



Staplehurst School Newsletter No.18 - Spring Term 2024

[A message from the Senior Team](#)



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the third week I wanted to share how impressed I am at the quality of learning and progress that our children have already made this term in all areas of the curriculum.

Senior leaders and subject leaders have reviewed the quality of learning in every year group and they continue to work hard to ensure that our children have the best learning opportunities and continue to make good and, where required, accelerated progress.

I would like to remind you of what you can be doing to support your child at home. Most importantly, read with your child. Read to them, ask them to read to you, talk about their books and ask them questions about the story. Next week our open afternoon focuses on Reading **(2.45-3.00 pm)**. Come in and see how we teach our children to be more fluent readers; this is really important as often when children become more independent they still need to practise reading aloud to improve; EYFS and KS1 will be delivering a phonics based whole class session.

Please also make use of the Times Tables Rockstars. If your child learns their times tables through 10 minutes a day on this app, it opens up so much of the maths curriculum to them.

Many thanks to Mrs. Seal and the staff who took our choir to Young Voices last Friday; they had a fabulous time and we have been touched by the personal thanks that we have received.

Enjoy a wonderful, winter weekend,

Miss Davenport and the Senior Leadership Team

Pride Certificates 25.01.2024

Name	Class	Reason
Edward Brailey	EYG	Edward has demonstrated some fantastic learning this week by independently working on different activities throughout the day, including maths and writing. He has tried hard to use his phonic knowledge to write labels during child initiated and in other writing tasks. Well done Edward!
Ethan Driver	EYF	Ethan has become increasingly more independent during his learning. He is able to have a go at different activities during child initiated and uses his prior knowledge to help him complete tasks to a high level. During math's Ethan is always engaged and has a 'can do' attitude. Well done Ethan!
Bhuvan Pramodh	1A	This week Bhuvan has been working with a superb level of independence. He has been able to find one more and one less of a number between 0 to 20 and has taken time to support his partner when they have found this challenging. Bhuvan has been working hard to spot the special friends in words when reading and has been applying this phonic knowledge to improve his spelling during writing tasks. Well done Bhuvan, keep it up!
Jacob Heasman	1C	Jacob demonstrates excellent independence on a regular basis. He listens attentively, contributes with thoughtful comment that show his knowledge of the world and gets on with every task straight away. This week Jacob has shown excellent attention to detail with his maths work on one more and one less with numbers to 20. Well done!
Rose Morecroft	1FS	Rose has shown excellent independence in her learning this week. She has worked hard on managing her time so she is able to finish her task and this week Rose has really sped up and completed much more in each lesson. Her writing has been fantastic and in phonics she is putting up her hand and contributing each day. Well done Rose!
Seb Richardson	2C	It's been lovely to see the time and care Seb continues to take with the presentation of his maths work. This week, in particular, he shown a real enjoyment for the 2, 5 & 10 times tables. He always demonstrates such independence with his learning, not just in maths, and this makes him a great role model for his peers.
Rahil Hakimzai	2K	Rahil has shown excellent independence this week, particularly with writing. Rahil has really enjoyed learning about hedgehogs and loved writing a letter to one of the characters. Rahil is showing more understanding of sentence structure and this is lovely to see him now accessing independently. Keep it up Rahil!
Tom Mills	3NS	Tom has continued to show all our pride values this entire term. He has a fantastic attitude to learning, is always ready and waiting to learn and makes great contributions in whole class discussions. We are so impressed with his determination to succeed. Keep up the fantastic work Tom!
Florence Paxman	3G	Florence consistently demonstrates independence across all of her learning. She approaches tasks with a positive attitude and tries her best. Florence will share her ideas and ask and answer questions during discussions. Well done Florence, keep up the excellent work!
Ruby Wallond	4W	Ruby has shown independence this week by approaching tasks with a can do attitude and getting started with a task straight away. In English she independently sequenced the events in a story and presented her work neatly. Well done!
Reilly Hanlon	4B	Reilly continuously demonstrates our school values, and has had a great attitude to learning. Reilly often participates in class discussions, showing that she is a engaged and keen to learn. She has shown excellent independence this week, especially in math's, and has been working really hard practicing her times tables. Well done Reilly!
Jasmine Wright	5R	Throughout the term Jasmine has been persistently showing her interesting in learning. Especially when discussing medical developments in our History Topic. Jasmine has been working very hard in English and maths. She has been showing independence through her work in English. Well done Jasmine!
Farron Jones	5C	This week Farron has demonstrated determination and enthusiasm to complete his work to a good standard this week. He has shown independence with his English and maths work when using short multiplication and when writing about the characteristics of a character in a text. A good week, well done!
Anabelle Fraser	6S	This week Anabelle has demonstrated a high level of independence and a great ownership of her own learning. It has been wonderful to see Anabelle working from her own plan and using editing sessions to improve her own work as much as possible. Well done, Anabelle.
Harley Batten	6JS	This week Harley has really impressed with his approach towards speech writing. He has thought carefully about the key points, rehearsed his sentences and written using excellent joined handwriting. He is beginning to do each of these things independently. Harley is a brilliant example to everybody at the school as he always wants to achieve his best! Well done!

