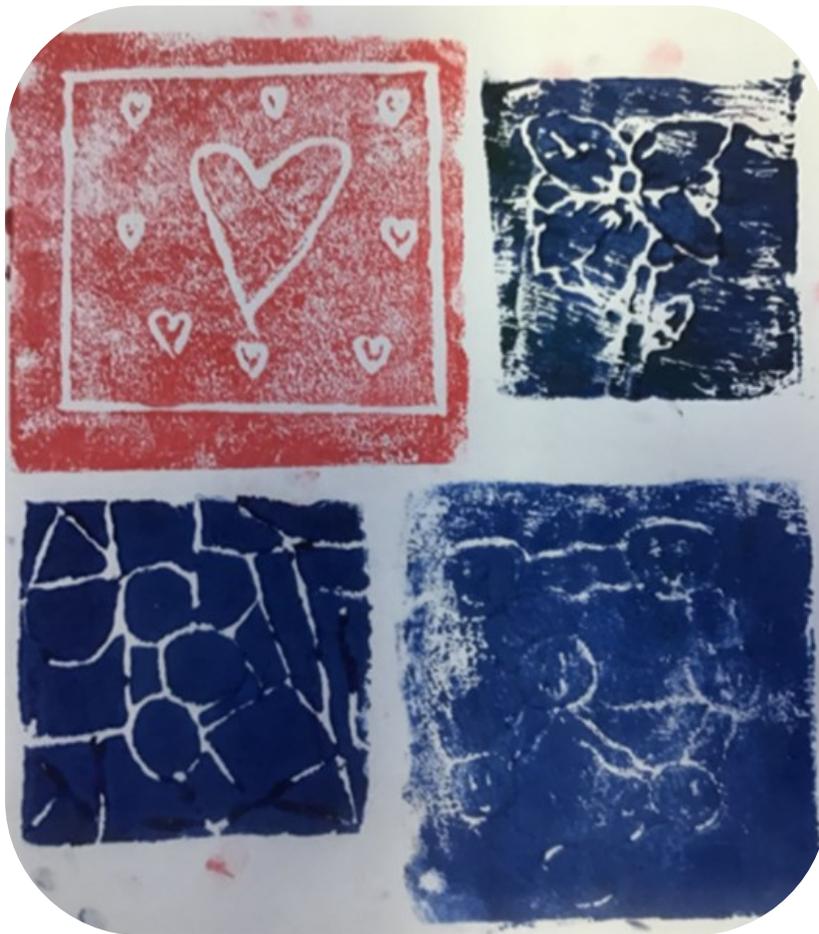




TEAGUES BRIDGE PRIMARY
THE BEATING HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Friday Newsletter

Outstanding Work of the Week



Rosie ~ Octopi

27th February 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

HAIR TIED BACK

Can I please ask you to ensure children's hair that is shoulder length or longer is tied back. This is to prevent headlice. Some children are coming with their hair down and it is part of our school uniform policy to tie hair back in order to prevent your child getting headlice, which can be expensive to treat.

CHEWING GUM

Some of the older children are bringing chewing gum and then choosing to chew this during lesson times. This is not allowed in school. Chewing gum can stick to shoes, carpet and clothes and is very difficult to remove.

TIK TOK

A number of our children in KS2 are using TIK TOK. This APP has a guidance rating of 13 years. Children in primary school should not be accessing the content on this site or posting information on this site. Please ensure you are setting parental controls on your child's device. This is for their safety and to prevent and monitor online bullying. We want the children to be safe online but there is a rise in bullying through this app and others such as WhatsApp and Snapchat.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 5th March is world book day. Children can dress up as their favourite character from a book or film. There will be a charge of £1.00. This will be added to school fund so we can help pay for enrichment activities during the summer term 2026. There is also a world book day themed lunch. Please see the menu further on in the newsletter.

DATES:

- 4th March - Amy from mental health NHS to work with SAS Crew
- 5th March - World book day
- 6th March - Base 7 open afternoon for parents - 2.30-3.00pm.
- 10th March - Loudmouth - Screen time - Year 5 and 6.



YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and 'take a break' reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleylcs.org.uk/march-2026/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'Which?' provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

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Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>



World Book Day Menu

Harry Potter's Pizza
Cheshire Cat's Cheesy Mac
Jack's Magic Beans

Peter Rabbit Carrots
Where's Wally's Potato Wedges

Gangsta Granny's Salad Bar
Hansel and Gretel's Fruit Salad
Miss Trunchbull's Huge Chocolate Cake





This week in Turtles Class.....

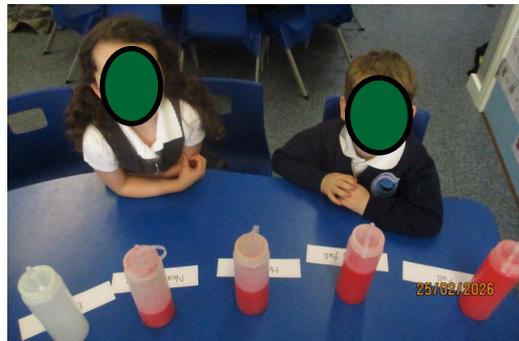
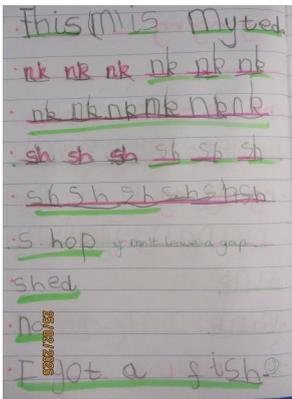


We have been really enjoying our topic called 'Space'. We have been busy creating a paper mache rocket to display in our classroom and exploring the outside areas.

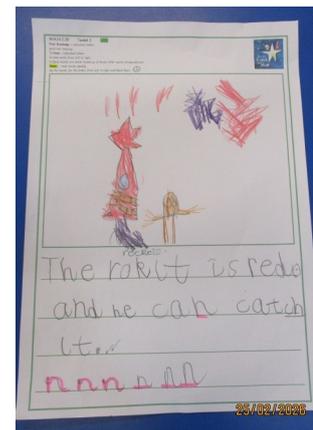
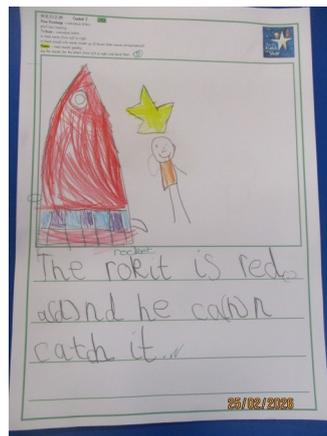
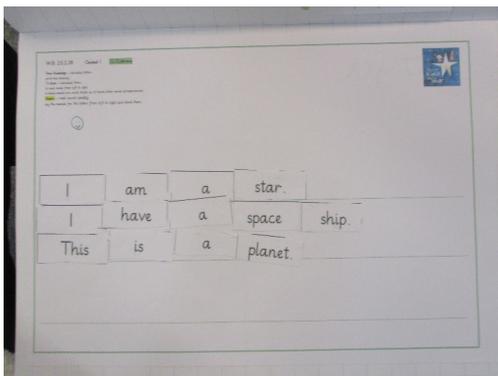


In Read Write Inc this week we have been learning our new sounds from set 1.

In maths we are exploring numbers 1-10. In ten town we have been looking at the number 3. We have looked at capacity including empty, half full, full and understanding what is heavier and lighter.



In Literacy we have been enjoying the story 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. We have wrote about the story and have enjoyed using sentences snake to help with our sentence structure, thinking about a capital letter and full stop.





This week in Starfish..

The story we have been reading in literacy is 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. This is because our topic is Space. We have ordered the story and written sentences for the images. We have also enjoyed exploring other Oliver Jeffers stories such as 'Stuck'.

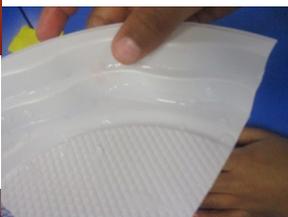
In Maths, year 1 have been learning to count in 2's and 5's. We learnt about the importance of this and how it will relate to our times tables when we are in year 2.



Reception children have been learning about capacity and comparing how much liquid a container can hold.



