

Diary Dates

- January 6th Monday** - Start of term
- January 9th Thursday** - Southampton Art Gallery Trip, Classes 5 & 6
- January 10th Friday** - Southampton Art Gallery Trip, Classes 7 & 8
- January 28th to 31st** - Year 6 Calshot
- February 3rd Monday** - Year 6 Calshot slide show
- February 7th Friday** - Year 3 Mary Rose Trip
- February 12th & 13th** - Parents' Evening
- February 13th Thursday** - Last day of term
- February 14th Friday** - Inset Day
- February 24th Monday** - Start of term
- March 5th Wednesday** - Year 5 River Trip (details to follow)
- March 6th Thursday** - Year 5 River Trip (details to follow)
- March 7th Friday** - World Book Day (details to follow)
- March 13th Thursday** - Collaborative Concert (details to follow)
- March 25th Tuesday** - Book Fayre (details to follow)
- April 4th Friday** - Last day of term
- April 22nd Tuesday** - Start of term
- April 24th Thursday** - School Disco, Year 5 4:45pm—5:45pm
Year 6 6:00pm—7:00pm
- April 25th Friday** - Year 4 Fairthorne Manor
- May 1st Thursday** - School Disco, Year 3 4:45pm—5:45pm
Year 4 6:00pm—7:00pm
- May 5th Monday** - Bank Holiday
- May 12th to 16th** - Year 6 SATs week
- May 23rd Friday** - Last Day of term
- June 2nd Monday** - Inset Day
- June 3rd Tuesday** - Start of term
- June 9th Monday** - Year 6 Biathlon
- June 10th Tuesday** - Sportacular event 4pm—6pm
- June 11th Wednesday** - Year 6 Bridging Day at Brookfield
- June 12th Thursday** - Year 5 Biathlon
- June 13th Friday** - Sports Day Lower school 9:15am—10:15am
Upper school 10:45am—11:45am
(parents invited, details to follow)
- June 21st Saturday** - FOLH Summer Fayre
- June 27th Friday** - School sports & club group photos
- July 4th Friday** - Transfer Day Whole School
- July 16th & 17th** - Year 6 Production
- July 22nd Tuesday** - Whole School Picnic (no hot lunches available)
- July 22nd Tuesday** - End of term

The Headteachers' Celebration



Mrs Natasha Farrell



Mrs Debbie Clarke

What a successful term we are celebrating.

At the start of the term we welcomed three new teachers: Miss Shervill, Miss Chamberlain and Miss Cockell. They have made a fantastic start to their time at Locks Heath and have undoubtedly strengthened our teaching team. We would like to thank them and all of our teaching staff for their professionalism, hard work and commitment. We would also like to thank the unsung heroes and heroines in any school and that is the support staff. We could not achieve what we do without the dedication and cheerfulness of our LSAs Keyworkers, Admin and Site team.

Our Milestone 1 data shows children continue to achieve very well in reading and our informal conversations with children continue to show us that the majority of children have developed a real love for reading. Maths and writing assessments are also promising. The wider curriculum continues to excite and engage the children. I hope the children are able to share some of that with you at home. I know many of you attended our showcase events and will have seen the quality of work the children are producing.

We talk regularly in assemblies about learning extending far beyond 'lessons'. We talk to the children about learning right from wrong and try to instill the value of respect alongside our 7 learning values. The children's conduct around the school in the majority of cases has been exemplary this term and it really feels as if the children are understanding what it is to be a community.

We were glad our efforts were recognised in our recent Ofsted and we are very proud of the report. However, the reward of being a headteacher comes from the tangible growth you see in the children and in recognising the impact you on them. It comes also from developing staff and in the sense of community from events such as the carol service, the fun run and the nativity.

We are very appreciative of all your support and festive good wishes.

Have an enjoyable Christmas time, reconnecting with family and friends and we very much look forward to welcoming you back in 2025.

Year 3

This term, Year 3 have been exploring our Civilisation project and trying to answer our big question: "Which civilisation was the most civilised?" We have explored Ancient Egypt, Stone Age to Iron Age and Early Islamic Civilisations.



Iron Age
Experience!



Year 3



In our science lessons, we have been focusing on rocks and fossils! We have been making close observations and comparing and grouping rocks. As well as looking at how fossils are formed and how the rock cycle works!



1. We created layers of sediment layers.



2. Then, we put pressure on the layers to create a sedimentary rock



4. Our teacher then melted the rock to show it turning to magma! It went into the freezer to turn into an igneous rock.



3. After that, we used heat and pressure from our hands to change the form of the rock to a metamorphic rock!

Then we ate them!

