



HEAD TEACHERS' NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another incredibly busy month here at All Saints, filled with exciting opportunities and memorable experiences for our pupils.

Pilot Ofsted feedback

I wanted to share some brief feedback following our recent pilot Ofsted inspection under the new 2025 framework. The process was extremely positive and provided us and the Trust, with valuable insight into how the updated expectations will look in practice.

The inspection team commented on the calm and purposeful atmosphere within our school, the strong relationships between staff and pupils, and the clear sense of direction in our curriculum. They were particularly impressed by the school's ethos and culture, noting how our core values are consistently lived out through pupils' behaviour, attitudes, and interactions with one another. Our children were wonderful ambassadors for the school, confident, kind, and enthusiastic to share their learning. The staff team shone throughout, demonstrating professionalism, care, and a shared commitment to our vision and values.

As this was a pilot, no grades were given, but the professional dialogue was positive, constructive and reassuring. We will now use the feedback to further refine what we do, ensuring we continue to offer the very best for all children

More Autumn Adventures

Our Year 6 children recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to Bovington Tank Museum, where they deepened their understanding of history through hands-on exploration. Meanwhile, our Year 2 pupils stepped into the role of 'history detectives' during their visit to Montacute House, investigating how we can identify objects from the past and uncover clues about life long ago.

Open Mornings

We have held two very successful open mornings for prospective EYFS families this term. Our Year 6 young leaders were outstanding, confidently guiding parents around the school and proudly sharing their own journey at All Saints. Thank you to our governors for joining us. Our next open morning is on Thursday 6th November, 9:30am – 11:00am.

Exciting news for All Saints Choir

Christmas preparations began early for our school choir this term. Mrs Roberts delighted the children by announcing that they would be recording Christmas carols for the National Trust. These recordings will be played as part of their special Christmas events, held annually at Montacute House. Traditionally, the National Trust's festive activities have included light shows and mid-winter mysteries; however, this year will be the first time visitors will be able to hear choirs singing carols around the grounds. Members of the public can "follow in the footsteps" of the carol singers through the gardens, finishing their route in the Stables, where they can enjoy a warm drink and further Christmas activities.

The event will begin on **Saturday 29th November** and will run daily until **Thursday 1st January**, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day when the property is closed.

Thoughtful Thursday

On the last day of this half term we held our Thoughtful Thursday. We began our day with a whole school autumn walk in Montacute park followed by a day of well-being activities including storytelling, mindful drumming led by – Mrs Hatch and team building PE activities led by Mr Davies. Thank you to all those who accompanied us on our walk, how lucky were we to have a window of sunshine during the morning.

Cross Country Success

We are so proud of how All Saints have represented our school over the past few weeks at cross country events — particularly at the most recent race at the football ground, where the weather was far from kind! Despite challenging conditions, our children demonstrated incredible perseverance, teamwork and friendship throughout. One particularly heart-warming moment was seeing a pupil turn back to support another runner — a true reflection of our school values in action.

Over the last three events, we have celebrated several top-place finishes — an amazing achievement given that more than 30 schools and over 500 pupils have taken part!

We are looking forward to attending more fixtures in the coming months. If you would like to get involved or offer your support, please contact Mrs Sullivan in Acorns.

Finally, I would like to thank our pupils for their enthusiasm, our staff for their dedication, and you — our parents and carers — for your ongoing encouragement and partnership. It is this strong community spirit that makes All Saints such a special place to learn and grow.

I hope you have all had a fantastic half term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 3rd November.

Best wishes

Mrs Bowditch



ACORN NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

What a busy month we have had in Acorns. We have explored harvest and the changing seasons. We worked out what food is grown above and below ground. The children have created art from nature with leaf rubbings and paint. Thank you to the kind parent who donated so many interesting varieties of pumpkins.

We've also made hedgehog bread learning words such as yeast and knead. The children were amazing with their kneading and listening to the hygiene rules.

We have been continuing to work on subitising and recognising the numbers within 5. Our focus for the last week was number formation with numbers being created in sand, playdough, chalk and pencil.

