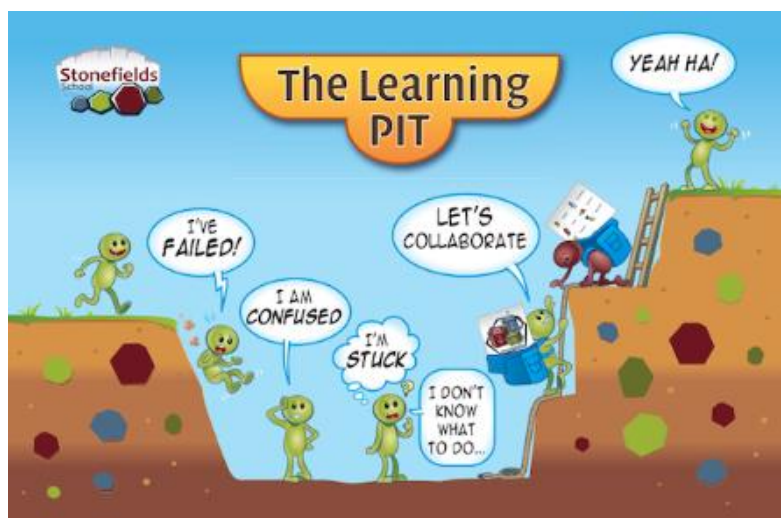


IN THE KNOW

Dear Parents/ Grandparents/ Carers,

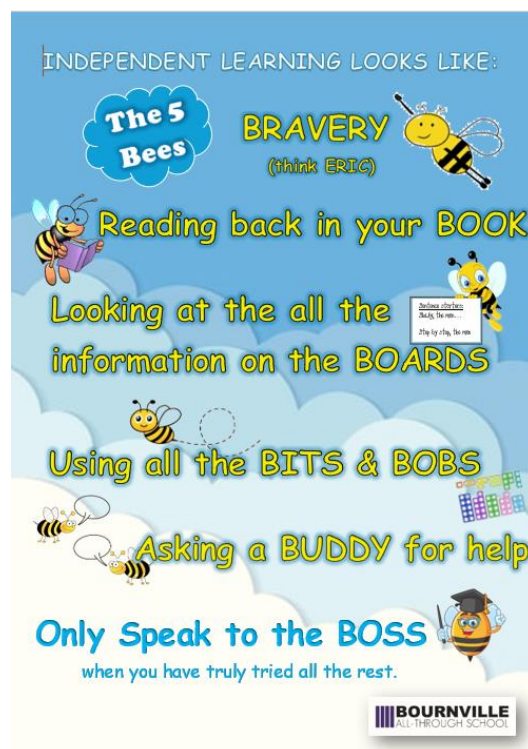
Welcome back to another term and it has started off with a BANG!



The whole school had a resilience building day where all the children learnt about the concept behind The Learning Pit. This is a visual picture of what learning looks and feels like. The aim behind this is to develop children's (and adults!) resilience – looking for ways on how to solve a problem independently rather than giving up.

Alongside this, we have developed the 5 Bees' of Independent Learning – ideas children **MUST** try before asking an adult. We will be expecting the children to try things for themselves, experience failure as a positive and then try things again a different way looking for a way to succeed. Often, as adults, we want to jump in and rescue a situation to either get the job done quicker or so the children don't fail. However, allowing failure develops the ability to overcome it, alongside encouragement and support to develop it as a positive part of life.

This may be something you can use at home too, helping your children to start completing small tasks, developing independence and responsibility.



WORLD BOOK DAY – was an amazing success. Everyone who wanted, made such an effort with their costumes. Some were perfectly simple, some were home-made and others were children's favourite fancy dress clothes. *Some children did not want to dress up and came to school in their uniform, this was great for them.* All the children were given a book token and this can be used to purchase a book for free which you will find in a lot of the supermarkets. Please do take your child along to choose a free book.

