

Ofsted Good Provider

October 2025

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

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

Dear parents/carers

It has been another wonderful month here at school, filled with learning, adventure, and new experiences for our children.

We are very proud of our Year 4 pupils who enjoyed their first residential trip to Magdalen Farm. For many, this was their first time staying away from home, and they approached it with enthusiasm, curiosity, and confidence. Our Year 6 pupils had a fantastic visit to the Tamar Bridge Visitors Centre, learning about local engineering and history, while Year 2 had a brilliant day at Morwellham Quay as part of their history learning about the Victorians. It has been lovely to see how these trips have brought their classroom learning to life.



We are delighted that our Preschool continues to go from strength to strength. This month, we have welcomed new children not only into Preschool but also into several of our older year groups. It is always a pleasure to see new faces join our school community, and we thank everyone for making them feel so welcome.



Across the school, we have been allocating new roles and responsibilities. Elections have already taken place for School Council Representatives and Eco Champions, Reading Leaders, and Junior Librarians have been selected. These children have shown great enthusiasm for their new positions, and we are very proud of them. Very soon, we will be advertising roles for Play Leaders and Digital Leaders, offering even more opportunities for pupils to take on leadership responsibilities.



I would also like to thank all parents and carers who attended the Children's Progress Meetings this month. These meetings are such a valuable opportunity to share how well the children are doing and to discuss the next steps in their learning.

Thank you as well to the families who joined us for the Read with Us session. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers enjoying books alongside their children. Shared reading not only strengthens children's confidence and enthusiasm for books but also helps to develop their language and understanding.



It has been a very positive and busy 2nd month of the term, and I am extremely proud of how well our children have settled into their learning. I look forward to seeing what the next month will bring.

Mrs Claire Jones

BE KIND *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd November

First Day of Term 2

Tuesday 4th November

Year 5 to take part in 'Joy of Movement Sessions with Plymouth Argyle Football Club

Thursday 6th November

School Council to attend Efford Remembrance Service

Friday 7th November

Year 2 to attend a virtual author event: Just Imaging - Aoife Dooley

Tuesday 11th November

Year 5 to take part in 'Joy of Movement Sessions with Plymouth Argyle Football Club

Year 2 to take part in a Oral Health Workshop with Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise

Thursday 13th November

2RB to visit Efford Library

2:15 pm- Parent Workshop: Mental Health Schools Team: Worry Management

Friday 14th November

Children in Need- sponsored events

Monday 17th November

9:00-10:00 am- Year 1 Phonics event for parents

6CL to visit Efford Library

Tuesday 18th November

9:00-10:00 am - Reception Phonics Event for parents

3MT Geography Trip to Horrabridge and Tavistock

Year 5 to take part in 'Joy of Movement Sessions with Plymouth Argyle Football Club

Wednesday 19th November

RSC Trip to National Marine AquariumFriday

Thursday 20th November

Whole School Nasal Flu Vaccination

6LG to visit Efford Library

Tuesday 25th November

Year 5 to take part in 'Joy of Movement Sessions with Plymouth Argyle Football Club

Wednesday 26th November

3:30-4:00pm Year 6 Nethercott Information meeting for parents

Friday 28th November

Reception and Year 1 to have Healthy Smiles oral health talk- Livewell South West

Christmas Dates

Monday 1st December

Christmas Raffle tickets on sale (actual raffle Friday 15th 1:30 via Facebook Live)

Raffle tickets are 25p each and can be purchased using the School Money app or in the School Office. Some of the prizes on offer are as follows: Christmas food hampers, chocolates, luxury toiletries, toys, gift vouchers for various places and much much more.

Monday 1st December

Santa's Grotto tickets go on sale (actual visit Friday 12th December)

Santa and his Christmas elf will be visiting us again this year; he will read a story and children will receive a small gift. Tickets to visit the grotto cost £3.50 and if you would like a digital photo it will be a further £1

Friday 5th December

Reception and Preschool Nativity Play 9:15-10:15am

Families are welcome into the hall from 8:45am-via the Reception entrance. Refreshments will be available.

