

Date: 28th March 2024

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely end to the term with children enjoying Easter egg hunts today, thank you to the PTA for the yummy eggs! This week KS2 children were great sports during our house sports morning—everyone joined in and encouraged each other. Year 2 enjoyed a local walk to the allotments in the sunshine. We also enjoyed talking to parents about the children's learning last week.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Open House and Fab Finishes this afternoon. The Y2, Y3 and Y4 children presented their learning brilliantly and we hope you enjoyed their performances.

Have a lovely Easter holiday and we look forward to hearing about the next two weeks when the children return on Monday 15th April.

Mrs Fraser
Headteacher



Chicken Pox and Scarlett Fever

We have cases of chicken pox and scarlet fever in various year groups. We sent an email earlier today with more information about this. If your child is showing symptoms of scarlet fever or chicken pox during the holidays, please do not send them to holiday clubs or any other childcare setting. If your child is showing symptoms after the Easter holidays, please do not send them into school. More information and advice can be found on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Ofsted Big Listen Survey

If you would like to contribute to the Big Listen consultation, please use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen>

TD Dates for Next Academic Year

Confirmed TD days for the next academic year:

Monday 2nd September, Tuesday 3rd September, Monday 24th Feb 2025
3 more still to be decided.





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Parent Support Advisor Sessions

The Lighthouse Team from the BKAT are offering 1-1 drop in sessions for parents on the first Thursday of every month at our school. These run from 8:45—9:45am. Please contact the office to attend an upcoming session.



Mixing classes for September

Some parents have asked if children will be mixed across classes for the next academic year. As previously, we are planning to mix children who are currently in year 1 and also year 4. There will be more information about this during next term.

Support for Families Session: Eating on a Budget

The next Support for Families session will be held on **Wednesday 17th April** from 4:30pm to 5:30pm at GWA. This session's theme focuses on: **Eating on a budget.**

With the price of food ever changing, this session's aim is to share with families, parents and carers a range of delicious recipes that can be cooked at home on a budget and ideas on ways in which young people can get involved with the process. This includes an element on how fruits and vegetables can be incorporated. There will also be a focus on where groceries can be bought, including factoring in the use of price comparison.

As with all these sessions, anyone in the Tadpole or North Swindon area is welcome to join the workshop.



Please be aware that no actual cooking will be happening in the session and so no ingredients or preparation is required. As a more interactive session, it will be led by a member of the school's Design and Technology (DT) team and will take place in a space in the school where people can work in groups and share ideas with each other.

All reservations for this event are **free**. To secure your ticket for this session, please complete the following link by Monday 15th April: <https://forms.office.com/e/j9YAQ7NmMd> However, if you are unable to reserve a space and wish to join the event on the day, we shall do our best to accommodate you. We look forward to seeing you soon. Best wishes,

Mrs E Flynn

Assistant Principal – Personal Development

Teacher of Design Technology: **Great Western Academy**



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Housepoint Winners

Well done to all children who are in the **Owls** house. They earned the most housepoints this term and have therefore won the award of wearing non-school uniform on the first Friday back after the holidays. This will be on **Friday 19th April**.



Year 3 and Year 4 House Tournament

Year 3 and 4 had an amazing morning on Tuesday, competing in our first ever house team tournament. The children competed in their house teams in Football, Dodgeball, Tag rugby and Netball. Everyone had a great time and learnt lots about belonging to a team, support each other and how to work together. It was a great opportunity for the children to showcase and utilise the skills they have been learning in PE and a way to prepare them for more team sports opportunities in year 5 and 6.

Each house team played the other three houses and scored points for a win or a draw, we had the following results for each sport.

Netball- **Lions!**

Tag rugby- **Foxes!**

Boys football- **Swans!**

Girls Football – **Owls!**

Dodgeball- **Owls!**

And an overall winning house...**Owls!**

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you parents and carers for ensuring all of the correct kit was in school on the day.

We hope you enjoy the photographs from the event and can see just how much it was!

Photos can be found on the year 4 pages below.

