

Roots that Strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that Flourishes.



## Spring Newsletter



Think before you speak. Read before you think.

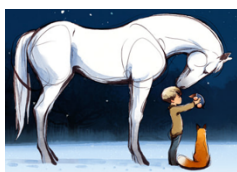
- Fran Lebowitz

Dear Parents,



The author Fran Lebowitz's words are a reminder of the power of books and the positive affect they can have on what we say and think. Dr Seuss said, '**The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go**'. These are some of the reasons we celebrate the number of reads children have done since the start of the year in our Achievement Assembly and in this newsletter.

We want next term's World Book Day to have more of a focus on the joy, pleasure and learning to be had from reading, rather than just dressing up. On the next page Mrs Fleet has outlined what we would like the children to do and half-term would be a good time to start getting ready.



I am particularly pleased to see that Morpurgo and Shakespeare Class will be looking at *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*. This is such a beautiful book with its wonderful illustrations and profound words of reflection and advice.

In a world where there sadly appears to be increasing emotional upset, anger and angst, this book should be on free prescription to us all, from world leaders to children and everyone in-between! And it is free online!

Just imagine what our local, national and global community would be like if we held in our mind the aspiration of the boy when asked by the mole what he would like to be when he grows up...

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"



"Kind" said the boy

A book can be an imaginative escape, a fountain of knowledge, a mine of information, a challenge to our thinking or an encouragement in times of difficulty. Why not use this half term to have another read of a book that stirred something inside you or try something new and different or...as the mole said, 'Eat Cake'!

"Well hello"



Have a wonderful half term.

Andrew Denham

## World Book Day Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

We are excited to let you know that we are making a few changes to World Book Day this year. We will not be dressing up! Instead, all children will be invited to create their own 'Story Bag' for a book that they have read and loved. We will be sending more details out during the first week back, but if you want to get started during the school holidays, your child could start to gather or make objects linked with their own chosen book. Here are a few examples...



On World Book Day itself each class will have a book quiz based on a book chosen by their class teacher. Children will be participating within their house teams. All books are available online; however you may choose to buy the book to share with your child during the holidays or borrow it from the library or a friend.

Class	Book & Author	Free Online link
<b>Nursery and Murphy</b>	The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkYmvxPOAJI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkYmvxPOAJI</a>
<b>Donaldson</b>	The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson	<a href="https://www.openschoolbilingue.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/The_Snail_and_the_Whale_-_Donaldson_Julia.pdf">https://www.openschoolbilingue.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/The_Snail_and_the_Whale_-_Donaldson_Julia.pdf</a>
<b>Dahl</b>	Billy and the Minpins by Roald Dahl	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U70n1hRyL2A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U70n1hRyL2A</a>
<b>Morpurgo and Shakespeare</b>	The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse By Charlie Mackesy	Type <b>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse PDF</b> into Google and get the whole book

Happy reading!  
Mrs Fleet, English Lead

### Cross Country Finals

Well done to all of our cross-country runners who took part in the West Oxfordshire County Finals. We are proud of every single one of you, especially the way you supported each other throughout each other's races.



### Dare to be Different

Thank you, FOSS, for organising our Dare to be Different Day – celebrating everything that makes us different. Alongside their normal school uniform, the children had temporary hair colour, nail varnish, face paint, favourite shoes, silly hats, crazy tights and socks & temporary tattoos. The staff joined in too!



We finished the term with the children undertaking 'Taskmaster' challenges including: fill a bowl with objects for every letter of the alphabet; furthest paper aeroplane wins (it's surprising how many children don't know how to make one!!); blow up a balloon as big as you dare while blindfolded; move skittles from one bowl to another the quickest; move the most fluffy balls from one hoop to another in under a minute while blindfolded and paint a picture of cat while blindfolded!



## Nursery Class



**Mrs List writes:** Wow, what an amazing first term we have had. The children have settled brilliantly into their new classroom and have really enjoyed exploring all the new resources and equipment. Our topic was 'Nursery Rhymes' and we began the term learning and singing '1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive'. We chose to read the story 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister which is a beautifully illustrated book that tells the story of sharing and friendships. The children really enjoyed the book and we talked a lot about sharing and what being a good friend meant, we even went on to create our own list of classroom rules that would make us feel happy and safe at school.

After spending the 2nd week singing 'Hickory Dickory Dock', creating wonderful clocks and mice and reading 'The Growing Story' by Ruth Krauss we started week 3 with 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'. We read the book 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers which tells the story of a little boy who tries many different ways to catch his own star. The children enjoyed creating their own stars using lots of different materials and we decorated the classroom with them and even tried to catch some of our own! All of these lovely nursery rhymes have supported our phonics work where we have been learning about and trying to spot rhyming words. We have played lots of fun rhyming games and even made up our own funny rhyming words.

