



9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>  
November -  
Parents'  
Evenings

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
November -  
Book Fair

19<sup>th</sup>  
November -  
Sponsored  
walk

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I'm writing this piece for our newsletter, it is clear that Autumn has certainly arrived – the dark mornings are setting in and the wind is whipping up outside!

It has been another challenging term in school, as we map our way through the continuing pandemic but we have had some incredible highs, as you will hopefully see as you read through this letter.

This term we welcomed two new members of staff; Mrs Caroline Wilson has joined us as a new Lunchtime Supervisor and Mrs Imogen Satorius compliments our team of Teaching Assistants. We have also appointed Mr Richie Ryan to support Mrs Goodman in Year 4. He will be teaching one day a week in Oak and we are very excited to be welcoming him after Christmas.

Miss Malpas will be having a busy half-term break. On Tuesday she will be marrying Mr Campbell! We hope they have a wonderful day and wish them lots luck! We will be welcoming Mrs Campbell back in Term 2!

I would like to share some further exciting news with you. Mrs Silk is expecting twins! She will continue teaching in Year 1, until maternity leave commences in Term 3. We are now recruiting for an exceptional teacher for her replacement while she is away. I am sure you will join all of us in congratulating her, her husband and Tilly!

Our new website is just about ready to 'go live'. If you access it during the coming week, it may look a little strange as we make the transition. We know that the new site will provide a much more exciting platform, and a much easier one to navigate, sharing with everyone what Charlton is all about! To get the very best first glance, do ensure that you carry out a hard refresh of your device (CTRL + F5 / CMD, SHIFT + R).



Please remember that Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November is an INSET day for Charlton and we will be welcoming all of the children back for the start of Term 2, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Stay safe and enjoy a restful half term.

Mrs Rooke – Head of School

# Foundation



During term 1, we have welcomed 57 Foundation Stage children into our school. We have been enjoying getting to know each other through our 'Being me in my world' theme. We have been finding out about each other's families, our homes and our bodies, and about how we are similar and different to one another. We have enjoyed exploring our new environment and getting to know people in our school community by playing and working together.

We have also been learning about Autumn and enjoyed a visit to our local church, Holy Trinity, to find out about how Christians celebrate Harvest. A wonderful start to the new school year and two very settled classes of children. Well done to the children and many thanks to all the parents and staff for supporting them at the very start of their exciting 'Charlton School' journey.





# Year 1



This term, we have been thinking about free-standing structures in our D&T lessons. The children have been creating these structures out of various materials. Our end product was designing a new climbing frame for our Year 1 area! In science we have been thinking about materials too, and exploring what different objects are made from. We've done some super maths this term too, the children particularly enjoyed doing their maths on the tables! We're already looking forward to next term and starting our Nativity.

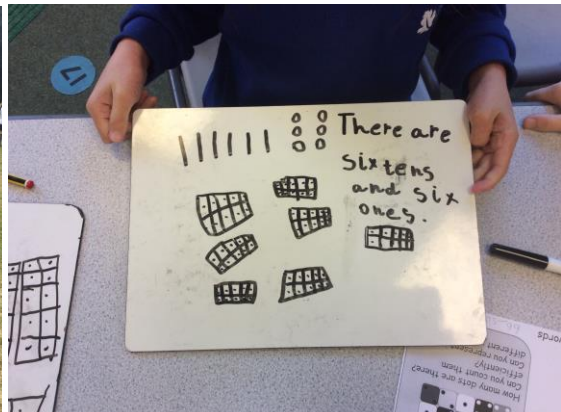




# Year 2



What a busy first term the children have had starting in Year 2! They have settled in well and we have enjoyed seeing them take on the learning opportunities with the biggest of smiles. In maths, we have spent most of the term look at place value: identifying the value of the digits in a number, comparing numbers, ordering numbers on a number line and building numbers. In english, the children have fully immersed themselves in our storytelling of 'Eliot Midnight Superhero'. They have enjoyed writing an email to Eliot to ask for his help, acting out lions escaping from the zoo and they are now currently innovating their own ending to the story. The children have been exploring the big question 'What is healthy?' in science. They were proactive in tasting some foods from the different sections on the wellbeing plate, exploring why we need to move and exercise and discovered why we need to wash our hands. Finally, in history, the children have been learning about Florence Nightingale and looking at the big question 'Why do we remember Florence Nightingale'. They have discovered the work she took on to change the conditions of hospitals in the Crimean war as well as the changes she has made for nursing today.



