

Ofsted Good Provider

February 2025

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

BE KIND, *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite February being a short month, it has been an incredibly busy and exciting time at school!

Children's Mental Health Week was a huge success, and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity in helping us raise such a fantastic amount. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities, and it was wonderful to shine a spotlight on the importance of good mental health.

This month, our Reception children had an amazing day immersed in the world of pirates, while Key Stage 2 classes enjoyed virtual author visits. Year 2 have started their Walkwise Child Pedestrian Training and took part in an oral health workshop, and Year 1 had a fantastic trip to The Box. We're delighted to be offering even more trips this month, all completely free of charge. Providing these opportunities is such an important part of bringing learning to life and remains integral to our curriculum.



We are also incredibly proud to have launched our Community Food Hub in partnership with Fair Share South West. This initiative helps us support our community while also preventing food waste. Another exciting development is our Community Bike Fleet—if you would like to borrow a bike for yourself or the whole family, simply scan the QR code or follow the link in the poster later in this newsletter.



Later this month, we are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day! If you need a costume, we still have plenty available for you to borrow—just let us know, and we'll be happy to help.

We're also gearing up for Comic Relief Day on 21st March. Our school councillors have been working hard on the plans, so keep an eye out for more details coming soon!



As always, thank you for your continued support. If you need any help, support, or advice, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact teachers via the office email at laira.green.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk. For any queries regarding SEND support, please contact Mrs. Trembath at inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.sch.uk.



Best wishes
Mrs Claire Jones

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd March

Year 1 Open Top Bus Tour of Plymouth

Year 4 swimming lessons at Plymouth Life Centre all week

Wednesday 5th March

5AW Geography trip to Efford Valley

Thursday 6th March

World Book Day- children invited to dress up as a book character

Year 2 take part in 'Walkwise Child Pedestrian Training'

Friday 7th March

3CL to have Steel Pan Music Lessons delivered by the Music Hub

5MT Geography trip to Efford Valley

Monday 10th March

Year 4 swimming lessons at Plymouth Life Centre all week

Wednesday 12th March

Reception and Year 1 trip to the cinema to watch 'Despicable Me 4'

SATs Information Event for parents/carers of Year 6 children (3:45pm in 6LG)

Thursday 13th March

Year 2 take part in pedestrian Walkwise Training

Friday 14th March

3CL to have Steel Pan Music Lessons delivered by the Music Hub

Monday 17th March

Easter Raffle Tickets go on Sale

Friday 21st March

Comic Relief Day- details to follow

Monday 24th March

The Big Walk and Wheel

Wednesday 26th March

Year 6 Geography Trip to Plymouth City Centre

Friday 28th March

RSC Mother's Day Assembly

Treat Friday

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Laira Green Preschool

All children receive 15 hours free childcare. If you are a working parent, you may be eligible to receive 30 hours free childcare. To check, go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk or contact the school.

Funded Session times:

Morning Session	8:30am-11:30am
Afternoon Session	12:15pm- 3:15pm

Additional Prices and Session times:

Early Years Breakfast Club	7:30am-8:30am	£4.00
Morning Session	8:30am -11:30am	£18.00
Lunchtime Session	11:30am-12:15pm	£3.00
Afternoon Session	12:15pm-3:15pm	£18.00
Early Years Afterschool Club	3:15pm- 4:30pm	£6.00
Early Years Afterschool Club	3:15pm- 6:00pm	£12.00

Contact the school for more information
01752 660427
laira.green.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk

Class Updates

Class RSC

What a great start to the Term for Class RSC! The children have been excited to kick start their new topic, 'Dinosaur Detectives'! The adventure began with a mysterious discovery – when a pirate sent them a letter and left a mysterious egg in our school hall! RSC, decided to care for the dinosaur egg, creating a safe spot for it and making signs to protect it. The children have loved researching dinosaurs and uncovering fascinating facts. They've also enjoyed stepping into the shoes of a palaeontologist, just like Mary Anning, whilst learning about fossils. As they continue to explore how fossils are formed, they will also extend their knowledge by learning about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. In PE, RSC are focusing on dance this term, learning to explore movements and develop coordination whilst expressing their ideas to music. During Phonics, the children are now practising writing sentences, by embedding all of the Phonics knowledge that they have learnt so far! What a fantastic start to Term 4 – well done, Reception!

