

Ancient Egyptian Adventure Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their Ancient Egypt topic.

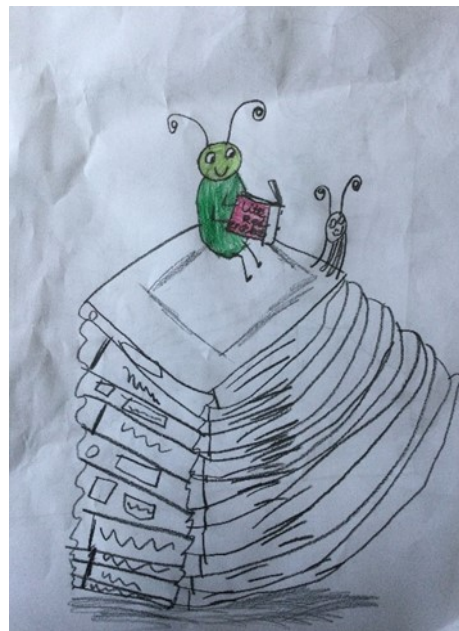
Throughout the spring term the children have learnt about Ancient Egyptian life, building pyramids, Howard Carter's discovery different Ancient Egyptian structures, Gods and Goddesses and the class' favourite, mummification!



We have been on a Virtual Tour through the Tutankhamun Collection at the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir and spent a lesson mummifying tomatoes! The children have all created a Death Task in Design and Technology lessons, they have used techniques such as joining, lamination and creating intal ideas. They children have put a lot of time and effort into making their masks and they should be very proud of the outcome. (LB)



Year 3 World Book Day - Doodling fun with Liz Pichon



Year 3 joined schools across the UK in a live Doodling session with the amazing author - illustrator of the much-loved TOM GATES series for doodling fun and a sneak peak of the new Tom Gates book out in May. Year 3 showed off their fantastic doodling skills and enjoyed watching Liz Pichon share her drawing talents. (LB)



Forest School Frenzy! Year 3 have had forest school during spring 1 half term.

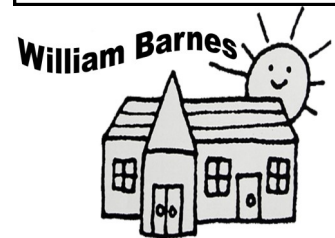
This began with a muddy session where the children were encouraged to make mud pies and decorate using natural resources that they could find. The children, literally, dived straight into this challenge resulting in some rather mucky children!



Year 3 have built minibeast houses, took part in big school bird watch, made bird feeders, had a go a den building and use hammers to make their own flags. However, I think that year 3 are all in agreement that the fire-starting session was a highlight resulting in a camp fire with toasted marshmallows and smores! (LB)



"A good school with outstanding pupil behaviour"- "Most groups of children make outstanding progress"
OFSTED July 2013
"A good school" - OFSTED March 2017 and 2023



Where every child counts

The newspaper of William Barnes Primary School has been written by the staff and pupils to celebrate the school's successes. If you have any ideas or comments concerning the newspaper, please speak to Mrs Wrixon or Mr Hull. Issue 56 Easter 24.

'It Takes A Village to Raise A Child' Anyone who has spent any amount of time supporting the children as part of our school, will know that this proverb is at the heart of what we do and encapsulates much of the school's ethos. A little research shows that although it is uncertain where the proverb originated from, it has the same meaning as a number of African sayings such as 'regardless of a child's parents, it takes a community to raise them.' Primary schools are very much at the centre of this idea that although parents will always do their best for their children, a child's upbringing, their values and ways of being in the world, will inevitably be the outcome of the endless interactions of the adults and other children with whom they come into contact. If the relationships the children form with the people around them can be positive and nurturing, then they will grow up to be positive, confident, caring, kind and curious human beings. 'It takes a village to raise a child' tells us that just as parents cannot raise their children alone, teachers cannot educate the children in their care alone either. We are all interconnected and without the support of those around us, we cannot do our best; we cannot do it alone. To celebrate this idea, the theme running through this term's Barnestorm is helping and we will try and answer the questions 'how does the school help?' and 'who helps the school?' recognising the interconnected nature of all of us, as we strive to give the best possible care and education to the children and families who make up the community of Sturminster Newton and the surrounding area.

