

**PRIMARY
NEWSLETTER**

**November
2024**



Dear Parents/ Grandparents/ Carers,

As we arrive at the end of November and reflect on all the events and work happening in primary, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

Your attendance at the Friendship Assembly made for such a warm, happy event where the children are able to showcase their singing talents. Even for pupils who do not naturally take to singing, what it has helped with is confidence building and all these small things, build over time, to enable your children to face other situations in life with pride and confidence in who they are.

Your support and generosity with Children in Need was amazing. Not only did primary raise £143.51, together with secondary, Bournville School managed to raise a WHOPPING £408.51 for a fantastic cause that supports children in Great Britain. We also had fun dressing up and walking over 500 miles as a school to raise awareness of this amazing charity.

On top of this, you supported our school Book Fair by purchasing books which has helped to raise funds for us to buy more books for the school. This is such a valuable source for us to keep adding new authors to our library. We have booked a 2nd Book Fair for 17th March which falls after World Book Day where the children can use their £1 vouchers to buy a book.

Not only this, we have had a number of class parent events this month and you have attended these with enthusiasm and commitment to helping improve your children's education. A particular highlight you will see as you read on, was the Year 1 Maths event where the pupils got to make a Maths game with their family. Year 4 and Reception had a family read in our school library and some parents/grandparents also helped us with our trip to Cadbury World. **Together We Achieve More.**

So thank you for your continued commitment and support of all we do here. Day by day, week by week and month by month, we will continue to look for ways to better improve the lives of the children and with your support and ideas, they really will flourish into confident, happy, respectful young men and women. ENJOY THE READ.

Kind regards,

Miss Briner

Attendance League Table

Each week, the class that gets the best overall attendance is awarded the Attendance 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 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Reception	91	95	92	84	92
Year 1	92	93	94	91	87
Year 2	94	98	94	91	94
Year 3	84	86	93	84	70
Year 4	95	96	94	94	92
Year 5	96	98	96	91	97
Year 6	93	92	94	97	91
Primary Overall	93	94	94	91	90

Attendance Reminder

A huge congratulations to all the children who have been coming to school dressed warmly in their winter coats, hats, scarves, and gloves! As the cold weather continues, remember to keep yourselves covered up to help prevent those horrible coughs and colds from affecting your attendance. Staying warm and healthy means you'll be "in it to win it" for your weekly class attendance awards, and you'll be one step closer to earning your end-of-year incentives. Keep up the great work and stay cozy and warm!

Mrs Bharj 😊

Reception Class: Celebrating Black History Month with Handa's Surprise – Miss Bell



As part of Black History Month, Reception Class have been exploring the book 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. It is a wonderful story that takes place in an unnamed African village, following a young girl called Handa as she carries a basket of fruit to her friend. The story introduced the children to different animals, fruits and aspects of African culture and the beauty and diversity of African life. We found Africa on our globe and made comparisons with life in Africa to life in England. It was an excellent opportunity for discussions about themes such as:

Sharing and Friendship: Handa goes on a journey to share a gift with a friend, highlighting the joy of giving and the importance of kindness.

Cultural Awareness: The setting and illustrations gave us a glimpse of life in an African village, encouraging a deeper understanding of African culture.

We also had so much fun tasting all the different fruits and acting out the story.



Year 1 – Miss Clay

Year One have had a busy and exciting time in November. As part of our geography work on the local area, we went on a visit to Cadbury World. We enjoyed the walk there and used maps to help us navigate the journey. While we were there we learned about the history of chocolate, visited the 4D cinema and learned how to mould and scrape the melted chocolate. We also enjoyed our break time in the adventure playground and rounded off the day by visiting the gift shop.



Last week, we had a Maths workshop for parents. A big thankyou to all parents who attended. The children had a great time making maths games to take home to help them practice addition and subtraction.



Year 2 and Year 3 Guided Reading Success!