Mr O'Brien

PE coordinator & Curricular lead for play





Parents and Friends of William Morris Newsletter

This week's news...

Upcoming Events

Apr 24th- 26th Book Fair
Apr 24th GlamoRose Cake van
May 2nd Bag2School
May 5th TGV market stall
May 17th Sponsored " Walk
your age "
June 15th Summer Festival
Jul 7th TGV market stall



Happy EASTER

The PTA wish you all a fabulous Easter.
If you fancy spreading some Easter
fun we have attached an Easter scene
for you to colour. We'd love to see
some of them, upload them to our
facebook page for all to see.

bit.ly/WilliamMorrisPage

BOOK FAIR

24th - 26th April

All books purchased go
towards points for **FREE BOOKS**
for the school!

3 for 2 on all books
cheapest book free



Raised so far
£585 for
OPAL
EQUIPMENT

COMPETITION TIME

Don't forget
to design your
book mark to
be in with a
chance of
winning a £5
book voucher

(See Attached Poster)

FUNDRAISING JAR!

(From Sep 2023)



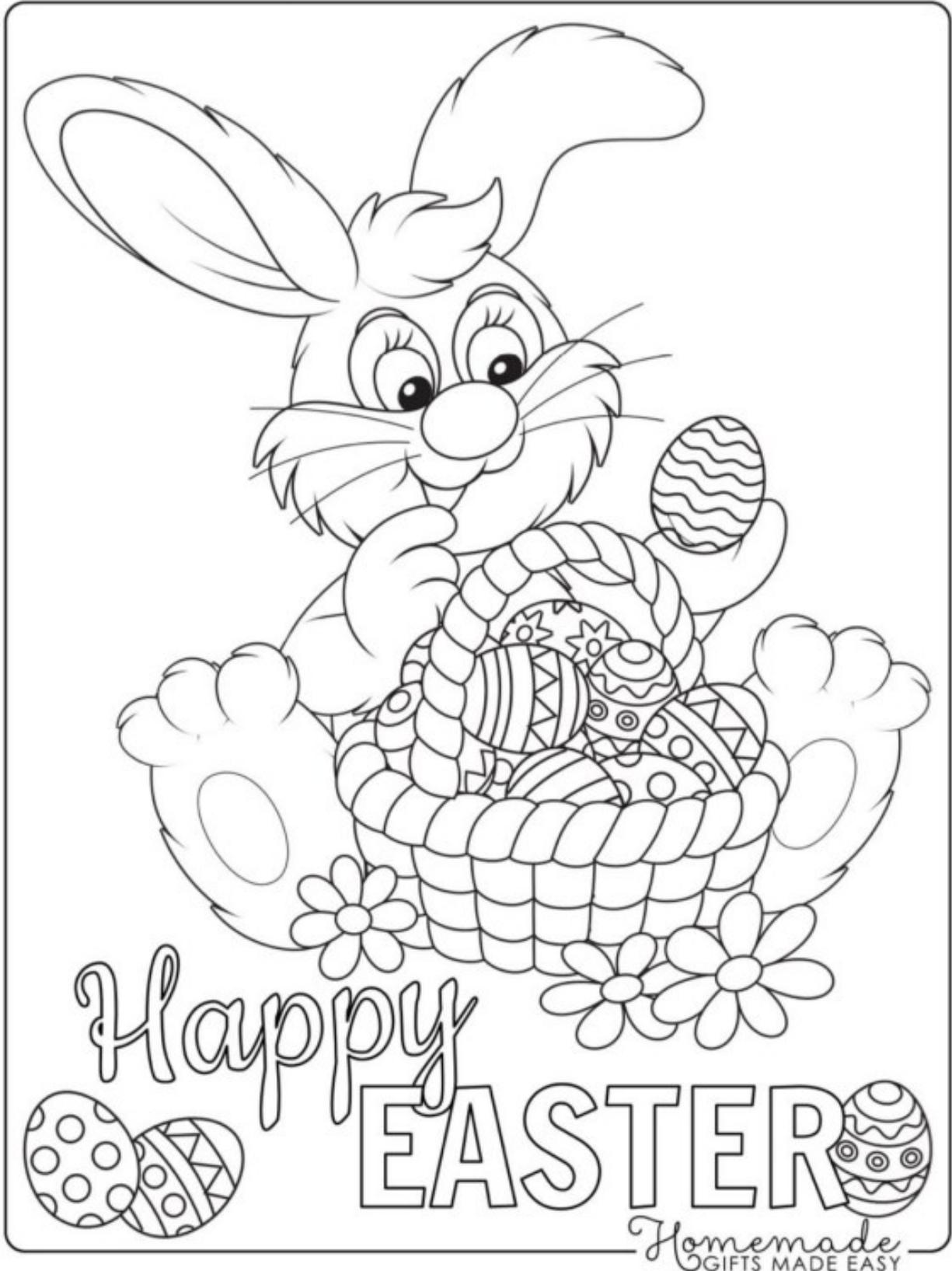
Total so far
£1,530 -

As always, thank you so much for your support. All proceeds from our events go straight back to the school to provide equipment and resources.



Easter colouring page

Share your finished artwork on our Facebook page we would love to see them -  WilliamMorrisPTA





COFFEE MORNING

Are you a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities?

Please come along to meet the Swindon SEND Families Voice team to find out what we do!

Location: William Morris Primary School

Date: 12th June 2024

Time: 9.15am - 10.15am



**Swindon SEND
Families Voice**

SINGING WITH ABI

***1:1 SINGING
LESSONS***

YEAR 1 AND ABOVE

 ***SINGINGWITHABI***

***BUILD CONFIDENCE, LEARN
TECHNIQUE AND HAVE FUN***

***EMAIL TO BOOK:
ABIJAMESMUSIC@OUTLOOK.COM***

***Singing
with
Abi***





**1-1
Instrumental
music lessons
at school, online
or at home.**

*Piano, Drums, Guitar,
Woodwind, Brass and Strings.*

**Swindon
Music
Co-operative -
providing 1-1
instrumental
lessons in schools
across Swindon and
