



# Hurst Hill Primary School Newsletter

Welcome to our first Monthly Newsletter

This newsletter celebrates all that has happened

## **Welcome to Our First Monthly Newsletter!**

We're excited to share all the wonderful things that have happened in school during our first half term. It's been a busy and joyful time!

This half term, we've welcomed families into school for a range of parental engagement events, including the launch of our Inspire sessions in Years 5 and 6, reading workshops across all year groups, and Parents' Evening.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates from each year group about what they've been learning and exploring in class. We're proud to announce the appointment of our Junior Leadership Team and our Trust Parliament representatives enjoyed their first trip to Woodside, where they met with other parliament members from across the trust.

We've also celebrated a number of important events and causes, including:

- **World Mental Health Day**
- **Bright for Sight**
- **Diwali**
- **Black History Month**

...just to name a few!

Thank you for being part of our school community. We look forward to sharing more exciting updates with you in the next edition.



## Stars of the Week



### **Our Reception Stars are...**

Arijus, Noah

### **Our Stars from Year 1 are...**

Emmeline, Edie, Rosie, Harry and Regan

### **Our Stars from Year 2 are...**

Maison, Akshana, Hugo, Ben, Ellie

### **Our Stars from Year 3 are...**

Imani, Isaac R, Isla, Arpan, Daisie-Rae

### **Our Stars from Year 4 are...**

Kaleb, Reyansh, Max, Benas, Louis

### **Our Stars from Year 5 are...**

Lily, Lottie, Reggie-Rae, Rahaf, Chelsea

### **Our Stars from Year 6 are...**

Sophie, Maisy, Garry, Arjun, Chelsea

## 🌟 Star of the Half Term 🌟

This half term, we are proud to celebrate the following pupils who have consistently demonstrated outstanding effort and commitment. They have shown our school values throughout their learning and interactions, setting a wonderful example to others. Their hard work, positive attitude, and dedication have truly made them stars of the half term!

Congratulations to:

Reception: Noah

Year 1: Oliver

Year 2: Malachi

Year 3: Bella

Year 4: Emma

Year 5: Chelsea

Year 6: Rennie

## Please read on to find out what each year group has been learning about this half term.

From our youngest learners in Reception to our oldest pupils in Year 6, every class has been busy exploring exciting topics, building new skills, and celebrating their achievements. Each year group has contributed a short update to share their highlights and proud moments from this half term.

Please use the information shared with you to encourage your child to remember more by talking about their learning at home.

### EYFS - Nursery and Reception

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*As we reach the end of a busy and joyful first half of the Autumn term, we're delighted to share some of the wonderful experiences our Nursery and Reception children have enjoyed.*

*This term began with a focus on building relationships and settling into our school routines. Children shared their All About Me boxes, proudly showing objects and photos, talking about*

*the special people in their lives. These moments helped us learn more about each child and celebrate the uniqueness of our EYFS children.*

*We've been busy exploring all the exciting spaces around our school! From discovering our classroom and outdoor play areas to adventuring in Forest School and getting active in the hall during PE, the children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm.*

*In Reception, we've become Phonics Superstars! Children have been learning letter sounds and practising blending them into words - an exciting step on their reading journey.*

*Meanwhile, our Nursery children have been laying strong foundations for phonics by tuning into sounds through listening games and nursery rhymes. This week, we've been celebrating the vibrant festival of Diwali. The children have created beautiful Rangoli patterns, dressed up in traditional clothing and helped decorate our classrooms. A huge thank you to Mrs Bala for providing such fantastic decorations that brought the celebration to life!*

*We wish all our families a restful and happy half term break.*

*We look forward to welcoming you back next term for more learning in our 'Celebrations' topic!*

*The EYFS Team*

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## Year 1



We can hardly believe how quickly the first half of the Autumn Term has flown by! We are so proud of how well the children have settled into Year 1, they've made an excellent start to the year and have embraced new routines, friendships and challenges with confidence and curiosity.

The transition from Reception to Year 1 can be a big step but your children have taken it in their stride. They've adapted brilliantly to a more structured day and are already showing greater independence in their learning. It's been a joy to see their personalities shine in the classroom and their enthusiasm grow across all areas of the curriculum.

We've been busy exploring phonics, diving into number work, building sentences in English and enjoying creative time through art and music. The classroom is always buzzing with energy and ideas!

