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St Mary's Community Messenger

*Our School Newspaper - written and edited
entirely by our amazing children!*

Wednesday 19th July 2023

EDITION 1

£2

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you and your family are well. It has been an incredible year at St Mary's as we have shared so many rich learning experiences with our children. It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another school year!

I am so proud of our children's enthusiasm for learning and engagement in all the opportunities that we provide in school. Our children live out their school values through their respectful behavior and sense of responsibility both for themselves and to the rest of our school community. Our Sanctuary School Status continues to demonstrate our commitment to our vision and core values.

I would like to share with you some headlines from our excellent SATS results this year. The children in Year 6 made strong progress and they have achieved and exceeded national standards. This is a testament to the children's efforts, parental support with home learning and our hard-working teachers.

There have been so many highlights of a busy Summer term and I hope you enjoy reading all about them in this special edition of St Mary's Newspaper, which was written by our creative budding journalists. Community continues to lie at the heart of our school and you can find out more about the exciting events and campaigns we have shared on several pages. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our families for working in partnership with us to support your children's learning; we value all that you have done.

As always, I extend my thanks to our team of staff and governors for their commitment and care for every child in our school community. I would also like to say farewell and wish those staff leaving us all the very best for the future; Mrs Tildesley, Mrs Harwat, Miss Chesiak, Miss Taylor and Mr Skyrme. I am delighted that St Mary's continues to be a good and rapidly improving school. Thank you for your wonderful contribution to the school!

Best wishes for a relaxing and peaceful summer break.

Christine Graham
Headteacher

GARDEN GUESTS

*The Bishop of Southwark and the Mayor of Lewisham
officially open our amazing Forest School Garden*

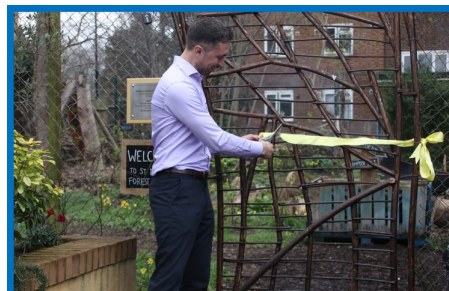


On the 29th of March 2023, in our very own school, St Mary's welcomed Bishop Karowei and the Mayor of Lewisham (Damien Egan) for the opening of our Forest School garden.

Many special guests attended, including the lovely volunteers who added the wildlife into our garden.

Firstly, our Forest School was blessed in a very special whole school worship, led by Father Steve and Father Max.

The choir, led by Mrs Maseko, sang "New life has begun". After the wonderful song, Bishop Karowei talked about the importance of children having a Forest School garden.



We had a countdown to cut the golden yellow ribbon. As Damien Egan cut the majestic ribbon, we all cheered.

Thank you to the Dame Susan Morden Charity and Lewisham NCIL fund for helping us make our Forest School come to life. We also want to say thank you to the staff at St Mary's that gave all pupils a place to be with wildlife.

The day was amazing!

Meet our Amazing Journalists!

The first ever St Mary's newspaper was designed, written and edited entirely by our children.



We are very proud of our children as they have shown enthusiasm, perseverance and commitment to create our lovely Newspaper.

The journalists have attended school events to take notes and photos. They have spent lunchtimes and time at home to draft, edit and publish the stories.

Dancing Beanstalks at St Mary's

Theatre news from our Entertainment reporter Sameera (Year 5)

At St Mary's, a wonderful pantomime was held on our stage! It was a lovely tweaked story of Jack and the beanstalk, including elements of romance, action, comedy and even a bit of tragedy! I have talked to a child in reception called Amy - and here is her feedback!

Amy, what that did you like about the show?

"I love the songs that they did because it was funny."

"My favourite song was the chicky, cha cha and boom boom and also the gangnam style."

What didn't you like about the show?

"I didn't like the villain because he was bad."

Our Year 6 class gave stickers to the children and wrote down everything about the children's sensible behavior, giving a great sense of responsibility as well.



