



October 2021



On Friday 15th October we took part in a very special tree planting ceremony.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a planting initiative across the UK to

'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'

in honour of the Queen's 70 years of service to the nation.

We are delighted that Laurel Avenue Community Primary School was chosen as the Durham school to plant and look after such a special tree to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Only one school in every city in the country was specially chosen, so we are so proud that that one school in Durham is us and we are looking forward to helping our new birch tree grow over the years to come.



This tree will be a treasured part of our school. We will watch it change through the seasons as it grows every year and many generations of children and staff will be part of making sure it always has a special place in our school.

We were very happy to welcome Mrs Snowdon, the Lord-Lieutenant of Durham, to our school for the ceremony and she helped us to plant the tree and talked to us all about what a special event this was and how happy she was to join us.



Reading is so important!

Reading is the **KEY** to learning

Children who read often and widely get better at it.

Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books, children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read and are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

Reading is fun!

Reading is a great way to spend time together. Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English.

Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

Please read the next pages to see the minimum amount of reading for your child each week.

BENEFITS OF READING



Dream
Big
READ!

WE LOVE READING!

Nursery children love to read! Either inside in a comfortable warm spot or outside in our cosy reading den! The children are also enjoying helping to create a new reading area in nursery.



Nursery – your child will bring one school library book home each week.





Class 1 love their fabulous new reading tepee! They are currently working together to develop their new and exciting reading area.

Children log into Read, Write Inc Library to read set books and complete quizzes and phonics practice. Also read the Book Bag books they bring home in their reading folders.

Minimum 3 times per week.

Weekly – choose a new school library book.



This term we are looking at the author
Julia Donaldson.

So far, we have read
Room on the Broom,
The Gruffalo and
The Gruffalo's Child.

We have made magic spells
like the witch character, made
Gruffalo masks and acted out
the stories using masks.



