

# PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

October 2024



Dear Parents/Carers/Grandparents,

## Staff Thank You

We have just arrived at the end of a very long term and I would firstly like to thank the staff. There has been a lot of different illnesses being carried especially the last few weeks and the staff have soldiered on to ensure your children are not being taught by supply teachers and make sure they are able to complete curriculum tasks. It is unusual for the team to be this ill but everyone has stepped in to cover each other and provide support so I want to thank them for their commitment and perseverance!

Secondly, we have some lovely news to share. Mr King has a new addition to his family – a little boy called Reuben. We are so happy for his safe arrival and we are also relieved to welcome Mr King back after his paternity leave. Congratulations from the Bournville Family.

## Welcome



We will be welcoming a new Teaching Assistant next term called Mrs Thomas. She will be based in Year 5 working alongside Mr Newton. This term we have also welcomed 3 trainee teachers who are based in Key Stage 2.



We have Miss Messina (Year 6) Miss McPhee (Year 5) and Miss Karimattam (Year 4) who will all be working with pupils and teaching parts of lessons.

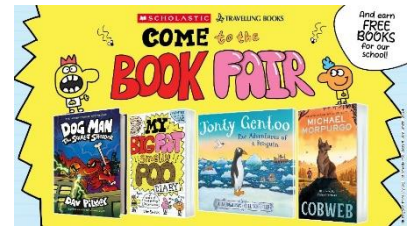


## Parents Evening

Thank you to all parents who attended parents evening – we love to meet with you in person to discuss your child's progress as this is an important part of making improvements to their learning by working together. For those who didn't book an appointment or couldn't make the date, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an appointment. We will fit these in after school, before school where possible, over the phone or video call. Our aim is to not leave anyone behind so please do make contact with us, you will have heard from your child's class teacher already so drop them a message with your availability.

## Advance Date

We will be having the Book Fair visit our school after half term in November. Please save some money and come and purchase a book to help raise money for the school library. We will also be running a 'Pre-Loved' Uniform Shop at the same time if you are in need of any uniform. This will be open for a week after school and we will let you know when it begins via Class Dojo.



## Thank you to Parents

We would like to say a huge thank you to you as parents for working hard to improve your child's attendance at school. It is definitely improving and we need to keep this motivation going (especially through winter months) so your children have the best opportunity to achieve socially and academically. Having time off frequently does effect children's friendships and learning so attending school every day makes your child feel safer and happier. Can I also remind you to let us know why your child may not be in school and when we call, answer your phone. We still have a handful of parents not informing us and not taking our calls and this can end up with us taking serious action which we work hard to avoid. We appreciate we may be a little annoying at times but we are motivated by kind hearts and desire to see your child settled at school. 😊

## Bonfire Night

Here are some tips for keeping children safe on Bonfire Night and a video for them to watch [Bonfire Night Safety | Firework Safety for kids!](#) :

- **Supervise children:** Keep children supervised at all times, especially if they are young or might wander off.
- **Use a barrier:** Use rope or fencing to cordon off the area where fireworks will be lit and the bonfire.
- **Wear appropriate clothing:** Make sure children don't wear loose or flammable clothing, and tie back their hair.
- **Use sparklers safely:** Never give sparklers to children under five. If you do use sparklers, make sure to:
  - Wear gloves
  - Hold the sparkler at arm's length
  - Stand still and keep a good distance from other people
  - Put the sparkler in a bucket of cold water when you're done
  - Always light one sparkler at a time
- **Keep pets safe:** Keep pets indoors and away from windows and blinds while fireworks are going on.
- **Put out fireworks safely:** If a firework doesn't go off, soak it with water and then dispose of it.

Have a lovely half term, thank you for all your continued support and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 8.30am.

Kind regards,

Miss Briner, Head of Primary

## Attendance League Table with Mrs Bharj

Each week, the class that gets the best overall attendance is awarded the Trophy, a certificate and a prize (ice-lollies/chocolate, etc). The children love to win. Here is the league table so far...by ensuring your child is at school every day, you help your child's class to win the prize 😊.