If you want to give us your response to Jack and the Beanstalk, tell our newspaper club please.

Great Things About School Council!

Kajanika (Year 6)

Here in St Mary's C of E Primary School, School Council members try their best for everyone to be happy and safe. School Council members also get to go on amazing trips that teach them important things or facts. If you apply for School Council you need to take part in debates, which is also a great learning experience. If you're not in School Council this year, maybe next year! Get your speeches ready!

You will enjoy doing School Council, but remember there are many responsibilities when you become a member. Recently, we went on an amazing trip to the elderly home and we talked to them, asking them about what they liked and about mental health.



I also asked an elderly man about his life and he told me some things that I had never learnt before. Keep reading to find out more about our school council's amazing trips!



Chinese New Year

Nicole (Year 5) is our Celebrations Reporter, with this story live from the heart of the festival

We celebrated Chinese New Year by doing the dragon dance as well as wearing red.

Our beloved parents made the most fabulous food for us. They showed us paper cuts. They also showed how they perform the dragon dance.



The Great Race

There was an Emperor who wanted to count every new year. He called all animals to race across the river.

The rat and cat didn't like swimming so they asked go on the ox's back. The ox said yes. They only asked ox because they knew he was a good swimmer.

Fast and tired tiger came on the bank. Smart little rabbit leaped onto the bank. The Emperor was surprised such a little animal came in 4th place.

Then in the sky came the dragon. "I thought you were going to be first." "I helped some animals on the way" "Then that is fine!"

next. The goat, monkey and chicken made a raft and sailed.

The dog came next. "Why did you take so long?" "I took a bath."

The pig came last. "Why did you take so long?" "I ate some food." Poor cat came out of the water. He didn't get a year as the Emperor announced the winners .



They came to the end. The rat pushed the cat in the water and leaped onto the bank. The ox came next.

The snake came under the water, but horse was about there but Snake scared horse and came



Did you know..?

That a monster came to China and everyone needed to wear red so that the monster will never harm them ever again.

A Delicious Trip to Brixton

Trip to the Chocolate Museum by Esmée (Year 4), Emmanuel (Year 3) and Ananya (Year 3)

Year 3 and Year 4 children went to the Chocolate Museum, which is located in Brixton, by bus.

Firstly, Martina showed us the cacao and explained where it was grown and how it was used to make chocolate. She also gave us some cacao beans and nibs to taste.

We tasted different types of chocolate, I enjoyed most of them, but the last chocolate wasn't sweet, it was spicy, so we ate a sweet chocolate to cool it down. And then, we made a stamp to put on top of the chocolate, that we were going to make upstairs.



Then, we made chocolate in Mayan style. To make your own Mayan styled chocolate you need cacao beans, honey, chilli or cinnamon (or both).

First, we ground the cacao nibs with a hand-grinder. Then, we added some spices and hot honey into the mixture.

Finally, we mixed the ingredients and made the hand-made chocolate.

We also made a label for our package to pack our hand-made chocolate in Mayan style. After that, we came back to school.



The Mayans

In about 1500 BC, the Mayans were the people in ancient Maya of Meso-america. They were the first people who invented chocolate. They thought it was the food of the gods given to them. Instead of eating chocolate, they drank it.

To make the chocolate drink, the Mayans broke down the cacao beans then poured it from one pot to another again and again until the drink is smooth and foamy to drink. Spain was the first country which cultivated chocolate in Europe.



History

Mayans made chocolate by harvesting the seeds from cacao trees. The Mayans then fermented & dried and roasted the beans. They could then remove the beans from their hard outer shells and grind them into a fine paste.

Chocolate was introduced to England around 1600 AD.

The first chocolate bars made in the UK were manufactured in 1847.



Did you know..?

The Mayans called chocolate 'bitter water'.

Brilliant Bangladesh

Learn all about this fascinating country with our Geography reporter Zakir (Year 5)



Religion

The major religion in Bangladesh by a wide margin of 91% is Islam. Hinduism (followed by 1 Billion people in next door neighbours India) also accounts for a mind-boggling 9% of the massive population.

