



Summer 2 2026

Issue 04

CHARLTON SPOTLIGHT



EYFS

Big Puddles, Bright
Colours, Brilliant
Learning!

YEAR 1-2

From Pond Creatures
to Clock Faces

YEAR 3-4

Calculating Change
and Bringing Saul's
Story to Life

YEAR 5-6

Mayan Mysteries
and Wimbledon
Memories!



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we reach the end of another school year, I find it hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. Looking back, it has been an incredible year packed with learning, achievement and memorable experiences. Alongside working hard every day in the classroom, the children have taken part in a wide range of exciting events and opportunities that have helped create lasting memories.

One of my personal highlights was our Cultural Day back in September. It was a wonderful community event where families came together to celebrate what is important to them and their culture. The children shared presentations, and parents generously cooked and baked food for everyone to enjoy. It was a fantastic celebration of our school community, and I hope it becomes an annual tradition.

When I asked some of the children about their favourite moments this year, their answers showed just how much they have enjoyed their experiences. Millie and Arina in Year 3 & 4 chose Hooke Court: "We got to build rafts together and it was fun spending time with each other." Lily in Kindergarten said, "I love Forest School, I like finding insects." In Year 6, Peyton's highlight was Founders' Day because "I loved doing all the different activities," while Cassidy, Year 5, chose Sports Day, saying, "I especially liked cheering on my friends."

At this time of year, we also say some sad goodbyes. We wish Donatello, Ruan and Peyton every success as they move on to secondary school. We also say goodbye to Lily, Stanley and Ayla as they begin their Reception journeys at new schools. Good luck to all of you, continue to work hard and be the very best you can be.

We are also saying farewell to Dave, Danielle and Noah, who are moving to new school. Your laughter, smiles and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. In addition, we say goodbye to Mr Penfold and Miss Bamford. Thank you both for everything you have contributed to our school, and we wish you every success in your new roles and endeavours.

Looking ahead to September, we are pleased to be introducing Compass, a new system that combines the functions of iSAMS and ScoPay. Following feedback from parents and staff, we believe this will provide a much more user-friendly experience. Further details will be shared before the start of the new academic year.

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Together, we have helped make this a truly special year for our children.

I wish you all a wonderful, restful summer break and look forward to seeing many of you again in September.

With best wishes,
Head Teacher



SPOTLIGHTS



Shining the light on our top performers

Students

YEAR 6 LEAVERS

Congratulations to our Year 6 students for completing primary school!

Goodbye and farewell to our amazing Year 6s. Peyton, Donatello and Ruan are off to pastures new and have been an exceptional group who have contributed so much to our school through their kindness, enthusiasm, resilience and sense of community. It has been a privilege to watch them grow into confident young people, ready for the next stage of their journey. Whilst we will miss their smiles, laughter and unique personalities, we are immensely proud of all they have achieved.



MR PENFOLD MISS BAMFORD

Staff



Site Manager, Health and Safety, DIY guru, Caretaker, easy to wind up

We would also like to say a heartfelt farewell to Lee Penfold, our much-loved Site Manager, who is moving on to an exciting new role at Marwell Hotel. Over the years, he has become a familiar and friendly face to pupils, staff and families alike, always going above and beyond to keep our school safe, welcoming and running smoothly. His kindness, humour and willingness to help have made a lasting impact on our school community, and he will be greatly missed by all who know him. We thank him for his dedication and the countless ways he has supported our school, and we wish him every happiness and success in this exciting new chapter.



Learning Assistant, Office Assistant, Lunchtime Supervisor - you name it, she does it!

We would also like to wish a fond farewell and good luck to Sophie Bamford, a valued member of staff who truly does a bit of everything! Whether supporting children as a Teaching Assistant, helping at lunchtime, assisting in the school office or bringing energy and enthusiasm to Teatime Care and Holiday Club, she has been an important part of school life and has touched the lives of so many children and families. We are incredibly proud that she is taking the next step in her career journey and heading to university to study Paediatric Nursing; a profession that is perfectly suited to her caring, compassionate nature.



