



Derby
Grammar
School

Primary Newsletter

10th October 2025



Message from Mrs Genders

Last Saturday's Open Day was truly one to remember – filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a wonderful sense of community. It was a joy to see our school buzzing with visitors, and I was especially proud of our three Primary Prefects – Jackson, James, and Viraj – who represented DGS with such confidence and warmth. They were knowledgeable, engaging, and truly embodied our school spirit. Many parents commented on how impressed they were with the boys' passion for their school and the way they brought the DGS experience to life.

This week, we have continued to welcome several visitors and even hosted a taster day for a prospective pupil. Once again, the feedback was glowing. A special thank you goes to Harys, who was an incredibly enthusiastic and caring buddy, helping our visitor feel instantly at home. Time and again, we hear from families about how kind, welcoming, and respectful our pupils are, and how calm and nurturing our classrooms feel. It's a wonderful reflection of the hard work and kindness our children show every day, and a true demonstration of our school values of Kindness and Respect in action.

I could not be prouder of our pupils – they continue to impress us all with their attitudes, achievements, and sense of community. To celebrate their fantastic efforts, we will be enjoying a Movie Afternoon next week following our Achievement Assembly. This will be a well-deserved treat for all their hard work both inside and outside the classroom.

As we approach the end of what has been a busy and productive half term, I know that both children and staff are feeling ready for a rest. A few early nights might be just what's needed as we head towards the holidays! Thank you all for your continued support – it truly makes DGS such a special place to learn and grow. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Genders
Head of Primary

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

15 Bag2School Collection

17 Achievement Assembly
Break up for Half Term

NOVEMBER

2 Deadline for Scholarship
Applications

5 Fireworks Spectacular – Please
note that there is no aftercare- all
pupils must be collected by
4.30pm after homework club.

7 House Art Deadline

13 Year 6 into 7 Experience Day

27 Staff Inset Day – School Closed

28 Founders Day – School Closed

DECEMBER

2 Primary Christmas Concert 4-
5pm. Parents are invited to watch.
All children are expected to attend

12 Term Ends



IMPORTANT REMINDER: BREAKFAST CLUB AND WRAP-AROUND CARE PROCEDURES

We would like to remind parents and carers of the recent changes to our Breakfast Club arrangements, which are designed to ensure every child is properly supervised, accounted for, and able to start their school day in a calm and positive way.

Breakfast Club now runs strictly from 7.30am to 8.00am and is specifically for pupils who are having breakfast at school. This change allows us to ensure that staffing levels and catering provisions are appropriate, and that each child receives the best possible start to their day.

To help us manage numbers safely and efficiently, it is essential that all places are booked in advance using the Google Form provided. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate unbooked arrivals before 8.00am, as this affects supervision ratios and breakfast service preparation. For pupils who do not require breakfast, our wrap-around care begins at 8.00am and runs until 6.00pm, offering a welcoming and structured environment at the start and end of the school day.

Your support in following these updated procedures is greatly appreciated. These measures are in place to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and smooth running of our morning routines for all pupils.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

ATTENTION PLEASE

07:30 AM
PM



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The children's first School Council meeting was a great success! Each representative shared their ideas with confidence, listened to others with respect, and worked together to make thoughtful decisions. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic everyone was about helping to make positive changes in our school community. What a fantastic start to their School Council journey!

VOTE!

