

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

28th March 2024

Value: Honesty

WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY - ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK



On Monday Mrs Jacobs introduced to the children a wonderful story based on a real life hero - Greta Thunberg. Mrs Jacobs explained that already and at such a young age, Greta has impacted on so many people across the planet and will continue to do so over years to come.



It was shared that Greta has been an inspiration to so many and has been a leading light with regards to the current climate crisis. Mrs Jacobs discussed one of our British Values and how through 'individual liberty' she is challenging adults and politicians alike and is now known as being one of the world's most notorious climate activists.



The Mission Possible set to the whole school by Mrs Jacobs was 'How will you make a small change that can make a big difference to our world?'



NETTLESTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL DEMONSTRATE THEY CAN 'MAKE IT HAPPEN!' IN SPANISH

On Tuesday, the whole school enjoyed a very special, extended assembly as it was the eagerly-awaited Spring Term Inter-House Spanish Quiz, which celebrates our learning of Spanish language and culture, as well as extending our exploration of countries across the globe.

Teams of children from Year 3, 4, 5, and 6, sat at the front of the hall, representing each house, but the whole school was involved in answering questions and many bonus points were earned through excellent contributions from children of all age groups.

Each team worked collaboratively and demonstrated resilience in tackling questions on a range of topics. Children used their knowledge of phonics to decode words and showed their comprehension of a text written in Spanish, as well as answering questions about the Geography of Spain, its traditions and culture, and its royal family. They also identified famous landmarks across the world, including the Taj Mahal and L'Arc de Triomphe. Children additionally explored landmarks and flags of other European countries -including the Irish and Ukrainian flags. All of the children did very well and enjoyed putting their learning from our regular Spanish assemblies, as well as from weekly class work, to good use.

The final scores were: Yellow House 18, Green House 19, Blue House 23 and Red House 26, which meant that Red House proudly raised the Spanish trophy for this term.



GOVERNORS SEE HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Yesterday our Governors met at Nettlestone to see and monitor our Mission Possible curriculum in action. They met with several staff members and focused on some specific areas of provision including looking at how we teach reading across the school, how children are taught to speak out to stay safe, found out a bit more about the bespoke therapeutic support that is offered across the Federation and how children are supported using the Pupil Premium.

In what was a very busy morning, the Governors were appreciative of the hard work of the staff and offered the following feedback to be shared in the newsletter this week;

'Another brilliant morning seeing the amazing work being undertaken at Nettlestone! The Year 6 children we spoke to were very articulate and were able to speak confidently about all aspects of safety.'

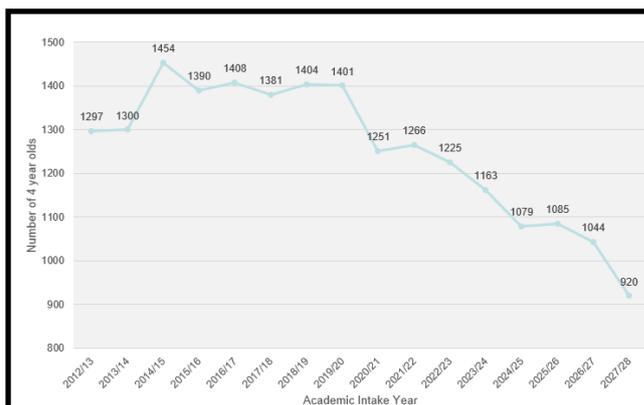
'It was great to see how reading is taught in KS2 and the children really enjoying this aspect of learning.'

'It is really encouraging to see how well the school caters for all abilities and needs—including those supported by Pupil Premium.'

'Thank you, this has been an inspiring morning, so much more goes on behind the scenes that I had no idea about! Teachers work, creativity and commitment is impressive and the children are clearly benefiting. I feel grateful and proud to be part of the community and I appreciate that the staff have tough jobs and are doing brilliantly with what is available.'

SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT—YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You may be aware that the Isle of Wight has experienced a decline in the birth rate over recent years and this means that there are far fewer children starting primary school than in previous years. This decline is projected to continue with less than 1000 children expected to join the system in 2027/28. This means that there are currently and will continue to be too many primary school places on the Island.



Currently there are 1898 vacant primary school places on the Isle of Wight. This translates to a significant financial risk to the Isle of Wight Council as schools struggle to meet all of the financial demands placed upon them if they are not full. As surplus numbers increase over the coming years schools will be faced with ever greater financial challenges and reduced ability to offer a wide, quality, and varied curriculum. Ultimately, this will impact school standards and the opportunities available for our children.

