

NEWSLETTER

February
2021



funded by

believe
housing

We are thrilled to announce that our outside area is complete! Thank you so much to @believehousing for funding most of this project –

*Whatever the Weather,
We'll Be Together.*

We now have a fabulous outdoor area for children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 which will also be used for Community Groups. Whatever the weather, our children and families really will be able to get together (distanced at first) and enjoy a wealth of outdoor activities.



Before

After



Snow FUN



All children in school have been working extremely hard but have taken some breaks outside to have lots of fun in the snow!







Safer Internet Day 2021

Safer Internet Day 2021 was celebrated in the UK with the theme:

An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.

There's lots of opportunities for children and young people online, but it's not always easy to work out what's reliable and know how to spot misinformation.

The campaign focused on how we can decide what to trust online, supporting young people to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It explored how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.



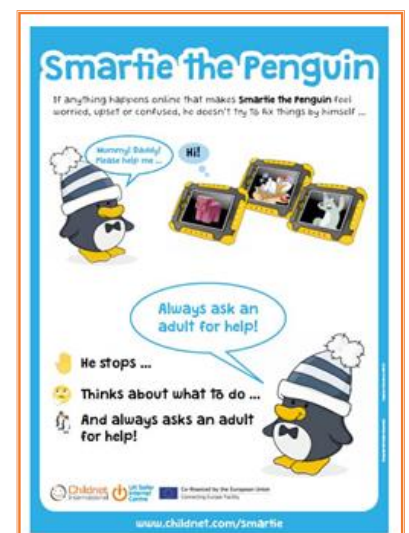
Safer
Internet
Day 2021

Tuesday
9th February

saferinternetday.org.uk

Nursery went on an adventure with Smartie the Penguin who helped them to think about staying safe online. Well done Charlotte for your Smartie the Penguin work. Why don't you go on an adventure with Smartie?

Click: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin/fun-smartie-the-penguin-activities>



Safer Internet Day 2021

Jack from Class 2 created a super poster at home about being careful what you believe online.



Fake or real?



Don't believe everything you read online!

Class 4 looked at the reliability of the internet and motives behind advertising. They discussed vocabulary such as 'merch', 'unboxing', 'affiliate links' and 'giveaways' and how all of these are methods used to influence us online. They considered the motives behind posts online and how these affect the reliability of offers and reviews.

CRITICAL THINKING

ASK is this relevant?
Is this helpful? What do other people think?

BASE is this factual?
Does this match what we know already?

CHECK where did this come from? Can you trust the source?



Make sure it adds up

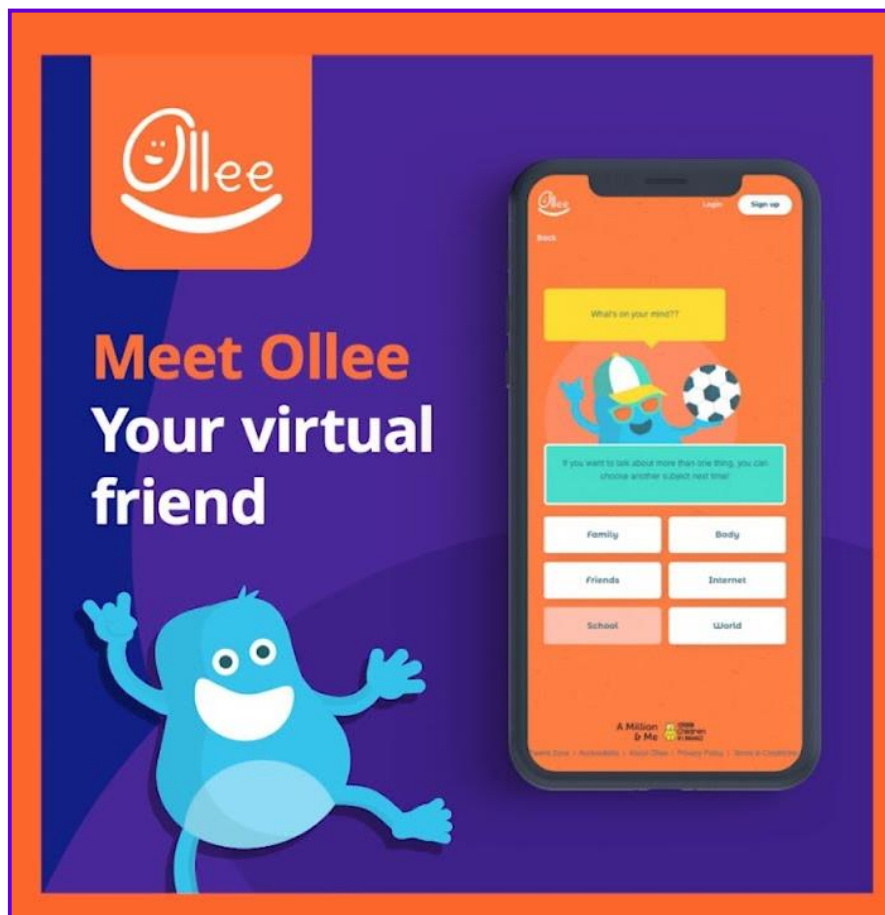
In times of social distancing more than ever, we need to join forces together for a better internet.



