

June 2024

BE KIND, BE DETERMINED, BE PROUD

Dear Parent/Carers,

June has been another wonderful month at Laira Green Primary. There have been trips and visitors which have provided the children with some wonderful opportunities to enhance their learning and their personal development. The Year 6 visit to Nethercott Farm was (as expected) a huge success. The children came back full of stories and experiences that they will never forget. Year 5 have had visits to the Barbican, Mayflower Museum and the Box as well as Central Park as part of their History and Geography learning. Year 2 visited The Box as part of their History lessons; Year 6 visited the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter and Reception visited the Butterfly and Otter Sanctuary. The whole school got to watch a bike stunt show which we won for our efforts in getting to school actively. There have also been virtual visits from authors and a digital workshop to teach children about online safety! In addition to this our brilliant Year 1 children have taken their Phonics Screening Check and Year 4 have taken their Multiplications Tables Check- both did a fabulous job and we will will share the results with you next month in your child's annual reports. We also had an awesome month of receiving awards. Our very own Miss Couch received an Excellence Award for 'Outstanding New Teacher of the Year' from the Pearsons National Teaching Awards. We also received the Young Carers in Schools Award and the Eco Schools Award in recognition of what we do each and every day. We were extremely proud to be one of only 24 schools in the country recognised for excellence in the teaching of Phonics and early reading and being accredited as a Champion School. These awards are fantastic achievements and I cannot thank staff enough for their commitment and drive to keep on improving. As we move into our final few weeks of school may I please remind you that attendance matters right up until the last day- we still have a lot of curriculum content to cover and children still have lots to learn.









Best wishes

Mrs Claire Jones

Dates for your Diary

Monday 8th July- Stay and Play sessions for new Reception children

Wednesday 10th July- Reception and Key Stage 1 Sports Day- Lipson Cooperative College 9:30-11:00am

Thursday 11th July- Key Stage 2 Sports Day- Lipson Cooperative College 9:30-11:00am

Friday 12th July- 4JL Class Assembly

Monday 15th July- Read with Us session for 1MM and 2MT

Monday 15th July- Top Up Swimming Lessons for some Year 6 pupils begin

Monday 15th July- Years 1-5 spend the afternoon in their new classes

Tuesday 16th July- Read with Us session for 3RM and 3JR

Tuesday 16th July- Staff from Nethercott Farm visit Year 4 and 5

Tuesday 16th July Nethercott Farm presentation to parents for 2025 visit- 3:30-4:00pm

Wednesday 17th July- Read with Us session for 4PN and 4JL

Wednesday 17th July- Year 3 trip to Dartmoor

Wednesday 17th July- Stay and Play sessions for new Reception children

Thursday 18th July - Read with Us session for 5LG and 5CL

Friday 19th July- Read with Us session for RSC and 6LS

Friday 19th July- 4PN Parents/Carers invited to watch final Steel Pan Lesson

Friday 19th July- School Council visit the Houses of Parliament and London Eye

Monday 22nd July- Annual Reports sent home to Parents/Carers

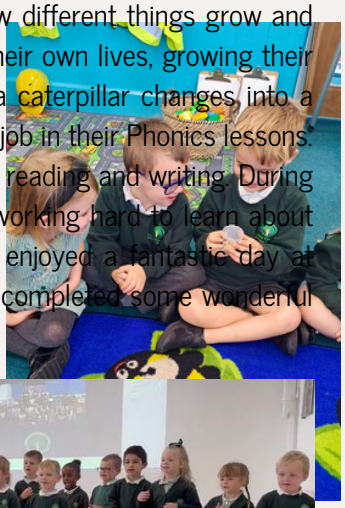
Monday 22nd July- Year 6 Leavers Assembly- 09:15-10:15am

Monday 22nd July- Whole school picnic lunch- parents invited (weather permitting)

Tuesday 23rd July- Final Day of Term 6.