Key Dates

Dates to Remember

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Every Friday: Parents into Read – **KS1 and EYFS - Please note: No Parents into Read - (Year one only) on the 9th February due to Class Assembly.**

25th January 2024 – Music overview video released (follow-up from parent music drop in on 11.1.24)

26th January 2024 – School Closed: Staff Training Day - **WHOLE SCHOOL**

29th January 2024 - Wellbeing week

30th January 2024 - 9.00-10:30 Parent workshop in School - Understanding your child's behaviour - **WHOLE SCHOOL**

2nd February 2024 - Class Assembly: (Medicine through time) - 9.00 am in the junior hall - **KS2 - YEAR 5**

2nd February 2024 - 2.45 - 3.15pm Reading open afternoon - focus on fluency - **Open to all parents to attend in classes.**

7th February 2024 - 2:00 - 7:30pm - Parents Evening

9th February 2024- Class Assembly: (History of shopping) - at 9.00 am in the junior hall - **KS1- YEAR 1**

9th February 2024 - PTA - Glow Disco: Early Years: 3:30-4:15 / Years 1,2 and 3: 4:45-6:00 / Years 4,5 and 6: 6:30-7:45

9th February 2024 – Break up for Half term - **WHOLE SCHOOL**

19th February 2024 – Pupils return to school - **WHOLE SCHOOL**

29th February 2024 - 2.30pm Infant Hall - SEND parent drop-in - Mr Tate will be holding a SEND information and support session.

7th March 2024 - 2.30pm Junior Hall - P.E Parent drop-in - Mr Smith will be holding an information session about the teaching of PE across the school.

15th March 2024 - SEND support session video released (from session held on 29th Feb)

22nd March 2024 - P.E support session video released (from session held on 7th March)

27th March 2024 - 2.00pm Infant Hall - Sex, Relationships and Health Parental workshop with Russell Stanley (RSE specialist). A session to familiarise with SRE lesson content.

Class Assemblies

We will be starting our class assembly programme for the year in term two this year. We would like to invite parents/carers in to share in the wonderful learning that has been taking place. The assembly schedule is as follows:

Term 3 – KS2 - Year 5 (Medicine through time) - Friday 2nd February 2024 at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

KS1- Year 1 (History of shopping) - **Friday 9th February 2024** at 9.00 am in the junior hall. -
(Please note: No Parents into read for Year 1 this morning)

Term 4 – KS2 - Year 3 (Stone-Age) - **Friday 22nd March** at 9.00 am in the junior hall.

KS1 - Year 2 (Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole) **Friday 15th March** at 9.00 am in the junior hall

EYFS: Thursday March 28th

We look forward to welcoming you in to school.

Many Thanks

Mr Williams-Jones

Attendance: MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.



Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together. The Government has launched a national campaign, aimed at parents and carers, on the importance of school attendance.

The goal is to create a nurturing and affirmative bond between parents and school, emphasising the pivotal role attendance has in enhancing your child's overall wellbeing. The intention is to guide parents towards accessible online resources and information to empower you with valuable insight and guidance in order for you to make the right decision for your child.

Useful information:

Please takes some time to remind yourself of how we support children and parents to achieve and maintain good attendance [\[subject head\] \(staplehurstschool.co.uk\)](#)

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Whole school attendance for this week was 92.8%