Ollee' is a free-to-use virtual friend app tailored for children aged 8-11 that helps them think about their feelings, and then seek the support of their parents/carers. Parents/Carers can also use it to get advice and support about topics that they think their child might need support with.

Ollee was created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing.

Check out more info by clicking the picture:





We have a Science challenge for you all for over half term!

The next two pages in the newsletter have some fun science activities for you to try at home over half term. All you need to do is take some photographs or a video of your family completing these activities, with a short explanation, and email them to

laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net

We will select our favorite entries who will win a £10 Amazon voucher — just for having fun with Science!



Get investigating,
good luck and email
your entries in by
Sunday 21st February.

SCIENCE FUN AT HOME

SCIENCE FUN AT HOME



Have some fun at home with
these science activities from
Science Sparks and the
Primary Science Teaching Trust



BEFORE YOU START! Please read through this with an adult:

- * Make sure you have read the 'IMPORTANT NOTICE' on the back of this page.
- * If you have a space outside that you can use safely, then you can do the 'Try this outdoors' activity outside. Don't worry if not as you could still do it indoors.
- * Talk to your adult about sharing the science you have done and if they want to share on social media, please tag @ScienceSparks and @pstt_whyhow and use #ScienceFromHome

SCIENCE IN STORIES

1 TRY THIS INDOORS ... Mirror writing

In the story of Alice Through the Looking Glass, Alice climbs through a mirror and finds everything happens backwards, including writing! Have a go at some backwards writing: start by writing your name as usual and then look at it in a mirror where it will appear to be backwards. Then have a go at writing your name *backwards* and check in the mirror to see if it now appears to be the right way round. Try writing some other words.

You will need

- * Paper
- * Pencil
- * Mirror
- * Felt tip pens
- * Bucket or large bowl of water
- * Recycled or junk materials
- * Sticky tape or string
- * Small toy

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?

Things to talk about ...

Is it easier to write some letters than others?
What happens if you try to use the hand that
isn't the one you usually write with? As an extra
challenge, can you write backwards with one
hand and forwards with the other?!



2 TRY THIS OUTDOORS ... Make a raft for The Gingerbread Man

In the story of The Gingerbread Man, he is eaten by a fox as he tries to cross a river. Can you help the Gingerbread Man cross the river safely by making him a raft out of junk or recycled materials? Test your raft in a bucket or large bowl of water. Can it carry a small toy without sinking?

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?

Things to talk about ...

Which materials make the best raft? Why do you think they are better at floating? Can you add anything to the raft to help it float? What happens if you put a heavier toy on the raft?



3

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE?

When we look in the mirror, we see objects because light is reflected from them to the mirror and back to our eyes. The light will be reflected at the same angle as it hits the mirror which means that the object will appear to be flipped horizontally. If you write a word on a piece of paper and hold it up to a mirror the letters are backwards, but they are still the right way up. We call this a mirror image. Only mirrors that are perfectly smooth and flat give a mirror image.

Objects float on water if they are less dense than water. Just because something is heavy doesn't mean it is dense. For example, ships are heavy but not dense. Density refers to how tightly packed the materials inside an object are. Bubble wrap is not dense, but a potato is dense. A potato dropped in water will sink, but if you reduce its density by wrapping it in bubble wrap it will float.

4

MORE ACTIVITIES YOU COULD TRY

GROW A BEAN FOR JACK www.science-sparks.com/bean-in-a-jar

SCIENCE THROUGH STORIES www.wowscience.co.uk/teaching-science-through-stories/

EXPLORE MIRRORS AND LIGHT www.pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Starters-for-Science

TAKE A SCIENCE SELFIE! Maybe you could show other people what you have been doing?

