



# Lapal

## Primary School

Newsletter

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and that your child has had a positive start to the autumn term. I am thrilled to share some exciting achievements and important reminders with you in this month's newsletter.

### A great start to the autumn term

I am delighted to report that the autumn term has begun with great energy and enthusiasm from our children. Their commitment to learning and their positive attitude towards their work has been wonderful. I would also like to say a special welcome and well done to our new Reception children – you have all been superstars.

### Celebrating achievements

The summer term proved to be a period of incredible accomplishments for our school. I am proud to share that our school has been awarded the Gold Skills Builder Award. This recognition highlights our commitment to equipping our children with essential skills that are valuable both in education and throughout their lives. It focuses on eight key skills: *Listening, Speaking, Aiming High, Leadership, Creativity* and *Teamwork*. The award aims to recognise progress in these areas.

I am also pleased to inform you that in the final few days of the summer term we achieved the Gold Schools Games Mark. This accomplishment celebrates our commitment to promoting physical education and sportsmanship among our pupils. It's a reflection of our collective effort towards promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

### Positive behaviour

Please follow this [link](#) to our school's behaviour policy. It is our duty to share this with you each academic year. We encourage all parents to take a moment to share this policy with their child. It outlines our expectations, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for all.

### Calling all new parents and children

Throughout this term we will be conducting school tours for prospective parents and children for our September 2024 intake. If your child is due to start school, or you know someone who is, please contact the school office on 01384 818200 to book a tour date.

### Get involved!

Thank you to everyone who joined our Friends of Lapal meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September. We were delighted with the positive response and number of parents in attendance. We have collated all the ideas generated during the meeting and will explore these over the coming year. The second meeting for this term will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 5.15 – 6.15pm to plan our first event for the year. If you would like to contribute your skills, time, or ideas, please come along and join us – everyone is welcome.

We look forward to another great year.  
Kind regards

Mrs Turner  
Executive Headteacher

### Diary Dates

#### Autumn 2022 Term starts

6th Sept  
Half term  
30th Oct - 3rd Nov  
**Term ends**  
22nd Dec

#### Spring 2023 Term starts

8th Jan  
**Half term**  
12th Feb – 16th Feb  
**Term ends**  
22nd Mar

#### Summer 2023 Term starts

8th April  
**Half term**  
27th May – 31st May  
**Term ends**  
19th July

#### INSET DAYS

Monday 4th September  
Tuesday 5th September  
Monday 6th November  
Friday 9th February  
Monday 22nd July

#### PUPIL PHOTOS

Monday 10th October

#### FLU JABS

Tuesday 7th November  
Wednesday 13th December

#### Box Meal

Chicken Nuggets  
Thursday 5th October

Please see our online calendar on our website for all our event Information.

## School Events

Please see our [online calendar](#) for planned events across the academic year. Here are some of our upcoming events:

**Tuesday 10th October** - Individual school photos

**Thursday 5th October** (2pm-3pm) -Harvest Tea Party (for guests who have completed the online form)

**Tuesday 10th October** - World Mental Health Day (children to wear an item of green to raise awareness)

**Thursday 26th October** – School disco

## Friends of Lapal 2023/23 meetings

These meetings are open for all to attend:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 5.15 – 6.15pm

## House Points

Totals for September:

**Diamond** 407

**Sapphire** 303

**Ruby** 415

**Emerald** 437

## September Attendance

**RHall 96%**

**RHopkins 99%**

**1M 99%**

**1RW 97%**

**2C 98%**

**2CG 94%**

**3/4JD 98%**

**3/4G 97%**

**3/4SD 98%**

**5M 96%**

**5SB 95%**

**6R 99%**

**6W 97%**

## Safeguarding

If you are concerned about a child then please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead who is Mrs Atkinson, or our Deputy Safeguarding Leads Mrs Turner, Mr Maynes, Miss Gillon or Mr Rizzo.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. If we are concerned about a child we have a duty to contact Children's Service, if you are concerned about a child, outside school, then you can call 0300 555 0050 with your concerns and seek advice. Our safeguarding policy can be found on our school website.

