



Herrick Primary School



Newsletter – Autumn 1 – October 2025

Headteacher's Message

As we come to the end of a busy half-term, I would like to say thank you to all of the children, staff and parents/carers who have welcomed me to Herrick and made me feel very much a part of the school community. It is a privilege to be the headteacher of such a positive and happy school.

As a school we aim 'to give each and everyone a chance' to achieve their full potential in a caring and supportive environment, and from the short time that I have been at the school, the environment at Herrick is certainly caring and supportive.

I hope that you all have a wonderful half-term break. 'Happy Half-Term' to you all and for those members of our school community who will be celebrating Diwali, 'Happy Diwali and Sal Mubarak.'



Message from the Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governors, I am delighted to welcome both new and returning parents and guardians to Herrick Primary. These are both exciting and challenging times for the school. We are very excited to welcome our new Headteacher, Miss Odedra, who has strong links to our local community and is passionate about ensuring every child at Herrick has the opportunity to be their best. However, the declining birth rate in this area means the number of young children joining the school is falling and we are having to look carefully at how we can best use the funding available to us.

The success of the school relies on the strong partnerships that exist between families and school and one aspect of this rests with the role of Parent Governor. After half term we will be looking to fill the 2 Parent Governor vacancies, inviting any interested parents to apply to join the Governing Body. Collectively, Governors are responsible for ensuring that the school is well managed, all the children achieve their full potential, that they are safe and happy; a worthy and rewarding role. Thank you for your continued support.

Stephen Martin (Chair of Governors)

School News

Assemblies

Thank you to all of the parents and carers have been able to join us for the assemblies that have taken place so far this academic year.

These include Class Morpurgo's Harvest assembly, Class Rowling's class assembly and Year 6's Diwali assembly.

Please take note of the assembly dates page of our school assembly so that you are aware of when your child's class assembly will take place

Diwali Competition

Well done to all of the children who took part in the Diwali competition.

We were amazed by the number of wonderful entries. Picking the winners was a very difficult task!

The winners of the competition are:

Reception – Simrat
Year 1/2 – Aryana P
Year 3/4 – Nada
Year 5/6 – Zeenia



Navratri Dancing

The children at Herrick enjoyed some Navratri dancing on the playground in order to learn more about different faith and cultures, as well as to learn about the reason as to why Navratri is celebrated.



Term Dates 2025/26

	August 2025					September 2025					October 2025				
M		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
T		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
S	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

Autumn Term 1st half

	November 2025					December 2025					January 2026				
M		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	
T		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
W		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
S	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	

Autumn Term 2nd half

Spring Term 1st half

	February 2026					March 2026					April 2026				
M		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
T		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
W		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22
T		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23
F		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
S		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
S	1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26

Spring Term 2nd half

	May 2026					June 2026					July 2026				
M		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
T		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
S	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	

Summer Term 1st half

Summer Term 2nd half

	Pupil days		Weekends
	School Holidays		Public Holidays
	Disaggregated INSET days		INSET days

Important Dates

Year 6 School Trip – Bletchley Park

Year 6 will be visiting Bletchley Park on Thursday 27th November, 2025.



Poppy Appeal

This year, we will be supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppies and other small gifts in school.

If you would like your child to buy something to support the appeal, please send them into school with a donation.

Paper Poppy – 20p
Poppy Reflector - 50p
Wristband - 1.00
Snap Band - £1.50
Rubber £1.50
Ruler £1.50



Children in Need – Friday 14th November, 2025

This year's theme is to 'Challenge Yourself.' Children are invited to come into school wearing something yellow or something that makes them feel positive.

There is no expectation for parents/carers to buy something specifically for this

If you would like to make a voluntary donation of £1, this can be handed in by your child to their class teacher.



School Photographs

Tempest photography will be in school on Friday 31st October 2025 to take individual and sibling photographs.

Please make sure that your child is in the correct school uniform on this day.



Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday 17th December, the staff in the kitchen will be working their Christmas magic by preparing Christmas lunch for children and staff throughout school.