Population

The population of Bangladesh is an amazing 172 million and counting! But, one of the downsides to this is the massive overcrowding in big cities like Dhaka.

Rivers

Bangladesh has a staggering 710 rivers! But this causes lots of floods each year. The most famous one runs through Sylhet, the River Surma. Millions of people cross over it every year.

Area

The area of Bangladesh is an approximate 148 and a half thousand kilometers squared! However, Russia is the largest country in the world and is 115 times bigger. Can you believe that Bangladesh can hold 172+ million people!

Late drama on the pitch

Football correspondent Shashi (Year 6) reporting live from the Haseltine stadium



At the start of the 2022/23 season at St Mary's, the Year 5 and 6 football clubs marched

down to Haseltine Primary School to face other primary schools from around Lewisham.

The first half of the game was pretty miserable. The score was 1-0. Second half was shocking! We recovered one goal and the score was 1-1. In the very last minute, the opponents got a penalty!

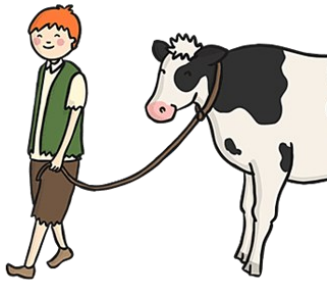
Unfortunately, they scored and the score in the end was 2-1 to the opponents. We were very disappointed but we loved the game and we had fun!

Sameera's Storytime

Cuddle up with a blanket and a teddy for a favourite story retold by Sameera (Year 5)



Once upon a time, there was a little boy called Jack. He lived with his mum Jan. Although they were happy, they were very poor and in big debt. So eventually, they had to sell their favourite cow, Bessy.



When Jack arrived at the market, a strange man wanted to exchange Bessy for some “magic beans”.

“If you give me this cow, I’ll give you some magic beans,” croaked the man. “Ok!” Jack agreed, jumping around with glee.

When Jack arrived home, he showed his mum the magic beans. But his mum was **furious** that he had given away their cow for some silly beans! So she threw them out of the window.

When Jack woke up, he saw a giant beanstalk had grown out of his window! He started to climb up the beanstalk. When he arrived, the door was already open and he entered the castle.

He saw a pot of gold and he took it. Suddenly, a giant came and shouted “Fi Fi Fo Fum, I smell the blood of an English man.” Jack quickly ran down the beanstalk and showed the gold to his mum.



The next day, Jack climbed the beanstalk and found a golden goose who laid golden eggs!



On the last day of the week, Jack climbed the beanstalk and found a golden harp. As he took the harp it began to sing, “Help me master, help, help!” The giant woke up and climbed down the beanstalk.

Once he got down the beanstalk, he asked his mum for an axe to cut down the beanstalk.

And they lived happily ever after.

The End

Healthy Eating

Science Reporter Anneliese (Year 2) with some important facts!

We went on a trip to learn about healthy eating. We also learned about sugar and salt in food. Did you know that ketchup has more sugar than salt?

We were looking at food groups. A voice came closer and closer. It was a goblin! We asked him some questions but he got them all wrong.



Year Six Learning

Ayana (Year 6) reporting straight from the classroom

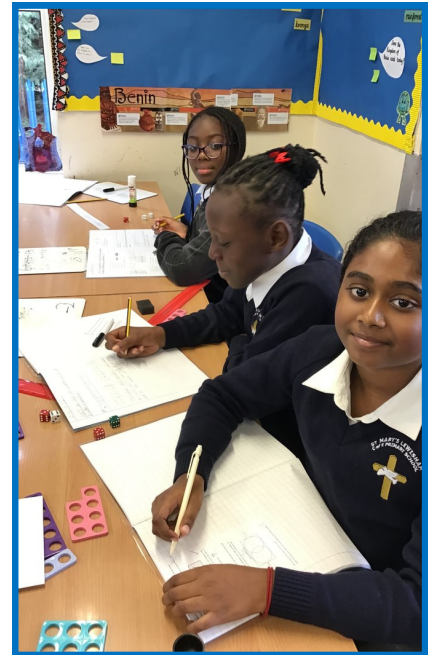
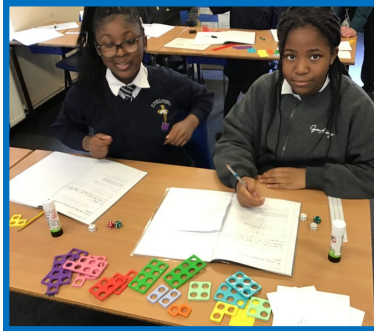
In **Science**, we have been learning about the **circulatory system**. The circulatory system is made up of blood vessels that carry blood away from and towards the heart.