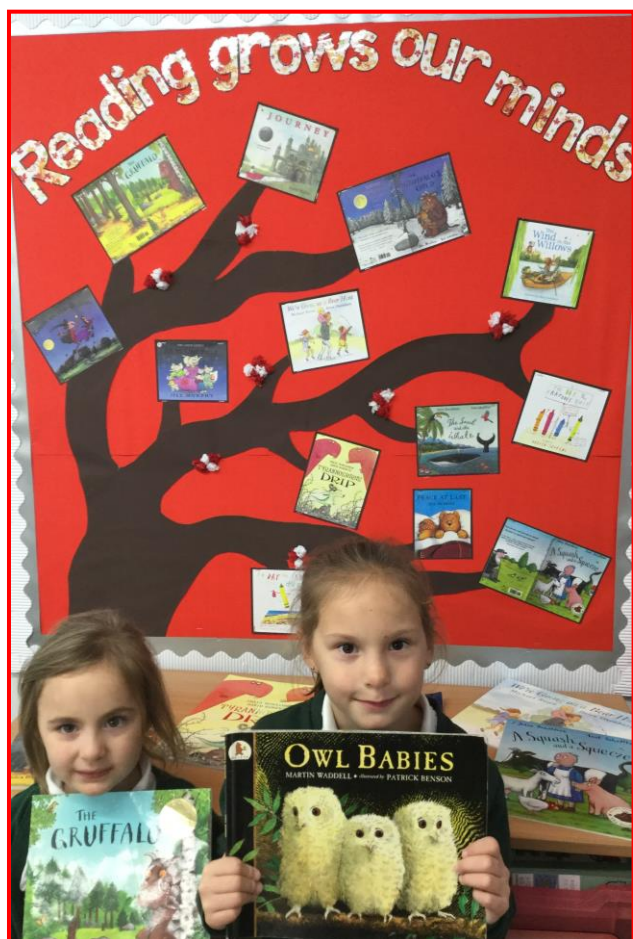


Class 2 weekly reading expectation

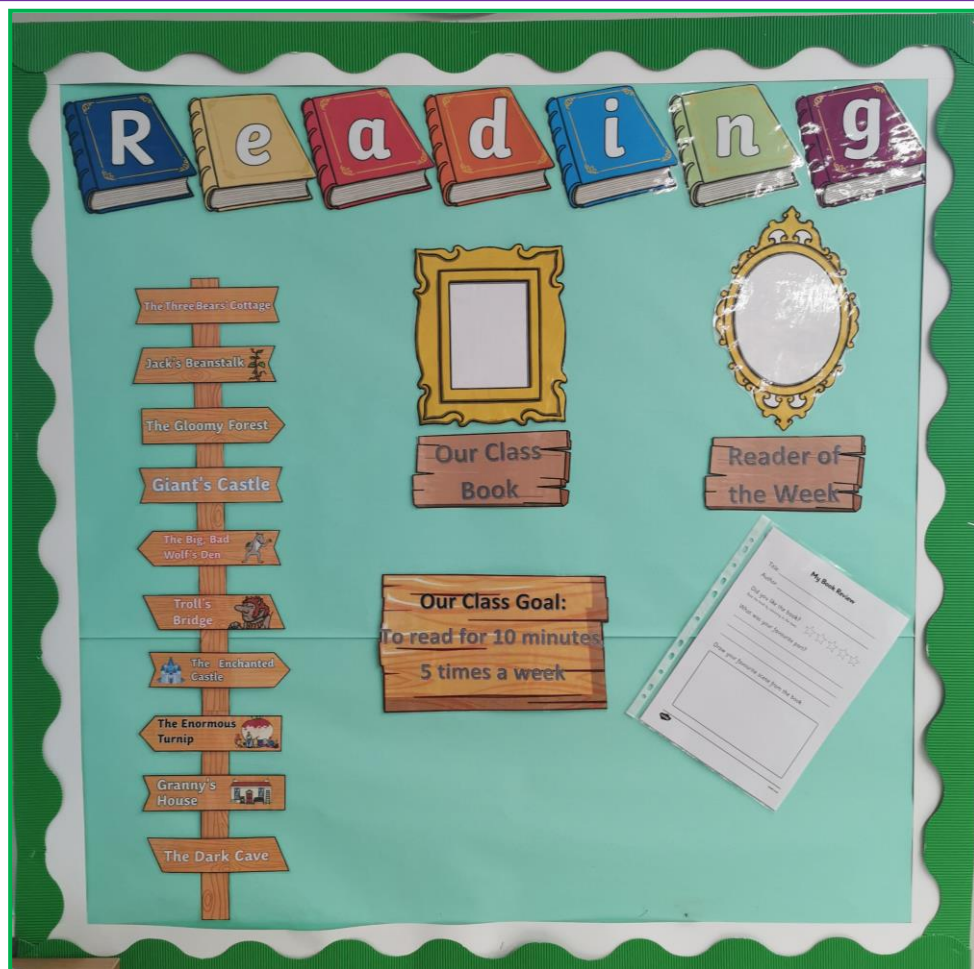
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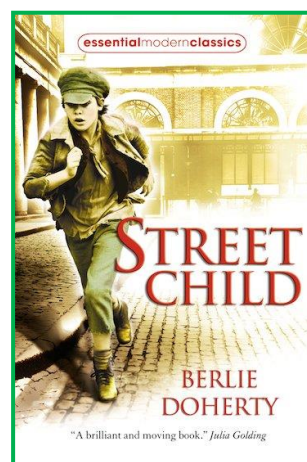
Class 2 are enjoying lots of new books to read in their Classroom.



Class 3 weekly reading expectation

Log into MyON – link is sent on Class Dojo every week. Complete daily reading and projects for 10 minutes every day.

Weekly – choose a new library book.



Class 3's class book is Street Child by Berlie Doherty. They are looking forward to choosing a Roald Dahl book next. Which one will it be?



We have been very proud of Tyler this term who has persevered with a longer and trickier book than he has previously been reading. He also achieved a fabulous score on his MyON quiz. Well done!





Class 4 weekly reading expectation

Log into MyON – link is sent on Class Dojo every week.

Complete daily reading and projects for 20 minutes every day.

Weekly – choose a new library book.

Class 4's class book is currently, *Danny The Champion of The World* by Roald Dahl.

READING CHALLENGE



The 1000 minutes MyON Reading Challenge is underway in Class 4. Children are aiming to read 1000 minutes this year, outside of school time, using their books on www.myon.co.uk. They will be recording their progress on their class reading graph. Good luck, Class 4!



Balance and Pedal Bikes



Class I have
been impressing
us with their
bike balancing
and riding skills!
Look at how
fantastic
they are!



Joedn impressed us all with his fantastic skills riding a pedal bike independently. Rosie did not give up until she could also ride the pedal bike independently!

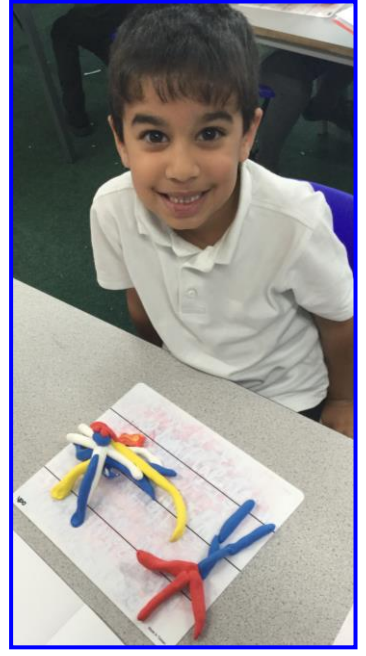
Well done!

