

Nettlestone Primary School



"Changing lives for changing times"

01983 613171



News from Nettlestone Primary School

Executive Head teacher Miss K Howarth Head of School Mrs A Jacobs

14th February 2025

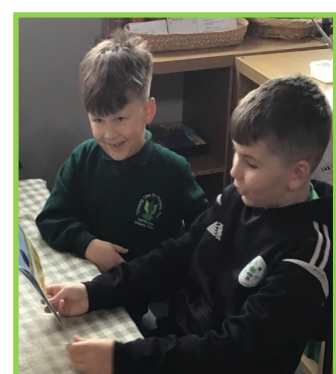
VALUE OF THE WEEK: Love

MAKING IT HAPPEN—OUR STORY TELLING WEEK

Staff have certainly made it happen this Storytelling Week!

This special week has been jam-packed with activities designed to ignite a love for reading and storytelling among our children. Mrs Feist arranged both face-to-face and virtual author visits, giving our children the unique opportunity to meet and interact with those who write the stories. Key Stage 2 children particularly enjoyed sessions with Neal Layton, Christopher Stevens, Tola Okogwu and Jenny Mclachlan whilst KS1 experienced sessions with Joseph Coelho and Neal Layton.

In addition to author visits, we were also excited to bring back Pyjamarama today, which saw children come to school in their pyjamas to enjoy a cosy day of reading and storytelling. This event is always a favourite with the children and staff. We ended Pyjamarama day with hot chocolate and biscuits whilst we watched the staff take part in the Masked Reader and we had to be the panel guessing who was reading the story behind the mask. For more story based activities happening on the Isle of Wight this half term please visit <https://www.iwstoryfestival.com/>





GOODBYE MISS BRADFORD

Today we bid a fond farewell to Miss Bradford, who has been a cherished member of the Nettlestone Primary School community for 12 years. Miss Bradford has made significant contributions to our school, most recently managing the Breakfast Club provision and covering classes as needed. Her dedication and commitment have made a lasting impact on both staff and pupils.



Miss Bradford will be greatly missed by everyone at Nettlestone Primary. Her warmth, kindness, and unwavering support have touched the lives of many. While we are sad to see her go, we are also excited for her as she embarks on a new journey in the fostering sector. We know she will continue to make a positive difference to the lives of children and families.

We wish Miss Bradford all the best in her new role and thank her for her years of service and dedication to our school. She will always be a part of the Nettlestone Primary family and we hope that she will continue to visit us if her new job gives her the time to do so!

We are delighted to announce that after interviews held on Monday, Sammie Rea will be joining us as our new School Administrator soon after half term. Ms Rea brings a wealth of experience in office administration and is eager to make a positive impact in her new role.

Her enthusiasm and dedication will undoubtedly be a great asset to our school community. We look forward to welcoming Ms Rea and working together to continue providing the best support for our students and staff.

WE ARE A NUT FREE ZONE!



Can we politely remind all parents to check food items that are being sent into school. We have had a significant number of incidents where our vigilant staff had stopped children eating items containing nuts. These are life threatening incidences for some of our children.



Please also be mindful of morning routines as well. If your child enjoys a nutty snack for breakfast you must make sure that hands have been thoroughly washed and teeth cleaned before heading into school.

Please DO NOT allow your children to eat these nut based snacks on the way into school. Thank you in advance for your support.

WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK! MENTORING WEEK THIS WEEK!

