



Outstanding Travel Plan: For the third year running, we have achieved an Outstanding Grade for our Travel Plan. I have never before come across a school getting a hat-trick of Outstanding Plans. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud. Well done to Sarah and the staff for all the hard work that goes into this.

Last week we held a cycle event for all of the children in Year 4 and Year 5. It was organised by the Herts Disability and Sports Foundation whose aim is to ensure every child has a bicycle and can ride it. What a great ambition! The day is free and children are able to bring their bikes. The bikes get serviced to ensure they are road worthy and if necessary bikes are taken away and brought back when ready. For those who don't have bikes they bring some in, including a 3-wheeler for one child, so that every child can take part in a cycling lesson. They will be coming back to donate bikes to those that don't currently have one. I am so impressed by the work that they do and the impact it has on children.



Year 3 Trip: Last Friday, Year 3 went out to Celtic Harmony For an Iron Age experience Day They were Iron Age Farmers for the day and learned about making clothing. They had a turn at weaving on weighted looms and dyed string using natural ingredients to make bracelets They found out about food by grinding grain on a quern stone then using flour to make flat bread. They also made soup using cabbage and herbs grinding the ingredients in a mortar and pestle. Despite the wet weather they had a great day and learned a lot.

The **window replacement** started this week and will continue over half term and into the 2nd half of this term. We are so pleased with the work so far and when the cladding above the windows is done, it will look brilliant. Well done to the staff, children and parents who have already had to cope with being in different places and use different routes for pick up and drop off.



Thank you to the parents who came in to the Tales Together this morning. This is a lovely way to encourage the children to read.

Uniform: Please make sure your child's uniform follows the policy (on the website) and that clothes have no logos other than the school one. please also name all items. It makes such a difference to all of us when we can identify and return missing items.

SAFE

We move around school in a safe manner. We follow instructions to keep ourselves safe. We keep hands, feet and unkind words to ourselves. We use equipment safely. We stay safe online. We talk to an adult if we feel unsafe.

READY

We wear correct uniform. We arrive at school on time. We have our equipment ready. We show that we are listening and ready to learn.

RESPECT

We listen when others speak and we respect the property of our friends and the school. We have an understanding of others cultures and beliefs. We respect that everyone have a right to learn.

After half term, we will be enforcing a **No Wellies, No Field** rule at break and lunchtimes. Children will only be able to go on the field if they are wearing wellies. This is to reduce the amount of mud tracked in through the school. Please make sure your children have wellies that remain in school as well as the appropriate indoor footwear to change into.

Have a super half term and I look forward to seeing all of the children back on Tuesday 24th Feb. Mr Fisher



Type of query	Member of staff to contact
Safeguarding/child protection	Mr Fisher, Mrs Cracknell, Miss Borgeat, Mrs Poole and Mrs Richardson
Any issues relating to your child or another child in the class	Email admin to arrange a meeting, sometimes a phase leader may join this meeting
If you do not feel the issue has been resolved or you may need more advice.	<p>Step 1 Phase Leader</p> <p>EYFS-Miss White Year 1 - 3- Mrs Christman Yea 4 - 6 -Mr Chandler</p> <p>Step 2 Deputy Headteacher Mrs Hannah Cracknell</p> <p>Step 3 Headteacher- Mr Fisher</p>
Inclusion/ Special Educational Needs	Miss Borgeat
Looked After and Previously Looked After Children	Mrs Cracknell
Payments/Finance	Miss Byrne Mrs Tilbury
Admissions	Miss Byrne
Complaints	Please refer to school complaints policy on the <u>website</u> .

