



# Two Rivers Primary School News

## Diary Dates:

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec

Elf Day – Parents invited (Please check times)

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

Non School Uniform – Chocolate Donation

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

Red 1,2,3, Yellow 2, Blue 2 Christmas Production – Tickets Required

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec

Red 1 & 3 – Snow Play Trip

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec

St Edith's Carol Service – Whole School, Parents invited to take children

Two Rivers Friends Disco – Belgrave Club, Ticket Required

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

Christmas Shopping Day – Children only

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> &

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

Blue Phase Theatre Trip

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> & Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

School Christmas Dinner

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec

Santa Party – Grotto and Disco

## Friday 1st December 2023: Issue 4

### Headteacher's Message

Welcome to our November Newsletter, the school has taken some time this month to reflect and remember those who are fighting in war and those who fought in wars that have passed. It has been a very special time this year, as we have been able to work with the Arboretum to create work for their illuminate event. It really does help bring this event to life for our learners. If you would like to visit the event then there is a link on our school app to book a place.

Millie our new pets as therapy dog, has been in school regularly to do work with the children and Gina. She has been really well received and continues to increase the children's communication and confidence – it really is a wonderful addition to what we do.

We also explored our modern foreign languages this month. We were able to work to take a trip around the world in 7 days. This saw the children exploring culture, cuisine and language of different countries. It certainly peaked their interest and helped to further their experiences. We look at languages in a focused way each term, but Key Stage 2 take part in French lessons as part of their regular timetable.

We love reading at Two Rivers Primary and I thank those parents who were able to visit the reading workshops – it was great to see so many of you and the use of Bug Club at home is increasing – do log on or ask for more help if needed.

We are now busy preparing for the Christmas period and have special events planned – you should have now received the Christmas pack of letters, if you haven't please do contact the office for a replacement set on 01827 426123.

Finally, we have said goodbye to one of our beloved teachers, as they take up a promoted post within an independent school. We will really miss Kelly, and wish her the best of luck. The children wanted to share the message 'we love Kelly' and I think that sums it up for all of us.

Thanks Laura



## Purple and EYFS

As always we have had a really busy few weeks! The children have enjoyed making Diva lamps and Rangoli patterns to celebrate Diwali and they have learned about Remembrance Day through making poppy pictures and watching a short story. We are all looking forward to making a start on our Christmas celebrations soon!







## Red 1 and 3

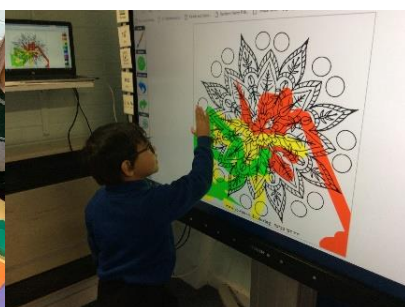
We began this half term with a celebration of Bonfire Night. We shared the story of Guy Fawkes in History, used switches to activate fireworks effects on the interactive whiteboard and used touch control and mouse control to create our own fireworks pictures on the iPads and computers in Computing. Red 3 also practised counting backwards in Maths to create countdowns for launching fireworks and rockets. In English, Red 1 built their very own name rockets.



In RE, we celebrated Diwali and learned about how the Festival of Light is celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs around the world. The children enjoyed creating their own Rangoli patterns, making paper lanterns and visiting the Dark Room to experience the wonderful lighting effects.







Millie, the pet therapy dog, has visited both classes and the children enjoyed meeting her for the first time and learning about how to work with her safely.



We have also participated in an MFL-focus week, where we learned about the French and Spanish languages and cultures. We enjoyed tasting croissants, pain au chocolat and churros, making French and Spanish flags and experiencing a flamenco dancing session with our very own flamenco fans.







## Red 2

In Red 2 this term we have enjoyed exploring our new topic '5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Blast off!' We have engaged in a multi-sensory story called 'Solar system' where we explored torches, ice, sprayed water, meringue, foil and mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda and watching it fizz. We have also enjoyed participating in our therapies such as rebound, attention autism, play box, talk box and intensive interaction.