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Science Sparks and The Primary Science Teaching Trust are not liable for the actions or activity of any person who uses the information in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources. Science Sparks and The Primary Science Teaching Trust assume no liability with regard to injuries or damage to property that may occur as a result of using the information and carrying out the practical activities contained in this resource or in any of the suggested further resources.

These activities are designed to be carried out by children working with a parent, guardian or other appropriate adult. The adult involved is fully responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out safely.



Michael Morpurgo Month – February 2021

We celebrated Michael Morpurgo Month in school and at home.

Each class selected one of Michael Morpurgo's books:

Nursery – Wombat Goes Walkabout

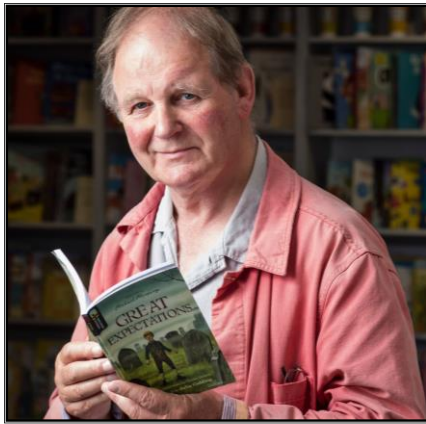
Class 1 – Pigs Might Fly

Class 2 – Hansel and Gretel

Class 3 Flamingo Boy and Dear Olly

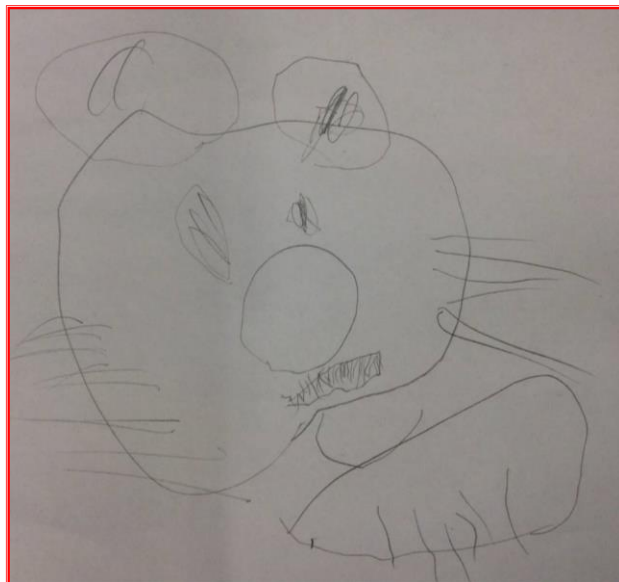
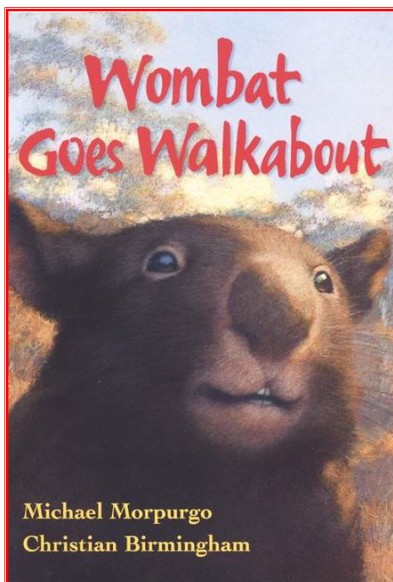
Class 4 – Kensuke's Kingdom

michael morpurgo

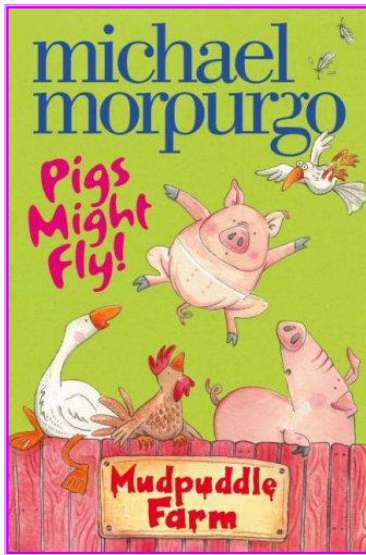


**Nursery selected
Wombat Goes Walkabout**

One day, Wombat digs the deepest hole he's ever dug and crawls into the cool darkness to think. But when he climbs out again, he can't see his mother anywhere. As he wanders through the great outback looking for her, Wombat meets all kinds of wonderful creatures. Mrs Lawson has read the story for all Nursery to enjoy and you can still listen by looking on your Class Dojo.

