



Ladybarn Primary School

Newsletter – Spring 2025

I am delighted to be able to share with you all the amazing things that have been happening across our school. These are just snap shots of days in school.

Every day I see the children showing strong motivation and a curiosity to learn new things. In the last few weeks, I have been in classes watching the children's writing lessons. I have been so impressed with the high standards of writing in classes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Vyas

NURSERY

We have had a fun, positive start to 2025! Conveniently, at the same time as it snowed heavily, we were finding out about winter. The children experienced snow and ice on the big field and had a brilliant time exploring.

The children have been so reflective for their age during our Race Equality sessions, taking great pride in themselves. They shared their family photos and talked about what is important to their own families.

We explored different materials as part of our The Little Pigs sessions and became skilful builders. The chance to explore not only Outer Space but Under the Sea (via our literacy topic about a travelling bear), instilled a very adventurous spirit in our children! Finally, our Lunar New Year exploration (including a Dragon parade and food tasting) has added another great immersive experience to finish off a busy and wonderful half term.

Next half term we are looking forward to the classic stories 'Supertato' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar!' We will support the children with some inspiring experiences to bring these stories to life too.



RECEPTION

This term we our topic has been animals, and we have had a special visitor. Murphy the tortoise spent a week in our classrooms where we learnt how to take care of him. We have also been learning how to look after the class fish and what animals need to survive. We made fish using our fine motor skills, printing scales using bubble wrap. We have been writing about our pets or pets that we would like. We were also detectives last week, trying to solve animal riddles! In Maths we have been looking at a different number each week. We have been looking at different ways of making the number using Numicon. This week we are starting an English unit on 'writing instructions', and we made pizzas to help us write us with our Instructions writing.

Our new topic will be fairy tales next half term. We will be learning the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff which will include a visit to Smithills Farm. We will be learning about where food comes from e.g. milk from cows, honey from bees. The class will investigate bridges and will try and make a strong bridge for the goats to cross the river.





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YEAR 1

In science this half term we have been learning about our five senses. We have talked about what they are used for. We have been on a sensory walk around the school and have used senses for see, hear, smell and to touch things. In class, we have carried out experiments using all five senses to identify objects. We have also talked about how people adapt to life without some of these senses.

In geography we have been learning to use maps to identify and find places using main features shown on a map. We walked around our school and the local area where the children were able to put these skills into place. We can now name and identify countries in the UK on a map and name the capital cities for these countries.



In DT we discussed what bookmarks are, what they are used for and what materials are suitable for making a bookmark. We practised the skill of fixing materials together using a range of equipment like, stapler, glue, paper clips, elastic bands, hole punch and split pins. Children designed and made their own bookmarks.

Next term, in history, we are learning about Ancient Egypt. We will learn all about King Tutankhamun – who he was and how he was discovered. In DT, we will be learning to create hinges. Children will use this skill and create a treasure box with a hinge. In science, we will be learning about forces and children will carry out experiments to learn about what forces are needed to make things move.

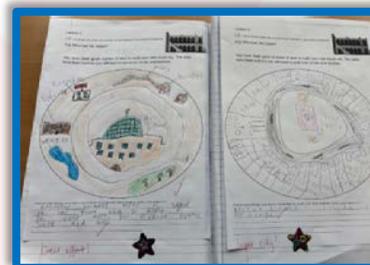
YEAR 2

This half term we have been learning about The Golden Age of Baghdad in our history lessons. We visited the British Muslim Heritage Centre and learned lots about Islam as well as all of the amazing inventions that came from great Muslim minds! We also designed our own round cities and thought about what features a successful city would include such as places of worship, libraries and hospitals.

In art, we have been learning about Hokusai and have explored printing techniques inspired by nature, just like in his painting 'The Great Wave'. We explored printing techniques in our books using different materials such as cardboard, sponges and cotton wool. We also made a 3D printing block with string and cardboard. We painted a background and used acrylic paint to create our Hokusai inspired prints.

In dance, we have been enjoying our unit on a traditional dance – Morris dancing. We looked at some examples of Morris dancing and recreated these moves individually, in pairs and then in groups. We also added in some instruments such as bells to recreate the sounds of Morris dancing! We also had lots of fun rehearsing and performing our class assemblies. We were so happy to see so many grownups come to watch us perform! A huge thank you to everyone who came!

