



Micklem Primary School

School News

Friday 8th December 2023

Reflection on our learning

We have had a fantastic couple of weeks at Micklem! School has been buzzing with activity as children continue to learn as we entered the festive season. It has been brilliant to see children that are still so focussed on their learning, but finding times to enjoy all of the fun of Christmas time.

I am thrilled to share with you the news that our football team won a tightly contested match 3-1 on Monday evening against the Reddings. What I was so proud of was the comments made about our children's attitudes and how supportive of each other they were and how well they collaborated. Reception went to St. Albans Cathedral and Bella said, "We went to a big church and I felt happy and it was special." In addition to this, 12 of our Year 3 children went to Warner's End Community Centre for the care home Christmas Party. Our children were a credit to us, and sang songs, talked and danced with the residents. It was a joy to see our children engage with the wider community outside of their comfort zone and show what Micklem is all about:

Be Kind. Show Respect. Aim High.

Mr. Swift



Reading

This week, there has been a buzz about reading- Olaf Falafel's books are a firm favourite in KS2 at the moment! We are also excited for the opening of the new Library after christmas!

Children across the school are continuing to read and collect their stickers, with many more completed bookmarks handed to Miss Noble ready for our first 'Golden Ticket' draw of the year at the end of term. We have even had our first gold award!

In KS2, we have been using an online reading programme called 'Reading Plus' alongside our guided reading lessons. This has been popular and successful with children improving their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension skills. Emmanuel and Isla in year 5 have both read over 50,000 words in the time we have been using it, and year 5 collectively have read over 500,000 words! Well done to you all!

Please keep supporting your child by listening to them read every day at home and signing their reading record. The time you take will make a difference to your child.

Attendance

27th November - 8th December 2023

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
86.7%	91.9%	93.2%	92.3%	92.6%	92.8%	91.2%	96.2%

Class above our 95% target

Congratulations to these children who have produced an excellent piece of learning over the last couple of weeks. It was brilliant in assembly to hear you telling me all about your learning and how hard you have been working. What a fantastic way to show how you are aiming high!

Learning of the Week 1st December and 8th December

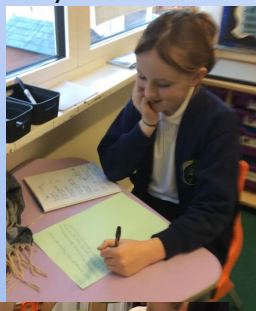
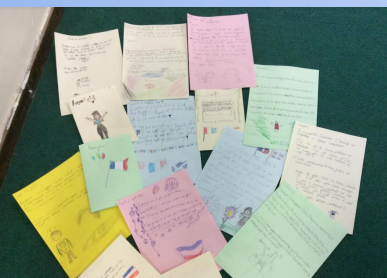
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
1/12	Theo Abigail	Charlotte Bella	Jason Orla-Willow	Eliza Leo K	Ryan Antonia	Janel Tafari	Asya Fatima
8/12	Toby Rosa	Savannah Archie	Hayden Imani	Leo S Penny	Precious Olivia	Ivy Archie	Delilah Oliver

Well done to the following children for aiming high with their reading and achieving their reading awards.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
Rex, Charlotte, Harley, Emily, Katty, Samuel, Tasmia, Cam, Moulk, Yunice, Liz, Daniel, Amalia, Rhiannon, Kuba	Emma, Archie, Artem	Liana

French

Our Year 6 class have been busy writing French letters to a school in France. Mrs Lopez will be sending these off and we hope to have responses in the new year.