Our Year 2 and Year 3 class have been working incredibly hard in their guided reading lessons, and I couldn't be prouder of their efforts! Each lesson, the children take turns reading *Varjak Paw*, focusing on different skills to enhance their reading abilities.

So far, we have explored reading with prosody (expression and intonation), navigating punctuation, and improving word-reading fluency. It's inspiring to witness the children's commitment to their own progress while supporting their partner in becoming confident, expressive readers.

The atmosphere during these lessons is nothing short of magical – the joy and dedication they bring to their reading truly fills the classroom with enthusiasm and excitement. Well done, Year 2 and Year 3 – keep up the amazing work!



Year 4 – Miss Heyer & Miss Walker

This month, Year 4 had a memorable visit to the Serbian Orthodox Church, where they deepened their understanding of the Christian faith. The children engaged enthusiastically, asking thoughtful questions, and exploring the church's traditions and symbols in a welcoming and reflective atmosphere. The visit was both educational and inspiring. Using the local community is important for the pupils as it brings learning to life. They have the opportunity to ask questions first hand which enriches positive community relationships and deepened understanding.



Family Read

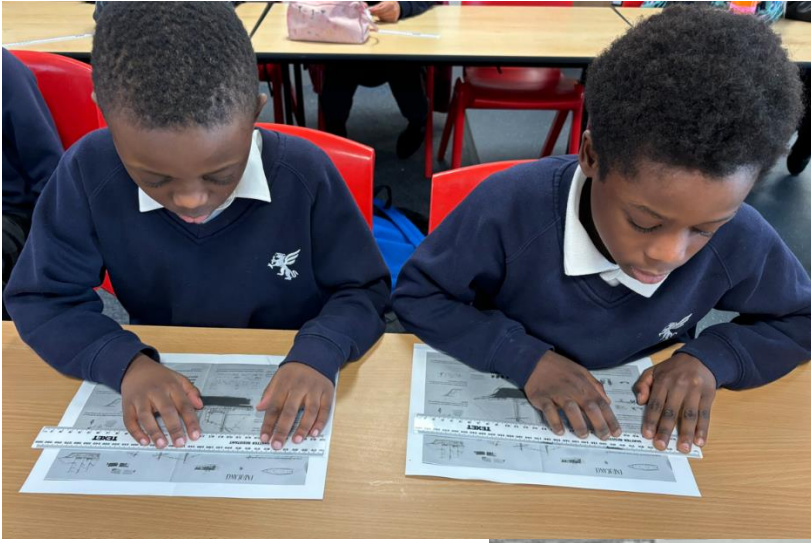
Towards the end of the month, we enjoyed a heart-warming family class read in the library, with parents joining their children for a cosy and engaging session. It was wonderful to see families connecting over books, creating a strong sense of community and shared learning. Reading is the single most important skill your children need to learn which is why these family reads are so important to us here at Bournville.