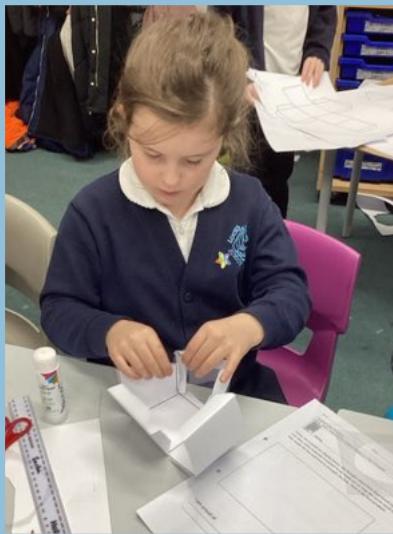
Year 3



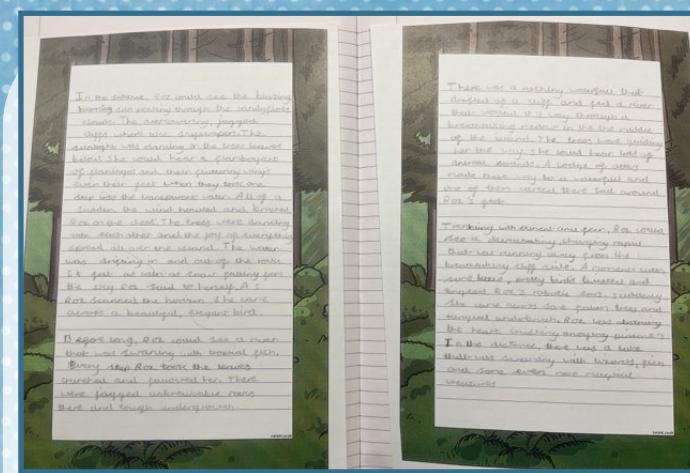
In art, we created our very own canopic jars inspired by Stephanie Kilgast who makes art of repurposed items found in the seas like plastic bottles and tins!



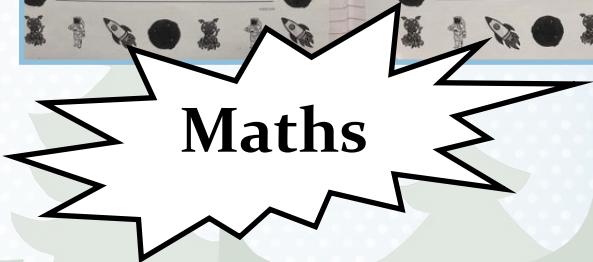
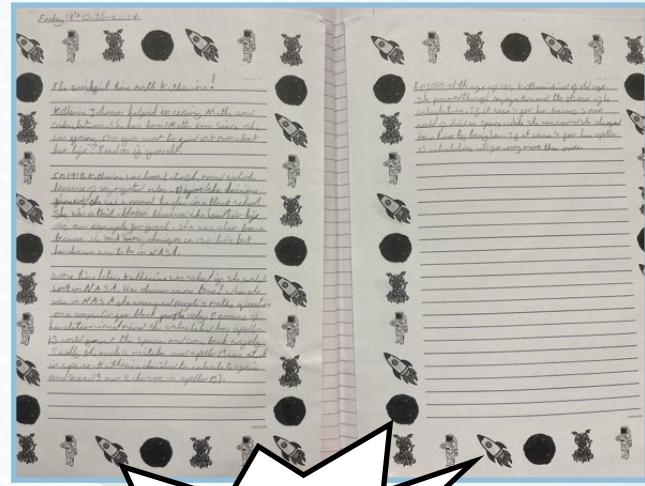
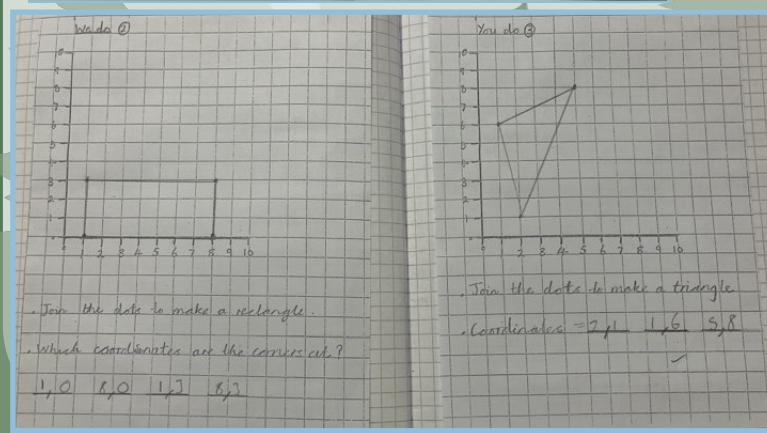
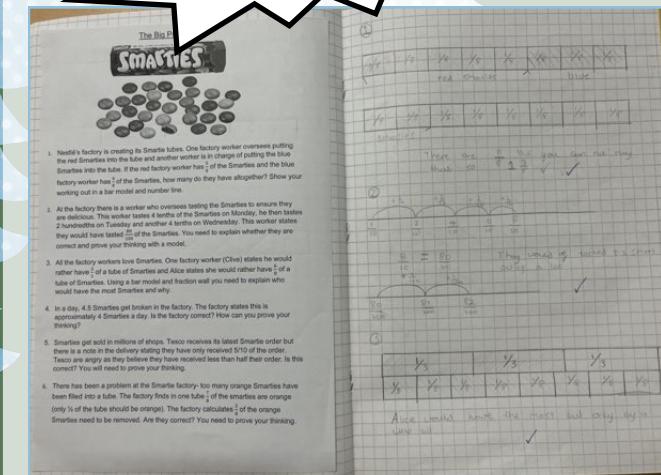
In DT, we designed and made a display box for our "Pebble in my Pocket" that we brought to school. We had to think about how to design the box to make sure it was fit for purpose in size and strength!