Your child is invited to come to school wearing something festive on this day. There is no expectation for parents/carers to buy something specifically for this. If your child does not own a Christmas jumper, they can come into school wearing festive colours



Assembly Dates

Autumn 1:

- Friday 3rd October 2025 – Year 3/4: Morpurgo – Harvest assembly
- Friday 10th October 2025 – Year 3/4: Rowling – Class assembly
- Friday 17th October 2025 – Year 6: Almond & Blackman – Diwali assembly

Autumn 2:

- Friday 7th November 2025 – Year 3/4: Dahl – Class assembly
- Friday 21st November 2025 – Year 1/2: Bryon – Class assembly
- Friday 5th December 2025 – Year 1/2: Donaldson – Class assembly
- Wednesday 10th December 2025 – Reception: Rosen – Nativity assembly
- Friday 12th December 2025 – Year 5: Rauf & Zephaniah – Hannukah assembly

Spring 1:

- Friday 30th January 2026 – Year 3/4: Morpurgo – Class assembly
- Friday 6th February 2026 – Year 1/2: Murphy – Class assembly

Spring 2:

- Friday 6th March 2026 – Year 5: Zephaniah – Class assembly
- Friday 27th March 2026 – Year 1/2: Bryon & Donaldson – Easter assembly

Summer 1:

- Friday 24th April 2026 – Year 3/4: Dahl & Rowling – Vaisakhi assembly
- Friday 15th May 2026 – Year 5: Rauf – Class assembly
- Friday 22nd May 2026 – Year 1/2: Murphy – Eid assembly

Summer 2:

- Friday 26th June 2026 – Reception: Rosen – Class assembly
- Friday 3rd July 2026 – Year 6: Almond & Blackman – Leavers' assembly



Attendance

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for children to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care.

Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time. Absence during school time has a negative impact upon a child's education.

Children are expected to attend school every day unless they are unwell. If your child will not be attending school, please inform the school office no later than 9.30am.

There is no entitlement to leave from school during term time and leave will not be authorised.

Unauthorised absence from school is likely to result in a Penalty Notice being issued

All absence and lateness will be monitored and may be referred to the Education Welfare Service if it occurs regularly.

Good	Worrying	Serious Concern
Attendance is 95% and over	Attendance is below 95%, but above 90%	Attendance is below 90%

Class Attendance for the First Half of the Autumn Term

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Reception – Rosen – Miss Lewis	92.54%
Year 1/2 – Donaldson – Miss Shah	93.49%
Year 1/2 – Bryon – Mrs Purewal	94.92%
Year 1/2 – Murphy – Mrs Jamal	94.45%
Year 3/4 – Dahl – Mrs Shukla	91.08%
Year 3/4 – Rowling – Miss Kaur	96.96%
Year 3/4 – Morpurgo – Mrs Chelley	95.46%
Year 5 – Rauf – Mr Carvell	95.38%
Year 5 – Zephaniah – Mrs Nai	95.04%
Year 6 – Almond – Mr Maile	96.70%
Year 6 – Blackman – Mrs Patel	93.63%

Reception - Rosen

Settling In

This term in reception has been all about settling into a routine at school, using manners and following the rules. It is lovely to see that, even those who found it difficult to say good bye to mum and dad in the mornings, our children come to school happy each day.

Matching, Sorting and Categorising

The children in Rosen have spent a lot of time learning about matching, sorting and categorising. We have been exploring sorting items by its mass (heavy and light), ordering by size (small, medium big/large), and categorising buttons.



Exploring Senses and Describing

We have explored the senses and began describing objects by their texture (how they feel) and learning words to describe how our food tastes. We used our vocabulary of taste and touch to then adapt a Goldilocks story, where Daddy bears porridge was too sour and Mummy bears porridge was too spicy. Children have also learnt to retell the story of The Little Red Hen and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Investigating Floating and Sinking

We have started to investigate floating, sinking and waterproof materials and will use our knowledge and creative skills to design, build and test boats



Science

In science this term children in year 1/2 have been learning about everyday materials. They have been discovering the different properties various materials have and have been working scientifically by sorting various materials into groups.

The children particularly enjoyed investigating which material would be best to use for an umbrella. Children have been confidently using key vocabulary such as waterproof, opaque, transparent, insulate and absorbent while part taking in this unit of learning.



