Sundon Lower School

Half Term School News - Autumn (1) 2026

Welcome to our Autumn edition of School News. This is our half-termly newsletter where we celebrate all the exciting things that we have been doing over the half term. We hope that you enjoy reading about our exciting Summer Term so far!

Message from our Headteacher

Reaching the end of our first half term is always a proud moment, and reflecting on the past few weeks fills me with gratitude for our incredible school community. This half-termly newsletter highlights the enthusiasm, hard work, and memorable experiences our pupils have enjoyed so far.

It has been a term defined by strong beginnings: settling our newest learners in Swan Class, developing independence across the school and strengthening Maths and English skills across all year groups.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Please enjoy a well-deserved, refreshing break, and we look forward to seeing all the children back, refreshed and ready, on Monday 2nd November!

Swan Class

English

Swans have been enjoying reading our termly book 'We're Going on a Monster Hunt' by Malorie Blackman and Dapo Adeola. The children have been following the explorer's adventures in the story and creating their own maps as well as orally retelling the story. We also read 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas and have been talking about the colours to represent our emotion, such as red we associate with anger and yellow to be happy.

Nursery and Reception have made a great start to their phonics this term. Reception has started level two phonics and have learnt lots of letter sounds. They have also been practising writing letters with the correct orientation with chalks outside and crayons and pencils inside. They have also been using magnetic letters to practise sounding out the letter sounds and blending the letters together to make the words. All Reception children are now going home with reading books to practise retelling the stories using the pictures and having a go sounding out and blending the letters together. Nursery have also been having fun playing sound games and rhymes to support their learning.






'I like drawing the breakfast for Marcus.' Zaira

'I liked drawing the maps.' Jace

'I know letters s,a,t,p,i,n' Ben

Maths

Reception have been learning to recognise an amount without counting. For example, saying 3 when they recognise three dots on the dice. We have also been using our counting wands to practice counting groups of objects and saying how many there are altogether. Nursery have been learning about the terms 'fewer' and 'more than'. Reception and Nursery have also been amazed by our very tall sunflowers that grew over the summer and have been measuring the tallest and shortest sunflowers, as well as comparing their own heights.




'I liked playing number bingo.' Lottie

Expressive Arts and Design

The children have been painting their own version of a monster following on from our class story. 'We're Going on a Monster Hunt', and created their own maps of the explorer's journey. The children also painted their own self portraits and talked about the differences in their eye and skin colours as a class. We have been learning about floating and sinking and the children created their own boats which they tested to see if they could float. The children extended their learning by discussing how they could improve their model. To celebrate Harvest, Swans performed and sung 'Big, Red Combine Harvester' to the school and created a class scarecrow for our allotment.







'I painted a rainbow monster.' Ben
'I liked making and playing with the boats.' Aoife
'I was trying to put a flag on my boat.' Cavalli
'I liked painting the monster.' Leo

Working Together Sessions

Thank you to the parents who came to our 'share a story' session and watched our live phonics lessons to learn more about how we teach phonics in Reception. Next term we will be doing a Christmas craft working together session so please check the newsletter for more information.