# Year 3



We have all settled well into life in Year 3 and have enjoyed lots of responsible learning in several subject areas, but especially in science and geography. In science we were asking the Big Question – ‘Why don’t penguins freeze when they jump into icy water?’ We had great fun investigating this question and testing our theories! The children might have told you about putting their hands into a bucket of icy water! The children used digital thermometers and bottles of water wrapped in different materials to mimic the body temperature and coverings of a penguin to test what happened when it was added to the icy water! The results were very interesting. In geography, our unit of work has focused on using and making maps, with the children all making their own compass and finding local landmarks on Ordnance Survey maps. We have also enjoyed our Poetry Slam, with some great performances in both classes as well as a successful start to swimming lessons.





# Year 4



This term, Year 4 visited Letcombe Brook to meet with conservation expert Mark Bradfield. We were able to see what plant and animal life use the brook as its habitat. Because it has a chalk bed, the brook is rare and is home to many unusual creatures. Children learnt about how they can look after the brook and raise awareness of its importance. We are lucky enough to be able to go again later in the year to see what changes have taken place in our absence!

In science, children have been exploring circuits as pictured below.



# Year 5



We have had a very hands-on start to Year 5! In science, the children have been learning about reversible and irreversible changes. They have planned and completed their own investigations to discover what affects the rate of dissolving as well as considering the best way to separate different materials. They have also investigated chemical reactions and discovered what happens if you mix bicarbonate of soda with vinegar in a balloon – it will inflate! In DT, the children have researched and designed their own Viking dwelling. Last week, they perfected their measuring skills and cut the wood to the correct length. Each group had great success with this and we can't wait to see the finished products.





# Year 6



On Monday 11th October, we had IMPs (Injury Minimisation Prevention for Schools) come and visit us and it was so much fun! First, we watched a video which contained real-life scenarios of first aid in action. We then learnt about what a trip to A & E would look like and even got to look at X-rays of broken bones! After break time, my group went down to the hall and learnt how to react in an emergency situation using DR.SABC (danger, response, shout, airway, breathing, chest compressions). We also learnt how to put people into the recovery position.

From Lexie (Acacia class)





# Forest School

## Words from the woods!

For those of you who haven't yet met me, I am that funny little woman who spends most of her time in the woods, but can be seen pushing a wheel barrow around school wearing muddy clothes and waterproof trousers! I feel I have the most wonderful job ever, being able to take the children outside and allow them to freely engage with nature and all it has to offer.

## Kind donation given

Pre-Lockdown, we were kindly donated some gardening vouchers to Forest School. This was terribly exciting but I have struggled to decide what best to spend them on. With the maintenance work carried out, we were using some very old spades, which sadly some of them came to their natural end during the work, so I have used the vouchers to purchase 5 new spades for Forest School, which will not only be used during the maintenance groups with Year 6, but also in most Forest School sessions where the children do LOVE to dig in the mud pit!

Our sincere thanks to Mr & Mrs Rogers for their kindness in donating these vouchers these spades will get a huge amount of use.

After a much-needed resting period, our woodland is now ready for us to explore again.

Given its extended period of rest through lockdown the woodland became mightily overgrown and needed much maintenance before we could return. This has been made possible by some amazing volunteers.

The first steps were to hack our way back through the overgrown paths and reinstate the boundaries. This was done by a wonderful group of supporters of Forest School who gave up a day and worked really hard, to make this happen. My thanks to Martin and Ben Gillot, Emma Farthing, James Barnes, and our own Miss Biles and Mrs Hales.

Once clear and safe to return to, the woodland paths needed to be re-chipped and a new mud pit filled. These jobs are no mean tasks, they are hard work and repetitive. Here enter my second group of wonderful volunteers: Year 5 to the rescue! (Our now current Year 6)

I was overwhelmed that the whole year group were prepared to come and muck in and help get us ready. Each Wednesday morning 2 groups came down in shifts, grabbed buckets, spades and wheel barrows and shifted the lot! They experienced a great deal of fun, teamwork, problem solving, and hard work. Between them all, over term 6, they chipped the paths in the woods and nearly filled the new mud pit. Superstars each one of them!



