

NEWSLETTER

22 October 2020

Hello
Autumn



It was so great to be able to open our school doors to all of our children in September. Classrooms have once again been filled with smiles, laughter and fun. We have focused on well-being, settling into our new routines and hygiene procedures, as well as diving straight back into lessons and the wide range of knowledge, skills and excitement that our curriculum brings. We are so proud of how well our children have returned to school, ready to get back on with learning and enjoying being with their friends again.

LET'S GO OUTSIDE AND LEARN

Miss Mills has started working with Class 2 on Forest School activities, taking the class out into the world outside, come rain or shine, to get hands-on with the natural environment.



Every child will wear their own waterproof rain suit during Forest School activities this year so they really can get out all year round whatever the weather!



They collected many beautiful leaves full of the colours of autumn, ready to create some leaf art back in the classroom.

What fabulous fun they have had during their introduction to Forest Schools. We are looking forward to seeing their future adventures.





Our amazing two, three- and four-year olds love nothing better than exploring outside in all weathers in their waterproofs and wellies! The muddier the better!



They explored autumn all around them and managed to find some very muddy puddles. Everyone laughed as hard as they jumped!



Our terrific two-year-olds in Nursery have new waterproofs. Now they can access all areas outdoors whatever the weather and they are having an amazing time.

It's
always so
much fun
being a
two-year-
old in our
school
nursery!





It's time for a new adventure!



Class I have been exploring outside around school, looking for signs of Autumn.



Now that they have their brand-new overalls and wellies, they will be outside whatever the weather! We can't wait to see what they will be investigating this year!



Balance Bikes



Wow! Class I had a special delivery this week. They opened the boxes to find lots of parts that needed putting together to make something exciting. With the help of Mr. Stoddart, they looked carefully at the instructions and built our new balance bikes!

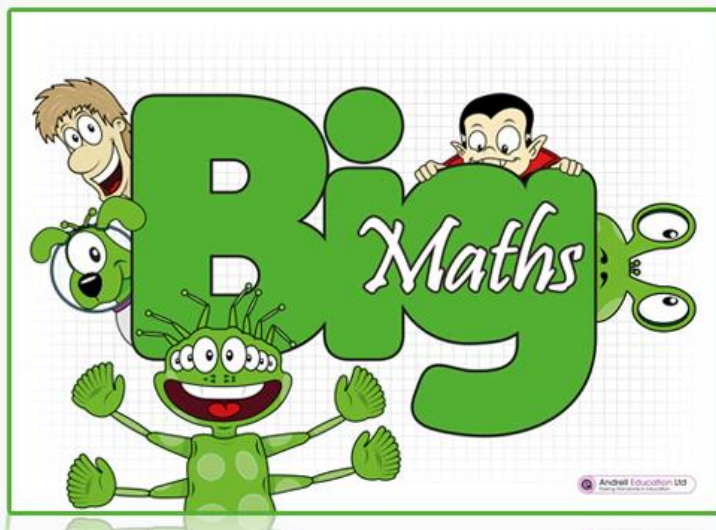




They had a brilliant time zooming around our huge school yard and what wonderful balancing they displayed.

These bikes will form part of our outside provision for our fabulous Reception children!





Congratulations

Congratulations to
Daniell! He is our first
ever Big Maths
online Ultimate Test
full marks achiever!

An amazing
72 out of 72
Learn Its facts.



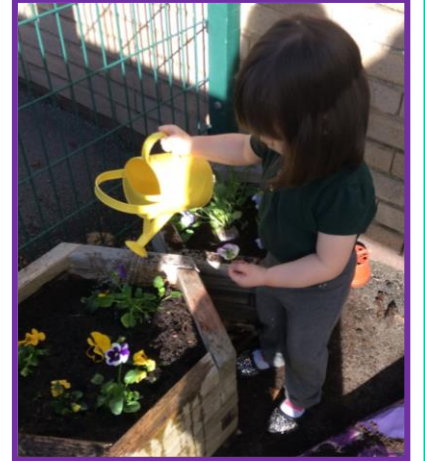
Congratulations also to Aliyah
who has now also achieved
Big Maths full marks!
Mrs Walters was thrilled to hand
out certificates for the
Learn Its and SAFE tests.
A big well done to you both!





Our nursery children are fabulous scientists, always exploring, observing and investigating!