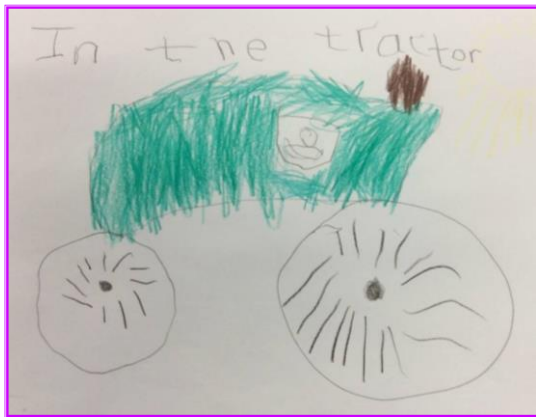


**Sophie's
fabulous
drawing
of the
wombat**

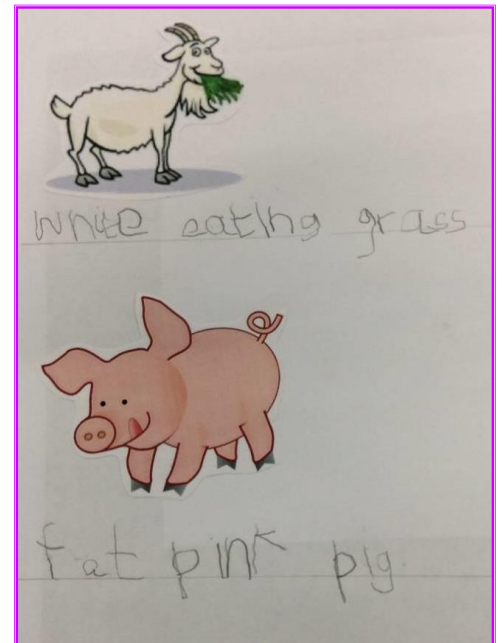


Class 1 chose Pigs Might Fly

It's a super scorching summer and Pintsize is boiling hot! The birds look much cooler, gliding up in the sky, so the piglet decides to learn to fly. But he keeps crash landing. The other animals are fed up being squished as he plummets to the ground, so Albertine the goose asks her buzzard friend to teach mischievous Pintsize a lesson.

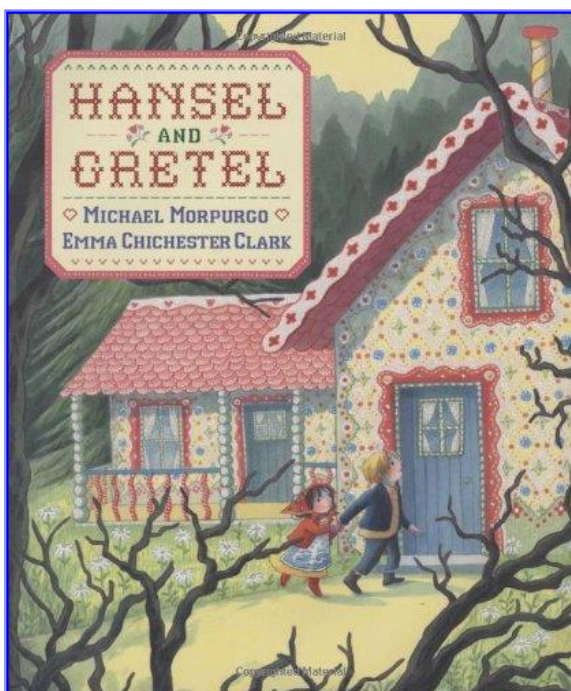


Well done to Imogen who would hide in the tractor and to Kris who wrote some super captions.



Children wrote descriptive captions for the animals in the story. They also practised their use of prepositions such as on, under and behind whilst they described where they would hide to get away from the sun, just like the animals.

michael morpurgo



Class 2 chose Hansel and Gretel

Michael Morpurgo retells this fairy tale about a witch, the breadcrumb trail and the gingerbread house in the forest.

