



Derby
Grammar
School

Primary Newsletter

12th September 2025

Message from Mr Bond

We take Health and Safety matters with the seriousness that it merits here at Derby Grammar School. Imagine then my alarm when I was informed that a tiger was freely roaming around the school, unsupervised, in clear need of a three course meal. No risk assessment and certainly no consideration for poor old Pastuzo, whose bark was noticeably absent, when the tiger casually strolled into Year 1 and Year 2 for his tea.

Worry not, the tiger was quite tame, although his family will testify to the occasional 'hanger' if food is not forthcoming.

The tea the tiger enjoyed with the Year 1 and Year 2 children clearly produced enough excitement to produce some magnificent writing and even better questions. The opportunity to question a real life tiger (albeit one with an unusual sock choice) was a perfect way to capture their imagination and spark brilliant vocabulary.

So much else to celebrate in the Primary School this week. Some stunning Georgia O'Keefe artwork in Year 3 and Year 4 that will be decorating the entrance to school by Monday and a fascinating visit to Year 5 and Year 6 as they continue to develop their understanding of all things neuroscience and ensure a Happy Mind. Huge fun and a really positive start to the new academic year. I just wonder who might come to tea next week?

Alistair Bond
Headmaster



SEPTEMBER

23

until 29th – Scholastic Book Fair

OCTOBER

4

Something Spook-tacular!
Halloween Fun activity
Morning 10am – 1pm

8

U10/11 Rugby Old Vic
Parent's Evening – 4.15pm – 6.15pm

17

Achievement Assembly

DECEMBER

2

Advance notice – Primary
Christmas Concert 4-5pm All
children expected to attend

MESSAGE FROM MRS GENDERS

Welcome back everyone! A warm welcome to the new members of primary: Avi, Natalia, Aravindha, Hayat, Ali, Svamin and Adham.

As well as welcoming the children, I would also like to officially welcome Mrs Bond to the primary form tutors, as well as Mr Hamidouche (Y5/6 science) and Ms Lakhman (Y5/6 Design and Technology).

The start of the academic year is always a busy one and this year has been no exception. It was wonderful to see you all at the annual cross-country event last Saturday, as well as some of you at our 'meet the teacher event.' You will find attached with this letter the autumn term overview for your child's class, as well as a copy of the slides from our 'meet the teacher' event in week one.




PRE-LOVED UNIFORM REQUEST

If you have any pre-loved uniform which is in good condition which you would like to donate to the PTA please drop it off at school reception. The PTA will be very grateful for any donations.



CLUBS FOR YEAR 2 – 6



We're excited to announce that our clubs begin next week! Art Club has proved especially popular, and we're thrilled that so many children are eager to get creative. To make sure everyone gets a chance to join in, Years 3–6 will enjoy Art Club this half term, while Reception to Year 2 will look forward to their turn next half term. Alongside this, we have a wonderful range of other activities for the children to enjoy: Choir on Mondays, Chess Club on Tuesdays, Band after school on Tuesdays, and Lego Club on Fridays. We're also delighted to welcome back Spaghetti Maths, an exciting after-school club run by an external company on Thursdays. Sessions can be booked directly through their website at a cost of £7 per session. With so many opportunities on offer, there's something for everyone to enjoy – we can't wait to see the children getting involved! !

LABEL UNIFORM

A little plea from Mrs G – please ensure that every item of your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name. We already have a small pile of mystery uniform without owners, and it would be wonderful to see it find its way back home quickly!

Name:

Contact:

Address:



WELCOME BACK PRIMARY!

The long Summer break is over, and what a joy it was to welcome our Primary children back to Derby Grammar School! Our wonderful grounds were filled once again with laughter, smiles, and excited chatter as the children explored the lawns and Forest School, rediscovering their favourite places and sharing them with their new friends.

This year, we were especially delighted to welcome our new pupils into the DGS family. It was heart-warming to see how quickly they settled in, guided so proudly by their classmates as they introduced them to every corner of our beautiful surroundings.

For one day, it felt as though the Primary children had the school almost to themselves – joined only by their friends in Year 7 and Year 12. It made the day feel extra special, like an adventure just for them.

We've missed our Primary children so much – school simply hasn't been the same without their happy, smiley faces and the sound of their giggles filling the air. Now that they are back, the school feels alive once more, brimming with curiosity, joy, and excitement for the year ahead.