### **Harvest Assembly**

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Assembly. The children worked so hard to learn their songs and lines, we were so proud of their confidence and teamwork on stage. It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on the importance of gratitude and giving and we were overwhelmed by your generous donations to the local food bank.

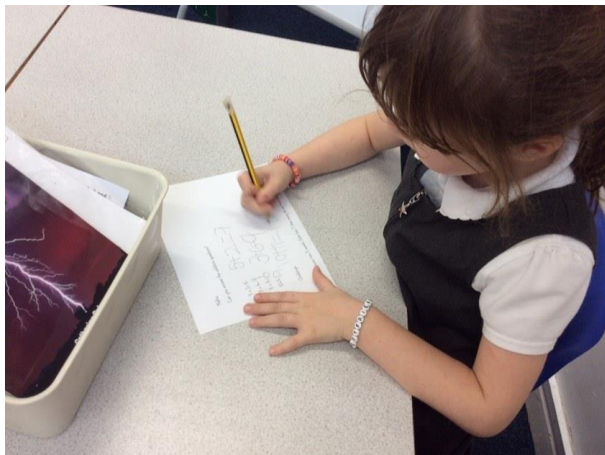
### **Diwali Celebrations**

This term we also explored the vibrant festival of Diwali. The children loved learning about the story of Rama and Sita and the traditions that many people follow to celebrate the Festival of Lights. We created beautiful diva lamps, experimented with Rangoli patterns and even tried some traditional Indian music and dance. It was a joyful and colourful week full of creativity and cultural discovery!

Thank you so much to parents and carers for your continued support and have a well-needed rest!

Miss Davies









What a fantastic start to the school year it's been!

Year 2 have been incredibly busy this autumn half term, diving into exciting learning experiences across all subjects. Here's a look at what we've been up to...

**Writing: Making Bird Feeders**

We combined creativity and care for nature by writing instructions and then making our very own bird feeders. The children loved getting hands-on and thinking about how to help local wildlife as the weather turns colder.

### **Writing: Little Red Reading Hood**

Our focus text this term was *Little Red Reading Hood*. The children explored this modern twist on a classic tale, wrote their own versions and discussed the importance of reading and storytelling. As part of this, we enjoyed a wonderful walk through our school's forest area, observing and collecting vocabulary. This experience inspired descriptive writing and deepened our connection with nature.

### **Maths: Place Value**

In maths, we've been mastering place value. The children have been using practical resources and games to understand tens and ones and they're becoming confident with number comparisons and ordering.

### **Art: Paul Cézanne**

Our artist focus this term was Paul Cézanne. We explored his still life paintings and experimented with colour mixing and brush techniques. The children are creating beautiful still-life artwork inspired by his style.

### **Harvest Assembly**

Year 2 took part in our school's Harvest Assembly, celebrating the season of giving and gratitude. Thank you to everyone who contributed donations - the children were proud to be part of such a meaningful event. We used lots of our Skills Builders in our Harvest assembly including speaking and listening, teamwork and creativity.

### **Reading Workshops**

Thank you to all the families who joined our reading workshops! It was wonderful to share strategies for supporting reading at home and to see the children's enthusiasm for books.

### **Celebrations & Special Weeks**

We've had lots of reasons to celebrate this half term...

**Behaviour Awards:** Recognising kindness, effort and teamwork and displaying our school's values and following school rules. Well done to those who have received bronze, silver and gold awards!

**Bright for Sight Day:** Raising awareness and wearing our brightest clothes!

**Mental Health Week:** Exploring feelings, mindfulness and ways to support ourselves and others.

**Diwali:** We learned about the festival of Diwali, exploring its traditions, stories and symbols. We also got creative and made our own Diwali lanterns.

I am so proud of everything Year 2 have achieved this half term. We look forward to next half term where we will be writing a poem and a narrative, focusing on addition and subtraction in maths, designing and building cars using axles and wheels in DT and building up to our Christmas celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a restful half term.

