



Newsletter - TERM 2 2022

Welcome to the second Newsletter of this academic year. Here we aim to share with you the achievements of this term and take some time to promote activities that you and your children might enjoy outside of school hours.

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Wow! What an amazing term we have had. So much has been going on!

Rainbow and Year 1 have been working really hard this term and I have had the pleasure of watching their phonics go from strength to strength. Year 2 have completed some great work continuing on from their school trip. I loved the pirate flags. Year 3 have been working incredibly hard and were making me very hungry this week with their cooking. Year 4 challenged my weaving skills this term, they did a much better job than me! Year 5 had an amazing school trip to the Tower of London, which they couldn't stop talking about. And Year 6 became incredibly handy with a sewing needle, creating tissue holders.

As we entered December the school began to get that Christmas buzz as the infants started practising their Nativity. Well done to Rainbow, Year 1 and Year 2 who performed so well. I know you made everyone incredibly proud.

At Christmas I believe it is a time for family and counting your blessings. I am blessed to lead such a wonderful school, with kind and caring children, staff and parents. Our Lenham family is very special and I am proud of everything we achieve together.

Thank you to the wonderful staff, who do an amazing job. They work very hard making sure the children receive the best teaching possible. Thank you to the Senior Leadership Team, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Admin Team, Support Staff and Governors. You all play a very important role in making our school so very special.

Thank you to the children who work hard every day, learning new skills and knowledge. You make us proud with everything you achieve.

Thank you parents for your constant support. Our family isn't complete without you. Thank you.

We must also say goodbye and thank you to the wonderful Mr Ramsden- good luck at your new school.

So that leaves me to say- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Mrs McCluskey



GOVERNORS MESSAGE

It has been another busy month for the governing body at Lenham. We have welcomed two new parent governors onto the committee, Faye Hudson and Richard Westcott. We still have one more vacancy for a parent if you have some capacity and you would like to be part of discussions around the strategic direction of the school!

We, the governing body, have also had many opportunities to be in school and talk to the children and the staff about the exciting topics that they have been learning about. We saw how the new phonics programme is being delivered and how the children were enjoying learning the new sounds. We had the opportunity to see how Mastering number was being delivered in Reception and understanding about number bonds. I also had the pleasure of meeting the parents that attended the recent parents' forum and had the opportunity to share with them what role governors play in leadership and management of the school.

However, what I enjoyed the most was listening to the rehearsals for the nativity and the excellent singing that was taking place for this festive event as well as the young voices choir heading to the O2 in January. It's not Christmas until the nativity starts to rehearse!

That just leaves me to say have a lovely festive break with your families and we look forward to being back in school in 2023.

Ceri Norey
Chair of Governors

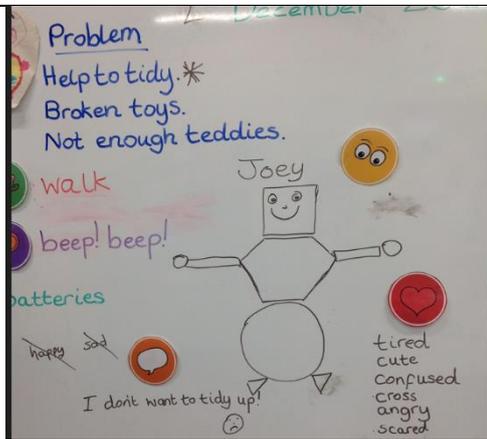
TEACHING AND LEARNING SHOWCASE

Year R

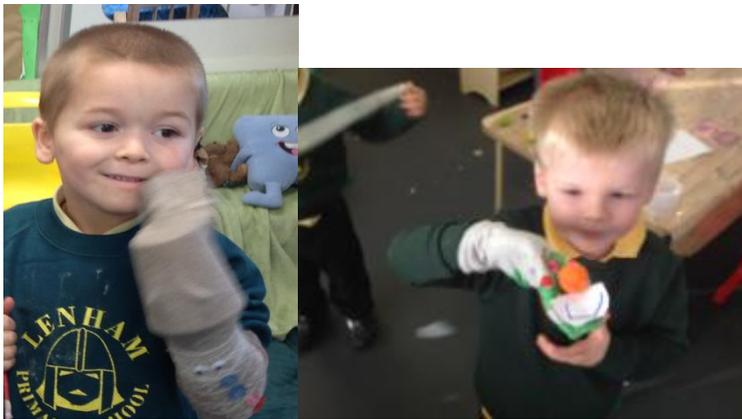
Rainbow Class have been extremely busy this term! Within our topic Marvellous Machines, we explored machines big and small that help us clean, make, fix and even move around!



