



Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #15

20th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine as much as we are! It has been great to see the children playing on the school field and enjoying the nice weather. We have one week left until half-term and again, it has been so busy in school! We have lots of events coming up before the end of the academic year, so please make sure you check the diary dates in this news bulletin.

Attendance

Attendance at Ellington Primary School this year is below national averages and well below the expected level. School is compulsory for all children from Reception. Being absent from school has a massive impact on a child's attainment and progress.

If your child is absent from school, this **must** be reported to school by calling the school office on 01670 860769 before 9:15am. If your child is absent from school and we do not know why, this will be marked as an unauthorised absence. Repeated absences are flagged by the Northumberland Educational Welfare Officer.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Picnic

In collaboration with the PTA, we would like to invite you all to a family picnic on the afternoon of Friday 27th May to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All families are welcome to attend from 1:30pm. Children will be on the field with their class and you can join them for a picnic together. Please bring your own picnic blanket and picnic food. There will be an ice cream van in school selling ice creams so fingers crossed for good weather!



Can we ask for a donation of sealed treats (cakes, biscuits, crisps, etc) so we can create a 'buffet' for the children to access? Unfortunately, due to allergies we cannot use home baked goods or any items containing nuts. Could all donations be brought into school from Monday 23rd May?

Wheels to School

It has been great to see the children cycling and scooting to school and riding on the yards at play times. We have managed to secure a small grant which will allow us to install a bike rack for Key Stage One and EYFS. The children can use bikes or scooters on the following days on the school yards:



Monday - Early Years (Nursery/Reception)

Tuesday - Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2)

Wednesday - Lower Key Stage Two (Years 3 and 4)

Thursday - Year 5

Friday - Year 6

Please note, children should not cycle or scoot when entering school on a morning or leaving at home time. There are too many adults and children around and there have been some accidents occurring.

Next week, we are focusing on road safety in school. We have a special visitor coming into school on Monday to do assemblies with the children, who will then return on Thursday to see what the children have learnt during the week. We are working with Northumberland County Council to explore options to help with congestion on Warkworth Drive and to improve road safety for our pupils.

SATs

Our Year 6 children are enjoying life post SATs! They took SATs week in their stride and worked superbly throughout the week. They enjoyed coming into school early for breakfast and then celebrated with a non-uniform day on Friday. They can't wait for their residential in July!

Sun Cream

With the weather finally improving and the sun shining, it is essential that all children wear sunscreen every day. This should be applied before the children come into school. Children can also bring sunscreen with them into school but this can only be applied by the children. Staff are not permitted to apply sunscreen to pupils. Children should wear hats/caps at break times and can we also ask that children still bring a jacket to school with them as the weather can be unpredictable and change very quickly!



Uniform

Over the past few weeks, we are finding more and more clothing left lying around school and then children are unable to find their jumpers, cardigans etc. Please make sure all clothing has your child's name clearly marked. Without names, it is very difficult to find or return any lost property.

Please refer to our uniform change letter on the school website for details regarding the changes to the Ellington school uniform coming into effect from September 2023.

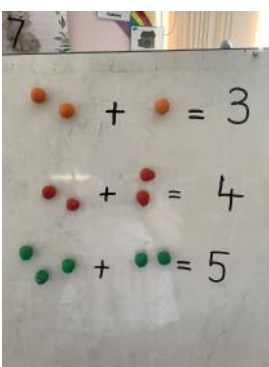
Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson
Headteacher

Class News!

Nursery

Over the last two weeks we have been busy doing lots of work about our new core text 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children have been superb at joining in with the story and particularly enjoy reading 'But he was still hungry!' for me. Last week we had a big focus on phonics. We played a game where we had to feed our own hungry caterpillar food that began with a particular sound. We then followed this up with a writing task where we practised writing the initial sounds of some of the foods the caterpillar ate. The children are amazing at listening for initial sounds in words and identifying items that begin with that sound.