Monday 8th December

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Sing-a-long- 2:15-3:00 pm

Families are invited into school via the KS1 playground. The door will open at 2:00pm. Refreshments will be available.

Tuesday 9th December

Year 3 and 4 Christmas Sing-a-long- 2:15-3:00 pm

Families are invited into school via the KS2 playground. The door will open at 2:00pm. Refreshments will be available.

Wednesday 10th December

Year 5 and 6 Christmas Sing-a-long- 2:15-3:00 pm

Families are invited into school via the KS2 playground. The door will open at 2:00pm. Refreshments will be available.

Christmas Lunch-Thursday 18th December

We will be serving a traditional Christmas lunch- no option other than the vegetarian choice will be available on this day. Lunch cost £3:00 for children who usually pay for their meal

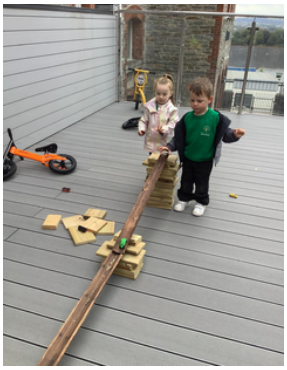
Please note that there will be no extra-curricular clubs during the last week of term (Wk 15th December) but wraparound will still be available to book.

CLASS UPDATES

Preschool

Our Rhyme Time sessions have been extra special this month. We have been exploring new vocabulary, listening carefully to different sounds, spotting rhyming words, and clapping out syllables and patterns in our favourite rhymes. It's been wonderful to see how much the children's language and listening skills are developing! In Number Time, we have been learning all about counting and finding objects to 4 in fun and practical ways. The children have enjoyed exploring the water tray and made delicious bowls of flower soup to share with friends! They have created tiny worlds in their miniature gardens, cooked up pretend treats in the mud kitchen and used the tools in the sandpit to create masterpieces. During Music Time, we sang a 'Bumble Bee' song and used the percussion instruments to play along to 'Five Little Ducks' and 'The Wheels on the Bus.' In PE, we played Follow My Leader, travelled in different ways, and practised our balancing skills while joining in with fun movement games. It has been wonderful to welcome new children recently and it has been lovely watching the friendships develop . Our favourite moment this month has to be the visit from a real scarecrow who helped us sing 'Dingle, dangle, scarecrow'- it was such a lovely surprise which the children really enjoyed. Next month, we begin our new topic, Autumn Adventures and cannot wait to see what this brings.







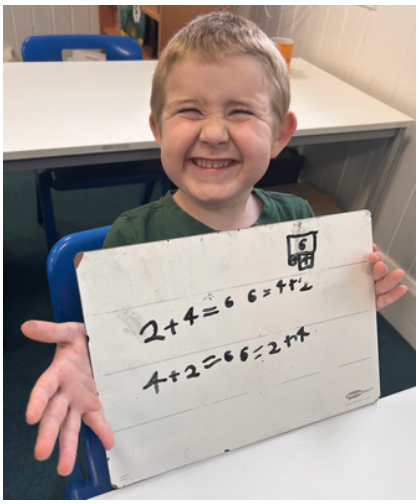
Reception

What a brilliant month in Reception! The children have settled beautifully into school life and daily routines. Over the past few weeks, they have been engaged in some wonderful learning centred around our 'Marvellous Me' topic. Inspired by the work of artist Andy Warhol, the children have produced some truly impressive pieces of art. They have also done a fantastic job learning and retelling our class story 'Five Minutes' Peace', using Makaton actions to bring the story to life. Their creativity really shone through as they enthusiastically innovated the story as a class. In Phonics, the children have quickly established strong routines, learned new phonemes, and are beginning to blend sounds to read words. The progress they have made in just seven weeks has been amazing! It's a joy to see them reading their Phonics books and applying their new Phonics skills. A big thank you to all families who are supporting reading at home and logging it on Boom Reader - it really makes a difference! In Maths, the children have been developing a good understanding of numbers, and have also been thoroughly enjoying their PE and Music lessons. We're so proud of everything that they have achieved so far in just a short time. We hope you have a wonderful half term break!