Wiltshire since 1998.**



Our aim is to develop each pupil's musical potential according to their individual needs and aspirations. Quality of teaching is monitored through regular observations of all our teachers.

For more information or to apply please scan the QR code below



Application form



More information

**Swindon Music Co-operative, Astoria House, 165/166 Victoria Road, Swindon, SN1 3BU
01793 781973 • info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk • swindonmusiccoop.co.uk**

Gold Book

Well done to all of the children who were in the Gold Book this week and last week — we are very proud of you and your achievements!





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School Diary

April

15th April first day back
16th Dinosaur visit Y1
17th Year 2 Timetable Rockstars Launch Day
24th—26th Book Fair
24th GlamoRose Cake Van
24th YR Bellflower Pizza Express trip
25th Y1 Phonics screening meeting 9am

May

2nd Bag2School
2nd Lighthouse drop in session
2-3rd Y3 Bikeability
5th TGV Market stall
8th YR Sunflower Pizza Express trip
8th YN Farm visit
10th Class Photos
13th YR vision screening
17th PTA Sponsored 'Walk Your Age'
17th Class reps
23rd Governors meeting
27th—31st half term holiday

June

3-7th Y4 Timetables check week
3-14th Y3&4 Swimming lessons on site
6th Lighthouse drop in session
12th SEND Families Voice coffee morning
15th PTA School Fair
21st Wrong Trousers charity day
27th Y3 sleepover

TD INSET Days 2024-25

- Monday 2nd Sept 2024
- Tuesday 3rd Sept 2024
- Monday 24th Feb 2025

Please see 2024—2025 term dates on the school website.

July

1st TD INSET day
4th Lighthouse drop in session
10th Infant voice festival
11th Governors meeting
11th Reports to parents
15th—19th Olympic Week
18th Sports Day
18th International lunch & parents picnic lunch
19th rain off Sports Day
22nd Open House
25th Break up 3pm

[New dates in red]

Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes

What have we been learning in Nursery?

