

16th October 2026



Courage, Compassion, Community

Headteachers Update

This week has been a lovely reminder that education is about so much more than acquiring knowledge. It is also about learning to think deeply, ask questions, consider different perspectives and understand the part we can play in making the world a better place.

Our Harvest Festival at St John's Church was a wonderful example of this. I was so proud of our Year 6 children, whose readings were beautifully clear and articulate, and of our Church School Vision Group, who led us in thoughtful prayers. A huge thank you to Claire Davies for planning such a meaningful service and to all our families for the extraordinary generosity shown in the donations to New Forest Basics Bank. It was a lovely example of our Harvest message of faith in action, turning gratitude into something that makes a real difference to others.

Earlier in the week, we welcomed Jane Kelly from the Diocese, who worked with staff to inspire and develop our RE planning. She was delighted to hear about the Learning Journeys taking place across the school and the depth of thinking they are encouraging. From our youngest children to our oldest, pupils have been exploring some big questions through themes such as forgiveness, neighbourly behaviour, freedom and justice. It has been fascinating to hear about the meaningful discussions and debates taking place. We want our children to be curious, thoughtful and confident enough to explore challenging ideas, listen respectfully and form their own views.

We are also turning our attention to our school environment, with plans to reinvigorate the front garden and playground. Our garden working party on 24 and 25 October will be a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and help make our school grounds even more welcoming. If anyone is able to take away a bag or two of garden waste, we would be enormously grateful!

Finally, I am looking forward to welcoming prospective families to our Open Morning on Monday 19 October. Please do spread the word to anyone who might be considering William Gilpin for their child. There is so much to celebrate about our little school, and I am always delighted to have the opportunity to share it.

Community is the thread that has been running through this week: a school community is something we build together, through the questions we ask, the kindness we show and the opportunities we create for our children.

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Headteacher



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Health and Safety Message



Hedge and Tree works

Next Thursday and Friday we are having some work done to the hedging and trees on the front boundary of the school adjacent to the footpath and dropzone.

The contractors have told us that they will be starting work at 9.15 and finishing before school collection however if you are coming into the school at other times you will need to take additional care as the pavement at the front of the school could be out of use.

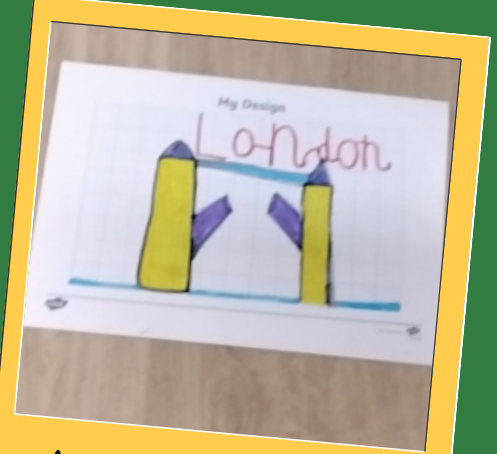


Class Updates



Acorns

Children have been working on planning and drawing their own designs. Thinking about what they are going to make, what materials they need and if they will need collaboration with others. Kapla has been a popular choice, along with junk modelling and Lego!

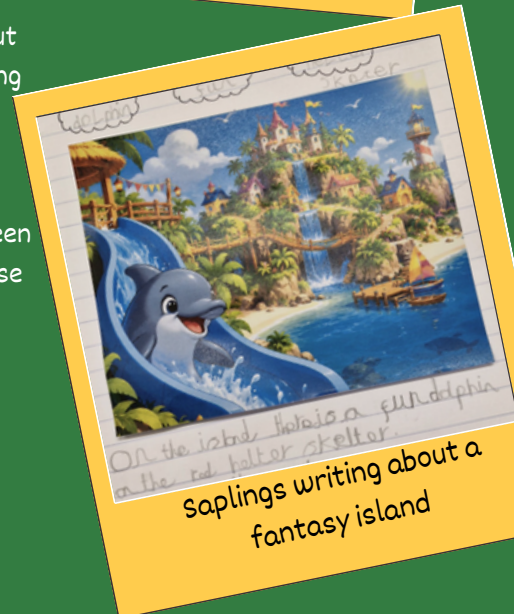


Acorns drawing their own designs

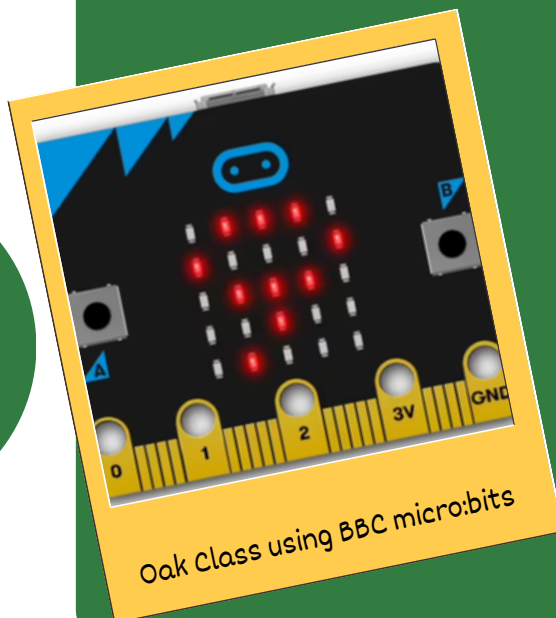


Saplings

This week in Saplings, we have been learning all about strong emotions in PSHE. The children enjoyed sharing different techniques to help manage their feelings, and it was wonderful to hear them independently recognising and discussing our Happy Breathing technique from My Happy Mind! In Maths, we have been busy practising our times tables and exploring inverse operations. The children have also been developing their problem-solving skills by recognising and applying times tables knowledge to word problems.



saplings writing about a fantasy island



Oak Class using BBC micro:bits

Oak

This week, Oak have completed their persuasive letter based on our book, Son of the Circus, using a range of techniques designed to persuade and to create cohesion within and between paragraphs. In Science, we investigated saturation point by seeing how many teaspoons of salt could be dissolved in half a cup of water. We also programmed the BBC micro:bits to show the current temperature, and moved around the school, playground and field trying to find the warmest and coolest parts of the school!