George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first week back at school it has been wonderful to see the children settle straight back into routines so positively, despite the disruption of the snow and icy weather at the start of the week. As always, the children have returned with enthusiasm and a great attitude to their learning.

It has also been lovely to see so many Year 6 children taking up our early morning club offer this week. The engaging and positive start it provides has been a real pleasure to see, and we are delighted with how well the children are working on practising and consolidating their maths skills.

This month, we are focusing on our school value of ***Kindness***. On Tuesday, during our first whole-school assembly of the year, we launched a month of kind acts, encouraging children to think about how small actions can make a big difference to others. Please do ask your child about this and the ways they are being encouraged to show kindness both in school and beyond.

With the colder weather continuing, we would like to remind families to ensure children come to school with warm winter clothing, including coats, scarves, hats, gloves and any other suitable items. Please also make sure that all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name, as this greatly helps us return items quickly if they become misplaced.

We currently have a small amount of lost property. Please see the photo below — if you recognise any items that belong to your child, they can be collected from the school office.



Thank you for your continued support as we begin the spring term. We are looking forward to the weeks ahead and all the exciting learning opportunities planned.

This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week. Each individual child's attendance counts towards this.

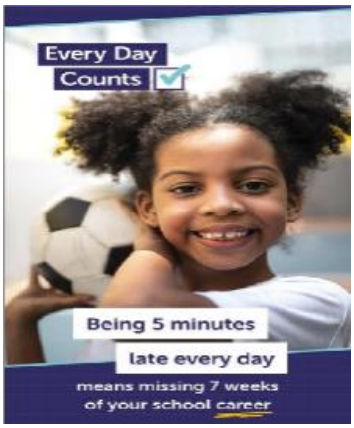
Well-done to 4B this week, for having the highest attendance.

6E: 94%
6W: 92%
5W: 96%
5D: 83%
4T: 96%
4B: 97%
3C: 93%
3L: 91%

Whole school attendance for this week: 93%

School Target: 96%

This week you will have received the 'Attendance Quick Guide for Parents'. This includes details of how to report pupil absence and key timings of the school day. Please remember the gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:50.



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Thorpe, Miss Whing, Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

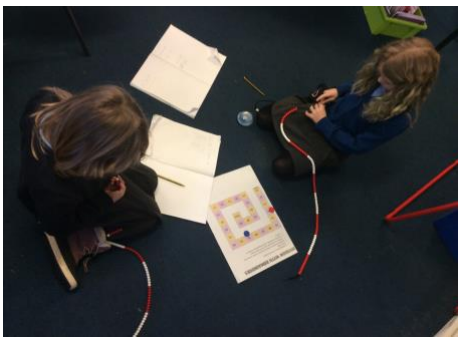
CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020



Look at what we're learning

Year 3

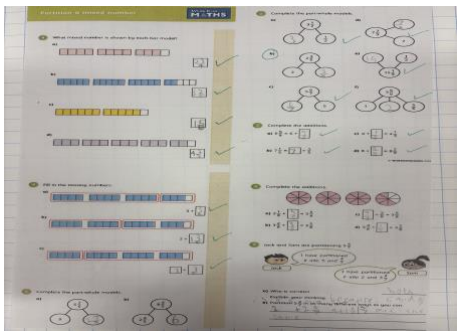
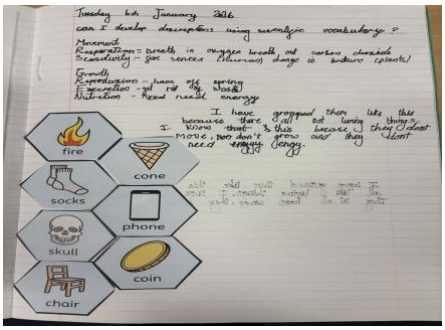
Year 3 have come back to school with enthusiasm and energy. We have already covered so much learning! In science we have begun to learn about what forces are and explore how they can make objects move and change direction or shape. In maths, the children are now dividing a two-digit number by a one-digit number with an exchange. We are so proud of their hard work.

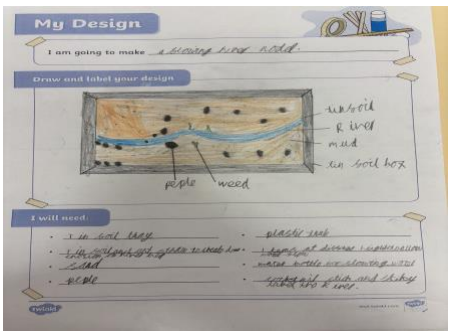




Year 4

The children have had a fantastic first week back at school, settling back into their routines and showing great enthusiasm for the new topics, they will be learning this half term. In Maths, we have begun a new unit on fractions, and in English we are exploring diary entries linked to *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

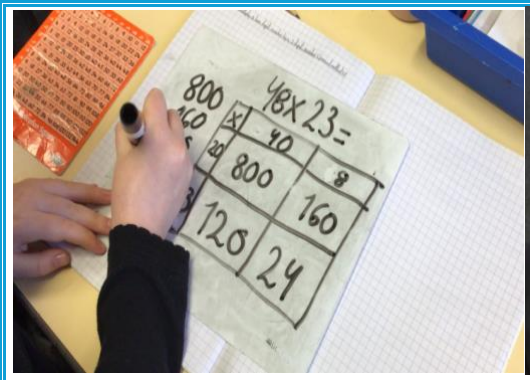
In Science, we are learning about habitats. On Tuesday, the children learned about MRS GREN and used this to help identify living and non-living things. In DT this half term, the children will be designing and making a working river model, and we look forward to exploring the outcome.