Next half term we will be beginning our design and technology textiles unit where we will be creating our own hand puppets based on the book 'Supertato'. We will also be continuing to learn our multiplication and related division facts, writing a mystery story based on 'The Witching Hour' from Roald Dahl's 'The BFG'. We will be using similes and repetition to create a mysterious atmosphere and leave our readers wanting more!





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YEAR 3

This half term, we have been creating our own collages in the style of Matisse using different materials and techniques. We have been learning about strategies to help our mental health and how to stay safe online. We have been challenging ourselves to times table competitions and feel so much more confident with them!

Year 3 have enjoyed their Science unit where they explored different types of rocks and soils. They learnt about the different characteristics and purposes of rocks and where we might see them in the world around us.

For Children's Mental Health Week, we took part in some guided meditation and relaxation which helped us regulate ourselves. We now include this in our normal timetable.

Next half term, we are going to visit Withington Library to find out more about how to borrow books for free across our city. We are also going to be going to Lyme Park and exploring the environment. We are looking forward to all of the activities on our STEM Super Learning Day.

YEAR 4

In Spring 1, Year 4 has been learning about the Great Barrier Reef, including a special visit from a marine biologist who shared fascinating insights to her job and answered our inquisitive questions. In English, we have brought to life poems inspired by the Great Barrier Reef using similes and personification. We also explored a non-fiction text, 'Funny Bums, Freaky Beaks and other incredible creatures features', to discover the unique traits of different animals. In art, we studied the works of artist Ramesh Mario and recreated sculptures based on his distinctive style. In Spanish, we practiced discussing our opinions on various sports and explaining the reasons behind them.



In Spring 2, Year 4 has some exciting experiences lined up! We will be going on a children's charter trip to see a live orchestra, followed by a visit to the library. We are also looking forward to our STEM super learning day, which promises to be an amazing experience for all. In history, we will be diving into the fascinating world of the Aztecs, exploring what they were famous for. In computing, pupils will collect data and access data captured over long periods of time. It's going to be a term full of learning and adventure!





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YEAR 5

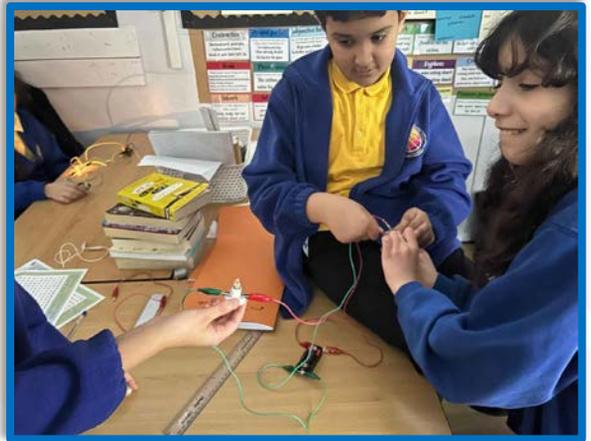
This half term we have enjoyed writing our own Greek myths and explanation texts about how volcanoes erupt. In maths, we have been practicing our 7 timetables and have been focusing on fractions. In geography, we have explored the Lake District and discovered the amazing wildlife and features in our national parks. Finally, 5B had their class assembly and did a brilliant job of their song 'I need a hero.'

Next half term, we will write a story based on The Sleeper and the Spindle and write a balanced argument about the Lake District. In maths, we will learn about decimals and percentages and perimeter and area. We will also be making some pillowcases in our DT lessons!

YEAR 6

More recently, year 6 have been very creative, using drama to get into the mind of Macbeth and producing some incredible writing from his twisted perspective. We've choreographed a dance to Bob Marley's 'Get Up, Stand Up' with a Rights and Revolution theme to tie in with our history topic. In this history unit, we have discussed and debated some of the most famous revolutions and rebellions of the past century, whilst also looking back further into the past and studying the Peterloo Massacre, where the working people of Manchester protested for the right to vote.

The year 6 children have also been busy constructing circuits and testing a number of key questions about electricity in their science lessons. Recent maths lessons have involved lots of reasoning and problem solving in order to answer questions about shape and angles. Finally, in reading lessons, we have been enjoying the fantastic 'Holes' by Louis Sachar.



Next half term, we'll be celebrating world book day by diving into an amazing picture book, 'The Journey' by Aaron Becker. We're also looking forward to our STEM Super Learning Day, where we will be working on the skills needed to find solutions for a range of environmental issues, including flooding! We'll be working on our volleyball skills in Outdoor Games lessons with Mr Fogel. In maths, we'll be looking at basic algebra.

