

Nettlestone Primary School



"Changing lives for changing times"

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News from Nettlestone Primary School

Executive Head teacher Miss K Howarth Head of School Mrs A Jacobs



9th May 2025

VALUE OF THE WEEK: Mutual Respect

WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY—ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

This week's assembly on Monday was all about Mutual Respect, which is our value this week, tied into the celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The quote Mrs Jacobs shared with the children was 'Mutual respect among everyone for one another and for one another's rights is an absolute prerequisite for peace.' We then moved on to talk about a time when there wasn't peace in the world and Mrs Jacobs gave the children a very brief synopsis of WW2 in order for them to understand VE Day and why this was celebrated in Britain and around the world.



The children enjoyed looking at the celebration pictures and made some very astute observations. Mrs Jacobs was very pleased that Ruby M, in Year 3 was able to name all of the royal family from the VE day balcony celebrations. We followed this up on Thursday where we had a two minutes respectful silence to mark VE Day.



MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON!



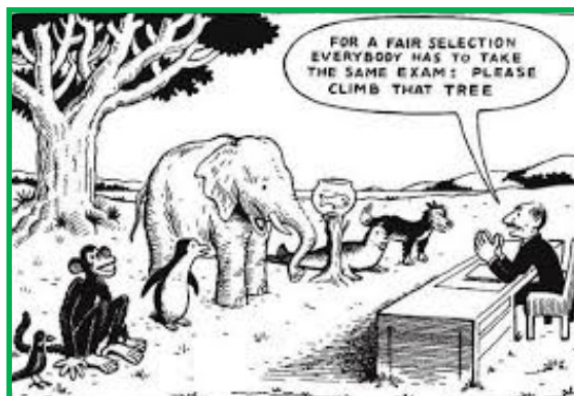
Next week is the national KS2 testing week.

Our Year 6 pupils will be taking part in the tests in reading, maths, spelling and grammar that will be taken at the same time by every Year 6 in the country.

The children have been prepared well but we need to remember that these tests do not measure everything. We value that our children are creative, athletic, artistic, confident, polite, kind, and honest to name but a few qualities that the tests next week simply will not measure. We know that our Year 6 will demonstrate their resilience next week and try their very best.

Some children will have special access arrangements to enable them to 'shine' and thank you to all staff and members of our wider community who have agreed to help and assist with the process.

It is really important that all children arrive in school in good time to sit the assessments and please remember that breakfast club is available to support families if it is required. Year 6 will be offered a special breakfast and we know that the children are already looking forward to their bacon sandwiches!



MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

At our school, we are proud of the strong and supportive community we have built, and this year's Mental Health Awareness Week theme, **'Community'**, perfectly aligns with our values. The Mental Health Foundation highlights the importance of connection and belonging, and we see these principles reflected in our very own **'Mission Possibles'**—making healthy choices, being resilient, making it happen and making a difference.



We believe that mental health is just as important as physical health. That's why our classrooms are designed with therapeutic principles in mind, ensuring our learning spaces are safe places where children can reflect, regulate, and grow. Through thoughtful adaptations, we are proud that we have created environments that nurture emotional wellbeing and help every child feel supported.



Next week we will be talking to all children about how to support their mental health and wellbeing. Staff will be sharing Wellbeing Wheels encouraging them to think about the commitments they can make to improve and enhance their own wellbeing by following 5 simple principles: connecting with others, being active, taking notice, being creative and giving to others. We look forward to sharing these with you on a display in school.



YEAR 5 MAKE IT HAPPEN ON RESIDENTIAL

Yesterday morning, Year 5 were super excited for their adventure ahead. With bags packed and spirits high, they boarded the coach, ready to set off. Upon arrival in Southampton, the group headed to the park for lunch before the excitement of skiing and doughnutting in the afternoon! There was plenty of laughter and energy as they ran around, making the most of the sunny afternoon. Soon after they arrived at Alpine Snow Sports. Sliding down slopes and spinning around in giant inflatable rings, they had an amazing and exhilarating time. By the time the session finished they were tired but thrilled by the experience.



Next on the itinerary was Winchester Science Centre. Just before tea time the children arrived and got settled in for a fun and educational evening. Dinner was a special treat—pizza, freshly delivered and enjoyed by all. Before bedtime, the group worked together to make sandwiches for the next day, ensuring they were prepared for the journey ahead and finished the evening watching a movie in the planetarium!

Today they started with a hearty breakfast before they set off for Butser Ancient Farm. There, the students stepped back in time, exploring ancient history and learning about how people lived long ago. This really helped what they had been learning in class earlier in the year come to life! We can't wait to hear about their adventures when they get back to school next week.





A BUSY WEEK!