We have enjoyed mark-marking to music, freedom to go with music and develop our self-expression. We have also looked at shape and how colours can link to our feelings in our art.





It has been a long half term, and I am so proud of the children and how they have settled as a class. Their friendship and care for each other is a joy to see. Have a lovely restful half term.

Kind regards

Mrs Sullivan and the Acorn Team



CLASS 1 NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

The children have had an exciting month this October, learning all about everyday materials and their properties in science. This has linked with their English writing, helping them when using their five senses to generate adjectives for their writing. Using topic related vocabulary, Year 1 have been exploring the benefits and drawbacks of some materials and enjoyed testing this out whilst making mini umbrellas!



Geography

In their geography unit this half term, Year 1 have been exploring the United Kingdom and naming the four UK countries and the seas surrounding the British Isles.

They have enjoyed singing our topic song naming the countries and have started to explore mapping and the local area (our school site, and wider into Montacute). Children were excited to draw maps of their own local areas.



Using wooden blocks, Class 1 showed super team skills and problem solving when creating maps of Montacute or the school site, ready to take an ariel photograph to help understand the concept of a 'bird's eye view' (taken from the grand height of a picnic bench)!





CLASS 2 NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

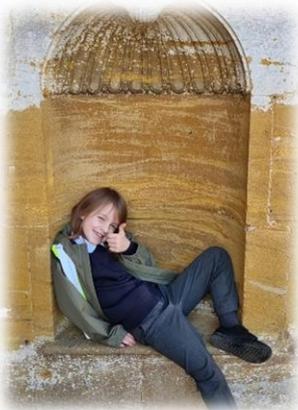
What a busy month October has been for class 2!



We've just finished our exciting English unit based on the story *The Papaya That Spoke*. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning the tale, then using their creativity to innovate it—changing the main character and the fruit being picked to make the story their own. One of the highlights was recording their own versions and becoming storytellers themselves. It's been wonderful to see their confidence and imagination grow through this process!

As part of our history topic on being 'history detectives', our class visited Montacute House to explore how we can tell that something is old and uncover clues from the past. The children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they investigated features such as the large number of chimneys—why were there so many?—and the ice house, which sparked fascinating discussions about how people kept things cold before fridges.

We were lucky to enjoy a beautifully sunny autumn morning in the grounds, which made the experience even more memorable. The visit helped deepen our understanding and encouraged the children to make meaningful connections between what they observed and the historical context behind it.



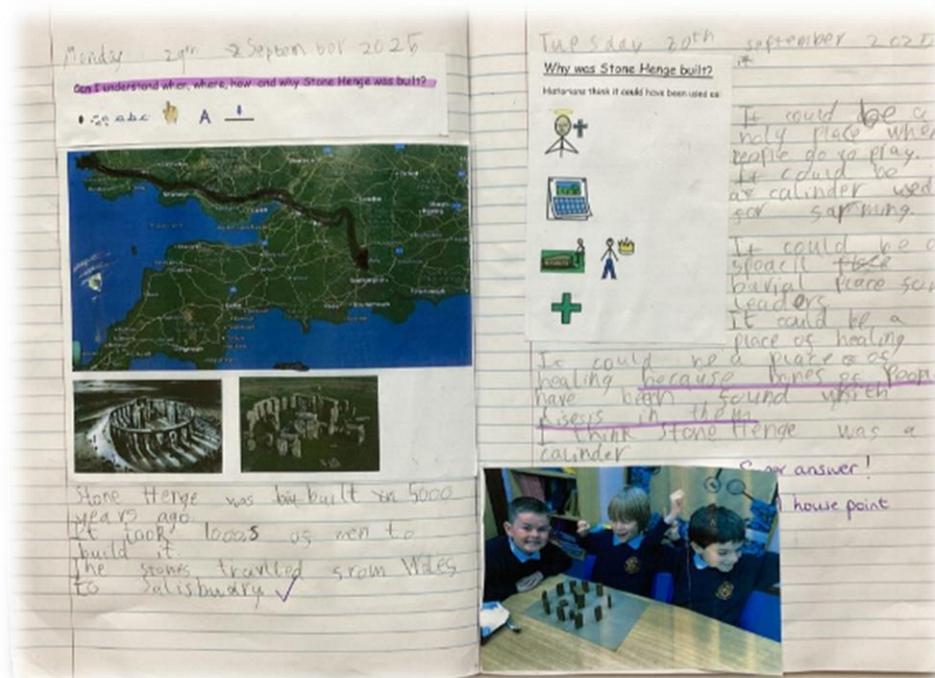
To conclude our Design and Technology unit on healthy eating, the children created their very own fruit cocktails by mixing their three favourite juice flavours. They also added colourful straws and umbrellas to complement their creations, adding a fun and personal touch to their drinks.