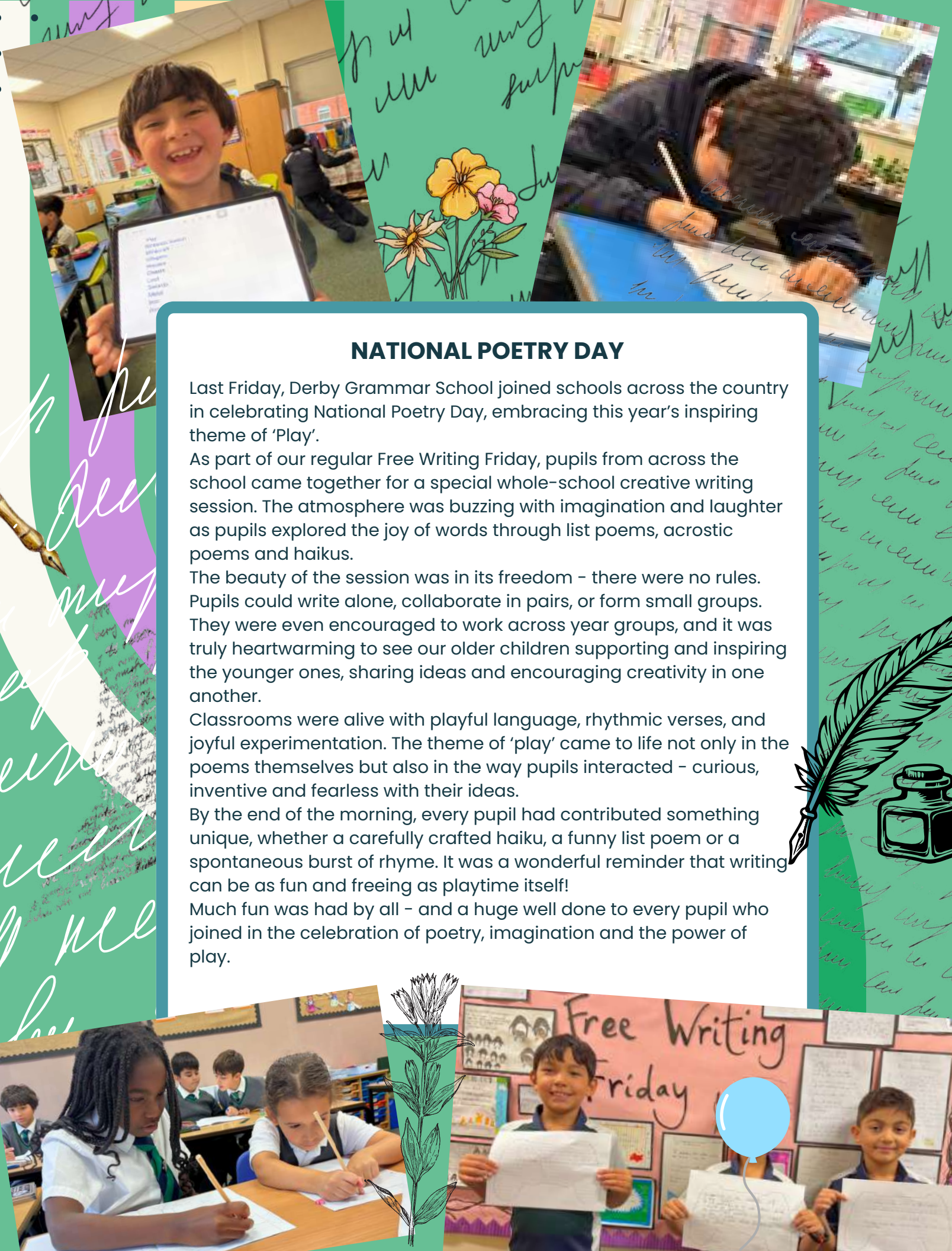
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We are delighted to announce that Natalia is the winner of our recent book raffle! A huge congratulations to her - we hope she enjoys diving into her new reading adventures.

A big thank you to everyone who purchased books at the Book Fair and supported the raffle. Your contributions help us continue to promote a love of reading across the school and provide exciting opportunities for our pupils to explore new stories and ideas.

It's wonderful to see our students engaging with books, whether through reading for pleasure, discovering new authors, or taking part in fun initiatives like this. We look forward to hosting more events and competitions that celebrate the joy of reading





NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Last Friday, Derby Grammar School joined schools across the country in celebrating National Poetry Day, embracing this year's inspiring theme of 'Play'.

As part of our regular Free Writing Friday, pupils from across the school came together for a special whole-school creative writing session. The atmosphere was buzzing with imagination and laughter as pupils explored the joy of words through list poems, acrostic poems and haikus.

The beauty of the session was in its freedom - there were no rules. Pupils could write alone, collaborate in pairs, or form small groups. They were even encouraged to work across year groups, and it was truly heartwarming to see our older children supporting and inspiring the younger ones, sharing ideas and encouraging creativity in one another.

Classrooms were alive with playful language, rhythmic verses, and joyful experimentation. The theme of 'play' came to life not only in the poems themselves but also in the way pupils interacted - curious, inventive and fearless with their ideas.

By the end of the morning, every pupil had contributed something unique, whether a carefully crafted haiku, a funny list poem or a spontaneous burst of rhyme. It was a wonderful reminder that writing can be as fun and freeing as playtime itself!

Much fun was had by all - and a huge well done to every pupil who joined in the celebration of poetry, imagination and the power of play.



HOUSE ART COMPETITION 2025: CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL VALUES!

Our Annual House Art Competition has officially launched this week! This exciting event invites all pupils to get creative and show their House pride. This year's theme is: "Our School Values – Kindness, Respect, Courage and Ambition."

