

To be inspired and be inspiring



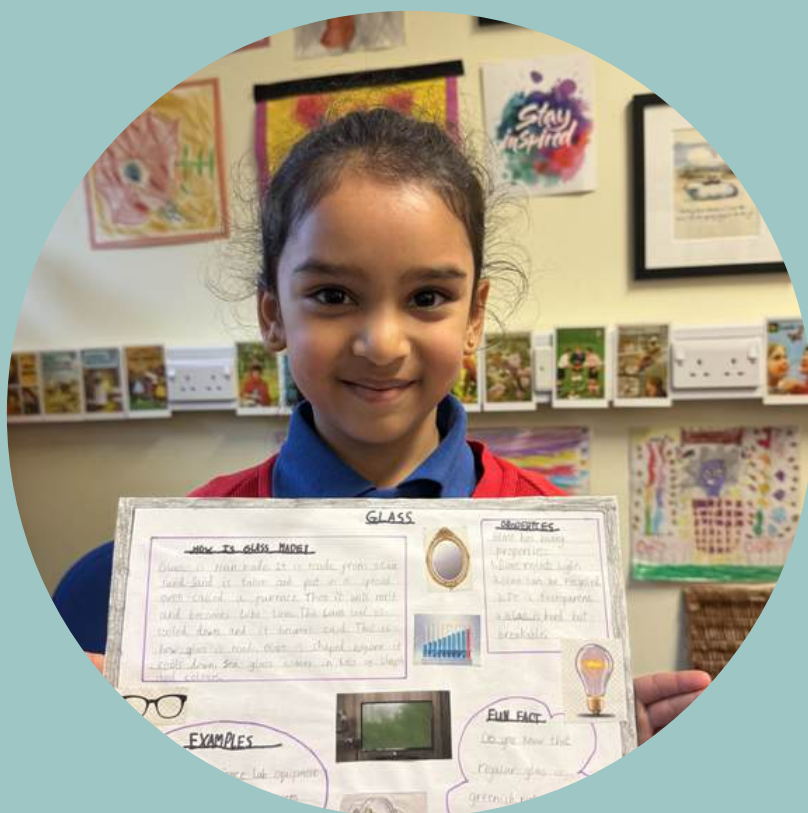
MARSHGATE

Newsletter



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Welcome to our November Newsletter!



With Christmas fast approaching, a lot is happening in and out of the classrooms at Marshgate. The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are gearing up for their Nativity performances and are adding to the sense of anticipation with their songs, acting and costumes. The Key Stage 2 children are ready for their Carol Concert, and we look forward to seeing and hearing the children perform for the school community on Tuesday, 10th December, at Holy Trinity Church. The Year 5 and Year 6 children will perform at 9:30, and the Year 3 and Year 4 will have their turn at 11:00.

I want to thank our PSA Co-Chairs and their merry elves for putting on a fantastic Winter Fair despite the adverse weather conditions. It went so well, and I know how much work goes into this event. Andrew Keesing and Helen Lancaster - thank you very much! Below are some photographs from the Winter fair. Our special Christmas newsletter will be shared with you before we break up for the holidays. It will feature a collection of the many events the children take part in at this time of the year.



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RECEPTION



Miss Cox
Caterpillar Teacher

Since the last newsletter, Reception has been loving their new topic, 'Animals'. We have enjoyed learning about several animals' habitats and used our classroom globes to investigate the various locations where they may be found. We will continue this topic by reading a key text each week, as well as reading fiction and nonfiction and exploring within free flow.



Miss Filby
Butterfly Teacher

The children have been working very hard on the Nativity. They have been learning new songs and practising their lines both at school and at home. Thank you for your continued support with this; it has been wonderful to see the children practise their lines on SeeSaw and develop in confidence each day. We cannot wait for you to see the performance and see all the hard work the children have put into the Nativity!