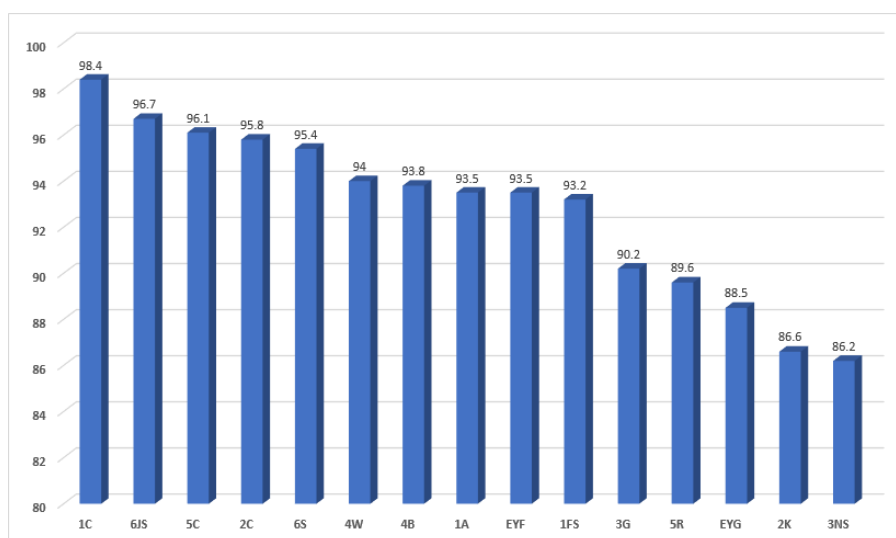
Whole School Attendance *from September* is: 93.1%

National School Attendance is currently: 93.2%

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

REMINDER - Pick-up time at the end of the day is 3:15pm. Please let us know, by emailing your child's year group, if there are going to be any changes to your child's expected collection arrangements. For example: the person collecting, unless they are already on the School Pick-Up list. If your child has not been collected by 3:30pm, they will be taken to After School Club and a charge may be incurred.



Well done to 1C, the weekly winners with 98.4%.

What attendance means to us -

100% - Excellent attendance

97% - Good attendance

95% - Satisfactory attendance

Below 95% - Unsatisfactory attendance

Below 90% - Persistently absent

Below 50% - Severely absent

Communication: reminder

Contacting the Class Teacher

- Updates and minor issues can be discussed at pickup.
- Should you require a meeting to discuss an issue please inform your teacher in advance and a mutually convenient time will be arranged.
- Parents' evenings are held 2 x per year to discuss your child's learning.

Response Timeframe

- Daily: end of day for minor issues
- Should there be further investigation required we will respond **within 5 working days from the point of contact; this could be:** in a face-to-face meeting, telephone call or email.
- Staff will respond to emails between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm term time only

School Council News



School Council will be out the front of the school on Tuesday 30th January to monitor the traffic and begin their campaign for improved road safety around the school at drop off and collection time. After this monitoring we are planning to contact our local council and MP Helen Grant and ask for support in improving this. If you have any contacts that might be useful please contact Mrs Foreman via the school office.

EYFS



This week EYFS have continued learning about owls using Owl Babies and non-fiction texts. We wrote descriptions of Mummy Owl, developing our vocabulary by identifying her main features, such as her 'sharp claws', her 'pointy beak' and her 'brown feathers'. We then tried to use some of these words in our sentences.


In art we used sponge printing to create the baby owls, adding their landing branch by tearing paper. We loved the fluffy effect the sponge painting created.

This weekend is the annual RSPB garden bird watch. We have discussed how we could attract birds to our gardens and outdoor spaces and we have seen some fantastic bird feeders created as part of our home learning. During child initiated this week, we created simple bird feeders using cereal to hang in our EYFS garden. We hope to see many different birds over the coming days!






Mummy owl description



shh y blan fad, oo s h d sh j y
 has t a y o o w.
 (a) tail brown feathers

Mummy owl description



shh g o h a z sh h p c o z
 sh h g o o u o n g w i n g s
 (a) y has sharp claws

Year 1



1 - In year 1 this week we carried out an investigation in Science linked to our topic Materials. We had to test out different materials including wood, plastic, foil and card and see which materials were strongest when a stone was dropped onto the material.

In maths we have been learning place value for numbers within 20. Within this topic, we have learnt about one more and one less for numbers within 20. The children have used different manipulatives to practise finding one more or one less than a given number.



2 - The children made a prediction, tested out the materials and then recorded their results.