We have been enjoying PE in the hall and joining in with a variety of action songs such as 'the grand old duke of York' and '5 little monkeys'. We have also been practising our Christmas songs. In our creative sessions we have created been mixing red and yellow paint to create orange and have been painting the fire for rockets with our faces on! We have also been decorating our own rockets.

We are looking forward to the rest of our half term with lots of exciting activities to come!





## Yellow 1

Yellow 1 are having a fantastic half term so far with our 'Frozen Planet' topic.

In English we have been focusing on interviews. We have interviewed each other using a microphone; read and recalled an interview with a polar bear and have just composed our own questions ready to interview a penguin!



In Maths we have been focusing on number bonds to 10 and simple subtraction using Numicon shapes and other practical resources. We have also been working on developing our knowledge of 3D shapes and symmetry through a range of games and activities. The children created their own symmetrical Rangoli patterns for Diwali and matched flags along their lines of symmetry in our MFL week – we were very impressed at how many different flags the children could identify!

The children are really enjoying our Frozen Planet topic across the curriculum.

In the recent whole school MFL week our country was Canada. We explored Canada's culture and key facts; practiced our French language skills; enjoyed some Canadian food and music during a Thanksgiving style celebration and wrote postcards from 'Canada' to our families – telling them what we were thankful for. The children then posted their postcards at the local postbox.

In Music we are focusing on composition and rap music. We have learnt a new song/rap called 'Plastic' which portrays the impact of plastic in our oceans. The children have created and recorded their own rhyming couplets linked to this to compose new rap verses for the song. We are looking forward to sharing this with you all.

We hope you enjoy looking at our photos which highlight some of our learning this half term







## Yellow 2

In our English focuses this month Yellow 2 have enjoyed stories in different ways. We visited forest school area for a Rumble in the Jungle story. We have also listened to stories through the tonies box in the library.



We have continued our fantastic mark making skills by exploring a range of scented messy plays. Some of us enjoyed doing this in a whole group alongside our peers whilst others enjoyed exploring messy play individually.







In our maths learning we have enjoyed revisiting our using and applying skills. We have visited the school café and exchanged coins for our choice of snack. We have also enjoyed building towers and knocking them down.

We have been exploring body awareness in PE through Sherbourne activities.



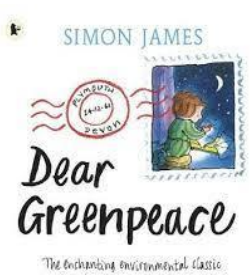
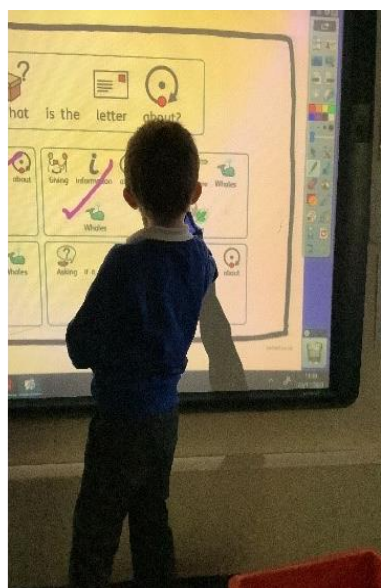
We have enjoyed taking part in group parachute games and community visits supporting our physical development, curiosity approach and PSHE skills.







## Yellow 3



This half term Yellow 3 have been working hard in our English lessons, we have been looking at the story "Dear Greenpeace". Our focus has been looking at the features of different types of letters and creating our own. We have also been creating our own postcards.



In art we have been exploring the artist Claude Monet and in particular Monet's garden. We used our fingers and cotton buds to create our own Monet's garden pictures using bright colours.



In PE our focus has been dance! This week we were the dwarves from Snow White and the Seven Dwarves and we were fabulous. We made brilliant Sleepy, Sneezy and Grumpy faces!