Every child tried all the juices, and we were incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and willingness to explore new flavours.

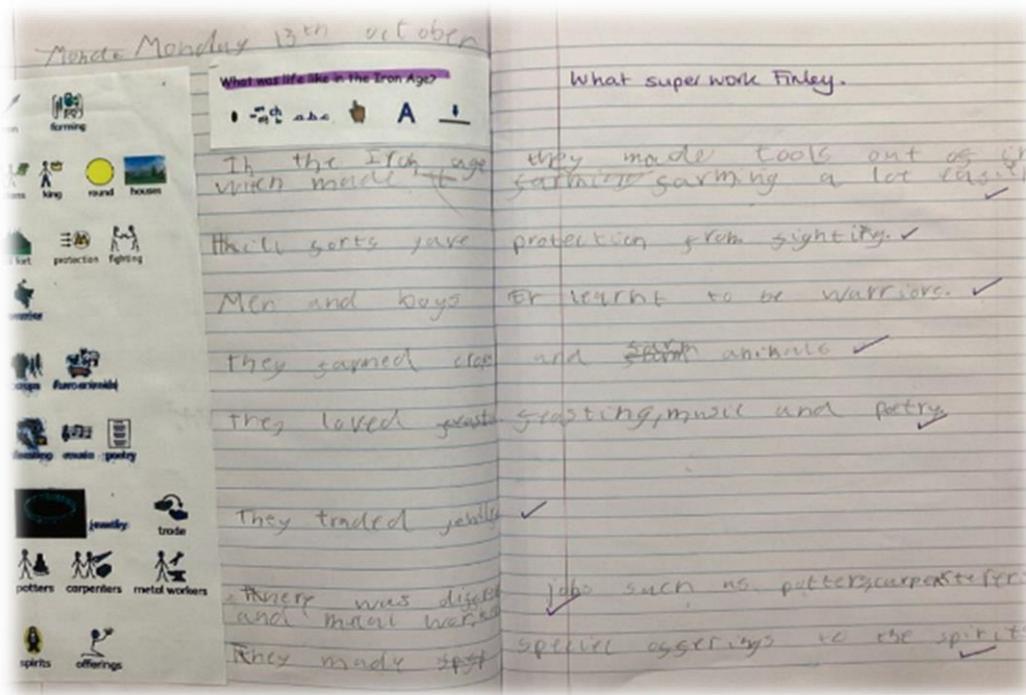


CLASS 3 NEWS OCTOBER 2025

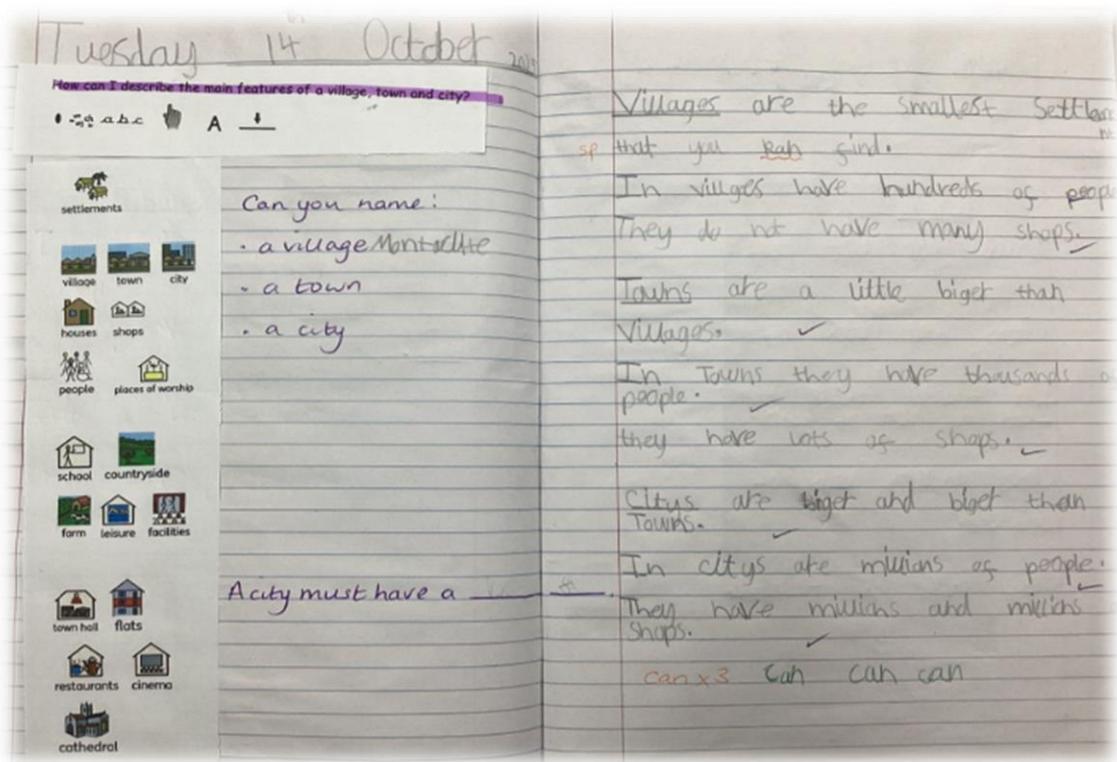
We've had a very busy and exciting half term in class! The children have absolutely loved diving into history, exploring the fascinating periods of the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. One of the highlights was learning about the theories behind **why** Stonehenge was built—the children were captivated by the mystery and imagination involved. They especially enjoyed recreating Stonehenge out of biscuits, which was both creative and delicious!



