Sydenham Primary School

Newsletter 8
Friday 6th November 2026

01926 339138
admin2622@welearn365.com

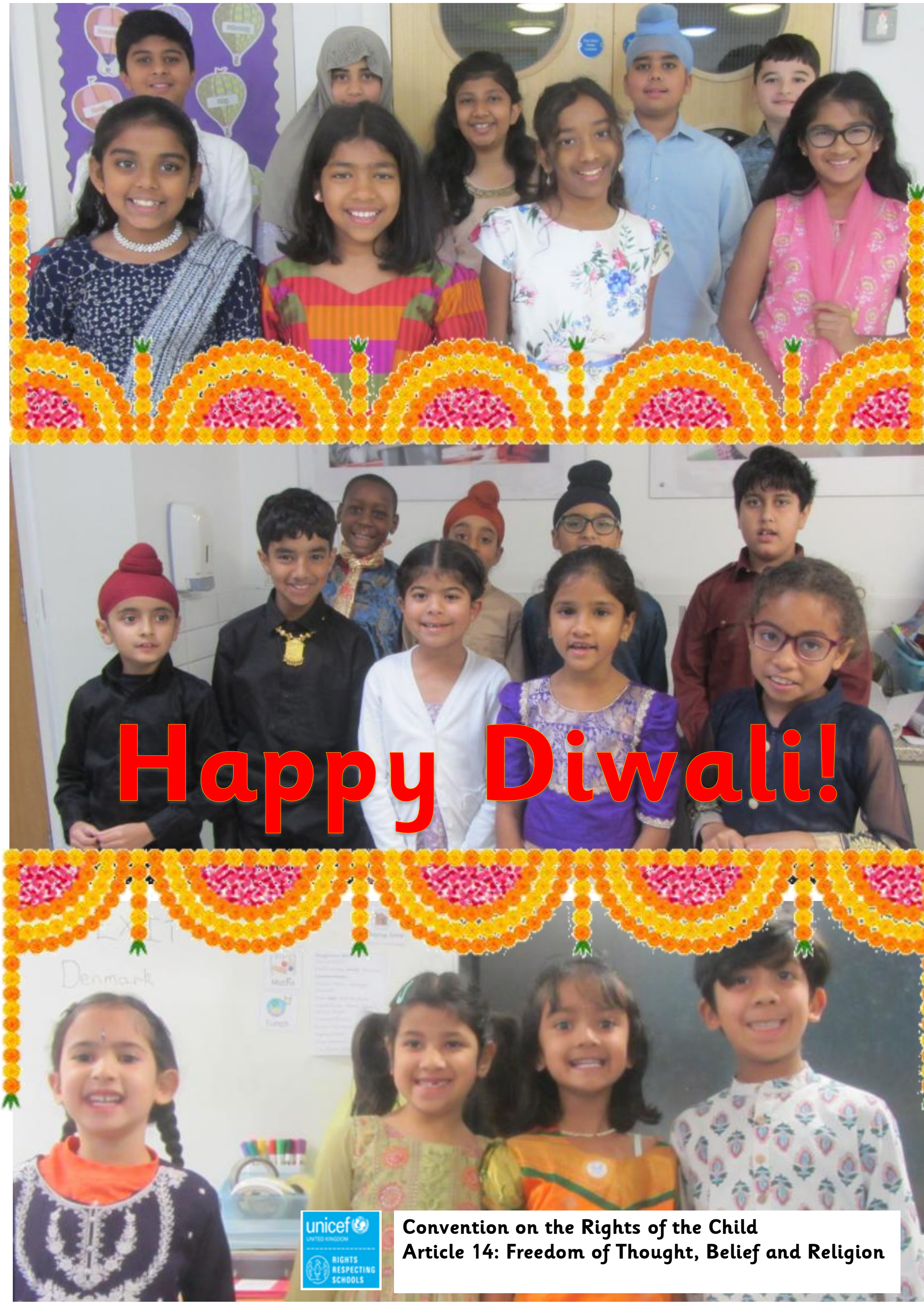
Sydenham Primary School Newsletter



Happy Diwali!

This week, we have been celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights, an important occasion for many Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists around the world.

On Friday, pupils came to school wearing brightly coloured or traditional clothing to mark this special celebration. It was wonderful to see so many vibrant and beautiful outfits.



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion




Happy Diwali!




Happy Diwali!









Happy Diwali!





