Empower Trust
Inspire to Achieve

Issue 9 Autumn Term 2021



From Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer

As 2021 draws to a close, I want to both thank and congratulate the children on the way they keep coming into school with a smile on their face and the way they have adapted to the various COVID-related measures that schools have had to implement over the past twelve months. The lockdowns at the in 2020 and at the start of 2021 demonstrated the importance of school being a place where children can mix and experience learning with their friends. The children's resilience and enthusiasm has lifted the spirits of every adult in school who works so hard to make learning enjoyable and exciting.

This newsletter is a reflection of the positive work that is going on every day in every classroom across our family of schools. It includes many examples of children's activities and achievements in a range of curriculum areas from across the family of schools within Empower Trust. Please take some time to and read through the examples of children's work– I am sure that you be impressed in the variety, quality and range of experiences.

I would like to say a sincere thank you to every member of staff in our schools for the work they have done this year. School staff have continued to demonstrate flexibility and professionalism in prioritising the safety and welfare of the children whilst keeping the focus on ensuring children's education delivering exciting learning experiences for the children.

I would also like to thank every parent and family for continuing to work in partnership with their school in the best interests of the children. I appreciate that 2021 has been another difficult year for families – including meeting the challenges of home learning for the first three months of the year! I know that parents and school staff have both been frustrated by the limitations and restrictions to communications and attendance at school events placed on schools. I am hopeful that restrictions will be lifted in 2022 once the current Omicron variant is brought under control.

Please be assured that ensuring the safety and welfare of the children remains the key priority for all Empower Trust staff. All schools will continue to review their risk assessments following any future changes to government guidance and take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of children, staff, families and the community.

Finally, I hope that every child, family member and member of staff has a restful, safe and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am optimistic that 2022 will be a great year for everyone!

Early Years

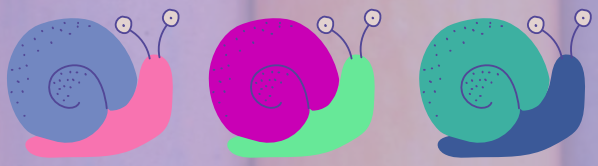




During continuous provision this week, the children have loved our fine motor activities. They have used 'hama beads', sand and have loved making their own playdough. In the playdough they have been able to measure the ingredients using spoons, knowing the quantities that they needed. When the playdough was unsuccessful because it was too wet or too dry, the children used their problem solving skills to suggest whether they needed more water if the mixture was too dry, or more flour if it was too sticky. Once the play dough was made, the children added a desired food colouring and decided to make cupcakes, pancakes and snails!

Play dough is a fabulous material for building the little hand and finger muscles, we call this fine motor development. With the strength gained, it helps children in holding writing equipment for mark making and, as they get older, gives the ability to be able to write for a sustained period of time.





The children have been busy exploring filling, emptying and pouring whilst using language linked to mathematics, such as full, empty and half full. Drawing on their own experiences of Halloween making 'witchy potions'! This is a skill that the children practise daily when pouring their own milk or water.





Early Years

Wow! What a fantastic half term the Early Years Setting have had! The children have loved exploring the outdoor area during Welly Wednesday. Hammocks in the trees were a particular favourite as was mud painting with hands and observing a spider spinning its web! The children helped fill the eco pond after Mr Simmons had cleared the leaves from it and were independent in using the water butt – some super collaboration going on in order to move the filled bucket over to the pond!

All of this...whilst we had Andrew, the cameraman, visiting! Andrew captured footage of the children busily working away for our new school video, keep your eyes peeled for it's release! The children were not fazed by his presence, and they also loved a visit from Mrs Scott and Roly the dog!



The children have listened to one of our favourite stories 'Elmer.' We have had group discussions about what colours we could see, how did Elmer and his friends feel? The children also spotted some other animals in the jungle. They have been demonstrating a good understanding when sorting and matching colours into groups, well done! In N2 they have been looking at the word 'Colourful,' Elmer is colourful and the children have had a go at saying what else they can see or know what is colourful.

Next week we will continue our learning through 'Elmer' by recapping the story. They will be saying what colours they can see or how many of the same colour they can see. We will also be creating our very own pattern on an elephant.



