



Dear Families

Dear Families,

This week we started with the Big Geography Quiz for Ks2, every class was represented by 5 children who all performed very well. We have five rounds of quizzes including picture rounds and flags of the world. It was a great way to end this piece of learning on Our Wonderful World, Our Wonderful Town. After totting up the scores it was a close call with Avon winning by one point to Frome in second place, which was exactly what happened last year! Trophies and treats were awarded to the winners and everyone who took place.

So much has taken place this week, The Wildlife Quiz, athletics, football matches, netball matches and cross country. Well done to everyone representing our school so well.

This week was neurodiversity week and within classes children have watched clips and videos, shared and shared work on this matter. I think next week we will raise the profile of this even more. But later in the year we are welcoming an author who will speak about her neurodiversity and how successful she has been in her career. More information about this event will be shared after Easter.

The children have a wonderful time playing games all afternoon, this is in recognition of their hard work and good behaviour. This term I have been conducting learning walks across the classes YR-Y6 asking the children "what are they learning?" I have been so impressed with the children's articulation of their learning and how they can demonstrate their knowledge and understanding across all subject areas. This is testament to the high-quality teaching across the school by both teachers and teaching partners and as we come to the end of a super busy term I want to thank the whole team for their continued hard work and care of all our children.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break whatever you are doing. I am not going to predict the weather this week as I didn't do too well at this last Friday! Thank you for attending the many different events we have put on place this term and for all your generous offers of help for future events.

Have a lovely break,

Mrs Gayle Fletcher

Together we can!

PTA

NPPTA Update

We are very pleased to announce that our last Bag2School collection raised £104. Thank-you so much to everyone who donated. We hope to hold another collection in the autumn term.

Spring Quiz

Tickets for the SPRING QUIZ are now on sale! Please place food orders before Monday 8th April. Check out the link below for full details:

<https://buytickets.at/nauntonparkprimaryschoolpta/1197898>

Committee News

The current committee will be standing down at the end of this academic year. We are, therefore, looking for a new **Chair**, **Treasurer** and **Secretary** to step forwards. Other roles will be advertised in due course.

Ideally, we'd love anyone interested in these core roles to help us to organise the Summer Fair. This will provide a handover period and take a little pressure off our very small team.

We will hold the AGM to officially vote in the new committee members at the end of the summer term so you are prepared and ready to hit the ground running in September.

Please get in touch via Whatsapp or pta@nauntonpark.gloucs.sch.uk **by Friday 12th April** if you are interested in becoming Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.

More information about the roles and how the PTA operates can be found at:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/yLEFWiNp3ac4UD1K?ref=Link>

Dates for the Diary

Spring Quiz - 7.30pm, Fri 12th April

Summer Fair - afternoon of Sat 29th June

Together we can!

Governors

Update from the Chair of Governors, Dr. Rachael Bullingham

20.3.2024

Last night we had our full governors meeting and it was fantastic to see all governors attending showing the commitment of the board of governors. Last night we covered a very wide variety of topics including getting an insight into the progress of the curriculum development which has been a huge piece of work that is already really benefitting the children. We also discussed various governor visits that have gone on this term and ratified several policies which will be put on the website in due course. Governors have also updated their pictures and biographies so that parents can see the governing body and know how to get in touch with us if needed. We are aiming to attend various events in the summer term so please do always come and say hello. We would like to wish the whole school community a good break!

More information about our school's governors can be found on the website here: [Naunton Park Primary School - Governors](#)

Together we can!

Class News

Sherborne

In Sherborne this week we finished off our term of learning with a Caribbean day. We have focused on the Caribbean for our geography and our science and now for our DT. We all brought in some fruits from the Caribbean and tasted them throughout the day and spoke about why they only grow in the Caribbean. We also had fun dressing in bright clothes and doing fun Caribbean activities.



Together we can!

Class – Severn

On Tuesday, Year 5 had their house matches during a morning where we encountered all the weathers! We played a new game called Shonkball which was similar to rounders, where you scored points for how far you ran around the 10 cones! We had a wonderful morning learning a new game and the Year 6, Sports Captains, ran it very smoothly. We had some very impressive batters and fielders and some very muddy knees!!



Together we can!