SCIENCE MUSEUM

Our whole school, from Kindergarten through to Year 6, enjoyed an exciting day at Winchester Science Centre. Throughout the visit, the children took part in a fascinating sound workshop, explored the interactive exhibits and travelled through space in the impressive planetarium, where they learned about our solar system and ventured beyond to discover the wonders of the universe. The hands-on activities sparked curiosity and encouraged the children to ask questions, investigate ideas and develop their understanding of the world around them.



One of the most special aspects of the trip was that children were organised into mixed-age groups, giving them the opportunity to work collaboratively and support one another throughout the day. Younger pupils benefited from the encouragement and guidance of older children, while the older pupils demonstrated responsibility, leadership and kindness. It was wonderful to see friendships develop across year groups as everyone learned together, making the day not only an engaging educational experience but also a valuable opportunity to strengthen our whole-school community.



FOUNDERS DAY



Founders' Day was a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the lives and legacy of our founders, Jean-Marie de La Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes. We began the day with a special Mass before spending the day working together in our house teams. Children collaborated to create a giant school emblem, made journey sticks in Forest School and enjoyed taking part in some lively country dancing activities.



The celebrations continued with a delicious fish and chip lunch and a baking competition, where children and families showcased an impressive array of school-inspired cakes and biscuits. The day was a fantastic example of our strong school community, with parents joining us at the end of the day to admire the children's work and even take part in some country dancing themselves. It was a joyful day of learning, creativity and togetherness.

SPORTS DAY



Sports Day was, once again, one of the highlights of our school year and it certainly did not disappoint. The day began with a range of field events, where every child gave their very best, demonstrating determination, resilience and outstanding sportsmanship.



Families then joined us for a picnic lunch, creating a wonderful sense of community before the excitement continued with the track events in the afternoon.

It was fantastic to see every child encouraging their friends, celebrating successes and showing great respect for one another throughout the day. We were delighted by the superb turnout from parents, whose enthusiasm helped create an incredible atmosphere from start to finish. The cheers, smiles and sense of togetherness made it a truly memorable event—one that was still being talked about for days afterwards.



WATER FIGHT!



To round off an exceptionally hot week, we surprised the children with a whole-school water fight in the woods. Buckets, sponges and water syringes were hidden throughout the woodland, while Mr Darby and Mrs Pay came fully equipped with water guns and were ready for action. There was lots of laughter, plenty of running and some very sneaky ambushes as children and staff alike joined in the fun. It was the perfect way to cool down and celebrate the end of a busy week, and by the time it was over, it was safe to say that nobody went home dry, staff included!



EARLY YEARS



This half term, our Kindergarten and Reception children have been very busy!

Our Kindergarten children have been preparing for their move into Reception through a range of exciting learning opportunities. One particularly rainy day, I could hear squeals of excitement coming from the playground. On investigation, I found the children, dressed in their waterproofs, jumping enthusiastically in a huge puddle! While having great fun, they were also learning about cause and effect, developing their coordination and balance, and building confidence as they explored the world around them.



The children have also enjoyed marble printing. Watching colourful inks swirl and combine to create unique pieces of artwork is always fascinating. Through this activity, they developed their creativity, fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination, while exploring colour mixing and discovering that there can be many different outcomes from the same activity. It has been wonderful to see the children learning through play, exploration and discovery.

