# Coley Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very successful first term, with all our new children settling in so well, learning routines, and forming friendships.

I would like to thank the children who put themselves forward to be part of the School Council and Eco Warrior Committee. Not everyone could be chosen, but a huge thank you to everyone who took part.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Virginia Noel-Hodge, our new Administrator – please do join me in giving her a warm welcome to our school.

A big thank you to the staff who ran the parent workshops this term on Multiplication, EYFS, and Phonics & Reading, and to all the parents who attended. We are also grateful to everyone who joined us for Parents' Evening.

This term, we have been learning about **'Belonging'** as one of our school values. I am incredibly proud of the children's responses in assemblies and in class, reflecting on how they live out this value. Many children are developing a strong sense of emotional intelligence, and can explain the emotions and behaviours associated with feeling valued, included, and a sense of belonging.

I wish you all a happy holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in November.

Best wishes,
Mrs. Pengelly
Head Teacher

**Upcoming Events**

**October 24**
**School closes**
**November 3**
**School and Nursery closed for INSET DAY**
**November 4**
**School and Nursery re-open**
**November 10**
Anti-Bullying Week
National Recycling Week
**November 17**
Road Safety Week
**Week Beginning Dec 8**
Christmas Goodies Sale
**10 & 11 December**
KS1 Christmas Play
**December 11**
Nursery Xmas Singing
(**Am & PM 2-hour session only**)
New Nursery starters **only** visit for last hour of each session
**December 16**
Christmas Dinner
Wear a Christmas Jumper
**December 17**
**Nursery Party**
**Nursery Closes for new intake home visits**
**December 18**
Carols in the playground
**December 19**
Non-uniform Day– Bring £1
**December 19**
**School closes for Christmas**
**January 5**
**School and Nursery closed for INSET DAY**
**Term begins 6 January**
Nursery and whole school open

**Coley Value – Respect**

We will be teaching the children not only to respect others but to respect themselves.

## Class News

## Nursery

We've had a fantastic start to the new year and we can't believe the progress our children have made in just a few weeks. As well as getting to know each other and making new friendships we've also been learning all about Autumn & Diwali.








## Reception

The children have had a really busy first term. One of the highlights this term has been our topic. We have been investigating autumn objects such as conkers, leaves and acorns, both in the classroom and during our autumn walk. They have enjoyed exploring pumpkins and using natural objects in their art work as well as their play.





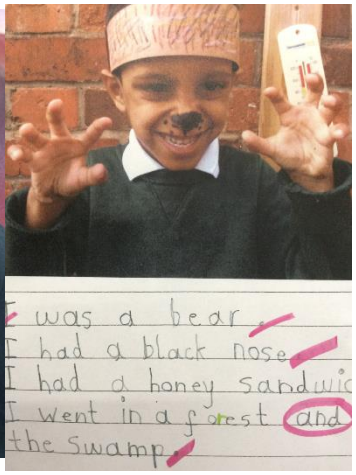


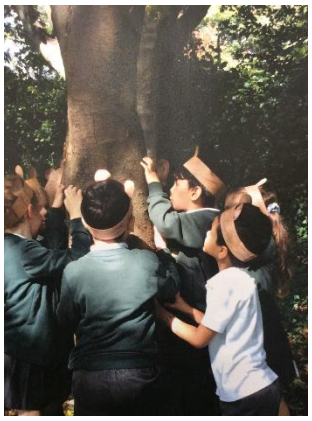

## Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the term, exploring a wide range of exciting topics across the curriculum. In Science, the children have been learning about different animal groups and their diets, as well as beginning to understand the human body. They thoroughly enjoyed re-enacting our class story *Take a Walk, Little Bear*, which inspired them to write their own wonderful five-sentence stories. In Art, they have been developing their skills in portrait drawing and exploring the use of hot and cold colours. Our History learning has included a special one-day Toy Museum experience, helping the children discover how toys from the past compare to those we have today. In Maths, we have been building a strong understanding of place value and have now moved on to addition and subtraction using part-whole models. In Computing, the

children have been introduced to programming by learning how to control a BeeBot. It has been a busy and productive term of learning!



