



Headteacher: R Soper BA (Hons) PGCE
Chair of Governors: J Walker

Deputy Headteacher: J Morrish BA (Hons) PGCE
Assistant Headteacher H Chapman BED (Hons) MA NASENCo Award



Through our love of God and of each other, our children will thrive personally and academically in a happy, safe place of faith and high expectation for all

May 2026

Headteacher's message

Well, the Year 6s completed their SATs before half term with confidence. They behaved so well and approached these tests with absolute maturity and resolve – I am so proud of them!

We will be able to share the Inspection Report with you shortly after our Ofsted inspection 24th – 25th March. The process was extremely thorough but the wellbeing of staff and children was prioritized. We are appreciative to all our parent and carers for their support with this inspection and thank you so much for any comments shared with the inspectors.

The St John's family are...

RESPECTFUL by

- being thoughtful
- being patient
- being silent when walking around the school
- SLANTing in lessons and Collective Worship

LOVING ONE ANOTHER by

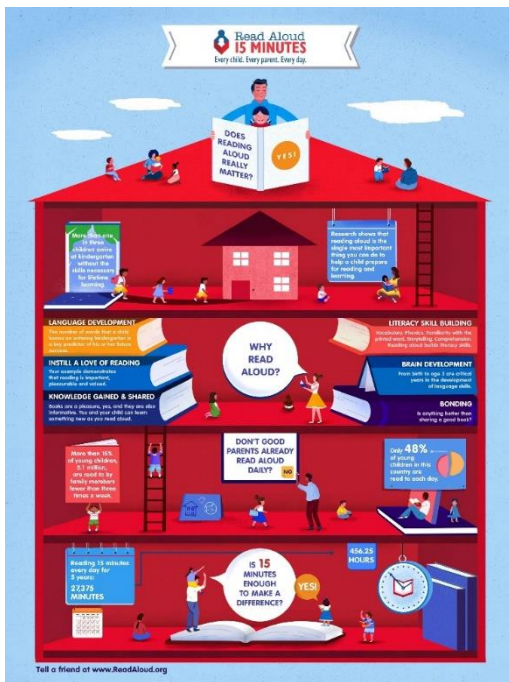
- being kind
- caring for and helping one another across the school
- being polite

RESILIENT by

- being hard working
- verbalising our emotions safely
- being the best ME I can be
- believing in yourself
- always engaging in our challenging learning



THIS IS OUR PROMISE



Please can I ask you to continue to support your children with their reading at home by ensuring your child(ren) share their reading books to you daily. Ask them about the books they are reading in school and encourage them to visit the school library as we are still highlighting our most recent purchases!

Our expectation is that all children read at home daily and ideally are read to as well as this enhances their understanding. We understand how difficult it can be to find the time but it is so important. Reading daily gives your children the opportunity to become able readers and gain a love of reading which will ensure the rest of the curriculum is fully attainable.

A reminder that as the weather seems to be improving, albeit changeable daily, please ensure you send your children into school with an appropriate coat, hat and suncream.

Mrs Soper
Headteacher

A final message for all parents/carers and visitors that the Trim Trail and Forest School area should **NOT** be used at drop off/collection times please.

Just a reminder that we are a Nut Free School so please ensure that any products, including drinks, do not contain any element of nut based produce. Thank you.





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Calendar reminders coming up this term	
Details	Date and time
Nightingale Class Collective Worship	Friday 12 th June 2026 9:10am – 9:30am
Sports Day	Friday 19 th June 2026
Back Up Sports Day	Friday 26 th June 2026
Year 5 & 6 End of Year Production	Tuesday 14 th July 2026 2 pm Wednesday 15 th July 2026 2 pm
Leavers Assembly for Year 6	Friday 17 th July 2026 9.10-10.10
Celebration Assembly (Invitations to be sent directly to parents)	Thursday 16 th July 2026 9.10-10.30
St John's Transition Days	Wednesday 1 st July and Thursday 2 nd July 2026
Father's Day Lunches	Thursday 11 th June 2026 Thursday 18 th June 2026 Thursday 25 th June 2026
INSET Day	Monday 2 nd June 2026
Summer Term Music Concert (IRock & Choir)	Monday 6 th July 2026 9am – 10am
EYFS/Year 1 Shepreth Trip	Thursday 4 th June 2026
Year 4 visit to the Cromwell Museum	Tuesday 9 th June 2026
Year 5 Victorian Day visit in school	Tuesday 23 rd June 2026
MP Ben Obese-Jecty visiting EYFS/Year 1 and Parliament members	Friday 26 th June 2026
PTA Summer Fayre at school	Friday 26 th June 3.30pm – 5.30pm TBC
Year 6 Go Ape End of Year trip	Friday 3 rd July 2026
Year 3 trip to West Stow	Friday 10 th July 2026
Year 6 Leavers Disco	Friday 10 th July 2026 3pm – 6pm TBC
100% Attendance Trip	Tuesday 14 th July 2026





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A compilation of news from around the school...