Class 1MM

In Year 1 this month the children completed their Ancient Egyptian learning, learning about the importance of the River Nile and the significance of Tutankhamen. We were able to reinforce this knowledge on our trip to The Box last week where we had the opportunity to observe artefacts that were thousands of years old. In geography this week, the children have started to think about the city of Plymouth and their route they take to get to school, including what they see along the way. In science, the children have been investigating the different classifications of animals and how we can identify them. In art, we created LS Lowry inspired paintings which the children have been very proud of. Finally in Phonics, the children are continuing to learn many alternative graphemes, and have been excited to 'grow the code'. It is wonderful to see them starting to use these in their writing. Keep up the hard work Year 1!







Class 4JL

4JL have made a good start with their swimming lessons at the Life Centre. The children have been so brave and they have embraced the opportunity - for some of them this is a completely new skill! In Art, the highlight of the term was our Salvador Dali lesson in which the children completed a self portrait and then added their very own 'Dali' style moustache! Our new book for our English lessons has helped to produce some lovely descriptive writing. The children have been reading 'The most wonderful thing in the world.' In this unit, they have been describing their very own most 'wonderful items'.

We have been enjoying our links with our French school, finding out about their daily routine and how it differs from ours. This term we have been sending them videos to show what we have in our pencil cases and in our classroom. We are excited to continue using our heat maps and reducing the time it takes for us to answer our tricky multiplication questions. The children are working SO hard to make sure that they can improve their scores! Well done 4JL, keep it up!





CLASS UPDATES

Class 2RB





February has been another busy month in Year 2. We have really enjoyed learning about multiplication and division in Maths with a particular focus on our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. It has been so great to see lots of children practising on TTRockstars at home too! In our English lessons, we wrote a non-fiction information text about The Great Fire of London; the children blew us away with their knowledge of this topic and produced some fabulous writing. In PE, we really enjoyed our gymnastics learning and absolutely loved using the apparatus to show balances linked with movements. The children also loved our PSHE learning which focused on working together as a team. The children worked in groups to design their own bird for a 'dream garden' and showed excellent ideas, creativity and teamwork in this task! As a class, we have been reading a poetry book called 'Perfectly Peculiar Pets', which we have all found very amusing, and it has led to some really great discussions. We have also been really enjoying our newly decorated school library; the children have loved spending time in here reading and choosing new books that they are excited about. Another great month of learning Year 2, well done!

Class 3CL





They are thoroughly enjoying their new geography topic and this week, they have learned about the different layers of Earth. They were fascinated to find out what is beneath our feet and also enjoyed drawing the different layers of Earth using a geographical diagram. In PE this half term, Year 3 have started a dance unit and this week, they loved using jerky, sharp and forceful movements to match their theme of machines! 3CL have spent some time this week completing their Star Reading tests, setting new ZPD ranges for their reading books. The adults in 3CL were extremely impressed with Year 3's determination to improve their score and concentration when completing this test. We have started a fractions unit in Maths and have started the half term by understanding unit and non-unit fractions. We have been using fraction walls and bar models to help us with improving our understanding and explanations about which fractions are greater or smaller. Next, we will learn how to compare and order different fractions when the numerator is greater than one. In RE, we have started a topic all about Judaism. Year 3 demonstrated a kind and respectful attitude when learning about this different religion and made lots of comparisons between Judaism and Christianity. They enjoyed learning about Shabbat (the day of rest) and read the 10 Commandments and the Jewish Creation story to better understand how and why Jewish people celebrate Shabbat each week.

