

Sydenham Primary School Newsletter



Newsletter 7
Friday 16th October 2026

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Year Two are working very hard on their understanding of number and place value this term in Maths. Pupils have worked practically to subtract across 10, using manipulatives such as tens frames and counters before moving onto using number lines.

We are very proud of the way pupils have used their Learning Characters (especially their keep on improving frog) to make progress and consolidate their skills.



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





Reception Artists

Over the past few weeks, Reception have been exploring shells, looking at their different sizes and textures. It has been wonderful to see the children using their observations and creativity to represent the shells in their artbooks



Convention on the Rights of the Child
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Anglo-Saxon Diary

Pupils in Year 4 are studying the Anglo-Saxons in their History lessons and, as part of their home learning, have been writing diary entries inspired by life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. Here is Kavya's excellent piece, which vividly brings the Anglo-Saxon world to life

Dear Diary,

Today was another busy, chilly morning in our small, peaceful Anglo-Saxon village. I woke up early in our tiny, wooden house. The chilly breeze blew outside like a howling wolf, so I quickly sat beside the warm fireplace.

After my delicious breakfast, I helped my father look after our fluffy sheep, muddy pigs and noisy chickens. (It was harder than I thought.) Then we walked to the wide, golden fields to collect wheat and barley. It was hard but we worked together.

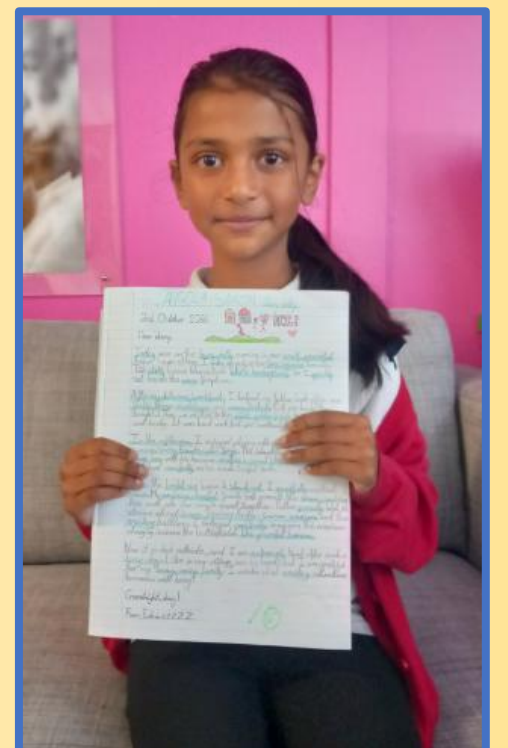
In the afternoon, I enjoyed playing with my friends near the burning, smoky blacksmith's forge. The blacksmith loudly hit the tough iron with his hammer, making a sound like thunder. We watched carefully as he made useful tools.

When the bright sun began to slowly set, I gracefully walked home. My amazing, cheerful family sat around the warm, crackling fire and we ate our simple meal together. Father proudly told us stories about brave, fearless Anglo-Saxon warriors and their exciting battles. I listened carefully, imagining the warriors charging across the battlefields like powerful horses.

Now it is dark outside and I am extremely tired after such a busy day. Life in our village can be hard but I am grateful for my loving, caring family. I wonder what exciting adventures tomorrow will bring?

Goodnight Diary.

