



# Two Rivers Primary School News

January 2024: Issue 6

## Headteacher's Message

### 2024 Diary Dates:

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Safer Internet Day

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Last Day of Term

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

First Day of Term

#### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Blue 2 - Tip to Ash End House Farm

#### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Parents Sensory OT at home workshop – Full please look out for future dates

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

School Council Meeting – Pupils only

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Stay and Play – Contact Sue Forest to book

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

*It has been a fantastic, but short half term. We were very pleased that the children and staff have had a settled welcome back to school, following our recent holiday period. On our return the staff were able to update their knowledge and understanding of outdoor learning, to help us further meet the needs of the learners – this was really well received and as the scaffolding begins to come down from completed areas of our roof project, we see more and more opportunity to make the best use of outdoors.*

*This month all of the children took part in our Italy day, and I am sure you will get a sense of what they have learned through the articles and photographs from each class. Do take a moment to look through these with your child and see if they can recall any facts or words from the day. These experiences really do help to open up the world, and are so interesting for us all.*

*We have begun our new topics and information about these should have come home to you. If you cannot find it, please do take a look at the class pages on our website: [www.tworiversschool.net](http://www.tworiversschool.net) we are trying to add more and more information here each week.*

*Thanks to all of the parents who were able to attend our most recent parents evening, and provide us with really useful feedback about the teaching and learning at Two Rivers Primary – we always use this information to update what we do.*

*January has seen a real focus on our cultural capital curriculum, and it has been fantastic to see the children out and about in the community – developing their character and skills and knowledge for life.*

*I hope you have a good half term break next week and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.*

Many Thanks

Laura



## Purple and EYFS

The children have continued to be active in their learning. We have been exploring our topic 'transport' looking at different vehicles and who may use them and developing our communication through signing and singing and using pictures and objects to support.

Last Wednesday we celebrated France for the day as part of our 'exploring other cultures'. The children had opportunities to engage in lots of activities including exploring French food and listening to French counting and songs! We thoroughly enjoyed our 'Day in France'!







## Red 1 and 3

We have launched ourselves into 2024 with our new space topic, To Infinity and Beyond. We enjoyed a sensory story called, 'Wiggly Worm Goes to Space', created our own handprint aliens and have enjoyed rocket themed small world play and mark-making



Our PE focus for this half term is Gymnastics, which we have begun by learning some of the key shapes we can make with our bodies and by beginning to explore movements over, under and through apparatus.







We are working hard to create our very own rockets in DT. So far, we have explored different designs using construction toys and begun to build our own models using recycled objects.



We celebrated a Day of Culture last week, with a focus on Italy. We sampled some different flavoured breadsticks, painted with paintbrushes made from spaghetti, created our own play dough pizza with pasta toppings and shared a sensory story to experience some of the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Italy.







## Red 2

In Red 2 this term we have enjoyed exploring our new topic 'Pets' We have engaged in a multi-sensory story called 'Pop-Up Peekaboo ' where we explored bathing animals, the sounds they make, what they feel like and where they may be hiding in the book! We have also enjoyed participating in our therapies such as rebound, attention autism, play box, TacPac and intensive interaction.

We have been enjoying PE in the hall and joining in with a variety of action songs such as '5 little monkeys'. We have also been looking at the different ways we can travel around the hall.

In our creative sessions we have created been mixing different coloured water and we have been creating a collaborative animal art display by making our hand prints into animals.

We have enjoyed exploring Italy for our languages day. We explored different Italian foods, threading pasta and engaged in a sensory story.

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 'Amazing Animals' topic.

In English we have been focusing on writing diaries for mischievous animals, we discussed that seagulls are very cheeky and like to steal food! We have also been reading some poems about different animals and learning about rhyming words.

In Maths we have been looking at Place value as well as counting in tens. The students have used numicon to help their understanding.

The children are really enjoying our Amazing Animals topic across the curriculum.

In PE we talked about shapes and made some with our bodies, we then acted out animals and guessed who was which animal. We had some great ideas. PSHE we looked at dreams and goals the students talked about how to achieve their dreams and using their friends help and support to do so.

