



MAPESBURY SCHOOL

Autumn 1 2026 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS

My name is Sarah, and I am the teacher in Kingfisher Class. I qualified as a teacher in July and am currently in my Early Career Teacher (ECT) years. I am excited to put everything I have learned and continuing to learn into practice as I begin my teaching career.

I am delighted to be part of the Mapesbury team. I am passionate about supporting children to develop their confidence, independence, and love of learning. I am committed to creating a positive, nurturing, and engaging classroom environment where every pupil feels valued and can thrive.

I am looking forward to seeing all that this year brings and to supporting each pupil in reaching their full potential.

My name is Depan and I am the new Maths lead at Mapesbury. I am so happy to join the Kedleston family and am already loving being part of a school with a very exciting future. I have a passion for helping young people take steps towards success and am looking forward to making a positive difference.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS



Hello! My name is Pavneet (Pav for short) and I am the Merlin Class teacher this academic year. I have worked as a teacher for the past 11 years, and I am excited to continue making a difference to children's lives. Working at Mapesbury School has given me a new sense of purpose and I am really looking forward to getting to know you all better as time goes on!

Hello! I'm Romina, the new class teacher for Puffin class (not the cat).

I have 12 years of experience working across primary, secondary and post-16 education.

Throughout my career, I have been passionate about creating a warm, inclusive and nurturing learning environment where every child feels valued, supported and encouraged to achieve their best.

I believe that children thrive when they feel happy, confident and safe. I enjoy adapting my teaching to meet individual needs, helping pupils develop independence, resilience and a love of learning. My aim is to make learning engaging, meaningful and enjoyable while supporting each child's personal and academic growth.

I look forward to continuing to support the children in their learning, helping them build confidence, independence and a love of learning.



WELCOMING OUR NEW SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST



Hi, I'm Luci, Speech & Language Therapist (SaLT). I joined in September 2026 and work closely alongside Siobhain, Mapesbury's other SaLT.

I have loved getting to know the staff and students this term. I am passionate about making a difference to children's lives through developing their communication, self-advocacy skills and confidence. I bring many years of experience from different settings and sectors ranging from SEN schools, independent practice and NS roles.

I am looking forward to meeting more parents and continuing to develop the Speech and Language Therapy Service at Mapesbury.

I am currently supporting Flamingo class, Merlin class and Puffin class. Do not hesitate to reach out about the speech and language needs of your children or with any questions/queries. You can find me on Dojo. My working days at Mapesbury are Mondays and Wednesdays.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



As we come to the end of Autumn Term 1, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly positive and successful start to the academic year. It has been a busy half term filled with learning, growth and achievement and I am super proud of everything our pupils, staff and families have accomplished together. This year has marked a significant milestone in our school's journey; we have welcomed 40 pupils in our school and growing! Such growth is a testament to the trust families place on us and the commitment of everyone involved in making our school a nurturing and supportive environment for children and young people with Autism.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of our staff, whose hard work, dedication and professionalism have ensured that most pupils have settled so well into their new classes and routines. Starting a new academic year can bring challenges and uncertainties, but our team has worked tirelessly to provide consistency, support and encouragement, allowing pupils to thrive.

Throughout the half term, we have enjoyed several memorable events that have enriched pupils' learning and celebrated our diverse school community. We proudly supported Jeans for Genes Day, raising awareness and showing our commitment to helping others. During Black History Month, pupils enjoyed a vibrant steel drum performance, which provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate culture, history and music. Our International Day was another highlight, with pupils and staff proudly wearing traditional clothing, sharing objects from their heritage and engaging in meaningful conversations about their backgrounds and experiences. These events have helped foster understanding, respect and a sense of belonging across our school.

All of these experiences link closely to our core value for this half term: resilience. Adapting to new routines, building relationships, trying new activities or confidently sharing something personal about themselves, our pupils have demonstrated resilience in many different ways. We have also seen this resilience in our staff and families as we continue to work together to support every child's development and success.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for the positive relationships you maintain with the school. Your support, communication and partnership are invaluable. It is both an honour and a privilege to lead this remarkable school, and I am grateful to work alongside such dedicated families and staff in supporting our pupils to be the best version of themselves.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in a week's time.

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENT - BOXING

We are excited to offer our students the opportunity to take part in boxing sessions delivered by a specialist organisation. These sessions are adapted to meet the needs of our students, providing a fun and supportive environment where they can develop their coordination, balance, fitness and listening skills.

Through structured activities and non-contact boxing exercises, students can build confidence, practice self-discipline and learn the importance of following instructions, respecting others and working together. We look forward to seeing our students enjoy these sessions, challenge themselves and celebrate their achievements!

"With Great Power comes Great Responsibility"



WHOLE SCHOOL EVENT - BLACK HISTORY MONTH

At Mapesbury School, we have really enjoyed celebrating Black history and culture, taking the opportunity to recognise the achievements, contributions and influence of Black people throughout history and their lasting impact on British culture and society.

As part of our celebrations, we wanted to ensure that our pupils had dedicated time to learn about and reflect on Black history. This included recognising the rich cultural traditions, creativity and achievements of Black communities, while also developing an age-appropriate understanding of the suffering, injustice and discrimination that Black people have experienced in the past. We believe it is important for children to learn about both the challenges and the achievements, helping them to develop empathy, understanding and respect for others.

A particular highlight was welcoming the **Dallaway Steel Band** to our school. The children had the wonderful opportunity to learn about the history of steel bands, discover their cultural roots and understand their significance within Caribbean heritage. They were also given hands-on lessons in how to play the steel pans, allowing them to experience the music, rhythms and traditions for themselves. It was an engaging and memorable experience that brought history and culture to life through music.

We have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating together and look forward to continuing to provide meaningful opportunities for our pupils to learn, reflect and celebrate the many cultures and histories that enrich our school community



WHOLE SCHOOL EVENT - INTERNATIONAL DAY

In October, Mapesbury School celebrated International Day - a great opportunity to share our amazing diversity and enrich experiences through an insight into other cultures. For the day, children and staff were invited to wear something traditional from a country or region related to their heritage or any other country of their choice. They were also invited to bring a small object or artefact from a different country and present it to others. Staff members brought and shared a wonderful selection of traditional food, whilst children had a fabulous International lunch, based on a Mexican menu.

We used this time to remember how lucky we are to be part of such a diverse world and to reiterate that respect and appreciation for all cultures is an essential part of being a citizen of the world. Many hands-on, visual and interactive approaches were put to good use: labelling a map of the world with where our families came from, exploring facts about other countries and learning to greet others in different languages.

