

# Ellwood Community Primary School

***BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, BELONG***

*January 28th 2022*



## COVID

We have been fortunate over the last few weeks with low numbers of COVID cases. We are hopeful that it will stay that way to avoid an outbreak and prevent staff shortages which could result in absences and class closures.

Please continue to support us by regularly lateral flowing due to the recent positive cases identified in Chestnut, Beech and year 6. Children in those groups should be lateral flowing as directed in the warn and inform letter sent this week.

Staff will continue to wear masks at drop off and pick up until half term and we will review again after that. We will also avoid whole school assemblies for the next few weeks and monitor the infection rates in school and locally. We will review this again after half term.

## **Toys in School**

May we please remind parents/carers that children are not allowed to bring their own toys into school.

Thank you.

## **PE Kit Reminder**

Please can we remind everyone that on PE Days, everyone should wear school PE kit. This is black or blue shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms, a white T-shirt, this can be worn with school jumpers if cold.

Thank you for your support.

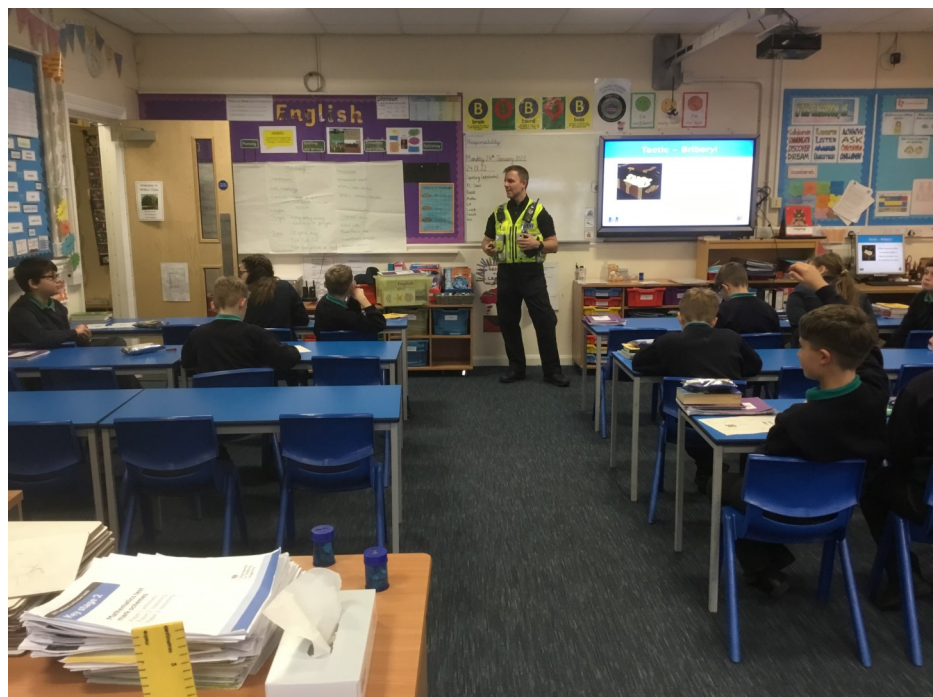
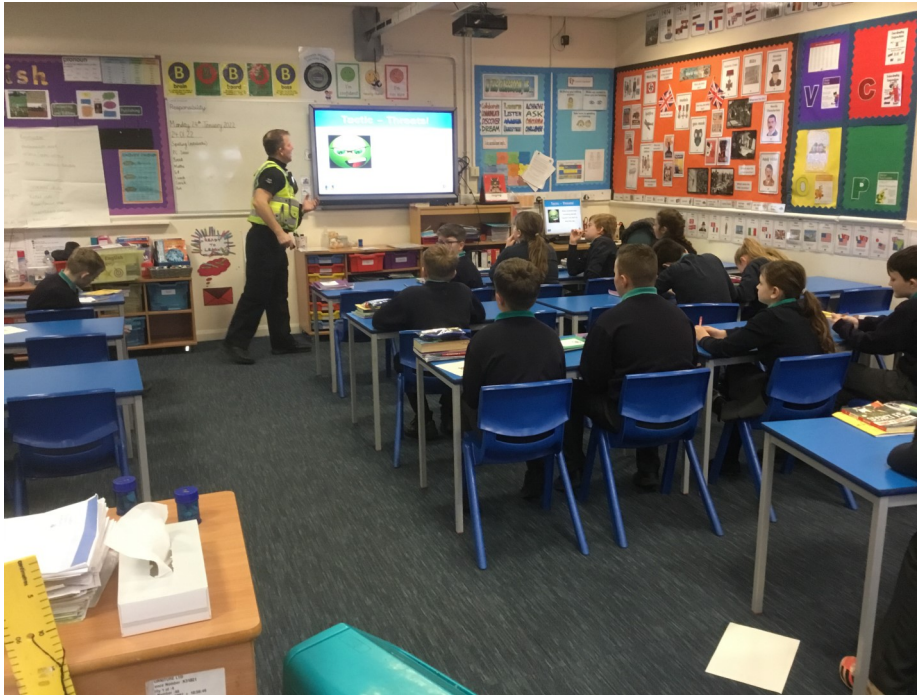
## **ParentPay—Dinner Debts**