MONDAY

Farm

TUESDAY

Cross Country
Competition

WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY

Playtime change visit
by Young Govn

FRIDAY

KS2 Celebration
Assembly
Reception Class Visit

MAKING A HEALTHY CHOICE—WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

The charity World Book Day® is holding its annual celebration on Thursday 6th March right across the UK and Ireland. You may well have seen or start to see, over the half term break, World Book Day advertised in supermarkets and book stores. We do appreciate that children are more likely to enjoy reading when their choices are championed and reading is fun but we also appreciate that asking children to dress as a book character can be stressful and expensive for parents. Therefore, once again, we will be making the healthy choice, **not to ask our community to do this.**

All children will be given a free book to celebrate the day and we would rather see pictures of them enjoying their reading in their favourite places rather than seeing them dressed up. Please feel free to send us your reading pictures on Seesaw.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—REVIEW OF COSTS FOR CLUBS AND WRAP-AROUND CARE

Due to ongoing financial challenges within the Federation, inadequate government funding, and continually increasing running costs, the Governors have requested a review of the cost of providing clubs and wrap-around care. Our aim is to continue to provide the best possible offer with the resources we have and, as much as we can, not to reduce any existing offer.

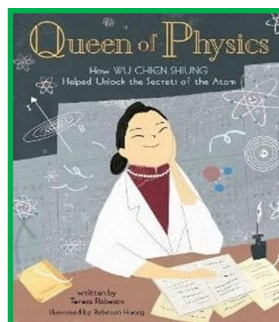
Our review will determine the cost to the school of providing the care, including wages, sustenance, and other related expenses, to assess if a price rise is necessary. Given that we haven't increased the costs of clubs for a very long time and as our general running costs have increased, we are anticipating some level of increase but please be assured that any increase will only take effect from the start of the Summer term.

We invite parents to share any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding this review. Your feedback is valuable to us as we strive to provide the best possible care for your children and to support this we will be sharing an electronic survey with you along with this newsletter. Please share your views to make a difference. Please be mindful that our care offer is determined by the availability of our staff team and is not part of their contracted times. Thank you for your support and time in completing this survey.



WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY— ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

This week in assembly Miss Beale shared the story of Wu Chien Shiung and how she helped to unlock the secrets of the atom. Her story demonstrated the love, encouragement and support she was given by her devoted parents and supported our whole school value this week of 'Love'. If you would like to listen to the text please click [here](#).



Don't forget to
book your
mentoring
appointments.

Mentoring
is the first
week back!



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE— USE OF AI

It was internet safety day on Tuesday this week. AI-generated content and tools like chatbots, content generators, and summaries are becoming increasingly common in popular online apps and services. These AI tools offer many benefits, such as helping users find information, create content, and receive support quickly through chat functions. However, there are also risks associated with their use, especially for children.



The content children encounter might not always be age-appropriate, legal, or promote healthy behaviours and choices. There is a risk of harm through the misuse of AI content generators, which can create realistic-looking content intended to cause harm, such as bullying and sexual abuse.

We have been alerted to a new webpage created by the NSPCC to help better guide parents to the world of AI and help them to learn more about artificial intelligence content and tools and discover simple ways to help your children stay safe. Make the healthy and safe choice to take a look at the page by clicking [here](#)

Poetry Performance Assembly

On Wednesday morning, the whole school enjoyed our second 'Poetry Performance Assembly'. Children in every class had been busy performing a poem to share with the rest of the school and each class was eager to show their learning, as well as to watch what everyone else had prepared. The teachers all attended the assembly and there was a great sense of occasion, as Reception class started off this wonderful celebration. Reception class has not yet started to attend whole school assemblies and so very much impressed everyone with their brilliant performance and also the wonderful way in which they sat and listened to everyone else's poems. The improvement in all of the children's confidence since the very first Poetry Performance Assembly in the Autumn Term was astonishing. The aim of these assemblies is to help children to further develop their skills of oracy, performing to a large audience and using their voices and gestures to convey the meaning of what they are saying in a lively, engaging manner. We all enjoyed this assembly so much that we are planning another one next half term and have even invited the governors!



**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT
THERE ARE NO CLUBS ON
THE FIRST WEEK BACK!**

This is due to mentoring!

