



## A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

What a busy half term! We really do work hard and play hard here at Netherton.

I regularly walk around school and visit lessons to see the learning taking place in the classrooms, and many pupils bring work to show me. Whenever I ask them about it, they are always able to talk about, not only their piece of work, but their learning that lesson and as part of the topic.

Our teachers work incredibly hard to make learning fun—organising workshops and trips to enhance the learning—as you will see in this newsletter which shows a round up of just some of the learning that has been going on during this first half term.

I have been delighted to welcome you into school to see a Maths lesson focusing on multiplication and of course, to the first parents evening. It was great to see so many of you. Do keep an eye on Dojo for future dates.

In addition to these things, we work hard to offer the pupils as many opportunities as we can, so yet again we have competed in various sporting competitions; the pupil leadership teams have greeted visitors, been to meetings, led assemblies, organised fundraising and theme days; and as always, there have been a number of free after school clubs on offer.

There are so many things that I am proud of as the Head teacher of Netherton C of E, and I thank you for your continued support.

*Mrs K. Harvey*

## School Meal Prizes

On Thursday 3rd October, the school ran a competition offering anyone who had a school lunch the opportunity to win a £20 Asda Voucher. There was voucher up for grabs for KS1 diners and another for KS2. All of the names were put into 2 separate draws and the head girls pulled the names.

We are delighted to announce the winners were:

KS1 - Archie Skipton

KS2 - Ethan Atkins

### Inset Days

6th January 2025

25th July 2025

1 more to be confirmed

### Christmas Break

Mon 23rd Dec - Fri 1st Nov

### February Half Term

Mon 17th Feb - Fri 21st Feb

### Easter Break

Mon 14th Apr - Fri 25th Apr

### Autumn Term Dates

Tuesday 12th November - Phonics  
Workshop (EYFS - Y3)

Mon 18th November 2:30 pm - SATs  
meeting for Y6 parents

### Christmas Dates

Weds 11th Dec - EYFS Nativity

Fri 13th Dec - Carols in the Play-  
ground & Christmas Fair

Tues 17th Dec - Disco

Weds 18th Dec - Christmas Dinner

Weds 18th Dec - KS2 Panto trip

Fri 20th Dec - break up for Christmas

### Spring Term Dates

Mon 6th Jan - INSET - School closed to  
pupils

Tues 7th Jan - school reopens

Mon 17th Feb - Fri 21st Feb - Half term

Fri 11th April - break up for Easter

## Parents & School working together

Home & school working together has a big impact on pupil success. With that in mind, we are always looking for ways to communicate with you, invite you into school, and work with you as much as possible.

### **Class Dojo**

This half term, we are delighted that so many classes have at least one parent / guardian signed up to Class Dojo. This is really useful for the class teacher to be able to share reminders about things like PE kit, Forest School; but also share information and photos of the many brilliant and varied things their classes get up to each day.



If you haven't joined Class Dojo, please do so as this is our main way of communicating.

### **Parents Meetings/Evenings**

Parents have had the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher twice this half term; firstly in the 2nd week of term, when you were invited to meet the teacher; and just before half term, when we invited you to the Autumn parents evening. It was wonderful to see so many of you.

**Teachers are usually available to speak with you informally, at the end of the day, or will arrange a time should you need to.**

### **Parents In Lessons**

On Thursday 24th October, parents were invited to join a maths lesson with a multiplication focus. It was wonderful to see so many of you in school. The pupils love to share what they are doing with you.

Hopefully, the maths lessons gave you a valuable insight into the sort of things your child is doing and just how important learning their times tables is. We would appreciate your support with encouraging and helping your child to learn them.



## Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy this half term. Here is a taste of what's been going on...

### Reception

Our Reception children have settled into school very well. Each week they have focused on a different story and completed activities based on it.

They produced some fabulous paintings of the characters from 'Goldilocks & the 3 Bears' and made some delicious 'Bear Bread'.

They used wooden blocks to construct 'sturdy' houses when reading 'The 3 Little Pigs' and created their own peg pigs!

After reading 'Pumpkin Soup', they peeled, chopped and mixed vegetables to make their own soup.



### Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have been enjoying gymnastic lessons, Forest School and Maths involving chocolate buttons to learn to subtract, and hand printing to learn to multiply by 5!



## Year 2

Some children in Year 2 have been enjoying taking the reading back pack home—a back pack packed with a story book and cuddly friend for a fun story time.

Our Y2 pupils visited the Black Country Museum (free of charge thanks to our school's involvement with a history project).

Visitors from the museum then came into school to deliver an art workshop on foreground, mid-ground and background.



## Year 3

Year 3 have used a loom to weave thread in order to create a piece of fabric.

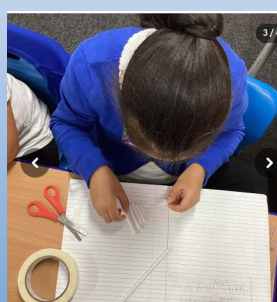
They have also been enjoying their Forest School sessions.

## Year 4

As part of their Science topic on Sound, the children have been learning about made pan pipes and their own pitched instruments.

In Music they used a computer program to create a piece of digital music.

On Thursday 24th October, all of Year 4 enjoyed bringing their History topic to life in an all-day workshop about the Ancient Greeks.

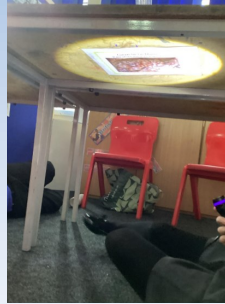




## Year 5

Year 5 are fortunate to have begun weekly brass lessons, learning to play the cornet. This will continue all year and into Year 6. They have really got stuck in and are making good progress.

