



### Pupil Leadership

### Eco-Council



### The count is on!



During February the school Eco Council have been out and about taking part in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch. The children split up into groups and spent time observing and identifying birds around the school grounds. Our results were then sent to RSPB to be included in their Big School Birdwatch.

*"I felt excited to see what birds we could find and see their differences and learn facts about them."*

**Amelia Year 6**

### Spring is in the air

After months of cold, grey skies it's time to add some zing back into the school allotment. The Eco council have been tidying up the allotment ready to start planting out seeds as the new growing season starts.

In Eco Council have also been discussing plans for Global Recycling Day on 18th March. The children have decided to design posters to encourage others to recycle at home, educate others about the effects of litter on the environment and re-using items to reduce waste. They have always been keen to share ideas and work together as a team.



### Safeguarding Crew

The safeguarding crew have looked around the school playground at the different

equipment that is on offer to them. They have had a discussion about what they feel needed looking at and how the equipment could be improved. The crew plan to make some posters to give other children to follow.

In addition to this our Junior Safety Officers (Harry and Lewis), delivered a road safety assembly to the rest of the school supported by the PCSO. They have also supported the PCSO in securely tagging bikes for the Year 5 and Year 6 children.

### Sports Leaders

During lunchtimes, the Sports Leaders have been holding a variety of sports clubs for the children to join in with: dodgeball, hockey, handball, netball and KS1 sports. The children have been thoroughly engaged with these activities. It is a great way to interact with those children in other classes. During the last week of term, they held a mini basketball tournament for the KS1 pupils. It was a fantastic way to improve their techniques with the ball. Certificates for all participants were handed out during assembly along with a medal for the winners in each class.



Another tournament is planned for this half term. Watch this space!



### Well-being Ambassadors

The Wellbeing Ambassadors would like to share this with you... 'We have heard that when people suffer from mental health, we can help them by giving the advice they need. For example, advise you to do some breathing exercises or try and take your mind off it by reading or doing something you enjoy. If you are mad or upset, scream into a pillow or have a good cry. You will feel better! Talking to someone always helps: it could be a parent, a teacher, a friend or a guardian who can help you through what you are going through.'



# Newchurch Newsletter

February 2023

## School Council Update

Over the course of the Spring Term, our School Council have met on a number of occasions to review the lunchtime experience for the children of Newchurch.

They have looked at:

- The layout of tables
- Reorganisation of the procedures for entering the hall and lining up for lunch
- Provision for diners who like to take a little longer than others
- The timings of the lunchtimes and the staggering of classes into the hall
- The choice of options available for school dinners

The team have worked together to look at a timetable for classes to have the opportunity to mix, calling it 'Family Fridays' where the two classes in the hall can sit and enjoy lunch together if they wish instead of being just with their own classes. The classes will change each half term.

They have decided they would like to set the hall up as a restaurant with the cutlery and drinks on the tables and even requested red and white tablecloths.

School Council members from each class have surveyed their classmates regarding the food choices they have at lunchtime and gathered further opinions.

The next steps are:

- Meet with Jayne, our cook, and discuss lunchtime choices
- Set up the hall as a restaurant and let classes see the changes
- Communicate the changes to the whole school through an assembly

Year 2 Team



Year 4 Team



Year 3 Team



Year 6 Team



Year 5 Team



Watch this space for more updates from our School Council.

**Newchurch Community Primary School**  
01925 763427

**If you have any concerns about Child Protection or Health and Safety,  
Please contact school**

Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway  
[www.newchurchprimary.co.uk](http://www.newchurchprimary.co.uk)



# Safer Internet Day

February 2023



This year, the theme for Safer Internet Day was 'Want to talk about it?' and was an opportunity for making space about life online. Alongside our current Computing and PSHE curriculum, children across the school took part in a range of activities to celebrate the day.



Year 5 spent some time making guides for games and apps that they use so that their parents and carers have a better understanding of the technology they are using.

Year 2 looked at how the SMART rules can help children stay safe online and made some posters to demonstrate the ways in which to stay safe online and spread awareness.



Year 3 explored a variety of images and had to decide whether or not they were photo shopped. Children then reflected on the impact and harm that photo shopped images may have online.

Year 1 children reflected on the different ways to keep safe online and had to sort a range of scenarios based on what they thought was safe or unsafe. Children discussed the different scenarios and reflected on why things may be unsafe if you don't ask your grown up for help.