CLASS UPDATES

What a wonderful start to term 6 for Class RSC! The children kicked off the term with an outstanding Father's Day assembly, which we hope you all enjoyed. Throughout this last term, they have used a variety of texts, including 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk', to support their topic 'Let's Get Growing'. The children have been learning about how different things grow and change, such as animals and plants. They have gained a deeper understanding of this by reflecting on their own lives, growing their very own beanstalks, and caring for the class caterpillars. The children were very excited to see how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly and develop a greater understanding of lifecycles. The children have continued to do an excellent job in their Phonics lessons. This term, the children have applied and consolidated their phase 2, phase 3, and phase 4 Phonics when reading and writing. During Maths lessons, children have blown us away by counting in twos, fives and tens! They have also been working hard to learn about 'measuring', expanding their knowledge of height, length, weight, and capacity. Everyone in class RSC enjoyed a fantastic day at Buckfast Butterfly and Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary. Reception have worked extremely hard this term and completed some wonderful learning; we are all very proud! Well done, RSC!







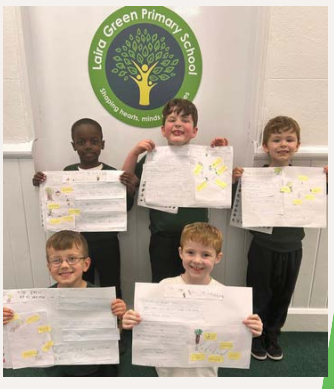


After all of the hard work that the children in 4JL have put in over the course of the year, they have now finally taken their official multiplication checks. I just want to say a massive well done and thank you to the children for showing such great determination in their attitude towards this. Well done to all of you! I am sad to say that swimming has now come to an end, the children absolutely thrived at The Life Centre. They have made memories for life and it was amazing to see the progress that ALL of the children made over the course of three weeks. Their behaviour was exemplary and they represented the school with a huge amount of pride. Our writing has been comical this term, as children have written the next chapter to the class story 'I don't believe it Archie!' - a story with a young boy who gets himself into all sorts of tricky situations. It was amazing to see the children using their wonderful imagination and adding to Archie's problems. We are looking forward to designing and making our own lamps in Design Technology, using circuits and switches which links in really well with our Science too! Keep working hard 4JL!





What a busy month Year 1 have had! They have been working extremely hard in Phonics to read real and nonsense words in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check. What a phenomenal job they have all done! This month, the children performed for all of you in their first ever class assembly. They were all incredible, well done 1MM! In Geography, we have been looking at the weather, trends across the UK and how different seasons affect the weather. In Maths, we have been learning how to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour, as well as using specific vocabulary to describe when things happen. Within our reading practice sessions, the children are using their phonics skills to decode the words to read with a greater fluency, practise reading with prosody and discuss what they have read with their peers. Despite almost being at the end of year 1, the children are still continuing to work extremely hard, we are super proud of them!



CLASS UPDATES

4PN have been busy preparing for our class assembly. The children have been full of great ideas for which of our achievements we need to share with our families and have been working hard to learn their lines! Swimming at the Life Centre was a huge success. All of the class became more confident in the water and lots learnt to swim for the very first time. We also learnt about water safety at the beach and when we are near rivers with our friends or family. Our Science topic has been around electricity and we have loved making electrical circuits with wires, bulbs, batteries and switches. We have also talked about safety in our environment around electricity and how to stay safe at home. During PSHE we have been talking about our bodies changing as we grow up and become an adult. After sharing a little giggle to start with, the children were very sensible, listened carefully and asked great questions. We feel now that we have the knowledge we need to not be frightened or confused when our bodies start to go through puberty. We have been reading lots and lots of books and are loving our class novel 'Anisha the Accidental Detective' - we can't wait to hear what happens at the end!





3RM have enjoyed lots of exciting learning in June! We have been especially enjoying our Science lessons, where we have been using our 'working scientifically' skills in The Nappy Challenge! We have conducted several investigations so far to test different properties of nappies, and we have learnt to record our data and represent it using a bar chart. In our PE lessons, the children have loved working on their running and jumping skills in our athletics learning. Each of us chose one of the three jumps (hop, jump or leap) to see how far we could get! We have also enjoyed our Music lessons this month, which have included singing, using a pentatonic scale on the glockenspiel and also having a go at some steel pans too. We are really enjoying our last term in Year 3 and are looking forward to the next month of exciting events and learning!