Reception

The children have been so busy since starting school in September. It has been wonderful to begin to get to know them all and they have settled into school life brilliantly. Whilst exploring and learning in their classrooms, the creative and outdoor areas, the children have developed skills of collaboration and perseverance.

Over the past couple of weeks the children have really enjoyed outdoor learning. They have learnt the rules of outdoor learning, explored the area and chose a tree that the class are going to watch through the seasons. They have also made a journey stick finding interesting leaves and objects by looking closely at the outdoor environment.

















The children enjoyed their first Wellbeing day of the year. They learnt about the importance of wellbeing and our school character CLANG the seagull who helps us remember the 5 ways to wellbeing. They participated in a range of activities linked to these 5 areas.

- C- connecting- the children talked about their families and they discussed the similarities and differences between families. It was lovely to find out more about each other.
- L- learning- the children learnt about the importance of brushing their teeth and visiting the dentist. They particularly enjoyed learning and teeth brushing song.
- A-active learning- the children had fun moving their bodies and being active.
- N- noticing- after all the activity the children took some time to relax and notice their bodies when breathing deeply and slowly.
- G-giving- the children learnt that giving does not always need to be a physical gift. They practised being kind and helpful to each other. This is a skill that is continually promoted inside and outside school.

YEAR 1







Last week Year 1 end their week thinking about our Mental Health and Well being. We all had a fantastic time enjoying a range of activities that were focused on Wellbeing. We explored CLANG and linked each area to making new friends.

- Connecting - the children had to find out facts about their friend.
- Learning – The children had to think about what a good friend is and why.
- Active – The children spent time with another Year 1 class completing Yoga in the hall, which was lots of fun.
- Noticing – this was linked to our Science and we went for a walk around the local environment to see the different plants and trees that are growing.
- Giving - we explored making postcards to say thank you for being a good friend. The children explored tints and shades and painted a bright picture.




In history we have been learning about a local person from the past, Robert Clive, also known as Clive of India. We have been on a historical walk around Market Drayton and found the old grammar school he attended and learnt about him climbing up the church tower.

We also saw lots of historical buildings and talked about how they have changed through time.

In Art we have been looking closely at Van Goughs Yellow Houses and comparing them to building in Market Drayton. We have observed shape and colour, as well as looking at Van Gough's use of brush strokes.

We were inspired by the building designs and Van Gough's work. We explored air-drying clay and used it create our own buildings. We also used tools to create texture and our fingers to mould the shapes.




YEAR 2







On Friday 1st October Year 2 had their wellbeing day for this half term. We used CLANG (CONNECTING, LEARNING, ACTIVE LEARNING, NOTICING AND GIVING) as our focus for our day to help us think about our wellbeing!

We CONNECTED by having a PSHE lesson on friendship. We thought about what makes a good friend and came up with a recipe for friendship. We then picked out a kind action from a random selection and had to try and complete it throughout the day, GIVING someone our kindness.

We LEARNT about structures and how to build them securely. By looking at pictures we NOTICED some key features of structures which helped inspire our own designs. We then had a go at doing this using a variety of materials including kinex, playdough and lolly sticks.

We were also lucky enough to participate in some ACTIVE LEARNING in the form of Archery! We really enjoyed learning this skill, as well as being outside.

Our wellbeing days are really important to help us focus on our mental health – we look forward to our next one!









HOCKEY

On Thursday 25th November we had two mixed teams playing in an Inter School KS 1 Hockey Tournament at Maurice Chandler. We went in our school minibus for the morning. There were three other school teams and our two teams.

Each team played four matches, we had some extra players so we all played at least two games. It was great fun. We won two games, lost two games and drew two!! We scored four goals in total, some of the games were very fast.

Well done to all our players, we came third overall out of the five teams. We learnt a lot more about fast passing and attacking!







Greenacres Primary School

Sycamore Class Visit to Battlefield Church

At the start of term, year 4/5 walked to Battlefield Church where they took part in a workshop about the Battle of Shrewsbury - their history topic. The children learnt all about the weapons and armour used and about what it was like to live in 1403 when the battle happened. We then walked across the battle site to have a picnic and learn how to shoot a longbow. The children enjoyed getting hands on with the equipment and learning about how different life was then. They have been inspired from their visit to do some excellent work in class.








Sycamore class want to share some pictures of them learning to play the glockenspiel and xylophone in their music lessons.