In Year 1/2, children have been learning that technology is defined by items that help them. Children have been using paint to create images and add relevant text. The paint tools they have learnt include brush, spray can and eraser. The children have learnt about the components of computer such as the keyboard, screen and trackpad. The children have been challenging themselves on how to use a mouse. The children have also considered the ways in which we need to be responsible when using technology.

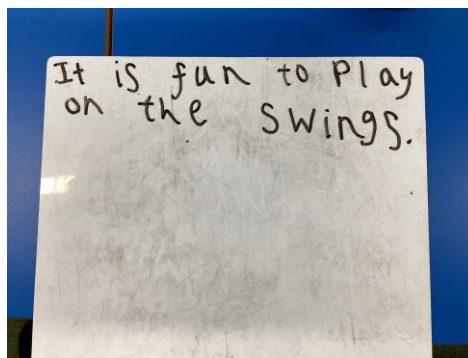
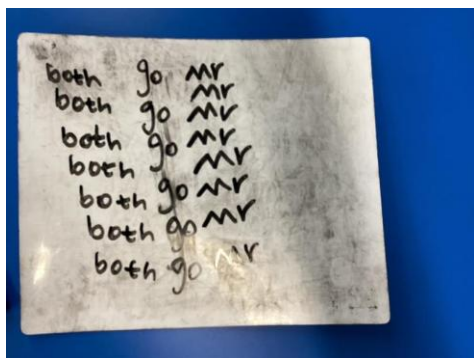


Year 1/2 – Bryon, Donaldson & Murphy

Phonics

Year 1/2 children have been working incredibly hard this term to learn new Phase 5 digraphs in their phonics sessions. They have been learning that digraphs can make many different sounds. The children are building their confidence in both reading and writing sentences containing the new digraphs.

The children are increasing their knowledge of new tricky words, as well as matching newly learnt vocabulary to pictures. In guided reading, the children are continuing to learn three main skills. These are decoding: to sound out words. Prosody: to add expression to their reading by changing their voice, and comprehension: to answer questions about what they have read and provide their opinion.



Art

Year 1/2 have been creating some colourful, bright rangoli patterns for culture day. We have used lots of different materials to help us create our wonderful designs. We have been trying to work on accuracy within all of our tasks including this one!

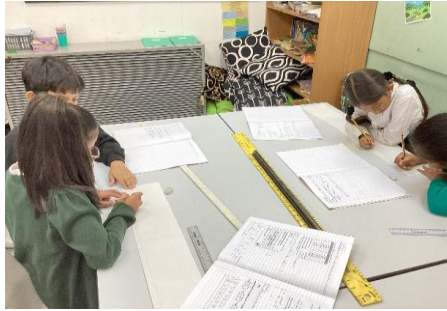
When completing any art task, we have been practising colouring while trying to stay within the lines. It has proved a challenge but we will keep trying!



Year 3/4 – Dahl, Rowling & Morpurgo

Maths

In maths lessons, children have learnt how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. They have used metre rulers to create their own number lines to support them to do this.



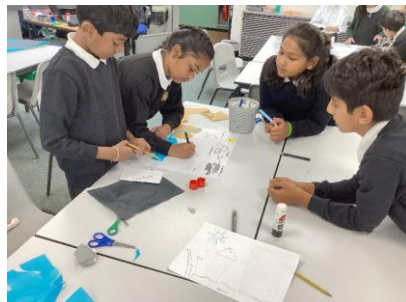
Science

During science lessons, Year 3/4 have been learning about the states of matter. The children have worked in teams using their problem-solving skills to develop an investigation to consider how different factors affect the rate of evaporation.



Geography

Year 3/4 have been learning about the water cycle and the processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation. In groups, the children created their own water cycle using different types of material. Children have also learnt about the journey of a river which involved learning new vocabulary such as meander, tributaries and source.



Year 3/4 – Dahl, Rowling & Morpurgo

Art

Year 3/4 have learnt to sketch lightly using different pressures of the pencil in order to show tone and texture in an observation drawing. We have also discussed the life of Vincent Van Gogh who is one of the most famous artists in history. The children created artwork in the style of Van Gogh. They used his colours and images and developed their drawing skills. They experimented with a variety of mixed media such as oil pastels, watercolours, poster paint, wax crayons and pencil crayons.