Year 2 have had a great end to the Summer term. We have enjoyed a trip to the box, where we learnt all about World War 2, we even got to meet Mildred the Woolly Mammoth. We have started created our own felt bunting, to help younger children with their counting. We have enjoyed writing our own fiction stories, all about a disgusting ice-cream. In maths, the children have been learning about statistics, focusing on looking at drawing and interpreting pictograms and making tables, using tallies. In Geography, we have been learning about the journey of food and the understanding the importance of farming. The children have really enjoyed spending Friday mornings unleashing their creativity as part of their creative dance sessions. It has been a wonderful June!

CLASS UPDATES

What a super month we have had in 5LG! In our maths learning, we have been working hard to calculate with decimals, and are now investigating negative numbers. During RE sessions we have been exploring the concept of atheism, and have learned about Humanists and their code for living. We noticed that the 'golden rule' applies here too! In our PSHE lessons this term, our adults have been very impressed with our maturity, as we explored the many aspects of puberty and how it can impact both boys and girls - and the people around us! In PE, we have been working hard on our athletic skills, especially running. We have developed our skills in running for stamina, explored the difference between long-distance running and sprinting, and showed excellent teamwork when passing the baton in relays. A particular highlight this month has been our DT learning, where we are finding out what it means to eat seasonally. We had the opportunity to taste a variety of seasonal vegetables, and comment on the smell, taste and texture. The broad beans went down surprisingly well! In our whole class reading sessions, we are continuing to enjoy 'Holes', and are excited to see what fate awaits our protagonist, Stanley, when he leaves the mountains. In French, we have been further developing our scientific knowledge, as our topic this term revolves (pun intended!) around the Solar System, and we are learning to name and describe the planets in French. We are looking forward to our upcoming trips, and excited to be proud and determined representatives of Laira Green!





We have had a great month of learning in 5CL! We have loved our trip to The Box, the Barbican and the Mayflower Museum this week and we are so pleased with how respectful and hardworking Year 5 were. In English, we have started reading a short story from 'A Word in Your Ear' by Tony Ross and we have loved writing spooky stories to match the style used by Ross. We have learnt how to create a contrasting atmosphere at different points of the story by varying the adjectives, noun phrases and speech in our writing. We have also been so impressed with 5CL's improved understanding of how to use paragraphs to build cohesion in their writing. In Science, we are learning about how different animal species reproduce before moving on to looking at the life cycles of different animals. So far, we have learnt how mammals reproduce, which has then supported our learning in our PSHE topic, Changing Me, this half term. We have also dissected a flowering plant to help us to identify the reproductive parts, including both the pistil and the stamen. We loved working practically and this has helped us to remember the tricky names of all of the different parts of the flower! As I am sure you might have seen on Laira Green's Facebook page, 5CL are loving their Music unit, where we have been learning how to sing and use cups to keep the beat of, 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor?' We have recently learnt all of the lyrics and next, we will be introducing different instruments to play alongside our singing. Lastly, in Geography this half term, we are learning about Sustainability and Energy. We have learnt what 'sustainability' means and discussed ways we are sustainable in school and at home. Next week, we are looking forward to our trip to Central Park to complete our fieldwork. We will be completing various different surveys, a field sketch and completing a walk and talk activity to discuss how sustainable we think this area is.