Class	Percentage of Attendance %				
	Overall	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
<b>Reception</b>	94	94	92	95	95
<b>Year 1</b>	90	98	88	92	91
<b>Year 2</b>	92	91	87	96	93
<b>Year 3</b>	89	89	84	95	90
<b>Year 4</b>	93	93	93	95	93
<b>Year 5</b>	94	92	94	97	95
<b>Year 6</b>	97	98	97	95	97
<b>Primary Overall</b>	93	94	92	95	94

## Attendance Awards – You've got to be in it, to win it!

I hope this message finds you well! As you all know, attendance is crucial for your learning and progress. When you're here, you have the best chance to succeed!

We have some exciting incentives to keep everyone motivated, including our class attendance celebrations and the end-of-year 100% attendance awards. Last year, students won amazing prizes like bikes, Rush trampoline park tickets, and Smyth vouchers!

To be eligible for these fantastic rewards, remember that you need to be present every day. That means attending our Friday prize assemblies and aiming for perfect attendance throughout the entire school year for those big end-of-year prizes!

I believe in each of you, and I know we can achieve this together. Let's make this year a great one! Go team!

Mrs Bharj





## School Elections

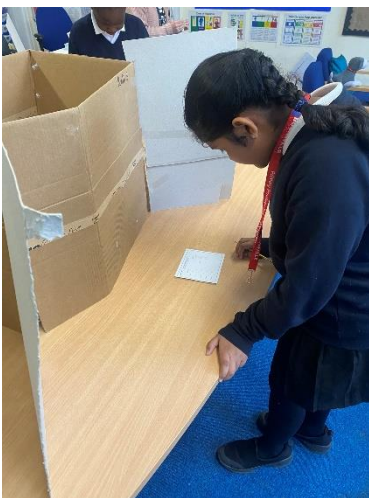


This week, we have held our school elections to decide who will be members of our School Council.

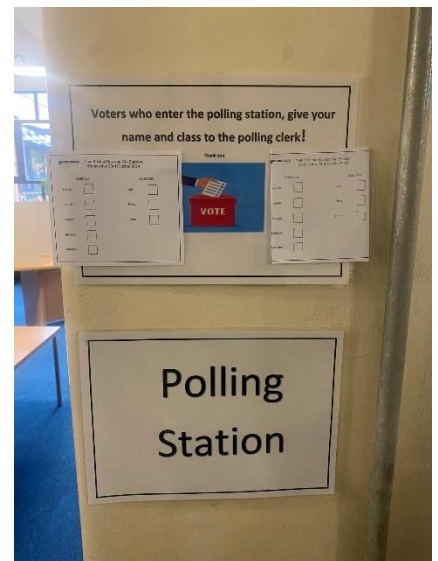
Children chose to put themselves forward to represent their classes which involved them composing a speech and presenting this to their classmates - a really brave thing to do. Once they had presented their speeches, each class completed their ballot papers and returned them to their class teachers to count!

Our Year 6 pupils have a to go a step further in order to help them transition well to secondary – they were required to compose their own PowerPoint presentations during their own time (some prepared at home

while others used their lunchtimes at school) and then presented their speeches for Head Boy & Girl to the whole of primary. They used the microphone and laptop to showcase their personal qualities and share their ideas for school improvement in order to win voters.



After this presentation, we then opened our own Polling Station so all pupils could complete their ballot paper and cast their vote. They had to register their full name with the Office Clerk and then they were permitted to enter their ballot paper.



All pupils should feel very proud of themselves and their efforts as speaking in front of people requires a lot of confidence and bravery. They were incredibly mature and as a staff team not only did we feel proud of the pupils, we were amazed at the number of pupils who chose to run for school council this year. It was a

very close vote, often only 2 votes between winners and runners up but, drum roll please.....

