DUCKLINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tel. (01993) 703651 Website: https://ducklington.oxon.sch.uk/

Headteacher: Mr R. Leigh Chair of Governors: Mrs R. Buckland

Friday 19th September 2025

Headteacher's Thoughts

There have been some exciting activities happening this week. The week started with a visit by Oxford Opera, who worked with all the children to introduce them to the world of opera. Key stage 2 children went on a quest with Tamino's adventure – this is based on Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' – it was great to see the children engaging with all the activities. Next, the first group of the Year 6 Bikeability were in action this week as well as the learn to ride sessions. Thank you, once again to the Windrush Bike Project for organising and running this valuable training

Early information - On the 9th October, we will be having our Harvest Festival in the church. As part of our Harvest giving, we will be collecting food once again for the Witney Food Bank – who have written to us recently requesting our continued help in their work. At the end of this newsletter is the Witney Foodbank shopping list, which lists the items they would like to support their work. Please could the children bring any donations into school on the 9th October.

Additional Reminders

- Please make sure that school lunches are booked on Thursday for the following week on ParentPay. Due to the kitchen ordering, it is not always possible to add too many additional lunches on the day.
- As indicated in our uniform policy - We politely request that all long hair (boys or girls) should be tied back for Health and Safety reasons. 'Alice' bands should be black, or navy and any hair ties used should be plain to avoid distraction to other children.
- Don't forget to label all school uniform so that we can make sure that it is returned to the correct owner rather than relying on the children's sniff test

Mr. Leigh

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Respect

We will be learning about respect for people because you admire something about them, respect for other people's feelings, wishes and rights as well as respect for the environment. We will learn that we can't expect to be respected unless we show respect.

'So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them'. Matthew 7:12

Future Diary Dates.

24/25th September – Y6 Bikeability (Group 2)
Friday 26th September – 9am FODS welcome coffee time for Reception parents
Friday 26th September – Y5 Bikeability
Monday 29th September – Y6 Bikeability (Group 3)
Tuesday 30th September – Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 2nd October – Y6 Junior Citizen
Thursday 9th October – Harvest Service in Church
Thursday 16th October – Individual Photographs
Thurs 16th / Frid 17th October – FODS Book Fair

Achievements Assembly

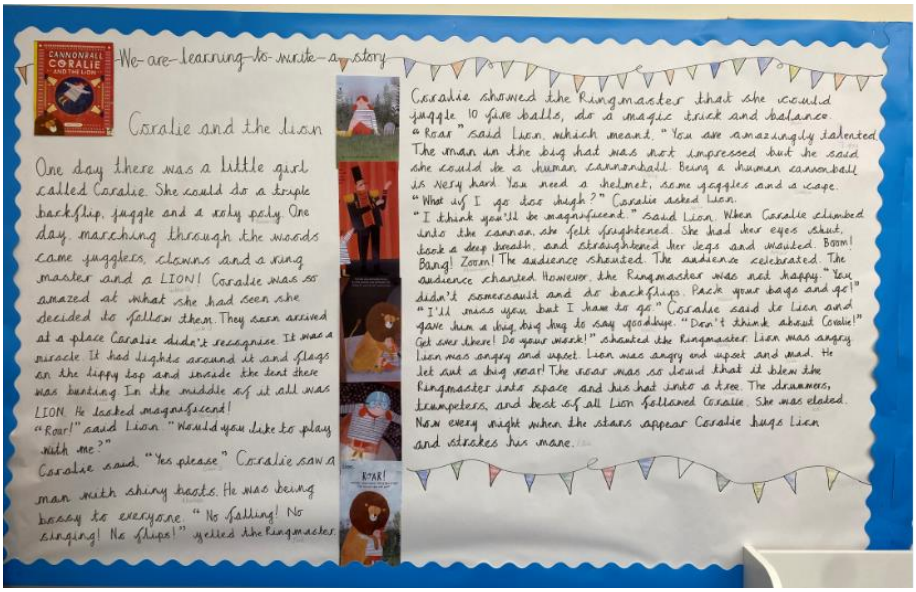
Well done to the children mentioned in our achievement assembly over the last few weeks.

Ducklings	The whole class for settling into school Mila Cantley, Eliana Pinto
Owls:	Henry Bond, Madeline Caton The whole class
Mandarins	Tobias Campbell, Albie King Ignacio Beards, Elise Bishop
Eagles:	Roman Mercer, Jack Tollett Matilda Townsend, Benjamin Wilton-Powell
Robins:	Olivia Keen-Green, Jamie Goodchild Eve Jackson, Toby Hemming
Kingfishers:	Esmae Woodley, Aron Kusnyerik James Almgill, Ibbie Wright
Red Kites:	Indigo Ivory, Nataniel Wojnowski Evie Wright, Noah Greenall

