



This week, children from Year One—Year Six delighted us with singing and instrument playing in their carol concerts. We hope the photographs on the next few pages give you a flavour of how special each concert was.

# Carol Concerts



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Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion





# Years 1 and 2




Children in Key Stage One sang a variety of songs and remembered some complicated words. Well done!





**Years 1 and 2**





Each concert started with children carrying Christingles (made from oranges, dried fruit and sweets) into the hall.

**Years 1 and 2**



# Years 3 and 4



Years Three and Four impressed the audience with their solo and group singing. They performed with real enthusiasm and joy.





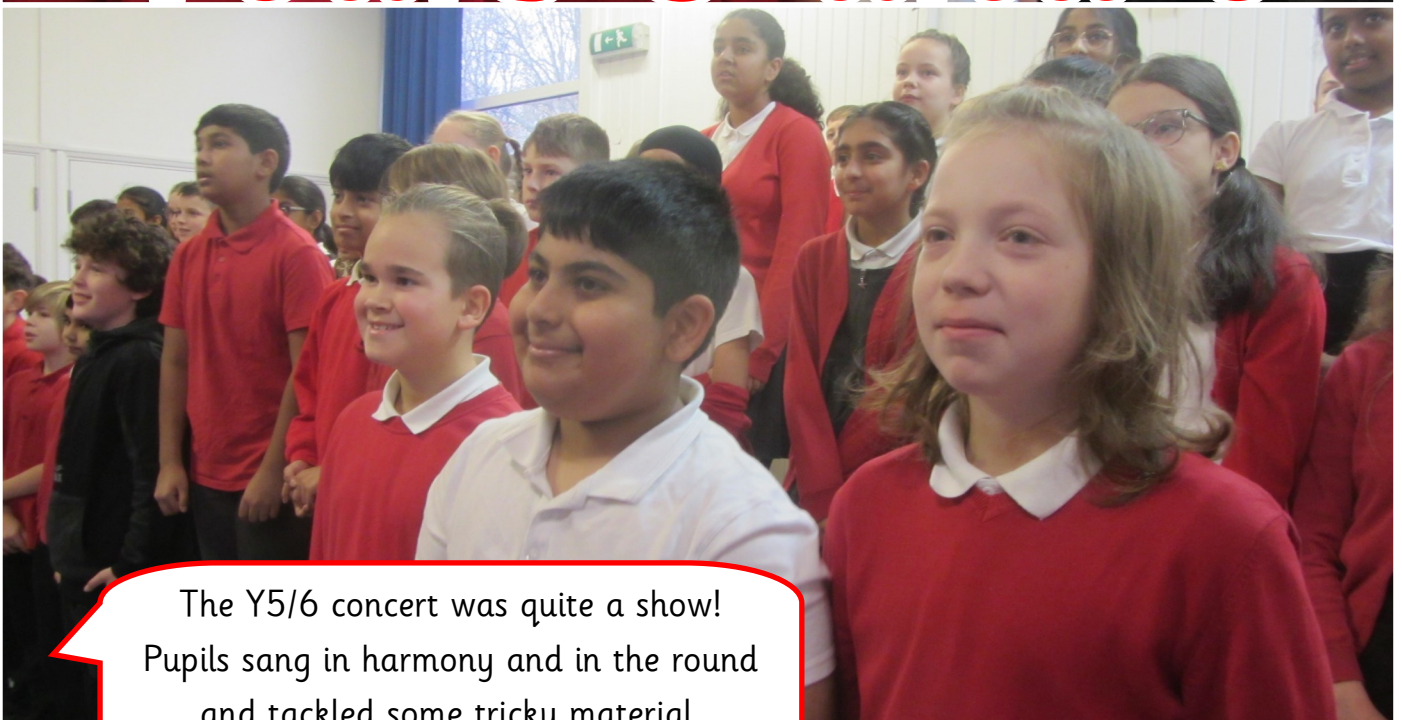
# Years 3 and 4



Pupils sang songs they had practised in singing assembly with Mrs Keys and others that they had learnt in lessons with Mrs Murphy.