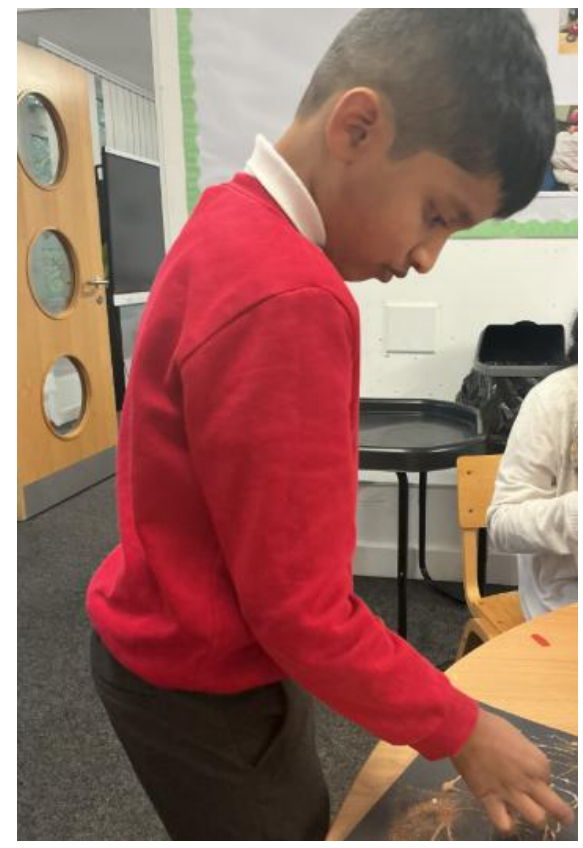












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Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion

Children who attend Rainbows have been learning about Diwali. They discovered how families mark this special occasion by lighting fireworks and diva lamps, creating colourful rangoli patterns, and spending time together in celebration. The children also learned that Diwali symbolises the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Inspired by their learning, they created vibrant Diwali pictures that beautifully captured the colour, joy and spirit of the festival.



Diwali Pictures





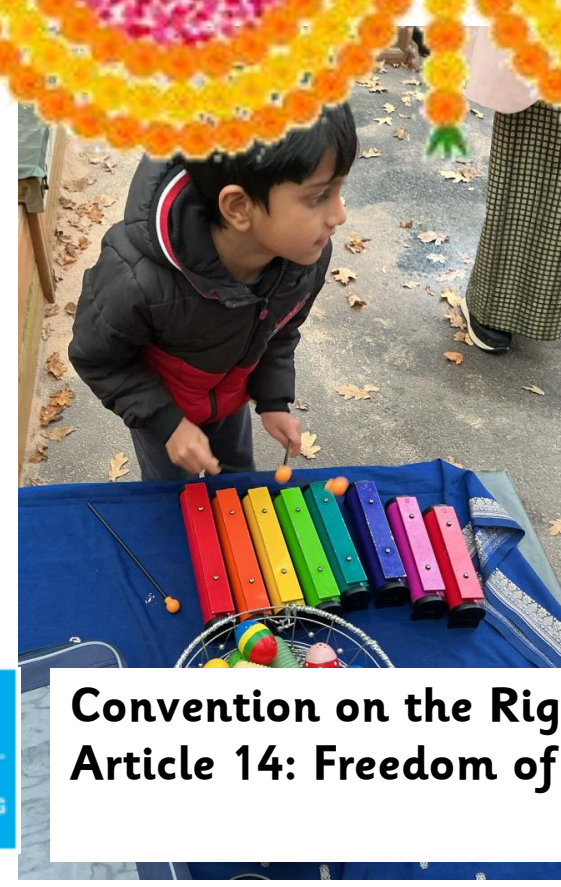




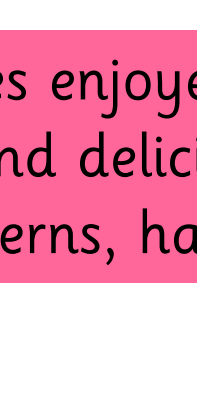


Diwali Party









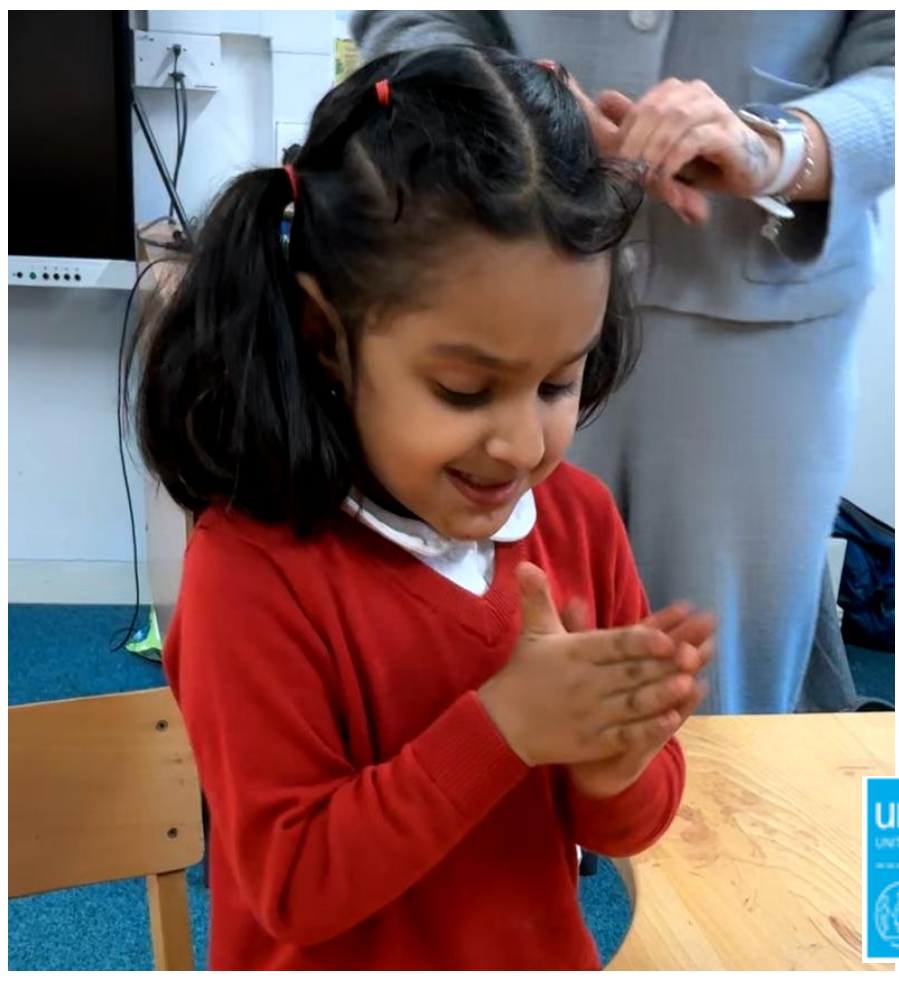
Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion

This week, Reception families enjoyed a wonderful Diwali celebration together. There was music, dancing and delicious festival food, as well as opportunities to create colourful rangoli patterns, have mehndi applied and safely light sparklers.

This week, pupils in Saplings Group enjoyed making and decorating their own clay diyas. A diya is a traditional lamp that symbolises hope, wisdom and the triumph of light over darkness. After shaping their lamps from clay, the children painted and decorated them with great care, creating colourful designs to reflect the importance of the diya as a symbol of positivity and new beginnings. They were delighted with their finished creations and proud to take them home to share with their families



Making a Diya





Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion





This week, Year 5 enjoyed an exciting visit to Sulgrave Manor as part of their History topic, 'Off with Her Head!' The children loved dressing up as Tudors and discovering the different names for the clothing they wore. They also explored Tudor education and had the opportunity to practise writing with ink and quill, even having a go at recreating Queen Elizabeth I's signature! To finish the day, pupils enjoyed a fascinating tour of a Tudor house, where the children tried their hands at various kitchen jobs and explored a bedroom belonging to a wealthy Tudor. They particularly enjoyed discussing the purpose of the chamber pot!









Tudor Time Travellers








Tudor Time Travellers




















Tudor Time Travellers





Stone-Age Models

Pupils in Year 3 have been busy at home creating impressive models of Stone Age caves, complete with representations of the people who once used them as homes. Drawing on their learning, the children included historically accurate features such as cave paintings, open fires and early cooking methods. Many pupils also used natural materials to enhance the realism of their models, resulting in a fantastic range of creative and carefully researched projects





Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education





Stone-Age Models











During their Stone Age learning, pupils explored the features of a Stone Age cave and discovered how these natural shelters provided protection from the weather, wild animals and other dangers. They learned that caves often had a single entrance, rocky walls and ceilings, and a central fire that provided warmth, light and a place for cooking. The children also found out that some caves contained wall paintings which helped Stone Age people record events, share ideas and tell stories about their lives. Through this exploration, pupils gained a deeper understanding of how early humans adapted to their environment and survived thousands of years ago.











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Y2 Historians

As part of their *Magnificent Monarchs* History topic, Year Two pupils designed and created their own board games featuring a range of kings and queens. The games incorporated factual information from their learning and challenged players to apply their knowledge as they moved around the board. Alongside their historical understanding, pupils also developed important social skills such as taking turns and playing respectfully with others









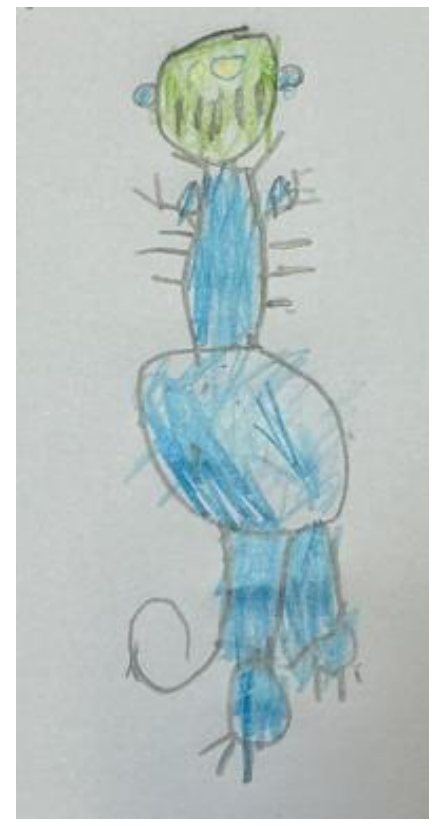


Y2 Historians

The *Magnificent Monarchs* History topic teaches children about the English and British monarchy from AD 871 to the present day. Using timelines, information about royal palaces, portraits and other historical sources, they build up an understanding of the monarchs and then research six of the most significant sovereigns: Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II.