We have been learning about electricity and power, and talking about different machines in our homes. We even designed our own battery powered robot to help us tidy up at tidy up time!



Within our mini topic, 'Puppets and Pop-ups', we watched puppet shows, explored light through shadow puppets and designed our very own sock puppets.



We have worked extremely hard with our phonics this term, and we are remembering lots of new sounds which we are using when we read and write in class. During literacy we shared stories as a class, then performed the stories for our friends. We also explored new vocabulary and used it during our play time! Our favourite stories were Mrs Armitage on Wheels, Rosie's Walk and Stickman.



We used computational thinking to plan, design and construct birdfeeders to help the birds this winter.



We had a great time riding the balance bikes when Bike-ability came into class, and some of us learnt how to ride a bike!

In maths we have been deepening our knowledge of number, ordering numbers, subitising, using positional language and talking about the properties of shapes.



Finally, we were amazing in the KS1 and EYFS Nativity!



Year 1

This term, we completed our history-based topic 'Childhood' by completing our knowledge organisers which demonstrated all our learning to share with others.

In Science, we have been learning all about being human with a focus on the importance of the five senses as part of our 'Human senses' topic.

We took part in a senses activity where we used our senses to establish the object.

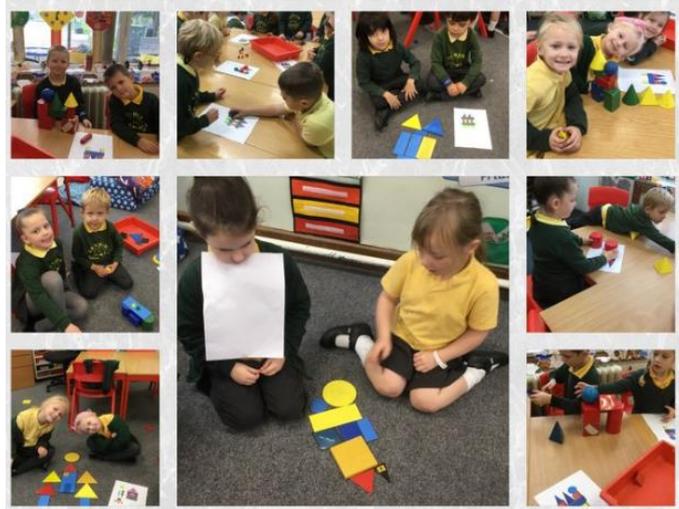


We also experienced what it was like to have a sensory impairment by removing our sense of sight and attempted to complete some simple challenges blindfolded.



In English, we have been studying the text Pinocchio by Carlos Collodi. We made puppets so that we could understand how Pinocchio moved and felt. We retold the story in our own words and used Pinocchio's autobiography as a guide to write our own.

In Maths, we completed our addition and subtraction lessons and our geometry lessons.



In PE, we shared our gymnastic sessions with year 2 and enjoyed learning how to make shapes using our bodies, balance, jump and land safely making sure our whole body performs in a gymnastic way. In our outdoor sessions, we enjoyed learning about the different parts of a golf course and practised aiming for the green and avoiding the bunkers and water sections.



In PSHE, we have been celebrating our differences. We looked at our similarities and differences and discussed why these are okay and should be celebrated. We created our own individual

gingerbread people and displayed these in the classroom for everyone to share.



During 'Anti-bullying week' we looked at the book 'Monty the Manatee' by Natalie Pritchard. We were horrified by the way the sea creatures treated Monty and discussed why it was wrong and what Monty could do to get help.

In Art, we created some funny faces as part of our 'Funny Faces and Fabulous Features' topic,



We also attempted to recreate our own version of our chosen portrait.