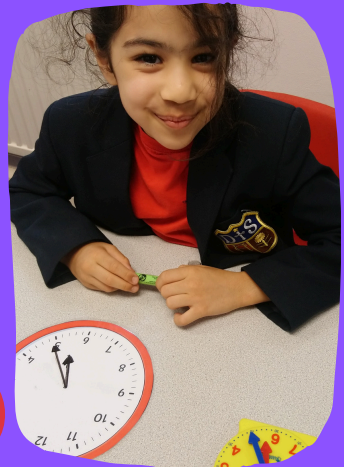


KEY STAGE 1



Key Stage 1 and Early Years were lucky enough to receive a second visit from the Rivers Trust. The children took part in an exciting pond-dipping activity, where they carefully collected, observed and identified a variety of plants and creatures that can be found in local rivers and ponds. Through this hands-on experience, they learned about habitats, food chains and the importance of biodiversity, while developing their observation and classification skills. The children discovered that even the smallest creatures play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and gained a greater appreciation of how we can all help to protect our local environment.

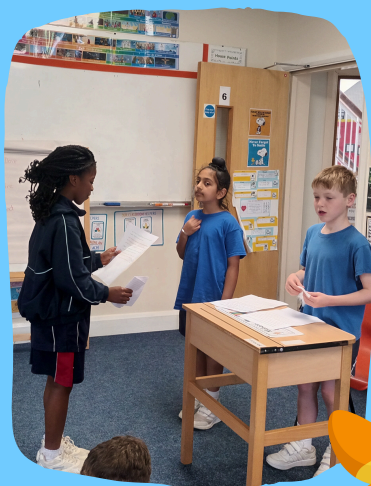
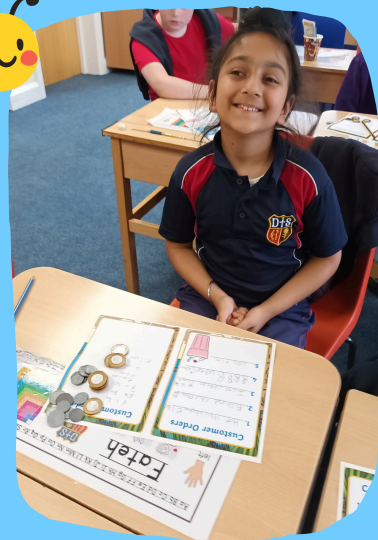
Year 1 and Year 2 have also been busy learning about time in Maths. Time can be a tricky concept to grasp, particularly in a world where digital devices and clocks are used so frequently. However, being able to tell the time on an analogue clock remains an important life skill. Through practical activities and plenty of hands-on practice, the children have been learning to read o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to, as well as understanding how time helps us organise our daily lives. We are incredibly proud of the perseverance and determination they have shown while mastering this challenging skill. Well done, Year 1 and Year 2!



KEY STAGE 2



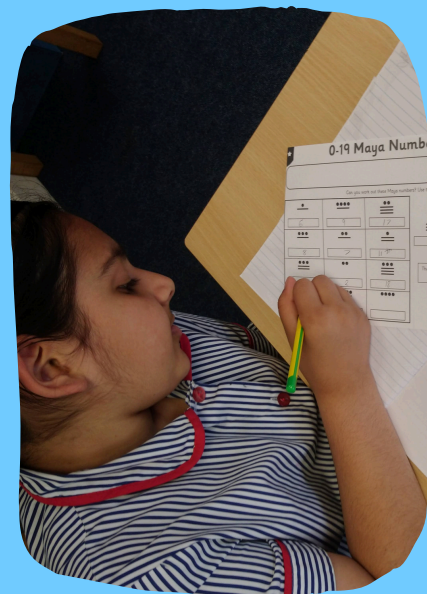
Year 3 and Year 4 have been busy learning another tricky mathematical concept, money. Like telling the time, this can be challenging in a world where many people use cards, phones and smart watches instead of cash. However, it is an essential life skill. The children have been learning to recognise coins and notes, add amounts together and calculate change accurately. We have been delighted to see the confidence, perseverance and problem-solving skills they have shown while tackling this important area of Maths. Well done, Year 3 and Year 4!



Year 3 and Year 4 have also been busy in RE, learning about the Conversion of Saul and how this life-changing event led him to become Paul, one of Christianity's most important leaders. To deepen their understanding, the children rehearsed and performed a short play based on the story for the rest of the school. Through this activity, they developed their confidence, teamwork and speaking skills, while reflecting on themes of forgiveness, change and faith. We were incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and maturity they showed in sharing their learning.



