

# What's Cooking?

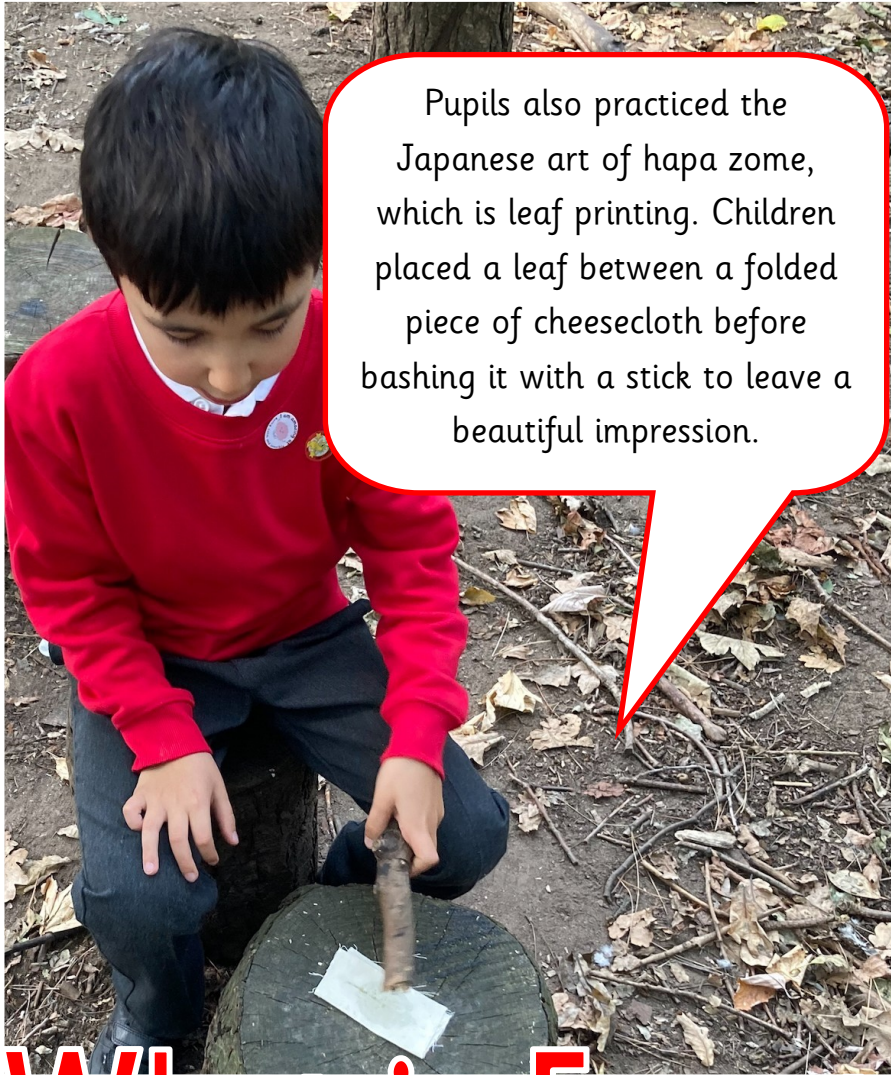


At Forest School this week, children have enjoyed a range of learning activities including sieving and sorting soil before mixing it with water to make mud pies.



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education



Pupils also practiced the Japanese art of hapa zome, which is leaf printing. Children placed a leaf between a folded piece of cheesecloth before bashing it with a stick to leave a beautiful impression.



In Reception, pupils went on a scavenger hunt to find one insect, two flowers, three twigs and four leaves.

# What is Forest School?

Forest School is a unique outdoor learning experience which supports the classroom curriculum but also develops social, personal and technical skills. Learning is hands-on and designed to harness children's innate curiosity about the natural world. Problem solving skills are tested and abstract concepts are explored through interaction with the flora and fauna found in our Forest School habitat. Pupils experience changes to the weather and the seasons and have the opportunity to learn the names and characteristics of different plants, trees, animals and insects.