In Reception & Year 1

In **Year one** maths we have been learning about days of the week/ months of the year. We have started to read and enjoy our new text 'The Jungle Book'. The children have focussed on the vocabulary and pulled out words we don't understand, as well as wow words, ready to start sentence writing.

In **EYFS** maths, we have consolidated our understanding of numbers to 20. We have also been reading the text 'Rainbow Fish' and using this to compose sentences. In science we have begun our new topic of 'Plants'. This week we have set up an experiment to see where plants grow best. The children predicted where they think their plant will grow the best – most of us think in the sunlight with water, but some of us think the one in the dark will grow best.

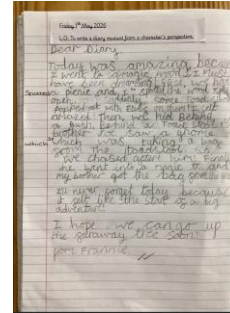
We have enjoyed being back outside again for forest school. We have enjoyed exploring, climbing, building and the warm weather. Hopefully it continues!

In RE we have taken a walk around school to think about safe, special places to us. This leads into our later learning in the topic of 'Places of Worship' and places that are special to others.

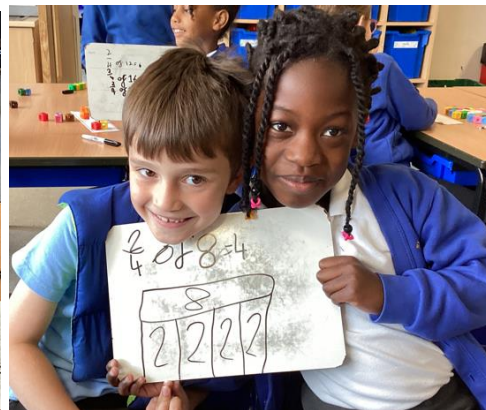




What a term we have had! This half term **Year 2** has been extremely busy with learning, class assemblies, and many other fun activities. Our English learning has been centered around our class book the enchanted wood. We loved reading the book together and finding out about the adventures Joe, Beth and Frannie have. We have worked on some key writing skills such as punctuating speech, using possessive apostrophes, writing in a consistent tense, and writing in the first person. All things that children can apply to their writing confidently.



In Math's we have been learning about fractions. We have recapped what a half is, worked on finding halves and recognizing 2 halves to make a whole. Our new learning has focused on finding thirds and quarters to amounts and objects; children have successfully found one-third, two-thirds, one-quarters, two-quarters and three-quarters.



In science, we have been learning about materials. We have looked at a range of materials and their properties. The children have been able to apply their knowledge of the properties to design a playground using suitable materials to ensure their design is strong and weatherproof. In Geography, we have learned about Northern Europe. We have discussed Scandinavian countries, their capital cities, and climates in those countries, and we have thought about past explorers who set out to reach the North and South Pole. We have looked at the work of Roald Amundsen and how he prepared himself to sail the Northwest Passage!

In Art this half term we have looked at how pictures can tell stories. We have looked at the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur, and we have created artwork to depict the minotaur in the maze. We used charcoal and chalk to create our drawing of the Minotaur.





In RE we have been looking at Sikhism. We have thought about what it means to be a part of a community and the sacrifices that we make for our communities. We have looked at the Origins of the Khalsa and thought about special festivals in the Sikh calendar like Vaisakhi and Baisakhi. This week we have been creating symbols from clay to represent communities that we are a part of.



In **Year 3** History, the children learned about King John and why he was forced to seal the Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215. They explored why many barons believed King John was unfair and discussed how the Magna Carta helped limit the king's power and introduced important rights. The children also learned about Simon de Montfort and how he helped establish the first Parliament after defeating Henry III at the Battle of Lewes, bringing these events to life through discussion and role play activities.



In Geography, the children have been learning about France and comparing the cities of London and Paris. They explored famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the River Seine and the River Thames while using maps and atlases to identify physical and human features. The children also discussed France's landscapes, culture and traditions.