CLASS UPDATES

Class 5MT

February has been a fantastic month in class 5MT! We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our new darkly twisted fairytale, Hansel and Gretel. The children have already memorised the key story plots, can discuss the contrasting themes, and are using various strategies to add rich detail to their writing. In maths, our brilliant mathematicians have built upon their prior knowledge of fractions and decimals and can now calculate thousandths as decimals—what an achievement!

One of the highlights this month has been our contemporary dance unit, where we have been learning about Chance Technique. The children have loved expressing themselves through movement, proving we have a class full of creative performers!

Our geography lessons have taken us on a journey through the Earth's diverse biomes. The children are now able to distinguish between them, recalling key facts with confidence. We are all eagerly looking forward to our upcoming trip next week, which will further enhance our learning.

The class has also shown great determination in impressing the adults at our school. Their exemplary behaviour and hard work have earned them countless Headteacher Prizes—what fantastic role models they are becoming!

Well done, 5MT, for an amazing month of learning and achievements!

Class 5AW

5AW have had an exciting and enriching time in our learning recently! In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the life of Charles Dickens through a biographical text. This inspired us to write our own biographical pieces about Roald Dahl, focusing on key aspects of his fascinating life and career.

In Maths, we have been working hard on multiplying fractions. Using our previous knowledge, we have also learned how to simplify fractions into their simplest form, developing our confidence and fluency in this important area of mathematics. Our RE lessons have been particularly engaging as we have been learning about the importance of the Torah in Judaism. We have explored key aspects such as kosher laws and the significance of keeping the Sabbath, gaining a deeper understanding of Jewish traditions and beliefs. In French, we have been learning how to describe where we live, including the different types of rooms we have (or do not have) in our homes. It has been great to see the children practicing their new vocabulary with enthusiasm!

A particular highlight of our learning has been our new class reader, Holes. The children have been absolutely captivated by the story and are always eager to continue reading. It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm—please encourage them to log their reading at home to earn raffle tickets!

Well done, 5AW, for all your hard work and enthusiasm. Keep up the fantastic learning!

boom reader

Don't forget to log every read n Boom Reader

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CLASS UPDATES

Class 6LS

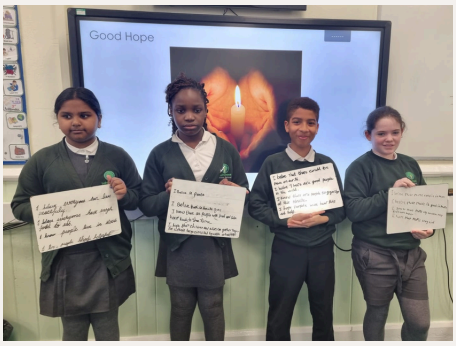
Our highlight this month has been our remote author visit from Matt Goodfellow. Many of the class have loved reading his book, The Final Year, since September. In fact, there has been such a waiting list that we requested a bigger set of books from the library. Many children decided to bring them home to read over half term and we are certainly looking forward to our Book Club this term where we can discuss the book together. His next book, The First Year, is due out in early April - so watch this space for that!

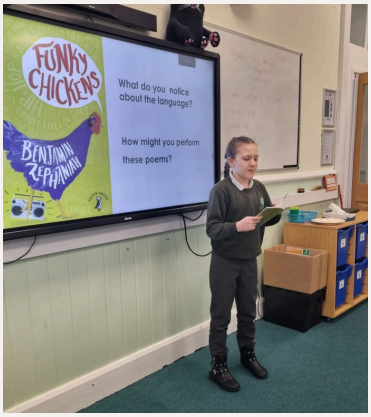
6LS have particularly enjoyed gymnastics with the apparatus. Balancing has been a focus along with steady, well considered movements on and off the structures. In our Science topic, we have learnt about the refraction of light and how we see things.

We would also like to say a huge well done to every child for their efforts towards SATs this term. Each individual has shown dedication and determination which has, in turn, led to increased confidence throughout. Well done 6LS!









