



Newchurch Newsletter

February 2021

Children's Mental Health Week 2021



Never more so than now has the celebration of Children's Mental Health been as important. The development of the children's understanding of the need to look after their mental health, as well as their physical health, has been part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) for all classes for many years.

Over the course of the week, and beyond, each class engaged in different activities aimed at supporting children in understanding ways in which they could maintain their mental health and wellbeing.

The theme for this year was 'Express Yourself!'. There were a number of children who looked at ways in which they could express themselves and the emotions that they may have from time to time. Here is just a small selection of the wonderful work our Robins produced.



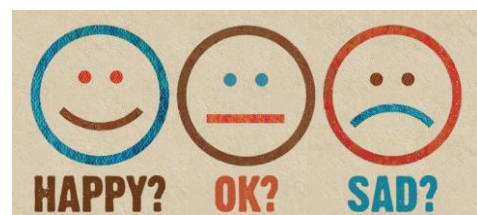
Physical activity is great for the brain as it makes us feel energised, allows us to face disappointment and also reach goals. Some physical activities are designed to make us focus on their minds and bodies. Above our two of our Newchurch Robins who tried out some of the yoga sessions. Here is the link if you want to give some a try:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X655B4ISakg&feature=emb_logo

Other children engaged in brianteasers. Challenging our brain is a great way of keeping mentally active. Puzzles, reading, memory challenges are all excellent ways to stay sharp.



Support is always available if you anyone is struggling with their mental health. Check out the following website which shows support for all age groups, adults and children across Warrington.



<https://happyoksad.warrington.gov.uk/>

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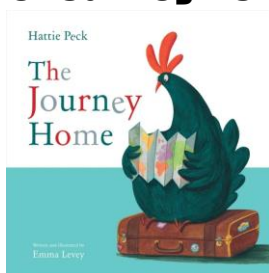
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Reception

February 2021



Throughout this half term, the children are going to be focusing on the story about Hattie Peck and her adventures. This is a poignant story about family and differences, making hard decisions, letting go, and inclusion. The children will be able to retell the main events within the story, using pictures, drama, reading and writing.

Chinese New Year



The week commencing 8th February, the children found out lots of interesting facts about Chinese New Year: the reasons why and how they celebrate. They used their creative skills to design and make Chinese dragons, lanterns, decorations and they even built the Great Wall of China using a variety of equipment. They create their own Chinese menus and lots of the children had their very own Chinese celebrations at home.

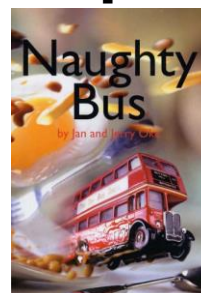


Finlay – I liked making the Great Wall of China. I used lots of boxes.

Brooke – We did a Chinese dance with ribbons.

Ella – Chinese like to wear red for good luck.

Sculpture



Reception researched different buildings and landmarks within London linked to the book 'The Naughty Bus.' They could name lots of places in London and they used photographs to recreate these structures using the large and small blocks in the small world area. The children talked about the shapes, heights and lengths of the structures and what would be the best blocks to use.



Toby – I made the underground station in London.

Thomas – We looked at lots of buildings in London.

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Year One

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Religious Education

The Mixed-Up Chameleon
by Eric Carle



Before half term, Year 1 explored rhyme by listening to different poems and the story **Oi Frog!** They identified different rhyming words and even wrote their own rhyming couplets!

*A koala lives in a tree,
She loves eating leaves and running free.*

Megan

They then read **The Mixed-Up Chameleon**, a story about a chameleon who wanted to be like all the different animals he saw and then acquired their different body parts. They designed their own animals using body parts from different animals and came up with lots of adjectives and verbs to describe their animals and their actions.

They went on to explore the structure of diamond poems and wrote their own diamond poems based on their animal!



In RE, Year 1 explored the idea of creation and all the special things that are part of their world. They read the story **Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish** and decided they would much rather live in a world filled with clean skies, beautiful plants and wildlife as described at the end of the story. They learned about the religion of Islam and how Muslims believe the god, Allah, created the world and everyone must work to protect it. They also read the **The Boy Who Threw Stones at Trees**, a story about a boy who damaged the date trees by throwing stones to make the fruit fall. In the story, the Prophet Muhammad tells the boy to wait for the fruit to ripen and fall on its own so the trees would not be spoiled. Year 1 agreed that this was a good idea and came up with lots of their own ideas on how they could look after the world we share.



Marvelous Matisse

Year 1 looked at the work of **Matisse** and the different shapes and colours used in his art. The children used this as inspiration to create their own shape printing blocks using card and string and then experimented printing different patterns.



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Year 2

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A New Text...

