

# Learning the Ropes



In PE this week, Reception have been learning how to use the gym equipment, including the ropes and the wall bars.

We saw some real feats of strength and agility.

Everyone used their "have a go" pig Learning Character to try out the equipment even if they thought it looked scary. Well done!

Ofsted Outstanding School 2014/2015

360 degree safe ACCREDITED SAFETY MARK ONLINE

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

unicef UNITED KINGDOM SILVER - RIGHTS AWARE

PSQM Primary School Quality Mark PSQM GILT

ARTS COUNCIL ARTSMARK GOLD ENGLAND

AcSEED Emotional Wellbeing in Schools and Colleges

FOOD FOR LIFE SOIL Association

Healthy Schools

The 'ure network helping children and young people to succeed

EAL QUALITY MARK EAL Academy GOLD AWARD

Quality Mark

Eco-Schools

SPORTS LEADERS UK Give More. Become More.

SCHOOL GAMES Virtual 2019/20



Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Article 29: Goals of Education



Climb



Swing



**Reach**



**Pull**



**Balance**



**RSC**  
ROYAL  
SHAKESPEARE  
COMPANY

PROUD TO BE AN  
ASSOCIATE  
SCHOOL

# RSC Ambassadors



On Wednesday, we welcomed RSC Ambassadors from our local network to Sydenham to work with Freddie Goymer, The Royal Shakespeare Company's Young People's Development Programme Developer. The children spent the day learning about theatre as a form of expression. They collaborated to come up with different ideas for an Ambassador project and used drama as a way in to explore their ideas.



**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**  
**Article 13: Freedom of Expression**

Throughout the day, our Ambassadors showed fantastic creativity and brilliant team working skills. It was wonderful to see them being so welcoming to other children visiting our school.

# RSC Ambassadors





# Road Safety

This week, Year Two have been working with Warwickshire's Safe and Active Schools Team to learn about road safety.





**Convention on the Rights of the Child**  
**Article 29: Goals of Education**



Pupils learnt about road awareness and how to scoot to school safely. They had fun learning in a practical and active way and enjoyed meeting the road safety bear.

