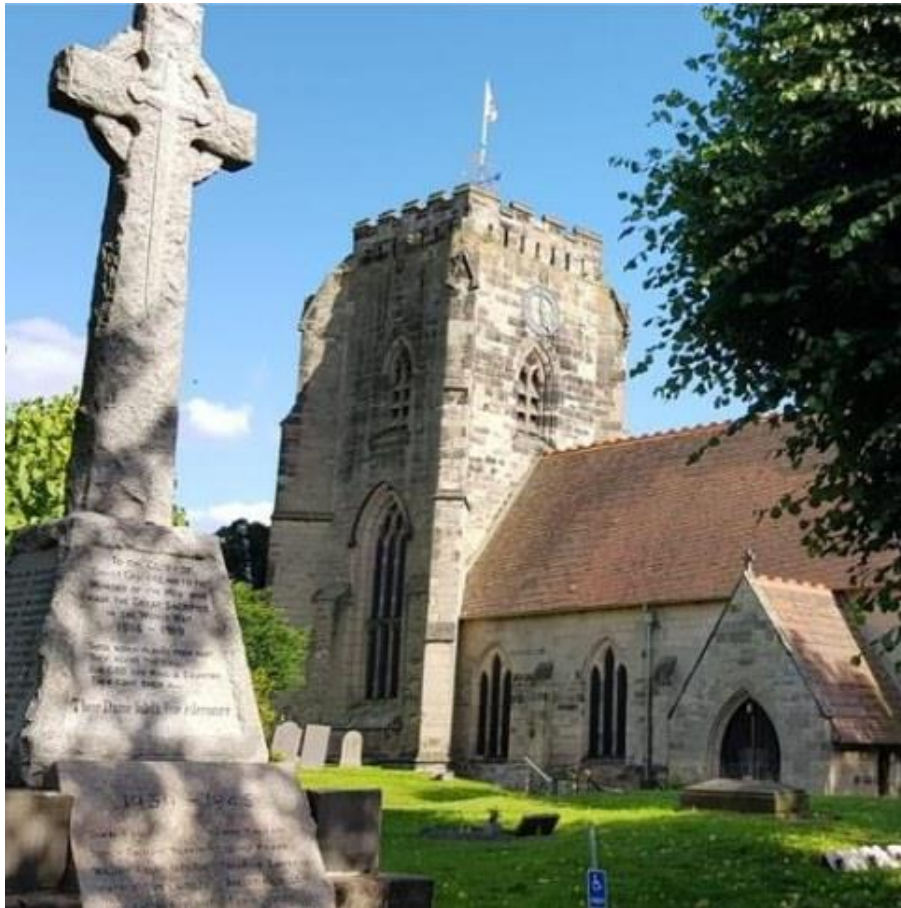




The Nethersole CofE Academy Friday
25th September 2026

Headteacher Welcome



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful two weeks.

As a school, one of our core values is 'community.' I would like to take this opportunity to remind us all of the importance of treating one another with respect, understanding and consideration. We all share the same goal: wanting the very best for every child in our school and ensuring that they are happy, successful and enjoy their time with us.

If you have any concerns about your child, please speak to their class teacher in the first instance. Our staff are always willing to listen and work with you to resolve any issues as quickly as possible. We would much prefer to have a face-to-face conversation or a telephone discussion than exchange lengthy and / or AI generated emails. Open and positive communication helps us to build strong relationships and ensures that any concerns can be addressed effectively.

We greatly value the partnership between home and school and thank you for your continued support. By working together, showing kindness and maintaining open communication, we can continue to provide the very best experiences for all of our children.

Thank you for all that you do to support our school community.

Best wishes,

Warm Regards

Mrs S Goode

Changes to Free School Meals!

You may be aware that, from 1st September 2026, the **Free School Meal Eligibility** has changed.

Your child could be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of the following:

- **Universal Credit**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **Income related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Guarantee element of Pension Credit**

Some families who have no recourse to public funds are also eligible for free school meals, please check out the webpages on the Warwickshire website for more details.

Could we please urge you to scan the QR code on the attached flyer (page 2) to check your eligibility and apply.

To find out more and for help with applying please contact freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk or call freephone: 0800 408 1558

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



School meals are free for lots of families, check if you are eligible to apply!

So much more than lunch...

