



Convention on the Rights of the Child

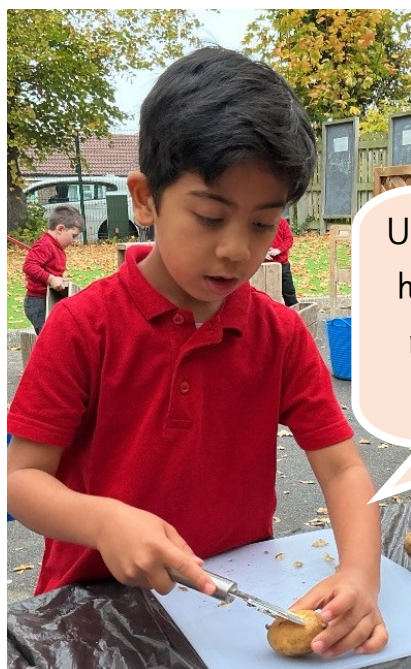
Article 29: Goals of Education

Reception pupils have been enjoying all that the beautiful season of Autumn has to offer. The children have been harvesting and peeling potatoes, cutting and drawing pumpkins and collecting leaves in a variety of vibrant colours. Next week pupils will make and taste delicious pumpkin and potato soup.





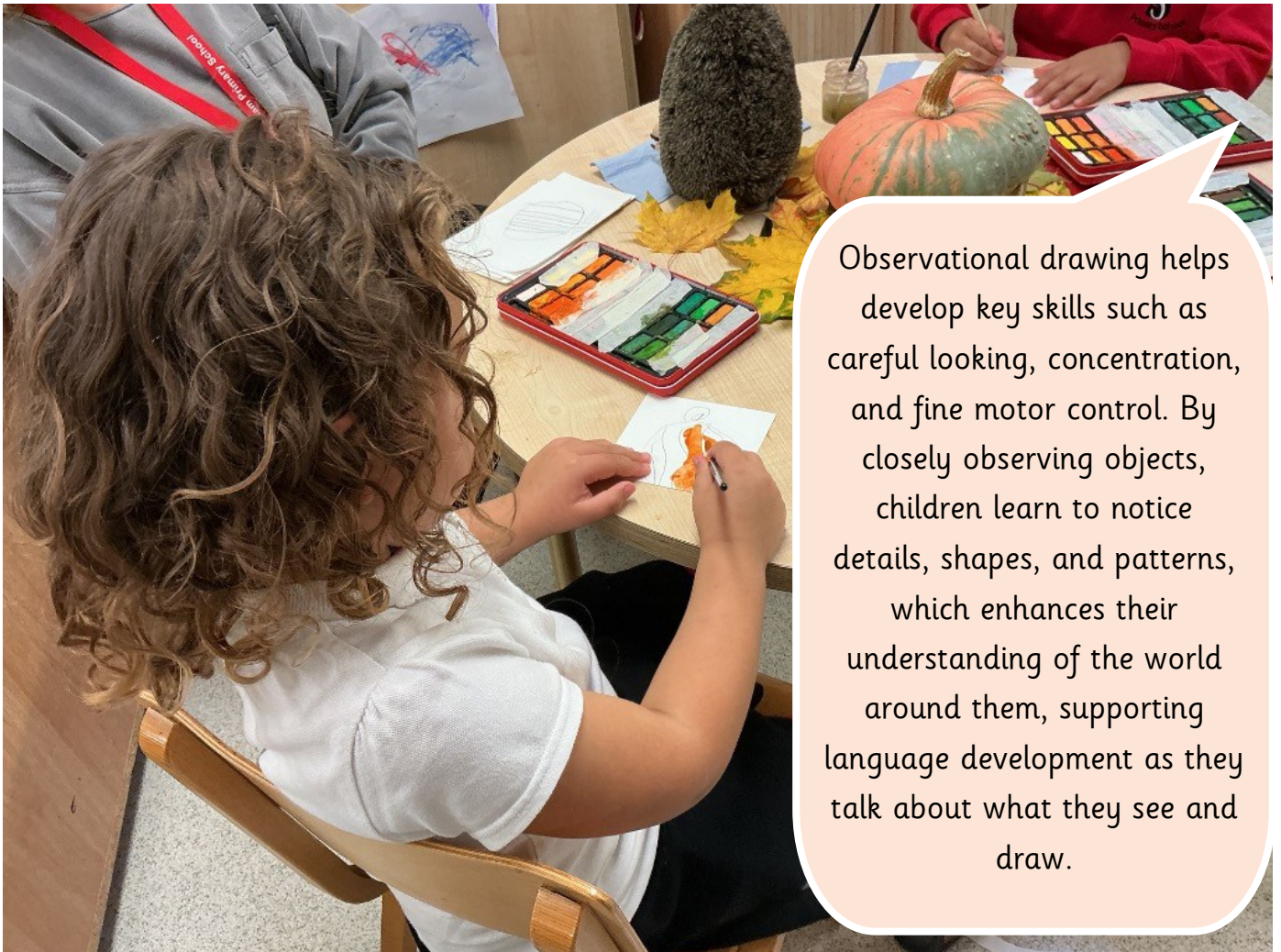
Autumn



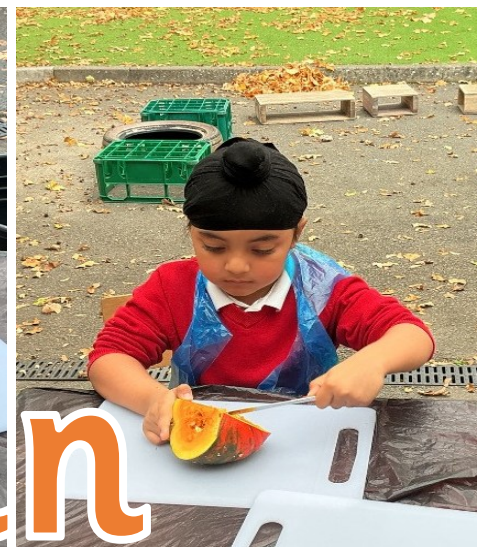
Using the potato peeler helped to develop fine motor skills essential for writing.



Autumn



Observational drawing helps develop key skills such as careful looking, concentration, and fine motor control. By closely observing objects, children learn to notice details, shapes, and patterns, which enhances their understanding of the world around them, supporting language development as they talk about what they see and draw.



Autumn



Pupils learnt how to cut pumpkin slices safely with a knife, scooping out the flesh and seeds ready to make soup. Cutting develops hand-eye coordination, and independence. It also encourages healthy eating habits and provides opportunities for language development as the children talk about textures, colours, and tastes.



Autumn poster
by Oliver.



