



Roots that strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

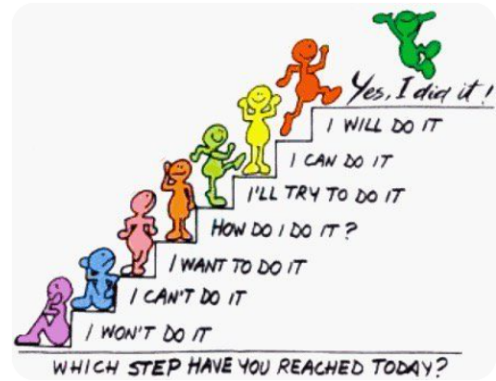
Fruit that flourishes.



## Spring 1 Newsletter




Dear Parents,

This term we have been focusing on trying to be the best we can, in all we do. I have spoken to the children in our assemblies or when I have visited them in class about wanting to see them flourish in their work, moving from an attitude of thinking they can't do something to confidently saying out loud, "Yes, I did it!"



To do this they need to adopt the thinking behind our vision, that they build on what they already know (the roots that strengthen), apply it to their new learning (the branches that reach) so that they can have success in their work (fruit that flourishes).

We have had a particular focus on writing, and it has been great to see so many children make accelerated progress in their presentation and composition over the term. Their individual writing targets and Home Learning tasks have certainly helped contribute to this success but so too has a shift in attitude from many of the children who are now more willing to try and be more independent in their learning and take individual responsibility for what to do.

	<b>Handwriting</b> Formation & Size Joined Neatness
	<b>Grammar</b> Correct verb Tenses Conjunctions
	<b>Sentence make sense</b> Does it sound right? Should it be re-phrased? Is it about the topic?



It was great to have parents join Ms Gurga and I for the Home Learning Parent Session on Zoom. We would like to thank the parents who have, when and where they can, supported their children with their Home Learning tasks. This helps them see that school and home are working together and we notice the difference in the classroom when this happens.

Despite the challenges and disruption that two weeks of COVID-related absence, both staff and pupil, has had on the middle of term, we have finished Spring 1 as strongly as we started and look forward to building on this momentum after the break.

Have a lovely holiday.

Andrew Denham

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# 50 Things To Do

Our '50 Things to do before you leave Standlake Primary School' is an ongoing curriculum project aimed at enhancing and enriching the children's curriculum experiences and creating happy, lasting memories. We want our '50 Things...' to engage the children in a wide variety of activities and to broaden their horizons and enable them to become more AMBITIOUS, RESILIENT and CONSIDERATE. We also hope our TERRIFIC TOP TEN increases their cultural knowledge and understanding, while our JUST FOR FUN activities are a reminder that life is to be enjoyed along the way! Here are the '50 Things...' the children have done this term...

## ECO FRIENDLY

Improve the local environment



## SOLVE IT

Complete a problem solving challenge



## BOOK WORM

Read a classic book



## KINGS AND QUEENS

Name 10 kings and queens



## House Point Treat

Congratulations to Magdalen House who earned the most House Point this term. They were rewarded with a donut treat! Congratulations also go to Sophie, Marley, George, Ferris, Elleni and Rosie who were the individual 'Chosen Ones' from other houses, chosen because they have shown their teacher a consistent level of hard work and good behaviour all term. Well done to all of you!



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### Our Assembly Topics & Themes this Term

## MARVELOUS MONDAY

This term we have been focusing on the story of Joseph and reflecting on the things that happened to him and how they relate (or not) to our school values. We also thought about how we can apply some of the lessons learnt from this story to our lives



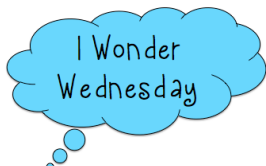
### Colossians 3: 12-15

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must **clothe yourselves** with **compassion**, kindness, gentleness, and patience.

Be **tolerant** with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must **forgive** one another just as the Lord has forgiven you.

And to all these qualities add **love**, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decision you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in one body. And be **thankful**.