Upcoming Events 2026

February

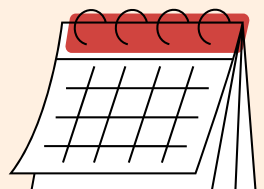
Wednesday 4th	Cycle event - Years 4 and 5
Friday 6th	Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony camp
Friday 13th	Tales together
Friday 13th	End of half term finish normal time
Monday 23 rd	Inset day - School closed
Tuesday 24th	Back to school
Wednesday 25th	Parents evening / stepping stones - Nursery / Reception Years 2-6 and the Nest
Thursday 26th	Parents evening / stepping stones - Reception and Years 2-6
Thursday 26 th	Informal school photo's - individual only

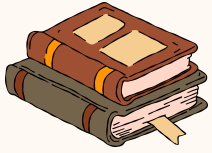
April

Monday 13 th	Everyone back to school
Thursday 16th	Primary allocation day
Tuesday 28th	Y1 visit to Hertford Museum

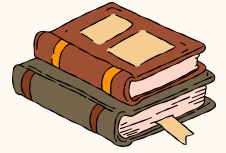
March

Monday 2nd	Y6 Bike ability - all week
Monday 2nd	Secondary allocation day
Tuesday 3 rd	Y4 pedestrian skills
Thursday 5 th	School council visit to the Houses of Parliament
Thursday 5 th	Y2 scooter sessions
Thursday 5th	World book day
Monday 9th	Mastering number workshop - Reception parents
Friday 20th	Odd Socks Day - Down syndrome awareness
Monday 23 rd	Rock steady concert
Wednesday 25 th	Parents evening / stepping stones - Year 1
Thursday 26th	Y5 trip to Knebworth House
Thursday 26th	Parents evening / stepping stones - Year 1
Friday 27th	Tales together
Friday 27th	End of term 1:15pm finish

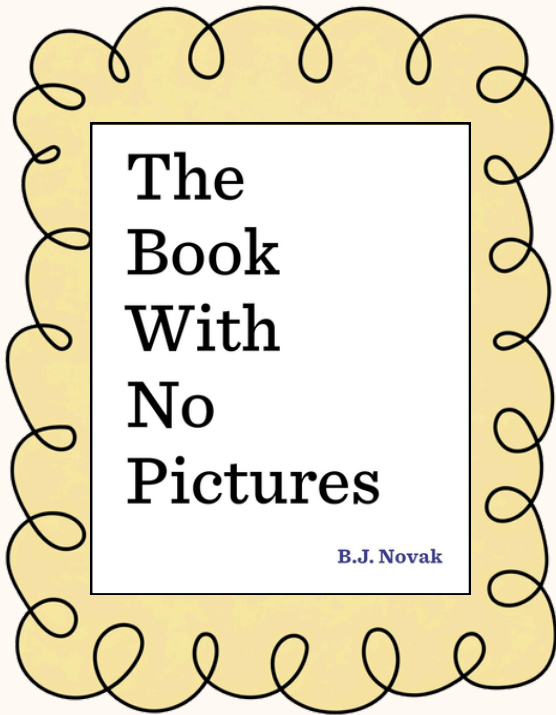




Staff book review



By Miss White



The Book With No Pictures might not look very exciting at first... because it has no pictures at all! But don't be fooled!

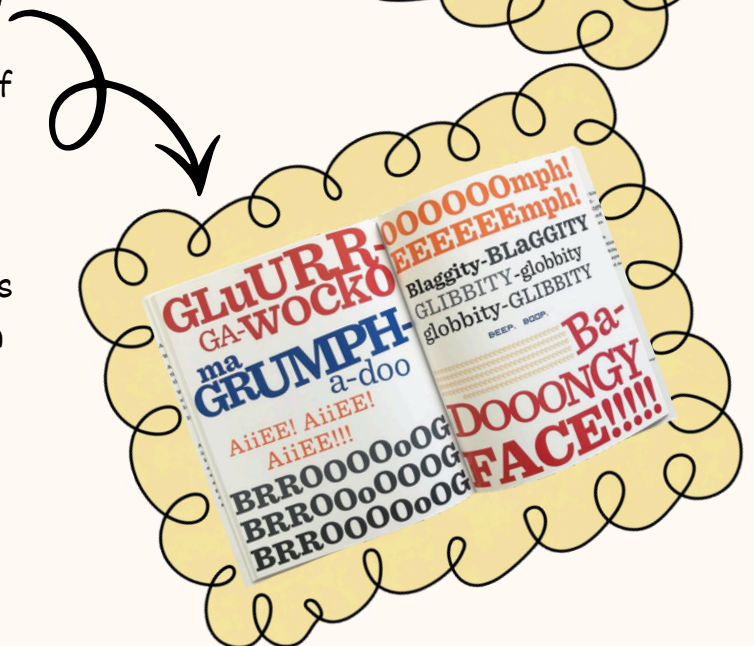
B.J. Novak has written a story that proves you don't need colourful illustrations to have lots of fun. Instead, the magic happens in the words. The person reading the book has to say everything on the page — even the completely silly, ridiculous and sometimes embarrassing bits! This makes story time extra funny, especially when grown-ups have to say nonsense words and make strange noises.