## Yellow 4

### Remembrance

The children have run the school Poppy shop raising funds for the British Legion. Their shop had price lists, tills, phone open / closed sign and a rota of shop keepers so the shop was always well staffed.



### Maths

Yellow 4 have been solving problems, finding different ways to make the same amount of money and calculating the total of their shopping

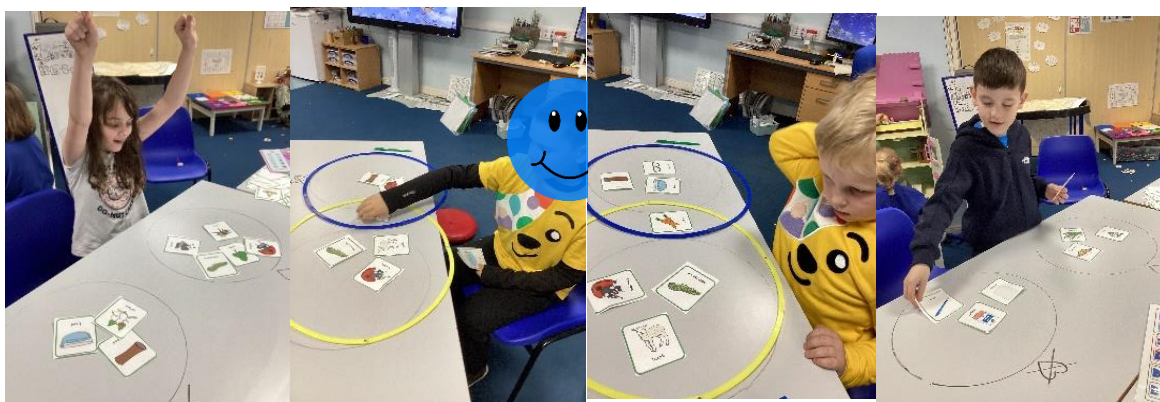






## Science

As part of our science work, we have been sorting and classifying images as living or not living. Some children used a Venn diagram to record their work and deciding that carrots were living when they were growing but not now as they have been dug up.



## E-safety

During our e-safety work, we discussed different scenarios. Then deciding if it was an example of cyberbullying, as well as what to do if it happened to someone we know. in groups



## Art

We have been investigating colour. Identifying primary and secondary colours.



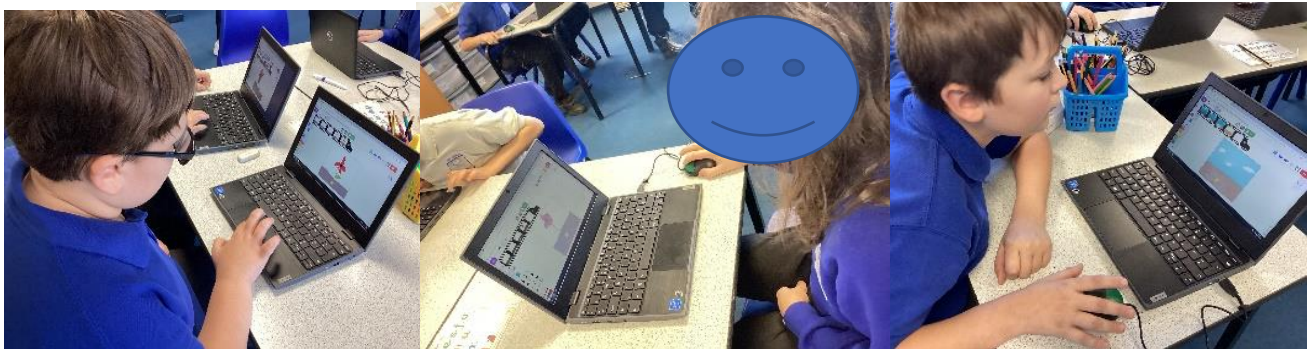




## Blue 1 & 3

### Amazing Animation

This half term we have been learning all about animation. We are using 2Animate on Purple Mash to animate familiar sequences and then by the end of the half term our own animation linked to the scripts we are writing.