Last week we celebrated Italy day and learnt lots about the country and its history. We took turns in making the leaning tower of Pisa using blocks, seeing how many we could add until it toppled down. We also had a go at upside down drawing, Michaelangelo style! The students lay under the table and drew patterns on the paper.

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





## Yellow 2

We started off in January by thinking all about the new year ahead. The child engaged in a story about the new year and watched London's fireworks before having a go at creating our very own yellow 2 firework picture by splatter painting.



In English we have explored zooming to the moon through sensory exploring and a make-believe adventure. We explored all planets through sensory exploration.



In math's we have been revisiting the concept of 1 and the children have been encouraged to choose 1 alien and 1 rocket. We have also enjoyed exploring counting songs.





During our community visits we have enjoyed interacting with nature and promoting our gross motor skills at Pooley park.







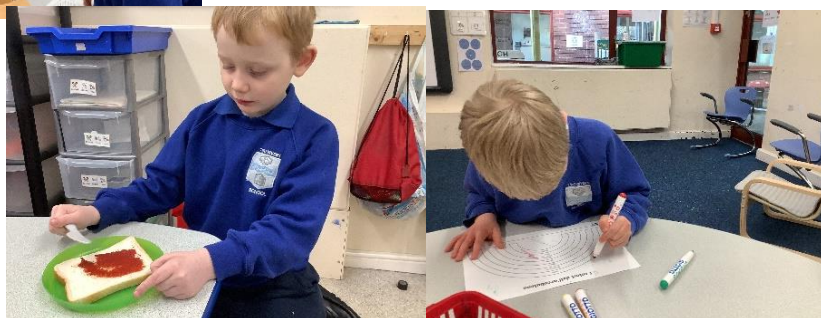
## Yellow 3

This half term Yellow 3 have been exploring the topic Amazing animals. In our English lesson we have particularly enjoyed our adaptation of the story "We are going on a bear hunt", where we have been "Going on a lion hunt". We have really gotten into repeating the phrases in the story and acting out the different actions.



In maths we have been using bucket scales whilst learning about heavy and light. We have explored how the scales act when the different objects are placed into the buckets.

During our Modern Foreign Languages day, we focused upon the country of Italy. We made (and ate) our own mini pizzas, we created our own rainbow pictures whilst learning the names of the different colours in Italian and



During PE we have been learning all about different ways to travel during our gymnastics lessons. We loved using the equipment and learnt all about how to use it safely. We have also been looking at the different shapes we can make using our bodies.







## Yellow 4

We have started our new topic Amazing Animals this month.

In science we have been classifying animals into groups of amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles. The children use fact cards one for each group and matched the animals to the correct group.



Our finished animal classification .....



In music we have been listening to Carnival of the animals and using the correct musical terms dynamics, tempo and pitch. We created our own hand signs to help us remember what each word means, and then wrote our own listening maps for The Carnival of the Animals; Kangaroos by Camille Saint Saëns.



In maths we have been learning about money, making amounts, finding different ways to make the same amount and increasing the cost of items.





During our work on mass and weight, we have used non-standard units of measurement to weigh different items around the classroom. Some children were using weights to compare items as being heavier or lighter than the weight we were using.



As part of MFL day we all took part in Italy day, finding facts, tasting foods, learning Italian words and creating The Leaning Tower Of Pisa.



In our forest school sessions, we have been busy practicing our knots, after practicing in the classroom we wrapped up and took our new skills outside and made a variety of structures.







## Blue 2

Happy New Year from all of Blue 2. The children have settled back into school well and have been busy with their new topic of "Magic Carpet Ride". Each week we are visiting a different area and experiencing new things. So far we have visited Egypt where we have dug for treasure in the sand, we have completed activities of jigsaws, dancing like an Egyptian. Last week we focused on India and made some Rangoli patterns, tasted Indian foods and had a go at some Bollywood dancing.