**Mrs N Coleman**



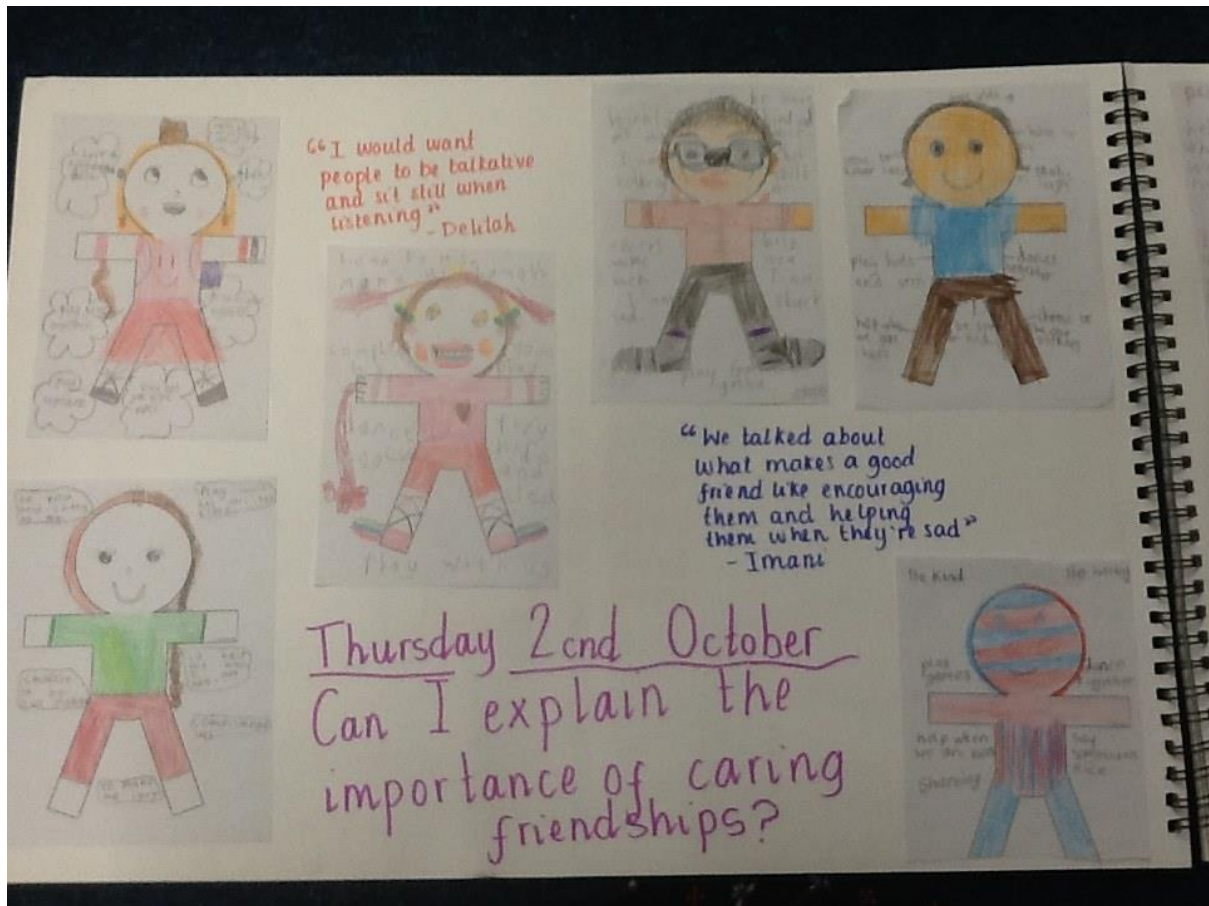








## Year 3



What a fantastic term it has been in Year Three! From learning all about magnificent mountains to mastering the recorder and writing poetry that could rival Shakespeare, the children have truly impressed us. Everyone has settled into Year 3 beautifully and thrown themselves into our topics with enthusiasm.

In Maths, we've been diving deep into place value as well as addition and subtraction. With the help of number lines, our confidence and accuracy have really grown.

In English we began with The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, which turned everything we thought we knew about the pigs and the wolf upside down. The children loved writing about our misunderstood character, the wolf. We also explored the poem The Sound Collector, and let me tell you, we definitely have some budding poets among us! I was so impressed with their beautiful expanded noun phrases and fantastic rhyming skills. They should all be very proud.

In Geography, we've been exploring the majestic world of mountains. We compared Ben Nevis in Scotland, the tallest mountain in the UK, with the slightly less towering but equally fascinating Wren's Nest hill in Dudley. We even had a real-life adventurer in class! One of our brave pupils climbed Snowdonia and shared their exciting experience with us - Well done Leo N, we are so proud of you and your determination.