Wye

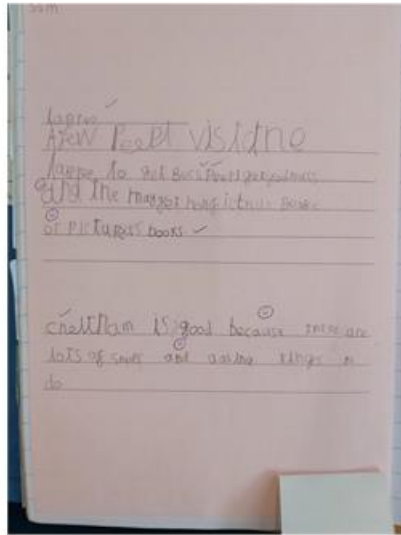
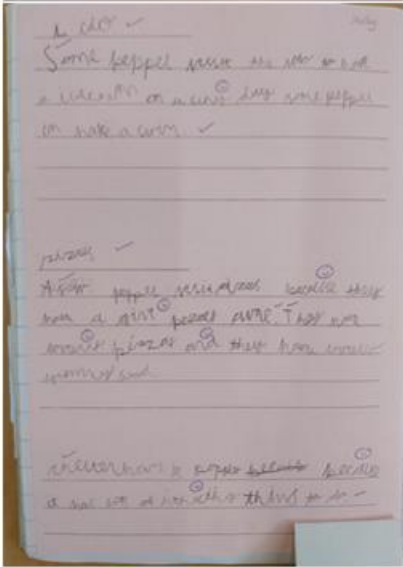
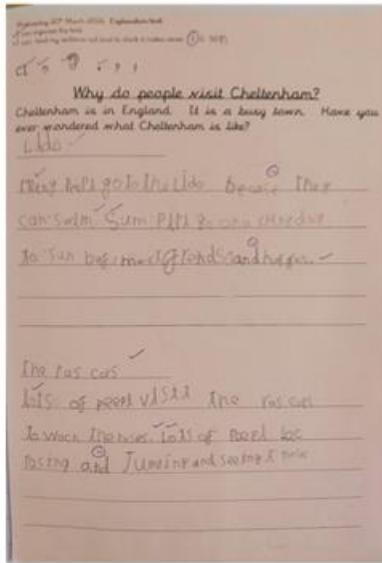
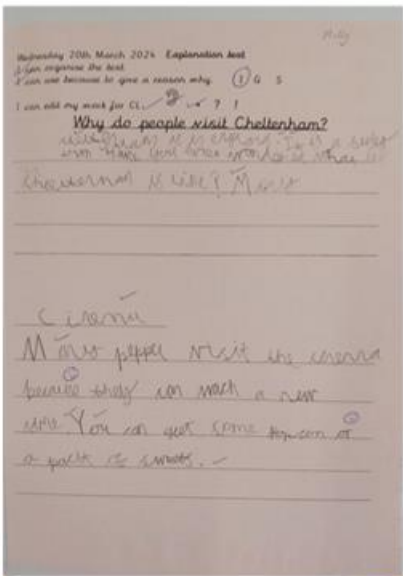
This week in Year 4, we enjoyed going on our very damp river walk. Although the weather was not on our side, the children had a great experience and got to see many of the river features we have talked about in class and some flood defence systems. The children were also brilliant at picking up any litter we saw along the way.



Together we can!

Class – Yellow

This term we have been working on writing explanation texts. This week we have planned and independently written an explanation text to encourage people to come and visit Cheltenham. We have been able to use what we have learnt about 'What are the main features of Cheltenham Town?' from our topic work. Miss Hill is very impressed with our use of because, and, or to link our sentences together and our use of adjectives. Great work Yellow Class!



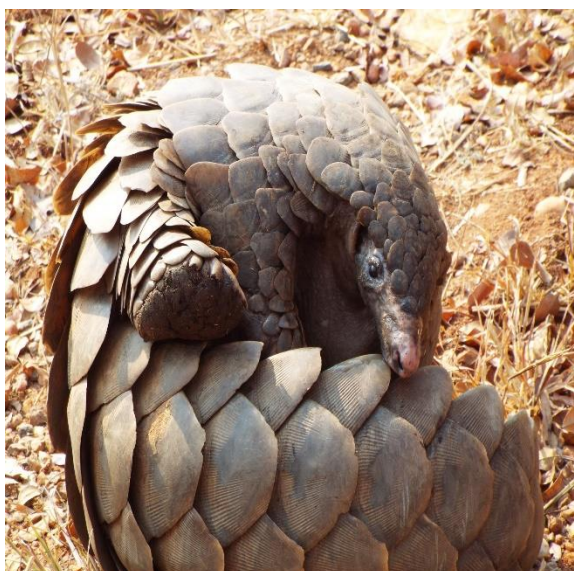
Together we can!