# Years 5 and 6



The Y5/6 concert was quite a show!  
Pupils sang in harmony and in the round  
and tackled some tricky material.





# Years 5 and 6



We were also treated to performances from children learning to play the flute and clarinet at school.





Our recorder players also shone and it was wonderful to hear Mrs Radomski accompanying pupils on the cello and viola.



# Years 5 and 6



# Gallery Performance

Our fantastic choir have been out and about in the local community, entertaining the public with their beautiful singing. Last weekend, they were invited to perform at Leamington Art Gallery. The choir received lots of praise from everyone who heard them.



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Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture.



The choir have also been fundraising by singing in ASDA. All the money thrown into their collection bucket will go to support the Royal Shakespeare Company's "First Encounters" project. Well done to all our amazing choir members!



tall stories

# THE GRUFFALO

BASED ON THE NATION'S FAVOURITE PICTURE BOOK BY  
JULIA DONALDSON AND AXEL SCHEFFLER

LIVE  
ON STAGE



# Theatre Trip

On Monday, children in Reception, Year One and Year Two visited Warwick Arts' Centre to see a performance of the Gruffalo story. It was a high-octane show with LOTS of opportunities for children to join in. There were plenty of exciting moments and, thankfully, a happy ending.



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Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture.

After the show, children in Year Two had the chance to draw their favourite characters from the story. You can see two of their lovely pictures below.

# Theatre Trip





The Family Learning team ran a Christmas craft session for parents, carers and pupils in KS1 this week.



# Family Learning

Attendees made beautiful, hanging, Christmas tree books— just perfect for the tree!



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Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture.



# Y3 Snow Globes



Here's a sneaky peek at the watercolour Christmas cards made by Y3 Herons. They are just lovely!



Year Two have been learning about the Jewish festival of light -Hanukkah. On Thursday, they used collage to make their very own menorahs.

# Hanukkah



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**Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion**





Across the school, pupils have been designing and making bread. This week, it was the turn of Y5 to be bakers.

