

AUTUMN

newsletter

Important dates, Autumn Term 2025-26

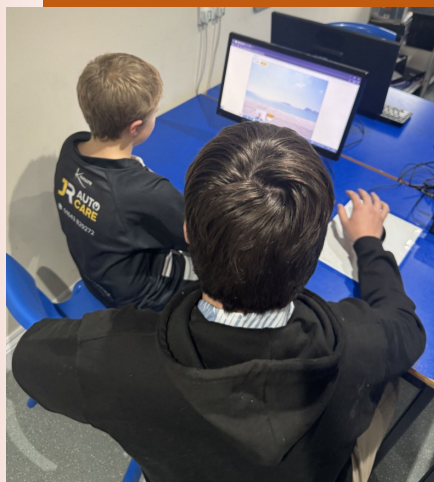
23rd October– last day of Term 1

24th October– INSET day

3rd November- start of Term 2



A group of our older boys have been learning to code using Scratch, and have created games that they invited younger pupils to come and try out; the feedback was constructive and positive!



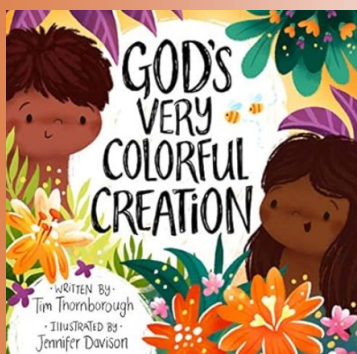
Children using VR headsets to enhance learning in history lessons



We have been working on our oracy skills in English this term, and we had a go at making Lego objects, but there was a catch. Only one of us was allowed to see the picture we were trying to build, one of us could collect the Lego from the box and one of us could build. BUT, we couldn't even look at each other - we had to describe!



A pupil engaging in a Write Dance lesson, developing their gross and fine motor skills through story, music, songs and actions



This term in our Religious Studies and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) lessons, we have been learning about *Christianity*. The aim is to help children explore different faiths and understand the values and beliefs that are important to others. Suzie's tutor group have been thinking about two big questions: "What do Christians learn from the Creation story?" and "Why should I be good?" To support our learning, we enjoyed reading the story "God's Very Colourful Creation" by Tim Thornborough. This helped us remember the order in which Christians believe the world was made. The children listened beautifully, showed lots of interest, and were able to share what they had learned by the end of the lesson. We are very proud



Illustrator and author Joseph Witchall visited our school as part of the Appledore Book Festival

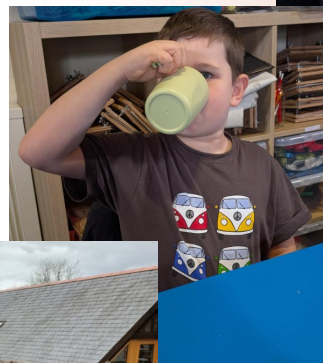
and shared his story of becoming a children's book illustrator and more recently author. He inspired younger and older pupils to build stories from illustrations and draw their



Collecting materials, sawing wood, building a fire, preparing and cooking food to share and eat together at forest school



We made pumpkin soup linked to the story 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. We used pumpkins and onions grown at the farm. The children really enjoyed both making and tasting the soup with a few asking to take the recipe home. One said 'it was the best thing they had tasted'. Next week we are writing up the recipe!



Picking seasonal fruit from our bushes and trees at school to make crumble, boxing, and airfix modelling have all been enjoyed as part of Friday afternoon enrichment this term. We also have new outdoor play equipment the children are burning off their excess energy on!

An Apprentice's Fervor

The same day that the apprentice's master had died, a new man was born. The apprentice walked back to the forge after the funeral and had only a mind full of thoughts of the heat of the forge and his blackened fingers pressing against the metal, creeping across the bottom of the piece of metal he had planned to make into a beautiful sword.

When he reached the forge he looked determined, and a fire burnt deep within his eyes and he felt as if he would never feel anything except from the heat of his hearth and a burning inside his soul. The metal still lay in the forge, melted and warped like the devil's great pitchfork which would one day take his soul the same as it took his master's. As a noble approached the forge. The apprentice shouted, his voice full of disdain and an unexplainable anger and then suddenly he threw his hammer, almost without a second thought. He winced, as the hammer made contact with the noble's head and he heard a mighty crackle as the noble hit the floor. He walked over and grabbed the hammer and then a piece of iron, his hands trembled, but not with anger or with doubt but with a thought that if he put the man's blood into his work it might come out beautiful enough to even sell to the pope himself. He never considered himself to be lucky but he was lucky enough that no one heard his pained grunts as the hammer hit the anvil and made a sound so loud that even the devil would cover his ears and scream with pain.

When he finished the sword he stepped back from the forge, his face emotionless but filled with tears and blood seeping from the cracks of skin on his fingers. His body ached and hurt and felt as if he would fall apart like an old castle being bombarded by new siege machines. He then grabbed the sword and his hammer and the noble's purse before running down the street, pushing people out of the way as he passed, their shouts feeling like faint screeches of children as their village was burnt to the ground and their homes were plundered. Still he ran. Onto the stables where he found himself face to face with the captain of the city guard, a tall rough man with grey whiskers adorning his jawline even as he had gained jowls in his many years. He pushed past the captain and growled as the captain grabbed his arm and pressed his sword against his collarbone, the steel cold and unyielding.

He hesitated for a second before grabbing his hammer and raised it above his head and brought it down onto the Captain's sword and it shattered in half from the impact...

The guard captain's eyes shone with fear and a hint of tears lingering on the sides of his eyes, almost as if they were too scared to fall but just brave enough to linger on the sides and refuse to fall no matter the consequences. The apprentice suddenly turned around and ran towards the forest, his legs feeling tired and heavy as he heard the words,

"Fire already you useless oafs!"

The rude command had come from the guard, his voice booming and deep in the valley that the town resided. As the archers fired, the apprentice could hear them, flying past his head like whispers from the dead or as if fragments of lost souls were enraged and... just as quick as the chase started, it ended, an arrow through the calf and he dropped to the floor. His vision was blurred and deceiving, as the pain shot up through his body and the wound painted the ground beneath him a rusty red as it mixed with the mud and the water churned and gave way underneath him, forming a small indent where his body laid. The hammer which had been used so much and that was caked in blood and grime lay in the mud beside him a reminder of what he could have achieved.

A piece of creative writing by a Year 10 pupil studying
GCSE English Literature and English Language





Some of our youngest pupils developing their looking and listening skills by sharing a story book.

All children at Libra have a birthday cake on their birthday, shared with their tutor group. If their birthday is in the holidays, we have a cake either before or after, depending which side of the holiday their birthday is!



Older pupils studying AQA Entry Level Science carried out a practical experiment to find out what happens to food when it is ingested and moves through the body as part of the digestive system



Dressing up for Halloween!