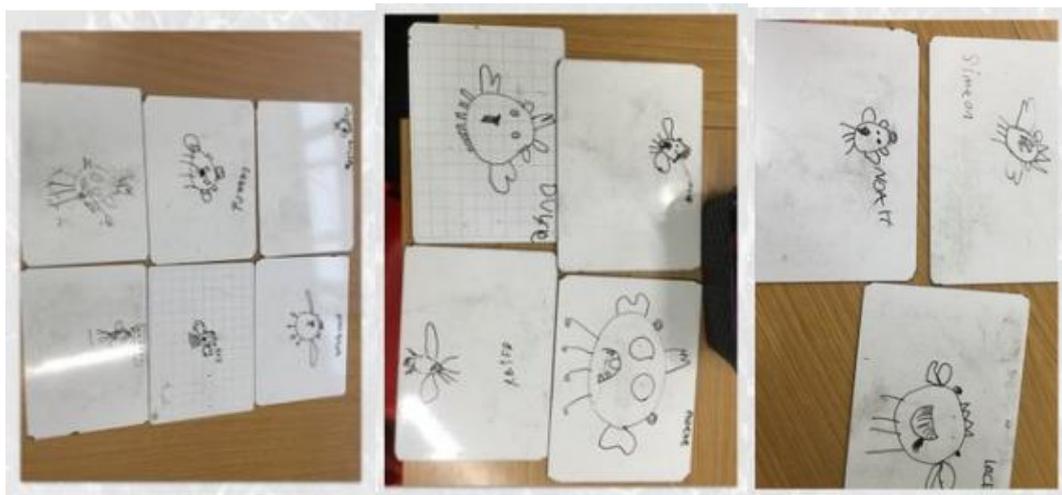
In RE, we have been learning all about Christianity including how Christians celebrate different festivals, pray and the importance of bible stories and parables to Christian beliefs.

In Geography, we have been learning about maps, compass points for directions, how to identify human and physical features

as well as learning about the 7 continents and 5 oceans and the countries with our United Kingdom.



In Computing, we have learnt how to log on to the Chromebooks and access Numbots. We have learnt what an algorithm is and how computers need them to complete tasks. We had a go at following an algorithm to create a crazy character.



We have also enjoyed learning our words and songs for the Nativity and performed it beautifully. We were very nervous but had great fun and were very proud of ourselves.

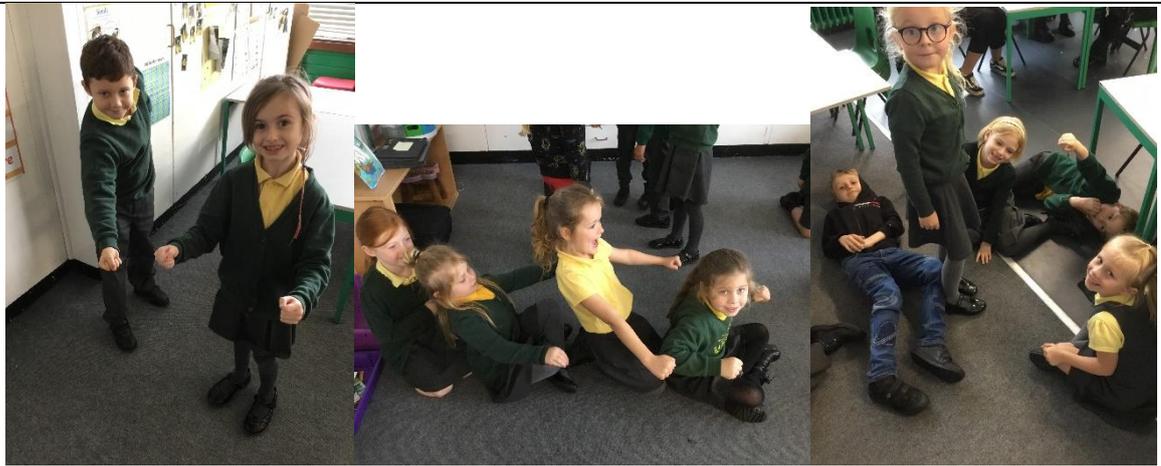


Year 2

Year 2 have continued to have great fun learning through their 'Land Ahoy!' Topic

In English, we have focused on researching and writing biographies on Grace Darling- Our neat copies will be on display soon! Here are some photos of us sorting and labelling the features of a biography and enjoying drama activities to learn about Grace's life and achievements:





In Art, we have designed and created our own block printed pirate flags; it was very messy but very fun!



We have continued exploring the uses of materials in Science- testing paper for absorbency, making floating and sinking shapes and sorting materials on whether they are recyclable or not:





This term in PE, we have improved our sending and striking skills in football and have also enjoyed some shared Gymnastics lessons with Year 1:



Our RE has focused on exploring the lives of Jewish people:

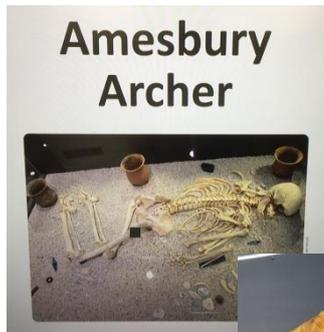


We have also had an amazing time learning our lines and songs for the Nativity play:



We are sure that you would agree- What an excellent performance!

