



Harbour Newsletter

May 2026

Harbour Lights

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another incredibly positive and productive half term at The Harbour School. We continue to feel proud of our pupils and staff, not only for their commitment to learning, but for the way they support one another and contribute to our school community. Across the school, there has been a strong focus on building confidence, developing positive relationships, and ensuring every pupil experiences success in a way that is meaningful to them.

This half term, we have seen excellent engagement in learning across all subject areas. In English, pupils have explored a range of texts, including *Escape from Pompeii* and *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, developing their reading, discussion and writing skills. In Maths, there has been a clear focus on building confidence with key concepts such as place value, fractions, money and measurement, with pupils showing increasing resilience when tackling challenges. It has been particularly pleasing to see pupils applying their learning in practical and real-life contexts.

Our wider curriculum continues to be a real strength of the school. Pupils have benefited from a variety of enriching experiences, including visits to museums and science centres, outdoor learning opportunities, sports competitions, and creative activities such as art and cooking. These experiences are invaluable in building independence, teamwork and confidence, as well as helping pupils to develop a broader understanding of the world around them.

We have also continued to prioritise pupils' personal development. Through PSHE, outdoor learning, and activities such as Earth Day, pupils have explored important themes including mental health, relationships, environmental responsibility and community engagement. It has been particularly encouraging to see pupils developing their social skills, showing empathy towards others, and increasingly supporting and encouraging their peers.

Whilst we are still in the examination period, I would like to recognise the hard work and determination shown by our Yr6 pupils and Yr11. They have engaged positively with their preparation and demonstrated resilience in adapting to changes in routine. We wish them every success and are confident that their efforts will be reflected in their outcomes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working in partnership with families is essential, and I look forward to building further strong relationships with you over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Mary and Sarah
Acting Heads, The Harbour School



Meridian
Trust



Harbour Lights

Letter from the new Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am really pleased to be writing to you as the new Headteacher of The Harbour School.

It is a privilege to be joining The Harbour School. I know how important it is to feel confident that your child is in the right place and I am committed to working closely with you to make sure every pupil feels safe, supported and able to do well.

I have worked in education for nearly 20 years, with more than ten of those in leadership roles, mostly in specialist settings. During that time, I have worked with many young people who have found school difficult and I have seen just how much of a difference the right environment and relationships can make. When things feel calm, consistent and supportive, pupils can start to rebuild their confidence and see themselves as successful again.

At The Harbour School, I want pupils to feel understood, to know what's expected of them and to have their progress recognised in all the different ways it happens. I also want school to be full of positive, memorable experiences that build confidence and help prepare our pupils for the wider world.

Over the coming weeks, I'll be working closely with the current leadership team to ensure a smooth transition and to get to know the school well. There is already a lot of positive work taking place at The Harbour and I'm looking forward to building on that with pupils, families and staff.

I'm also really looking forward to getting to know you. Listening to your experiences and building strong relationships will be a big priority for me. I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months!

Yours sincerely,

Kayleigh Hardy





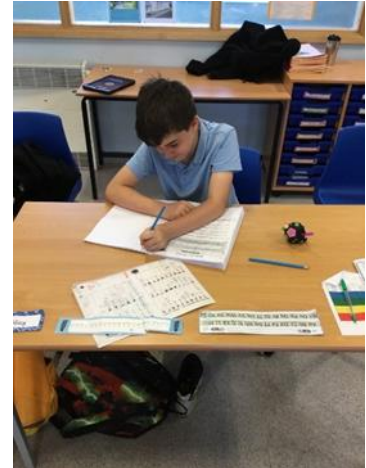
Harbour Lights

Bounty Class News

English

This half term in English, the boys have been exploring the texts *Escape from Pompeii* and *The Happy Prince*. They have shown great engagement when discussing characters and themes, particularly empathy and making positive choices.

In writing, the boys have been developing their narrative skills, focusing on creating strong openings, building tension and describing characters' thoughts and feelings.