KEY DATES FOR NEXT HALF TERM

Year 6 Showcase Assembly—
7.3.25

*Dates for
the Diary:*

Year 3 Showcase Assembly - 13.3.25

Year 2 Showcase Assembly—21.3.25

Year 1 Showcase Assembly—28.3.25

Year 4 Residential Parent Meeting—8.35am—
2.4.25

Year 5 Residential Parent Meeting—8.35am—
2.4.25

WE CAN MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES

To kick start Safer Internet Day, Years 3-6 have just taken part in an interactive, online lesson with Tech She Can focusing on Cyber Security.

Firstly, we discussed what personal information is; how to protect it and what online privacy is.

The children were also made aware of careers within Cyber Security (e.g. Ethical hacking, a Cyber Threat Analyst and an Incident responder – acting when a hacker accesses a system) and Online Privacy (e.g. a software developer or a Cryptographer – keeping valuable information safe from hackers).



We discussed what a scam is and the different types of scams (e.g. phishing emails, pop up messages, creation of apps and fake online deals). We pretended to be Cyber Threat Analysts and completed an activity whereby we were given different scenarios and had to decide whether they were 'safe' or 'sus'.

The children were introduced to encryption and firewalls and the importance of this for online privacy.



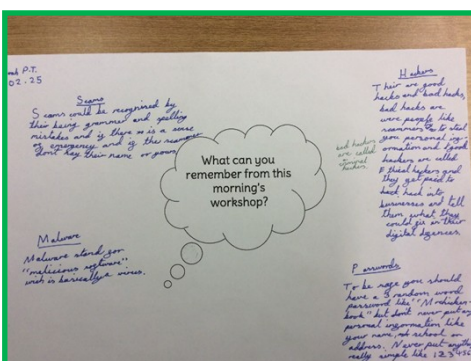
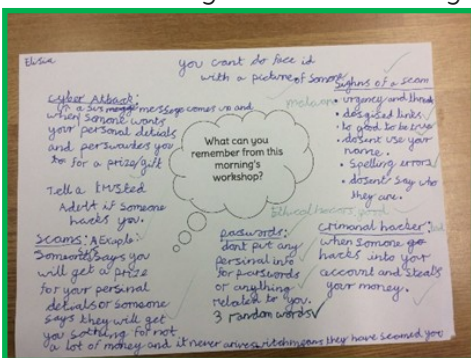
Finally, we discussed device security and the importance of keeping devices secure. The children had the definition of malware (e.g. computer viruses) explained to them and the importance of not having a 'weak' password. We learnt the three random words are the most effective to combine for a safer password. The children were informed of the importance of software updates and biometrics (e.g. Face ID) for device security. We learnt that biometrics are features unique to you to prove identity and "It's like having a key, but the key is you."

We ended the session with reminders of where to go to find advice and guidance about keeping safe online.

Year 6 were very well informed regarding internet safety but they found the Safer Internet Day very informative.



The webinar explained clearly the risks the Internet poses but it also shared ways to stay safe when we access the Internet. We were particularly interested in the idea of three random words for passwords and the idea that there are ethical hackers working to help companies with their internet security.



Years 5 and 6 enjoyed the Trustworthy Trout activity. They loved playing detective as they read texts, emails and messages to decide whether they were trustworthy or not.

Today is internet safety day and in Reception we talked about what to do if something pops up on the screen when playing on a device. Everyone knew you must stop and tell an adult. We listened to a story and talked about how the girl felt during the story using emotion cards.

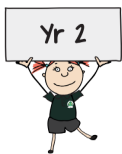
SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?

This week in preschool our little learners have been showing love and kindness. We were dynamic designers and made our own love hearts. We explored mixing paints to make pinks and purples to paint our hearts then using our fine motor skills and hand eye coordination we threaded our hearts with string. We talked together about feelings, using our zones of regulation to help support our learning. We thought about words support our understanding of love and kindness such as gentle, nice, soft & helpful and we used opposites to support our understanding of words.



