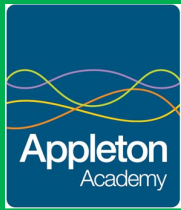


Appleton Academy

Primary
Newsletter
Summer 2 2026



*Together with our community, we can achieve
extraordinary things.*



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, commitment and partnership throughout the year.

Your encouragement at home, your involvement in school life, and your support for our staff have played a vital role in helping our children learn, grow and thrive. Together, we have celebrated many achievements, overcome challenges and created wonderful opportunities for our pupils. I am incredibly grateful for all that you do.

This message is also a personal one for me. As you are aware I will be retiring this summer. It has been a privilege to serve this school community and to work with you all. Thank you for the trust, kindness and support you have shown me over the years. I will leave with many treasured memories and immense pride in all that our children have accomplished.

Looking ahead to September, I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Kelly (current Deputy Head Teacher) will be taking on the role of Acting Head of Primary. Mrs Kelly is a highly valued member of our leadership team, who knows our school, our children and our community exceptionally well. I have every confidence that she will lead the Primary School with dedication, care and enthusiasm, and I know that your encouragement and collaboration will help ensure a successful year ahead.

Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community. I wish you and your families a wonderful summer break and every success and happiness for the future.

Best wishes

Miss Clayton



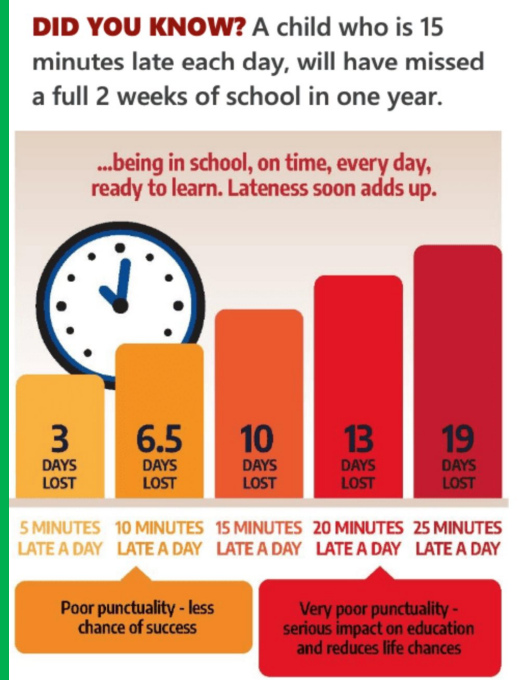
Attendance

This final half term is especially important as children begin preparing for the next stage in their learning and their new year group. Teachers use this time to build on key skills, close any gaps and help children feel ready and confident for September, so regular attendance is more important than ever.

Amazing Attendance Award

As well as our weekly rewards and certificates, we are starting an **Amazing Attendance Award** during the final half-term. Children who achieve 100% attendance and punctuality for 2 weeks will be rewarded with the opportunity to choose an activity of their choice in recognition of their commitment. There will be three opportunities across the half term for them to take part in their selected activities, each at the end of the 2 weeks.

Thank you for your continued support.



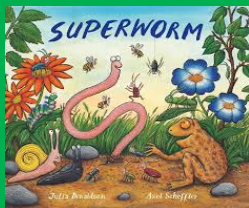
EYFS

This half term Nursery and Reception have been enjoying spending time in the outdoor provision and enjoying the wonderful sunshine. We have paddled in the water, explored making supersize bubbles in tuff trays and shared our own stories of when we have visited the beach.

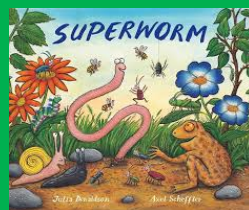


We also became mini David Attenboroughs this half term as we cared for and nurtured our caterpillars, eagerly watching them transform into beautiful butterflies. Last week, we were also thrilled to discover two young pigeons building a nest in the trees in our outdoor area. The children loved observing them flying back and forth, collecting twigs and sticks to build their home, and were fascinated to watch nature unfold right before their eyes.

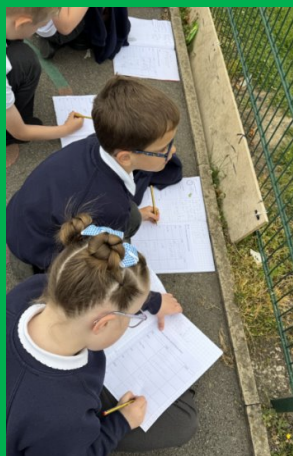




KS1



This half term, we have been focusing on statistics in maths. As part of our learning, we explored data collection by recording the colours of cars driving past the school. We then used this information to create tally charts, helping us to organise and represent the data clearly.



