



# SPRING 1 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a fantastic half term in school full of many productive learning opportunities. After half term, the staff team will be focusing on developing children's memory and building key essential knowledge. I will let you know the finer details as the term progresses.

We have made it to February and the days are starting to lighten and the signs of spring are finally appearing. A good well-being tip I have found is to watch how many minutes daylight we gain each week. Since last Friday we have fourteen extra minutes., 2 minutes each day. These marginal gains all add up and it has meant that my morning run starts in the dark but now ends in the light! I would encourage you to take the time to read and digest all that is written in this half termly newsletter.

**Staffing news**—We have successfully appointed two new administrators this week and they will be beginning their induction once checks have been completed. I will formally introduce you to them in the coming weeks. We wish Mrs Chapman all the best for pastures new as she leaves Embsay Primary School today!

I would like to thank all the staff at Embsay CE VC primary School, who work tirelessly day in day out to provide the very best education for your children.

Finally, just to let you all know that it has been agreed by governors to extend the support offered by Kildwick school to Embsay School until the end of the summer term. This has so far been a successful and rewarding experience for both schools.

Wishing you a wonder filled half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back into school on Monday the 19th February.

Mr Whitehead

Interim Headteacher

### **Governing Body Update**

Please follow the link to read the latest news on the work of the governing body this half term.

## **Spring 1 – Governor Update**

This half term has unfortunately seen the headteacher continue to be absent from work which led to her decision in January to retire in order to allow the school to move forward. One of the main duties of the governing body is to recruit and oversee the school leadership, vision and strategy. We have been exploring different options and consulting with the Local Authority Governance Service, School Improvement Service and the Diocese to look at the best options for the school's future leadership and direction.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured an agreement with Kildwick School and the Local Authority, to extend Mr Whitehead's role as Interim Headteacher until the end of this academic year. This will ensure stability and continuity for the school and its staff as we plan for the next phase of the school's development and fill the leadership needs.

We are committed to maintaining the progress made in the school since the beginning of the year, as identified by our School Improvement Plan. Governors held reviews with the Local Authority on school improvement ensuring that we are on target with addressing some of the areas we identified for improvement. This review showcased the positive impact of change that has already been made within school. The governing board met in February to review our current strategy and impact, focusing on the quality of curriculum delivery and subject coordination. We have been impressed by the positive impact and enthusiasm of our new SENCO lead, Ms Sanderson. She has made a strong start and we are confident that she will enhance the learning experience for our SEND children.

The school has received several visits from governors who have evaluated various aspects of its performance including financial visits, working with the school to look understand our current position and budget monitoring, and safeguarding visits, to ensure that actions and changes have been identified and are being implemented.

We are happy to report that our current support from Kildwick School has been a valuable opportunity for mutual learning and development for both schools and staff. As we start the new half term, Embsay Governors will receive joint training, alongside the governors from Kildwick, to enhance skills in school improvement and impact evaluation, ensuring we keep advancing our school's performance. We appreciate the staff's unwavering commitment to our children, especially in this challenging year. The school is continuing to demonstrate positive change and progress thanks to their hard work and professionalism.

Chris Atherton  
Parent Governor | Chair of Governors

# LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

## Reception

We have loved this half term in Reception and have enjoyed exploring winter and learning about the polar regions.



We started the half term by thinking about our holidays and all sharing the exciting things we had been up to over Christmas! We then read 'Stick Man' and thought about the different seasons and thought how we knew it was now Winter. We also read 'The Gruffalo's Child' and loved carefully drawing and painting our own Gruffalos using water colours!

We have been working really hard on our phonics this half term and have loved learning our new phonemes. We have been practising our letter formation to help our handwriting too.



We enjoyed learning about the polar regions and the animals that live there. We looked at where they are on a map and learnt about how the animals are adapted to live there.

We investigated shadows as part of our learning and explored our own shadows outside in the playground. We then explored shadow puppets inside and thought about what causes shadows.

We loved when it snowed and went on a Winter Walk around the playground and into the garden to see what signs showed us it was winter. We were excited to find the whole pond frozen in the garden and loved playing with the snow in our own playground.



We then thought about different animals in winter and how we could help them. We decided to make bird feeders to help the birds. We loved mixing all the ingredients together in groups to make our feeders.

In maths this half term, we have loved learning about shapes and going on shape hunts around the classroom, as well as playing shape games outside. We then have learnt about weight and capacity. We used balance scales and used the language 'lighter', 'heavier' and 'equal' when comparing the weight of objects. For capacity, we had lots of fun playing outside to fill up different containers and thinking how we could fill them the fastest. We have then learnt about the numbers 6, 7, 8 and have loved playing lots of different maths games this half term!