It was really wonderful to see our togetherness reflected in so many colours and styles of outfits, in the languages we speak and in the common moral values we share across different cultures.

In the afternoon, children had a wide range of activities to choose from, as staff organised short activities themed around the concept of diversity and cultural awareness. These included dance and music, art workshops, insight into other cultures and languages, sports activities, tasting classes, flag making and many others. We hope that through celebrating this rich cultural heritage, children will be empowered to become global citizens and to appreciate all contributions to our diversity.



KS2 – PUFFIN MATHS

In Maths, Puffin class have been learning about place value and number. They have worked very hard using a variety of practical and interactive resources to develop their understanding. Children have explored numbers using Dienes blocks, number lines, hundred squares, place value charts, counters and interactive games. They have practised counting forwards and backwards, comparing and ordering numbers, recognising number patterns, and representing numbers in different ways. Their confidence and fluency with number concepts have grown throughout the term. Teachers modelled strategies, encouraged mathematical discussions and provided opportunities for pupils to practise and apply their skills independently.

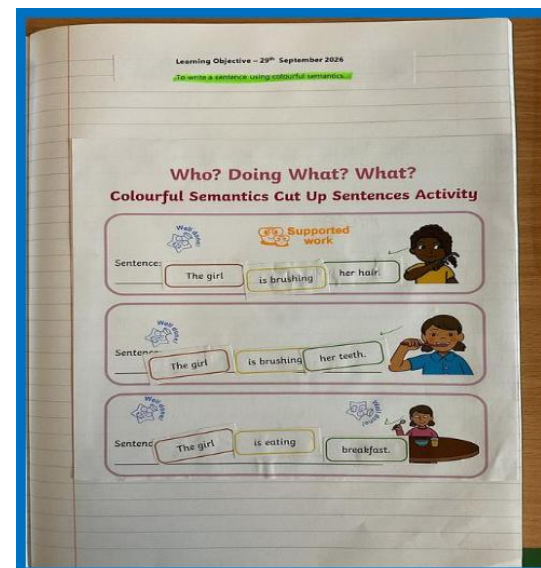
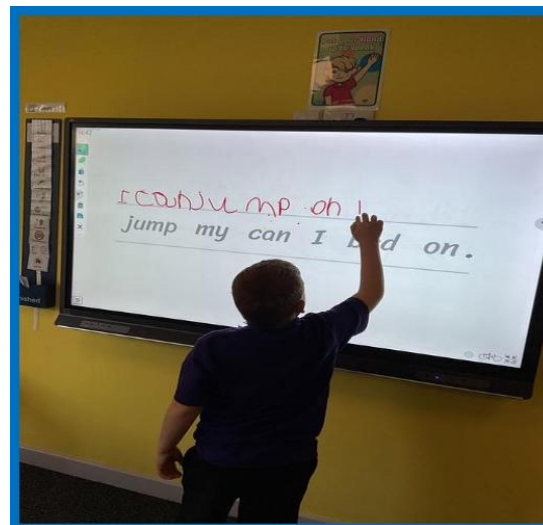
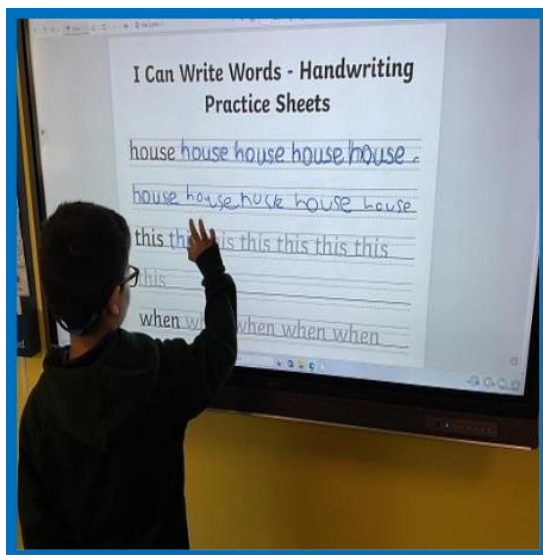


KS2 – PUFFIN ART

Our newest and youngest class have been developing their early mark-making skills through a range of creative activities. Students have been exploring how to make different lines, patterns and textures using a variety of materials, discovering the many ways they can make their mark and express themselves through art.

The class have also been looking at the work of famous abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky, exploring his use of colour, shapes and patterns. Inspired by his distinctive style, students are creating their own Kandinsky-inspired compositions, experimenting with colours and shapes to produce their own unique works of art.





KS2 – PUFFIN ENGLISH

In English, teachers used Colourful Semantics to support sentence building, vocabulary development and communication skills. Through modelling, guided practice, visual supports and regular feedback, pupils were encouraged to develop their reading, speaking, listening and writing skills. Lessons were adapted to meet individual needs, helping all pupils to make progress and build confidence in their learning. Throughout the term, teachers supported pupils in developing their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through engaging and practical activities. Using Colourful Semantics, pupils were helped to build sentences, expand their vocabulary and develop confidence in communicating their ideas. Teachers used visual prompts, modelling and guided activities to support learning and ensure every child could participate successfully. Regular opportunities for discussion, reading and writing, alongside positive encouragement and personalised support, helped pupils make progress and celebrate their achievements in English.

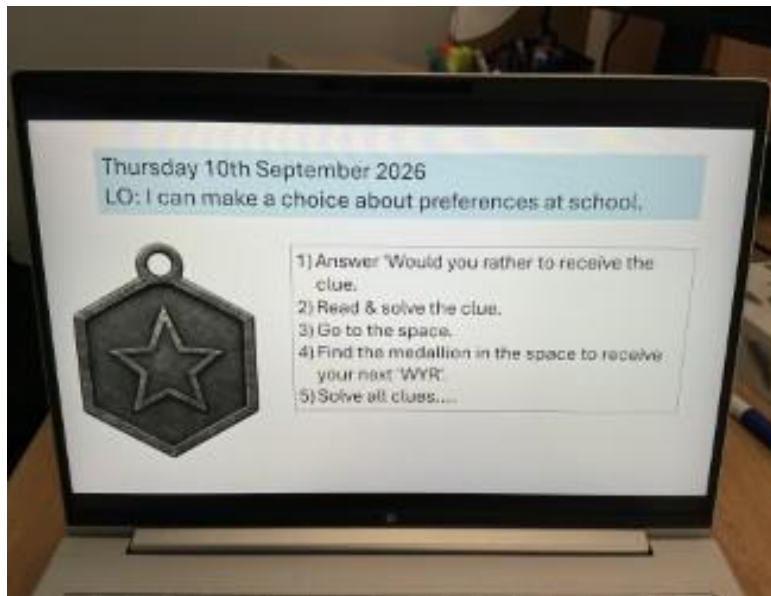
KS2 – PUFFIN SCIENCE

This term, pupils have enjoyed exploring the world around them through a range of exciting science activities. They have been learning about living and non-living things, developing their observation, sorting and investigation skills. Pupils have taken part in practical activities, discussions and simple experiments to help them understand the characteristics of living things and how they grow and change. We were delighted with the curiosity, enthusiasm and engagement pupils have shown throughout their science learning.