In maths we have been practicing lots of counting and have been learning to recognise numerals 1-5. We have had great fun using the number stamps in the play dough and also hunting for numbers in the space themed 'gloop'. When making our clocks we talked about all the different 2D shapes we could see and counted how many sides each of them had.

Outside we have had a great time practicing our balancing on the scooters and on the balancing beams.

## Nursery Sessions

We are in the process of organising our nursery sessions for the summer term, starting 16 April 2024, and ask that all parents complete the Google form for their preferred nursery sessions in the summer term. The nursery will be running 5 days a week, school term time only. As the nursery operates on a primary school site so we need to limit the drop-off and pick up times, to work around our school day. This means we will not be able to accommodate pick-up or drop offs outside of these times. Parents will be able to choose from the following session times (to build their hours they require):

**8.00-8.45am    8.45-11.45am    11.45am-3.15pm    3.15-4.15pm    4.15-5.00pm**

Please complete this [Nursery Sessions Google Form](#) even if there is no change, to indicate the sessions you would like your child to attend. *We will always try to meet your request but there are sometimes rare occasions when, due to staff ratios, we cannot provide all the sessions you need.*

Please could all parents ensure that they have completed the form by **Friday 9 February**.

## Murphy Class



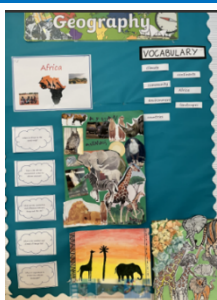
**Mrs Harrison writes:** This term has *flown* by, especially as our topic has been 'Travel and Transport'. We began our topic talking about special journeys and travelling from place to place. We used a book called Journey by Aaron Becker. It is an amazing book, where the pictures tell the story as there are no words! The children were totally engrossed and were very excited to tell the story as we turned the pages. In the book, the girl has a red crayon which she draws with, and the things become real. We had lots of fun talking about what we would draw to make it become real. In one part of the story the girl draws a door on her wall and steps into a different world. One morning, the children arrived at school to find a red doorway on the wall in our classroom and were excited to imagine where it might lead to. We used all these fantastic ideas to create a story planner. Once our planners were complete, the children worked hard to write their own stories. I was amazed by some of their brilliant ideas and wonderful writing.

We continued our learning by finding out about lots of different types of transport, splitting them into land, air and water vehicles. Again, we have used some brilliant stories to support our topic such as *The Hundred Decker Bus*, *Mr Gumpy's Outing*, *The Train Ride* and *Emma Jane's Aeroplane*. The children have loved building and creating lots of different vehicles, particularly with the large equipment outside, building on a large scale so they can get inside! We have also been singing lots of different transport themed songs. The children loved listening to The Wellerman sea shanty, and we have been learning our own version. The children's phonics learning is going from strength to strength, with children building their reading fluency through regular practise. Most children are now confidently reading four sound words and know all their Set 1 'special friends'. Children are also able to use their skill of 'Fred talking' to tackle writing some longer words and are building a bank of 'red words' they can write.

In Maths, we have been learning all about 6 and 7. The children have identified one more and one less using a number track and can spot missing numbers, explaining how they know the missing number. They are skilled at partitioning 6 and 7 and use this knowledge to help solve addition and subtraction problems.

<p>The MORE that you read, the MORE things you will know. The MORE that you LEARN, the MORE places you'll go.</p>	Reads since September	Children
	25	Kydan, Remy, Asa, Arthur
	50	Ted
	75	Spencer, Juniper
	100	Joey, Brooke, Freya, Chloe, Finley,
	125	Eve, Harvey, Dottie, Evie, Isobel

## Donaldson Class



**Miss Morton writes:** This term's topic 'Africa' has been very exciting. We have immersed ourselves into deepening our geographical knowledge of Africa as well as learning about the 'Big Five' animals and how they adapt to the African environment in comparison to the UK. We have used our learning from Term 1 to compare the environment and daily life in Africa to the United Kingdom. We have had some fantastic 'Home Learning' this term where children have been researching about Africa. Some children researched about life in Kenya, others learnt about African wildlife.

Throughout the term, Mrs Kinchin has helped us learn about African art. We started the term practising different African patterns, then built on this by creating African sunsets using paint and African masks.