If you have an arrears on your child/ren's dinner account, please pay as soon as possible. Dinner accounts should be kept in credit at all times.

Thank you.

## PC Greg Steer Visit

We had a visit from PC Greg Steer this week, he spent time in Willow class and spoke to them about internet safety and highlighted ways that we can stay safe online. The children were very engaged and participated really well with the discussion. Thank you PC Steer !





Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Today we walked to the 'tump' where we discussed how the hill is a human feature because the miners put the waste from the mine there. We then looked to see how the mud changed from a chocolate brown to more of a grey and black colour. We then created our own paint by mixing different types of mud and soil with water. The children used this to create some fantastic paintings

### Art and History

Knowledge and understanding:

Develop an awareness of the past

To develop ideas:

Explore different methods and materials as ideas to develop





## Year 4

Today, the Year 4s received an important letter. The letter explained that some Lego characters had been captured and frozen! The Year 4 were challenged to think about a method they could use to try to free the characters from the block of ice! Each group used different strategies to try to melt the ice and thankfully, they were all able to free the Lego men!

The children then took part in a carousel of activities to explore evaporation, condensation, freezing and melting



## Artist Visit—Mr Brealey

We really enjoyed having the artist, Ian Brealey, in to visit on Monday. The children learnt how to draw a picture of Gromit. They learnt about using maths to help them draw the picture in proportion. He also taught the children little tips and tricks that they would be able to apply to their art in the future. Ian let us know that it is ok to make mistakes and we can use a rubber to rub these out. Ian encouraged the children to just change little parts of their drawing a little bit at a time until they were happy with it. The children were very pleased with their drawings and we were pleased with how resilient the children were.

Ian led an assembly for Sycamore and Willow on Tuesday. The talk was all about being resilient and how having a Growth Mindset will take us further than having a 'Fixed Mindset'. He talked about how it is ok to make mistakes as long as we learn from them. He also spoke about famous, aspirational people who were successful because they were resilient.