There is always something to explore in our nursery garden. They've been learning what plants need to grow and planting flowers to make our garden beautiful.



We love finding out which insects share our garden with us.



What's happening in our Bug Hotel?





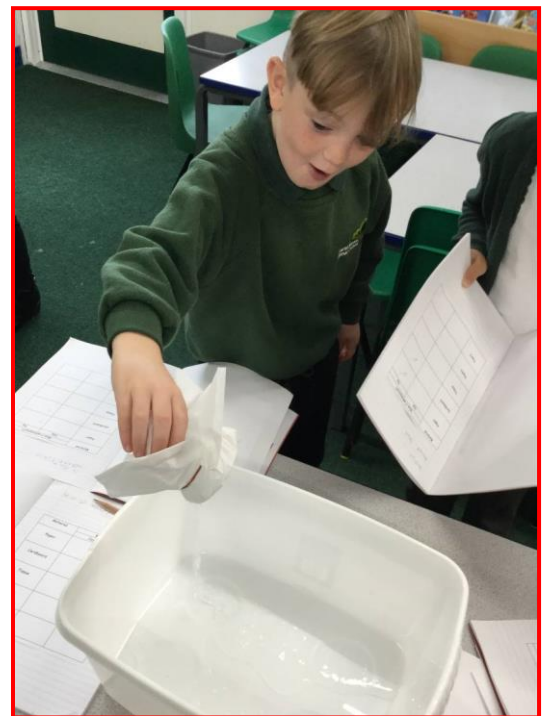
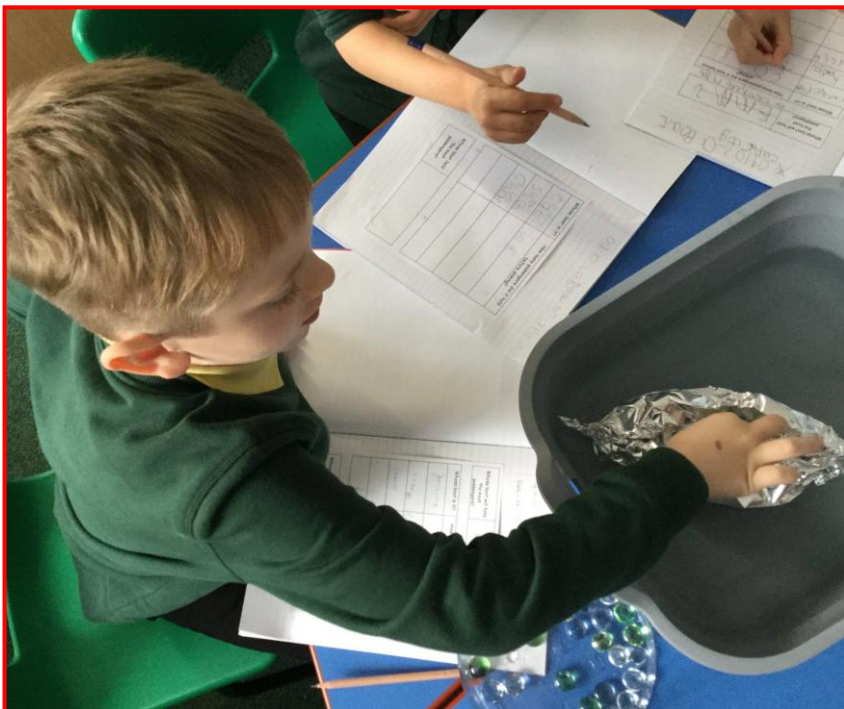
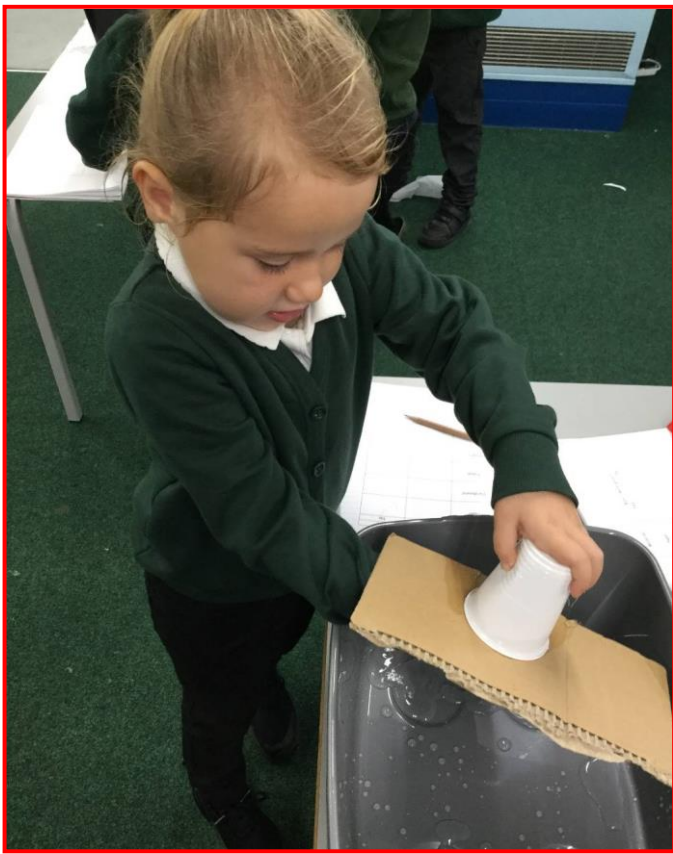
Investigating and observing cars and ramps. Look how fast we can make them go!

