



# Highcliffe News

**Autumn 1  
October 2024**



Dear families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We have had an incredibly busy and enjoyable first half-term and I hope that the class pages that follow give you a sample of the wonderful work that is going on at school.

As a staff we have been thinking carefully about our school development and have identified some important areas of focus for the year ahead.

- Little Wandle : a new phonics scheme which will ensure that even more children are developing strong early reading skills. Please look out for an invitation to a parent workshop around this .
- We have also developed an engaging writing curriculum in partnership with other schools in the Lionheart Trust and have introduced some new books to inspire the children's writing.

I recently met with a group of parents to discuss our homework expectations which was incredibly useful. We will be sharing some exciting news around this early in Autumn 2 – rest assured home learning will continue to be manageable and optional.

I am incredibly grateful for our staff who have worked so hard to build new relationships and routines during Autumn 1 and a special mention for our premises team who work tirelessly to ensure that our school site is well maintained and the office staff who deal with a very busy school!!

Have a wonderful break, we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Mrs Stewart

**High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards**



# Parentmail Reminders

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Dates for your diary

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Residential week		The Pioneer Centre
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Anit-Bullying week – Odd Socks Day		Within School
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need day – Non school uniform		Within School
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccination		Within school
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Inset Day	School closed to pupils	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1&2 Christmas Concert	2:40pm	Greengate Hall
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity	2pm	Greengate Hall
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS Nativity	2pm	Greengate Hall
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day		Within school
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5&6 Christmas Extravaganza	1:30pm	St James the Great Church
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3&4 Christmas Concert	2:40pm	Greengate Hall
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto KS2		DeMontfort Hall
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto EYFS/KS1		DeMontfort Hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day	Lunchtime	Lunch Hall
Christmas Holidays Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December			
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 – The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe	Afternoon	The Curve Theatre
Spring Half Term Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February			
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day		In School

Schools Close	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Autumn Half Term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Schools Open	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Inset Day	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 (school closed to students)
Schools Close	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Christmas & New Year Holiday	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025

High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



# Highcliffe News

At Highcliffe we are:

Ready  
Respectful  
Safe



HIGHCLIFFE  
PRIMARY

## Are you PROUD?

- P**encil or pen
- R**uler for tables and graphs
- O**ops – cross out the mistake neatly
- U**nderline with a ruler
- D**ate – written neat and underlined



HIGHCLIFFE  
PRIMARY

## Are you slanting?

- S**it up
- L**isten
- A**sk and answer
- N**o talking
- T**rack the speaker



HIGHCLIFFE  
PRIMARY

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# Highcliffe PTA

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA 😊

**HIGHCLIFFE PTA**

<b>PIZZA KIT</b> £41.22	<b>CAULIFLOWER CARDS</b> £TBC	<b>BAKE OFF COLOURING COMPETITION</b> £5.50	<b>HALLOWEEN CRAFT EVENT</b> £62.94
<b>EASY FUNDRAISING</b> £9.27	<b>WHAT WE RAISED THIS HALF TERM</b>		<b>TOTAL RAISED</b> <b>£1166.95</b>
<b>TUCK SHOPS AT EVENTS</b> £19.63	<b>ASDA CASHPOT</b> £251.29	<b>FASHION SHOW RAFFLE</b> £293	<b>FASHION SHOW TICKETS</b> £484.10

**Thank You**

**HIGHCLIFFE PTA**

<b>PAID 3/4 TOWARDS AUTHOR &amp; POET VISIT</b>	<b>SUBSIDED WHOLE SCHOOL PANTO TRIP</b>	<b>TEACHER DONATION FOR CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT</b>
<b>WHAT WE FUNDED/ CONTRIBUTED TO THIS HALF TERM</b>		
<b>TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS SUBSCRIPTION</b>	<b>GAMES FOR WET PLAY</b>	<b>TWINKL SUBSCRIPTION</b>

High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



# 6R Stars

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

A huge congratulations to these pupils who, by consistently demonstrating the 6Rs and going 'above and beyond', have become role-models for the school community to aspire to.



High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



# Happy News

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity



## **MIND-BLOWING MAGICAL MATHS WORKSHOPS**

We had the pleasure of welcoming Magical Maths to our school for the first time in September.

Throughout the day, they visited each class and hosted a series of stimulating workshops which involved solving number-based problems and celebrating the wonder and the joy of maths.

The maths wizards also performed mind-bending maths magic tricks, including psychic numbers and calculation wizardry. Pupils – and their teachers – gazed in amazement, completely blown away by what they saw.