This half term in KS1, we explored minibeasts and learned about the artist Jennifer Angus. Inspired by her work, the children designed and created their own bug-themed clay tiles. They carefully planned their ideas and used clay to bring them to life. We are very proud of their creativity and fantastic finished pieces!



Year 3

In an Ancient Egypt workshop the children listened to fascinating stories, explored life in Ancient Egypt, and had the opportunity to meet Saviour Pirotta, who shared his knowledge and inspired the children with his storytelling.



Year 3 took part in the end-of-year performance, where they sang and danced with confidence and enthusiasm. They worked hard to learn their songs and routines, performed brilliantly, and should be proud of their efforts. It was wonderful to see them enjoying the experience and working together as a team.



Year 3 had a fantastic time taking part in Sports Day. They showed great enthusiasm and determination in the sprint races, worked brilliantly together during the relay runs, and had lots of fun in the egg and spoon race. It was wonderful to see everyone trying their best, encouraging one another, and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.





Year 4



What a wild time we've had in Year 4! We've learnt how to write playscripts and non-chronological reports in English. Whilst in Maths, we have been focused on learning about angles, shapes, co-ordinates and statistics. In addition, all the children worked their socks off preparing for their Multiplication Check. Well done, everyone!

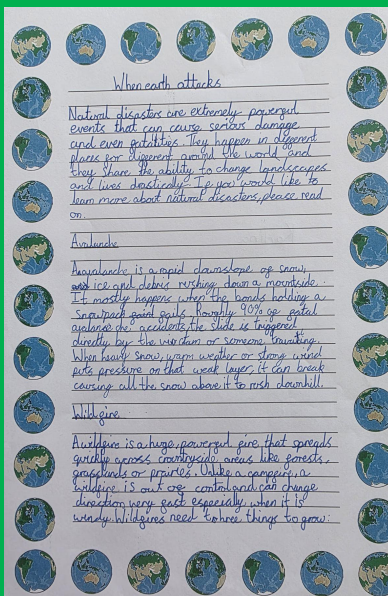


In science, we have been studying human digestion and learning how food travels through the body. We visualised this with an investigation using weetabix and banana.

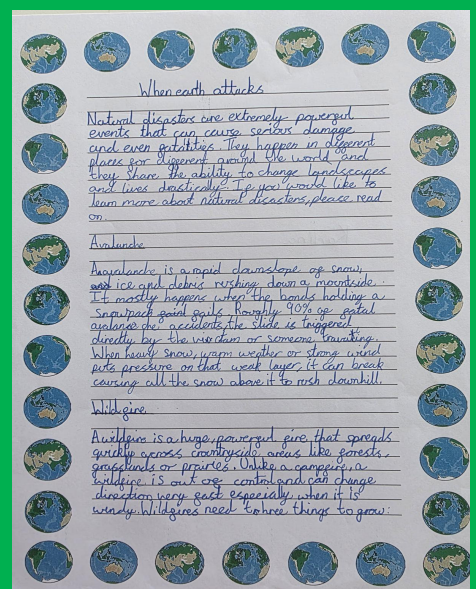


We participated in Bradford's literacy festival at Bradford University. We heard stories from inspirational authors and had a go at creating our own twisted fairytale.

We loved supporting Year 6 with their performance of Annie.



We have been studying earthquakes and volcanoes in Geography, linking this back to our work about the Romans and Mount Vesuvius an wrote some amazing non-chronological reports in English.

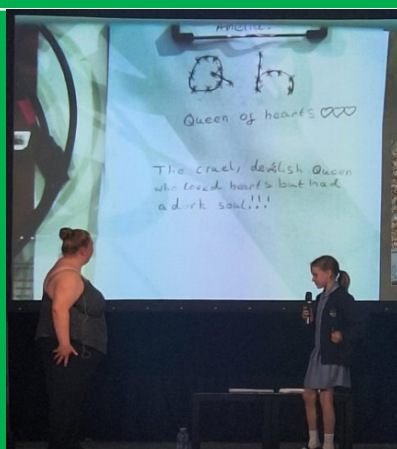




Year 5



In Year 5, we have had a busy half term, celebrating the end of the school year with sports day, practises for our fantastic production with Year 6 and a school trip to Bradford University to learn about our universe.