From Edric Zzzz

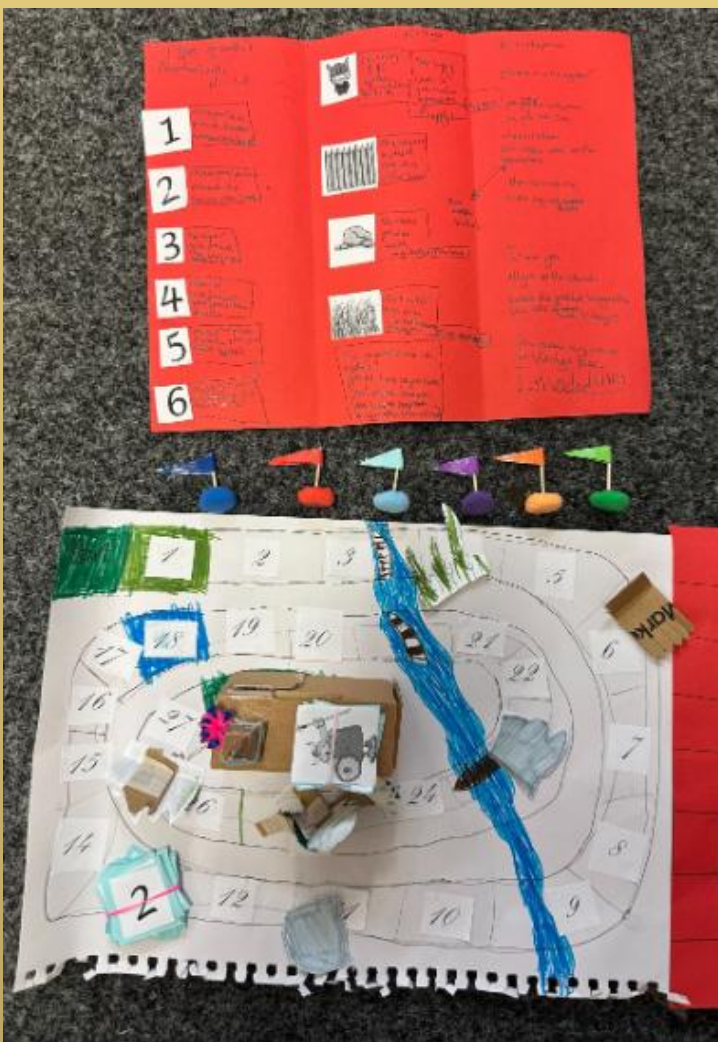


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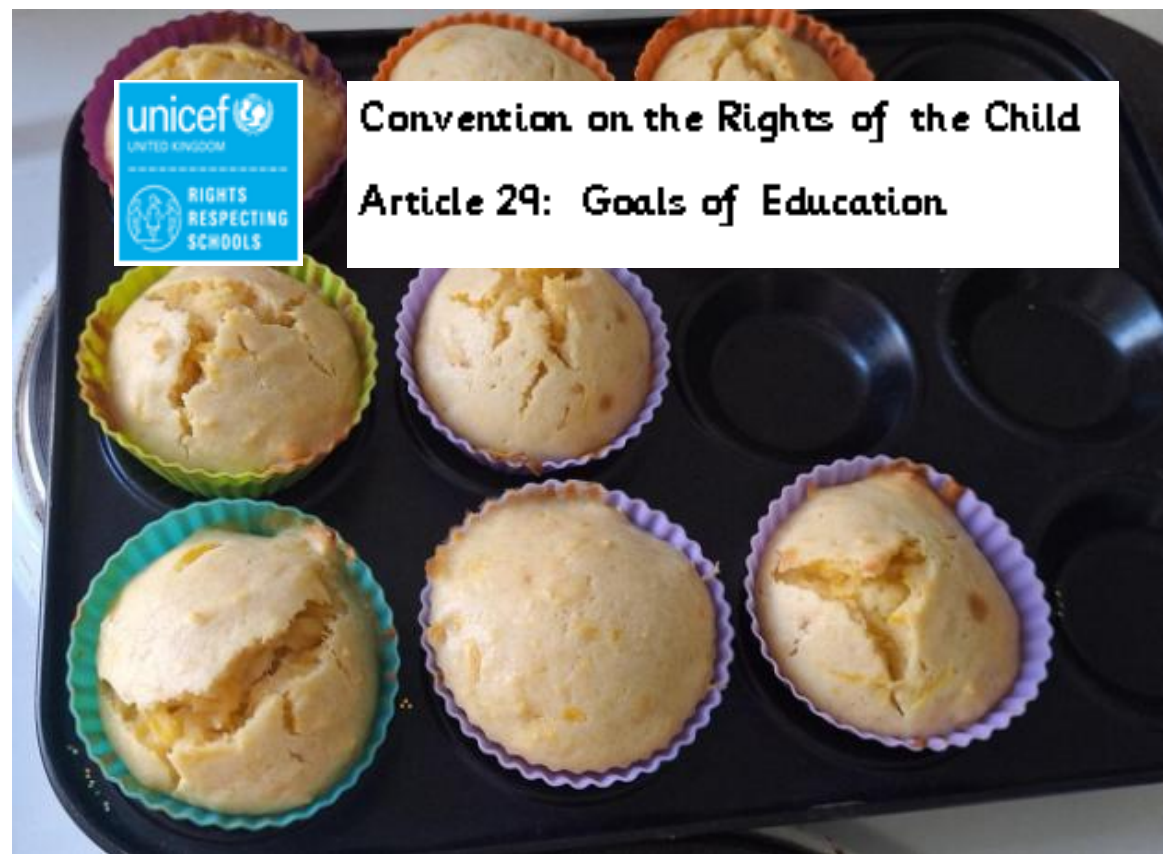
Here is more fantastic homelearning from Year Four pupils related topic work on the Anglo-Saxons