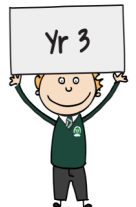
This week Reception have really enjoyed participating in Nettlestone's storytelling week. We have read lots of books and watched some recorded webinars from authors and illustrators and watched how to draw videos by authors. We have enjoyed taking part in our reading challenges, especially when we had extra time to read with our Year 6 buddies this week. We have made bookmarks, as well as sharing our favourite stories and making books. We have continued learning about Space and listening to an information book about galaxies, stars and planets. Reception participated in our school poetry performance assembly on Wednesday and performed a poem to the school. On Tuesday we took part in our safer internet day. We talked about what to do if something appears on a device when playing. We discussed that we should stop and tell. Today we have had lots of fun taking part in our pyjamarama day and enjoying the book swap shop.

It has been a lovely end to the term here in Year 1. This week in Phonics we spent time reviewing all of the phonemes and tricky words we have learnt this term. In English we explored different instructions and used drama to act them out. The class then used this to write a simple instruction of how to grow a carrot. On Wednesday the class performed their performance poetry 'We Can' in assembly. They did very well at remembering the actions and adding expression to their performance. In Maths we have been using our numbers bonds to 10 to recognise patterns for number bonds to 20. In Science we discussed all of our learning from this term. We observed our cress and sunflower plants to compare the changes they have made over the weeks. In Computing our learning has enabled the class to program a Bee-Bot and find alternative routes. In Geography we looked at the weather in polar regions and linked this to Art and made some cool northern lights pictures! I hope everyone has a restful break.



In Year 2 this week, we have been having a wonderful week investigating stories. We have focused on a book called 'Our Tower.' The children really got stuck into this and enjoyed it from beginning to end! In Maths, we have been continuing to look at 2D shapes. The best time was had by all today as it was Pyjamarama and we all discovered new books to read over the holidays as well!

We have had a fabulous week this week. We were particularly proud of ourselves for learning the poem 'Bed in Summer' by Robert Louis Stevenson off by heart. We loved thinking about the expression we would use in reading this poem and also the gestures we could add. We performed this poem to the whole school during our poetry assembly and received a loud round of applause! In class, we have had a fun time carrying out this week's reading challenges, which have included reading under the table and reading in a different classroom. (We went down to Pre School and had a brilliant time reading with the younger children. We hope we can go back to visit them soon!) We also enjoyed listening to a story from when we were younger 'Stick Man' - and using the rhyming pattern to predict which words would come next.



A lovely end to the term this week in Year 4. We have loved celebrating Nettlestone's Story Telling festival this week where we have had visits from local authors Christopher Stevens and Neal Layton as well as a webinar with author Tola Okogwu and the author of our current class novel Jenny Mclachlan who has a new book in the Land of Roar series. We have also enjoyed taking part in the reading challenges this week and finishing today with Pyjamarama day and the new to you book swap. In Maths this week we have continued to look at perimeter where we have calculated the perimeter of rectilinear shapes as well as finding the missing lengths in rectilinear shapes to allow us to calculate the perimeter and also calculating the area of polygons.

This week Year 5 have focused on multiplication methods (reminding ourselves how to use the array method followed by the grid). We have also been completing daily activities to celebrate storytelling week and performed the poem 'What do you think counts?' as part of our poetry showcase assembly. In addition, we also took part in an online lesson for Safer Internet Day. We spent time discussing what a scam is, how to identify one and how we can protect ourselves online. We looked at a variety of messages and scenarios to decide which were 'safe' and which were 'sus'. Well done Year 5 for engaging so well this week. Enjoy your half term holiday!



This week in Year 6 we took part in an excellent Safer Internet Day webinar. We discovered that a password using three random words is very secure. We also discovered that there are a number of careers in internet security: biometric engineers, cyber threat analysts and even ethical hackers! We enjoyed the activities too. We played detective as we read a variety of texts, emails and messages and then decided whether they were trustworthy or not. We gave Sherlock Holmes a run for his money! We have continued our work with fractions: multiplying fractions by integers and dividing fractions.