A free school meal:

- creates healthy eating habits
- improves learning and behaviour
- saves money and time
- helps schools get extra funding

Did you know that claiming free school meals means that your child may get access to free school holiday activities and food?

HAF

To find out more and for help to apply for free school meals, please contact:
freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk
or call freephone: 0800 408 1558



Can I apply?

Your child could be eligible for free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- guarantee element of Pension Credit

You should still apply if your child is aged 4-7 and receives a universal free school meal

Some families who have no recourse to public funds are also eligible for free school meals, please see the webpages below for more details.

Depending on the benefits you receive and your level of income, your child may also get access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme and their school could receive extra funding for them. Find out more and apply at:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fsm



Dates for the Autumn Term 2026

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1 September- INSET day- School closed to all pupils

Wednesday 2 September- INSET day- School closed to all pupils

Thursday 3 September- Children return to school

Tuesday 15 September- Service for Reception children and parents at Polesworth Abbey (9.15am)

Tuesday 22 September and Wednesday 23 September- School photos

Friday 25 September- Macmillan Bake Off and Cake Sale

Tuesday 29 September- Year 1 Parent workshop- Phonics (9.00am)

OCTOBER

Friday 2 October- Reception visit to Packington Farm

Tuesday 6 October- Year 1 and 2 visit to The Black Country Museum

Monday 6 October-Friday 9 October- EYFS Open mornings and afternoons for prospective parents (More details to follow) **Thursday 8 October**- Harvest Festival at Polesworth Abbey (Children only)

Tuesday 13 October- Year 5 and 6 visit to Coventry Transport Museum

Thursday 15 October- Year 3 and 4 Stone Age day in school

Tuesday 20 October- Reception Parent workshop- Phonics (9.00am)

Tuesday 20 October- Parents Evening

Wednesday 21 October- Parents Evening

Friday 23 October- Headteacher Awards (9.00am)

Friday 23 October- Children break up for half-term

NOVEMBER

Monday 2 November- INSET day (School closed to all pupils)

Tuesday 3 November- Children return to school

Tuesday 10 November- Year 3 Parent workshop- Reading fluency (9.00am)

Friday 13 November- Great Athletes afternoon

Friday 20 November- Children In Need

Tuesday 24 November- Year 2 Parent workshop- Reading fluency (9.00am)

Friday 27 November- INSET day (School closed to all pupils)

DECEMBER

Monday 7 December- Evening Carol service at Polesworth Abbey - All children and parents / carers.

Wednesday 9th-Friday 11 December- SEND Reviews

Wednesday 9 December- EYFS Nativity performance (9.15am)

Thursday 10 December- Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 14 December- Christmas production (KS1 parents and grandparents) 1.45pm

Tuesday 15 December- Christmas production (Year 3 and 4 parents) 1.45pm

Wednesday 16 December- Christmas production (Year 5 and 6 parents) 1.45pm

Thursday 17 December- Christmas Service at Polesworth Abbey (Children only)

Thursday 17 December- Christmas Dinner Thursday 17 December- Christmas disco

Friday 18 December- Children break up for Christmas

OPAL Playground



OPAL Play at Lunchtime - We need your help!

As the weather is changing, all the children in the school will need the following:

- **A pair of wellies (named.)**
- **A waterproof jacket / pair of waders / waterproof 'puddle suit.'**

The children will going out for OPAL Play at Lunchtime in ALL weathers!

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. One of the reasons we are developing the programme at Nethersole is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer have many opportunities for play.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

We are delighted to have launched our **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** programme at lunchtime and it has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and engagement. The playground and school grounds has been buzzing with excitement as pupils explore the wide range of new activities, resources and opportunities available to them.

From creative and imaginative play to construction, role play, ball games and teamwork challenges, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Children have embraced the opportunity to make choices about how they spend their playtime, developing their creativity, communication skills, resilience and friendships along the way.

It has been fantastic to see so many happy, active and engaged children at lunchtime, and we are looking forward to continuing to develop our OPAL provision over the coming weeks. Thank you to our staff, pupils and families for supporting this exciting initiative.

Mrs Goode and Miss McManus









Early Adopter Free Breakfast Club

We are continuing to offer our 'FREE' Breakfast Club this term. We hope the children will join us for fresh bagels, crumpets, toast, fresh fruit and fruit juice every morning. We also hope to continue to enjoy spending time outside playing football, using the gym equipment and getting lots of fresh air!

