

Newsletter 11th February

After a wintery, snowy week, we look forward to a warmer half term. The children at school loved playing in the snow and observing the wonders of freezing temperatures in the pond. It has been wonderful to see posts about snow fun at home and in our local parks too!



COVID Update

Last week, I informed you that we are reviewing our risk assessments in preparation for school return in March. **As part of that review, we considered**

- **increased staff capacity** due to lower infection rates and staff absence
- **the introduction of lateral flow testing** for staff to support reducing the risk of infection
- the effectiveness of online learning for our youngest children and the importance of play in early development.



The staff and governors have agreed that we **can now open to all nursery children from Monday 22nd February**. All nursery parents have been contacted regarding this offer. Please see the updated February Risk Assessment [HERE](#) with new/ additional information in orange. Infection management protocols will remain in place.

The 2-Year-old provision will need to remain closed (except to children of critical workers and vulnerable children) until the rest of the school returns as the staff are currently deployed in the school provision.

Safer Internet Day "Together for a Better Internet"

Safer Internet Day has never been more important with so many children and families learning and working online during this challenging period. On **Tuesday we took part in assemblies and lessons** about using the internet responsibly and safely. The children learnt about the need to **check and see advice about** their choices online. Lessons included important issues such as fake news, privacy and keeping safe online.

Please see the link below for more information to help you at home.

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/resources>



Chinese New Year

Kung Hei Fat Choy and Gong Xi Fa Cai to all of our families who celebrate **Chinese New Year**. The **children wore red** as the Chinese colour of celebration, and enjoyed the story of the OX on Thursday in assembly. See [page 9](#) for more details.



World Book Day

We are already planning for a very exciting online **World Book Day 2021**. Brecknock is going **Wild for World Book Day on the 3rd March**. We will be exploring our way through some wonderful books and stories about nature and the renewal. **We have some exciting authors and storytellers visiting our online school** and there will be many creative opportunities to lose ourselves in a book or two!



Parents' Evening

Please note that parents evening is on **23rd and 24th March** and will take place virtually. You will be able to book your time via our **Parent Evening System** from the first week back in half term. We will be using video conferencing to support communication. **This will be an important meeting to discuss your child's learning and well-being following this term of home learning.**

INSET Day and Half Term 5th-19th February

The school is now closed for INSET on Friday 12th February and for half term. We hope you can switch off and try to reduce the screen time for your children. Get outside if you can - it will be a little warmer next week, starting with a **celebration of love on Valentine's Day this Sunday!**



Finally, huge thanks to the staff for their commitment, resilience and determination during this period of online learning and for the **dedication and hard work of the staff supporting children in school. Thank you, for the mammoth effort of home schooling - a tremendous feat!**

We look forward to a new half term, with the hope of a secure path to recovery this springtime.

Wishing you a safe half term,

Helen Bruckdorfer

D A T E S

FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 12th February 2021

INSET Day - school closed

Monday 15th - Friday 19th

February 2021

Half Term - school closed for

all children as usual.

Monday 22nd February 2021

First Day back for those children in school.