**CONGRATULATIONS to our elected school council representatives for this year who are:**

**Head Boy: Peter**

**Head Girl: Melodie**

**Deputy Head Boy: Jay**

**Deputy Head Girl: Isabel**

**Year 2: Sabrina and Troy**

**Year 3: Layla and James**

**Year 4: Grant and Harley**

**Year 5: Sina and Dee Dee**



## Reception Class with Miss Bell and Miss Osman

### All About Autumn

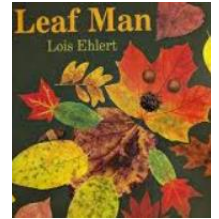


This term we are learning all about the season 'Autumn'. We have been singing the song 'Months of the year' (follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5enDRrWyXaw>) and discovering who in our class has a birthday in the months that fall in Autumn. We will continue this throughout the year. We have read a variety of fiction and non-fiction

books and used these to extend our learning.

We have been on an Autumn walk and collected a variety of coloured leaves to make our own Leaf Man and used them to create our own story altogether.

Here are some examples of what the children said about their Leaf Man:



*"I go on holiday two times with my family on an airplane!"*

*"I'm going to a big playground in a big truck and a swing with my Daddy, Mommy and Aunt Sarah!"*

*"I'm going to Greece with my mommy and daddy and going to use my car!"*

*"I want to go outside on an adventure to find some bikes and pretend it's rainbow bikes!"*

Children orally composing stories develops their spoken language skills, preparing them for reading and writing. It lays the foundation for character development, and the concept of the beginning, middle and end of stories. It gives them the opportunity to express their emotions, thoughts, and personal experiences as well as enhancing their social interaction and social skills such as listening, turn-taking and empathy. Inventing stories is something we really enjoy doing as a whole class, coming up with fabulous plots and twists to our stories and creating wonderful characters.



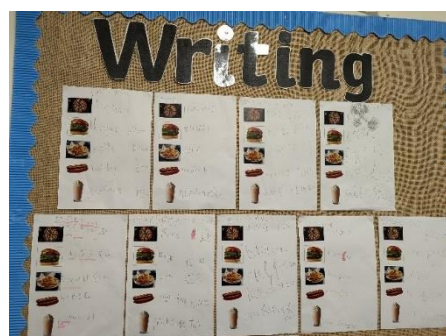
We will be continuing our Autumn learning using all our five senses to extend our vocabulary and look forward to sharing our next class story with you.

### Weekly Family Read Sessions

It is always so good to see as many of you that can attend. Reminder, sessions are held from 2.30pm to 3.00pm every Wednesday.

## Year 1 with Mrs Clay and Miss Hutchison

In Year One we have been developing the use of the different areas of the classroom. In our reading corner we have plenty of cushions so that we can read our books quietly. We have enjoyed designing and making models for our creative area and



even learned how to use split pins to add a moving part to our models. The role play area has now become a café. We used our phonics to create menus and have enjoyed using our new props.



We have also continued to develop our knowledge of 'The Great Fire of London' and sequenced the pictures to tell the story of what happened. In our science work, we found out that there are different groups of animals, and we sorted pictures into the correct groups. Did you know that humans are mammals?



## Year 2 and Year 3 Science with Miss McLynskey - Exploring the Human Body!

This term, Year 2 and Year 3 have been diving into the fascinating world of the human body in their science lessons! Recently, we've been focusing on the importance of muscles in how our bodies move. The children have been learning how muscles like the biceps and triceps work, and they even created their own model arms!

Using elastic bands to represent the muscles, the children attached them to model bones (the humerus, ulna, and radius) and used a split pin to see how the muscles contract and relax as the arm bends and straightens. It was a great hands-on way for them to understand how muscles work in pairs to help us move.



## Family Reading Session Invitation for Years 2 & 3

We would also like to warmly invite all Year 2 and Year 3 parents to join us in the primary library for a special family reading session at 2:30pm on Thursday, 7th November. This is a lovely opportunity to sit with your child, listen to them read, or share one of your favourite stories with them. We hope to see you there!