## Reception

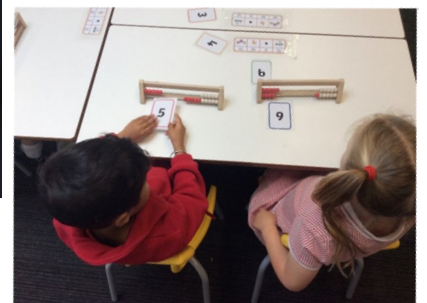
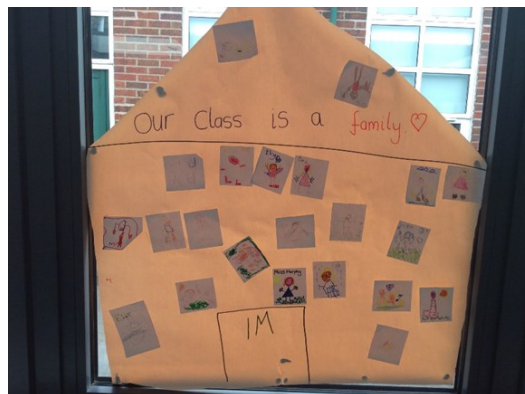
A big welcome to our new children and families who have joined Reception this month. The EYFS children have been a delight, and we are so proud of the confidence, independence and positivity that they have shown. We are really looking forwards to getting to know your children better and spend this exciting year with them. Take a look at some of our learning moments so far...



## Year 1

Welcome to Year One

In Year One, we have enjoyed starting some new subjects. We have been discovering moving pictures in Design and Technology, and drawing our portraits in Art. Children especially enjoyed their experience day in English where they got to visit the school minibuss and think about journeys on public transport.

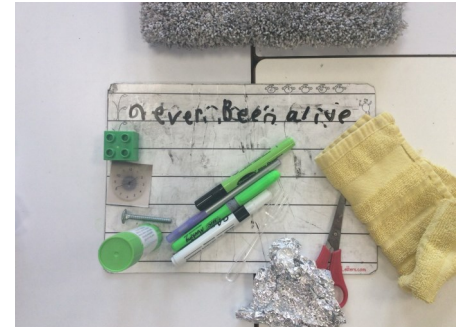




## Year 2

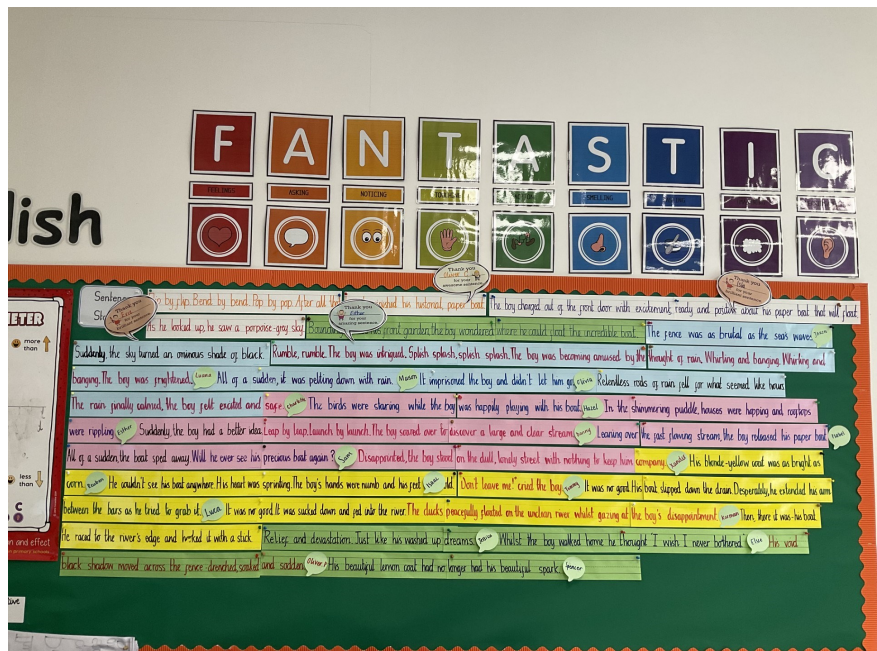
In Science, we learnt about living things, non living things and things that have never been alive. We now know that something is alive if it reacts to its surroundings, needs air, feeds, grows, reproduces and gets rid of waste. We have learnt that anything metal, plastic or stone has never been alive. We also know that non living things were once alive, for example the apple from the apple tree. Then we sorted and classified the objects into three groups: living things, non living things and things that had never been alive.