On top of this, we have the school book fair here over the next few days. Please feel free to bring your child along and purchase a book. All money raised provides the school with extra funding to buy books for our library.

Attendance League Table

Please can I remind parents about the importance of children arriving at school, on time, every day. Most of you are respecting this and it makes a difference to your children. However, there are still a small number of children that keep missing days every week or are arriving late a lot of the time. This causes anxiety for your child as it puts them behind in their learning and this leads to gaps in their knowledge. When this happens, it causes a cycle of your child feeling like they don't know as much as the other pupils which then means they find it hard to come to school. The only way this changes, is ensuring your child doesn't miss a day of school. Please can you really work on developing good habits for life, ensuring that an alarm is set for the morning and your children are on time for school.

As you can see from the table below, overall attendance for most classes, has slipped below 95%. This needs to improve so your children get the opportunity they need at this young age to succeed. Attending school, helps to develop good habits for life, teaching children the mindset required for getting themselves a job for when they are older. If we do this a little bit at a time, it helps them adapt and adjust. However, if they miss a lot of school, it causes a lot of un-necessary worry which we want to avoid for their sake.

Please read Mrs Bharj's page so you are clear on the school process – children being absent from school is a safeguarding concern as it is a legal requirement they attend and procedures are followed to ensure your child receives this as we are legally bound to ensure this happens.

Class	Percentage of Attendance %			
	Overall	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22
Reception	93	94	94	93
Year 1	88	92	88	84
Year 2	96	100	93	94
Year 3	91	92	87	94
Year 4	88	87	87	90
Year 5	96	98	96	93
Year 6	93	87	96	97
Primary Overall	92	92	92	92

Reception – Miss Bell

All About Fine Motor Skills

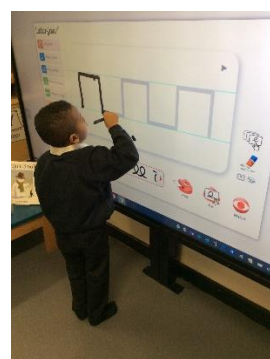
Fine motor skills involve the co-ordination of small muscles in the hands and fingers, enabling precise movements essential for daily tasks. Developing these skills is crucial for several reasons:



1. **Academic Success:** Fine motor skills are foundational for writing, drawing and other classroom activities. Children with well-developed fine motor abilities are better equipped to perform tasks such as holding a pencil correctly, cutting with scissors, and manipulating classroom materials.
2. **Daily Living Activities:** These skills are vital for self-care tasks like dressing, eating, and personal hygiene. For instance, the ability to button up a shirt or use utensils during meals relies on fine motor proficiency.
3. **Social and Emotional Growth:** Mastering fine motor tasks can boost a child's confidence and encourage independence. Successfully completing activities like zipping up their own coat can boost your child's confidence and encourage independence. Successfully completing activities like assembling a puzzle fosters a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem.
4. **Hand-eye co-ordination:** Fine motor development enhances hand-eye co-ordination, which is essential for various activities, including sports, playing musical instruments, and using technology.

In summary, developing fine motor skills is integral to a child's overall development, impacting academic performance, daily living, cognitive abilities, social interactions, and physical co-ordination.

Here are some examples of fine motors skills in action in Reception Class:



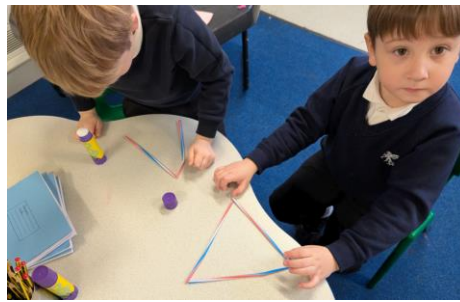
Year 1 – Mrs Clay and Miss Hutchinson

In Year One our science topic is 'Materials'. As well as learning to name the and describe everyday materials and their properties, we have been carrying out some investigations.

