

Brookvale Primary School

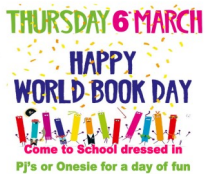
Newsletter



7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a delight to welcome our children back to Brookvale over the last two weeks after what I hope was a refreshing break. With the days becoming longer, brighter and hopefully warmer, this holiday recharge sees us enter a crucial term in your child's learning, one full of great opportunities, events and of course lessons!



This week marked the fantastic World Book Day event! Our Reading experts Mrs Carlill and Miss Willars led a book extravaganza, where it was wonderful to see reading take centre stage in a host of exciting activities and Brookvale's first ever 'Masked Reader' competition - did you manage to identify our mystery masked readers? Make sure you check out the great work from your child's class shared on Twitter!

Last Monday we welcomed back Aston Villa Foundation's 'Villa Vision' initiative who, after conducting eye tests on our Year 5 and 6 cohorts, returned to carry out further extensive tests. This great initiative, funded by the AVFC Foundation, will see a number of our children receive two free sets of glasses! This is a fantastic offer, however remember, should you be concerned or curious about your child's eyesight, the NHS will cover the full cost of an eye test for any child under the age of 16. It is recommended all children from the age of 3 receive regular, full eye examinations.

Last week, we also celebrated our first class assembly of the half term, Year 4's Roman epic. Full of choreographed songs and fantastic acting, and directed by Brookvale's own Roman Empress Miss Humphrey, it was a truly wonderful performance.



Today Year 3 finished a busy week performing their assembly, A walk through Egyptian History. Another first class performance Directed by the fantastic Miss Willars.



Many thanks for your continued support

Mr Mills

We are caring citizens, shaping our communities.

We are ambitious for our success and the success of others.

Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together.

We are passionate about everything, and everyone.

We are the authors of our own lives.

Brookvale Primary School, Mallard Drive, B23 7YB

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Weekly Attendance



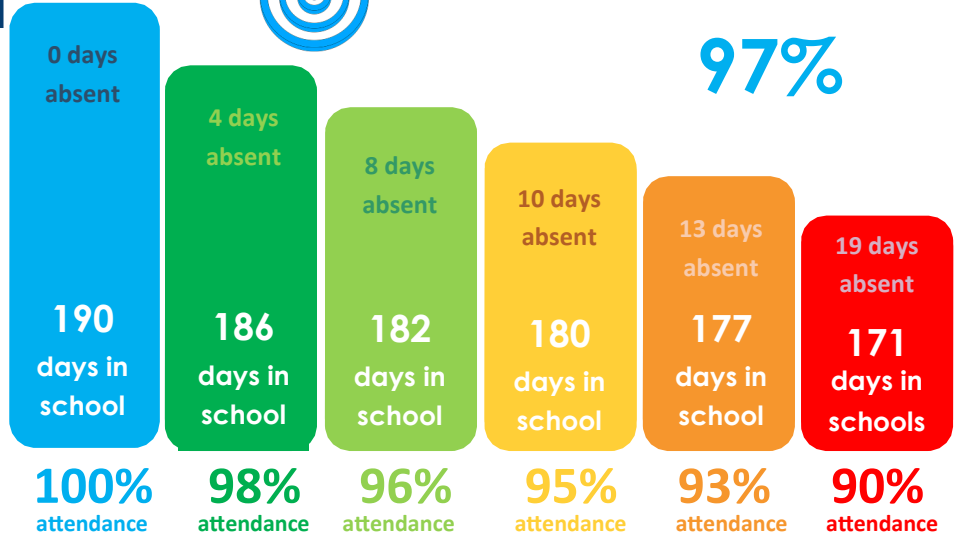
03/03/2025 to 07/03/2025

Reception	89.34%
Year 1	93.75%
Year 2	94.83%
Year 3	96.68%
Year 4	97.41%
Year 5	98.89%
Year 6	96.07%



Our School Attendance Target is

97%



Best chance of academic success and in later life.

Poor attendance—less likely to succeed academically/in later life.

Serious impact on education and reduced life chances

This week's Class Attendance Superstars

Y5

You get extra playtime!

Attendance has really improved this week. Lets keep it going....

Attendance This Week

96.27%

Attendance Year-to-Date

95.61%

This week's 100% attendance Winners:

Harper Rec

Jack Y6

You each win a new book. **Great Job!**

Every day Counts!
Attend Today
Achieve Tomorrow

175 days off school per year.
Use this time for holidays, appointments etc

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Parental Safeguarding

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

Social Media is one of the most popular aspects of the internet, and with the amount of apps available for download increasing constantly, keeping young people safe online has never been more important.

Why are a lot of social media apps 13+?