How Do Teachers Help the Children? Teachers and teaching assistants, like nurses and doctors, counsellors and social workers, form part of a 'helping' profession, whose primary role is help educate and nurture the children in their classes. The staff at



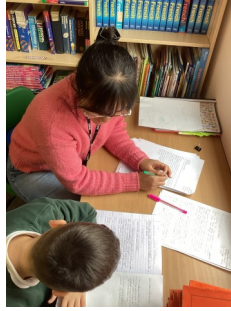
William Barnes achieve this in a myriad of different ways. They plan enjoyable and interesting lessons, lead at the front of the class and engage the children with their stimulating presentations and skilful questioning. They mark their children's work, give them feedback, areas for improvement and they encourage the children to learn new skills and understand new ideas. They also help the children to think about issues, develop their own moral compasses, opinions and views about the world. Day in and day out, the staff simply model, hour after hour, how to deal fairly and consistently with the ups and downs of each and every day, as they lead and manage the education of the children in their classes to the best of their ability.



In addition to these core responsibilities, each member of staff also has interests beyond the classroom. Mrs Dyke supports the staff in Key Stage One and Reception and has a special interest in Phonics teaching, whilst Mrs Lewis is responsible for mental health education in the school. Mrs Gale has a fascination for history and geography and Mr Newman endlessly rushes from school to school leading sport and PE but also specialises in positive behaviour management. Miss Gilbert's love of music shines through with her development of the school choir and Mr Hull spends much of his time ensuring that the school's IT equipment is available for staff and children to use to enrich their learning. Mr Field will often be seen eating his lunch on the go as he supports the children with their play, and after school he focusses on developing English and Art. Finally to Mrs Wrixon, who is endlessly busy supporting the teachers, the children, parents and families with all aspects of school life, particularly in her role as the school's designated safeguarding lead, but she is also responsible for helping the staff with Religious Education and Personal Social and Health Education.

As you can see, the teachers pull together to form a tremendous team, working alongside one and other to support all of the children, not just those in their classes, putting the proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child' into practice throughout each school day. Only by working together are they able to deliver the education that OfSTED judged to be 'Good' in their recent report, a judgement the school has received since 2005.

Who Helps the Teaching Staff? At William Barnes, the teachers have created a tightly knit and supportive team through the leadership of Mrs Wrixon, but the high quality of education provided at the school is only possible due to a variety of other groups who come together as part of the learning community. These include our highly trained teaching assistants, our office staff, our lunchtime supervisors, our breakfast and after school club staff, teachers from other local schools, members of the community who volunteer in school, Vicar Mary Gubbins, Ian Carr, local charities, famous authors, the PTFA, our School governors and last but definitely not least, the children's parents and their families.



Collaborating with Other Schools At William Barnes teachers often share training days, sporting events and specialist knowledge with others schools under the support of the local education authority and local academy schools. For example, in the Spring term, a day was planned by the local council for primary schools to meet up and share best practice across subject areas focussing on key themes that are known as Golden threads. For example, in Geography a golden thread such as 'important people' would run through every class's planning from reception to year 6. Year 5 have recently enjoyed a robotics workshop put together by staff from Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton High Schools and are looking forward to a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) afternoon hosted by Stalbridge Primary school after Easter organised by Mrs Blackburn.

Help For Families At William Barnes the school is a very fortunate to have the assistance of our Family Support Worker Nicola Rope. Working with Mrs Wrixon, she is available to help to find different types of support for families. The school also uses the expertise of the school nursing team from time to time.

Reception and Key Stage One Reading Volunteers. For many years at William Barnes, members of the community, often retired, have joined the children in KS1 and Reception to hear readers on a 1:1 basis.



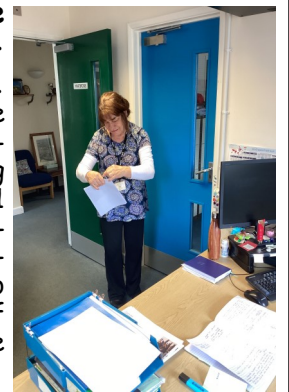
These volunteers normally visit at a specific time each week, getting to know the children and helping them to become more confident and proficient in their reading skills. Without these volunteers, some children would not be heard read and they provide an essential part of the reading developments of many of our children for which the staff and children are very grateful. At present our team of reading volunteers are Mr Gater year R, Mrs Gater year 2, Mr Wyatt year 2, Mr Pearce year 1, Mrs Jackie Pearce year R, Mrs Evans year 3, Mrs Smiley TBA and Mrs Laura Cooper year R. (Mrs Rachael Cooper will be starting soon).