We aim to give all pupils access to Forest School at different times during their time at Sydenham and it is certainly one of our most popular activities. Sessions are run by trained practitioners which means children can participate in exciting experiences such as supervised fire building (followed up by hot chocolate and marshmallows!)





PIC•COLLAGE

# What is Forest School?

Year Four used the Forest School area this week to go in search of invertebrates as part of their Science unit 'Living things and their Habitats'. They sketched and labelled the invertebrates they found and used a classification key to identify the group that the different invertebrates belonged to.



**Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Article 29: Goals of Education**

# Talk Partners



Talk is a powerful tool in helping children to learn. Every week, in all of our classes, pupils have a different Talk Partner. Partners share their ideas and help each other when the learning gets tricky.



**Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Article 29: Goals of Education**



Here are Y2 Wrens working as Talk Partners in a Guided Reading lesson. They are doing a great job of following our Talk Partner Success Criteria which you can see on the page after next.



# Talk Partners



You can see more Talk Partner work here, in a Year Five English lesson. Partner work is not only good for learning, but also for social skills. It enables pupils to get to know one another and to value their partner's ideas, opinions and values.



# Talk Partner



**To be a successful  
Talk Partner:**

- Face your partner.
- Look at your partner.
- Take turns.
- Listen to their ideas.
- Share your ideas.
- Ask questions.