Following a successful day, they have now begun hosting an afterschool club for any pupils interested in continuing their mind-bending magical maths education! It was a fantastic day, and one that went a long way towards igniting our children's passion for a key core subject.

## **HIGHCLIFFE ROCKS!**

A host of rockstars recently descended upon our school, as staff and pupils ditched their regular uniforms and donned leather jackets and sunglasses as part of Rock Kidz Day. Rock Kidz are an organisation that go into schools and host informative workshops that raise the profile of wellbeing and PSHE through the power of music.

The school hall was transformed into a rock concert venue and once together, they learned a song that celebrated how we are all unique and recited the affirmation phrase YASBA (You're Awesome So Be Awesome).

Then, it was time for battle to commence, as pupils faced off against their teachers in a series of dance and air guitar battles! The children had an absolute blast. Not only did they enjoy rocking around the Hall, but they also learned about the importance of mental wellbeing, knowledge that will support them in the future!

**High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards**



# Happy News

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity



Highcliffe Primary School has been on the radio!

Our school took part in 'Ady Dayman's Breakfast Club' on BBC Radio Leicester.

Some pupils from years 4,5 and 6 did an incredible job of representing the school and we were able to hear about all the things they got up to during the week of 7<sup>th</sup> October on the BBC Radio Leicester Breakfast Show!

We heard them get up to all sorts, including Mrs Stewart telling Leicester what makes Highcliffe great and a very special thank you to their "Pupil's Pet", Mr Singh. The shows can still be heard on BBC Sounds. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0jrb7wy> (scroll to 2hrs25 mins into the show)

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# Happy News

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## We have adopted an elephant !

We have been chosen to support the fundraising efforts of Loros. In the Summer Term we will be decorating our very own Highcliffe Elephant as part of the Stomp Round Leicester art trail!

In anticipation for this exciting event, we wanted to share with you that renowned abstract artist Alex Echo who has worked with Paul Smith, Paul Weller and even designed a bespoke guitar for Eric Clapton during his long career will now be transforming a blank Elephant into a beautiful work of art in front of an audience who have been invited to help pour the paint.

Alex will be painting his mammoth commission on Thursday 24th October from 12.30pm in the Highcross lower mall. If you're able to, you're very welcome to come and watch the painting spectacle.



High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards





# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## EYFS

We have had a fantastic start to the year and are so amazed with how well the children have settled in.

The children have made us so proud with their understanding of the 6 Rs and their independence especially at lunch times.

The children's learning has been centered on our topic 'Super Me, Super You' and they have thought about their bodies, their families and most recently all about our senses. We all had a listening walk around the school and had some yummy snacks to explore our sense of taste.

Our half term has been eventful and fun as the children had the chance to dress up as rock stars and demonstrate their super dance moves. Our 'Hello Yellow' day was also a success as the children thought about how they can look after their mental health.

We are looking forward to more fun learning, new experiences and all our festivities in the second half of the Autumn term!



**High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards**



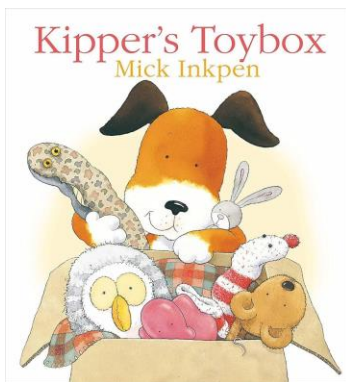
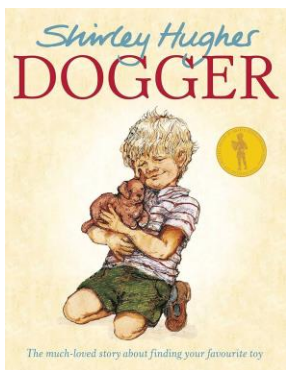
# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 1KM

1KM have had a fantastic start to the year, I am so proud of each one of you! The transition from EYFS to Year 1 can be tricky, but the children have shown fantastic resilience.

Our first topic in Year 1 is 'Toys from the past' and the children have been learning about all different types of toys in both their English and History lessons. We have been reading lots of texts about toys including 'Dogger' and 'Kipper's Toybox'. The children have been really focussing on what makes a SUPER SENTENCE and I am so impressed with their writing so far!



In Maths, the children have been learning different ways to represent and compare numbers, including the terminology 'Greater than' 'Less than' and 'Equal to'.