In English and Phonics, we have been inspired by the stories *Handa's Surprise* and *The Hunter*. These different stories have helped us practise identifying and using adjectives in our writing, conjunctions, and similes to write setting and character descriptions. We finished the term by planning and rewriting the story of *Handa's Surprise*.

Earlier in the term, we had a wonderful time learning with our grown-ups during the Open Classroom morning. We taught them about the 'tion' sound and then practised putting some longer 'tion' words into sentences.

In Science, we started the term by learning the difference between flowering and non-flowering plants. We walked around the school and identified any plants that may flower in the upcoming months. Following on from this, Year 1 have been able to identify the different parts of the plant whilst Year 2 built on this and explained the job each part must allow the plant to grow healthily. We finished the term by planting some seeds. Each table will have the responsibility to look after their plant next term.

In Maths, we have been building on our number knowledge by identifying equal groups, then using this to write multiplication and division number sentences. After this, we sorted between different and notes and discussed the value of money.

Well done to all the children who have accessed Numbots and TT Rockstars this term. This is a fantastic resource to practise number fluency which helps the children with their learning in class. The children have particularly enjoyed receiving their Numbots certificates each week.

	Reads since September	Children
	25	Max, Edith, Evelyn, Evie Mae
	50	Ezra, Molly, Rupert, Axel, Gracie
	100	Sophie, Lottie, Patrick
	125	Felix, Sylvie, Beatrice, Ori, Seren, Thomas
	150	Aidan, Ergi, William

## Dahl Class



**Mrs Conroy and Mrs Fleet write:** This term's topic, *'Frozen Planet'* has been interesting and thought-provoking. We have learned about the differences between the Arctic and Antarctica (including strategies to remember which is which!). We loved learning about different animals from the polar regions and hope that some of our parents enjoyed helping us with our research during Open Classroom morning. Some of us have been inspired to pursue our own adventures when learning about polar explorers, including Robert Scott.

On the first day of term, we were shocked to discover that a mischievous troll was in our classroom, where he dropped his magic mirror (poor Mrs Moore was very shaken by the crash). Using the description of the troll to guide us, we have worked hard on our character descriptions of the Snow Queen. We are all extremely proud of our writing and have made fantastic progress.

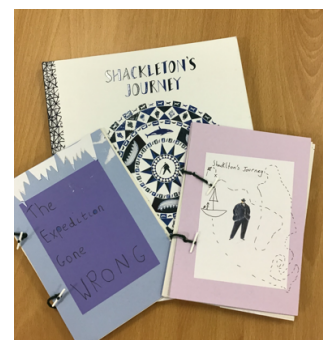
Our Science topic this term has been all about ROCKS! We were very lucky to have Mr Apps (a friend of Mrs Fleet), who is a geologist, visit us during our first lesson. His visit sparked our fascination and enthusiasm for finding rocks and sharing our own collections with the class. We have enjoyed exploring many questions about rocks such as *'Are rocks alive?'* and have developed our knowledge and understanding of many areas related to rocks, including fossils, dinosaurs and soil.

In RE we have been reflecting on our own experiences of sharing and linking this with the faith of Sikhism. We have learned about Gurus and their duties, and the two main festivals celebrated by Sikhs: Bandi Chhor Divas and Vaisakhi.

Thanks to Mrs Lee's boundless enthusiasm and creativity, we have once again produced some ambitious, eye-catching pieces of artwork – all linked with our Frozen Planet topic.

	Reads since September	Children
	25	Max, Edith, Evelyn, Evie Mae
	50	Hayden, Robyn, Arthur P
	75	Immi, Seb, Arthur L, Kyle, Layla, Ava, Shannon Rose, Isaac
	100	George, Lexi, Lena, Jenna, Mari,
	125	Martha, Nancy, River
	150	Finley

## Morpurgo Class



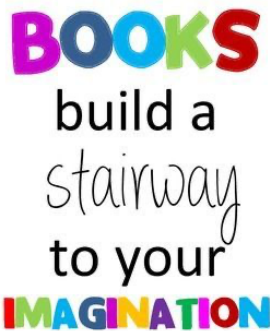
**Miss Bridgeman writes:** This might have been a short term, but we have packed lots of learning into our time in the classroom! This term we have been studying the topic 'Frozen Planet'. We have been learning all about Ernest Shackleton and his perilous journey to cross Antarctica; it wasn't an easy journey but with determination and perseverance he made it! We learned about the differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic and made our own research posters on polar animals and their adaptations – did you know that polar bears have sticky paws to help them walk on the ice?!