Thursday 4th March 2021

Virtual Nursery Open Evening



Wellbeing Tip of the Week -

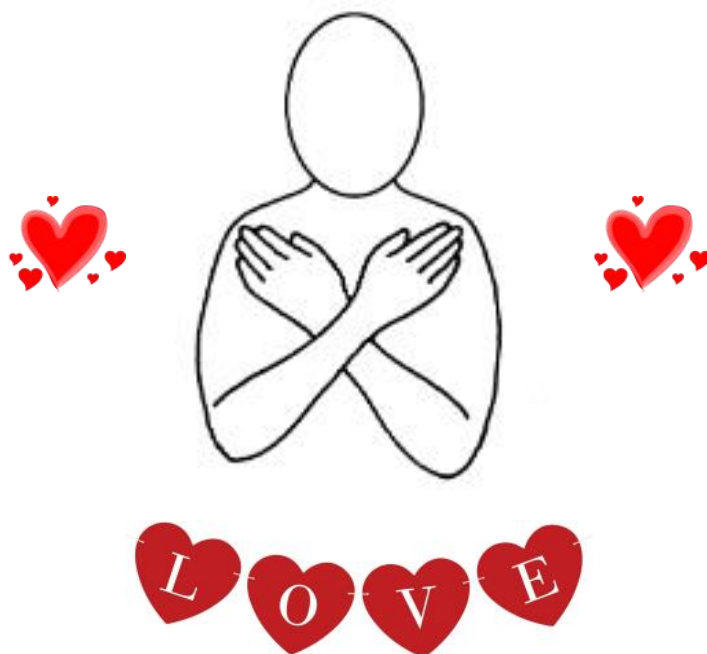
Develop a Self-Care Toolkit

During times of stress or worry, it can be helpful to draw upon healthy coping strategies to distract and re-ground ourselves. To find out what works best for you, start by experimenting with different activities you enjoy and see if they have any positive effects on your wellbeing. Here are some examples: going for a walk on your own, engaging in arts/crafts activities, practicing mindfulness, doing some exercise, listening to music or even having a rest or a relaxing bath. According to research, self-care activities, keep us healthy, reduce stress and help to prevent burnout.



Sign Of The Week:

LOVE





The Nursery have learnt some new letter sounds this week - **g, o, c** and **k**. They practised saying and forming these letter sounds in lots of fun ways, then went on a hunt around their homes to find objects beginning with these sounds. Some children have even challenged themselves by sounding out and writing words containing these sounds. They have also sung lots of number songs and practising the concept of one less when singing songs such as '10 green bottles' and '10 little ducks', seeing how many are left each time when we take one away.



Reception's story this week was 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. They made stick puppets for each character and had fun using them to retell the story, whilst practicing their terrible, grumpy Trolls voice.

In Maths, they have been looking at money, also having a go at coin rubbing to help discuss the shape and size of the coins. They then had the chance to use real money to buy items from Naomi and Rachel's shop.



Year 1

Year one received an exciting letter from the astronaut Chris Hatfield asking them to help him fix his umbrella. They tested different materials to find out which were waterproof and wrote a letter to Chris to tell him what they had found out.



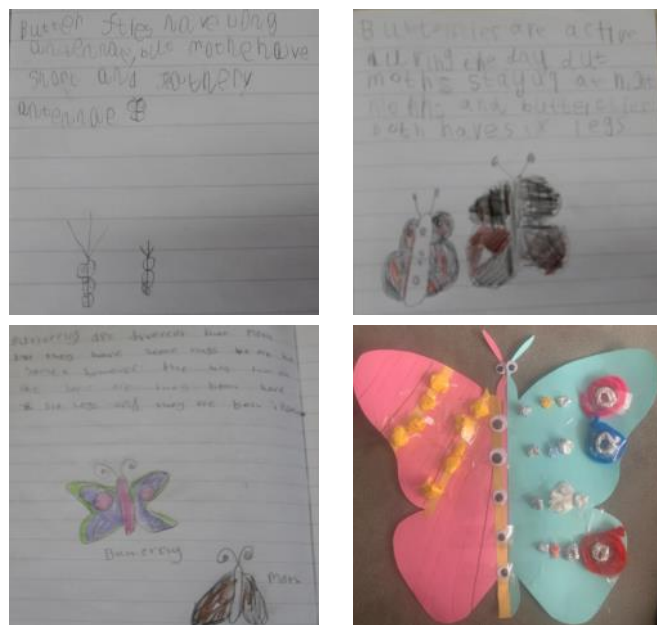
Dear Chris,

After our experiment we chose these materials for your umbrella: plastic, foil and cling film because they were waterproof in our experiment.

From year one

Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about moths and butterflies. They have been learning how to compare them by using conjunctions such as 'but', 'and' and 'however'. They also had to design and decorate a butterfly or moth, by choosing one of these words to help decorate them - 'symmetrical', 'patterned', 'fury', 'stripy' or 'speckled'.