In History, we have been learning about Neil Armstrong because our topic is about Space. We have ordered events in his life and looked at how transport to space has changed and evolved over time.



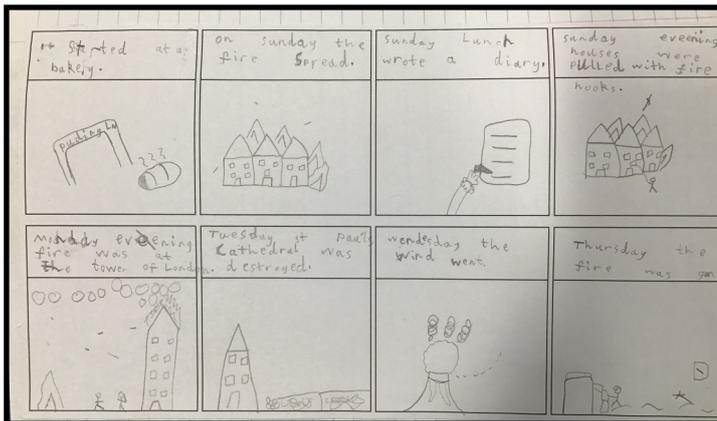
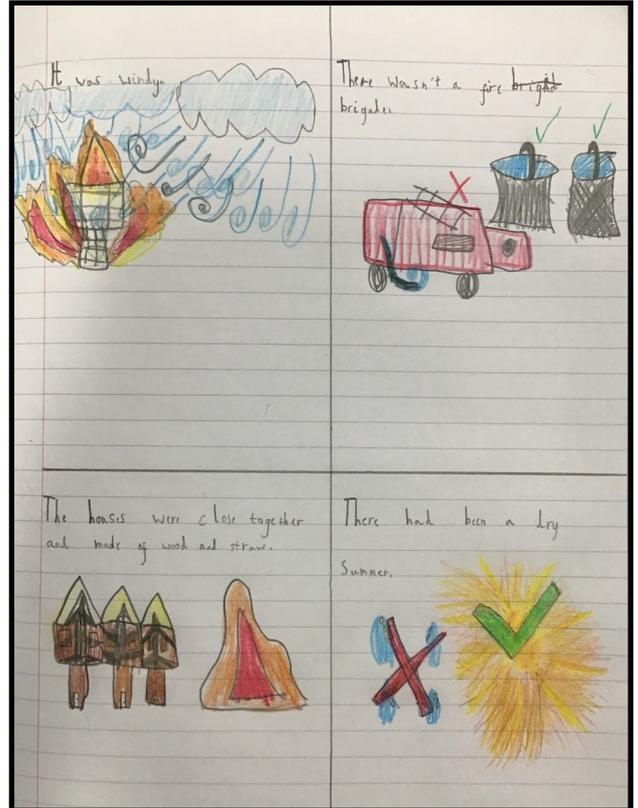
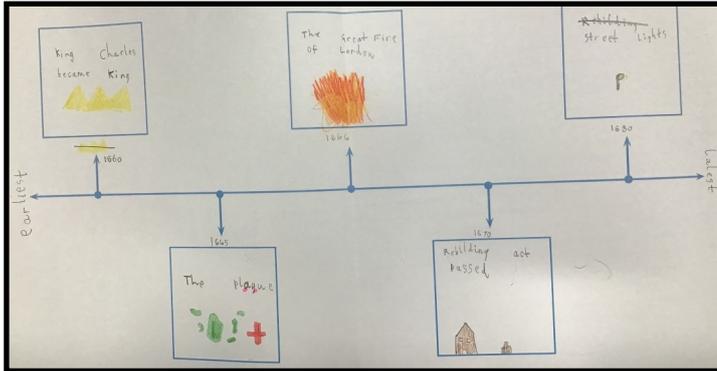
In Science, we have been investigating floating and sinking items. We learnt about predictions and carrying out a fair test. We learnt that a material will sink because it is porous.