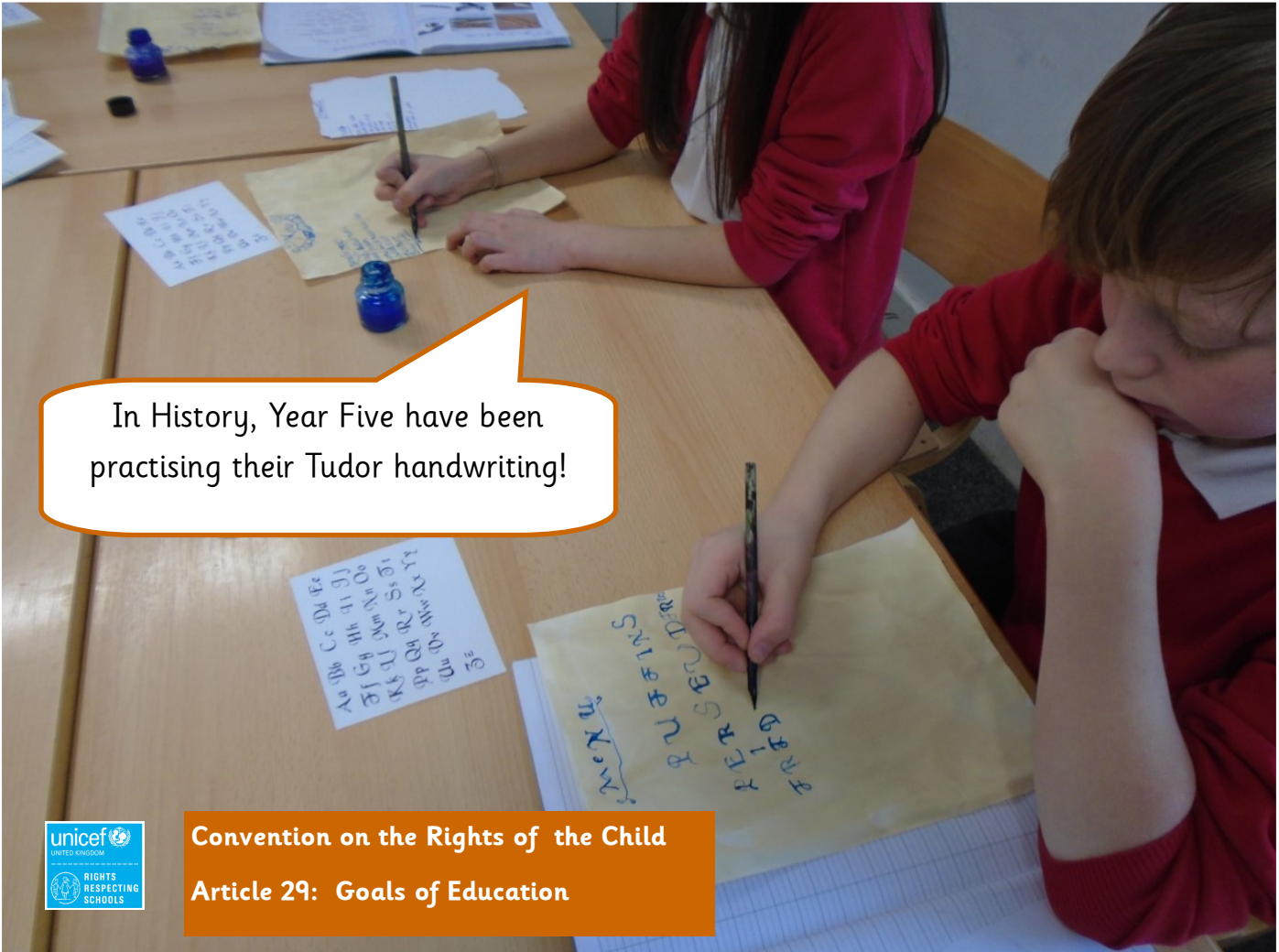


# Road Safety





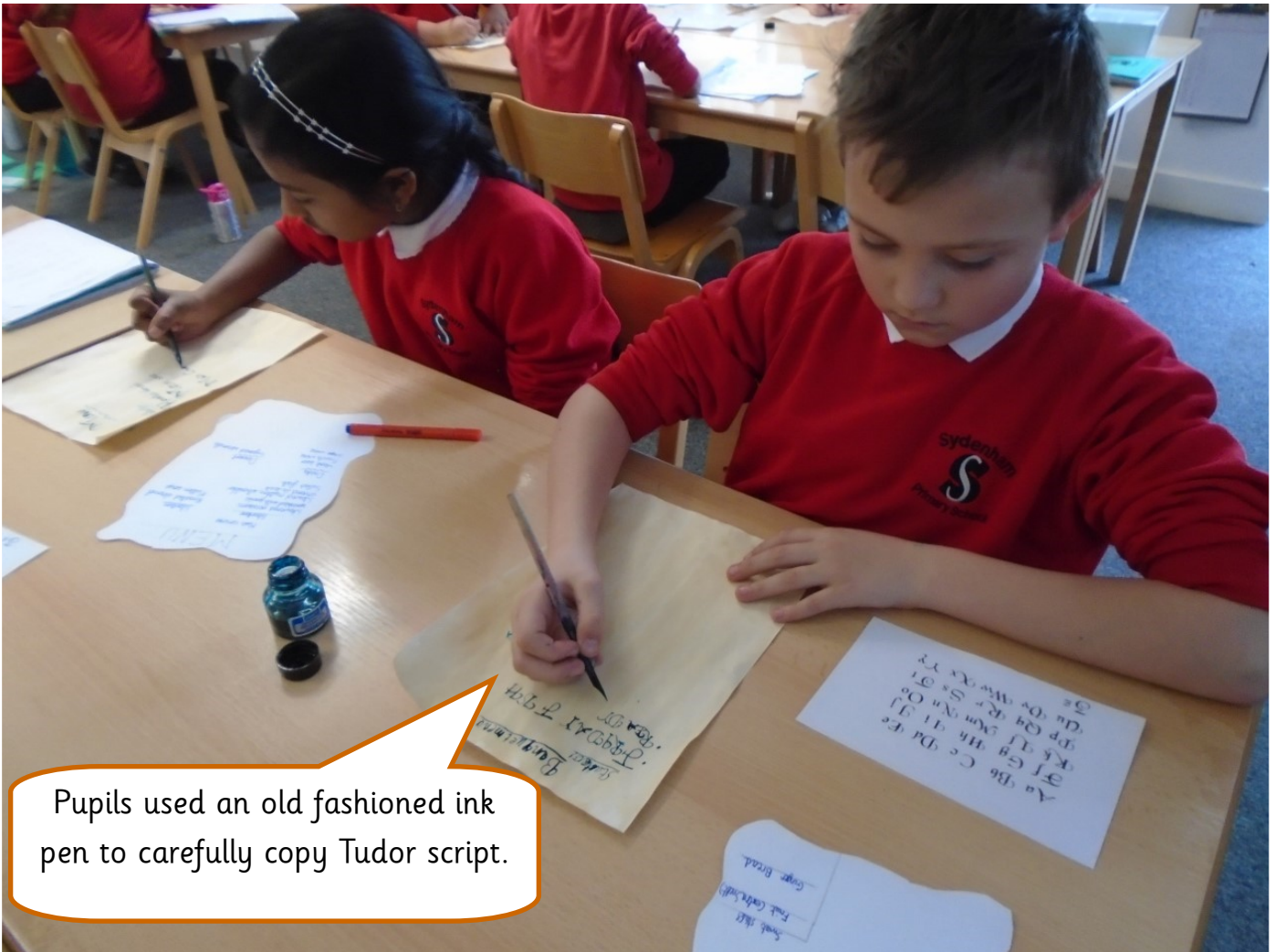
# Tudor Calligraphy



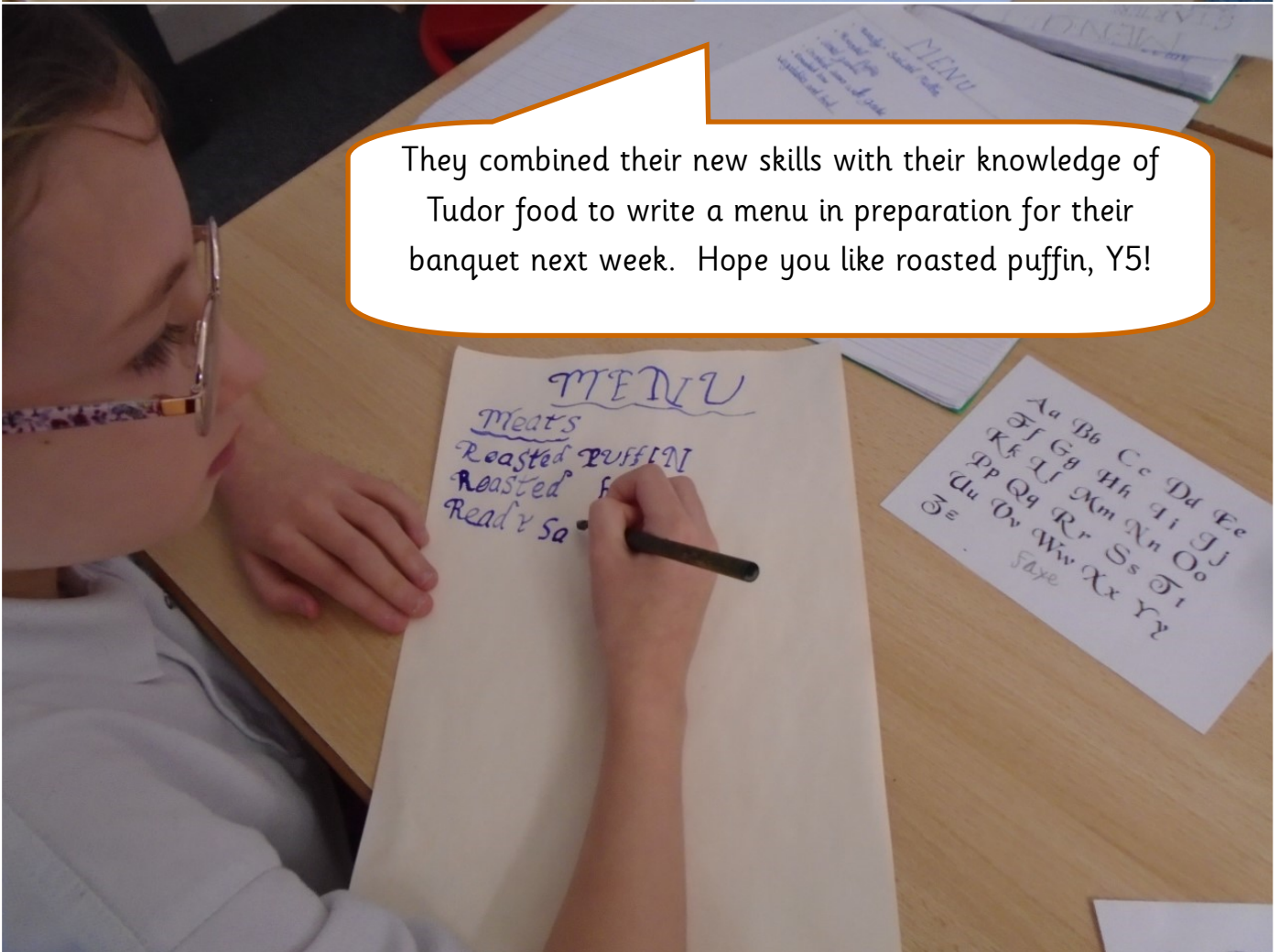
In History, Year Five have been practising their Tudor handwriting!



Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Article 29: Goals of Education



Pupils used an old fashioned ink pen to carefully copy Tudor script.