It has been wonderful to see the creativity, imagination, and effort that pupils have put into their learning beyond the classroom. From carefully crafted creations to thoughtful and imaginative projects, the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and pride in their work.

A huge well done to everyone who has brought something in to share! We are incredibly proud of the time, care and dedication that has gone into these projects, and a big thank you to families for their continued support and encouragement at home. Keep up the amazing work, Year 4!



Anglo-Saxon Homelearning

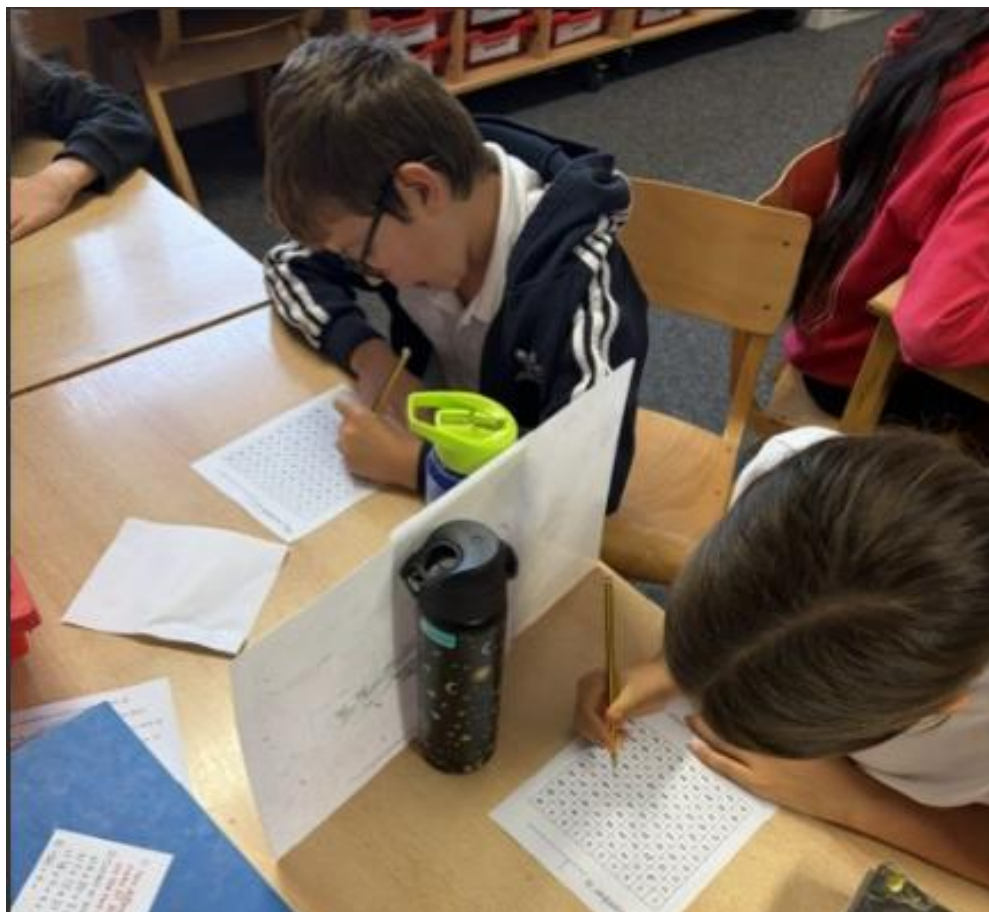


Children at Rainbows group have been experimenting with seasonal produce such as pumpkin to make delicious cakes.

Pupils had to cut and grate the pumpkin before combining it with other ingredients they had carefully weighed.



Seasonal Treats



Y5 Barrier Games

Year 5 have been developing their communication and mathematical skills through barrier games! Similar to the popular game *Guess Who?* these activities involve giving and receiving information without being able to see your partner's choices.