Dinosaur Descriptions

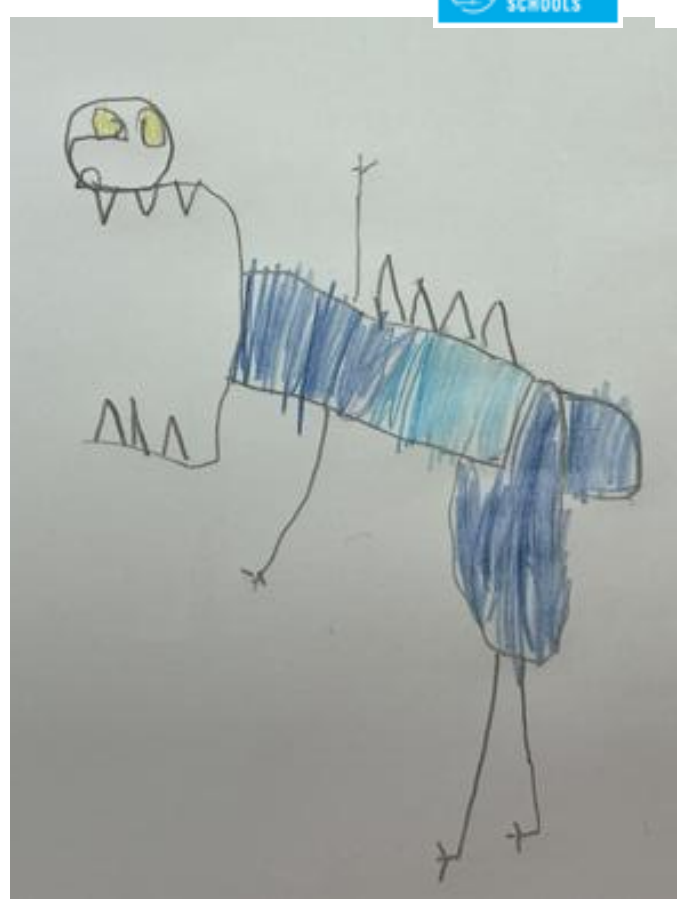
Year One pupils have been exploring character descriptions in English this week. They listened carefully to a character description and used the information provided to create an illustration of the character. To support their understanding, they highlighted key details and regularly referred back to the text to ensure they had included all of the important features. The pupils were particularly successful in remembering the dinosaur's distinctive characteristics, including its yellow eyes, large jaw and two short arms. It was wonderful to see their careful listening, attention to detail and growing confidence in using descriptive language.

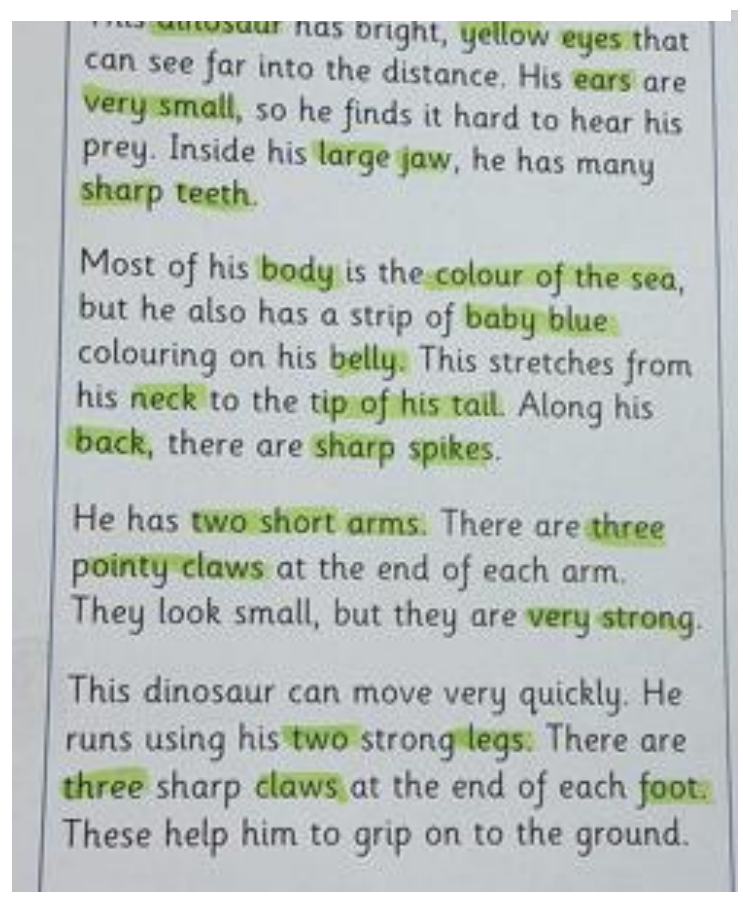
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has bright, yellow eyes that can see far into the distance. His ears are very small, so he finds it hard to hear his prey. Inside his large jaw, he has many sharp teeth.

Most of his body is the colour of the sea, but he also has a strip of baby blue colouring on his belly. This stretches from his neck to the tip of his tail. Along his back, there are sharp spikes.

He has two short arms. There are three pointy claws at the end of each arm. They look small, but they are very strong.

This dinosaur can move very quickly. He runs using his two strong legs. There are three sharp claws at the end of each foot. These help him to grip on to the ground.







Tudor Assembly

On Tuesday this week, Year 5 Woodpeckers proudly presented their class assembly to parents, showcasing everything they have learned so far in their History topic about the Tudors. Pupils confidently explained who the Tudor monarchs were and highlighted some of their most significant achievements. They also shared their knowledge of Tudor society, exploring the hierarchy of the time and the important roles people fulfilled, including farmers, merchants and explorers.