CLASS UPDATES





Year 1

In English, the children have written their own information texts about people who help us and different types of transport, inspired by the book 'Hidden World: Ocean' by Libby Walden. In our Maths learning, the children have been learning how to find number bonds within 10 and writing addition facts to show how numbers are related. In History, the children loved learning about dinosaurs, exploring different species and how scientists believe they became extinct. Our Science lessons have focused on the five senses and comparing the different seasons, particularly the changes we see in Autumn. In Phonics, we have begun learning new Phase 5 sounds, including ay, ou, ea and oy. During Reading Practice, the children are developing their decoding, prosody and comprehension skills by reading the same text across three sessions. We were also lucky enough to visit Efford Library and were very excited to be able to bring back some books. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and effort. We hope they enjoy a well-earned Half Term break!

Year 2

October has been a busy month for 2RB! The highlight of course has to be our amazing trip to Morwellham Quay! The children have really enjoyed learning about Victorian Britain in their History learning this term and all of that learning came to life during our trip. We experienced what school would have been like in a Victorian classroom, we tried on clothes and learned about how different clothes were for rich and poor people, and we thoroughly enjoyed a trip into the mines where we learned about copper mining. Our Art lessons this month have been filled with lots of drawing! We have been learning how to use tone and texture to improve our drawing skills; the children have created some lovely pieces. In our Computing lessons this term, the children have been learning about information technology around us. We have looked at where we see information technology all around us and how to use it responsibly. In RE lessons, the children have been learning about what Christians believe the good news is that Jesus brings. The children have explored how local churches share this good news and how they help the communities around them. What an amazing month of learning in Year 2 - well done!





CLASS UPDATES

Year 3

This month, Year 3 have had a fantastic time exploring Prehistoric Britain in History! The children have been fascinated by what life was like in the Stone Age and have really impressed us with their curiosity and enthusiasm. They've even brought their learning into other subjects - in Art, they've been creating their own incredible cave paintings, and our class reading has helped bring the prehistoric world to life. In English, the children have been busy becoming non-fiction authors! They've written their own information texts on exciting topics such as the solar system, the Stone Age, and extinct animals. It's been wonderful to see them using research skills and presenting their facts clearly and creatively. In Maths, we've been focusing on column addition, practising how to set out calculations carefully and add numbers accurately. The children are developing great confidence and precision with this new skill. It's been a busy and exciting month of learning, and we're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic Year 3 have been!

Year 4

What a busy month for 4SM! We have been working hard on ensuring our books are presented beautifully and taking pride in our work. In Art, we enjoyed studying Beatriz Milhaze- an artist who created vivid, vibrant collages. We then created our own collages, in her style, out of an assortment of colourful sweet wrappers. In Science, we were lucky enough to get out into the playground on a lovely, sunny day to see what living things we could find-we were all surprised by the huge variety of creatures and plants we found. Once we had recorded what we saw, we sorted them into four groups: vertebrates, invertebrates, flowering plants and non-flowering plants. Finally, we have just returned from our wonderful residential at Magdalen Farm. We completed many incredible activities such as den building, feeding the animals, campfire and even a go on a rope swing! We were all extremely brave, resilient and a pleasure to take.







Year 5

What a busy month of learning it has been in Year 5!

In English, we've enjoyed reading Incredible Edibles, exploring unusual foods and exciting ideas.

We've also been busy writing clear instructions on how to make elephant toothpaste and fizzy bottle rockets! Everyone has worked towards using imperative verbs, numbered steps, and safety tips. In History, we travelled back in time to discover the fascinating Benin City in Nigeria. We learned about the powerful Oba, the art and trade of the kingdom, and how it sadly declined. We were amazed to find out that there is still a Benin Kingdom today in Nigeria.