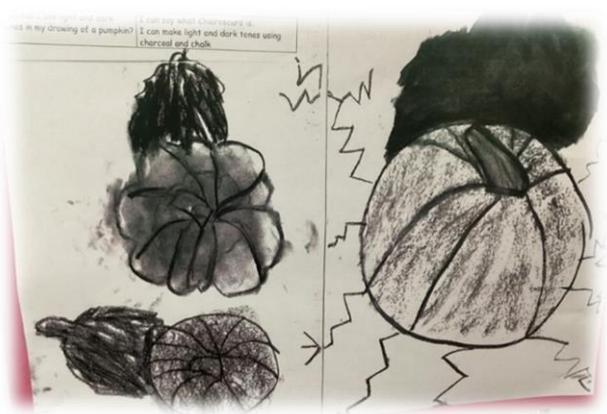
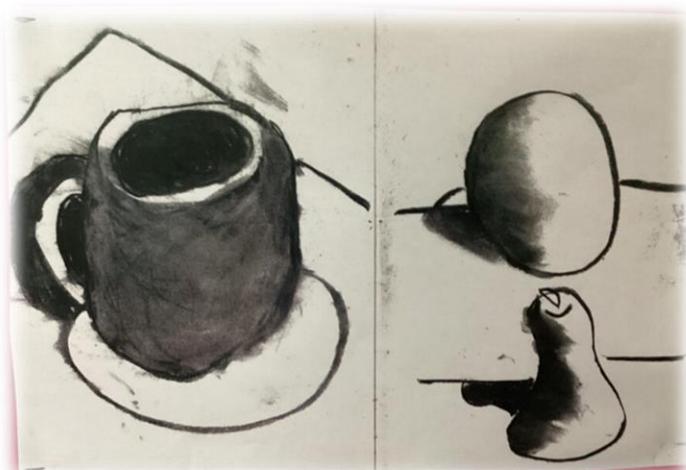
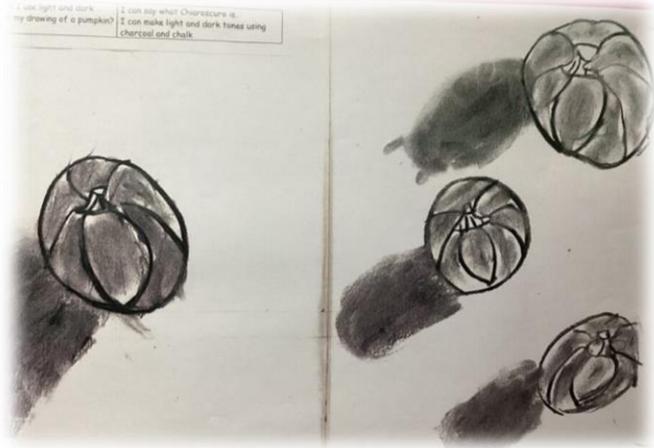
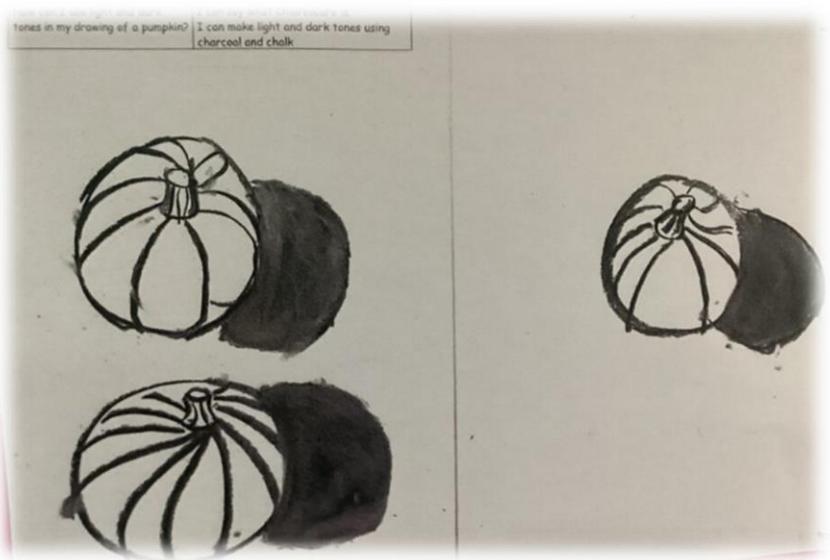
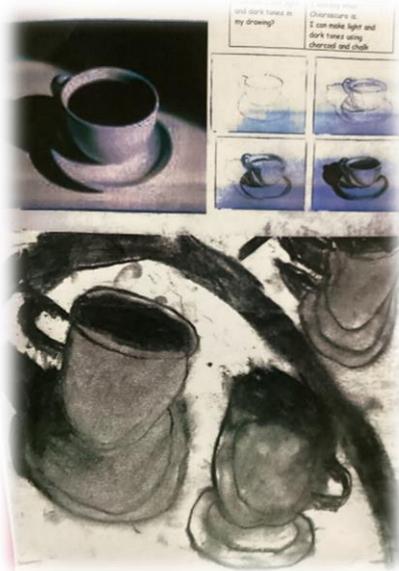
The children have been writing about life in the Iron Age, using archaeological finds to help them justify their ideas. Their thoughtful writing and historical reasoning have been impressive.



In Geography, we've been learning about the differences between a village, town, and city, and using the terms 'rural' and 'urban' to describe places they know. The children have shown great curiosity and understanding as they connected these concepts to their own experiences.



Art lessons have been a real joy this half term. The children have made fantastic progress working with charcoal, and the transformation in their art books has been remarkable. There have been so many lovely 'wow' moments as they admired each other's work and celebrated their creativity.