Cadbury World

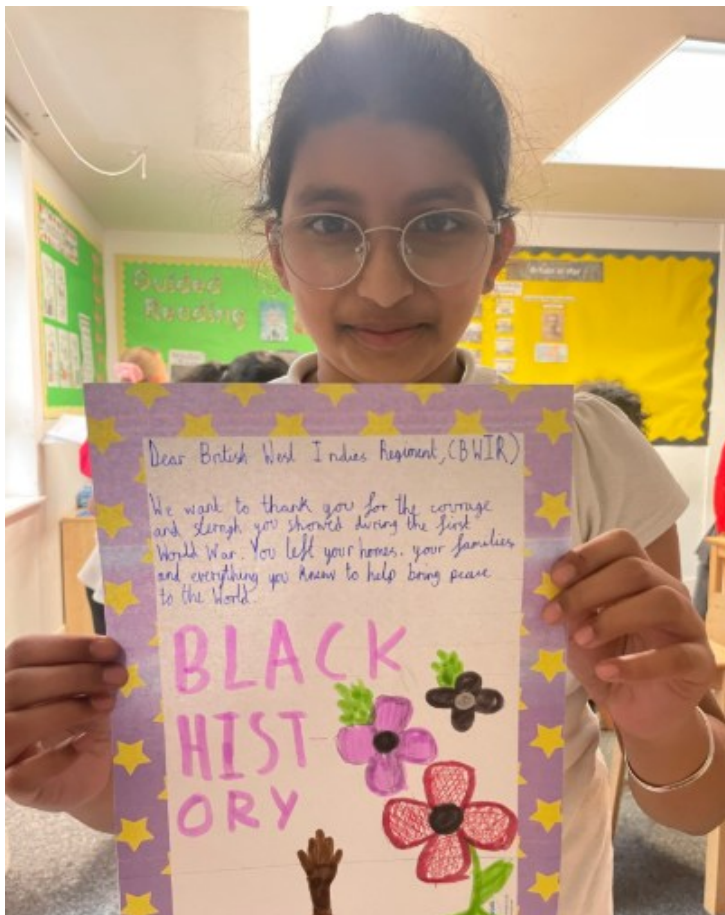


Y3 pupils visited Cadbury World this week as part of their topic, “Scrumdiddlyumptious.” They explored interactive exhibits, learned about the history of chocolate and the Cadbury brand, and watched chocolate being made right before their eyes. There were plenty of exciting hands-on activities such as writing in melted chocolate—and of course, some tasty samples to enjoy! It was a fun and educational day that brought learning to life in a truly memorable way.



Cadbury World





Black History Month

Black History Month, celebrated every October in the UK, is a time to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history. It gives us the opportunity to learn about important figures, events, and stories that have shaped society, many of which are not always included in the usual curriculum. During this month, we reflect on the past, celebrate Black culture, and look forward to building a more inclusive and equal future for everyone.

As part of Black History Month, Year Six have learnt about the contributions of the British West Indies Regiment to WW1. The soldiers wanted to fight for their freedom and equality even though they were not always treated fairly (soldiers were made to do harder jobs like digging roads and building trenches and they were also paid less than other soldiers). Y6 pupils wrote thoughtful messages of reflection and thanks to the BWIR



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Orchard Apples



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This week at Forest School, Year 6 took part in an exciting session all about fire. The children learnt about the fire triangle and the specific rules and safety procedures we always follow when working near fire. They practised using a flint and steel to create sparks, gathered their own firewood, and learnt how to build and maintain a fire safely and responsibly.

Once the fire had settled to glowing embers, the children enjoyed cooking popcorn over the flames - and of course, tasting the results! To finish the session, they celebrated a milestone moment for our school orchard by picking our first two ripe apples from the Cox tree, planted three years ago as part of our sustainability project. Reports from the lucky tasters confirmed they were crisp, sweet and delicious!

Forest School continues to offer hands-on, meaningful outdoor learning experiences that nurture teamwork, curiosity, and respect for nature.



