



Two Rivers Primary School News

Friday 27th October 2023: Issue 3

Diary Dates:

Friday 27th October

Last Day of Term

Monday 6th November

First Day of Term

Friday 10th November

Remembrance
Assembly – Children
Only

Monday 20th November

Hairdresser

Wednesday 22nd November

Stay & Play (Pre-
School Children)
Contact Sue Forest
to book in.

Wednesday 29th November

School Council
Meeting – Children
Only

**You will receive more
information about these
events nearer to the time.**

Headteacher's message

Hello and welcome to our October newsletter,

We have now completed the longest half term of the year, and it is safe to say the children have settled in very well. This week the senior team have been in class monitoring the English work that the classes do – and I am so pleased to report that the teaching and learning we saw, was fantastic quality. The children were engaging very well, and the staff had very high expectations for what the children will learn.

We also had a visit from our safeguarding governor – Sharon Barnes, she met with children and staff who shared how well we work keep all of the children safe. Again, we received really positive feedback from her about what she saw.

If you ever feel that you would like more information about what your child learns, please do get in touch with school. We also ensure that our curriculums are on our website – so take a look there.

We also want to extend a thankyou to all of the parents who have been able to support the school this month, through attending parents evening, SRE workshop with Collette, continence clinics and sleep clinics and our Autumn Craft event – these were so popular and we really do appreciate it when you come and join us in school – it really helps us to work together to support the children.

Thanks to all who have managed to complete the parent's questionnaire (publicised through The Endeavour App and parents evening). The questionnaire is now closed and I will be sharing the results with you on our return to school.

Look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 6th November.



Purple and EYFS

Lots of lovely work has been completed by the children over the last few weeks. We have continued learning about ourselves in our 'ourselves' topic and have been doing some lovely creative activities and developing our friendships.

We've enjoyed exploring with our senses, enjoying foot spas and reflexology. We have been singing, enjoying music and exploring what sounds we can make through the karaoke! We are very tuneful! We have had two more frogs visit and we are very excited when we see them! Some of us have wanted to hold and touch them too!

We are all starting to get very tired from our busy first term and are really looking forward to a relaxing half term break.





Red 1 and 3

We have shared some fantastic stories as part of our Autumn Explorers topic, including 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'The Gruffalo'. Both classes have enjoyed a range of activities, including a sensory story, role-play, exploring character description and creating story paths.



In Art, the children have really enjoyed collecting and using natural autumnal objects to create their own artwork. They've enjoyed experimenting with creating patterns and pictures using leaves, sticks, pine cones, acorns and conkers.





In Geography, both classes enjoyed a trip out on the bus to take a tour of Tamworth and see some of our local landmarks and key buildings, including: Snowdome, our bus and train stations, St Editha's Church, Tamworth Castle, Drayton Manor and the fire station.



Endeavour to Use & Apply Week gave us a chance to practise using and applying key Maths skills in everyday contexts. We used timers to take turns with our favourite toys and equipment. We measured out ingredients to make play dough and bake cakes. We spent money to buy items at Café and our class shops.





It has been wonderful to see some of the children engaging with the Homework challenges this half term. Thank you for sharing this with us!



We are very excited to share that the main part of our playground work is now complete! We have created a new, fenced outdoor learning area and are really looking forward to testing out the new road layout.

