

Dear Families,

The term is well underway and it has been a very busy week here in school. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> groups of KS2 swimmers have started their 6 week block of swimming, they all wowed us all with their perseverance, resilience and courage. Well done children!

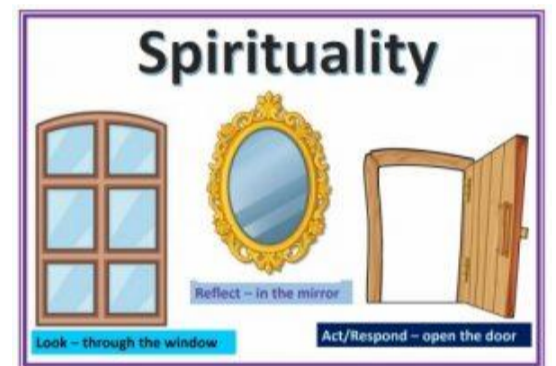
This week in Worship we have thought about Spirituality and have been reminding ourselves about kintsugi. We looked at our kintsugi bowl on the Worship table and remembered that pots can crack and break, just like sometimes things can happen that can make us feel cracked or broken. It doesn't mean that we have to throw the broken pot away or give up, we can fill and mend the gaps. In the case of the bowl, we used golden glue to repair it, it looks different but has a new beauty and can continue to be used. Christians believe whatever happens to them in life, God is with them. God can fill and mend the gaps and put people back together. Spirituality is like that golden glue. We have talked about how Ibstone has its own Ibstone glue that helps and nurtures us all, a bit like that golden glue too!



We also talked about Ow's, Wow's and Now's and the children shared their own moments.

On Tuesday we thought talked about how things happening in the world can also make us have Ow, Wow and Now moments, we linked this to our Windows, Mirrors and Doors.

**Windows:** Looking out - what is happening in the world and giving us all opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways. Learning about life in all its fullness. This includes both the things that amaze them and also challenge them.



**Mirrors:** Looking inwards/ Reflecting - giving us all opportunities to reflect on our experiences. Asking questions. How has that made you feel? Why?

**Doors:** Act/ Respond – gives us opportunities to respond, stepping out to make a difference no matter how big or small. Living out our vision and values past the school gates.

I wonder if you can think of an Ow, Now or Wow moment? Or perhaps there is something you have seen or heard about that has made you reflect and want to do something to make a difference.

Today some of the children experienced an Ow and a Wow in the same moment. One of our local residents sadly passed away and one of his final wishes was for his final journey to the church to be on a Somerset Wagon pulled by shire horses. During the day, some of the children walked over to the stables to meet Bruce and William, the shire horses. This afternoon a number of our Year 5 children lined the road as a mark of respect. Sending our love and thoughts to the family at this difficult time.



## Weekly Round Up

### Pebbles

The children had great fun building a police car out of loose parts and pretending to be police officers. On Monday Leigh, our school librarian, came to talk to us about books. We learnt about fiction and non-fiction books and we told Leigh what our favourite books are. On Thursday the children went on an exciting journey in the school minibus to the post box near the common, they enjoyed stretching up really high to post their letters home.

In dance and movement this week we moved to music and songs from different books, including The Gruffalo, Room on a Broom and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children enjoyed changing from a caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly.



### Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have been thinking about who we have in our community that helps us, we have enjoyed making maps and models to represent this. Our focus has been on librarians and the children listened to Leigh whilst she came to talk to them about her job in our school library and Marlow library where she also works. The children then explored our library choosing their new books and listened carefully while Leigh read them her favourite story. The children have all been busy on a special task so keep an eye on the post box!

In mathematics the focus has been on deepening the understanding of numbers up to 5, we have been working on the part whole model using number 5. We have played many games to help represent number bonds to 5.

In phonics the new sounds of the week have been oo (as in zoom) oo (as in book) ar, or. The tricky words have been was, you and they.



### Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have been learning their new Talk 4 Writing text 'Monstersaurus'. On Monday, the children became detectives as our classroom had been left in a very messy state. The children used clues from the crime scene to make predictions about what had happened. We have also enjoyed talking about the story and learning it off-by-heart using actions.

In mathematics, Year 1 have continued learning about place value and have been building teen numbers using different resources including Numicon and dienes. Year 2 have continued learning about shape. This week they have learnt about lines of symmetry and have identified the properties of 3D shapes.

In history, the children used a range of historical sources to work out when, where and how the fire started. The children first worked in small groups to identify the historical sources before piecing them together to make a prediction.

In computing, the children have been learning about algorithms. We started by watching a dinosaur game made on Scratch. We discussed how the game worked by watching what happened to the dinosaur everytime a button was pressed. The children then worked in pairs to create their own algorithm for the dinosaur such as pressing 'R' to make it roar.



### Kestrel Class

In English this week, the children have been introduced to our new focus text, 'The Canal'. We have created a Performers' Toolkit to help us with our drama tools when we retell the text. There has been lots of enthusiasm when creating the actions to help us and we have learnt new key vocabulary that will support our understanding of the text.

