



Newsletter March 2025

A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

What a term! From the extremes of cross country to a school book fair, they both have the commonality of being "amazing". We continue to excel in a variety of sports at Netherton - a huge thanks to the staff and pupils who represent "TEAM Netherton".

Also, a huge shout out to the parents for your support with reading. The visit from the school bus raised substantial money and meant that our library could be topped up with some new books - thanks to all of you that purchased a book.

We have recently had two positive School Improvement visits where our pupils have been praised for being "happy, communicative and love their school." The environment was also praised along with a calm, orderly atmosphere. Feedback from the safeguarding visit also states, "Pupils feel safe. Pupils know who they can talk to in school. There is a great deal of rigour in place and the staff spoke with confidence about strategies and procedures." I look forward to sharing more information with you when we return after Easter.

Please don't forget: Wednesday 2nd April - Autism Awareness Day - wear purple.
Friday 4th April Dance Showcase 3.45pm at the Link

Happy Easter, everyone.

Mrs Harvey

Attendance & Punctuality

Please may we remind you that good attendance at school is vital for pupil success. Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their child attends school.

Pupils should not be missing time off school due to minor issues such as oversleeping, birthdays, siblings/parents being off school/work etc. Absence will only be authorised if there is a genuine reason such as illness (although pupils can still come to school with minor illnesses -see NHS site for guidance) or medical appointments, though pupils should come to school before and/or after the appointment where possible.

If your child is absent, please make sure you inform the school office.

Schools are unable to authorise any holidays during term time and are obliged to report this to the Education Support Service, who may issue a fine.

Punctuality is extremely important—children miss vital learning when they arrive late and many of them do not like walking into lessons that have already started. School officially begins at 8:55 and the registers close at 9:00. Pupils arriving after this will be marked as late, Pupils arriving after 9:30 are late and this then becomes an unauthorised absence, contributing to their absence rate.

Spring Term 2 Dates

Fri 11th April - break up for Easter

Summer Term 1 Dates

Mon 28th April - School reopens to pupils

Mon 5th May - Bank Holiday

Mon 12th May - SATs Week (Y6)

Friday 23rd May - Break up

Mon 2nd June - school open for pupils

Inset Days

Fri 27th June 2025

Mon 21st July 2025

Easter Break

Mon 14th Apr - Fri 25th Apr 2025

Whitsun Break

Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May 2025

Summer Holidays

Mon 21st July - Fri 29th Aug

2025-26

INSET

Mon 1st, Tues 2nd, Weds 3rd Sept

Autumn Term 1

Thursday 4th September - school reopens for pupils

October Half Term

Mon 27th Oct - Fri 31st Oct

Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy this half term. Here is a taste of what's been going on...

Nursery - Living and Growing

Our youngest children have been investigating things which live and grow.

They have watched as caterpillars have grown and changed into chrysalis - and are eagerly awaiting them to emerge as butterflies.

They were joined by their adult to plant bean seeds.



EYFS - Super Stories

Reception have been enjoying sharing super stories and bringing them to life through various activities.

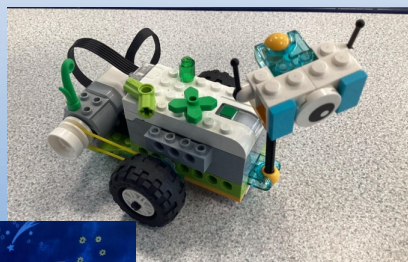
They have enjoyed Supertato - using cutting and measuring skills to create their own from paper and real potatoes!

They have also made eggbox ducks after reading Farmer Duck.



Y1 - DT

Year 1 have been investigating Materials as part of their DT work. They have discussed their properties and considered which would be the best material to construct a windmill.



Y2 - DT

In DT, Year 2 completed their electronics unit of work and created their own programmable Lego robots. They were able to use iPads to code them and to give them instructions

Year 3 - Science

As part of their Oracy lesson in Science, Year 3 had the opportunity to become radiographers, where they explored various X-Rays to identify potential broken bones and soft tissue. They had lots of fun stepping into this role.

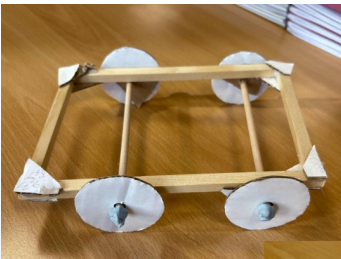


Year 4 - Forest School

Year 4 have been enjoying their time outdoors at Forest School.

Year 5 - Brass Lessons

Year 5 have been learning to play the cornet since September. Each week they have a lesson with a specialist music teacher from Dudley Performing Arts. They are doing really well.



Year 6 - DT

Year 6 have used a variety of skills to construct the chassis of their model cars. These had to be sawn to size, joined with a glue gun and secured with card, before the axles and wheels were attached.

Next lesson, they will make the 3D net of their design to fit

The Hive

In their cooking lesson on 4th March, Mrs Smith made yummy pancakes. The children then decorated them with their favourite toppings.

After that in their R.E lesson, Mr Willetts came in and spoke to them about Lent and what it means to Christians.