In Art, we have been concentrating on learning about the artist Matisse and making our own portraits.

Before half term, we have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and reading different stories about it. We loved having a morning with all of KS1 to do lots of different craft activities to celebrate Chinese New Year!

We have loved this half term with Reception and can't believe we are already half way through the school year! We hope you all have a lovely half term!



# LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

## Year One

Year 1 have had a fantastic half term learning all about London. We started by writing stories based on 'Katie in London' by James Meyhew. We also learnt about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and what their capital cities are.

In history, we have explored the Great Fire of London, thinking about what London was like before 1666 and then talking about the reasons that the fire spread so quickly. After that, we talked about the lessons that were learnt and how London was rebuilt in ways that made it safer. Also, how more equipment was made available to fight fires so they didn't have to use leather buckets any more.

In art, the children have made some amazing Tudor houses, we know that many of the original houses were made of wood and had parts jutting out at the top which made the streets really narrow.

In Science, we have been talking about winter weather (very topical as I sit here watching the snow fall!) and we wrote some winter poems to link with this in our English lessons. Additionally, we have watched and photographed our hyacinth flowers as they have grown from bulb to bloom. They make the classroom smell heavenly!

The Year 1's continue to impress us with their weekly spelling test. Just showing how much they have listened and practised both in school and at home.

In RE, we have been thinking about our Special Places. The children had some lovely places which are special to them including, 'Grandma's because it's warm and smells of coffee' to 'My home because I can hear chatting and it's safe and happy.' They are now thinking and learning why churches are special to Christians, and we will be making a visit to St. Mary's Church next term.

Sadly, our outdoor learning day has had to be postponed due to the winter weather! However, we are looking forward to taking part in that on Thursday 22nd February.



# LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

## Year Two

The start of 2024 brought a whistle-stop tour around the world to Year 2 . We completed our tour of Antarctica, moving to the warmer continent of Africa, Australia and ending with China, celebrating the year of the dragon.

This half term has been a short but busy one. We welcomed the arrival of the snow in January and had fun building snowmen and giant snowballs . In our work on Antarctica, we planned, designed and evaluated our snow mobiles which are now ready for any more snow heading our way.

Africa brought us stories of animals, as we read and watched Tinga Tinga tales and then wrote our own versions of how animals got their ..... trunks, necks, spots, stripes. Mrs Pettit did some amazing art with the children, creating our own Masai figure drawings using chalk. The sound of drums echoed through the school as we learnt how to do call and response rhythmic patterns on the African drums. I was really impressed with how the children followed the rhythm and different tempos of the drums

A BIG thank you to parents who supported their children . We saw some amazing pieces of African homework project , —Powerpoints, models, factsheet , videos and interviews with one of our past pupils who lived out in Tanzania.

Our next stop was Australia. In English, we researched some of the animals that live down under– kangaroos, koalas and Tasmanian devils. We used facts learnt from video clips and books to make our own non fiction books, complete with contents pages and glossaries

Chinese new year celebrates the year of the dragon. Our role play area has been transformed into a Chinese restaurant. The children have enjoyed reading menus, taking orders, serving customers and taking money for customers and telephone take away orders.

In this last week of term, we have worked with Reception and Year 1 making Chinese new year cards, dragons and learning how to write in Chinese and even learning a little bit of Mandarin.

Our Maths work this half term has been based around multiplication and division and seeing the links between the two. We have carried out lots of practical work, grouping and sharing objects. Keep practising those 2,5 and 10 times tables.

In Science, we have been learning about healthy eating and why exercise is so important. This has linked with our PE sessions where we have been developing our gymnastic skills and creating sequences.

RE this half term has looked at the good news that Jesus brings. We have explored the word peace, discussing what that word means for us in our lives and the places we find peaceful.

Mrs Holmes , Miss Hodgson and Mrs Snelling would like to wish you all a peaceful, relaxing half term.



# LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

## Year Three

A great start to 2024 with a short term but another busy one full of learning where we also welcomed Mrs Hill into Year 3.

Our English work has been based around the text *The Iron Man*. We learnt about the features of newspaper reports and then created our own report about the arrival of an iron man in our local area.

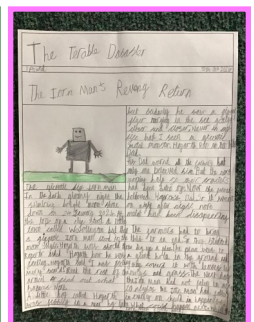
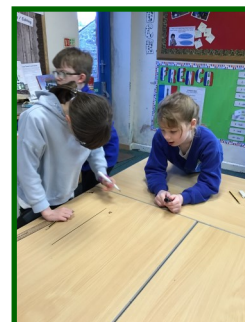
Our Maths work has been based around multiplication and division. We have been using the skills learnt to tackle some tricky word problems. Towards the end of this half term, we moved onto learning about length and perimeter, using rulers and metre sticks to measure different areas of the school.