We have also been using this story to practise our maths skills. At the end of last week, we looked at positional language and used phrases such as 'on top of' and 'in between' to show our own Hungry Caterpillar around our classroom. The caterpillar enjoyed sitting 'next to' our chicks before they went to their new home! This week we have been using the story to help us practise our counting, number recognition and number formation to 5. Lots of us have shown a fantastic understanding of number during this job. We have also used the foods in the story to do some addition.

To end this week, we have been learning to order the days of the week by singing our days of the week song every day and using this to help us order the foods that the caterpillar ate from Monday to Sunday. We have also made our own versions of the butterfly lifecycle, just like we did when we watched our chicks hatch!



Next week we will be doing lots of work about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I hope you all have a great half term and enjoy the extra bank holiday!

Reception

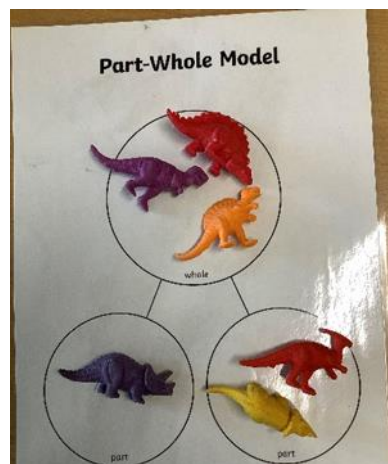
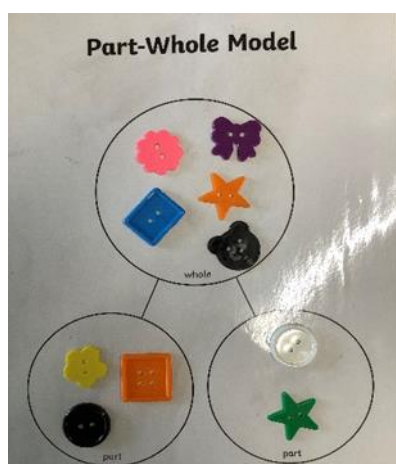
We have had another busy two weeks in Reception. Our story that we have been reading and learning about is one of Mrs Cook's favourite stories... Jack and the Beanstalk. Last week, we planted our very own bean plant and we have been watering our plants every day. In literacy, we have been learning about the life cycle of a bean plant. We ordered the lifecycle and did some writing of what happens at each stage. We also did some writing of the character Jack, in the story. Mrs Cook is super impressed with Reception for their amazing writing.



This week in literacy, we used our fantastic colouring skills to colour and then sequence the different parts of the Jack and the Beanstalk story. We also did some fantastic writing about the story.



In maths, we have been working super hard learning our number bonds. We have also been learning about the addition concept including using the part-whole model and the first, then and now concept.



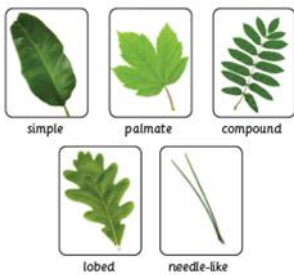
Year 1

Year One have been busy doing lots of phonics games and activities. We are really working hard to learn all of our speed sounds. Thank you for attending the phonics meeting and for the support you are giving to the children at home. If anyone needs any advice or further support please get in touch. We have worked extremely hard and everyone has made lots of progress.

In English lessons we have been writing reasons for why Beegu should be allowed to stay at school. We are going to write persuasive letters to the class teacher to let Beegu stay in school.

In our Mathematics lessons we have continued our work about multiplication and division. We have been looking at how many objects there are altogether, how many groups there are and how many things in each group. We have looked at repeated addition and found out about doubles.

In RE we have been learning the story of Rama and Sita. We listened carefully and sequenced the story. We will be learning more about Hinduism next week.



In Science we have been finding out about leaves. We have labelled them and identified the different types of leaves. We then went to the wildlife garden and found our own examples of the different leaves. The children were good at recognising them. We have made our own pictures with natural resources linked to those in the story of Leaf Man. We have also enjoyed sharing the story Leaf and discussed our feelings about the story.