Our topic of 'Toys' has undoubtedly captured the children's interest. They have enjoyed sharing their favourite toys with the class and using adjectives to describe them.

In science we have been learning all about Materials. The children have been using their new knowledge to describe what materials different toys are made of. We have also completed an investigation, as a class, to see which material is most suitable to make an umbrella for our class teddy.



I am so proud of all the children, and I am very excited to see them flourish in Year 1. We have lots more exciting things to look forward to in the year ahead.

Miss Mac 😊

High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards

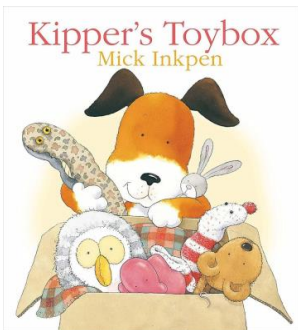


# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 1SP

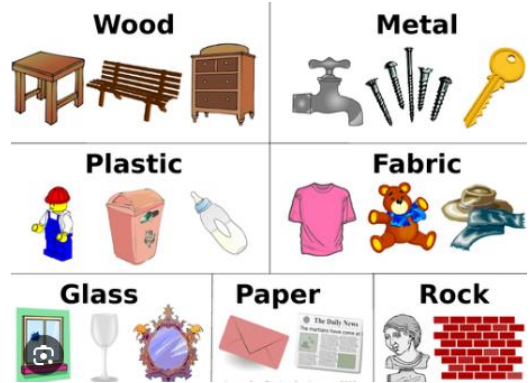
It has been an incredible start to the year over at 1SP! Amazing resilience shown from our pupils having settled in well from EYFS.



Our topic this term has certainly captured our pupils' interest as we looked at toys from the past learning how toys have changed over time from the way it's made to the way toys are played. We have linked our English unit to this topic and focussed on writing super sentences describing toys. They loved making their Sock Thing and presented their sentences to the class using some amazing describing words.



In Science the children have been developing their investigative skills to learn about which materials are suitable for which objects. They looked at many materials and its properties and enjoyed carrying out investigations.



In Maths, we have been securing our number sense up to 10 which will then progress onto 20. The children have been demonstrating Resourcefulness in their Place Value topic using their learning environment to help them develop their number skills.

The children have shown great resilience and I am super excited to be part of their Year 1 journey to see them flourish and grow.

Mrs Patel

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# Class Messages

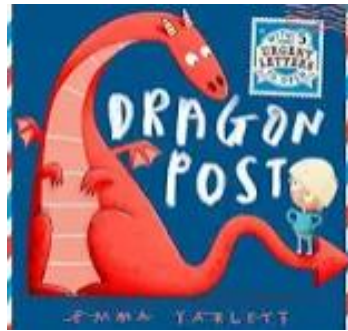
Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 2SM

Welcome to Year 2! The children have settled in really well since coming back to school after the summer holidays. I am very proud of them and how they have adapted to Year 2.

This term we have been learning all about castles and knights. The children have already started to learn the names of the key parts of a castle and thought about how the different features protected the people living in them. We have learned about 2 famous sieges, Dover Castle and Edinburgh Castle. The children are really enjoying this topic and are looking forward to making their own castle using a pulley mechanism later in the term.

We have also really enjoyed reading our class books, Dragon Post and Tell Me a Dragon. The children used some great descriptive vocabulary to write a character description about their own dragon.



In Maths, we have been learning all about the place value of 2-digit numbers and we have worked with lots of different Maths equipment to show off our knowledge of partitioning. The children have shown great reciprocity when working together.

In PSHE we have been learning about friendship and what to do if we are feeling lonely. The children have come up with some lovely ideas to be kind with their friends and what to do if an unkind situation occurs.

Keep up the hard work Year 2. We have lots of lovely things to look forward to!

Mrs Macdonald

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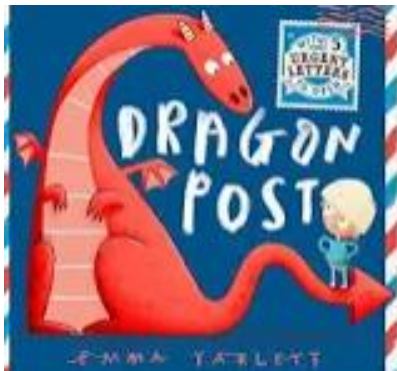
# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 2AW

We have had a super start to the year in 2AW and the children have settled in really well. I am very proud of each one of them, especially in terms of the resilience they are showing when completing their work.