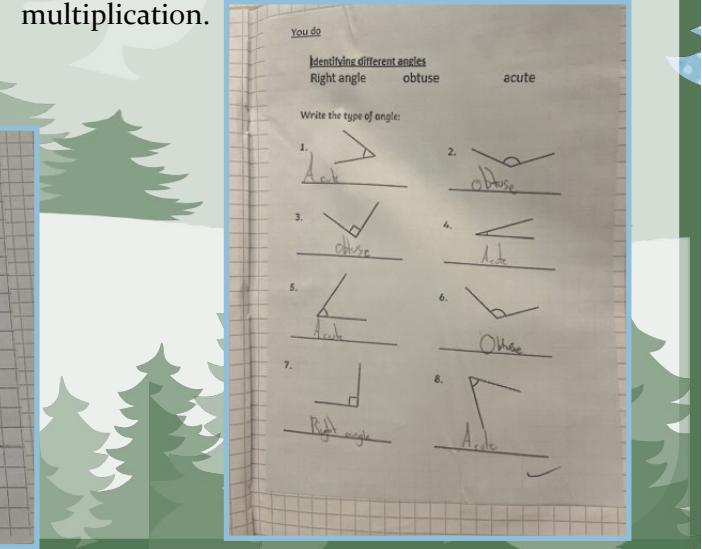
Year 4



In English, we have looked at 4 texts and followed learning journeys with a written outcome for each. We did a setting description for 'Wild Robot', an autobiography about either Thomas Edison or Katherine Johnson, a monster narrative and an epilogue for 'A Christmas Carol'.



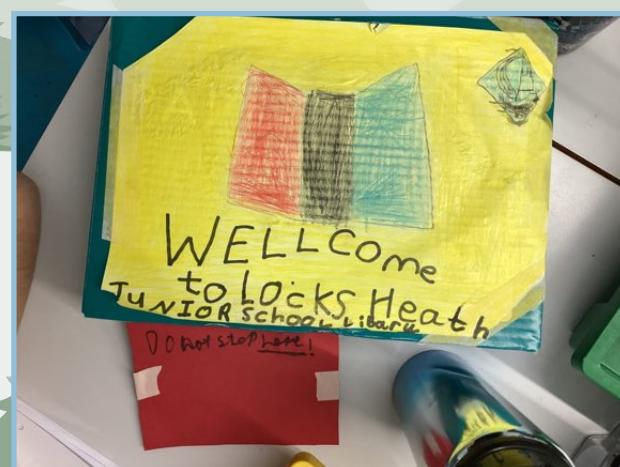
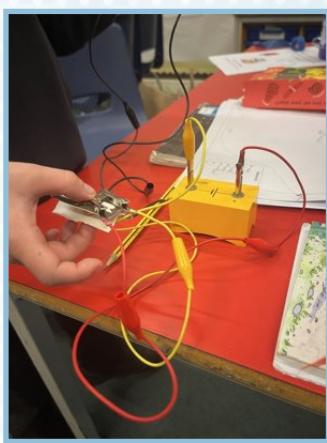
In maths, we have now covered each section of the curriculum. Here are some examples of outstanding working and presentation—identifying angles, solving our fractions big problem, plotting coordinates and multiplication.