Mia has made excellent progress too and was a great friend, giving help and support.



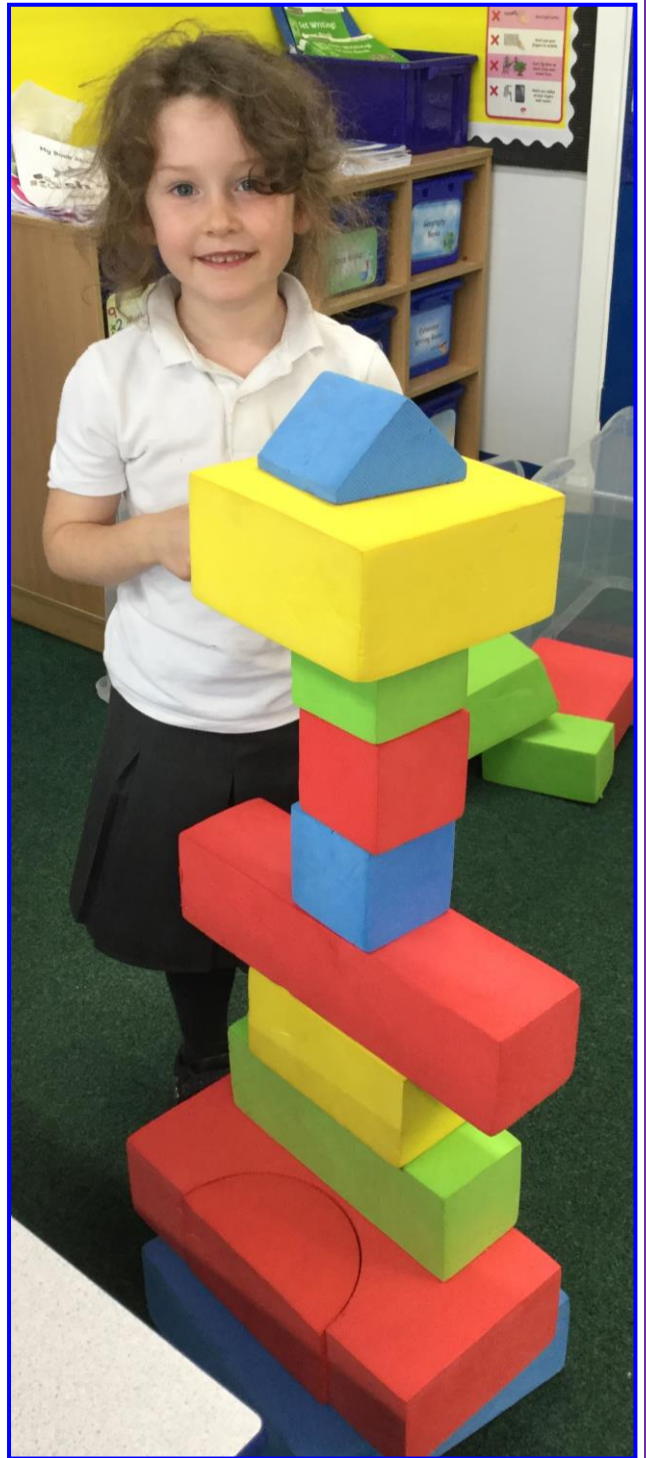
ART

Class 2 has been learning about the artist **Jaume Plensa** in Art this half term. They have investigated his different sculptures that can be found around the UK which links very well to their Geography work too.



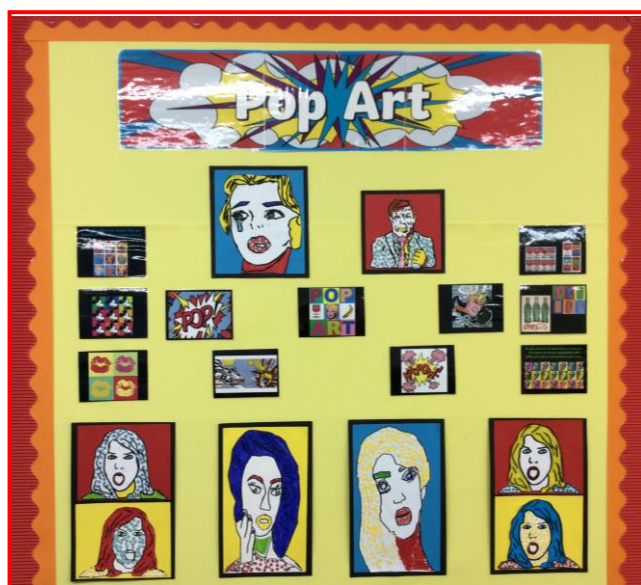
Over the last few weeks they have sketched and built sculptures using a large variety of different materials before finally creating their own sculptures, taking inspiration from Jaume Plensa's work.