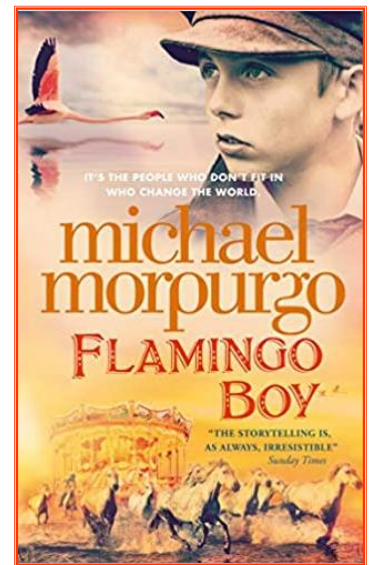
Children in Class 2 read an extract from Hansel and Gretel before writing their own character descriptions of another character.

Miss Mills was especially pleased with Sophie and Madyson's character descriptions. Well done!



Class 3 chose Flamingo Boy

Class 3 read an excerpt from this story set in the South of France during WW2, all about a boy who lives on his parents' farm among the salt flats, and the flamingos that live there. They discussed the feelings of the people in the book and how it would feel to be them before creating pictures of what they thought the rebuilt Charbonneau Carousel would have looked like.



Class 4 chose Kensuke's Kingdom

Class 4 read an extract from Kensuke's Kingdom which tells the story of a boy shipwrecked and alone... or so he thinks!

They looked at the way Michael Morpurgo brought to life the jungle at night through his description of noises and how he created a vivid picture in the reader's mind of the island itself through his use of powerful language. Their task was to use figurative and powerful language to bring a place they knew or could imagine to life in the same way.





You can help create a positive environment for your child to learn at home by:

Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.

At the end of the day, have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.

Create and stick to a routine.

Provide the correct equipment in order for your child to complete the work given.

Designate a working space if possible.

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day to keep your child active.

Be aware of what your child is being asked to do, including sites they will be asked to use

Emphasise the importance of a safe online environment.

Set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on.

Encourage your child to work to the best of their ability and praise their efforts.

If you are having trouble with your technology then please let us know. We may very well be able to loan a laptop for you to use during home learning. We will set it up ready for your child to use with all their accounts.

Please, just call and ask. 0191 3868416

To read more about our remote learning, visit our website:

<https://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/remote-learning>



Reading



Oxford
Reading
Buddy

Don't forget about our online reading system for children to use at home. Oxford Reading Buddy is a digital reading service that develops comprehension skills and encourages a love of reading.

It matches pupils with books at the right level and tracks performance across hundreds of Oxford's print and digital books as they complete comprehension quizzes. All children have their own Reading Buddy to coach comprehension skills and they will earn badges for working well. Every child has their own log in. If you need another copy of the log in, please email your child's class teacher, call the school office or email on laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net



For more information, please look here:

<https://support.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/parent-support/>



Do you have or know of a child who is nearly two and would like to book a place in our nursery to start the term after their second birthday? Do you have or know of any two, three or four year olds who would like to begin their learning journey in our school nursery? Even though schools are closed to most children for a few weeks longer, you can still book a nursery place for your child. The next few pages of the newsletter explain the offers and places we have in our school nursery so please give us a ring to discuss a place for your child. If you would like your child to start in the school nursery, you will need to call 0191 3868416 and ask to speak to Gaynor Davison or Chris Lawson. You can also email laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net We'd love to hear from you.



[Click to read our school nursery brochure and find out more about our fabulous nursery.](#)



If you have a nursery aged child and you would like them to start in our fabulous nursery, you need to come into school to complete our application form and arrange a visit.

This is the only way your child can start their learning journey in our school nursery.

If you are interested in any places for two, three or four-year-olds, please call in at the office, call school on 0191 3868416 or e mail laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net to arrange a visit or to check your eligibility code for your two-year-old.

We'd love to hear from you.



*We currently have some spaces available for three and four-year olds at the start of the week (full days Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9.00 – 12.00), end of the week (Wednesday afternoon 12.15 – 3.15, full days Thursday and Friday), five mornings (9.00 – 12.00) and five afternoons (12.15 – 3.15 pm). **Some sessions are nearly full.** Every three and four-year-old is eligible for fifteen hours of free Nursery provision.*

We take children in straight after their third birthday.

Application forms are available from the school office or our website.

Your two-year-old can get free play and learn sessions (15 hours) if you get one of the following benefits:

Income Support

Jobseeker's Allowance

Support for a 'Looked After' child

Child Tax credits - income below

£16,190

Guaranteed Element

of State Pension Credit

Support under the Immigration and

Asylum Act 1999

Employment and Support Allowance

– income related

Disability Living Allowance (child)

Working Tax Credits and earn no

more than £16,190

Current Education, Health and Care

Plan (child)

Special Guardianship, or an

adoption, or Residence Order



Your 2-year-old may be entitled to 15 hours per week of funded childcare and early education



How do you apply?