Maths



In maths, they have been learning about decimals, equivalent fractions and money. They have been developing their understanding of place value, making links between fractions and decimals, and solving real-life problems such as calculating totals and giving change.



Science

During our science lessons, we have been exploring light, including how light travels, how shadows are formed and how they change. The boys have enjoyed carrying out simple investigations and making predictions. Our recent visits to the Science Centre and the Whipple Museum helped deepen their understanding of scientific ideas and how knowledge has developed over time.

History

In history, the boys have been learning about the history of Cambridge, exploring how the city has changed over time and discussing key landmarks and events. This has helped them build a sense of connection to their local area.





Harbour Lights

Bounty Class News

RE

RE has been about studying the Five Pillars of Islam. They have shown respect and curiosity when learning about the importance of these beliefs and how they guide the lives of Muslims.



PE

In PE, the boys have taken part in rugby, football and swimming. They have been developing teamwork, coordination and confidence, as well as learning how to follow rules and stay active safely.



Cooking

The boys have been preparing a range of healthy meals and snacks. They have practiced basic skills such as chopping, measuring and following recipes, while learning about healthy choices.

Computing

During computing, they have been learning how to change and edit digital images. They have explored tools such as cropping, resizing and adding effects, developing their creativity and digital skills.



PSHE

In PSHE, we have been focusing on relationships, with particular attention to mental health and the role of technology. The boys have discussed how to manage their emotions, build positive relationships and use technology safely and responsibly.





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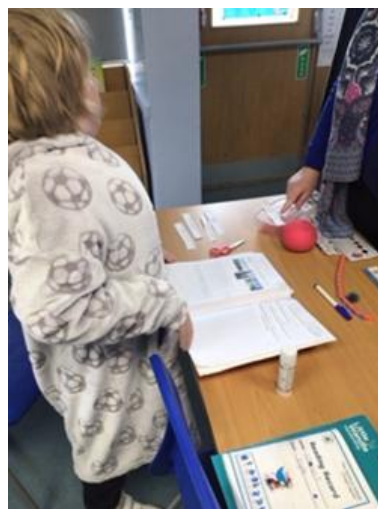
Clyde Class News

Clyde class

Clyde class has welcomed another new student into their class this term, everyone has worked hard to make them feel welcome.

In English we have been looking at the story 'Escape from Pompeii' We have enjoyed finding out about the history of Pompeii. And also following the fictitious characters Tranio and Livia as they escape from their home.

Our class story 'Pet Stories' has included many different tales about different animals. Everyone has enjoyed the daily story about a familiar pet.



Maths

For maths, we have been learning about different types of ways to take measurements. We started with looking at money and working out whether we could afford items from our imaginary shop. We have moved onto measuring using a ruler and a metre rule. We have all worked hard on converting mm, cm and metres.





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Clyde Class News

Science

In science we have been investigating light. We have discovered light sources and experimented with blocking out the light. We have made shadow pictures and stained glass windows using our knowledge.

Next we will be working together to make shadow puppet theatres, we may even put on a show for each other!



Rugby

We have been lucky enough this term to have our turn with Alex the 'rugby man' who comes into school each week from 'Rugbytots'. We have learnt how to catch and defend the ball. Running as fast as we can and dodging the other players!

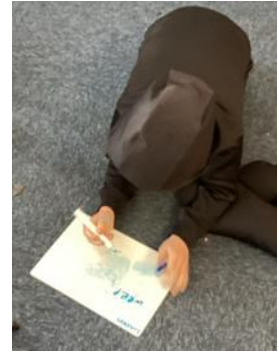




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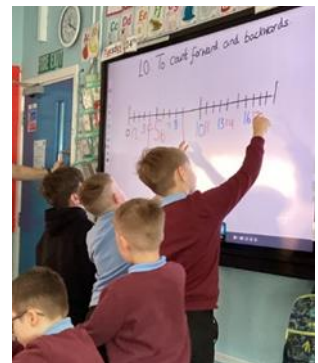
Cook Class News

This term, the Cook boys have been working incredibly hard across all areas of their learning, and we are proud to share some of their achievements with you.