Science started with a very competitive game of tug of war! As our topic this term has been Forces we thought we would test out our push and pull forces. The children went on to carry out a fair test investigating the Big Question, "Which surface will let a toy car travel the furthest? Our Year 3 scientists really impressed me with their ability to measure accurately and to test the variables fairly. They have also had fun exploring magnets and are in the middle of designing a game which uses the force of magnetism.

Scratch has been a very popular app in Computing and the children have learned to program short animations with movement, sound and speech.

In PE, Mr Dee has been teaching them all about teamwork through a series of challenges. From working together as a whole class team to navigate PE mats around obstacles, to a small group challenge of how many sheets of paper can be placed on one team member. It turns out ... quite a lot and very creative ideas!

Our RE work focused on how Hindus worship. We made our own Diwali lanterns.



Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home. Continuing to read with them, as well as reading to them has an amazing impact on all their learning and enjoyment.

**From the Year 3 Team**

**Mrs Hill, Mrs Crompton and Mr Dee**

# LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

## Year Four



We can't believe how fast this half term has gone! Even though it has been a short one of only five weeks, Year 4 have been working extremely hard and have achieved such a lot (despite the incessant indoor wet playtimes, colds, coughs, tummy bugs and even snow!) They are certainly ready for the holidays. We hope you all have a lovely half term and are able to fully recharge your batteries!



Our Geography topic on 'Climate and Biomes' have allowed us to explore the different areas of the world through using atlases, globes and Google Earth. We have been working in small teams to each explore a different Biome, finding out about its climate and the different animals and plants that live there. We are now busy finishing off our group collages and writing a Biome poem to go with it.



In English, we have been reading a variety of poems and sharing some of our own personal favourite ones. We've learnt to identify different features such as rhyming couplets, onomatopoeia, rhythm and personification. Using these features (and expanded noun phrases from last term), we wrote our own poems entitled 'Ten Things Found in a Wizard's Pocket' and 'The Cave'. We've also enjoyed listening to and joining in with performance poems such as 'Grrr!' (which deals with feelings of anger) and (our favourite one) 'Chocolate' by Michael Rosen.



Our daily online 'Multiplication Times Tables Check' and 'Flashback 4' work (when we first come into class each morning) have helped to improve our Mental Maths knowledge as well as our speed at answering Maths facts. We are also becoming whizzes at multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and by 100. We have learnt how to do written column multiplication with increasingly larger numbers and practised it this week, through trying to solve real-life multiplication problems. We are now finishing the half term by exploring perimeter.

In PSHE, we have focused on 'Self Awareness' and how it is important to look after ourselves emotionally and mentally. We discussed what we felt we were good at and what we would like to improve. Then, other people wrote messages to tell us what they thought we were good at. It really boosted our confidence and made us realise how special and talented we all are in so many different ways. We have also been discussing our emotions and sharing tips on how we can try to cope with (or even control) strong emotions such as fear, anxiety or anger. We took part in Mental Health Awareness week whose theme was 'Our Voice Matters'. We shared all the things that are important to us and made a collage of everything we feel strongly about so that we could take it home and share it with our parents.



In Science, we have been singing our 'MRS NERG' song, which tells us all about the seven life processes that all living things do. We have learnt how to categorise living things and have been creating branching databases to help us sort different living things more easily. In between the heavy rain, last week, we finally managed to get outside to explore the school grounds, searching for micro-habitats. We were amazed just how many different ones we found and became braver at handling a range of insects.



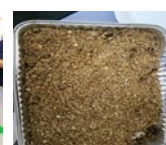
Computing has been a coding unit, where we have written algorithms to control an online robotic 'turtle' to move in different ways or to draw a range of different shapes. We have also learnt how to debug code to find out what went wrong and how to correct it. We have also taken part in 'Safer Internet' day by learning how to keep ourselves safe online.

The focus of our RE work has been finding out why people celebrate festivals. We shared some of the lovely things that we like to celebrate with our friends and families and then discussed which were religious festivals and which were not. By looking at the festivals celebrated by Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Jews, we were able to explore similarities and differences. Our favourite festival, which looked like so much fun, was the Hindu festival of Holi, where people threw lots of different coloured powders at each other... though we didn't try it ourselves as we thought our parents probably wouldn't like to try to wash it out of our lovely white school shirts!

