



NEWSLETTER

9th December 2022

Attendance:

Overall school attendance this week is 76%.

Year 4 Snickett had the highest attendance this week with 86% As this is below 98%, no class will have an own clothes day next week.

A Message from the School Senior Leadership Team:

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, we were faced with an outbreak of Group A streptococcus (known as 'Strep A') in school this week. We'd like to thank parents, carers and the wider school community for their vigilance, understanding and support over the last few days.

The management of 'Strep A' in school is an emerging situation where decisions may need to be taken at short notice to keep everyone safe and well, however, we hope to revert to normal school procedures from Monday and go ahead with all Christmas events scheduled.

This week, pupils enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and helped raise money for Save the Children. Additionally, some pupils took part in their first Arabic lessons.

Lastly, please note that from January 5th 2023, we are returning to the drop-off procedures which were in place pre-Covid. Parents will leave their children at the main doors without walking through to the playground. Pupils in Nursery and Reception will be chaperoned by school staff to their classrooms.

All being well, we are very much looking forward to festive events in the final week of term.

Have a restful weekend, TGA Senior Leadership Team

Stars of the Week:



Y1: Olivia & Samvedh
Y2 Browne: William & Lena
Y3: Helena & Charlotte
Y4: Akshaya & Tariq
Y5: Emily B & Taufiq
Y6: Fallon & Paige



For more information about our school, use our **QR code** to link to the website at anytime.

Safeguarding:

If you are concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child please contact the NSPCC on their helpline: **0808 800 5000** or email help@nspcc.org.uk

If you believe that a child is in immediate danger call 999. Our school safeguarding leaders can be contacted by emailing stillman@templegroveacademy.com or telephoning 07835946414 / 07943276854



Early Years Foundation Stage Newsletter 9th December 2022

Nursery

Last Thursday the children were very excited to discover that a Christmas tree, decorations and an Advent calendar (with chocolate coins) had been delivered to nursery. They then realised we had a new addition to class – our very own elf – Buddy. We read *The Christmas Story* and discussed the importance of Advent to Christians. We also started counting down the sleeps on our class Advent Calendar until Christmas Day. This week we have got further into the Christmas spirit. The children have enjoyed their daily morning search of the classroom for Buddy (our elf) and seeing what mischief he's been up to. On Tuesday they arrived to nursery to find him sitting on top of the Advent Calendar with a letter from Santa – apparently Billy (one of Santa's elves) has muddled up all the Christmas wish list letters Santa has received so far so Santa asked the children to re-send him their Christmas wish list letters. The children had great fun practising their cutting skills creating their wish letters to Santa.

We have also been practising songs for our Christmas performance; continued exploring pattern - the children couldn't wait to create repeating pattern paper chains to decorate our classroom; exploring alternative versions of *The Christmas Story*; and engaging in lots of festive themed activities including decorating our tree, making decorations, making models out of pine needle scented green playdough, counting out the correct number of baubles to decorate each Christmas tree.

In maths, in addition to counting the sleeps until Christmas Day on our class Advent Calendar daily, we have focused on accurate counting and linking numerals to amounts.

In phonics the children enjoyed playing *What's that sound?* - identifying the correct festive themed sound, to develop their listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment.



Reception

Christmas has arrived in the Jeffers Reception class, and we have enjoyed thinking about all the fun things we do at Christmas time. Each morning we have been singing our Christmas carols in preparation for next week's Christmas Carol performance.

In maths we have had a daily Christmas problem to solve. These problems are happening in Santa's workshop and the children need to work together to sort presents by shape, colour and weight so all the presents will arrive safely on Christmas day.

We have also been working hard at counting all the elves in Santa's workshop and then choosing the correct numeral to show the amount!

Our big writing task this week was to try to use our inventive spelling to write a letter to Santa to tell him all about what we love about Christmas time! We have also asked him a few questions. We have popped our letters into envelopes and posted them into our classroom post box and can't wait to get a letter back from Santa to answer all our questions!

Our most exciting news is all children now have access to Letterland online with their own account. This has been stuck into homework journals and children can read Letterland books and play phonic games too! This is a great resource to use over the school holidays!

Please email a family photograph to jchavaudret-rainfray@templegroveacademy.com to feature in our home corner.