In English, the boys have been exploring and discussing the traditional tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*. They have shown great enthusiasm when talking about the characters and events in the story. Building on this, the children have begun rewriting the story in their own words, focusing on using time connectives such as *first*, *then*, and *finally* to sequence their ideas clearly. They have also been developing their descriptive writing by including adjectives and expanded noun phrases to make their storytelling more engaging and detailed.

In maths, we have been continuing our work on place value, with a focus on numbers up to 100. The boys have been practising recognising, ordering, and representing numbers confidently. More recently, we have started exploring measurement, looking at length and weight. The children have enjoyed using practical resources to compare and measure different objects, developing their understanding through hands-on activities.





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Cook Class News

Beyond English and maths, the boys have been busy developing a range of other skills. They have been working on their cooking skills, showing growing independence and confidence in the kitchen. In art, they have been exploring watercolours, inspired by artists such as Paul Klee, and experimenting with colour and pattern. In science, the boys have shown great curiosity while learning about the human body, asking thoughtful questions and engaging in discussions.



A special mention goes to Teddy for a fantastic achievement this half term-writing his first few letters independently. Well done!

Thank you for your continued support.





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Drake Class News

In Drake class this half term we have really enjoyed working in the allotment area. In science we have been learn about what plants and humans need to survive and then comparing what is the same and what is different. We have also grown a lot of plants and vegetables to go into our allotment, hopefully some will make it home for you all to try.



In maths we have been looking at our 2,3,4 and 5 times tables. At first the class were very apprehensive as they looked tricky but managed really well and even started to test each other using the white board to write questions for one another.





Harbour Lights

Drake Class News

In English we looked at writing a diary entry. We read some of Ann Franks Diary, noting that this is why diaries can be really important as it gives us first-hand accounts of things that have happened in the past. We then spent a week creating our own diaries.



In art we have been using watercolours, learning the different ways in which they can be used. By using different techniques, we found that the colours can be light or more dramatic on the page. We have studied work by Georgia O'Keeffe and other more modern artist and then created our own pieces of work inspired by them.