In Science, Chaffinch and Puffins investigated light and shadows. They learned how shadows are formed when light is blocked by an opaque object and explored why shadows change size and shape throughout the day. During outdoor investigations, the children made predictions, measured shadows carefully and recorded their observations like real scientists, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout.



In Art, the children were inspired by the work of Antoni Gaudí. They explored the unique features of his buildings, including towers, stained-glass windows and colourful mosaics, before designing and creating their own mosaic artwork using tissue paper. The children demonstrated fantastic creativity and produced vibrant pieces inspired by Gaudí's distinctive style.





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In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of the properties of 2D and 3D shapes by identifying and describing their sides, vertices and angles. They enjoyed exploring patterns, comparing shapes and using mathematical vocabulary to explain their thinking. Next, they will begin learning about angles and turns, including recognising right angles and comparing angles greater than or less than a right angle through practical activities and investigations.

This fortnight in English, the children have been learning how to describe characters using appearance, actions and feelings to make their writing more detailed and engaging. They have also explored how to create exciting settings using descriptive vocabulary. The children planned and wrote their own short stories, carefully including dialogue to show character thoughts and emotions. In poetry lessons, they learned how to identify stanzas and understand how poems are organised. The children have shown fantastic imagination, creativity and enthusiasm throughout their writing activities.



In RE, the children have been learning about Judaism and exploring how rules guide Jewish everyday choices. They looked at Kosher foods and discussed why these choices are important in daily life for Jewish people. The children also learned about the Mezuzah and the Shema, exploring how a mezuzah helps Jewish people remember God's rules and teachings in their homes and everyday lives. They enjoyed asking thoughtful questions and learning about different beliefs and traditions.

In PE, Chaffinch and Puffins have been developing their ball skills through a range of fun team games and activities. The children practised throwing, catching, dribbling and aiming with increasing confidence and control. They also worked on teamwork, communication and good sportsmanship while enjoying friendly games with their classmates. It has been wonderful to see everyone joining in with enthusiasm and having fun while staying active.

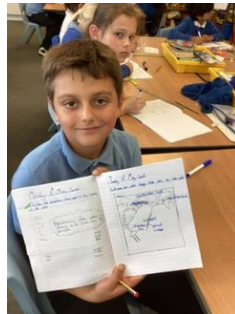




In **Year 4**'s Maths class we have been focused on our 6, 7, and 9 timetable. We have developed our understanding of the relationships between inverse calculations, and we have learnt how patterns emerge within them and learnt strategies such as doubling and halving to aid fluency. We have also rehearsed and practised our times tables using songs and games. In English, we have been busy identifying the features of an explanation text. We have used a range of resources to gather information, identified topic sentences and chosen appropriate sub-headings. We have learnt to organise paragraphs, identified different sentence types and discussed different types of sentences.



In Geography, we have continued to study the Southeast of England. We have located the counties of the area and have looked at the cities of London, Canterbury and Dover. In RE, Year 4 have been comparing the looking at the Pentecost, and how Chrisitan's find meaning from the story. Our science topic has been the water cycle. We therefore have been busy learning about evaporation, condensation and precipitation. We have looked at water in the three states of matter and discussed the reasons behind how it changes from liquid to gas and from liquid to solid. In Art, we have been busy designing and crafting our own mosaics, and in History we have been learning about the Stuart King lineage and Oliver Cromwell's time as Lord Protector.





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In **Year 5**, we have been powering through converting fractions, decimals and percentages very successfully, resources and lots of accurate vocabulary to explain our understanding. We are now exploring Measurements of length.



In English, we have been rehearsing figurative language to use within our next independent piece of writing, which is a character description of our main character in our current book "Skellig" by David Almond. The children are concentrating on their use of semi-colons, colons, similes, metaphors and hyperbole to expand their descriptions with sentences containing embedded clauses.



We have looked at the production of monoprints and the reproduction of a block print use Andy Warhol colour techniques as our inspiration in Art.

In History and Geography, we have furthered our learning in both the Industrial Revolution and New Zealand using reading comprehension to practice these skills. They have been researching the planets in our solar system using computers for science learning.



The children have shared and developed their understanding of the story of Moses and freedom in RE: using conscience alleys, drama and freeze frames. They have also enjoyed beginning to learn the songs from the forthcoming Year 5/6 summer production!

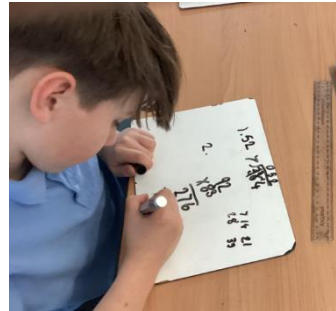
We have enjoyed expanding our skills in running, throwing and jumping in athletics as part of our PE lessons. Javelin throwing and hop, skip and jump have been enjoyed with thought into how to increase our personal bests!