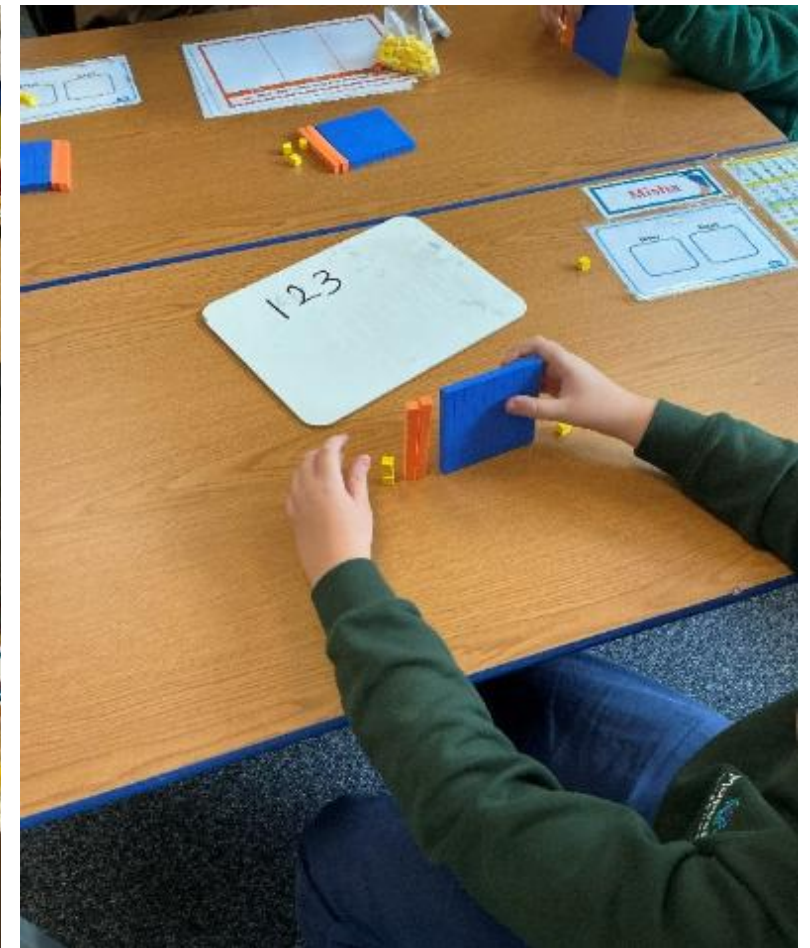
KS2 – PSHE

In PSHE this term, all classes have been focussing on celebrating the uniqueness and diversity that makes us who we are as individuals, and subsequently as a school. In Merlin and Kingfisher classes, the pupils identified achievements throughout their childhood and in more recent years. They also considered the importance of working together for success and celebrating their own and peers' achievements in different ways.



KS2 – KINGFISHER MATHS

Kingfisher Class have been focusing on number, place value, and calculation. We take a practical and interactive approach to learning by using a wide range of concrete resources, games, and hands-on activities to support pupils' understanding and engagement. This approach has helped pupils to build confidence and deepen their mathematical understanding, and we look forward to continuing this throughout the year. Kingfisher have worked extremely hard this term and have shown great independence when completing mathematical activities.



KS2 – KINGFISHER ENGLISH



In English, Kingfisher Class have been exploring one of their favourite stories, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Pupils have been learning about the characters and settings, as well as sequencing the events of the story. We have also taken a sensory approach to learning by exploring the different settings featured in the book through a variety of practical activities. Pupils have worked incredibly hard this term and have shown great resilience, particularly when developing their sentence-writing skills. We are very proud of the progress they have made.

KS2 – KINGFISHER SCIENCE



Kingfisher class have been exploring and learning about living things. Throughout the term we have conducted experiments as well as engaged and taken part in lots of interactive games and activities. One popular activity was when we looked at plants and explored the different parts of them by looking at real flowers and getting a sense of what they look, feel and smell like. Pupils have worked incredibly hard this term and have shown great collaboration in science lessons by taking turns and working as a group when completing practical activities.



KS2 – MERLIN ENGLISH

The children have immersed themselves in Philip Ridley's fantastic story, *Krindlekrax*. We have been closely examining Ruskin Splinter, the unlikely hero of Lizard Street, analysing his character traits, motivations, and growth throughout the narrative. Through creative drama and detailed writing tasks, the students have developed their descriptive language skills and learned how authors build memorable, complex characters.



KS2 – MERLIN MATHS

It has been a busy and productive time in Maths as we tackled place value with numbers up to 1,000,000. The children worked on reading, writing, ordering, and rounding large numbers, gaining confidence in their overall number sense. Alongside this foundational work, we have been sharpening our arithmetic skills by regularly practising addition, subtraction, and rapid recall of multiplication facts to build speed and accuracy.



KS2 – MERLIN SCIENCE



We have been exploring the natural world by learning how to classify living things, ranging from diverse plant species to complex animal groups. A major highlight for the class was our micro-organisms topic, where we conducted a hands-on investigation using mouldy bread. The children loved observing the biological changes over time and analysing how different conditions affect microbial growth!

KS2 – MERLIN WORLD STUDIES

Our World Studies lessons have taken us on a journey through some of the planet's most severe natural phenomena as we explored extreme weather conditions. The children investigated the science behind heatwaves, blizzards, and violent storms, learning how these events impact ecosystems and human communities. Crucially, they also focused on practical safety measures, discussing what action/steps we can take to stay protected when nature turns unpredictable.



