



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of our first half term and the children have been busy this week publishing their writing outcomes for their class floor books. These will be proudly displayed in class book corners so children can enjoy reading them in the weeks and years to come.



Today we also welcomed Eddie from Jubilee Books who visited classes to speak to the children about their favourite authors and books. He will then compile a bespoke selection for each classroom book corner to encourage all our children to develop a love of reading for pleasure.

Across the Woodland Academy Trust, leaders from our sister schools of Peareswood, Knockhall, Northumberland Heath and Limewood have been coming together to visit each of the schools in turn to enable us to share good practice, forge positive relationships to enable collaborative activities to take place.



This morning Larch class shared their learning from this half term with parents and the school. The children articulated their knowledge with confidence and clarity. We learned all about their core text which tells the true story of Matthew Henson, a black explorer whose achievements and courage were not recognised alongside his colleagues

Finally, following valuable feedback from a parent, we will be sharing a parent survey next week asking whether you would prefer our school lunches to be made using Halal meat. We have been a pork free school for several years to make our menus more inclusive and are aware that many of our children would have more choice each day if Halal meat was used.



Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,
Mrs Oldfield and the WBP team.



This term, in Geography Year 1 began to explore where we lived and looked at different locations in our surrounding area. We used Google Maps and Google Earth to help us explore our favourite places that we know and talked about why we liked them.

Year 1



Our big question for history this term has been **“What makes Thamesmead special?”**

Year 2

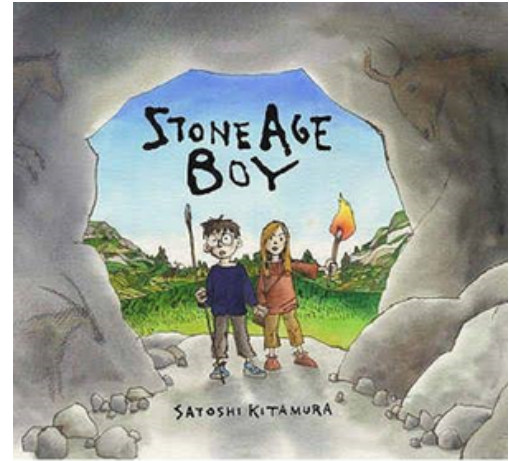
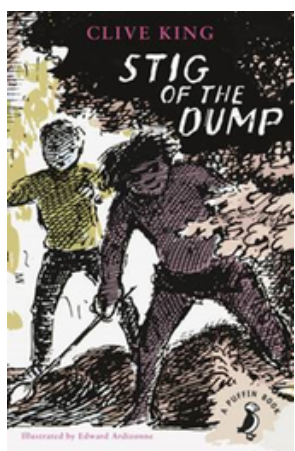
We looked at several historic sites within the local area, including the Royal Arsenal and Crossness Pumping Station. We have also been looking at where local people live. We were lucky enough to invite a visitor from the Traveller community which linked with our literacy text, where he explained their rich and interesting history in the local area. The children were really excited about the visit and it really helped our children to understand differences in the community.

Our learning journey also included a visit to The Nest library and listened to a talk about the development of Thamesmead; exploring several local artefacts, including maps and historical documents.



Year 3

In History, Year 3 have been looking at significant changes in human history. We have gone back to the Stone Age and have examined the three different eras, the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age.