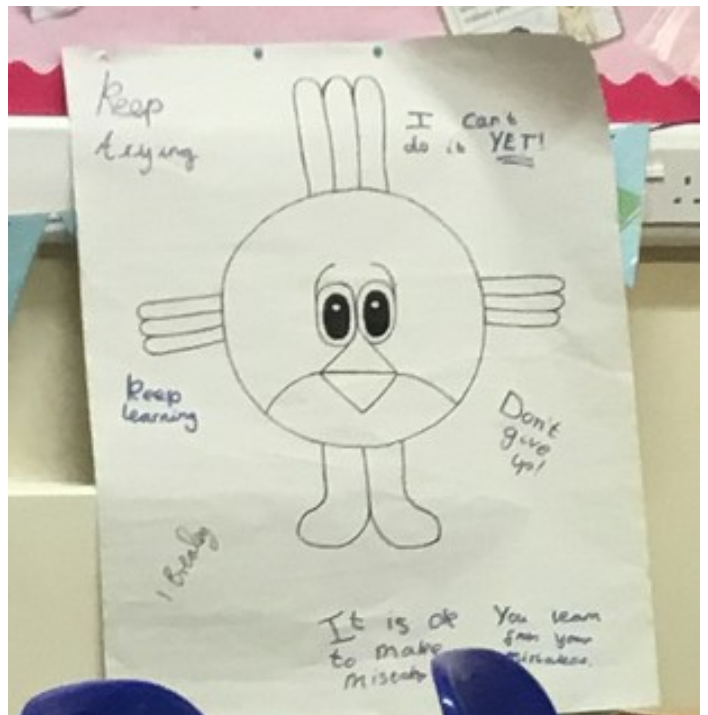
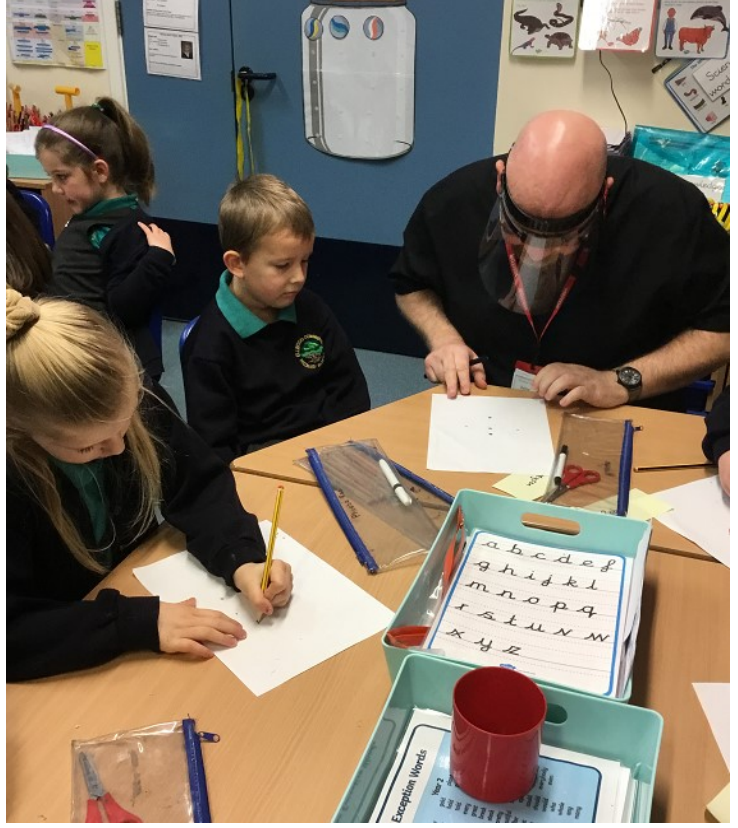
At the end of the session, the children were able to ask the artist questions about his job. They enjoyed finding out about what it is like to be an artist.





## Ian Brealey visits Chestnut Class

On Tuesday, Ian Brealey taught us some great Art skills such as; being able to measure using our fingers and pencils. We had to listen carefully to instructions and watch before creating our own Art work. The children were able to draw dots and lines and once they were happy with their plan they then drew over the dotted lines. We also spoke about having a good mind set and what that meant. We discussed how we need to keep trying even if we make mistakes and making mistakes means we are learning! This has helped us to develop our Resilience and Growth Mindset!





## Ian Brealey visit Year 6

Ian carried out an art and growth mindset workshop with Year 6, utilising skills such as; observational, listening, measuring, thinking and decision making. He also highlighted the importance of having a growth mindset which includes trying your best, persevering and being resilient, not giving up and learning from your mistakes.



## Mrs Toomer - Religious Education

Mrs Toomer is teaching Year 5 about The Old Testament in a very engaging and active way. The Year 5's are participating enthusiastically and really enjoying the sessions. She will be with us for around 5 weeks.

Thank you Mrs Toomer!





## Reminder - Water bottles

As part of the curriculum children learn about oral hygiene and keeping our teeth healthy.

Please remember that your child should only be bringing water to school in their water bottles.

NHS guidelines advise that if children are going to drink fizzy drinks or juices/squash with sugar in them, then they should be consumed with a meal. This will reduce the risk of tooth decay.



Water is the dentist's friend – free of sugar and with cleansing properties it is the ideal choice of drink to help maintain healthy teeth.

### What about flavoured water?

While flavoured water is often sugar-free, which is a good thing, it can be high in citric acid due to the flavourings used, particularly in the case of citrus fruits.

This can push the acidic levels of flavoured water up to as much as pH 3, when normal water sits between 6 and 8. The lower (0-7) the pH level of food or drink the more likely it is to cause acid enamel erosion to teeth.

The corrosion of the enamel surface of teeth can lead to tooth decay and, unfortunately, there is no way to repair enamel.

So, while the fact that flavoured water can be sugar-free is a bonus you have to consider what it is being flavoured with and how acidic that is.

Particularly troublesome to teeth is when flavoured water is sipped. While sipping plain tap water will have no effect on the teeth, sipping acidic, flavoured water throughout the day will spell trouble for tooth enamel.