CONVERSATION STARTERS!

Want to know what your children have been learning this week? Here are some conversation starters that may help you talk to them about what they have been up to in class!

PRE-SCHOOL

Talk to me about...love and kindness and how we might feel.

Words to use...gentle, kind, helpful, soft .

Tips for the week...help to explain meaning of words by using the opposite.

We have been reading...Pop! by Matt Carr.

YEAR 1

Talk to me about...the weather in the UK and other countries!

Words to use...North Pole, South Pole, equator, sunlight, short days.

Tips for the week...a split digraph is a digraph that is split by a consonant. Such as 'a-e' (cake), 'i-e' (five).

We have been reading...We Can By Michael Rosen.

YEAR 3

Talk to me about ...writing a poem with a long title but only one word.

Words to use ...poetry workshop, Joseph Coelho, expression.

Tips for the week... poems don't have to rhyme!

We have been reading... Bed in Summer by Robert Louis Stevenson.

YEAR 5

Talk to me about...multiplying using an array and grid method.

Words to use...array, grid, partition, multiplication and addition.

Tips for the week...remember the signs to spot for a scam when engaging online.

We have been reading...a variety of different extracts this week to celebrate story telling.

YEAR R

Talk to me about... safer internet and pop ups.

Words to use... stop, close and tell.

Tips for the week... to keep reading and enjoying books at home during half term.

We have been reading... Space fact books and a range of books for story week.

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... 2d shape.

Words to use... sixty-three years, reign, nine children, forty grandchildren, wore black, eighteen years old, Queen of Europe.

Tips for the week.... to read as many new books as we can over the holiday week.

We have been reading...The Queen's Hat by Steve Antony and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... Roman soldiers, Safer Internet day, Story Telling Festival, perimeter of rectilinear shapes and polygons, rhetorical questions, paragraphs and Pyjamarama day.

Words to use... Pyjamarama day, Internet safety, rectilinear shapes, polygons, perimeter, rhetorical questions and paragraphs.

Tips for the week... continue to practice your times tables and common exception words.

We have been reading... The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan .

YEAR 6

Talk to me about...Safer Internet Day. Ask me about the three word password and the role of an ethical hacker.

Words to use:...internet security, password, cyber, biometrics, trustworthy, scam.

Tips for the week... think about your passwords. Are they secure/strong?

We have been reading... our new class novel: Jake Atlas and the Quest for the Crystal Mountain by Rob Lloyd Jones.

Celebration Assembly

Harry S., Charlotte P., Nyla and Hideki



WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU!



FINANCIAL FRIDAY—FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please can we remind all families that **children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a yummy free meal every single day.** To date only around half of our community are taking up this **free offer** and it would be great to see more families doing so. We are really lucky to have a fabulous chef on site and the menu is always published for parent's information in the newsletter to help you decide whether you want a **free meal everyday** or just on selected days.



For children in Key Stage 2 and any parent that has a change in personal circumstances the eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at apply for [free school meals](#).

We would encourage any parent who has faced a change in personal circumstances to consider the criteria and apply if they are eligible.

If the application is approved eligibility can open a gateway to a host of additional benefits for your child including supporting the purchase of school uniform, funding for school trips and additional in-class support. It really is worth applying.

Lunchtime Menu — from Chartwells

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Cheese and Tomato Pizza & Potato Wedges	Beef Bolognese with Pasta	Roast Pork & Roast Potatoes	Chicken & Vegetable Pie & Mash	Crispy Chicken Burger
Vegetarian	BBQ Quorn Fillet	Chinese Vegetable Noodles	Roasted Vegetable Hotpot	Macaroni Cheese	Quorn Dippers
Dessert	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse	Chocolate & Apple Cake	Fruits of the Forest Jelly	Chocolate Cookie	Flapjack with Fruit



Please don't forget to order your meals on School Money before you come to school on Monday!