# Success Criteria

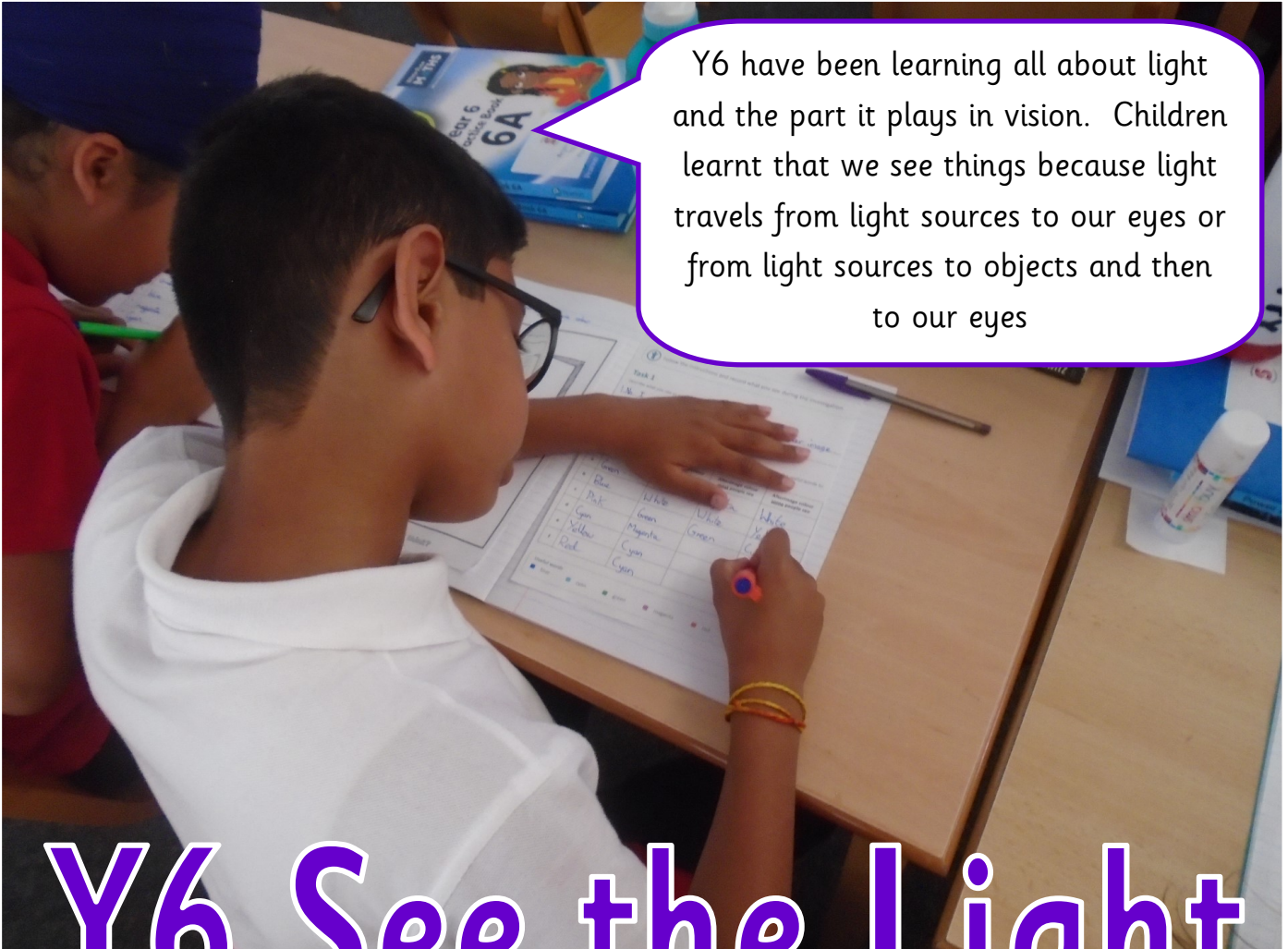


# Wildflower Meadow

On Tuesday, pupils worked with Olivia Williams from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to plant a wildflower meadow. Children in Y2 prepared the ground using a scarifier and rakes, ready for Reception to scatter the seed. We can't wait for Spring when flowers such as poppies, oxeye daisies and clover raise their heads.