# Physics Photography Phun Competition

## Don't forget to enter as prizes available!

This competition is open to all children from Foundation to Year 9 in 3 different age groups. There is also an adult category open to school staff and parents. The theme is '**Physics in my world**'.

This could include photos in categories such as:

Light and shadow

Movement (vehicles, animals, playing, throwing, squashing, stretching, pushes and pulls)

Gears, levers and pulleys (e.g. at the playground, on my bike)

Forces such as friction, gravity, air-resistance, water-resistance (slipping, falling, defying gravity, windy day, floating and sinking)

Electricity

Magnets

Sound

Space

These are all areas of physics which are covered in schools.

## How to enter

- 1 Take a number of photographs and choose your favourite to submit – only 1 entry per person. If more than one photo is entered, the first image will be used.
- 2 Name your digital image file in this format: **School abbreviation, age range, child/adult name, name of photo. Email subject should be: Photo, School abbreviation, Age range, competitor name.**
- 3 Send your digital image to your school's designated staff member before **midnight on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.**

**Your school information for file name:**

**School Abbreviation: CPS**

**Age ranges: Early, KS2, KS3, adult (early = Foundation to Y2)**

**Send to [photos@charlton.vale-academy.org](mailto:photos@charlton.vale-academy.org)**

Example filename for Jo Witney in Y2 at Charlton: CPSEarlyJoWitneyflyingskateboard.jpeg

Example email subject:

Photo CPS, Early, Jo Witney



making physics matter



# Success Ladder

Personal development is a huge part of school life at Charlton. Along with the extensive work which we have been doing on our curriculum, we have been working hard on reviewing and developing our personal development provision too. One particular aspect which we have been reviewing is the way in which we celebrate academic success across the curriculum. We have taken time to carefully reflect on feedback from staff and children, and we are now able to implement these changes via *Success Ladder*.

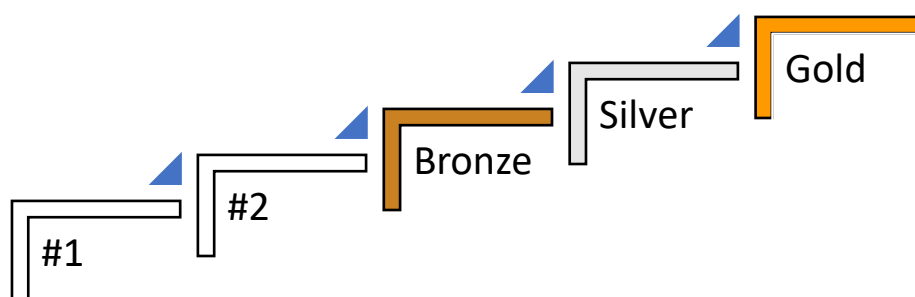
Success Ladder has a number of aims:

- Encourage children to model our school values and celebrate the times when these are demonstrated.
- Encourage academic success and celebrate the academic achievements of children in subjects across the curriculum.
- Celebrate success collaboratively.
- Enable all adults in school to identify and celebrate achievements.

## How does it work?

Any member of staff can award a *merit* to a child. This could be given verbally, in lessons, in the corridor, in assemblies, at break/lunch etc or they can be written in books as a reward for something in a piece of work. Merits can also be awarded for showing any one of our school values. When a child receives a *merit*, they record these on their record sheet.

There are five levels for children to work through:



After levels #1 and #2, achieving merits in Years 4–6 becomes more challenging at each level as children are required to record merits for certain subjects and values.

When they achieve specific totals they share this achievement with Mrs Rooke, Miss Malpas or Mrs Thorne who will ensure that they receive the appropriate reward.

Achieving levels #1 and #2 will earn children a special certificate and a place on our Success Ladder display. Achieving Bronze, Silver or Gold will earn children a special certificate, a place on our Success Ladder display, a letter home and a mystery prize!

Merits for the whole class are also totalled each week by a classroom adult and displayed in the classroom. These totals are collated and shared in assembly. The whole school works together towards a set target. When the total is met, all classes receive 'Totaliser Time' which is a reward time for everyone to enjoy.

So far, we have been hugely impressed with the number of children who have already earned their first certificate!