In Science, we've been investigating the human body. We can now name lots of different bones, understand why we need a skeleton and explain how our muscles work. We also explored the different food groups and how they contribute to a healthy, balanced diet using the Eatwell Guide.

The fantastic Mrs Knee has been working her musical magic, teaching the children how to play the recorder. Although we started with a few squeaky notes, the progress has been incredible. The children are learning rhythm, melody and how to play together as a group and they're absolutely loving it!

Our PE lessons have been extra special this term thanks to our amazing sports coach. The children have been focusing on football, particularly ball control, which has led to some very exciting penalty shootouts at the end of our practice sessions.

We've also explored our RHSE topic on relationships, admired the artwork of Vincent van Gogh to help us make our own piece, learned some Spanish phonemes, explored the story of Rama and Sita, and developed our listening skills through the Skills Builder programme.

Next term, we're looking forward to diving into even more exciting topics, including plants, the Stone Age, and a fun DT project, just to name a few!

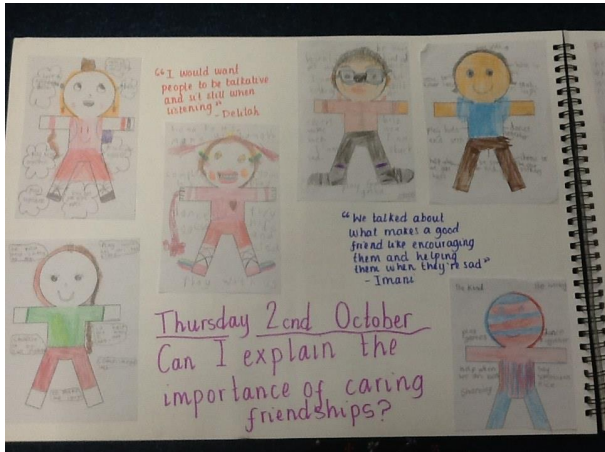
Year 3 you have worked so hard this half term, it's time for a well deserved rest.

Wishing you a wonderful half term.

Miss Parkes









As we come to the end of our first half term in Year 4, we'd like to share some of the wonderful learning and experiences your children have enjoyed so far.

This half term, the children have been inspired by the beautiful picture book *Float*. They created their own imaginative versions, showcasing creativity and descriptive writing skills. We also explored the powerful poem *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou, discussing its themes and crafting our own poems that celebrate resilience and self-belief.

Our reading sessions have been full of excitement as we delved into the fascinating world of the Egyptians. The children have loved learning about ancient customs, mummies and the mysteries of the pyramids through engaging texts and discussions.

In Maths, we've focused on place value and addition and subtraction. The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of numbers, using practical resources and problem-solving strategies to deepen their learning.

Our History topic this half term has been Ancient Egypt. From exploring the River Nile to discovering the secrets of the pyramids and hieroglyphics, the children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity.

In Science, we've been investigating Living Things and Their Habitats. The children have enjoyed classifying animals, exploring different ecosystems and understanding how living things adapt to their environments.