Year 4 had a lovely trip to Naturezones on Tuesday to support our science topic on plant reproduction and pollination. We explored the grounds, identifying wildflowers and measuring them. We also learnt how to identify different tree species in the woodland by looking at their leaves and how the Sycamore tree is stopping other trees from growing as they take all the sunlight! We also learnt how to work out the age of a tree by counting the rings on a tree stump. We enjoyed a tasty hot chocolate and some apple in the woods. After lunch we took part in a game where we were the bees and had to collect pollen from the flowers. We finished by taking part in a quiz to test our memory on everything we had learnt and discovered during the morning sessions before creating our day diaries full of all the fun facts!



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—ROBLOX

We know that children at our school love playing online games. We are pleased to hear that Roblox, one of the most popular multiplayer



games among children, has introduced a set of new parental controls designed to enhance online safety. Previously criticized for its lack of robust child protection tools, the platform has now implemented important changes to give parents greater oversight of their children's gaming experience.

With these new features, parents can:

- Block specific individuals from contacting their children.
- Monitor and manage their child's game time more effectively.
- Benefit from improved real-time awareness measures that enhance safety during gameplay.

Roblox have also updated their [Safety Center](https://corp.roblox.com/safety) which is now redesigned as a hub for all safety-related resources, guides, and reporting tools.

These updates mark a significant step forward in making online gaming environments more secure for young players. To find out more please take a look at the following link

<https://corp.roblox.com/safety>



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK!

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

KS2 Statutory Assessment Week—KS2 SATs

Farm

New Intake Meeting

5pm



KS1 Celebration
Assembly

YEAR 4 MAKE IT HAPPEN AT PGL



Year 4 have had the most incredible time on their PGL residential trip this week, packed with excitement, challenges, and teamwork from start to finish!

The children showed incredible bravery and enthusiasm as they tackled thrilling activities—from scaling the climbing wall to soaring down the zip wire and descending the abseiling tower. The vertical challenge tested their resilience, with teammates cheering each other on every step of the way.

Trust and teamwork were put to the test on the sensory trail, where everyone navigated muddy twists and turns blindfolded! Archery required precision and focus, while Survivor taught us essential outdoor survival skills, including shelter building. The Matrix was a real brain workout, as teams cracked codes and solved physical puzzles together.

The evenings have been just as fun—filled with classic PGL games that had everyone running, laughing, and bonding. Of course, the highlight for many was the campfire night, with songs, stories, and toasted marshmallows beneath the stars.

It was a week of adventure, friendship, and unforgettable moments!



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Keeping children safe online is more important than ever. To support families in navigating the digital world safely, the Thames Valley Cyber Protect team is inviting parents and carers to join engaging and informative **Cyber Security online training presentations**.

These sessions will provide **easy-to-implement tips** for parents and carers to help safeguard their own and their family's online behaviours and device usage.

Topics covered:

1. **Emails and mobile phones:** Learn how to spot scams, including phishing tactics, and gain valuable hints and tips to share with your children.
2. **Social media safety:** Understand the risks associated with social engineering, disinformation, AI, privacy concerns, and hacked accounts.
3. **Gaming:** Discover potential risks for young people when gaming online and find ways to monitor and restrict usage.

Password mastery and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA): Learn best practices to secure your accounts and keep your family's online presence protected.

These sessions aim to empower parents and carers with knowledge and practical strategies to create a safer digital environment for their children.

 **Book your spot:** Online Safety for Parents https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/online-safety-for-parents-3386699?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=GovDelivery



MAKE IT HAPPEN AND JOIN OUR SCHOOL!



We unexpectedly
have **SIX** spaces now
available in our
Primary School September
2025 Intake!



Do you know any friends/
family members who have a
child due to join school in
September who may be keen
to join team Nettlestone?



We can offer...

- A welcoming, nurturing environment
- Creative, hands-on learning
- Focused on every child's potential

Don't miss out — enquire via the school
office today!

POETRY CORNER

A special poem for our Year 6's this
week.....

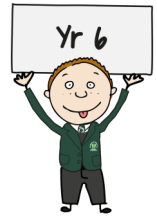
So Year 6, the time has finally come,
The dreaded SATs are here,
But this is what you've worked for,
Since you moved up into this year.

These tests will tell us what you've learned,
And what you can recall,
But there's a million things,
The SATs won't tell us at all.

They won't tell us how you dance,
Or draw, or sing, or run,
Or tell us just how great you are,
At any other things you've done.

The SATs don't measure super-ness,
Or how kind or brave you are,
They're just a way of helping to see,
All you've learned so far.

So all we ask of each of you,
Is to try the best you can,
But no matter the score you'll get,
We'll always be your fan!



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE NEWCHURCH NINE?