KS2 – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We are delighted to share the progress our Key Stage 2 students have made in Athletics this term. Our programme has focused on developing hand-eye and foot-eye coordination, sprint mechanics, and cardiovascular capacity, while helping students understand how to run efficiently and effectively.

We are particularly proud to share that all students have improved their running and sprint capacity by a minimum of 20%. This reflects their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm throughout the term.

It has been fantastic to see our students become faster, stronger and more confident athletes. We look forward to building on this progress next term!

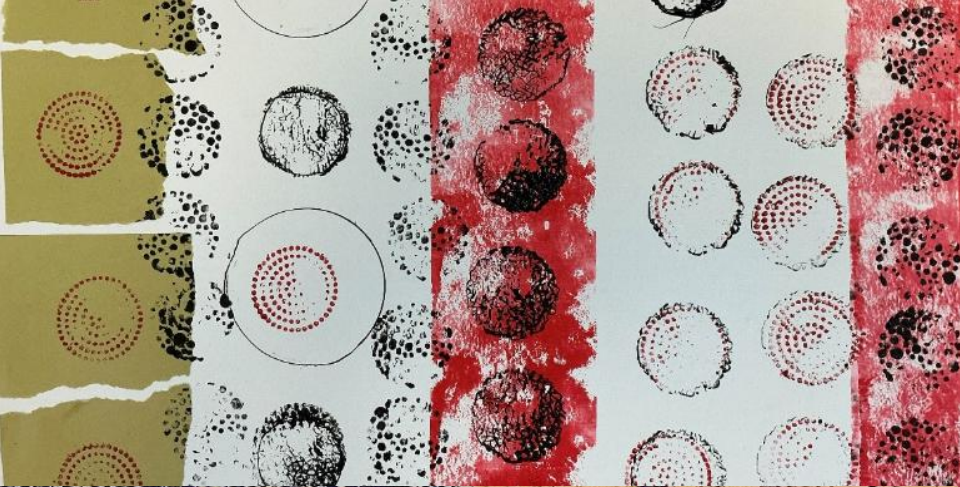


KS2 – ENRICHMENT

Enrichment in Autumn term provided KS2 with lots of fun opportunities to learn and develop in different contexts.

Our work was based on playdough projects, enabling children to express their creativity whilst practising important skills and enjoying sensory experiences. We discussed different textures using quality vocabulary to describe them and experimented with how texture changes with the addition of new materials. Lots of great ideas came up through designing and creating our own character, with expression and detail. Children also loved making shapes and designing mazes and structures, learning through guided play and discovery. Our lessons were a hub of imagination and collaboration, leading to excellent ways to develop social skills and language.

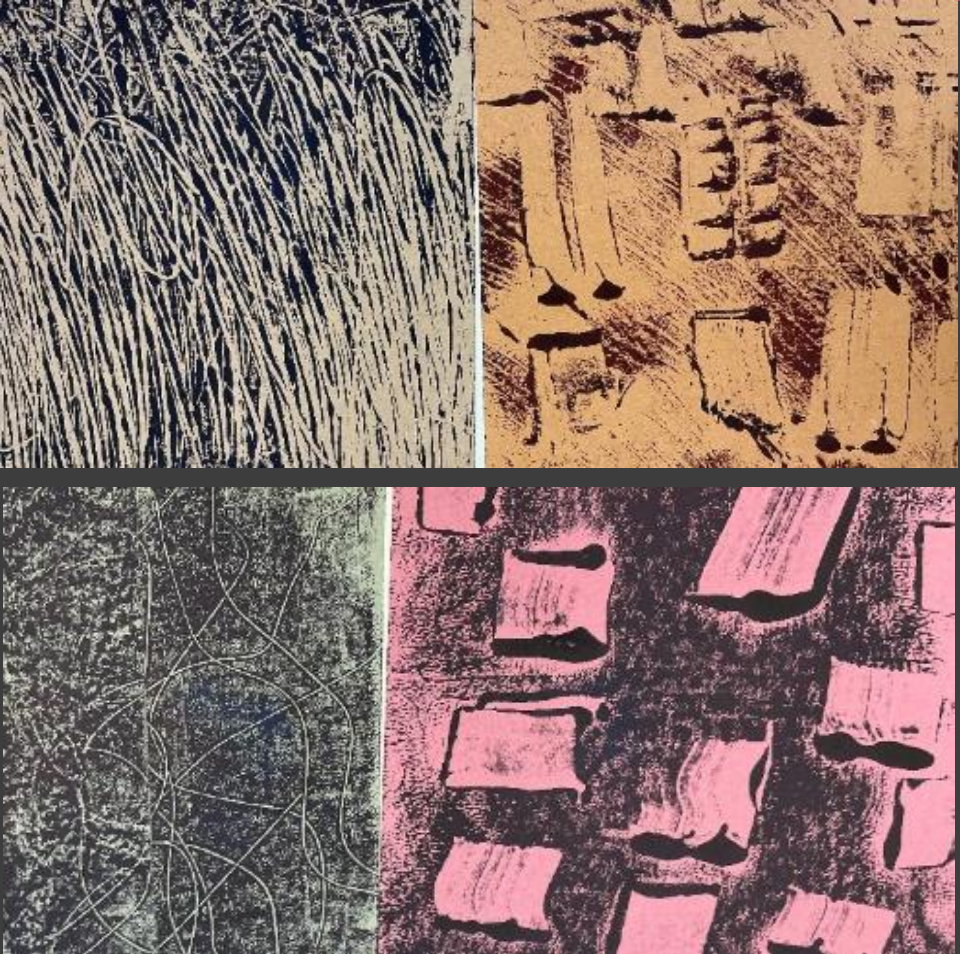




KS2 – ART

Students have been exploring texture through a range of exciting art techniques, including acrylic painting, monoprinting, torn paper and collage. Taking inspiration from the work of illustrator and author Eric Carle, best known for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, students have been experimenting with colour, pattern and different materials to create their own unique textured papers.

Next, students will be cutting, copying and transforming their textures into colourful animal and insect illustrations, discovering how simple shapes and layered materials can be used to bring creatures to life. This project encourages creativity, experimentation and fine motor skills, while giving students the opportunity to explore the work of a celebrated artist and develop their own artistic ideas.