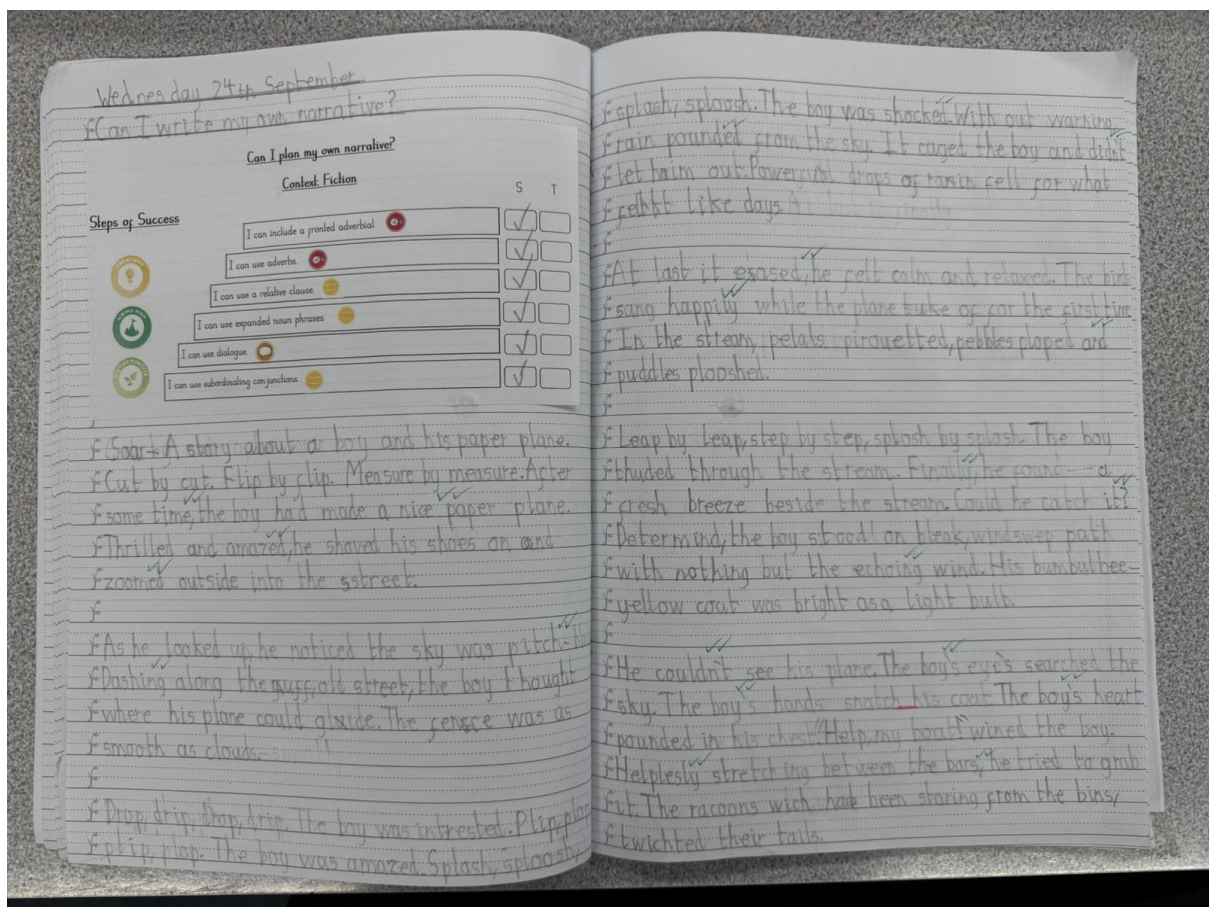
Year 4 have also started their weekly swimming lessons, and we are so proud of how confident and enthusiastic the children have been in the water. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity for them to develop important life skills, build stamina and have fun while staying active.