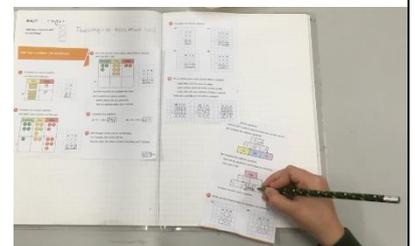
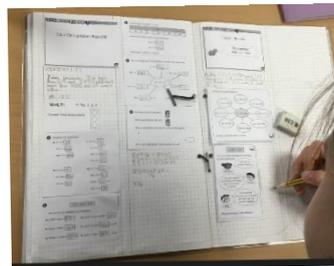
Our Through the Ages topic continued this term with a visit from the Amesbury Archer –here is his skeleton which was discovered in Wiltshire thousands of years after he died. In our booklet we used the evidence to discuss what the facts tell us, and also what assumptions we can make about his life.



Amesbury Archer



We have done an INCREDIBLE job of learning how to add and subtract using column method with exchanges. Mrs Martin and Mrs Carter have been enormously proud of us and all our hard work.



After he had finished acting out the remains of the Amesbury Archer, “Skelly” stayed for two weeks and helped us learn about the human skeleton and animal nutrition, as part of our Science unit.





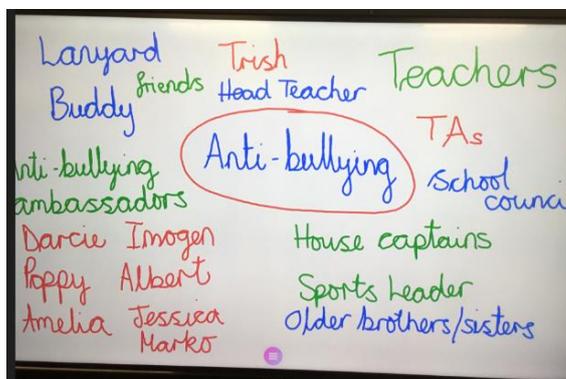
We learned about the Celts who invaded from Europe and brought their skills of iron work with them. The Iron Age began in Britain and it was a much more violent time in history. Above, we drew round a friend and turned them into a Celtic warrior –complete with tattoos and weapons!

In PE we have completed units on basketball and dance.



We took part in anti-bullying week and discussed who we can talk to in school if we need help.

Finally in computing, we learnt about the laws relating to cyber-crime. We presented cases in front of the judge, and jury had to deliberate on each and decide which law had been broken, who the victims were in each case and on the guilt or innocence of the defendants!



Year 4

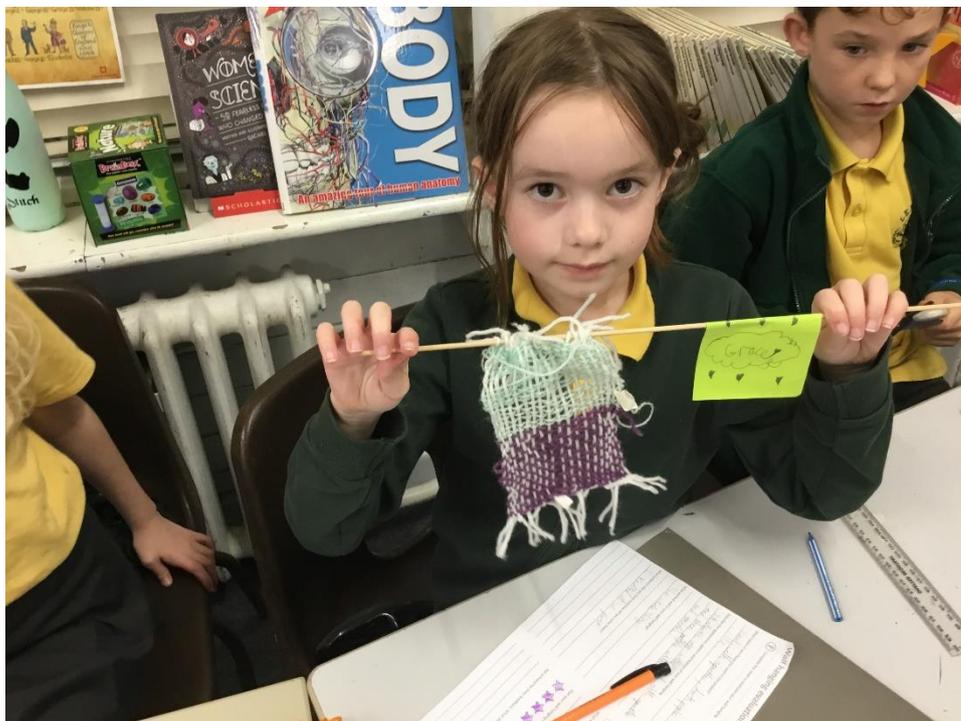
Year 4 have continued their 'Invasion' topic this term, but also completed their DT and Geography topics 'Fresh Food' and 'Interconnected World'.