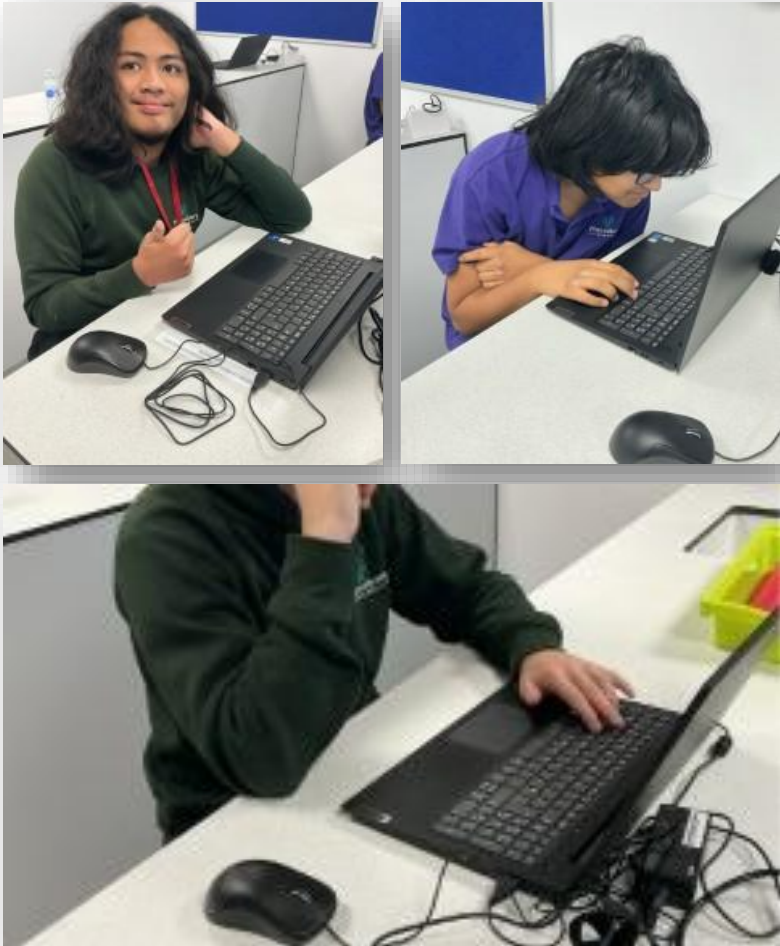
KS3 - ENGLISH



Toucan Class have been exploring extracts from *Voices of the Displaced*, a story about the experiences of refugees. Through these texts, students have been learning to understand characters' feelings, explore different viewpoints and think about how writers use language to bring stories to life. They have been developing their reading skills by looking closely at descriptions, exploring new vocabulary and finding evidence to support their ideas. Students have also been building their writing skills by experimenting with descriptive language and different sentence structures. Alongside this, they have been practising sharing their opinions, listening to others and explaining their ideas clearly.

Pelican Class have been using *The Great Train Robbery* as inspiration for their English learning this term. Through this exciting crime story, students have been developing their reading, writing and communication skills. They have been learning to identify emotive language, similes and hyperbole, exploring how authors use language to create meaning and support their ideas with evidence. In writing, students have been practising diary entries from different perspectives, using descriptive vocabulary and emotive language, while developing their sentence structure, punctuation and organisation.

KS3 - DIGITAL SKILLS



This term, we have been developing our digital skills and confidence through a range of practical, hands-on activities. Pupils have learned how to use digital devices, log in and navigate their way around different applications, personalise their devices to make them work for them, and connect to Wi-Fi. Pupils have also explored how to search the internet more effectively, save and organise their work, name files clearly, and find and open their saved documents. They have discovered the difference between local and cloud storage and learned some useful troubleshooting skills to help them work through common digital problems. To bring their learning together, pupils have been building their own digital portfolios and creating simple guides to help them use their devices independently. It has been wonderful to see them develop their confidence, solve problems and persevere when things have not gone to plan, demonstrating our core value of resilience. These valuable skills will help pupils become more confident and capable digital users, both in school and in everyday life.

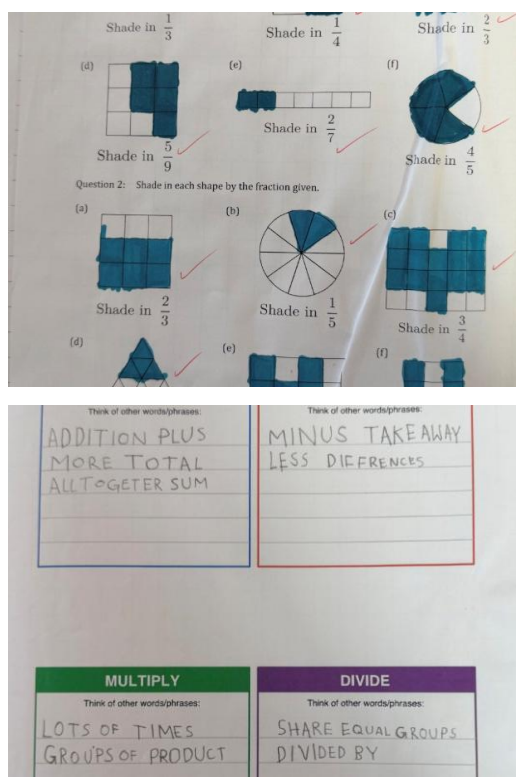
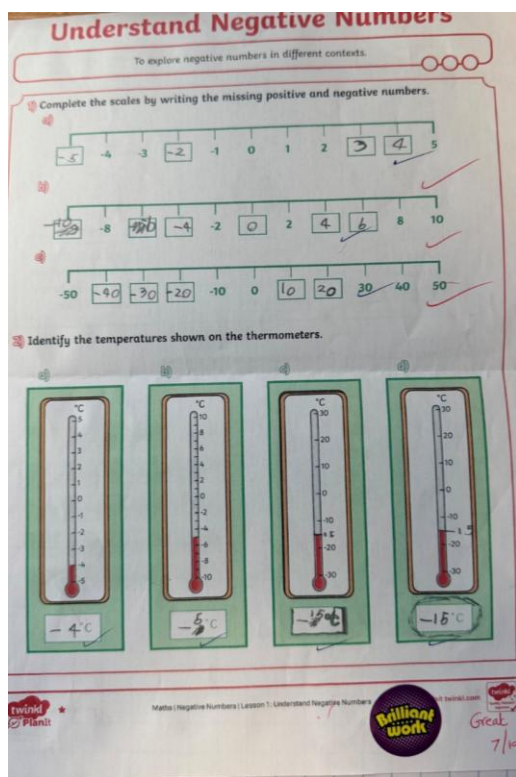
KS3 & KS4 - PSHE



In Flamingo and Toucan classes, the students worked hard on identifying their strengths, both skills and personal traits. They expressed this in creative ways and shared these positives in front of their peers, exploring the feeling of pride.