As you can see from the above infographic, many social media apps have an age rating of 13+. This relates to data processing policies that social media companies need to adhere to. Under the COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) Law, social media companies are prohibited from collecting and storing any personal information about any persons under the age of 13, unless they have permission from their Parents/Carers.

What age do you recommend to begin social networking?

This is going to be different for everyone. However, if the age rating were to do with content, it may be higher. For example, while YouNow's terms state that any user needs to be over the age of 13, some of the content that is being generated on that platform would not be appropriate for someone under the age of 18.

It's always a good idea to gather as much information as possible before proceeding to download any social media app.

We'd recommend checking out [Common Sense Media](#). They give an overview of the app and also a rating based on opinions from experts, Parents/Carers and children and young people too.

13+ Facebook Snapchat Instagram Twitter TikTok Kik YouNow Yubo House Party Monkey		16+ WhatsApp 17+ Sarahah YOLO		18+ MeetMe LiveMe	
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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 scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if 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 adult learners, who might have struggling 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 storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss 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 exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly 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 an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8 VOICE-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.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. From smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage of text and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**
While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and transcripts 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. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert
Cathie Lavelle is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SEND. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Cathie also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

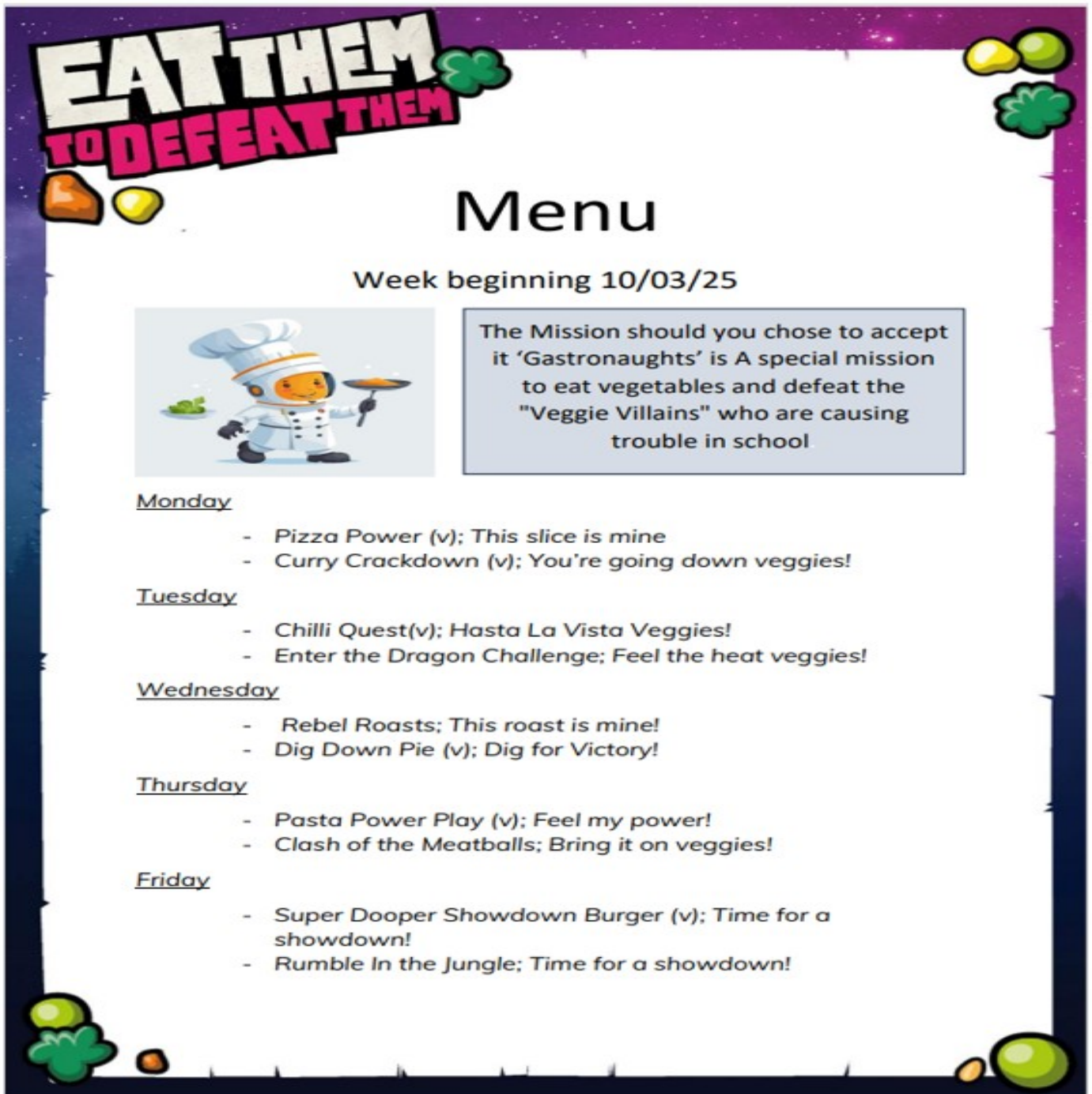


We are excited to be rolling out the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign in March 2025 across our primary schools! This fantastic initiative, created by Veg Power and ITV, aims to encourage children to eat more vegetables through fun activities, and exciting lunchtime experiences.