House Points – Spring 1



2500 points



2000 points



1875 points



1000 points



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Out of Hours Learning – Spring 2

Day	Person	Club	Year groups	Collection point
Monday	Mrs Toulson-Burke	Sewing	1 and 2	Front door
	Mrs Baron	Board games	3-6	Back door
	Mr Fogel	Competitions	KS2 (Invite only)	Front door
	Mrs Whelan	Creative	1 and 2	Front door
	Mrs Asif	mindfulness	Invitation only	Front door
	Mrs Roche	Homework club	Closed	Back door
	Mrs Roche	Activity club		
Music clubs	Mr Ramsay	Steel pans	Closed	Front door
	Mr Leishman	Guitar	Closed	Front door
Tuesday	Mr Fogel	Girls Football	4,5 and 6	Back Door
Wednesday	Miss Wallis	Choir	All	Front Door
	Mr Moore	Football	5 - 6 Invite only	Back Door
	Mrs Barker	Lego	1 - 2	Front Door
	Mrs Lord	Art and craft	3 - 4	Front Door
	Mr Fogel	Dodgeball	4, 5 and 6	Back Door
Thursday	Mr Fogel	Football	1, 2 and 3	Front door
	Miss Farmer	Smart club	Year 4 (closed)	Back door
	Mrs Iwnicki	Archery	4,5 and 6	Back door
Friday	Mr Fogel	Basketball	Years 4, 5 & 6	Back door
	Mrs Soni	Dance	Year 1 and 2	Front door



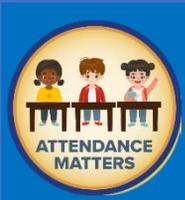
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Please bear in mind that occasionally clubs, trips, visits and events may be arranged or cancelled last minute. Where possible we will give as much notice as we can.

Dates to Remember – Spring 2

Whole School	School opens – Spring 2	Monday 24 February
Year 4	Trip to see the Halle Orchestra	Tuesday 4 March
Whole School	World Book day (no dress up)	Thursday 6 March
Year 4	Trip to Withington Library	Tuesday 11 March
Year 3	Visit Lyme Park	Thursday 13 March
Year 1	Trip to the Manchester Museum	Friday 14 March
Whole School	Comic Relief day	Friday 15 March
Reception	Trip to Smithills Farm	Thursday 20 March
Parents	Second hand uniform sale – am	Thursday 20 & Friday 21 March
Whole School	STEM Project Super Learning day	Friday 21 March
1L	Class assembly – 9.05am	Thursday 27 March
Year 5	Manchester City Boys Tournament	Friday 28 March
3L	Class assembly – 9.05am	Friday 28 March
Year 3	Trip to Withington Library	Tuesday 1 April
1B	Class assembly 9.05am	Thursday 3 April
Whole School	Eid Celebration afternoon	Friday 4 April
3B	Class assembly – 9.05am	Friday 4 April
Whole School	School closes – End of Spring 2	Friday 4 April
Whole School	School opens – Summer 1	Tuesday 22 April



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Attendance & Punctuality

Class	Attendance Spring 1	Class	Attendance Spring 1
NB	94.2%	NL	92.4%
RB	92.9%	RL	90.8%
1B	88.1%	1L	92.7%
2B	93.8%	2L	93.6%
3B	97.3%	3L	93.1%
4B	95.8%	4L	91.5%
5B	95.9%	5L	95.7%
6B	94.1%	6L	92.9%
6P	92.6%	Data as at 12 Feb	

Being late for school disrupts the class.	If your child is 5 minutes late every day, they miss over 16 hours of education. This equates to 3 DAYS LOST.	Being late for school embarrasses your child.	Be prepared. Set the alarm early.
Be prepared. Leave plenty of time to get to school.	Be prepared. Make sure you know what your child needs for school. E.g. P.E Kit.	Being late for school interrupts the class teacher from teaching.	Be prepared. Get your child's things ready the night before.
Being late for school means being late for, or missing assembly.	Being late for school means missing out on the chance to talk to the teacher before lessons.	If your child is 10 minutes late every week, they miss over 6 hours of learning. This equates to 3 Maths lessons and 3 Literacy lessons.	Missing education means your child will not achieve their full potential.
Punctuality is a life skill.	In later life, being late can mean losing a job.	Every minute counts, don't lose learning time.	It's good to be on time.