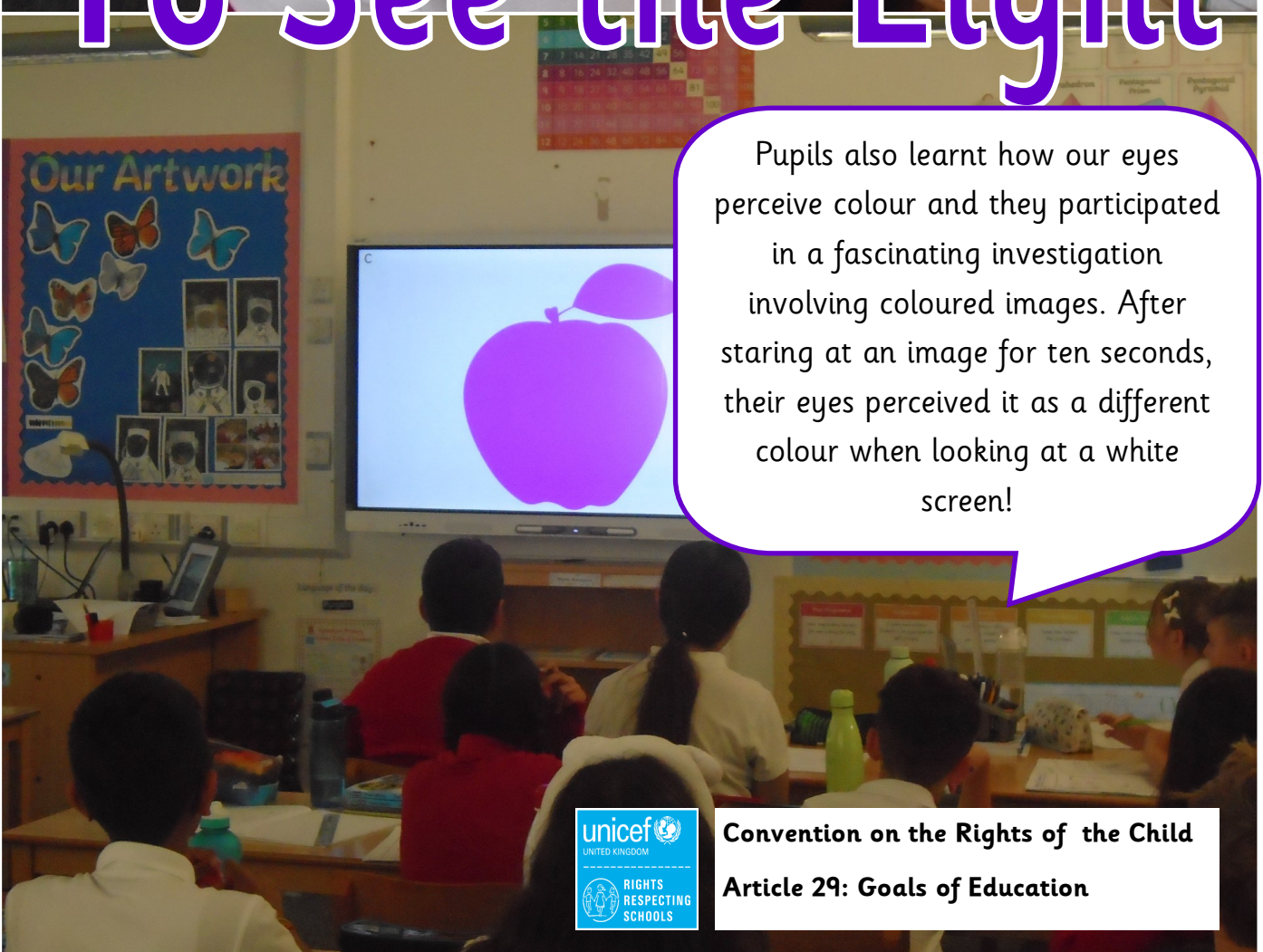


**Convention on the Rights of the Child**  
**Article 24: Health**



Y6 have been learning all about light and the part it plays in vision. Children learnt that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes

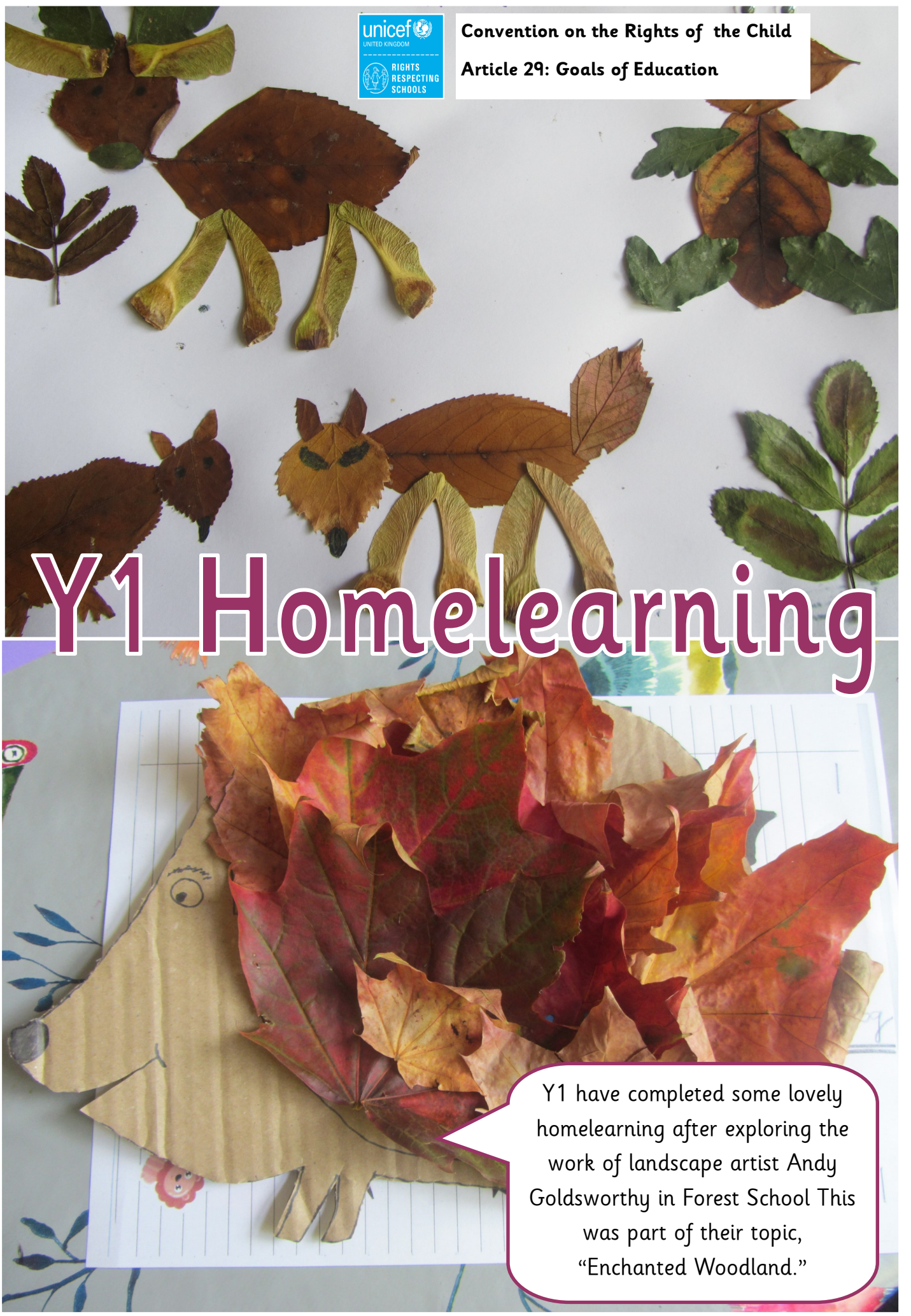
# Y6 See the Light



Pupils also learnt how our eyes perceive colour and they participated in a fascinating investigation involving coloured images. After staring at an image for ten seconds, their eyes perceived it as a different colour when looking at a white screen!



# Y1 Homelearning



Y1 have completed some lovely homelearning after exploring the work of landscape artist Andy Goldsworthy in Forest School This was part of their topic, "Enchanted Woodland."

# Y1 Homelearning

We loved the children's creative ideas and enjoyed Oliver's diorama, model fox and shelter.

Oliver was so proud of his homelearning and said, "I made this shelter. I like it so much. I like the tree and the house"



## Homelearning: get involved with your child's education!

Research shows that pupils are more likely to fulfil their academic potential when parents value education and actively become involved in their child's learning.

Taking an interest in homework is one way to support your child's progress and help them to achieve well at school.

Every Thursday, your child will be given their homelearning book containing the tasks they must complete by the following Tuesday. Teachers try hard to make these tasks fun, interesting and accessible for all pupils. Here are some top tips to help you become involved with homework:

- Try to provide a quiet space for your child to use when completing their homelearning. This will help them to concentrate and produce their best work. Encourage them to sit at a desk or dining room table so that their handwriting is neat and tidy.
- Establish a routine. This will encourage your child to be organised and is good preparation for secondary school.
- Sit with your child and talk to them about their homework. Try to explain the task if they don't understand. If you are confused, talk to your child's teacher – they will be more than happy to clarify the task.
- Try not to do the homework **for** your child! Encourage them to have a go by themselves.
- Remember that your child is eligible for a library card which entitles them to borrow up to ten free books from Leamington library. This can be helpful if your child needs to research a topic.
- Practise spellings and times tables with your child as often as possible. Mastering these basic building blocks can make a massive difference to your child's learning.
- Read with your child every day and don't forget that bed time story!
- **Remember – even though homework can sometimes be stressful as a parent, becoming involved and taking an interest in your child's education DOES make a positive difference! You are your child's most important teacher!**



# Y5 in the Hot Seat



Year Five have been using the drama technique of “hot seating” to gain insights into the characters who feature in the story of “Anningan the Moon God.” Pupils worked in role as different characters, asking and answering interesting questions to deepen their understanding.





## Getting to school just got awesome!

As part of our ongoing work with the Safe and Active travel team at Warwickshire County Council we will be taking part in Cycle to School Week 2024.

A pedal powered commute is good for your health, your school and the planet! Pledge to pedal to school between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September and see what a difference it can make to your journey to school.

CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK '24

Bring fun to the school run

Grab school by the handlebars this Cycle to School Week!  
Take part 23-27 September  
Find out more at [cycletoschoolweek.com](http://cycletoschoolweek.com)

Supported by  
 NatWest Rooster Money

CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK '24

Pedals at the ready.