In PE, our focus was on netball, developing passing, shooting, and teamwork skills. All that practise paid off when we succeeded in our first proper game, showing great sportsmanship. In French, we learned numbers up to 31 and how to say when our birthdays are. We also practised talking about our favourite day of the week. Everyone is growing in confidence with their French pronunciation and phrases.

CLASS UPDATES

Year 6

6CL have had another excellent month of learning, showing great effort, resilience and enthusiasm throughout! This month, we have been completing lots of writing across the curriculum - from letters in History and diaries in Whole Class Reading to emails in French, non-fiction writing in English and biographies in Science. It's been wonderful to see the children's growing confidence and enjoyment as writers. In our Whole Class Reading sessions, we have been delving even deeper into Wolf Wilder, exploring the subtle emotions that characters display and considering what experiences may have shaped them. The children particularly enjoyed plotting emotion graphs, using clues and evidence from the text to track how characters' feelings changed over time. In Science, the class thoroughly enjoyed observing their mouldy bread experiments over several weeks, using microscopes to study different bacteria. They have ended the unit by learning about Carl Linnaeus and his classification system, which to the children's surprise, is still used today! In P.E., we have been serving, volleying and digging our way through our volleyball unit and we are now ready to showcase our new skills in an upcoming tournament. We can't wait to see 6CL putting teamwork and determination into action! Our R.E. lessons have sparked some fascinating discussions as we explored whether science and religion are complementary or conflicting. Building on prior learning about scientists who practised religion, the children thoughtfully debated why some questions cannot be answered by science alone. And, as you may have spotted on our Facebook page, the children drew self-portraits in our recent Art lessons. The children carefully used grid drawing techniques over their own photographs to explore proportion and detail. Well done for another brilliant month, 6CL!









Year 6

6LG have continued to demonstrate their determination and focus in our learning this month! In our English lessons, we have absolutely loved exploring non fiction texts from the 'Welcome to the Museum' series, particularly our focus text, 'Animalium'. Inspired by this, we have researched and written our own habitat pages in the same formal style. In History, we have enjoyed learning how Plymouth changed as part of the Industrial Revolution, and reflected on the new challenges these transformations brought for working class people. In French, we have been learning to speak and write all about our lessons, when we study them and our opinions. Our PSHE learning has given us the opportunity to explore rights and responsibilities, and we particularly enjoyed debating the different consequences that might be used for children who had broken the law in their local community. We have been building our skills with the four operations in maths, and are very proud to be able to add long division to our skill set this term. Great work, 6LG!

Inclusion Update

If you have any questions or worries about your child, we are always here to listen. Please speak with the class teacher or call/email to arrange a time to come for a chat with Mrs Trembath

INTEROCEPTION

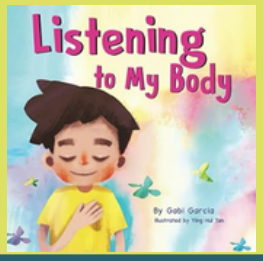
Interoception is one of our senses that helps us to work out how we are feeling using our body's internal signals. This could be hunger, thirst, or needing the toilet. This sense also gives us clues about the emotions we are feeling, such as our heartrate increasing, our muscles being tense, our breathing changing or sweating.
When we are able to recognise these signs it means we can try to use calming strategies before an emotion becomes too 'big' or overwhelming.

Ways of supporting children to develop interoception skills:

- Use interoception body talk- label out loud to children how our body is feeling e.g. 'When I run around outside with you, it makes my heart beat faster', 'When I go outside in the cold, it makes my muscles feel tight'
- Draw attention to how various parts of the body feel during different activities - 'how does that make your body feel?'
- Body Scan - think about how your body feels starting at the top and working down to toes!
- Mindfulness activities

A interactive book that guides children through the process of naming their emotions and the physical sensations in their body.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION!



Listening to My Body by Gabi Garcia.



Attendance - what is persistent absence?

You may have heard the phrase 'persistent absence', but what does this actually mean?

