



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. As we approach the end of the Autumn 1 half term, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for your support and involvement in your child's education.

A Big Thank You!

Your dedication to your child's learning journey does not go unnoticed, and we appreciate the time and effort you invest in their growth and development. Whether it is helping with weekly homework, attending parent coffee mornings, volunteering your time at our parent reading mornings, or simply ensuring your child is prepared for each school day, your support is invaluable.



The Importance of Daily Reading

We would like to remind you of the crucial role daily reading plays in your child's educational progress. Reading is not only a fundamental skill that directly impacts progress and attainment across all curriculum areas, but also a gateway to knowledge and imagination. By reading with your child every day for just 15 minutes, you not only enhance their language skills but also foster a love of learning. Encourage your child to explore different genres, discover new worlds, and embrace the joy of reading – whether it is reading a book, a recipe, a newspaper or an online blog. Every 5 minutes of reading also enables them to complete a segment on their reading passport and helps them on their way to becoming one of our Reading Ambassadors.



Secondary Transfer Application Support

As we approach the end of this half term, we are aware that many of you may be preparing for the secondary transfer application process. A reminder that the deadline for submitting secondary transfer applications is Tuesday 31st October 2023. If you require any assistance or have questions regarding the application process, please do not hesitate to speak to us so we can ensure a smooth and successful transition to secondary school for your child. Mrs Edgar is also offering support to parents over the half term break if you wish to make an appointment to come in and complete your online application.



Finally, there are lots of exciting and free events taking place in Thamesmead over the half term break. Please visit <https://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/news/october-half-term-activities-in-thamesmead/> for ideas for days out including a free half term arts and crafts activity on Tump 53 Nature Reserve and a mushroom hunt in Crossway Park!

Wishing you a restful half-term break.

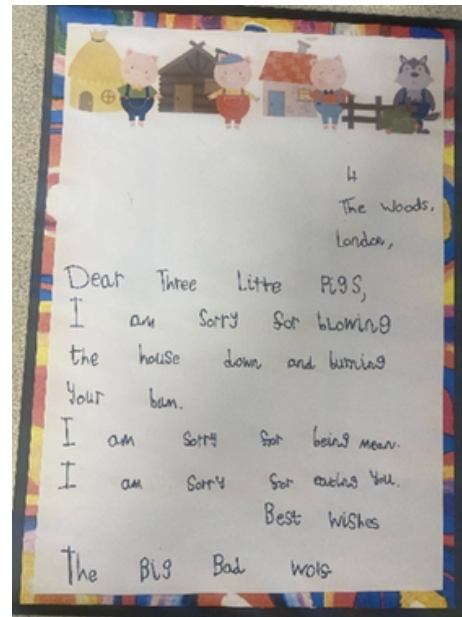
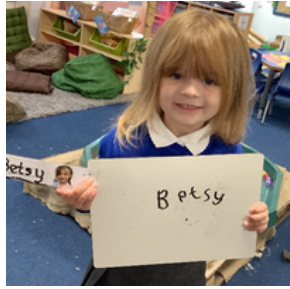
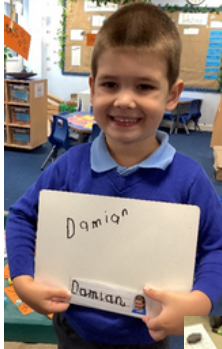
Best wishes,
Mrs Oldfield and the WBP Team



Year 1

In writing this term we have focused on a variety of books; The Colour Monster, Super Duper You and The Same but different too. We have been labelling our emotions, labelling our body parts and drawing ourselves so we can see what is the same and different. The children have also been learning to write their name as part of their early morning work and during phonics we are learning to write our new sounds and everyday words.