Year 2

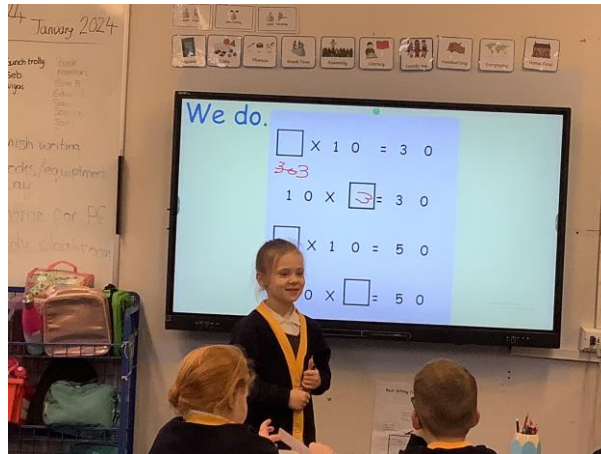


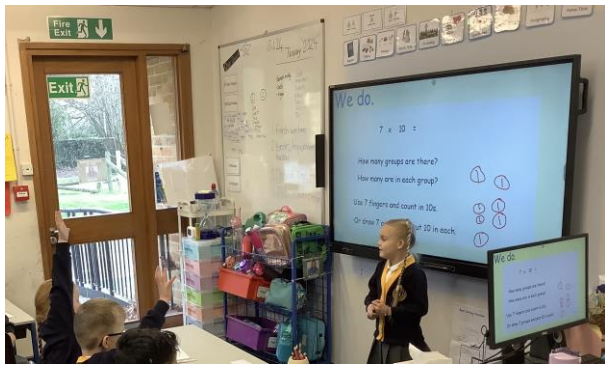
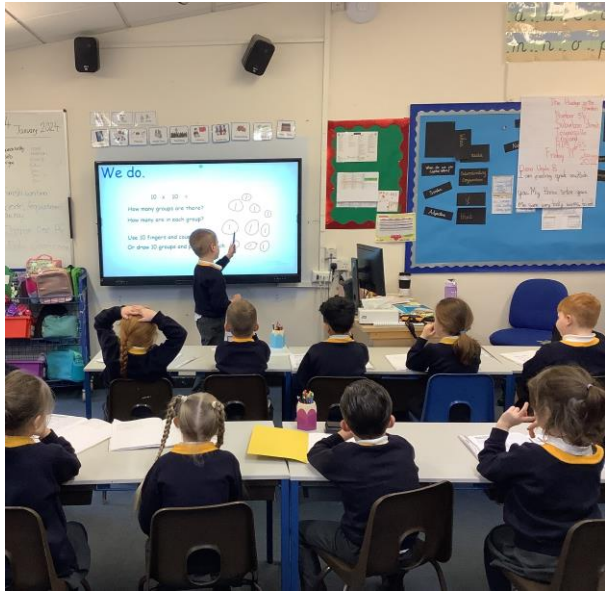
In English this week, the children have finished writing their letters based on our text 'The Hodgeheg'. They have impressed us with their consistent use of the past tense within their writing.

In Maths, the children have enjoyed using their knowledge of counting in steps of 2s, 5s and 10s to help them learn their times tables.

Number 5B
glamlane red vill
hedghaghor TN5 10g
Friday 19th January

Dear uncle B
Thank you for the Best letter
ever. I am feeling much better! I
am Despret to come. Guess what!
I found a beautiful Special ~~page~~
place to cross the road. The
crossing was light white lines on
the road. The Lollypop Lady is kind
and helpful. I always looked left
and right and checked that the
cars stopped before. I started to
cross the road. I hope this
information keeps you safe from
Violetter Maximillian





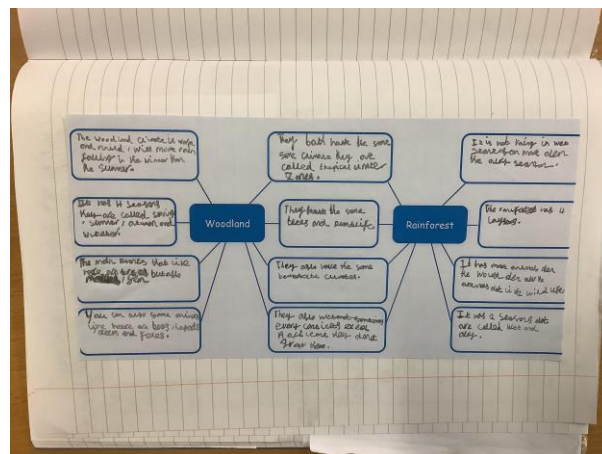
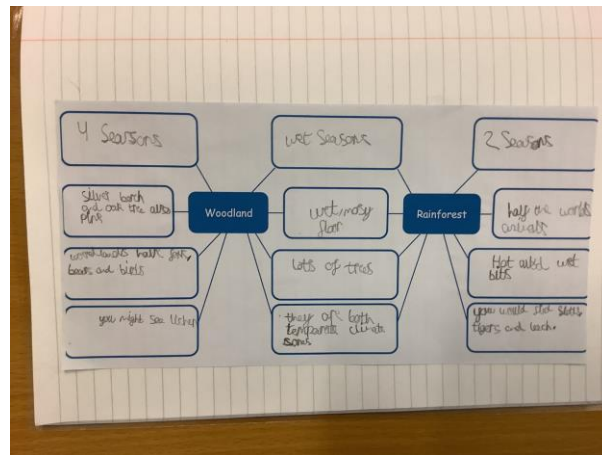
Year 3



This week, in D&T we have been testing different structures for our magnetic board games. They tried ribbing, corrugating and laminating techniques. The children will decide their favourite one depending on the strength that would like for their board game.