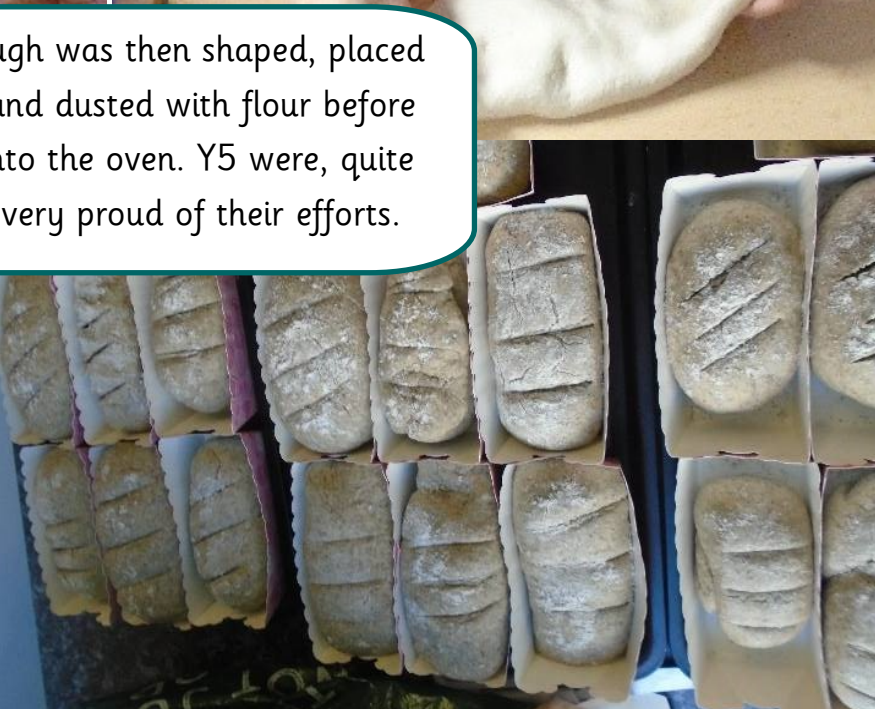
# Y5 Bakers



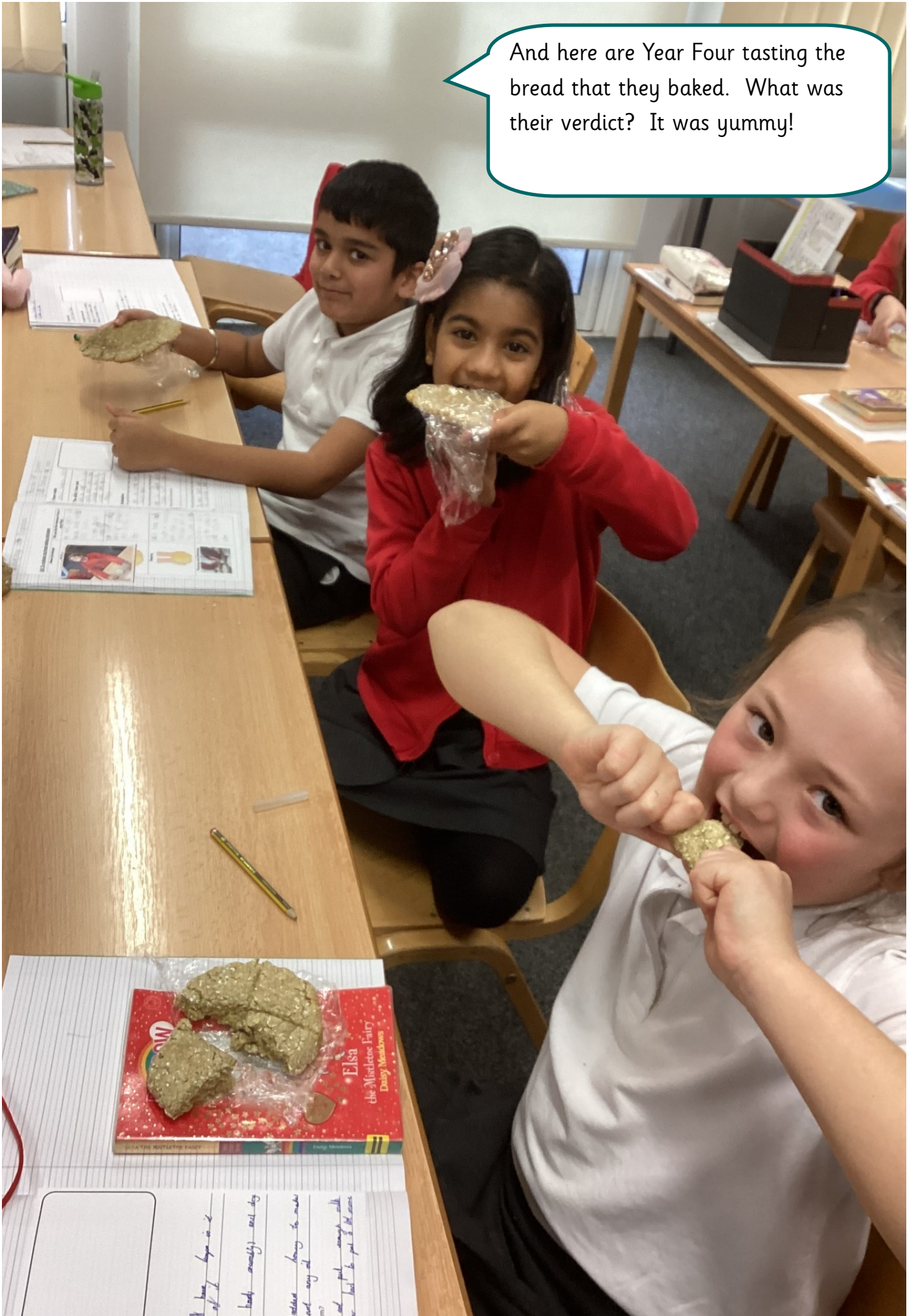
Pupils had to carefully weigh and measure their ingredients before combining them to make a dough. They then had to knead their dough for ten minutes and leave it to prove.