In English, we have read a variety of Dragon based books and written some great character descriptions, letters and postcards. The children have thoroughly impressed me with their vocabulary choices and sentence structures.



In Maths, we have looked at the place value of 2-digit numbers and are now learning about strategies to help us when adding and subtracting.

The children have become very engrossed in our History topic all about Castles and Knights. They have enjoyed learning about the defensive

features of a castle as well as looking at a knight's armour and coat of arms.



In Science, we have learnt about the properties of different materials. We had a lot of fun making boats that could float and carry a weight alongside discussing which materials were best for the job.



I can't wait for the rest of the year head and where our learning is going to take us!

Thank you 2AW for a great first half term.

Mrs. Wilby

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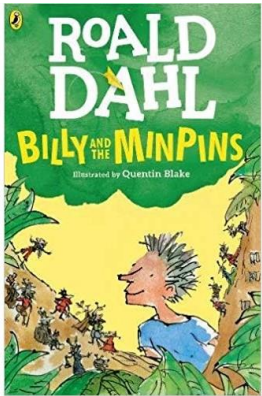
# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 3NP

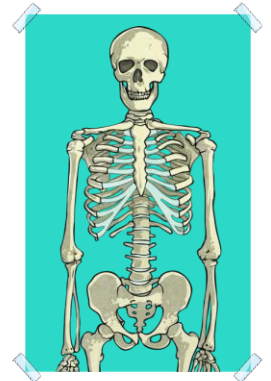
What a great start to the new school year we have had in 3NP! The children have settled into Year 3 so smoothly and I am so proud of them.

We started the year with the text 'Billy and the Minpins' by Roald Dahl. We all thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and the children produces some fantastic work from it in English. We have produced a character description of the Gruncher and a persuasive letter from the perspective of Devil to Billy.



In Maths, the children successfully completed their first unit of place value and have now started to look at addition and subtraction.

In Science, this half term, our topic was Animals, including Humans, and we focused on different types of skeletons, the purpose of these and the importance of muscles.



In Geography, we have looked at the different counties in the United Kingdom and were able to locate and name these on a map.

In PE, the children were applying their catching and throwing skills to the sport Handball. The children have also participated in invasion games with Mr Clark (P.E coach).

I am so excited for the year ahead and I have been incredibly proud of every child in my class! WELL DONE!

Mr Patel



High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



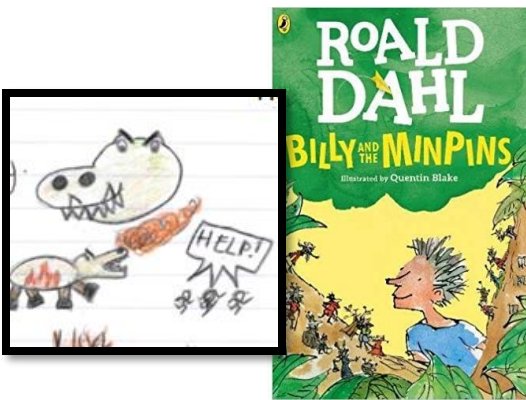
# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 3EM

We have had an amazing start to the year in 3EM! I feel so lucky to have a class full of hardworking, resilient and kind children.

The first text we read in English this term was 'Billy and the Minpins' by Roald Dahl. The children loved this book and would make great predictions about what would happen. We used this text to write persuasive letters as the Devil to Billy, as well as a character description about the dreaded Gruncher!

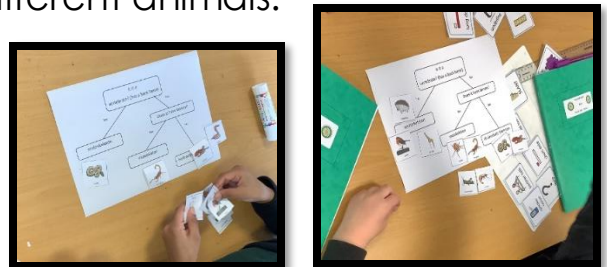


In maths, we have completed our place value unit and now the children are working really hard at addition and subtraction. They should be very proud of their attitudes to learning!

We had a lot of fun creating pieces inspired by artist Georgia O'Keefe in Art. The children created a wash background using watercolours and then created a flower using a medium of their choice. We are now excited to start our sewing unit in D&T.



In science, we have learnt all about skeletons and muscles in our Animals Including Humans unit. We learnt the three main purposes of a skeleton, as well as about three different types of skeletons! We then used this understanding to classify different animals.



Thank you for such a fantastic half term 3EM. Keep up the hard work.