Reminders for both Nursery and Reception:

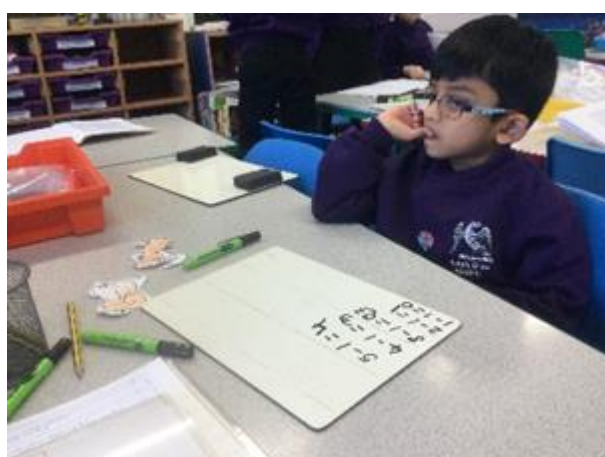
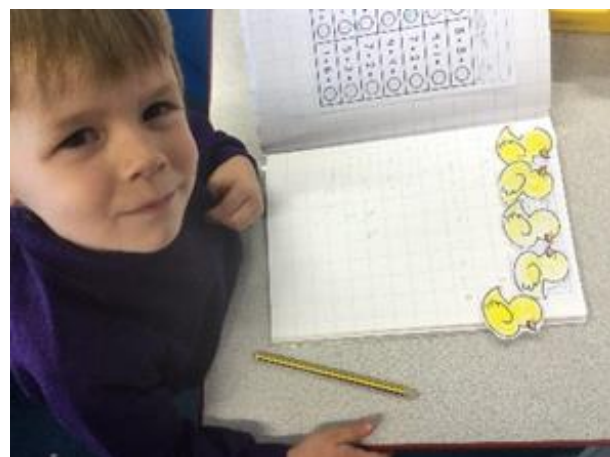
- Please send your child into school on Thursday 15th in a Christmas jumper ready for our performance.
- We will be having an EYFS Christmas party on Friday 16th. Your child is invited to wear their Christmas jumper on this day.



Year 1: Dahl

Year 1 have used the '5 Little Ducks' rhyme to learn subtraction. They cut out ducks and used them as counters. It has been such fun for the children and an exciting way to entrench the concept of subtraction.

*5 little ducks went swimming one day,
Over the pond and far away.
Mother duck said "Quack quack quack quack"
And only 4 little ducks came back.*





Year 2: Browne

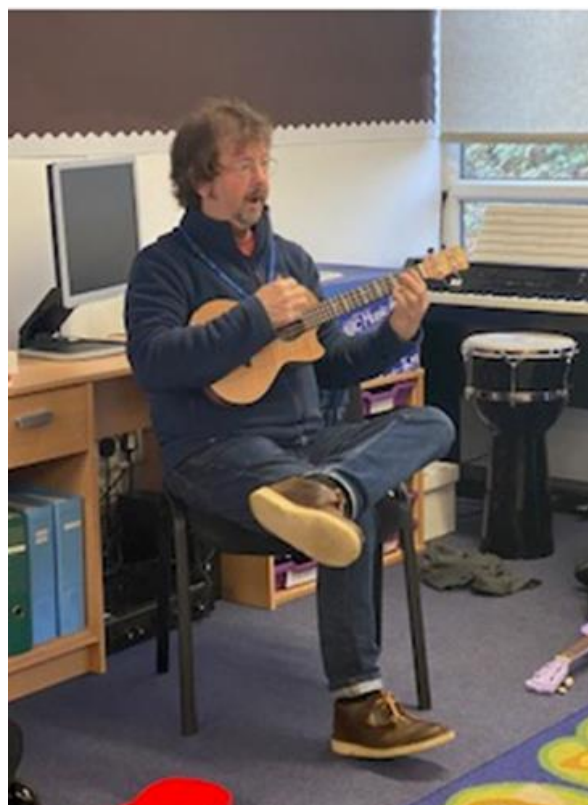
During Science this week, Year 2 were finding out how shapes of solid objects made from different materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. They selected objects from class and identified what they were made out of and why specific materials were used. Well done everyone for participating so brilliantly during this activity!





Year 3 Walliams:

Last week, Walliams enjoyed a great ukulele lesson. The concentrated on rhythm and playing in unison. Walliams class also enjoyed ICT in the hall.







Year 5 Blake:

Year 5 had a lovely time in forest school this week.

They made some beautiful Christmas tree decorations using wood, wool, and beads.