As if that wasn't enough, we have been visited by a specialist netball coach and some of our children competed in a school wide netball tournament. We also celebrated and showcased our Windrush productions.



As part of our amazing attendance award, we managed to beat the heat during some very hot days this half term with some excellent treats such as pizza making, computing tournaments and sports events.

Our Year 6 pupils worked incredibly hard to bring their production of *Annie* to life, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. From learning lines and songs to perfecting their performances, they showed great dedication, teamwork, and confidence throughout the rehearsals. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed the show and would like to thank everyone who came along to support our talented cast. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of their primary school journey.







Year 6











Year 6

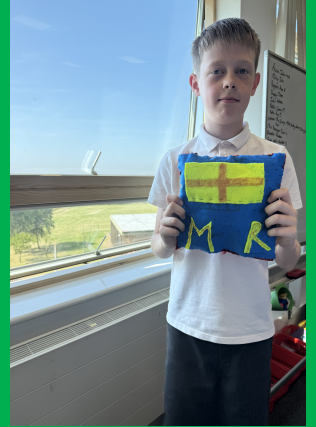
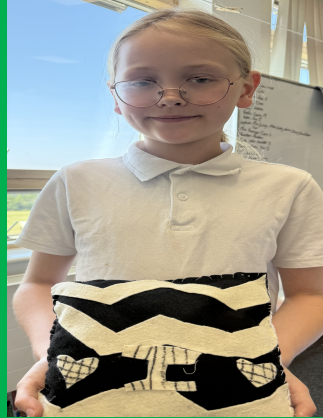


Our pupils had an amazing time Dragon Boating event Doe Park. They had a blast taking part in the exciting races, working together as a team, and encouraging one another every step of the way. It was fantastic to see every child getting involved with such enthusiasm, determination, and team spirit. Everyone had the best time, creating wonderful memories and developing their confidence and teamwork skills.

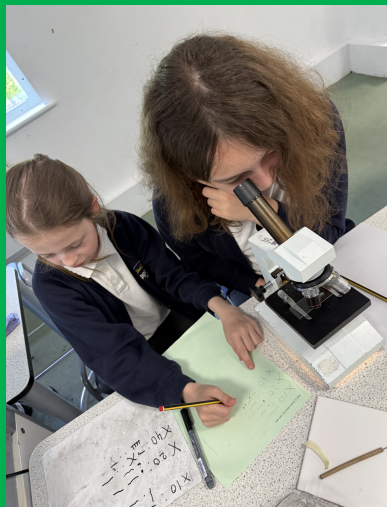


Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in Design and Technology, using a range of sewing techniques and skills to create their own cushions. They have shown great patience, creativity, and determination as they carefully measured, stitched, and assembled their designs.



In Science, Year 6 have also enjoyed the exciting opportunity to use the secondary school's science laboratories. They dissected onions to investigate plant cells and used microscopes to observe the cells in detail, developing their practical scientific skills while experiencing life in a real laboratory environment.



Year 6

Good luck to our Year 6's, we wish you every success in the future.





Commando Joe's provides the thrilling opportunity to enable every pupil to become their best self – through character education. Commando Joe's is an award-winning UK-wide provider of character education programmes for EYFS, primary and secondary schools. With over a decade of experience and a research-backed RESPECT Framework, they equip young people with the confidence, empathy, and resilience they need to succeed in life, both in and out of the classroom.



Ignite Immersive Education is a creative education company, who work with pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 in Appleton. Their sessions uniquely blend core subjects and in class learning, with the creative arts. Each week pupils work with Shine and Jenny, as they sing, dance and act their way through the curriculum. This half term they have been supporting the children with their curriculum themes.



Throughout this year, Ignite Immersive Education has delivered an engaging programme of drama, dance and music with Key Stage 1, using the arts as a powerful tool to bring learning to life across the curriculum. Weekly sessions with performance specialist Jenny have strengthened classroom learning while developing pupils' confidence, communication and teamwork.

We began the year with a lively performance inspired by *The Three Little Pigs*. With only five rehearsals, pupils confidently took on roles, sang traditional songs, performed a wolf-themed dance and even devised a 'Wanted' poster scene using ambitious vocabulary. Parents and carers were delighted by the confidence shown by our youngest learners. Next, our London's Burning topic brought history to life. A bespoke rap helped pupils recall key facts, and the half-term also included our Christmas production *Prickly Hay*, giving children another chance to shine on stage.

In the new year, pupils travelled to Antarctica through mime, exploring animal adaptations, learning about Captain Scott and performing a catchy Emperor Penguin song. They then compared Chembakolli with Bradford, exploring Indian culture and performing a Bollywood dance.