Music

In music lessons, year 3/4 have been listening to the band ABBA and learning how to sing Mamma Mia. They have composed their own music using the glockenspiels and adding this into the song Mamma Mia.



Year 5 – Rauf & Zephaniah

Music

Children in Year 5 have been learning about beats and rhythms. They have been working hard on learning notes on the glockenspiel. They have learnt the song 'Livin on a Prayer', as well as the accompanying notes. The children have also been playing along to jazz music!



Computing

In computing, Year 5 children have been studying computer systems and networks. The children have learnt about how web searches work, which information is shown and why this is. They have learnt about sponsored adverts that are online and how these influence search engine results. The children have learnt about different forms of technology such as smart lockers and pedestrian crossings.

French

Year 5 children have been learning about French nouns and adjectives. The children have used this knowledge to create their own descriptive sentences about monsters and aliens!



Year 6 – Almond & Blackman

PE

Year 6 have been learning how to pass the ball with accuracy (pocket pass and pop pass) in Rugby to successfully score a try. They have also been learning to close in the gap to slow the attacking team down.

Science

In Science, Year 6 have been investigating the conditions (temperature) in which bread grows mould the best. They put the bread in a range of places such as fridge, freezer, cupboard, window, and under the table. They will be observing over time and checking every two to three days.

Drama

This half-term, Year 6 have been busy practising and performing for their faith assembly – Diwali. They have worked hard, creating props, displays, learning their lines and perfecting their voice projection and acting skills.



Computing

The Year 6 children have been learning about computer systems, networks, communication and collaboration. They have learnt about the wide range of ways in which information can be sent, and worked to determine which is the most effective way of doing this. The children have explored Google Classrooms as a way of communicating and working with others using the internet.

French

The children in Year 6 have been learning about how to ask and answer questions in French about sports. This included learning about a range of sports and how to give their opinion about them. The children worked to design their own Olympic games. Year 6 have also been learning about where in the world French is spoken as a main language.



Music

Year 6 children have loved learning the song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. They have learnt how to play the song on the glockenspiel, as well as the lyrics to sing along! They have worked to form their own opinions on a range of songs in the themes of 'happiness'.

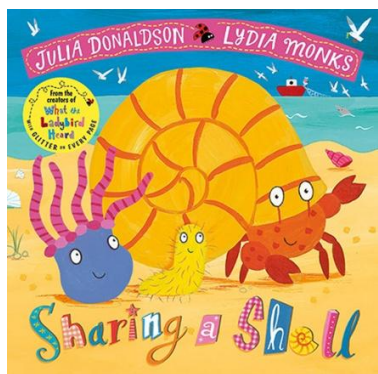
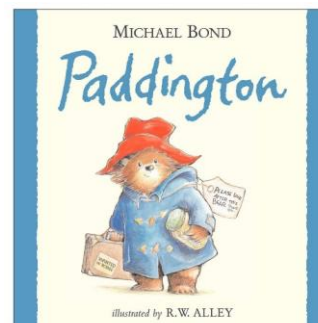
Recommended Reads - Staff

Reception and Year 1/2

Miss Odedra recommends: *Paddington* by Michael Bond

Paddington is a classic story all about a loveable bear who stows away on a ship from darkest Peru to England with nothing but a suitcase, some jars of marmalade and a label which reads, 'Please look after this bear.'

Miss Odedra thinks that Paddington is a story that everyone should read at least once because it is a lovely story which shows us what a difference the kindness of strangers can make to someone's life.



Reception and Year 1/2

Mr Maile recommends: *Sharing a Shell* by Julia Donaldson

Sharing a Shell is a fantastic story about the unlikely friendship between three sea creatures – a hermit crab, a bristle worm and an anemone. The three of them become good friends when they realise they can use each of their unique abilities to help each other.