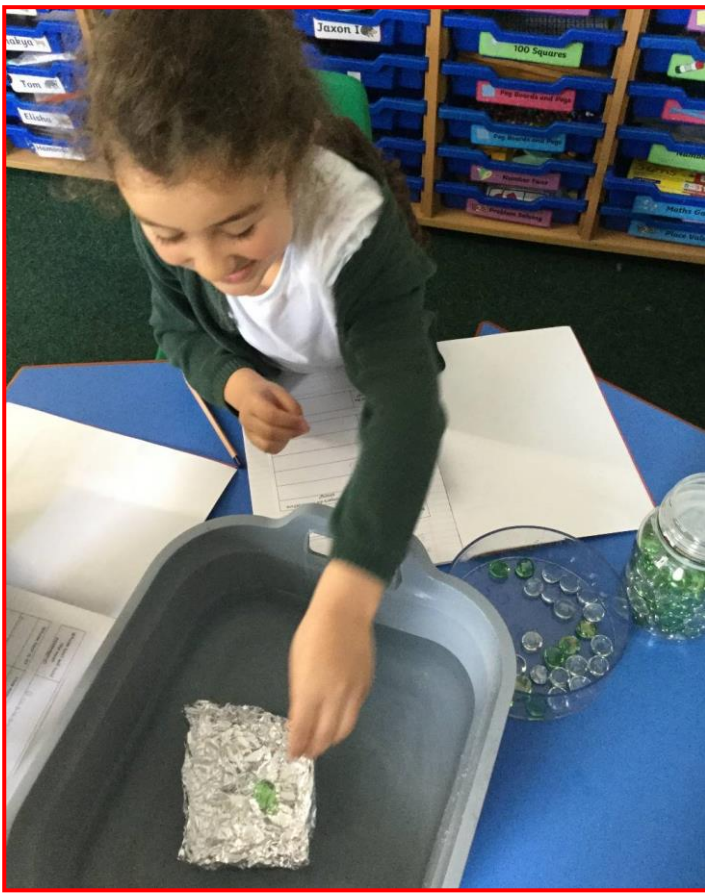


There are always new challenges and exciting activities in our nursery.