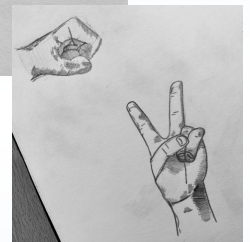
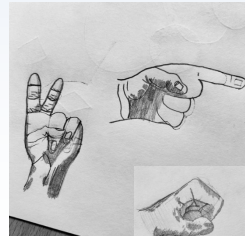
On the 8th October, the pupils took part in a History and Art curriculum day. They took part in a Forest Stone Age School session with Mr Hamblett; a History activity based on cave paintings and primary sources; and an Art activity creating a Stone Age themed textile design.



## Year 6

In Music, Y6 watched a scene from E.T without sound and then composed their own score considering lots of musical elements - dynamics, pitch, tempo, texture, layers, structure and timbre - to ensure their score matched the scene's events:

In Art, they focused on realism, using this style to draw hands. We also employed a couple of the shading techniques learnt earlier in the unit to add dimension.



## The Hive

The pupils in The Hive have been busy this half term... they have made and sampled apple crumble, played turn-taking games, and visited the park.



They have been learning about The Ancient Egyptians as their History topic with Mrs Powell. As part of this ,they have taken part in an archaeological dig, sorting artefacts into ancient and modern; learnt about mummification and created Canopic jars; and learnt about hieroglyphics and written their own name using the Egyptian alphabet.



## Whole School - learning about other faiths

As well as learning about the Christian faith and values during assembly, our pupils sometimes learn about other faiths.

Recently, they have learnt that Jews celebrate a festival called Sukkot - a time when Jews remember the Israelites' 40 years in the desert after escaping slavery.. They made Sukahs (a temporary hut or shelter) from crackers.

They also learnt about Diwali—the Hindu festival of lights, with variations celebrated in other Indian religions such as Sikhism and Jainism. It symbolises the spiritual victory of Dharma over Adharma, light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. The pupils made Diwa lamps, the light of which symbolises purity, knowledge and the removal of negative energies, bringing a fresh start to the year ahead.



## Hello Yellow - supporting mental health

On Thursday 10th October, the whole school were asked to wear yellow to raise money for the mental health charity, Young Minds.

The children were also asked to create posters showing positive affirmations or information about the 5 ways to well-being and the Well-being Ambassadors selected some to display around school



## Harvest Appeal

The Church Team led our Harvest Appeal, collecting donations for the Black Country Food Bank.

They are very grateful for your donations - you donated 122kg of food, 8.4kg of toiletries which was enough to provide 244 meals and 8 toiletry packs.

Thank you for your generosity.



## Year 5&6 Rugby Team

On Tuesday 22nd October, 19 year 5 and 6 children went to play in the Dudley Rugby Finals at Stourbridge Rugby Club.

The pupils have worked tirelessly in both PE lessons and after school and have developed into a wonderful set of rugby players.

Both teams did so well in their group stages. Netherton Team B came 3rd and Netherton Team A made it all the way through to the final and beat Dudley Wood to reclaim the title of Dudley champions.

Mr Ludlam and Ms Harrold are extremely proud of them and look forward to taking them to play in the Black Country Games in June 2025.



## Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament

On Wednesday 23rd October, some pupils from Year 3 & 4 took part in the Premier League Primary Football tournament at West Bromwich Albion.

They played 6 games, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 2. The team scored some brilliant goals and Marnie, our goalie, kept 3 clean sheets! Well done all.

And finally ...



## Wedding Bells and the school choir

On Friday 25th October, our school choir had the honour of singing at the wedding of two of our parents, at St Andrews Church.

It was a beautiful wedding and the choir were delighted to be part of it; and we are very proud of them for singing so beautifully - one guest asked if we took bookings!

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Atkins, we wish you love and happiness.



## **Safeguarding Spotlight**

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils is our first priority and naturally, this extends to their families. Part of this role is to share the latest information on issues that may affect our young people; share guidance; and signpost support. There is a wealth of information on our website under Key Information ~ Safeguarding.

<https://www.netherton.dudley.sch.uk/key-information/safeguarding>

Each month we focus on a different aspect of safeguarding in our Newsletter.

## **Cost of Living**

The cost of living continues to affect us all—some more than others.— so we thought it would be useful to signpost support again.

For families who may be struggling in these current difficult times, we would like to signpost some information of places or services which may be able to offer support with basic needs such as food & clothing.

Dudley Borough and Sandwell Borough Councils both have lots of information on their websites

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/cost-of-living/>

[www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/cost-of-living/everyday-essentials/food-support-and-waste-reduction](https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/cost-of-living/everyday-essentials/food-support-and-waste-reduction)

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/resilient-residents/food-banks-food-emergency>

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/benefits-support>

## **Phone Credit from Dudley Libraries**

Dudley Libraries are offering people the chance to get a free SIM card. They are being offered at all library branches across the borough.

You can qualify if you are on a low income and are over 18 years old.

The mobile phone operators available via this offer are Vodafone, O2 and Three.

\*Vodafone SIM - 40gb data + free calls and text. Lasts for 6 months. Refreshes automatically for another 6 months.

\*O2 SIM Voucher - 20gb data + free calls and text. (This is issued via a voucher by library staff)

\*Three SIM - 24gb data only.

To find out more, visit <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/cost-of-living/household-costs/>

## **Online Safety**

Keeping our children safe in a world of technology continues to be a priority.

Look out each Wednesday, on Dojo, as we will be sharing **#Wake Up Wednesday** from The National College.

This is a weekly guide which focuses on an aspect of technology; the risks and tips to keep your child safe. The guides are in an easy-to-follow format. The first one, on Wednesday 23rd October, was about Horror Films.

A new one will be published each Wednesday on Dojo.