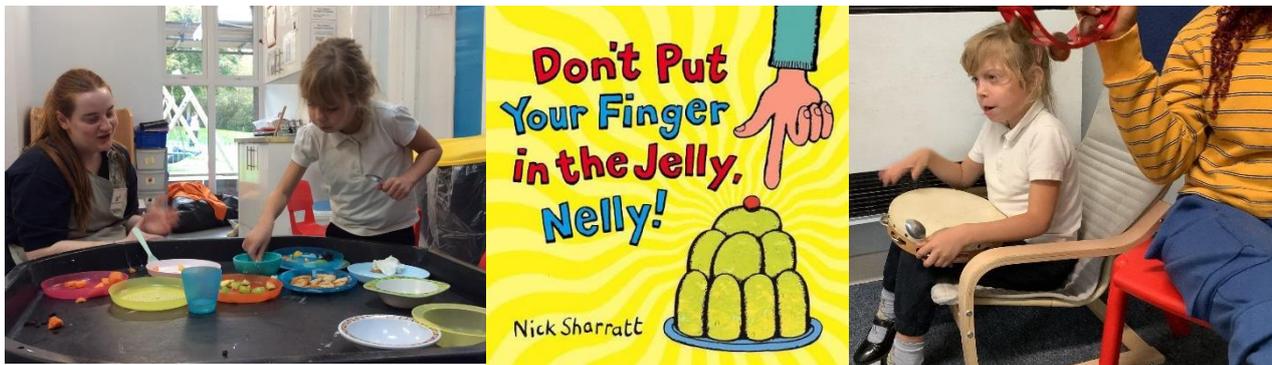




Red 2

In Red 2 this half term we have continued exploring our topic 'Being me.' We have enjoyed listening and joining in with a variety of number songs and exploring a range of books during our 20:20 sessions.

In English we have enjoyed exploring a range of sensory stories, our favourite being 'Don't put your finger in the jelly Nelly!'



In PE we have been in the hall and have been rolling a large inflatable ball to an adult and have been looking at different ways to travel around the hall. We have also explored an up and down obstacle course!

In computing we have been using the interactive whiteboard to look at pictures of our families and we have been creating our own self-portraits using different strokes on the boards.





We have explored our different senses and have used sensory blocks, sensory bottles, different textured items and tried different foods. We have also enjoyed looking at oral health and how to brush our teeth.

We have been enjoying a range of therapies and interventions such as the forest school, intensive interaction, play box, rebound and attention autism.





Yellow 1

Yellow 1 have had a fantastic first half term together! We have welcomed new pupils into our class and have all settled into our classroom and routines.

We have been looking at repeating patterns in stories in English and particularly enjoyed Quentin Blake's 'Mrs. Armitage on Wheels'. We sequenced the events in the story and predicted our own ending for Mrs Armitage.

We have also been working on using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in our writing.



In maths, we have developed our skills in different areas, including sequencing numbers, place value with tens and ones and identifying 2D shapes and their properties. The children loved our whole school using and applying week, where we focussed on applying our maths skills across all areas of the curriculum. We baked cakes, counted coins to buy treats from the tuck shop and composed our own 8 beat repeating phrases using music software on an iPad.





As part of our Journeys topic, in Geography, we have looked at the different ways people travel and how this has changed over time. We have also enjoyed watching to see different modes of transport pass our school and recorded our results using a tally chart and a pictogram.



The highlight of our Journeys topic has to be our trip to Statfold Barn Railway. The children did a fantastic job: following instructions, completing challenges and having a go at the different activities on offer. We hope you enjoy looking at some photos that highlight some of these activities this half term.





Yellow 2

Yellow 2 have enjoyed exploring our topic, trains, planes and automobiles through a range of multi-sensory lessons.

In English the children have shown great persistence when traveling to the library to explore a sensory story about the railway children.



In our phonic sessions we have been looking in more detail at instrumental phonic sounds. We have also begun our letter lady phonic sessions.





In maths we have been looking at length. The children have enjoyed exploring long and short through a multi-sensory approach. The children have enjoyed anticipating pulling ribbons from our sensory box and using sight, and tactile touch to determine if it is long or short. The children have also enjoyed connecting train track pieces together and exploring if they are long or short.



In topic the children have chosen a choice of vehicle to paint. The children have then used their individual communication method to choose a colour to paint with.



The children have also been busy mixing and pouring to make their own playdough.





Yellow 3

Yellow 3 have continued to have lots of fun when exploring the topic Journeys. One of the highlights was our visit to Statfold Barn! We had lots of fun. We explored a sensory story all about a train who went on a journey from India, we explored the Museum, had fun in the soft play and went on a Steam train ride.



In our maths lessons we have been exploring our using and applying skills when learning about time. We have been learning about the days of the week and placing these in order, when reading the story The Hungry Caterpillar. We have also been exploring clocks and learning about how many seconds there are in a minute.



In PE we have been practising playing lots of different fun games, after we have worked upon our independence skills, getting changed into our PE kit.