Here's to a magical Autumn Term, full of discovery, laughter, and wonderful memories. Welcome back, Primary – we are so glad to have you home!

IN THE CLASSROOMS WEEKS 1 & 2

MY HAPPY MIND

This week we were excited to begin our brand-new 'My Happy Mind' lessons, designed to help children build confidence, resilience and a positive mindset.

A letter has been sent home with details of the free parents' app. This is a brilliant way to explore the programme further and find practical tips for supporting your child's wellbeing at home.

In the classroom this week:

- Year 3/4 enjoyed practising their calming happy breathing techniques.
- Year 5/6 reflected in their journals, writing about times when they overcame a fear.

It has been wonderful to see the pupils engaging so thoughtfully – we can't wait to see how they continue to grow through these lessons!





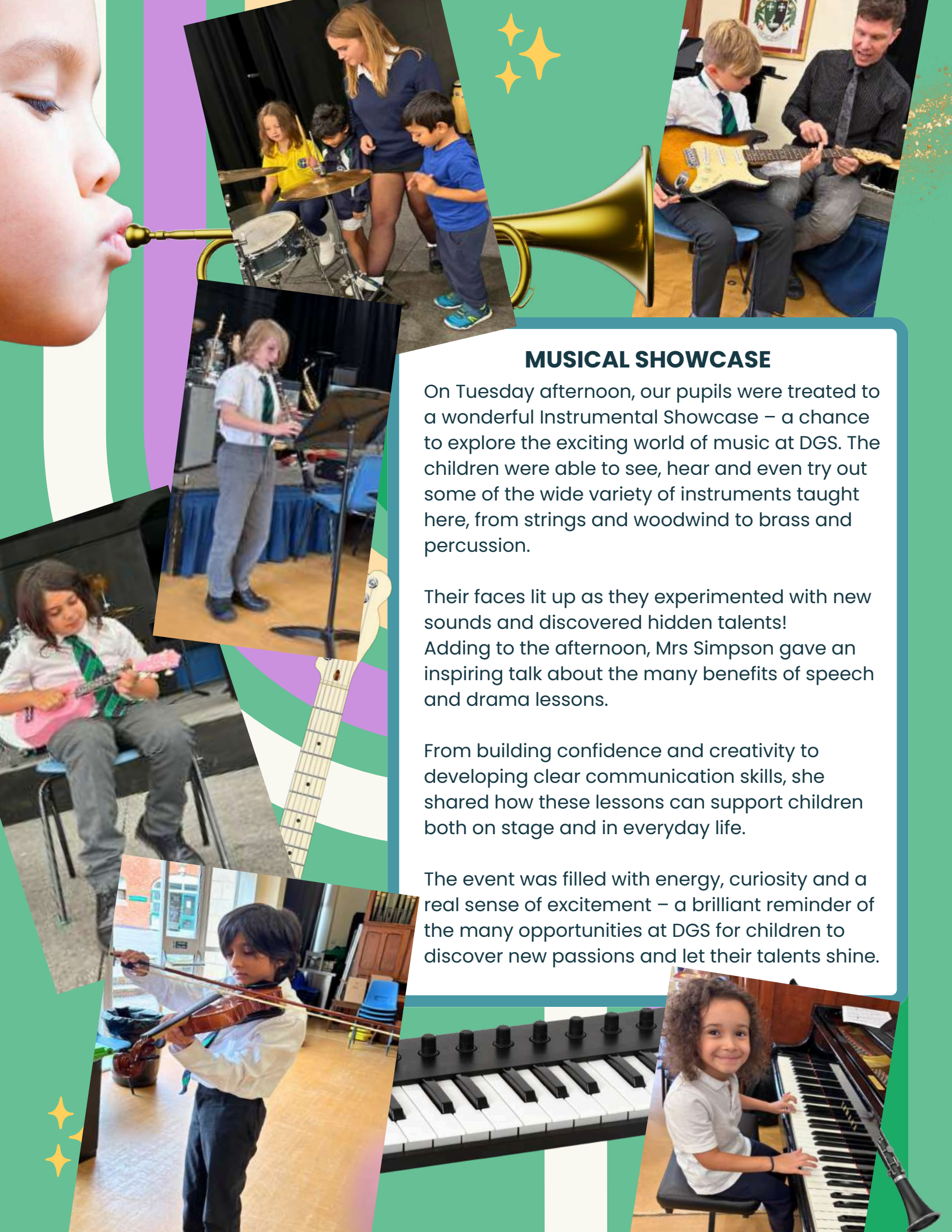
FIRST FRI-YAY OF THE YEAR!