Where would Teachers be without their Teaching Assistants? Staff at William Barnes scratch their heads with perplexity when they hear that some schools have been reducing the number of teaching assistants they have as a way of balancing the books.



When teaching assistant do so much for the children, every single day, how can a school function without their invaluable work? Whether it be preparing resources for lessons in the morning, teaching phonics sessions, covering classes when teachers are ill, delivering 1:1 and small group interventions, helping children who have not understood the learning in a lesson, dealing with first aid, attending residential trips, liaising with parents, plus a variety of other tasks to numerous to mention, our teaching assistant are the unsung heroes of the school. Without their commitment, resilience and hard work, the education our school provides, would quickly grind to a halt.



MyTime Charity Offer to Help Staff were captivated by a recent visit by Emma Samways, an ambassador for the charity MyTime. During an afternoon of training the teaching assistants and teachers learnt that a young carer is a person under the age of 18, who looks after someone in their family who needs help, for example because of a disability or a mental illness. Emma explained that young carers often develop extraordinary skills and inner resources from a very young age and need to be celebrated for the work that they do within their families. Emma explained that the MyTime charity offer a range of services including free days out, residential trips for young carers and online youth group sessions where young carers are given the opportunity to connect with other young people in the same boat and come to value the skills and attributes that they have developed. MyTime will be forming links with the school in the future and their involvement will begin with a whole school assembly that will help the children to understand what a young carer is and what MyTime can do to support and celebrate them.

Musical Magic from Violin Duo!

Two children from year 5 and year 6, Alex and Bartosz entranced their audience when they performed to their class mates in the hall recently.

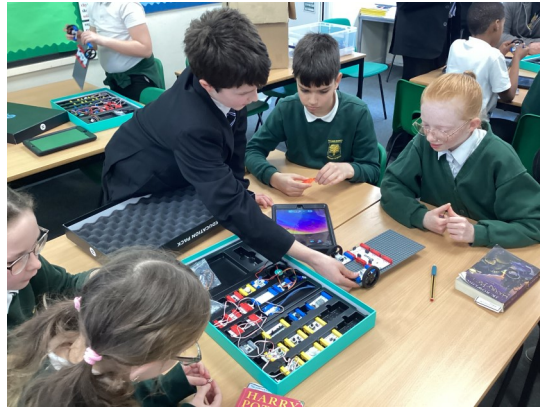


Accompanied by their teacher Mrs Middleton on the piano, they played their instruments beautifully and with great confidence. Between pieces the children received enthusiastic applause. Two pieces, one called 'morning sunshine' and 'afternoon rain' showed how changing from a major to a minor key can affect your feelings.

Afterwards, several children were inspired by the performance and decided to ask Mrs Middleton if she could take some more students.

Robotic Reverie for Enthusiastic Year 5 During Family Learning Week

Following year 5's use of the Crumble mini computers lent to use by the Devon Computing hub, the children were excited when they heard that secondary teachers Sarah Broughton from Sturminster High and Gilford Sweetenham from Shaftesbury were coming to run a robotics workshop.



Accompanied by ex students from Sturminster, Mrs Broughton arrived via mini-bus. Unfortunately, Mr Sweetenham was travelling from Bournemouth and had been delayed. After a few minutes of nervous waiting for parents and children alike, Mr Sweetenham swept into the year 5 classroom and the workshop began. Working in groups of 8, the children cooperated

to create a model car powered by two motors and connected to a laptop using Bluetooth. The children created some code to control their car and then took them to the hall to race against each other. All the children received a key ring and a certificate for taking part. Mr Hull would like to thank Mrs Broughton and Mr Sweetenham for making the workshop happen, and for parents who came along to help as well.

The Sun Shines for Year 5 at Leeson House



After weeks and weeks of awful weather during the Winter, early Spring at Leeson was a delight for year 5.

Basking in warm sunshine and enjoying gentle breezes, all of year 5's days at the residential Field Studies Centre benefited from ideal weather conditions.