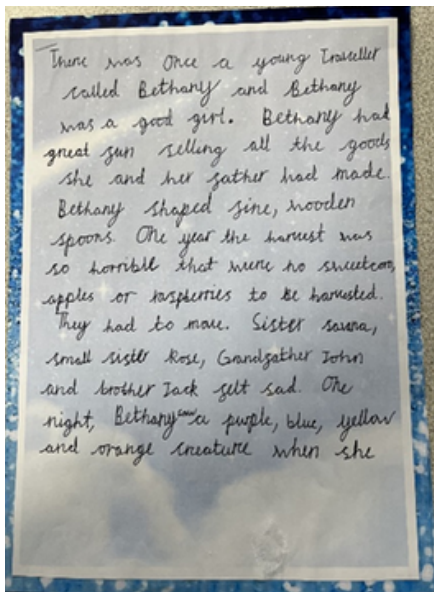
EYFS



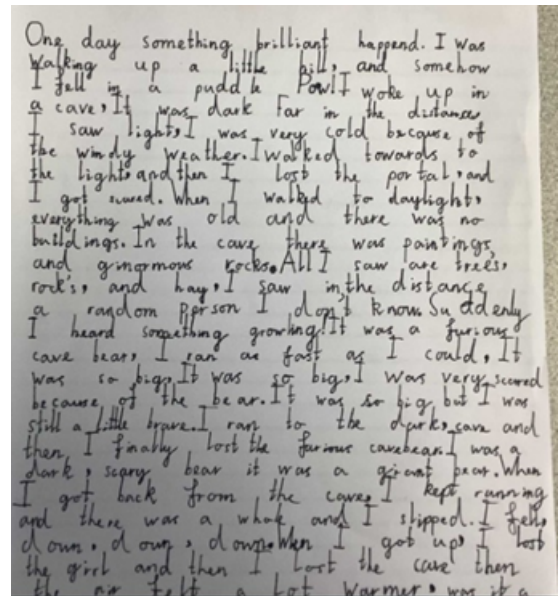
This term in writing, Year 1 have been inspired by the book The Jolly Postman. They used this inspiration to write their own apology letter from the Big Bad wolf to the Three Little Pigs for blowing their house down. They used their new learning skills of capital letters, pronouns, and adjectives to help them achieve.

Year 2

This half term, we have written magical tales based around the book "Yokki and the Parno Gry" by Richard O'Neill. The story is about an enchanted white horse who inspires and brings joy to a Traveller family in need. We have been focusing on using punctuation in our sentences and expanded noun phrases.



Year 3

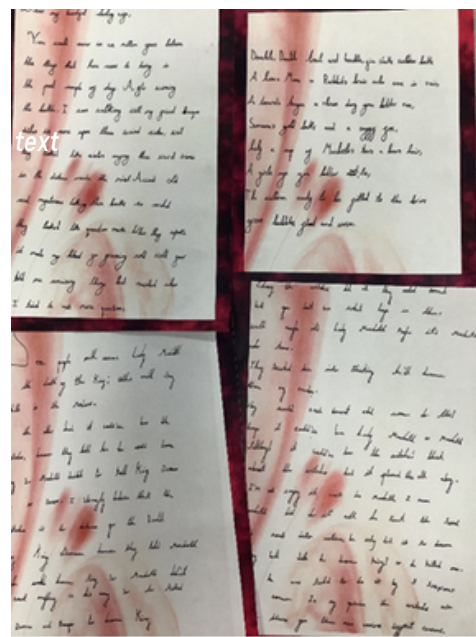
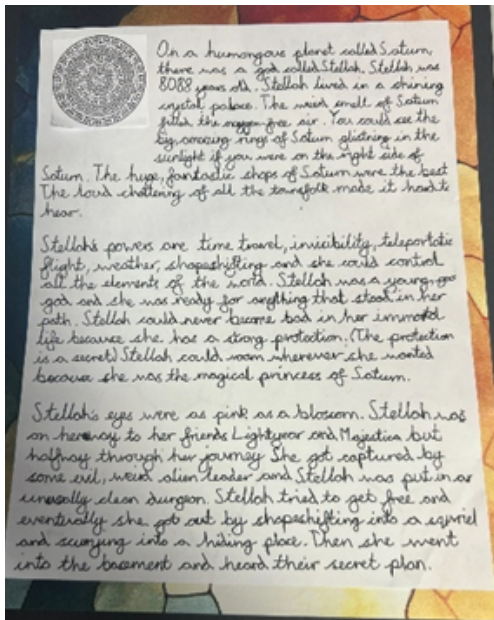


In writing in Year 3, we have been looking at fiction portal stories. The children have been reading Stone Age Boy and have then written their own versions of this story. They have used figurative language, prepositions openers and expanded noun phrases to achieve this.



Year 4

In Year 4, our core text was 'Who Let The Gods Out' by Maz Evans. This linked with our topic based on Ancient Greece. We used this text as inspiration to write a character description as our incidental write and then our own mythical tales as our final writing outcome. We worked hard on including similes and metaphors within our descriptions.