There are three different blood cells in your blood - **leukocytes** (white blood cells), **erythrocytes** (red blood cells) and **platelets**, which make blood clots and stop you bleeding. And they all have different jobs!

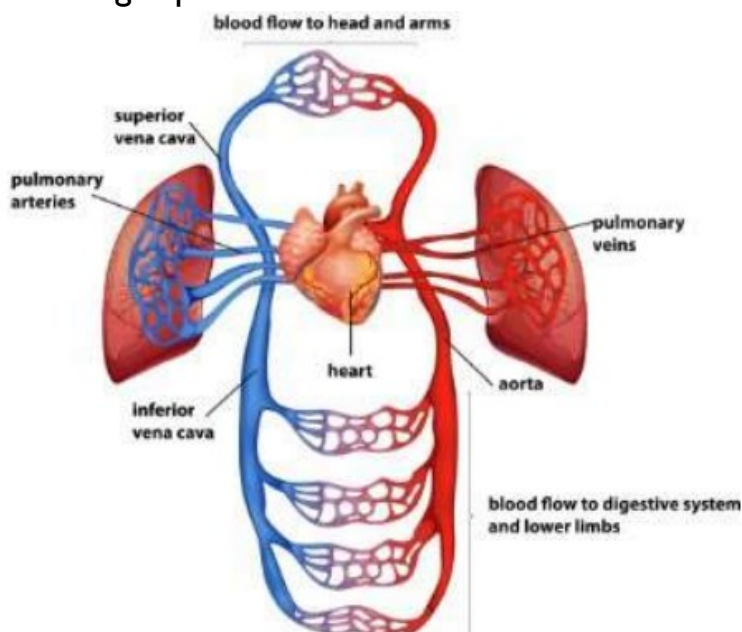
We were also finding our **pulse** and comparing our pulses while we rest, run, hop and squat. **After we exercise, our heart pumps faster to produce oxygen and blood around our body and our pulse beats faster per minute.**

In my opinion, that was an interesting topic.

In **Maths**, we've been learning about percentages and converting percentages into fractions and decimals. We also started working on algebra and geometric measures and the volumes of cubes.



In **History**, we've been learning about Ancient Greece. We got to make mind maps about their democracy and each group made a poster about something different in Ancient Greece. We did a lot of researching and found out so much!



Worship at St Mary's

By our Faith Correspondent Ebenezer (Year 6)

In St Mary's School we have worship in the morning. It helps us to learn and reflect on God's word. We always reflect on how to be a better version of our self.

We always listen to songs that are very calm and makes us feel joyful. We also celebrate different faith celebrations like Eid, Passover and more. We normally have a reading from the Bible in worship.

We have a lot of types of worship: Harvest Worship, Easter Worship, All Saints Worship and some Church Worship. We also have Mothers Day Worship where mothers come to worship and children give their mother flowers.

Sometimes our church teachers/priests come to our school and teach us stories from the Bible and host different services. We have worships where we go to church. You can find out more at <https://st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk/worship>. We also enjoy worship led by our head and deputy head teachers: Mrs Graham and Mr Wright. I hope this information helps you.



Different Worships

A special things about worship is that we don't only celebrate the Christian faith. We also celebrate a lot of other faiths: Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and more! We also do fun competitions such as: Poetry competitions, Talent Shows and Times Table Competitions. We also celebrate Diwali, Eid and more.