As part of the assembly, the class entertained their audience with a lively song about Henry VIII's six wives, based on the well-known rhyme, "Divorced, Beheaded and Died, Divorced, Beheaded, Survived."

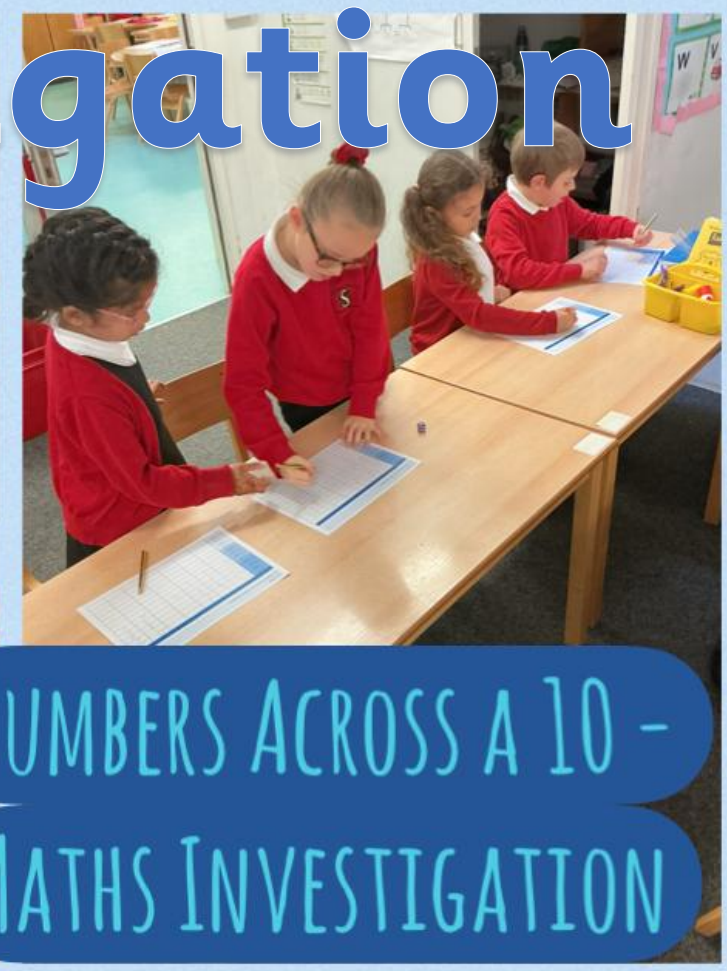
Well done, woodpeckers.

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Maths Investigation

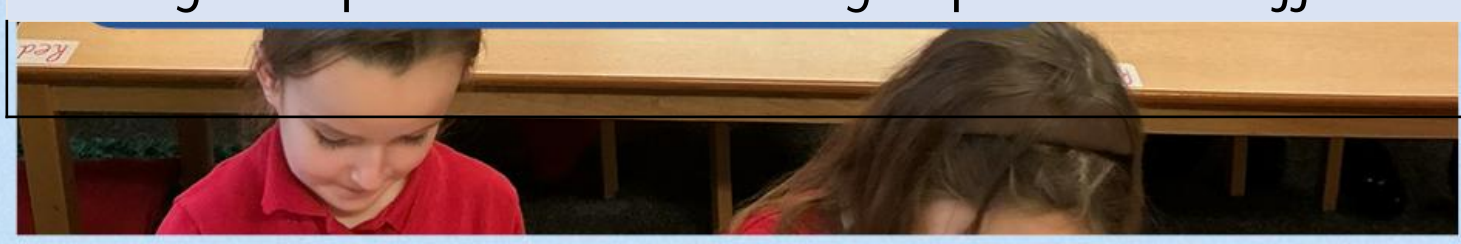








Year Two pupils have been applying their understanding of addition to solve a maths investigation. Using two, three or four rolls of a dice, they challenged themselves to make totals that bridged ten and then worked systematically to find all the possible combinations. The activity encouraged careful reasoning, problem-solving and perseverance as they explored the different possibilities.