Year 4



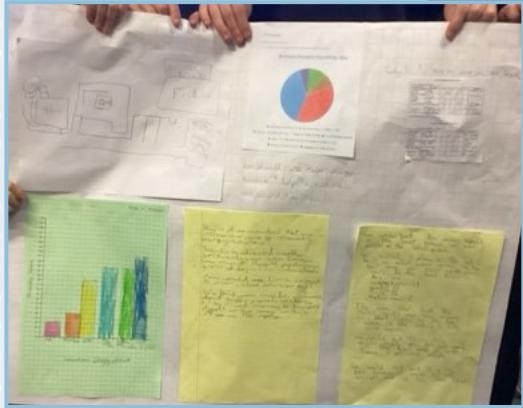
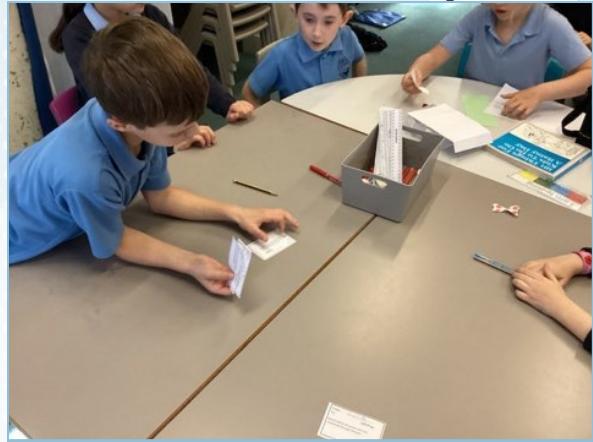
In DT this term, we were asked to design and make an intruder alarm to protect the library from Frankenstein. The children had to make their own switch using their knowledge of circuits and electricity from earlier in the term.



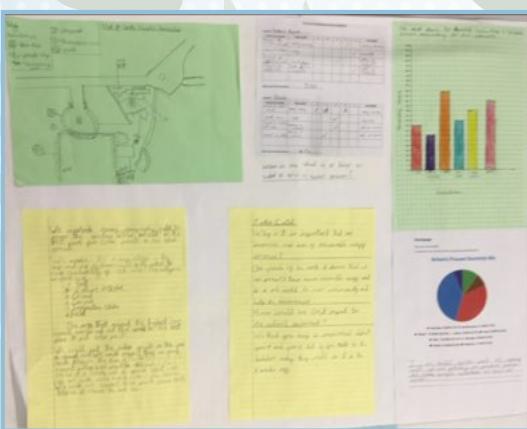
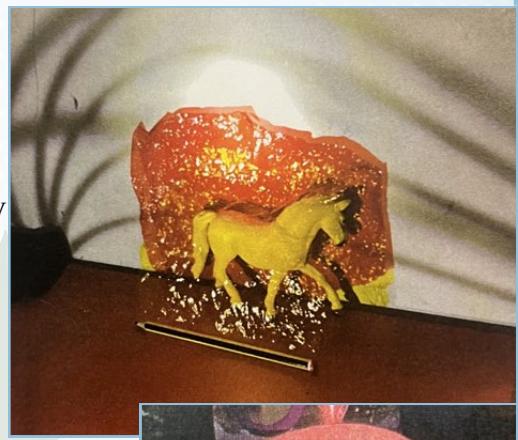
Year 4



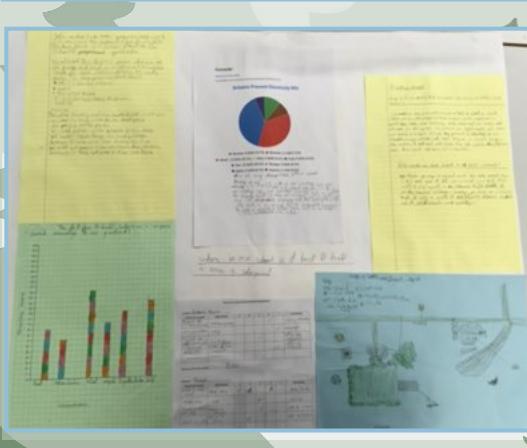
We looked at networks and how the internet works in computing. This included how communication works using technology.