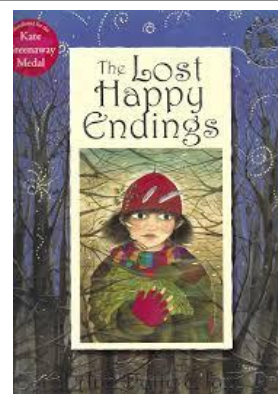
This book teaches us to how to share and how to appreciate what makes each of us different. Mr Maile would also recommend the book to anyone who enjoys learning about sea life (Mr Maile learnt that anemones can sting with their tentacles!) and to anyone who likes colourful illustrations.

Year 3/4

Mrs Shukla recommends: *The Lost happy Endings* by Carol Ann Duffy

The Lost Happy Endings" by Carol Ann Duffy tells the story of Jub, a magical, six-fingered girl whose job is to collect the Happy Endings from stories each night. One evening, a wicked Witch steals the bag of Happy Endings.

Jub must go on an adventure through the forest, encountering fairy-tale characters and woodland creatures, to save the stories and ensure they have their rightful happy endings. The story explores themes of power, courage, and the importance of storytelling itself.



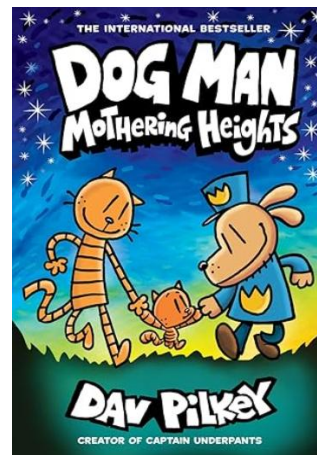
Recommended Reads – Staff

Year 3/4

Miss Lewis recommends: Dog Man: Mothering Heights by Dav Pilkey

A book packed with action and humour, balanced with important messages about kindness, courage and love. Although this book is not the first in the series (I do recommend reading them in order).

I have chosen this book in particular because it was the first one I read with my son and I remember how much we laughed reading it together. The graphic novel style book supports the story telling of the text. Dog man and his friends learn about being strong and showing compassion.

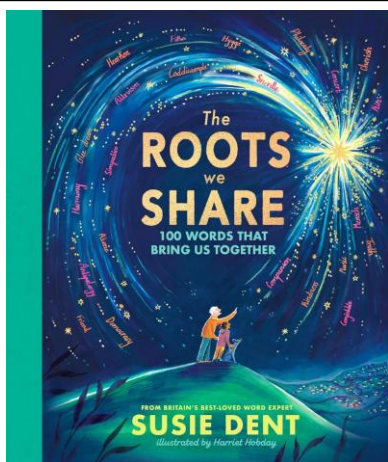


Year 5/6

Miss Shah recommends year 5 and 6: The Roots we share by Susie Dent

This book is about words and phrases - old, new, and long forgotten that celebrate harmony, unity, and the universal languages that connect people across the world.

Miss Shah thinks that not only is this book really good at teaching children new vocabulary, it is also a really joyous book and perfect to read with friends and family, as it is a book that is good at bringing people together.

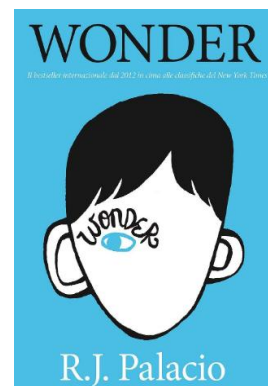


Year 5/6

Miss Phipps recommends: Wonder by R. J. Palacio

This book teaches so many amazing lessons. I believe it is a must read for children, as well as adults. A quote that will forever stand out to me is "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind".

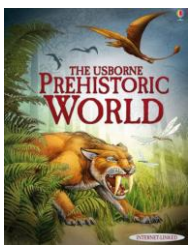
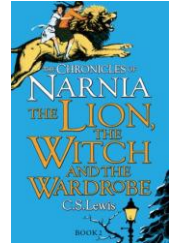
The characters in this book are starting a new school and there are lots of highs and lows on the way. We can all learn a great deal from this book about how to treat others.



Recommended Reads - Children

My favourite book is The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis as the White Witch is such an interesting character and you don't know what she is going to do next!