As part of the campaign, we will be running a week of specially themed menus focused on showcasing different vegetables. This means some meal choices will be different from the usual menu. We kindly ask if you have already pre-selected meal choices for next week (week beginning 10.03.25) you will need to update meal choices accordingly. The updated menus are now live on Relish.

The campaign officially launches the week of 10th March. We encourage all parents and carers to support this campaign at home in order to make this a fun and impactful experience for the children.


Please visit EatThemToDefeatThem.com which has a dedicated section and short video to inform and support families.

A colorful menu graphic for the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign. The title 'EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM' is written in large, bold, stylized letters at the top left. Below it, the word 'Menu' is written in a large, simple font. The text 'Week beginning 10/03/25' is centered below the menu title. To the left of the mission statement is an illustration of a chef in a white uniform and hat, holding a plate with a green vegetable. To the right of the illustration is a grey box containing the mission statement. The menu lists five days of the week with their respective meal options and slogans. The entire graphic is framed by a decorative border with vegetable illustrations.

EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM

Menu

Week beginning 10/03/25



The Mission should you chose to accept it 'Gastronauts' is A special mission to eat vegetables and defeat the "Veggie Villains" who are causing trouble in school

Monday

- Pizza Power (v); This slice is mine
- Curry Crackdown (v); You're going down veggies!

Tuesday

- Chilli Quest(v); Hasta La Vista Veggies!
- Enter the Dragon Challenge; Feel the heat veggies!

Wednesday

- Rebel Roasts; This roast is mine!
- Dig Down Pie (v); Dig for Victory!

Thursday

- Pasta Power Play (v); Feel my power!
- Clash of the Meatballs; Bring it on veggies!

Friday

- Super Dooper Showdown Burger (v); Time for a showdown!
- Rumble In the Jungle; Time for a showdown!

Junior Art Competition 2025: Victory!

On Thursday 8 May 2025 we celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day – Victory in Europe following World War II. The word ‘victory’ means many things to different people, on both a global and personal level. Victory can be defeating an enemy or being victorious in battle. Victory might be represented by what happens after; living in peace time or having freedom that others do not. Victory might mean winning – a race, a match, a competition, a game. Victory might be personal; overcoming an obstacle, beating the odds or a personal best. Victory might be celebrated with a dance, a medal or trophy, an awards ceremony or party. Victory might be a feeling; of joy, resilience or achievement. Victory might be achieved as an individual, a team, a community or nations coming together for the common good.

For this year's brief, we invite you to create an artwork about ‘victory’ and what this word represents to you. Create your artwork in the frame provided, using any art material. Post your entry to the school address below to arrive no later than FRIDAY 9 MAY 2025.

All entrants will feature in a special exhibition to be held at Highclare School in June 2025 and receive a VIP invitation and certificate. Ten winning entries will be presented with certificates and a prize of art materials. One top prize winner will also be presented with the **Highclare School Junior Art Shield** by the Head, Miss F Smith.



Cristina Daura



Jaqueline Hurley

COMPETITION RULES

- All entries must be submitted on a copy of the official entry form.
- Your work must be landscape format, within the frame and include sentence about your picture.
- Your entry can be based on daily life in the past and/or the present.
- You may work in any medium including digital artwork, provided it is printed, and fits within the frame on the template.
- AI generated images and photography are not permitted.



Lucie Llong

HIGHCLARE SCHOOL, 10 Sutton Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6QL Telephone: 0121 373 7400, www.highclareschool.co.uk, Email: enquiries@highclareschool.co.uk

Collect the frame for your picture from the school office

For the safety of everyone please ensure that children

DO NOT

ride bikes or scooter across the playground.



Please dismount your bike or scooter when entering the school grounds



There is an exciting event from The Literacy Trust coming up this Saturday!

Families are invited to join a **FREE World Book Day** celebration with local author, Kate Rafiq.

We'll be exploring stories about Birmingham, including a reading from Kate's [Birmingham Boy](#). All attendees will receive a free book.

WHAT: Storytelling with *Kate Rafiq* – local author of [Birmingham Boy](#). Free books for all attendees!