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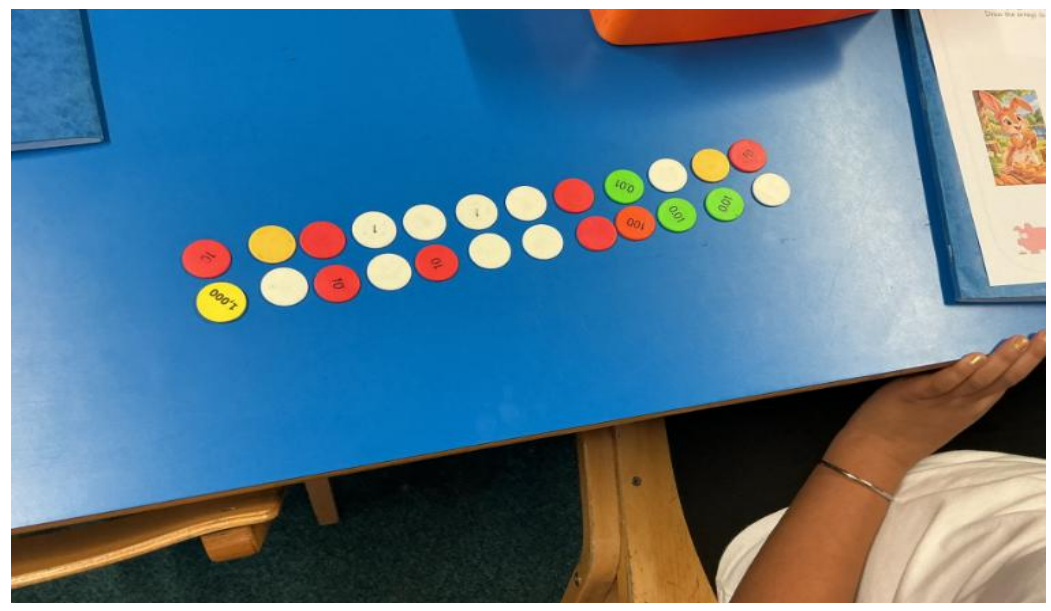
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Problem Solving in Y3

This week in Maths, Year Three pupils explored equal groups using 24 counters. They drew on their knowledge of multiplication, division, skip counting and arrays to investigate the different ways a set of objects could be shared equally. The children used their reasoning skills to explain their thinking, justify their answers and identify mathematical patterns. When faced with challenges, they showed great perseverance, using our *Have a Go Pig* learning character to encourage them to try different strategies and keep going.









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Dinosaur Experts

Pupils in Year One are really enjoying their topic, "Dinosaur Planet." This week, they worked as palaeontologists to excavate some special dinosaur eggs. The children were very excited to discover what was inside.















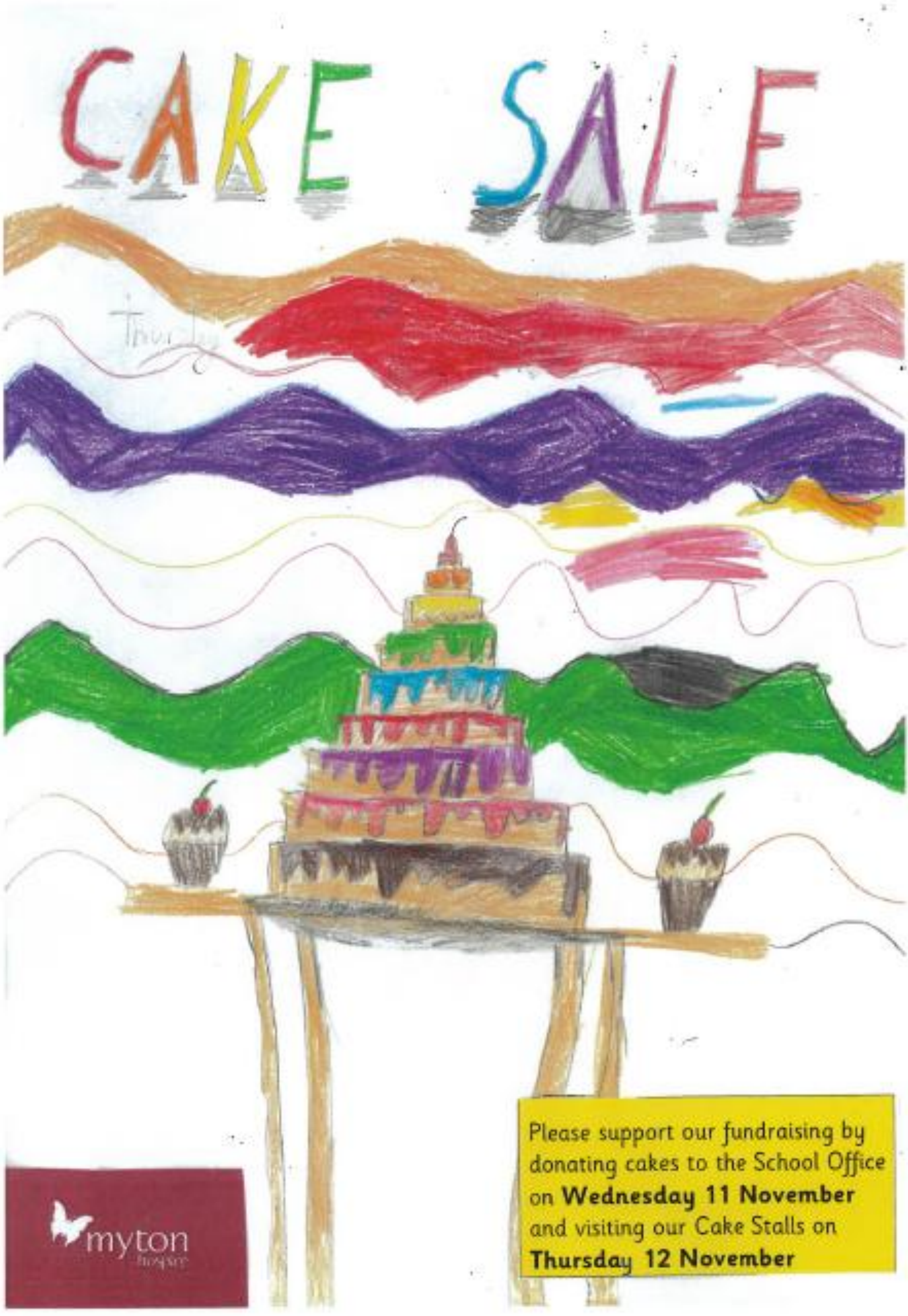








CAKE SALE



Please support our fundraising by donating cakes to the School Office on **Wednesday 11 November** and visiting our Cake Stalls on **Thursday 12 November**