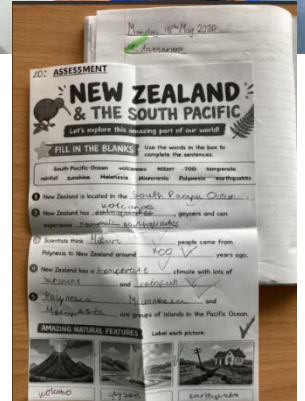


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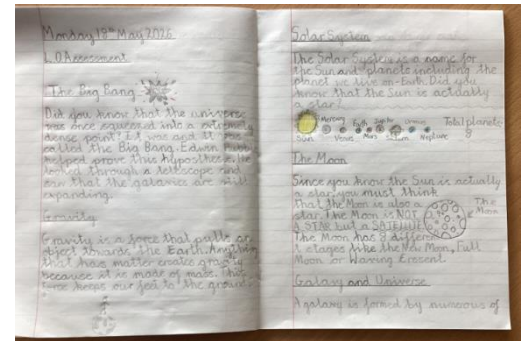
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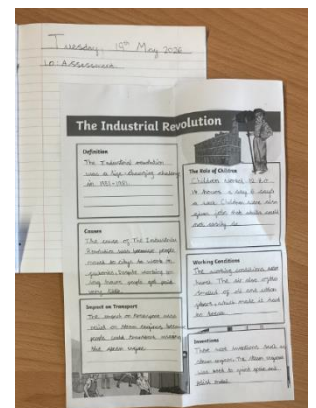
In Science, the children created double page spreads to showcase their learning about Astronomy. They carefully organised their work to present key knowledge, diagrams and explanations clearly, demonstrating their understanding of topics such as the solar system and space. The children focused on using accurate scientific vocabulary, including labelled diagrams and detailed explanations to communicate their ideas effectively. This also helped them to develop their presentation skills and take pride in sharing their learning in a creative and informative way.



In Geography, the children completed a gap fill assessment to consolidate their learning about New Zealand. This allowed them to revisit key knowledge such as location, physical features and key human characteristics, as well as important vocabulary. The activity helped the children to strengthen their understanding and recall, and identify any areas they needed to practise further.

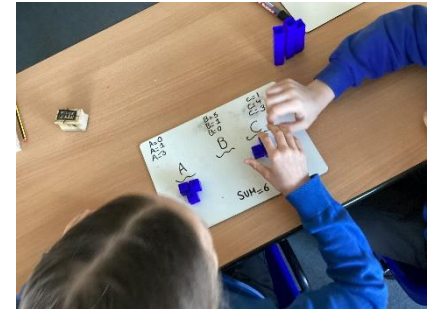


In History, the children completed an assessment on the Industrial Revolution, where they recalled and applied their learning in writing. They demonstrated their understanding by explaining the definition of the Industrial Revolution, its main causes, and its impact on society. The children also wrote about key inventions and explored the role of child labour during this period, showing their ability to remember and clearly communicate key information from the unit.





Year 6 have been working incredibly hard revising key areas of the maths curriculum ahead of their SATs before half term. Their maths skills have been strengthened through their committed when revisiting tricky concepts and have grown in confidence. The children have shown real determination and resilience, and it's been wonderful to see their knowledge becoming more secure each day.



In English, we've been channelling our inner travel writers. The children have been crafting persuasive pieces encouraging people to visit South America. They've explored the continent's vibrant cultures, breath-taking landscapes, and exciting tourist hotspots—drawing on their geography knowledge to enrich their writing. The creativity and passion in their work has been fantastic.

Our new history topic, *The Cold War*, has sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful discussion. So far, the children have explored the two major sides involved and begun learning about the arms race. This topic will continue to develop their understanding of global conflict, tension, and cooperation in the 20th century.

PE has been full of energy and skill-building:

- **Barn Owls** have been developing their hockey skills, focusing on control, movement, and teamwork.
- **Eagles** have been working on throwing and catching techniques and ending the half term with rounders.

Both classes have shown great sportsmanship and enthusiasm.

In art, we've been exploring colour in a hands-on, joyful way. The children experimented with mixing the three primary colours to discover the wide range of shades they can create. There was plenty of excitement as they explored how colours blend and transform—an excellent start to our art focus this term.

We are so proud of the children for the way they conducted themselves during the SATs week.