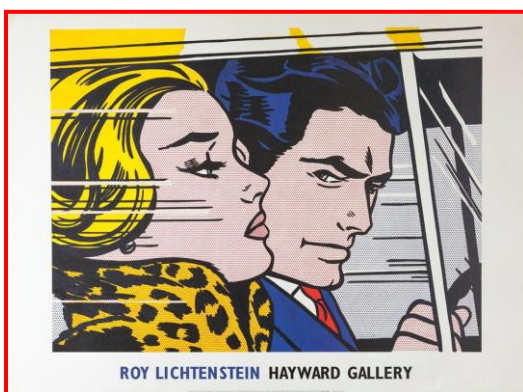


Roy Lichtenstein

Year 5 and 6 pupils have been exploring Pop Art this half term and have produced artwork inspired by American Pop Artist Roy Lichtenstein's 'In the Car' artwork.



They used punched coloured dots to re-create the small dots used to make up the artwork.



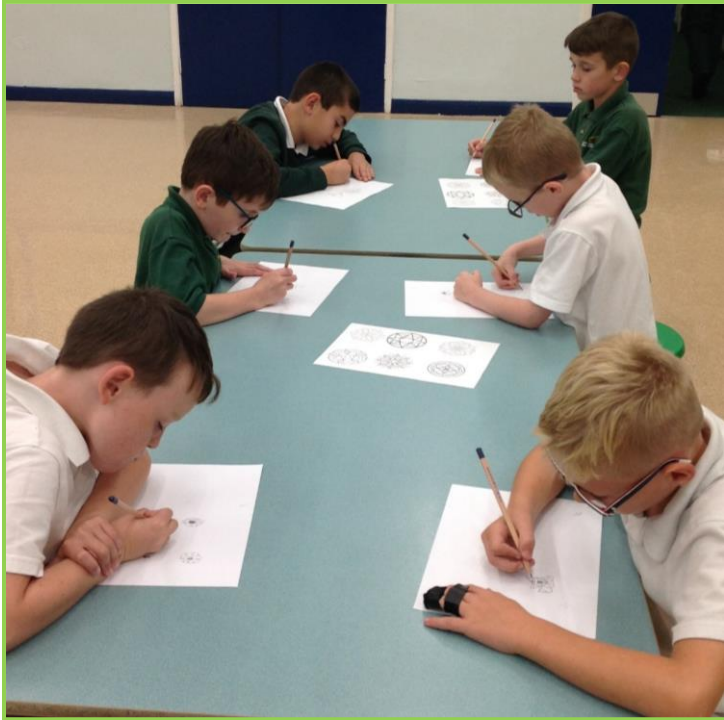


Class 3 children
have been having
a great time at
Art Club with
Mrs Fines.



During the first two weeks they created Aboriginal style art using paint and cotton buds. They then started creating Mandala patterns on stones using acrylics. They carefully designed their patterns before painting their stones.

What an amazing job they have all done!







Miss Mills has led an after-school Forest School Club this term. During their first session they learnt about fire safety and how to build a fire.



They then enjoyed making (and eating) smores and roasted marshmallows.





During their next session, they used tarps to build dens.





Children from Class 4 worked brilliantly with children in Class 2 during our intra school sports festival. They organised, set up and demonstrated how to complete each sporting challenge to support our children in Class 2.





Class 2 had so much fun, enjoying many different team challenges focusing on throwing and targets.



HOOP STARZ

It's a revolution!

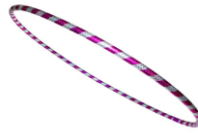
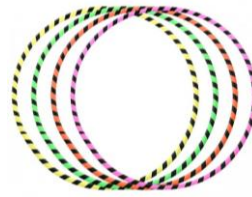
www.hoopstarz.co.uk



What a
fantastic time
every child
from Nursery
to Year 6 had
during our
Hoopstarz
Day!



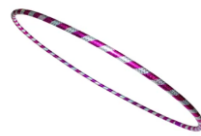
Great
moves,
Class 1!





Class 2 are
showing us
how to do it!



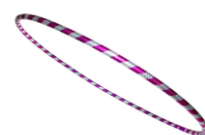


Hooptastic Class 3!





Well
done,
Class
4!