The children worked in pairs, each secretly choosing a number between 1 and 100, before taking turns to ask and answer yes/no questions to work out their partner's number. This proved to be quite a challenge, requiring careful listening, clear questioning and accurate use of their times table knowledge to narrow down the possibilities.

The children had to think carefully about the questions they asked and use their mathematical reasoning to help them find the answer!



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



In RE, Year 2 explored different places of worship and sacred spaces, including churches, mandirs, temples and mosques. Pupils then reflected on what might make a space special to them at home and designed their own sacred space. Their designs included meaningful items such as special toys, family photographs, favourite books and candles.

As part of their nutrition learning in Science, Year Three explored the nutritional information on different food labels. Pupils identified the amount of saturated fats, carbohydrates, protein and sugar in each food and were shocked by some of the results! One can of cola contained 35g of sugar – more than our whole recommended sugar allowance for the day.

Y3 Scientists



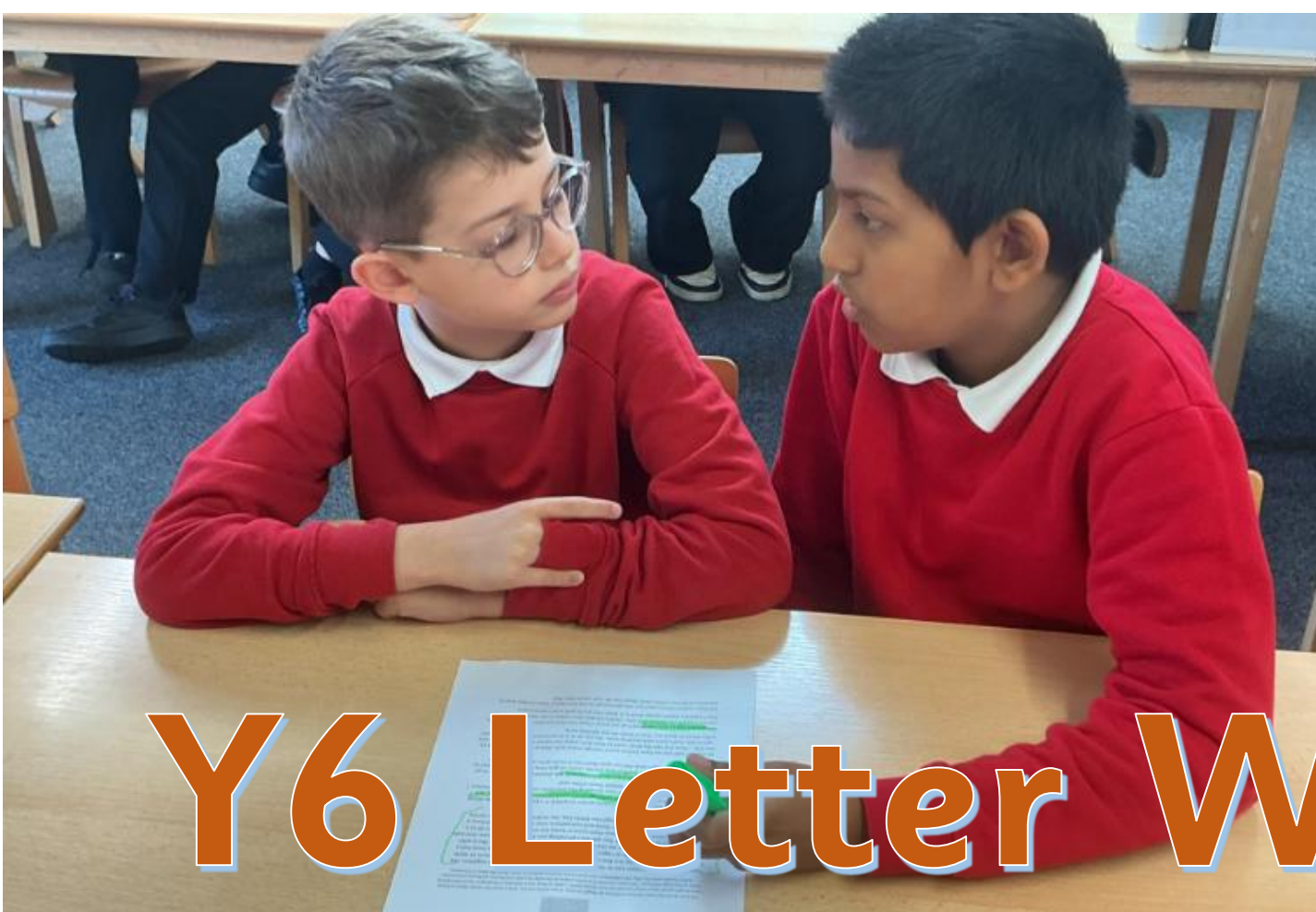
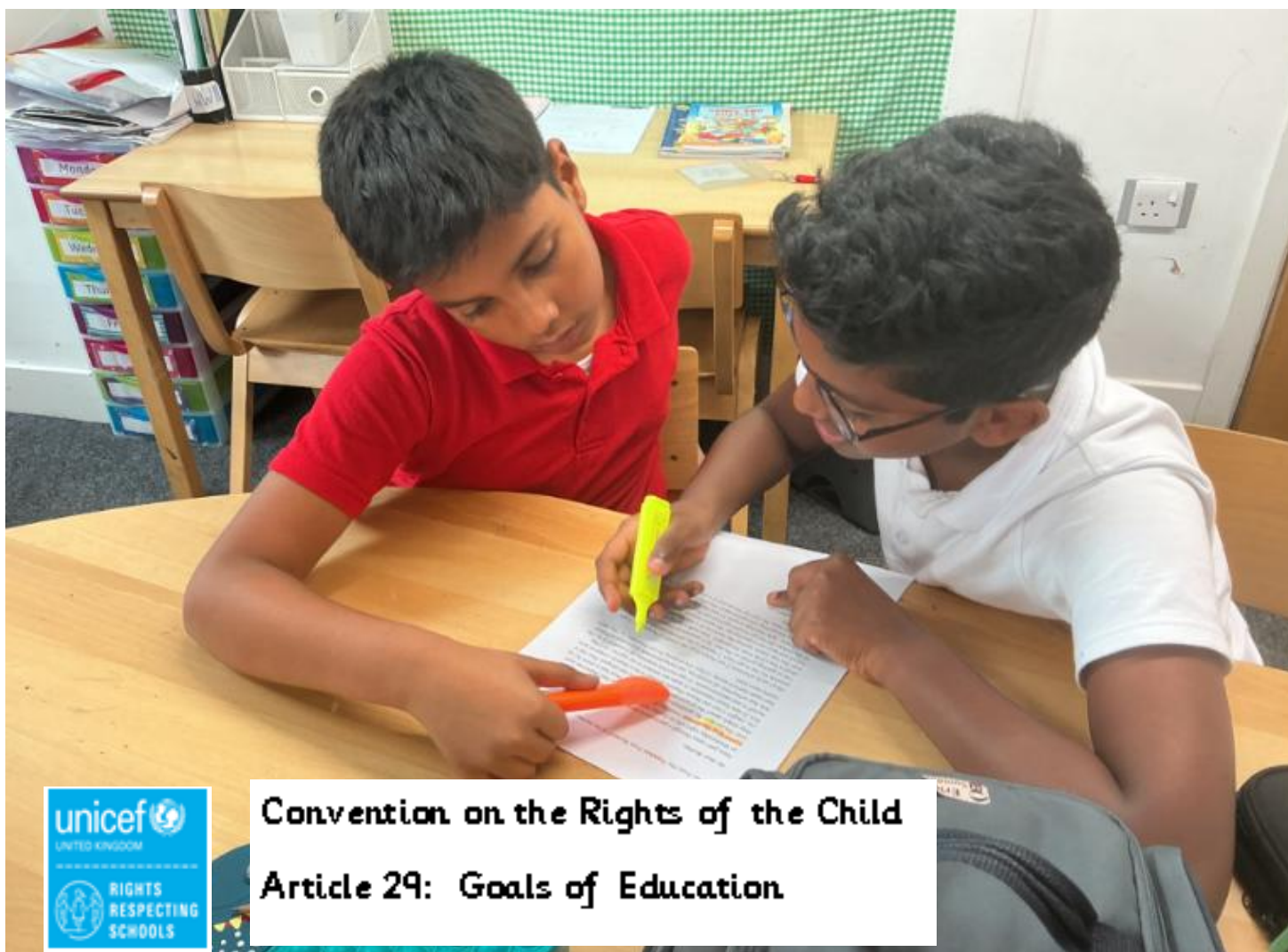
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In English, Year Six have been exploring informal letter writing during the World Wars, considering how important letters were for people separated from family and friends.