What better way to launch our very first FriYAY! of the new academic year than with an afternoon of sunshine, teamwork, and flying fun? Last week, Mrs Genders brought in gliders for the pupils to construct—and what an incredible time they had! From carefully putting the pieces together to proudly testing their creations, the children threw themselves into the challenge with enthusiasm and creativity.

The real magic came when the gliders took to the skies, swooping across the grounds in the golden September sunshine. Cheers of excitement echoed around as pupils raced after their soaring planes, celebrating every spectacular flight (and even the occasional crash landing!).

One of the highlights of the afternoon was seeing the older children step into the role of mentors, patiently helping their younger friends with construction and launch techniques. The sense of teamwork and encouragement was just as wonderful to witness as the flying itself—proof that FriYAY! is about more than just activities; it's about community, fun, and friendship.

The afternoon was filled with smiles, laughter, and that unmistakable DGS Primary buzz that makes Fridays so special. If this first FriYAY! is anything to go by, we are in for a year full of excitement, adventure, and unforgettable memories. Here's to many more FriYAYs ahead—bring on the fun!



MUSICAL SHOWCASE

On Tuesday afternoon, our pupils were treated to a wonderful Instrumental Showcase – a chance to explore the exciting world of music at DGS. The children were able to see, hear and even try out some of the wide variety of instruments taught here, from strings and woodwind to brass and percussion.

Their faces lit up as they experimented with new sounds and discovered hidden talents! Adding to the afternoon, Mrs Simpson gave an inspiring talk about the many benefits of speech and drama lessons.

From building confidence and creativity to developing clear communication skills, she shared how these lessons can support children both on stage and in everyday life.

The event was filled with energy, curiosity and a real sense of excitement – a brilliant reminder of the many opportunities at DGS for children to discover new passions and let their talents shine.

A WARM WELCOME TO PASTUZO – OUR SCHOOL DOG!



We are absolutely delighted to share how wonderfully our newest (and furriest!) member of the Derby Grammar family has settled in. Pastuzo the school dog has made himself right at home in Year 3/4, and it feels as though he's always been part of our community.

Since arriving, Pastuzo has brought a calming presence and endless joy to pupils and staff alike. He adores spending time in the Primary School – listening quietly as the children read, joining in with mindful sessions, and greeting everyone with his signature wagging tail.

Pastuzo has also been making friends across the whole school, happily meeting senior pupils at breaktimes or lending a comforting paw whenever needed. Whether he's curled up in his cosy bed or out and about enjoying playtime, Pastuzo has already become a much-loved part of daily life at DGS.

It's safe to say – our hearts (and classrooms!) feel fuller with Pastuzo around.





EYFS SETTLE IN BRILLIANTLY!

Our EYFS adventurers have set off on their school journey with excitement and curiosity, settling in beautifully and embracing every new challenge with smiles! This term, we'll be travelling the globe on a learning safari, discovering animals. From stomping elephants to slithering snakes, the children's questions and ideas have taken us on some truly wild adventures already!

In English, our story journey began with the much-loved classic Dear Zoo. The children have loved predicting which animal might appear next, and they've worked hard on sequencing the events to help build their own storytelling superpowers. Their laughter and imagination have filled the classroom as they've begun to create stories of their own.

It has been a magical start to the year, and we are so proud of how bravely and brilliantly our youngest learners have stepped into school life. The adventure has only just begun, and we can't wait to see where their curiosity will take us next!

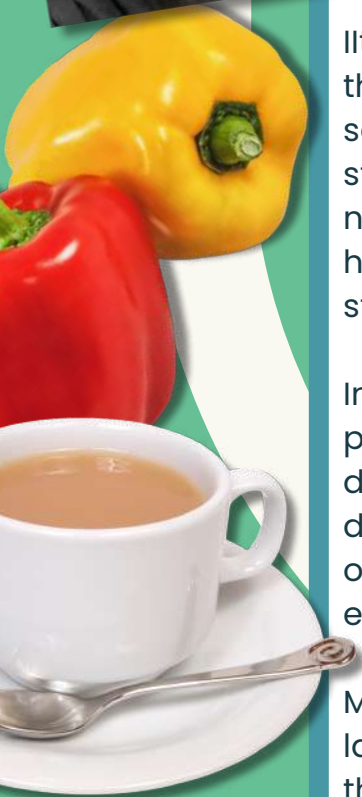


YEARS 1 & 2

It's been a busy and exciting week of learning! In English, the children have been working hard on building brilliant sentences, making sure to use those all-important full stops and capital letters. They are now moving on to our new topic, The Tiger Who Came to Tea – and you may have already heard whispers that a rather cheeky tiger stopped by to share our tea!