We have enjoyed riding our bikes and scooters on Tuesdays. We can bring them in every week until the end of the term. Everyone has been taking good care to be safe and we have all remembered to wear our helmets. Next week we will continue to find out about keeping safe when we carry out activities all about Road Safety.

Year 2

In English, we are continuing to read our class text, *The Dragon Machine* by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson. The book is about a young boy who feels unnoticed and ignored-just like the dragons he becomes friends with... We learnt their favourite food is stale biscuits and smelly cheese! With this, we have been learning how to write instructions on how to make a sandwich (smelly cheese and biscuits) for a dragon. Year 2 found it hilarious giving me instructions on how to make the sandwich- it's not as easy as it sounds! They quickly realised their instructions had to be clear and precise and use adverbials to ensure I understood what to do. As you can see from the photos below there was some very unimpressed faces when I wasn't getting it quite right!



In maths, year 2 have been continuing to consolidate their knowledge on measurement, mass and capacity. They have also continued to practise to tell the time to the nearest five minutes. I'm so impressed with their determination and enthusiasm. We have now moved on to solving word problems.

During our afternoon lessons, we have been using a map to explore the locations of royal residences around the United Kingdom and Ireland. We have been using a key to read the names of the residences and identify the different types. We particularly enjoyed learning more about Buckingham Palace!

In science, we have been learning all about invertebrates! We have learnt that invertebrates are animals without a backbone. Year 2 loved exploring and finding out about different types of invertebrates such as worms, molluscs, crustaceans, insects and arachnids!

Year 2 have enjoyed playing in the sunshine this week and being able to go on our lovely school field at break times. It's also been great to see so many children taking part in 'wheels to school'. We've had great fun.



Year 3

Year 3 have had a busy two weeks with lots of hands-on learning!

In English, the children created their own disgusting menu - fit for a goblin prince! They did a brilliant job at using prepositions and alliteration to create very detailed descriptions of their starters, mains, drinks and desserts. After peer reviewing each other's work, they got to show off their IT skills by typing up their menus onto the laptops and exploring how to change fonts, import pictures from the internet, and add background colours and borders. Beginning this week, we are changing from head chefs to news reporters, where we will be reporting on Prince Grogbah's eventful visit to The Nothing to see Here Hotel.

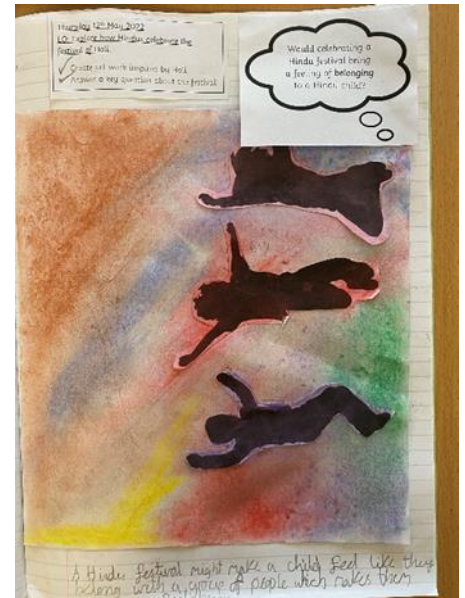
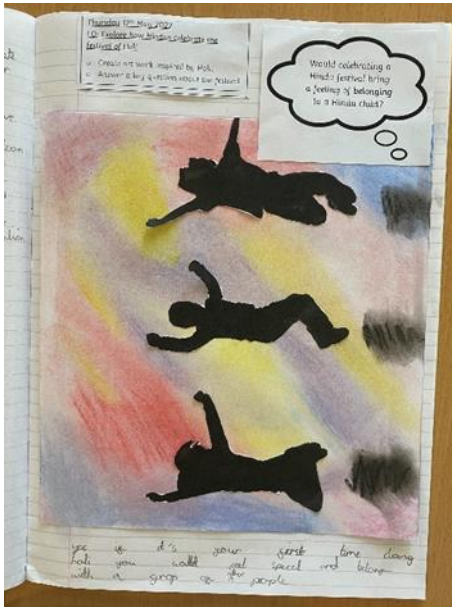
In maths, Year 3 have been working super hard to read and write the time. By the end of the week, children were even able to convert between analogue time and digital time, and used this to solve problems! I have also encouraged the children to wear a watch for school (if they have one), to support their understanding of telling the time throughout the school day.