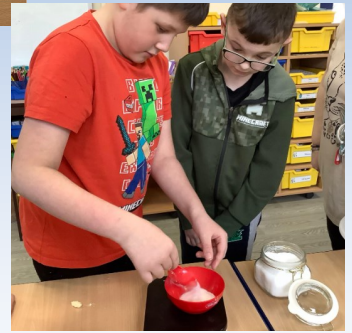
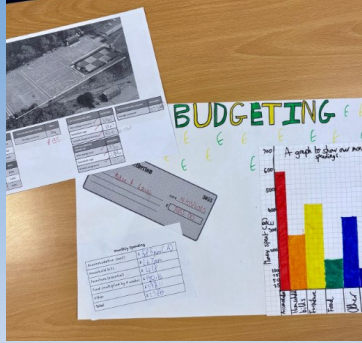


International Number Day

On Friday 14th March, the whole school celebrated International Maths Day.

Everyone came dressed in clothes with numbers, shapes or patterns. Classes were off timetable, completing a day of maths activities ranging from budgeting, planning a holiday, measuring & weighing in order to cook.

The day culminated in the whole school gathering to lay a trail of coins on the top playground.



Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

On Friday 21st March, the Church Team arranged for the school to raise money for Comic Relief. All of the children and staff were invited to donate £1 and wear red. They also sold cakes at breaktime.

As a school we raised £465 - thank you for supporting a good cause.

The Book Bus

On Monday 24th March, the Book Bus arrived at Netherton CofE!

The children had a fun time browsing the many books available to buy and some of our children enjoyed a story session aboard too.

Thank you to all of you who bought books, your purchases meant that the school will receive £324 worth of books.



Book Week

We celebrate World Book Day every year. This year, we extended this to a week of activities to celebrate books & reading.

Design a book cover competition

Prior to Book Week, the children were invited to design a book cover. We had some brilliant entries.

There was a book prize for the winning entry in each year group.



Snuggle Up & Read

On Monday 3rd March, the children were invited to bring their comfiest clothes to change into, ready to snuggle up and read in the afternoon.

Parents of the children in KS1 were invited to join us if they were able. It was lovely to see you and thank you for sharing a story with your child... and a few others!!

World Book Day - Dress as a book character

On Thursday 6th March—World Book Day, the school was filled with a host of characters from the children's favourite books.



The Dot

Each class in school shared the book, 'The Dot'.

They could complete any other activities based on the book that they chose, but all classes were asked to decorate a dot in a colour specific to their year group.

Three dots have formed a display in our corridor, showing how books inspire and unite.



Bishop's Visit

On Tuesday 11th March, Martin Gorrick, the Bishop of Dudley was invited by the DOWMAT to discuss SEND and the need for better funding in Dudley. He came to see our provision in action and was very impressed with all we offer and the innovative ways in which we support our SEND, but he was shocked to hear of the difficulties schools are facing with budget cuts and the significant funding differences between SEND funding in Worcester & Dudley. He said he would be raising the issue at a constituency meeting.

<https://www.dudleynews.co.uk/news/25040580.diocese-worcester-mat-calls-better-send-funding/>



Books Gifted to the School

On Friday 21st March, Mrs Harvey received an unexpected visit from a lady called Funmi, who raises money to gift books to schools. She lives in the area and decided that Netherton CofE was going to be the lucky school this time. She brought along £200 worth of books from Usborne publishers. These have been put into our school library for everyone to enjoy. Thankyou. Funmi.

Heritage Award

We are very proud of our Heritage project which combines the teaching and learning of History and Geography skills to learn about the local area. Mrs Powell and Mrs Ryall-Whyte have been working with other schools in the DOWMAT to encourage them to develop their own heritage projects. Their work on our school's heritage curriculum and their outreach work has been recognised by Historic England and our school has been awarded the Champion Heritage School Well done Mrs Powell & Mrs Ryall-Whyte, we are very proud of you both.



Netball

The netball team have been very busy!

They played against Blowers Green Primary School on Monday 3rd March, winning 17—3.

On 17th March, they played against Netherbrook, winning 9—7.

Well done, team!!



Football Matches

The Girls Team took part in a football tournament at Dudley College, having got through to the finals. They were fantastic and didn't lose a game!

The Y3&4 team took part in a football tournament at The Link. Twelve schools took part in the tournament which was held at The Link. They won 2, drew 2 lost 2.

The Y5&6 team played a match against Peters Hill. The match was very evenly matched but in the end, Peters Hill won 5-4.



Tennis

On Wednesday 19th March, Y3&4 took part in a tennis tournament held at David Lloyd. Eight schools took part. The children each played 8 games and we finished 3rd overall.



Cross Country

On Thursday 27th March, some of our children took part in a cross-country competition. Out of 39 schools, Netherton CofE came 2nd! The girls' team came 1st and the boys' team came 8th.

Out of 234 runners, Millie came 3rd, Indie 4th and Edward 22nd. Well done everyone!



PE & Jewellery

Please may we remind you that the **children must remove earrings for PE**. If your child cannot remove them themselves, please could we ask that you take them out for them before they come to school.