We learned about melting and freezing and investigated how quickly we could remove some gold treasure from an ice cube by melting it. Some children held it tight in their hand. Some children tried to break the ice cube, and some held their ice cube in front of the heater. We all had great fun and managed to retrieve the gold coins.



As well as continuing to learn about place value and number in msths, we have also investigated shape. We have learned to name and describe some of the features of 3D and 2D shapes and have enjoyed making models and pictures using them. We used straws to make the different 2D shapes.



On February 12th we held a parent workshop on phonics and reading. We discussed how we learn to read in school and talked about the Phonic Screening Check that all Year One children complete in June. The children enjoyed reading with their parents in school. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Year 2 and Year 3 - Miss McLynskey

In Year 2 and Year 3, the class have been exploring some exciting learning opportunities in English. Recently, they have been working on writing a discussion about whether school uniforms should be worn in schools. To help them understand both sides of the argument, the class participated in a conscience alley activity, where they debated the topic and considered different perspectives. This exercise not only developed their critical thinking skills but also allowed them to practice using strong, persuasive language. Throughout this unit, the children have made fantastic progress with their vocabulary, incorporating words like "conformity," "individuality," "mandatory," and "discipline" into their writing and discussions.



In addition to their debating skills, Year 2 and Year 3 have been focusing on improving their handwriting, with many students working hard towards earning their pen licenses. This has encouraged them to take pride in their work and pay attention to detail in every written task. It's been wonderful to see their dedication to both their writing skills and their personal development. Keep up the great work, Year 2 and Year 3!

Year 4

This month, Year 4 had a fantastic day dedicated to mindfulness! We took part in calming activities like massages, mindful colouring, reading, and enjoying some healthy fruit. We also learned about the *Learning Pit* and how to use it to persevere when we face challenges in our learning. To help us reach our goals when we get stuck, we discussed the 5 Bees and how they can guide us to keep going. It has been an exciting and thoughtful month, and we can't wait to put our new skills into practice!



We also had a family where our parents joined us in the library for a shared reading experience. Each of us read a chapter from our guided reading book to our family members, showcasing our reading skills and confidence. After that, we explored the library, choosing different books to enjoy together. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our loved ones while celebrating the joy of reading.



Year 5 with Mr Newton and Mrs Thomas

This month, Year 5 have been learning a lot.



Reading:

The Year 5 star readers are the whole class this month for excellent reading! It has been lovely to hear all of them reading. Please can you ensure that you are reading at home with your child as much as possible.

Maths: Please can you keep learning all the times tables up to the 12 times table with your children. Congratulations to Suhayla who completed Platinum Club this week. This is a fantastic achievement!

Writing: Year 5 will be writing some persuasive letters to Miss Briner this week. I have been very impressed with some of their ideas. I will be publishing some of their letters in the next edition of this newsletter. I am sure they will be very persuasive!

Independent Learning Day: This week, we have introduced something called **The Learning Pit**. *This is a growth mindset piece of work that explains to children what learning feels like and how we overcome emotions to achieve a positive outcome. The class have produced a display that we will refer to throughout the year. This piece of work is related to the school values and to the ERIC poster.*

As part of this, we have introduced to the children the 5 B's of independent learning: Bravery, Book, board, bits & bobs, buddy, boss. Our phrase will be: independent learning requires: bravery, your book, the board, Bit & Bobs, a buddy and only ask the Boss when you have truly tried all the rest.



Year 5 had an amazing Independent Learning Day. We learnt about The Learning Pit through a range of different activities. We learnt to keep going and persevering even if something was difficult. Here are some photos of the day.



We look forward to another month of learning.

Year 6 Residential to PGL Boreatton Park – Miss Withy and Mrs Hathaway

On Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th February 2025, Year 6 embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to PGL Boreatton Park. This trip was particularly special as it was re-arranged at short notice after our original centre



unexpectedly shut down. We felt incredibly thankful and lucky to still have the opportunity to experience such an amazing adventure.