A pedal powered commute is good for your health, your school, and the planet!  
Get ready to ride with Bikeability this Cycle to School Week, 23-27 September.  
[cycletoschoolweek.com](http://cycletoschoolweek.com)

Supported by  
 NatWest Rooster Money



# News and Information

## Bikes and Scooters

Please leave bikes and scooters in the shelter each morning and don't allow your child to cycle or scoot across the playground as this can cause a health and safety issue. All bikes and scooters are left on the school site at your own risk so please take them home if they are very special.

## Lunch Boxes and Water Bottles

Please remember to give lunch boxes and water bottles to your child before they go into class, rather than bringing them to the office. Thank you!

## Uniform

We have a growing pile of lost property (mostly uniform) which is not labelled with a child's name. Please use iron-on or sew-in labels to identify your child's uniform. If you choose to use a pen, the name can come off in the wash so please check that it's still visible.

## Applying for a School Place in Reception or Year Seven

If your child was born between **1 September 2020** and **31 August 2021** you need to apply for a place in Reception.

The applications process opens on 1 November 2024 and the deadline for applying for a Reception place is 4.00pm on **15 January 2025**. If you apply by this date, you will receive your child's school offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2025)

Please see: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/421/applying-for-a-primary-school-place>.

The closing date to apply for a secondary school place is 4.00pm on **31st October 2024**. If you applied by the deadline, you will receive your school offer on National Offer Day, 3 March 2025.

Please see: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/422/applying-for-a-secondary-school-place>

Last year there were over 500 late applicants. If you apply late, you are much less likely to be offered a place at one of your preferred schools

## Free School Meals

If you think that you may be eligible for free school meals, applications can be made online at

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/applyfree-school-meals>

If you require any assistance, please speak to a member of our office team.



# Information Sessions for Warwickshire Parents and Carers

## Courses available online – via Zoom

**Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People with Emotionally Based School Avoidance**

Thursday 26th September 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Understanding Emotion Regulation in School Aged Children**

Thursday 10th October 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Understanding and Supporting Children aged 3-11 Years with Anxiety**

Thursday 24th October 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Understanding and Supporting Children Aged 12+ Years Anxiety**

Thursday 7th November 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Understanding and Supporting School Aged Children Who Self-harm**

Thursday 21st November 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Understanding Sensory Needs in School Aged Children**

Thursday 5th December 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Understanding Low Mood in Children and Young People**

Thursday 9th January 2025, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

**Understanding Self-esteem in Children and Young People**

Thursday 10th April 2025, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Places on our sessions are subject to availability. To book your place please email [risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk](mailto:risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk)

**Please note: the sessions are available for Warwickshire residents only.**



# NHS Talking Therapies

## Living well with Long-term Physical Health Conditions

Talking Therapies offers support to patients who have been recently diagnosed or living with a physical health condition.

- Are you worried about your health?
- Does your health get you down?
- Do you feel embarrassed or frustrated by your health condition?
- Do you feel your health holds you back in life?



If yes, all of these are normal responses that can be difficult to manage, but Talking Therapies can help. We work with conditions that include, but are not limited to:



Diabetes, Respiratory conditions, Cardiac problems and Chronic pain

Register with us today for an initial appointment online, by phone or by speaking with your GP. Talking Therapies works with people aged 16-plus, who are registered with a GP, across the Coventry and Warwickshire area.



for anxiety and depression

**Telephone: 024 7667 1090**

Lines are open from 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday

**Visit [www.talkingtherapies.covwarkpt.nhs.uk](http://www.talkingtherapies.covwarkpt.nhs.uk)  
or scan the QR code for more information.**





## CREATE AN ESCAPE ROOM: TRAPPED IN THE PROP STORE

Drop into the Welcome Space (PACCAR Room) during the week to create props for the RSC's very first Escape Room. Inspired by props and costumes from RSC productions, you'll be able to make items for the Escape room and then return on Friday to solve the clues to escape.