Yellow 4

At the beginning of the month it was our turn to run the school café. The children used their manners as well as PEC cards and PODD sheets and served all of the customers.

						
!	me	want	more	wait	help	oops
						
yes	no			no dairy	no gluten	
		cafe				
drink	water			cereal	breadsticks	
						
orange	blackcurrant	hoops	rainbow			
						
milk	fruit	raisins	crackers	chocolate	finish	



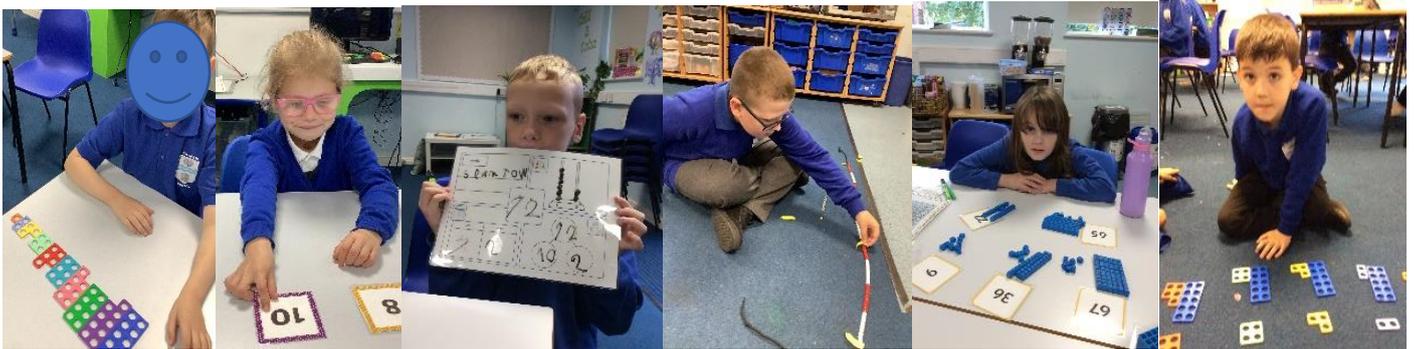
We had a fantastic time at Staffold, finding out about the old trains, and the children were absolutely amazing.





In maths we have been finding out about number sequences and place value.

The children worked with Numicon and base 10 equipment to support their learning and produced some fantastic work .



In design and technology we have been looking at levers and making our own moving models.

The children concentrated and produced some brilliant work from waving hands to seesaws.



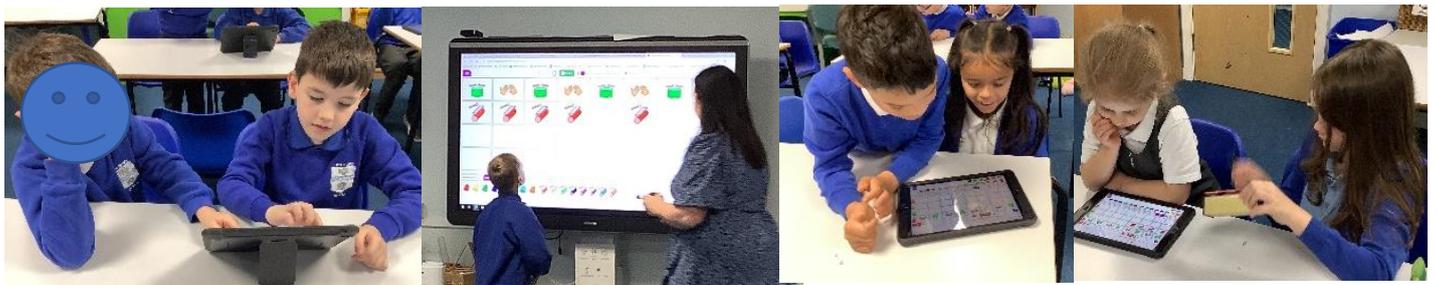


In PE Yellow 4 have had great fun completing the orienteering challenges.



Just a quick reminder that Yellow 4 have PE on Tuesday, so the children will need their PE kit. Thank you .