The children read a range of genuine letters written during the wars, including those sent from the trenches and by evacuees. They highlighted words and phrases that interested them and used their reading to generate thoughtful questions.

Year Six were particularly intrigued by how little soldiers and sailors sometimes knew about the wider events taking place, as well as the matter-of-fact way in which many described their experiences.





Forest School

Year Two are enjoying their Forest School sessions this term. The children have been learning how to safely make a fire and, this week, gathered a range of sticks to build and grow the fire. Next week, pupils will have the opportunity to cook food on their fire, overseen by our trained Forest School practitioners.



Convention on the Rights of the Child
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Across the school, we are passionate about supporting the many different languages spoken by our families. With this in mind, we are celebrating European Day of Languages. Pupils in Year Five have been researching different languages and national flags in order to make posters to promote the event. Here are two lovely examples.

European Day of Languages



Christmas Dinner Day Menu

2026

**Roast Turkey
Cocktail Sausage, Stuffing Ball
with Gravy (G.SU)**

Or

**(vg) Roast Quorn Fillet, Vegetarian
Sausage, Stuffing Ball with Gravy (G)**

**Served with Crispy Roast Potatoes,
Garden Peas, and Sliced Carrots**

(vg) Christmas Cracknell (G.SU)

Or

(vg) Iced Festive Cookie (G)

Allergen Key
V - Vegetarian
VG - Vegan
G - Gluten
SU - Sulphites

educaterers®

caring is our secret ingredient

**Booking and payment
details coming soon.**

KS2 Christmas Theatre Trip



Beauty and the Beast

Things are looking bleak for beautiful Belle! Kidnapped by a frightening beast, she is locked away in a terrifying castle with little hope of escape.

But unbeknownst to her, the beast is actually a handsome prince under the curse of an evil enchantress. Only by changing his selfish ways and finding true love can he ever hope to break the spell.

Will the Beast change his ways in time? And will Belle ever get back home? There's only one way to find out!

Written by and starring Coventry's favourite dame, Iain Lauchlan, **Beauty and the Beast** will feature the breathtaking sets, crazy costumes and seasonal silliness that make a trip to the Belgrade such an unmissable treat.

Year groups: 3/4/5/6

Date: Tuesday 1st December at the Belgrade Theatre.

Cost: £20.99—Please use ParentPay.

The Gruffalo's Child



*The Gruffalo said that no gruffalo should
Ever set foot in the deep dark wood...*

From the company that brought you “The Gruffalo” and “The Smeds and the Smoos,” follow the Gruffalo’s Child on her adventurous mission in Tall Stories’ enchanting adaptation of the much-loved picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

One wild and windy night the Gruffalo’s Child ignores her father’s warnings about the Big Bad Mouse and tiptoes out into the deep dark wood. She follows snowy tracks and encounters mysterious creatures – but the Big Bad Mouse doesn’t really exist... does he?

Let your imagination run wild with songs, laughs and scary fun for everyone aged 3 to 103.

Year groups: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Date: Wednesday 2nd December at Warwick Arts Centre

Cost: £18.37—please use ParentPay.

EYFS & KS1 Christmas Theatre Trip



**Mental Health Support Team
in Schools**



Dimensions tool



Free online personalised self-care
information & support for adults and
children in Coventry & Warwickshire

Tips For Wellness Being Brave

We can show bravery in lots of different ways, such as recognising that we feel a certain way (e.g., sad, anxious), asking someone for help when we need it and trying new things, even if we feel scared!

Feeling scared is often a sign that we are doing something challenging and it is completely normal to feel this way. Even though it can feel uncomfortable, being brave and facing these difficulties can also help us to learn and grow (both physically and emotionally). This can mean we need to step outside our comfort zone at times to be able to overcome challenges, but it is important to remember that being brave does not mean we have to cope alone.