Summer learning centred on *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*, with pupils performing in character and creating imaginative endings. Most recently, Marvellous Minibeasts has inspired physical theatre and movement as pupils explored insect behaviours.

The mixed Year 1 and 2 class has thrived, growing in confidence, communication and collaboration. Well done,

Throughout this year, Ignite Immersive Education has delivered an exciting programme of drama, dance and music with Year 3, using the performing arts to deepen learning across the curriculum. Weekly sessions with performance specialist Jenny have supported pupils in developing communication, collaboration, creativity and self-expression, while increasing engagement in their classroom learning.

We began with *Viva España*, exploring the geography, culture and traditions of Spain. Through music and movement, pupils prepared a class assembly for parents and carers, showcasing Flamenco-inspired choreography and persuasive tourism adverts.

Our work then moved to *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. Using drama techniques such as role-play, hot seating and characterisation, pupils explored themes, motives and emotions, strengthening their reading comprehension and understanding of the text.

History came alive through our Super Saxons topic, where pupils created scenes, freeze frames and spoken-word pieces to explore Anglo-Saxon life and key historical events. During The Stone Age, they learnt a rap to secure their understanding of the palaeolithic, mesolithic and neolithic periods and mimed daily life to experience early human development.

Pharaohs and Pyramids brought further historical exploration through dance, archaeology role-play and songs about Tutankhamun—even mummifying classmates to understand ancient rituals.

Year 3 are now supporting rehearsals for *Annie*, and their enthusiasm has shone all year. Well done to every pupil for

Throughout this year, Ignite Immersive Education has delivered an engaging programme of drama, dance and music with Year 4, using the performing arts to enrich learning across the curriculum. Weekly sessions with performance specialist Jenny have helped pupils develop confidence, communication, creativity and teamwork while deepening their understanding of key National Curriculum subjects.

We began with Blitz Britain, where pupils explored World War II through drama and role-play. Interviewing in-role as evacuees supported empathy and historical understanding, while performing a timeline strengthened their grasp of chronology and significant events. They also sang traditional wartime songs and devised Anderson shelter advertisements, culminating in a wonderful performance for parents and carers.

During *The Ice Palace*, pupils used movement, music and storytelling to explore setting, atmosphere and character, enhancing expressive language, imagination and collaboration. Our Roaming with the Romans topic brought Ancient Rome to life through re-enactment. Pupils recreated army formations, gave commands in Latin and learnt songs to recall historical facts. Jenny's lessons became a highlight of Roman Day, with pupils fully immersed in character.

Rainforest Adventures supported science and geography learning, with pupils physicalising forest layers, climate and conservation through movement, documentary-style narration and song.

Year 4 have made excellent progress and are now rehearsing for *Annie*. Their enthusiasm and talent have shone all year—well done to everyone.



Throughout this year, Year 5 have taken part in an inspiring programme of drama, dance and music through Ignite Immersive Education, using the arts to deepen learning across the curriculum. Working with performance specialist Shine, pupils have grown in confidence, creativity and communication while making meaningful links between artistic expression and classroom topics.

They began by exploring Rivers and the Water Cycle through dance, using gesture, shape and dynamics to represent scientific processes. Their learning around water poverty was supported through part-round singing, where harmony and ensemble work helped build musical confidence and empathy for global issues.

During their study of the Mayan civilisation, pupils used drama, music and rap writing to bring history to life, developing characters and perspectives through still image, role-play and interview techniques. In Spring, they created persuasive Fair Trade adverts, learning how voice and expression influence an audience.

In Summer, pupils explored post-WW2 Britain and the Windrush generation through collaborative mime, performance poetry and calypso music, connecting with themes of identity and belonging. Alongside this, they worked hard on our Christmas show *Hosanna Rock* and are now rehearsing *Annie*. We are incredibly proud of their progress this year.

Having worked with this class since Year 1, it has been remarkable to see how their performance skills have flourished. Over the years, they have grown into confident, expressive and collaborative performers, and we hope these skills will continue to support them as articulate speakers, creative thinkers and effective team members.

This year, Ignite Immersive Education has delivered a high-quality programme of drama, dance and music with Year 6, using the performing arts to enrich learning across the curriculum. Weekly sessions with performance specialist Jenny have strengthened pupils' confidence, communication and creativity while deepening subject knowledge in line with National Curriculum aims.