In Geography, they learnt about 2 more biomes, the rainforest and woodlands. We compared their landscape, animals, plants and weather.

They continued their studies of 'Forces and Magnets' and discovered what a magnetic field is. They drew a diagram and were able to explain a magnetic field.





Year 4

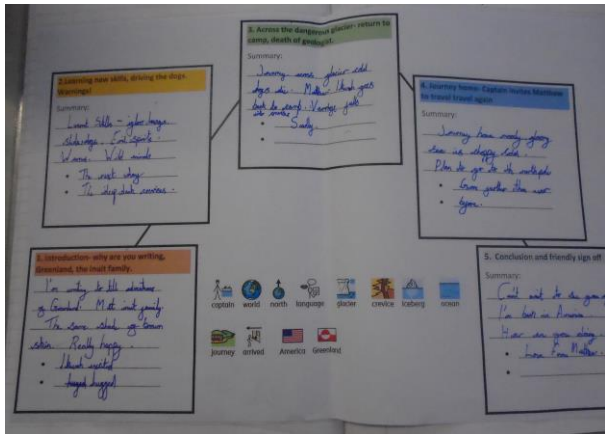
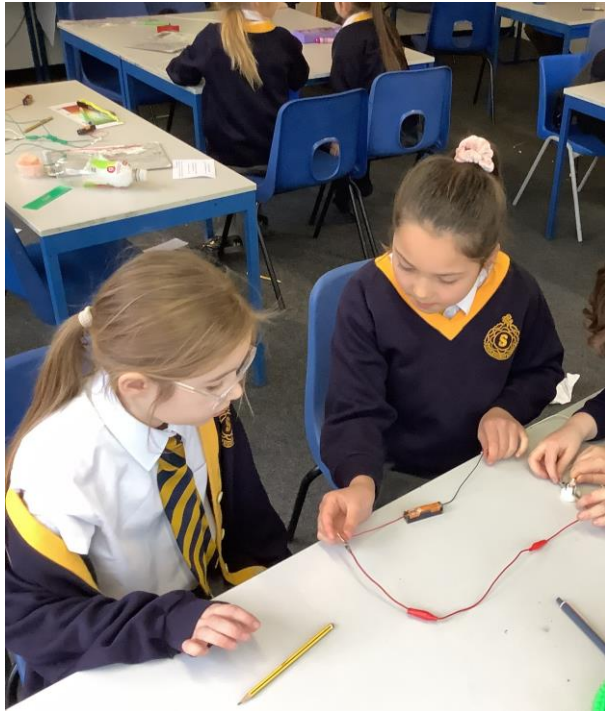


YEAR 3

Another busy week in year 4. In science, we continued learning about electrical currents and tested materials to see if there were conductors or insulators. We concluded that the materials which were metal were good conductors of electricity.

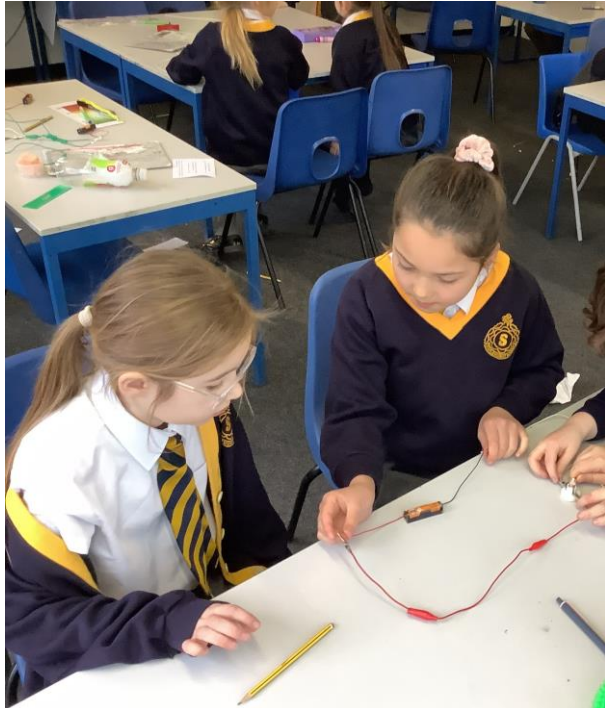
In English, we planned then began to write a letter based on the true story of Matthew Henson who battled prejudice to become one of the first people of colour to travel to the Arctic.