With only 1 week to go have you signed up yet for the Newchurch Nine?

This is the major fundraiser for our federated school Newchurch Primary School and we need your support to 'make it happen!' We currently have lots of keen runners signed up to join in with either the 900m, 4.5km or the 9km run so if you or friends and family were inspired by the recent London Marathon please join in with our mass participation event too!

Last year we raised almost £2500 for resources that can be used across our Federation, can we top that this year?

The event is set to take place on **Sunday 18th May** and you can sign up via the link <https://www.eventrac.co.uk/e/the-newchurch-nine-2025-12826> or just search Newchurch Nine on [Eventrac.co.uk](https://www.eventrac.co.uk) Please note **online entries close before the event** although registration will be available on the morning of the event too!

We look forward to seeing as many of the Nettlestone community there as possible!



SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?

Our book of the week has given us lots of giggles. The children have had fun reading all about animals in their fancy pants. We explored lots of rhyming words in the book and made up our own rhyming words. Our little learners have also been masters of maths when engaging in a variety of activities. In our rhyme of the week we counted in ones and twos and the compare bears helped us learn about size, size language and patterns. We have also continued to look at a variety of animals and compare their size, looking at how they differ in appearance and where they live.



We arrived back to school on Tuesday to see that our caterpillars had suddenly grown a lot over the bank holiday weekend. We were very excited and spent the week observing them, waiting for them to start to form their cocoons. As the week has progressed we have watched several caterpillars form their cocoons. As we have been observing our caterpillars, we have been reading the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. We have listened to the story and learnt some Makaton signs that help us retell the story. We have also been writing and making our own hungry caterpillar stories. To link in with our story, we talked about healthy eating as part of our PSHE and we designed our own healthy plates. In Maths we applied our knowledge of doubling to think about halving and how to share amounts into 2 groups. On Thursday we talked about VE day and we held a silence in class to reflect upon this. We made flags to commemorate the day.

This week in Year 1 we have been working hard planning our travel journals. We have been using a storyboard to sequence and add adjectives to the places we explored last week. Everyone has showed great resilience and have produced some amazing sentences. In Maths we have finished off our learning on multiplication. We have been using cones and objects to share and group. This week in Science we learnt all about the features of fish and how they survive in the wild. We created a fact sheet as well as working on our fine motor skills by using playdough to make fish scales! In Computing the class focused on being able to change the value of a programming block on Scratch Jr. In Art we explored different sketching pencils and compared the thickness of the lead. We practiced drawing different facial features in readiness of our self-portraits which we will be doing in a few weeks.



This week in Year 2, we have been continuing to use the computer program Scratch Jr. In Maths, we have been comparing mass and using measuring in grams and kilograms. In English, we have been learning how to use commas between adjectives as well as identifying and writing sentences using when, because and after. In PSHE, we have been discussing when and why we need to wash our hands to keep ourselves healthy. Our learning on the Arctic has continued with exploring the Arctic's physical features.

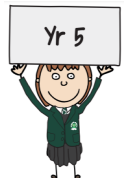
We have had a short but busy week this week in Year 3. In Maths, we are continuing our learning on fractions and in Writing we have written two short descriptions relating to *The Tin Forest*. We have thought carefully about our language choices and describing things in an interesting way for our reader. We realised it is good to use specific nouns, such as 'toucan' rather than more general ones, such as 'bird' to give the reader a clear picture of what we are talking about. We have also looked at how we can use adverbial openers to show when or where something is happening. In Science, we have explored the role of evaporation and condensation in the Water Cycle. We have looked at other examples of both of these in our everyday lives too.



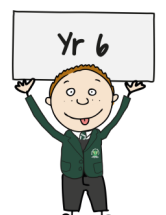
This week has been full of adventures in Year 4. Tuesday saw us go on our Science field trip to Nature Zones in Blackwater. This was a field trip for our topic on plants. We spent time looking in the wild flower meadow identifying different flowers, had a lovely hot chocolate in the woodlands and spent time investigating the different trees in the woodland area, measuring their circumference, identifying the tree from their leaves and learning how to identify how old a tree is. We spent time learning about pollination and cross pollination of flowers. Wednesday saw us head to PGL for our residential. We had great fun. The children all faced lots of personal challenges and showed great resilience and perseverance and they definitely showed that they can make it happen.



This week Year 5 have been focusing on their rounding skills. Firstly, to a whole number and then to tenths. They were able to recall the key rounding rules and apply them to their number challenges. Year 5 have also had a challenge set to them on the water trying to sail and tack to make a figure of eight. They have ended the week with their residential to Winchester. Lots of fun and adventure had by all this week. Well done Year 5 for demonstrating great resilience and perseverance in the face of new challenges!