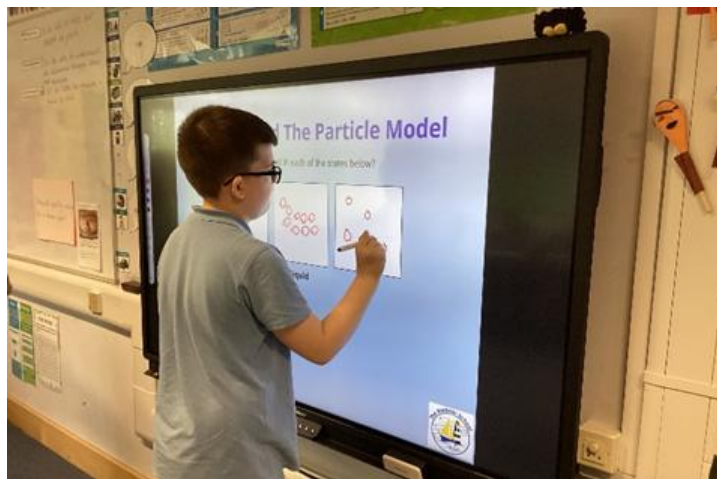
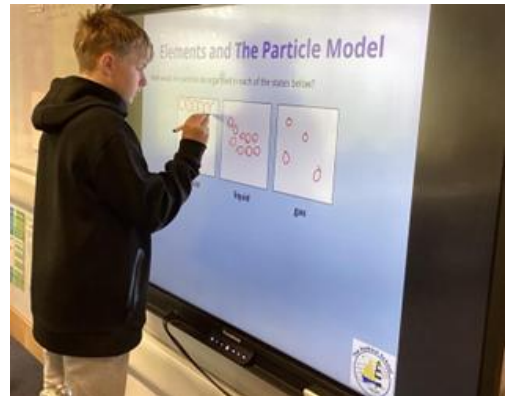
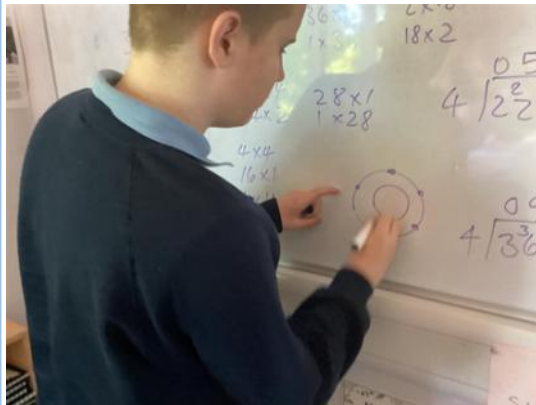
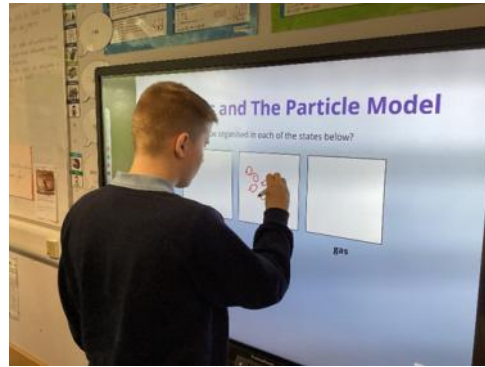


Harbour Lights

Eagle Class News

Curriculum

In Science we have been studying Elements and have focused on the Periodic Table and how the elements are arranged and why. We learnt about the protons and atoms and how they change across the periodic table





Harbour Lights

Eagle Class News

In English we have been studying the Hunger Games. The boys have completed some amazing work in relation to PEEL paragraphs, using quotes effectively and being able to focus on their spelling. They have been practicing skills which will stand them in good stead for GCSE when the time comes.

The boys have also enjoyed their time that we have spent in the new library – choosing and reading books together.



In maths we have been revisiting some of the topics that were identified within the Renaissance testing. This identifies mathematical areas that students are struggling with and need additional support. Some amazing work in relation to long division, times tables, place values and areas.





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Eagle Class News

Preparing for Adulthood

I have introduced a new lesson into the timetable for Eagle class where I am trying to prepare the boys for adulthood. We went litter picking in the village in order to make ourselves part of the community and we will be completing other activities that were identified by the boys as being something that would interest them.



Earth Day

The boys really enjoyed the activities that were in place for Earth Day which included walking in nature and cooking a vegan meal.





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Invincible Class News

This half-term in invincible we have been focused on filling gaps of knowledge in our core subjects, building up to the next grade boundaries in preparation for GCSEs for the year 11's, and general knowledge building for our year 10's. This has allowed both year groups to get used to exam style questions, understand how to revise, and build a solid foundation for their GCSEs, whether taking them this year, or next.

There has also been a focus on finishing off coursework, with their BTEC core, cooking and sport, as well as History OCR being completed.

The class have engaged extremely well throughout this term, especially with the change of timetables due to exams and revision focuses.

Exam season has officially started, and we all hope the year 11's grades match their hard work!





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Nelson Class News

Nelson have been impressive this half term, accepting new classes or classmates and learning to work together successfully. We are very proud of how well the boys have adapted and coped.

