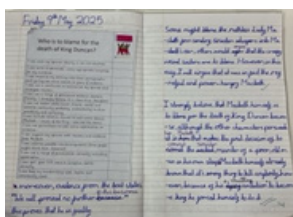




Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we have been incredibly proud of our Year 6 children as they completed their SATs assessments. They have shown exceptional resilience, one of our school's core values, approaching each test with determination and a positive attitude. We are immensely proud of their hard work and the way they have supported one another throughout the week.



Across the rest of the school, children have been equally focused, particularly in their writing. We've seen some excellent work produced and were especially impressed by the persuasive arguments written by Year 5. Drawing on evidence from Macbeth by William Shakespeare, they presented thoughtful responses to the question: Who is to blame for the death of King Duncan?—a challenging task, handled with skill and insight.

A reminder that this will be the final newsletter of this half term. **School will be closed to children on Friday 23rd May for an INSET day, followed by the half term break from Monday 26th to Friday 30th May.**

Before then, we have a busy and exciting week ahead:

- **Year 5 Shakespeare Workshop** – Wednesday 21st May
- **Football match vs St Michael's C of E School** – Wednesday 21st May
- **Sycamore Class Assembly** – Thursday 22nd May at 9:00am
- **Football match vs Parkway** – Thursday 22nd May
- **Redwood Class Trip to Crossness Pumping Station** – Thursday 22nd May
- **INSET Day (school closed to children)** – Friday 23rd May

Looking further ahead, please also note the following dates:

- **EYFS and KS1 Sports Day** – Wednesday 4th June at 9:30am
- **KS2 Sports Day** – Thursday 5th June at 9:30am



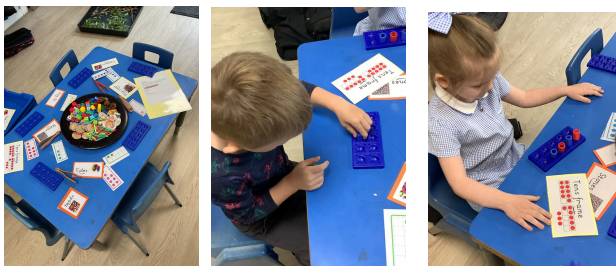
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.
Warm regards,

Mrs Oldfield and the Willow Bank Team



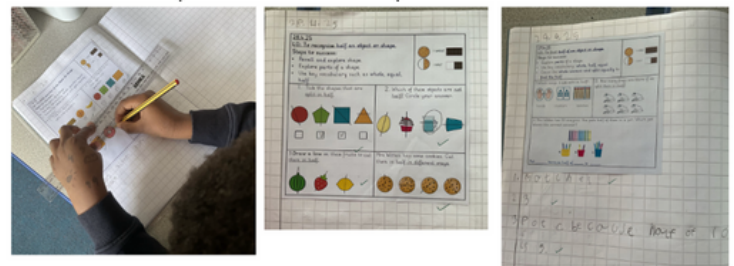
Year R

This week in Magnolia Class, the children have been exploring early addition through the use of ten frames. We incorporated natural resources to support children's understanding of number composition and one-to-one correspondence. In line with the EYFS Mathematics Early Learning Goals, the children practiced combining two groups of objects to find a total, progressing to adding numbers beyond 10. This hands-on approach encouraged mathematical thinking, problem-solving, and the development of key number skills in a meaningful and engaging context.



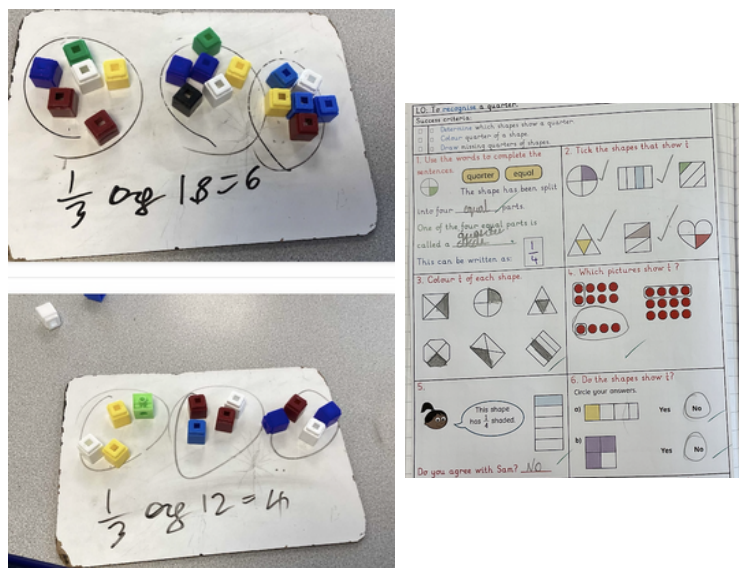
Year 1

In Maths this half term, Year 1 have been diving into the exciting topic of fractions! The children have been learning to find halves and quarters of both objects and numbers. Through hands-on activities, they explored how to split shapes and items into equal parts and discovered how to apply this knowledge to numbers. By using practical examples and visual aids, the children gained a deeper understanding of how fractions work in everyday life. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they mastered this important mathematical concept!