3 - Matthew Henson - the real life hero of our book Race to the Frozen North.

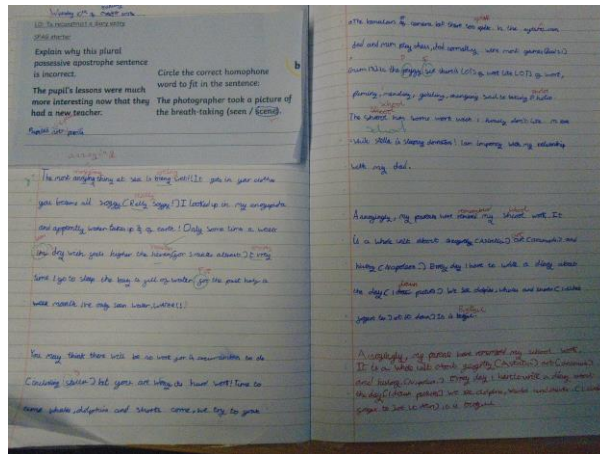




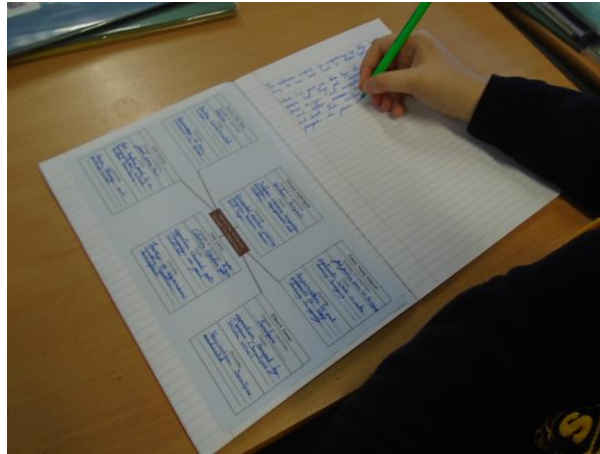
Year 5



YEAR 5



4 - This week in English we have been exploring the Michael Morpurgo book further and learning about what Kensuke looks like and act. We created a first person Character description about him in the perspective of Michael (our main character).



5 - In History, we have been learning about all the great inventors that lived during the Victorian period and discussed what they found, why they wanted to improve it and how the development helps us now with modern medicine.

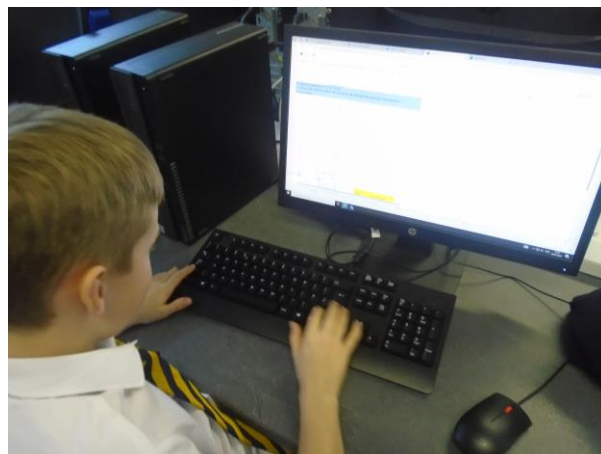
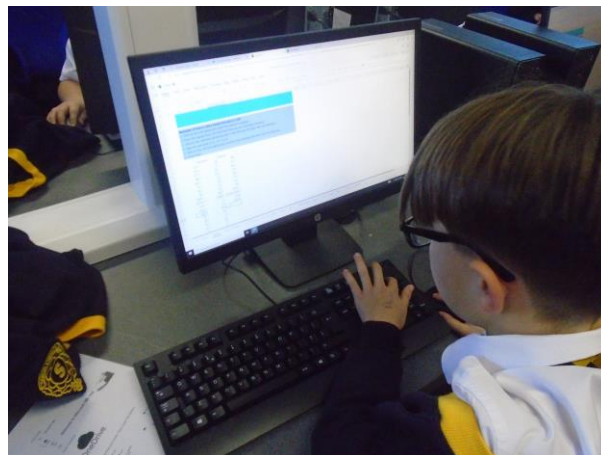
Year 6