After leaving an hour earlier this year, year 5 were able to enjoy their beach study at a more leisurely pace on the Wednesday. Senior tutor Matt also brought his dog Loki, who was a huge hit with the children. Thursday was spent in the grounds of Leeson, studying food chains and environmental art. On Friday, during the tour of Corfe Castle, some of the children demonstrated their acting skills by playing parts in the legend of Ethelred the Unready. As we returned home, one or two children were so tired that they had a little snooze before being collected by their parents, who were glad that their children had arrived back at school safe and sound.



Kingston Maurward Trip On Wednesday 20th March, Year 1 visited Kingston Maurward animal park and gardens to complement their learning in science.



The children observed the animals on display while discussing which animal group they belonged to and their diet. The children particularly enjoyed the goats, who put on a great show, and the geese with their loud honking! Thankfully, the sun came out allowing us to spend plenty of time learning more about these animals. We even got the opportunity to see an unexpected amphibian first hand as a toad hopped out of the fishpond. A pleasant but extremely muddy walk around the lake followed this as



the children discussed the difference in plants as we move into spring, spotting blossoming flowers, tree buds and feeling the warmer weather on our skin. The children returned to school enthused yet tired and have since produced a wonderful recount about the day in their English lessons. (JN)



Spring Term Sports Throughout the spring term, William Barnes Primary School have been as busy as ever competing in lots of sports events.

Wednesday 31st January saw the first event of 2024, a dodgeball tournament for years 3 and 4 at Sturfit Leisure Centre. An enthusiastic team enjoyed playing many fast-paced aggressive matches against the other primary schools in the Sturminster Pyramid. The team won all 4 of their group games convincingly to reach the Grand Final against Child Okeford. Their winning ways didn't stop and overcame the pressure of a huge crowd, managing to get the win, a fantastic start to the year for William Barnes sports teams.

Netball was next up and an eager bunch of year 6s headed to Stalbridge Primary School after only a few training sessions learning the positions and rules. The team played incredibly well in all games, passing the ball quickly and creating many opportunities. A second-half comeback versus Child Okeford set up a Winner-Takes-All match against Stalbridge. Unfortunately, the well-rehearsed plays from Stalbridge were too much to handle and we lost 3-1, finishing in second place overall.



Football was to dominate the remainder of the spring term and this was kick-started with a Davison Cup match against Stalbridge. After a tough first half with the score at 1-1, the team found their rhythm, completed some slick passing moves, and quickly moved into a strong winning position. Penalties for both teams in the second half added to the excitement and William Barnes eventually heard the final whistle and progressed to a quarter final tie versus Sherborne Abbey. Winning 5-2. Seeing the previous scores registered by Sherborne Abbey, a 13-1 win in the last round, the team was ready to give it everything. A half time score of 2-1 to Sherborne meant the game was very much still on but tired legs on a huge pitch took its toll and Sherborne went on to score 5 more goals without reply.

The annual football tournaments hosted by Child Okeford is a highlight of the calendar for many, including Mr Newman who recalls participating during his primary school years. The year 5 and 6 team played fantastically but struggled to find the net in the first two games. This set up a 5th/6th playoff against Child Okeford, and William

Barnes finally found goal-scoring form, winning 4-0. Despite not losing a game or conceding a goal in the whole tournament, William Barnes finished 5th. The year 3 and 4 team were hoping to fare a little better and started well winning their first game generating a feeling of optimism. A loss in the second match, winning the third, and a close defeat in their final game resulted in a 3rd place finish that the team can be very proud of. (JN)

William Barnes 'WE PROJECT' Supporting Charities Supporting worthy causes and charities is part and parcel of the wider curriculum at all primary schools and this is no exception at William Barnes. Throughout the year, the children take part in non uniform days, cake sales, elderflower cordial stalls and national events to support various charities including Water Aid, Comic Relief, Children in Need and the Malala Fund.