This term, we have begun PE lessons which have been a big success. We have been working on skills like balancing, running and spatial awareness. The children have shown great listening and attention skills as well as following instructions and have quickly progressed in their basic PE skills.



Both classes went on an autumn hunt across the Marshgate grounds, looking for signs of autumn. The children were extremely observant and curious about the world around them. They discovered various coloured leaves, sticks, and pinecones. This provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the differences between the four seasons. After gathering autumnal objects, the children experimented with their findings through printing and mark making.

The children continue to make fantastic progress in their phonics. They have learnt all set 1 sounds and some red words. We have been focusing on blending both real and alien words. The children have enjoyed making up their own words. Thank you for continuing to read with them at home and leaving comments in their reading records!

We are excited to celebrate Christmas with the children over the next month and will be doing lots of festive activities!



YEAR 1



Miss Lambert
Frog Teacher



Miss Bennett
Tadpole Teacher

This term, the Year One pupils have been thoroughly captivated by our cross-curricular lessons, combining History and English to explore the fascinating theme of toys from the past. This topic has sparked curiosity and creativity, as the children investigated and compared old and modern toys. They particularly enjoyed using descriptive adjectives to bring their observations of toys to life while identifying similarities and differences. A standout moment this term was the much-anticipated Toy Day. On this special day, the children dressed up as their favourite toys and participated in a range of toy-themed activities, making it an unforgettable experience for all.

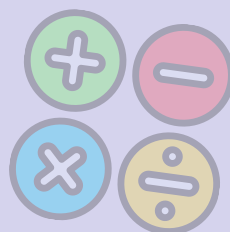
In History, the children explored old toys, examining the materials they were made from, their designs, and how they differ from the toys we see today. In English, they developed their writing skills by crafting descriptive pieces about toys. The pupils skilfully used adjectives, conjunctions, and even alliteration to make their writing vibrant and engaging. This combination of subjects has enriched their understanding of the past while inspiring their creativity and enthusiasm for learning.



In Science, we continued our exploration of materials, tying it beautifully to the study of historical toys. The children investigated the properties of various materials, sorting everyday objects into groups based on their characteristics. Class discussions encouraged them to think critically about which materials are best suited for different purposes, applying their growing scientific knowledge to support their reasoning. Building on this, they made predictions and conducted experiments to identify waterproof materials, showcasing their curiosity and scientific reasoning skills.



In Maths, the children have made fantastic progress in their addition and subtraction knowledge. They have used a range of visual aids, pictorial representations, and hands-on manipulatives to deepen their understanding and problem-solving abilities. Some pupils have even demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm by creating their own number lines and addition sentences at home—what a wonderful display of their love for learning!



Lastly, rehearsals for our Nativity are well underway! The children have been enjoying learning songs with actions and practicing their lines with expression and confidence. We are all looking forward to sharing this special performance with you.



YEAR 2



Miss Dhillon
Cygnet Teacher



Mrs Macpherson
Swan Teacher

At the end of last term we rounded off our castle topic with a wonderful castle day where we put all our learning into practice. The children chose to dress up as their favourite characters which included knights, queens, kings, princesses, jesters, maids and many others besides. The children were very creative with junk modelling building their own castles which included all the features they had been learning about including draw bridge, portcullis, arrow slits, the keep as well as a dungeon or two. They also made their own siege weapons, a big favourite being the trebuchet. What a great day we had!

In English we are enjoying our featured text which is Little Red Reading Hood. Little Red loves reading as much as we do. We have been inspired by the fact that she enjoys reading anywhere especially 'nooks and crannies'. We followed her lead and during an experience day we made our own reading dens where we enjoyed reading our favourite books. The children have loved using their dramatic skills to act out the story and this has led to some fabulous writing where they have incorporated their own ideas. We were particularly impressed with their use of onomatopoeia when describing the poor old librarian's escape from the cupboard.