Our Tips for Being Brave:

1. **Set yourself a goal to try something new.** Create a plan to break your goal down into smaller, more achievable steps! This can help your goal to feel less overwhelming.
2. **Take chances and make mistakes!** Sometimes it is helpful to fail, so you can practise being brave. Try something you have been wanting to try and take that chance to move out of your comfort zone. You might even find that it wasn't as bad as you thought it would be.
3. **Practise positive self-talk to help develop your bravery.** Repeat these sentences to yourself or out loud - 'I can do hard things'; 'I try my best'; 'I can enjoy challenge'. You might want to write positive statements on post-it notes and stick them around your mirror so you can remind yourself of them every day!
4. **Ask for help when you need it from someone you trust.** Taking the step to talk to someone is one of the bravest things you can do!
5. **Strike a power pose!** Standing up tall with your feet apart, your head held high and with your hands on your hips can help make you feel more confident and ready to take on a challenge. What pose makes you feel more confident?



*Follow the QR code for activities to
support the theme 'being brave!'*

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

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.

Mufti Days

The term “mufti” originates from a 19th-century British Army expression referring to comfortable, casual, or “civilian” clothing worn by officers when off duty. Over time, this term has been adopted into school culture.

We would like to take a moment to explain the purpose behind our Mufti Days and how they benefit our school community.

Non-uniform days are an important part of our fundraising efforts throughout the year. By allowing pupils to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a small voluntary contribution, we are able to raise funds that directly support the experiences and opportunities we provide for our children.

The money raised helps to enhance learning beyond the classroom. This may include funding educational resources, supporting school trips and enrichment activities, improving facilities, and contributing to special events that make school life more engaging and memorable for all pupils.

We are very grateful for your continued support and generosity, which truly makes a difference to the opportunities we can offer. Our aim is to create a fun and relaxed experience for pupils while working together as a community to support the school. We are always mindful of keeping contributions affordable and inclusive, and participation is entirely optional. Our children and staff greatly appreciate your generosity.

Funds raised from our most recent Mufti Days have enabled us to purchase new art resources, such as chalks and felt-tip pens, as well as playground equipment including cricket sets, skipping ropes, balls, and parachutes. Our school budget does not always allow for these additional resources, so we sincerely thank you for your kind donations.

Our next Mufti Day will take place on **Friday 23rd October**. Please visit ParentPay and make your donation under the payment item “Mufti Day”.



Diwali MUFTI Day

On **Friday 6th November**, we are holding a special MUFTI (non-uniform) Day in celebration of **Diwali**.

Please come to school wearing colourful clothes. We would love to see traditional clothing too such as salwar kameez, sari or kurta.

We would welcome donations towards School Fund via Parent Pay if your child participates in this event.





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



UK Health
Security
Agency



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>.

School Admissions

Applying for a place at Secondary School

The deadline to apply for a secondary school place is **31 October 2026**.



If you apply by this date, you will receive your child's school offer on National Offer Day (**1st March 2027**).

Applying for a Place at Primary School



You need to apply for September 2027 if your child was born between **1 September 2022** and **31 August 2023** (for a place in Reception).

The applications process opens on 1 November 2026 and the deadline for applying for a Reception or Junior place is **15 January 2027**. If you apply by this date, you will receive your child's school offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2027).

For more information visit:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals>

YOU ARE INVITED TO

HALLOWEEN PARTY

GET YOUR SPOOKY COSTUMES
ON AND JOIN US FOR SOME
HALLOWEEN FUN!

WEDNESDAY

4-6 PM*

28

OCTOBER

2026

*4-5pm Games aimed at younger
kids, 5-6pm aimed at 7+

BRUNSWICK HUB
98-100 SHRUBLAND ST
LEAMINGTON SPA, CV31 3BD

SPOOKY DISCO
HALLOWEEN
FUN & GAMES

PRIZES FOR
THE BEST
COSTUMES!

CALL US ON 01926 422123 TO
BOOK YOUR PLACE!