Our Wonder Wednesday Assemblies have been a great opportunity to think about national and international topics of the moment. These are the themes we have covered this term...



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## Murphy

Our topic this term- Terrific Transport- has allowed us to go on many imaginative journeys and explore different modes of transport. We began the term by looking at trains and going on a 'train ride' around Standlake before catching a ride on a naughty bus. We took the naughty bus for a journey around the classroom where he got up to lots of mischief and we made some creative stories with super descriptive vocabulary.

After learning all about George Stephenson and his famous invention, The Rocket, we designed and made our very own modes of transport using junk modelling. We made space rockets, flying boats, floating helicopters with skis and many more creative vehicles! As The Rocket was a fast locomotive we decided to test different materials to see which material would make our trains travel further and faster. We tested everything from paper and light material to our winter coats and a bath mat and discovered some interesting results.



## Donaldson Class

In Donaldson class, we really enjoyed our key text this term – The Tin Forest. We wrote some amazing leaflets persuading people to visit the forest, along with a beautiful setting description of the creatures and plants that you would find there. Living Things has been our topic in Science and we have learnt about the 7 life processes, as well as how to construct a food chain. Our 50 Things challenge this term also got us thinking about the natural world around us. We were tasked with improving our local environment, so we decided to tidy up the playground by picking litter and leaves before planting some wildflower seeds that we will nurture in our classroom until the weather warms up. We can't wait for that!



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## Blake Class

Frozen Planet has been Blake Class's fabulous topic this term. We have compared Antarctica with the Arctic, researched animals that live in these regions and learned all about Sir Ernest Shackleton's attempts to reach the South Pole, focussing particularly on his leadership skills. We also made our own dioramas of a polar region. In Science we have classified materials into their states based on their properties, learned about the behaviour of particles in different states and carried out some exciting experiments about the water cycle.

We enjoyed our English lessons based on 'The Snow Queen' by Hans Christian Andersen; most of us loved acting out parts of the story. We wrote our own character descriptions about the Snow Queen and, thinking about Kai being whisked away by the evil queen, we also wrote a balanced argument on whether 'Children should be allowed to play outside without an adult'. In computing we learned about Stop Motion and had a go at creating our own series of still images to exhibit motion.



## Dahl Class

We have had a lovely term in Dahl class learning all about Frozen Planet. In English we have been writing narratives based on the Snow Queen and created our very own balanced argument about climate change. We had great fun debating with our classmates on given topics such as deforestation.



In science we have been learning about states of matter and carried out a variety of experiments. We even had a little dance and singalong to help us remember what happens in the water cycle! In Geography we have been locating the polar regions, looking at how animals are adapted to live in those cold conditions, as well as investigating the potential impact the melting of the polar ice caps would have on planet Earth. We learnt all about Ernest Shackleton's attempts to reach the South Pole and how his leadership skills were effective during his expeditions. This linked with DT nicely, as we were able to make explorer cookies! Not so sure on the taste though...



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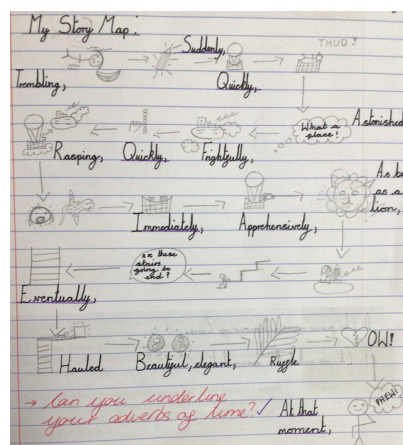
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## Morpurgo Class

What a fantastic term this has been in Morpurgo! Because our termly topic was Lands End to John O' Groats, we focused on the picture book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker to inspire our writing. We wrote the most creative and exciting narratives about part of the journey the character embarked on which we can relate back to our geography unit of 'a journey' across the U.K. I have been so impressed with the ambitious vocabulary and language features the children have been using in their work!