The children have been learning music terminology, including the names and values of notes and rests. They practised and performed a blues song and then were inspired to create their one with a partner which they also performed.





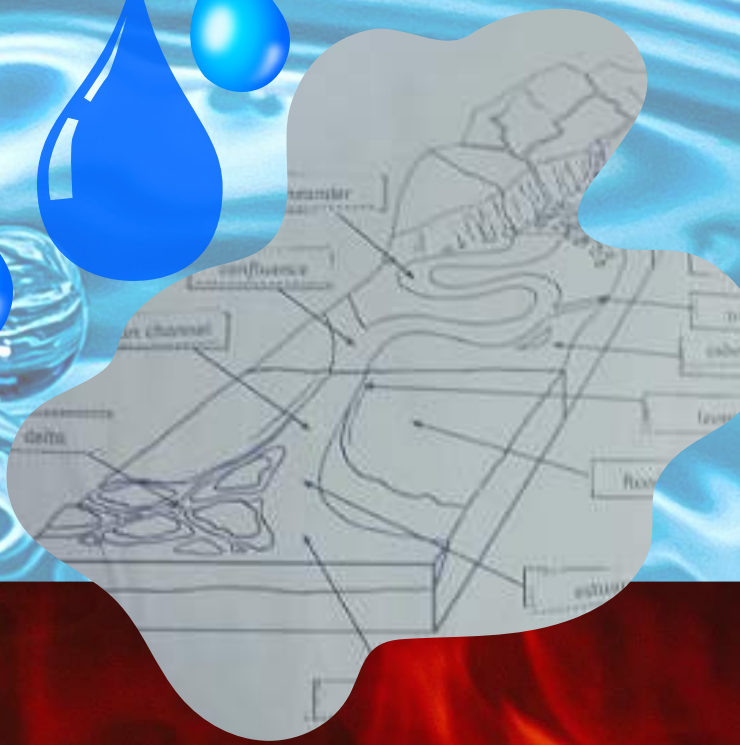

Greenacres Primary School

Year 3/4 Rowan Class

In Rowan Class, our topic this half term has been Water, Water Everywhere. We have studied rivers, learning about the journey from a river's source to the seas and how they can change the shape of a landscape over time.

We have looked at the River Severn and learnt that it is the longest river in the United Kingdom. We have used Google earth to follow the course of the river from its source in Wales to the Severn Estuary and looked at the places it passes on the way.





Year 1/2 Willow Class

Willow Class have been very busy so far this term! Our topic is Fire! Fire! We spent last half term learning about the Great Fire of London and recreating Pudding Lane using cardboard boxes, straw and paper.

We then put all the houses together and asked Neil to set it on fire! We watched it spread just like it did in the Great Fire of London!



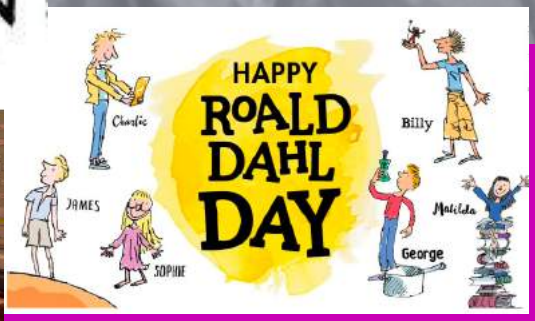






The Wilfred Owen School









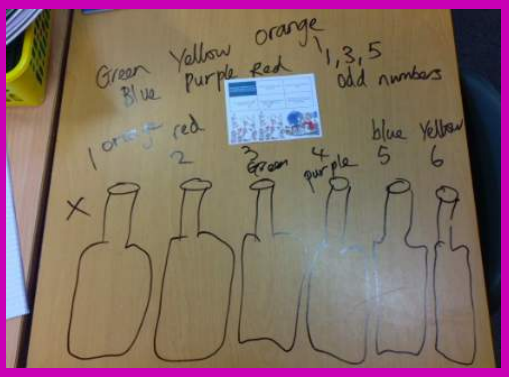


We recently celebrated Roald Dahl story day. In Nursery they looked at the story of the Enormous Crocodile. In the story, the crocodile says that he wants to eat some juicy children! Nursery class decided to colour in their own crocodiles and cut out some sharp teeth.