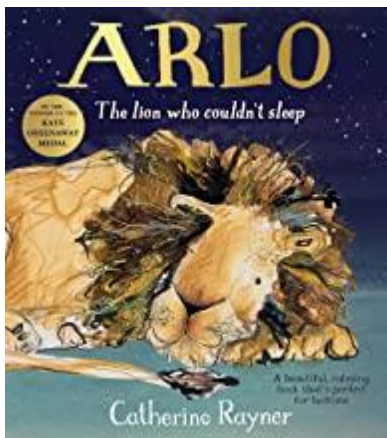


Later this year, we will be extending our personal development offer further through a new initiative designed to develop character and citizenship. This programme will also link closely to our Rights Respecting Schools work. More details to follow in the coming terms.





## Miss Malpas' book recommendations



### **Arlo: The lion who couldn't sleep**

**By Catherine Rayner**

This is a perfect bedtime story! It has beautiful illustrations and even includes a lullaby by Owl which is both gently and calming, contributing to the meditative feel of the whole book.

The story follows Arlo the lion who is very tired but just can't get to sleep. When he meets Owl, who can sleep through the day when all the other animals are awake, she teaches him a beautiful melodic song which lulls him into a lovely deep sleep.

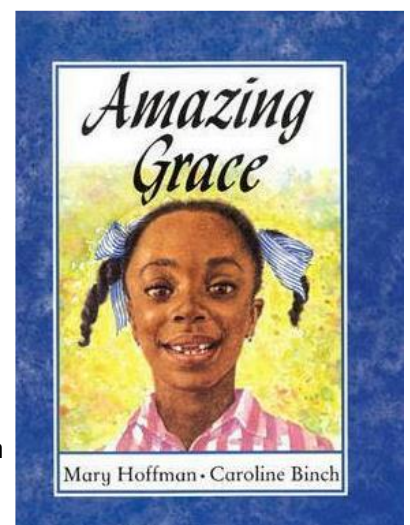
### **Amazing Grace**

**By Mary Hoffman**

Like all years, we began this year with a storytelling fortnight. During these two weeks, a story is shared with the whole school which the children learn by heart using a number of strategies, they then innovate parts of the story so that it is altered and personalised to their own version of the original and then they write their own story.

This year, we selected *Amazing Grace* because the way in which it teaches children about children's rights, linking to our Rights Respecting Schools work. In the story, Grace really wants to audition for the part of Peter Pan in the school play but she is told that she can't. The story explores how Grace can be anything that she wants to be if she puts her mind to it.

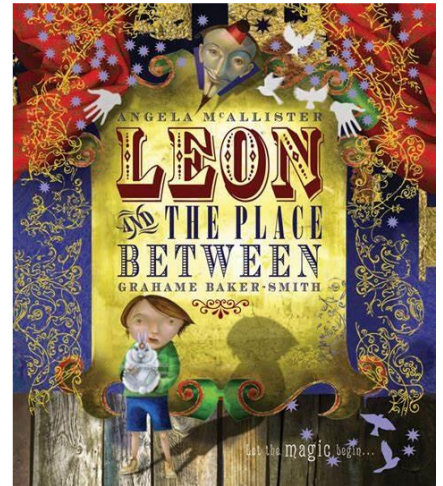
There are a number of other stories about Grace including, *Boundless Grace* and *Grace and Family*.



## Leon and the Place Between By Grahame Baker-Smith

This story is about a young boy who visits the circus with his brother and sister. Unfortunately, they are not impressed with the acts and think that it is make believe. Leon, however, *does* believe and is chosen by the magician to be part of the act. He travels to the place between, where all sorts of wonderful sights greet him.

I loved how the author and illustrator really created a sense of the circus through their illustrations. The pictures were packed with snippets of the circus and there really was a sense of magic on every single page!



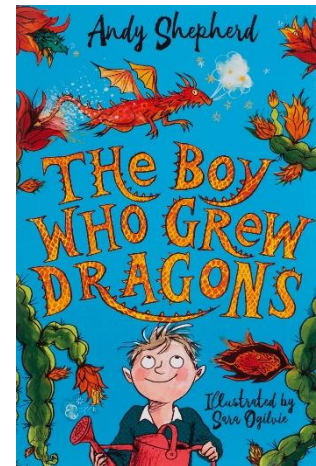
## The boy who grew dragons

By Andy Shepherd

When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandad's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes the funny fruit back into the house – and gets the delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches!