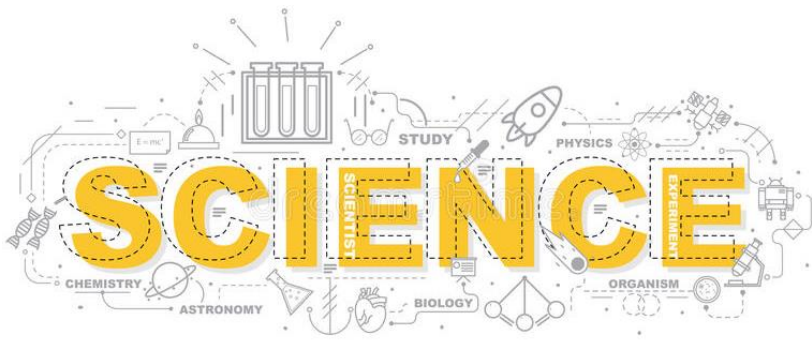
Eruptions in Class 3



Class 3 made their own volcanoes in Geography. They created the erupting lava by making a chemical reaction, mixing acid (vinegar), alkali (bicarbonate of soda) and carbon dioxide (washing up liquid). Children were amazed to see their volcanoes erupt!

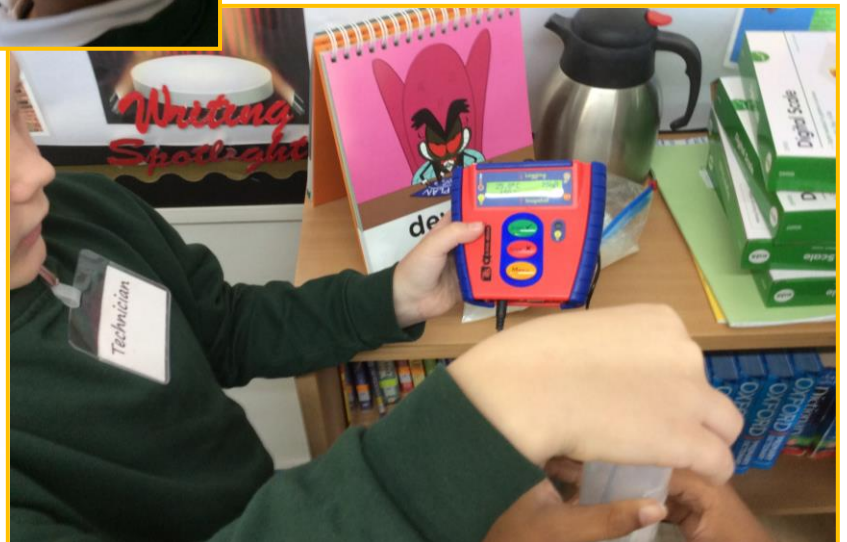
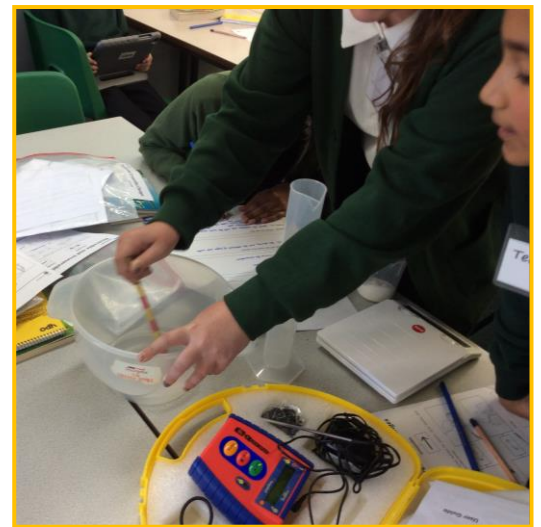
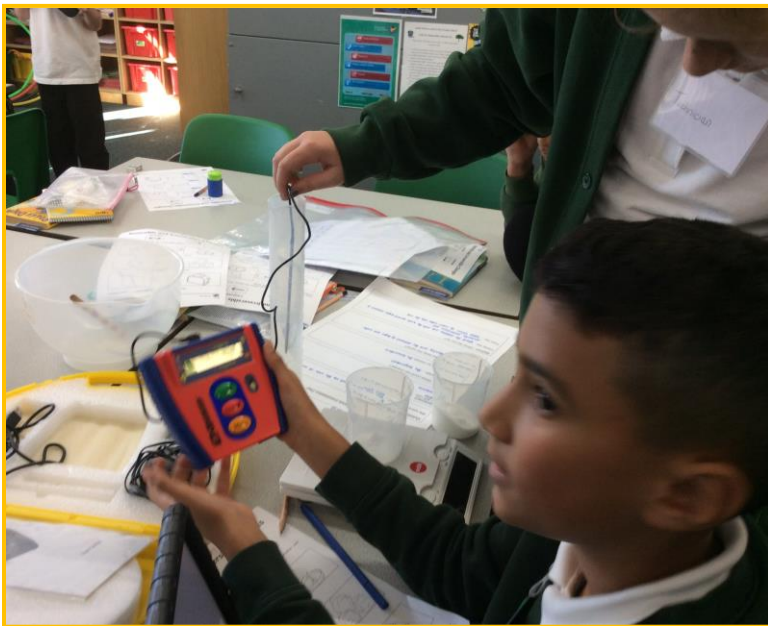