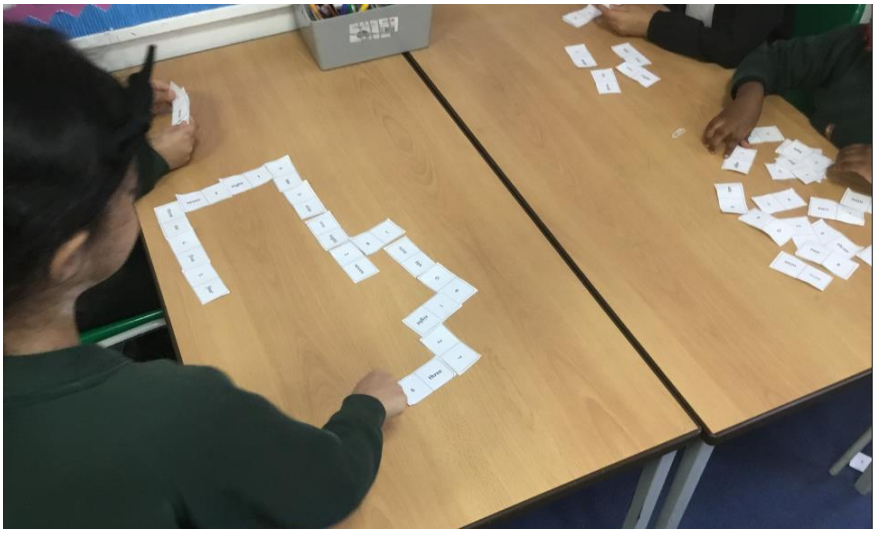



## Year 2

The children in Year 2 have settled in beautifully to year 2 life! They are already proving themselves to be great role models and conscientious learners. We have started the term well with some tricky maths lessons, learning about tens and ones and how to partition them. We have also started discovering information about the stone giant! We had a go at creating an image of what we think he would look like! The children have

enjoyed our canal topic and have been fascinated by the different artists' paintings we have looked at this term - especially Jackson Pollock and his drip paintings!





## Year 3

It has been a busy and productive term in Year 3! The children have shown great determination in their learning, and while the class has faced some challenges along the way, it's been wonderful to see many pupils working hard to make positive changes and show real effort in their behaviour and learning.

In maths, we've been exploring the 10 times table**,** and it's been exciting to see how quickly many of the children have picked up these new facts. We'll be continuing to build on this after the holiday, so any extra practice at home will be a great help!

In French, the children have embraced the challenge of learning a new language with great enthusiasm. It's been lovely to see how well they're retaining their new vocabulary and using it confidently in class — très bien, Year 3!

Homework has continued to be creative and thoughtful, from practising number facts to completing fun projects at home. Thank you for your continued support — it makes such a difference to your child's learning.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable break, and I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for another fantastic term of learning ahead!

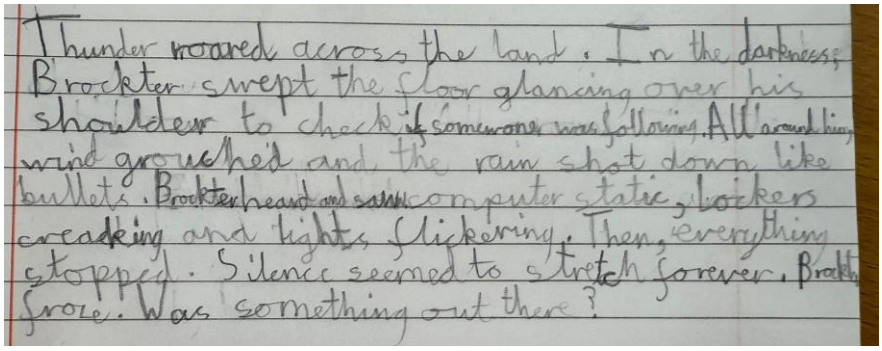






## Year 4

It has been a busy and exciting first half term in Year 4! In Maths, we've been exploring numbers up to 10,000 and learning all about place value. The children have also been practising their 3- and 6-times tables and their confidence is really growing! In English, we've been learning how to build suspense in our writing. Using fronted adverbials and powerful vocabulary, the children have created some fantastic short suspense stories.
In Science, we've been investigating solids, liquids and gases. The children loved experimenting with chocolate, coconut oil and butter to see how materials can change state.
In History, we've travelled back in time to Ancient Egypt! We've explored the long timeline of this fascinating civilisation, how the Egyptians lived, what they believed, and how we know so much about their world today.
We've also had great fun in Art, drawing detailed insect pictures and creating our very own shadow puppet insects to explore light and shadow.
The highlight of the term was definitely rehearsing and performing our part in the Harvest Celebration. The children worked so hard and loved seeing their artwork displayed at the front of the class!
We're so proud of how much the children have achieved this half term and can't wait to see what exciting learning adventures await us next!