In maths, children have been consolidating their knowledge of equivalent fractions and have been applying it to subtract and develop problem solving skills. Children have thoroughly enjoyed art, where they have explored city and landscapes, creating perspective with lines and colour. In Science, we have learnt all about electricity and have planned and executed our own science experiments. In R.E, we have read and analysed the meaning of stories, particularly from The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book, and how the messages can be enjoyed and applied by all. Geography has taken us all over the U.K where children have developed map-reading and compass skills.



## Shakespeare Class

Shakespeare Class have travelled from 'Lands End to John O' Groats' in this term's topic, as we have learnt about the regions, cities, land uses and topography of the UK. Our topic has also allowed us to learn how to navigate with a compass (mostly accurately!) and use an OS map to plan a walking route.

Aaron Becker's wonderful picture book *Journey* has inspired our flashback writing and newspaper reports, whilst in science we have been experimenting with circuits, culminating in planning, completing and evaluating our own investigations.

As always, Mrs. Abraham has inspired us in our artwork – our cityscape silhouettes were a particular favourite. Finally, in RE we have had many thought-provoking discussions around eternity and whether anything lasts forever.



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## Achievement Book

The following children have shown particularly impressive attitude in school this term...

### MURPHY

- Cass For consistently being ready and eager to learn.  
Oliver For a great can-do attitude to learning this week.  
Aidan For his consistent hard work and determination in all areas of learning.  
Patrick For consistently working hard and sharing his knowledge of the world around him.  
Florence For always showing she is ready to learn.  
Albie For demonstrating good learning behaviours and trying hard in all areas.  
William For super effort in both home learning and in class.

### DONALDSON

- Arthur For really challenging himself  
Nancy For trying hard to do her best in all subjects (with a brilliant light bulb moment in maths!)  
James For trying hard to focus in lessons and produce the right quantity and quality of work  
Charlie For working hard in phonics and putting effort into his written work  
Mari For starting tasks straight away and working independently this week  
River For always trying his best and really caring about his work  
Arlowe For showing courage and resilience in his friendships

### BLAKE

- Kaleb For showing he is ready to learn & having the courage to read the first paragraph of 'The Snow Queen' aloud  
Jasmine For always being ready to learn and making super progress in Maths and English  
Elias For showing that he is ready to learn and for super independent work  
Kitty For her positive approach to home learning especially her video explaining the water cycle  
Elleni For always showing excellent behaviours for learning even when her teacher is on a screen!  
Annie For her mature approach to learning at home - being on time for all of our meets and submitting some excellent work  
Ella For coming back to school with a big smile and showing fantastic behaviours for learning

### DAHL

- Scout For an excellent start to the new term. Showing a real willingness to learn  
Sophia For consistently having a positive attitude to learning and ensuring her work is always presented beautifully  
Freddie For outstanding effort and determination to do well in all his learning this week  
Frederick For consistently showing me he is ready to learn and taking pride in all the work he produces  
Olivia For showing a great deal of compassion and having such a positive attitude  
Oscar For impressing me so much with his passion for learning this week in all subjects

### MORPURGO

- Archie For having a great attitude and always being ready to learn  
Laycie For being ready to learn and having an amazing attitude to her learning  
Chloe For her kindness, attitude and being such a pleasure to have in class  
Milo For acting on feedback, working hard on his targets in class and showing enthusiasm across his learning in class.  
Sammi For always contributing to lessons in class  
Darragh For having a fantastic attitude towards all your learning

### SHAKESPEARE

- Milly For excellent focus and willingness to share her ideas this week.  
Esme For her fantastic attitude and desire to learn this week  
Jake For his hard work and determination in all of this week's learning  
Jack For brilliant work in this week's assessments, making huge improvements on last term's scores  
Athena For her 'can do' attitude and positive approach to this week's learning  
Niall For fantastic engagement in his home learning, and producing a high standard of work  
Emilia For her desire to do well, improve her work and always actively engaging in all of our learning

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The following children have shown some great writing skills this term...

