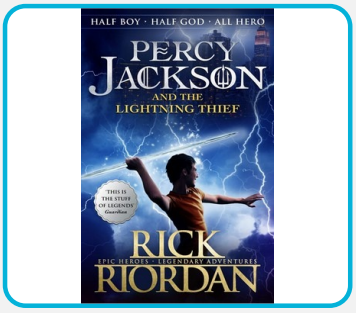
Year 4 Team

Mrs Wali, Mrs Basharat, Mrs Virk, Ms Amin, Ms Jehan (Year Group Leader) and Mr Malik (Vice Principal)

English

In English this half-term, we have focused on the novel 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief', which the children enjoyed very much and which linked well with our History topic. Children wrote character and setting descriptions, and their final piece was an adventure story written in the style of the author.





Maths

We believe that mathematics equips pupils with a uniquely powerful set of tools, developing their ability to calculate, reason and solve problems, and to appreciate patterns in number and space in everyday life.

This half-term, children have been learning about place value, Roman numerals and rounding. They have developed strong fluency skills, which they have applied to reasoning and problem-solving challenges. We have now started to focus on column addition and subtraction using a range of concrete and pictorial representations.

Multiplication Tables Check

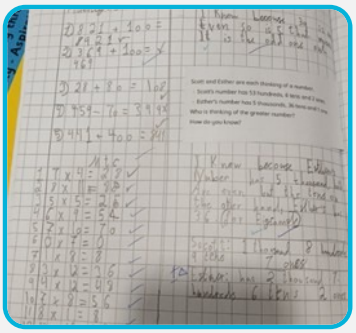
This year, Year 4 will be preparing for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), in which they will need to recall their times tables up to 12 × 12.

To support this, please encourage your child to use Times Tables Rock Stars for 15 minutes every day. There are also lots of activities on Purple Mash and timestables.co.uk to help.



Walsall Art Gallery

As part of our Art topic, pupils visited Walsall Art Gallery, where they analysed a range of artworks and discussed which they liked and why. They also took part in workshops, including poly-printing, which later helped them to make their own printed Greek amphorae. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were excellent role models for our school.



Geography

This term, Year 4 have been learning all about Greece! They explored why people visit, looking at the climate, tourist attractions and food, and created information posters and travel brochures. This leads nicely into our next topic, Ancient Greece.

Greek Day

Year 4 enjoyed Greek Day workshops, where they learnt about the history of Greece and famous Greek gods, took part in story role-plays and competed in Olympian games – where they all triumphed!



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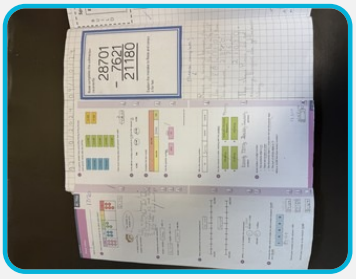
HUMANITY EQUALITY ASPIRATION RESPECT

Year 5 Team

Mrs Sohail, Mr Muneem (Year Group Leader), Ms Olad, Mrs Desai and Mr Malik (Vice Principal)

English

In English this term, children explored the 'Vicious Vikings' before writing their own non-chronological reports. They analysed example reports, researched key facts and developed their note-taking and organisational skills before planning and publishing their own informative Viking reports.





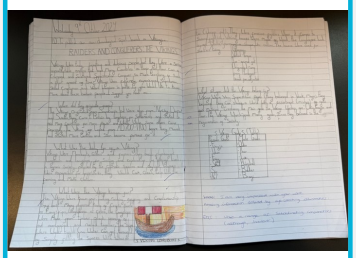
Viking Day

Year 5 enjoyed a series of engaging workshops on Viking Day, learning about Viking daily life, longships and weaponry in a fun and humorous way with Professor McGinty, who transported them back in time. Pupils also had the exciting opportunity to handle authentic items and replicas from the Viking period!

Maths

In Maths this half-term, children began by learning about place value, looking at numbers up to a million! They ordered, compared and rounded numbers before moving on to addition and subtraction, where they consolidated their understanding of the formal column method.





History

What an exciting start to the year! We began with an engaging Viking workshop that sparked our curiosity about the Vikings. In History, we then researched the Vikings, focusing on the famous raid on Lindisfarne.

Year 5 absolutely loved this topic and showcased their creativity by producing amazing fact files filled with the incredible information they discovered. They then created a timeline of Viking events and ended the unit by creating informative and persuasive travel brochures.



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HUMANITY EQUALITY ASPIRATION RESPECT

Year 6 Team

Ms Khan, Mrs Javed (Year Group Leader), Ms Habib, Mrs S Kauser, Ms Sultana and Mr U Malik (Vice Principal)

Baking for instructional writing

As part of their instructional writing, Year 6 made cupcakes. After discussing the ingredients and equipment needed, the children watched teachers model how to use measuring scales accurately, then made their cupcakes in small groups, measuring, stirring and mixing their own ingredients. "I love the taste of this mixture – it is very sweet!" and "I can't wait to eat my cupcakes!" the children said excitedly. They thoroughly enjoyed their time baking and were keen to share their experiences with their parents.