No Pens Day

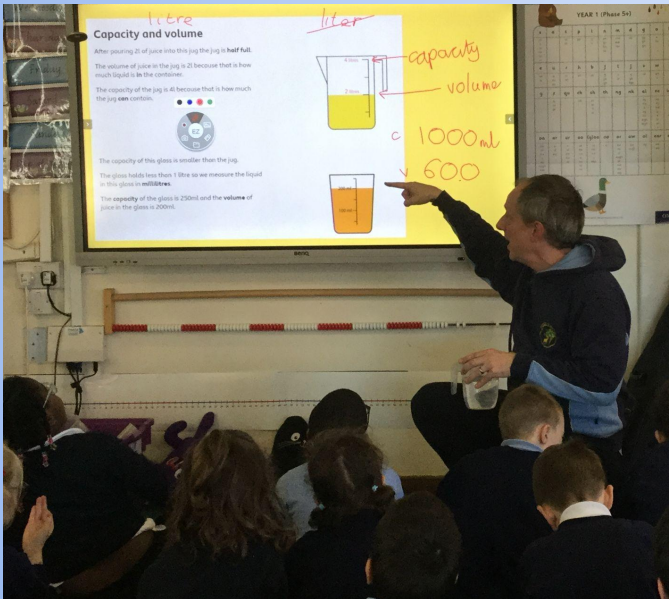
Last Wednesday we enjoyed lots of creative learning opportunities on our 'no pens day'.

'No pens day' is about having fun taking part in talking and listening activities with no writing. It is also to raise awareness of the importance of communication, and the difficulties many children have with talking and listening. It is estimated **1.9 million children** struggle with talking and understanding words.

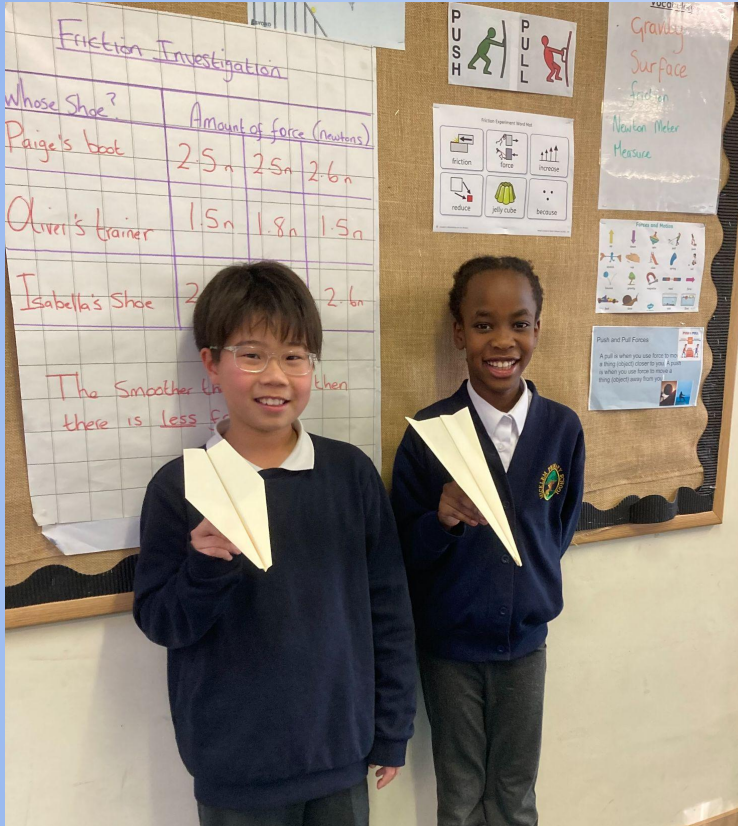
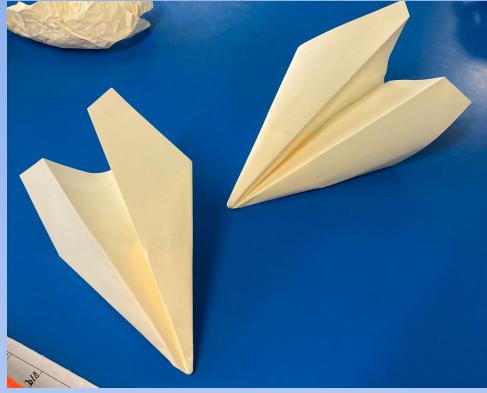
If you have concerns about your child's speech and language you can find helpful information here:

www.hct.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people-speech-and-language-therapy-parents
<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/>

No Pens Day!