In Maths, the focus has been on place value. Through plenty of games and hands-on activities, the children discovered how each digit has its own special job depending on where it sits in a number. There were lots of smiles as they spotted patterns and pieced everything together.

Meanwhile, in Design and Technology, the children launched straight into our Teddy Bear's Picnic theme. First, they explored where food comes from before it reaches the supermarket, then they rolled up their sleeves to follow a recipe and cook up their very own colourful rainbow omelette cakes. They looked fantastic – and tasted even better!



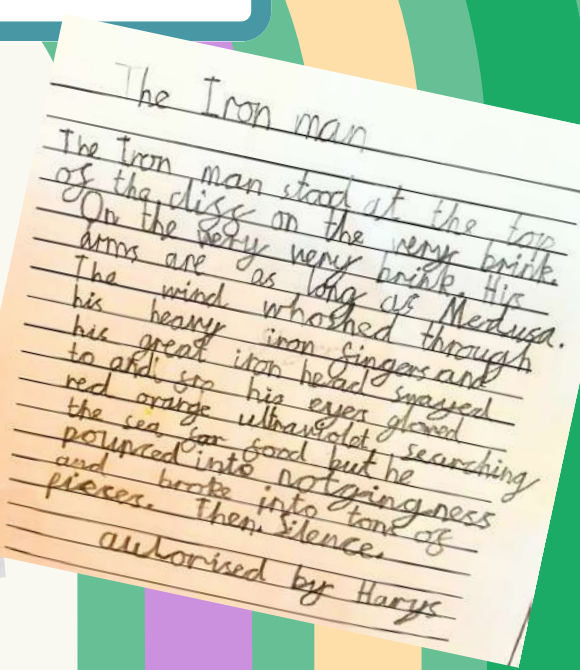
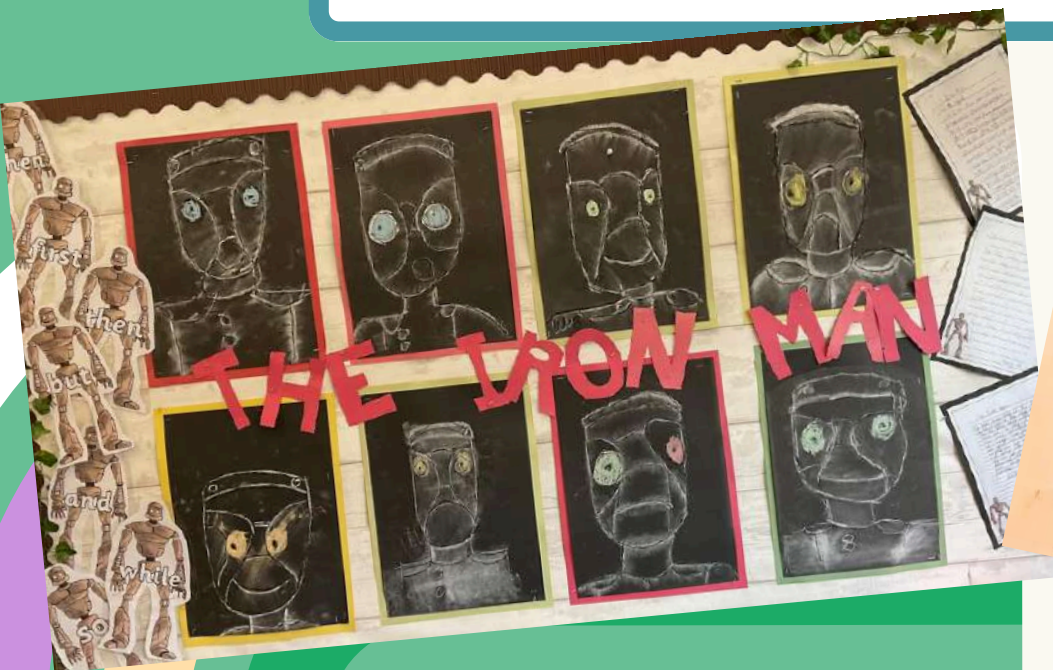
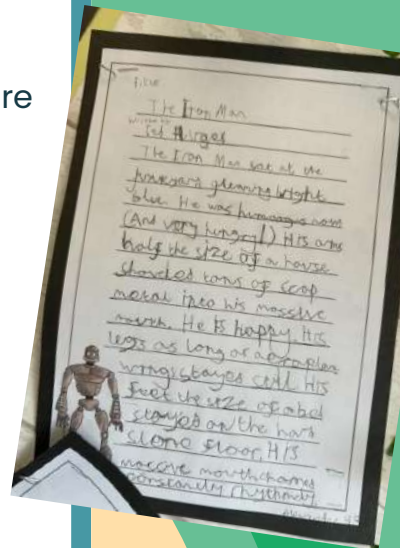
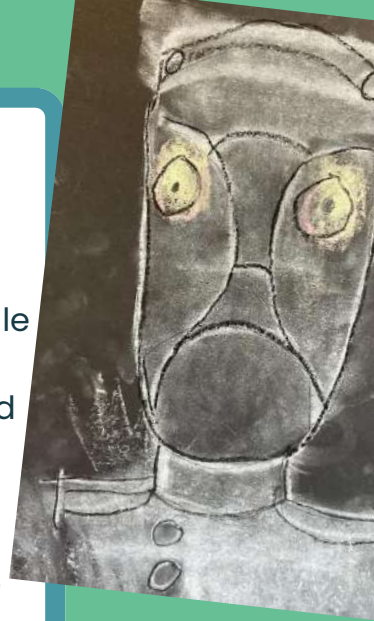
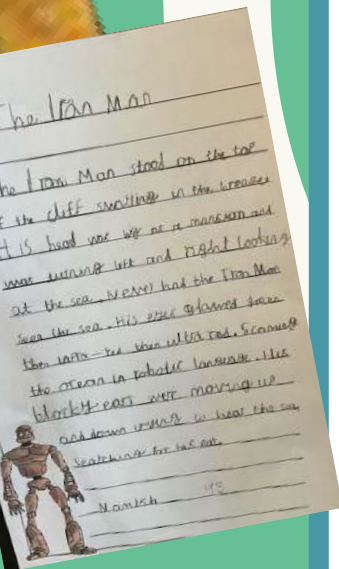
YEARS 3 & 4