For geography, we had to consider where would be best in school to put a source of renewable energy and present our findings. This included fieldwork, cartography, data analysis and reasoning.



We looked at photography in art and experimented with shadows, colour filters and camera angles.



Is factual knowledge as important as the ability to be imaginative?

Positive impact

- * The internet means that we can instantly communicate with people around the world.
- * Printing press - much quicker and easier to mass produce written things.
- * Travel - Car, wheel, train - means we can travel further and quicker. Gives us more opportunity to travel.
- * Internet - makes our lives much easier - Shop, look up information, find out news, educate ourselves, cheaper now.
- * Ploughs and fridges - means we have more food and can keep it fresh meaning we do not go hungry.

Negative impact

- * Internet - not good for mental health if used too much.
- * Hackers or internet can scam you or get personal information/money.
- * Cyber bullying.
- * People becoming lazy/overweight because they do not get out enough. Play games online. Go in Cars.
- * Lots of car crashes - unsafe.
- * Cars not good for our environment. Carbon emission.
- * Pollution - Smog from factories, steam trains.
- * Printing press - uses lots of paper. Bad for the environment.

To answer our overarching topic question, we looked at many different inventions and thought about their impacts before taking a class vote to give an overall answer.

Year 4 Nativity



Year 4 Nativity performance of
Lights, Camel, Action!



Year 5

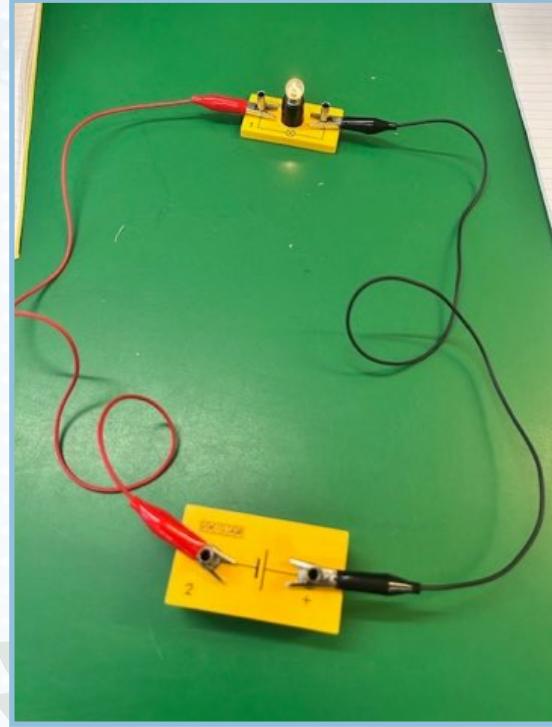
This term, Year 5 have been exploring our Structures project and trying to answer our big question: "What do structures tell us about the societies that built them?" We have explored Ancient Egypt, Stone Age to Iron Age and King Alfred.



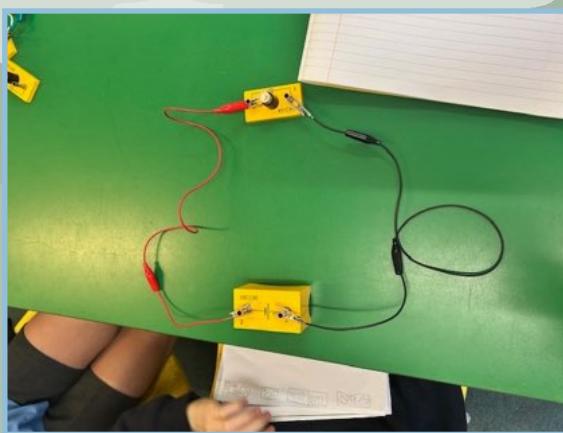
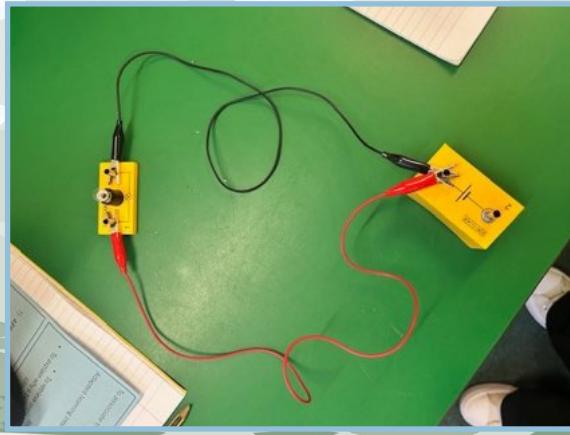
Egyptian
Day!