The story follows Tomas as he tries hard to keep his pet dragon a secret which is incredibly hard when you consider the fact that they breathe fire and leave the smelliest poos everywhere!

There are more books in this series for anyone who enjoys the light-hearted and funny storylines of this book! I was desperate for Tomas to keep his dragon secret, especially from his mean



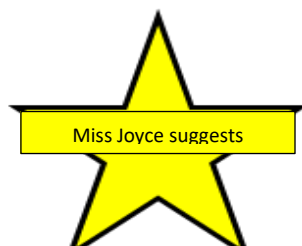
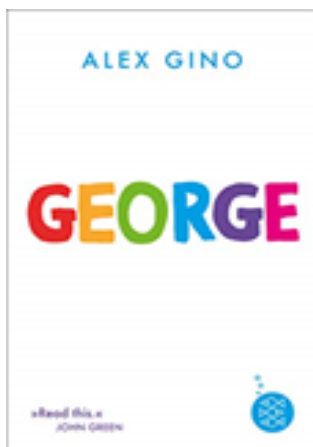
## George

By Alex Gino

This is a fantastic story for children in Year 5 and Year 6 who enjoyed “Amazing Grace” during our storytelling fortnight. It is full of wonder, determination and perseverance and follows the story of George, who is determined to play the role of Charlotte in the school’s production of “Charlotte’s Web”.

However, there is one big problem with this...George is not allowed to audition because Charlotte is a girl’s part. Undeterred by this, George is determined to play the part of Charlotte because although she is viewed as a boy by other people, she knows she is really meant to be a girl. With the help of her friend Kelly, George does everything she can to fulfil her dream.

*(George has also been published under the title “Melissa’s Story”)*





# Miss Malpas' book recommendations



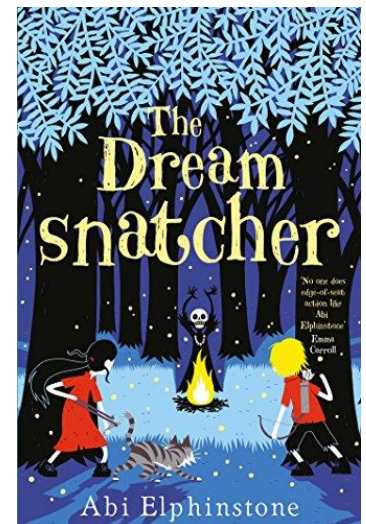
## **Dream Snatcher**

**By Abi Elphinstone**

This fantasy novel is packed with adventure, magic and humour and follows Moll, a gypsy orphan living in the Tanglefern Forest with her wildcat Gryff. She is haunted by a recurring nightmare that pulls her from the safety of her caravan and deep into the forest. One night, she awakens to find her terrible dream has become reality.

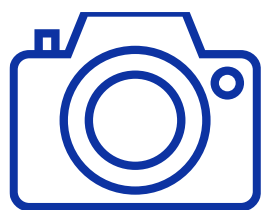
She has been summoned by a group of magicians who plan to kill her – it has been said that Moll is the only one who can stop the Shadowmasks taking over. Moll and Gryff, helped by an unlikely accomplice, must fight the darkness to fulfil the Bone Murmur prophecy.

If you enjoy fantasy, and have enjoyed any of Abi Elphinstone's other books, then you will likely enjoy this too! There are two more books in this series: *The Shadow Keeper* and *The Night Spinner*.



Please support our next Book Fair 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November and help earn FREE books for our school!





# PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



Children have made a great start on their Success Ladders, already receiving Headteachers Awards for earning merits in class.

Thank you to everyone who supported #HelloYellow day and helped us raise nearly £300!!

Pupil Parliament has been launched! This term saw young representatives from all eight of the trust's schools take part in a virtual parliamentary session via Microsoft Teams. The aim of the Pupil Parliament is to reflect on current issues and consider how best to tackle them by listening to others, raising awareness, and then implementing ideas to support improvement over time across schools.

We also want to thank the PTA and staff for putting on such an enjoyable disco which raised an amazing £1,070!!