The Early Adopter Free Breakfast Club -

What this means -

1. A free breakfast for all children if families want to access it.
2. 30 minutes of free childcare for all children if families want to access it.
3. Breakfast Club starts at 8.10am and runs until 8.40am Monday to Friday.
4. Booking sessions in advance so that we know how many children to expect. You can book for the whole half term or each week.

Our current Wraparound provision is still be available from 7.40am Monday to Friday, but families accessing this will only be charged for 30 minutes; the second 30 minutes will be free!

Please encourage your children to come along and join us for breakfast.

Booking is now open.

Class Updates - Carle and Donaldson



Nursery

Over the last two weeks, our nursery children have taken part in lots of exciting learning experiences. The children have shared the stories *Owl Babies* and *Peace at Last*, using them as a starting point for their learning. The children have learnt about nocturnal animals and

have discovered interesting facts about owls. To develop their understanding of colour, we went on a colour matching walk around the local area, carefully searching for and matching different colours found in nature and our environment. We also had our first visit to Polesworth Library, where the children took part in a fun and engaging 'Story Stomp' session. The children have also enjoyed a wide range of creative activities linked to our stories, including painting, collage, mark-making and role play. These activities have supported the children's communication, imagination and fine motor skill development. We were also very excited to take part in our first PE lesson, which was based on the story *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The children had great fun climbing, balancing, jumping and moving in different ways as they retold the story. Well done everyone!

Mrs Satchell and the Nursery Team









Class Updates - Anning

We have had a busy couple of weeks in Reception. We have introduced our SODA jobs this week which the children have really enjoyed, these are focusing on fine motor development to support their writing skills. We have started our daily phonics lessons where the children are developing their letter and sound recognition as well as their oral blending skills. We have continued our learning on 'Funnybones' in literacy by acting out parts of the story and practicing how to orally compose sentences but identify what we can see in the illustrations. The children have continued to enjoy Forest School with Mrs Tweed and have been exploring the larger equipment in our outdoor area by building dark, dark houses for the skeletons to live in as well as a skeleton train. We have started our RE lessons which is focusing on special people and in our Jigsaw lessons the children have been learning all about what makes them them. In Maths the children have been developing their counting skills and subitising numbers 1, 2 and 3. They have worked so hard these past couple of weeks and I know they will continue to try their best! Keep going Reception!

Miss Millington





Class Updates - Bond

Bond Class have been incredibly busy over the last couple of weeks! In English, we have been writing character descriptions about toys and thoroughly enjoyed bringing in our own toys to help create a special class book. This week, we have also been rehearsing and performing poems all about toys. In Maths, we have been using our “fast eyes” to practise subitising. Subitising is the ability to recognise how many objects are in a small group without having to count them. We have also been ordering numbers and finding one more and one less using rekenreks. In Art, we have continued exploring primary and secondary colours. We have used a variety of objects and paints to create prints and have produced paintings inspired by the artist Jasper Johns. In Science, we made predictions about the question: *Do taller children have bigger feet?* We then carried out lots of measuring to investigate and discover the answer. In History, we have been learning about schools in the past. We discussed differences in classroom environments, equipment, punishments, and teaching and learning. Bond Class have also been very busy in continuous provision, where they have been independently practising and applying the skills they have been learning in class. Well done, Bond Class. Keep up the great work!

Mrs Tweed, Mrs Wallace and Mrs Craig





Class Updates - Milne

Milne Class have had another busy couple of weeks of learning! In Maths, we have been developing our knowledge of 2-digit numbers and using a range of objects to represent them, thinking carefully about tens and ones. In Art, we have been using our knowledge of

primary and secondary colours to create colourful pictures with paint. In RE, we have been talking about the Golden Rule: “Treat others how you want to be treated,” and considering how we can show kindness, care and respect to others. We also enjoyed our first visit to the school library this year, where the children had the opportunity to explore the library and choose a book to read. It has been another fantastic couple of weeks in Milne Class!