Year 5



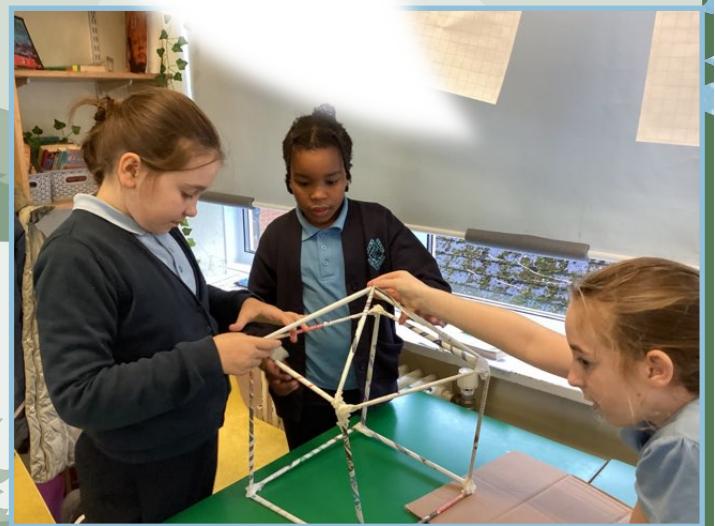
In science, we have been exploring circuits and how different voltages impact the performance of electrical components.



Year 5



In DT, we have explored different ways of joining and creating frames to support our shelters.



Year 6

This term, Year 6 have been exploring the concept of Legacy and answering the question 'Will today's societies leave a greater legacy than those of the past?' We have explored Ancient Greeks, Anglo-Saxons and the past 100 years in history as well as a range of enquiry questions linked to legacy in other areas of the curriculum. Here are a few of the activities we have enjoyed.

Exploring the thoughts and feeling of characters using drama in English.



Completing field work in geography.

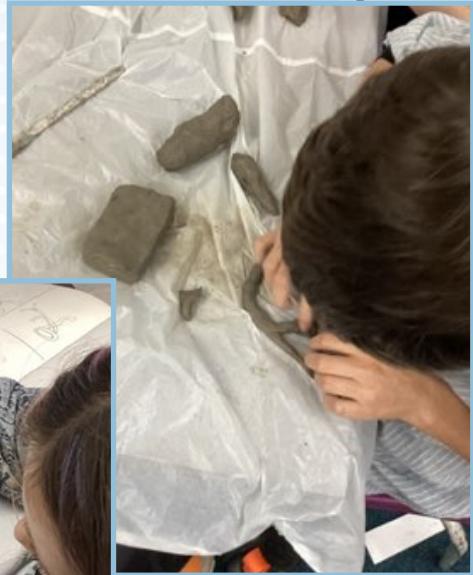


Designing and making savoury scones in DT.



Year 6

Developing sculpture techniques using clay.



Playing the yes/no game to explore properties of shapes.



Wear yellow for World Mental Health Day.