Last week our story was 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children enjoyed creating their own beanstalk pictures using different mediums and particularly enjoyed a yummy special snack, where they prepared their own beans on toast. Together we explored different seeds and learnt about what plants need to grow.



This week we have enjoyed lots of Easter arts and crafts. We have talked about the changes that happen when you heat chocolate and made our own Easter nest cakes. The children enjoyed printing their own cards and practised writing their names inside.

We finished our Easter celebration by going on an Easter hunt outside!

Reminders:

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school (white t-shirt, navy shorts, and daps)

Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name including water bottles.

Please ensure that if your child is bringing a packed lunch that it does not contain items with nuts e.g. cereal bars or spreads.

Please ensure all children have spare clothes including pants/knickers, trousers, socks and t-shirt. Our nursery supplies are running very low!

Have a lovely Easter break,
The Nursery Team :)



Jack and the beanstalk



Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes:

What have we been learning in Nursery?



Easter nest cakes 🐣



PIC•COLLA



Easter Egg Hunt



Jack and the beanstalk



PIC•CO



PIC•COLLA



Beans on toast 🍞



PIC•COLLA

Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes:

What have we been learning in Nursery?



Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes



Happy Easter, we have been working so hard and making great progress. In phonics we have been recapping our tricky digraphs and applying these sounds to longer words. We are so proud of how the children have been working to read more confidently and use their phonic knowledge in their reading.

We have been enjoying maths, talking about numbers, explaining what we know and how we know it! The children are working on doubling and have got really good at explaining how to find doubles. We have some lovely new number frames and have loved using these outside this week.

Thank you for all your support with returning reading books and reading at home, this is having a hugely positive impact on your child becoming a confident, independent reader.

A few reminders:

-Please ensure children do not bring toys or watches/jewellery in from home.

We are looking forward to our trips to Pizza Express and will need some parent helpers. If you are able to help please let your child's teacher know.

Have a lovely Easter holiday and we will see you all on Monday 15th April

The EYFS team



Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes

What have we been learning in Reception?



PIC•COLLAGE



MAKING TEN IN DIFFERENT WAYS

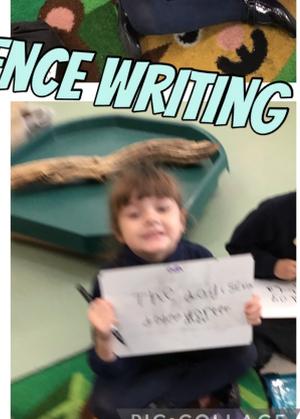
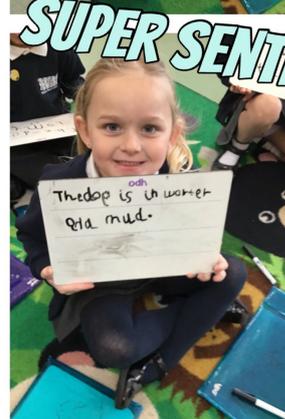
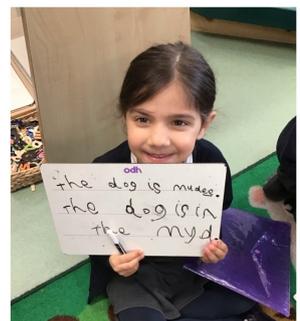


PIC•COLLAGE



BALANCING MARBLES

PIC•COLLAGE



SUPER SENTENCE WRITING

PIC•COLLAGE

Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes

What have we been learning in Year 1?



What a busy two weeks we have had. We have continued our topic of Paws, claws and whiskers and made a fact file about a big cat. The children explored what a non-chronological report has, its features and then created their very own.

In maths we continued to do number facts up to 20. The children have been adding and subtracting to create these numbers. They have become very confident at using a number line to jump forwards and backwards to find their answers.

In topic we have continued to explore big cat and the features of animals, their similarities and differences. Together as a class we labelled the features of a human and a cheetah. We have also looked at carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and sorted different animals into the three groups.