Year 3

3Y made inventions as part of our history lesson on Queen Victoria and The Great Exhibition.

The inventions are:

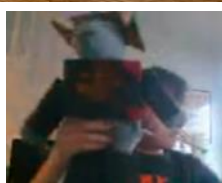
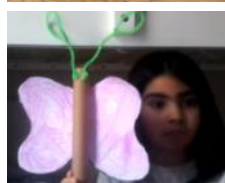
Callum - Exoskeleton that a person (like a builder), wears to enable them to lift heavy things.

Annabel - A super detective that helps people solve mysteries

Asiya - A criminal catcatcher which can detect criminals and is used to help the police

Noora - a pencil holder on wheels that can be easily shared between two siblings doing their homework at the same time

Amirah - a butterfly toy, that also has a telescope



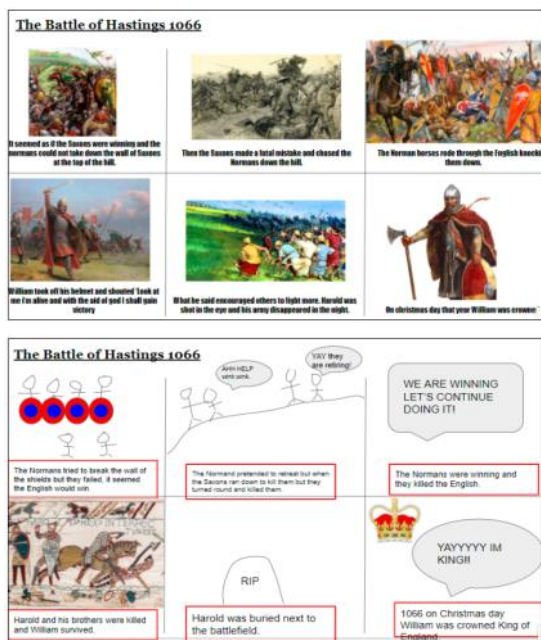
Year 4

Year 4 are ending their learning on the mighty Romans with some fantastic examples of D&T and art! The children have been creating/engineering magnificent weapons and uniforms used by Roman soldiers! Some children also created depictions of the soldiers themselves using art. What a great way to end our learning and the term, super proud!



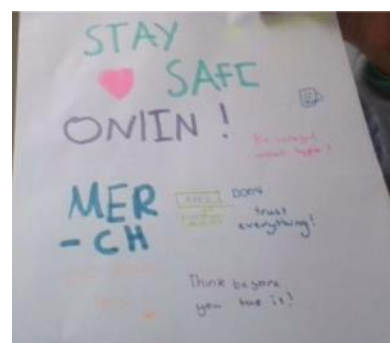
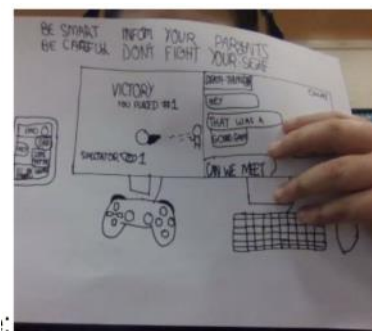
Year 5

Year 5 looked at the Battle of Hastings this week. Throughout this half term, Year 5 have been learning about the constant battles that took place during the Anglo-Saxon period, but they were most intrigued by the Battle of Hastings. They created storyboards to show the key events that took place.