We had fun learning about water transpiration in Science last week! Year 3 produced their own scientific report about how water is transported in plants. The reported on an experiment using celery and food colouring in water. We were able to explain our findings and discuss what we could do differently next time to get a clearer answer to our research question.



Year 3 Continued.

In RE, the children are enjoying learning about Hinduism (one of Miss Smith's favourite topics too!). We got creative last week and produced some art work inspired by the Hindu festival Holi. The children used soft coloured pastels to create an explosion of colour, and we thought about how experiencing this festival of colour might make a Hindu child feel.

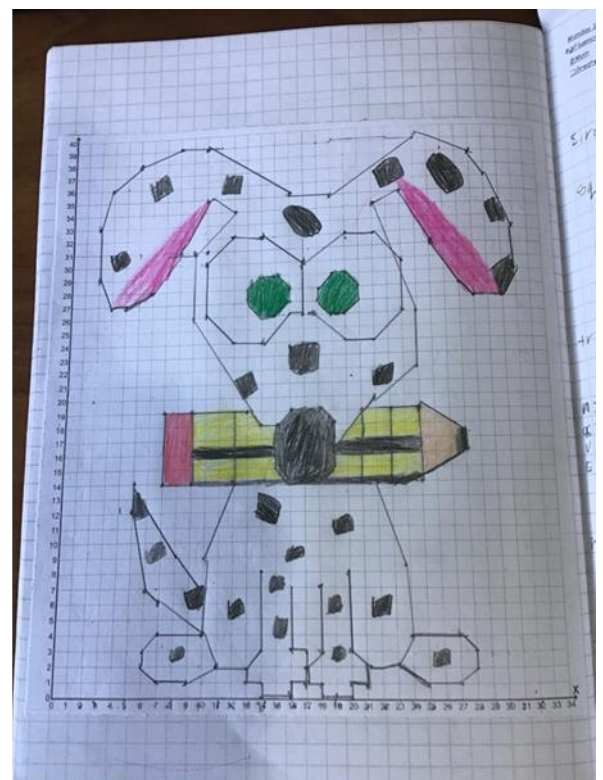
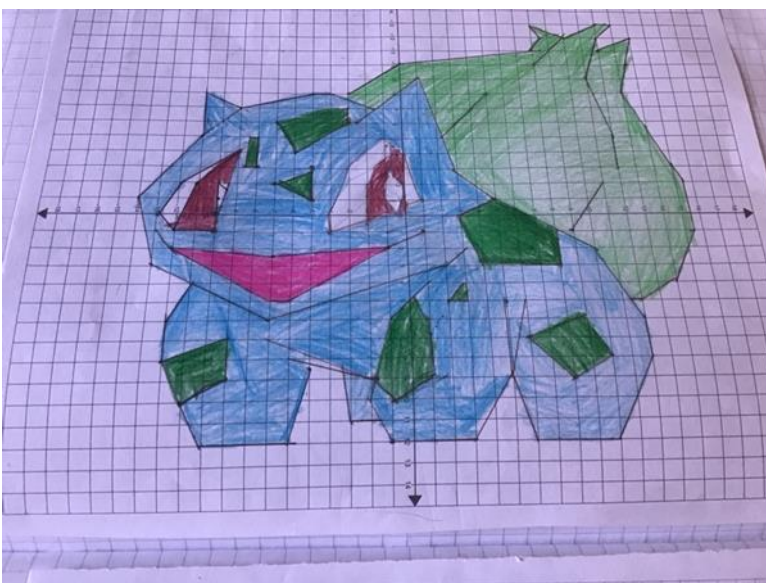