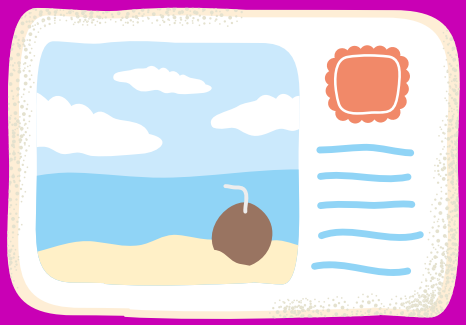
Hawkstone class did some problem solving in Maths. They have been working systematically and reasoning logically! They worked together in kagan groups to solve them.



This term the children in Caradoc have started to read the fabulous 'Cosmic' written by Frank Cottrell -Boyce. It's the story of a boy called Liam, who is incredibly tall for his age and gets involved in many 'cringe-worthy' situations. He eventually ends up stuck in outer space!

The children are absolutely hooked and can't wait to read more of the book in class. Mrs O'Hara tweeted Frank Cottrell-Boyce to let him know how excited they all were to start writing and exploring the book further. He didn't just Tweet back, he sent a personalised response in the form of a postcard! We were all super excited and this has really motivated the children to get writing!





'GROW A POUND' INITIATIVE

This week we were very excited to celebrate National Savings Day. Together with Just Credit Union, we have challenged the children to undertake an 'apprentice' type challenge, called 'Grow a Pound'. To launch this amazing project, Radio Shropshire visited school on Tuesday and spoke with some of our Maths Ambassadors about how they would approach the challenge. Ellie-May, David, Kaiden and Gracie-Mai all spoke live on the radio and were absolutely amazing!

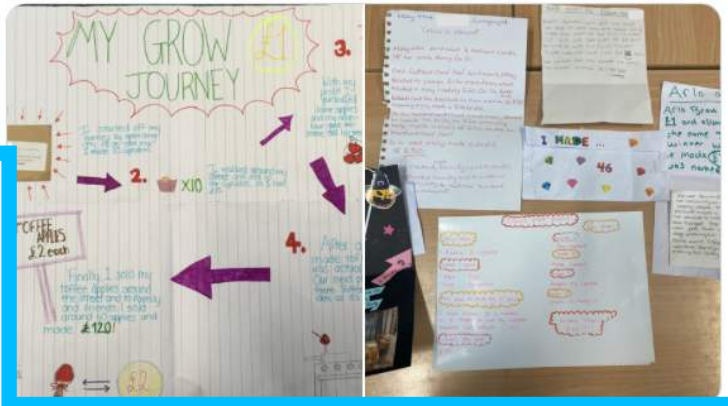


Steve and Amy from Just Credit Union then took each class for an assembly to talk about savings and to help the children think of ideas of how to grow their pound. The children were all given an envelope containing their £1 coin, all of which were kindly gifted to the school by Just Credit Union. They have already been planning their ideas in Class and now have 4 weeks to turn their £1 into more money!



Wilfred Owen School
@WilfredOwenSch

WOW! We are blown away by the hard work and dedication of our pupils in their 'Grow a £1' challenge. Still waiting on the final total so watch this space ..... @Lord_Sugar @karren_brady @claudelittner we think we may have your next generation of entrepeneurs 💰



Wilfred Owen School @WilfredOwenSch · Nov 12

So @Lord_Sugar @claudelittner @karren_brady @BBCShropshire @bbcmtd @ShropshireStar @TrustEmpower ... the numbers are in. How much do you think, in total, our budding entrepeneurs have managed to turn their £1 coins into through our 'Grow £1 project'? 💰🤑🍉 @justcredit



Wilfred Owen School
@WilfredOwenSch

We've kept you waiting long enough. Our amazing pupils have turned their £195 from @justcredit into a staggering £2620.78! 💰🎉👏 Surely worthy of a retweet @Lord_Sugar @karren_brady @claudelittner @ShropshireStar @bbcmtd That's an amazing 1244% growth!

row A Pound Initiativ

	Money In	Growth
00	£ 29.65	£ 19.65
00	£ 19.55	£ 9.55
00	£ 343.95	£ 317.95
00	£ 462.30	£ 433.30
00	£ 413.37	£ 385.37
00	£ 545.87	£ 517.87
00	£ 352.47	£ 319.47
00	£ 453.62	£ 422.62
00	£ 2,620.78	£ 2,425.78



Remembrance











St Peter's was represented at the Town's Remembrance Parade and Service in November. Two of our pupils read out the names of the fallen soldiers from Wem.