Miss Miles

High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



# Class Messages

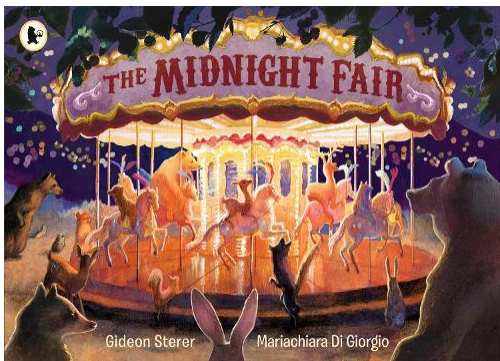
Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 4DS

What an amazing term it has been in 4DS!

I am incredibly proud of how quickly Year 4 have settled in and continue to be motivated in everything we have done thus far. From the very first week, they have shown enthusiasm and had a positive mindset towards their learning. They have shown great perseverance in all subjects across the curriculum.

In English, the children have been working on a very special narrative project. They have written their own narratives to accompany the pictures in the picture book 'The Midnight Fair'. They were creative in their language choices and have been extremely enthusiastic in using their imagination to create some amazing imagery, bringing the book to life.



In maths, we have covered Place Value and are working our way through Addition and Subtraction. 4DS have really impressed me with their mathematical knowledge and are also working super hard to practice their times tables!

A highlight of the term was our Anglo-Saxon Day. The children thoroughly enjoyed stepping back in time to the Anglo-Saxon era. Dressed in fantastic costumes, they explored traditional storytelling, learned some wonderful Anglo-Saxon dances, and even tried their hand at quill writing. It was a day full of excitement and fun, and the children's enthusiasm made it truly special.

It has been a great start to year 4. Well done to all 4DS for their positive attitudes towards their learning.

**High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards**





# Class Messages

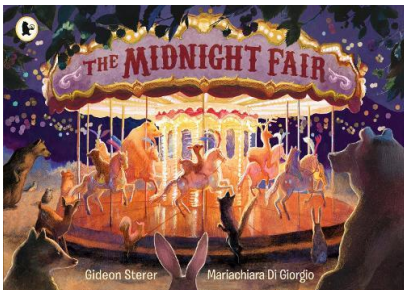
Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 4KC

What a fantastic term it has been in 4KC!

I am incredibly proud of how quickly the children have settled into Year 4 routines and expectations. From the very first week, they have shown enthusiasm, hard work, and a positive attitude towards their learning, and it has been wonderful to see them grow as a class.

In English, the children have been working on a very special narrative project. They wrote their own stories to accompany the beautiful picture book *The Midnight Fair*, and I have been so impressed by their creativity and the high quality of their writing. Their descriptive language, thoughtful characters, and imaginative plots have brought the book to life in their own unique ways. I couldn't be prouder of their efforts!



A highlight of the term was our Anglo-Saxon Day. The children fully immersed themselves in the world of Anglo-Saxon England. Dressed in fantastic costumes, they explored traditional storytelling, learned some wonderful Anglo-Saxon dances, and even tried their hand at quill writing. It was a day full of excitement and fun, and the children's enthusiasm made it truly special.

Well done to all of 4KC for a brilliant start to the year.

I'm excited to see what more we will accomplish together in the next term!



High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 5EC

What a brilliant first term it has been in 5EC.

I am so impressed with how the children have settled into Year 5! Ever since the first day, they've been showing such fantastic enthusiasm, responsibility for their learning and a real passion for their new Year 5 topics.

In English, we've been basing our writing on Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. They've written a variety of different genres based on what they've read, including a diary and an informal letter. I've been so proud of the dedication and the reflectiveness they've shown in their work, particularly when it comes to editing their writing.



In our wider learning, the children have had great fun learning about the daily life of the Ancient Greeks and comparing it to the modern day. This has also extended to our Art lessons, where the children have put incredible effort into creating their very own Greek pots!

In Maths, the children have all been working hard to consolidate their knowledge of addition and subtraction using different methods, and we will soon be moving on to learning about different methods of multiplication.

Overall, I want to say a big 'well done' to all the children: they've gotten off to a fabulous start and I'm really looking forward to what we'll learn next term!

High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

What an excellent first half term it has been in 5SJ!