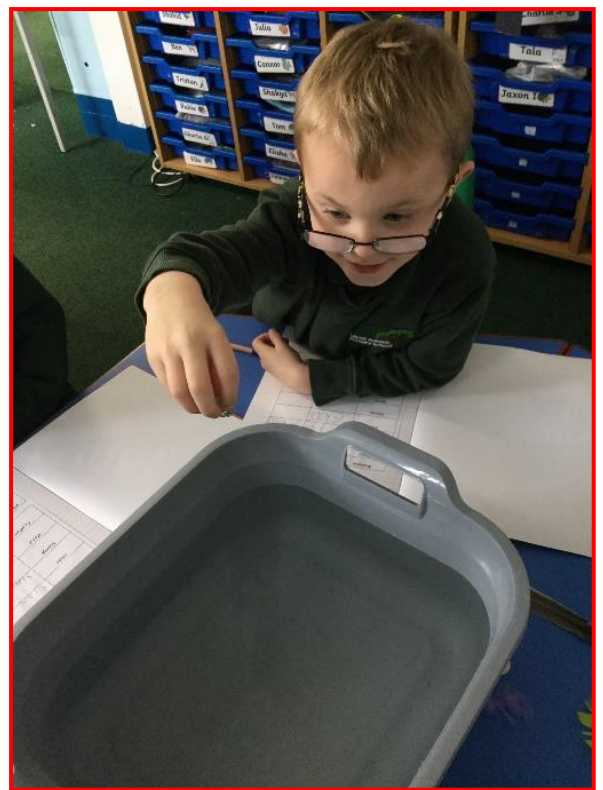
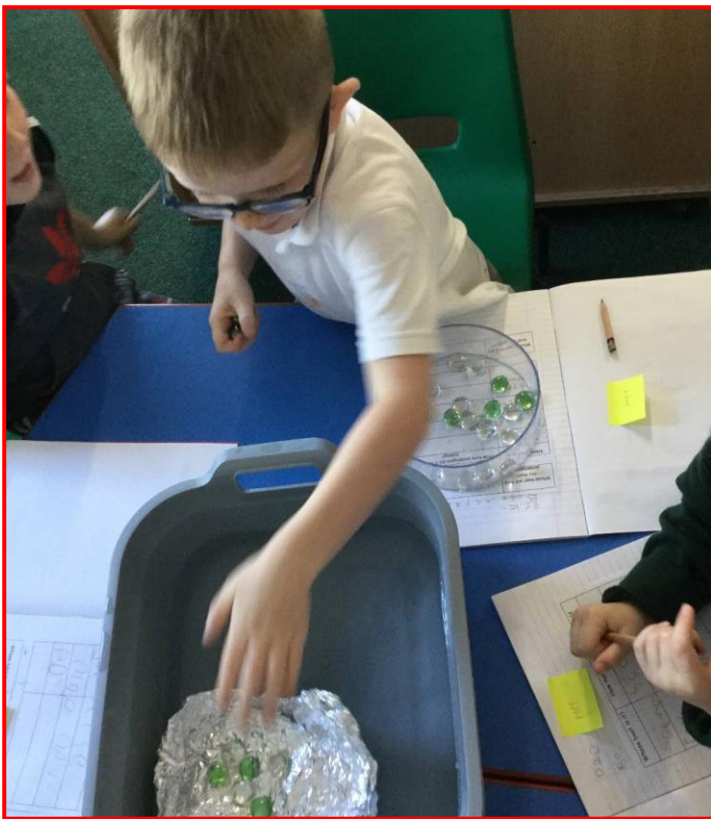
Just look at all the concentration on the faces of our Class 2 children as they carry out their science investigations. They have been learning about properties of materials including how waterproof they are.





They also designed their own boat using tin foil and investigated how many passengers their boat could hold before it sank!

Why don't you try to make your own boat over the holidays and see how many passengers your boat can hold?