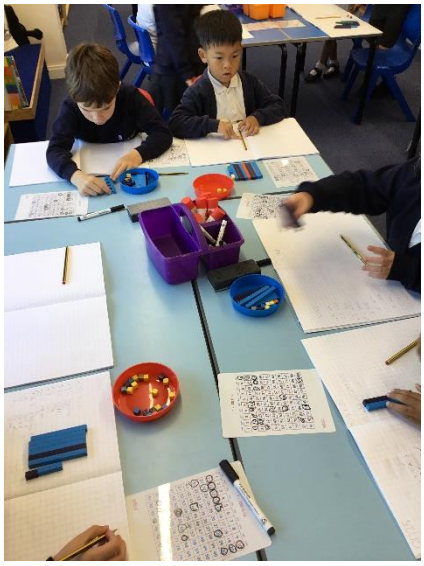
Around the School

What a fantastic start to **Year 2!** We have already been very busy in Year 2, working hard and learning lots of new things.

In English, we have completed our first writing unit, based on the story "Cannonball Coralie and the Lion." The children have thoroughly enjoyed this story, learning lots of new vocabulary and writing techniques along the way. Our class target is remembering to use punctuation at the end of a sentence. They are also working hard to improve their handwriting and to learn the cursive font to join their handwriting by the end of year 2. Next, they will write their own story based on Coralie and hopefully will apply some of the skills they have been practising.



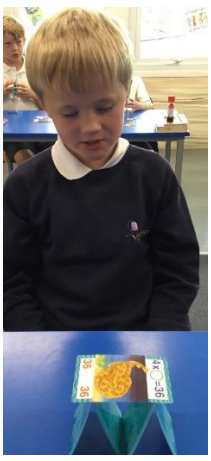
The children have been learning about place value in maths, using tens and ones to help them make 2-digit numbers and partition 2-digit numbers into tens and ones. This will help them as we move to addition and subtraction.



We spent a fantastic afternoon with the Oxford Opera Workshops company. They introduced children to opera and for most children, this was a new experience. We sang, danced and were told about an opera called The Magic Flute.

We are looking forward to our Lego morning at Cokethorpe School and will share some photos when it is our turn again for the newsletter.

Year 4 had a lesson about Perseverance. We discussed the meaning and tackled a few activities that required us to show the value. Some required more perseverance than others! The rubiks cube proved the most difficult of the challenges but we do have some budding structural engineers in the class as shown by their surprisingly sturdy card towers!

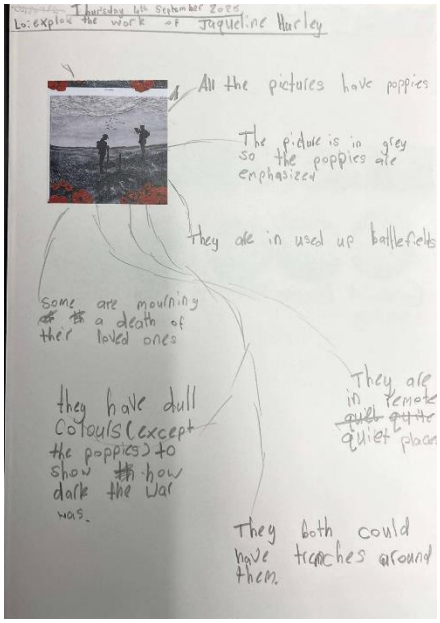


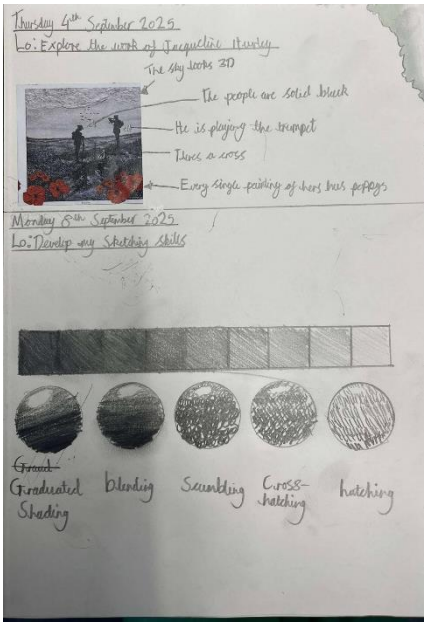
On Tuesday, Years 3 and 4 experienced a morning of opera. What a fantastic experience! The children sang, acted, played games and created animals using only their bodies to make the shapes. We learnt about The Magic Flute and watched some very impressive performances of singing. It was a great introduction into a world that very few of us have had any experience of.