Year 5 and Year 6 have been learning about the fascinating Maya civilisation, exploring their way of life, homes, inventions and impressive number system. This topic has shown the children that the Maya were highly skilled astronomers, mathematicians and architects who built remarkable cities long before modern technology existed. Through their studies, the children have gained a greater understanding of how ancient civilisations have shaped our world, and we have been impressed by their curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the topic.



Year 5 and Year 6 were also privileged to enjoy a trip to Wimbledon on the opening day of the Championships. The children were excited to travel by train, experience the atmosphere of this world-famous event, relax on Henman Hill and enjoy strawberries and cream. They also watched top-class tennis, including British player Cameron Norrie in action. It was a truly memorable experience that inspired the children and created lasting memories. What an incredible opportunity!

AUTUMN TERM - 1ST HALF DATES

SEPTEMBER



Thursday 3rd – 8.40am Children Return to school

Friday 18th – Jeans for Genes day

Friday 18th – Race night – Charlton Curry Cup (event organised by the PTA)

Thursay 24th – School aged Immunisations

Friday 25th – Cultural Day

OCTOBER



Friday 16th – Autumn Disco

Friday 16th – Last Day of Term – School closes at 3.45pm

CLASS NAMES

From September we have decided to give our classes names. These were chosen for their link to both nature and faith.



Our Class Names

Rooted in Faith, Growing Together

Kindergarten  Fig Class Growing roots, nurturing hearts	Reception  Mustard Seed Class Small beginnings, great potential	Year 1 & 2  Olive Class Nourished by knowledge, growing in wisdom	Year 3 & 4  Vine Class Connected in faith, growing together	Year 5 & 6  Sycamore Class Standing tall, ready to make a difference
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'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.' John 15:5



Families of Faith

✝ July ✝

Prayer Corner



Dear Jesus,
Thank You for coming to Mary and Martha's home.

Martha worked hard to get everything ready, and Mary sat and listened to You.

Please help me to be like both of them - to work and help others when it's needed, but also to stop and listen to You with my heart.

Amen.

Dear Jesus,
Please help me to be like Pier Giorgio - to smile even when things are hard, to help others with love, and to always put You first in my life.

Amen.

Saints to Inspire

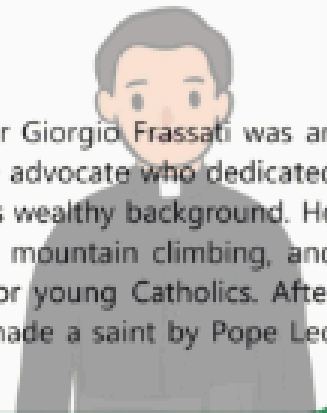


29 July - Saints Martha, Mary of Bethany, and Lazarus

Saints Martha, Mary of Bethany, and Lazarus were close friends of Jesus. Martha is known for her active service and hospitality. Mary is celebrated for her devotion and for anointing Jesus' feet with expensive perfume. Lazarus is famous for being raised from the dead by Jesus. Together, they are recognised for their love for Jesus, and their feast day is celebrated on July 29.

4 July - Pier Giorgio Frassati

"Jesus is with me, I have nothing to fear". Pier Giorgio Frassati was an Italian Catholic youth activist and social justice advocate who dedicated his life to helping the poor and sick despite his wealthy background. He was known for his joyful personality, love of mountain climbing, and strong faith, and he is considered a model for young Catholics. After dying from polio at age 24 in 1925, he was made a saint by Pope Leo XIV in September 2025.