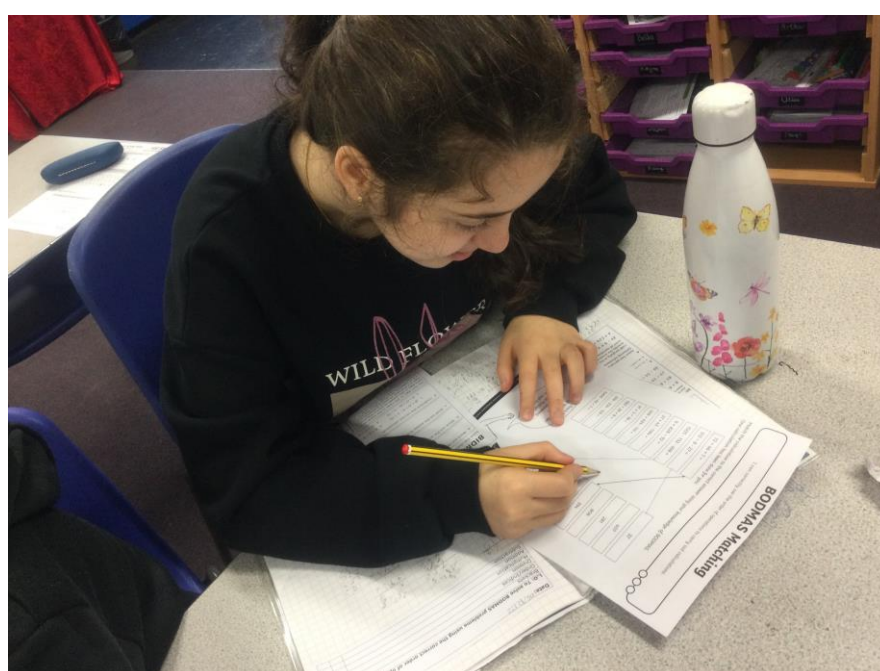
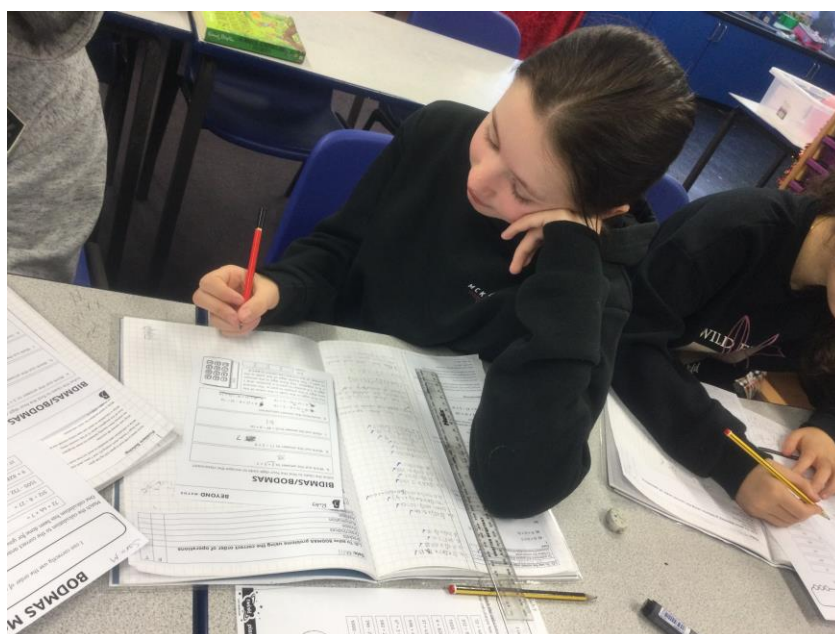
They also made good use of the mud kitchen and enjoyed some hot chocolate by the fire. There was also some fantastic imaginative play.