Year 2

In this fun maths lesson, Year 2 used the grouping method and counters to explore fractions like $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$. They shared counters into equal groups and used fraction shapes to see how wholes can be split fairly. This hands-on approach helped them understand and compare simple fractions with confidence.



Year 3

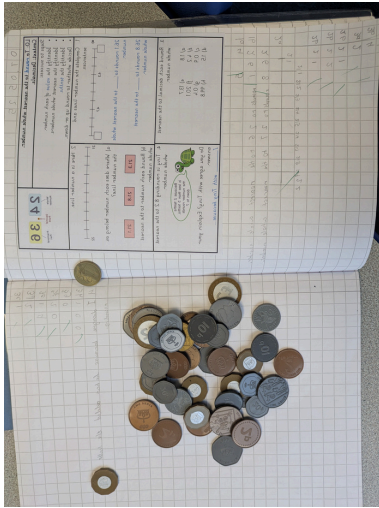
This term in Year 3, students participated in an engaging, hands-on lesson using coin manipulatives to learn about money. They practiced identifying, counting, and combining coins to make different amounts. This interactive approach made learning both meaningful and fun, while helping to build important math skills related to money recognition, counting, and real-life problem solving.





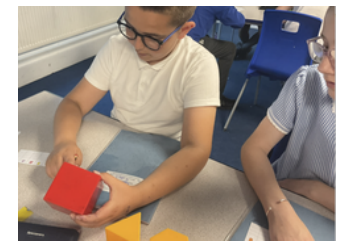
Year 4

In Year 4, we have been exploring the topic of money in our maths lessons. The children have been learning to recognise coins and notes, add and subtract amounts, and solve real-life problems involving money.



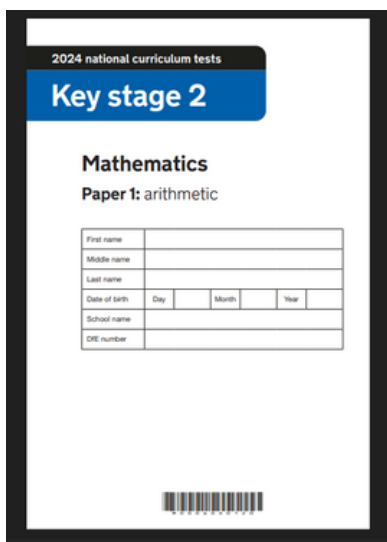
Year 5

This term, Year 5 children are exploring geometry. They are learning to find missing angles and deepening their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes, their properties, symmetry, and translating shapes using coordinates. They are using hands-on manipulatives to support their learning and build a strong visual understanding.



Year 6

In Maths, Year 6 have been consolidating their learning in preparation for the SATS! We have been revising all topics including percentages, angles and fraction and we are so proud of the children as they applied their knowledge in this week's tests.

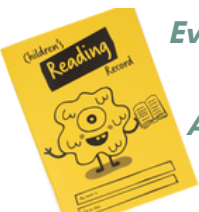


OUR CORE VALUE FOR
SUMMER TERM 1 IS
ASPIRATION

**HAVING
ASPIRATIONS
IS NICE.
FULFILLING
THEM IS
EXHILARATING.**



KS1 & EYFS Parent Reading Morning



Every Thursday from 8:40-9:10am

All parents and carers welcome!

We are looking for Read with Me volunteers at Willow Bank! These volunteers will visit our Yr 1 & 2 classrooms and listen to our children read.

If you are interested in volunteering with us for 30 minutes or an hour each week, then please pop into the office to express your interest and pick up our application pack.



Well done	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 90%	★ Yew - 98%
Hornbeam - 94%	★ Redwood - 97%
	Almond - 85%
★ Hazel - 96%	★ Walnut - 99%
★ Larch - 98%	★ Sycamore - 98%
🏆	🏅

School Reminder

Children should not arrive earlier than 8.20am, for Bagel Breakfast club from 8.25am - 8.35am
School gates close at precisely 8:50am. After this time, entrance is via the school office and parents will need to sign your child/children in using the screen.