CLASS 4 NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

Although the weather at the start of term wasn't terribly autumnal, our activities have been. From Harvest Festival at St. Catherine's to apple pressing, thanks to the Baxendale family.



The aliens have landed

We have used drama to help us empathise with how characters would feel being told they were to leave our planet because it was to explode. The dramatisation helped to create some thoughtful and emotive diary entries and newspaper articles reporting the alien life found on the new planet that was to become home.

Throwing our worries away

During mental health week, we discussed the importance of talking to others to help understand how we feel and internalising worries can grow them out of proportion. We wrote our worries on a piece of paper, threw them onto the parachute and tossed them away, which was very cathartic.

Bowels and eggs

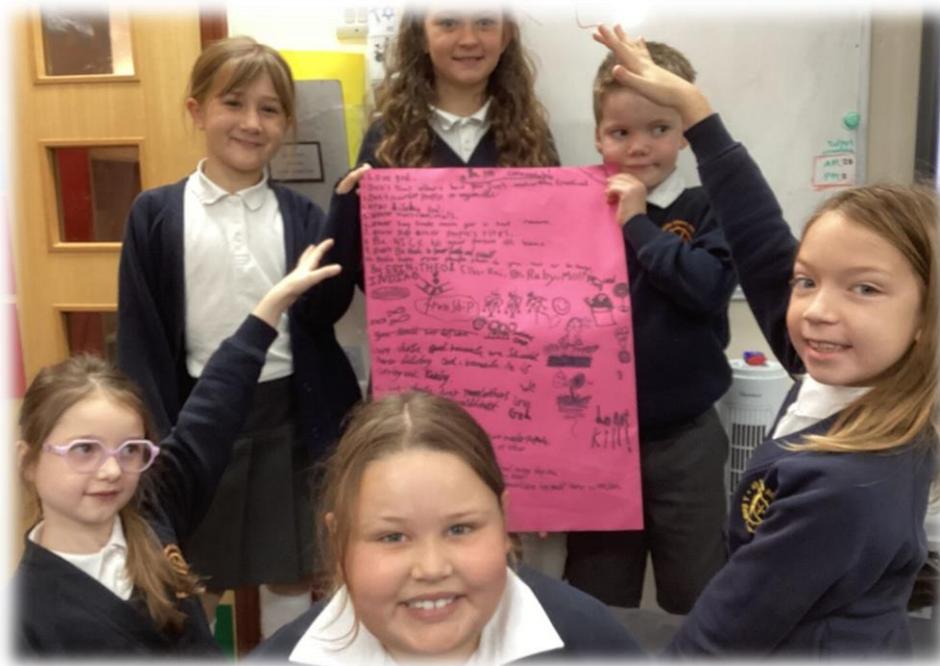
In science, to visualise the process of the digestive system, we acted as teeth, saliva and spleen in our experiment, and saw how the body absorbs nutrients for the small intestine before the waste enters the large intestine then bowel.



Exploring Judaism



Making mezuzahs.



Writing our modern day ten commandments.

We look forward to another term full of facts, learning, discussion and experiments.

Warmest wishes,

The year 4 team



CLASS 5 NEWS OCTOBER 2025

Class 5 have had another busy and exciting month of learning! We began the month with our apple adventures at Woodhouse Farm, which the children thoroughly enjoyed!



In English, the children have written persuasive adverts to encourage travellers to visit their imaginary planets. Their creative ideas have been truly out of this world!

Welcome to planet Y - a place of wonder and beauty.

Hidden beneath the depths of the Orion Gate lies planet Y. A place to stun and excite. Be one of the first to experience the thrill of it all. From seas to rivers, to deserts or snow capped mountains there's something for everyone. The planet is like your dreams. Anything you can wish for comes true. It is the opportunity of a life time.

As soon as you arrive you will be immersed in a stunning landscape that will take your breath away. Imagine soaring to the highest mountains and seeing serene views, or swimming in the crystal clear waters of the sea, or just venturing into the jungle; this is planet Y. The enchanted, golden sun is a thing of wonder that shines and shimmers on the waters of the sea. No matter what time you visit you will always feel welcomed.