English

In English Nelson class have been looking at 'Escape from Pompeii'. The boys worked together to improve word choices, write descriptive and contrasting sentences and create images based on the characters' and the text



Maths

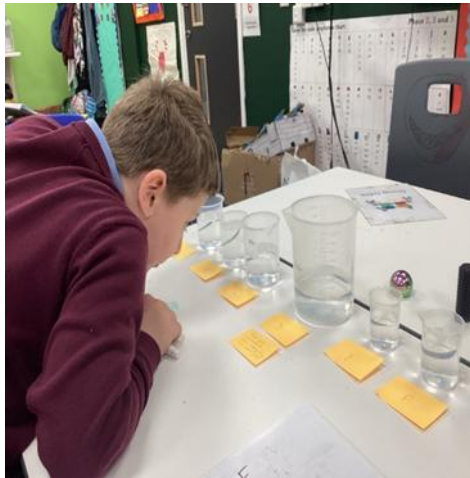
In maths the boys have covered a range of topics, including different units of measure. The boys have worked to compare and convert a range of different units of measure e.g. g to Kg, ML to L. They have recapped their skills of rounding and estimating, dividing and multiplying by ten, and finally Nelson have been looking at calculating area and perimeter.





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Nelson Class News





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Nelson Class News

Humanities

In humanities we have looked at the Vikings; the boys were particularly interested in their skills as raiders, traders and settlers and are now able to confidently describe their behaviours as such. We used interactive PowerPoints, copies of textbooks and videos to look at the Viking's beliefs, behaviours and environment including their possessions and clothing.



Art

This half term the boys have worked with charcoal and other natural materials to create different types of art. They have experimented with charcoal and how to create different types of lines or textures using this medium.





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Nelson Class News

99 Things

As part of Nelson's extended curriculum we have continued to work on our 99 things and pledges this half term. The boys have planted potatoes and runner beans, read articles in a newspaper, and built rafts. They have also made and presented their own extract of a class book and worked together to fix and fly a kite.



Executive function

We have included executive functioning skills in our timetable this half term, using a range of different games to work on the skills of sharing, turn taking and compromise, alongside winning and losing! The boys are consistently improving in their ability to manage disappointment and cheer each other on as a result as their relationships have developed due to this daily quality time.

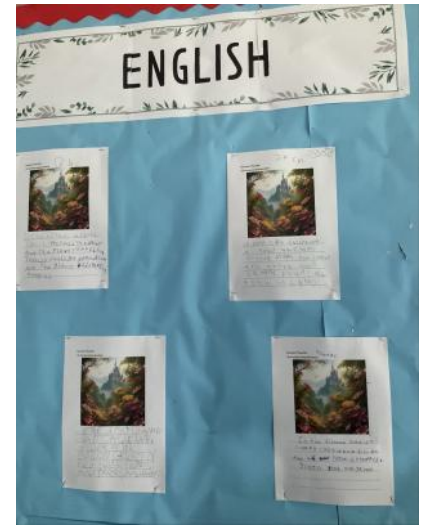




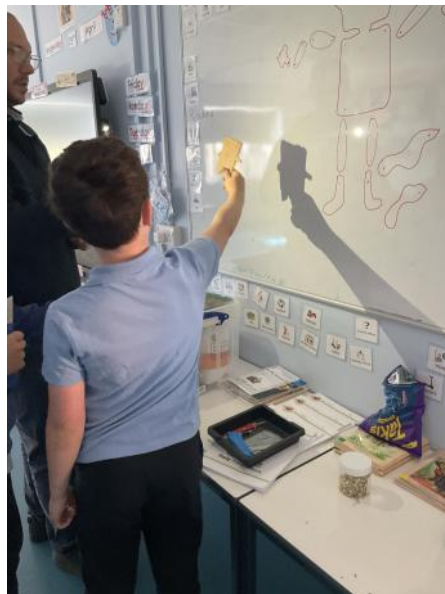
Harbour Lights

Polo Class News

This term in Polo, the students have been developing their creativity and imagination through creative writing. They have been writing their own stories, inventing unique characters, and exploring different ideas to bring their writing to life. The class has shown great enthusiasm and confidence in expressing themselves through storytelling, and it has been wonderful to see their ideas grow throughout the term.