In DT we are learning how to make a baby's chair. The children have been experimenting and discovering what makes a chair stable. They had great fun testing their own prisms, cuboids and cylinders made from card and deduced that cylinders are most stable because they don't have corners. There was some great cross curricular learning going on when Joshua predicted this would be the case exclaiming 'that's why they have round towers in castles!'



We are also enjoying rehearsing for our Nativity and look forward to performing for you on the 5th December.





Mr Farrelly
3FK Teacher



Mrs Kollross
3FK Teacher

YEAR 3



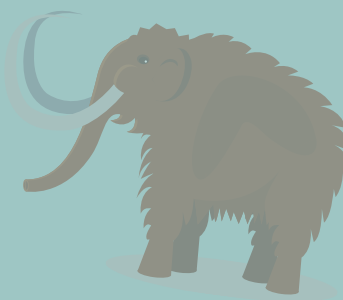
Miss Brewster
3B Teacher

Year 3 have had a busy and exciting start to the second Autumn term with a variety of engaging activities across different subjects. Mr Farrelly has gone onto paternity leave and we have welcomed Miss Brooks to the team.



Miss Brooks
3FK Teacher

In 3B, pupils presented their class assembly on the Stone Age, showcasing their knowledge and creativity. They took the audience through the key events and developments of this fascinating period, using visuals and performances to bring history to life. It was an excellent opportunity for them to delve into the past and share their learning with the school community.



Meanwhile, in gymnastics, Year 3 have been developing their coordination, balance, and flexibility. The pupils will be learning a variety of gymnastic skills, including rolls, jumps, and sequences. These activities are not only building their physical abilities but also encouraging teamwork and confidence as they perform their routines in front of classmates.

As part of their English lessons, Year 3 have been exploring non-fiction information posters, learning how to present facts in an engaging and informative way. They shared their work with Year 2, demonstrating their understanding of key features of non-fiction writing, such as headings, subheadings, and diagrams. This collaboration allowed the pupils to share their knowledge and reinforce their understanding of different formats of information.

Looking ahead, Year 3 are transitioning into their History topic, where they will delve into the fascinating story of England's progression from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age. This will involve exploring the advancements in tools, weapons, and daily life as societies evolved over time. It's an exciting time for Year 3 to learn about how these changes shaped the world they live in today.

In Science, Year 3 have started a new topic on Rocks and Fossils. They will be investigating the different types of rocks, how they are formed, and how fossils are created over time. Pupils are looking forward to hands-on activities, including examining different rock samples and exploring the science behind fossil formation.





Mrs Davies
4D Teacher

YEAR 4



Mr Harrison
4H Teacher

Year 4 have had such an exciting and busy month this cold November.

We started off our half term with our fantastic educational visits to the Museum of Richmond. The children had the opportunity to consolidate and learn new things about their Autumn 1 History learning of the Romans. They were able to learn about how Roman's dressed, everyday objects, roman toys and what life for school children was like. Thank you to our volunteers who were able to take the time to chaperone and assist on the trips!

After writing such wonderful stories in our English last half term, the children were delighted to visit the year 6 pupils to read their masterpieces. We chose to share our stories with year 6 because the writing was such high quality- using vivid imagery; incredible sentences; using subordinate clauses and inventive kennings that we might inspire the older pupils in their own writing. We had some lovely constructive feedback from the year 6 pupils after hearing the stories too- what a fabulous audience!



In science, we've started our very exciting topic of bubbles. The pupils have had a fantastic time experimenting with the composition of a bubble solution. They have looked at how a solution can affect how long a bubble lasts for and also how the composition can affect the shape made. This has been an excellent opportunity for the children to collect their experimental data in a structured and scientific way. What fun we've had!

In DT the children have been learning about frame structures within pavilions and how they help to reinforce the stability of a building. They have been experimenting with using wood working skills and have drawn a bird's eye view of their designs to use as a base for their pavilions. We can't wait to show off the final products.