In English, we have been writing newspaper reports as if the crew from Ernest Shackleton's expedition had just returned from their adventure. The children have been learning all about developing and extending their sentences with subordinating conjunctions and how to use speech to include an interview in their writing. We have worked hard on our presentation and accuracy this term and the children should be really proud of the work they have produced. It was really lovely to see so many parents join us for some descriptive writing in our Open Classroom morning and both the children and I loved having you in the classroom.

We have also been busy in Maths and have covered lots of new topics, including short multiplication. Although we found it tricky to begin with, the children stuck at it and have made so much progress. They have also looked at decimal numbers, perimeter and area. The class has also been mastering their timestables this term and we are now experts at our 6s and 7s – go on, test them!

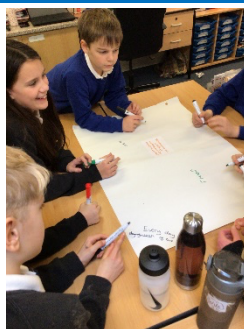
Our Science topic this term was ROCKS! We have learned all about the different types of rocks and how they are formed. We have conducted experiments to test the properties of rocks to help us think about how we can categorise them. Afterwards, we looked at how soil is formed and investigated which type of soil would be best to use in the school garden – the children particularly enjoyed the section of the lesson when we went hunting for worms in the vegetable patches!

In Art with Mrs Lee this term, the children have been busy making their own Mod-rock icebergs! It is also a joy to see the artwork the children produce and a delight to see their creativity flourish.

	Reads since September	Children
	25	Tilly, Beth, Reggie, Emilee, Rosie, Kaleb
	50	Lily, Rosie, Jasmine
	75	Elleni, Eadie
	100	Fin, Arlowe,
	125	Sienna, Henry, Annie
	150	Charlotte



## Shakespeare Class



### Mr. Brown writes:

The geography and history of both the Arctic and Antarctica have inspired our learning about 'Frozen Planet' this term. By comparing and contrasting these two regions, we discovered why only Antarctica is a continent and the different lifeforms that exist at each. Our historical learning came from studying the great era of polar exploration around the turn of last century. Ernest Shackleton's famous expedition, which aimed to cross Antarctica coast to coast, caused us to ask whether we thought it was through skill or luck that all of his men survived. While the less well told story of Matthew Henson, whom some believe to have been the first man (and certainly first black man) to reach the North Pole, gave us a greater understanding of the Arctic.

The retelling of Matthew Henson's story, in Catherine Johnson's *Race to the Frozen North*, has allowed us to get creative in our own narrative writing. We have used a range of interesting vocabulary and sentence structures to write our own stories of a journey to the North Pole.

Our maths learning continues apace, with fractions and decimals the focus of much of this term's learning. Meanwhile, in science we have considered the vastness of space by creating a scale model of the inner planets of the solar system. With the sun represented as a basketball, we just about managed to travel to Jupiter (a ping-pong ball, roughly 100 metres away!). We were incredibly grateful to Mr Coates for bringing in his telescope with a solar filter, to allow us to look at the sun and see sunspots larger than Earth! His expertise also helped to answer many of the questions that we had about how the planets and moon orbit and rotate, causing the years, days and tides.

IN RE this term, we have been studying Sikhism, by learning about the basics of this religion and how Sikhs learn through telling stories. At the end of the term our day exploring 'God and the Big Bang' was incredibly thought-provoking and challenged many of our assumptions.

As always, Mrs Lee has skilfully taught us new art techniques – this term block printing and collagraphs. In PE, our games lesson has focused on hockey, whilst gymnastics has been our challenge each Wednesday afternoon. Finally, in PSHE we have considered the dreams and goals we have, both personally and for our wider world.

	Reads since September	Children
	25	Ruby, Leila, Charlie, Luis, Ben, Livi
	50	Ferris, Finn, Rhys, Vienna
	75	Kyrah, Archie, Alfie
	100	Ezra, Aaron
	125	Oscar, Will, Jess
	150	Mara-Jade

**SPRING 2024 Standlake Superstars: Playful and Purposeful Provision by Professionals**

A one-stop-shop of children's clubs & wrap-around care for working parents, for children aged 4yrs+

Please contact Standlake school office for further details and/or to receive sign-up instructions:

**office.3127@standlake.oxon.sch.uk**

Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Morning Session</b> 7.45 to 8.45am	<b>Wake &amp; Shake</b> <i>Fun games to start the week</i>	<b>Dodgeball</b> <i>Fun &amp; fast team game</i>	<b>Group Exercise</b> <i>Kids circuit class with music</i>	<b>Multi-skills</b> <i>Movement team challenges</i>	<b>Go Wild</b> <i>Indoor climbing frame course</i>
<b>Afternoon Session 1</b> 3.15 to 4.15pm	<b>Dance</b> <i>Learn a Street Dance routine</i>	<b>Tag Rugby</b> <i>For KS2 &amp; Robust KS1!</i>	<b>Football</b> <i>Fun drills 4 skills and games</i>	<b>Dodgeball</b> <i>Fun &amp; fast team game</i>	<b>Fun &amp; Games!</b> <i>Team games and challenges</i>
	<b>Tabletop Games</b> <i>All the classics</i>	<b>Forest Craft</b> <i>Exploring &amp; building dens</i>	<b>Lego Animation</b> <i>Stop-Start Film Making</i>	<b>Art and Craft</b> <i>Cutting, sticking and making</i>	
<b>Afternoon Session 2</b> 4.15 to 5.15pm	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	<b>Tea &amp; Free Play</b> <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>

**2023-2024 Key Dates**

**Term 4**

19<sup>th</sup> Feb: Term Starts  
 20<sup>th</sup> Feb (evening): Oxfordshire Dance Festival @ New Theatre  
 29<sup>th</sup> Feb: (after school, time tbc): West Oxfordshire County Final: Boccia  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb (All day/evening): Year 3-6 Young Voices Concert @ Birmingham Arena (Approximately £25)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Mar (am&pm): World Book Day (Whole School)  
 7<sup>th</sup> Mar (after school): West Oxfordshire County Final: Athletics (Y5/6)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Mar (3.45-5.30pm): EPA Netball Tournament (Y5&6)  
 18<sup>th</sup>&19<sup>th</sup> Mar: Parent Meetings (Whole School) SEND Pupil Reviews  
 26<sup>th</sup> March (2.30pm): IRock Concert  
 28<sup>th</sup> Mar (9.00am): Easter Service (Whole School) Easter Event (FOSS) The Last Day (finish 1.15pm)  
 29<sup>th</sup> Mar-15<sup>th</sup> Apr: Easter Holidays

**Term 5**

15<sup>th</sup> April: INSET Day  
 16<sup>th</sup> April: Term Starts  
 18<sup>th</sup> April: Year 6 Bartholomew Transition  
 3<sup>rd</sup> May (9.00am-11.00am): EPA Dance Festival (Y1&2) @ Barth.  
 6<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday  
 8<sup>th</sup> May (9.00am-11.00am): EPA Dance Festival (Y3&4) @ Bartholomew  
 9<sup>th</sup> May (9.00am): Little Loaves Service (Whole School)  
 w/b 13<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 SATs Week  
 w/b 13<sup>th</sup> May: Year 2 SATs Week  
 20<sup>th</sup> May: Whole School Sports Day (Nursery to Year 6)  
 21<sup>st</sup> May (3.45pm): EPA Cricket Tournament (Y5&6)  
 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Year 1-5 Overnight camp on the school field  
 24<sup>th</sup> May (am&pm): It's Tri Day & The Last Day (finish 3.15pm)  
 27<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June: Half Term

**Term 6**

3<sup>rd</sup> June: Term Starts  
 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Year 6 Residential (£355)  
 12<sup>th</sup> June (9.30-11.30): Year 3&4 EPA Sports Day (Quadkids)@ Bartholomew  
 18<sup>th</sup> June (11.30-2.30): Year 5&6 EPA Sports Day (Quadkids)@ Tilsley Park  
 25<sup>th</sup> June (9.00-12.00): Year 3&4 Rugby Festival @ Bartholomew  
 2<sup>nd</sup> July (9.00-11.00): Year 4&5 Multisports Festival @ Bartholomew w/c 8<sup>th</sup> July: SEND Pupil Reviews  
 10<sup>th</sup> July (9.00-11.30): Year 1&2 Multisports Festival @ Bartholomew  
 13<sup>th</sup> July (All Day): FOSS Summer Fete  
 16<sup>th</sup> July (2.30pm): IRock Concert  
 17<sup>th</sup> July: Move Up Day  
 19<sup>th</sup> July: Year 6 Air Tattoo Trip School Reports go home  
 22<sup>nd</sup> July (am/pm): Year 6 Leavers Play and Funday (6.00pm): Awards & Presentation Evening  
 23<sup>rd</sup> July: Last Day (1.15pm)



If you have a worry or concern about something that may have happened during the school day, come and speak directly to the person it involves. Do so in a calm and considered manner, share what is on your mind, listen to that person's response and take time to think about what they have said. Usually, speaking to the person involved helps put things in context and resolves the situation quickly.