In PE, we have been enjoying the topics 'Multiskills' and 'Hockey'.



We took part in the Multiskills Competition with Year 3 at the Lenham School.

In DT, we made 'rainbow kebabs' and learned how to use a peeler, grater, masher and knives safely.

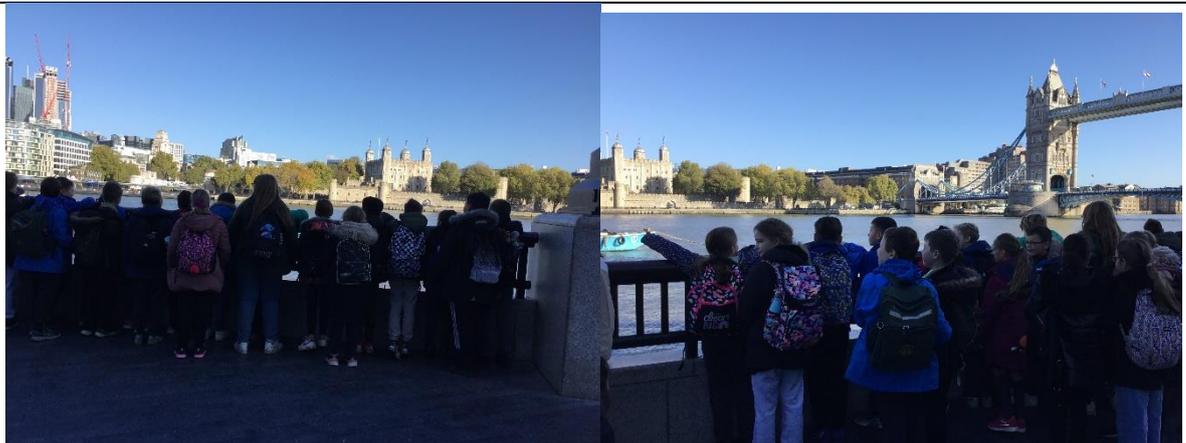


We also used a loom to create a pattern with wool, creating a 'weft' and a 'weave' carefully. For lots of the class, this was our first time using a needle!



In 'Interconnected World' for Geography, we mapped the National Rail and the canal system around the UK using maps.

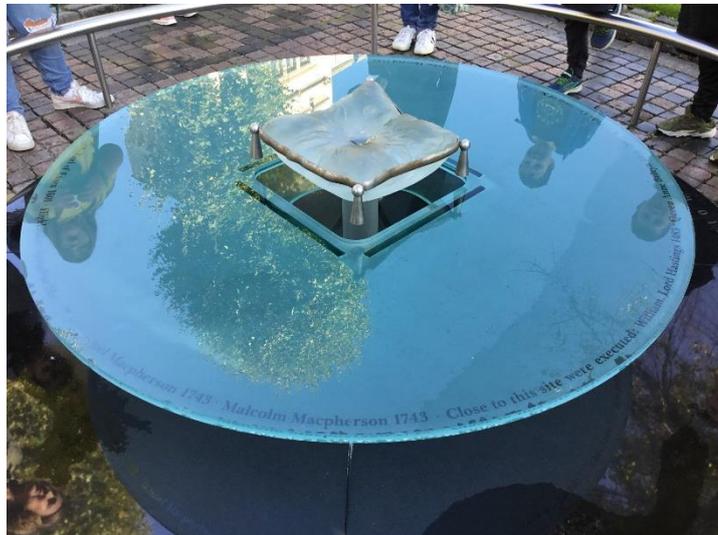
Year 5



We started the term with our fantastic trip to the Tower of London. We walked over Tower Bridge and managed a quick look at the Crown Jewels!



We visited the memorial site of Anne Boleyn's execution.



Our guide told us all about Henry's wives – why he married them and why he wanted to stop being married to them!



In class, we prepared evidence for Anne's court case, acted out her trial and wrote newspaper reports about it.