Thunder roared across the land. In the darkness, Brockter swept the floor glancing over his shoulder to check if someone was following. All around him, wind growled and the rain shot down like bullets. Brockter heard on the computer static, lockers creaking and lights flickering. Then, everything stopped. Silence seemed to stretch forever. Brockter froze. Was something out there?








## Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the year! We kicked things off with an exciting (and delicious!) free chocolate-making workshop at Leighton Park, which everyone who got to go thoroughly enjoyed. For those who weren't able to go this time—watch this space to see what I'm *cooking up* for you instead! Back in school, the class have thrown themselves into the new routines with energy and enthusiasm. They've particularly enjoyed taking part in the Daily Mile—even on non-PE days—which has been a brilliant way to keep active together. We were also so proud of their efforts in the Harvest Assembly at All Nations Church. The children spoke beautifully, sang with confidence, and created some wonderful artwork for the occasion—I can't wait to get it all displayed!

In the classroom, Year 5 are showing real determination in their learning. From sharpening their times tables and diving into reading and Star tests, to focusing closely on improving their writing through strong transcription basics, the children have already impressed us with their hard work and focus. They're also showing fantastic resilience—learning to keep going and try again when something feels tricky. It's been wonderful to see how quickly they've settled into the rhythm and expectations of Year 5, and we are excited to see what they'll achieve this term!



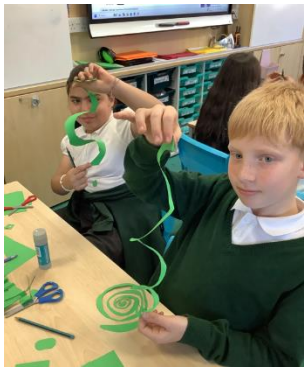
## Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the year! This term, we've been focusing on being excellent role models across the school and taking on new responsibilities as the oldest pupils. The children have really embraced this challenge, showing maturity, kindness, and a great sense of responsibility.

In Art, we've been exploring the beauty of plants and flowers. Inspired by the artist India Flint, we experimented with *Hapa Zome* – a Japanese technique that involves printing with natural materials. The children loved creating their own colourful flower prints. In PE, teamwork and communication have been at

the heart of our learning. We've developed our skills through different invasion games. It's been wonderful to see the children working together, encouraging one another, and showing great sportsmanship. Our Science lessons have been all about the human body, with a particular focus on the circulatory system. The children took part in an engaging investigation to see how exercise affects heart rate. In RE, we have been learning about Islam, exploring how Muslims follow the Five Pillars of Islam to show their commitment to God.
It's been a busy and rewarding first term, and we're so proud of how well the children have settled into Year 6. We're looking forward to another term filled with hard work, resilience, and plenty of exciting learning opportunities!







## Attendance

We are making some changes to the way we monitor and communicate with parents about school attendance. As a school, we need to improve our overall attendance and ensure every child is making the most of their learning time. The government's expected attendance rate for all pupils is **96%**, and we are currently below this target. We also have a growing concern around **persistent absence** (attendance below 90%) and **severe absence** (attendance below 80%). To address this, we will be keeping a closer eye on attendance patterns and will contact families more regularly if attendance becomes a concern. We need your support to help us raise attendance across the school — every day in school really does make a difference.

**Reasons for absence should only include:**

- Genuine illness
- Medical or dental appointments (where these cannot be arranged outside school hours)
- Religious observance
- Exceptional circumstances agreed in advance with the headteacher

Thank you for working with us to ensure your child's attendance stays high and their learning continues to thrive.

## Caterlink Meal Prices

We would like to inform parents that Caterlink, our school meal provider, will be increasing their meal prices starting 5th November. The new price for a school meal will be ***£2.66 per day***. This adjustment reflects rising costs, and while we understand this may impact families, Caterlink remains committed to providing nutritious, high-quality meals for the children. If you think that you are eligible for free school meals, please come to the school office and they will be able to check. Note ALL children are entitled to ***universal free school meals*** from Reception to Year 2.