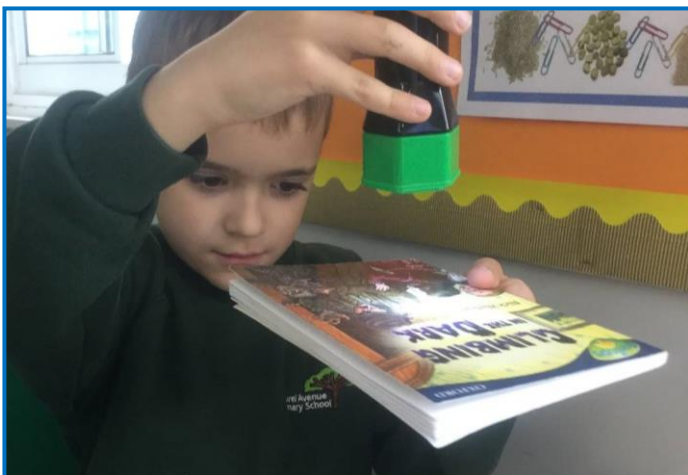




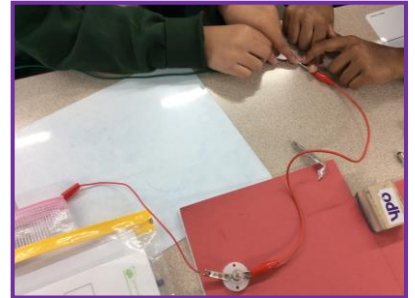
Class 3 have been studying Materials and States of Matter, carrying out investigations on gases and solids. Firstly, they wanted to find out if gases weigh anything. They investigated the gas in fizzy pop called carbon dioxide. They weighed several different fizzy drinks and then shook them to make them flat, before weighing them again. The pop which had the biggest difference in weight must contain the most carbon dioxide and so would be the fizziest. If you want to drink the fizziest of fizzy drinks, Class 3 would say... cloudy lemonade!



Class 3 also investigated solids, observing how light travels through different solid materials. They learned all about the properties transparent, translucent and opaque.



Class 4 investigated circuits and the effects of changing the number of bulbs or the number of batteries. They added batteries and monitored the effect on the bulb, noticing that after adding up to 4 batteries the bulb stopped working and a short circuit occurred.



They added additional bulbs and observed that a battery was only able to fully power 2 bulbs.

After that, the bulbs became dimmer, then only the closest bulb to the battery lit, followed by no bulbs lighting at all.

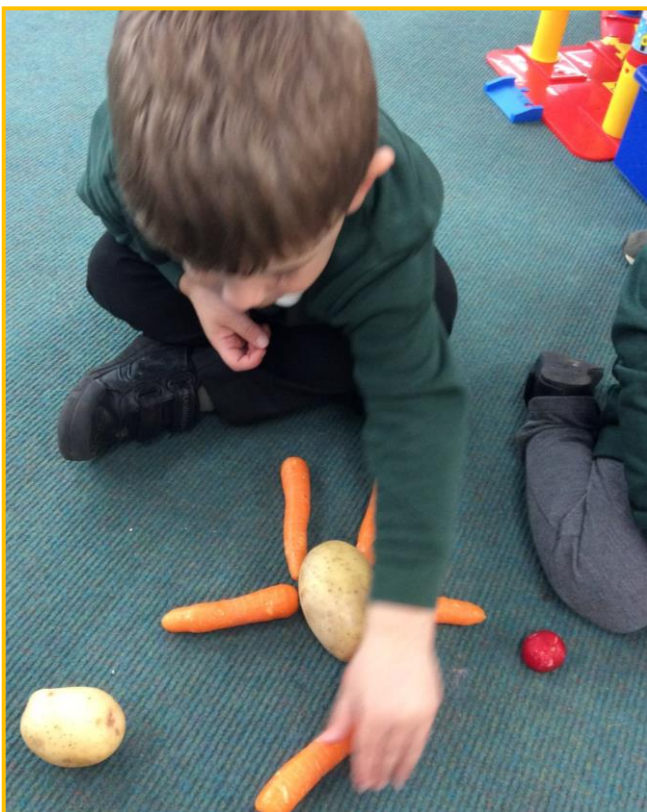




Harvest Fun in Nursery



What an amazingly fun time Nursery have had carrying out a huge range of fun activities with vegetables.

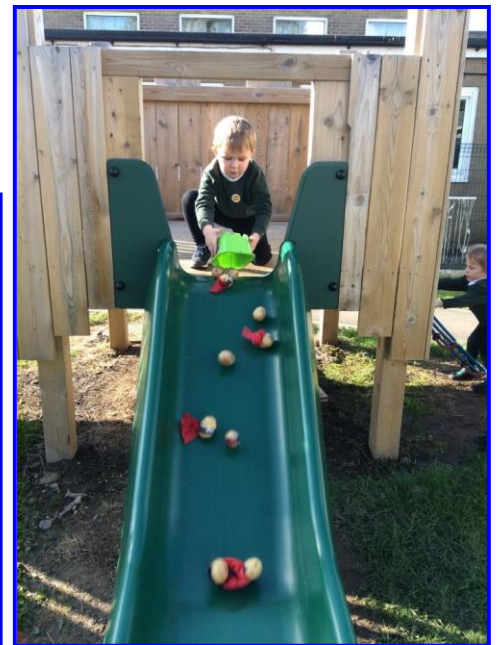


SUPERTATO

HE'S THERE FOR YOU WHEN
THE CHIPS ARE DOWN!