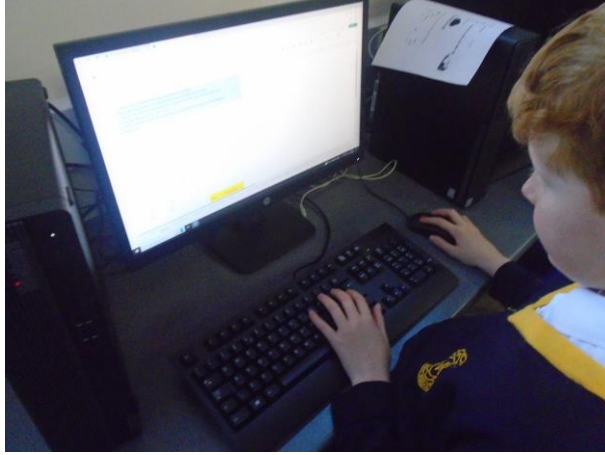


Year 6 have enjoyed their computing lesson this week where they used a spreadsheet to carry out basic calculations including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division formulae. They recognised how using formulae allows the data to change and the calculations to update automatically.

Operator	Answer	
22 +	76	98
45 +	77	122
67 +	765	832
88 +	122	210
222 -	22	200
13 -	56	-43
56 -	13	43
78 -	22	56
9564 -	853	8711
33243 *	33000	1097019000
676 *	3	2028
3562 *	10	35620
667 *	564	376188
55 *	12	660
99 /	3	33
45 /	15	3
34 /	2	17
55 /	12	4.58333333
78 /	12	
778 /	100	

Score 18 out of 20





Music



This week was the turn of Eloise in Year 6 to play the piano in front of Key Stage 1 during their Singing Assembly. She chose to play a duet with Mrs Seal and was able to keep to the shared tempo brilliantly. Afterwards, she helped encourage the children to sing and learn the words to a new song.

Young Voices 2024



What an absolutely amazing time was had by all at the O2 on Friday, for the Young Voices 2024 concert! Members of the choir firstly joined a rehearsal with nearly 8000 other school children and then after tea, performed to parents. "I don't think I have the words to say how brilliant it was - truly awesome" wrote one parent in response to the occasion. We had spent a long time rehearsing songs

and dance moves to songs such as those from the Matilda film, a Pop Medley, and a beautiful Korean Folk song to name but a few. It was impressive to see how dedicated the children had been to learning so many words at home, as well as at choir sessions and how well behaved they had been travelling through London and generally throughout the day. A real credit to our school and of course, their parents. It was thrilling to watch Nandi Bushell, a drummer, who at just 13 years old was one of the headliners and who has already performed with the Foo Fighters, during her short career. An experience which I'm sure our choir will never forget. Our thanks go to the lovely parents, Mrs O'Day, Mrs Thorpe and Mrs Parsons who accompanied us.

Phase External Celebration Assembly



- **Thursday 8th February 2024 at 10:50 - 11:10am**

We will be celebrating the recent successes that our children have achieved outside of school by holding a celebration assembly. We invite children to bring in medals, trophies, badges, certificates that they have been awarded within the last term.

Achievements may have taken place at: Beavers, Brownies, Guides etc, a sporting success or musical grading etc.