A big focus this term has also been on building positive friendships and strengthening relationships within the new class group. The students have taken part in a range of activities designed to support teamwork, communication, and social interaction. We have enjoyed making loom bands together, as well as playing a variety of games that encouraged cooperation, turn-taking, and friendship building. It has been lovely to see the students becoming more comfortable with one another and developing new friendships.





Harbour Lights

Polo Class News



In science, the students explored the topic of light and different sources of light. They investigated how light works and enjoyed practical activities linked to the topic, including creating their own shadow puppets to explore shadows and how they are formed. The students were very engaged and enjoyed the hands-on learning experiences.

During outside learning sessions, the students developed their outdoor skills through activities such as fire building. They particularly enjoyed the experience of making and enjoying hot chocolates together around the fire, which helped to build confidence, teamwork, and Independence in an outdoor environment.

We have also taken part in a sports competition alongside some of the other classes. The students represented the class brilliantly, showing excellent teamwork, encouragement, and sportsmanship throughout the event. It was fantastic to see everyone joining in, trying their best, and celebrating each other's achievements.





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Stanhope Class News

English

In English this half term we have been discovering life as a roman in the city of Pompeii, based upon the novel 'Escape from Pompeii'. The class have spent time understanding the genre of historical fiction and what effects that has on how the story is shaped. Looking at illustrations and character perspective has allowed for an in depth reflection on our feelings about the book as well thought-provoking research around the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.



Maths

Our summer 1 topic for maths has been 'money'. All boys within Stanhope Class have grasped all concepts extremely well. We have looked at exchanging, comparing and estimating money using a range of concrete and pictorial resources. Our most enjoyed lesson was our pop-up shop where boys could put their practice into play to buy fun items and used this experience well engaging with both peers and staff.

Phonics

We have continued to extend our knowledge and 'grow the code' this half term. All boys have been able to add an extensive range of graphemes to their already learnt phoneme families and continue to work these. We have completed lots of different activities that incorporate our phonics learning which have been well engaged with and very much enjoyed!





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Stanhope Class News

History

Local history has been our focus this half term, looking closely at our communities of Cambridge and Ely. Boys have independently researched into these and we have also been looking at similarities and differences of the two locations.



AQA

In Stanhope we have continued with a wide variety of different weekly AQA award activities this half term, which have included: How to make a cup of tea, Scooter Stunt Skills, Cycling, Outdoor Education & Cooking, Minecraft World, Team Building and Social Games.

PSHE

We have had a specific focus in the end of the half term in PSHE of mental health week, where as a group and individual we have reflected and discussed what it means to us, what has positive and negative influences and how we can manage these in a pro-social way. The boys also enjoyed nature walks, breathing techniques and even a spot of seated yoga!





Harbour Lights

Unicorn Class News

It has been another exciting and productive half term for Unicorn!

In Maths, we have mastered the telling of the time both in 24 hour and analogue clocks. Kai and Jack were desperate to master this, in anticipation of the brick-laying course, which the Executive Head teacher has kindly arranged for them next month. They have now mastered the time telling, so are keen to clock on!



In History we have explored the demise of the Tudors and the arrival of the House of Stuart. Kai's and James' recital of the rhyme regarding the fate of Henry VIII's wives was particularly memorable; I am hoping Jack will want to sing the song about Oliver Cromwell, when we come to it!

IN PSHE we have learnt about relationships, and positive and negative impacts. Also, on the day of the local elections we had a political debate in class. Kai's body language and rhetoric was very engaging- do we have a future MP under Harbour's wings? Jack also contributed in sensible manner.

In Science we have completed Evolution and are now moving onto Chemistry. Malakai has really produced some deep preceptive answers, regarding questions posed by Evolution.

It has also been great to welcome a new staff member to Unicorn; Mr Aaron has settled in very well and is a fully-fledged member of our team.