This strand of the school's work sits well with school's 'We Project'. What is the 'We' Project? The 'We' Project is an idea that has gradually been taking hold in a variety of primary schools across the country over the last couple of years. The 'We' Project proposes that in a world with many challenges individual actions if increased to sufficient scale and size, can still create a force for positive change that cannot be resisted. The intention is to empower the children to see that their own individual actions are significant and can have an impact. Each school participating in the project contributes to this force for change by participating in one hundred activities that can make a difference to the lives of others. These actions can involve supporting charities, writing pen-pal letters, learning about the lives of children in other parts of the World and supporting our own local communities through donations and fund-raising. In our main corridor, Mr Field has created a display that includes a jigsaw puzzle with one hundred pieces. Each time an activity or event takes place at the school that involves our school community reaching out to support and connect with others living beyond the school's gates, we will add this to the display until the whole puzzle is complete. All the children will be able to see for themselves, in one strikingly visual image of a completed jigsaw, how their unique efforts have made a difference.

If one hundred schools take part, that will produce ten thousand positive contributions; if one thousand schools take part, then the total would reach one hundred thousand positive actions; ten thousand schools would create an astonishing one million positive collective actions. The vision of this project is to inspire a whole generation of primary school children to see that they are not powerless, but by working together with like-minded others, who share their values and have a desire to create a fairer and more equal world, they can make a difference to the future of their communities and the planet as a whole.



Charities that Support Us The staff and children at William Barnes are always grateful for the help and support of various local charities who have come to the school's aid over the years. For example, for many years the Cheese Festival Committee has generously supported the school making contributions to a wide range of resources including iPads, maths equipment and reading books. The Rotary Club of Sturminster Newton have helped the school on many occasions and recently have pledged to provide books to enrich the school's library. The William Williams Trust make contributions to residential visits for families who having cash flow problems. In a similar vein, the Mansell Pleydell Trust have given literally thousands of pounds to the school over the years to fund year 5's trip to the Ancient Technology Centre.

Computing Curriculum Support Parent, Governor and Computing teacher Gilford Sweetenham has been supporting the school in various ways to develop IT at the William Barnes.

Firstly, he has been instrumental in the setting up of a working group of local primary schools who meet regularly to discuss the latest developments in IT education and explore opportunities to collaborate. He has also helped the school to make links with Mrs Sarah Broughton, Computing lead at Sturminster Newton High School, who has supported Mr Hull in developing the school's resources and curriculum, particularly in the area of physical computing. He was also first out of the blocks when ordering a set of 30 BBC microbit mini computers for the school and he has recently led a robotics workshop with year 5 as part of our Family Learning Week. Sarah and Gilford have also encouraged the school to make links with the Devon computing hub who will be lending the school a set of Crumble mini computers for the second time in the Autumn term of 2024.



Behind the Scenes Staff Provide Essential Support Although the teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisors formally teach and care for the children each day, without the help of the office staff and the breakfast and after school club supervisors, it would be impossible for the school to run smoothly.

In the office Karen Hudson holds the purse strings and deals with all the school's invoicing and budgets. Lisa Townsend deals with finances too, but is also available to cope with almost every other issue you can imagine including school uniform purchases, first aid emergencies and photographs day. She is incredibly flexible responding to whatever comes her way with calm resourcefulness. Catherine Dunkley Jones, as well as being clerk to the governors, also organises the school's clubs and helps Mr Hull keep the web site up to date. In the mornings, Keira Hargraves and Phyllis Johns staff our early morning breakfast club, whilst Phyllis and Keira are joined by Sarah Selby to allow the smooth running of the after school club. Mr Potts from Premier Sports also chips in on Monday and Thursday to run after school PE clubs, whilst Rhoda Lacey, Kate Horswell and Maureen Armstrong will be seen before and after school literally running from one class to the next keeping our school clean for the children each day, before locking up and alarming the building.

Wonderful Grounds and Extensive IT The children at William Barnes are fortunate to have both extensive green spaces in which to enjoy their PE lessons and playtimes and a set of over thirty laptops and twenty or more iPads to support their learning.



Both of these resources require constant up keep. The children will be familiar with our giant size bearded IT consultant Gregg Jones, who visits every other week and keeps our whole school Wi-Fi network updated and ensures that all of our various devices, including interactive white boards, projectors, laptops, iPads and printers are functioning correctly. In contrast, the school grounds are kept up by a team from the local council who often arrive early in the morning before the children arrive, when they can race around the school grounds cutting back shrubs, cutting grass

and pruning trees and bushes to make the grounds safe and attractive to visitors and the children.