In their World War I topic, pupils explored key events through drama, role-play and devised performance, creating group timelines and using characterisation to understand life in the trenches. During Ancient Greece, they retold myths such as Medusa and Theseus and the Minotaur, linking performance with their writing work. Later, they explored modern Greece, developing group pieces inspired by its geography and culture.

Victorian Britain saw pupils embody different social classes, perform scripted scenes and explore electricity through song and physical theatre. Their work even supported their visit to Saltaire, where they performed a song acapella for locals. They are now working hard towards *Annie*, taking on challenging roles with enthusiasm. Year 6 have been brilliant—we cannot wait to see what they achieve next.

KS1 Seaside Trip



In KS1, we have been learning about the seaside in the past as part of our History topic. We visited Hornsea Beach to compare the seaside then and now and discovered lots of interesting changes.



KS1 Ugly Bug Ball



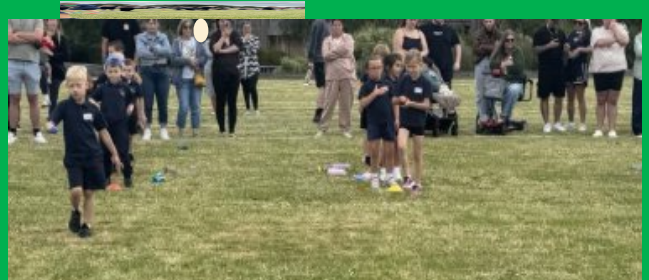
In Key Stage 1 we celebrated the end of our topic on mini-beasts with an Ugly Bug Ball. Despite the hot weather everyone made a big effort with their costumes and we were so impressed! Well done everyone.



Sports Day

We all had a fabulous time on Sports Day and thankfully the weather was dry and not too hot!.

All the children showed what great team players they are and tried their best in all of the races.

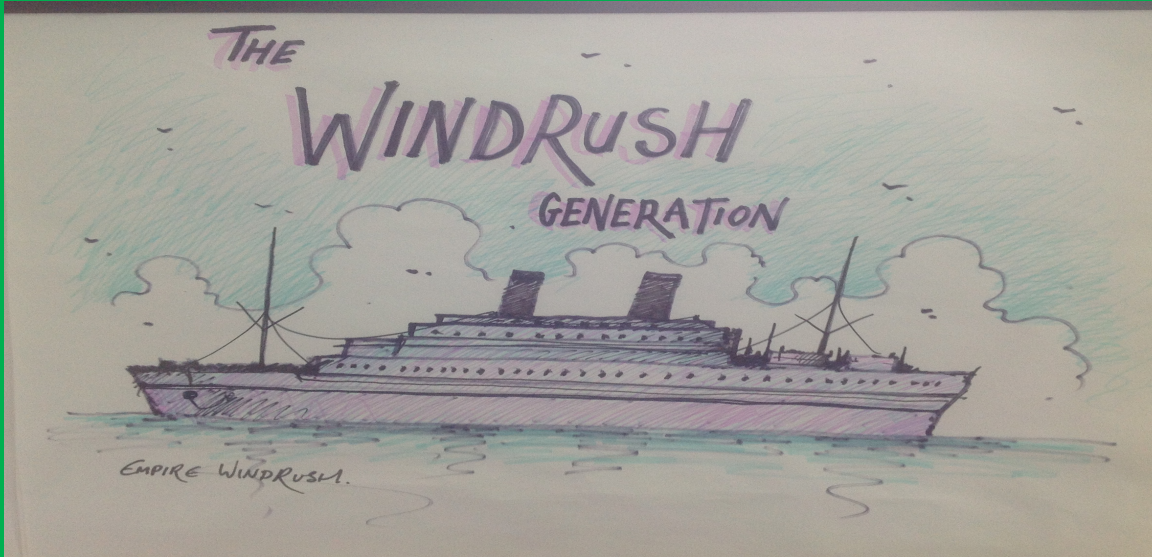




Some of our Year 5 pupils are training to be Play Leaders. They join KS1 and lead playground games, model positive behaviour, and support younger children. Our Play Leaders develop confidence and leadership skills while making sure the younger children are having fun and joining in.