The dough was then shaped, placed in tins and dusted with flour before going into the oven. Y5 were, quite rightly, very proud of their efforts.



And here are Year Four tasting the bread that they baked. What was their verdict? It was yummy!





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Article 29: Goals of Education

Padlet

rogerj3 + 312 + 20h

## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Enthuse Partnership Cluster Competition

Hill and St  
ets School

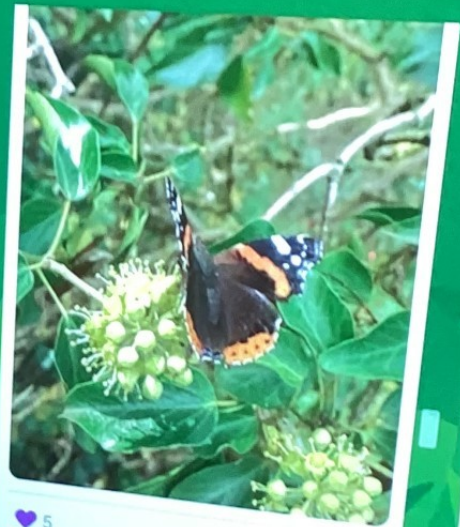
Whitnash Primary  
School

Sydenham Primary

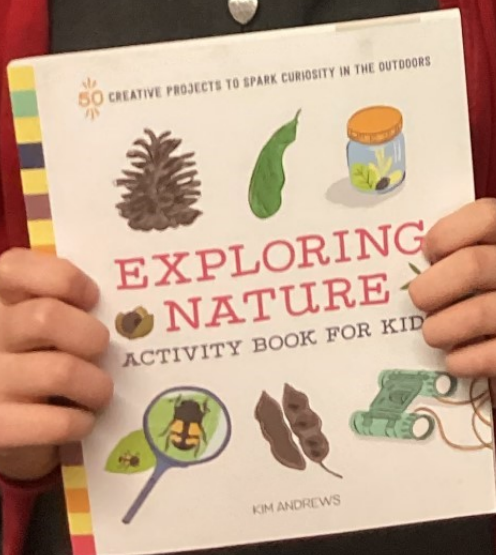


Con

ul Dawn



5



Well done to Penny who was a winner in the Ogden Trust Science Network photography competition.

The Trust asked for images of nature and received lots of entries from local schools. We're very impressed by your camera work, Penny.

# Penny is a Winner!

# Book Recommendations



Five out of five  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I like the story because it is about old animals. Their masters wanted to kill them, and they all ran away to become musicians in Bremen. On their way they found a cosy robbers house. They chased the robbers away and lived there for the rest of their lives.

Reuben

This week, I wanted to showcase two of Starling class' book recommendations because they have been so beautifully done.

Reuben's recommendation is for the traditional tale *The Bremen Town Musicians*, illustrated by Bernadette Watts. Reuben's amazing illustration has definitely been inspired by the drawings from the book, and sums up the feelings of the animal characters perfectly.