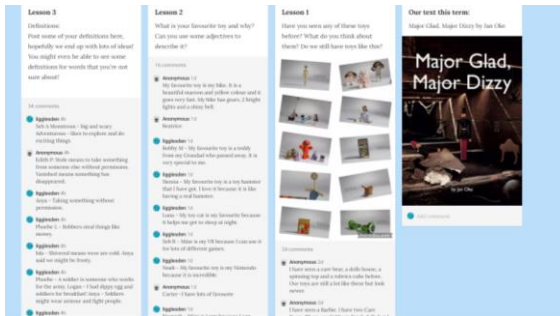
They are starting a new text in Year 2, but before they start reading, they have been completing



some tasks that are going to help them! They have been talking about toys from the past, and even wrote descriptions about their favourite toys. With all this talk about toys... they wondered what their text could be about!

Year 2 have compiled all of their fantastic ideas from their lessons so far on our virtual working wall.

They have also explored some new vocabulary that might become familiar within their new text, and shared these with each other via their working wall which has created a huge glossary full of definitions.



Phoebe L: I liked coming up with my own definitions for the vocabulary list.

RE: What does special mean?

In RE, Year 2 considered what different qualities people have to make them special. To start with, they discussed people who go above and beyond every day, and do special things for lots of different people in many ways. Further into our discussion, they came to the conclusion that people don't always need to be spectacular to be extraordinary. The children chose three people that they know, who do extraordinary things for them all of the time! Whether that be making us breakfast, helping them with learning or taking them to school! They then went on to unpick The Lord's Prayer and the reasons why Christians use this prayer.

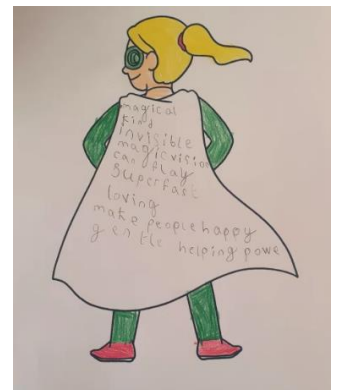
1. My Nana Barbar is very special because she is very kind to others. She does things to help me all the time. She is very special because she gives money to charity and is very thoughtful.
2. Another person who is special is a vet. They are special because they help Colin our dog when he is unwell. It is their job to help animals and make them better.

Sculpture Superstars

Mrs Dixon showed the children a fantastic range of brilliant, unique sculptures and they were able to comment on a range of things including:

- What they liked
- What they disliked
- How difficult they might be to make
- How they might use some of those techniques for their own ideas

Then they had their very own virtual demonstration by Mrs Dixon who showed them a variety of methods and techniques to use when using paper to make sculptures. Lots of the children were able to use these skills and make them unique to them. Some children even came up with their very own ideas and methods to paper sculpturing.



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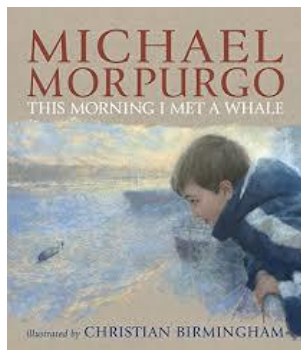
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Year 3

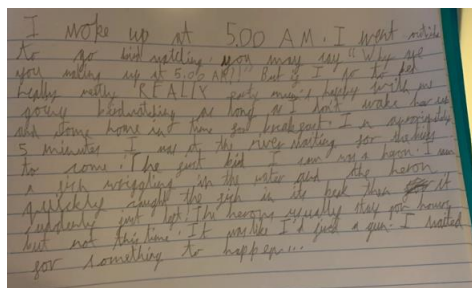
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All About Whales



This week, the children have started two new books to use as part of their English unit. The first book they have looked at is the non-fiction book 'This morning I Saw a Whale' by Michael Morpurgo. This book starts at sunrise and young Michael spots a whale on the shores of the Thames and thinks he must be dreaming. But the creature is real and it has a message for him - one that only an open-minded child can deliver to the rest of the world.

The second book they have looked at this week is the fiction book is 'Big Blue Whale' by Nicola Davies. This book is a very sensuous exploration of what a blue whale feels, sounds and smells like. There are descriptions and facts about a whale's size, life-span, diet, babies and more.



Both books have already started to inspire the children's reading and writing. So far, they have made predictions using the front covers of both books, which then lead to making comparisons. The children have also practiced previously taught skills and have written a recount of the morning Michael went down to the river Thames and saw the Whale for the first time. Above is just one example of the fantastic recounts written by our wonderful Year 3 Robins

Exciting RE

As part of Religious Education, Year 3 have been looking at the religion of Judaism and importance of the Ten Commandments. The children looked at the Story of Moses and how God had told him to tell the people about the Ten Commandments. The children picked one of the ten commandments and explained what it looks like and how you can follow it.