### Super Science

In science we are learning all about circuits. We are naming parts of a circuit, matching to symbols and scientific symbols and creating simple and parallel circuits. We have also recapped our knowledge of safety around energy sources.







## **Dance, Dance, Dance**

In PE we have been busting a move! We are learning a full routine linked to pop music. We are learning how to move our bodies in creative ways and move safely, with purpose and with control. We love to express ourselves through dance!



## **Around the World in 7 Days**

This half term we have been enjoying our fortnightly French lessons. We can now count to 20 in French and can say weather names. As part of our Modern Foreign language focus we learnt all about India. We made beautiful Mehndi hand patterns and sacred Elephant decorations. We also tried some traditional Indian treats. Some of us absolutely loved trying spicy food. Everyone enjoyed the Naan bread!



## **Christmas Magic**

Blue 1 & 3 created a beautiful Christmas ornaments for our Christmas tree at the Tamworth Christmas Tree Festival in St.Edithas Church. Our theme was Sparkle and Shine and we thought what sparkles and shines more at Christmas than the Star of Bethlehem and Angels. We used a variety of craft materials to make our tree shine brighter than all the rest. Thank you to everyone who voted for our tree!





## English

We have been listening to a story finding a friend, learning the actions to go with the story and using prompt picture cards to retell the story using actions when it is their turn to speak.



We are practicing our independent spelling







## Outdoor Learning / RE

We enjoyed some outdoor exploring collecting different colored leaves to create our Mandala decoration on the playground.



## PE

We are exploring our movements through dance this half term. We have listened to music 'I just want to be king' then using our own ideas created still actions of animal poses then turned these into actions and moving into spaces.

We make sure we warm up and cool down each lesson and practice our stretches







## Swimming

We are making so much progress in swimming



## PSHE / Jigsaw

We have been learning about Celebrating difference. We looked at different comment cards and had to choose if it was true or not true



## Football Tournament



Some of our Blue 1 & 3 and also Yellow 4 went and represented the school in a football tournament they had an amazing time, scored some goals and showed excellent skills. The group were excellent ambassadors for Two Rivers primary school.

## After scoring a goal!







## Blue 2

Blue 2 have been looking at different festivals around the world, we have enjoyed some Indian bread tasting and have been watching Diwali celebrations on the screen and having a go at some bangra dancing.

As part of Remembrance Day we created a Poppy Wreath and visited the National Memorial Arboretum at Lichfield to lay our wreath. We also enjoyed a craft session that the Arboretum came in and led for us, the children made some lovely poppies that will be on display at the Arboretum.



We have been learning about teamwork in PSHE and together we have made a large decorated fish to go up in the bathroom. We have also been recycling the rubbish in the class and sorting it into paper, card and plastic.

In ICT we have been using the iPad to create music using the app garage band.

We hope you enjoyed the chocolate crispy cakes that the children made. We are currently practicing hard for our Christmas Production and hope that you all are able to come and watch.







## Blue 4

Blue 4 have started the term with a bang! We have enjoyed some fabulous experiences already and the boys are embracing the new adventures we present them. Our autumn topic finished with a trip to the pumpkin farm, and we used this to complete our using and applying work for endeavour week in maths to find the heaviest and lightest pumpkin. I think we certainly smashed this challenge as we needed a wheelbarrow to carry our pumpkin back to the bus!

We have also started horse riding this term, which was met with some apprehension, but all the boys were very brave on their first lesson and managed some engagement with the horses and a couple of the boys even sat on the horse ready for riding next time.

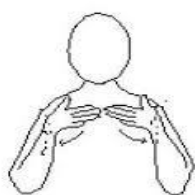
We paid our respect to the soldiers for their hard work past and present and said thanks by laying our wreaths that we made in class, the boys were very respectful and I was super proud of how well behaved they all were in a special place.