The Isle of Wight Council want to make a difference and want to make changes to the primary school system in order to give parents more certainty and children a more secure educational offer on the Island but inevitably this will mean the closure of some existing primary schools. The Isle of Wight Council have made it very clear that this is a whole Island approach and will consider **ALL** schools—therefore our schools, like all others, remain vulnerable.

The Governors of Nettlestone & Newchurch Primary Schools wish to draw parents attention to a series of public meetings that are being hosted by the Isle of Wight Council, details of which can be found at the end of the newsletter. It is really important that parents make representation at these meetings in order that they can fully appreciate the extent of the issues and the changes that will impact their children's education in the next year or two as according to the published timeline, proposed school closures will take place in **August 2025**.

I CAN MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES—A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

We have been contacted by Public Health and have been asked to remind parents to remain vigilant to the signs and symptoms of whooping cough. Please make the healthy choice to read and act upon the information.



Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

New data published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows there has been a continued increase in pertussis (whooping cough) cases at the start of this year, with 553 confirmed in England in January, compared with 858 cases for the whole of last year (2023).

The increase in whooping cough across England is occurring after a prolonged period of low case numbers due to restrictions and reduced social mixing patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that cases of whooping cough rise cyclically every few years, with the last peak year, 2016, recording 5,949 cases. The current increase is coming at a time when there has been a steady decline in uptake of the vaccine in pregnant women and in children.

In response to increasing case numbers, the UKHSA is reminding mums-to-be to get protected against whooping cough so that their young baby has protection from birth against this serious disease and to ask their midwife if they are unsure. UKHSA is also urging parents to check that their children are vaccinated against whooping cough, which is offered to all infants at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age (as part of the 6-in-1 combination vaccine) with an additional dose.

More information about whooping cough signs, symptoms and vaccination can be found on this [NHS website](#)

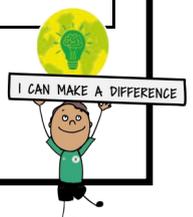
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—IMPORTANT DATES

The summer term is traditionally associated with end of academic year assessments but these can sometimes catch parents out as they often take place sooner than they think!

Please take note of the important assessment dates for your child's year group below and make the healthy choice to do all that you can to secure regular attendance in order that your child does not miss out on important learning in advance of the testing dates. It goes without saying that your child should not be taken out of school for planned absence during their testing window as these dates are statutory and not within the school's ability to modify.

Year	Assessment	Date
 Yr 1	Phonic Screen	Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 10 June 2024 .
 Yr 2	Phonic Screen – retake	Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 10 June 2024 .
 Yr 4	Multiplication Assessment	Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 3 June 2024 .
 Yr 6	End of Key Stage 2 National Assessments (SATs)	The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May 2024 .

Thank you for your support.