Pelican class have worked hard this term to consider different learning styles, what works best for them as individual learners and the importance of goal setting for success in the future. And in Eagle class, the students have really applied themselves in exploring Diversity and Discrimination, with a particular focus on the Equality Act 2010 and the 9 protected characteristics.

KS3 - MATHS



This half term in KS3 Maths, students have been developing their number skills, studying topics such as place value, negative numbers, fractions, worded problems and the four operations. A range of activities were used including games, practical tasks, and sufficient practice to build confidence and resilience. Throughout the term, it has become clear that certain students also needed additional challenge and so this was quickly implemented on the planning and delivery of their Maths lessons to ensure work was differentiated and that individuals made progress according to their own ability. It has been amazing to see the magnificent work, improved work ethic and renewed confidence in Maths and we look forward to seeing further growth and success next half term.

SCIENCE - KS3



Our KS3 pupils have been busy exploring a wide range of fascinating Science topics, discovering more about the world around them and how things work. They have learned about food groups and the digestive system, explored how heat, light and sound affect our everyday lives, and investigated the amazing structures of animal and plant cells, tissues and organs. Pupils have also discovered how living things grow and change through life cycles, how animals and plants adapt to survive, and what fossils can tell us about life millions of years ago. Their learning has taken them deeper into the natural world as they explored rocks and soil, as well as the importance of water through the water cycle and our precious water resources. Throughout these topics, pupils have been encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, make observations and learn through practical activities and discussion. We have been especially proud to see them demonstrate our core value of Resilience by trying new things, persevering when activities have been challenging, learning from mistakes and having another go. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity grow, their confidence develop and their enthusiasm for science shine through their learning!



KS3 – WORLD STUDIES

World studies in KS3 brought the fascinating topic of England in the Middle Ages and medieval castles. We discovered the mysteries behind motte and bailey castles and stone keeps, as well as finding out how society was structured and how William the Conqueror gained and maintained control. Lots of interesting discussions arose from this, such as looking at how society is organised nowadays through comparison and contrast. It was a delight to see how children enjoyed building castle models using kinetic sand and magnetic tiles. One of the most memorable experiences was to add attack and defence features such as moats and catapults- all in miniature, of course.

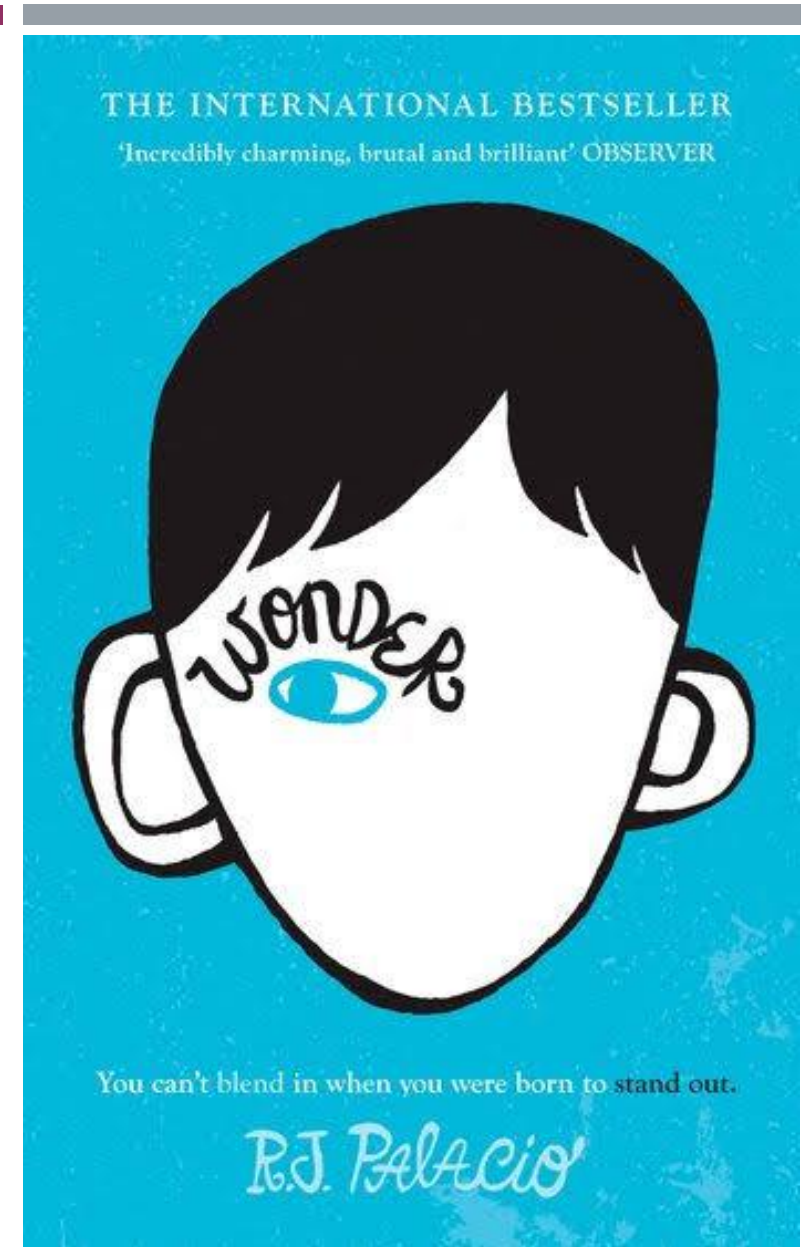


KS3 - OUTDOOR LEARNING

This term, we are delighted to have introduced Outdoor Learning as an exciting new addition to our Key Stage 3 curriculum at Mapesbury School. Inspired by the principles of Forest School, this hands-on subject encourages pupils to explore the natural world, develop practical skills and build confidence through meaningful outdoor experiences. Making the most of our outdoor space, pupils will be taking part in activities such as wildlife exploration, gardening, environmental projects and creative challenges. Outdoor Learning provides valuable opportunities to develop independence, resilience, teamwork and problem-solving skills, while promoting wellbeing and an appreciation of the environment. Lessons are carefully adapted to meet the individual needs of our pupils, ensuring that everyone can participate, experience success and enjoy learning beyond the classroom.