Last week we practised crossing the road in our car park. We listening out for the cars and we looked left and right before crossing. We also talked about holding our adults hand and not running when crossing the road. This week the children have done a great job in both their Maths and Phonic assessments and we are really proud of them. Also this week we have done some Easter baking ready to enjoy during open house.

We hope you have a great Easter break and we look forward to seeing you in Term 5 to start our Dinosaur topic!

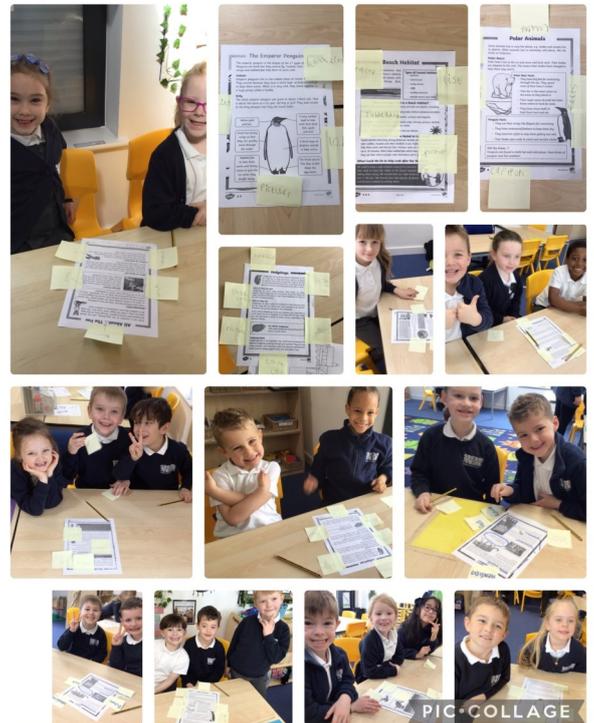
Reminders:

- Please continue to practise phonics over the holidays.
- Please continue to read and remember to write them in your reading record.
- PE kits to come back in at the beginning of the term and stay in school.
- Dinosaur Day is on Tuesday 16th April – please see parent pay.



Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes

What have we been learning in Year 1?



Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?



We've had a very busy few weeks in Year 2 to take us up to the Easter break.

We have been on a wonderful walking trip in our local community to the allotments. We learnt about the functionality of the allotments and enjoyed time to explore the space happily completing an 'allotment hunt'. We had the chance to sow seeds and we left them in the community greenhouse to grow! The children were very well behaved and we were very proud of how they represented our school in public.

In our lessons, we have been learning about:

English – We have finished writing our own invented stories based on our Talk4Writing text about Jack and the Beanstalk. The children had very creative ideas about how to adapt the story to make it their own. Fire breathing dragons, superheroes, siblings, exotic animals and friends have all made it into the children's stories and have gone on wild adventures. They have then edited and improved their own stories- a skill we are working on in Year 2!

Maths – We have been learning about fractions recently. We have found thirds, two quarters and three quarters of shapes, objects and amounts. We have done this using practical resources, drawings and many children are now beginning to calculate using fractions.

Science – We have continued to set up a range of different experiments which have helped us to understand what plants need to survive. We have explored many different types of seeds and labelled a diagram of a seed. We have investigated which germinates first a bulb or a seed, from this we have made predictions and reviewed our results. We have also set up an experiment where we are exploring how water and nutrients move through plants by using coloured water.

Geography- We have explored our local community taking note of our surroundings and plants that are beginning to grow in springtime. We have then mapped our local community walk and included specific map features to do so. Our walk took us to the allotments and back to school.

Forest School – We enjoyed spreading our seed bombs around the field and we look forward to seeing these grow into beautiful, wild flowers which will hopefully attract more wildlife to our school field. During this time we also sat around a lit campfire and made smores whilst we shared our favourite memories of forest school. What fun we had!

PE – Our peaceful yoga lessons have continued and we are getting great at holding poses using a strong body posture. In our outdoor lessons we have been learning about ball skills. We have begun to perfect the art of dribbling, stopping and controlling a ball.