Welcome to the best place ever: Bubble Beach Island.

Bubble Beach Island is the best place to visit, a place with every thing you could wish for. Hidden within this milky way, you'll be in a world of beauty, what ever you think of it will be right in front of you. In this planet you can do everything, this planet will excite, thrill and surprise. Here you can have every opportunity you want.

Imagine a world with flooding seas that cover the comfort of the sand underneath, well here those seas are filled with bubbles, gold and many more things. As soon as you take one step on this planet, a smile will appear on your face. Here you can see coconut trees, taste exotic fruits, climb towering, snow tipped mountains and relax on sandy beaches. Wouldn't you love to go on all of these amazing adventures? Well you can be the first one to witness this planet of wilderness and adventurous animals.

Look no further, because here in bubble beach island you can see fantastic shows as the day ends.

In Maths, we have been exploring number properties, including fascinating Fibonacci and Triangular sequences and developing our skills in multiplication and division. The children have enjoyed spotting problems, solving problems and challenging themselves.



In Science, our space topic has continued. The children have been learning how the Earth's rotation and tilt create day and night and the changing seasons. They have been fascinated to see how these movements affect our everyday lives and connect to what we can see in the sky.

In Music, the unit ended with a fantastic display of talent when our musical pieces finally came together. The children have written, designed and performed their own scene from a musical. The project was based on the story of a journey but no two stories were the same. Creativity flowed, while skills of cooperation and negotiation were needed to ensure the scene was a success. Well done Class 5, wonderful theatrical performances.



To finish the term, Class 5 took part in Thoughtful Thursday, a day filled with team-building challenges, creative activities and reflective discussions. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to work together, support one another and celebrate all they've achieved this term.



CLASS 6 NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

✨ Year 6 Autumn Highlights: From Trenches to Circuits!

It's been a wonderfully rich and varied half term in Year 6, filled with immersive learning experiences that have brought history, science, art, and literacy to life.

🍏 Apple Day: From Orchard to Glass

We began the term with a celebration of Apple Day, where children explored the journey of apples from tree to juice. Pupils had the opportunity to select and taste different apple varieties, learning to compare flavour, texture, and appearance. They also observed the apple pressing process, discovering how fresh juice is made. It was a fantastic way to link science, healthy eating, and seasonal change in one delicious afternoon!

🏠 Tank Museum Trip: A Journey Through Time

Our visit to The Tank Museum was a powerful and memorable experience. Pupils stepped into the shoes of those who lived through World War II, learning about rationing, the Home Guard, and the daily realities of wartime Britain. They even had the chance to try on authentic 1940s costumes, bringing history to life in a truly immersive way.

We also explored the trenches of World War I, comparing the conditions and strategies of both world wars. This sparked thoughtful discussions about the evolution of warfare, and the human stories behind the history.





Artistic Explorations: Colour, Space, and Scale

In art, we've been developing our skills in colour theory, negative space, and enlargement using a grid. Pupils have been working on creating 3D-inspired pieces, learning how to scale up their drawings and use shading and colour to create depth and dimension. The results have been stunning, and we're excited to display their work around the school.

English: Writing Across Voices and Time

Our English lessons have taken us on a journey through different writing registers. Pupils have written monologues, diary entries, and both formal and informal letters, all inspired by the experiences of evacuees during WWII. These pieces became the foundation for powerful narrative writing, where children imagined the lives of young evacuees, crafting emotive and historically rich stories that showcased empathy, creativity, and a deep understanding of the time period.

Science: Circuits and Investigations

In science, we've been exploring electrical circuits, focusing on the differences between series and parallel circuits. Pupils have conducted hands-on experiments to investigate how changing variables—such as the number of bulbs or batteries— affects the brightness and functionality of a circuit. This practical work has helped develop their understanding of electricity and scientific enquiry, as well as their ability to predict, test, and evaluate.