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

0
DAYS ABSENCE
(190 school days)

100%

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE
Best chance of success

6
DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE

96%

SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE
Harder to make good progress

15
DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE

92%

REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT
Less chance of progress

19
DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE

Below 90%

CAUSE FOR CONCERN
Serious concern, possible court action

Please help us improve our attendance and hit our target of **96%**. We can only achieve this target if we work together.

Attendance this half term is **93.4%**

Attendance for our year to date is **94.6%**

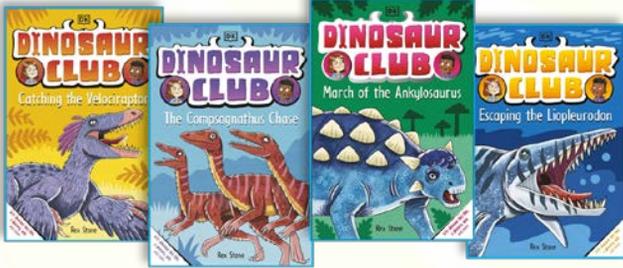
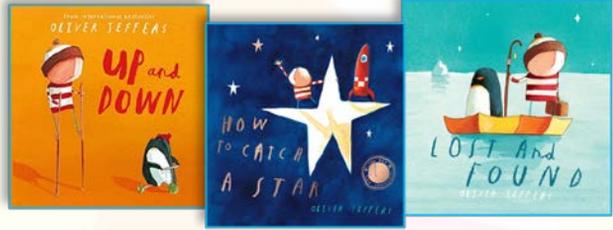


Ladybarn Primary School Newsletter – Autumn 2024

Recommended Authors

Year 1 - Oliver Jeffers

Our author of the half term is Oliver Jeffers. We love his beautifully illustrated and heartwarming stories about adventure and friendship. All his books have meaning and they are great for using as talking points with your child.

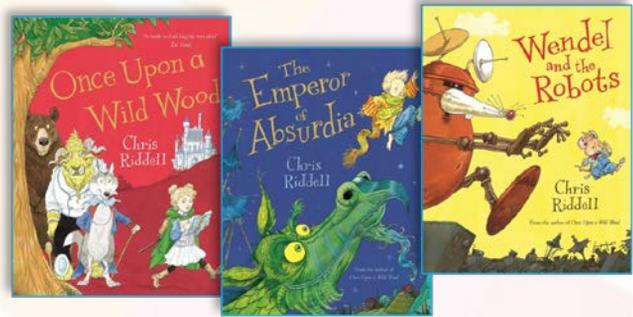


Year 2 – Rex Stone

Year 2 have been reading a book called Dinosaur Cove from the collection and really enjoying the excitement of the adventure stories. These books are excellent for inspiring a world of imagination.

Year 3 – Chris Riddell

Our author of the Half Term is Chris Riddell. We love his unique illustrations and the funny twists in his stories. All his books have interesting characters and are an excellent talking point for you and your child.



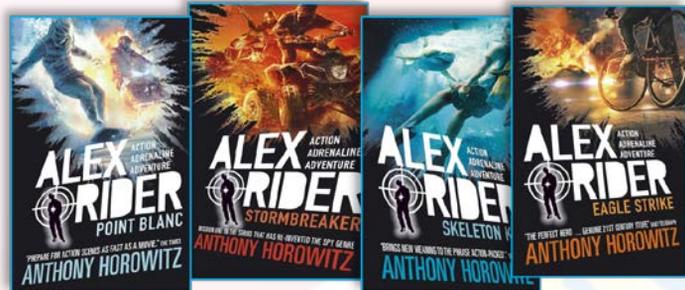
Year 4 – Jamie Littler

Jamie Littler is an author/illustrator and the creator of the best-selling award winning Frostheart series, published by Puffin Books. He writes fast paced fantasy books and as we use chapter 1 of the first Frostheart book in our English work, reading the Frostheart series will really support this work.



Year 5 – Anthony Horowitz

Anthony Horowitz is an author and screenwriter and the creator of the best-selling Alex Rider series. He writes thrilling and action-packed books, and we have Alex Rider: Stormbreaker as one of our Year 5 recommended reads. We recommend reading the rest of the Alex Rider series if you loved this book!



Year 6 – Malorie Blackman

Malorie Blackman is the author of over 60 books, including a range of short stories and novels. She writes captivating, thought-provoking literature that often draws on societal issues in a way accessible for children. 'Pig Heart Boy' is a part of our Year 6 recommended reads and 'Cloudbusting' is a part of our reading curriculum.