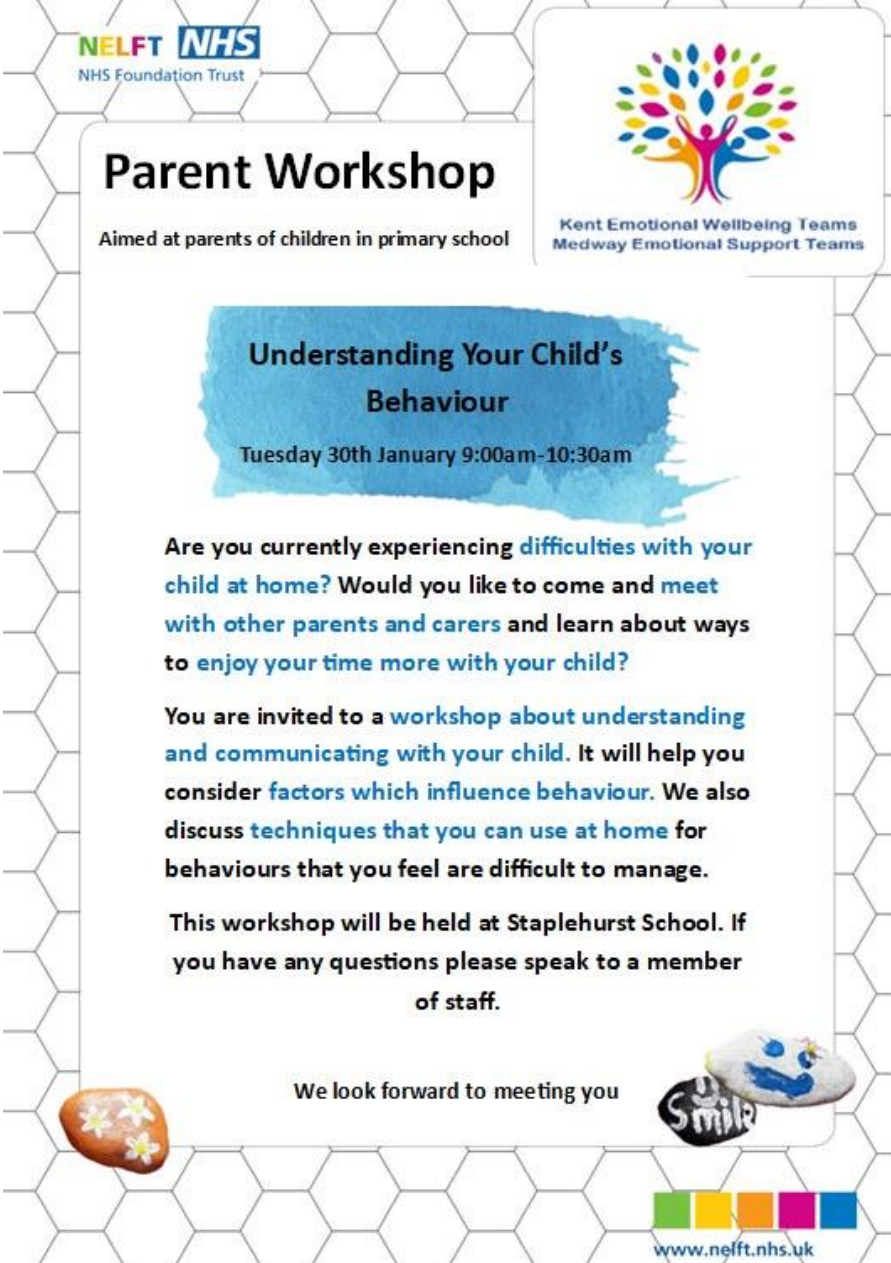
We will be holding one of these assemblies each half term, so there will be plenty more opportunities to celebrate!

Please note: These assemblies are not open to parents.

Click the link below to add details of your child's achievement. All entries must be submitted by Friday

2nd February. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dBpvTG4vkEaxT947bkNA5QQg48M4MbBGjhUjmVjakEtUM1JRQzVBOUpLVDVaUTBMOFhHSFQ1RkY1RS4u>

Parent Workshop - Understanding your child's behaviour - 30th January 9am-10:30am - Infant Hall



The poster features a hexagonal pattern background. At the top left is the NELFT NHS NHS Foundation Trust logo. At the top right is a colorful tree logo for Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams and Medway Emotional Support Teams. The main title 'Parent Workshop' is in large black font, with the subtitle 'Aimed at parents of children in primary school' below it. A blue brushstroke box contains the workshop title 'Understanding Your Child's Behaviour' and the date 'Tuesday 30th January 9:00am-10:30am'. The central text asks if parents are experiencing difficulties and invites them to a workshop about understanding and communicating with their child. It mentions the workshop will be held at Staplehurst School. At the bottom, it says 'We look forward to meeting you' and includes a 'Smile' logo and the website 'www.nelft.nhs.uk'.

NELFT NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

Parent Workshop
Aimed at parents of children in primary school

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour
Tuesday 30th January 9:00am-10:30am

Are you currently experiencing difficulties with your child at home? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to enjoy your time more with your child?

You are invited to a workshop about understanding and communicating with your child. It will help you consider factors which influence behaviour. We also discuss techniques that you can use at home for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage.

This workshop will be held at Staplehurst School. If you have any questions please speak to a member of staff.

We look forward to meeting you

Smile

www.nelft.nhs.uk

Are you currently experiencing difficulties with your child at home? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to enjoy your time more with your child?

You are invited to a workshop about understanding and communication with your child.

Tuesday 30th January - 9am-10:30am - Infant hall - all parents and carers welcome.

Please click on the following link to register your interest: <https://forms.office.com/e/BR19fhE5DK>