This week in Year 6, we have continued to revisit some of the more tricky grammatical concepts: passive and active voice, possessive pronouns, past progressive tense. We have also looked at the strategies we use when we spell words in spelling tests and in our own writing. Some of us prefer to segment words (i.e. information-in/for/ma/tion) while others like to focus on the shape of the word. These strategies will help us in our SATs and as we make the transition from primary to secondary school. In our Maths lessons, our focus was on perpendicular and parallel lines. We also practised using a protractor to measure angles. Our presentations in History allowed us to share our research into the life of people living in Benin (Nigeria, West Africa). We learned that the rulers of Benin are called Obas. The people who live in Benin are called the Edo. We also discovered the background to the Benin Bronzes and the debate that is still ongoing about whether they should be returned. As part of our Science topic on classification and evolution, we carried out research into our chosen animal and its adaptations over time. We will be sharing our research in our next lesson.



CONVERSATION STARTERS!

Want to know what your children have been learning this week? Here are some conversation starters that may help you talk to them about what they have been up to in class!

PRE-SCHOOL

Talk to me about...size language and differences.

Words to use...small, medium, large, big, tiny, same, different.

Tips for the week...don't forget to apply your child's sun cream in the morning.

We have been reading...Animal pants by Giles Andreae.

YEAR 1

Talk to me about...Morning hygiene routines!

Words to use...clean, brush, clothes, breakfast, help, school.

Tips for the week...what other mediums could you use to make facial features?

We have been reading...Bushranger Bill by Megan De Kantzow.

YEAR 3

Talk to me about... evaporation and condensation.

Words to use...evaporation, condensation, liquid, gas, heat, cool.

Tips for the week.... Evaporation is what happens when you heat a liquid and it changes into a gas, whereas condensation is when a gas is cooled and changes to a liquid.

We have been reading... 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward.

YEAR 5

Talk to me about...how to sail in a figure of eight around a buoy.

Words to use...tack, starboard, wind direction, no-gone zone.

Tips for the week...When rounding a number, 0-4 you round down, 5-9 you round up.

We have been reading...VE Day inspired Poetry and 'Wildwitch'.

YEAR R

Talk to me about... caterpillars!

Words to use... transform, metamorphosis, life cycle.

Tips for the week... practise sharing or halving amounts into 2 groups.

We have been reading... The Very Hungry Caterpillar

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... Physical features of the Arctic.

Words to use..... mountain, hill, iceberg, sea ice, glacier, coastline, ocean, river, lake.

Tips for the week You can use a balance scale to compare the mass of objects and put them in order of size.

We have been reading...The Night Gardener by The Fan Brother and The Enchanted Wood by Enid

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... PGL and Nature Zones.

Words to use... zip wire, climbing, abseiling, vertical challenge, matrix, survivor, sensory trail, archery, Nature Zones, cross pollination, pollination, wild flowers, woodlands and hedgerows.

Tips for the week... Continue to learn your times tables and common exception words.

YEAR 6

Talk to me about... Benin and the Edo people who live there. Ask me about the Benin Bronzes in the British Museum..

Words to use:...perpendicular, parallel, protractor, passive, active, past progressive.

Tips for the week... ensure that you take time to rest and relax before SATs week.

We have been reading ...*Jake Atlas and the Quest for the Crystal Mountain* by Rob Lloyd Jones.

Celebration Assembly

Ellie, Addie, Effie and Oscar G.



WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU!

MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO HAVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please can we remind all families that **children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a yummy free meal every single day.** To date only around half of our community are taking up this **free offer** and it would be great to see more families doing so. We are really lucky to have a fabulous chef on site and the menu is always published for parent's information in the newsletter to help you decide whether you want a **free meal everyday** or just on selected days.



For children in Key Stage 2 and any parent that has a change in personal circumstances the eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at [free school meals](#).

We would encourage any parent who has faced a change in personal circumstances to consider the criteria and apply if they are eligible.

If the application is approved eligibility can open a gateway to a host of additional benefits for your child including supporting the purchase of school uniform, funding for school trips and additional in-class support. It really is worth applying.

Lunchtime Menu — from Chartwells

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	BBQ Chicken & Rice	Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Beef burger & Wedges	Battered Fish & Chips
Vegetarian	Broccoli And Leek Tart	Macaroni Cheese	Butternut Squash & Tomato Bake	Quorn Burger & Wedges	Veggie Fingers & Chips
Dessert	Chocolate Brownie	Fruits of the Forest Jelly	Banoffee Pie	Strawberry Ice Cream	Ginger Biscuit & Fruit



BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY
With a choice of toppings 🍌 🥬 🍌



AVAILABLE DAILY
Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water



Chartwells
Schools

Please don't forget to order your meals on School Money before you come to school on Monday!