KS4 - ENGLISH

Eagle Class have been enjoying using *Wonder* to support their English learning. Through the story, students have been exploring the characters, sharing their thoughts and discussing important themes such as kindness, accepting differences and understanding how others may feel. They have been building their reading skills by finding information in the text and learning new vocabulary. In writing, students have been working on sharing their own experiences, putting their ideas in order and using interesting words to make their writing more detailed. They have also been practising speaking and listening skills by sharing their opinions, listening to others and taking part in class discussions.



KS3 – FOOD TECH



Our KS3 students have been busy baking a delicious range of sweet and savoury treats, including scones, cupcakes, pizzas, cookies and shortbread! They are developing practical skills in measuring, mixing, kneading and shaping, while discovering what it takes to make the perfect pizza dough.

Health and safety underpin every lesson, with students practising good food hygiene, using equipment safely and keeping their workspaces clean and organised.

Our core value of resilience has been a key ingredient! Whether adjusting sticky dough, trying a tricky technique or learning from a bake that hasn't gone to plan, students are discovering that practice, patience and perseverance help them improve. Each lesson is an opportunity to build confidence, independence and valuable skills for life.

KS3 - CAREERS



Our KS3 students have been busy exploring who they are and where their futures could take them! Year 7s are learning about the skills, qualities and values that help people succeed at work. Year 8s are exploring resilience in the workplace, including how to respond to challenges, learn from mistakes and keep trying. Meanwhile, Year 9s are investigating their KS4 options and learning how their interest, strengths and aspirations can help them make informed choices about their future.



Students are also putting their learning into practice by completing formal job applications for our Supply Champion and Green Ambassador roles. These opportunities help them develop communication and employability skills while making a positive contribution to school life.

Meetings with our careers advisor give students the chance to revisit last year's action plans, celebrate progress and discuss their next steps. Alongside this, the Buzz Quiz is helping them explore their personalities and strengths, building self-awareness and opening up conversations about future careers.

It's been a busy start to building confidence, taking responsibility and preparing for the world of work!

KS3 – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We have had a fantastic eight weeks of Football this term, with a strong focus on helping our students develop a love for the game.

Students have worked on basic passing and receiving skills, dribbling and tactical awareness during games, while developing their confidence and teamwork.

We are delighted to see the clear progress made by all of our students and, most importantly, to see them enjoying football and developing a genuine enthusiasm for the game.

Well done, Key Stage 3!



KS4 – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Key Stage 4 students have had a fantastic eight weeks of Hockey, focusing on developing their understanding of the game and applying key skills and tactics in match situations.

Students worked on basic Hockey rules, attacking and defending 2v1 situations, dribbling and shooting, building their confidence and tactical awareness throughout the term.

We were delighted to see their hard work come together in our Key Stage 4 vs Teachers Hockey match, where the students secured a well-deserved victory! Most importantly, we are proud of the visible progress our students have made and their growing enjoyment and love for Hockey.



KS3 - ART

This term, our students have been exploring contemporary art and responding to the work of a range of contemporary artists. They have been developing their understanding of context and considering how artists use objects, ideas and images to communicate different themes. Students have also been encouraged to identify themes within their own work and make connections with the work of other artists.

Students have been experimenting with objects and photography to explore contrasting and sometimes unexpected themes, including 'liquid and solid', 'natural and man-made', and 'public and private'. By combining, transforming and reimagining everyday objects, students have produced some truly inventive and thought-provoking images. The project has encouraged them to look at ordinary things in new ways and to develop their own creative responses to contemporary art.



KS3 – QUEST



This term, students have been enjoying Quest, a new curriculum subject designed by Art Teacher Brian McGinnis. Using role-playing games such as *Dungeons & Dragons*, Quest encourages students to develop problem-solving, teamwork and critical-thinking skills in an engaging and creative way. Students have been busy creating their own characters and bringing them to life during sessions, using imagination, collaboration and storytelling to embark on their adventures.

Quest also reflects the importance of play, positive relationships and pupil choice within a trauma-informed approach to education. Research into play-based learning for autistic pupils suggests that structured play can provide valuable opportunities to develop social communication and cooperation. Through Quest, students can explore different perspectives, make decisions and work together in a supportive environment, building confidence and developing skills that extend beyond the game table.

KS3 – LIFE SKILLS

This half-term, KS3 have focused on the home in Life Skills. From different home emergencies, fire safety, food hygiene and even some DIY; these students have learnt some important independence skills that will carry through with them throughout their life, we are very proud of their achievements.



KS3 - ENRICHMENT PROJECT

In KS3, Enrichment lessons were built around creativity and also mirrored our core value of resilience. Children had the opportunity to select different media to express their ideas through playdough, clay, construction and drawing or sketching. It was exciting to see how the skills developed from one week to the next and how it all linked together in final projects where we put our talent and imagination together. Some of our finished products were really amazing, bringing the best through sensory experimentation and learning through play.



KS4 – HOME COOKING



Our KS4 students have been developing their cooking skills as part of their BTEC Level 1 Home Cooking qualification. From scones and cupcakes to pizzas, cookies and shortbread, each recipe provides an opportunity to practise following instructions, measuring accurately and using equipment safely.

Alongside creating delicious dishes, students are learning about food hygiene, kitchen safety and working independently. They are also building confidence in organising their ingredients, managing their time and cleaning up after cooking - all valuable skills for everyday life.

Our core value of Resilience runs through every lesson as students tackle challenges, respond to feedback and improve their techniques. Their growing independence and perseverance are helping them progress towards their qualification, one recipe at a time!



KS4 - SCIENCE

Pupils have been exploring a range of important Science topics that help them understand both the world around them and the choices they make in everyday life. They have learned about healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, discussing how diet, exercise and daily habits can affect our physical and mental health. Pupils have also explored the effects of drugs, alcohol and smoking, developing their understanding of the risks involved and the importance of making informed choices. In the laboratory, they have investigated cells and microorganisms, learning about hygiene and how we can help prevent the spread of germs. They have also explored the building blocks of matter by learning about atoms and elements, and discovering how compounds and mixtures are formed. Throughout these topics, pupils have been encouraged to ask questions, share ideas and develop their scientific knowledge through practical activities and discussion. We have been particularly proud to see them demonstrate our core value of Resilience by persevering with challenging tasks, learning from mistakes and continuing to build their confidence. It has been wonderful to see their progress as they develop valuable scientific knowledge and life skills that they can use beyond the classroom.