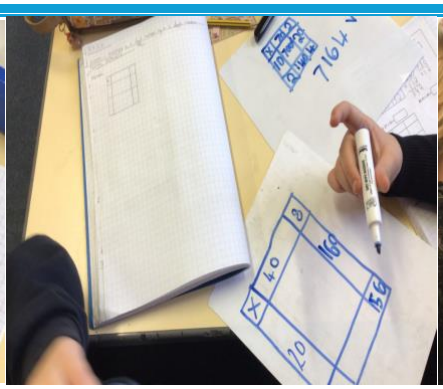





Year 5

Year 5 have made a great start to the spring term. They have been working hard in maths, confidently practising 2-by-2 digit multiplication and getting ready to move on to 3-by-2, using a range of methods and comparing their efficiency. In music, it's been a fantastic start too, with pupils building on the drumming skills they developed last term. Well done, Year 5!





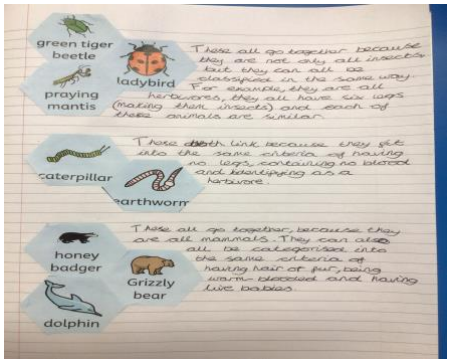

Year 6

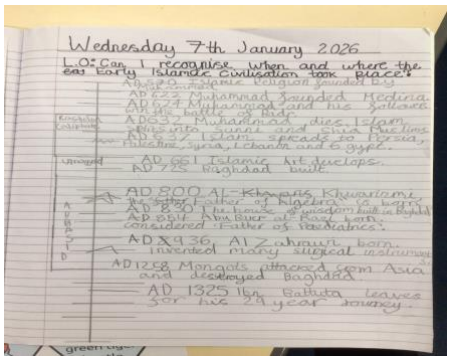
Year 6 have made a really great start to the new term. In maths we have been focussing on several different topics, including ratio, fractions and calculations.

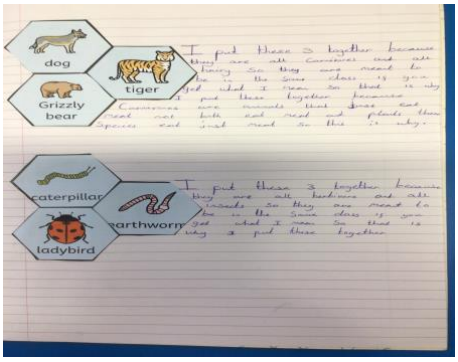
In our English work this week we have begun to look at newspapers. We have analysed a good example and looked for key features. We have focussed on using hyphens to avoid ambiguity and create clarity.

In History, we have begun to learn about Early Islamic Civilisation, looking at key events and vocabulary.

Our Science this term is all about classifying animals, and we have looked at different ways to classify animals according to different criteria.

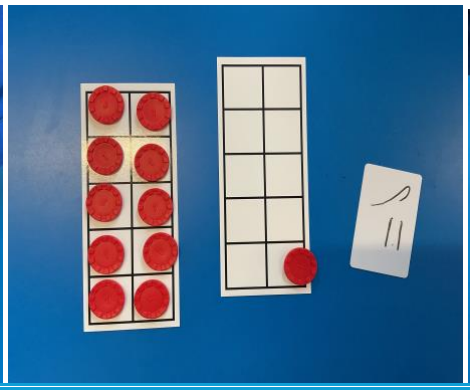
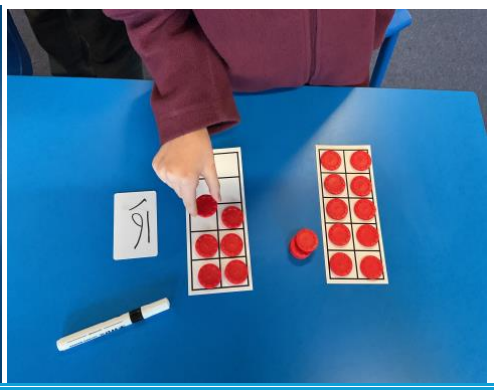






SRB

Children in the SRB have been learning how to use our new maths equipment this week and have recognised that a full tens frame means they don't need to count to 10 each time. It is helping with place value and number order. We will also be able to use this equipment for other maths skills. The children were very sensible and showed our school value of respect by taking it in turns. A great start to the new year!

Dates for the Diary 2025/2026

Tuesday 20th January	Open Classroom for all year groups 3.20pm
Tuesday 27th January 2026.	Year 5 Virtual Reality (VR) Experience Day
Tuesday 27th January	Year 6 SATs Parent Meeting 3.30pm
Friday 6th February	Year 3 Cake Sale
Tuesday 10Th February	Parents Evening 3.30 - 5.00pm
Wednesday 11th February	Parents Evening 3.30 -7.00pm
Friday 13th February	End of Term at 3.20pm
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	Half term holiday
Monday 23rd February	Back to school – gates open at 8:30am
Monday 23rd February	Year 4 Multiplication Timetable Check Meeting with Parents at 3.30pm
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day – Details to follow
Tuesday 17th March	Open Classroom for all year groups 3.20pm
Thursday 26th March	Easter Bonnet Competition and parade
Friday 27th March	End of Spring Term – 3.20pm
Tuesday 14th April	Start of Summer term 1 – gates open at 8.30am
Monday 4th May	Bank holiday Monday – school is not open on this day