Kilmington Primary School

Newsletter

23rd October 2026

Devon Moors Federation

Dear parents

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support of the school over the first half term of the school year. Year 6 have settled well into their roles as the leaders of the school and are taking their responsibilities very seriously. We have elected our school council representatives for the year; well done to Occo, Maeve, Elsa, Olivia, Alma and Alex H. There has also been a self-elected Eco-Team who have very kindly offered their services to help keep the school grounds clean and tidy. They have been sweeping leaves and tidying the mud kitchen and are also hoping to do some weeding and planting over the year. Many thanks to Obi, Bear, Rosie, Mikey, Colby and Louis!

After half term, Year 6 will be in charge of selling poppies after school in the lane for 5-10 minutes. They will make themselves a little rota of who will be on duty on each day.

CLASS NEWS

PIPITS

The Pipits have had a very busy few weeks! It was lovely for them to hear what life was like when their grandparents were 5 and to find out what toys they liked to play with. A big thank you to all the grandparents who visited the class or sent videos and pictures in. They have also looked at pictures of themselves when they were younger to see how they have grown and changed. During the past few weeks, they have created posters that show their families, their homes, their likes, a self-portrait and a timeline of how they have grown.

The reception children have made fantastic progress with phonics and they are all beginning to read simple words. In mathematics, they have been focused on numbers up to 4. They have been subitising small amounts. Subitising is being able to visually see a number of objects instantly without needing to count them out one at a time.

In mathematics, the preschool children have been sorting by colour and noticing if groups have more or fewer. In phonics they have been learning the rhymes pat-a-cake, incy wincy spider and wind the bobbin up. The children have spotted rhyming words, playing with syllables and alliteration.

KINGFISHERS

In English, Kingfishers have written their own wonderful retelling of Little Red Riding Hood. They thought carefully about the different things that she could use to defeat the big bad wolf. The children were very keen on bringing in the different objects and this really helped our writing, The class received a joint certificate for their hard work.

In maths, the children have been looking at numberbonds and really securing the fact families that go with them. With Mrs Shaw, the children have been looking at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We have been naming them and looking at their edges, faces and vertices. The children have enjoyed exploring the investigations.

In science, the children have been learning about materials and their properties. They have thought carefully about which materials would be best to make an umbrella and decided that waterproof is best.

In geography, the children have been learning about the world and our school. We have thought about where our school is in relation to this.

In art, we have looked at the art of Christa Rijinveld, and created our own learning in response to this.

JACKDAWS

In English, Jackdaws have been exploring poetry. We looked at a few different styles of animal poem by Matt Goodfellow, before researching our favourite items and writing our own. We've used brilliant descriptive phrases and similes, using vocabulary for information and vocabulary for imagery. We also got the opportunity to practise and perform our poems in the class which was a lovely end to our poetry topic. After half-term, we are going to be starting a unit of writing on non-fiction, which links to our science learning this term.

In maths, we have worked really hard this half-term with addition and subtraction. We have built lots of confidence with formal written methods and have been looking really carefully at subtraction especially as this can feel a bit more challenging. After half-term, we will be starting our learning with multiplication and division!

In science, we have been studying rocks and fossils. We have experimented with how permeable rocks and soils are, learned about their formation, and looked really closely at a variety of different rocks. We have enjoyed having them on display at the back of the classroom with magnifying glasses to really get a closer look. After half term, we will be learning about animals including humans, as well as looking forward to spending time down at our outdoor learning site.

In art, Jackdaws have been studying portraits and how artists draw different features of the face. We have practised each week before creating our final pieces: a self-portrait. You can see how much our skills have developed through this, and how accurate we have drawn ourselves!

After finishing our geography topic of Land Use with a walk in the village as fieldwork for our data collection, our history topic began with a trip of Mrs Burleigh's farm. We really enjoyed being able to imagine what life was like for hunter-gatherers back in the stone age as well as what life would have been like for the first farmers, the peoples of the Mesolithic era who started growing crops and keeping livestock. We collected our own tools to use, made paint and Mrs Burleigh even had some of her own prehistoric tools to show us that Mr Burleigh had found on the farm! The children got a lot of learning out of that day! We had a lot of questions about the stone age when we had our first "in-the-classroom" lesson, so I think the children will really enjoy learning more about this topic after half-term.

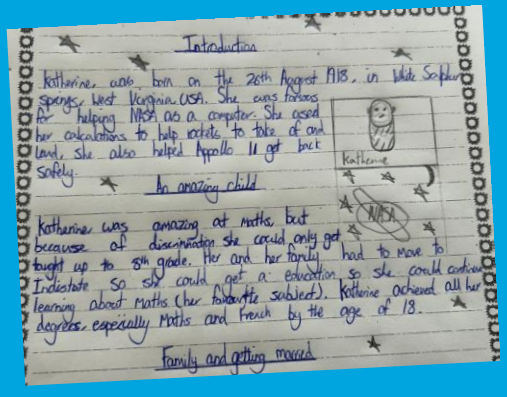
In Music, Jackdaws have been listening to, and learning, a song called *I've been to Harlem.* We have used different percussion instruments (chime bars, boom whackers, glockenspiels and xylophones) to create note clusters on the pentatonic scale as well as playing percussion patterns on cups to the song too. As a final piece of learning on this, the children worked collaboratively with parts of the song to create a body percussion pattern. We rehearsed each section and then built it up to practise the whole song. The children have been really engaged with this topic, and it has been brilliant to see their performance skills build with their confidence.