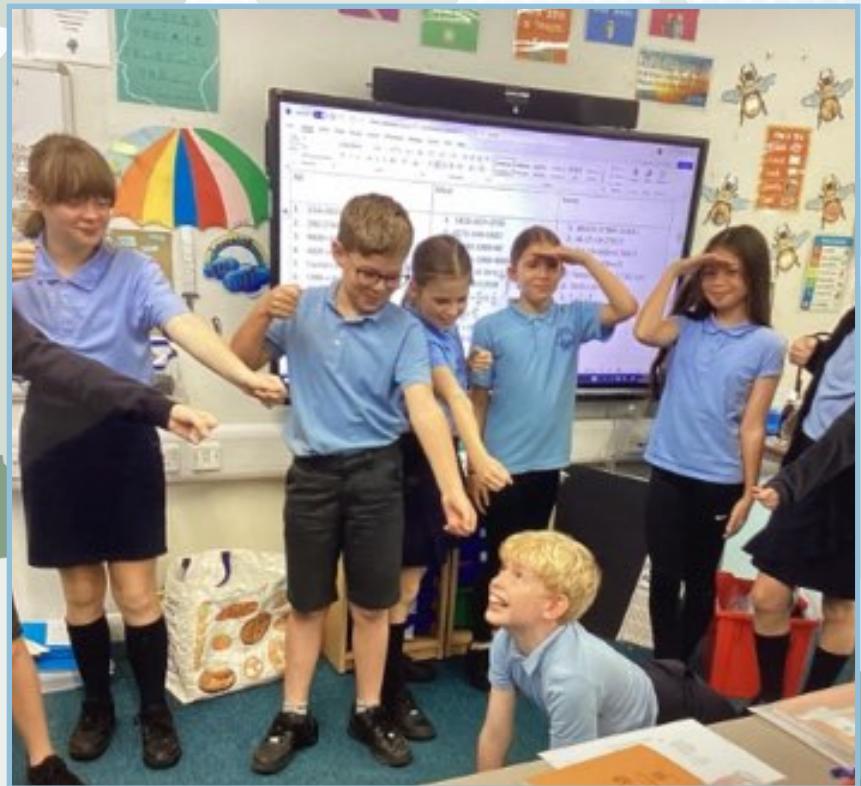


Year 6

Playing sit down volleyball in PE.



Exploring ritual in RE.



Year 6 Civic Award



Our Year 6 children have been busy completing the first part of their Civic Award.

To complete the award they are challenged to complete different activities over an extended period of time, including offering service to their wider community.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements so far and can't wait to share more with you in the next newsletter.

Raising money for charity



Competing in the Junior

Great South Run

64 swim lengths followed by 8 laps running to

Taking part in sporting activities



Giving back to the community



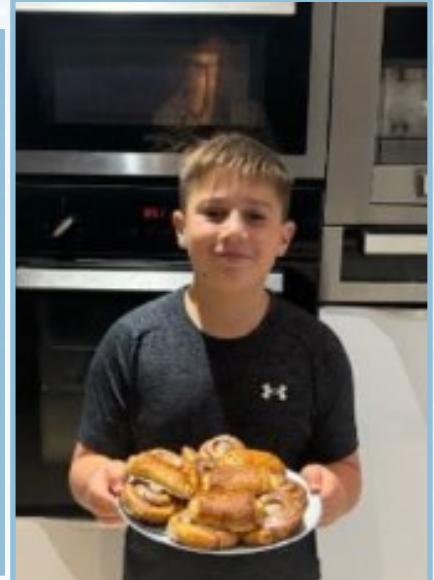
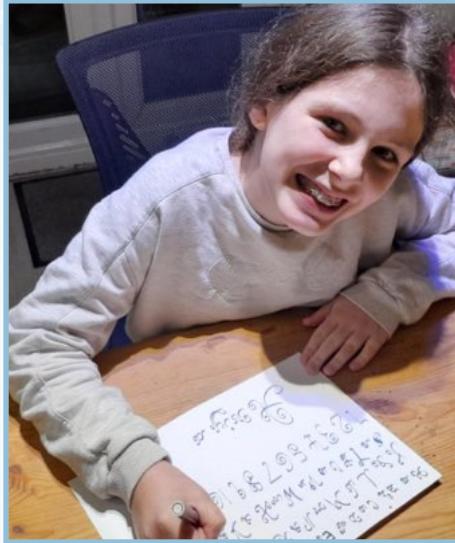
Attending Remembrance services in the community.



Year 6 Civic Award



Learning a new skill



Year 6 Cake Sale

Our Year 6 cake sale raised a whopping:



We received so many delicious donations.

If you would like to try out any of the recipes, then do look at our on-line recipe book for inspiration:

<https://www.locksheathjunior.com/gallery/>



P.E.

This term, we have enjoyed a range of PE lessons delivered by CM Sports. Some of our favourites have included netball, sit-down volleyball, rugby and dance.



We also loved taking part in the Santa Fun Run. It really got us in the Christmas spirit.



The football team and running club are back up and running, I know many children are grateful to the adults who give up their time to run these. Netball club will be starting in the New Year,



Swimming News

This term, our students have made fantastic progress in their swimming lessons! From mastering essential strokes to building confidence in the water; everyone has shown great enthusiasm and determination.

Our young swimmers have developed both their technique and endurance, and many have achieved personal milestones. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing even more progress in the coming term!



Library

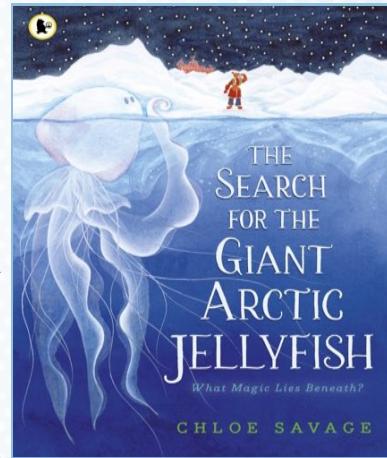


We have had a great term in the library with lots of enthusiastic reading.