A child is considered to be 'persistently absent' from school if they miss 10% or more of school. This means their overall attendance is less than 90%. This is the same as about 19 missed days, or 4 weeks of learning in a school year, which can significantly affect a child's progress.

What can I do?

- **Please come and speak with us if you are worried about your child's attendance. We really are here to help and listen! We can work with you to overcome any difficulties together.**
- **Try to schedule appointments outside of the school day where possible.**
- **Please use the NHS guidance if you are unsure of whether your child should attend due to illness.**

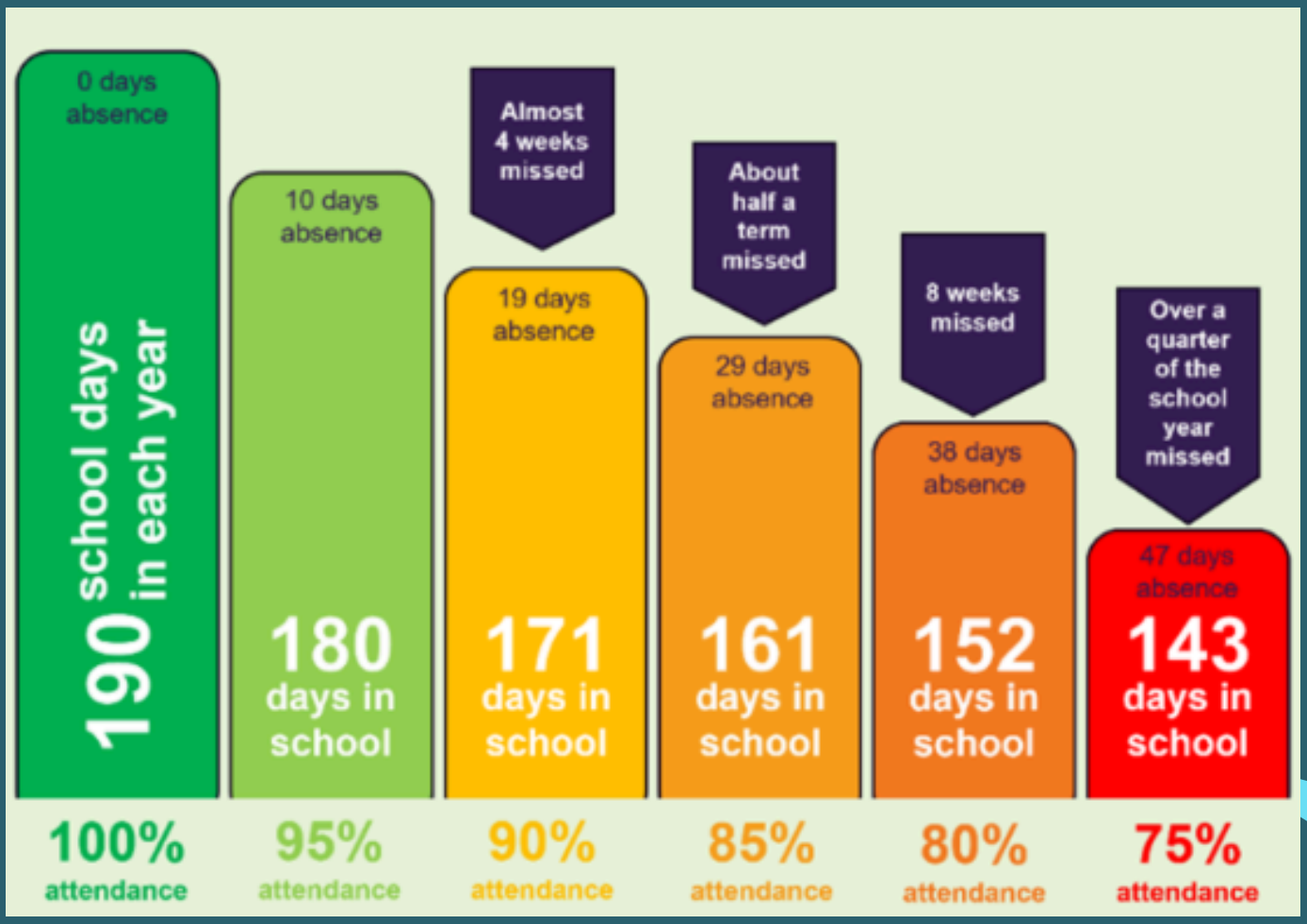
https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