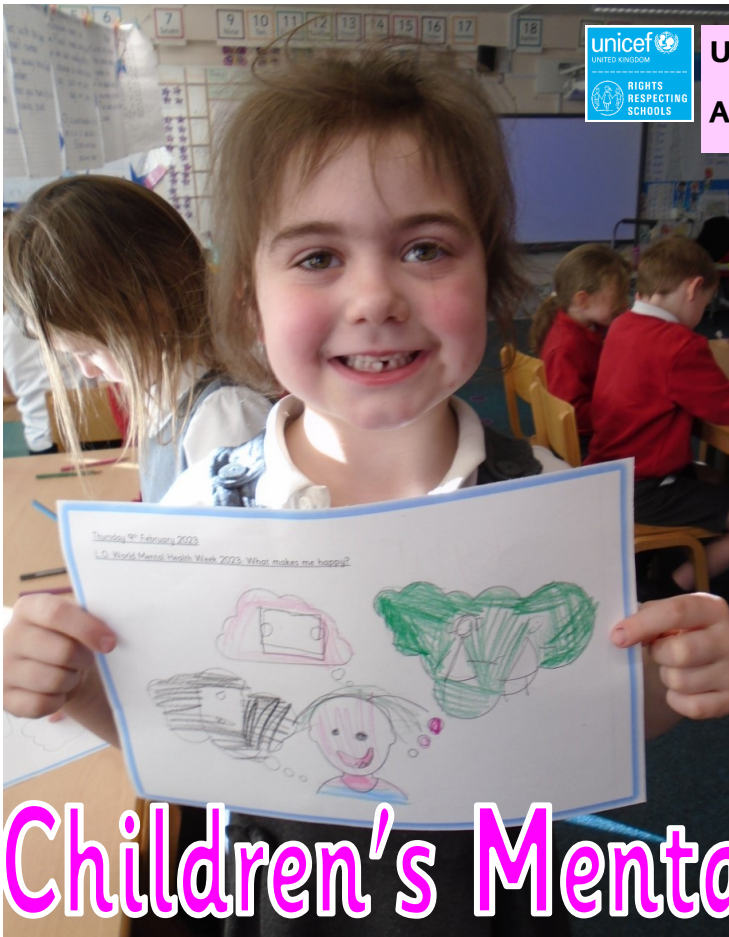


They combined their new skills with their knowledge of Tudor food to write a menu in preparation for their banquet next week. Hope you like roasted puffin, Y5!

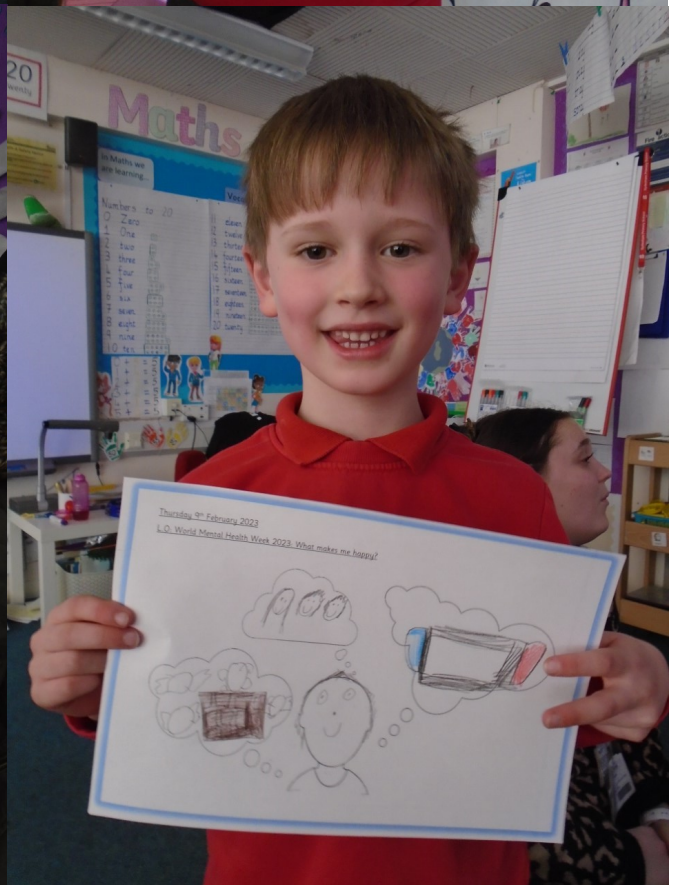
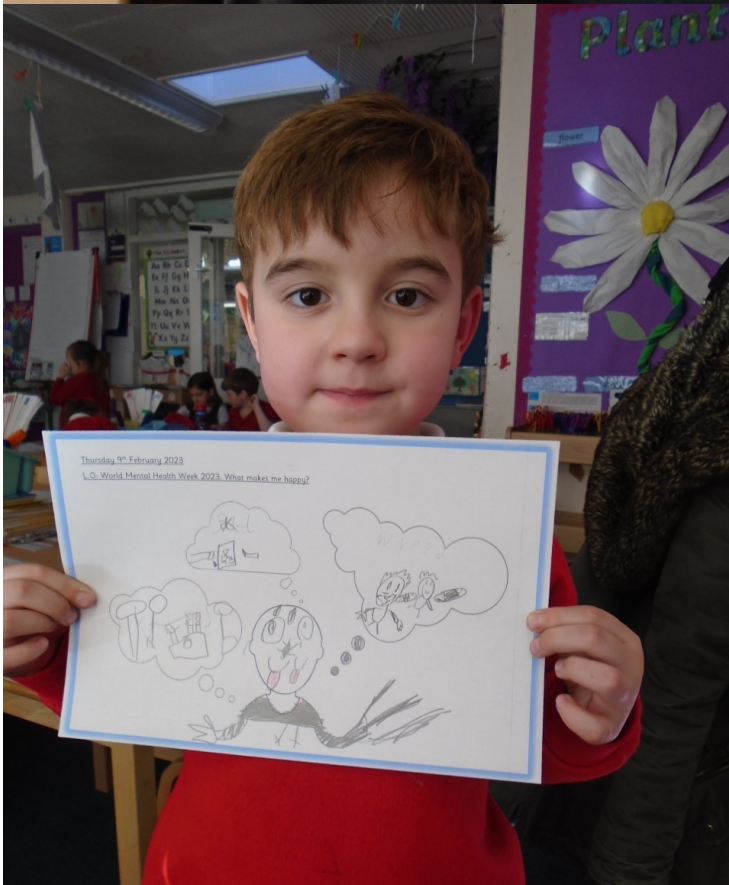


UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 24: Health



# Children's Mental Health Week



This week, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. Y1 enjoyed Circle Time, exploring different feelings and how they can be expressed. The children then talked about things that make them feel happy. They went on to produce some lovely drawings and writing.



# Journalism Club

This week, our roving reporters have tracked down Mr Lee. Find out all about this Sydenham superstar by reading their exclusive interview.

**What is your name and job title?** My name is Mr Lee and I am one of the Y3 teachers.

**How long have you worked at Sydenham?** Nine years.

**What inspired you to do your job?** I've always enjoyed being around children and wanted to make a difference to people's lives. I was inspired by one of my own teachers, Mrs Jewel-Clarke, because she was so kind and very passionate about reading. I wanted to be like her and help children to read because this is such an important skill.

**What is the hardest part of your job?** I love teaching but don't like the boring parts of my job like tidying the classroom. I also hate trimming paper so it fits into the children's books. Doing classroom displays isn't really my thing either!

**Who is your favourite Learning Character and why?** It's got to be the have a go pig because if you try you can be surprised that you're good at something or find it fun.

**In assembly, you told us that your new year's resolutions were to go to the dentist more often and to do more running. How are you getting on?** My dentist is very pleased with me and I have a new electric toothbrush. My running is going well and I managed seven miles on Sunday. I ran 14 times in January (not as often as my wife!)

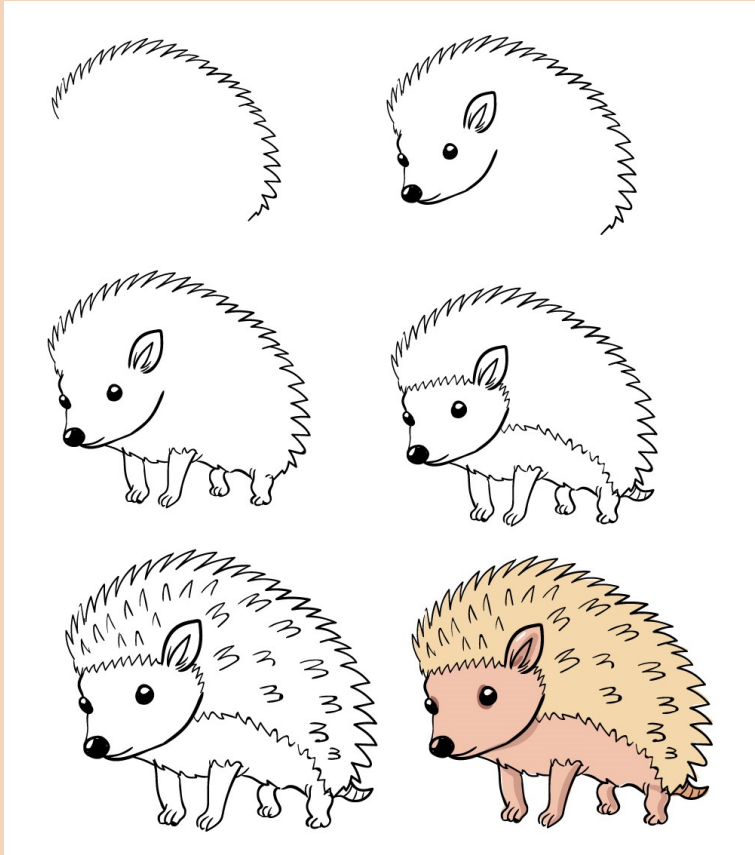
**Who is your best friend at school?** I like all the adults but I'd probably say Mrs Rastall because we have a laugh together.