Bring your golden ticket into our school office and we will tell you when your child can start.

If you don't have a golden ticket, visit:

<https://education.durham.gov.uk/parentportal/> where you can check whether you are eligible.

If you are eligible you will then receive a letter which you should bring into school.

Places will be available at the start of the term after their second birthday.

Application forms are available from school.

FREE childcare

From September 2017



for **working parents**

of 3 and 4 year olds for up to 30 hours a week

Find out if you are eligible at
www.durham.gov.uk/earlyyears



30 HOURS

FUNDED CHILDCARE

If you think that you are eligible, and you would like to extend your child's education in our nursery to 30 hours, please visit www.durham.gov.uk/earlyyears to find out or look here for more information <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Our School Nursery takes children for the full 30 hours so please make enquiries at the office or with Ms Davison or Mrs Lawson, to discuss this.

Thank you.



The General Data Protection Regulations provide you with legal rights over the personal data our school holds about you and your child. Every year, we share the following guide with children to explain what personal data is, which data we hold and why we hold it. We thought you might like to see for yourself.

What is my personal Data?

Your **Personal Data** is information about you. It includes your name, where you live, your picture, information about what you like and dislike and medicines you need.

What personal Data does the school have and what do they do with it?



NAME	*	*
DATE OF BIRTH	*	*



Your Name, Address and Date of Birth

Your school marks and records

Your medical information

Things we need to know to keep you safe

Your picture

We collect it as part of our job to educate you and because

...the law says we have to know who goes to our school.

... we need to know what you already know

... to help to keep you well and so we know what to do if you are poorly

... we have to make sure our children are safe

So people we work with can recognise you

We share it with..

We have to let the council and the government know who goes to our school and how they are doing.



Department for Education



We let the council know information to help keep you safe



We share data with Doctors and the NHS

We keep it

Until we pass it to the next school you go to or...



If it is needed for our records, ask Mrs Walters



If you want to know more, or you think we have got some of your data wrong then please talk to Mrs Walters

IMPORTANT

Please let us know if your personal details have changed, including home address and telephone numbers, so that we are confident that we are sending information to the correct recipient. Also, you are able to change your consent for the use of your child's photographs at any time. Please contact the office to make any changes, thank you.



Star Pupils These children have been selected this half term to be Stars by their teachers for many different reasons, including excellent work and effort during lessons at school and at home.

Nursery: Charlotte, Phebe, Zara, Ivor,
Sophie and Brian



Class 1: Luke, Hollie, Emily, Evie-Mae, Kris,
Mylo and Imogen

Class 2: Emma, Savannah, Hamoodie, Catherine,
Jaxon R and Tom



Class 3A: Faith, Finley, Leo, Alisha,
Lilyan and Simon



Class 3B: Samual, Kayden, Luke, Matthew,
Kane and Avika





Class 4: Saliha, Logan, Grace, Zac, Kaiden and
Jaydan T



Ms Davison: Leah, Rosie, Logan C, Levi, Riley
and Jasmine E



School Holidays 2021/2022

<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Closing Date</i>	<i>Date Re-opens</i>
Summer 2021 (6 weeks 3 days) 	Friday 16 th July 2021	Thursday 2nd September 2021
Autumn Half-Term 2021 (1 week) 	Friday 22nd October 2021	Monday 1 st November 2021
Teacher Training Day (1 day) 	Thursday 25 th November 2021	Monday 29 th November 2021
Christmas 2021 (2 weeks 3 days) 	Friday 17 th December 2021	Thursday 6 th January 2022
Spring Half-Term 2022 (1 week) 	Friday 18 th February 2022	Monday 28 th February 2022
Easter 2022 (2 weeks) 	Friday 8 th April 2022	Monday 25 th April 2022
May Day 2022 (1 day) 	Friday 29 th April 2022	Tuesday 3 rd May 2022
Summer Half-Term 2022 (1 Week) 	Friday 27 th May 2022	Monday 6 th June 2022
Teacher Training Day (1 day) 	Thursday 23 rd June 2022	Monday 27 th June 2022
Summer 2022 	Thursday 21 st July 2022	To be determined

*These dates only relate to
 Laurel Avenue Community Primary School and Nursery.
 Each school in the area may have slightly different closing
 and re-opening dates.*

♡ We hope that you all have a happy
and relaxing half term next week.

♡ Stay safe.