# English in Action

## We are READERS

### Reading Bands

Throughout the year, the numbers of times children read their school reading books are counted and certificates are given for the following:

Bronze - 60 reads

Silver - 90 reads

Gold - 120 reads

Platinum - 200 reads

When children reach 120 reads, they will receive a gold band, certificate and will have hot chocolate and a treat with Mrs Milford at the end of half term, where they will receive a golden ticket to exchange in our 'Gold Reader' shop.

Children who reach 200 reads (Platinum) will receive a special gift.

### The Top Ten Benefits of Reading with Children

1. Their vocabulary is larger and more extensive.
2. They perform better academically.
3. Their imagination can run wild.
4. Their creativity skills develop.
5. They develop empathy.
6. They gain a deeper understanding of their world.
7. Their concentration levels improve.
8. The parent and child bond improves.
9. Their cognitive development is supported.
10. Their social skills and interaction improve.

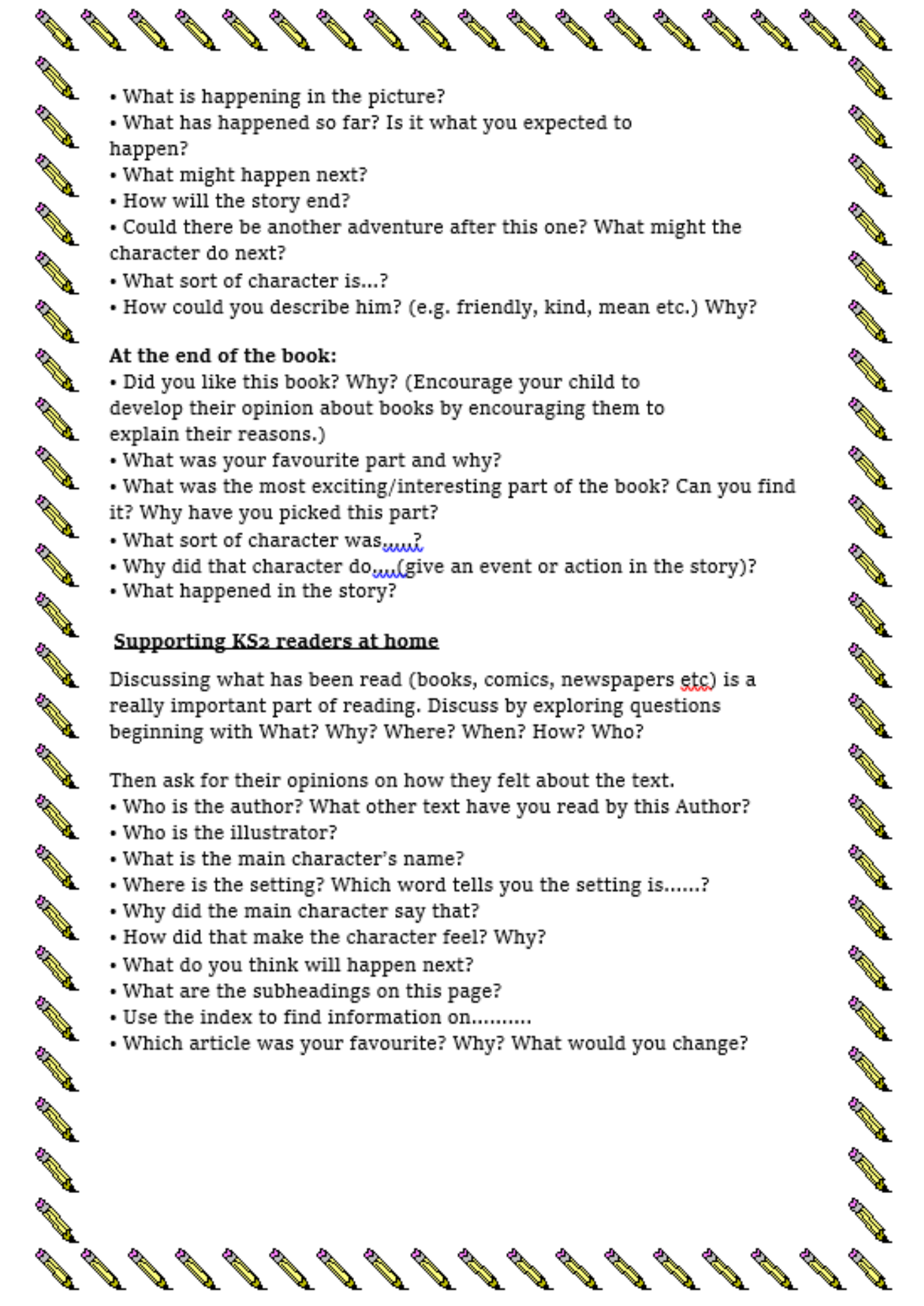
### Supporting early reading at home

#### **Questions to ask before reading:**

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story might be about?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (the blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

#### **During the reading of the book:**



- 
- What is happening in the picture?
  - What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
  - What might happen next?
  - How will the story end?
  - Could there be another adventure after this one? What might the character do next?
  - What sort of character is...?
  - How could you describe him? (e.g. friendly, kind, mean etc.) Why?