myton

WARWICKSHIRE
SAFE & ACTIVE
SCHOOLS

Be Bright, Be Seen

Being visible to other road users is important all year round, whether walking, cycling, scooting or wheeling. However, it is especially important during the autumn and winter months when days are shorter and evenings longer.

We can improve our visibility and help drivers and other road users see us by wearing light, bright and fluorescent clothing or accessories in the day, and reflective clothing or accessories in the evening.

If cycling, we must make sure our bicycles have a working white front light, and red back light.

A simple message is to help us remember this is 'Be Bright Be Seen'.

Children in KS1 are invited to design an outfit for Warwick Bear to help him to 'Be Bright, Be Safe and Be Seen'. Add light, bright and reflective clothing, draw and stick on a helmet, and add anything else you think he needs.

We invite your oldest children to use all of the road safety knowledge they have gained over the years to create the ultimate safe travel outfit. Their outfit could be for walking, cycling, wheeling or rolling. We encourage creative entries. You could draw and label your outfit, dress up and have a photograph taken or create your own mini video showcasing your ideas. Any method of entry you can think of is welcome, the more creative the better.





Competition - YR/1/2

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

Strength

Each of us has a unique set of strengths and abilities that help us face life's challenges. Focusing on your strengths doesn't mean ignoring your weaknesses — it means using what you're naturally good at to help you grow, build confidence, and work through tough times. In doing so, you move closer to living a more fulfilling and resilient life.

Our Tips for strength:

1. Appreciate your strength – when you experience a difficult time, it's easy to forget how strong you are! Try and remember other times in your life when you've got through something challenging. Remember how strong you were to get through those circumstances and know you have the strength to get through other difficulties too.
2. Remind yourself "all we can do is try our best" and "you are good enough".
3. Being kind to others can help build our own strength as well as others! As a class, have a go at playing 'kindness bingo' by following the QR code:
4. Take Time to Rest and Recharge - your mind needs breaks just like your body. Take a few quiet minutes to breathe, read, draw, or go outside. That helps your brain feel strong and calm.
5. Ask for Help When You Need It - being strong doesn't mean doing everything alone. It's *smart and brave* to ask for help — that's how we grow and learn!

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.

FREE
SINGING WORKSHOP
For Children aged 5-18

6pm to 7pm for ages 5-9
7pm to 8.30pm for ages 10-18



Wednesday
25th November

St John the Baptist Church
Tachbrook Street, Leamington Spa CV31 3BN

www.warwickshireyouthchoirs.org

Registered Charity Number 1211368

Hi everyone,

We have a little treat for you!

We're offering **20% OFF selected Swim Works classes.**

If you're looking for a fun, supportive environment where your little one can build confidence, develop their swimming skills and enjoy their time in the water, now is the perfect time to book!

SWIM STARS – AVAILABLE SESSIONS

- Wednesday – 4pm
- Thursday – 4.30pm
- Friday – 3.30pm
- Friday – 5pm
- Friday – 5.30pm
- Saturday – 12pm
- Saturday – 12.30pm
- Saturday – 1pm
- Saturday – 1.30pm
- Saturday – 2pm
- Saturday – 2.30pm

Simply enter the following code when booking onto one of the selected classes:

SWIMWIN20

It's a fantastic opportunity to save while giving your little one the chance to grow in confidence, learn new skills and make a splash!

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out. Book today!

We look forward to seeing you in the pool!

CHILD FRIENDLY WARWICKSHIRE

COME AND MEET US!

SEND Help Drop-In

Kingsway Children's Centre
Baker Avenue, Leamington Spa, CV31 3HB

09:30am - 11:30am

We're here to support you!
Come along for a friendly chat, share your ideas, ask for advice or information, and find out about the resources available to you.

THURSDAY
12
NOVEMBER
2026

Co-hosted by:

WARWICKSHIRE PARENT CARER VOICE

Free to come and go as you please

Join us for a cuppa and biscuit

Come for a chat, advice or signposting

Resources available

Different organisations and professionals joining us:

- SENDIAS
- Family Information Service (FIS)
- Early Support
- Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice
- DWP
- and many more.

More Information
01926 41 41 44

Warwickshire County Council

St Mary's Church
LEAMINGTON SPA

Encountering God Rooted in Christ Transforming Lives



For unto us a child is born!



Sunday 13th Dec at 6.30pm
St. Mary's Carol Service
Carols by Candlelight & Mince Pies

Thursday 24th December at 4pm
Christingle Service

Friday 25th December at 10.30am
Christmas Day All-Age Service
with Holy Communion

St Mary's Church

LEAMINGTON SPA

Encountering God Rooted in Christ Transforming Lives

For unto us a child is born!