'I liked daddy reading books to me.' Mila-Rose



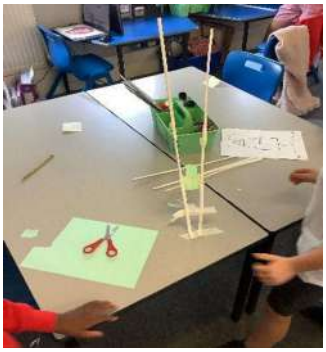
Golden Book

Mila-Rose

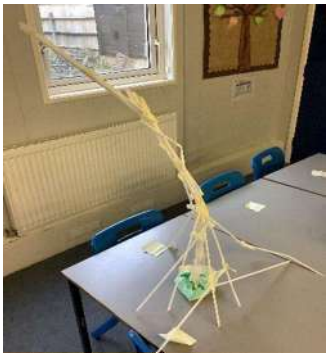
Dove Class

Team Building Activities

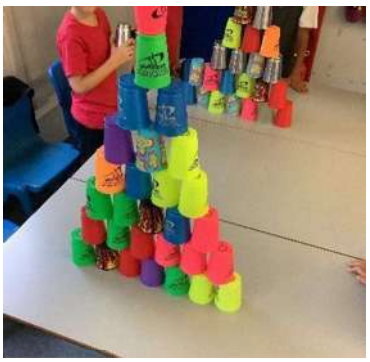
We began the term with a range of fun and engaging 'getting to know each other' activities. The children were challenged to work collaboratively to build a free-standing structure as tall as possible, as well as using stacking cups to construct the tallest tower they could. Through these activities, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills while thoroughly enjoying the challenges. We were particularly impressed by the variety of imaginative ideas and creative approaches they used!











I enjoyed making my tower with the group - Jasper

I liked building the tower with my friends - Atlas

Stormbreak

We have made a fantastic start with our daily Stormbreak sessions and have already achieved our first Rainbow Award for completing 25 Stormbreaks! The children really look forward to these daily movement breaks, which provide an opportunity to be active while also developing their understanding of important skills and values such as self-worth, resilience and positive relationships.





I enjoyed doing the new movements - Amaari

I liked doing so many Stormbreaks so that we got the Rainbow award - Anvir

Science

This half term, we have been learning all about Animals Including Humans. The children have enjoyed exploring how animals can be grouped and classified according to their characteristics, habitats and diets. Through a range of practical sorting and classification activities, they have developed their understanding of different species and what makes them unique.

We have also been learning about the five senses and how they help humans to explore and understand the world around us. The children particularly enjoyed taking part in an exciting taste and smell investigation, where they used their senses to identify and describe a variety of different flavours and scents. They made predictions, shared their observations and discussed how our senses work together to help us gather information. The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout our science lessons and have enjoyed developing their scientific vocabulary and investigation skills.













I loved getting the pictures of the animals with my friends - Amar

I liked tasting the honey - Emilia

P.E.

In P.E. we have been developing our ball skills and learning how to use them effectively in a range of games and activities. The children have been practising their throwing, catching, passing and moving with the ball, while also developing their ability to work as part of a team. We have introduced a variety of defence games, where the children have been learning how to defend space, mark an opponent and work together to prevent the other team from scoring. The children have shown great enthusiasm and are developing their confidence, coordination and teamwork skills.





I love running around when it is PE - Amica

I liked rolling the ball to my friends - Tommy

Art

In our Art lessons, we have been learning all about portraits and exploring how artists use different techniques and styles to represent people. The children have explored the work of famous artists Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, looking closely at their distinctive approaches to colour, shape and facial features. They have experimented with these ideas to create their own unique portraits, taking inspiration from the artists while developing their own creative styles. The children have thoroughly enjoyed being imaginative and expressive, and we have seen some fantastic and colourful masterpieces!





I enjoyed putting shiny bits on - Liffey

I liked sticking and gluing my self portrait - Reevah

English

Our English learning this half term has been centred around the wonderful book 'Meesha Makes Friends' by Tom Percival. Through the story, the children have explored the challenges that can sometimes arise when making and maintaining friendships, as well as the importance of kindness, empathy and including others.

As part of our learning, the children worked collaboratively in groups to design their own ideal friend. They discussed the qualities they value in a friend and used their creativity to develop and describe their ideas. Each group then presented their friend to the rest of the class, giving the children an opportunity to develop their speaking and listening skills and share their ideas confidently. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activity and produced some thoughtful and imaginative ideas about what makes a good friend.





I enjoyed drawing and colouring new friends - Aida

Music

In our Music lessons, we have been learning to sing 'Menu Song' and developing our understanding of rhythm and beat. The children have explored how the beat helps to keep music steady and have enjoyed practising keeping in time with the music. They have also had lots of fun using a range of percussion instruments, experimenting with different sounds and rhythms and developing their confidence when performing. The children have shown great enthusiasm and enjoyment during our music lessons.