No Pens Day!



Whose Shoe?	Amount of force (Newtons)
Paige's boot	2.5n 2.5n 2.6n
Oliver's trainer	1.5n 1.8n 1.5n
Isabella's Shoe	2.5n 2.6n



What did your children find exciting in their recent learning?

Reception

We loved learning about Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' painting and created our own version to develop our fine motor skills of cutting, painting, drawing, dotting and smudging.



Year 1

"Today I liked doing Phonics, sounding out different words."

Emily

"I enjoyed making and eating my own sandwich."

Eileen

Year 2

"I have enjoyed phonics and learning more about the sounds and practicing my blending" James

"I have enjoyed learning and practicing my 5 and 10 times tables" Lacey

Year 3

Year 3 really enjoyed using Chromebooks to present their adverts for broomsticks.



Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about levers and hinges, they have made Christmas cards using levers.

"It was so much fun!"

Year 5

In science this week, in year 5, we have been learning about water resistance. We used plasticine to make 5 different shapes and then tested them in water. Timing how long each shape took to reach the bottom of the container. Everyone learnt that the flatter the surface, the longer it took to reach the bottom because of water resistance.



"I was surprised how quick the cube took to reach the bottom!" Year 5 child.

Year 6

We have started our boosters. "I have liked challenging myself in Maths boosters and I liked R.E, talking about how I celebrate Christmas".

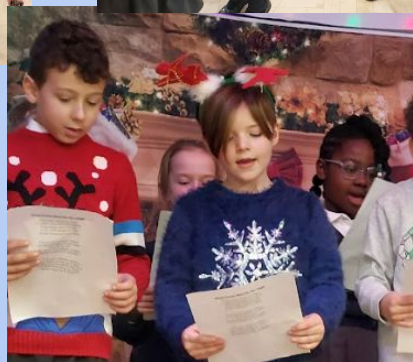
Olivia

"Loved reading the next part in the Letters of the Lighthouse, during English".

Godfred

Care Home Christmas Party

11 Year 3 children attended the Care Home Christmas Party at Warner's End Community Centre on Thursday. They had so much fun with the residents and even got a present from Santa! It was lovely to see our children having a positive impact in our local community.



PTA Discos are back!

We had our first PTA disco for a while on Thursday 7th December as children attended our Glow Disco. We had a great turn out and the children had a fantastic time. I am so excited to share that we raised £619.71 for the PTA and will be looking for projects across the school to spend the money on.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our school and its events!



Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
13/12	KS1 Christmas Performance 9:15am
13/12	Grandparent Craft Afternoon
13/12	KS1 Christmas Performance 6pm
14/12	Christmas Fayre
15/12	Mad Science Assembly
19/12	EYFS Christmas Performance 9:15am
20/12	Carols Around the Tree 9:15 (Rec - Year 6), Christmas Dinner Day, Christmas Jumper Day, School ends at 1:30pm
08/01	Children Return to School

SEND and Family Support Information

DSPL8 Parent/ Carer Newsletter and Dacorum SEND Courses, Support & Information for Families

DSPL8

Delivering Special Provision Locally

The latest 'DSPL8 Parent/Carer Newsletters' & 'Dacorum Parent/ Carers courses and support: Spring 2024' are available to download from DSPL8's website via the following link: <https://dacorumdspl.org.uk/online-resources-for-parents-and-carers/>

Their most recent newsletter includes:

- Update on DSPL8 Communications
- Job opportunities to develop whole family SEND work in Hertfordshire
- DSPL8 Dacorum Families SEND Information Fayre: 07.12.2023
- ADD-vance Drop-in Consultations: 10.01.2024
- SEND Surgery: 23.01.2024
- DSPL8 EBSA Coffee Morning: 30.01.2024
- Anxiety Unravalled Course by Bounce Forward: 28.02.2024-13.03.2024
- Spring Term DSPL8 Parent/Carer Support

Anxiety Unravalled
Supporting my child with Anxiety

Highlights

- Three, 60-minute sessions
- Live or on-demand
- Lifetime access

A three-session online course for parents

The world around us can generate plenty of uncertainty and affect the way we go about our daily lives.