Suitable for ages 5+

**Monday 28 - Wednesday 30 October 11am - 4pm**  
**Thursday 31 October, 11am - 2pm**

**FREE**



## PLAY THE ESCAPE ROOM

Please book a time for your group to play our Escape Room. Bookable slots are every half hour from 10.30am. You only need to book one ticket per group, maximum group size of 8.

Suitable for age 5+, children must be accompanied by at least one parent or carer per group.

**1 November**

**TO BOOK:**

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/events/october->

# Half-Term Activities

## TWILIGHT HOUR

Come in the twilight hour to experience the building like never before. Created by young people and families throughout the week, there will be spooky speeches, stage fight clashes in the colonnade and our very first escape room.

Drop in any time. Booking only required for Escape Room.

Suitable for ages 5+

Children must be accompanied by a parent/ carer.

**1 November, 4pm - 6pm**

**FREE**

**RSC**  
ROYAL  
SHAKESPEARE  
COMPANY

PROUD TO BE AN  
ASSOCIATE  
SCHOOL

## BLOOD GUTS AND GORE

*Quite disgusting but absolutely brilliant* – participant May 2024

Enjoy interactive demonstrations showing the tips & tricks the RSC uses for gruesome special effects, wigs, costumes, make-up, and much more.

Suitable for age 8+

Family workshop - please book a ticket for all attending. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Session lasts for 50 minutes.

**28 October**

**Midday**

**2pm**



# Half-Term Activities

## FAMILY PUPPETRY WORKSHOP: MONSTERS, FAIRIES & MUCH MORE

Discover more about puppets of all shapes, sizes, and styles with this interactive demonstration. Perfect for those looking for a fun family workshop, and those who want to learn more about the making and mechanics of puppetry.

Suitable for age 6+

Family Workshop - please book a ticket for all attending. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

£4.50 under 18

£3.50 accompanying adults

Session lasts for 50 minutes.

**29 October**

**Midday**

**2pm**





# Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow








## Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



### Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

<p><b>190 DAYS</b> <b>100%</b></p>  <p>Very best chance of success</p>	<p><b>183 DAYS</b> <b>96%</b></p>  <p>Off to a flying start</p>	<p><b>179 DAYS</b> <b>94%</b></p>  <p>Less chance of success</p>	<p><b>175 DAYS</b> <b>92%</b></p>  <p>Harder to make progress</p>	<p>More than <b>18 days</b> absence less than <b>90%</b></p>  <p>Persistent Absentee (Not fair on your child)</p>
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## ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY



### Did You Know... ?

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



# INCLUDE ME WEEK

**Week commencing  
Monday 23rd September**

A week of FREE activities specifically aimed at individuals with all needs, including SEND, hidden or physical disabilities.

Taking place at Stratford, Southam, Studley, Shipston and The Greig leisure centres.



everyone  
ACTIVE



## Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



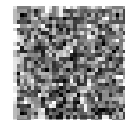
### Friendship

Friends can be there for you and be an important source of mental health support and wellbeing. The **5 steps to wellbeing** highlight the importance of connecting with others, whether that be friends, family or key important people in your life, it is important to stay connected!

Connecting with others can help us feel close to people and feel valued for who we are. Being social means different things for different people; you might prefer being in quieter situations with one other person, or you might like being in big groups. You might like to connect with people face-to-face, online, by sending letters, or talking on the phone!

#### Our tips for building friendships:

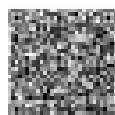
- If you feel comfortable, you could try speaking to someone new.
- Ask how someone's weekend was and really listen when they tell you.
- Walk to school with a friend or ask someone to play with you at breaktime.



5 steps to wellbeing

Friends can help you with your mental health in lots of different ways. They might check in with your feelings or simply make you laugh by sharing a video on TikTok. They might also help you by:

1. **Talking things through** - if you are finding things difficult, talking things through with a friend can help you understand how you feel and what support you might need. It might even be that they just sit and listen. A friend can also keep you company to remind you that you are not alone.
2. **Give practical support** - for example, if you are nervous about going to a party, friends can help you by going to the party with you, messaging you to see how you are getting on or helping you find a quiet space.
3. **Taking your mind off things** - they can distract you from what might be making you feel low or stressed and help you feel calmer through difficult times.
4. **Notice changes in your mood** - friends who know you well might recognise if you are struggling or not feeling your best and can check in to see if you need support.