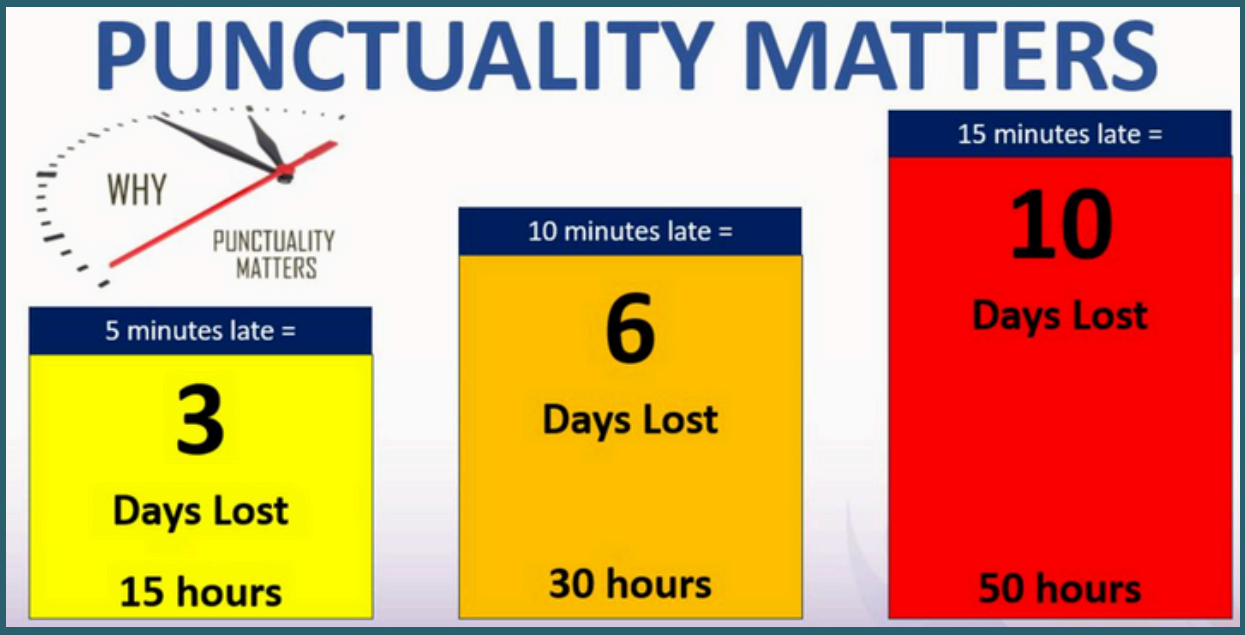
REPORTING ABSENCE

Please call/email the school as soon as possible (by 9am) to let us know your if your child will be absent, letting us know the reason and when you are expecting them to return.
For safeguarding reasons we have to know where each child is. If we have not heard from you, we may need to complete a home visit or request a welfare check from support agencies.

inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.sch.uk

Attendance





Arriving at school on time helps your child start the day calm, confident, and ready to learn. Even a few minutes late can mean missing key instructions and feeling rushed. A good morning routine sets them up for success. Thank you for helping to ensure a smooth start to the day by being on time.

inclusion@lairagreen.plymouth.sch.uk

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, **search for health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit https://qrco.de/minfec.

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We are now taking bookings for our Year 6 residential to Nethercott Farm in June 2026. Spaces are filling fast, and we are keen for as many children to experience this amazing adventure as possible!

If you would like to know more about the residential trip, Mrs Garland will be holding an information event on Wednesday 26th November at 3:30pm.