### MURPHY

- Rupert For wonderful CVC word writing  
Albie For superb sentences in phonics  
Ezra For using his sounds to segment words for writing.  
Beatrice For superb CVC writing and challenging herself to write a sentence.  
Aidan For working really hard on his letter formations and handwriting  
Oliver For using his sounds to segment words for writing  
Cass For great improvement in handwriting.

### DONALDSON

- Martha For really trying hard on her writing focus this week and writing some great questions  
Beth For working hard on her spelling and making great progress with her writing  
Ava For writing creative sentences about the Tin Forest  
Gabe For working hard on his handwriting this term and producing a great leaflet about the Tin Forest  
Oliver For some excellent work on adverbs and alliteration this week  
George For amazing effort on his setting description, taking the initiative to improve his work  
Arthur L For a wonderful, 3 verse poem about the Tin Forest

### BLAKE

- Ella For using ambitious word choices to describe the troll  
Sienna For her use of subordinating clauses to describe the Snow Queen  
Fin C For making independent choices to combine different features in his writing  
Luis For responding to feedback to improve his writing  
Tilly For showing good progress in her writing when analysing Shackleton's leadership skills  
Kaleb For working hard on planning and drafting a balanced argument  
Lily For her honest and mature approach to working on her writing targets

### DAHL

- Breanna For great input in our features lesson this week. Constantly challenging herself  
Frederick For going above & beyond with his SPAG lessons, constantly up levelling to ensure his writing is of a high standard  
Ruby Impressing me so much with the first draft of her adventure story on the Snow Queen  
Jessica Great input during our class debates on climate change and gathering nice research to back up points raised  
Jack For excelling in his handwriting this week! Amazing progress  
Mara-Jade For working super hard on her writing target, producing a lovely balanced argument on climate change

### MORPURGO

- Chloe For being ambitious in your learning  
Autumn For a great independent setting description. You used amazing vocabulary!  
Olivia For great presentation and quality of work  
Eliza For working hard on her handwriting & a great explanation why we use apostrophes & when not to use them  
Milo For working hard on your presentation in all subjects  
Rosie For fantastic progress on your writing targets and never giving up

### SHAKESPEARE

- Marley For immediately working hard on his writing target this week  
Yilin For working really hard to include her writing target in all of her work this week  
Anna For a fantastic piece of writing in her flashback narrative - the best she has ever done!  
Niall For producing the best piece of writing he has ever written in his flashback narrative on Friday!  
Grace For writing an excellent instruction text with Mrs Abraham this week.  
Kate For writing an excellent plan for her science experiment this week  
Maira For her huge improvement in all aspects of her writing this term.

Wonderful Writers



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The following children have shown some excellent maths work this term...

### MURPHY

Florence For a great understanding of zero

Axel S For great number recognition

William For great use of mathematical language when comparing numbers.

Lottie For wonderful independent addition work

Lucy-Marie For great independent addition work and challenging herself during maths.

Gracie For wonderful addition work using ten frames.

Thomas For great work on measuring mass and discussing heavier and lighter.

### DONALDSON

Seb For responding to marking

Robyn For writing her own careful clues in maths

Nancy For working accurately and neatly

Mari For great work on ordinal numbers

Arthur For super maths work showing numbers in different ways

Finley For some great addition and subtraction work this week

Shannon-Rose For some great work on fractions this week

### BLAKE

Annie For thoughtful and thorough responses to her Maths marking

Lily For making great progress with using the column method for addition

Miley For her focus and determination to learn the column method for subtraction.... with exchange!