Children in Year 5 and 6 had a visit from Detective Constable Andrew Kevan who is

part of the crime team for Cheshire Police. He shared personal work experiences with the children and even shared details from some cases where young people had been caught up in negative situations online. He reinforced the message that what we put online is permanent and the importance of thinking before posting and consequences of those who do not.



**Here are some good websites to support children's online safety. Also, please see our school website.**

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online>

[https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/online-safety/online-safety---downloadable-resources/cso\\_toptips\\_jan2022.pdf](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/online-safety/online-safety---downloadable-resources/cso_toptips_jan2022.pdf)

<https://www.mygov.scot/staying-safe-online>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

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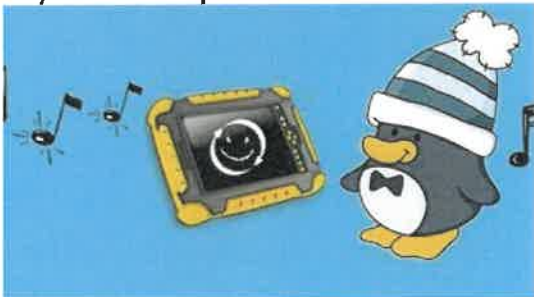
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# Reception

February 2023

## Computing

The children have been exploring what the internet is and what they use the internet for. They used the iPads to explore the internet safely, by playing games, using CBeebies and using Google Meet to speak to Mrs Narraway. They listened to Smartie the Penguin and he explained the rules of how to keep safe online. The children learnt a special rhyme to help them remember.



**Arthur** "Smartie helped us to remember how to use the internet."

## Forest School

In Forest School the children have been finding ways to help the birds. They made bird feeders using pine cones, peanut butter and bird seeds. Using their fine motor skills, the children had to spread the peanut butter onto the pine cones and then roll the pine cones into the bird seeds. The birds had a very tasty treat and they enjoyed eating their special food.

On the last day in forest school the children had their very own tasty treat, they had pancakes

that were cooked around the campfire. The children sang campfire songs while the pancakes were cooking.



**Milan** "I liked eating the pancakes."  
**Harry** "I made bird feeders."

## Exploring Winter

Throughout the half term the children were learning about winter. They investigated snow and ice and the process of melting and freezing.

**Aria** "The ice was very cold."  
**Bryson** "We found ice and I could see through it."



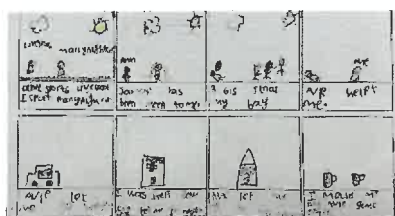
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### PSHE – Belonging to a Community

This half term, Year 1 have been focussing on what it means to belong to a community. They have explored the importance of rules in society and the difference between right and wrong choices and how these affect others. They listened to stories, such as The Eagle's Egg and The Good Samaritan and discussed the choices made by the characters. The children used drama to retell how the characters in the story argued over who should put the egg back into the eagle's nest but overcame the problem by working as a team and listening to each other. Children also made their own comic



strips to make modern day versions of these stories.

**Odin:** We should help people, even if they are different to us.

### Senses Overload!

In Science, Year One have been learning all about senses and how we use them. Children investigated all of their senses and recorded what they see, hear, feel, smell and taste. Children have also been able to recall how their senses are used in everyday life. Children have been able to consolidate their learning by building a fact file all about senses.

**Pippa:** I use my senses all the time without even realising!

**Sophie:** I didn't like the taste of the sweet but lots of children did – our senses can be different.

### Computing

As well as acknowledging Safer Internet Day with different activities, Year 1 have been working on their online safety skills. Children were able to reflect on what they already know about digital safety as well as develop new learning. Children have learnt how to send an email safely and even composed some emails for some teachers around school!

Dear miss narrowway  
we love you so much because you are allwais cind\*

Dear miss storeey

I have been happy to. Day  
Have you been happy to. iv bin very happy evry day.

Love from Mutahara and bella

### PE

This half-term children have been working really hard on their gymnastics skills. Children started by learning the fundamental



shapes they can make with their bodies and even enjoyed a new game that we created using these shapes. Children progressed on to being able to make shapes to represent different animals and how they might move their bodies. The children listened carefully to music and to different sounds on the tambourine to create movements in groups. Children showed great resilience when performing in front of the rest of the class.