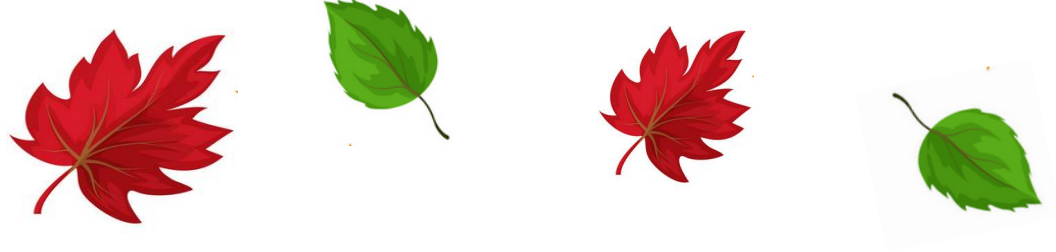
Class 4 have been getting to grips with different roles in their science groups. Within each group children take on roles of a recorder, photographer, technician or observer whilst carrying out practical investigations.

They have enjoyed using a variety of equipment including our new digital scales and our log boxes.





Harvest 2021



This year, we have celebrated Harvest a little differently. We championed those who helped keep food in our homes during the pandemic, for example, farmers, lorry drivers and shop assistants, as well as being thankful for the food we have.

Children enjoyed an assembly on World Food Day (16th October) and we learned about where food comes from and the food supply chain involved in making sure we have enough food to eat.

We celebrated those who worked hard to keep us fed during the pandemic: children drew pictures or wrote a letter of thanks to supermarket staff, farmers or delivery drivers to show appreciation for all of their hard work during the pandemic. We will be sending these to our local retailers.



European Languages Day

To mark European Languages Day 2021 on the 26th September, and the 20th anniversary of this event, we began our special missions and journeys to discover more about European culture and languages throughout the year.

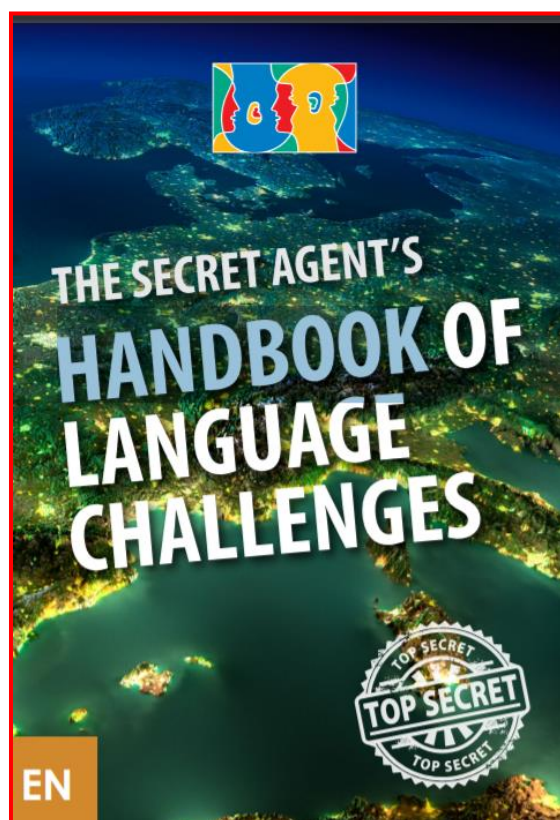
Each term, children in the Early Years will be learning about a different country in Europe including famous landmarks, people and food. Some of the countries they will be finding out about have special significance to children in our school too!

Children in Years 1-4 have embarked on a special journey around the continent with Lara. Each month they will visit, through Lara's book, a different country and learn about the similarities and differences between languages and cultures across Europe.



Our Upper Key Stage 2 children in Years 5 and 6 have been set a secret mission! Across the year they have to complete 51 Language Challenges either at home or at school including tasks such as counting to 10 in different languages; greeting people in three different languages; watching a film in a different language and many more. Each child has been assigned a Secret Agent handbook and can access this on Class Dojo as well as in school. Why not try out the app?