The children in year two have been exploring nooks and crannies around school where they can read for pleasure. We have read outside in the woodland area, made a den using PE equipment and enjoyed time in our library areas. Some children went home and built their own den to read in too!



## Year 3/4

This month, Year 3 and 4 have jumped into a fantastic English Unit based on the book 'Float' by Daniel Miyares. They have taken part in experience days (paper boat making and hot chocolate tasting) to engage with the character and generate vocabulary to use in their writing. During the sentence stacking lessons, pupils wrote wonderful paragraphs looking at a range of language features including; repetition for effect, similes and fronted adverbials. Their work was then celebrated by being placed on our huge sentence stacking board.



## Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy start to the year. We launched our new English focus about Kathrine Rundell's book; The Explorer. The classes walked into their own class jungle which helped to inspire some super writing and Amazon themed art work. As part of the topic the children have been completing lots of role play scenarios and even managed to build their own wooden rafts!

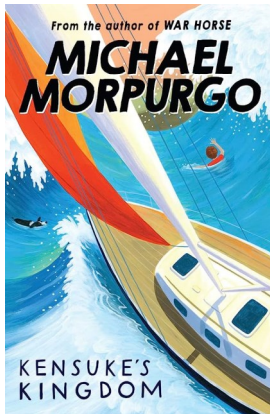
As part of our Science topic the Year 5 children have enjoyed completing some super experiments looking at which materials dissolve and conduct electricity. We will now be predicting which materials are best heat conductors and learning about reversible and irreversible changes.

A fab start to the Year!

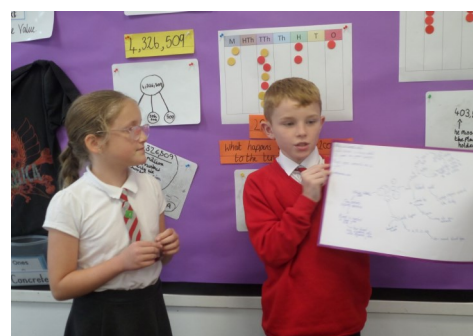


## Year 6

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to their writing journey this month. We have used the text 'Kensuke's Kingdom' to explore an adventure narrative about a boy called Michael. One of the mornings, when the children entered the classroom, they saw the evidence of an almighty storm. The classroom had been destroyed! We used this experience to generate lots of fantastic vocabulary which the children will be using in their upcoming independent write.



In our Science unit (Healthy Bodies), the children have begun to understand what contributes to a healthy body and the role of the circulatory system. Through diagrams and verbal responses, the children explained the role of red and white blood cells in our body. We focussed on our Skills Builder speaking and listening skills when delivering our presentations.





# INFORMATION

## Before & After School Club

Breakfast Club 8am-8:40am

After School Club 3:15pm- 6pm

Tel: 01384 812642

When collecting from After School Club please be aware of pedestrians when exiting the car park.

Should I keep my child off school?

Please click [here](#)

## Parking and One Way



Could we please remind parents / carers to please not park or mount the grass verges, especially in the wet weather when they can be easily churned up and become muddy, and also not park completely on the pavement or on the yellow lines outside the school entrance **which is illegal**.

We have also received complaints from residents regarding cars idling whilst waiting outside of the school at drop off and collection times, this creates a lot of pollution outside of the school gates. Please help to keep our children safe and residents happy - thank you.

## NSPCC Helpline number

The new helpline will support children and young people, and offer guidance to adults and staff working with pupils,

The helpline can be contacted on **0800 136 663**, or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

# Optimistic October 2023



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month

2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)

3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you

4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list

5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good

6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better

7 Look for the good in people around you today

8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding

9 Share an important goal with someone you trust

10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently

11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward

12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today

13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing

14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation

15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted

16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting

17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society

18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead

19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future

20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time

21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you

22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague

23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise

24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently

25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?

26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face

27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time

28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?

29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to

30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future

31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month



Happier · Kinder · Together

## FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

One of our parents will be running the London Marathon on the 21st April 2024 for Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK) as an official member of 'team orange'. She has never done anything like this before, so running this distance will be a massive but rewarding challenge.

MDUK is a charity that is very close to the family. She is hoping to raise £2000, to support continued research, campaigning as well as ongoing care. Please see link below if you would like further information

<https://www.JustGiving.com/page/Laura-parkes-big40>