Governing Body Generously Give up their Time Throughout the year the school's Governing body meet regularly to help maintain the strategic direction of the school, support the staff in meeting the school's long term goals and provide challenge to senior staff to ensure that the school is providing the very best education possible with the resources at their disposal.

The full governing body meet termly and are led by chair and parent Chris Jones. The governors also belong to three sub-committees — finance and personnel, curriculum and environment. Each of these committees meet termly and report back to the full governing body. Mrs Wrixon attends all governing body meetings and Mr Field and Mrs Maria Dixon-Amphlett have been long terms member of the governing body serving for many years. Parents Mrs Emma Smith and Mr Gildford Sweetenham, as well as Mrs Yvonne Pitman are also member of the governing body. Two members have left or will be leaving shortly. These are Janine Wagner-Hales and Rachel Barbet. The staff and children would like to thank them for all their hard work behind the scenes over the past few years, and their expertise in both web site design and special educational needs will be sorely missed. Fortunately, the school has had two recent enquiries from local professionals who are keen to help and get involved, allowing the governing body to continue to thrive.

Church Visitors Enrich Curriculum The children and staff at William Barnes always appreciate the support given to the school by Ian Carr and St Mary's vicar Mary Gubbins, who visit the school regularly to lead assemblies based upon the teachings of the Bible.

Mr Carr in particular has been a regular visitor to the school for many years, whilst the children also have the opportunity to visit St Mary's Church at Christmas for the nativity service.

Children Helping Each Other Each and Every Day At William Barnes, the children get a host of opportunities to support each other during their time at school.

In lessons, the children will work with many different learning partners, improving their writing together, sharing ideas and discussing contributions. At playtimes, children in year 5 and year 6 act as playtime 'buddies' using their caring skills to support the Key Stage One and Reception children with their games, and year 5 also support the lunchtime supervisors by helping to tidy away the tables before lunchtime ends. A select group of keen individuals from year 5 help to manage the school library, returning books to the shelves and keeping the books organised in the correct sections. Our sports ambassadors look after the school's PE resources and lead play time basketball games for Key Stage 2 children. All of year 6 help by taking on various essential roles, such as setting up the laptop and projector for assembly or distributing the school's registers. Our school councillors, attend regular meetings chaired by Mrs Blackburn, house captains help with sporting events in Key Stage 2 and our Eco-Warriors give up their lunchtimes to develop the Forest School area. A team of Young Interpreters also support new children who join the school who have English as an additional language. Mrs Blackburn also works with two elected representatives from each class who form the school council that meets regularly to make important decisions regarding the organisation of the school. In addition to this, every class has their own way of organising helpers, who take responsibility for a range of classroom necessities, such as collecting books, tidying up resources, sharpening pencils and handing out art materials.



New Electronic Library Up and Running After months of diligent and pain staking work behind the scenes by our year 5 team of librarians, Beau, Anna, Ben, Rufus and Teodor R., the new Reading Cloud school library is up and running.

Teachers have recently been trained on the new system that allows children to login at home to see which books they have borrowed and to browse the school library's catalogue. Classes are just beginning to use the school's library again and in the Summer term that all the children will be logging and borrowing books. Mr Hull would like to thank the librarians for the hours they have spent adding new books to the Reading Cloud database and organising the library.

Waterlilies Year 2 have learnt about Impressionism and used the waterlily paintings by Monet as a starting point for their artwork.

They created their background using blues, purples and greens and added their lilies on top. They should be very proud of their efforts in creating some beautiful pieces of art. (RG)



Moon Collages Year 2 had a fantastic time creating their moon collages.

This was their Family Learning activity and many thanks to the parents who were able to come in and support their children with this activity.

The day before they prepared some textured paper using sand and paint. Plus, they used bubble wrap for printing. The children had to make sure they had folded, scrunched up, torn and overlapped the different types of paper to create their moon. These are proudly hung up in our classroom. (RG)



Wonderful Wessex Water Tim from Wessex Water spent the day at William Barnes. With Year

2, he discussed lots of different uses of water and the importance of having access to clean water. He showed them a model of how the clean drinking water gets to their house so all they have to do is turn on the tap. (RG)



Rockets Year 2 have enjoyed making their rockets in Design



and Technology. They learnt different ways to join card together and how to strengthen different parts of their rocket. They finished off their rocket with a lick of paint and we now have a very colourful display. (RG)

Fun Forest School It was Year 2s turn to have Forest School this half-term. Even though it has been incredibly muddy, the children have been able to complete a variety of interesting activities. From den building, hunting for bugs, making their own hedgehogs to learning how to light a fire and keep safe at the same time in order to melt their marshmallows. Coping well with many wet afternoons outdoors, the children have continued to enjoy their experience of learning in the fresh air and out of the



Baba Marta @ William Barnes! The first of March saw many bracelets arriving in school from children with Bulgarian heritage and shared with their friends.