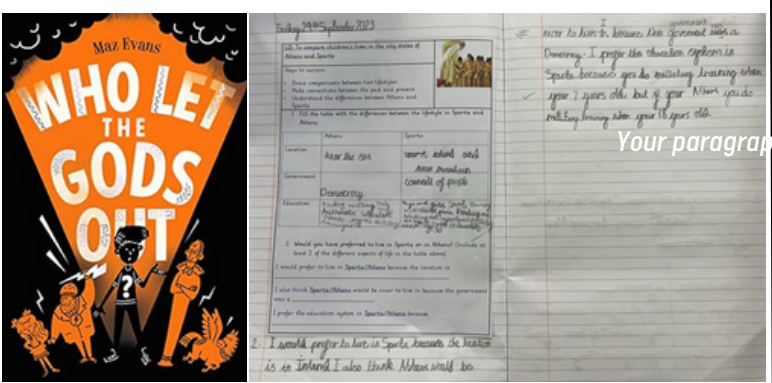
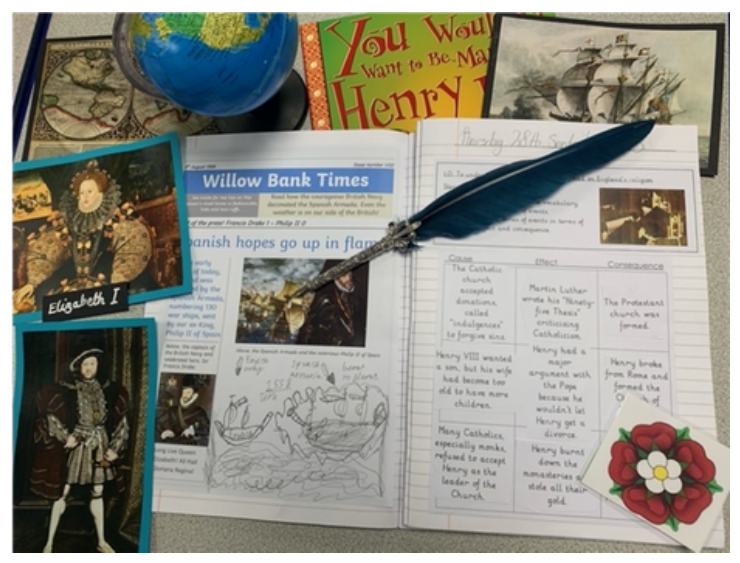


We have been identifying the similarities and differences between these three eras.



Year 5

In History this term, we have been learning about the major events throughout the Tudor reign. We have been identifying cause, effect, and consequence to understand the sequence of events, as well as examining primary sources through portraiture to ascertain further insight into the monarchy and how they approached the role as monarchs.



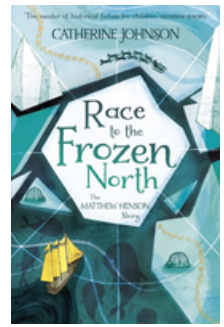
In Year 4, our young historians have been on an exciting journey through ancient Greece, exploring the contrasting worlds of Athens and Sparta. They've delved into the past to uncover the unique qualities that set these two city-states apart.

Through engaging lessons and lively discussions, our students have discovered that Athens was known for its thriving democracy, emphasis on education, and artistic achievements. On the other hand, they've also learned that Sparta was famed for its disciplined warrior culture, where physical strength and military prowess were highly prized.

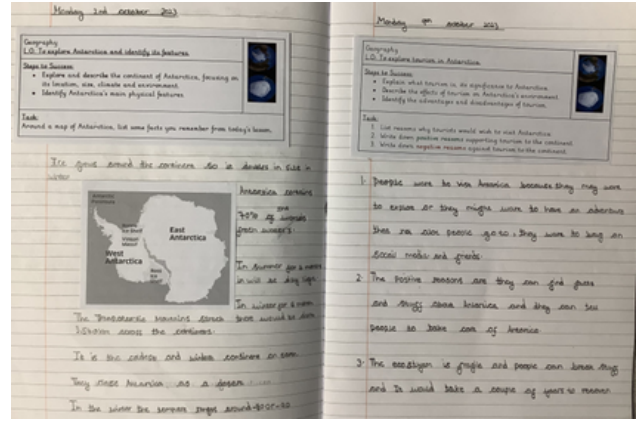
Year 4

Year 6 have been learning about the Polar regions this term: we visited the Polar Worlds exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, explored the similarities and differences between the Arctic and Antarctica, learnt why the Antarctic is so much colder than the Arctic, researched the geographical features of the continent of Antarctica, and examined the advantages and disadvantages that extreme tourism can bring to the areas.

