



Landscape C of E Primary School
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NEWSLETTER Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents,

With daffodils in bloom and the lovely sunshine we enjoyed earlier in the week, we've been feeling a sense of change and energy in the air. Please read on for what's been happening in school.

LANDSCOVE LEARNERS

CLASS 1: Class one had a fabulous time in their science workshop, learning about electric circuits and motors before making their own amazing robots!

Class one have also been learning about our Food for Thought partner school in Uganda! They looked at photos of the school in Uganda including the school garden where the pupils planted, cared for and harvested food to eat and sell to raise money for their school. They explored a variety of artefacts and compared the climate, wildlife and food in Landscape and Uganda. The children identified that many of the animals in Uganda are not found in the wild in England.

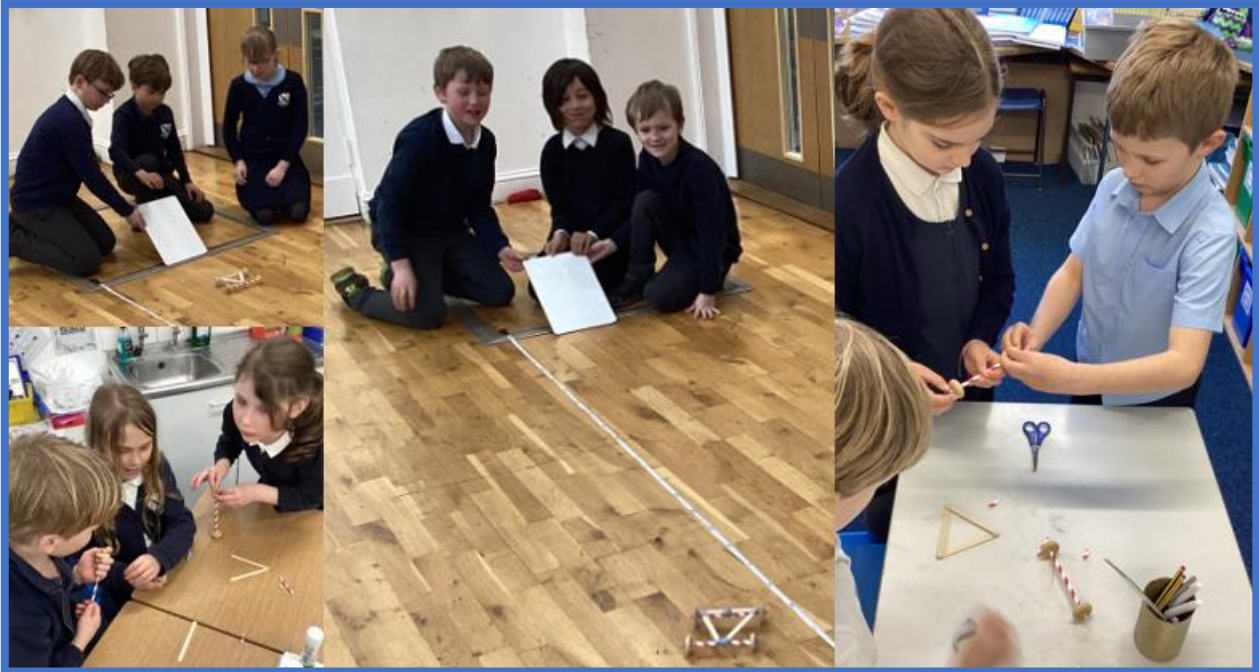


CLASS 2: What a fantastic time Class 2 had on Wednesday during our robot-making science workshop! We learned all about how the motors were used before making and decorating our own unique robots.

Huge thanks to FOLS for supporting workshops for the whole school – the children had a fabulous day!



CLASS 3: We have been having a great time in class 3, designing making and evaluating cars. The children looked at how the design of cars has developed over many years. They learnt that a chassis is the frame of a car on which everything else is built. After building their own cars in teams, they measured the distance their car travelled.



CLASS 4: have been enjoying the Spring sunshine. They have learnt the overarm pass as a way of moving the ball quickly away from defenders. They applied this skill into an end zone game and then a full handball match. Great stuff Class 4.