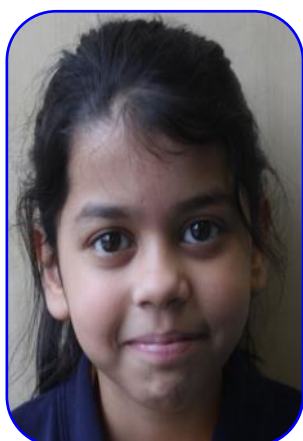
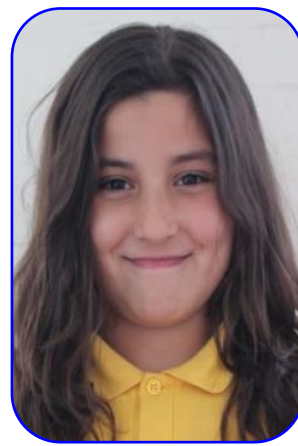
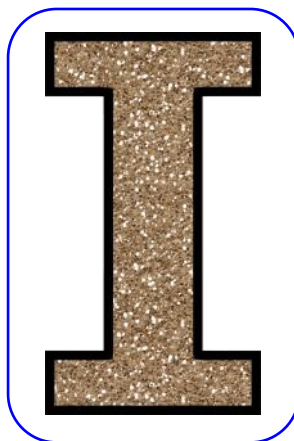


Year 6

Year 6 took part in a workshop for Safer Internet Day this week and learnt handy tips on how to stay safe online. 6Y made posters to share these tips with others.



★ Here are our stars of the week! ★





The climate crisis affects us all. Every week we will be offering a suggestion for a positive climate action you can take yourselves, as part of the bigger changes we need to make as a global community.

Action 10: Switch your bank account to a bank or building society which makes ethical and sustainable investments such as Nationwide Building Society, Co-op Bank or Triodos Bank. For more information check out <http://campaigncc.org/timetoswitch>. Switching is easy, get in contact with your new bank and they will switch over all your credit and debit payments.



Many of the big banks, especially Barclays, HSBC and RBS, invest in fossil fuels. Fossil fuels: oil, coal and gas, are the main drivers of climate change. By switching bank account you will be investing in a more sustainable, cleaner, greener future!



We would like to wish everyone a **Happy Chinese New Year**. This year is the Year of the Ox. The Ox has traits of strength, reliability, fairness and conscientiousness, as well as inspiring confidence in others.

Chinese Zodiac Order

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Rat | 7. Horse |
| 2. Ox | 8. Ram |
| 3. Tiger | 9. Monkey |
| 4. Rabbit | 10. Rooster |
| 5. Dragon | 11. Dog |
| 6. Snake | 12. Pig |

Did you know? The Chinese calendar has 12 zodiac animal signs, known as Ben Ming Nian and these rotate every year, as opposed to every month like in the Gregorian calendar. Each year has a different sign, meaning each person is represented by one of the 12 animals.

Did you know? London's annual Chinese celebration, is the biggest in the world, outside of Asia. Unfortunately due to current restrictions, it has to be halted this year.



Did you know? Everyone wears new clothes to celebrate and children receive red envelopes as gifts, stuffed with lucky money from family members.



Which Chinese zodiac are you?											
RAT	OX	TIGER	RABBIT	DRAGON	SNAKE	HORSE	GOAT	MONKEY	ROOSTER	DOG	PIG
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911

Nursery Open Evening

Brecknock Primary School is a happy and successful primary school that thrives within the borough of Camden. At Brecknock we share aspirations; to ensure that children achieve the highest standards academically and socially, that they are taught in a way which challenges their thinking, stimulates their interests and harnesses their ideas. We strive to develop confident, articulate, and resilient children who understand how to live a responsible, safe, and healthy life and are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges they encounter at each stage of their lives.

Brecknock Primary School is a **Gold Rights Respecting School**, this means we are committed to placing the values and principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our policies and practice. It is important to us that children recognise their rights but also acknowledge the rights of others. As well as this approach shaping the needs of our own pupils, and creating a Rights Respecting community, we aim to use this shared understanding to work for global justice and sustainable living.



Brecknock Primary School will be hosting **Virtual Nursery Open Evening Tours** for prospective parents on:

Thursday 4th March @ 4.45pm or 5.45pm



You will have a chance to meet the Executive Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team and find out more information regarding the teaching and learning that takes place at Brecknock. It will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about this important transition into the Early Years Foundation Stage of primary school.

To book onto a tour, please follow the link and complete this [form](#).