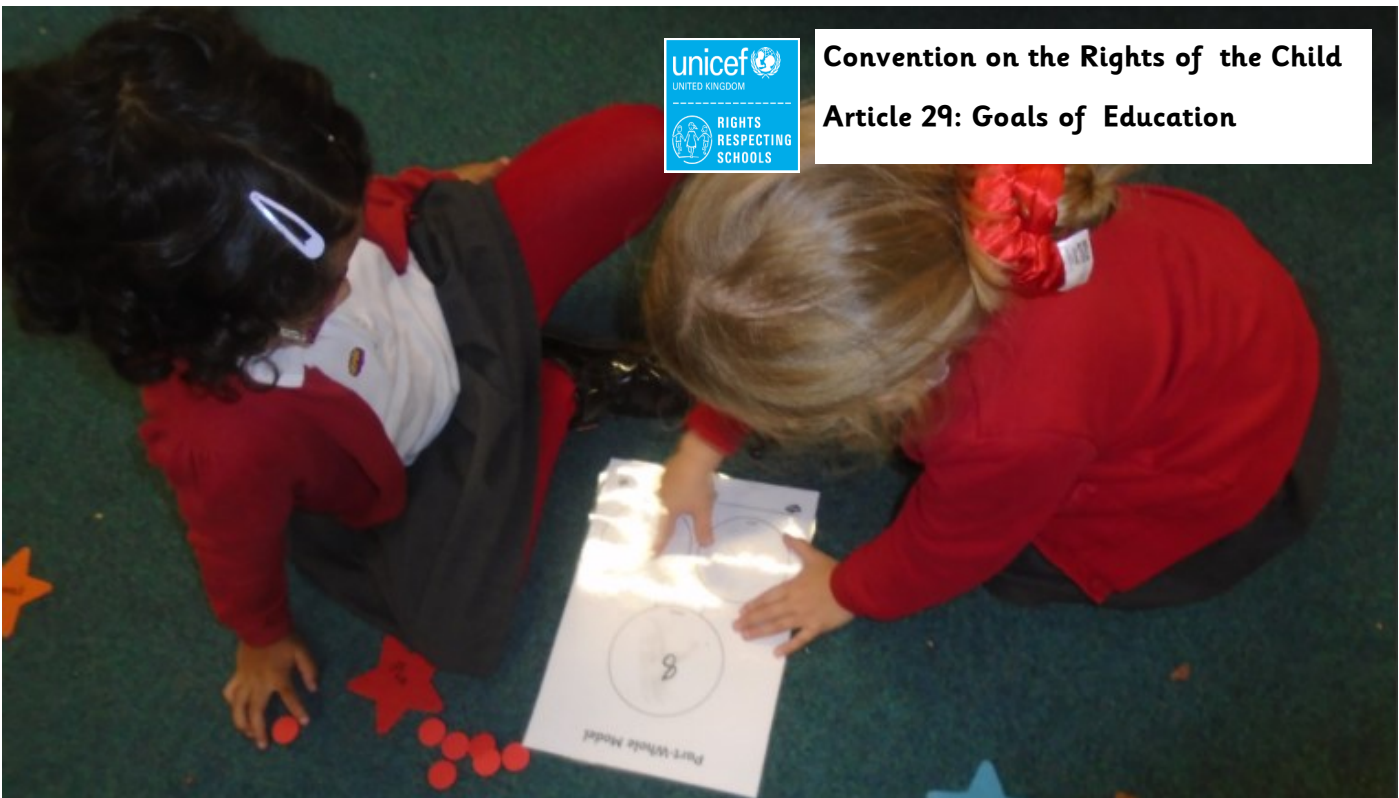
Marshmallow Time

This week at Forest School, several groups enjoyed the classic outdoor experience of toasting marshmallows over the fire and making delicious s'mores! Before lighting the fire, children revisited our Forest School fire safety rules and discussed the fire triangle, deepening their understanding of how fires burn and how to manage them safely.

The session linked to the Science curriculum through exploring materials and changes when heat is applied, as well as developing Design and Technology skills when assembling and evaluating their s'mores creations! It also supported the PSHE curriculum, encouraging teamwork, communication, and responsibility around shared equipment and safety procedures.

Children demonstrated fantastic collaboration and care for one another, showing growing confidence in using outdoor tools and managing real-world risks safely - essential life and learning skills that sit at the heart of our Forest School ethos .



Two young girls in school uniforms are sitting on a green carpet. They are working with a 'Part-Whole Model' diagram, which shows a circle divided into two parts, with the number 8 in the center. They are also using red double-sided counters. The girl on the left is pointing at the diagram, and the girl on the right is holding a counter.

Year One have been exploring number bonds through the use of concrete resources and part-whole models. Pupils represented different amounts using double-sided counters and part-whole diagrams, helping them to visualise how numbers can be broken down and combined. They have worked hard to understand the mathematical meanings of the terms *part* and *whole*, and have shown great teamwork by using their cooperative learning character to support each other and achieve success.