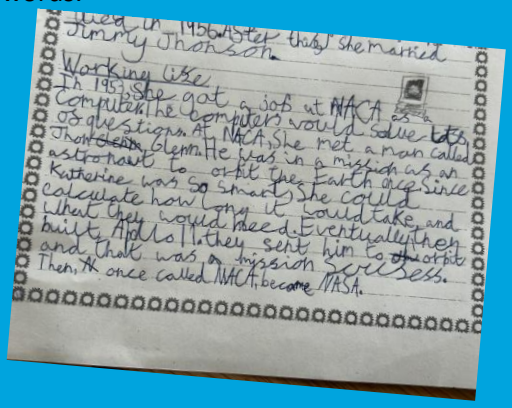
Well done Jackdaws – have a well earned rest over half-term! From the Jackdaws Team.

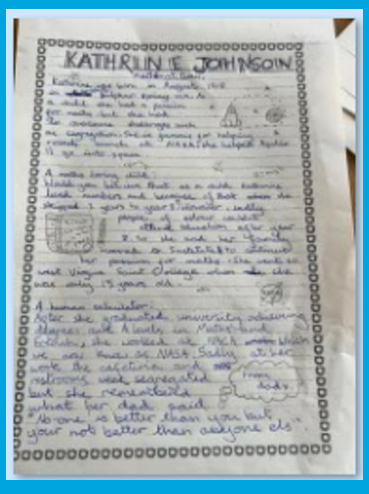
OSPREYS

Ospreys had a very successful trip to Forest Farm where we conducted field work to support our Ecosystems and Biomes topic. We discovered several ecosystems at the farm and collected qualitative data on the plants and animals that live there. Luckily, the weather was kind to us.

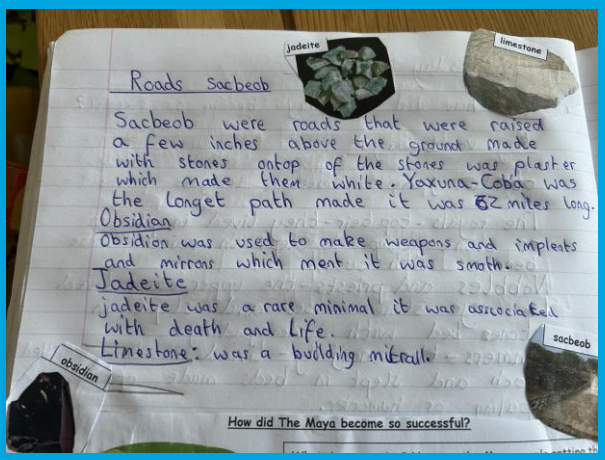
In English, we have been looking at biographies. Tied in with science and Black History Month, we have been finding out about the life and legacy of Katherine Johnson. Children wrote her biography in their own words.

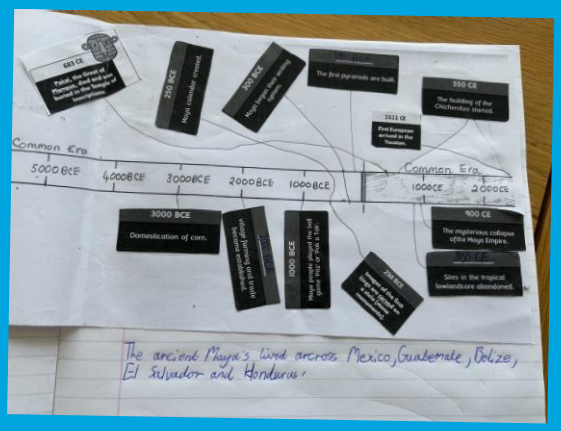






We have just started learning about the Ancient Maya and the children have been very interested, asking lots of questions. So far we have learnt about where they lived, when they lived and why they were such a successful civilization.





In maths we have been learning about multiples, factors, prime numbers and square numbers. Year 6 have enjoyed having a go at a practice maths SATs paper!

Diary Dates ….. November

November	
Mon 2nd	Pipits & Ospreys Parents' Evenings – by appointment
Wed 4th	All Classes Parents' Evenings – by appointment
Thurs 5th	Kingfishers Parents' Evenings – by appointment
Fri 6th	Jackdaws Parents' Evenings – by appointment
Thurs 12th	Jackdaws Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Thurs 19th	Jackdaws Outdoor Learning (after lunch)
Mon 23rd	After School Clubs – FINAL WEEK
Tues 24th	Individual & Siblings (N1-Y6) School Photographs
Thurs 26th	Jackdaws Outdoor Learning (after lunch)

Our forthcoming events and diary dates are on our website listed in the *News & Events* section.

Diary Dates website links

Term Dates website link