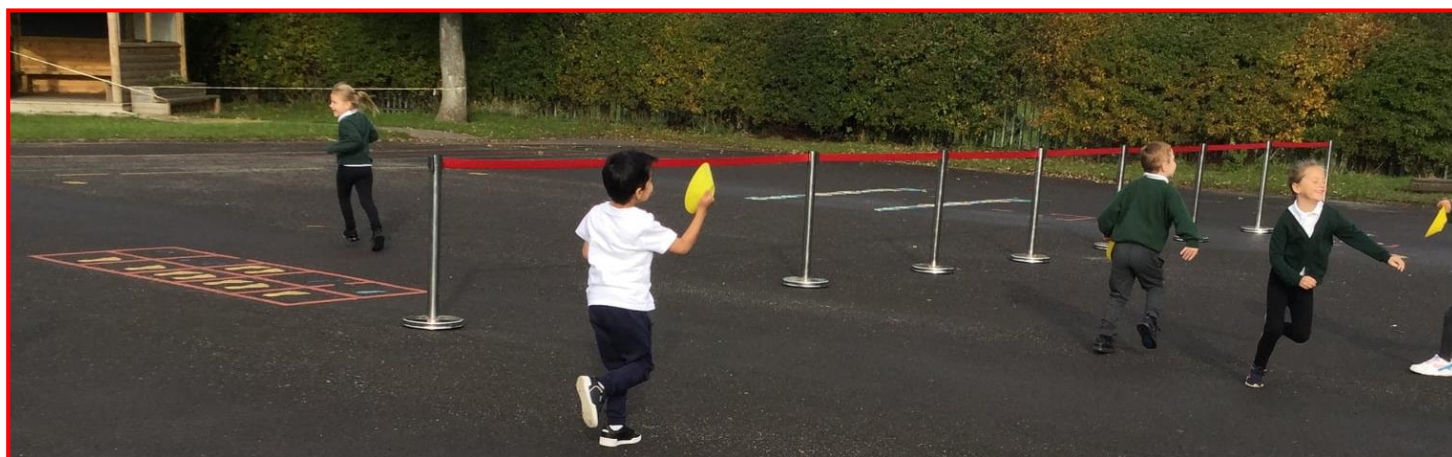


After reading 'Supertato',
Nursery children made their own
Supertato and created their own
adventures with him.





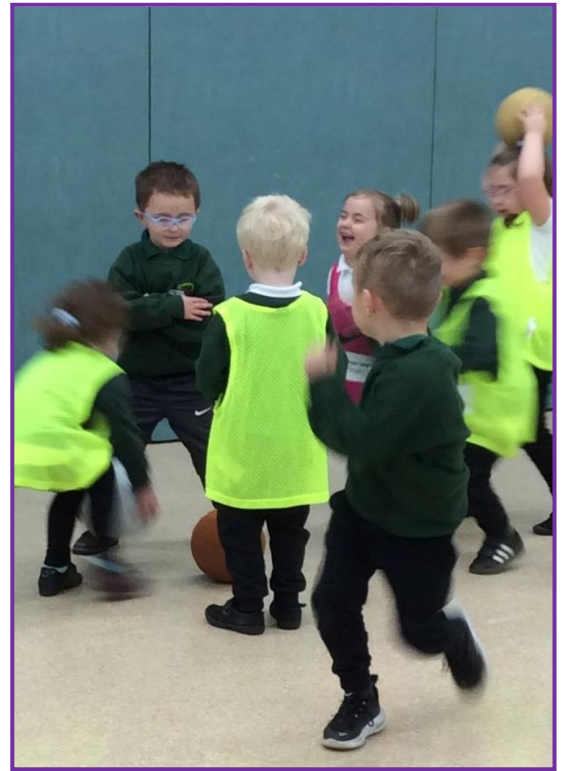
Andy, one of our favourite coaches who works with us at Laurel Avenue, delivered a day of streets games for Classes 1 – 4. Everyone had a wonderful time and learned lots of games that we can play together in school.