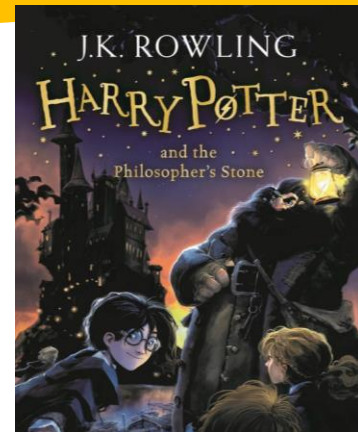
I have been very impressed and proud of how well all the children have settled into the new routines and embraced the challenges and opportunities of life in Year 5!

In English, we've been basing our writing on Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. In these lessons, the pupils have written a variety of different genres based on what they've read, including a setting description, a diary and two informal letters with differing tones.

I've been exceedingly proud of the enthusiasm and dedication they've shown in their work, taking great pride in their work and beginning to get to grips with the challenge of editing and improving their own work.

In Maths, the children have all been working hard to consolidate their knowledge of Place Value and Addition and Subtraction using different methods, and with larger numbers, up to one million! We will soon be moving on to learning about different methods of multiplication.

## Class 5SJ



In our wider learning, much of our learning has linked to our History unit on the ancient Greeks. The children have had great fun learning about different aspects of life in ancient Greece; comparing and contrasting what they've learnt with their own experiences of life in modern Britain. This has also extended to our Art lessons, where the children have put incredible effort into researching, creating and painting their very own Greek pots.

Overall, I want to say a big 'Congratulations!' to all the children. They have all made an excellent start to life in Year 5 and it has been a pleasure to teach them all!



**High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards**



# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 6AG

6AG have made a wonderful start to the year. We are both very proud with the attitude to, and responsibility for, their learning that the children have been demonstrating.

We have been well and truly immersing ourselves in our WWII topic this term which the children have been fully engrossed in and we are all looking forward to continuing to learn more in our History lessons but also in our English lessons too as we begin to study the book 'Letters from the Lighthouse.' We have also been looking at the poem 'In Flanders Fields', where the children have performed and used this poetry to inspire their own war poetry. We know that the children's fantastic knowledge and enthusiasm for this topic will inspire even more incredible writing next term.

In Maths, we have been working hard to secure our written methods of the four operations, including long multiplication and long division, where the children have been demonstrating fantastic resilience & responsibility for their own learning.

6AG have engaged in some great discussions around Social Media and it's positive and negative effects on our mental health in PSHE this term, as well as other ways to look after both our physical and mental health.

In Science, our topic has been 'Evolution and Inheritance' where we have been studying the theories of Evolution and looking at how plants and animals have adapted to suit their environments.

In Art, the children have been busy designing their war sculptures influenced by the war artist Henry Moore.

We have had a fantastic start to the year, and we are looking forward to seeing what the next half term brings! Keep up the fantastic work 6AG! 😊



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# Class Messages

Respect Resilience Responsibility Resourcefulness Reflection Reciprocity

## Class 6RP

What a fantastic start we have had to Year 6! I am very proud at how well all the children in 6RP have settled into their new class this term. The transition has been very smooth, and I really look forward to the year ahead where I will see everyone continue to grow academically and holistically.

We are absolutely loving our WWII topic, resulting in us being fully engrossed in our learning and asking fantastic questions to learn more! The children are looking forward to delving deeper into our WWII topic in our English lessons and creating some wonderful writing linking our topic knowledge to our class book Letters from the Lighthouse.



In Maths, we have been working hard to secure our written methods knowledge in lessons focusing on long multiplication and long division where the children have been demonstrating fantastic resilience & responsibility for their own learning.

In PSHE this week the children have been engaging in great discussions around Social Media and how it can have positive and negative effects on our mental health. The children have engaged well in these discussions and look forward to learning more about dealing with worries and strategies to help overcome them.

In Art, the children have been busy designing their war sculptures influenced by the war artist Henry Moore.



It certainly has been a busy start to Year 6 but there is still so much to look forward to. Keep up the great work 6RP! 😊

High Aims - High Challenge - High Standards



## Uniform

Please remember that both school uniform and PE kit should not contain brand names/ brand logos. Items should be plain black/grey. Hoodies should not be worn except for on agreed PE days.

Please can you ensure your child's jumpers/cardigans and coats are clearly labelled. We currently have a huge amount of lost property that is not named

## Parking

**Please remember to park considerately around our school!!**

We encourage sustainable travel to school. However, should you need to drive to school please ensure that you park considerately and safely. This will help make sure that we continue to keep congestion to a minimum, maintain a good relationship with the school's neighbours and help keep children safe around the school. **Please remember you should not park on the zig zag lines.** Thank you.