Rosie For her positive attitude to practising her strategies and making good progress

Ezra For his clear and confident explanations of how to multiply 2-digits by 1-digit

Elias For working independently on applying his 2 times table knowledge

Finley for working hard on his learning about time

### DAHL

Jude For trying his absolute best with subtraction, getting all his answers correct

Rhys For fantastic work on multiplication. Trying out different methods & really challenging himself

Kyrah For putting that problem solving head on and cracking column multiplication

Oscar For having that can do attitude, especially this week looking at decimals

Ciara For trying so hard with perimeter and area this week, having that can do attitude

Ferris For Fantastic engagement with home learning on quadrilaterals and lines of symmetry

### MORPURGO

Olivia For great understanding and perseverance with angles

Chloe For persevering with measuring angles

Freddie For applying your understanding of multiples to your learning.

Sammi For great understanding of multiplication and division and being resilient in her learning

Lucy For working hard while learning about volume calculations

Autumn For great understanding working with fractions

### SHAKESPEARE

Jack. For fantastic focus & determination during our lesson on equivalent fractions & excellent behaviour for learning.

Ava For consistently impressing me with her understanding of fractions this week

Kassia For brilliant work calculating with fractions this week

Abi For her brilliant result in this week's assessments, making a significant improvement on last term

Kasper For super work on multiplication and division this week, including with decimals

Louie For excellent work converting imperial and metric measures this week

Cameron For an excellent improvement in his arithmetic scores recently, carefully applying what he has learned in class

Marvellous Mathematicians



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## Reading Achievements



These children have read 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 or 150 times since the start of term...

**MURPHY:** 25 reads: Lucy-Marie 50 reads: / 75 reads: Albie 100 reads: Gracie  
125 reads: Erges, Axel, Sylvie, Lottie, William 150 reads: Beatrice, Ezra, Aiden

**DONALDSON:** 25 reads: / 50 reads: Hayden 75 reads: Beth 100 reads: Arthur  
P, James, Seb, Mari, Henry, Robyn, Layla, Kyle, Ava 125 reads: Eadie, Nancy,  
Lena, Ella, Oliver, Arthur L 150 reads: George, Martha, Arlowe, River, Finley


**BLAKE:** 25 reads: / 50 reads: Jasmine 75 reads: Rosie, Fin, Ella, Emilee 100  
reads: Luis, Sienna 125 reads: Ezra, Alexander 150 reads: /

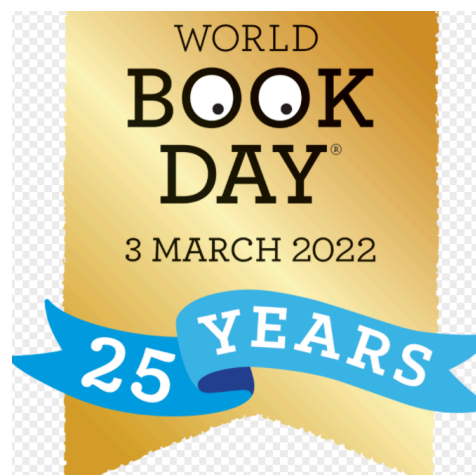
**DAHL:** 25 reads: / 50 reads: Jude, Finn, Benjamin 75 reads: Ferris, Olivia,  
Benjamin, William, Jessica 100 reads: Frederick, Scout 125 reads: Aaron, Rhys  
150 reads: Oscar, Mara-Jade

**MORPURGO:** 25 reads: Eliza 50 reads: / 75 reads: Lucy 100 reads: Darragh  
125 reads: Grace, Rosie, Freddie 150 reads: /

**SHAKESPEARE:** 25 reads: / 50 reads: / 75 reads: Jake, Louie 100 reads:  
Kassia, Abi, Maira 125 reads: Niall, Kate 150 reads: Grace

The **MORE** that you  
**READ**, the more things  
you will **KNOW**.  
The **MORE** that you  
**Learn**, the more places  
you'll **GO**.

 Quality Standard



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## Attendance so far this year... (as of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February)

**EVERY**  
SCHOOL DAY  
**COUNTS**

Year Group	Whole Class Average Attendance*	Number of children with less than 90% attendance**	Unauthorised Absence*** (days learning lost)
Reception	95.5%	2	21
1	95.8%	1	12
2	96.2%	1	6
3	94.1%	5	15
4	93.7%	5	20.5
5	95.2%	2	6
6	94.9%	4	6.5
<b>School</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>174 days lost</b>

\* The government has indicated that 97% attendance is satisfactory

\*\* COVID isolation/illness has contributed to a lower-than-normal average attendance percentage this year.