During our music lessons with Fiona we have been working with a friend and composed our own eight beat rhythm using the i-pads or interactive white board



This half term in computing we have been finding out about the information we can and cannot share online. Using the ipad we made posters to tell our friends how to keep safe when online.





Blue 1 & 3

Another fantastic month with lots of exciting learning taking place.

Maths

We have been working on our counting skills, counting using money and working out the values and measuring using scales to look at what is heavier, lighter and the same. In Blue 1 we have been using our measuring skills. We used a ruler to measure in centimetres.



Magnificent Music

Learning about different types of Autumn music, using the different instruments to create sounds such as leaves, trees, wind and hedgehogs. Blue 1 have been making fantastic progress playing the glockenspiel. The children have been playing along to Groove and Bhangra music.





PE

We have made an amazing start in our swimming programme everyone enjoyed using the floats and woggles. We have a group in the shallow end exploring the water and learning new skills and a group in the deeper water continuing to practice existing skills and move on to more difficult swimming skills.





In PE we have been learning skills linked to Dodge ball. Learning how to find a safe space moving our bodies to warm up Stretching. Learning how to Dodge the large balls Throwing a ball towards a target.



Science

We have been learning about the bones in our body, we recognised they are all different shapes and lengths and some have funny names.

We enjoyed putting a skeleton together as a group and then drawing around each other and placing the bones where we think they should go. Blue loved learning about the circulatory system and created 3D models using playdough.





Endeavour Using and Applying Week

We loved exploring our whole school Maths celebration week. This year we focused on Using and Applying. We baked, took part in orienteering activities helped other classes tell the time and follow daily events and the best of all Blue 1 ran the 'Two Rivers Tuck Shop'. Every class got to visit the tuck shop and buy a yummy treat. Some classes exchanged a coin and some made amounts using plastic coins. Blue 1 were fantastic at leading the shop, checking the money and helping our Two Rivers friends make choices.





Blue 2

This month Blue 2 have been busy out in the community, we have visited the local shop and bought items for snack time, the children enjoy looking at the different foods and they like to make choices of what we will have, we have also visited Pooley Park and had a lovely nature walk collecting sticks, leaves, acorns and looking at the plants.

In class we have been doing a science experiment to see which items float and which sink, the children always like it when we have water and it causes a lot of excitement! We also set off rockets in the playground too and watched it go up in the air before launching it again.

We have looked a lot at shape and colour and the children created some lovely designs with magnetic shapes and have been looking at patterns and have been trying to continue them.

As part of Endeavour using and applying week, the children have been exchanging coins for their snack this week and had a visit from the tuck shop too and all the children bought a treat with their gold coins! They loved choosing what treat they wanted, I think they really enjoyed eating it too!

As part of PSHE we have been looking at people who help us and have had some role play, dressing up and we were very lucky to have an ambulance come for the afternoon for the children to explore, they all had a visit and got to see the lights and listen to the siren as well as sitting in the back or lying down on the stretcher. A big thank you to Elite Emergency Medical Services for being able to spend some time with us.





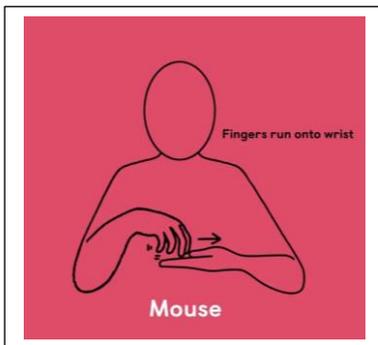
Blue 4

Our Egyptian topic is well underway as we explore making pyramids with different materials. We have used Lego, one of our favourite toys in Blue 4, and then expanded this to cups and sand. This then helped us with our maths topic of 3D shapes as we went on hunt around the school building to find and match the shapes. We have also begun making Egyptian jewellery and collars as we find out more about King Tutankhamun. We have also made our own versions of the King.





Sign of the Week



Mouse

Run fingers from hand to wrist.