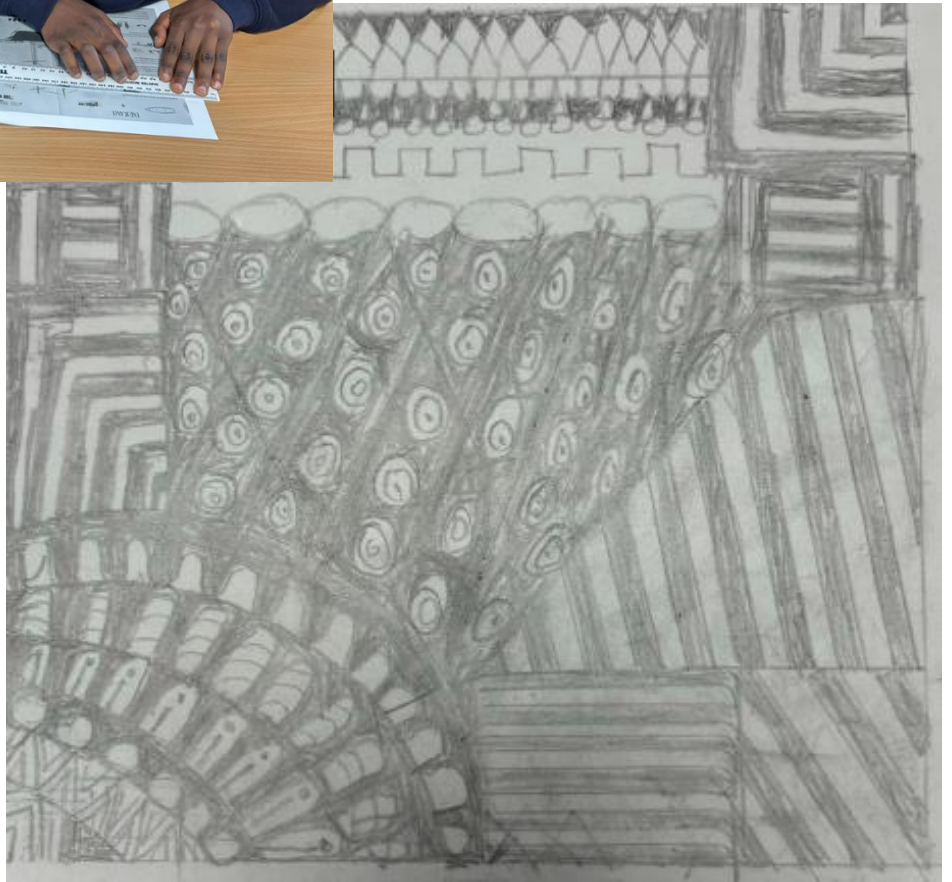
Year 5 - Mr Newton and Mrs Thomas

This month, Year 5 have been learning a lot.

English: The children have created informative texts about workhouses, which has deepened our understanding of the historical context of *Street Child*. We are now embarking on journey stories as we study the incredible adventures of Shackleton. Our reading sessions have also been enhanced with a new guided reading technique using rulers to improve reading fluency. Well done to Seth and David who are the Year 5 Star Reading Pair.



Art: To tie in with Black History month, we have started studying the work of the American artist Jamaal Barber. He uses line and pattern to create his works of art so the children have been looking at his work in order to develop ideas on how to use different lines to create their own designs. They are designing their own patterns in preparation for creating lino prints, which promises to be an exciting project.



Hamsika's personal pattern inspired by Jamaal Barber

Swimming: Swimming lessons have been a highlight this month. The energy and enthusiasm in the pool have been fantastic, and it has been a joy to teach these sessions. The children are making great progress and having lots of fun.

Maths: Please can you keep learning all the times tables up to the 12 times table with your children.

Mrs Thomas and Miss Mcphee: We are very fortunate to welcome Mrs Thomas and Miss Mcphee to Year 5. Mrs Thomas is our teaching assistant with considerable experience in and around the Birmingham area and we are very fortunate to have her join our team here.