Pupils can explore this theme in any artistic form – painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art or mixed media – and share what these values mean to them personally and as part of the DGS community.

All children are expected to take part, contributing to their House's overall score. Details of the competition are in pupils' homework diaries, so please take a moment to review them and encourage creative ideas at home.

The deadline for entries is Friday 7th November. After that, our judges will select the winning works, and we can't wait to see how our pupils bring Kindness, Respect, Courage and Ambition to life through art. It promises to be another vibrant and inspiring showcase of DGS creativity!

U10/U11 RUGBY

A huge congratulations to our U10 and U11 rugby teams for their fantastic performances against Old Vicarage School this week!

Both teams played with tremendous skill, determination and teamwork, demonstrating just how far they've come this season. From the very first whistle, the players showed real passion for the game — with strong defensive play, creative passing, and some truly impressive runs leading to a flurry of tries.

What stood out most, however, was the sportsmanship and camaraderie on display. Every player encouraged their teammates, celebrated each success, and represented Derby Grammar School with pride, positivity and respect.

It was a brilliant afternoon of rugby that captured the very best of the sport — teamwork, resilience and fun! A massive well done to all involved for their effort, commitment and enthusiasm, both on and off the pitch. You did DGS proud!





EYFS MAGICAL LEARNING ADVENTURES

Reception Class have had an incredibly busy and exciting few weeks, filled with imagination, creativity, and lots of hands-on learning.

Mrs Devine-White has been so impressed with the children's growing confidence – especially their wonderful story recall and developing writing skills. The class have loved retelling their favourite stories and even beginning to write parts of them in their own words.

In Maths, pupils have been busy exploring shapes and creating colourful patterns, searching around the classroom to find circles, triangles, and squares hidden in everyday objects.

There was even a very special mission from our Marketing Lady, Ms Bird, who asked Reception to help find the best sticks for her to turn into broomsticks for our upcoming Spooktacular Open Day!

The children loved every minute – hunting outdoors for the perfect sticks, working together, and showing plenty of teamwork, problem-solving, and imagination.

It's been a magical few weeks for Reception, full of creativity, curiosity, and courage – and we can't wait to see what adventures they go on next!