You can see how to do the sign here:

https://makaton.org/TMC/News_Stories/SOTW/SOTW_Mouse.aspx

Whole Class Attendance

Group	% Attend
PURPLE	96%
RED 1	90%
RED 2	92%
RED 3	92%
YELLOW 1	90%
YELLOW 2	95%
YELLOW 3	98%
YELLOW 4	93%
BLUE 1	91%
BLUE 2	92%
BLUE 3	95%
BLUE 4	93%

Congratulations to:

YELLOW 3



Attendance for the Month





Safe and Well from Richard and Sue

Here in the Family Support Team we are continuing to help you to keep your children safe and well. Please ask us if you need our help.

Halloween and Bonfire Night Celebrations are coming up very soon, so this month we are sharing our top tips for keeping your children safe at this time of year.

How to keep children safe this Halloween



Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark. But, whilst Halloween is supposed to be spooky there are some horrors that families will want to avoid.

So, here are our top tips for a safe Halloween that you can remember for all the right reasons.

1. Remember Halloween costumes are highly flammable

Many fancy dress costumes are not manufactured to the same safety standards as normal clothing, meaning they can ignite almost instantly and burn far faster.

That's why it is crucial to ensure children wearing Halloween costumes are kept well away from naked flames and other heat sources at all times.

2. Try to buy costumes from a reputable store or website

It may mean spending a bit more but buying from a reputable store or website will be safer. Cheap costumes may not meet UK safety standards and may carry fake safety labels.

3. Check costume labels for a UKCA or CE mark

These labels don't mean a costume won't catch fire. But it has been tested for fire safety so it should burn more slowly.

Also, The British Retail Consortium has introduced stricter fire safety tests for children's dressing-up costumes. Look for a label that says: "This garment has undergone additional safety testing for flammability".



4. Encourage children to layer up

If children wear clothes under their dressing-up costumes, there is a layer of protection between the costume and their skin. This can help protect their skin if their costume catches fire.

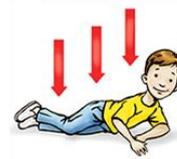
5. Teach children to Stop, Drop and Roll

Ahead of Halloween, make sure children know what to do if their clothes catch fire. The instinct is to run. So, encourage them to practice stopping, dropping to the ground, covering their face with their hands, and rolling over a few times to put out the flames.

Stop.



Drop.



Roll.



[Image credit: National Fire Prevention Agency]

6. Keep candles well out of the path of trick or treaters

Candles and lit pumpkins create a fantastic spooky atmosphere but can be dangerous. Keep them well out of the path of trick or treaters and away from any Halloween decorations that might catch light.

Remember not to put candles on a surface that may burn. And, in all the excitement, don't forget to blow them out when you're done.

7. Consider switching to battery-powered candles

You may want to switch to LED / flameless battery-powered candles to reduce the fire risk. But, be sure the battery compartment is secure. Many LED lights, and the remote controls for them, contain button batteries which can badly hurt or kill a small child if they swallow one.

8. Be visible

Visibility is important all year round. However, after the clocks go back, it gets dark much earlier. By Halloween it will be dusk by 5 o'clock, just when children are out trick or treating.

Reflective tape can make a fun addition to Halloween costumes and make children more visible to drivers at twilight, as it is picked up in car headlights.

Fluorescent glow sticks and glow jewellery can make good costume accessories and can also help make children more visible to drivers.



If you're going out earlier with little ones, then bright or fluorescent clothing is better for daytime visibility.

9. Stay safe near roads

Masks can make it harder for children to see or hear traffic. So, save the special masks for indoors and use face paint for trick or treating.

Encourage children to put mobile phones away when they are out trick or treating and crossing roads. Instead of using the phone as a light, carry a torch.

Children under 12 are best accompanied by an adult. Agreeing a pre-planned route for children over 12 and having a way of contacting a trusted adult if they need to offers freedom whilst keeping your child safe.

10. Carve carefully

Carving pumpkins has become a great Halloween tradition. If your child isn't old enough to handle a sharp knife safely there are plenty of 'no-carve pumpkin' ideas all over the internet. Just do a quick search on Pinterest. You will be amazed at the creativity.

11. Watch out for treats that might be a choking hazard for young children

Lollipops, hard candy and mini eggs in particular can pose a serious choking risk. Plus, remember it's best to avoid eating while walking or running, so you may want to save up all the treats to enjoy back at home.