As the Wider opportunities sessions run by the fantastic Gary Lewars and Tatjana Sandhofer come to an end, we want to thank both teachers for teaching the children about the wonderful woodwind instrument, the clarinet, and inspiring them to want to learn more. We thoroughly enjoyed the concert that the children performed to us. We'd also like to thank those who were able to attend Monday's performance- the children were so proud to see their families come and watch.

Finally, as the days move closer to Christmas, the children have been enthusiastically preparing the most wonderful carol concert for you which we hope you will be able to come and watch. How can we describe the sound? Like angels!



YEAR 5



Miss Beck
5B Teacher

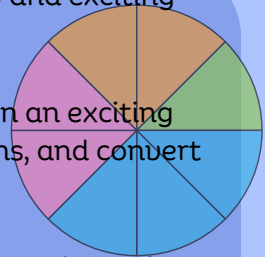


Miss Charlton
5C Teacher



As we move into the second half of the autumn term, Year 5 has been busy exploring new and exciting learning across a variety of subjects!

In Maths, we have shifted focus from multiplication and division to fractions. This has been an exciting challenge as we work with fractions of numbers, learn how to compare and order fractions, and convert mixed to improper fractions.



In Geography, we have been diving into the world of rivers. We are learning all about the functions of rivers, including how they shape the landscape, support ecosystems, and provide essential resources for human populations. Our studies have included exploring famous rivers like the Nile, Amazon, and Thames, as well as understanding the water cycle and how water moves through different environments. We have also been looking at the impact of rivers on both the environment and human settlement, which has led to some interesting discussions!



In Art, we have been exploring still-life. We have studied different examples of still-life artwork and learned how artists capture objects in a realistic way. As part of our learning, we created our own still-life arrangements using items found in the classroom. We paid close attention to light, shadow, and texture to make our drawings as detailed and lifelike as possible. We did our own sketching, learning about techniques such as hatching, cross hatching and spirals. It has been a wonderful opportunity to practice our observation skills and experiment with different drawing techniques.

In Science, our current learning is forces, where we are investigating how different forces work in the world around us. We have been learning about friction, gravity, and air resistance. We have carried out experiments to observe how friction affects the movement of objects and how gravity keeps everything grounded.



One of the highlights of this term has been the incredible Year 5B assembly! The performance, all about Science, was a huge success. The children worked together to bring all the planets to life, from moon all the way to Saturn, and back. The play was a fantastic way to showcase what we've been learning in science, and the creativity and teamwork on display were truly inspiring. Everyone had a great time, and it was a brilliant way to end our topic on a high note! It has been a busy and productive term so far, and we look forward to continuing our learning in the coming weeks!



Miss Gray
6G Teacher

YEAR 6



Mr Healy
6H Teacher

Autumn term 2 is always a super exciting time in Year 6 with so many events to look forward to and take part in.

Year 6 have produced some fantastic recount writing this month based on the popular World War 2 evacuation novel, Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. Check out the website for some samples of their writing. It has been wonderful to see the development of the children's writing in such a short space of time.

In DT, we have begun our topic on Waistcoats. Already the children have planned their waistcoat based on their design criteria. We looked at many famous designers, such as Stella McCartney, and are looking forward to creating our very own fashion over the coming weeks.



This half term, we have continued learning about the social impact of World War 2 on Britain and how it has affected and changed society, in particular the role of women. Year 6 found it fascinating to research some of the roles women were required to do during the war effort. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to VE Day where we will take a trip back in time to when victory in Europe was achieved. In the next few lessons, we will examine Churchill's role in the war and his legacy: both positive and negative. We will finish by examining the overall social change in Britain that World War 2 brought about.



Science has seen us extend our learning on Evolution and in particular the work of Charles Darwin. We have learnt that variation in living things can be the result of either inheritance or adaptation. We have looked at the work of many scientists throughout History and how this ultimately contributed to Darwin's theory of evolution.



We are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas weeks and the nice events that they bring, such as the carol concert on December 10th.