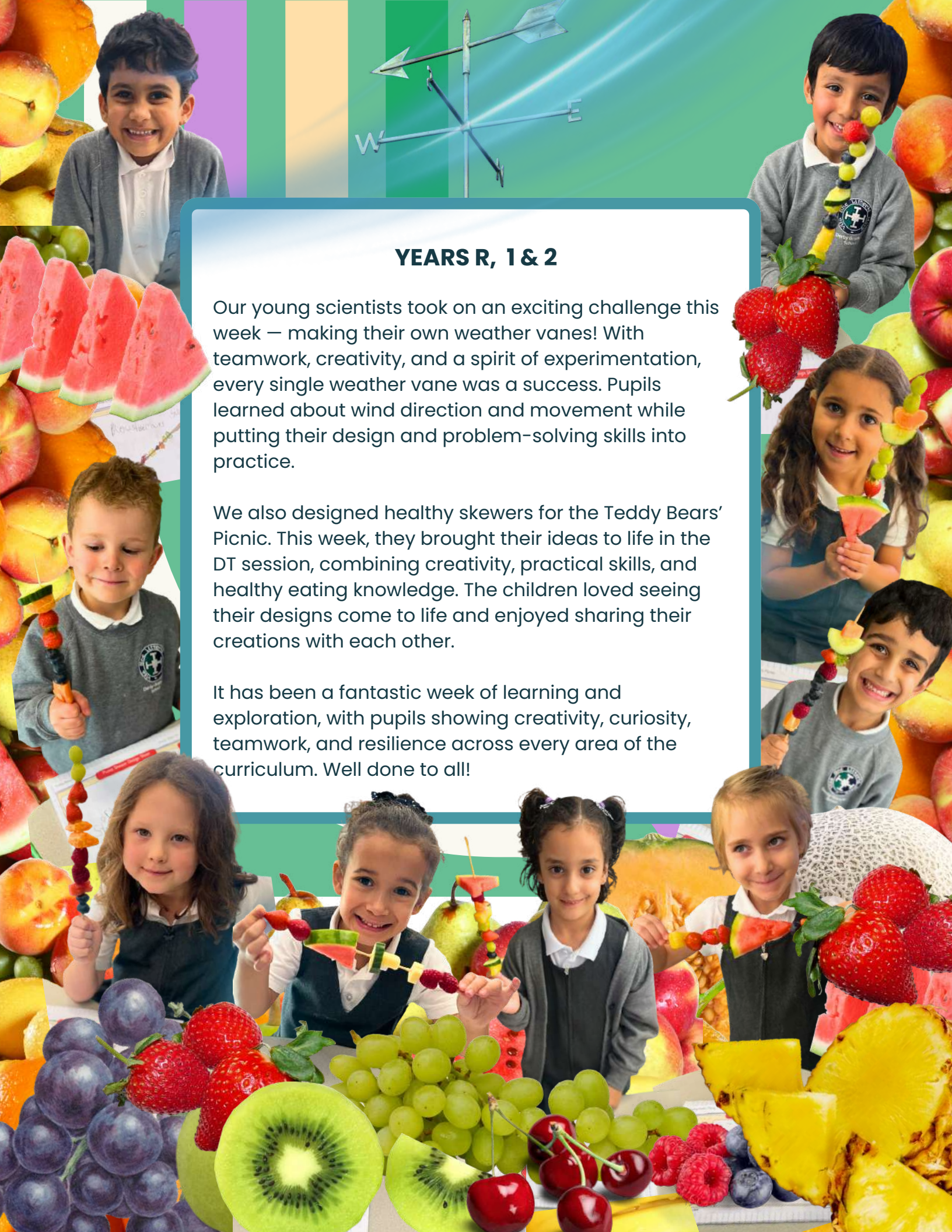
YEARS R, 1 & 2

The children in Reception, Year One, and Year Two have been thoroughly enjoying their autumnal outdoor adventures. This week, they explored pumpkins! Pupils discovered the life cycle of a pumpkin, identified which animals enjoy eating pumpkins, and learnt the names of the different parts of a pumpkin. It was a hands-on experience that combined science, observation, and seasonal fun.

In English, the children have been retelling the story of The Storm Whale. They have been working hard to understand and apply verbs and adjectives in their writing. Every pupil has been incorporating these new skills into their work, creating vivid and engaging retellings of the story while improving their understanding of language.

This week, the children have been focusing on part, whole models and fact families. This topic has showcased some fantastic resilience - pupils kept going even when challenges arose and were often seen helping their peers reach the solution. Their determination and teamwork have been impressive!





YEARS R, 1 & 2

Our young scientists took on an exciting challenge this week — making their own weather vanes! With teamwork, creativity, and a spirit of experimentation, every single weather vane was a success. Pupils learned about wind direction and movement while putting their design and problem-solving skills into practice.

We also designed healthy skewers for the Teddy Bears' Picnic. This week, they brought their ideas to life in the DT session, combining creativity, practical skills, and healthy eating knowledge. The children loved seeing their designs come to life and enjoyed sharing their creations with each other.

It has been a fantastic week of learning and exploration, with pupils showing creativity, curiosity, teamwork, and resilience across every area of the curriculum. Well done to all!