Please note: All children must be
accompanied by an adult

BRUNSWICK HUB'S

Christmas Appeal



This Christmas we are appealing for donations of the following:

CHRISTMAS FOOD ITEMS

We have used our 'Reverse Advent' as a wishist - see our website

★ FILLED MUGS & TOMBOLA PRIZES

NEW TOYS & GIFTS

PRELOVED TOYS, GAMES & BOOKS

We are accepting donations from various dates in November until Wednesday 9th December- For more info, see our website (brunswickhlc.org.uk) or our Facebook



98-100 SHRUBLAND ST,
LEAMINGTON SPA, CV31 3BD

BONFIRE

Night

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5TH 2026

Fire Cracker Burger in a Bun (C,G,SB)

or

(v,h) Campfire Crunch Wrap.(G,D)

Sticks of Dynamite Chipped Potatoes

Cascade of Vegetables (carrots & sweetcorn)

or

Sky Rocket Salad

(v) Glowing Gingerbread Biscuit (G)

or

(v) Swirling Strawberry Whip (D)

Allergen Free alternatives are also available

Allergens
H-Homemade
G-Gluten
D-Dairy
E-Egg
V0-Vegan
V-Vegetarian

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Coffee Morning with the Family & Relationship Support Team



**Kingsway Children and Families Centre,
Baker Ave, Leamington Spa CV31 3HB**



Come along to one of our friendly coffee mornings to learn more about what we do:

- Find out about our workshops and longer programmes on a range of parenting topics including sleep, routines and boundaries and understanding your teen
- An opportunity to have your parenting questions answered
- Opportunity to talk to other parents.

Join us on any of the following dates between 9:30-11:00am:

16th Oct
6th Nov
20th Nov
27th Nov
11th Dec

Drop in or stay for the whole session

Learn more about our fantastic online offer from the **TogetherNESS** programme

An amazing offer of free online courses from the TogetherNESS parenting programme covering a huge range of topics from antenatal advice to understanding more about how to support your child with additional needs

TOGETHERNESS

Bringing the Solihull Approach to the world

Scan the QR code to book your free place or just drop in!



Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th October POSTPONED	Y1 Kingfishers class assembly at 10.15am —parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 21st October	Parent's Evening, 3.30—7.00pm
Thursday 22nd October	Y4 Anglo Saxon workshop.
Friday 23rd October	Y4 Anglo Saxon workshop.
Thursday 22nd October	Parent's Evening, 3.30—5.30pm.
Friday 23rd October	MUFTI (non-uniform) day—please make a donation to School Fund via Parent Pay if your child chooses to wear their own choice of clothes.
School closed for half-term holiday from Monday 26th October—Friday 30th October. Pupils return to school on Monday 2nd November.	
Tuesday 3rd November	Y5 Woodpeckers class assembly at 9.05 am— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 5th November	Y5 trip to Sulgrave Manor.
Friday 6 th November	Diwali MUFTI – celebrate Diwali by coming to school wearing colourful clothing! Please make a donation via Parent Pay.
Thursday 12th November	Y6 Remembrance assembly at 9.05am— Y6 parents/carers are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 17th November	Y5 Kittiwakes class assembly at 9.05am— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 23rd November	St Mary's Church leading whole school assembly.
Wednesday 25 th November	Whole school assembly led by Life Community Church.
Friday 27th November	MUFTI (non-uniform) day—please make a donation to School Fund via Parent Pay if your child chooses to wear their own choice of clothes.
Tuesday 1st December	Y3/4/5/6 visit to The Belgrade Theatre to watch a performance of “Beauty and the Beast.”
Wednesday 2nd December	YR/1/2 visit to Warwick Arts Centre to watch a performance of “The Gruffalo's Child.”
Thursday 3rd December	Y1 Christmas performance at 9.30am— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 7th December	School closed for INSET (staff training.)
Tuesday 8th December	Y3 Christmas concert at 9.30am— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 8th December	Y4 Christmas concert at 2.15pm— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 8 th December	Y5 visit to Life Community Church, AM.
Wednesday 9th December	Y5 Christmas concert at 9.30am— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 11th December	Y6 Christmas concert at 2.15pm— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.

Diary Dates

Monday 14th December	Y2 Christmas concert at 9.30am— parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas lunch.
Wednesday 16th December	Reception Nativity and refreshments at 9.30am — parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 18th December	MUFTI— (non-uniform) day— come to school in a Christmas jumper or festive outfit . Please make a donation to School Fund via Parent Pay if your child chooses to wear their own choice of clothes.
School closed for the Christmas holiday from Monday 21st December—Friday 1st January. School closed for INSET (staff training) on Monday 4th January. Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2027. Please note that school will also be closed on Monday June 7th 2027 for INSET (staff training.)	



Sydenham Superstars



Reception & Key Stage One



Key Stage Two