World Mental Health Day #HelloYellow

We held a non-uniform day in aid of World Mental Health Day and #HelloYellow. The children took part in activities including meditation and yoga and talked about the importance of our mental health and well being. Academy Catering very kindly brought in their 'Smoothie Bike' and helped the children and teachers to make healthy and nutritious drinks. Thank you to all those parents and carers who donated cakes to our bake sale – altogether we raised a fantastic £266.63!!













Wilfred Owen School @WilfredOwenSch · Nov 19
A special themed lunch today for #ChildreninNeed thanks to @Academy_Food_UK @ZoeScheepers

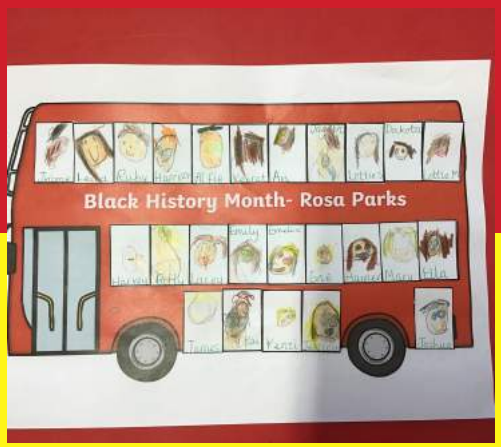






Black History Month

St Mary's celebrated the contributions that African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations. Classes introduced their chosen person through stories or through children taking part in research to understand more about the achievements of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. All classes took part in a 'show and tell' assembly to the rest of the school which included singing, dancing and children sharing their knowledge of their chosen person. All artwork from the competition and classes is displayed in the main hall.



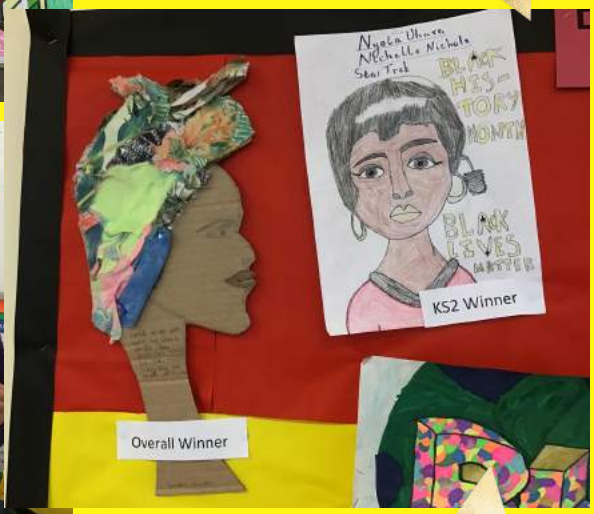








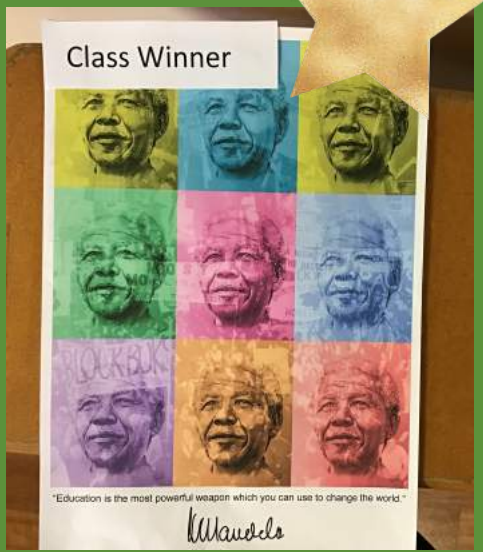












Class 3

Children with Clay Houses

In History we have been learning about our high street. We recreated our high street from clay.





Bike-ability









Ju-Jitsu with Reece Phillips









Dream, Believe, Achieve & Flourish

We have had such a busy Autumn Term at St Peter's- launched with a wonderful talk to all of our children from Alex Hibbard. Alex is the world record-holding polar traveller who has skied further on an unsupported Arctic journey than anyone in history. He spoke to the children about the determination and resilience it takes to achieve some very challenging goals. This linked with our own school values and how we can aim to achieve anything in life if we work hard enough and don't give up on our dreams!