The Secret Agent's Language Challenges app 2021



The challenges and quizzes contained within this app encourage learners – future international agents – to take advantage of the plentiful opportunities available to practise or learn more about a language beyond a classroom context. By passing through a series of levels they can rise from a lowly agent in training to become a master secret agent.

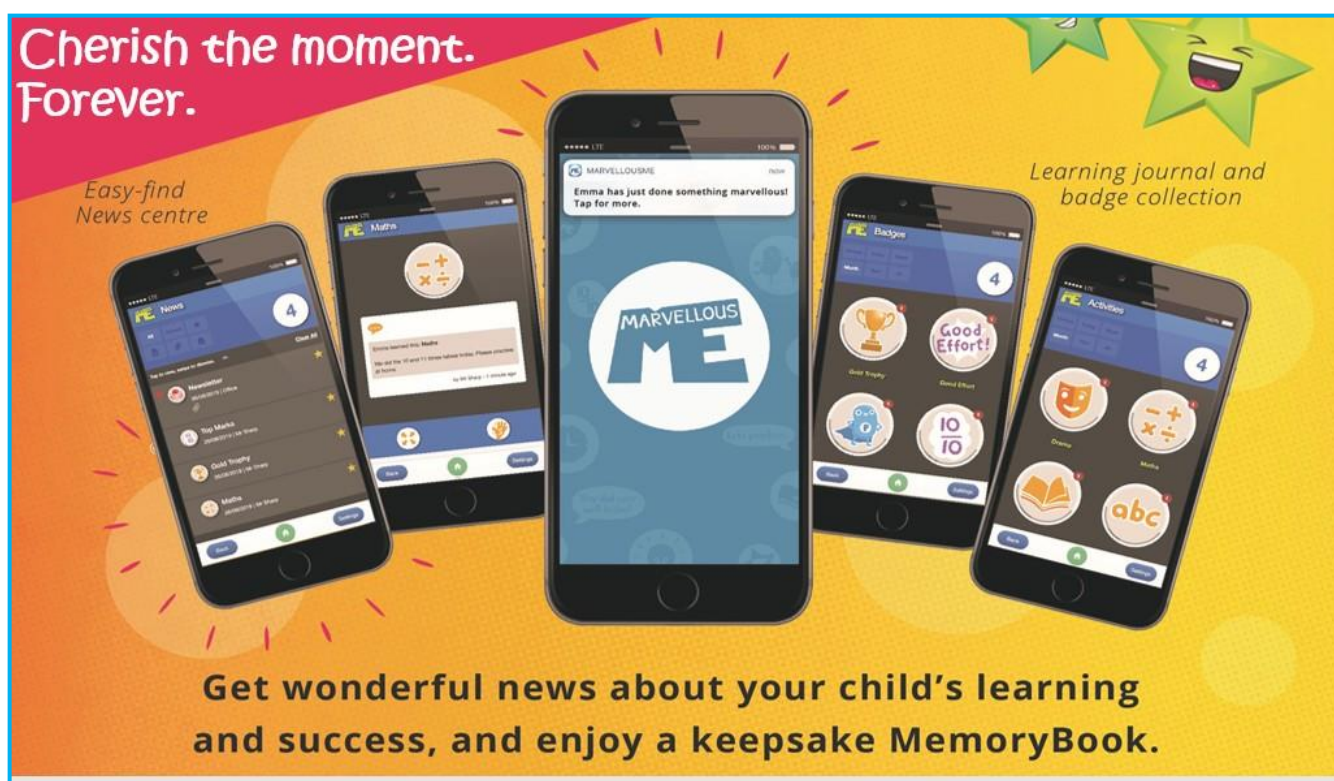
We will keep you updated each term on the progress of our language journeys and mission around Europe.



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 only 78% 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 is using and regularly checking their child's Class Dojo account.

It is really important that every child has an account and knows how to use it. We use Class Dojo to set all homework and send other messages so please keep checking.

Please email your child's teacher for support or for a reminder of their Class Dojo log in information if needed.

NURSERY

Have a look at just a few of the adventures that nursery have been completing over the last few weeks! Whether they are exploring outside in our garden, investigating inside our nursery or working with our fundamental movement coach Ben, they are always learning and growing with excitement and enjoyment.

You are all amazing!











Information about how to apply for places in our nursery are on the next few pages. It is advisable to apply early as places do fill, especially the two-year-old places.
It's never too early to apply!



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?

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.](#)

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

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.



Halloween Spooktacular!

To promote the writing and reading of poetry, we are having a Halloween Spooktacular day!