Good News from the Gospel



6th July - Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus invites everyone who feels tired or has worries to come to him for rest. He teaches us that being gentle and humble brings peace. *When do I need to rest in Jesus' love?*

12th July - Matthew 13:1-23

God's Word is like a seed: when we hear it with open hearts, it can grow and bear lots of good fruit in our lives. *How can I make my heart good soil for God's Word?*

19th July - Matthew 13:24-43

The Kingdom of God might start small or hidden, but it grows into something amazing - we are invited to be part of it. *How can I help goodness grow in the world?*

26th July - Matthew 13:44-52

The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure worth giving everything for; when we truly find it, we joyfully accept and live in it. *What treasures do I want to find in my life with God?*

Family Faith in Action

- Invite a friend to dinner
- Make the tart of St Martha
- Spend time with your brothers and sisters
- Exercise
- Pray a walking rosary
- Call a family member to say they love them
- Make a rice crispie chocolate mountain using Fairtrade chocolate



World Chocolate Day - 1st July

Enjoy a Fairtrade bar of chocolate





UNIFORM

We are incredibly proud of our school uniform, which helps to foster a sense of belonging, pride and identity within our school community. Over the past two years, we have been carefully introducing a new uniform through a phased approach, giving families time to make the transition gradually.

From September 2026, the new uniform will become compulsory for all pupils. We believe this change will ensure a consistent, smart appearance across the school while continuing to provide excellent value and convenience for families.

Uniform can be ordered directly from our supplier, Schoolwear Direct, by scanning the QR code to the right. This provides families with a simple and convenient way to purchase all compulsory uniform items. The only exceptions are Forest School waterproofs and hair accessories, which are available separately. If you would like further information about these items or wish to place an order, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help.



SCAN ME!



CHARLTON HOUSE SCHOOL ACCESSORIES

BOOK BAG



PE BAG



JOGGING TROUSERS



HOUSE COLOURED T-SHIRTS



FLEECE



HAIR ACCESSORIES



FOREST SCHOOL WATERPROOFS



Love One Another



**NO BACKPACKS
REQUIRED**

RULES



BOYS



Notes for boys uniform

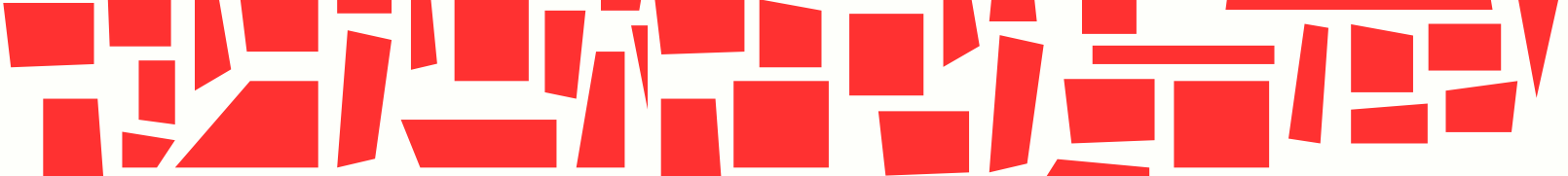
- Charcoal grey shorts or trousers
- Burgundy jumper & tie
- Navy blazer
- Black school shoes
- Grey or black socks
- White trainers for PE

GIRLS

Notes for girls uniform

- Burgundy tartan pinafore EYFS & KS1
- Navy blazer
- Burgundy tartan skirt KS2
- Revere collared blouse
- Navy tights
- Black school shoes
- White trainers for PE
- Navy or burgundy hair accessories





SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR UNDER 16S

THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL BAN SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FROM PROVIDING THEIR SERVICES TO UNDER-16S.

Social media companies will be legally required to stop providing their services to anyone under 16. This means platforms must verify that a user is 16 or over before allowing them to create or access an account.

WHEN? Early 2027

WHICH PLATFORMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE BAN?

The Government has confirmed the restriction will cover platforms including:

- Instagram
- TikTok
- Snapchat
- YouTube
- Facebook
- X

WHAT WON'T BE INCLUDED?

- WhatsApp and messaging Apps
- Games like Roblox, although specific features like stranger messaging and direct messaging will be targeted.