This week we are in the jungle and so far, have enjoyed a story massage and recognising animal sounds and copying them. We have been learning animal Makaton signs too. We have been out in the community visiting Pooley park and practicing our gross skills on the park and using our play equipment at school. We also participated in the recent MFL Italy day where we enjoyed a sensory story and threaded pasta onto pipe cleaners to make bracelets.



In PSHE we have been recognising that some people are people we know are family and some are friends and we have sorted these people into different groups. We have been looking at people who help us to such as the police, fire and nurses, and working together and sharing toys and games with each other.

We made the most of the cold and icy weather and looked at ice and its temperature, we allowed some toy farm animals to be frozen in a tray overnight and had great fun in freeing them and playing with the ice. Each week we visit Forest School with Sean and this is something the children really look forward to and have a lot of fun exploring the area.







## Blue 1

Happy New Year Blue 1 and all our lovely families. What a wonderful Autumn term we had! Everyone has started back ready for the new year and the adventures ahead. Some of us in our last year at Two Rivers Primary.

### Super Space

Our topic this half term is 'Space 5,4,3,2,1'. We have been learning all about our solar system and creating pieces of art as well as learning about our solar system scientifically. We can now name planets, talk about their order and begin to think about the materials they are made of. In the next few weeks we will be learning about how night and day happens and also what affect gravity has and why it is so important.



### Gymnastics

In PE our focus this half term is gymnastic. We have been exploring large pieces of equipment safely and expressing ourselves through large body movement. We have been learning how to move in interesting ways, how to climb safely and how to jump with control. We are LOVING this topic and all children are making fantastic progress.







## Italian Day

A highlight of this half term was Italian Day. The children loved our immersive day and really enjoyed trying to use the Italian language. We ate Gelato, painted like Leonardo Da Vinci and made a 3D model of The Leaning Towers of Pisa. The children loved lying down and drawing but said they were not sure they could do a whole ceiling like Leonardo did! We of course had to put a little picture of us holding The Leaning Tower of Pisa. In my opinion it is one of our best 3D models ever made! Lots of laughs and fun was had!







## Blue 2

Happy New Year from all of Blue 2. The children have settled back into school well and have been busy with their new topic of "Magic Carpet Ride". Each week we are visiting a different area and experiencing new things. So far we have visited Egypt where we have dug for treasure in the sand, we have completed activities of jigsaws, dancing like an Egyptian. Last week we focused on India and made some Rangoli patterns, tasted Indian foods and had a go at some Bollywood dancing.



This week we are in the jungle and so far, have enjoyed a story massage and recognising animal sounds and copying them. We have been learning animal Makaton signs too. We have been out in the community visiting Pooley park and practicing our gross skills on the park and using our play equipment at school. We also participated in the recent MFL Italy day where we enjoyed a sensory story and threaded pasta onto pipe cleaners to make bracelets.



In PSHE we have been recognising that some people are people we know are family and some are friends and we have sorted these people into different groups. We have been looking at people who help us to such as the police, fire and nurses, and working together and sharing toys and games with each other.

We made the most of the cold and icy weather and looked at ice and its temperature, we allowed some toy farm animals to be frozen in a tray overnight and had great fun in freeing them and playing with the ice. Each week we visit Forest School with Sean and this is something the children really look forward to and have a lot of fun exploring the area.







## Blue 3

Blue 3 have been preparing for the cold weather outside in forest school by choosing the correct footwear and clothing. We also got busy designing and building dens out of sticks.



For Gymnastics lots of equipment is out ready to be used. The children all enjoyed exploring the different pieces using their bodies and finding a range of ways to travel and move around the apparatus.



In music Blue 3 have been exploring and using different types of instruments and using them to find the beat and play along to the music of the lion king.







The children really enjoyed designing their Aliens. They had to draw the head then fold over the paper and draw a body, roll the paper again and draw the legs after finishing they opened up their paper to reveal their very funny Alien.



In science Blue 3 have been learning about the planets in the solar system. The children used playdough to make the planets and place them in the correct order from the sun.



In drama there has been lots of role play going on with Becky, developing our acting skills



As part of MFL day B3 took part in Italy day. See some of our Leaning Tower Of Pisa creations.