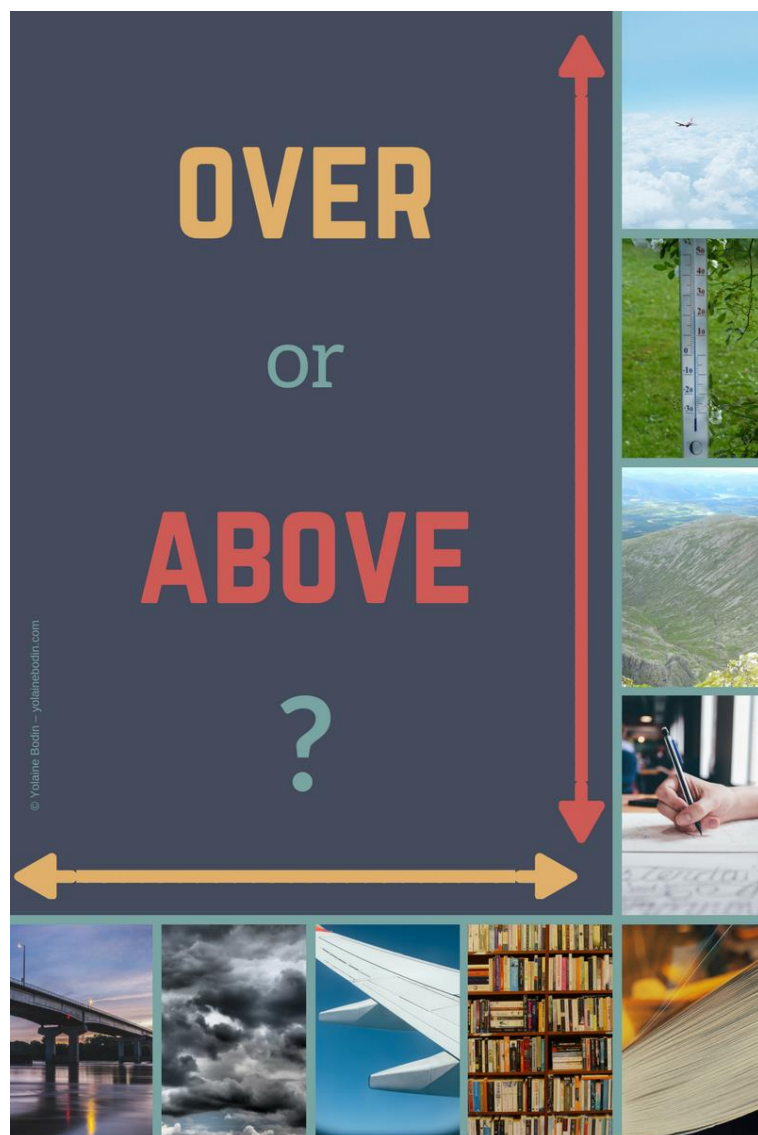




Year 6 Shakespeare:

This week in maths, Year 6 have been looking at the order in which to complete operations in a mixed calculation. E.g., $4 + 7 \times 2$. The children have been learning 'BODMAS' (sometimes known as BIDMAS) and had great fun completing a carousel of problem- solving activities. They have also completed much research into The Blitz and are all set to write some very informative reports about it.





Over and Above Club
this Week:

Dahl: Paisley and Mya

Browne: Zosia and
Henry

Walliams: Karina and
Grace B

Snicket: Lee-Jay and
Grace D

Shakespeare:
Tanmayi and Sara M



This week here are children who demonstrated our School Value of...



Year 1 Dahl: Phaebion for consistently showing good manners and being respectful.

Year 2 Browne: Kodey for being polite and respectful to your peers and teachers.

Year 3 Walliams: Sienna for her fantastic cleanup after painting.

Year 4 Snickett: Sasha is always polite and respectful to all staff.

Year 5 Blake: Riley treating everyone with consideration and respect.

Year 6 Shakespeare: Arthur for his consistently polite manners.



Home Reading



Supporting *Reading* at Home



Take a look at the “**Turn on the Subtitles**” campaign.

<https://turnonthesubtitles.org/parents/>



The initiative is backed by famous faces such as Stephen Fry and comes with a backbone of expert evidence which suggests that turning on the subtitles can double the chances of a child becoming a proficient reader. We will be discussing this with children in school and promoting the use of subtitles whenever we use screens in class. It would be great if you could take part too.

Helping with reading and learning at home



We are teaming up with the National Literacy Trust to provide some exciting reading opportunities for pupils over the coming months. This will include an opportunity for pupils to choose and new books for themselves and for the school.

Take a look at the Parent section of the National Literacy Trust website for help and advice on home reading and other aspects of learning at home such as homework.

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support/>



Poetry Corner

Each week, we will post a poem for you to read and enjoy with your child at home. Poems are an excellent way of exploring stories and language and they don't take too long to read.

To mark this week's plummeting temperatures and frosts, we've selected this poem for you to enjoy at home.



Winter

When the geese are flying south
And the sky is grey, my dears,
Close your eyes and lift your nose;
Listen with your careful ears.

Feel the winter coming on;
Hear it in the crackling trees;
Note the crisping, quivering wind
Sharply snapping at their leaves.