## Year 4 with Miss Heyer, Miss Karimattam and Miss Walker

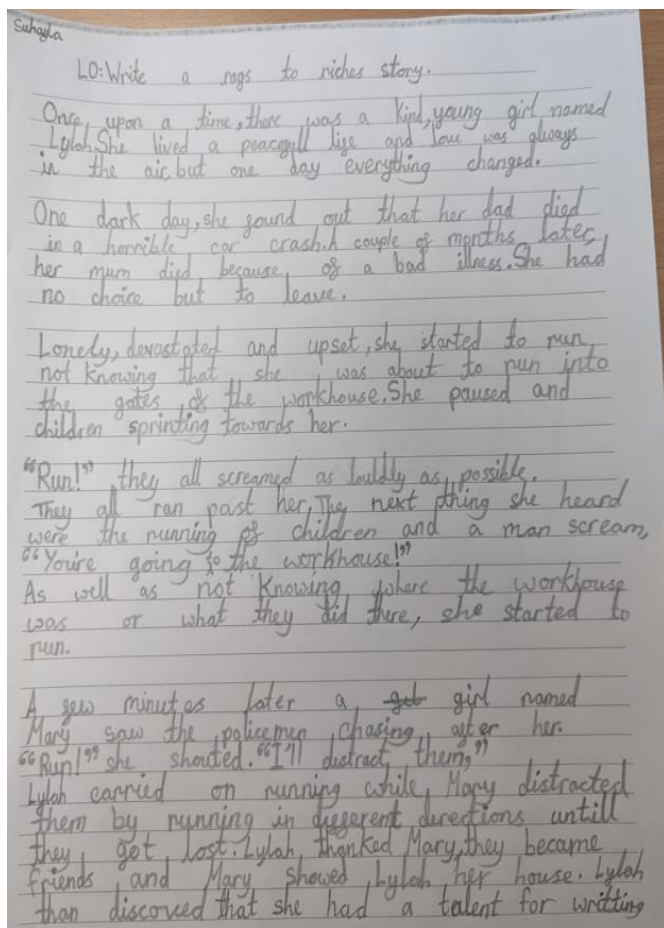
This term, our focus in science has been on electricity, where the children explored how circuits work by creating their own switches. Using simple materials like card and paperclips, they learned how to connect and disconnect a switch, understanding the critical role it plays in completing a circuit.

In art, we have been studying the work of Jacob Lawrence, particularly his powerful portrayal of the migration experience for Black people. The children had the opportunity to create sketches inspired by Lawrence's unique style, allowing them to explore themes of movement and history while developing their artistic skills.