In mathematics, Nemos have been working on multiplication and division. They have continued multiplying and dividing 2-digit by 1-digit numbers; also learning about exchanging and remainders. Frogs have also been working multiplication and division and learning about related multiplication and division facts. They have also looked at informal written methods to multiply a 2-digit by a 1-digit number.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about when we may have faced a difficult challenge or achieved success. We have discussed our own personal goals and also the views of others. In groups, the children looked at some images and had some thoughtful conversations on their perspective and how others might be feeling.



### Osprey Class

This week we have enjoyed looking at the Ancient Greeks in History, and finding out where and when they existed. We can't wait to find out more about this ancient civilisation. We have also started reading our new class book, "The Adventures of Odysseus", which is a classic tale taken from Greek mythology. In addition, we have been looking at other Greek myths in our English lessons. Our model text this term is the story of Perseus and Medusa, we have now learnt all of the text map.

In mathematics, we have finished off our topic of multiplication and we are now looking at short division. We have agreed that we need to carry on learning our times-tables at home, to help us with this.



### Barn Owls

In English this week, we have innovated our story 'The Tale of Curious Cara' together. In our new story, our main character, Jack, was practising football in his garden. He kicked the ball over his fence into the woods and despite warnings, jumped over the fence to collect it. In the woods he met a bear!

In mathematics, we have been revising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We have compared calculations deciding whether to use the more than, less than or the equals symbol. We have explored word problems looking at how to apply our knowledge of these tables to solve the problems.

### In other news

#### Curriculum Letters

Curriculum letters were sent home with your child at the end of the day today, if this has not made its way home to you, do not panic! You will be able to find a digital copy on your child's Google Classroom account.

#### Kites Holiday Club

Kites Holiday Club will run on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Please book via iPal using the Holiday Clubs tab.

#### Bikeability – Year 4

We are delighted to be able to offer our Year 4 children the opportunity to take part in Bikeability Level 1. This takes place during the school day. Letters were sent home in the first week of term with a follow up email on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Please complete the consent form and send in £5 or pay via iPal in the School Shop section by 25<sup>th</sup> January. The children will need to bring their bikes and helmets into school on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February for the day.

#### Open Classes

We are delighted to invite you into school again to see your child's classroom. The classrooms will be open from the end of the school day (3.15pm for Ladybirds and Woodland Class/ 3.25pm for Kestrel and Osprey Class) until 5.30pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February. It is an opportunity for your child to show you their classroom and their books will be available for you to look at. We hope you will be able to join us. The teachers will be in the classrooms to welcome you but please be aware, this is not parents' evening.

#### Ibstone Investments

Please don't forget to sign when you hear your child read, there are a number of children who are getting close to their savings goal! Each time your child reads at home or you share a book together, they can earn investment tokens which allow them to spend or save on opportunities or resources in school!

### Change of date

Please note we have had to move the date of our EYFS & KS1 Sports' mornings. These will now be on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July** not Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Following on from our Spirituality focus this week, I stumbled across this prayer that still strikes a chord with me. Have a wonderful weekend.

May God grant to our world the golden glue of peace, hope and truth.  
And make our school a place of love where cracks can be made into something beautiful.  
Amen

Louise Long  
Headteacher

## Headteacher Awards



## Zog the Dog Awards



Love – Courage – Respect – Community – Perseverance  
*'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am'*  
Philippians 4:13

**Diary Dates**  
New or amended dates will be shown in **BOLD**

Date	Occasion	Who?
<b>January 2025</b>		
<b>February 2025</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children's Mental Health Week – more information to follow	Everyone
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Open Classrooms – end of school day – 5.15pm</b>	<b>Everyone</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day	Everyone
11 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
12 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
14 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
24 <sup>th</sup>	Back to School	Everyone
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 4 Bikeability – letter sent 8/1, email sent 16/1</b>	<b>Year 4 only</b>
<b>March 2025</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day – more details to follow	Everyone
<b>April 2025</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term – 1.30pm	Everyone
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>May 2025</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Adventure Week – letter will be sent 13/01/2025	Year 5 only
12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs Week	Year 6 only
23 <sup>rd</sup>	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
<b>June 2025</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	INSET Day	Staff Only
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>July 2025</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Transition Day	Everyone
3 <sup>rd</sup>	KS2 Sports Morning 9-11am – more information to follow	KS2 families
4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Adventure Weekend – information sent via email 10/01/25	Year 6 only
11 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS & KS1 Sports Morning 9-11am – more information to follow PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	Ladybirds & Woodland Class families
11 <sup>th</sup>	Pebbles' Sports Morning 11.30-12pm – more information to follow PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	Pebbles families
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ibfest Week – more information to follow	Everyone
21 <sup>st</sup>	Leavers' Service 9.15am, St Nicholas Church	Year 6 Families
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Garden Celebration – 12.45pm	Everyone
23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET Day	Staff Only