Spectacular Sculptures

Last half term, the children of Year 3 were studying the artist Alexander Calder. The children started by looking at many different examples of his work, thinking about what they liked and disliked and why. They then spent time exploring different materials thinking about which would be best to use when creating a sculpture. From this the children took inspiration from Alexandra Calder and designed and made their own spectacular sculpture.

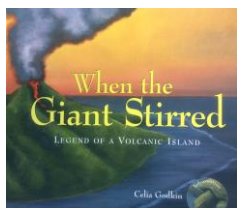




Year 4

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When the Giant Stirred



Year 4 have started their new class text called 'When the Giant Stirred'. This is a fabulous book that will link in wonderfully with their volcano topic that they will be learning about in Geography. So far they have explored some beautiful vocabulary and made predictions as to what they think will happen in the story.

Ruby – I've really enjoyed learning synonyms for words and being able to put this into my own writing to make it sound more interesting.

Super Sculptures



Andy Goldsworthy has been the artist of the half term. Year 4 have used his work as inspiration when creating their own work of art. They gathered lots of natural resources from their own gardens, schools grounds or local park, separated them into two groups and then created 2D and 3D sculptures out of all the materials. Each piece was totally unique and absolutely amazing.

Isabelle L – I enjoyed doing the sculptures because it was fun to find lots of different materials like leaves, rocks and other things and make something out of them.

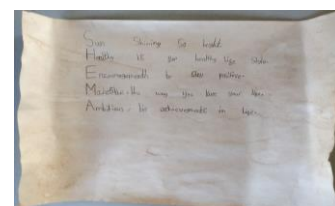


Tooth Decay Investigation

Year 4 have been carrying out more science investigations. This time, they have been finding out which drink causes the most tooth decay if you don't brush your teeth. They had 6 hard boiled eggs and observed them in 6 different liquids over a few weeks. The results were quite shocking! The children said that they will definitely keep their teeth nice and clean!

Faye – The science experiment was fun because I got to see what would happen to my teeth if I drank those drinks all the time and didn't brush my teeth.

Terrific Torahs



As part of Religious Education, Year 4 have been finding out about Judaism and the significance of synagogues and the Torah. Year 4 made their own Torahs and wrote their own special message inside for friends and family or explained the importance of Shema within the Jewish faith.

Charlotte B – I liked making our own Torah scrolls because I enjoyed making it look old and like a real scroll.

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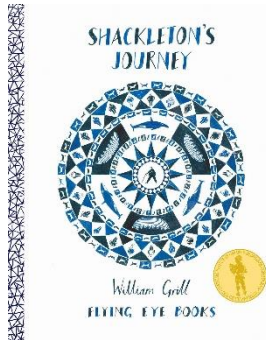
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Year 5

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Shackleton's Journey



With the start of the new half term, Year Five have begun to investigate their next text: the brilliant Shackleton's Journey. A true tale of endeavour, heroism and sacrifice, the beautifully-

illustrated book tells of Ernest Shackleton's efforts to cross Antarctica from coast to coast via the pole. There is lots of rich vocabulary and sentence structures in the text and the children will be building in their reporting skills over the next few weeks.

Jessica – Ernest Shackleton was an excellent explorer because in the introduction he said he wanted to go to the South Pole.

Joe - In English we have learnt about the explorer Ernest Shackleton. I have learnt loads of new facts about him and his travels.

RULES! RULES! RULES!



As part of their religious studies, the children of Year 5 developed their knowledge of the Jewish faith which they covered in Y4. They looked at the importance of the Torah in more detailed, including how it is treated and the language they surrounds it.

They also investigated the Jewish festivals of Simchat Torah and Sukkot.

Their work culminated in a study of the Ten Commandments which were handed down to Moses. They looked at the importance of rules in their lives, which rules

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Love God with all your heart
God is the most important in every part
Always say his name with love
Resting on the seventh day is good.
Love and respect your mum and dad
Hurting people is very bad
Always be faithful to your husband or wife.
Talking things that aren't yours will cause you strife.
Make sure that you never tell lies.
Don't ever get jealous and have green eyes.



they thought were most important and wrote awesome poems to remember the Ten Commandments.

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Land of the giants

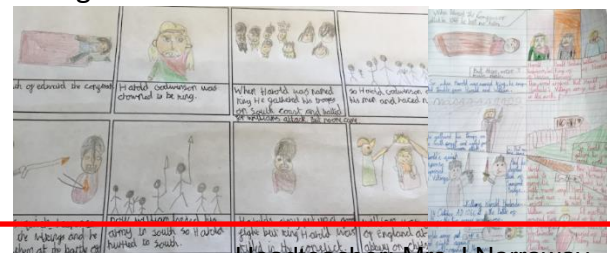


If you have been onto the Newchurch Twitter page, then you are bound to have come across the Claes Oldenburg inspired artwork which the year five children have produced. They have been investigating scale and how the ordinary can become extraordinary. Their work looked at concepts of scale and how installations are used by artists to work with the space in which they are exhibiting. Their final pieces were a triumph of Oldenburg's techniques and humour and are tempting us to start our own sculpture park in the village.