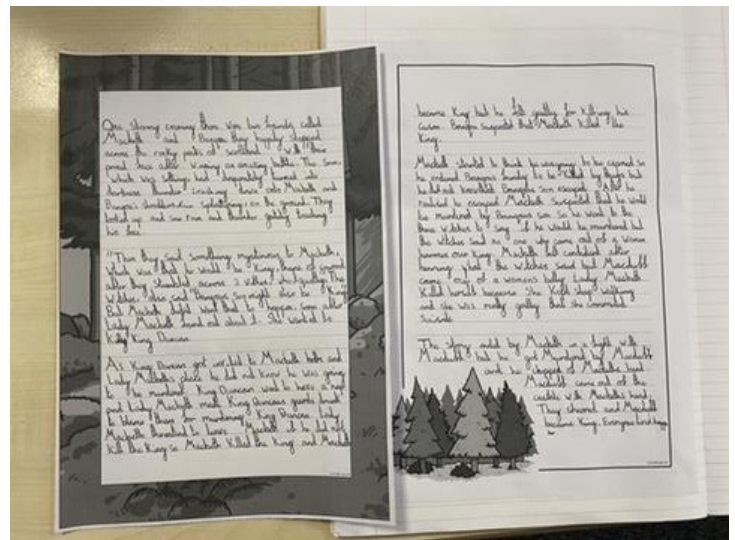
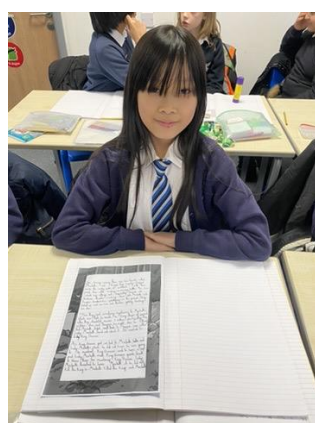
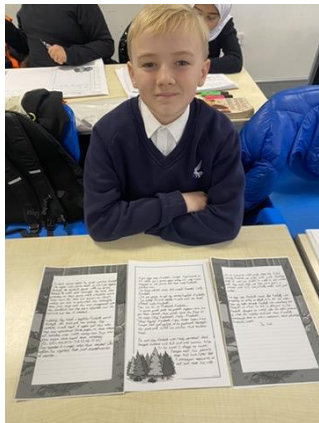
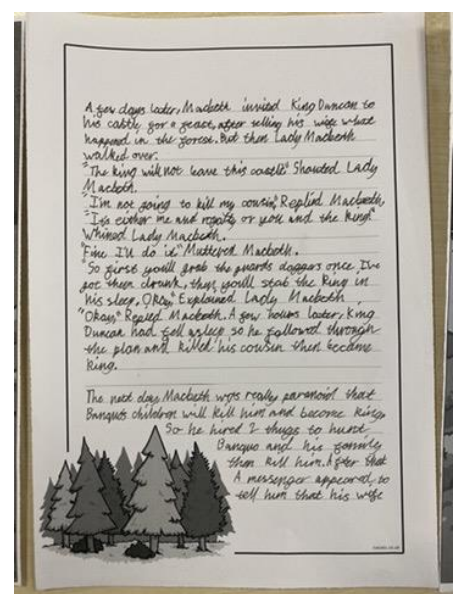
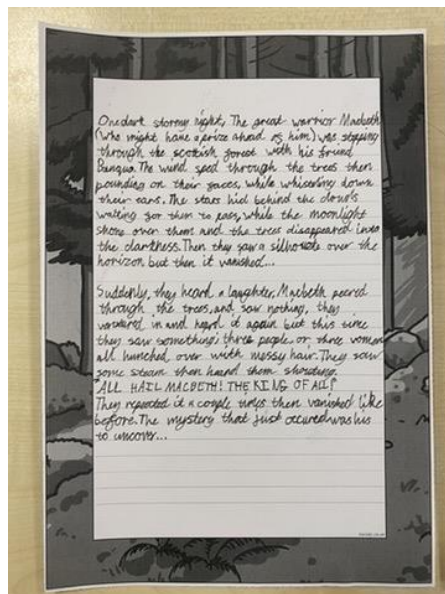
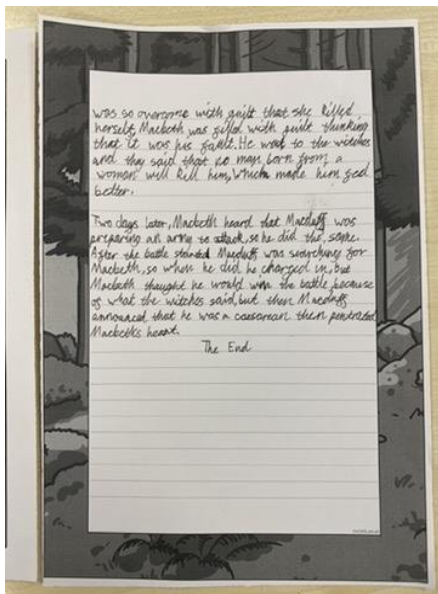
Miss Mcphee is a student teacher from Birmingham University who is training to become a Primary School Teacher. Again, we are fortunate to have students join the team, even for a shorter period of time, as they provide more support for the children in the classroom. We are grateful to have new faces added to the team here.