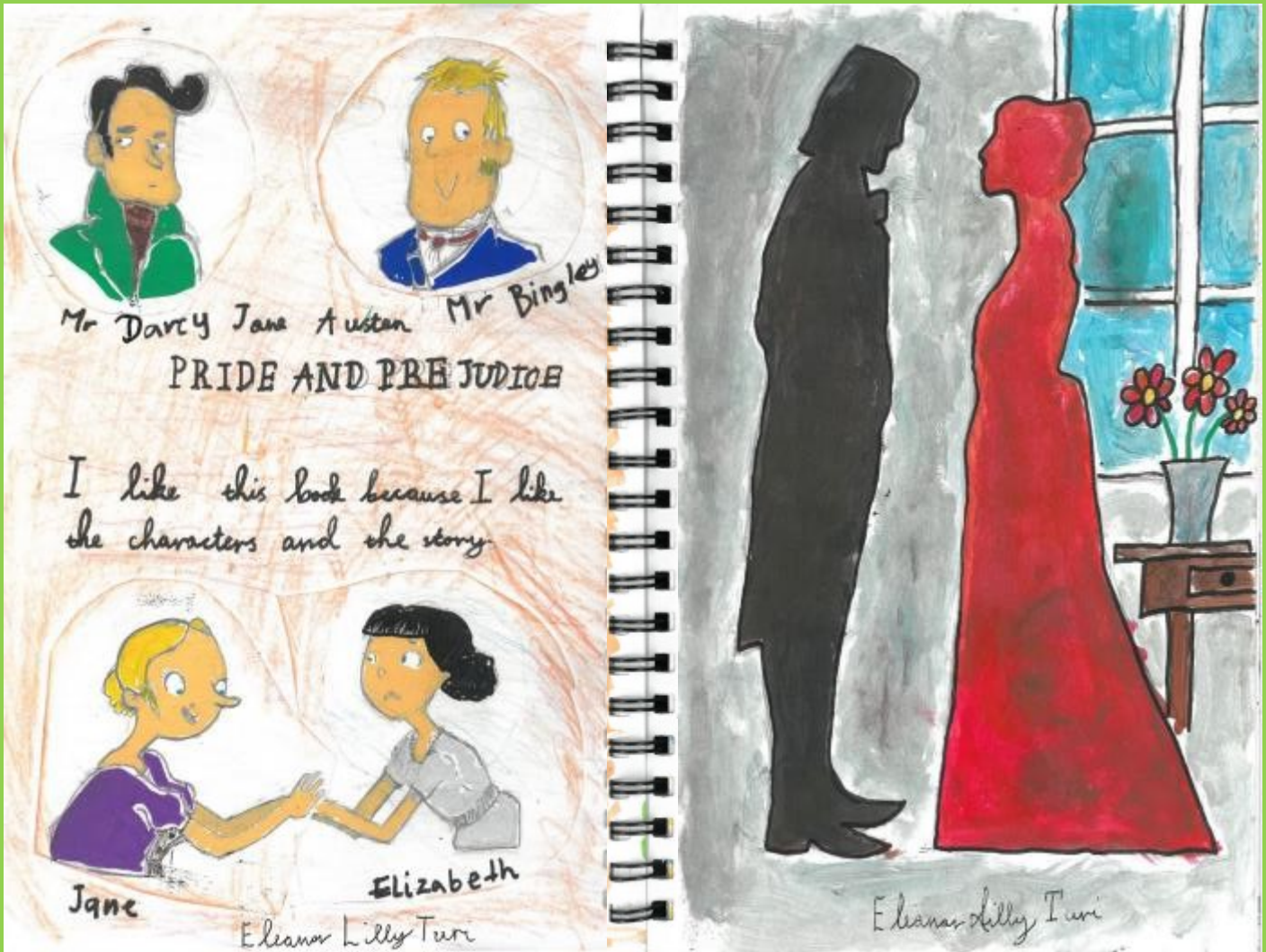
One to read if you enjoy a story of good triumphing over evil.



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# Book Recommendations



Meanwhile, Eleanor has been enjoying one of my favourite books - *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin!

What fantastic book recommendations by both Reuben and Eleanor - I think we may have a couple of future illustrators in Starling Class!

Reading scrapbooks go home with children in our Junior classes every week, and encourage children to read voluntarily; helping them to become confident and skilled readers.



I cannot wait to see which books are recommended next...



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## Scholastic Book Fair

**Thank you so much** to every family who came to the book fair. I'm looking forward to sharing with you which books we will receive from Scholastic for our classrooms as a result of the £553 spent by you on books for your children!

# Story Advent Calendar



Christmas is the perfect time for reading, when the weather is cold and there is more time to enjoy a book! To make our new Reception families, and any other new arrivals to Sydenham, we have a story for every day of December up until Christmas Eve on our Sydenham YouTube channel, read by members of staff.

**Our wintery stories can be found here:**

**(click on the Videos tab)**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwfpG3n2\\_7iJ00A1y-KEnog](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwfpG3n2_7iJ00A1y-KEnog)

**Happy listening, everyone! Miss Challand**



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# Christmas Reading Challenge

The name we give to people who read a lot here in England is, as you know, a 'Bookworm'.