Year 4

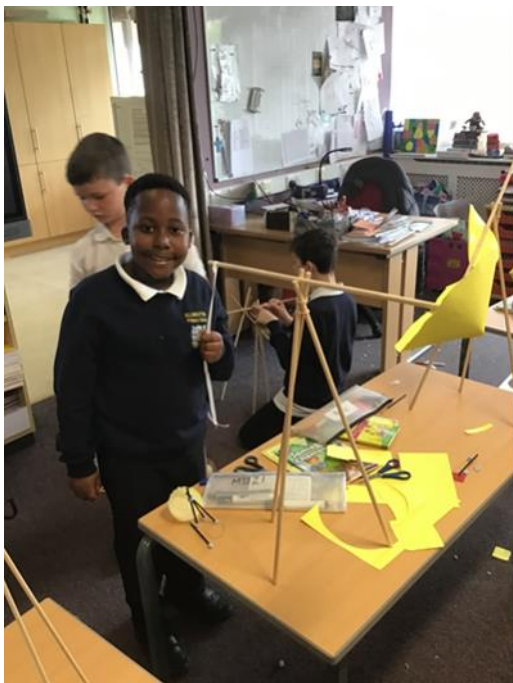
Where has the last two weeks gone? In English, we looked at sentence structures, speech, rich and varied vocabulary to name just a few literary concepts, to be able to write our stories based on 'One Plastic Bag' by Isatou Ceesay. We rounded off the week by writing some fabulous, heartfelt story writing based on the book. Have a chat with your child to hear what they wrote about. This week, we have started our play script writing. We started by writing a short play together; then had to pass our book round our table so that others could add to our collaborative play script writing - neat handwriting was a must! Then came the fun part, we had to rehearse then perform our short plays. Quite a bit of laughter could be heard! Next week, we are moving our play script learning on to watching a lovely clip called Dreamgiver, which is silent, then writing and performing our own play script based on it. In maths, we learnt how to plot coordinates on a grid; you will see from the photos below we were all very successful at doing it. This week, we have extended our knowledge of multiplication to multiplying a two or three digit number by a two digit number.



In Science, we honed our skills of completing branching databases; we even included such animals as a corythomantis greeningi (a toad to me and you) and this week we have written classification keys on invertebrates and vertebrates. R.E. has had us learning about the Hindu festival of Holi. We loved learning the story of Prashlad and how his father threw him in a pit of vipers but as you will guess, he survived, and this week, we have found out what is needed on a Puja plate. French has had us off to the bakery to buy some lovely goodies; so if any of you are going to France this summer, they all know how to ask for pain au chocolat. In Art, we thoroughly enjoyed drawing Egyptian headdresses with our side profiles and in D&T, we have had brilliant fun looking at levers and pulleys. For our levers learning, we made Egyptian shadufs, which were very successful! Yet another, very busy two weeks. We are all looking forward to the Jubilee Picnic next Friday when we are hoping for good weather and a yummy picnic!



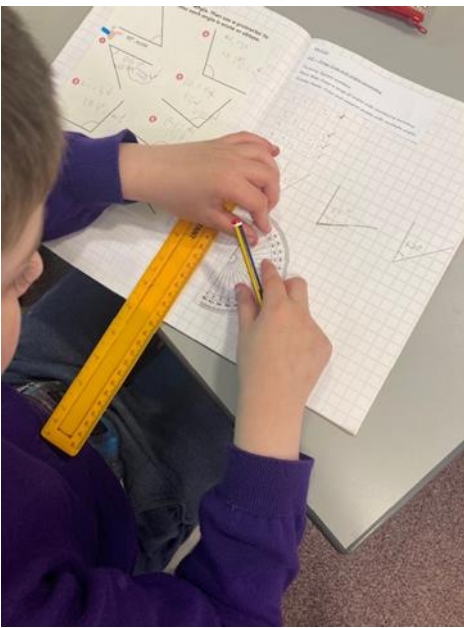
Year 4 Continued.