Miss Ennis

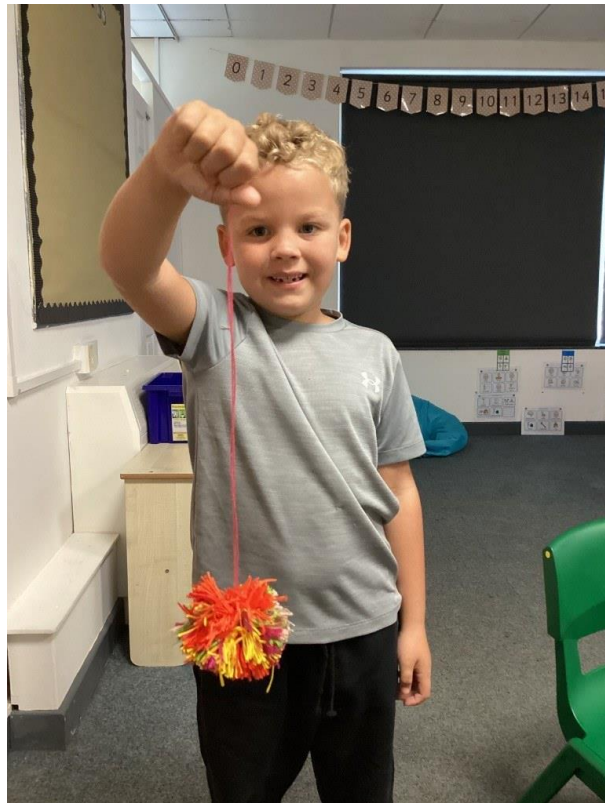




Class Updates - Simmonds

We have had another fantastic few weeks here in Simmonds class! I have been so impressed by the kids and we have worked hard in all areas. We have been reading Little Red, and the children have each written their own retell of the story in comic strip format! They drew lovely pictures to match, and it looked fantastic! In Maths, the children have been completing assessments, and we are about to start our addition work next week. In Science, the children are learning about animal classes including humans, we have had such a funny week, including creating our own animal face where the kids had to order the right food for the right animal, and they did so well! In history we created micro classrooms using shoeboxes, where we make one to look like a modern room, and one to look like a Victorian classroom, then noticing what is the same or different about them. The children have also enjoyed lots of PE, lots of outdoor work, and lots more bucket sessions. We have moved onto a new book called the True Story of the Three Little Pigs, and we will be thinking of our own ending to some traditional tales that we know! The children have seemed to enjoy the last few weeks and we look forward to our upcoming trip too!

Thanks – Miss Sinclair 😊





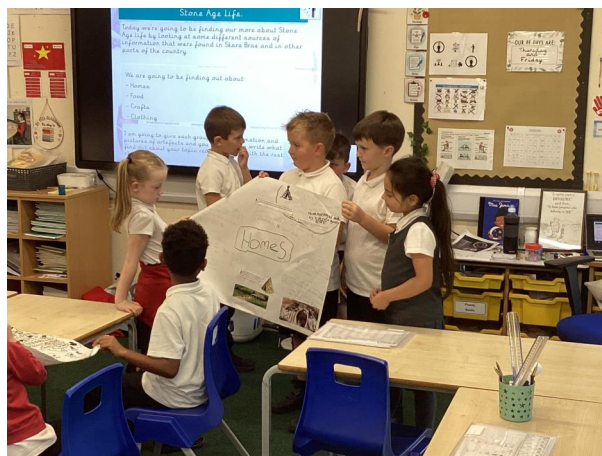


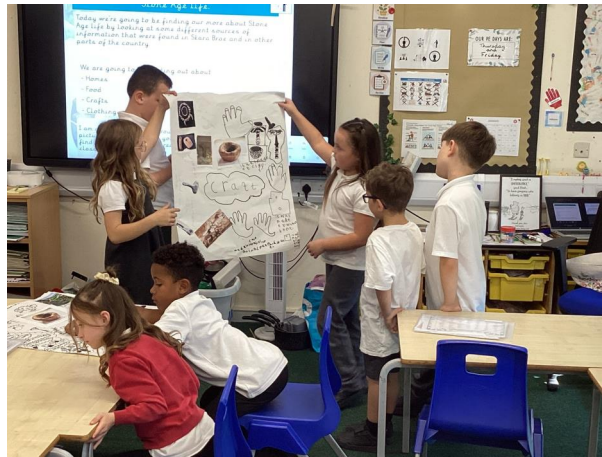
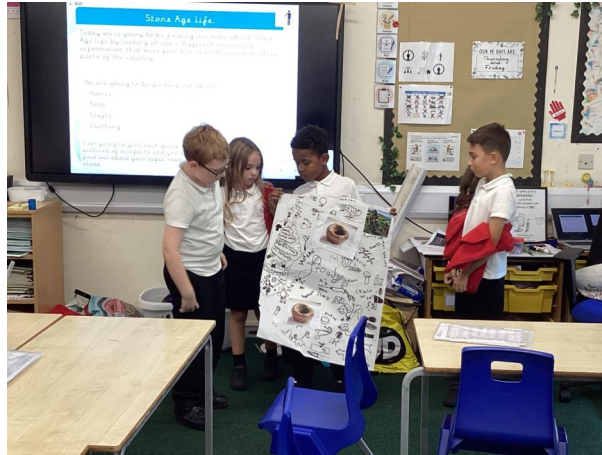