A reminder that we have our Chance To Chat.

As a school we provide ongoing support for the children's wellbeing and mental health to which one of the methods is they can fill out a form while in school to express their worries. The form then gets placed in the 'Chance to chat' box where it will be addressed by the wellbeing team.

We also have an online form which is located on the school website named 'Chance to chat'.

The children can complete the form if they are worried about something or need some advice? A member of staff will get back to the child at school.

Please copy the link below and paste in the search bar and it will direct you straight to the form.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MvrWB2Z-r0qnuEuN-giOI1CAPQc0X4RFje43giTliLNUOE5BWUFISE40VjBXODZYRVFITLNXVzZYNCQLQCN0PWcu>



PUPIL LEADERSHIP AT WBP: PLAYLEADERS

AT WILLOW BANK, WE BELIEVE IN GIVING OUR PUPILS MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD- AND NOWHERE IS THIS MORE EVIDENT THAN IN THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF OUR LUNCHTIME PLAYLEADERS. THESE DEDICATED CHILDREN TAKE ON A VARIETY OF RESPONSIBILITIES, FROM PLAYING WITH YOUNGER PUPILS AND HELPING TO SERVE BREAD AND DESSERT IN THE DINING HALL, TO MONITORING THE CORRIDORS AND ENSURING EVERYONE ENJOYS A SAFE AND HAPPY LUNCHTIME. THEY CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES WITH MATURITY, KINDNESS AND ENTHUSIASM, AND WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF THE FANTASTIC JOB THEY DO EACH DAY.



AS THE PLAY LEADER CEO, I MEET WITH MISS WHITE TO GIVE HER UPDATES ABOUT HOW THE TEAM IS DOING. I HELP MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY SO PLAYTIMES ARE SAFE, FUN, AND WELL-ORGANISED.
DANNY

AS PLAY LEADERS, WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB IN SCHOOL. WE HELP EVERYONE ENJOY PLAYTIME BY MAKING IT FUN AND SAFE. WHEN WE SET A GOOD EXAMPLE, IT HELPS STOP BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS AND KEEPS THINGS CALM LOVE

BEING A PLAY LEADER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS. WE HELP MAKE SURE EVERYONE CAN PLAY SAFELY, HAPPILY, AND FAIRLY.
ADAM



BEING A PLAY LEADER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE AT LUNCHTIME. WE ALSO HELP TEACHERS BY TAKING CHILDREN TO THEM IF THEY NEED HELP. I LIKE HELPING MISS WHITE TOO.
JOSEPH.



Autism Post Diagnosis Workshops

Description

Our free workshops provide information and support to Bexley parents and carers following their child or young person's diagnosis.

They are co-presented by Karen Upton who is a retired Bexley GP with family and friends who are autistic and Stacey Yusuf, Project Coordinator for Bexley Voice & Bexley Mencap Trustee.

In the first part, Karen explains some terms you may have heard and gives some practical strategies to help communicate with your child and in the second part Stacey shares information about resources and support you can get, local to Bexley and nationally.

Please note the age ranges are a guide to how the session will be focused and we leave it to you to determine which would be best for you.

Why attend?

We understand that following an autism diagnosis, parents and carers have many feelings, thoughts and conflicting emotions. No two people are the same, but some of the common themes we often hear include:

- Relief that this is not something I have done wrong
- Relief, that there may be some help for me and my child
- Questions about what it will mean for my child
- Questions about what it will mean for me and my family
- Sadness, at the loss of the future I may not even have been aware I expected for my child
- Anger, about people who thought my parenting was causing my child's behaviour or people who have treated me, or my child, badly
- Fear for the future
- Vindication – people did not take my concerns seriously
- Confusion about what to do next
- There must be some mistake

We understand that parents and carers need a period of adjustment, but also that there is a need for support, as early as possible, after diagnosis. We are therefore offering parents with a recently diagnosed child the opportunity to attend a workshop. This short session is intended to help those who need it, to understand a little more about the autism spectrum and to signpost you to support that is available locally and online, if and when you feel you need it.

Where are they held?

The workshops are held online and in person either during the day or in the evening.

In person: Bexley Voice Office, Learning & Enterprise College, 5 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, DA7 4EZ

Online: via Microsoft TEAMS sessions from your home (you may need to download the app to your laptop or phone)

Who can attend?