- **WHO FOR:** Children aged 5-8 and their families
- **WHEN:** Saturday 8 March, with the same session running 11.30-12.15 and 13.00-13.45
- **WHERE:** Children's Library – downstairs at the Library of Birmingham (Centenary Sq, B1 2ND)

HOW TO BOOK: Tickets are free but booking is essential using an online form. www.literacytrust.org.uk/events/world-book-day-at-the-library-of-birmingham/

Upcoming Events



Brookvale's Got Talent Show Thursday 20th March

Play a musical instrument

Tell some funny jokes

Sing a song

Recite a poem

Perform magic
tricks



Perform solo or
part of a group

Perform your sport skills

Dance

2D or 3D Art Entry

**YOU could be our next
Brookvale's Got Talent**

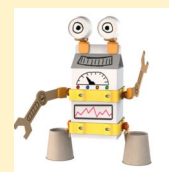
WINNER 2025

Don't want to get on stage?

Children can enter some 2D or 3D art

Create artwork with the theme 'Any Dream is Possible'

All entries must be in school by 9am Friday 7th March



Upcoming Events



SPRING FLING



Wednesday 9th April 2025

Non Uniform Day

3.30pm–5pm

£2.00 entry

To be paid by Wednesday 2nd April on MCAS

Pocket money for Tuck-shop

Upcoming Events



Thursday 20th March	SEND Coffee morning with Marie Smith 9—10am Brookvale Got Talent Show—more details to follow
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day—Wear red to school raising money for Comic Relief
Tuesday 25th March	Y1 and Y3 Open morning—Parents are invited to attend at 9am only The session will end at 10.50am
Wednesday 26th March	Y2 Sea-life trip
Wednesday 2nd April	Y2 Class Assembly 9am—families are welcome to attend Eid Lunch 1 adult per family invited to attend at 11.30 - Book your place on MCAS
Wednesday 2nd—Thursday 3rd April	Parent Consultation Appointments—book your appointment on MCAS
Tuesday 8th April	Y6 Open morning—Parents are invited to attend at 9am only The session will end at 10.50am Easter Lunch for Phelps and Cadbury at 11.30am
Wednesday 9th April	Easter Lunch for Zephaniah and Lewis at 11.30am Spring Fling 3.30pm—5pm Book your child's place on MCAS by Wednesday 2nd April.
Thursday 10th April	Y3 Egyptian Class Trip
Friday 11th April	Awards and 100% Attendance Assembly Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 14th April—Friday 25th April	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Monday 28th April	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR TEACHER TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 29th April	All children back to school
Wednesday 30th April	Y6 Open morning—Parents are invited to attend at 9am only The session will end at 10.50am
Thursday 1st May	PROPOSED—Closed for voting except for Y6 and Staff who attend school as normal
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday Monday—School CLOSED

Don't forget to book your Parent Evening Consultation on MCAS

Call the office if you are having issues.

Eid Celebration
Family Lunch
Wednesday 2nd April

Tasty Mains
Chicken Balti
Or
Chickpea and Potato Curry
Both served with Rice and Chapattis

Veggie Sides
Sweetcorn/peas
Mixed salad

Dessert
Mango Smoothie

Book your place on MCAS
Places are limited

Easter Lunch

MENU
Main Meal
Roast Chicken
or
Vegetarian Sausage
On the side
New Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert
Fruity Shortbread

Tuesday 8th April for Cadbury & Phelps
Wednesday 9th April for Zephaniah & Lewis
1 Adult per family
£3.50 (for the adult) via MCAS

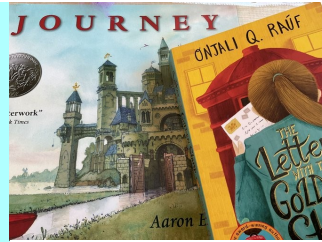
PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE NOT CATERED FOR

Social Media

Brookvale Primary @BPS_B23



Year 1 have had a fabulous day celebrating 'World Book Day', they have focused on the 'Journey' by Aaron Becker and drawn some images of where their crayon



Thank goodness for Stop, Drop and Read today because I can't get enough of "The Letter with the



What was behind the door today in year 4?



What on earth is going on in year 6 today? Where have those purple feathers come from?



Phase 1 of cresting our own version of "Journey" by Aaron Becker is in full swing in year 6!



The 'Journey' they've been on today has been truly wonderful - look at that level of detail!



Reception enjoying reading outdoors in the reading crates.

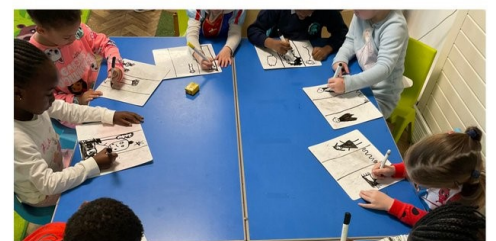
Year 3 are preparing for a journey today! They have been busy investigating the items and unscrambling the letters to make predictions about her focus text for the day!



First story of the day in Reception class



Starting off World Book Day with a Kahoot for story books but emoji style!



Reception enjoyed creating their own character, setting and adventure after enjoying the whole school story 'Journey' by Aaron Becker

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