Class – Blue

Science

This week we have been looking at how animals are suited to their environments. In particular, we have looked at animals that are native to Ghana and have explored the habitats that Ghana offers its wildlife.

We looked closely at the Mona monkey and the pangolin (one of the world's strangest creatures). It was fun to look at their particular features and how these features have helped them to suit the habitat in which they live.



Here are some quotes:

"A Mona monkey's cheeks are useful, so it can store food."

"A pangolin's tongue is useful, because it can stick to ants."

"A Mona monkey's tail is useful, because it can be used for jumping and balancing."

"A pangolin's sharp claws are useful for digging to find ants to eat and for protecting it from predators."

"A pangolin's scales are useful, so it can protect itself."

Features of a pangolin:

- Thick scales
- Long, powerful nose.
- Incredibly sticky tongue.
- Sharp front claws.

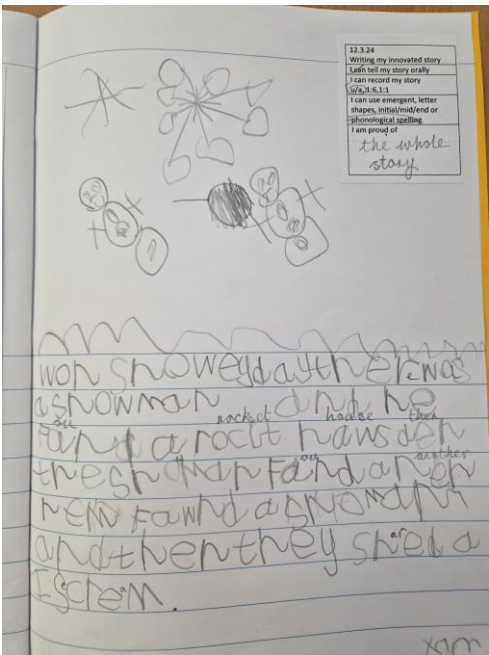
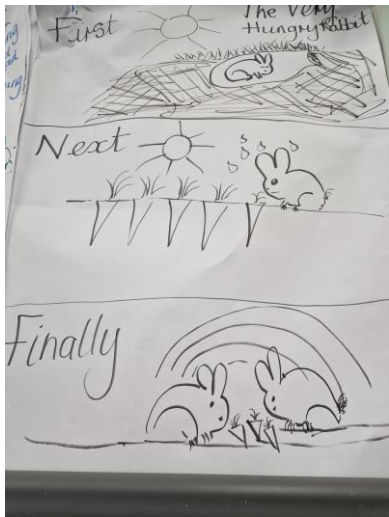
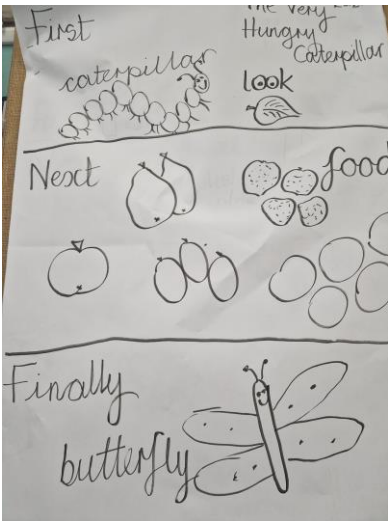
Features of a Mona monkey:

- Long tail.
- Large cheeks.
- Camouflaged fur.
- Long fingers.

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Class – Green

Green Class have been listening to and innovating their own stories from the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. We create a story map as a class and then we innovated it. It was altered so that the main character was a rabbit, who ate some carrots in the rain and sunshine, then it met another rabbit and they ate carrots together under a rainbow. The children then completed a story map for their own ideas and wrote their story independently.



Together we can!

Class – Severn

Last term, we showed you some photos of our badminton lessons. This week, we had our final lesson and were lucky enough to go down to Cheltenham College to use their fantastic courts where we could really spread out and enjoy playing games against each other. We have learnt so much and really enjoyed the opportunity to show our skills. Many thanks to Miss Walter for sharing her expertise.



Together we can!