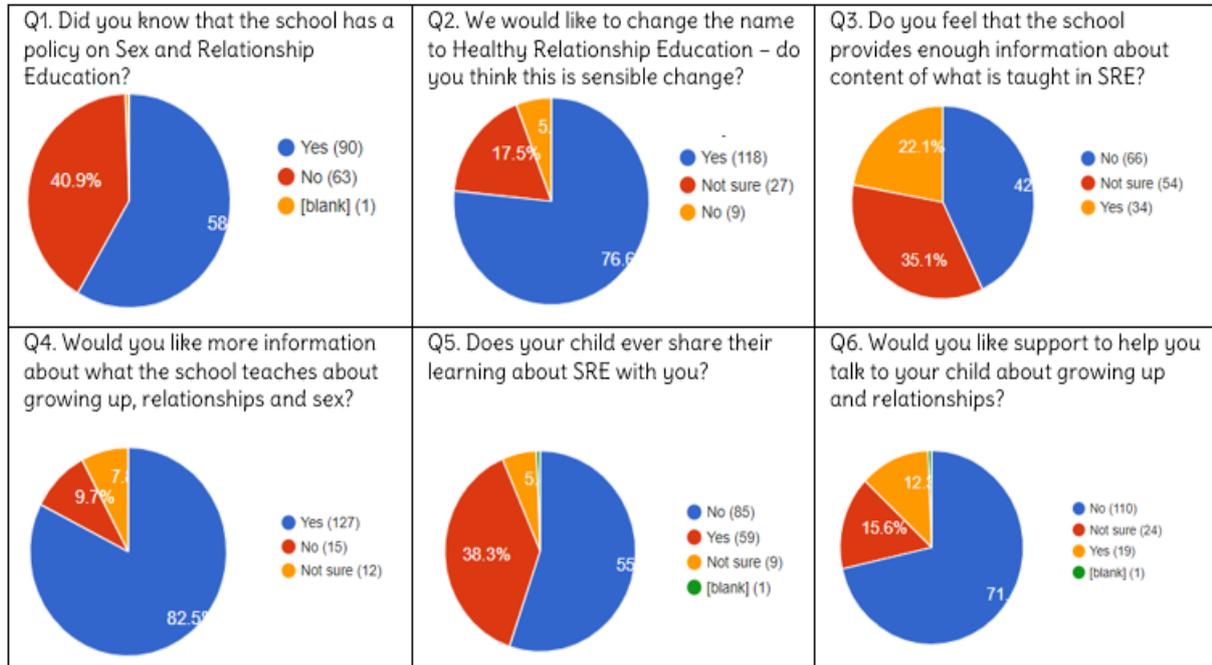


THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR VIEWS - HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Last week we asked parents/carers to share their views on aspects of our Sex and Relationship Education as part of a wider consultation. We had 154 responses to the simple questions posed and the outcomes can be seen below.

Miss White will use the information shared to inform the provision going forward and think carefully how better to engage with parents so that all of the community have a clear and concise understanding of the subject matter being taught and the resources that are being accessed.

Please be reminded in the meantime that all curriculum content can be accessed via our school website.

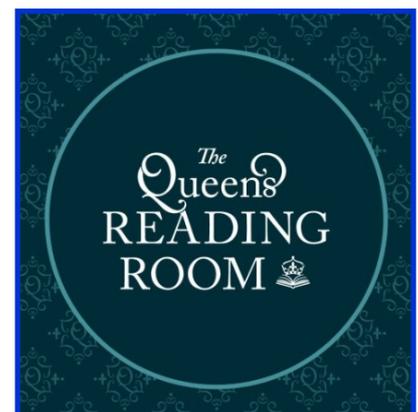


MAKE THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO READ LIKE THE ROYALS!

To me reading is a great adventure, I have loved it since I was very small and I would love everybody else to enjoy it as much as I do. You can escape, and you can travel, and you can laugh and you can cry. Every type of emotion which humans experience is in a book.

~ Her Majesty Queen Camilla, March 2024

Yesterday, Queen Camilla hosted a reception to celebrate her charity 'The Queen's Reading Room'. The event shared new research that suggests a powerful link between reading fiction and improved mental health, brain health and social connectedness. It was shared that by reading just 5 minutes a day can reduce stress, improve concentration, and help people to feel more connected.



At Nettlestone Primary School our Respect Squad made a similar link in their assembly last term when they suggested that children 'take a moment' to read when they are feeling overwhelmed, stressed or in need of relaxation. It seems that their informal advice has now officially been endorsed by the Queen herself!



We promote healthy choices as one of our Mission Possibles and so we would like to encourage all of our families to make the healthy choice to continue to read every day during the Easter holidays not only to improve their skills but also to feel more enriched and stress free—just like the Queen!

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE - WE SHOW RESILIENCE WITH OUR LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE

Our parents may not be aware but, as part of our Health & Safety protocols it is now advised that as well as having effective measures to evacuate the building, schools should also have an effective lockdown procedure. It is also important that these measures are regularly tested. On Monday, Mrs Jacobs reminded the children about our Lockdown Procedure and how it is used to keep us safe. The children were re-familiarised with the sound of our warning airhorn that is blasted 7 times to alert the children to the fact that we need to practice this 'in school' safety procedure.

Staff recognise the need to be sensitive and not to worry children unduly and so our practice was described, this time, as a whole school game of 'hide and seek'! This ensured that the children understood at an age appropriate level the need to keep hidden and quiet for the duration of the drill.

Our Governors, as well as a visiting Health & Safety inspector witnessed our drill taking place yesterday and were absolutely amazed at how seriously every single member of our community took the drill and also by the silence that descended upon the school! Even our Pre School children showed how sensible and safe they could be by staying quiet and hidden from sight.

This really did highlight our Mission Possible of 'I can be resilient!' and we are super proud of our Nettlestone team!



THANK YOU FONS FOR OUR EASTER EGG HUNT

Didn't they do well?