# Year 2

## PSHE

The children have thoroughly engaged with their PSHE topic of 'Living in the Wider World'. Through a game of human bingo and by creating human webs, they explored how having similar likes as others can help them make connections and also make relationships stronger. They have looked at different groups that they can belong to and the children understand what it means to be part of a community. With the help of Kathleen Caves' book entitled Something Else, they discussed diversity. The children agree that diversity is something that should be celebrated and that no one should feel they need to change to fit in. Following an activity whereby the children linked arms and had to perform tasks whilst



joined, the children decided life is always better when you have friends to help you.

**Finley: It was fun when we joined together and tried to stand up. We should always be helpful and kind because it makes things better.**

## Science



In science Year 2 have been investigating materials and their properties. The children have experimented to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday

materials including wood, metal, plastic, glass, paper and cardboard for different purposes. They have also looked how some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting or stretching.

**Alex. Some materials can be squished and some materials, like glass are transparent, which means you can see through it.**

# February 2023

## PE

In PE, Year 2 have continued to explore different and games of tag and how the rules can be adapted for different purposes. Participating in such games have enabled the children to develop numerous skills including: cooperation, coordination, teamwork and communication. The



children particularly enjoyed the tag games requiring them to move in alternative ways such as spiders and scorpions, in which they had to travel on

their hands and feet with their stomachs facing the ceiling; or chain tag, whereby once tagged, the children had to form chains and work



together to catch the other children.

**Jack: PE was fun when we had to pretend to be spiders and scorpions. It was a tag game where we didn't just run.**

## Computing

In computing this term, Year 2 have continued learning about internet safety and how it is important to behave kindly and responsibly. The children are aware it is important not to share personal information. As part of internet safety day, we looked at reasons why people post things online and why we should always think carefully and apply to SMART rules before posting, knowing that our internet activity leaves a digital footprint. To help other people to stay safe, Year 2 created their own SMART rule posters.



**Ella: Never talk to strangers online or share things with people you don't know.**

### Computing

In computing, Year 3 have been learning to develop their skills when using online services. They have been exploring how to search the internet accurately and the benefits and disadvantages of using autocomplete. They have looked at different websites and investigated how they can contain facts but also opinions and beliefs. They explored how to find reputable websites when searching for information online and have learned about copyright.

**Meryn:** We shouldn't use pictures online that have copyright because they belong to the people who created them. We would need to ask permission.

### PSHE

Through their topic of belonging to a community, Year 3 have been looking at rules within different beliefs and religions. They reflected on the golden rule that these communities have in common i.e. that we should treat people how we expect to be treated. They explored the fundamental British values and how the golden rule links to these. They also looked at cultural diversity and the differences and similarities of people all around the world and the needs that they have in common to survive and be happy.

**Niamh:** Showing respect to people who are different to us is showing respect to diversity

### PE

In outdoor PE, Year 3 have been continuing to explore the rules of netball and have been applying their knowledge and skills in small team matches. They have also enjoyed using the apparatus equipment in indoor lessons.



### Science

In their science lessons, Year 3 have been learning about forces and magnets. They started the topic by exploring a range of objects that needed force to work and identified if the force needed was a push or pull. They went on to explore friction and investigated how different surfaces create different amounts of friction and the effect this had on the movement of a toy car.



**Oscar:** The felt created more friction so the car didn't travel as far.

They enjoyed using magnets to test if objects were magnetic or not and explored whether the magnets needed contact to attract or could act at a distance. They investigated how the different poles on magnets attract or repel depending on which poles are facing each other and tested different magnets to see if some were stronger than others. They measured the distance between a paperclip and various magnets before they attracted and found that the bigger magnets weren't necessarily stronger.



### Library Visits

Year 3 have been really enjoying their visits to the library. They have loved spending time choosing books and having time to read outside of the classroom. They have impressed everyone with their enthusiasm and respect shown in the library environment and can't wait to get their very own library cards.

**Theo:** I really like going to the library and choosing a book to read.

### Computing

February marks Safer internet day. Each year, Childnet runs a competition for the best safety movie linked to Safer Internet Day. This year's theme was 'What Can We Trust Online'. The children were tasked with creating a video to explain the dangers of the internet and have used their previous learning about keeping safe online to help them produce the videos.

**Beatrice: We made videos to tell people how to be safe online and ways they can protect themselves.**



### PSHE - Belonging to a Community.

This half term, Year 4 have been exploring what makes a community within different beliefs and religions and have investigated what is meant by shared responsibility rules.

They reflected on the term identity, looked at their own identity and other peoples around them. They spent time thinking about community and the importance of the impact different parts of the community has on everyday life. They showed respect and understood the work done by people in our community.