Eucharist Service at St Mary's

On a Wednesday morning in February, the KS2 children of St Mary's gathered up together at St Mary's church.

They entered into church while amazing pianist (Mr Stringfellow) played sacred, calm music. Our priests (Father Max and Father Steve) welcomed us in, we lit the candle and the service began. Some Year 6 children took part in the service and I read out prayers and readings related to the service.

The other children sang joyful songs that lit up their spirits. Year 6 children were given the opportunity to take bread and wine down the aisle. Then, the Holy Communion children had the bread and wine. After that, we sang more songs and then Father Max gave a blessing to all of us.

Pupil Voice

"I liked the service because of the music. I enjoyed the enthusiasm in the singing. The service was brilliant and was very reflective."

Ash Wednesday

Shashi (Year 6) reporting live from St Mary's School Hall

Father Steve welcomed all the children, teachers and parents to the worship. He told everyone to ask God for forgiveness for our sins. Then the whole school sang the hymn, As The Deer Pants, together. The children from Year 6 read some verses from the bible – Matthew 4: 1-11.



Father Max took over and told everyone why Christians celebrate Ash Wednesday. On Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake day, Christians start the beginning of Lent by eating pancakes or something sweet. On this day, Christians go to church to get 'shriven'. This means that Christians will give something up for 40 days (Lent). This recalls Jesus fasting for 40 days and being tempted by the devil.



On Ash Wednesday, Christians get ash put on their foreheads in the shape of the cross. Father Steve told us that the ash is made from palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday. When Father Max and Father Steve put ash on a person's forehead, they say these words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



Year 4 Class Worship

By Education Correspondent Nicole (Year 5)

The parents settled in the hall, the set up was different so that the parents could move around and look at what is in their children's learning books.

The children all had a turn to talk about their learning. In History, they had been learning about Boudica. They learnt that she was a Queen of the Iceni Tribe.

After the explanation of these auspicious days, Father Steve invited some Year 6 pupils to share some prayers. When the prayers ended, the school said the Lord's prayer together and Father Steve gave a blessing to everyone.

At the end, Father Steve and Father Max put ash on the foreheads of the children and adults.

In Literacy, they had been pretending to be Boudica. Amazingly, in Computing, every child in Year 4 had made their own game for the adults to play!

Parent Voice

"The games were lots of fun to play, also their reading, writing and maths are excellent."

Wangari Maathai

Ananya (Year 3) and Niyah (Year 4) have been inspired in their History and Geography lessons by this Kenyan political activist! Read all about her amazing life below...

Early Life

Wangari lives under an umbrella of green trees, in the shadow of Mount Kenya in Africa. She was born on the first of April 1940. She was helpful, cooperative and helped her Mum harvest the vegetables and collect firewood.



Education

Wangari worked so hard in School that she won a Scholarship to study in America. She studied biological sciences at University in Kansas for six years.

Return to Kenya

When she returned, she discovered a change - all the trees were gone and the crops had disappeared. All the women were hurt and tired from carrying firewood from miles away.

Trees of Peace

So Wangari needed to make a change. She started by planting nine seedlings...

Activism

News of the trees spread all over the world and Wangari paid the women to help her make a change. Wangari planted many trees, but the Government men kept chopping them down. They said that women can't make a change.

Wangari stood as tall as she could to protect the trees. The Government called her a trouble maker and put her in jail, but she still stood for what is right.

When she was released, she grew over 30 million trees all over Kenya, where there used to be none.

Later Life

Later in her life, Wangari won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. Millions of trees that she helped to plant are still alive now. But she sadly died in 2011, aged 71.



Rotten Romans Cinema Visit

History Correspondent Esmée (Year 4) reports on a trip linked to the class curriculum

We set off on our trip to Eltham Cinema to watch a film about the Romans. First, we waited at the bus stop for 3 minutes so that we could get on the bus. Then, we walked for a little bit until we went on another bus. We arrived!

We learned that the King of the Celts shared half of the land with the Romans but when he died the Romans took all of the land for themselves. We also learned that the Romans wanted to conquer Wales.