Don't forget that in our Community Bike Hub we have 8 bikes of different sizes for you to borrow completely free! All you need to do is contact the office and book them out.

Now that the weather is getting colder, please can you ensure that your child comes to school wearing a coat. For younger children in Preschool and Reception, please also provide a warm hat as they play outside many times throughout the day.



Laira Green Primary School Council

Our newly elected School Council held their meetings in our brand-new meeting room, where they shared their manifestos, discussed their ideas for improving school life, and began planning creative fundraising events for the year ahead.

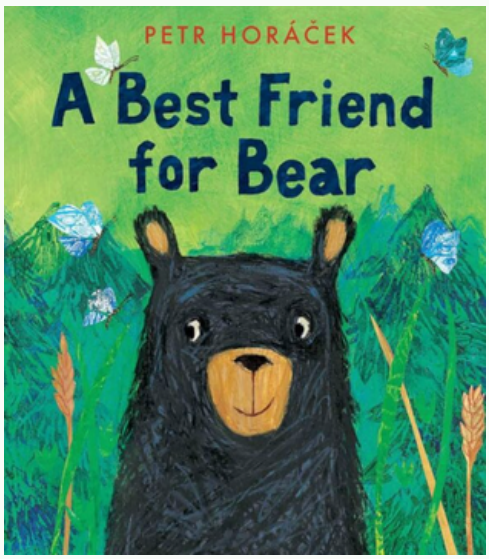
During the meetings the children also took part in electing their council officers. Congratulations to Emily and Imogen - our newly appointed Chair and Secretary, who will be helping to lead the team to organise meetings and projects throughout the year.

The children have started to write a beautiful Remembrance poem and make a poppy wreath, which will be shared with the school community as part of our upcoming commemorations at Efford Cemetery and in our school assembly.

It's been a fantastic month filled with energy, teamwork, and great ideas - we are so proud of our councillors and can't wait to see what they accomplish next!



Recommended Reads



Preschool and Reception

A Best Friend for Bear- Petr Horacek

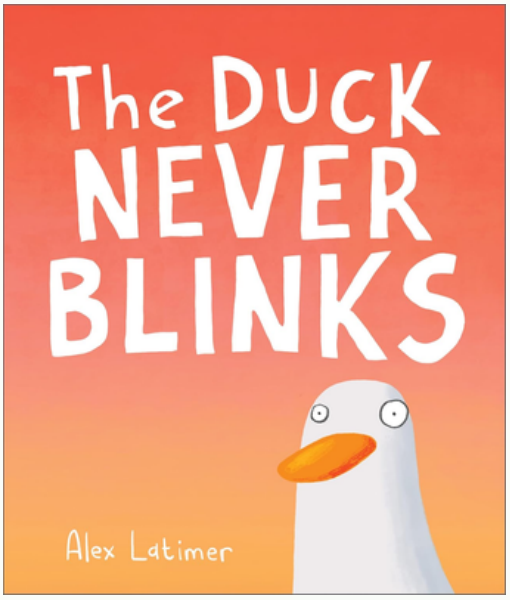
This is a heart-warming story about two bears who search together for a friend. Without realising, they may have found what they are looking for in each other. This is a lovely story to share as they begin to develop friendships in school.

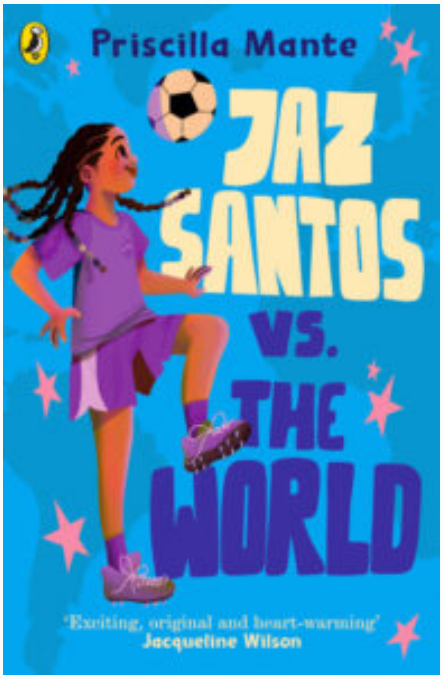
Key Stage 1

The Duck that Never Blinks- Alex Latimer

You see that duck over there? You could watch it all day and it wouldn't blink. Nothing works – not shouting, not jokes, or even sad stories. Maybe you have some other ideas? Just don't take your eyes off the duck, and don't, even for a second, think about blinking!