Your child will be able to come dressed up in their Halloween costume for that day.

We will be exploring spooky and eerie poems and creating our own inspired by famous poets.

Each class will hold their own poetry competition with prizes for the winners!

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to be involved, our spooky days will be on:

Monday 1st November:

Class 3 & 4 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Tuesday 2nd November:

Class 1 & 2 (Reception, Year 1 & 2)

Wednesday 3rd November – Nursery



Laurel Avenue Community Centre

Laurel United Youth Group and Toddler Group



Toddler group is cancelled during half term and will resume on Thursday 4th November.

All Youth Groups: half term activities will be held on Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th October, 10.00 am until 2.00 pm.

Lunch will be provided and all activities are free of charge.

Activities include: Halloween art and Crafts, multi sports, team games, cooking and music and dance sessions.

You must book to secure a space. Places are open to all children and young people aged from 5 years to 16 years.

Lunch @ Laurel will be held at the Community Centre on Thursdays starting from 4th November at 12.00 pm until 2.00 pm.

Lunch costs £3 per person and includes activities.

Booking is essential.

To book please email or call the Community Centre office: admin@laurelavenuecommunity.com

Tel: 07825956094



Please avoid booking via Facebook or text message as these messages are not monitored.

Reminder: Laurel United Junior Youth sessions are held each Tuesday. Tea Club starts at 3:15 pm until 5:30 pm and costs £2 per child.

This includes entry to Youth Club.

If you do not wish to attend Tea Club but wish to attend only Youth Club, please arrive at the Community Centre at 4.00 pm.

Booking for Tea Club is essential and if you can, please support our cashless system and pay via PayPal or BACS.

For details please contact the office.



*Youth Club is closed during half term and will commence on Tuesday 2nd November.



LA Rising Stars



The Show 'Really' Must Go On 2021



After cancelling many times due to Covid 19,
the LA Rising Stars were able to finally put on a
fantastic show! Congratulations!



It was worth the wait!



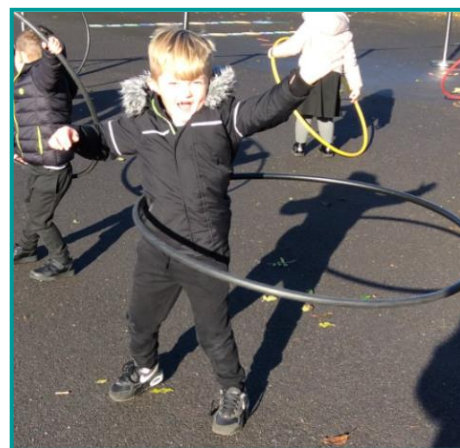
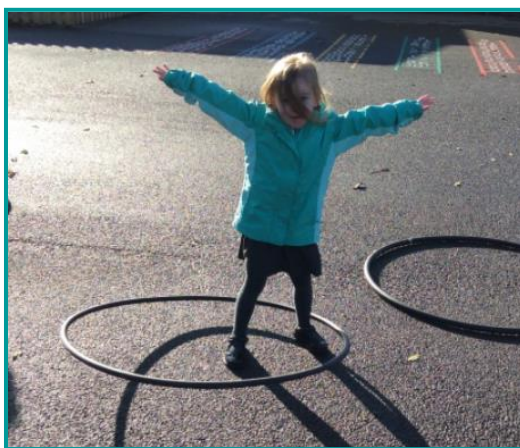
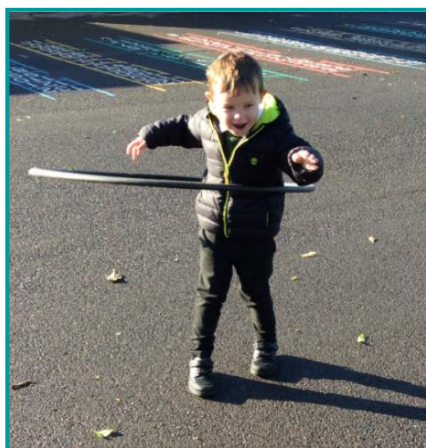
School's email address laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net will be monitored at times across half term, so please get in touch via email if you need to.

We are finalising dates and arrangements for events next half term and will send this information out very soon.

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

You may be aware that the Spring Bank Holiday in 2022 has been moved to Thursday 2nd June and an additional bank holiday on Friday 3rd June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This means that schools have been asked to identify an additional day's holiday during the 2021/22 school year.

Laurel Avenue Community Primary has selected April 29th 2022 as this additional day which will give a four-day break as Monday May 2nd is a Bank Holiday.



**Why not get a hoop
and have some fun!**