**Sienna: We have been learning about other people's way of living and understanding that everybody lives in a different way.**

Year 4 have completed their science topic 'Bright Sparks' by investigating how electrical circuits work. To start with, the children were given a number of different components and had to create circuits of their own to include switches, lights, buzzers and motors. As the unit progressed, the children were able to understand the different components of a circuit and the jobs that they do. They also spent time researching famous scientists and writing a non-chronological report of them and their scientific discoveries linked to electricity.

**Edith: We did an investigation looking at conductors and insulators and why we need them to keep safe.**

### KS2 library visits

Recently, KS2 have been lucky enough to have frequent visits to our local library. The children have been able to spend time exploring the wide range of books on offer and take books out to continue reading them in school and home. The children have really enjoyed this opportunity and look forward to going every other week.

**Noah: We were able to look around and get our own books. It was really good!**

### Run, run as fast as you can!

The children put in a fantastic effort for their enterprise task. They collected sponsorship money and ran 165 laps of the school field throughout the day. So far the class have managed to raise £342.10 which will go towards their residential trip to Arête when they are in Year 6. What an achievement! Well done! **Seb B: It was really fun raising money for our Year 6 residential.**





### Dancing Robins

As part of their PE curriculum, Year Five have been developing their knowledge and skills in dance this half term.

Throughout February, the children responded to musical stimulus to create sequences which showed a range of systematic and thoughtful motifs. Linking these phases together, the children looked to change their height, tempo, direction and personnel along with incorporating balances and lifts. From basic steps to advanced gymnastics, the children developed dances which were brilliant and uniquely matched to their own personalities. We all loved watching the finished pieces.

**Sophia: I enjoyed our dance sessions because I was challenged to change the height and tempo of my dance. I also got to give feedback to other groups to help them.**



### Get a reaction



What could possibly be more fun than a chemical reaction, especially one which is too messy to do in the classroom? Year Five had to take their learning beyond the

building this month as they looked at irreversible changes and how materials react. Mixing acids and alkalis, the children waited eagerly to see the canisters burst open – the tell-tale sign that a new material had been created. They also looked at dissolving, getting to grips with solutes, solutions, solvents and solubility. They really are top scientists.

**Harry: We have learned about materials and how we can create a chemical reaction. I know that you can change the state of matter like heating a solid up so that it melts into a liquid.**



### Reading for pleasure

Culcheth Library may be closing for refurbishment but Year Five took advantage before it did to find a new literary love. The children found humorous texts, historical descriptions, artistic guides and much more. They were also really grateful for the



fantastic library staff for their guidance and support. They cannot wait for the new library to reopen and for our trips to start back up.

**Walter: Going to the library has been really fun because I get to relax and just read books.**

### Keeping safe

The children have worked on their online safety this month, including Safer Internet Day. Looking at their online footprint, the reputation and image they portray online and how they can respond to negative behaviour, the children demonstrated superb knowledge and maturity. The ever-changing and limitless potential of the online world makes it difficult to navigate but the children have shown that they are SMART online. They also had a talk from Cheshire Police about keeping themselves safe with new technologies and the responsibilities they face when they are 10 years old.



**George: We have learned about the consequences of our own actions when using social media. I learned that my phone can be tracked.**

### Community

Whether it is school, the village, nationally or beyond, we are all a part of a community and Year Five have been looking at finding their place in these groups. Looking at what makes a community and how some can be isolated from these collectives has been the focus of our PSHE sessions. The children showed that they are passionate about making everyone welcome – there are no outsiders!

**Natalie: I have learned about how different cultures and communities have different rules. I remember finding out about how Sikhs don't need to wear a helmet because of their turban.**

### Computing

Online social influences have been the focus of our computing topic this half term. The children have explored many strategies from marketing campaigns and social networking sites which encourage users to think or act in a particular way. The children were quick to identify and condemn the ways in which gender stereotyping is still prevalent online and particularly in advertising toys. They also thoroughly enjoyed an activity involving the fictitious land of 'Molassia'. On the surface, it appeared to be an authentic website but after a little digging, the children soon realised it was all made up information. The lesson learnt here was to not always trust everything you read online. Finally, all of this was consolidated in a talk from Cheshire police about the consequences of the misuse of social media. Our robins have really developed their understanding of their digital footprint and pleased us with their levels of maturity.

**Freya:** *The lesson about Molassia was fascinating because it appeared to be factual information. I was surprised to find out it had all been made up and it taught me not to believe everything I read online.*

### Science

Linked with our English text 'Island', which details the life cycle of the Galapagos Islands, Year 6 have been learning about evolution and inheritance. They soon became familiar with the work of the famous geologist, Charles Darwin, and were able to understand his Theory of Evolution. In addition to this, they have studied the evolution of humans over millions of years and understood how physical characteristics are inherited by their offspring.