**Tell us your favourite joke:** What's the biggest city in the world? Dublin—because it keeps doubling and doubling and doubling!

Thanks for being a good sport, Mr Lee. Next week: Claire, our fab school cook.



# Comic Character Club



There are lots of fantastic clubs for children to join at Sydenham including Comic Character Club. Each week at the club, children learn how to draw different characters, often in a Manga style. This week, the focus was how to draw a hedgehog and here are the lovely results! Why don't you have a try?



**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**  
**Article 15: Freedom of Association**



# Family Learning

Over the past few weeks, we have been working in partnership with The Family Learning Service. Parents have been learning to deepen their understanding of high quality interactions around texts and deep book talk. They have also learnt how to empower their children to hold opinions of books and know that it's okay not to like them sometimes. This has enabled parents/carers to be more open about books and try a variety of titles.

Parents/carers have been encouraged to employ the strategies they've learnt at home and to notice changes in how their children engage with books. During the last session, one parent shared that her daughter pressed her grandparents to explain exactly why they liked a book, not just 'because it's good.' Fantastic! Another shared that her daughter is reluctant to read but she has realised that she can tap into other interests to engage her daughter in books. She has also started to model reading for pleasure herself at home. Wonderful!

These lovely photographs show families representing their favourite books by creating story telling artefacts like masks and puppets, posters or pieces of artwork. In the Summer Term, we hope to continue the good work by holding a mathematics course led by The Family Learning Service. Why not come along?





# Fire Safety Session



This week, Y1 and Y5 were visited by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. Pupils learnt about fire safety and how to “stop, drop and roll” if their clothes catch fire. Our visiting firefighters also talked to the children about making a fire plan. They went on to explain how dangerous it can be to play on the ice. This was a really valuable learning session.



**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Article 29: Goals of Education**





# Y6 Recorders



Well done to our Y6 recorder player's who gave a fantastic performance of "Harrison's Rag" in assembly.



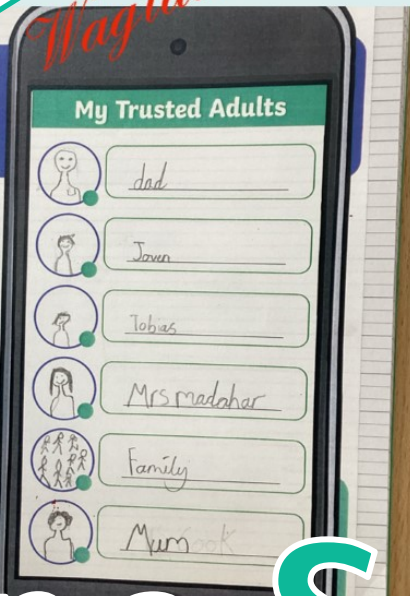


Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Year Four have been using Circle Time as a vehicle to discuss online safety. This week, they took turns to share any worries they have about going online. They were then able to talk through solutions.



*Wagtails*



# Online Safety



# Online Safety



Children in school take part in regular e-safety lessons in order to help them to understand the positives of the internet and being online as well as the potential risks. Our 360° Safety accreditation states that our school provides a high level of protection for users of the new technologies; and a high standard of online safety education and awareness for staff, pupils, parents and carers, to ensure that these users of the new technologies can be safe online



However, it has come to our attention that there is a WhatsApp group that some children in Upper Key Stage 2 are using at home, which has prompted this reminder.

## WhatsUp with WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is a quick, easy, and free way for people to connect with friends and family, whether by sharing photos, videos or memes. However, **WhatsApp requires a minimum age of 16**. As with most messaging services, WhatsApp can be used to share both positive and negative messages.

An increasing number of younger children have access to mobile phones, meaning that children and young people can be active on social media anywhere and at anytime. This can provide new opportunities for children and young people to learn and express themselves, but also presents risks including:

Excluding a child from online games, activities or friendship groups

Sending threatening, upsetting or abusive messages

Creating and sharing embarrassing or malicious images or videos

Voting for or against someone in an abusive poll

## Cyberbullying



Sadly, we have dealt with problems in school associated with **all** of these issues in recent years.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 19: The right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body and mind

We were all in a group call, and then they kept muting me. I felt really upset and embarrassed.