Even though there are no pictures, children use their imaginations to create their own funny images in their heads. It's a brilliant reminder that words can be just as powerful as illustrations.

My favourite part is when the reader has to say all the silly sounds out loud. It always makes everyone burst into laughter and it's the kind of book that gets funnier every time you read it.

What makes The Book With No Pictures really special is how it brings people together. It turns reading into shared fun and makes everyone in the room giggle.

It's perfect for reading aloud at home and guaranteed to brighten up story time.



Reception

3, 2, 1... BLAST OFF! 🚀

Last week we headed into space for an exciting adventure! We learnt the names of all the planets in our Solar System and discovered what makes each one special. We found out that some planets are extremely hot, while others are freezing cold. Some are rocky, and others are dusty and covered in gas. We also learnt all about astronauts — what they do, what they wear and how they travel into space. We became astronauts ourselves and tasted freeze-dried space ice cream! We compared it to our usual ice cream, and lots of us thought it was delicious! Using cardboard boxes and large wooden blocks, we worked together to build our own rockets. Once they were ready, we put on our space suits and prepared for take-off!

After landing back on Earth, we became artists this week. We explored a range of materials to create different types of marks, including pencils, felt tips, chalk and crayons. We practised making long and short marks, thick and thin lines, and straight and curved shapes. We also learnt about observational drawing. We looked very carefully at a daffodil, noticing its shapes, colours and details before drawing it ourselves.



Year 2

🌙 English – In English, we have been reading *Astro Girl*, a story that celebrates curiosity, bravery and following your dreams. The children have been learning about the features of fact files and using these to create their own. They carried out simple research using non-fiction books about astronauts, the moon and space, and used what they found to write short factual sentences. We also explored how contents pages help us find information quickly and learned that glossaries explain new or tricky words.

🕯️ History – Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole & Edith Cavell In History, we have been learning about three remarkable women who helped others in different ways: Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. The children explored how each woman cared for people, made brave choices, and changed hospitals and nursing forever. We talked about why they are remembered today and how their actions still inspire us.

🤖 Computing – Bee-Bots In Computing, the children have been programming Bee-Bots. They learned how to give clear instructions, plan simple routes and work together to solve problems. This has helped them develop early coding skills and teamwork.



🌙 RE – Muslim Stories of Compassion In RE, we listened to Muslim stories that teach kindness, compassion and caring for others. The children discussed how small acts of kindness can make a big difference and thought about ways they can show compassion in their own lives.

Year 4

I can't quite believe we've just come to the end of 7 week half-term; it's been non-stop. The children have really enjoyed learning all about the Windrush Generation through our English text, 'Granny came here on the Empire Windrush'. It's a beautiful story about a little girl called Ava learning all about the experiences of her Granny who migrated to England from Trinidad in 1948. The children have produced some wonderful writing using this story as a stimulus. Today, they wrote speeches in the role of Ava who described the life story of her Granny. Below is some of their writing.

Firstly, she wasn't used to the weather so when Autumn came she thought the trees would never live again. Ronan



On the bus, one day, she met a man and fell in love and in the end they got married! Yasin

My granny is a superstar because she didn't give up and tried to find friends when she was new to England. Hasan



It was hard for her when she arrived. Every one was mean to her and she wasn't used to the weather here. She really missed her family, friends and Trinidad. Her work place was noisy and didn't pay a lot ...