In battles, the Roman defense was to put their shields together. The most disgusting thing about the Romans was that they used a sponge to wipe their bottoms!

Did you know that Boudica, the Queen of the Celts, had 100,000 followers! Isn't that amazing! The Romans and the Celts had a war at a place called Watling Street, which is in England.

Protest at Westminster!

From our Current Affairs Reporter Sameera (Year 5)



A few weeks ago, some children from Year 5 joined with some UCL (University College London) students to protest outside of Parliament. We used banners, signs and instruments to put pressure on them. We also made speeches.

**Every Child
Should
Benefit!**

We had a song which went like this: 'We are the parents, we are the children, we are the ones who should benefit, from our country for our future!'

Why were we protesting?

We did this to make sure every child should benefit no matter what their parent's immigration status. At the end we received (fake) money, £24, which is what a child who benefits would get each week. At the end, we threw the money in the air.

Year 6 School Journey to the Isle of Wight

Our Year 6 team of journalists (Ayana, Ebenezer and Shashi) reporting live from the island

On Monday 5th June, we travelled to PGL - Little Canada, on a coach and a ferry, it took 5 hours. We all participated in many activities, they tested our strength, responsibility and teamwork.



Zipwire

We went on a zipwire during our amazing time at PGL. This was not like any other zipwire: we learned how to pull on harnesses, lower ourselves down and rope-work. This helped us to overcome our fears such as acrophobia (the fear of heights).

Rock Climbing

We had lots of fun, but it was tough as well. Firstly, we put on our harnesses, to keep us from falling down. Meredith, our group leader, showed us how to climb up and down the rocks.



Poetry Competition Finals!

Entertainment Correspondent Sameera (Year 5) brings us all the latest action

Most of our school participated in this year's poetry competition. To begin, Mr Wright gave a quick reminder of all the things that we must do to be a good audience. Then, Mrs Kuku - the teacher of year 5 - told us what the poetry competition will be about and introduced the judges.

The children were astounded to see the guest judges being Ms Stead - teacher of Y4 and Mrs Dikule - assistant teacher of Y1!

Our first contestants were from Year 1 - Raiden, Summya and Tyrell performed riddle poems and added some actions too!

In Year 2, our next participant was Nita, her poem was nice and short. Then we enjoyed some very funny tongue twisters from Michael and Sam.

Ananya from Year 3 performed an environmental rhyming poem. And our last contestant was Elyas who included lots of similes and was very nice and short like Nita's poem.



Champions!

Visit our website to see a video of our winning performances: <https://st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk/news-blog/poetry-competition-final-2023>

School Council trip to Westminster

Politics correspondent Kajanika (Year 6) reporting live from the heart of London

Trip to Houses of Parliament

Our wonderful School Council members visited the Houses Of Parliament and learned a great number of things including all the important MPs (Members of Parliament), members from the Lords and the House of Commons. We were very blessed to have these responsible children remembering, listening and being very respectful to the tour guide. We were hugely grateful to all the teachers who organised this fun learning trip for the School Council! Keep reading to find out more about what happens inside the Houses of Parliament.



Fun Facts

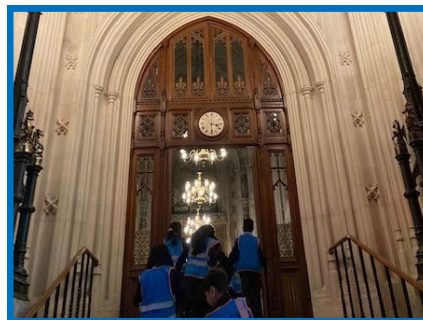
The House of Lords is red and rich with a ceiling that has bits of real gold in it and a golden throne.

The House of Commons is green, they don't really have any gold, but both the Houses have the King's sceptre.



What happened inside?

Inside, School Council were able to see the House of Commons (and our MP) debate on what's right and new rules for our world, live on TV! A glass barrier was set between the audience and MPs for us not to disturb them in any way. Some say that the glass barrier is bullet proof - fortunately nobody has ever tried it.