We all had a fantastic time hopping around the school field last week as part of our eggtravaganza hunting clues for our Easter Egg Hunt.

Thank you to FONs (Friends of Nettlestone) for 'Making it Happen' and enabling so many members of our community to enjoy this event.

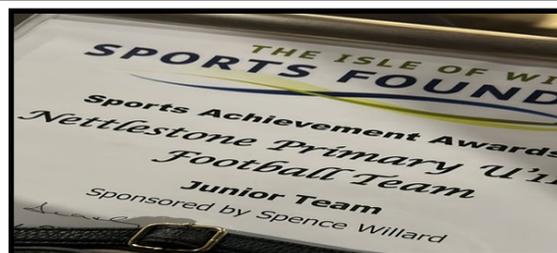
A phenomenal £460 was raised and a big shout out goes to our Nisa - Nettlestone's own Vic's Stores - who donated all of the amazing and very large, Easter Eggs.

We do hope there is some chocolate left in the shops for others to enjoy this Easter!

A vibrant, colorful poster with a light blue background and green grass at the bottom. On the left is a white rabbit with pink ears and a pink nose. In the center, there are several pink flowers with green stems. The text on the poster reads: 'FONS Friends of Nettlestone School' in white and green. Below that, in pink, it says 'Thanks to everyone who supported our Easter Egg Hunt on Friday - we hope you had a great time!'. Then, in pink, 'A special thank you to our friends at Vic's Stores in Nettlestone who provided the delicious chocolate eggs - We have raised...'. The number '£460' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. Below that, 'HAPPY EASTER!' is written in white, bold, capital letters. At the bottom, it says 'Proudly sponsored by Nisa' in black, with the Nisa logo in yellow and black.

NETTLESTONE JUST MISS OUT AT THE IOW SPORTS AWARDS

Last years U11 girls football were finalists in the Isle of Wight Sports Awards that took place last Thursday at Medina Theatre. The girls were nominated for going the whole season unbeaten and for their commitment to training and sportsmanship.



Unfortunately they did not win overall but we are very proud of them for getting nominated and being selected as finalists. Very well done girls.

U9 GIRLS FOOTBALL—RURAL CUP ...THEIR RESILIENT SHONE THROUGH!

Our U9 girls played magnificently in the final of the Rural Cup. They played excellent football throughout the game but unfortunately could not get the ball past the Northwood goalkeeper. Camped in the attacking half for both halves they peppered the opposing keeper but each time the ball was saved. Hitting the post in the first half, the game ended at 0-0 so we had to go to lottery of penalties.

Five brave pupils stepped forward to take a penalty and only one was able to score past the goalie. Maya A was also able to save 2 penalties but sadly we lost 2-1. The girls can be very proud of their efforts and we are very proud of our girls. [#gogreenarmy](#) [#LetGirlsPlay](#)



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—WHAT'S ON DURING THE 1st WEEK BACK

MONDAY 15th

Dance Live
Rehearsals at
Newchurch

TUESDAY 16th

NFER Research Year 6

WEDNESDAY 17th

Year 5 Sailing

THURSDAY 18th

SEND Parent
Workshop

FRIDAY 19th

Celebration
Assembly

Clubs List shared
with parents



Find out more about plans for Island education at public drop-in sessions



The Isle of Wight Council is holding a series of public drop-in sessions which will focus on improving education provision and how school place planning is undertaken.

The sessions will look at the high numbers of surplus places that currently exist across the primary sector and the further increase that is forecast for future years.

Council officers will discuss the significant impacts that not managing the surplus has on the schools themselves and children's education.

The events are taking place within the context of the development of a new Education Strategy for the Island which will address all aspects of the system and how we can improve the quality of education on the Isle of Wight.

These public events are open to everyone and offer valuable insights into the challenges faced by our local education system. The drop-ins are taking place across the Island as this is a 'whole Island' issue and potentially has an impact on all education providers.

Residents will hear about how data is collected and used to forecast pupil places, and also about how the shortfall in pupil places in schools affects academic outcomes, school budgets and recruitment.

These sessions are an information sharing opportunity to provide context and raise awareness about the local educational opportunities and challenges.

They will be open to discussion, ideas and suggestions. All who are interested in education on the Island are welcome and encouraged to attend and share their views. We expect there to be related formal consultations later in the year, after specific proposals have been developed.

People are asked to book in advance if they wish to attend one of the sessions and further information on how to do that can be found on the [council's website](#).