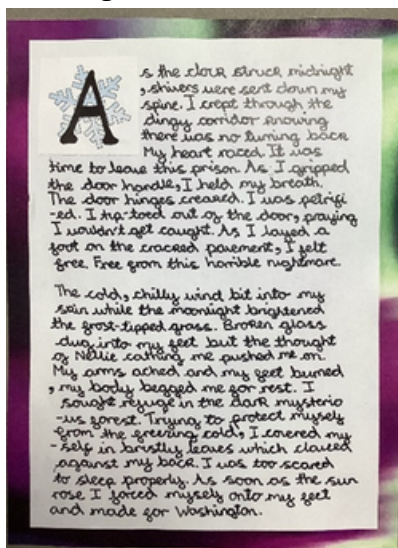


Year 5

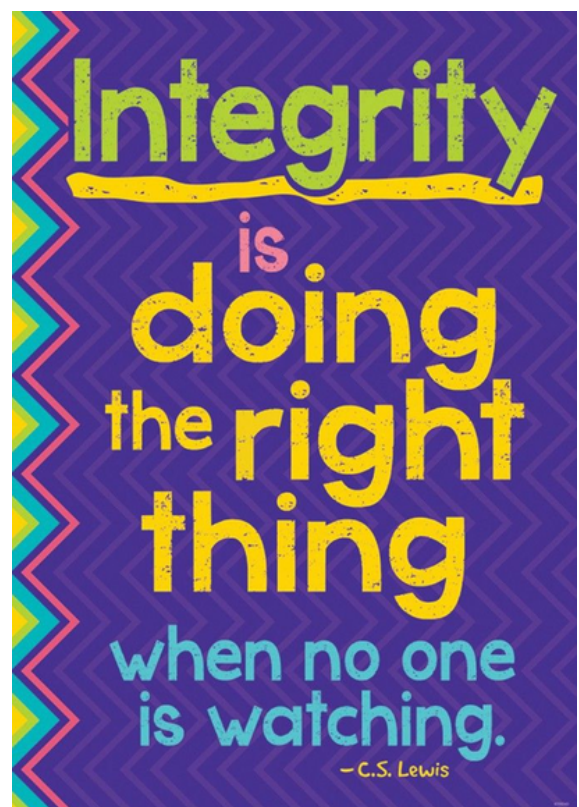
For this term's writing outcome in year 5, the children were inspired by Macbeth, making strong arguments, back up with evidence from the play, concerning King Duncan's murderer. They critically analysed each of the play's main characters - Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, and the witches - to determine who was the real villain and deserving of blame. During their learning, as incidental writing, the children also composed informal letters and witch spell poems.

Year 6

Year 6 have been studying the text, Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson. The story is a retelling of Matthew Henson's life, the first black man to reach the North Pole. Matthew had a tough childhood and the children wrote first-person narratives about his escape from his abusive step-mother's house and his journey to a new life in Washington D.C. The children worked hard to include adverbials, 'show not tell', subordinate clauses and speech in their writing.



OUR CORE VALUE FOR AUTUMN 2 IS INTEGRITY





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 4-12 years All abilities

£45 per week or £15 a day

23-27 Oct 10am-3pm

Sam Cassell 07539 016184



Junior Reds Football Club

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 - 94%	Yew - 87%
★ Hornbeam - 99%	★ Redwood - 97%
★ Laburnum - 92%	★ Almond - 97%
★ Hazel - 96%	Walnut - 93%
Larch - 90%	Sycamore - 92%



Well DONE

Next week:

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

Key Dates

Forthcoming dates:

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

Raising 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. Keeping our children safe and secure is our top priority, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

- FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS**
There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both with and without their parents knowing. Your child with information, find out what they know already, then share anything you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.
- RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**
Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is rushing for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose quiet times when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional and your child may not be ready for them. Your child feels safe and comfortable.
- KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE**
With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid hearing questions and come over direct. You can go slightly deeper with older children, but keep monitoring their reactions. Children often feel nervous, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what they're hearing, but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.
- EMPHASISE HOPE**
Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. It's important to acknowledge these feelings and strengths related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel nervous when they know they can do something to help. Encourage them to find ways to cope through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.
- MONITOR REACTIONS**
All children react differently, of course, and young people may feel sad or overwhelmed. They're worried, angry, anxious, confused and scared. It's important to monitor their reactions when discussing upsetting topics, to take note of any changes in their mood and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a way that's most important to them and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.
- 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 outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.
- SET LIMITS**
Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but it's especially important during periods of the start of the pandemic, for example. It's virtually impossible to keep children away from the internet entirely, so it's important to be realistic about what you can do. Consider the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.
- TAKE THINGS SLOWLY**
Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once. Instead, take the first conversation as a starting point to keep talking about the content that's causing them concern. Opening the door to the conversation and making sure that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.
- ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS**
Online, trending images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to ask questions about what they've seen instead of being angry or resentful. Encourage them to ask questions if it's accurate - you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.
- FIND A BALANCE**
There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications about the latest news, so it's important to take a step back and consider how you're feeling. It's essential that you can always feel you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.
- BUILD RESILIENCE**
News has never been more accessible, while our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting content, it's important that they're aware of what they're exposed to. Talk about upsetting news, and make sure they're aware of what's happening in the world around them. It's essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.
- IDENTIFY HELP**
It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they're struggling. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust and make sure they're aware of the support available to them. It's essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert
Conley Jurgensen is the director of Future South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and colleges to fight bullying across the world. Conley helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they need and not just stand by.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonline_safety | @national_online_safety