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Victory Class News

Maths – Fractions

In maths, we have been learning all about fractions. The children have explored recognising and comparing fractions, finding fractions of amounts, and solving fraction problems. They have shown excellent resilience and determination when tackling challenges and explaining their mathematical thinking.



English – *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*

This half term in English, we have been reading *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*. The children have loved following the exciting adventure story and exploring the characters and themes. They have produced some fantastic descriptive writing, predictions, and creative pieces inspired by the text.



Art – Storytelling Through Pictures

In art, the children explored how stories can be told through pictures. They studied how artists use colour, expression, and detail to communicate ideas and emotions. The class created their own artwork to tell a story visually, showing wonderful creativity and imagination.

History – Anglo-Saxons

Our history topic has been the Anglo-Saxons. The children have learned about Anglo-Saxon life, settlements, beliefs, and how they shaped Britain's history. They particularly enjoyed discovering interesting facts about daily life and comparing it to life today.

PSHE – Friendships and Understanding Others

In PSHE, we focused on friendships, teamwork, and understanding the needs and feelings of others. Through discussions and activities, the children explored kindness, empathy, respect, and how to build positive relationships. We have taken part in lots of team-building activities this half term. The children worked together to solve problems, complete challenges, and support one another. These activities helped to strengthen confidence, communication, and cooperation across the class.





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Victory Class News

Computing – Data Branching

In computing, the children learned about data branching and how information can be sorted using questions. They enjoyed creating simple branching databases and thinking carefully about how to organise data logically.



Science – Sound

In Science, we have been investigating sound. The children carried out lots of practical experiments to explore how sound is made, how vibrations travel, and how pitch and volume can change. They especially enjoyed the hands-on investigations and making predictions during experiments.



Trips and Experiences

This half term, we have also enjoyed a range of exciting trips and outdoor learning experiences. The children loved our visits to the park, where they explored nature and worked together in outdoor activities. We also visited the museum, which helped bring our learning to life and gave the children the chance to discover new and interesting artefacts and information. These experiences have been a wonderful way to enrich the children's learning beyond the

classroom.



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Warrior Class News

This term, the Warrior boys have continued to thoroughly enjoy their weekly climbing sessions at Fenrock. Over the past few weeks, the boys have developed impressive climbing skills, with many demonstrating increased confidence, resilience, and teamwork during each session

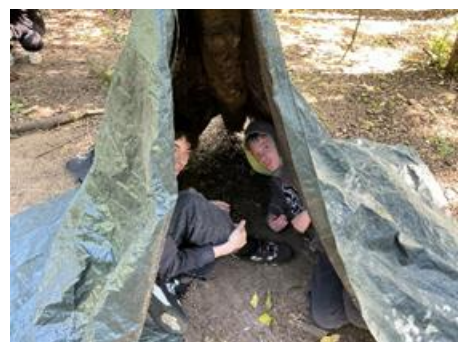


Outdoor Learning has also been a fantastic success this term. The students were provided with small resource packs and challenged to work collaboratively to build shelters that were both waterproof and spacious enough to accommodate all team members comfortably. This activity has been an excellent opportunity for the boys to strengthen their communication, problem-solving, and team-building skills.

In Science, the boys have shown great enthusiasm while learning about Earth and the planets. They have enjoyed researching interesting facts about each planet and confidently sharing their findings with their peers during class discussions. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and engagement grow throughout the topic.



We also recently celebrated Earth Day across the school. All students took part in a range of environmental activities, including growing plants and vegetables, planting new trees around the school grounds, and helping to maintain and improve the allotment area. The boys approached these activities with enthusiasm and care, showing a great understanding of the importance of looking after our environment.





Harbour Lights

Food tech News

Food waste has been a focus for some of our lessons this term so far. Tips have included:

1. Planning before shopping – writing a list from a menu plan.
2. Using leftovers creatively - cooked vegetables can become soup, rice can become fried rice, and roast chicken can be used in wraps, pasta, or fajitas.
3. Understanding date labels - “Best before” usually refers to quality, while “use by” relates to safety.
4. Freezing extra portions - this saves both time and waste.