They are available to Bexley Voice members. If you are not a member, click [here](#) to apply to join (free membership is open to parents and carers of children or young people with special needs or disabilities who live in the Bexley borough and/or attend a Bexley borough educational setting).

When are they held?

Various. See below.

Do I need to book?

Yes, spaces are limited. You will need to complete the booking form on our events calendar.

Although the workshops are provided free of charge, they do require Bexley Voice resources to run (finances and volunteer time), so it is very important that any registered places are taken up. If you know that you cannot attend a session, for which you have registered, we respectfully request that you let us know in advance, so that we can either offer someone else a space or postpone the session. If you need to cancel on the day, due to unforeseen circumstances, please let us know as soon as possible, even if this is after the event. We understand fully that on the day there can be emergencies which mean people cannot attend sessions for which they have registered.

Please contact:

Stacey.yusuf@bexleyvoice.org.uk

Workshops Available:

2025:

- Thursday 1st May 6:30-9pm - Under 12 years, online via TEAMS
- Thursday 5th June 10am-12:30pm 12 plus years - Learning & Enterprise College Bexley, Brampton Road
- Thursday 3rd July 10am-12:30pm Under 12 years - Learning & Enterprise College Bexley, Brampton Road
- Thursday 11th Sept 6:30-9pm - 12 years plus, online via TEAMS
- Thursday 16th Oct 10am-12:30pm Under 12 years - Learning & Enterprise College Bexley, Brampton Road
- Thursday 6th Nov 6:30-9pm - 12 years plus, online via TEAMS
- Thursday 4th Dec 6:30-9pm - Under 12 years, online via TEAMS

For face-to-face sessions, please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the start time to allow for registration and refreshments.



We are incredibly proud of Nife who has been awarded the prestigious title of May Scholar of the Month by the London Music Fund who featured the following article on their website: <https://www.londonmusicfund.org/news/may-scholar-of-the-month-jesunifemi>

May Scholar of the Month - Jesunifemi



Jesunifemi, LMF Scholar 2024-2028, Bexley Music Service

Jesunifemi (Nife) is a dedicated young trumpeter and clarinetist from Bexley Music Service who has a real passion for music, and has been making excellent progress since starting his Scholarship in 2024. At just aged 9, he has been working towards Grade 7 (wow!) – working on difficult repertoire such as Danza Alegre by Moszkowski and FUNK by Vizzutti. His tutor tells us they have been also been incorporating the history of music (relevant to the pieces he is studying) to his lessons as well as technique, sight reading, advanced rhythms and posture.

Nife is a valued member of Bexley Music Service's Concert Orchestra where he plays clarinet, but has also been flourishing in the more advanced group, Bexley Youth Band, on the trumpet. He performed brilliantly with his ensembles at the Festival of Music in the Fairfield Halls at the end of his Spring term.

Nife's twin sister, Kinfeosi, is also a London Music Fund Scholar, and they both continue to challenge each other to progress, practice and play harder pieces.

We asked Jesunifemi how he has been finding his Scholarship.

What has been your favourite moment of your Scholarship so far?

'I enjoyed playing music with other people. It has inspired me to work even harder in my music, and for that, I am truly grateful.'

What are you looking forward to most this coming year?

'Going on tour with my music school for the second year because I know it would be a good and fun experience.'

What are your musical goals for the future?

'I would like to be a professional musician so that I can play in different concerts'

What is your current favourite song and why?

"California Gurls" by Katy Perry, because it's rhythmically good, fun, happy, and catchy.'

We are so happy Jesunifemi has been enjoying his Scholarship, and are delighted we can support him through his musical journey. Keep it up, Nife!



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

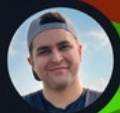
Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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@wake.up.wednesday

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WEST STREET ERITH FAMILY HUB

105 WEST STREET, ERITH,
DA8 1AW

Tel: 020 3045 5480

Opening hours: 9am - 5pm

Monday - Friday



We're here for you

**"REAL HELP. REAL PEOPLE.
RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY"**

The Erith Family Hub is here to support you and your family from pregnancy through to your child's 18th birthday. Whether you're a new parent, a growing family, or just looking for advice, we're here for you.



Whether you need a quick chat, practical help, or a safe place to connect with other parents, the Family Hub is your local starting point.

No judgement, no pressure — just support, right when you need it. Feel free to walk in or drop us a call, we're here to help.

We offer:

- Friendly, one-to-one support and guidance
- Parenting, relationship and family advice, workshops and play sessions
- Connections to local services – all in one place
- Help with Health, development, Education and Well-being.