Christingle Service

Thursday 24th December

at 4pm

NURTURE

PARENT TODDLER GROUP

St Mary's Church
LEAMINGTON SPA

A church run parent and toddler group with café style stay-and-play. Includes a 5 minute thought for the day.

When? Wednesday's 9.15-10.45, term time
Where? St Mary's Church, Leamington
Who? Parents & carers with their 0-4s
How much? £3 per family



Starting Wednesday 2nd December

ELEVATE YOUTH

NEON PARTY

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

7PM-9PM

SCHOOL YEARS 6-10

£1 DONATION
WEAR WHITE
OR NEON

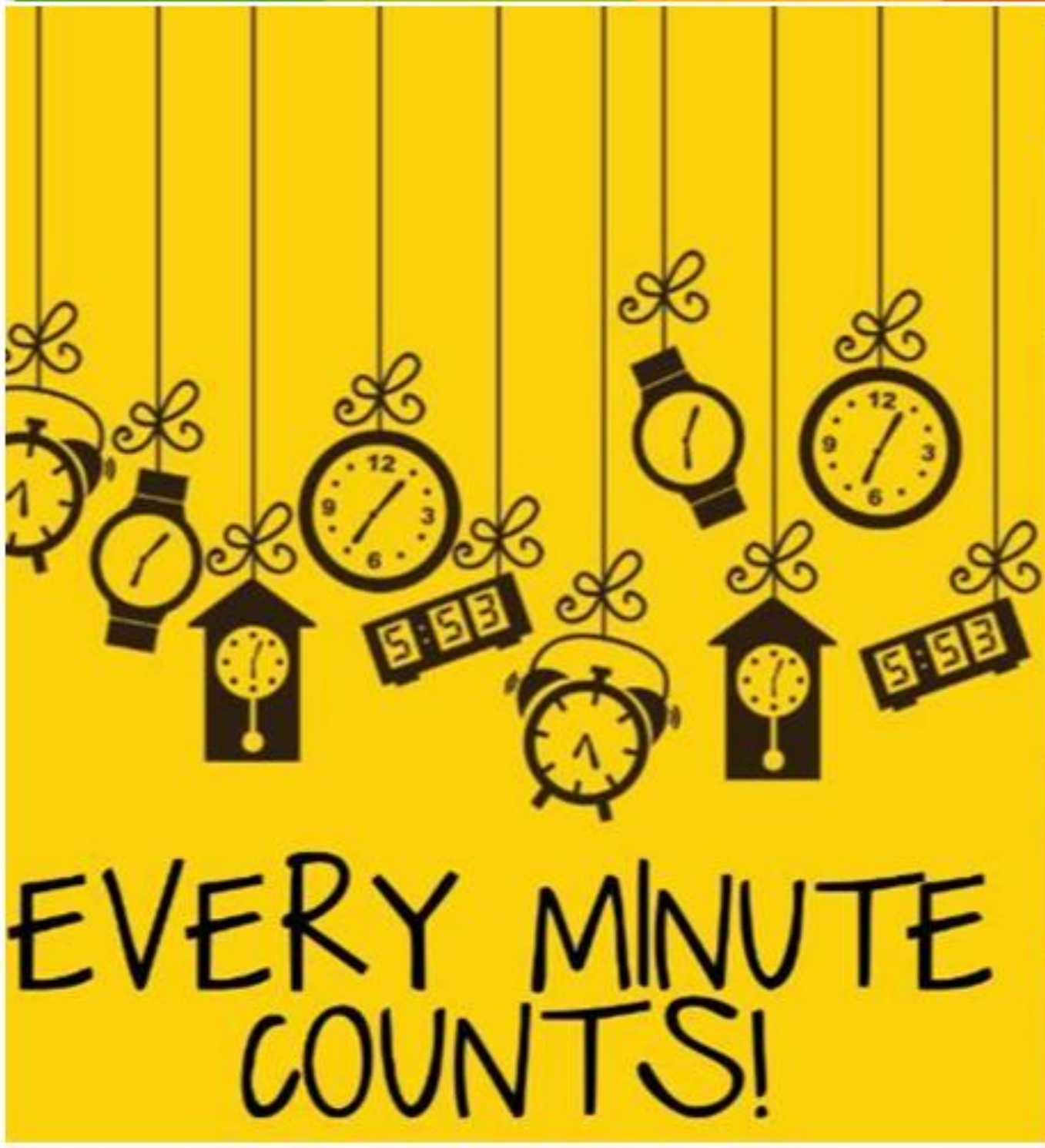
PIZZA
GAMES
Wii
KAREOKE
MUSIC
DISCOVER GOD

SIGN UP BY 5TH NOVEMBER
SCAN HERE

Life COMMUNITY CHURCH

Email: kids@life-cc.org
Instagram: @lifecchurchuk
Facebook:lifecchurchuk





MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES PER DAY =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES PER DAY =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES PER DAY =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES PER DAY =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES PER DAY =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

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**

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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

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

BHLC

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

Diary Dates

Thursday 12th November	**Cake sale in aid of Myton Hospice**
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 25th 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 8th 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.

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—Friday1st 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.)

Diary Dates

Sydenham Superstars



Reception & Key Stage One



Key Stage Two