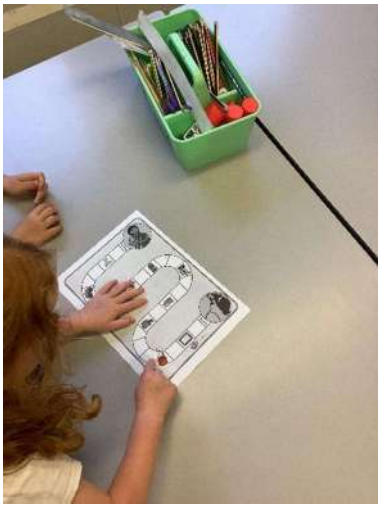
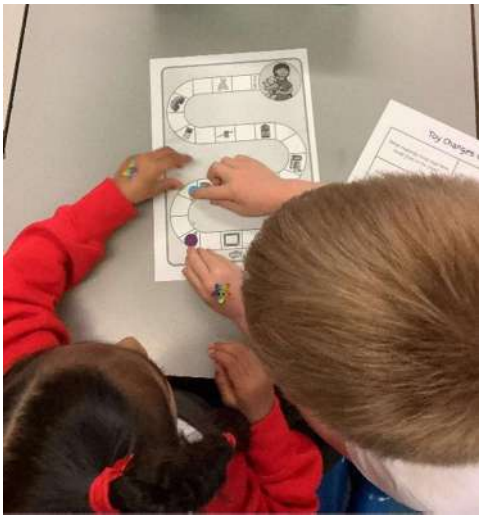
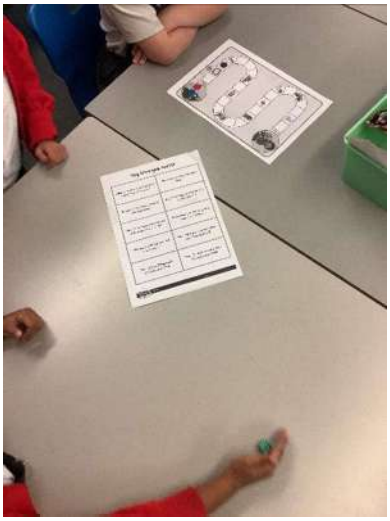
I liked playing the tambourine - Ruby

I enjoyed singing the Menu Song - Amayra

History

In our History lessons, we have been learning all about toys from the past and exploring how they have changed over time. The children have compared toys from different periods with those we play with today, identifying similarities and differences in the materials, designs and ways they are used.

The children have taken part in a range of practical and hands-on activities to help develop their understanding and reinforce their knowledge. They have enjoyed exploring and discussing different types of toys, using what they have learned to make comparisons and recall key information. These activities have helped to bring our history learning to life and have encouraged the children to think carefully about how toys have changed over time.

I liked learning about how toys have changed over the years - Anvir

I had fun playing the game with Tommy - Amica



Golden Book
Aria

Owl Class

English

We have been studying the life of American mathematician Katherine Jonhson, who worked at NASA on the Apollo missions. The class have really been inspired by this amazing person who overcame the challenges of racism to become a star. To support this we have been reading 'Rise Up!' which tells us the stories of children who changed the world and overcame a variety of difficulties in their life, like disabilities, poverty and war.

'I enjoyed writing a factfile about about Katherine because I wrote lots' - Himmat
'I loved English, I was very interested to learn about Katherine and what she did when she was older' - Lily

Music

This term we have been learning the ukulele, taught by Mrs Thompson! We have learnt the parts of the instrument as well as a few songs, like 'thumb brush strum' and 'its raining, its pouring'. We have begun to name some notes and can play the chords C, G, A and E. We've really loved getting to know these instruments and hope you can come see our concert in December!