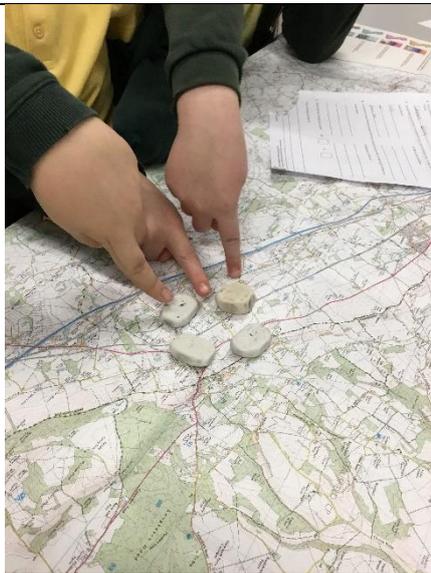
In music, we have been learning to play instruments to accompany the songs that we are singing.



In science, we have looked at properties of materials, including reversible and irreversible changes. We filtered and evaporated, discussed solvents and solutes, made solutions and evaporated water to reverse changes.



In Geography, we have used OS maps – 4 & 6-figure grid refs, compass directions, transport routes and settlement hierarchy.



Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy term finishing off their 'Britain At War' History project focussing on key events in World War 2. One of the highlights was their trip to CEMA (Centre for Experimental Military Archaeology) at Detling Showground where they explored a series of replica trenches and learned all about the Homefront, rations and The Blitz.



As it was November 11th, they even held two minutes silence in the trenches and then recited 'In Flanders Fields' - this was quite an emotional moment.



To complement their History, in English the children have studied the poem 'In Flanders Fields', written narratives set in a WW2 air raid and written a survival guide for what to do in an air raid.

Just last week, we held a WW2 Evacuee Day and the children looked fantastic in their costumes. On arrival, they were sent to the station (otherwise known as the hall) to catch their train, making sure they boarded the correct carriage which then took them to their new locations with some 'travelling' as far as Wales and Plymouth.

Later that morning, the children received letters from home written by mums and dads in secret. The rest of the day was spent making vinegar cake (it really did taste better than it sounds) and sewing with the kind help of some parent volunteers.



Their 'Make Do and Mend' DT project this term, has seen the children explore different items of clothing; learn how to use running stitch, whip stitch and a blanket stitch; sew on a button; and make mini tissue holders and miniature Christmas stockings. All the children really did impress us with their sewing skills. Well done Year 6!



The children also received a visit from a magistrate who explained the workings of the Justice System, the importance of the laws we follow in this country and the consequences of breaking those laws. The children asked some fantastic questions and used great listening skills.



Their science lessons have focussed on the circulatory system, where they spent time recording their pulse rate and then carried out different investigations to explore the effects of exercise on the heart.

Well done, Year 6, on another successful term. In January, we move to a geographical focus as we journey to 'Frozen Kingdoms'. This feels quite appropriate given this week's weather conditions! 🌨️

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS



Open Afternoons for prospective parents

Mrs McCluskey led the tours with the help of some amazing Year 6 tour guides. The afternoons were well attended by families who are considering Lenham Primary as their choice of school for September 2023

Remembrance Day

All the children took part in a 2-minute silence on Remembrance Day to remember all those who had fought for our country.

Children in Need 2022

On Friday the 18th of November 2022 it was Children in Need. People had to either wear their pyjamas or their own clothes and then donate a minimum of £1 to Children in Need via parent pay. We also had a cake sale and in total we raised £332.76

Children in Need are a charity which help children who aren't as fortunate as us. They are a very good charity and do lots of amazing things.

Silver and bronze Pudsey badges were worn by many of the children and staff. Many people even dressed up as him by wearing the yellow onesie and his ears. Everyone really enjoyed that day and the cakes which were sold after school.

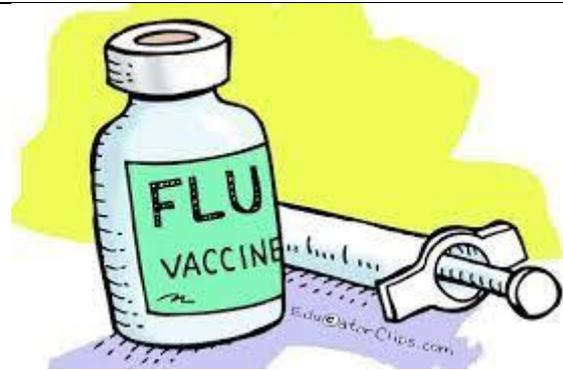
Thank you to all of the people who donated to the inspirational charity.

Lily A Mills and Hannah ES Bradley



Flu vaccinations

On Monday 31st October, the Kent and Medway immunisation team were in school to vaccinate those children who requested a flu vaccine.



On 28th November Mrs McCluskey and Mrs Norey met with parents to discuss Leadership and Management as well as behaviour.

Mrs McCluskey shared what the leadership structure was in school and what the different roles were. Mrs Norey explained the role of the Governors.