ETHOS VISION AND VALUES:

Angela, from the Food for Thought Project visited us last week. It's still too cold to start planting, so our gardening groups focused their attention on the greenhouse - the before and after photos look amazing! Angela helped the children write a 'to do list'. This includes weeding the remaining beds, testing old seeds and constructing a hanging line for the wet gardening gloves to dry on. What a tidy greenhouse!



LIVING OUT OUR VALUES... We want to say a massive thank you to Michelle and Richard Pearse (not forgetting Molly and Isaac) for spending a whole weekend at Landscope sorting trees and hedging around our perimeter. This would have been impossible for us to do without their generosity of time, effort and energy - all for the benefit of Landscope. It was a surprise for Michelle to join me at the front of our



celebration assembly today, but the staff felt it was fitting for Michell (and family) to be awarded the courtesy cup.



WORLD BOOK DAY



We all had a fantastic day celebrating World Book Day, it was lovely to see all your wonderful costumes and hear about your favourite books! This year Landscope held a book swap, where children brought in a book and exchanged it for one they haven't read before. Everyone was very excited to see all the book choices and choose their new read. We also did a 'STOP, DROP AND READ' where children were free to mingle in the different classes and read their new books. Great Reading Landscope!

This free guide offers advice on the digital tools available to enhance literacy by making reading more interactive and accessible.

[using-technology-to-boost-reading-skills.pdf](#)

SAFEGUARDING & ATTENDANCE

If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, please contact the school, or in non-school hours contact MASH on 0345 155 1071. Our designated safeguarding officer is Mrs. Ryder and the deputy safeguarding officer is Mr. Ansermoz.

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](#).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**
Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading apps can assist by scrolling and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and are essential to use in cases where they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**
Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**
Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**
Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**
Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve solving puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts and digest them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**
Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it supports them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**
Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to audiobooks before or alongside reading can help them to understand the text and boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 9 TEXT-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**
While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13+ years old, making parental controls essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Monitoring and managing social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert
Cathryn Lewis is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO, the newly founded first in her role. Her teachers, which offers a library of short 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Cathryn also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

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| Attendance: (Our school target is 96.8%) | |
| Whole school | 97.7% |
| Class 1 | 98.4% |
| Class 2 | 98.0% |
| Class 3 | 99.1% |
| Class 4 | 95.4% |
| Well done Class 3! | |



FOLS – a message from Michelle

Thank you to everyone who supported the pancake sale – no profit made just lots of happy faces and sticky fingers, which makes it all worthwhile.

FOLS will be running a FREE Easter trail during Easter-in-a-day on the 31st of March. Each child will receive a chocolate lolly at the end, please let us know if you would not like your child to receive one.

Bags2school will return in May, so spread the word to friends and family to keep hold of any unwanted clothes and shoes ~ We all have clothing in our wardrobes that we haven't worn in ages, but when it comes to a clear out what do you do to make sure the environment comes off best? Bag2School has the answer ~ Collect all your unwanted clothing and drop off at school first thing. **Please note, they will not take Duvets and blankets, pillows, cushions, carpets, rugs or textile off cuts.**

Dates to get ahead for those of you who like to be organised –

- **20th June – Colour Run on the school field – more details in due course**
- **4th July – Summer Fair**

Thank you for all your continued support, **Michelle.**

100 CLUB

I'm sure we could all do with the chance of a little wind fall... Why not join the 100 club?

FOLS runs a 100 Club which costs £4 a month to be entered into the monthly draw. Half of the funds goes into the 100 Club account to assist the school and half is paid out to the winner. The draw takes place on the last Friday of each month during a school assembly. Numbers are still available so to be in with a chance of winning up to £200 each month please contact fols@outlook.com or Danielle Merchant. Anyone can take part including parents, staff, grandparents and neighbours.

Go on...give it a go!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|----------------|---|
| 12.3.25 | Class 4 assembly 3pm School Hall – Class 4 parents invited to join |
| 14.3.25 | C1 Buckfast Abbey trip – The donkey's tale |
| 19.3.25 | Class 2 assembly 3pm School Hall – Class 2 parents invited to join |
| 19.3.25 | Class educational visit Dartmoor national park |
| 26.3.25 | Class 3 assembly 3pm School Hall – Class 3 parents invited to join |
| 28.3.25 | Mothering Friday 9:15 St Matthew's Following this C3 will then be attending a handball event |
| 4.4.25 | Break up for Easter |

That's all for now. Have a great weekend.

Jill Ryder.