Class 6LG

We have had a great month in 6LG! In English, we have completed our 'Animalum' unit and are so proud of our final pieces, which are carefully presented fact files about our chosen animals. We have also been really enjoying our class reader, 'Funky Chickens' by Benjamin Zephaniah, especially the funny poems and protest poetry. In Maths, we have worked hard to tackle algebra, which lots of us have enjoyed far more than we expected to! We've now begun to apply our number knowledge to decimals, which is really helping us to progress in our SATs practise too. In Science, we built on our 'Light' learning from last term and have been exploring light pollution and how different types of this can affect both humans and animals negatively, and some of the things that people have been doing to help make a difference. We are so proud of all the children for how hard they are working and the progress that they are seeing in their learning - keep it up 6LG!

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Laira Green Primary Community Bike Fleet

🚴 Borrow Bikes for Free 🚴

We have a range of bikes for adults and children available to borrow for FREE!

🌟 Enjoy a fun family day out on one of Plymouth's scenic cycle paths

🚲 Cycle to school or work with ease

📅 Bikes available from Friday to Friday

For more details, contact laira.green.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk

Sign up via the QR Code or by clicking here



sustrans
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PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

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Branching Out in Reception

Books for Topics

SCAN ME



If you like...

Julia Donaldson

...try these!



Visit **www.booksfortopics.com** for more ideas!

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Branching Out in Key Stage 1

Books for Topics

SCAN ME



If you like...

You Choose

...try these!



Visit **www.booksfortopics.com** for more ideas!

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Branching Out in Key Stage 2

Books for Topics

SCAN ME



If you like...

David Walliams

Try these...



Visit **www.booksfortopics.com** for more ideas!

School Council Update

Our school councillors had a very busy month organising fundraising for St Luke's Hospice. The children thought of four challenges for the school to take part in during Children's Mental Health Week. They organised a reading, creative, running and mindfulness challenge which the whole school thoroughly enjoyed. School Council really wanted to encourage their friends to think about good mental health, to de determined, resilient and know how to to look after their wellbeing. We even had a visit from Elmer to help support the reading challenge! We are so proud of everyone for getting involved and supporting St Luke's Hospice. Our school community raised an incredible £1025.21 which is very much appreciated. Thank you so much.



COMIC RELIEF
RED NOSE DAY
FRIDAY 21 MARCH

Look out for our Comic Relief fundraising ideas too! Coming soon.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child *does* upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure children understand the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school, or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their identity to gain a child's trust and serve their own ends – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure the child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and why they should never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

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.



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Sources: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13/lets-talk-about/socialising-online/group-chats/ | https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ (Certain features restricted to over-18s)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

CENSORED

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert



Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025

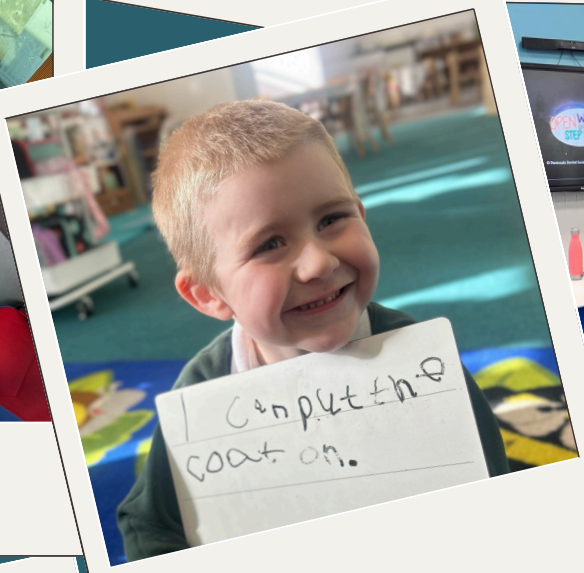
A Month in Pictures



















A Month in Pictures

