Behaviour was then discussed, sharing the behaviour policy and what is put in place to help manage bullying. This information can be found on our website.



<https://lenham.kent.sch.uk/parent-info/latest-news/parent-voice-november-2022/>



Anti- Bullying Week

All the classes took part in Anti-Bullying week. The theme this year was Reach Out.

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day was held on Wednesday 14th December. Tina and her team prepared and served a delicious Christmas menu for children and staff. Santa Hats were purchased by our PTA for the children to enjoy.

The children really got into to the Christmas spirit with a wide range of jumpers being worn.



PRIDE VALUES AND REWARDS

This term we have focused on the **R - respect and resilience**, school value. The most popular way to be rewarded was to show respect to our school environment by tidying away after an activity. Certificates were also awarded for showing resilience when facing a new challenge and showing respect for others. In total **286 certificates** were awarded across the school.

Next term the school will be focusing on the **I – inspiration**, school value.

HOUSE POINTS FOR TERM 1

The house with the most House Points this term is

STEADMAN

Well done to all the members of Steadman house. You will be enjoying a Non-Uniform day on **Thursday 5th January 2023** for this achievement.

PTA NEWS

Christmas card fundraiser

Thank you to all the parents who purchased the cards, mugs and calendars that were individually designed by your children. We had a great response and the designs looked amazing.

Break The Rules

We had a fantastic day on 19th October with the children breaking the rules. Children came to school with crazy hair, wearing trainers, own tops and nail varnish. All the money raised is going towards reducing the cost of school trips to families.

Commemoration of the Queen

On Thursday 10th November every child planted a bulb to commemorate the Queen. We cannot wait to wait the flowers to grow.

Wellie Sheds

The PTA have sourced 3 wonderful Wellie Sheds for us, with another 1 coming soon. Thank you so much.

Christmas Shopping Event

We have had a great response to our infamous Christmas Shopping Event. Lots of Santa's Helpers (member of our PTA) were placed in the hall on Monday 12th December so children could choose their gifts in time for Christmas. They did an amazing job wrapping all the presents. The PTA then wrapped all the presents for those children who couldn't attend school on Monday due to the snow.

Christmas Hats for Christmas Lunch

The PTA supplied Christmas hats for our Christmas Dinner this year. The children loved wearing them! Thank you.

Christmas Party and Roller Disco

The children have all enjoyed a Christmas celebration with either a disco with Funky Footsteps or a Roller Disco. This has been funded by the PTA and the school. The children had a brilliant time.

🎁 Class presents 🎁

As has been a tradition for a few years now, the PTA have asked each class what they would like as a Christmas present. The items, up to the value of £50 per class, have been purchased by the school and the man in the big red coat has delivered them to every class. 😊

DO NOT FORGET.....



NEW **SCHOOL YEAR** **NEW** **CHANCES TO WIN**

BOOST School Funds &
WIN up to
£25,000

- Help raise vital school funds
- Tickets cost just £1 a week each
- Cash prize winner every week
- You've got to be in it to win it!



RAISE MONEY FOR OUR PTA AS YOU SHOP & IT WON'T COST YOU A PENNY

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Go to smile.amazon.co.uk each time you shop and a portion of your purchase will go to our PTA

It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

1

Go to
smile.amazon.co.uk



2

Select us as your
charitable organisation



3

Then shop!



WIDER COMMUNITY

End of the Rainbow Food Station

There is an area in St Mary's Church which has been set up where you can deposit and take away basic food items. It is a small food bank to help those who need it over Christmas. If you can donate it would be much appreciated.

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

The Winter Mini Challenge, a reading challenge running from 1 December 2022 to 20 February 2023!

The Summer Reading Challenge and the Winter Mini Challenge encourage children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure.

The Winter Mini Challenge is an online-only challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading over the winter holidays.

To take part, [sign up here](#). Set a reading goal and log your books on your profile. Read three books to unlock a virtual badge and a special certificate!

You can find out more here: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Below you can find information about workshops and events coming up in Victoria Park over the Christmas Holidays.

16th December 4pm-6pm Ding Dong Merrily on Pie!

★ EMILY PEASGOOD'S

Ding Dong Merrily on Pie!

★ ASHFORD'S SILLIEST CAROL CONCERT!
★ IVOR NOVELLO AWARD WINNING COMPOSER,
★ EMILY PEASGOOD, BRINGS HER POPULAR
★ CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG TO VICTORIA PARK.