Year 6 – Miss Withy

This month, Year 6 have been delving into *Macbeth*, one of William Shakespeare's most famous plays. To deepen our understanding of the story, we explored key moments through drama, stepping into the roles of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth as they work out their fateful plan to pursue power at any cost.

As we followed the story, we witnessed the rise and tragic fall of both characters, sparking discussions about ambition, guilt, and consequences. Using the play as inspiration, we crafted our own narratives, making Shakespeare's timeless tale more accessible by adapting it into modern language.

Through the use of story maps, we retold the dilemma faced by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, capturing the eerie atmosphere and building suspense in our writing. With vivid imagery and carefully chosen language, we created pieces that would make Shakespeare himself proud of!



Mastering Times Tables: Top Tips and Tricks – Mr R King

Learning times tables can be fun and rewarding with these handy tips! Try them out at home and watch your confidence grow:

Play with Patterns

- 2x Table: Double the number! For example, 4×2 is just $4 + 4 = 8$.
- 5x Table: Numbers end in 0 or 5, making them easy to spot!

Use Your Hands

- 9x Table: Hold your hands out. To find 4×9 , fold down your 4th finger. You'll have 3 fingers on one side (tens) and 6 on the other (ones). The answer is 36!

Sing or Chant

Create rhymes or sing songs for tricky tables. For example, "Six times six is thirty-six, now it's easy as a fix!"

Turn It Into a Game

- Use flashcards, apps, or online games to practice. Make it a family competition for extra fun!

Tricks for Tough Ones

- 11x Table: For 1–9, just repeat the number! $4 \times 11 = 44$. (Beyond 9, add the digits: $11 \times 12 \rightarrow 1+2 = 3 \rightarrow$ answer is 132.)
- 12x Table: Break it down! For 7×12 , think of it as $(7 \times 10) + (7 \times 2)$. That's $70 + 14 = 84$.

Practice Makes Perfect

Little and often is the key! Practice five minutes a day – it makes a huge difference over time.

Think of Real-Life Examples

Use times tables in real-life situations, like calculating shopping costs or sharing snacks.

Explore These Resources

- [TT Rockstars](#): A fast-paced, fun online game that builds fluency.
- [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#): Great for quick-fire times table practice.
- [Maths Frame Multiplication Games](#): Interactive and customizable practice tools.
- Kahoot! Create or play multiplication quizzes as a family challenge.

Celebrate Success

Praise small wins! Reward progress, and soon, times tables will feel like second nature. Encourage your child to explore these strategies and let their teachers know if they discover their own fun tricks. Together, we can make maths magical!

Primary Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 3 rd December 2024	Christmas Fair – 2.30pm
Wednesday 4 th December 2024	Year 5 Assembly
Wednesday 11 th December 2024	Christmas Concert (All Years)
Friday 13 th December 2024	Christmas Jumper day
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	Pantomime – Cinderella
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	Christmas Dinner
Friday 20 th December 2024	End of term
Monday and Tuesday 6 th & 7 th January 2025	Training Days
Wednesday 8 th January 2025	Start of Spring Term
Wednesday 5 th February 2025	Year 4 Assembly
Monday and Tuesday 3 rd & 4 th March 2025	Parents Evening
Friday 7 th March 2025	World book day – Non uniform, dress up as your favourite book character
Monday 10 th – Monday 17 th March 2025	Book Fair
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Year 2/3 Assembly

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



Nearly New Uniform Rail

Just to let parents know that we have a pre-loved uniform rail in school, including shoes. This houses many items that have been donated to school (PE kits, summer dresses, trousers, skirts, etc). If you are in need of any items, please come and help yourself to clothing or send a note on dojo and we can pass clothes onto your children. We appreciate uniform is expensive and that children can lose items too. We do not charge for this uniform as it has been donated free of charge.