We thoroughly enjoyed talking to you about the children's learning at Parents' Evening last week and we'd like to thank you for taking the time to come and speak to us. Please enjoy a happy Easter Holidays and a well deserved break! The Year 2 Team





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Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?



Exploring science books in the library



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RED NOSE DAY

PIC•COLLAGE



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Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?



WE LOVED OUR HEALTHY SNACKS

PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

What have we been learning in Year 3?



Year 3 have really embraced the topic this term and show great passion in sustainability and looking after our local environment. Following our fantastic farm plans we created some wonderful 3D junk models, we were so impressed with the creativity we saw across the year group.

In English we have written persuasive letters to the local community with ideas and strategies of how residents can keep Tadpole a beautiful, sustainable environment. We had some fantastic ideas and we are excited to showcase these at our open house on Thursday afternoon.

We hope everyone has a great half term and look forward to seeing all of the villain costumes on the first day back.



Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

What have we been learning in Year 4?



This term has gone by so quickly and the last few weeks have been full of exciting activities! In English, the children have been focusing on poetry. They started the unit by reading some popular Julia Donaldson books to each other, practising how to read with intonation and spotting the rhyme. They then practised how to use similes and metaphors and we were so impressed with how well they picked these up. Some example metaphors were, 'The tiger was a racing car, zooming round the forest' and 'The teeth were sharp needles piercing through the meat'. After this, they created their own version of the famous poem from Macbeth, 'Double, Double Toil and Trouble'.

In Maths, the children have been learning formal written methods to divide and multiply. They have learn to use the compact multiplication method and bus stop division. This has been a challenge but they have shown perseverance and determination to succeed!

The children have been working really hard on their fab finish performances. We have put the onus on the children to plan, prepare and produce their performance complete with props and scripts. The children have taken on this task enthusiastically and shown excellent independence and team work.

We had our last dance session and the children really enjoyed this. Thank you so much to Sarah for showing the children how fun dance can be and that it can be for everyone!

Thank you for your continued support,

Year 4 Team.



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Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

What have we been learning in Year 4?





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Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

What have we been learning in Year 4?



Neurodiversity Home 101:

Learning time management

Do-IT>

Learning to manage one's time is an important skill that is useful at school, at work and in life in general. Some children have **struggle to manage their time**. There are **many potential reasons** for this. The child may have poor organisational skills or poor executive function skills that may be associated with a Neurodiverse condition. They may struggle to tell the time or may get easily distracted. To help your child learn to manage their time:

- 1) Have a family calendar and use it to keep track of things you have planned. The sort with a column for each family member might be particularly useful to help your child see what things they will be doing in the coming days/weeks. Make it fun with different colours for different people and/or stickers for special days.
- 2) Encourage your child to consistently use their school planner/diary to record after-school activities, homework, etc.
- 3) Alternatively, encourage your child to use their mobile phone as a planner – you can set reminders and alarms to help them remember tasks.
- 4) Have a household routine with set mealtimes, bedtime, etc. to help your child plan and structure their days.
- 5) Set aside some time each week to sit down together and plan for the week. Emphasise the need to do some things early, to avoid getting too busy/stressed. E.g. if they know Maths homework is always due on a Wednesday, do they need to do other homework early so they aren't rushing on Tuesday night?
- 6) Create check-lists for everyday routines to help make sure everything gets done. This avoids lots of time-wasting about "I didn't know I had to do that!" or "What do I do next?"
- 7) Break down tasks into small, manageable chunks. E.g. writing an essay might seem very difficult. However, it's not as hard if you first highlight keywords in the question, then make a short list of key points for the essay, then use that list to make a plan (as a list or mind-map), then use the plan to write the essay one paragraph at a time.
- 8) Use a timer (e.g. on your phone) and set your child five minutes to do a short, achievable target. You can gradually build up the time given for tasks. This will help your child become more aware of how long five minutes, half an hour or an hour actually is/feels.
- 9) Compare times, so that your child has a concrete understanding of how long something will take, e.g. "this cake takes 20 minutes to bake – that's the same length of time as your morning break at school".



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION



It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®