Year 5

What a busy week we've had in Y5!

In literacy, we have begun a new unit on suspense writing and the children are particularly enjoying this one. We are learning about all of the techniques that an author may use to build tension and draw the reader in, including: symbolism, hyperbole, alliteration, metaphor and simile, personification and pathetic fallacy. You can watch the animation our unit is based on at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aw0uORumRts>



In numeracy, we have begun exploring angles. We are learning to estimate, measure and draw angles which are acute, right angles and obtuse angles. We still have reflex angles to explore, and will also be learning how to calculate angles on a straight line and within triangles and quadrilaterals.

We have had great fun in art over the last couple of weeks, we began by using paper Mache to create a 3D shape, and have then used decoupage to add our own personal designs.

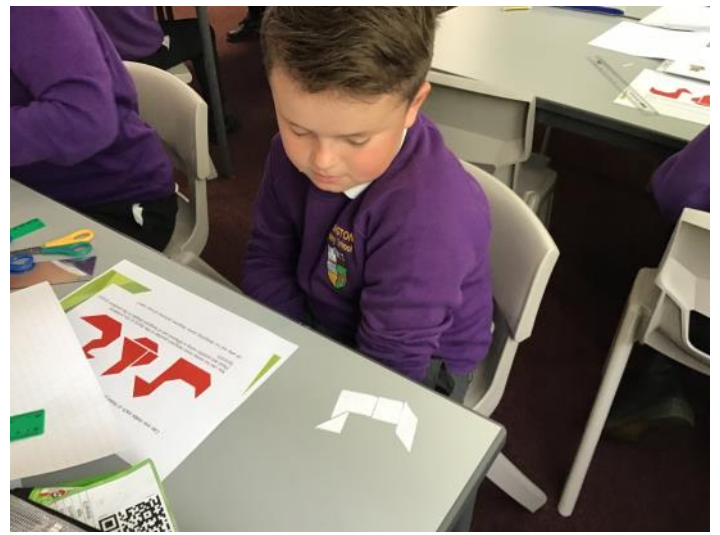
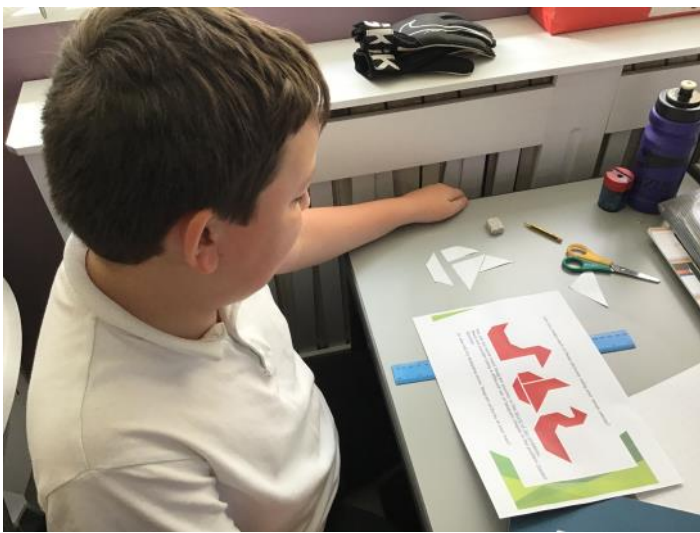


Year 6

Everyone is so pleased with the effort that Year 6 put into their SATs last week; they did a wonderful job!

On Thursday afternoon and Friday they had a well-earned break and some extra playtime. They also enjoyed lots of exciting activities, including baking cookies and banana bread, watching a film, playing rounders, painting, and making Minecraft scenes. They were also allowed to visit the nursery chicks in small groups which was a definite highlight!