'Baba Marta' is translated as 'Grandma March' and celebrates the changing of Winter to Summer. The red and white tassels are traditionally exchanged in Bulgaria and symbolise health, prosperity and happiness. They should be worn until the first stork is seen or the first flowering tree. The wearer then transfers their bracelet on the fruit tree which symbolises fertility. Year 6 took their bracelets up to the cherry blossom tree in the Forest School Area and attached them. (RF)

Malala Day Success! After studying the life of Malala Yousefzai as part of their PSHE curriculum, Year 6 organised and ran a very successful Malala Day this half term.

There are currently 129 million girls not in education around the world - this includes 32 million of primary age. Malala has fought for equal rights for girls since her mid teens and now runs a fund which is dedicated to the development of education for girls around the world. A cake stall which was brilliantly supported by parents across the school, a bric-a-brac stall and a used tennis ball stall contributed to a massive £270 being raised for the fund. (RF)



WE Day - We're Changing the World! The WE Project was begun in September and is dedicated to finding '100 Ways to Change the World'. It will take several years to build up our 100 ways and some of these will include



educational activities to develop the children's understanding of the world and its issues. WE Day was our big launch and last week we had Wessex Water visit the school to educate the children about the importance of water. WE Day itself was a fundraising day for WaterAid where copper coins were donated for the charity. Currently researching ways to count our thousands of coins quickly! (RF)

World Book Day - The Return of the Costumes! World Book Day was slightly delayed this year as Year 5 were at Leeson House and the English Coordinator was away.

It also saw the return of costumes after other ideas were explored the last 3 years. The children enjoyed many reading activities throughout the day, including some online fun and ended the day with a Reading Carousel, where they chose a story to listen to but had no idea who would be reading it to them until they got there! Cue many children crossing the playground to their chosen destination dressed as Potters, Gruffalos etc to enjoy a story sat with children of all primary ages! The staff also had fun with their costumes! (RF)



Attendance Remains Steady But Needs to Improve Despite their being a variety of unpleasant colds and viruses in the community this Winter and Spring, attendance has remained fairly steady at 94%. However, looking back to 2018, prior to the pandemic, average attendance was 97% at this point in the year, 3% higher.

| Year R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 93.6% | 93.1% | 92% | 95.3% | 95.9% | 93.5% | 93.7% |

People Who Help us The topic focus in Reception class during Spring 1 was 'People Who Help us' and during this time we learnt about many different types of jobs, the range of job roles within our local community and we were fortunate enough to welcome some visitors to our class to talk to us about their work.

In January, we welcomed Rosie who is a district nurse and she talked about how she helps to look after people who are poorly and need nursing care at home. She showed us some of the equipment she uses and we were able to try using it for ourselves! We also had a visit from Laura Whalley the local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) and her colleague. They showed us the special police patrol car and the equipment they carry in the car and on their bodies. We took turn to try wearing some of the items of uniform! On Wednesday 31st January we welcomed some more visitors Emily and Phil



brought their Ambulance car to school. We were shown inside the vehicle and we allowed to press the button to turn on the flashing lights! Phil showed us all the medical equipment in special bags in the boot. Emily showed us the equipment she uses to check people's health when they are poorly. Finally, we welcomed a visit from Amit and his team from Smile Dental Care on Wednesday 6th March. Amit showed us photographs from his dental surgery and talked to us about what he does when patients come to see him. Amit showed us some of the dentistry tools he uses and told us how to look after our teeth.



Each child was given a generous goodie bag to take home from Amit and his team at Smile Dental Care. A special 'Thank you' to all our visitors this term: Rosalie, Laura, Emily, Phil and Amit. (HD)



Spring Planters In Reception class this half term we have been learning all about planting and growing.