This week in Seahorses

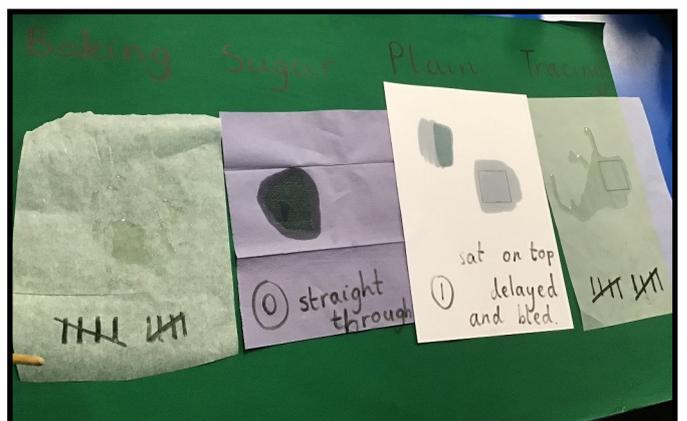
History

In history, we created a timeline of major events back in the 1600s and then a storyboard to show the events across the days when the Great Fire of London happened. We then thought deeper about what caused the fire to spread so rapidly and what helped it to cause so much devastation across the capital city of England.



Science

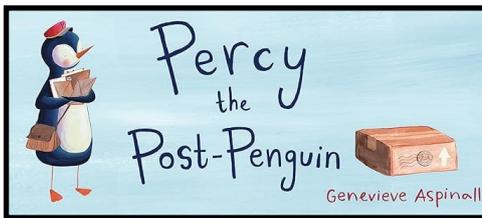
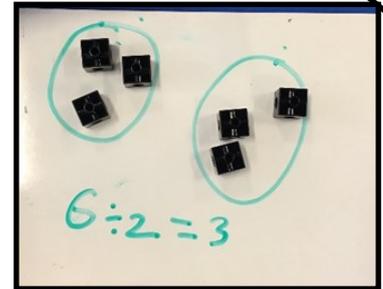
In Science, we have been learning how to record and present data and also planned and carried out a fair test to learn, "What would the best paper be to hold a sausage roll?" We used oil to brush onto a square patch on each paper and learnt that baking paper would be the best as no oil leaked through.





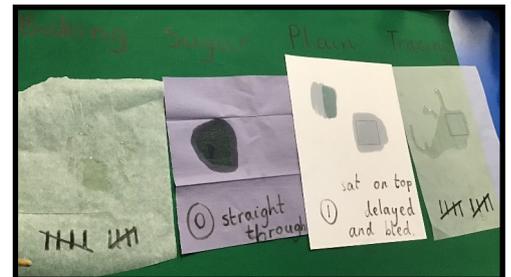
This week in Dolphins..

In Maths, we have been learning about division. We now know that division is all about sharing equally. We have been using the cubes to help us work out the answer—
Do it, draw it, write it!



In literacy we have been working on different types of nouns. We have been learning the difference between common nouns and proper nouns.

In Science, we conducted an experiment to test which paper would be the best to carry a sausage roll. We brushed the oil onto 4 different types of paper. We concluded that the tracing paper and baking paper were the best



In computing we have been looking at robots and giving instructions. We played a great game where the children had to follow instructions to draw a house and a person. We then discussed why all of our pictures looked different. We realised that our instructions needed to be really detailed and specific for our drawings to look similar.



In DT we have started Food Technology. We have been looking at our knowledge on fruit and vegetables and created a pictogram to work out the most popular fruit and vegetables in the class!





Picture News

TAKEHOME

2nd - 8th
March



Should school uniforms be the same for everyone?



In the news this week

Brynteg School in Wales has said that from September, skirts will no longer be part of the school uniform. Instead, all children will wear trousers or shorts. The school says this will make the uniform more practical and fairer for everyone, but some parents and pupils have different opinions about the change. This announcement has added to discussions about school rules, fairness, and whether uniforms should be the same for all children.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Talk to someone older at home about your and their experiences of school uniform. Have they changed over time?
- > Share your thoughts on the changes Brynteg School is making. Do you feel they are positive changes?
- > If you could create your own uniform, what would it look like?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss





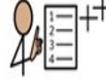
Picture News



At Home



At Home



In September, a school in Wales will change their rules on school uniform.



All children will wear trousers or shorts and skirts will be banned.



Research different school uniforms around the world.



Which uniform do you think is easiest to wear or best for school?



Why?