Two young girls in school uniforms are sitting at a table. They are working with a 'Part-Whole Model' diagram, which shows a circle divided into two parts, with the number 8 in the center. They are also using yellow double-sided counters. The girl on the left is pointing at the diagram, and the girl on the right is holding a counter.

Year One Maths



Sacred Spaces



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Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief & Religion

Today, Year 2 explored the concept of sacred spaces. The children learned that a sacred space is a special place set apart for reflection, peace, or connection and that it does not always have to include religious artefacts or symbols. Sacred spaces can be found in many forms, such as places of worship, areas in nature, or even quiet corners at home where people feel calm and centred.

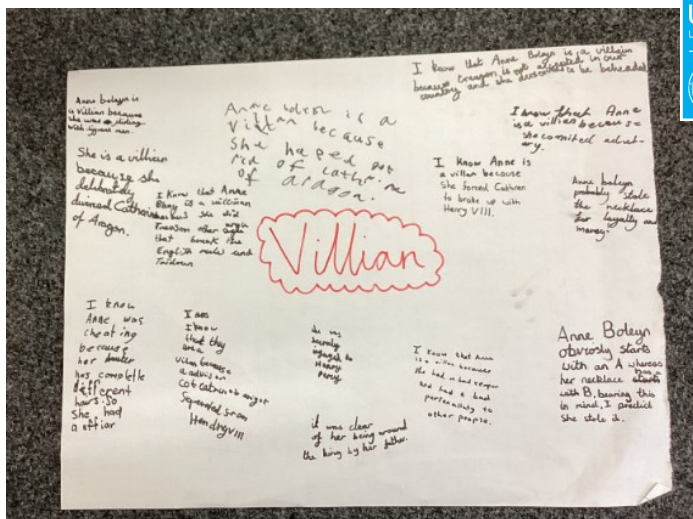
To deepen their understanding, the pupils created their own sacred spaces in class. They closed their eyes, breathed in the calming aroma of incense, and imagined what their personal sacred space might look and feel like. This activity encouraged mindfulness, creativity, and an appreciation of how different people find meaning and tranquillity in their surroundings.



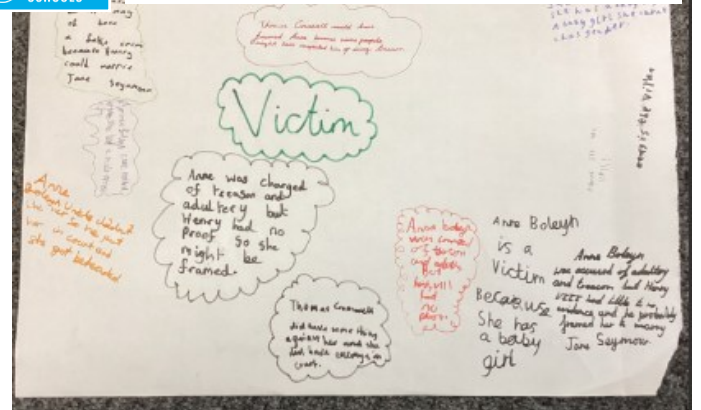
Balanced Argument

In English, Year 5 have been learning how to write balanced arguments, using the historical figure Anne Boleyn as their focus. Pupils explored the question: was Anne Boleyn a victim or a villain? To help form opinions, the children took part in an activity called "Conscience Alley," sharing arguments for both sides of the debate.

Some pupils argued that Anne was a victim of Henry VIII's power and ambition, while others believed she was a villain who manipulated her way to the throne. The teachers listened carefully to everyone's points and decided which arguments were the most persuasive and best supported by historical evidence. This helped the children understand how to present balanced, thoughtful opinions in their writing.



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





Balanced Argument

Although children thought that 'victim' would be the more challenging argument to make, in both classes this side proved more persuasive.

Pupils went on to write their balanced argument and next week they will consider another taxing question!