Upcoming public drop-in sessions:

Monday 15 April, Riverside Centre, Newport, PO30 2QR, 9am to 11am **and** 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Thursday 18 April, Freshwater Memorial Hall, PO40 9UU, 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Monday 22 April, Ryde Academy, PO33 3LN, 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Wednesday 24 April, Cowes Enterprise College, PO31 8HB, 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Thursday 25 April, The Bay CE School, PO36 9JH, 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Wednesday 1 May, Wroxall Community Centre, PO38 3DP, 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

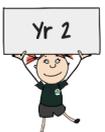
SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?

This week our little learners have been independent individuals and we have seen lots of exciting play ideas. The children have been independently seeking out friends to share activities and experiences with. We have seen good turn taking, sharing and problem solving when completing puzzles and playing new games together. Our little learners have been engaging in imaginative role play extending and elaborating on their own play ideas and recalling experiences in their own life and those of them familiar to them. Lots of the children said how excited they were to take home their seeds they planted. We hope you enjoy looking after them at home and watching them grow.



Reception class have been looking at signs of Spring this week. We have painted daffodils, made bird feeders, and observed lots of changes in our environment. In Maths, we are learning about odd and even numbers. In Phonics, we are nearly at the end of our Phonics unit and have been reading words ending in /s/ and /es/.

In Year 1 this week the children have been learning about Palm Sunday and the theme of welcoming. They made palm leaves and we recreated Jesus' journey into Jerusalem with lots of enthusiastic cries of Hosanna! The children have also been continuing with their English work based on the book 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett. The children looked at the structures of letter writing and then wrote letters to Pete the Badger to stop tidying the forest. In Maths, this week the children have continued learning about mass and have been comparing different masses. In Computing, as part of their unit on digital painting the children have continued to use different colours and lines as well as shapes and lines to create pictures. In DT, the classroom continues to be covered with cardboard and plastic as the children continue to make their greenhouses.



This week Year 2 we have begun learning about mass and capacity. We have been learning about lighter, heavier and balanced. We have also learned about how to read the measurement on scales and compare different objects and weights in grams. In English, we have written and recorded our final recounts, in a non-chronological report, about the events and key facts on the Great Fire of London. This has been a great topic linked with our History. We have enjoyed learning about how the fire happened and it was stopped. This week, in Computing, we have been learning about how to take a good photograph, thinking about what to include in a frame before taking a photograph. We have also discussed how to identify if photos are real, or if they have been edited. In RE, we learnt about Easter and discussed about feeling happy and sad. In PSHE, we reviewed our learning from Financial Friday, helping Harold the Giraffe decide whether to save or spend his money, and how to save for something important. In DT we made our moving vehicles. We had lots of fun, applying our knowledge and problem solving to ensure our vehicles move.

In Year 3 this week, we have been learning about the concept of beliefs in our Religious Education Day. We discussed what Christians believe about Easter and what our own personal beliefs are. In English, we have been writing our description of the main character Ali. In Maths, we have been problem solving by using multiplication and measuring in metres and centimetres. In Design Technology we have designed our feast fit for a Pharaoh and in History we have found out how pyramids were built.



A busy week to end the spring term. On Tuesday we had RE day where we looked at rituals and routines. We discussed what the differences were before thinking of routines and rituals that we carry out. We then looked at the story of the empty tomb at Easter and created some amazing art work to represent the empty tomb. We also learnt about the Paschal candle and what these symbolise and how they are used. In Maths this week we have been converting mixed numbers to improper fractions and improper fractions to mixed numbers. We wrote our own persuasive letter to Charlie Bucket trying to persuade him to take us to the chocolate factory instead of Grandpa Joe. We used our skills of persuasive language, rhetorical questions and organising paragraphs around a theme.

We have had a very busy four days this week. We have completed our final piece of writing for The Highwayman poem learning journey. We imagined that we were Tim the Ostler and we wrote a letter, explaining his feelings after Bess' death. When we wrote our letter, we were able to use our learning throughout the learning journey to help us, drawing on our descriptive grids and our insult generators in order to include a rich use of language to fully demonstrate to the reader the depths of Tim's despair. In Maths, we have applied our ability to find fractions of numbers to use a given fraction to be able to work out the whole. Some of us find it really helpful to draw bar diagrams to represent the whole and to split these up to show the fraction with which we are working. During our RE learning this week, we carried out a fascinating investigation of The Eucharist, focusing on the importance of symbolism. We particularly enjoyed watching a video clip with children our own age talking about their first Holy Communion.