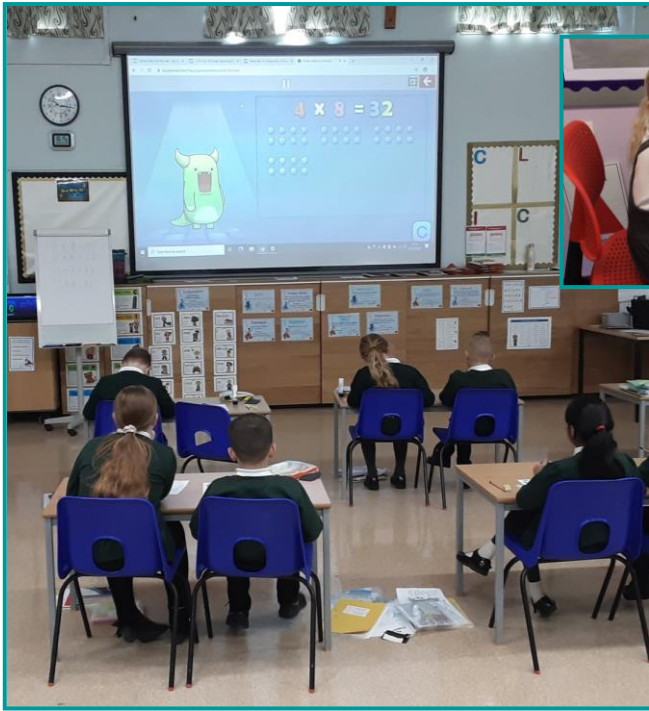
FOOTBALL

Classes 1 and 2 have loved working with another of our favourite coaches, Mr Curry.

The children have been building their fitness levels up and learning lots of new skills and tactics for football.



Computing



We have invested in lots of new high-quality technology this term. Nursery now have two of our touch screen desktop computers as well as their own iPads. Class one have a touch screen desktop to go alongside their laptops and iPads. Class 2 have full access to a trolley full of iPads and laptops. Classes 3 and 4 have 20 new iPads and 20 new laptops to support their learning. These compliment the new Samsung tablets used by Year 4 and Class 4. Year 4 also have a brand-new overhead projector which they use in the hall. We can really bring computing into all lessons with excellent computers and tablets to support learning across all classes.



All classrooms were decorated over the summer holidays and now look fresh, bright and fabulous!



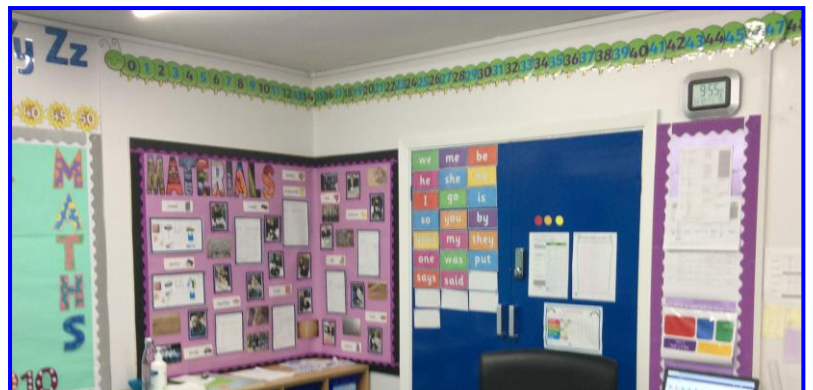
Nursery has been decorated in neutral creams and looks clean, shiny and brand new!



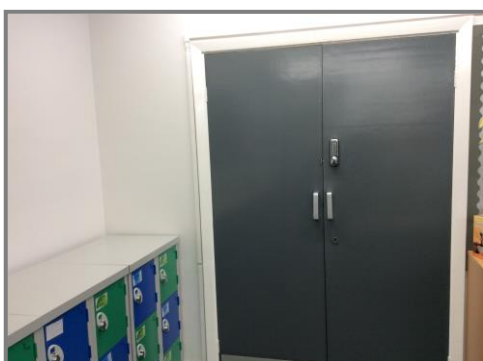
Class 1 are very proud of their purple classroom. They even have new wooden tables and purple chairs!



Class 2 now have a blend of different blues in their cool looking classroom!



Classes 3 and 4 are painted in a selection of different greys and look modern and fresh.



MARVELLOUS ME

Marvellous Me tells you about the wonderful things that your child is learning, and pings you when they've been praised for good work or a great character skill. Marvellous Me is free for parents and carers, and you can share the app with people you trust who will also receive the alerts. All you need is your child's code.

Have you got your child's code for Marvellous Me?