I kept getting kicked out of the game by two of the players. I was so angry and I can't forget about it.

Some children were swearing and everyone found it funny. But it made me feel really worried.

The children that we speak to about using social media often say that despite the age restrictions, they think they are old enough to use it. We remind them that although they may be old enough to use the technology, they are not yet mature enough to deal with the impact of someone else saying something negative.

For information and advice on how to safeguard your child:



<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ukcis-social-media-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>



<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/social-media/>



**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**


**Article 19: The right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body and mind**

# World Book Day 2023

We are really looking forward to celebrating books during the week after half term! There will be book reading, costume wearing, story telling, reading-inspired writing and book-making aplenty, and we cannot wait to show you the end results!

## Doodlebug Alley

Written by **ROBERT SWINDELLS**



It's World War II, and doodlebug, the deadliest doodle yet, has landed down on London. No one is safe, no street is safe. The way to reaching Sandy's family apart - do they stand any chance in Doodlebug Alley?

Horrid things, Doodlebugs - little black things that fly by themselves.

**Vocabulary**

During World War Two many children were evacuated from towns and cities to the countryside where it was safer. Evacuation was an adventure for some who had never seen the countryside. Others were frightened and unhappy. Children in the 1940s experienced food shortages, rationing, lessons in putting on gas masks, and practiced evacuation on more here.

## The Story Machine

Written and illustrated by **Tom McLaughlin**




Ellen is a boy who likes to find things and, one day, he stumbles across a machine.

**Vocabulary**

Tom McLaughlin is an author/illustrator from Devon. He began by illustrating other people's books before beginning to write and illustrate his own.

## VARMINTS

Written by **Helen Ward**



When Ward is an illustrator and author. She wanted to be an illustrator before she knew what an illustrator was called. Find out more about the best and brightest she has worked on here.

**Vocabulary**

Scraped - to drag or pull a hard or sharp implement across a surface or object so as to remove something.

Wired - something that resembles wire in form and texture.

Nurture - to care for and protect something or someone while they are growing.

Wilderness - a neglected or abandoned area.

Fury - wild or violent anger.

Wailing - making a prolonged high-pitched sound.

Fragment - a small part broken off or separated from something.

Murmuring -

Our main character is brave and shows a real determination to follow his dream. What do you feel really passionate about? How will you follow your dreams if something stands in the way?

THESE STORIES HAVE SIMILAR THEMES:

## BOOKS IN THE TRILOGY

ROBERT SWINDELLS **HURRICANE**

ROBERT SWINDELLS **ROPER'S WAR**

## Cave Baby

Written by **Julia Donaldson**



A big hairy mammoth takes a shaggy little baby on a thrilling month-long journey. But where are they going?

Julia Donaldson has written 210 books! Which is your favourite?

**Vocabulary**

Brave - ready to face danger.

Squiggles - a short line that loops and curls.

Mutters - to say something in a low, quiet voice.

Restless - being unable to rest or relax.

Lurking - remaining hidden, so as to catch something.

Bracken - a tall fern with coarse, lobed fronds.


Rattlic/fratic - to act in an energetic and happy way.

Wade - to walk with effort through water.

There is lots of information about Julia's writing books, step and stage that she has written here. There is also plenty of information about her books, many books to read and which is your favourite?

## The Robot and the Bluebird

Written and illustrated by **David Lucas**



The story follows a robot who is broken, who is friends with a blue bird. Both are in need of some help, but is this something that they can offer one another?

There once was a robot with a broken heart.

David Lucas has written and illustrated 16 brilliant books. Find out more about his books here.

**Vocabulary**

Scrap heap - the place where useless things are discarded.

Astonished - greatly surprised or impressed.

Fluttered - flapping the wings quickly and lightly.

Clanking - loud, sharp sounds of metal being struck together.

Towering - extremely tall.

Blizzards - a severe snowstorm with high winds.


Hollow - having a hole or empty space inside.

Our main character is a kind, brave and helpful robot. Think about when you've been kind, brave or helpful in the past. What happened and what do you do?

THESE STORIES HAVE SIMILAR THEMES:

## Arthur and the Golden Rope

Written and illustrated by **Joe Todd Stanton**



How did Arthur get going in his job? He's taking on the most important job from the Britannian Mythical Collection. In a place filled with magical objects and powerful gods, you'll discover the secrets of magic, spirit and save his town from falling apart.

Our protagonist is brave and powerful. He has a lot of friends and is very kind. What are your favourite magical objects? What does magic require to work here?