Therefore, we were delighted when Castle Gardens in Sherborne donated plants, compost and pots so every child could create a beautiful planter. The children thoroughly enjoyed filling their pots with compost and choosing and potting up their plants. The children planted pansies, violas and red foliage. It was a busy time looking after the planters until it was time to take them home; the children had to ensure the planters had plenty of sun, enough water (but not too much!) and shelter from the wind. We hope they are surviving well at home and you are continuing to enjoy their blooms. A huge thank you to Castle Gardens for donating all the resources - we are truly grateful. (HD)



Easter Praise!! KS1, KS2 and the choir have been practicing hard this term learning new songs



to perform to each other in an Easter Assembly.

The children have learnt and grown a number of musical skills in order to enhance

their musical knowledge and abilities. It was fantastic to hear the children perform so confidently. (RG)

Key Stage 2 Cross Country All four classes in Key Stage took part in the cross country competition.

Over a distance of 600m, the children raced around a course set out by the sports ambassadors during lunchtime. The school uses exactly the same course each year, laid out precisely using a special running app. All the children did brilliantly, but a



special mention is deserved for Sam Frear, who beat the KS2 record by 2 seconds with a time of 2.12, despite having a knee injury. Other excellent times were recorded by Miraya Ivanaova with 2.23, Dany Radentsov with 2.22, Teodor Ruskov with 2.14, Teodor Ivanov with 2.25 and Ezra Haydon with 2.25.



Book Worms! Year 4 took a trip to the Library this term and were able to take part in a lovely, engaging activity all about identifying the rivers in the UK.

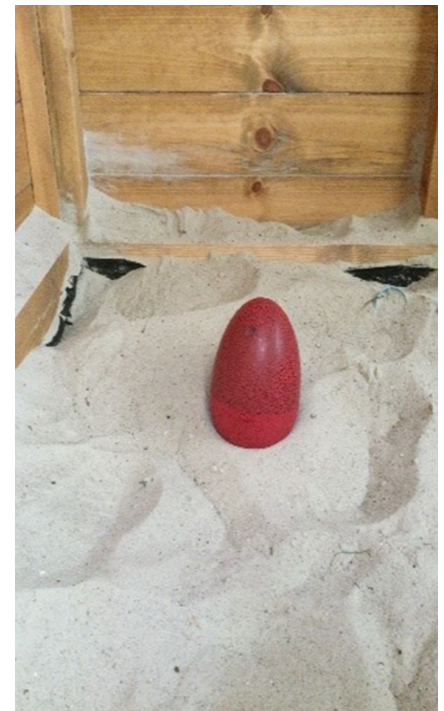
The children have been learning all about the UK in Geography this term so this was a brilliant way of using some of the knowledge they have learnt. Year 4 were also able to take a book out of their choosing. It was an interesting morning and the children were thrilled to choose from the many books available. Many were enthused to join the library out of school. (RG)

Dinosaur Mystery in Reception Class!! In reception, we've been busy with some very exciting topics this term.

One of our favourite topics has been about dinosaurs. We arrived at school on Monday morning to find a dinosaur egg in our sand shed! We worked out a dinosaur with feathers and wings laid an egg for us to look after. Each day we checked to see if it had cracked and we are still waiting! The children produced lovely draw-

Daring Designers! Year 4 have been learning about the significant manmade landmarks around the UK.

We spent time talking about the way in which structures can be made and how that can change depending on their purpose. We tested a few different methods for building bridges and towers, and also tried various ways to strengthen them. Finally, we designed and built a UK landmark of our own using recycled materials and added a circuit to include an element of light. They had a great time building these and even had a bit of help from parents on our Family Learning Day. (RG)



ings, used descriptive language and wrote about our dinosaur egg. They all had wonderful ideas and great imaginations. Let's hope the egg cracks very soon! (NL)

Online Safety

Follow the SMART rules to help stay safe online.

Safe

S

Stay **safe** online by not sharing your personal information.



Meet

M

Do not **meet** anyone who you have only become friends with online.



Accept

A

Do not **accept** messages and friend requests from people you do not know.



Reliable

R

Not everything online is **reliable**. People online are strangers and you can't always trust everything they say.



Tell

T

Tell an adult you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.



Be careful what you share online!

Stop and think before you share information online.
Don't say or do anything that you wouldn't do in the real world!