## Pride of Reading Award






Big congratulations to Dima, aged 10, was born in Kyiv, who was awarded the Child of Courage award at the recent Pride of reading Awards. Here is his story…

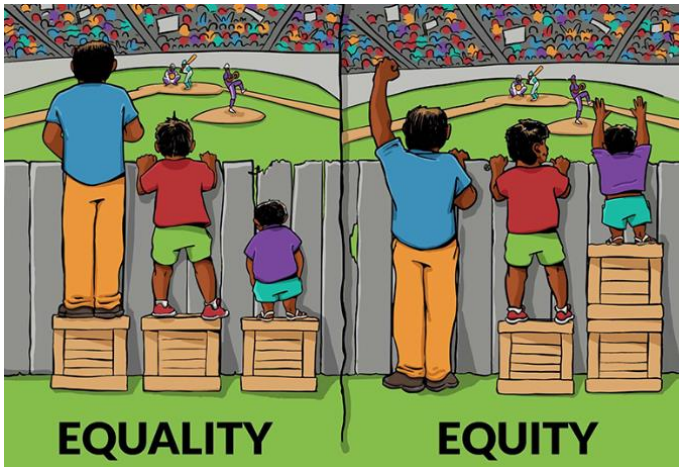
On a morning in February in 2022, he and his family woke to explosions near Boryspil as Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, they said.
"In shock, they fled to a nearby village, hoping the war would end quickly. But as military aircraft began flying overhead, Dima's parents decided it was too dangerous and chose to leave the country.
"Their journey to the Polish border was long and terrifying, with endless traffic and the fear of missile strikes," they said.
At the crossing, Dima had to say goodbye to his father, who remained in Ukraine. The family waited in freezing temperatures for over 24 hours.
Volunteers provided hot drinks and food, but the experience was traumatic, and Dima even fell asleep standing from exhaustion.
After crossing into Poland, chaos struck again when Dima was nearly separated from his mother while boarding a crowded bus.
Eventually, they reached a volunteer centre and later travelled to Reading, with the help of British volunteers.
"There, a kind host welcomed them into her home," said the nominator.
"Dima struggled at first at school with no English… wishing to return to Ukraine.
"Gradually, he adapted, helped by teachers, his host, and later, Reading Ukrainian School Lastivka, where he felt at home again.
"Now Dima speaks English, excels in Maths, and enjoys football, swimming, Scouts, and Ukrainian folk dance with the ensemble Balamuty, which performs in Reading and across the UK. He dreams of returning to a free Ukraine one day," they said.

## School Council & Eco Warrior results

A really big congratulations to the children who were voted in to represent their Class in each of our groups. Also, a big thanks to everyone who entered a manifesto 😊. Here are the selected representatives.

| Eco Warriors | School Councillors |
|---|---|
| Reception Arthur & Margot<br>Year 1 Eliyana & Valetta<br>Year 2 Millie & Emily<br>Year 3 Nevaeh & Ayesha<br>Year 4 Avleen & Charlotte<br>Year 5 Jahfari & Jory<br>Year 6 Euan & Anisa | Reception Ayat & Orion<br>Year 1 Matty & Sirine<br>Year 2 Olivia & Shahzain<br>Year 3 Charlotte & Arween<br>Year 4 Mirha & Eldin<br>Year 5 Sangey & Saagnick<br>Year 6 Amayiah & Ayman |

## What does it mean to attend a therapeutic school?




## Equality and Equity – Helping Every Child to Thrive

At our school, we believe that every child deserves the best possible chance to succeed — but we know that not all children need the same type of support to get there. The picture above shows the difference between *equality* and *equity*. Equality means giving everyone the same thing, while equity means giving each person what they need to succeed.

As a **therapeutic school**, we take an equitable approach. This means we adapt our teaching, support, and environment to meet the individual needs of our children. Some may need more time, extra encouragement, or different strategies — and that's okay. By doing this, we make sure that every child has **equal access to learning and opportunities**, and can achieve their very best.

We also believe that children learn best in a safe, supportive environment. When children make mistakes, we don't punish them — instead, we use a **restorative approach** that focuses on relationships. This helps children to reflect, repair, and grow, while feeling valued and understood.

Together, we're building a school where every child feels supported, respected, and able to shine.