Class Updates - Jemison

It's been a busy couple of weeks in Jemison class! The children have been enjoying investigating our topic of the Stone Age in both History and Art! We have been exploring the Stone Age village of Skara Brae and had a go at exploring artefacts and other primary and secondary sources of information to look for clues about Stone Age life. We found out about crafts, houses, food and clothes. We then presented our findings to the rest of the class. In art, we explored positive and negative spaces to create some Stone Age cave art. In English, we have been writing setting descriptions of Hansel and Gretel's forest and the witches cottage! There have been some fantastic descriptive pieces of work! In maths we have continued to explore place value and have been learning all about efficient ways to subtract numbers. In science, we used venn diagrams to present our findings on whether stingrays are fish or mammals. Keep up the hard work Jemison!

Mrs Johnson









Attenborough

It has been another busy two weeks for Attenborough Class! It has been so lovely to see the children continue to settle into year 4 and their personalities coming out in the classroom more each day!

We are on our final week of Hansel and Gretel, the children are working hard to write their setting description focusing on the forest floor, the trees and the cottage. I have been so impressed with their ideas and use of writing features, particularly single and multi-clause sentences.

In maths, we have finished column addition and have moved onto column subtraction. Year 4 are really impressing me with their knowledge in maths. They have been able to use Base-10 to show me what they know before showing the abstract method of column subtraction. As well as Mastering Number, we have introduced a short, daily session focusing on multiplications. This is not only benefitting the children's knowledge of multiplication in their maths lessons but is preparing them for our multiplication check as we reach the end of year 4. We will be masters before we know it!