Our text, 'Race to the Frozen North' was a great opportunity for the pupils to examine history and question how it has been influenced in the past from a western viewpoint. We looked at how different races have been represented and discussed how accurate this had been.



Year 6





SEND October Half Term Sports and Activities

- Free SEND inclusive sports and activities for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people and their families during the October Half Term in Thamesmead
- All abilities/disabilities welcome

Inclusive Yoga (5 - 16 years old)

Tuesday 24th October - 11 - 12 pm

Where: Waterways Children's Centre, SE28 8EZ

Inclusive Zumba (5 - 16 years old)

Wednesday 25th October - 11 - 12 pm

Where: Waterways Children's Centre, SE28 8EZ

Multi Sports (6 - 16 years old)

Thursday 26th October - 4 - 5 pm

Where: Sports Club Thamesmead, SE28 8NJ



Sign up here:

➡ <https://bit.ly/SignUp-InclusiveOctober2023>

Or scan the QR Code



Get in touch:

☎ 020 7993 9883

✉ Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.org.uk



In partnership with:



GT CENTRE OF SPORT OCT HALF TERM CAMPS

COURSE

1- SPORTS (football, dodgeball, basketball, cricket, tennis & much more)

2- DANCE/GYMNASTICS & TRAMPOLINING

VENUE

Trinity School, Belvedere, Erith Road DA17 6HT

AGES 5-14

School Years (R-8)

DATES

MON 23RD OCT
TUES 24TH OCT
WEDS 25TH OCT

TIMES & PRICES

10.00am-3.00pm (Early drop off free of charge)

£15.00 per child

Sibling/ Friend Discount

£40 per child for all 3 days if signed with a sibling/friend

Join GT Centre of Sport for endless fun over half term. Our courses are designed to engage children so that they can gain skills, make friends and keep active throughout the holidays. All coaches are fully qualified, DBS checked, safeguarded and have up to date first aid. Children will need to wear suitable clothing, trainers and have a packed lunch.

How to Book

For further booking instructions Text us or alternately register your interest online

info@gtcentreofsport.com
01322-333157 | 07816537127
www.gtcentreofsport.com

We are so excited to announce that we will be back holding our popular football camp this October half term at Northumberland Heath Primary school. As well as announcing the GRAND OPENING of our Multi sports camp which will also be starting this October and be held at Limewood Primary school. All details are shown on the leaflet attached below. With new amazing deals and offers which you don't want to miss. To sign up please drop us a message or email, we look forward to seeing you all there!

Please contact me on:
Phone - 07539 016184
Email - little.achievers@outlook.com

October Half Term FOOTBALL COURSE

BOYS AND GIRLS 5-13 years All abilities

£45 per week or £15 a day

23-27 Oct 10am-3pm

Sam Cassell 07539 016184

October Half Term MULTI-SPORT COURSE

BOYS AND GIRLS 4-13 years All abilities

£45 per week or £15 a day

23-27 Oct 10am-3pm

Sam Cassell 07539 016184



GIRLS SATURDAY SOCCER

THE GROUP IS AN INTRODUCTORY STARTER PLACE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLAGE GIRLS WISHING TO LEARN THE BASICS OF FOOTBALL IN A FRIENDLY, SUPPORTIVE AND FUN ENVIRONMENT.



IDEALLY WITH PLAYERS OF THE SAME AGE WE PLAN TO FORM AN ALL GIRLS TEAM TO PLAY MATCHES ON SUNDAYS

VENUE: BEXLEYHEATH ACADEMY, GRAHAM ROAD, BEXLEYHEATH DA 6 7DA
TIME: 10.00AM UNTIL 11.00 AM ON A SATURDAY MORNING

FURTHER DETAILS ☎ 07504 264 157
✉ Clive@juniorredsfc.co.uk @ www.juniorredsfc.co.uk

This activity takes place at Bexleyheath Academy on Saturday mornings. This year we were able to form three girls football teams from this initiative. We do, however, have some vacancies in our School Year 5 age group. We give our time free of charge for the benefit of the children and are not a commercial organisation in any way.