#### **At the end of the book:**

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons.)
- What was your favourite part and why?
- What was the most exciting/interesting part of the book? Can you find it? Why have you picked this part?
- What sort of character was       ?
- Why did that character do        (give an event or action in the story)?
- What happened in the story?

#### **Supporting KS2 readers at home**

Discussing what has been read (books, comics, newspapers etc) is a really important part of reading. Discuss by exploring questions beginning with What? Why? Where? When? How? Who?

Then ask for their opinions on how they felt about the text.

- Who is the author? What other text have you read by this Author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What is the main character's name?
- Where is the setting? Which word tells you the setting is.....?
- Why did the main character say that?
- How did that make the character feel? Why?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What are the subheadings on this page?
- Use the index to find information on.....
- Which article was your favourite? Why? What would you change?

## Children's Mental Health Week

7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February

This year's theme is 'Growing Together'.

Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each

other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential.

Have a look at some of the fun activities we have planned...

**MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY IS A NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY, IN WHICH THE CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO DRESS TO EXPRESS WHO THEY ARE.**



### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb

We are taking part in the non-school uniform day so that everyone has to chance to express who they are.



### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

The whole school are taking part in the, Chance to Shine, Cricket Roadshow!



### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

Years 2 and 3 have a trip to Vinney Hill for a team building and wellbeing day of fun!

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

We will be taking part in team building games and a whole school art project based around our support bubbles.

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb

Kick-starting Trick Box... our new whole school, whole journey, emotional management and personal development programme.



Each day we will also be taking part in some other wellbeing activities, like wake 'n' shake, listening to growth stories and learning little tricks to help support our wellbeing.



# Big Moments of summer fun!



## For all 5 – 8 year-old boys and girls

Give your little star a summer of big moments, making new friends, learning new skills and creating new memories.

Every participant receives their very own personalised kit bag including bat, ball, cap and t-shirt!

**Sign up today at**

[allstarscricket.co.uk](http://allstarscricket.co.uk) or at the centre

**DYNAMOS  
CRICKET**

# This is our game.

Calling all 8-11 year-olds!  
Sign up today, at  
[dynamoscricet.co.uk](http://dynamoscricet.co.uk)

## Cross Country

Well done to the children who attended the cross country event at Newent Community School on Thursday afternoon. We were lucky that the weather looked favourably upon us and there was actually some blue sky!

All the children who took part tried really hard and were so well behaved, we are very proud of them !!!!

There were 11 schools that took part with approximately 40 children in each race. We are pleased to say that some of our children came in the top 10 with some of them being asked to go onto the next round of the competition.

The following children placed in the top 10:

**Year 5 girls - Esme Wilkins - 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Year 5 boys - Alfie Pritchard - 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Year 6 girls - Frankie Jones - 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Year 6 boys - Henry Bishop - 4<sup>th</sup>**

**George Bishop - 7<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you to Miss Peart for giving up her own time to run the cross country club and organise the event.





## Cross Country photos



## Diary Dates

### JANUARY

Friday 28th January - Willow Class—Dean Academy

### FEBRUARY

Monday 1st February - Swimming ( Y3 /Y4)

Wednesday 2nd February - Clarinet (Y4)

Thursday 3rd February - Gymnastics (Chestnut Class)

Friday 4th February - Dogs Trust Visit (Y5 and Y6)

Monday 7th February - Start of Children's Mental Health Week  
**Non—School Uniform Day**

Tuesday 8th February - Chance to Shine—Cricket Road Show  
**PE kits—everyone**

Wednesday 9th February - Viney Hill Trip (Year 2 and Year 3)

Thursday 10th February - Whole School Art Project

Friday 11th February - Trick Box Launch (Whole School)

Tuesday 15h February - Dean Heritage Centre Visit (Chestnut & Beech)  
Skillzone Trip (Willow Class)  
Swimming (Y4)

Wednesday 16th February - Skillzone Trip (Sycamore Class)

Friday 18th February - **Break up for Half Term 3.15 p.m. finish**