The second room is the House of Lords, Lords are people that were never elected, they are people who have a very important job and money.



What do the Houses of Lords do?

The House of Lords is where they look at what the House of Commons do and correct them if they disagree.

Parliament History

In the past, Parliament was actually ruled by the King or Queen, they would call a meeting whenever they liked.

Women couldn't vote until it was 1918. The speaker who helped the women was James William Lowther, helping the women get the right to vote from then on!

Puzzle Time

Can you solve these tricky problems created by Nicole (Year 5)

Wordsearch

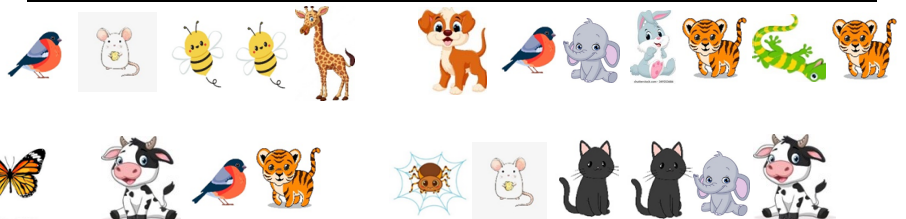
Can you find the words below in the grid on the right hand side. Words can be hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally.







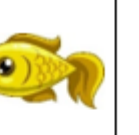




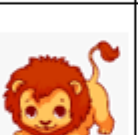


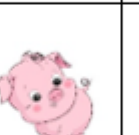
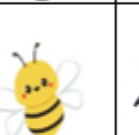

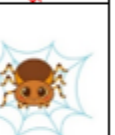






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A	D	C	L	Y	E	A	R
M	C	Q	P	U	S	W	X
N	U	H	R	N	N	Y	Z
O	L	L	I	C	M	A	M
F	T	A	R	N	N	L	R
I	U	H	N	I	E	K	C
R	R	L	M	T	A	S	P
E	E	U	N	T	E	Q	E
W	M	A	E	R	Q	R	R
O	L	W	X	Z	L	K	N
R	N	Q	R	E	D	L	M
K	A	M	C	D	F	G	E
P	A	P	E	R	C	U	T

Code Breaker

Use the grid below to decode the secret message.



								
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
								
j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r
								
s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	

**Thank you to
our amazing
journalists!**

Year 2
Anneliese

Year 3
**Ananya
Emmanuel**

Year 4
**Esmée
Jackson
Niyah**

Year 5
**Nicole
Sameera
Zakir**

Year 6
**Ayana
Ebenezer
Kajanika
Shashi**



Football news

From our Sports reporter Jackson (Year 4)

At the end of the season, Man City were Premier League champions! In the EFL championship, Luton Town secured a place in the Premier League after drawing 1-1 (winning 6-5 on penalties) against Coventry City.

In the League 1 play-off final, Sheffield Wednesday beat Barnsley after Josh Windass' header in the 123rd minute.

Finally, in Germany, Borussia Dortmund lost the title to Bayern Munich after Haller's missed penalty.

Author visit

From our Literature and Arts reporter Ayana (Year 6)

On Thursday the ninth of March, James Allen, the author of Hugasauras, paid us a visit in honour of Book Week. He read his book to the younger children and was explaining to the older ones about being an author. Everyone loved the book!

Everyone was smiling and laughing in Reception Class, they were really interested and asked lots of questions too! They were all talking about different dinosaurs. They even got to colour in a picture of a dinosaur. They definitely enjoyed the book.



The Year 4 class was interested to learn about different jobs as a writer: author, advertiser, film writer and many other great jobs. Our reporter even got to ask James some questions. He stated that he was also in the process of writing some theatre and adult books but he's only published one kid's book so far. James said that he hasn't always wanted to be an author, in fact he only knew when he was in his twenties. His favourite genre to read is science-fiction and he loves comedy shows. He's writing a book called Spookasauras for Halloween and everyone's excited to read it!