This term, Year 3/4 have thrown themselves into two exciting areas of learning. In English, the children have begun reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes – a classic tale that has already sparked their curiosity and imagination. We have been exploring how Hughes creates mystery and suspense through short, dramatic sentences and repetition, and the pupils have been eager to try these techniques in their own writing. A highlight came one afternoon when Mrs Bond was running late; several of the boys immediately began to narrate the situation in the style of the book:

"Mrs Bond couldn't be found. Where had she gone? Nobody knows. Where has she been? Nobody knows. Why wasn't she waiting? Nobody knows..."

It was a wonderful demonstration of how quickly they are applying their new skills.

Meanwhile, in Mathematics, the class have been consolidating their knowledge of place value while also tackling new challenges. They have been comparing, partitioning, and ordering numbers with increasing confidence before moving on to rounding. The children have risen to the challenge brilliantly, and some even managed to round numbers into the millions! Their enthusiasm and determination have been clear to see, and it has been exciting to watch their mathematical confidence grow alongside their storytelling skills.





YEARS 5 & 6

Year 5/6 have thrown themselves into their learning this term with creativity, imagination, and plenty of enthusiasm!

In English, the class have been diving into different versions of the classic fairy tale Hansel and Gretel. Inspired by what they've read, the children are now rewriting the story in their own words, taking on extra writing challenges to add twists, tension, and originality. During drama, we had lots of fun creating still images to bring the characters to life – can you guess which ones we were?

We've also begun our exciting new class novel, *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty. This gripping adventure links perfectly with our Victorian topic and tells the moving true story of Jim, a young orphan whose struggles inspired Dr Barnardo to found his famous children's refuge. The children are already hooked and eager to find out what happens next in Jim's journey.

In Mathematics, Year 5/6 have been busy revising and strengthening their understanding of place value – a vital skill that underpins so much of their learning. With growing confidence, they are building a strong foundation for the challenges ahead.