We continue to drive forward with our computing curriculum, and was asked to become a showcase school for AmazingICT. This recognises that both staff and students are keen to develop the Computing skills needed to be competent users of technology. The school is the first in the whole of Shropshire to receive this award from technology company AmazingICT. Mr Smith from the company said he was particularly impressed with the coding and web design skills that students were developing.



We were delighted to welcome the Shropshire Music Service Soul Band in November. They were absolutely amazing and we enjoyed learning about the history of soul music. There was a lot of feet tapping, smiling and clapping during the session. We love music at St Peter's and were really pleased to be nominated by the Music Service for a Music Mark Award this year. This recognises all the hard work we do as a school to ensure that pupils are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education.





Nursery

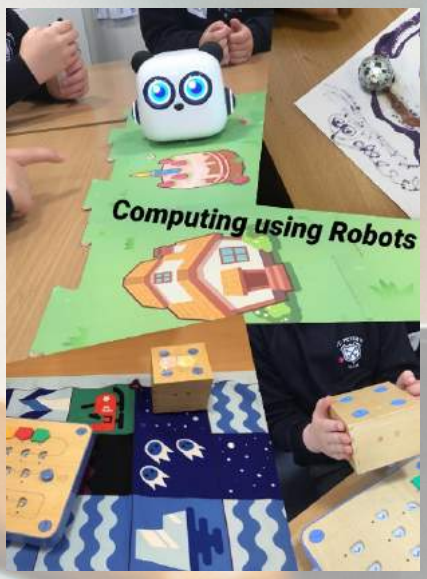
This term, children in Nursery made models of the three little pigs houses and used a green screen to place themselves in the woods next to their houses- it was a lot of fun!



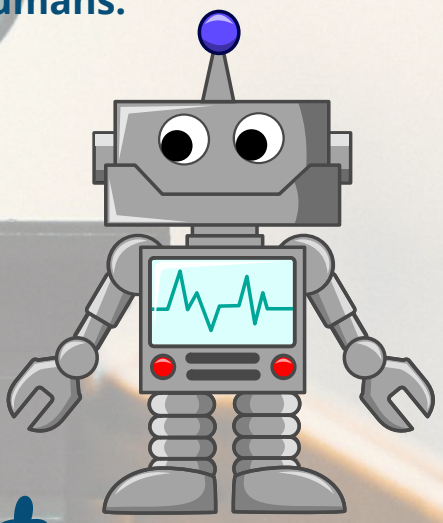


Year 1 and 3

Year 1 have programmed Robots and year 3 had a brilliant computing session learning how to create branching data bases linked to their Science unit about Animals including Humans.







Personal Development

On the 8th October we took part in a 'HelloYellow' day which is an awareness of mental health taking place on World Mental Health Day.

We all wore something Yellow and took part in lots of different activities during the day, including mindfulness and planting daffodils to remember the day in the future.







Theatre Workshop

As part of Year 6's character education (PSHE & Citizenship) programme they had a wonderful time participating in a 'Loudmouth' theatre workshop based on staying safe.





Outdoor Learning







Our Year 4 children visited Whixall Moss to undertake field work as part of their John Muir Award, supported by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The John Muir Award encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

The Award is inclusive, accessible and non-competitive, though should challenge each participant. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. Year 4 certainly looked like they had a lot of fun and the Autumnal weather was lovely.

In other news ...

Electric Emma from Fizz Pop Science joined us for an assembly. It was great fun! Fizz Pop Science will be running a KS2 club at St Peter's in the new year.





Our school council had a lot of help from the fabulous team from RAF Shawbury in December- they planted hedgerow shrubs and even helped to put up our Christmas tree!

Our Nursery children were so excited to receive a visit from Shropshire Falconry Centre and got to experience an owl close up. Wow! What a fantastic and memorable thing to do.





We went ahead with two very successful residential trips this term. Year 4 attended a residential at Year 4 at Preston Montford to help them to achieve their John Muir Award. Year 6 went to Robinwood Activity Centre and had a great time tackling their fears and pushing themselves to their limits.