As part of their History topic, “Magnificent Monarchs,” Year Two have been learning about the feudal system.



King

To better understand the feudal system, the children engaged in role play by acting as King William the Conqueror, tenants-in-chief such as bishops, barons, vassals and knights, and peasants including freemen and serfs.



Tenants-in-chief



Knights

Magnificent Monarchs



Freemen

The King was at the top (most powerful) of the feudal system and the serfs were at the bottom (least powerful).



Serfs



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PTA Christmas Cards



Pupils across the school have been working hard this week on their Christmas card designs. The cards will be available for parents and carers to purchase, and we hope they will become a cherished keepsake for families.

Thank you to the PTA for organising this lovely activity.



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Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion

This week in KS1 Woodwork Club, the children had a fantastic time making Halloween and Christmas decorations! Using a fallen branch, they carefully sliced wooden discs, drilled holes, and used wire cutters to make loops so their creations could be proudly hung on display .

The activity linked to the Design and Technology curriculum, helping pupils develop key skills such as measuring, cutting, joining, and evaluating materials safely and accurately. It also encouraged fine motor development, problem-solving, and creativity as they explored how natural materials can be repurposed into something new .

The children showed great focus and teamwork throughout, gaining confidence in using real tools responsibly and learning about the importance of safety and respect when working with wood. Their finished decorations look fantastic - a wonderful mix of spooky and festive cheer!

KS1 Woodwork Club



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Article 15: Freedom of Association



Three Little Pigs



On Tuesday, Year Three performed a delightful assembly featuring the story of “The Three Little Pigs.” The children acted out the story and there was plenty of huffing and puffing for the audience to enjoy!

Well done children and thank you to Mrs Harcourt, Mrs King and Miss Ellershaw for supporting the performance.



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John McAdam, born in 1756, was a Scottish inventor best known for pioneering an innovative road-making technique. He developed the macadam road surface, which was soon adopted worldwide.

Year Two explored how McAdam experimented with different materials to create durable roads. Because he melted and combined materials to alter their properties, we decided to melt chocolate and layer various ingredients to see which combination would produce the strongest, most durable “chocolate road”!

To better understand his method, we also cut open a Boost bar to examine its layers—much like McAdam’s roads, which were constructed with layers of large rocks, smaller stones, and fine gravel.



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Y2 Science



I think the crisps will make a strong road because they're like the tiny stones. It will stick together.

I think the water will be stronger because it gets hard when it's cold.



Inset Day



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When school was closed last Friday, our teachers and teaching assistants returned to the classroom for a special Design Technology training session led by staff from the Royal Ballet and Opera (RBO).

Staff explored the RBO's production of *Alice in Wonderland* and learned a range of art and design skills to help create scenery for the ballet. Their ideas were inspired by the music and costumes from the original production.

Pupils will also be having a go at this exciting design technology task in the future.

Design Technology



Christmas Lunch 2025

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

or

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

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

(vg.h) Iced Christmas Cookie (G)

or

(v,h) Festive Cupcake(G.E)

Allergen Key
V - Vegetarian
VG - Vegan
G - Gluten
E - Egg
SU - Sulphites
H - Homemade

Allergen Free alternatives are also available



Seasons Greetings from The
Nutrigang & everyone at
Educaterers

educaterers®
caring is our secret ingredient

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COSTUMES ON AND JOIN
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YR/1/2 Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 3rd December, Years R/1/2 will be visiting Warwick Arts Centre to watch a performance of “The Tiger Who Came to Tea.” The cost of the trip is £16.67—please make payment via your ParentPay account. For more information, see the letter sent to you or speak to a member of our office staff.

Direct from the West End, the Olivier Award nominated smash hit show, The Tiger Who Came to Tea returns.

The doorbell rings just as Sophie and her mummy are sitting down to tea. Who could it possibly be? What they certainly don't expect to see at the door is a big, stripy tiger!