Mason – It was really cool because we got to make tiny things massive and it was really fun.

Where are you from?

Through their historical studies, Year five have continued to look at the influence of the Anglo Saxons in shaping what we call home today. The children looked into the Saxon monarchy and how the seven states of Britain became what is now England. They ranted the achievements of each monarch and built towards the monumental changes of 1066.

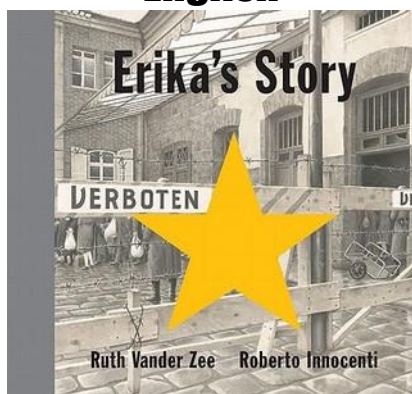


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English



Year 6 have been studying the text, 'Erika's Story' which recounts one lady's horrifying experiences during the Holocaust. They have dealt remarkably well with such deep and moving matters and been incredibly respectful to the content. From their studies, the children have produced some quite incredible diary entries, imagining what it might have been like with emotive content. As well as the content, the technical elements of sentence structure and grammatical features have also been of a very high standard.

Imogen: The book gave me mixed emotions because, although it was upsetting for Erika's mother, it was great that the daughter was given a chance at life. I enjoyed writing the diary entry and imagining how the characters would be feeling.

Maths

1 kilogram of cheese costs £13.50

Megan buys a piece of cheese costing £2.49



What is the mass of the cheese to the **nearest 100 grams**?

Measurement is the area of maths which Year 6 are currently focusing on. The key to success in maths is to be able to apply skills from other elements of the subject to those of others. Here, the children

are using their knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 100 and 1000 to convert between metric measurements such as grams to kilograms, millimetres to kilometres and vice versa. As we progress through this area of learning, we will also be converting between imperial and metric unit, Celsius to Fahrenheit and miles to kilometres.

Angus: Converting between units of measurement can be quite tricky at times but I enjoy having to think about the process and arriving at the right answer.

Art






At the end of last half term, Year 6 completed an exciting and engaging art project with a focus on the famous sculptor, Barbara Hepworth. The children researched her sculpting styles and set about using her ideas as inspiration to design their own sculpture using clay. From start to finish, the children were immersed in their learning and produced fantastic artwork. The work published on our Twitter page was 'liked' by the Hepworth Gallery which shows that they too were impressed with the quality of the sculptures!

Daisy: Learning about Barbara Hepworth was really enjoyable. I really like her artistic styles. Creating my own clay model was really fun.



Key Dates and Information

Date	Event	Class involved
25.2.2021	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3 parents
1.3.2021	Launch of Book Week 	All Classes
3.3.2021	World Maths Day	All Classes
4.3.2021	World Book Day – Dress in your pyjama day!	All Classes
8.3.2021	 Children return to school.	All our home learners
8.3.2021	Launch of Science Week	All Classes
Throughout week commencing 15.3.2021	Year 5 Bikeright 	Year 5
19.3.2021	Red Nose Day	All Classes
1.4.2021	School Closes	
15.4.2021	School Opens	
3.5.2021	Bank Holiday Monday	
28.5.2021	School Closes	
14.6.2021	School Opens	
19.7.2021	Year 6 Leavers' Awards Ceremony in church (tentative)	Year 6 and parents
20.7.2021	School Closes	

February 2021



As the children have returned we have seen a significant improvement in their attendance. The staggered starts to the day seem to be impacting positively on punctuality also. Thanks you for your support in this.

Just a reminder that holidays taken in school time will not be authorised. We appreciate that many of you may have had to cancel holidays that are booked, and like many people, are desperate to get away. However, from an educational point of view, the children have missed so much schooling and more so than ever we need to ensure they are in school. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

We have an attendance reward system for the whole school, which is based on each class's attendance at the end of the week (including homelearners). The system works as follows:

100%	Gold award	10 points
Class with the highest attendance of the week	Silver award	5 points

The class with the most points accumulated at the end of the school year gets a very special treat of a trip paid for by school. At the moment **YEAR TWO** are the ones to beat who have 45 points having had four 100% attendance weeks.

Point to note...

Obviously, if your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please **do not** send your child in – this will be classes as an authorised absence anyway on the system.

Current attendance figures to date are:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
99.4%	98.6%	99.4%	99%	97.6%	99.7%	98.3%

Our school target is 97%. Well done everyone!

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