Cherish the moment. Forever.

Easy-find News centre

Learning journal and badge collection

Get wonderful news about your child's learning and success, and enjoy a keepsake MemoryBook.

We currently have 82% of children with a parent or carer signed up to Marvellous Me.

Let's see if we can get to 100%! If you need your child's code, please call the office on 0191 3868416 or email school.



Thank you to everyone who has organised a Class Dojo account for their child/ren. It is really important that every child has an account and knows how to use it. We are using Class Dojo to set all homework now. This has been a good way for us to ensure as many children as possible are equipped for learning at home should they need to isolate, by having their Dojo account active and using it confidently. We will be getting in touch personally with families who have not yet got accounts ready for their child/ren to see how we can help with this. Please email your child's teacher for support and their Class Dojo log in information if you need it.

Important



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



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.

We hope that you are enjoying the new path and gate straight onto our school yard which means no more walking over the muddy field! We were so happy when we could finally get it all completed. We would like to say a big thank you to Claire Linfoot and the Community Centre Association for supporting the purchase of the new path and fence. They were both financed from the Community Centre and through grants raised through the Community Centre. The People's Health Trust contributed £914 and Laurel Avenue Community Association contributed the remaining balance as part of their Covid-19 recovery plan.



THANK YOU x



Kayden has planted 100 crocus bulbs along the path, making a great start to our project to fill our new pathway with colourful flowers to enhance the walk into school even more. The bulbs were donated by Patrick Conway on behalf of the Durham Rotary Club in support of the Purple for Polio campaign.

We will keep photographs of how our pathway develops and hopefully blooms so we can remember when we started with just a lot of mud!



Laurel Avenue Community Centre

Did you know that joining a community group has endless benefits?



Try something new! We can help you to set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learn more things to make you more confident. Connect with family, friends and neighbours. Do something nice for a friend or neighbour. Thank someone, or even volunteer your time.

Laurel Ladies' is a group of local ladies who meet each week via Zoom and receive well-being packs that are delivered to their door.

Lunch Club - Lunch is delivered to you each week prior to meeting for a friendly chat via Zoom. Activities are also included and all enjoy taking part.

If you would like to join any of our groups please get in touch.



Laurel United Youth Group

In case you've been wondering where we are, since the youth activities that you were getting delivered to your homes have now stopped, our youth workers are delivering activities to children within their primary schools. It's really great to be able to work face to face with the children again.

Half Term

Our holiday provision will take place as an outreach service. Food parcels and activity packs will be delivered on Monday 26th October to everyone who would usually access our holiday clubs.



Halloween Activities

Look out for our Halloween activities; cake baking and a fancy dress competition. All ingredients will be provided and delivered to you on Wednesday 28th October. Entries must be emailed by no later than 5 pm on Friday 30th October.

Contact: Claire Linfoot, Centre Manager.

admin@laurelavenuecommunity.com

Tel: 0191 3845427 / 07825956094





Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting school with all of our new routines this term and for letting us know about your child's symptoms and any test results. It is so important that we continue with this and work together. It really has been a community effort, working together to make sure we can all keep as safe as possible.



We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers to please socially distance whilst on the yard, especially when waiting to collect your child at home time.

We would appreciate it if you would wait by the playground barriers, away from the classrooms, so that children are not distracted at the end of the school day which can get busy. Thank you.

I would also like to thank all the staff for their fantastic work this half term in ensuring that school is as safe as it possibly can be at this time. They are all working extremely hard to make sure that everything on our huge risk assessment is in place at all times whilst taking on extra duties of cleaning and organising and still managing to keep lessons exciting and engaging. We are also very focused to ensure that all children can bounce back and fill those gaps in their learning due to the school closure.

Thank you, you're all stars!

*School's email address
laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net
will be monitored throughout the week, during the
evening, over weekends and during the holidays, so
please get in touch via email if you need to.*

*Keep up to date with school news by visiting
our website:
[https://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/news-and-
dates/news](https://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/news-and-dates/news)*

*Keep up to date with Covid-19 updates and guidance:
[https://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/news-and-
dates/coronavirus-update](https://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/news-and-dates/coronavirus-update)*

*The photographer will be in school
on the 18th November to take
individual photographs only.
More information to follow.*

*School is closed for teacher training
on Friday 27th November.*