## Sign of the Week



Open

Open

With palms towards the body open hands.

You can see how to do the sign here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCCFq9XmVAg&list=PLI9Vwf4A9R2SWL4cbnWjloHy92tjxXmU9>

## Whole Class Attendance

Group	% Attend
PURPLE	96%
RED 1	93%
RED 2	92%
RED 3	95%
YELLOW 1	91%
YELLOW 2	94%
YELLOW 3	<b>98%</b>
YELLOW 4	93%
BLUE 1	92%
BLUE 2	92%
BLUE 3	94%
BLUE 4	94%

**Congratulations to:**



**Yellow 3**



**You have the best  
Attendance for the Month**







## Safe and Well from Richard and Sue



Richard Bryan

DSL



Sue Forest

Family Liaison

**With Christmas fast approaching and many of you buying toys for your children here are our Top 10 Tips for Toy Safety.**

1. Buy toys only from reputable outlets - look for the CE symbol or a UKCA mark
2. Make sure the toy is suitable for the child – check the age range and look particularly carefully at suitability of computer games for older children
3. Be particularly careful with toys for children under three
4. Be wary of young children playing with older children's toys
5. Check for loose hair and small parts, sharp edges and points
6. Ensure that garden swings and slides are robust and are not a hazard
7. Check toys regularly for wear and repair or dispose of them where necessary
8. Keep play areas tidy
9. Follow the instructions and warnings provided with the toy
10. Always supervise your children when they are playing

**If you are buying electronic devices for you children please make sure that you set them up so that your child can stay safe when they are online. Here is a useful guide to help you with this.**





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

## TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).

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## 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

SANTA

## CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirementslab.com](http://systemrequirementslab.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

## MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

## BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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## CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

TOX TALK

## LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

## IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register; entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

HELLO OSCAR

## STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



**National  
Online  
Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday





## Button Batteries are a particular risk! Be Aware!

Button Batteries power everyday objects like car key fobs, remote controls and children's toys. Did you know that if they are swallowed they react with saliva and can badly injure or kill a child?

### To Keep Your Child Safe:

- Store spare batteries securely, out of reach.
- Know which toys/gadgets use button batteries.
- Dispose of 'dead' button batteries immediately and safely - they still have enough power to do harm.
- Teach older children the dangers - why they shouldn't play with them or give them to younger children. Place strong tape over the battery compartment or remote control.
- Symptoms may not be obvious. They include coughing, gagging, drooling or pointing to their throat or tummy.
- **If you think your child has swallowed a battery, take them straight to the nearest A&E department or call 999 for an ambulance.**

## BREAKING NEWS

Magnets can burn a hole in your child's gut!



- Super strong magnets, like these, can cause serious damage to your child's insides if they swallow them.



- They can join together and make holes in their gut. Removal can be difficult and need complex surgery.



- They can be in toys, jewellery, fridge magnets or cheap products bought from online marketplaces. They can be 10 times stronger than is safe.

⚠ If your child may have swallowed magnets, don't delay! ⚠

Call 999 for an ambulance or go straight to A&E. Symptoms can seem like a stomach bug or appendicitis.

 [www.capt.org.uk/magnets](http://www.capt.org.uk/magnets)
 [@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ChildAccidentPreventionTrust)

 **BAPS** | British Association of Paediatric Surgeons


  
child accident prevention trust





## Library

It has been a very exciting couple of weeks in the library as we have started using our new library system. Children are enjoying learning how to check out and return their library books and some classes are doing this independently which is fantastic!



We now have our very own school librarians who are gaining new skills, supporting other children to use the library software, return books and find requested books with me.

The librarians will also be looking at completing the blue peter book badge. Blue peter are looking for pupils who love books and reading and can answer some questions about these. Parents can also complete this at home with your children if you wanted to.

Follow the Link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>



Thank you to parents who attended the reading workshops last week, we felt these went well and it was nice to discuss supporting reading for pleasure, phonics and reading at home and in school. If you have any further questions regarding reading in school please do contact us.