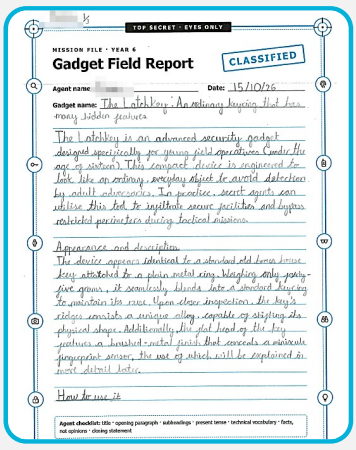
English

After baking, Year 6 wrote their own instruction texts explaining how to make cupcakes. They explored a range of recipes, identified the key features of instructional writing and wrote persuasive 'tantalisers' to encourage readers to try their recipes, using imperative verbs, adverbials and precise sequencing language.



Gadget designers: non-chronological reports

Inspired by 'Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz, Year 6 looked at Alex Rider's gadgets and designed their own spy gadgets, thinking carefully about their features and uses. They then wrote non-chronological reports about their inventions, using headings and detailed descriptions to explain how each gadget works. Take a look at this 'Gadget Field Report' for the Latchkey – it was great to see pupils' reading inspire such creative designs and writing!



TOP SECRET · EYES ONLY

MISSION FILE · YEAR 6

Gadget Field Report CLASSIFIED

Agent name: [redacted] Date: 15/10/26

Gadget name: The Latchkey – An ordinary keyring that has many hidden features

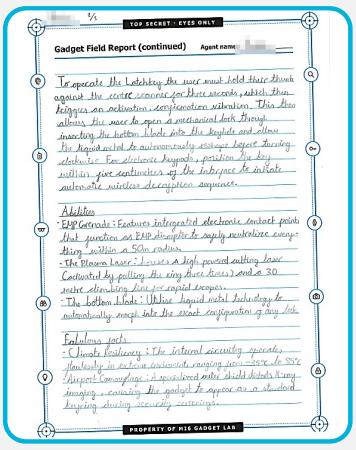
The Latchkey is an advanced security gadget designed specifically for young field operatives (under the age of sixteen). This compact device is engineered to look like an ordinary, everyday object to avoid detection by adult adversaries. In practice, secret agents can utilise this tool to infiltrate secure facilities and bypass restricted perimeters during tactical missions.

Appearance and description

The device appears identical to a standard old brass house key attached to a plain metal ring. Weighing only forty-five grams, it seamlessly blends into a standard keyring to maintain its cover. Upon close inspection, the key's ridges contain a unique alloy, capable of shifting its physical shape. Additionally, the flat head of the key features a brushed-metal finish that conceals a miniature fingerprint sensor, the use of which will be explained in more detail later.

How to use it

Agent checklist: title · opening paragraph · subheadings · present tense · technical vocabulary · facts, not opinions · closing statement



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Gadget Field Report (continued) Agent name: [redacted]

To operate the Latchkey, the user must hold their thumb against the cover sensor for three seconds, which then triggers an activation confirmation vibration. This then allows the user to open a miniaturised lock through inserting the bottom blade into the keyhole and allow the liquid metal to autonomously reshape, before turning. Electronic Pen electronic bypass: position the key within five centimetres of the intercept to initiate automatic wireless deception sequence.

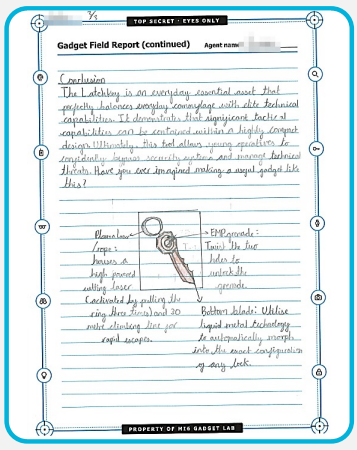
Abilities

- EMP Grenade: Features integrated electronic contact points that function as EMP disruptors to rapidly neutralise every-thing within a 50m radius.
- The Plasma Laser: Houses a high-powered cutting laser. Controlled by pulling the ring three times and a 30 second refuelling time per rapid escape.
- The bottom blade: Utilise liquid metal technology to automatically morph into the exact configuration of any lock.

Fabulous facts

- Climate Resiliency: The internal security operates flawlessly in active environments ranging from -55°C to 55°C.
- Passport Camouflage: A specialised outer shield disguises X-ray imaging, causing the gadget to appear as a standard keyring during security screenings.

PROPERTY OF MI6 GADGET LAB



TOP SECRET · EYES ONLY

Gadget Field Report (continued) Agent name: [redacted]

Conclusion

The Latchkey is an everyday essential asset that perfectly balances everyday camouflage with elite technical capabilities. It demonstrates that significant tactical capabilities can be contained within a highly compact design. Ultimately, this tool allows young operatives to confidently bypass security systems and interact technical threats. Have you ever imagined making a magical gadget like this?

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Visit to a Buddhist Pagoda

Year 6 visited a Buddhist Pagoda, where they explored Buddhist teachings and values, including compassion, respect and inner peace. Through mindfulness, meditation and reflection, pupils considered how these principles can positively influence their daily lives.



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