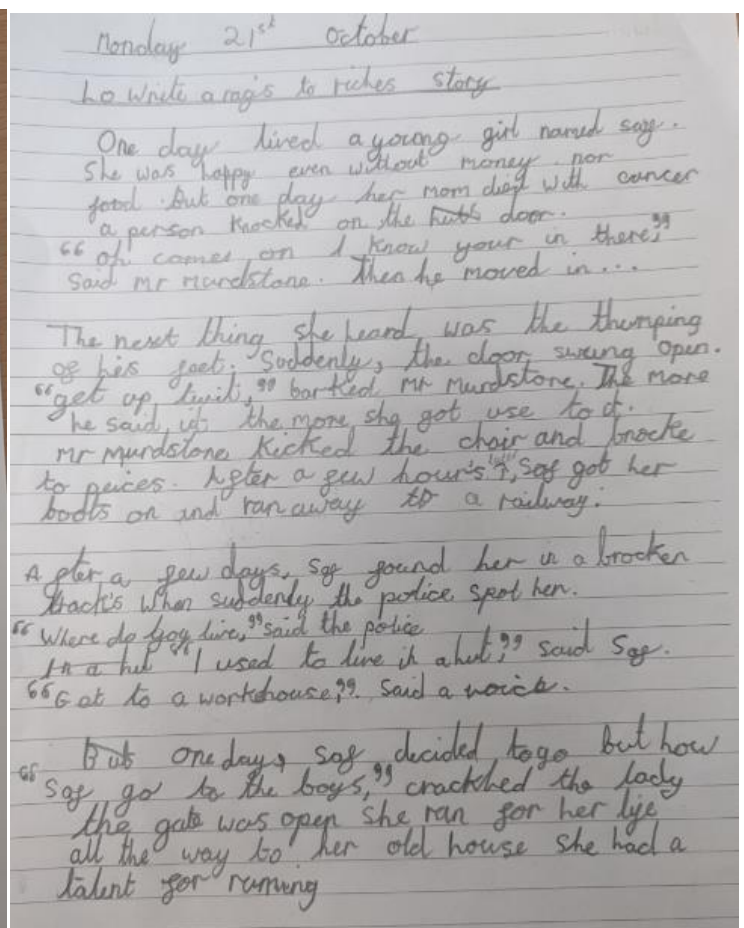


## Year 5 with Mr Newton, Miss McPhee and Miss Walker

This month, Year 5 have been immersed in a variety of exciting activities! In English, we have written rags to riches stories, focusing on *Street Child*. We have continued to read *Street Child* which has provided great inspiration for our stories.



Suhayla Y5 rags to Riches story



Aaliyah Y5 Rags to Riches story



In Art, we have continued to explore the work of Yayoi Kusama, and the children have enjoyed creating beautiful butterfly paintings inspired by her style. I have been really impressed with their paintings!



*Jasmine – Butterfly*



*Ali- Butterfly*



*Derrick- Butterfly*

## **Year 6 with Miss Withy, Miss Messina and Mrs Hathaway**

This month, Year 6 had an exciting opportunity to visit Bewdley Museum for our History trip, where we delved into what life was like during the Blitz in World War II.



One of the most memorable moments was hearing an authentic air raid siren— it was incredibly loud and quite scary!! We also got to examine real gas masks. An interesting, albeit surprising, fact we learned was that the filters in these gas masks, which were meant to protect people from harmful gases, actually contained asbestos, a substance now known to be very dangerous to our lungs. Don't worry—the masks we handled were



completely safe, as all harmful filters had been removed. Still, we were quite relieved not to wear them for long, as they were quite uncomfortable!

We were also lucky enough to spend some time in a real air raid shelter, which originally belonged to the Bewdley Post Office. This made it larger than the typical Anderson shelters found in people's homes. We also learnt more about life during the war and experienced the "Make Do and Mend" culture firsthand by trying our hand at making our own rag rugs.

The museum staff were fantastic with so much to show us and tell us about. A great day was had by all.

## Year 6 Assembly

Year 6 proudly hosted their first class assembly of the year, and we worked hard to showcase all the incredible learning we've done since September. There was certainly a lot to choose from!



We shared examples of our writing based on the novel *Good Night, Mr Tom*, including a moving diary entry from Avie and a vivid character description of William Beech by Cillian. We also presented some of our artwork, inspired by Frida Kahlo, explaining how we used symbolism to create our pieces, just as Frida did in hers. Thank you to all our artists, including Yehor and Marget who spoke so beautifully about the symbolism in their self-portraits.



To bring some science into the mix, we conducted a live experiment demonstrating refraction, with a parent volunteer expertly helping to explain why the paintbrush appeared to bend when placed in water.



We closed our assembly with a special performance of the E-B-G-B Blues, played by the Year 6 brass orchestra. If you've ever tried to play a brass instrument, you know how challenging it can be—so a huge well done to Year 6 for their perseverance!

It's been a busy and exciting start to the year. I am very proud of Year 6 and all their hard work, and we're only just getting started.

Well done, Year 6!

## SEND EVENT with a Focus on Autism

This year the SEND Department is going to organise and run a series of events for parents. We will be inviting you in to meet with the SEND team and have guest speakers to share information.