**Ruby:** *I have learnt an awful lot about Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. I enjoyed learning about the evolution of humans and exploring why our appearance has changed overtime.*



Over the past few weeks, it has been brilliant to see the progress made by our robins in the sport of gymnastics. In the early weeks, the children struggled a little to maintain their grip on the ropes but as the weeks progressed, so to did their grip strength and soon they were able to scale to the top and even swing from one rope to the next. On beams, we saw some excellent balance when our budding gymnasts attempted cartwheels, backwards walkovers and somersaults. It was lovely to see some of our more-assured gymnasts supporting those who were less confident in completing backflips on the ropes. Reciprocity like this is always admirable.



**Charlotte:** *As gymnastics is a very physical discipline, it was great to develop my strength as well as enjoy improving my skills on the apparatus*

### PSHE

During this half term, our PSHE topic has been all about belonging to a community. The key message that we have tried to instil in our robins is that irrespective of individual appearance, background, personality or ability, we are all unique and should be respected for our individuality.

Unsurprisingly, the children were a credit to the school and themselves as they dealt with sensitive matters in a mature and responsible manner.





### Coaches' Player of the Match



Congratulations to Harry (Year 2) and his team who played a great match on Saturday, winning 6-2. Harry must have been very impressive as he was awarded Coaches' Player of the Match. Congratulations, Harry.

### Beavers rise to the challenge!

Well done to some of our Year 2 beavers who pitched their tents in the scout hut for a sleep over. Showing great responsibility and resilience, the children had a great time.

In order to gain their 'Beaver Builders Activity Badge', the children took part in building robots out of recycled materials.

They went to LEGOLAND before pitching their tents, having tea and then watching a movie before bed time.

What a great opportunity for our adventurous Newchurch robins.



### Equestrian Excellence



Eva (Reception) competed on her new pony, Ozzy, at the Northern Counties Pony Association show held at Warren Farm Equestrian Centre in February making it a winning one for both and first time out together. Well done, Eva.

### Rugby Success

Congratulations to Freddie and Oscar in Year 3 who took part in a pre-season friendly with their rugby team, Culcheth Eagles under 8s against Oldham St Annes on Sunday 19th March. Both played amazing after their winter break with Freddie scoring a try and getting parents Player of the Match and Oscar getting the Most Improved Award.

### Year 3 Super Swimmers

Congratulations to Jayden (Y3) who has passed his swim 4 and now moved in to swim 5.

Finley in Year 3 who has achieved his 15m swimming certificate, which we are all very proud of.



### Destined for the West End

Ruby (Y6) outside the West End Shaftsbury Theatre stage door before her performance as part of the Razzmatazz Theatre Group who performed songs from the musical Matilda.





## Key Information

February 2023



We have an attendance reward system for the whole school, which is based on each class's attendance at the end of the week. The award 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. **Year 4 are currently leaders with twenty-five points.**

### Attendance since the start of the year:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
95.1%	94.1%	95.9%	96.0%	96.7%	97.2%	96.6%

**Our whole school target is 97%. Currently we are at 96.1%.**

**Attendance Matters**



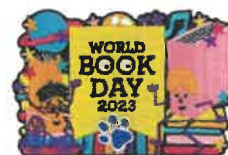
### Reading Café (Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March):

Every year we invite our families to come in and read with the children – sharing a good book. This year we will also be making books ourselves and have two events to invite you to. Please complete the Google form if you or a family member are interested in attending: <https://forms.gle/ks69R5rxN8g2UyxbA> The book making times will be Key Stage One between 9:15am and 11:00am, with Key Stage Two between 1:15pm and 3:00pm.

Reception	1:15pm - 2:00pm
Year 1	1:45pm – 2:30pm
Year 2	2:15pm - 3:00pm
Year 3	9:15am - 10:00am
Year 4	9:45am - 10:30am
Year 5	10:15am – 11:00am
Year 6	10:45am – 11:30am

### World Book Day (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March):

Children up and down the country will be dressing up as their favourite literary characters on World Book Day itself and we will be doing the same at Newchurch. However, we recognise that the cost of buying or making costumes can be a challenge so this is entirely optional. We will be running a bit of a mystery theme for the week so children can come in as detectives, police, superheroes or even just in their pyjamas. The choice is entirely up to you.



### Author Visit (Year 5 and Year 6) 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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