'I loved playing the music instrument and learning the strum.' - Esha
'I enjoyed playing instruments and learning about the different parts of a ukulele' - Lillia

History

We have been exploring prehistoric times in History, learning about the technological advancements like the control of fire, cave paintings, cultivation of crops and domestication of dogs. Check out the photos of us considering some clay relics. We had to think like archeologists and decide what clues they gave us about the past. We also wrote Stone Age haikus, counting syllables carefully to show off what we know about prehistoric life!





'I enjoyed learning about the Stone Age because I liked all the different tools and ways they lived. Ug!' - Eloise G

'I liked learning about the Stone Age because I liked the tools they made and how they looked after the animals.' - Shaan

PE

In PE we have explored Hockey and Handball. We thoroughly enjoyed handball, and adapted quickly to passing within 3 seconds. Stopping after 3 steps was tricky though, as we always had to contain our excitement and avoid happy tappy feet! We later moved on to hockey, and have aced controlling the ball and making careful push passes to our team mates. Turning was harder than it seemed though, as we had to turn the ball, not ourselves!

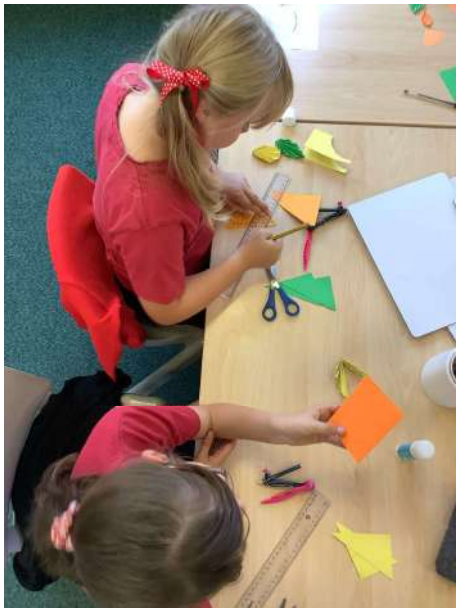




'Doing push passes was challenging but then I improved and was able to do it.' - Ebrahim

'I really liked handball because we got to throw the ball into the goals' - Josh

We've been getting into the Autumn spirit in art by exploring leaves using 3 different media: pencil, pastel and paper! Check out some of our creations below. I was particularly impressed by how adept children were at layering pastels to create bold colours and blends. Sculpting leaves was hard work, and the children persevered to cut, score and fold card precisely. We were very proud of our results!

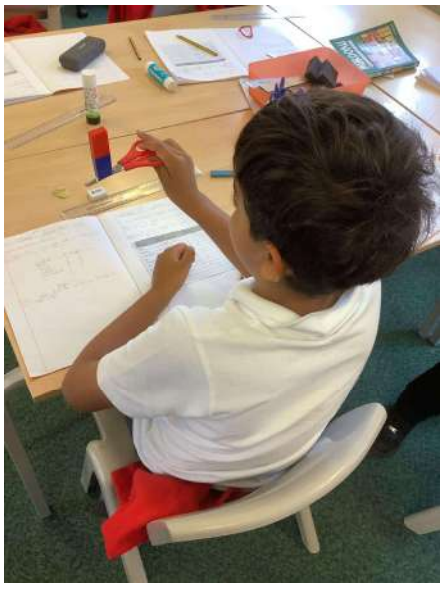




'I liked how we were sculpting the leaves to hang it from the classroom ceiling. We made it with different colours too' - Areesha

'I loved art because I like making the paper leaves' - Bella

Science

Science this half term has been all about forces and magnets! We have carried out multiple investigations, keeping our testing fair by only changing one variable. We've tested what materials are magnetic, the strength of different magnets and how friction affects motion with the help of a super car ramp.





'I enjoyed Science because magnets were challenging to use but I finally got over it and I hope we can use magnets again soon.' - Leo

'I liked Science because I liked investigating magnets. They were really strong and I learnt about how they attract and repel.' - Eisa



Golden Book
Mya