KS4 - MATHS

This half term, students have started studying more challenging topics in Maths such as rounding, estimating, fractions and percentages while also reinforcing key number skills such as using the four operations in calculations. The students have settled very well and have shown great determination to learn new skills and develop their Maths. They have also developed a healthy competitive spirit that helps them push their abilities and pace of working to higher levels. It has been a smashing half term and one that we are all proud of. The future is bright and we are looking forward to our KS4 students continuing their positive start and working towards their qualifications.

17/9/26

Estimation LO Be able to estimate calculations

Question	Working out	Estimate
6.05×14.82	6×10	
2.2×2.6	$2 \times 3 = 6$	5.6 ✓
480×1.94	$500 \times 2 = 1000$	1000 ✓
12.3×4.6	$12 \times 5 = 60$	160 ✓
184.7×3.9	$200 \times 4 = 800$	800 ✓
1.89×2.49	$2 \times 2 = 4$	4.4 ✓
$\frac{18.6 \times 4.6}{2.2}$	$20 \times 5 = 100 \div 2 = 50$	50 ✓
$\frac{9.61 \times 4}{4.6}$	$10 \times 4 = 40 \div 5 = 8$	8 ✓
$8.41 \times 10.8 \times 4.3$	$8 \times 10 \times 4 = 320$	320 ✓
485×8.871	$500 \times 10 = 5000$	5000 ✓
$\frac{63.7}{3.2 \times 9.8}$	$3 \times 10 = 30 \div 60 = 0.5$	0.5 ✓
$\frac{5.79 \times 31}{5.23}$	$6 \times 30 = 180 \div 5 = 36$	36 ✓
41.2×5.904	$40 \times 6 = 240$	240 ✓
713×9.8	$700 \times 10 = 7000$	7000 ✓
$\frac{29.8 \times 4.1}{1.81}$	$30 \times 4 = 120 \div 2 = 60$	60 ✓

V.V. good 17/9/26

16 → 20 ✓	176 → 180 ✓	9012 → 9000 ✓	20 000 → 20 000 ✓
3 → 0 ✓	299 → 300 ✓	7995 → 8000 ✓	37 997 → 38 000 ✓
89 → 90 ✓	364 → 360 ✓	6003 → 6000 ✓	191 012 → 191 000 ✓
32 → 30 ✓	782 → 780 ✓	5786 → 5800 ✓	398 908 → 399 000 ✓

Round the following numbers to the nearest 10 km.

Places	Distance	to the nearest 10 km
Sheffield to London	257 km	260 ✓
Liverpool to Birmingham	141 km	140 ✓
Manchester to Bristol	113 km	110 ✓
Norwich to Plymouth	506 km	510 ✓
Leeds to Swansea	339 km	340 ✓
Blackpool to York	144 km	140 ✓
Newcastle to Brighton	528 km	530 ✓
Oxford to Exeter	221 km	220 ✓
Portsmouth to Carlisle	525 km	530 ✓

NAME: Leo 9th September 2026

Learning objective - Be able to multiply whole numbers under 1000 using grid method

Grid Multiplication.

This is how you work out 4×23 using grid multiplication.

20	3
80	12

$80 + 12 = 92$

A. What sums are being worked out with these grids? You do not need to work out the answers!

- $30 \times 1 = 30$
- $20 \times 4 = 80$
- $40 \times 2 = 80$
- $40 \times 6 = 240$
- $30 \times 2 = 60$
- $60 \times 7 = 420$
- $90 \times 4 = 360$
- $80 \times 6 = 480$
- $50 \times 10 = 500$
- $20 \times 20 = 400$
- $450 \times 20 = 9000$
- $470 \times 20 = 9400$

B. Write the sum being worked out in each grid. Copy the grid and then work out the answer.

- $30 \times 4 = 120$
- $20 \times 2 = 40$
- $40 \times 3 = 120$
- $30 \times 1 = 30$
- $20 \times 1 = 20$
- $50 \times 4 = 200$
- $40 \times 5 = 200$
- $60 \times 3 = 180$
- $20 \times 10 = 200$
- $100 \times 8 = 800$
- $120 \times 15 = 1800$
- $20 \times 10 = 200$

KS4 – LIFE SKILLS

Our students have been busy in Life Skills this half-term learning about things that are important for them after school. We explored different living arrangements available once they leave home, as well as how to identify renting opportunities. We used real-life examples to highlight the importance of budgeting and working to achieve the lifestyle they want in their adulthood. Finally, we covered some basic driving theory which the students met with lots of enthusiasm to prepare them for owning a car and obtaining their driving license. These students have shown maturity and willingness for independence, and hopefully in the year to come we can equip them as best as possible.



KS4 – DIGITAL SKILLS

Two of our KS4 students are well on their way to achieving Functional Skills Level 1 Digital Skills this academic year. This half-term the focus has been on effective internet searching, folders and files, and brief storage terminology/requirements on laptops. We are very proud of our students for their willingness to embrace the digital world around them to become more equipped to face the digital age.



SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY

This term the Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) Team have been working across the school supporting students' communication skills

The SaLT team continue to see students 1:1, in pairs and small groups for assessment and therapy, in and out of the classroom, modelling therapy ideas as well as providing visual supports, including communication books and specialist resources for the classroom

This term we have trained staff to deliver Lego Therapy. This structured play-based intervention that uses collaborative building projects to develop social communication skills such as turn-taking, sharing specific information and negotiation skills whilst having fun will sure be a success!

Luci supports: Puffin, Merlin and Flamingo

Siobhain supports: Kingfisher, Pelican, Toucan and Eagle

Luci works Mondays and Wednesdays and Siobhain works Wednesday to Friday

Wishing you all a lovely half-term break!



IMPORTANT DATES

- Anti-bullying week 16th-20th November
- Children in Need 20th November
- Coffee afternoon for parents 12th November @ 1:15pm
- Coffee morning for parents 02nd December @ 9:30am
- Pantomime 9th December @ 1:30pm
- End of term assembly 18th December – Parents Welcome (1pm finish)

2026 - 2027

 [Print](#)

INSET days

Start	Tuesday, 1st September 2026
End	Wednesday, 2nd September 2026

Autumn Term 2026

Start	Thursday, 3rd September 2026
Half-term holiday	Monday, 26th October 2026 - Friday, 30th October 2026
End	Friday, 18th December 2026

Christmas holiday

Start	Monday, 21st December 2026
End	Friday, 1st January 2027

INSET day

Start	Monday, 4th January 2027
End	Monday, 4th January 2027