You may be more worried than usual or perhaps you are in the midst of a growing cycle of worry and concern that you'd like to unravel. **You are not on your own.**

"Learning about these strategies to help us deal with anxiety was particularly useful and learning these to help manage my own anxiety as well as my son's."

Join us for a series of three 60-minute sessions to explore anxiety. The sessions will provide a space to think about your own responses and provide practical tips and advice that you can use at home to help your children develop their resilience to anxiety.

[Click here to register](#) [Find out more](#)

Dacorum Parent/Carer courses and support available from various local providers:

- Parenting Courses and Support in Dacorum Spring Term 2024
- HAPpy Camps
- SPACE Hertfordshire: December Activities
- Potential Kids: December Activities
- New Herts Haven Café for young people's emotional wellbeing opens in Hemel Hempstead
- Relationship Support for parents
- Neurodiversity Support Hub
- SEND Drop-in sessions

SPACE Hertfordshire: December Activities

Eventbrite: [SPACE HERTFORDSHIRE Events | Eventbrite](#)

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Booking now open

Fri 1st	Children's Online Art
Sat 2nd	Driving
Sat 2nd	Therapeutic Farming
Sun 3rd	The Patch Outdoor Play
Mon 4th	Junior Online Cooking
Mon 4th	Teens Online Cooking
Wed 6th	Online Lego Club
Thurs 7th	Wellbeing Walk
Sat 9th	Jump City - Christmas Special
Sat 9th	Aerial Gymnastics
Sat 9th	Little City - Christmas Special
Fri 15th	Teens Online Art
Sat 16th	Driving
Wed 20th	Ranger Stu Virtual Zoo
Thurs 21st	Wildlife Mosaics

[We hope you can join us!](#)
Book your place on the SPACE Eventbrite - SPACE Hertfordshire

SPACE
Autism | ADHD | Neurodiversity Conditions

Follow DSPL8's social media pages for their most recent updates:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dspldacorum

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dspl_dacorum

SEND and Family Support Information

Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
- Anxiety
- School

No
Diagnosis
Required

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people

Are you a
Parent, Carer
or
Professional?



01727 833963



We Can't :

- Give updates/ fast track places on waiting lists
- Recommend specific private assessors



supporthub@add-vance.org

Open Monday-Friday

9 AM - 1PM



Here to support, reach out for a listening ear





Bookmark



Help a child learn to read

This year our school is working with Bookmark, a children's literacy charity that links schools with volunteers to provide children with extra reading support.

You can help a child develop the reading skills and confidence they need for a fair chance in life. 30 minutes, twice a week, for six weeks.

As a Bookmark volunteer, you'll help your community and make a huge difference to a child.

**SIGN UP
TODAY**



[bookmarkreading.org/
volunteer](https://bookmarkreading.org/volunteer)

Registered Charity No. 117768

READING MATTERS!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A STUDENT WHO READS



WILL BE EXPOSED TO

1,800,000

WORDS PER YEAR

282,000

WORDS PER YEAR

8,000

WORDS PER YEAR

AND IS MORE LIKELY TO SCORE IN THE



ON STANDARDIZED TESTS!

Source: Hoag, Anderson, and Herman, 1997

9 Ways Reading Benefits Children

1. Reading increases creativity and imagination.
2. Reading together builds strong family bonds.
3. Reading expands a child's vocabulary.
4. Reading opens minds to new and diverse people, places, and situations.
5. Reading is fun and helps children relax after a stressful day.
6. Reading promotes and enhances critical thinking skills
7. Reading teaches children about the complex world we live in.
8. Reading promotes positive communication in families.
9. Reading helps build character.