Miss Bennett

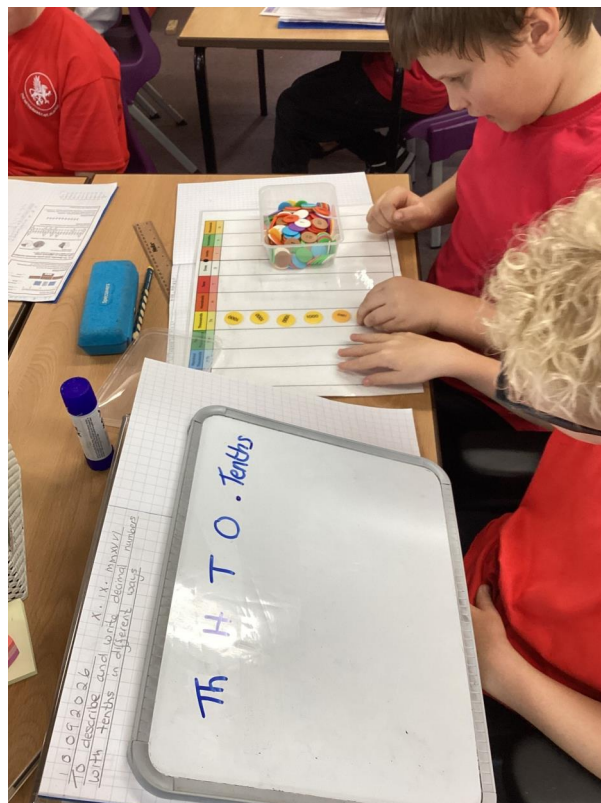




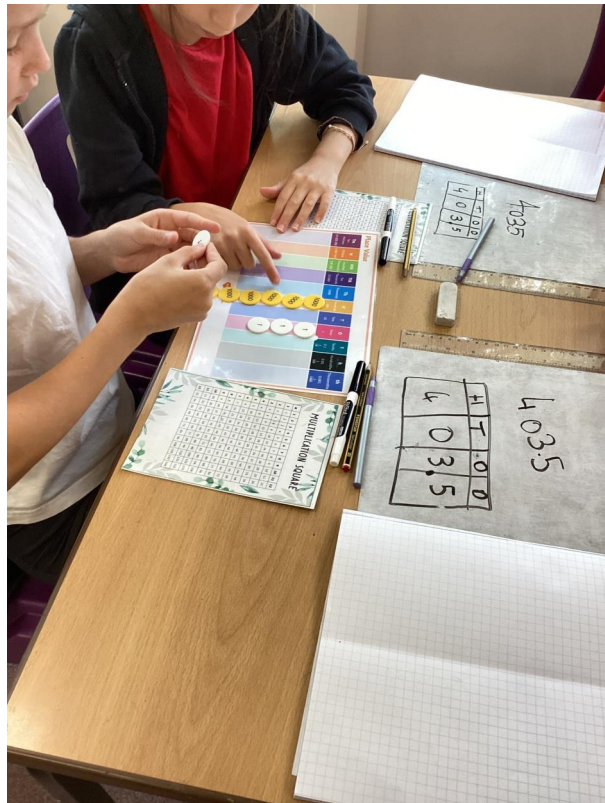
Benjamin

It has been a very busy couple of weeks in Benjamin class. In maths, we have explored how tenths relate to fractions and decimals, identified tenths of quantities and used place value knowledge to represent and compare numbers with tenths. In PE, we have been playing hockey and developing our skills in passing, dribbling, controlling the ball and working as part of a team. In art, we have been working on self-portraits. We thoroughly enjoyed creating our background using different techniques, colours, materials and placement. We have also been extremely busy bringing in lots of equipment for OPAL Play and have enjoyed our additional playtimes as a reward. Well done, Benjamin!

Mrs McShane











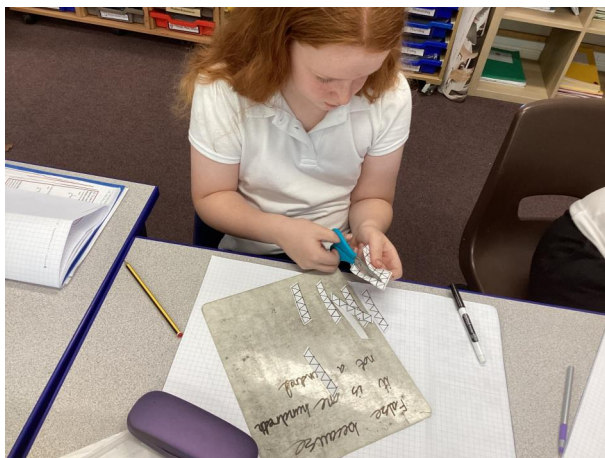
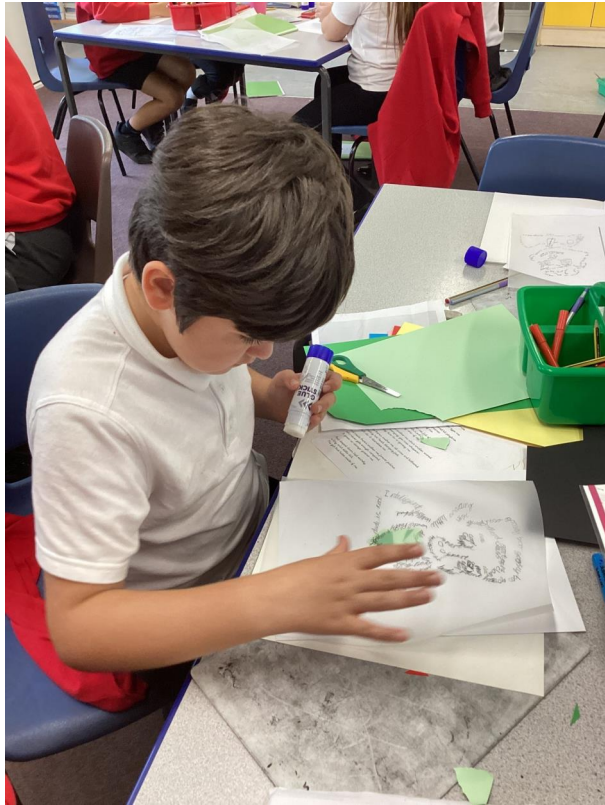
Zephaniah

We've been working hard the past couple of weeks in Zephaniah. We have thoroughly enjoyed our book, 'Rose Blanche', based on which we have written a diary entry from the perspective of Rose. In Maths, we have continued with our focus on decimals and have just moved onto looking at hundredths. In PE, we have been developing our hockey skills and started playing some matches to end our hockey unit! In Art, we have been developing our poem portraits, which are fabulous. In History, we have been so enthusiastic learning about World War II - I have been blown away by the children's questions and knowledge. In Science, we have been classifying animals, looking at vertebrates and invertebrates. Our RE lessons have focused on a variety of worldviews, specifically philosophers and 'The Nones'. We have been developing our stop motion skills in Computing and learning the basics of phonics in our French lessons. The children are beginning to settle into Year 5!