Scan for the importance of friendships for our mental health



Remember, helping a friend is not all on you! (See video)

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

**MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.**

**Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.**

*Empower  
Yourself*

# MIND, BODY & SOUL

## Fayre

HILLTOP FARM

Sunday 22nd September 10-5pm 2024

- MBS Retail Stands
- Aura & Chakra Photography
- Psychics & Mediums
- Therapists & Healers
- Life Coaching Experts
- Yoga Demonstrations
- Inspirational Speakers & Workshops
- Wood-fired Pizzas & Samosas from SAMOSA BOX will also be available from 11:30am

**ONLY £5  
ADMISSION**

Hilltop Farm, Fosse Way, Hunningham Hill, Leamington  
Spa, Warwickshire, CV33 9EL

For more information or to book a stall call:  
07833747876 or visit:  
[www.empoweryourselfcoaching.com](http://www.empoweryourselfcoaching.com)



# Diary Dates

Monday 23rd September	Cycle to School Week.
Monday 23rd September	Y5 trip to The National Space Centre.
Wednesday 25th September	Y1 Kingfishers assembly at 10.30am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 27th September	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day. If your child wears their own choice of clothes, <b>please donate</b> at least 50p via ParentPay. All money raised will support the local charity, Parenting Project.
Friday 27th September	Y6, WWII trip to Coventry.
Monday 30th September	Y4 visit to The Sealife Centre.
Wednesday 2nd October	Y6 Swans assembly at 9.05am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 9th October	Y1 Puffins assembly at 10.30am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 16th October	Y6 Moorhens assembly at 9.05am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 21st October	Y3 trip to Cadbury World.
Wednesday 23rd October	Parent's Evening, 3.30—7.00pm.
Wednesday 23rd October	Y2 Swallows class assembly at 9.05am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 24th October	Parent's Evening, 3.30—5.00pm.
Friday 25th October	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day. If your child wears their own choice of clothes, <b>please donate</b> at least 50p via ParentPay. All money raised will support the local charity, Parenting Project.
<b>Monday 28th October—Friday 1st November, school closed for the half-term holiday. Children return to school on Monday 4th November.</b>	
Wednesday 6th November	Y5 Kittiwakes assembly at 9.05am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 11th November	Road Safety Week and Y5/6 Bikeability.
Wednesday 20th November	Y5 Woodpeckers assembly at 9.05am. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.

# Diary Dates

Tuesday 26th November	YR and Y6 height and weight checks.
Wednesday 27th November	Y3 and Y4 visit the Belgrade Theatre to watch the pantomime, “Dick Whittington.”
Thursday 28th November	Christmas decorations go up in the hall.
Friday 29th November	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day. If your child wears their own choice of clothes, <b>please donate</b> at least 50p via ParentPay. All money raised will support the local charity,
<b>Monday 2nd December</b>	<b>School closed for INSET (In-Service training.)</b> Children back at school on Tuesday 3rd December.
Wednesday 4th December	Reception Nativity at 9.30am. Families are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 9th December	Y1 and Y2 visit Warwick Arts’ Centre to watch “The Smeds and The Smoos.”
Wednesday 11th December	KS1 Christmas concert at 9.30am.
Thursday 12th December	KS2 Christmas concert at 2.15pm.
Monday 16th December	Rock Steady concert at 2.15pm.
Friday 20th December	Christmas MUFTI—come to school in a festive jumper or outfit. If your child wears their own choice of clothes, <b>please donate</b> at least 50p via ParentPay. All money raised will support the local charity, Parenting Project.
<b>Monday 23rd December—Friday 3rd January, school closed for the Christmas holiday.</b>	
<b>Monday January 6th 2025, School closed for INSET (In Service Training.)</b> <b>Children return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.</b>	





# Sydenham Superstars



## YR and Key Stage One

See you on Monday.  
Best wishes from Miss  
Glenny



## Key Stage Two