But did you know:

In Indonesia, it is a 'Book flea'

In Romania, a 'Library Mouse'

In France, an 'Ink Drinker'

In Poland, a 'Book Moth'

And in Spain, a 'Library Rat'!



In Iceland, books are exchanged on Christmas Eve. The tradition is to spend the rest of the night reading and eating chocolate, which sounds absolutely perfect!

The children's Christmas Reading Challenge this year is just to snuggle up and read a good book!

If you would like your child to receive a reading certificate and challenge stamp on their reading diary, please send a photo of them enjoying reading over the holidays, and send it to our admin account:

**admin2622@we-learn365.com** by Friday 5th January.



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# Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow





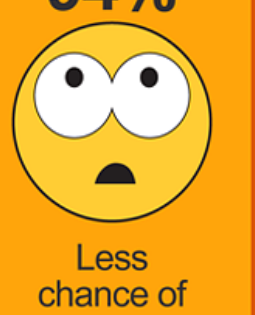


## Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



### Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

<p><b>190 DAYS</b> <b>100%</b></p>  <p>Very best chance of success</p>	<p><b>183 DAYS</b> <b>96%</b></p>  <p>Off to a flying start</p>	<p><b>179 DAYS</b> <b>94%</b></p>  <p>Less chance of success</p>	<p><b>175 DAYS</b> <b>92%</b></p>  <p>Harder to make progress</p>	<p>More than <b>18 days</b> absence less than <b>90%</b></p>  <p>Persistent Absentee (Not fair on your child)</p>
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## ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY



### Did You Know... ?

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



# RISE MHST

## Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST)

### Tips For Wellness:

## BOUNCING BACK

Bouncing back is all about 'having another go' after we are faced with challenges, this is also called **resilience**! We will all need to bounce back at times, so it is important to maintain a growth mindset and practise how we can be more resilient.

#### Our tips for bouncing back:

1- Watch this short video on 'bouncebackability' and how to build resilience.

Scan the QR code to load the video and other lesson resources.



2- Practise **problem solving** as a strategy to overcome practical difficulties and help you bounce back! Follow the steps below:

- 1.What is the problem?
- 2.How does it make you feel?
- 3.What are the possible solutions?
- 4.What are the positives and negatives of each solution?
- 5.Select the best solution and make a plan to try out!

3- Think about a time when you have faced a challenge in the past...how did you overcome it? Would you do anything differently if you came across the same challenge again? You could discuss this with a friend to share ideas.

4- Build your **support network**. Having people that you trust around you through difficult times can help you to bounce back! Try to share how you are feeling with friends, family, teachers and other trusted adults in your life.

#ThanksKids recognises the efforts and kindness of children and young people, and thanks them with personalised #NHSSStars certificates. If you know a child or young person that deserves recognition for going above and beyond, don't wait, nominate!

[thankskids@covwarkpt.nhs.uk](mailto:thankskids@covwarkpt.nhs.uk)

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays. Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.

# Diary Dates

Have a happy weekend.  
Best wishes from Miss  
Glenny

Monday 18th December	School Christmas lunch.
Monday 18th December	Rocksteady concert, 2.00pm.
Friday 22nd December	Christmas jumper day. <b>Break up for the Christmas holiday.</b>

**School is closed on Monday 8th January 2024 for INSET (staff training.)**

**Pupils return to school on Tuesday 9th January 2024.**

## Safeguarding Passwords

As you know, we currently ask you to share a secure password with any adult unknown to school when they are required to collect your child in an emergency situation. One of our lovely parents has recently suggested an improvement to this system and we will be implementing their idea from **Monday 18th December**.

From Monday, if you require an adult who is unknown to school to collect your child, please share a password of **your choice** with them. In the morning at drop-off, **the password must be communicated directly to your child's teacher** who will record it. The password must then be shared by the adult collecting your child at the end of the school day.

If you realise later on in the day that an unknown adult will be collecting your child, please communicate your choice of password to the adult and then the school office who will relay it to the teacher.

If the collecting adult is a named contact, they do not need to use a password.