YEARS 3 & 4

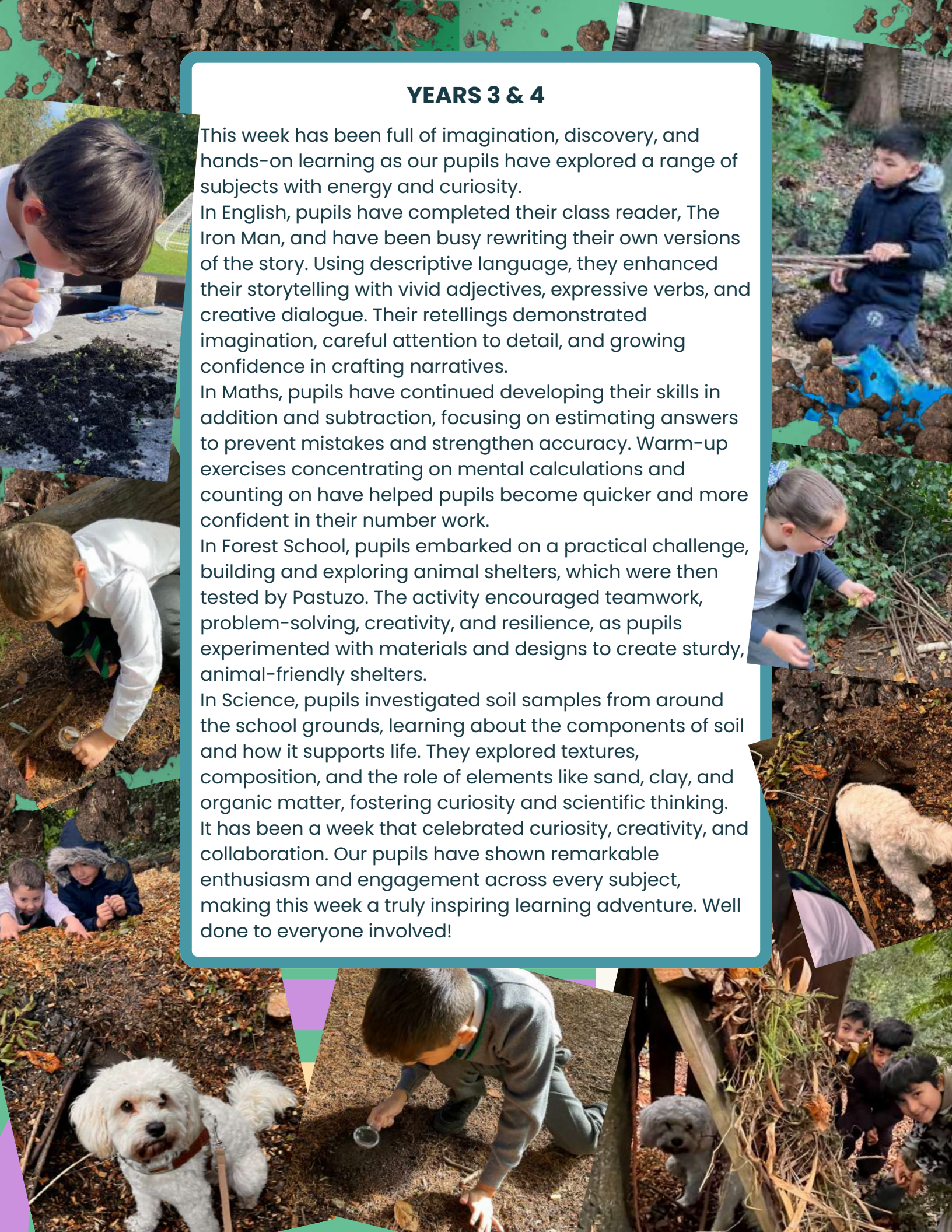
This week has been full of imagination, discovery, and hands-on learning as our pupils have explored a range of subjects with energy and curiosity.

In English, pupils have completed their class reader, *The Iron Man*, and have been busy rewriting their own versions of the story. Using descriptive language, they enhanced their storytelling with vivid adjectives, expressive verbs, and creative dialogue. Their retellings demonstrated imagination, careful attention to detail, and growing confidence in crafting narratives.

In Maths, pupils have continued developing their skills in addition and subtraction, focusing on estimating answers to prevent mistakes and strengthen accuracy. Warm-up exercises concentrating on mental calculations and counting on have helped pupils become quicker and more confident in their number work.

In Forest School, pupils embarked on a practical challenge, building and exploring animal shelters, which were then tested by Pastuzo. The activity encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, and resilience, as pupils experimented with materials and designs to create sturdy, animal-friendly shelters.

In Science, pupils investigated soil samples from around the school grounds, learning about the components of soil and how it supports life. They explored textures, composition, and the role of elements like sand, clay, and organic matter, fostering curiosity and scientific thinking. It has been a week that celebrated curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Our pupils have shown remarkable enthusiasm and engagement across every subject, making this week a truly inspiring learning adventure. Well done to everyone involved!





YEARS 5 & 6

It has been a week full of creativity, learning, and hands-on experiences for our Year 5 and 6 pupils, with highlights across English, Maths, and even the kitchen!

Our budding poets have been hard at work in English, producing beautiful poetry inspired by woodland animals and the enchanting poetry of The Lost Words. Pupils conducted research on their chosen animals and used figurative language to bring their poems to life. From vivid imagery to expressive metaphors, the children's work demonstrated imagination, attention to detail, and a true passion for words. It's clear we have some future poets in the making at DGS!

In Maths, Year 5 and 6 have been strengthening their skills in addition and subtraction, exploring both mental strategies and formal written methods. Year 6 pupils have been investigating numbers, practising rounding rules, and applying their knowledge in problem-solving contexts. They have also completed their topic on position and direction, with an end-of-topic test scheduled for next week. The children's perseverance and enthusiasm for maths continue to impress!

The classroom got a delicious twist this week as Year 5 and 6 took part in breadmaking lessons. Pupils tasted and assessed different breads, learned to make a basic recipe, and are preparing to create their own uniquely designed breads in the coming week. The practical, hands-on nature of this activity has sparked excitement and creativity, with lots of appetising results to look forward to! It's been a week full of imagination, skill-building, and practical learning. Well done to all our Year 5 and 6 pupils for their hard work, creativity, and curiosity!