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Quiz Naunton Park Primary vs Withington Primary School

On Wednesday, our Naunton Park Quiz team were challenged to answer wildlife questions in the first round of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Quiz 2024. Our team - Toby Fraine, Raffy Betts, Sian Edwards & Maggie Galvin were representing our school and did a really wonderful job, we were so proud of them and they answered questions about trees, animals, plants, flowers, habitats and wildlife.

Would you know the answer to these questions....

What is the female name for a fox?

What is the male name for a badger?

What is the name for an otter's home?

Can you name a tree beginning with B?

We earned full points in the photo round and the team also did very well in the specimen round where they had to identify plants, flowers and even a rabbit skull! At the end of the quiz we were told that Naunton Park had won which means we are through to the next round next term!

We are so proud of you!

Mrs Windsor

Together we can!

Safeguarding

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss. It's very sad that Nana has died or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP
Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>
<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>

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Diary Dates

Planned activities are listed below. Please note that these are subject to change and additional activities maybe added.

Monday 25 th March-Friday 5 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 8 th April	RE Week
Monday 8 th April	Y5 swimming
Thursday 11 th & Friday 12 th April	Class photographs
Friday 12 th April	PTA Quiz
Monday 15 th April	Y5 swimming
Friday 19 th April	Yellow Class Assembly
Monday 22 nd April	Y5 swimming
Monday 29 th April	Y5 swimming
Thursday 2 nd May	Y4 Ancient Greek Day, including Past Productions workshops
Friday 3 rd May	Purple Class Assembly
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 7 th May	Y2 'test' week
Monday 13 th May	Y6 SATS Week
Monday 13 th May	Y5 swimming
Friday 17 th May	Green Class Assembly
Monday 20 th May	Y5 swimming
Tuesday 21 st May	3:30-4:00pm Open Classrooms
Monday 27 th – 31 st May	Half Term
Monday 3 rd June	RE Week
Monday 3 rd June	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check Week
Monday 3 rd June	Y5 swimming
Monday 3 rd June	Y4 Science Festival trip
Wednesday 5 th June	Y1 Science Festival trip
Wednesday 5 th June	Y4 In the Net
Monday 10 th June	Y1/2 Phonic Screening Check Week
Monday 10 th June	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check Week
Monday 10 th June	Y5 swimming
Friday 14 th June	Red Class Assembly
Wednesday 19 th June	Y5 swimming
Wednesday 19 th June TBC	KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 20 th June	Y6 School Beat workshops
Thursday 20 th June TBC	KS2 Sports Day 1 - field activities only (no parents)
Friday 21 st June TBC	KS2 Sports Day - field activities(no parents) & afternoon races (parents)
Monday 24 th June	Y5 swimming
Friday 28 th June	Orange Class Assembly
Friday 28 th June	9:30am, Y4-Y6 Swimming Gala at Cheltenham College
Friday 28 th June (after school)	Prince of Wales Athletics
Saturday 29 th June	PTA Summer Fair
Monday 1 st July	Y5 swimming (last session)
Tuesday 2 nd July	Y6 School Beat workshops
Tuesday 2 nd July	2:30-3:00pm Open Classrooms (MOVED FROM WED 3 rd)
Wednesday 3 rd July	Y6 Boyz 2 Men workshop (Y6 boys only)
Wednesday 3 rd – Friday 5 th July	Maths Puzzle workshops
Thursday 4 th July	Y6 School Beat workshops
Friday 5 th July	Annual Reports home to parents
Monday 8 th July	Y6 PGL Week
Friday 19 th July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Monday 22 nd July	INSET Day – school closed to pupils

Term dates and events in the diary can be found here: [Naunton Park Primary School - Calendar](#)

Together we can!

Recognition

Class	Ready Respect Safe	Effort Persistence Commitment
YR	Roman Kurylo Amayah Johnson	Jemima Freedman Ethan Mupesa
Y1	Lola Ramsay Zach Mason	Samuel Harris Flora Barrett
Y2	Daisy Ramirez Ethan Harber	Mila Vernall Archie Cox
Y3	Tom Oppermen Michael Hanley	Mahrus Alam Mia Mason
Y4	Briony Mitchell Charlie Needs	Orla Stewart Sarrinah Ahmed
Y5	Santino Tozza Lewis Durkin	Sian Edwards Megan Bellinger
Y6	Will Hucker Rowyn Price	Lily Long Oskar Moore

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