'This May Help' initiative

We are pleased to announce the launch of This May Help, a new national initiative providing mental health advice to parents and carers. This May Help is aimed at parents and carers who may have concerns about their child's mental health and is part funded by the Quality Improvement Taskforce for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Inpatient Services.

The website gives easy-to-follow advice to help families manage their child's mental health. This advice was developed by NHS professionals and parents who've been through their own child's mental health journey. Parents and carers have shared advice that helped them and that may also help other families.

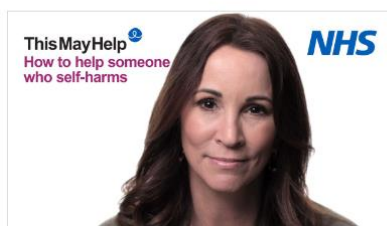
The advice covered on This May Help includes: self-harm, gaming and online activity, teenagers safety, eating disorders, school avoidance and preparing for a children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) appointment.

These subjects were chosen by families and young people who have gone through their own mental health challenges. Gary Lineker, Myleene Klass, and Tanni Grey-Thompson are amongst 16 presenters featured in the films.

Child's mental health



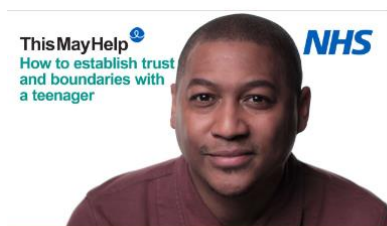
Self-harm



Gaming & online activity



Teenagers safety



Eating disorders



School avoidance





Parent Sessions

Coffee Morning

Temple Grove Academy Nurture Room

Join us every Monday from 9am for a 9:15 start —10am



Emma, your school's Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner, would like to invite you to our parent coffee morning.

Please come along for a chat over tea and biscuits! Every week we will focus on a topic such as behaviour, anxiety, emotions.

The Emotional Wellbeing Team is specially trained to help children at school with their wellbeing and mental health. We understand that from time to time children need additional support so we're here to help. We believe that getting early help can prevent difficulties from getting bigger so that children can enjoy their life.

We work alongside everyone in the school community to promote a 'whole school approach' to emotional wellbeing and mental health. We can also think with parents about their children's feelings and behaviour, sharing information and working together to find a way forwards.

We look forward to meeting you.





St Phillips Church

St Philips is open every Wednesday from 9am - 1pm as a warm space.

There's free refreshments and a simple lunch on offer.

You can also use the space to work, read, board games, newspapers or socialise.



Temple Grove Academy
Tunbridge Wells

END OF TERM DISCO PARTY!

THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2022

YEAR 1 TO 3 FROM 3.30PM - 5PM

YEAR 4 TO 6 FROM 5.30PM - 7PM

**TICKETS ON SALE FROM PFRG
OR ON THE ARBOR SHOP**

£3 PER CHILD

INCLUDES A DRINK AND CRISPS



Christmas Dates

Christmas concerts/performances will take place on the following dates this year:

Tuesday 13th December:

10.00AM: Years 1, 2 and 3

2.00PM: Years 4, 5 and 6

Wednesday 14th December:

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 15th December:

10.00AM: Nursery and Reception

Friday 16th December:

1.00PM: School closes for the Christmas Holidays

Forest School

As we enter the Winter months, please remember to pack a change of clothes including socks, for your child on their Forest School days.



Primary School Applications

Applications for transfer to primary school for both the Reception year and Year 3 (junior school) in September 2023 will open on Friday 4 November 2022 and close on Monday 16 January 2023.

Applications can be made online. Please visit [Primary school places - Kent County Council](#) for more information or to apply.



Summer-born children

As you may be aware, while most children start school in the September following their 4th birthday, they do not reach Compulsory School Age (CSA) until the term after their 5th birthday. For children who are under CSA, once a place has been accepted, parents/guardians can decide for their child to start a pattern of part time attendance or a delayed start until later in the school year.

DOB	May start school full or part time from	Must start school full time no later than
1 st Sept 2018 – 31 st Dec 2018	September 2023	January 2024
1 st Jan 2019 – 31 st Mar 2019	September 2023	April 2024 (Usually following the Easter Holidays)
1 st Apr 2019 – 31 st Aug 2019 (also known as a Summer Born child)	September 2023	September 2024 (starting from Year 1)

If you think this arrangement may apply to you, please use the Parental [advice](#) from the Department of Education to help you make a decision.