12. Be wary of button batteries

Light-up decorations such as pumpkins, cauldrons, torches and wands are fantastic for creating a spooktacular atmosphere. But many of these items are powered by button batteries which can badly hurt or kill a child if swallowed.

That's why it's so important when buying button battery-powered Halloween novelties that you check the battery compartment is secured with a screw or similar fastener to prevent children gaining access.

We hope you have a safe and spooktacular Halloween!





Bonfire Night Safety

Remember, remember to celebrate safely!

Bonfire night can be great fun for all the family but it is important that you celebrate safely.

We are appealing to everyone to take great care on bonfire night.

We'd encourage you to attend an organised display instead of having fireworks at home. If you do choose to have a display at home please make sure you follow the firework code.

It's a fact that many accidents are caused by improper use of fireworks and by carelessness. Figures show that more children than adults get hurt by fireworks.

The Firework Code

Watching fireworks is popular and fun. But fireworks are explosives and potentially dangerous, so they need careful handling and storage.

- Only buy fireworks that are CE marked.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light them at arms-length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11 pm.

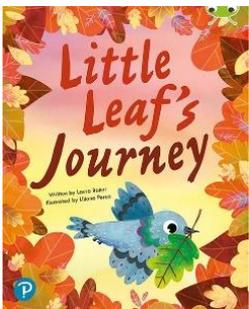
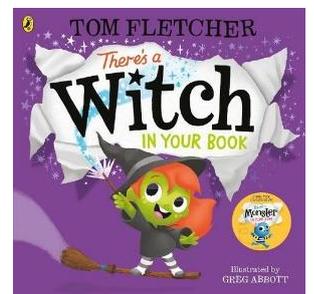




Library

It has been lovely seeing all of the children visiting the library for the first time this month. We have been looking at sensory stories, library skills, choosing books and following some of the library rules. We will be getting our library cards for children to use after October half term, so children will be able to build skills signing books in and out.

The recommended read for October is 'There's a witch in your book' by Tom Fletcher. Hubble, bubble, toil and trouble – there's a cheeky witch causing a lot of trouble in this story from the Who's in Your Book? Series. She's hellbent on making a mess, so it's up to you, the reader, to use your own magic to keep your book tidy. But watch out: she can get cross and might try and turn you into a toad! This is a wonderful story to read together during the witching season.



The Bug Club Reading Corner recommended for October is Little Leaf's Journey by Laura Baker. Little Leaf is happy in its woodland home, dancing on a tree with other leaves in the sunshine. But as autumn arrives it flutters to the floor before sailing on the breeze down a river. As winter approaches Little Leaf settles with other leaves on the forest floor and is covered with a soft blanket of snow. But what will happen to little Leaf in the spring, when new plants shoot from the ground?

This book is accessible to read via the link:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/resource/986845>

Or alternatively you can listen to the story via the link:

[986881v1 - Little Leaf's Journey \(pearsoncmg.com\)](https://www.pearsoncmg.com/986881v1)

If you need a log in for bug club or require any assistance please do contact me via weduk (Georgina Bayliss) or the main office.

I have also added a Halloween bingo board for you to try if you want to. If you complete this, please let me know to collect your prize!

SPOOKTOBER READING CHALLENGE		
Characters celebrate Halloween	Purple on the cover	Haunted House
Based on a Fairy Tale	Red on the cover	Title contains a number
A character has magical powers	Spooky graphic novel	Witches



Pets as Therapy

Pets as Therapy Visits with Gina and Millie have started. We have been looking at being safe with dogs and feeling comfortable around them. Millie will always be on a lead with Gina.

To help Millie feel safe please we:

- Use a quiet voice
- Approach Millie from her front
- Say hello
- Be gentle
- Give Millie some space
- Don't feed Millie unless given a treat by Gina
- Wash hands after you have stroked her

Children have enjoyed Millie visiting as you can see:





School Council

Meet this year's School Council Representatives.



This Month's Winning Houses

29 th September	Avon
6 th October	Trent
13 th October	Trent
20 th October	Severn





Homework

Homework is going great keep sending it in.