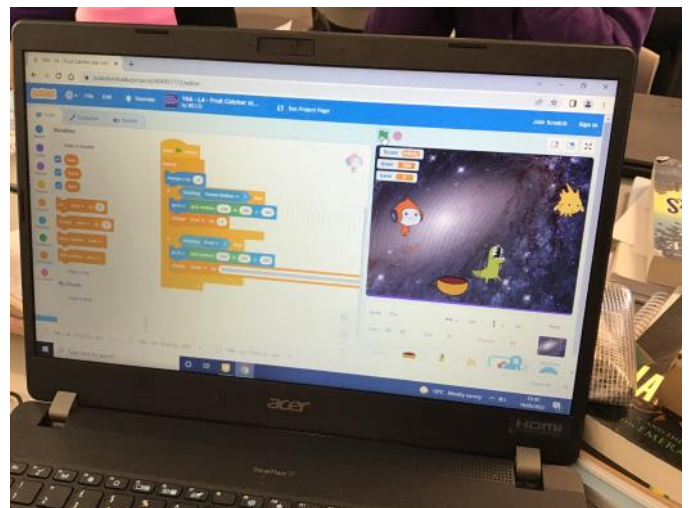
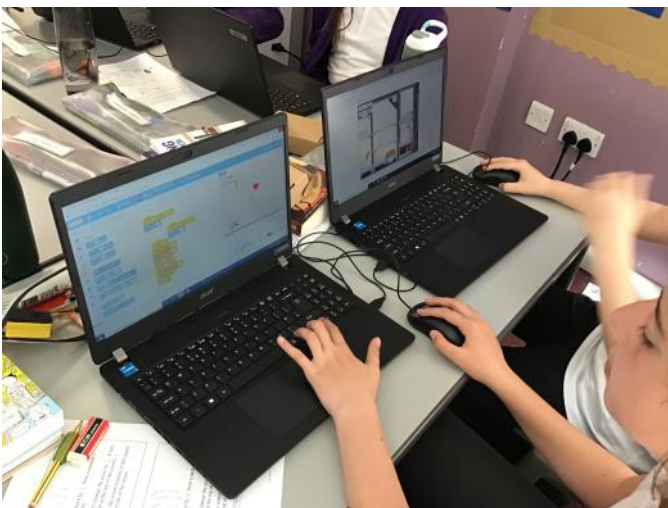
In maths this week, we have done lots of fun problem solving activities, such as solving a murder mystery, and doing shape work with tangrams and pentominoes. The children have enjoyed working in pairs and small groups, cooperating with each other to solve problems and complete investigations.



Year 6 Continued.

English lessons have been busy this week as year six have been working hard to finish off some superb non-chronological reports about owls that they have been researching and writing with Miss Willcock. Some of the language they have used is so impressive, and they have done a lovely job with their presentation as well.

The afternoon timetable has been a bit unusual this week; we had the usual PE and PSHE lessons on Wednesday afternoon (the children had some very sensible and mature conversations about mental health with Mrs Vardy, which she was very impressed with!) but during the other afternoons we have been completing a block of computing work. The children have been learning about variables, which has allowed them to create computer games that include scores counting up and timers counting down. The games have been created using Scratch Online, so very soon we should be able to share the links with you on Class Dojo and you can have a go at playing them at home! They showed a lot of creativity and good problem solving skills.



Next week we will be looking forward to our Jubilee Picnic and getting a few things ready for that, and look forward to seeing many of you there!

Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Picnic	Friday 27 th May
Break up for May half term	Friday 27 th May
School Closed - Additional Holiday due to Queen's Jubilee falling during half term	Monday 6 th June
Return to school	Tuesday 7 th June
Year 4 Multiplication Tests	WB Tuesday 7 th June
Year 4 Residential	Wednesday 22 nd - Friday 24 th June
Sports Week	Monday 27 th June - Friday 1 st July
Year 6 Residential	Monday 4 th July - Wednesday 6 th July
Summer Fair	Saturday 9 th July
Sports Day	Monday 11 th July
End of Year Reports	Friday 15 th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Wednesday 20 th July
Break up for summer	Friday 22 nd July