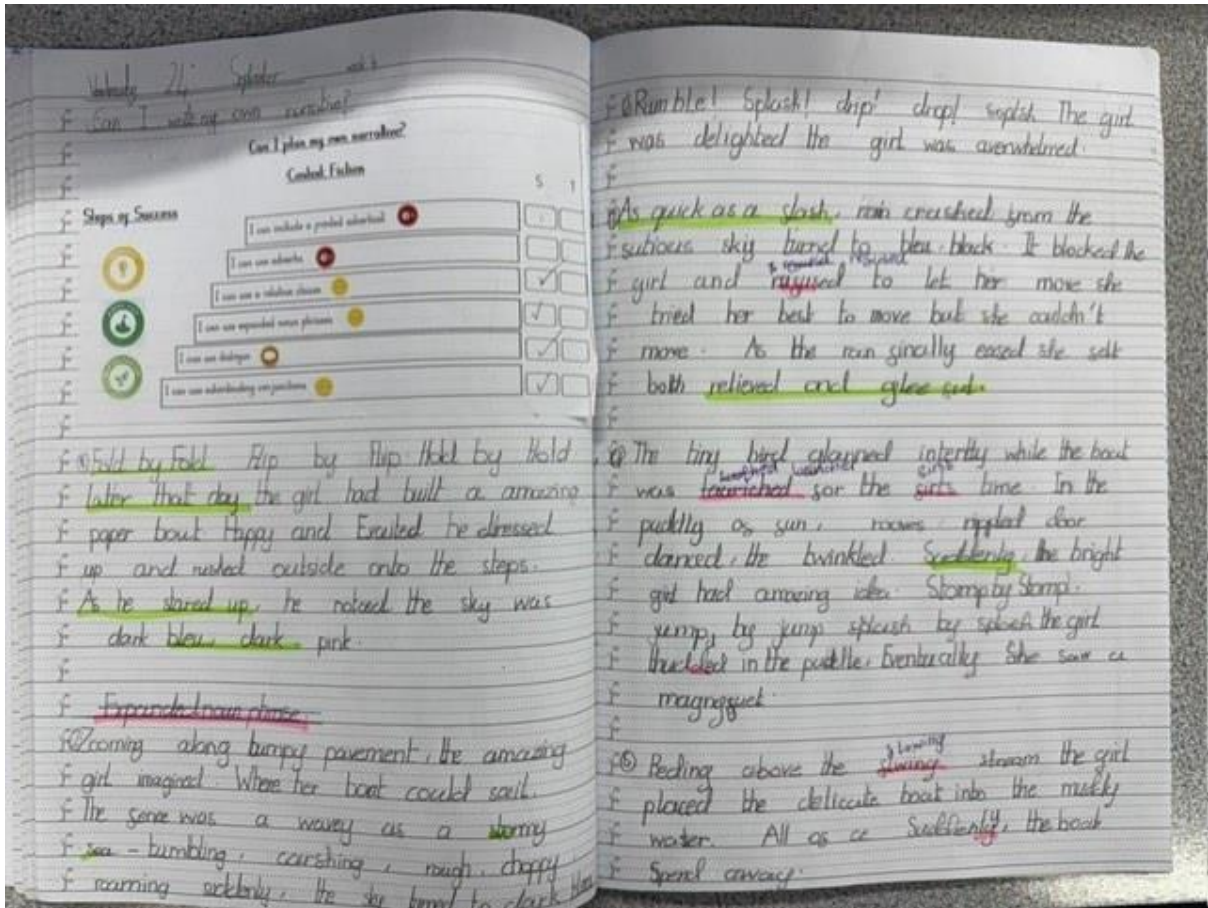
We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into life in Year 4. They have shown great maturity, kindness and a fantastic attitude towards their learning.

### Thank You!

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Reading Workshop. Your support is invaluable and it was wonderful to share ideas and strategies to support reading at home. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting half term of learning!