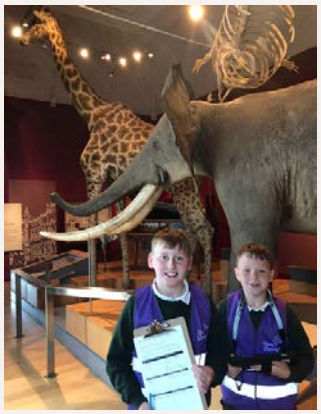


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CLASS UPDATES

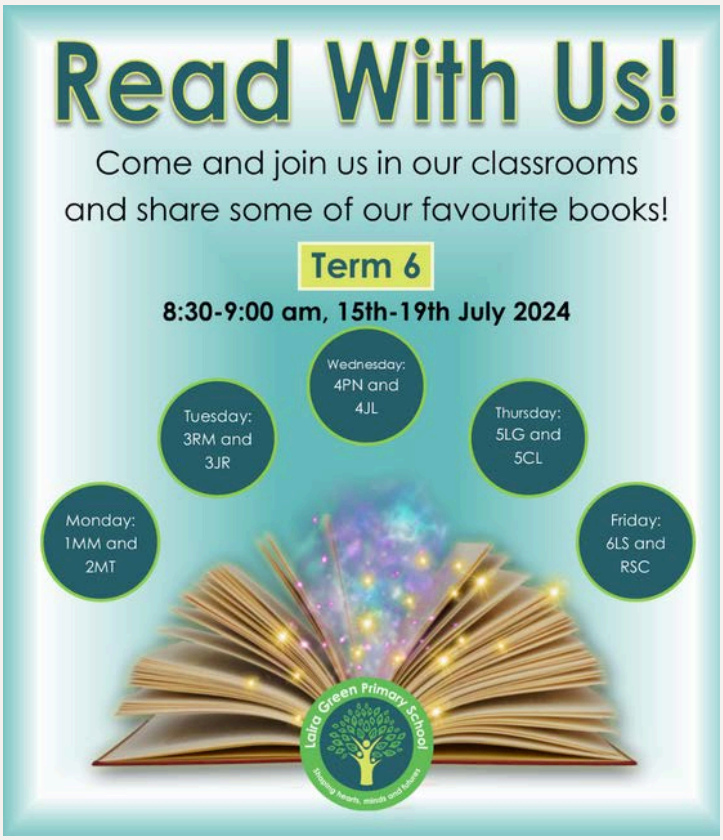
In 3JR we have absolutely loved our new DT unit on kites. We have learned about their history, design features and materials. Recently we designed our own in preparation to manufacturing our own before testing them on our year 3 kite festival. Meanwhile, in PE, we have been working on our running, relay and throwing techniques in athletics. We are ready to achieve our personal best on the upcoming sports day. In science, we dissected nappies and tested their absorbance until they burst to learn different scientific techniques. English has also been a delight with our work on the picture book chalk. The children have had to pose in their own storyboards before writing their own version of the text. In geography, we have learnt about the UK weather and how clouds are formed by cooling water vapour. In maths, we have enjoyed learning about shapes, time and statistics. Keep it up 3JR.







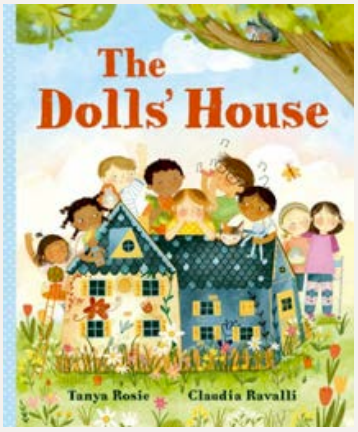
Nethercott Farm was an amazing experience for all our Year 6 children. They returned with brilliant stories of fun and laughter and about the exciting adventures and encounters they had with the farm animals. The spinney seemed to be a clear favourite and we are so pleased that the children have these memories to cherish forever! Since Nethercott, the children have continued to work hard in all areas of the curriculum. In PE, we are learning to develop our sprinting technique and changes of pace and have enjoyed racing against each other. In Music, we are looking at swing music from the 1930s and 1940s and have listened to music by the famous Glenn Miller Band. We have explored chromatic scales and arpeggios and have loved learning the song, 'Hey Mr Miller' which we are still working on.





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Best Books this Month



The Dolls' House

by Tanya Rosie & Claudia Ravalli

Mia has just moved house and spots a dilapidated doll house on the side of the road in her neighbourhood. As she begins to repair and decorate it on her porch, other children come to join the play, bringing offerings – a lolly pop stick bed, a rug and cotton wool cushions – and all are made to feel welcome. Mia notices a boy watching from his window but is too shy to join in with their play. However, when the Autumn rain batters the house, he appears and helps her to fix it. She generously and cleverly suggests he looks after it over Winter, thus bringing him into the group of friends, that we see playing through the changing seasons.