All pupils have had the opportunity to make fajitas to show how leftovers can be used creatively. As pupils’ confidence grows they have been able to more independently follow instructions and work on their own as opposed to being guided step by step. Maybe this recipe could be one you try at home?

CHICKEN FAJITAS: Ingredients

- 2 chicken breasts, sliced
- 1 onion
- 1 pepper
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp cumin
- Salt and pepper
- Tortilla wraps

CHICKEN FAJITAS: Method

Step 1: Prepare

Slice the chicken and vegetables into thin strips.

Step 2: Season

Mix the chicken with paprika, cumin, salt, and pepper.

Step 3: Cook

Heat oil in a frying pan. Cook the chicken for 6–8 minutes until browned and fully cooked.

Add onions and peppers and cook for another 4–5 minutes until softened.

Step 4: Serve

Warm the tortilla wraps and fill with the chicken mixture and toppings.

Top Tip

Make extra filling and use leftovers the next day in Rice bowls, Wraps, Salads or Pasta.





Harbour Lights

Reminders

Absence/Lateness

This is a gentle reminder to all Parents/Carers to inform the school, as early as possible, if your child will be absent or late coming into school. You can contact the school on **01353 740 229** (an out of hours voicemail facility is in place) or via email **office@theharbour.academy** Alternatively, you can email the class teacher.

Term Time Absence/Holiday

If you are taking your child out of school during term time (not appointments) a form needs to be completed (Term Time Absence for Exceptional Circumstances Request Form) and sent into school **before the date(s) of absence**. The form is available on our website to download. If a paper copy is needed, let the school office or your child's teacher know, and one can be sent home with the student for completion.

Appointments

If your child has an appointment i.e. doctor, dentist, hospital etc, please provide the school with confirmation of the appointment date and time as these are added to their files. You can send a screen shot or a photo of a letter to the office email address or send the letter into school with the student and we will ensure it goes back home again.

Collections

If you need to collect your child from school early, please inform the school office as soon as you know, with the time of collection and the reason for early collection. This information will then be passed onto relevant staff.



Harbour Lights

Term Dates reminder:

Summer Term 2026

Monday 25th May bank holiday

May Half term holiday- Tuesday 26th May to Friday 29th

Monday 1st June -children back in school

Friday 17th July end of term 1.15 finish

Monday 20th July – INSET- Staff Training

Autumn Term 2026

Thursday 3rd September PLG Day

Friday 4th September— Children Back in School

Autumn half term Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 2nd of November - Staff Inset day

Tuesday 3rd of November - Children Back to School

Autumn Term ends - Friday 18th of December 1.15 PM

Spring Term 2027

Tuesday 5th January 2027 PLG Day

Wednesday 6th January—Children Back in School

Spring half term holiday Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027—Children Back in School

Spring Term Ends Thursday 25th of March 2027 1.15 PM

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April—PLG day

Tuesday 13th April—Children Back in School

Summer half term Monday 31st May to Friday 4 June 2027

Monday 7th June - children Back in School

Term Ends Wednesday 27st July 2027 1.15 PM




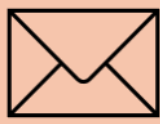




Harbour Lights

Mobile Phones

We understand you want the right to use a mobile phone while you are on your way to school.

With rights come the responsibility to follow our rules, which aim to keep everyone safe in school.

	Mobile Phones are not used in school; we have the same rules for all pupils.
	You hand your mobile phone in to your tutor or teaching assistant at the front of school at the start of the day, as part of our morning welcome.
	If you arrive after tutor time you will hand your phone in to reception staff, who will take it to your classroom.
	Your mobile phone is kept in a named wallet.
	The wallets are locked away in your classroom.
	They are given back to you at the end of the day at the front of school.



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