Miss Smart





Year 5

No.1 *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestseller

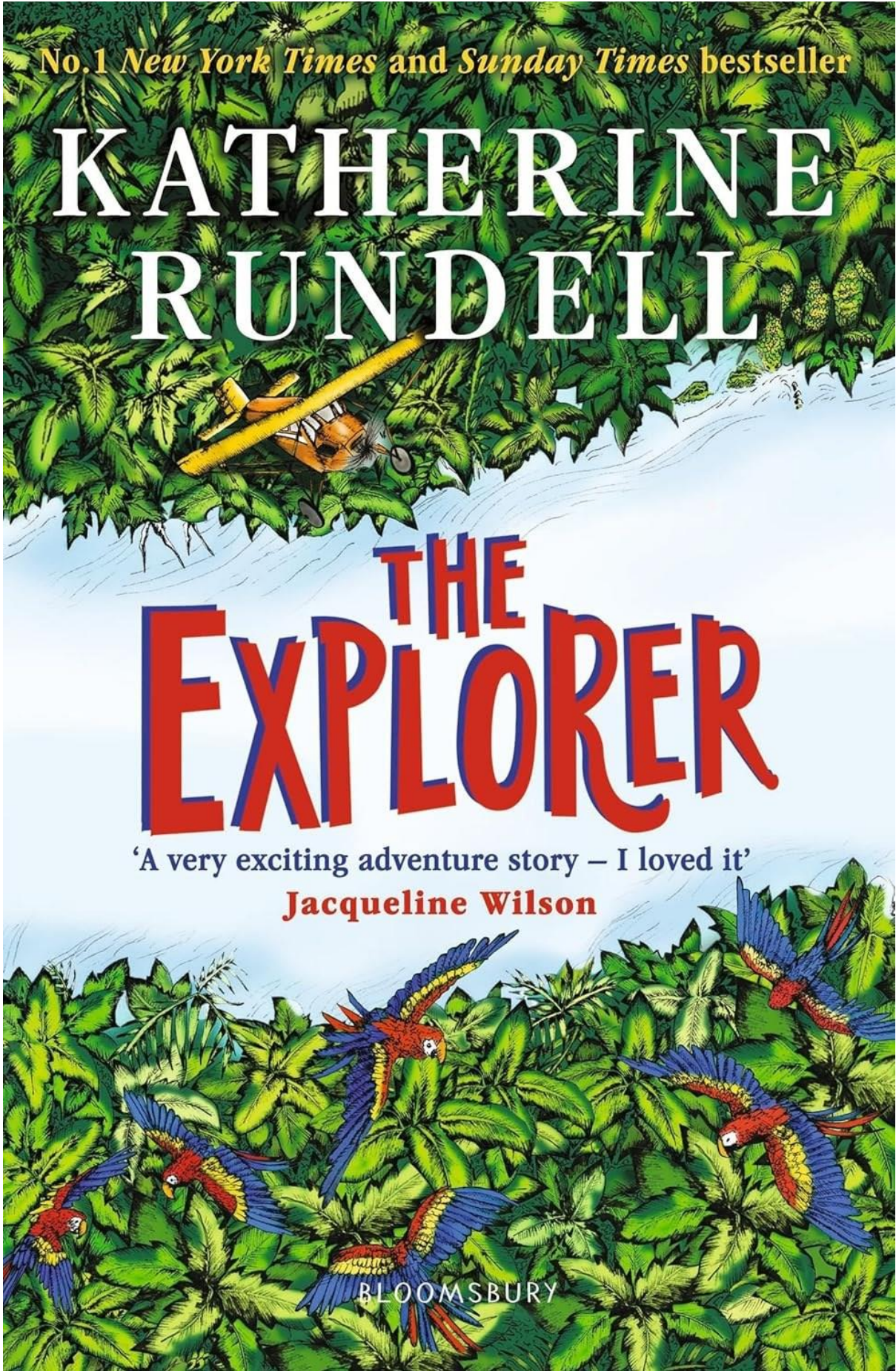
KATHERINE  
RUNDELL

THE  
EXPLORER

'A very exciting adventure story – I loved it'

**Jacqueline Wilson**

BLOOMSBURY



What a busy and exciting half term we've had in Year 5! The children have made a fantastic start to the new academic year, showing great enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience in all areas of their learning.

In English, we've been exploring the fascinating world of penguins through our non-chronological report writing. The children have impressed us with their research skills and ability to present facts in a clear and engaging way. We've also begun reading *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell, a thrilling adventure story that has sparked some brilliant discussions and predictions. In Guided Reading, we've delved into *Odd and the Frost Giants* by Neil Gaiman, exploring Norse mythology and developing our comprehension and inference skills.

Our Maths lessons have focused on deepening our understanding of place value and building confidence with addition and subtraction strategies. The children have tackled increasingly complex problems with perseverance and are becoming more fluent in their reasoning and problem-solving.

This half term, we've travelled (virtually!) to Brazil. We've explored its diverse physical geography, including the Amazon Rainforest and River and examined the impact of urbanisation on people and the environment. The children particularly enjoyed comparing life in Brazil to life in the UK and creating colourful maps and fact files.

In Science, we've launched into our Earth and Space topic. The children have been captivated by the wonders of our solar system, learning about the planets, the movement of the Earth and Moon and the concept of day and night. We even created our own models to demonstrate how the Earth orbits the Sun!

In Computing, we've been learning about how computer systems work, focusing on the journey of data through input, process and output. The children have enjoyed exploring how everyday devices use these systems and have begun to think like computer scientists.

### **Looking Ahead**

We're very excited to invite you to our **class assembly on Tuesday 4th November**, where the children will have the opportunity to showcase some of their fantastic learning from this half term. We can't wait to share their hard work and creativity with you!

### **Thank You**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support this half term. It's been a pleasure to see the children settle into Year 5 so well and embrace all the new challenges with such positivity.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term break!

Mrs Jimenez and Mrs Garbett



Year 6

*'A small wonder of a book' GUARDIAN*

The Boy  
in the  
Striped  
Pyjamas

JOHN BOYNE

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

What a brilliant September we've had together. The children have made a fantastic start to their final year at primary school and I couldn't be prouder of how they've settled in. They are an absolute delight to teach, and I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each of their unique personalities. From the very first day, they've shown enthusiasm, kindness and a real eagerness to learn. It's been wonderful to see them embrace the responsibilities and expectations of Year 6 with such maturity and positivity.