Don't forget that your child should be reading with you every day at home and sign in the diary when you have done so. It is helpful to write which page they have read up to and maybe even a short comment on how well they did with reading/answering questions. Adults will be checking reading records everyday.

EYFS and KS1 Parent Reading Morning
Every Thursday from 8:40-9:10am



All parents and carers welcome!

We are looking for Read with Me volunteers at Willow Bank! These volunteers will visit our EYFS, KS1 and KS2 classrooms and listen to our children read. If you are interested in volunteering with us for 30 minutes or an hour each week, then please pop into the office to express your interest and pick up our application pack.

Well done to:	Our target is over 96%
★ Magnolia - 97%	Yew - 84%
Hornbeam - 91%	Redwood - 94%
★ Laburnum - 97%	★ Almond - 96%
Hazel - 95%	★ Walnut - 96%
Larch - 91%	Sycamore - 94%



Well DONE

Next week:

Tuesday 17.10.2023 -

Reception Parents Coffee
Morning 9am - 10am



Every Thursday morning - Y5

Swimming

Forthcoming dates:

half term: Monday
23/10/2023 - Friday
27/10/2023.

First day of term: Monday
30/10/2023

Willow Bank Primary School

Tuesday 3rd October
Tuesday 7th November
Tuesday 5th December
Tuesday 9th January

10:00 - 10:30 am

Please confirm your attendance by calling or emailing the school office

0208 320 1900
wbpoffice@watschools.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you on a tour of our school and meeting members of the Willow Bank team

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Rolling children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to upsetting stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news keeps omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

- 1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS**
There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before discussing your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and do a gentle few minutes of your child has been impacted by what they've seen.
- 2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**
Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose quiet times when they're generally relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and do a gentle few minutes of your child has been impacted by what they've seen.
- 3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE**
With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions or from overloading. You can go slightly deeper into the details when your child is older. While it's important to be open and honest, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happened. Again, do stay aware of their emotional state.
- 4 EMPHASISE HOPE**
Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Help strengthen their confidence in their own strength related to the content you're discussing. Help them to do something to help, and encourage them to express their feelings as it helps to process what's happened.
- 5 MONITOR REACTIONS**
All children react differently, of course, and you'll need to be sensitive to their needs. They're scared, angry, anxious, confused and upset. It's important to be open and honest, but also to be sensitive to their needs. Encourage them to express their feelings and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings as it helps to process what's happened.
- 6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS**
It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process; adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by observing those around them. So taking a bit of time to think about your own feelings and reactions is important for supporting your child through worrying times.
- 7 SET LIMITS**
Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but it's especially important when your child is exposed to upsetting content. It's vital to be able to keep their screen-time under control. It's important to be able to keep their screen-time under control. It's vital to be able to keep their screen-time under control.
- 8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY**
Try not to overwhelm your child with information at once. Instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple one about what they're seeing, and then gradually move on to more detailed discussions. It's important to be able to keep their screen-time under control.
- 9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS**
Children's thinking might be more complex and they're often asking a lot of questions about what they see. Encourage them to ask questions and to focus on positive news. It's important to be able to keep their screen-time under control.
- 10 FIND A BALANCE**
There's often a tremendous temptation to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications and we're often seeing the most recent news on social media. It's essential to take a step back and to focus on positive news. It's important to be able to keep their screen-time under control.
- 11 BUILD RESILIENCE**
News has never been more accessible, while our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're aware of what they're seeing. Encourage them to express their feelings and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings as it helps to process what's happened.
- 12 IDENTIFY HELP**
It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they need it. Encourage them to talk to someone they trust about what they're seeing. Encourage them to express their feelings and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings as it helps to process what's happened.

Meet Our Expert
Cathy Burgess is the director of Future South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and colleges to fight bullying around the world. Cathy helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they need only when it's needed.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Follow us on social media: @nationalonline_safety