Miss Hale



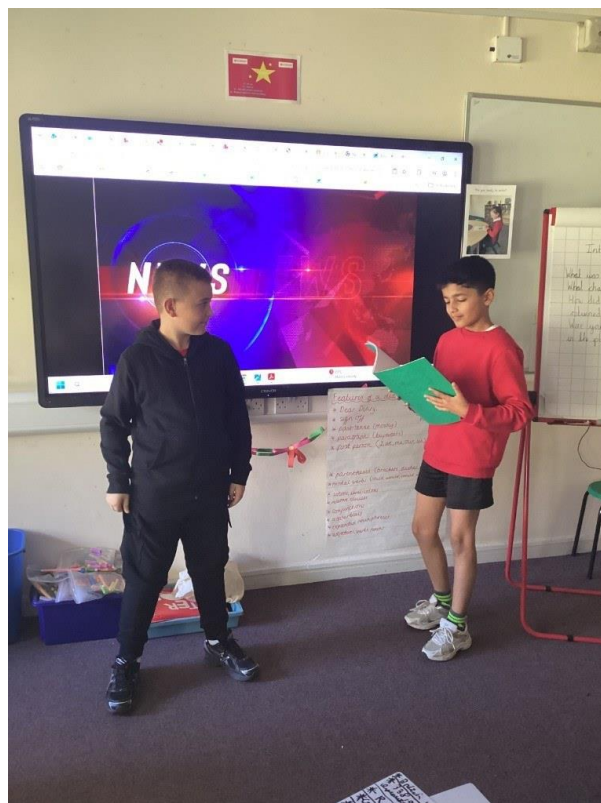


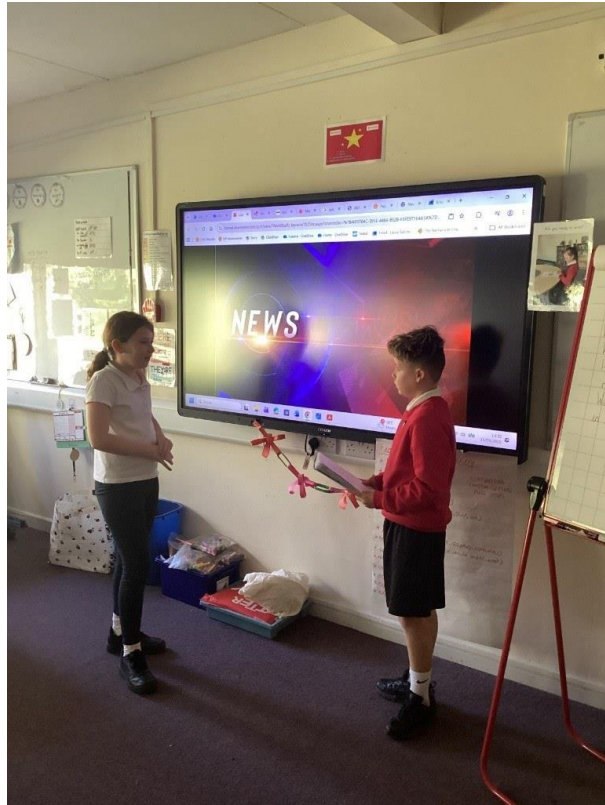


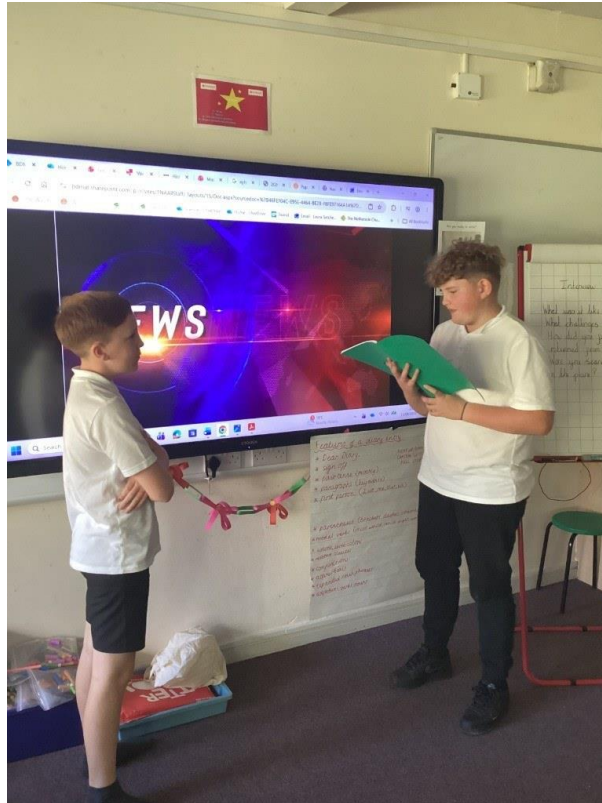
Rosen

Rosen have had a fantastic fortnight and have continued working hard across the curriculum. In English, they have continued to read Rose Blanche and have come up with some brilliant ideas for their diary entries. We have now finished the story and the children absolutely loved it, despite the sad ending! This links with our history, which Mrs Satchell said they were really engrossed in! They have learnt more about the Battle of Britain and enjoyed role-playing as interviewers, posing questions to members of the RAF. In maths, we have been using the number rods to identify equivalents and solve missing number problems, writing equations using some simple algebra! In PSHE, we have considered our rights and studied the lives of children working on cocoa plantations in Ghana, who do not have their rights met in the same way as us. In PE, we are enjoying our hockey lessons and in art, we have continued to build on our poem portraits. In addition to all of this, many members of Rosen are enjoying their new roles as Prefects, House Captains and Worship Councillor, and Miss Deakin said that all of the class were fantastic with their new reception buddies on their walk to Polesworth Abbey! A huge "well done!" this week, from Miss Deakin, Mrs Satchell, Mrs Thomas and myself - keep up the good work!

Miss Smith







Sport

On Tuesday 22nd September, we had a fantastic day at a cricket tournament in Atherstone. Our team was truly out of this world and we were delighted to win the tournament! The teams fielding was second to none and their teamwork throughout the day was outstanding. Every player showed great determination, sportsmanship and support for one another, making us incredibly proud of their achievement.

Well done to everyone involved on a well-deserved victory!

Miss McManus







School Uniform and PE Uniform

PE Reminder

Please make sure children come prepared with the correct PE kit:

T-shirts: Red or white with or without the school badge (**no logos**)