In English, we kicked off the term with a fun and imaginative writing task based on *Goldilocks in prison*, where the children wrote creative postcards from Goldilocks to her family. Their ideas were hilarious and thoughtful and they really showcased their flair for storytelling. We've now moved on to writing emotive narratives inspired by *The Journey*, a beautifully illustrated storybook that explores the experiences of refugees. The children have responded with empathy and sensitivity and their writing has been powerful and moving.

In Maths, we've focused on Place Value and the children have worked hard to understand large numbers, rounding and number lines. Their end-of-topic test scores were impressive and it's clear they've built a strong foundation for the year ahead.

In Reading, we've started *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and the children are already deeply engaged with the story. They've asked thoughtful questions and made insightful predictions and if they'd like to continue reading it at home, please do encourage them - it's a powerful book that many are keen to explore further.

In History, we've launched our World War II topic, beginning with the Treaty of Versailles and the causes of the war. We're now moving into learning about the Battle of Britain and the Blitz and the children have shown great interest in this period of history.

In Science, we're conducting an experiment on microorganisms, investigating the best environment for mould to grow - yes, it's the famous bread experiment! Ask your child how it's going; they've been fascinated by the changes and are learning lots about bacteria, fungi and hygiene.

In Computing, we're designing our own websites, learning how to structure content and use hyperlinks.

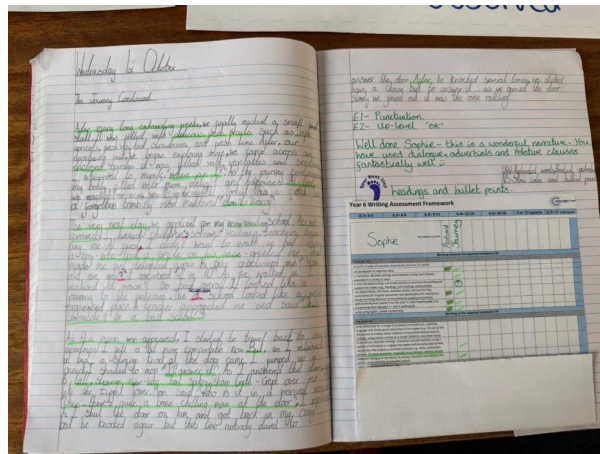
In Art, we've been studying Frida Kahlo, exploring her life and artistic style and the children have produced some stunning portraits.

In Spanish, we've started learning basic phonetic pronunciation and greetings and the children are picking up the sounds quickly.

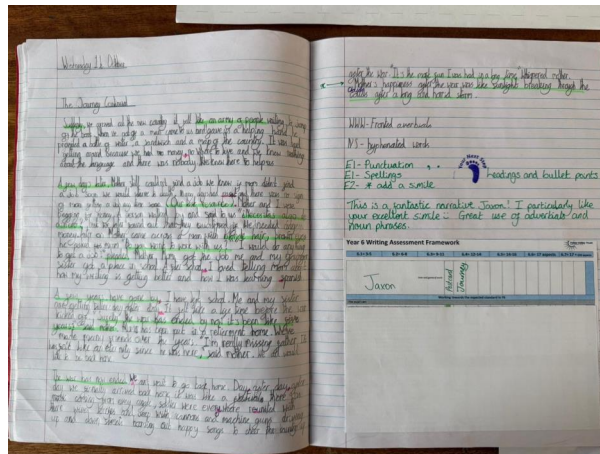
A quick reminder about homework: please ensure your child completes their weekly CENTURY nuggets, reads regularly at home (with their planner signed), and learns their weekly spellings. Keep it up, Year 6 - you're already showing us how ready you are to shine!

Have a fantastic half term.

Mr Brazier



5 - Sophie, Year 6



6 - Jaxon, Year 6

As we come to the end of another vibrant term, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support. Your involvement plays a vital role in the success and wellbeing of our pupils and we are incredibly grateful for the strong partnerships we've built together. We look forward to further strengthening these connections in the coming year, working hand in hand to support every child's learning journey.

A huge congratulations to Nelly, Hunni, and River our proud winners of the Reading Workshop Competition.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported our Bright for Sight initiative, your generosity and community spirit continue to make a real difference.





7 - Thank you so much for supporting 'Bright for Sight' together we raised £147.49 for this charity.





**Wishing You a Wonderful Half Term!**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful and restful half term break.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Monday 3rd November**.

Please note that **Friday 7th November** is an **INSET day**, and school will be **closed to pupils** on that day.

Mrs Weaver and Mrs Johnson