WHY 16?

The current minimum age for social media, thirteen, was never based on evidence about children's wellbeing. There is growing evidence about adolescent brain development and the harms of social media during early teenage years.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

SmartPhoneFreeChildhood.com



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some tv shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website



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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®



Summer Holiday Bingo



READ A BOOK IN AN UNUSUAL PLACE AND TAKE A PHOTO	Cook or bake for a person in need	Write and say a Summer prayer	DO YOUR OWN BLEEP TEST *	VISIT A CATHEDRAL
Create a piece of art based on a day out at the beach	LEARN A SONG IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE AND FILM YOURSELF	Do a litter pick in your local community	write a thank you letter for a local emergency services	Go for a bike ride
Swim in the sea	Spend 10 minutes in silent reflection outside	Donate some clothes or toys to a charity	Go for a walk and see what different birds you can see	Create a Summer wordsearch *
Makesomething usingrecycled materials *	Write a story about somewhere you visited	Create a food parcel for a local foodbank *	Plant some flowers or seeds and help them grow	Film or voice record yourself talking about an interesting day during the Summer

Return your BINGO board with a completed row for a small prize or a full house for a big prize!

* Look on Google Classroom for ideas and help - you can update we would love to see photos on Google Classroom of your adventures and activities



Summer Puzzle Page

Count how many insects are hidden around the newsletter.



SummerTime



Word list:
BEACH
CAMP
PARK
PICNIC
POOL
POPSICLE
SANDALS
SUNSET
SWIMSUIT
VACATION



Let's Keep Growing Over Summer!

Little and often makes a big difference!

My Summer Learning Checklist



Read

Read every day and enjoy amazing adventures!

☐

I did it! ★

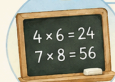


Practise My Spellings

Practise my spellings little and often to help me grow in confidence!

☐

I did it! ★



Practise My Times Tables

Practise my times tables to get quicker and even better!

☐

I did it! ★

Keep learning, keep trying and have a wonderful summer!

We can't wait to see what you achieve! ♥

Spot The Difference

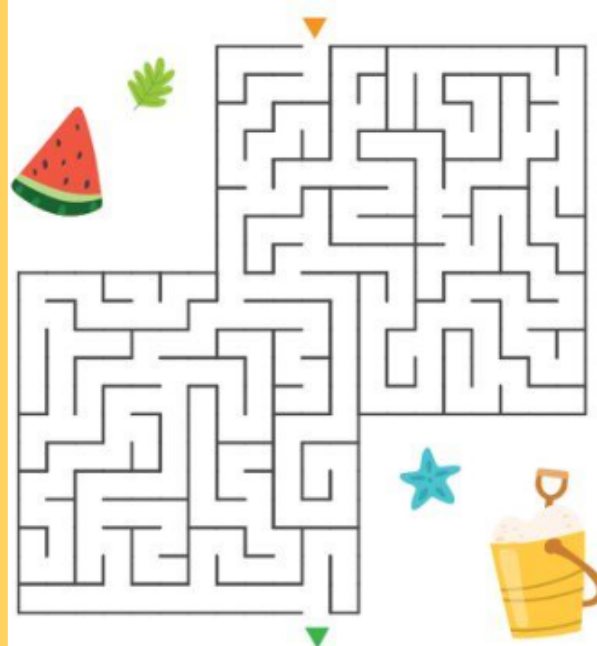
Name _____

There are 10 differences in the pictures below. Can you find them all?



Summer Maze

Find your way through the maze



BEACH JOKES FOR KIDS

Why don't crabs like sharing?
Because they're shellfish.

How do fish know how much they weigh?
They have their own scales.

What does the ocean say to the beach?
Nothing. It just waves.





GOOD LUCK

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please email our
Designated Safeguarding Lead at:
safeguarding@charltonhouseindependentschool.co.uk

You can also visit our website using the QR code below to
access our policies and for further advice and guidance.