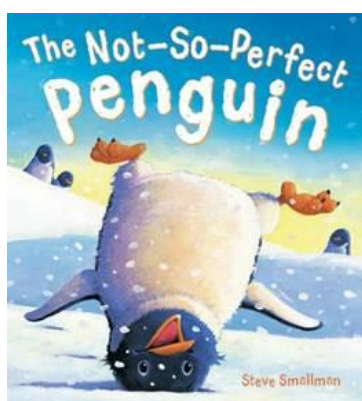




One of things shared was our new school Toniebox, which allows the children to listen to audiobooks and songs by placing small character 'Tonies' on top of the speaker box. This was donated to school, and we are really enjoying using it across all classes. If you are interested in purchasing one for your child to use at home, please feel free to use the following discount code which was sent to us for us to share with parents. Just add "family15" for 15 GBP off of any Starter sets and Starter set bundles using the link: [https://tonies.com/en-gb/bundles/?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlrZiG0MrXggMVwfpRCh2HAQ-vEAAYaIAAEglZJPD\\_BwE](https://tonies.com/en-gb/bundles/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlrZiG0MrXggMVwfpRCh2HAQ-vEAAYaIAAEglZJPD_BwE)



## RECOMMENDED READS



The recommended read for November is *The Not-So-Perfect Penguin* by Steve Smallman. The perfect penguins are smart, serious and sensible. Percy is not so perfect. He likes to play with his food, splash in the water and slide on his tummy on the ice. Then he parps when the penguins huddle up for warmth and all his friends draw away from him. In the end the penguins learn that it doesn't matter that Percy isn't perfect because they love him just as he is. Big, lively illustrations and a simple message make this book ideal for classroom circle times. Points for discussion are included at the back.

The Bug Club Reading Corner recommended read is *Shrek: Can we keep him?* Shrek and Donkey are walking through the forest when they are surprised by Puss In Boots. Puss In Boots tries to scare Shrek and Donkey but his plan backfires. Will the three become friends?

This book is accessible to read via the link:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/resource/1103514>



As part of becoming the school librarian Gina is now part of the School Library Association. As part of this she has been chosen as a judge for the BBC 500 Words competition!





## School Council

Meet this year's School Council Representatives.



This half term the School Council met to discuss Antibullying Week and Kindness day.

We have updated our pupil leaflet about what bullying is, how it makes us feel, how we stop bullying and who we can talk to in school and out of school, to help us.





School Council expressed that we should always be kind to our friends and adults, so they produced kindness notes to go around the classrooms for the children to write why they feel their friend is kind.

Next Council Meeting Spring 1

## This Month's Winning Houses

10 <sup>th</sup> November	Wye
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Severn
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Trent
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Avon



Here are some of the rewards the children can receive at our house point shop when their house wins







Enter our  
**Super Draw**

**WIN A PLAYSTATION 5  
VR2 BUNDLE**



- Win a **Limited Edition Spider-Man 2 Playstation 5**
- **AND** the brand-new **Playstation VR2 Headset!**
- Tickets from just **£1 a week**
- **Play now and support our school!**

**BUY TICKETS**



Draw date Saturday 25th November. See website for terms and conditions.

GambleAware







## Children in Need Fundraiser



WOW Two Rivers!!

**Primary and Nursery raised a HUGE £234 for Children in Need.**

Thank you to everyone who sent in donations!



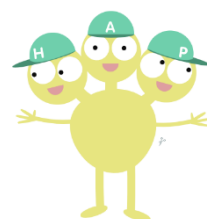


## Homework

Here is some of the lovely homework that has been completed by some of our pupils. Don't forget you can earn stickers and medals for completed homework.



More information coming soon for myHappyminds we will be launching the parent app in January.







# Non uniform day



Friday 8th

December



Please send in a chocolate prize that  
we can use on the tombola stall at  
the Christmas Disco which is on  
Thursday 14th December  
Belgrave Sports and Social Club

7pm