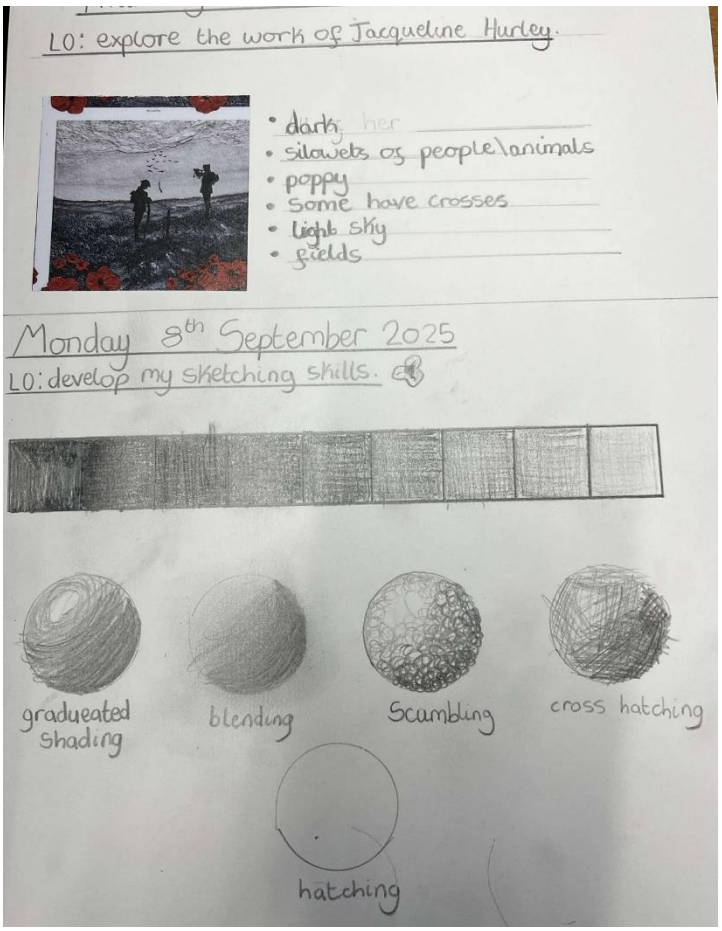
Year 6:
In art, we have been learning about Jacqueline Hurley. An artist, whose pieces are based on both world wars. Most of her works favour: poppies (that are made in different styles), silhouettes of soldiers, a cross, black backgrounds and lakes. All of the money she makes from her artwork is given to the Royal Air Force because she uses to work for them.

We have also been developing our sketching skills with sketching pencils of different gradients. Learning about darker and lighter tones. We also tried some different methods of sketching. We started with graduated shading, blending, scumbling and hatching before looking at cross- hatching.

Over the next few weeks, we are going to develop our sketching skills further before recreating our own WW2 sketch in the style of Jacqueline Hurley. By Esme







Witney and West Oxfordshire Foodbank

Suggested donation list

Thank you so much for donating to your local Foodbank. We are seeing more people struggle each year to make ends meet and every item you donate makes a huge difference.

The following list are the items we currently need most. Any of these items will be very welcomed.

(We hope providing the following list is useful as we get a lot of pasta, baked beans and cereals which are of course welcome but we currently have plenty of all three of these items so would much prefer items from the following list if possible.)

- Porridge Oats
- Rice
- Tinned meat
- Tinned peas / sweetcorn/ carrots
- Teabags
- Long life milk
- Crackers / Rice cakes
- Jar Sauce (Pasta / Curry etc)
- Tinned Soup
- Jam
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned Custard
- Crisps
- Hot Chocolate
- Shower Gel
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Cat food
- Tinned Sausage and Beans
- Instant noodles
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned potatoes
- Coffee
- Long life juice
- Biscuits
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned Pulses
- Peanut Butter
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Chocolate / Sweets
- Cereal Bars
- Squash
- Soap / Handwash
- Conditioner
- Laundry pods
- Toothbrushes
- Washing up Liquid
- Dog Food

Thank you so much for your help and support!!!

Beezee FAMILIES

Ready to make new habits as a family?

Our free 10-week Beezee Families programme starts soon!

- Get healthy eating tips and free recipes
- Unlock the power of small changes
- Start moving more as a family

Where:

Thursday 25th September 4.00-6.00pm at The Hill Community Centre, Banbury

Or weekly online sessions.

Secure your FREE place today!

oxf.maximusuk.co.uk

HelloOxfordshire@maximusuk.co.uk

03332 208952

Our programmes are for children above their ideal weight, see our website for more information.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Beezee FAMILIES

Looking for healthy after-school snack ideas?

We've got you covered!

Our free, Beezee Families healthy lifestyle programme can help your family make healthy habits.

Tuck into these healthy snacks:

- Two wholegrain crackers and tzatsiki
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Two crackers with a spread of low-fat cream cheese and cherry tomatoes
- Plain or Greek yoghurt and fruit
- 150ml homemade fruit smoothie
- Vegetable sticks (carrot/pepper/cucumber) with hummus
- Fruit kebabs
- Wholegrain toast with a thin layer of peanut butter
- Breadsticks
- Ayran (yoghurt-based drink)
- Baked plantain
- Sebze kebab (grilled vegetable skewers)
- Homemade fruit ice lollies
- Handful of homemade popcorn
- Apple slices with peanut butter.

Want more healthy lifestyle support?

Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click the link

oxf.maximusuk.co.uk

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*Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5 and up