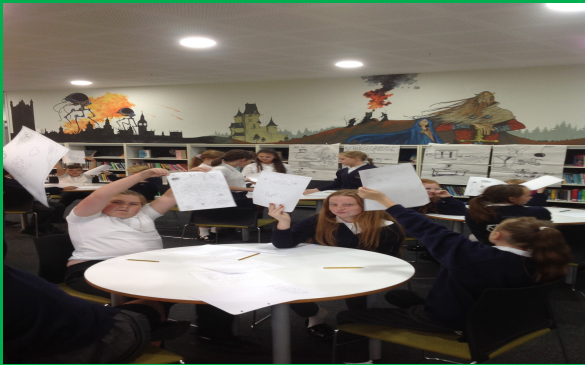


Our Artist / Writer Residencies



Year 5 students enjoyed a Windrush themed creative session with Chris Mould and Nik Perring.

Our Year 6 children have worked with Nik and Chris to enhance their creative writing skills. Below are some examples of their short stories. A really tricky skill to grasp!



Fireworks popped.
Bonfires sparked.
But in the distance, a beast
growled

Her mouth moved.
Her lips opened.
A voice whispered...

Her heart beat.
Her eyes filled with wonder.
Despite her love
he wouldn't choose her because
he didn't believe in love.

Community Events

My name is Emily Chesterman, and I am the Parental Involvement Officer here at Appleton Academy. Another school year has flown by and the summer is here again. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and enjoy time together with your family and friends. I am looking forward to seeing refreshed smiling faces return in September ready to start the new school year again. I will be arranging a coffee morning during the first few weeks of September so would be wonderful to see parents/carers come in for a chat

Please take care of each other and stay safe over the summer.

Emily.chesterman@appletonacademy.co.uk



Bradford City Mela- Free entry Saturday 1 August & Sunday 2 August 12-8pm

A lively weekend celebrating South Asian culture across City Park and Centenary Square with live music, dance, food, arts, crafts and family activities.

Bradford Industrial Museum Friday 28 July 11-3pm

Sports & Games- Giant Connect 4 and Jenga, hula hooping and victorian games.

Tuesday 1 August 11-3pm- Yorkshire Day- Meet the resident washer woman, plant some Yorkshire roses and have a cup of Yorkshire tea.

Bolling Hall Museum Wednesday 26 July 11-3pm

Festival of Archaeology – Take part in excavating on of the archaeological digs containing real and replica artefacts.

Cartwright Hall

Wednesday 2 August 11am-3pm

National Day for Play- 50 things to do, JUMP and HAF activities for all.

The 50 Things To Do team will be at events across the museums over the summer

Bradford Industrial Museum- Friday 28 July, Tuesday 1 August & Wednesday 30 August

Bolling Hall- Wednesday 26 July, Friday 4 August & Wednesday 16 August

Cliffe Castle- Tuesday 25 July & Friday 18 August

Cartwright Hall- Wednesday 2 August

Bradford by the sea

17-27 August 11-4pm City Park

FREE activities including a giant play box, giant games, a sand sculpture trail, deckchairs to sit on and more. Also a chance to win £100 gift card on the day.



Library Events

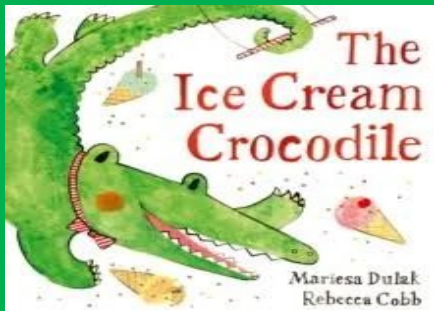
Games Club

Games and has continued this half term. Lego has once again proved very popular. Children have had great design ideas.



Chatterbooks

Our children have been very busy reviewing books for The Reading Agency. One of our favourites was 'The Ice Cream Crocodile'



Bradford Literature Festival

Children from Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed learning about myths, Ancient Egypt and the Universe. Year 3 children met up with one of our regular school visitors, the author Saviour Pirotta



Some special goodbyes....

We are sad to say goodbye to Miss Clayton who is also leaving as she retires this week. For many of us it's hard to imagine the school without her as she has been such a big part of school life for the last 10 years.

On behalf of all the staff, I'd like to say a huge thank you to her for her leadership, support, sense of humour, and for always putting the children at the heart of every decision.

Miss Clayton has helped create a school where children feel happy, safe and encouraged to be the very best version of themselves. That's something we can all be proud of.

What people don't always see is the huge amount of work that happens behind the scenes. The early mornings, the late nights, the difficult decisions and the endless commitment to making this school the best it can be. Miss Clayton has given all of that, and more.

Of course, it's not just about the work. We will also miss the stories, the laughs, the words of encouragement, and the calm presence that has helped so many staff, pupils and families over the years.

Miss Clayton leaves behind a school that is stronger because of the difference she's made and a