★ JOIN US AS WE LIGHT UP THE FOUNTAIN
★ PIAZZA IN GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS COLOUR!
★ WITH SONGS INCLUDING: CAN YOU STOP THE
★ CANAPES, THE RESTROOM DOOR SAID
★ GENTLEMEN, AND CAN YOU SMELL WHAT I
★ SMELL?

★ FEATURING A VISIT FROM SANTA,
★ INCLUDING A GIFT AND
★ CHRISTMAS WAND FROM THE
★ PROJECT TEAM, HOT DRINKS,
★ MINCE PIES AND A DUSTING OF ★
★ SNOW!

December 16th | 4- 6PM
Fountain Piazza, Victoria Park

★

The Victoria Park Project is excited to be collaborating with Dr Emily Peasgood and Ashford Lions for this fantastic event. Emily will be bringing her unique and popular brand of 'silly carols' to Victoria Park. The event will start from 4pm with food and drink available to purchase. Programmes will be available with words for all who wish to join in.

Santa will also be visiting and will be available for photographs. The Victoria Park Project Team will be distributing free Christmas wands and gifts for those meeting Santa*. We will also be lighting up the fountain area as a colourful festive treat!

No booking is required for this event, just turn up!

* free gifts will be available while stocks last

20th December 10.30am - 12.30pm Outdoor Studios Arts Christmas Ink Making Youth Workshop

Natural Ink Making Young People's Workshop

Create winter scenes & Christmas cards with ingredients from the Kent countryside & Victoria Park

Tickets: christmasinkmaking.eventbrite.co.uk

Tue Dec 20 10.30am - 12.30pm
The Hub, Victoria Park, Ashford
Age 12 - 18/£3 per attendee



Outdoor
Studios

[Click this link to Book Tickets.](http://christmasinkmaking.eventbrite.co.uk)

Connect with nature and your own creative energies!

Many trees and plants can be used to make ink; from the roots to the nuts, the leaves to the flowers, providing seasonal variations. You can also make a range of colours from clay, chalk and earth. For this workshop we'll make at least three kinds of natural ink, working with black walnut, alder buckthorn and berries, maybe chalk too. Using these inks and watercolours, we'll make winter scenes and turn these into delicate and striking Christmas cards. Creating designs from holly and ivy growing in the park, we'll also explore beautiful snowflake patterns.

For ages 12- 18. Tickets £3 per young person.

Any queries, please email info@outdoorstudiosarts.com

21st December 11am- 12.30pm Outdoor Studios Arts Eco Christmas Garlands Family Workshop

Eco Christmas Garlands Family Workshop

Celebrate life giving plants & create a multi-sensory festive garland



Wed Dec 21 11am - 12.30pm Tickets: [EcoChristmasGarlands.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-christmas-garlands)

The Hub, Victoria Park, Ashford
Age 7-11/£3 per child



Outdoor
Studios

[Click this link to Book Tickets.](#)

Celebrate life giving plants & create a multi-sensory Christmas garland to decorate your home this festive season!

Led by craftsperson Gemma Gottelier, participants will explore plants in the park & their vulnerability to climate change, visiting the sensory garden (weather permitting), and foraging for natural materials to create a mini wreath garland, adding some Christmas sparkle & jingle!

This event is a pre-Christmas activity for families, a chance to gather and share a sensory outdoor, creative experience, making a beautiful garland; bringing evergreens into your home - an ancient tradition with symbolisms thought to bring luck & good health!

Age: 7 - 11: all children must be accompanied by an adult to support their child with the activity.

Tickets £3 per child and free for accompanying parents and guardians.

Any queries, please email info@outdoorstudiosarts.com

21st December 2pm-4pm Outdoor Studios Arts Bee Creative This Christmas Youth Workshop

Bee Creative Young People's Workshop

Hand-roll a natural beeswax candle; create a festive, upcycled lantern.



Wed Dec 21 2pm - 4pm

Tickets: [BeeCreativeChristmas.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bee-creative-christmas)

The Hub, Victoria Park, Ashford
Age 12-18/£3 per ticket

Outdoor
Studios



[Click this link to Book Tickets.](#)

Inspired by bees, the plants they pollinate and sustainability; explore bees, beeswax and plants growing in the park and their vulnerability to climate change. Hand-roll & decorate a natural beeswax candle and create and decorate a recycled honey jar lantern, with glass paints & pens - adding foraged festive foliage from the park. Light up your home or garden or give as a lovely hand-made Christmas gift!

For ages 12-18. Tickets £3 per young person.

Any queries, please email info@outdoorstudiosarts.com

For more details about Victoria Park events and activities please visit the [Events Calendar on our Website.](#)

Please get in touch if you have any questions.