This week in Yen class we studied the concept of resurrection as part of our R.E. day. We revisited the Easter story and the events of Holy Week. We discussed the importance of the cross as a symbol for Christians and the importance of the concept of the resurrection too. There were many thoughtful questions and contributions during the class discussions. We had the opportunity to share our dream school trip presentations with the class who then voted on their preferred trip. Our teachers were really impressed with the quality of our presentations and the research behind them. We had the opportunity to add our sleep survey data to our databases and use formulas to answer our questions. It has been a busy term and our teachers are proud of our hard work and resilience!



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...how to look after my seed I planted.

Words to use...water, sunlight, warmth, growing.

Tips for the week...have a restful & fun half term.

Please share with us on seesaw any adventures you have.

We have been reading...Cock-a-doole-poo!

YEAR 1

Talk to me about... Palm Sunday

Words to use... Jerusalem, Palm Sunday, Jesus, palm leaves, Hosanna, Welcome

Tips for the week... Can you snuggle up over the holiday and share your favourite books about Spring?

We have been reading... 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett

YEAR 3

Talk to me about... How good were the Ancient Egyptians at building.

Words to use... measure, pyramid, angles, symmetry, limestone, blocks, sledge, roll, lift.

Tips of the week...We can use centimetres and metres to measure the length and height of something. We can use metres and kilometres to measure distances.

We have been reading... 'I was there at Tutankhamun's Tomb' by Sue Reid and 'Shrinking Violet Absolutely Loves Ancient Egypt' by Lou Kuenzler.

YEAR 5

Talk to me about... what we have been learning in RE this week

Words to use...Eucharist, Holy Communion, Mass, Chalice, bread, wine, symbol

Tips for the week... Different branches of Christianity have different beliefs concerning the Eucharist. Whereas Catholics believe in Transubstantiation (upon consecration, the bread and wine received actually becomes the body and blood of Christ), in the Church of England, it is thought to simply represent the body and blood of Christ.

We have been reading... The Highwayman

YEAR R

Talk to me about...odds and even numbers

Words to use... pairs, matching, odd, even, one left over

Tip of the week... remember to log your reading on BoomReader!

We have been reading... nursery rhymes

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... measurements, photographs, framing.

Words to use... mass, weight, heavier, lighter.

Tips for the week... to share facts about the Great Fire of London.

We have been reading... 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... RE day rituals and routines, converting mixed numbers into improper fractions and improper fractions into mixed numbers. Recording our podcasts and conductors and insulators in electrical circuits.

Words to use...Paschal candle, ritual, routine, improper fractions, mixed numbers, conductors, insulators and podcast.

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

We have been reading... 'Mr Gum and the Secret Hideout'.

YEAR 6

Talk to me about... the results of my sleep survey. What did I discover?

Words to use... resurrection, data, cell references, formatting, formula.

Tips for the week... read the instructions on the Easter SATs revision packs-10 minutes per subject per day.

We have been reading... 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' by Rick Riordan. Who is Percy's father?

ONE LAST PUSH!

Can you make it happen?

We need everyone to make one last push and support the vote for Nettlestone at Tesco to raise money for break and lunch and after school club equipment. Every little helps!



MAKE IT HAPPEN—FREE HOT MEALS

The eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found here : [free school meals](#).

We would encourage any parent who has faced a change in personal circumstances, perhaps related to the current cost of living crisis, 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 financial benefits for your child including supporting the purchase of school uniform, funding for school trips, additional in-class support.

Please also remember that children in EYFS, Y1 and Y2 are routinely eligible for a **FREE HOT MEAL** (no application process necessary) and Laura, our chef makes yummy meals that they will enjoy. Please contact the school office if you require any more information about free meals.



Lunchtime Menu – Chartwells for week beginning 15th April 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Jacket Potato	Beef Burger & Wedges	BBQ Chicken & Roast Potatoes	Turkey Lasagne	Fish Fingers & Chips
Vegetarian	BBQ Quorn Fillet & Wholegrain Rice	Veggie Burger & Wedges	Veggie Cottage Pie & Gravy	Chilli No Carne & Crispy Tortilla	Quorn Nuggets & Chips
Dessert	Crispy Crackle Bar & Fruit	Raspberry Jelly	Carrot, Orange & Sultana Slice	Vanilla Ice Cream	Flapjack