Bottoms: Black shorts, joggers, or leggings (**no logos**)

Jackets: Plain black (**no logos**)

Safety Reminder

Earrings and necklaces must be removed before PE.

Hair should be tied up securely.

As the winter months approach, we'll continue to get outside as much as possible. To keep warm and comfortable, children may also bring: rain coats / gloves.

Children may want to bring a change of shoes and socks too.

Thank you for your support with this.

Miss McManus.

School Council - Attendance, Punctuality and Absence

As we continue this half term, we would like to take a moment to emphasise the importance of regular and consistent school attendance. Research shows a clear link between good attendance and strong progress at school; children who attend every day are more able to keep up with their learning, build confidence, develop friendships, and make the most of the opportunities school offers.

To help encourage excellent attendance—and to celebrate the children for their efforts—we are excited to introduce **two weekly attendance rewards**:



The Nethersole Attendance Bear

Each week during our Shine Worship, the class with the highest attendance will be awarded **the Nethersole Attendance Bear**. The bear will spend the week in their classroom as a symbol of the children's commitment to being in school and ready to learn. We hope this friendly competition creates a sense of pride and teamwork across all classes.

🔪 Weekly 100% Attendance Raffle Tickets

We recognise that achieving 100% attendance across a whole half term can be challenging, especially when children may occasionally be unwell. To make our attendance rewards fair

and achievable for everyone, **every child who attends school 100% in a given week will receive a raffle ticket.**

At the end of the half term, we will draw a selection of tickets from the jar and award prizes to the lucky winners.

This means **every week is a fresh opportunity**, and all children have the chance to succeed and be recognised.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together to promote good attendance, we can ensure every child has the best possible start to their learning this year.