From award-winning author and illustrator Alex Latimer comes this sharply witty picture book that will have every child trying to outwit this devilish duck… if they can stop giggling, that is!





Key Stage 2

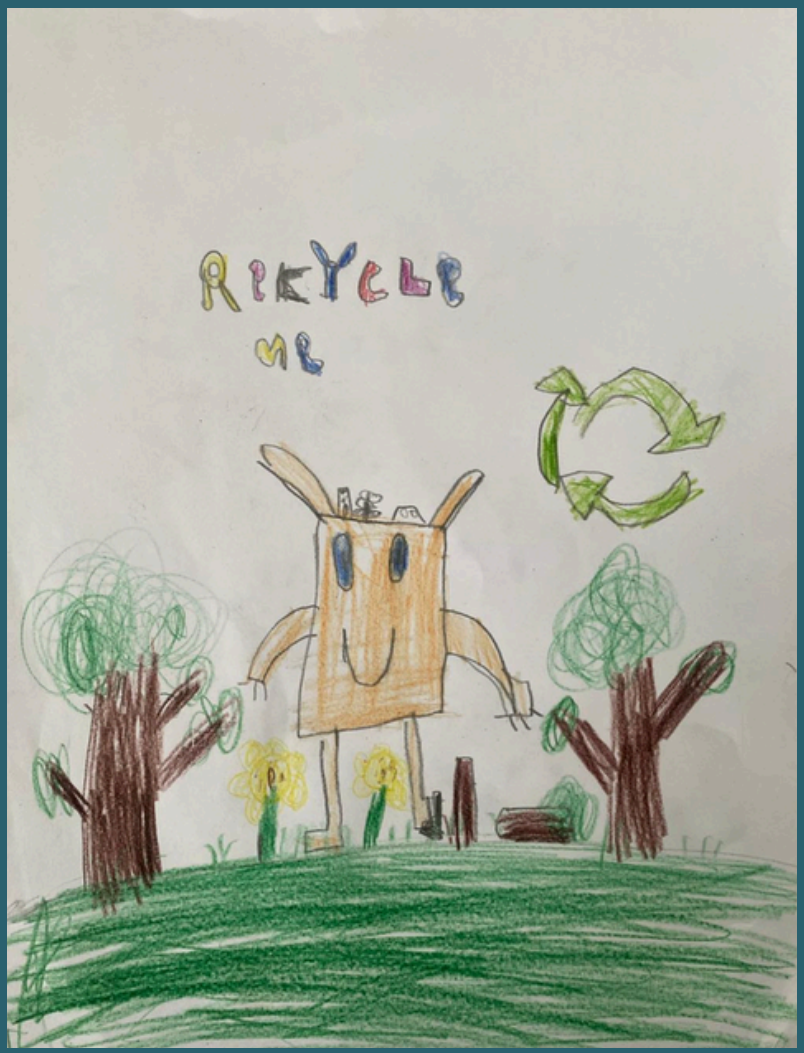
Jaz Santos vs The World- Priscilla Mante

When Jaz finds a leaflet advertising a girls' football tournament, she seizes the opportunity to take back some control. Thinking carefully about how to sell the idea to her classmates, Jaz pours heart and soul into rallying a team of girls to prepare for the tournament. From fundraising to training, Jaz leaves no stone unturned

Congratulations!

Well done to Lulu in Year 6 and Max in Year 2 who were the winners of our 'Design a recycling poster' competition.





A Month in Pictures

















A Month in Pictures

