Year 5 took part in the Hampshire Illustrated Book Awards which gave us the chance to share six books, all chosen due to their wonderful illustrations and vote for our favourite. We enjoyed all the books but the winner, by quite some margin, was *The Hunt for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish* by Chloe Savage. The books were shared with all year groups and this was a very popular winner and proved that you are never too old for a picture book.

Year 3 have settled into their weekly library sessions and are enjoying choosing their books and taking turns to issue and return them on our computers. They have also been doing lots of books reviews to share with the rest of the school.

The school are now enjoying our Christmas books and have admired the brilliant display put together by some of our year 6 library helpers.



School Governor Vacancies



We're looking for enthusiastic, committed individuals to join our Governing Board as school governors. This voluntary role is an incredible opportunity to make a real difference in shaping the future of our school and, most importantly, the futures of our children.

Who can be a school governor?

You don't need a background in education – just an interest in our school's success and a desire to help. We welcome applications from parents, grandparents, and members of the wider community. Whether it's you, a family member, or a friend, we're looking for diverse perspectives and skills to strengthen our team.

What does being a school governor involve?

Governors work together to provide strategic direction, support, and challenge to help the school thrive. Key responsibilities include:

- Overseeing the school's performance and progress.
- Supporting the leadership team while holding them to account.

Helping to ensure the school is using its resources effectively.

You'll receive training and ongoing support, so you'll be fully equipped for the role. And while the commitment requires some of your time (approximately 10 meetings per year), the impact you'll make is immense.

Why join us?

- Be a voice in your child's education and future.
- Gain new skills and experiences.
- Connect with other passionate individuals in our community.

Play a direct role in making Locks Heath Junior School an outstanding school for all our children.

If you're interested or know someone who would be a great fit, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact adminoffice@locksheath-jun.hants.sch.uk or speak to the school office for more information or to apply.

Together, we can ensure Locks Heath Junior School continues to build on its successes and reach even greater heights.

Kind regards
Mr Gavin Sadler
Chair of Governors



After School Clubs



This academic year, we have introduced some new clubs!

Each year I have a conversation with the children to get a better idea of the type of clubs they would like me to run. So this year we have added 'Rhythm and Rhyme'. Children have enjoyed following a rhythm and then using the instruments in the music room to make some music. The children have particularly enjoyed playing the array of drums. At the end of our session, they have enjoyed 'Just Dance'.

September saw the return of our Cooking Club. This is such a popular club that this year it will now be on *every* half term. The children always make such wonderful treats. This half term at cooking club has been one of my favourites 'Christmas Cooking'. The children made their own mincemeat and mince pies. The children also made, and decorated, their own Christmas cakes. They were amazing!

On the last week, the children worked in teams to build and decorate a gingerbread house. We had 4 teams, and the cleaning staff come in to judge their master pieces! Once we had our winner, the children finally got to eat it.

Last half term, the children enjoyed Computer Club. I set challenges for them to complete on Scratch. Once they have completed them, the children enjoy playing Scratch games.

We also had Board Games Club; again, this is one of my favourites as I love challenging the children to a game. We are always looking to expand and replace our board games. If you are having a clear out, please keep us in mind for donations.

Another popular club is Build It. We have been very lucky with donations of Lego. The children have made some wonderful structures. They used teamwork to build them, and they were proud of what they achieved.

Our final club this half term was Crafty Club. We like to save our recycling, and the children have free range on making creations out of the items donated to us.

On Tuesday, we had our Christmas sewing, the children worked so hard and the effort they put in to their decorations was second-to-none.

Mrs Cheesman

Music



It has been an exciting term for music at Locks Heath Junior School. Every pupil has been enjoying ukulele lessons and learning different playing techniques, culminating with Year 6 using four different chords to play the Lava Song. Year 3 have learned open strumming and plucking techniques and Years 4 and 5 have worked hard to master chords using 1 and 2 fingers.



It is great to see our peripatetic music lessons well underway and our music ensembles gathering steam too. Rocks Heath performed in a super concert to parents, showing their hard work this term. Sing Squad rehearsals have also started in earnest, ready for concerts in the new year and some of the Year 6 musicians joined the Year 3 carol concert to perform to a huge audience of children and parents at St Johns Church!

Years 3 and 4 have worked incredibly hard on their singing too!



Many thanks to
J. West Christmas Tree Supplier
for kindly donating the Christmas tree to
our school this year.