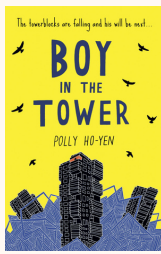
Firstly, she worked in a noisy factory. Even though she was lucky in some ways she had a hard time. Secondly, racism was very bad and she didn't have many friends. Maria

... Thank you for listening and being polite while I was talking about my granny's cool and incredible life. I love her so much. I would be so sad if she died. Alfie

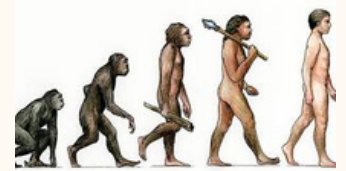
Secondly, work hours were so long and tiring. Also, the loud thudding noises of the sewing machines hurt her ears. Thirdly, she was treated badly because of her skin colour. Izzy

My Granny is the bravest person I've ever met because to sail alone at a young age for nearly a month must be very scary, and she left her family and friends back home. In this speech, I'm going to talk about my brave, independent Granny's life. Maisie





YEAR 6!

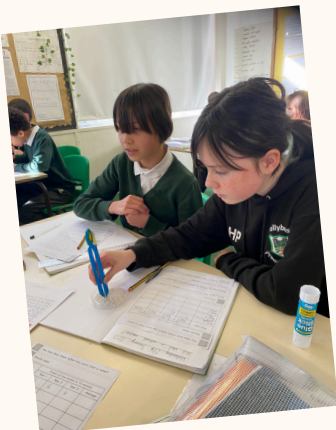


Wow, what a jam-packed half-term this has been! Not only have we dealt with the longest, darkest and most miserable month of the year but we have managed to fit in some amazing learning too. We have explored some fantastic books in our English lessons, with the children particularly enjoying 'Boy In The Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen which inspired them to write some terrific stories of their own. Their maths ability continues to come on leaps and bounds and I was so impressed with how they navigated their learning about algebra which at first they found so daunting.

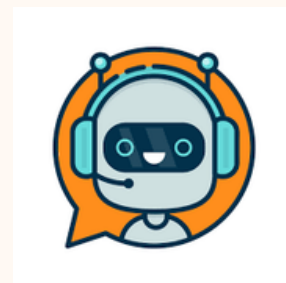
We have been dealing with the tricky concept of evolution and natural selection in Science and the children have asked really probing questions to help further their understanding as well as enjoying using tweezers and fingers in an investigation that modelled natural selection in Darwin's finches. In PE they have shown great skill in their hockey lessons but I was absolutely stunned with the enthusiasm and rhythm that they displayed in their dance lessons. I seriously have never taught a class that has performed with such confidence and enjoyment.

They have understood the concept of global trade really well and have used their knowledge to create a sandwich where each ingredient has its origins in a different country. We will be making these sandwiches in our DT lesson this week. There has been so much more learning as well that I can't fit it all into this space; suffice to say that the class have worked really hard this half term and we all deserve a nice break.

Not long until the better weather comes along (and SATS!)



Online Safety



Last Tuesday, 10th February, was Safer Internet Day. This year's theme was 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. A number of classes explored what AI is and how it can be used safely and responsibly. On my way home from school today, I was listening to an American science fiction author expressing his opinion that AI was overhyped and the AI bubble would soon burst. He may have a point but many of us are using it and we need to use it safely and know its limitations. My class (Year 4) watched the BBC Safer Internet Day live lesson. It's worth a watch if you didn't see it - [link here](#). The main messages were is that AI is only as good as the information it is 'fed'. We should always question the accuracy and reliability of the information AI gives us. The children were also reminded about the importance of never sharing personal information with AI. Chatbots are becoming increasingly sophisticated and appear almost human like. The children were encouraged to always talk to a trusted adult about things they're worried about not a chatbot!

Here are some useful websites with helpful information about AI:

[What is AI and is it safe?](#) (Internet Matters - for parents/carers)

[Introducing AI: Building the basics](#) (BBC Bitesize - for children)

[What is AI? What does artificial intelligence do?](#) (Newsround article - 2019 - an fairly old article but still contains useful information)