Dungeon Runners: Hero Trial

by Kieran Larwood

& Joe Todd StantonHero Trial is a classic tale of the underdog triumphing against the odds, standing up to bullies and showing that size and strength are not everything. Kit is a gnorf (part gnome, part dwarf) and Dungeon Runners is a TV game show that Kit is desperate to be on. The trouble is that he has no magical powers, combat skills or even a team. After being bullied into entering the Dungeon Runners trial, Kit needs to find a team double quick to make sure he isn't humiliated by his mean next-door neighbour Breg the Troggle.

So starts his adventure in finding friendship, and courage and learning that you can win by being kind and using your intelligence. This imaginative and brilliantly illustrated story will appeal to quest lovers and adventure fans in lower KS2.





The Wanderdays: Journey To Fantome Island

by Clare Povey

The Wanderdays: Journey to Fantome Island is a rescue mission for the missing mother of Flo and Joseph.This edge-of-your-seat underwater quest to the secret Fantome Island is full of twists and turns and mystery. Flo and Joseph Wanderday's mum is one of the world's greatest explorers, but she's gone missing on her latest expedition. Then a mysterious stranger appears and the sinister reason for Mum's trip is revealed. Will you take the plunge and dive into this action-packed adventure? Knowing that this was no ordinary expedition and Mum was trying to uncover some fishy crimes, Flo, Joseph and their friends travel to the secret island to save Mum and expose somebody's crabby plans… A thrilling new series for age eight and above, where mystery meets spy-mission extraordinaire!

boom reader

Please remember to log all reading on Boom Reader. This helps us to know what your child is reading and when they are ready to quiz or change books.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect the next time your child borrows your device.

18 Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.



CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.



BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.



GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.



Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



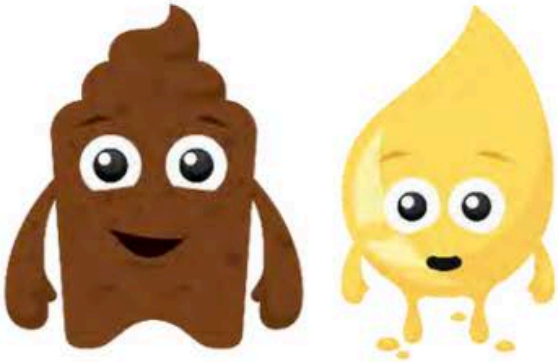
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Sources: https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/program/bullystoppers/primaryprotocols.pdf | https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/training-professionals/professional-learning-program-teaching-age-appropriate-content-factsheet | https://www.mediaingeneral.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/children-media-lives-year-7.pdf

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tippy Park Community Orchard Project.

The Tippy Park Community Orchard Project (TPCOP) is a collaboration between Pollenize CIC, Wise Roots CIC and Tulgey Woods Sanctuary CIC. The collaboration aims to, not only, continue the management of the council owned orchard but also to improve bio-diversity in the area whilst making the area more more accessible to the local community.

The Tippy Park Community Orchard Project has received it's initial funding from the Plymouth Octopus Project. The £5,000 grant will boost the project and the money will be spent according to the needs of local residents and park users as well as the wildlife that inhabits the area.



To launch the project we're running a competition for local school children and home-ed children to design a logo for the TPCOP. The competition will be judged by local artist and director of Tulgey Woods Sanctuary CIC Brian Pollard (pictured right). Brian will be offering the winning entrant a signed, framed limited edition print. The two runners up will receive wooden jigsaws featuring pictures from the artist.



The competition deadline is 1st September 2024. Entries can be submitted by photographing your picture and e-mailing it to info@tulgeywoods.co.uk. Entries must be from primary school age children who live within 2.5 miles from the Orchard.

More prizes to be announced soon.....

A Month in Pictures



















A Month in Pictures

