## Blue 4

This month Blue 4 have been taking part in lots of Space themed activities. We have enjoyed learning about Tim Peak and creating Space pictures using abstract art techniques. We have been reading and creating our own version of the story 'There's an alien in your book'.



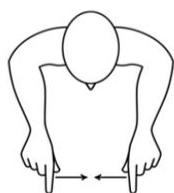
We loved celebrating Italy Day with the rest of school. We enjoyed making flags and trying gelato! We also made 3D models of us visiting the leaning tower of Pisa.







## Sign of the Week



Same

Same

Bring together index fingers at front of body.

You can see how to do the sign here:

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

## Whole Class Attendance

Group	% Attend
PURPLE	98%
RED 1	69%
RED 2	83%
RED 3	96%
YELLOW 1	93%
YELLOW 2	95%
YELLOW 3	95%
YELLOW 4	97%
BLUE 1	97%
BLUE 2	98%
BLUE 3	95%
BLUE 4	77%

**Congratulations to:**

**Purple and Blue 2**



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







## Safe and Well with Richard and Sue



**Richard Bryan, DSL**



**Sue Forest, Family Liaison**



## Safer Internet Day

**As Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 is Safer Internet Day, we have decided to share some information about Online Safety with you.**

### **ONLINE SAFETY**

The internet is one of the greatest advancements of this century, opening up a world of learning, creativity, gaming and connecting. But how do you keep track of what your children are doing and make sure they're staying safe?

Whether you're an online expert or you are not sure where to start we've got 4 key tips to help you:

- **explore the online world together**
- **talk to your child about staying safe online**
- **manage the software and tools your family use**
- **agree rules about what's ok and what's not**





## WHAT CHILDREN DO ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL NETWORKING

Children and young people go online to connect with friends, and make new ones, to browse the internet for information, chat with others and play games. They may:

- search for information or content on search engines like Google, Yahoo and Bing
- share images and watch videos through websites or mobile apps like Youtube, Instagram, and Pinterest
- use social networking websites like Facebook
- write or reply to messages on forums and message boards
- play games alone or with others through websites, apps or game consoles
- chat with other people through online games, game consoles, webcams, social networks and tools like WhatsApp

When online, children and young people can learn new things, get help with homework, express themselves creatively and connect with friends and family.

There are also risks, but by understanding and talking about the dangers you can help keep your child safe online.

Teach your children the five key Childnet **SMART** rules which remind young people to be **SMART** online. You should go through these tips with your children.

**S** – SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your name, email, phone number, home address, or school name – to people who you don't know online.

**M** – MEETING someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' /carers' permissions and when they can be present.

**A** – ACCEPTING e-mails, messages or opening files from people you don't know or trust can be dangerous – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

**R** – RELIABLE Someone online may be lying about who they are, and information you find on the internet may not be reliable.

**T** – TELL your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

**Managing screen time is also very important especially at bedtime so please look at the following top tips to help you with that.**





## Top Tips for...

# MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

### GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. There's also the local shop would do the main thing in getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

### TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

### GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might even come of these guidelines when you do want to go online.

### AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Designate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

### HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows where it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

### BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend is potentially stressful when it's the internet – like social media platforms – can also be very addictive.

### 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

### SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

### TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

### SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically grab your phone, TV or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

### WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

### Meet Our Expert

Julia Abbott designed and delivered the UK's only specialist programme on mental health qualifications. She also provides training and support to education organisations across the country – supporting school leaders and staff with the latest digital technology to make their settings safer for their students and the mental health of people who present to the school.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday





## Library

It has been a very exciting couple of weeks in the library as we have had our new library furniture arrive. Children have particularly enjoyed the new seating areas. Here is a sneak peak of our new library furniture, there will be more photos once everything has arrived and been displayed.



This week children have also chose their free book for World Book Day 2024. Keep your eyes out for more information about what we are doing to celebrate World Book Day in school in March.

Storytelling week is happening the week beginning 29/01/2024. Children will be having story sessions in the new library, class activities and Reading for pleasure resources will be shared with yourselves.