Join the tea-guzzling tiger in this delightful family show; packed with oodles of magic, sing-a-long songs and clumsy chaos. Don't miss this stunning stage adaptation of the classic tale of teatime mayhem... expect to be surprised!

A musical play adapted and directed by David Wood, based on the book by Judith Kerr.

The Tiger Who Came to Tea





Y3/4 Theatre Trip

When Princess Aurora pricks her finger on an enchanted spinning wheel she's cursed to fall asleep for 100 years, unless she's kissed by her one true love. Enter the dashing Prince (and his two rather calamitous sidekicks) who embark on a brave adventure to save the Princess from her terrible fate. But with the wicked Fairy Carabosse determined to ruin their plans, will our trusty trio be triumphant or is the Princess doomed to a century of snoozing? You'll have to come along to find out!

Sleeping Beauty will be full to the brim with all of the wonderful elements that make a trip to the Belgrade such a well-loved Christmas tradition for thousands of families every year.

On Wednesday 26th November Years 3/4 will be visiting The Belgrade Theatre to watch a performance of "Sleeping Beauty." The cost of the trip is £20.67—please make payment via your ParentPay account. For more information, see the letter sent to you or speak to a member of our office staff.

The ROALD DAHL'S BFG Y5/6 Theatre Trip

ADAPTED BY TOM WELLS

One extraordinary night, a young orphan named Sophie is snatched by a giant and taken far away to Giant Country. There she learns that human-eating giants are guzzling 'norphans' the world over. But she soon discovers that her new friend, the BFG, is different – he's a dream-catching, snozzcumber-munching gentle soul who refuses to eat humans.

While other giants terrorise the world, the BFG ignites Sophie's imagination, and they devise a daring plan to save children everywhere. In the end, the smallest human bean and the gentlest giant prove that a dream can change the world.

Gather your chiddlers to see Roald Dahl's unforgettable story come to life this winter. Tom Wells' magical new adaptation is directed by RSC Co-Artistic Director Daniel Evans.

On Thursday 15th January 2026, Years 5/6 will be visiting The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford to watch a performance of "The BFG." The cost of the trip is £18.00—please make payment via your ParentPay account.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st October at 10.15am.	Y1 Kingfishers class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 21st October	New date for Y6 Swans and Moorhens class assembly at 9.05am.
Friday 24th October	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.
Friday 24th October	YR Diwali party for parents and carers, 2.00—3.00pm.
Wednesday 22nd (3.30—7.00pm) and Thursday 23rd October (3.30—5.30pm)	Parent's Evening
Friday 24th October	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.
Monday 27th —Friday 31st October, school closed for the half-term holiday. Pupils return to school on Monday 3rd November.	
Tuesday 4th November at 9.00am	Y5 Woodpeckers class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 4th November	Y1 Childhood Day.
Tuesday 18th November at 9.00am	Y5 Kittiwakes class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 24th—Thursday 27th November	Scholastic Book Fair.
Wednesday 26th November	Y3/4 trip to The Belgrade Theatre to watch “Sleeping Beauty.”

Friday 28th November	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.
Monday 1st December	School closed for In-Service Training (INSET.)
Wednesday 3rd December	Reception, Year One and Year Two trip to Warwick Arts Centre to watch “The Tiger Who Came to Tea.”
Tuesday 9th December at 2.15pm	Y4 Carol Concert. Parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 4th December at 9.30am.	Y1 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 8th December at 9.30am	Y2 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am	Y3 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 10th December at 9.30am	Y5 Carol Concert — parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 11th December at 2.15pm	Y6 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 15th December	Rocksteady concert at 2.15pm.
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas lunch.
Wednesday 17th December	YR Nativity (new date.) Parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 17th December	MUFTI—wear a Christmas jumper or festive outfit and donate £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay.
Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January, school closed for Christmas holiday. Pupils return to school on Monday 5th January	

Diary Dates



Sydenham Superstars



YR and Key Stage One

See you on Monday.
Best wishes from Miss
Glenny



Key Stage Two