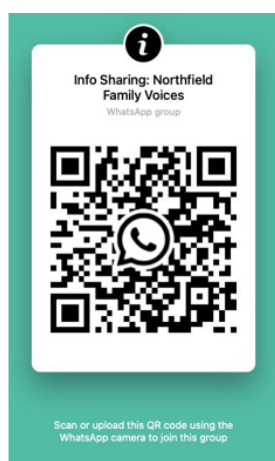
The next SEND event will be hosted by Mr Archbold – Secondary SENDCo and Denise Horton from the Community Autism Team. The event will be on 12<sup>th</sup> November at 2:15pm at school and will look at how the CAT team work with school and scope of their work. If you think you may attend, please click on this link and complete the form so we can cater for approximate numbers.  
<https://forms.office.com/e/u1pyG5jrhe>

We are also partnering with the NHS family hubs to share local information and gather the community and family voices to help inform the 'local offer' throughout the year. School will be hosting a parent's event soon with the Family Hub representatives in order to share further information.

## WHATSAPP GROUP

The local Family Hubs based in Selly Oak and Northfield have created a 'one way' WhatsApp group to share information with the local community. You can join this WhatsApp group by using the appropriate QR Code below (this WhatsApp group is run by the NHS Family Hubs, not by Bournville School).

### Northfield Family Hub



Join our Family Voices WhatsApp Information Communication Channel

Information Sharing will also enable you to receive city-wide updates and information.

Administrators can grant access for key stakeholders to post updates.



### Selly Oak Family Hub



Join our Family Voices WhatsApp Information Communication Channel

Information Sharing will also enable you to receive city-wide updates and information.

Administrators can grant access for key stakeholders to post updates.





## Black History Day - Celebrating Inspirational Figures



On Thursday 24th October, Primary students took part in an exciting day of activities to celebrate Black History Month. Divided into their four teams, students rotated through various stations, learning about inspirational people of colour and exploring themes of equality, resilience, and kindness.

This year, the focus was on Racism in Sport, a Martin Luther King speech and Malala Yousafzai's fight for education for girls.

Reception Class read 'Handa's Surprise', creating their own food basket, discussing the story's themes and acting the story out.

Mrs Clay introduced the significance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, encouraging students to write their own version of the speech, reflecting their hopes for a better world.

Mr. Newton highlighted the 'No Room for Racism' campaign. Students designed posters to promote anti-racism at football games.

Miss Withy led sessions on 'Malala's Magic Pencil' and 'The Proudest Blue', sparking conversations about rights for all, acceptance and bravery reflecting on what they would do if they had a magic pencil.

Miss Heyer's activity involved creating artwork of monumental figures, including Malala (who stood up for education for girls to the Taliban, Martin Luther King Jr who was a key leader in the civil rights movement, Jude Bellingham and Ibtihaj Muhammad.

During breaktime and lunchtime, students enjoyed tasting the fruits from 'Handa's Surprise', adding a fun and flavourful experience to the day.

The day was a wonderful opportunity for students to reflect on the contributions of people of colour and the importance of standing up for equality and justice.



# PE Kit

Please ensure that your child is sent to school in the correct PE kit outlined below. Please ensure everything is labelled as well.

Can I also remind parents that children should be wearing **black school shoes or plain black trainers** only to school.

Black/blue shorts/joggers/leggings  
Plain white t-shirt  
Blue/black jumper  
Black trainers  
PE bag



## Primary Dates for Your Diary

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Book Fair (parents invited after school)

Book Fair (parents invited after school)

Book Fair (parents invited after school)

Friendship Assembly (2.00pm)

Anti Bullying week – Non uniform day – wear something unique - £1.00 donation

Christmas Fair – 2.30pm

Year 5 Assembly

Christmas Concert (All Years)

Christmas Jumper day

Pantomime – Cinderella

Christmas Dinner

End of term

Start of Spring Term