Exciting Activities

Throughout our stay, we took part in a wide variety of fun and challenging activities. The giant swing was a thrilling experience, sending us soaring through the air at high speeds. The trapeze tested our bravery as we climbed high before leaping into the air. The sensory trail was a unique challenge, where we had our sight taken away and had to rely on our other senses to navigate the course while helping our teammates.

Jacob's ladder was another challenge where we worked in teams to climb up huge logs that



became further apart as we got higher. It required teamwork, determination, and lots of courage! We also had a great time orienteering, using maps to find stations and punch our cards along the way.

Another exciting activity was called Balloon Splash, where we had to earn money to buy materials to protect our balloon before it was thrown hard onto the ground. The best part? The successfully protected balloons got thrown at our group leader, Ash!



The trip wouldn't have been complete without a visit to the gift shop, where we spent our money



on souvenirs to remember this incredible experience, some children also bought gifts for their grown ups, friends and siblings.

Evening Time

Evenings were just as fun! We gathered around the campfire, singing songs and sharing stories. One of the best parts of the trip was staying in cabins with our friends. It was exciting to have our own space, and we spent our evenings chatting, laughing, and sharing stories about the day's adventures. It made the trip even more special to be surrounded by our closest friends. We shared (lots of) snacks and played games before we went to bed. Whether we were playing cards, telling jokes, having dance parties, making loom band bracelets, reading, or just relaxing, it was a great way to unwind after all the fun activities. These moments of downtime were just as memorable as the action-packed adventures.



Delicious Food and Great Memories

One of the highlights of the trip was the amazing food and salad bar, which kept us well-fuelled for all the activities. There was always something delicious to eat, making sure we had the energy to take on every challenge.

This trip to PGL Boreatton Park will be one we remember forever. It was filled with laughter, adventure, and moments that brought us closer together as a year group. A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible—we had the time of our lives!

Well done to our Year 6 students for representing our school so brilliantly on the trip! Your enthusiasm, excellent behaviour, and positive attitude made us all incredibly proud. It was fantastic to see you embracing every opportunity with excitement and showing kindness and respect throughout. You truly demonstrated what it means to be outstanding ambassadors for our school.



Mrs A Bharj – Primary Pastoral Lead

The Importance of Regular School Attendance

At Bournville School Primary, we understand the vital role that regular attendance plays in the academic success and overall well-being of our students. We would like to take this opportunity to explain our attendance procedures and how we work together to ensure that all students receive the best education possible.

Why Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is critical to a student's success. Students who attend school consistently are more likely to perform well academically, develop social skills, and feel connected to their peers and teachers. Frequent absences can lead to gaps in learning, which can affect a child's long-term academic progress and achievement.

School's Attendance Expectations

We expect all students to attend school regularly and arrive on time for every school day. If your child is unable to attend due to illness or another legitimate reason, please inform the school as soon as possible to help us keep accurate attendance records.

Procedure for Unexplained Absences

In the event that your child is absent from school for two consecutive days without prior notice or explanation, the school will initiate a **welfare call**. This call is made to ensure the safety of your child and to check if there is any reason for their absence that we should be aware of.

Further Action After Welfare Call

If your child continues to be absent after the welfare call, and there is no satisfactory explanation or resolution, we may take further steps to address the situation. This may include reaching out for additional support, but in more severe cases, the matter could be escalated to external agencies.

Legal Procedures for Persistent Absences

If unexplained absences continue after welfare calls and other efforts to resolve the situation, we may be required to follow local authority procedures, which could include legal action. This may involve formal warning letters, or in more extreme cases, legal proceedings to address the ongoing absenteeism.

How You Can Help

We encourage you to ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time. If there are any issues or concerns affecting your child's ability to attend, please reach out to the school so we can offer support and work together to find a solution. Open communication is essential in helping us maintain an effective learning environment for your child.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in prioritizing your child's attendance at school. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