Bhavika – Year 5: Rauf

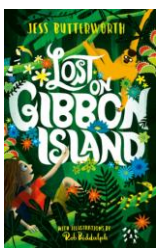


The Prehistoric Usborne World - I like this book because it is about dinosaurs and how they used to live

Sara – Year 3/4: Rowling

I like Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney because these books are always funny and relatable

Freya – Year 6: Almond

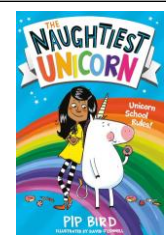


My favourite book is Lost on Gibbon Island by Jess Butterworth because I enjoy reading diary style books. This book is also an adventurous story.

Taranpreet – Year 6: Almond

My favourite book is The Naughtiest Unicorn by Pip Bird because there is a unicorn called Dave who always enjoys surprises but he starts to annoy Mira who is taking care of him!

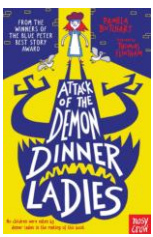
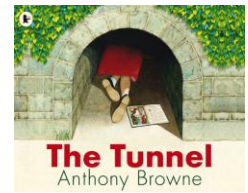
Mishka – Year 3/4: Morpurgo



Recommended Reads - Children

My favourite book is The Tunnel by Anthony Browne because it is about a boy and a girl on an adventure. The children go from being unkind and mean to then being kind.

Riyan – Year 1/2: Bryon

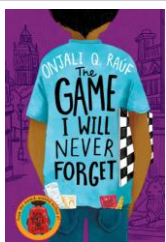


The Attack of the Demon Dinner Ladies by Pamela Butchart because the book is funny and it is a mystery book!

Maya – Year 3/4: Dahl

My favourite book is There is a Beast in the Basement by Pamela Butchart because there are adventures that happen in the school!

Yashil – Year 3/4: Rowling

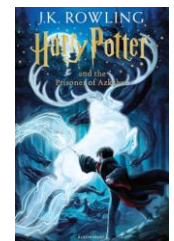


I enjoy The Game I Will Never Forget Onjali Q. Rauf. This author always includes a twist and a journey through the book!

Anushka – Year 6: Blackman

My favourite book is Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling because I like how much description there is, and also there are secrets to be revealed

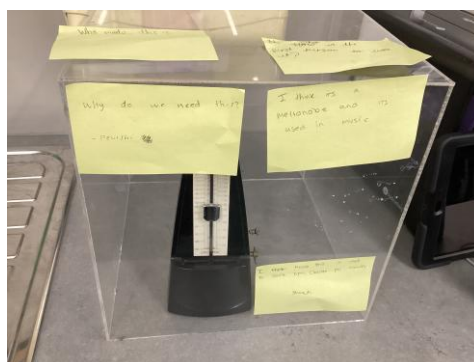
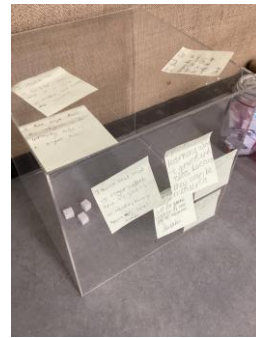
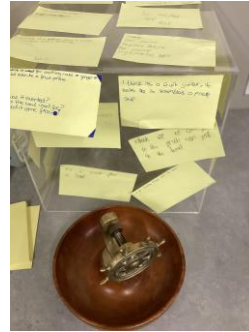
Maryam Z – Year 5: Zephaniah



Curiosity Cubes

Oracy

Our children have been showing curiosity by posing questions about items in their classroom Curiosity Cubes.



Half-Term Activities

During half-term, make sure to get outdoors and get some fresh air.

There is a lot more to do than just sit in front of a screen!

Here are some activities that you might want to try...

Outdoor Art

Make the most of autumn this half term and have a go at some art in your garden!
Collect leaves, cones, pebbles and twigs and make some nature pictures.



Nature Walk

A lot of changes happen to our environment during the autumn.

Go for a walk and try to spot things that you can see changing.

How are these changes different to the things that you have seen during the summer?

How are these changes different to what you will see during the winter?



Leaf Art

Whilst on your nature walk, collect some leaves that have fallen off the trees.

Create leaf rubbings by placing the leaves under paper and rubbing over the paper with a crayon or pencil.

Look closely at the detail on the leaves, and have a go at some observational drawings.