Joe Todd Stanton has written and illustrated many beautiful books. Find out more about what requires to work here.

**Vocabulary**

Merit - a rare thing, especially one having particular value.

Rebeller - someone who opposes or is against parts of their system.

Humble - having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance.

Overly - in a selfish or selfish manner.

Subsequent - coming after something in time.

Overweight - several pounds overweight.

Towelled - the people who live in a town.

Stuff - a stick, rod or pole.

Sturdy - strong and solidly built.

Peril - serious and immediate danger.

Embers - a small piece of burning or glowing coal or wood in a dying fire.

Clambers - climb or move in an awkward way using both hands and feet.

Canopy - the uppermost branches of the trees in a forest, forming a continuous layer of foliage.

Furcinate - a staff, thin material made from the prepared skin of an animal, usually a sheep or goat, and used as a durable writing surface in ancient and medieval times.

Talons - a claw, especially one of a bird of prey.

Sabotage - with one's own hands.

Melancholy - a follower or underling of a powerful person.

## No Dinner!

Written by **Jessica Souhami**



James Souhami joined the Souhami and Co. a recycling paper company using recycled paper and paper with a recycled design and in the paper. He has written, illustrated, and illustrated his books, and his characters help and help across the page. Find out more about James here.

Our main character is brave, sharp-witted and funny. What have you had to be brave?

OTHER STORIES BY JESSICA SOUHAMI:

Gerald the Lion

We're in the Zoo

Please look out for these 'book warmers' that will come home next week to help to deepen your child's understanding of the class book chosen to study during this special week. We hope you enjoy looking at them together!

Miss Challand

# Diary Dates

Tuesday 14th February	Y4 SM Wagtails class assembly at 9.15am—parents and carers warmly welcomed.
Tuesday 14th February	YR RK Robins class assembly at 10.15am —parents and carers warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 14th February	Family Learning reading session, 1.45—3.00pm
Tuesday 14th February	Arts Ambassadors visiting Clapham Terrace Primary School to plan for Art in the Park.
Wednesday 15th February	Parent-Teacher Conferencing
Thursday 16th February	Parent-Teacher Conferencing
Friday 17th February	MMUFTI Day to raise funds for the Turkish/Syrian earthquake.
<p>Monday 20th - Friday 24th February, school closed for half-term holiday.</p> <p>Pupils return to school on Monday 27th February</p>	
Monday 27th February	Book Week
Wednesday 1st March	Katie Sahota, author, visiting school
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day— children come to school dressed as a character linked to their class story book.
Tuesday 7th March	Y4 RK Starlings class assembly at 9.15am —parents and carers warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 9th March	Y3 Roman Day
Monday 13th March	Vision screening for pupils in Reception.
Tuesday 14th March	YR HC Goldfinches class assembly at 10.15am —parents and carers warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 21st March	Y5 SD Woodpeckers class assembly at 9.15am —parents and carers warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 22nd March	Holi celebration for Y1, Y3 and Y4—Bollywood dancing and coloured powder throwing.

Monday 27th March	Rocksteady concert at 2pm.
Tuesday 28th March	Y2 CP Wrens class assembly at 10.15am —parents and carers warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 30th March	Bike marking from 2.30pm—come along and have your bike security marked
Friday 31st March	MUFTI Day—bring 50p if your child comes to school in their own choice of clothes
Friday 31st March	Y3/4 Bikeability sessions
<p>Monday 3rd—Friday 14th April, school closed for the Easter holidays</p> <p>Pupils return to school on Monday 17th April</p>	

### Mufti Day to raise funds for those affected by the Turkish/Syrian earthquake

I'm sure, like all the staff at Sydenham, you have watched the media coverage of the tragic earthquake in Turkey and Syria in horror.

To support the urgent aid going into both countries, we will be **holding an extra MUFTI Day next Friday** (17th February.) All proceeds will be donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee. Please copy and paste the link below into your browser if you would like to find out more information:

[https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI\\_dO33tOK\\_QIVsWDmCh3F4A4KEAAYASAAEgJp\\_vD\\_BwE](https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI_dO33tOK_QIVsWDmCh3F4A4KEAAYASAAEgJp_vD_BwE)

Please make a donation, if you are able, via ParentPay using the payment item "Mufti." If you prefer, you can also make a cash donation.

Thank you.

# FEBRUARY ART CAMP

@MILVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Art Workshop for kids 4-11yrs  
20-21 Feb 10am-2pm  
£35 per day

*Lots of creative fun-  
tie-dye, model making, abstract  
painting, eco art, pastel drawing*







# Sydenham Superstars



## YR and Key Stage One

Happy weekend  
From Miss Glenny  
(Associate Headteacher)



## Key Stage Two