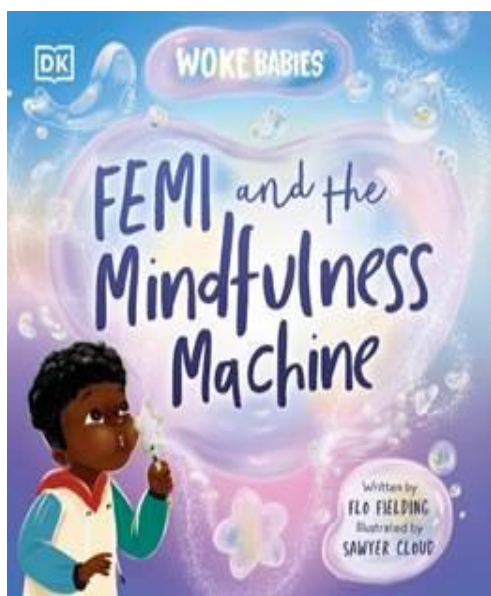
Here are some of our younger pupils using the library software to borrow a library book for home.







## RECOMMENDED READS



The recommended read for January is Femi and the Mindfulness Machine by Flo Fielding.

Femi is making a wind machine for Science Day at school. When he blows on the windmill's sails, the blades spin round and lift a paper cup. Only, sometimes it doesn't work. What if it doesn't work on the day? What if he's too nervous to explain how hard he's worked on it? Luckily, Gran has some delicious hot chocolate, and some useful thoughts. She knows that the way to tackle any problem is to breathe slowly and stay calm. Plus blowing bubbles can help! The next day, when Femi's machine doesn't work at school, he uses her advice to stop feeling anxious, and shares it with his friends. Gran was right: it's not what you do, it's the way that you do it!

Available to watch at <https://youtu.be/eLRWKZsNvFk?si=gw6rT7JcKvdVQzMd>

## Reading Corner



The Bug Club Reading Corner recommended read is The Shark in the Dark by Peter Bently.

It's chaos in the ocean. The shark in the dark is heading this way and he's hungry. Will the flustered fish become saltwater snacks, or can they come up with a plan to teach that great greedy shark a lesson he'll never forget?

Available to read at

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/resource/1116137>

Available to watch at

[https://youtu.be/Vylznyfo7Ew?si=K4d06usDu86\\_Mtae](https://youtu.be/Vylznyfo7Ew?si=K4d06usDu86_Mtae)





## Pets as Therapy

Millie is enjoying her sessions with the children, and they are learning all about Millie in group discussions. Lots of children are telling me how they know when a dog is feeling happy or sad. We have had some lovely conversations all about the children's pets at home as well. Here are some photos of Millie and the children having a lovely time getting to know each other.

Any questions regarding the library, reading for pleasure or Millie the Pets As Therapy dog please do contact Gina.







## School Council

Meet this year's School Council Representatives.



Next Council Meeting Spring 1 Where we will look at Easter Competitions

## This Month's Winning Houses

Week 1	Trent and Severn
Week 2	Severn
Week 3	Avon







In school we have been launching myhappyminds program. Last half term we covered the topic Celebrate and we sent a newsletter home so could practice some of the strategies with your child. There also is a parents App to download at <http://myhappyminds.org/parents-resources>

The code for the App is 146201

This half term we are launching our Happiness Hero Ambassadors in school. The children have already completed application forms and the interviews are on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Our role is to be myHappy mind ambassadors  
for the school to lead the way in helping all  
children look after their own happiness.**

This half term we will be looking at Appreciate, newsletter to follow.

There will be more information at Parents Evening.





# Living Eggs



We have some **eggciting** news to share with you all. We have had 10 eggs delivered to school as part of the Ready to Hatch Scheme from Living eggs. This is giving the children a first-hand experience of observing and learning about how eggs hatch into chicks. We are learning how to care for them feed and keep them warm.

Maybe at home the children could start to think of some names for the chickens and share them with Sean.



Please join our private face book Two Rivers Primary. Tamworth.

This is our official face book page where we will share events, school and community news with you.