\*\*\*Holidays during term time, parents' not explaining absence, request for absence for other reasons declined

**These children have not missed any school since the start of the year:**

**MURPHY:** Aiden, Ergi, Ezra and Beatrice

**DONALDSON:** Charlie, Hayden, James, Beth & Sienna

**BLAKE:** Elleni, Luis, Finley, Jasmine, Kaleb & Reilly

**DAHL:** Frederick & Jessica,

**MORPURGO:** Grace, Milo & Autumn-Elise

**SHAKESPEARE:** Kasper, Milly & Grace



**Well done!**

Well done to this Year 6 pupil who raised £110.85 for the Alzheimer's Society. She decided to organise and run a cake sale after school. The cakes were so delicious there wasn't a single one left! She is a wonderful example of someone 'living' our school values in all their fulness.



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## Key Dates

### TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

#### SPRING TERM 2022

**Term 4:** 28<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> April (1.15pm finish)

**Easter Holidays:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April

#### SUMMER TERM 2021

**INSET Day:** 25<sup>th</sup> April

**INSET Day:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**Term 5:** 26<sup>th</sup> April – 27<sup>th</sup> May

**Summer Half Term:** 28<sup>th</sup> May 5<sup>th</sup> June

**Term 6:** 6<sup>th</sup> June – 20<sup>th</sup> July (1.15pm finish)

**EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY:** 4<sup>th</sup> July

### Term 3 Dates for your Diaries

**28<sup>th</sup> February:** Term Starts

**3<sup>rd</sup> March:** World Book Day

**14<sup>th</sup> March:** Boccia Tournament  
U11 Bee Netball Tournament

**21/22 March:** Year Parents Meetings  
(Time slots will be available in Term 3)

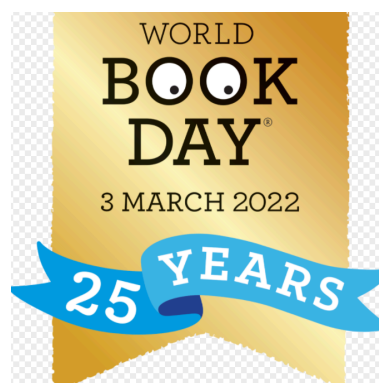
**w/b 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 6 Residential Week  
Nursery – Year 5 Parents Meetings

**6<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 6 Transition Day  
Y3/4 Rugby Festival. *Details to follow.*  
SEND Pupils Parents Meetings  
(Parents will be contacted directly)

**8<sup>th</sup> April:** Easter Service at St Giles Church



We are delighted to announce that the Young Voices Concert (for Year3-6) has been rescheduled for **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**. If you did not sign your child up for this the first time round, please contact the office and we will try to organise a ticket for them. Young Voices is an incredible event that will be something your child will never forget!



We will be celebrating World Book Day being inspired by the books the children's class is named after:

Nursery & Reception: **Jill Murphy**

Year 1&2: **Julia Donaldson**

Year 3: **Quentin Blake**

Year 4: **Roald Dahl**

Year 5: **Michael Morpurgo**

Year 6: **William Shakespeare**

We would love it if the children could dress up as a character from one of their class authors books.

We will also be holding an 'Extreme Reading' competition. To enter the competition the children need to have a photo taken of them reading a book in a strange or extreme place. They will need to bring the photo in (no bigger than A5) by 3<sup>rd</sup> March.



**Year 6 Residential:** We currently have **£3,665** of outstanding payments for the residential. Please could parents pay some more of their balance over half term.

**Swimming:** We currently have a shortfall of **£195** of contributions towards our weekly swimming for children in Year 4, 5 & 6. If your child is attending swimming, please could you consider contributing via ParentPay



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