French has found us learning the vocabulary to talk about the pets we have and which animals we would really like to have as pets. Whilst our accents are definitely improving, we have been trying to get our heads around all the different words for 'the' (le, la, les) and 'a' (un, une)!

Alongside our Monday PE cricket sessions with Mr Hardman, Kanga have also been helping us to develop our gymnastic skills every Thursday. Our floor work, has now progressed to higher apparatus and we have learnt to control our take offs, balances and landings. We have devised some beautiful sequences, which we are very proud of.

DT has allowed us to find out about which food is grown in this country and which is produced locally. We have really enjoyed preparing, cooking and (the most important part!) eating different dishes. What a feast we had with spicy vegetable rice for main course, a delicious apple crumble for pudding and finishing off with an iced and decorated cup cake treat - it was a feast fit for a king!



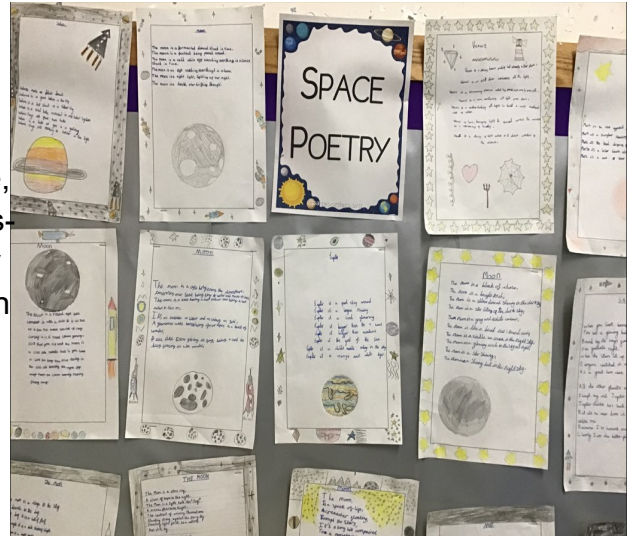
# LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

## Year Five

We've had a great start to 2024, the children have hit the ground running and tackled all of the new learning with enthusiasm and effort (even fractions!). While the weather has been really poor at times and there have been lots of indoor playtimes, they have shown fantastic resilience and attitude to learning, even after being stuck inside all day. They've made progress in all areas and I am looking forward to our next class topic Anglo Saxons, I hope they are too. As you can see we have managed to squeeze a lot in to this short term!

In English we have written 3 short pieces of writing. First of all we wrote a short, factual piece about a planet of our own choice, with a grammar focus on relative clauses, parenthesis and hyphens. Then we wrote a poem, again based on a planet of our choice, which featured the use of metaphor (these are on display in the classroom) and last of all we are currently writing a small, fictional piece of description based on the film Planet Unknown.

In computing we've been using crumble, which combines physical computing and coding (essentially robotics) of course the children have loved it! We will continue it into next half—term.



In maths this term we have covered fractions, fractions and fractions, which is a big part of the year 5 curriculum. We've been converting mixed numbers and improper fractions, finding equivalents, comparing and ordering and adding and subtracting. All of which are quite tricky and the children's resilience and determination has been admirable.

In PE the children have been playing rugby and learning rugby skills. This term it has been provided by Darren from Skipton Rugby Club. To further hone and then show off their skills the children attended a skills workshop, hosted by Skipton Tennis Club last Friday and will be taking part in a tag rugby tournament in this last week of term.

The end of term brings an end to our space topic in which we have focused on our solar system, and in particular the movements of the Earth and moon around the sun. The children have really enjoyed this topic and all started with some knowledge to share. We have been learning about how the Earth's journey around the sun causes the seasons, exploring the orbits of the Earth and Moon, explaining why the moon has phases and finally this week we will be looking at the scale of the solar system. The topic homework as been out of this world! (sorry) and I've seen such a variety of creative and informative projects. Thank you!



Acting out the orbits of the Earth and Moon around the sun



# LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

## Year Six

It has been another busy half term for Year 6 which has certainly flown by! The children have continued to work hard and have shown their broad range of skills and talents across the curriculum, not to mention as part of extra-curricular commitments. It's hard to believe we are half way through the year already!

Despite the adverse weather conditions, which have impacted quite considerably on our playtimes, the children have managed to show great resilience and have been determined to keep smiles on their faces, likely helped along the way with a little music here and there courtesy of The Beatles as part of our new topic this half term. We're also really excited to have begun our 'Grow a Pound' scheme which will see the children put their entrepreneurial skills to the test in raising funds for our trip to Liverpool in April. Exciting times!

In English, we have begun our Science-linked topic 'Charles Darwin & The Galapagos Islands'; we spent time building up research on the life of Darwin, creating a timeline, an information leaflet, and finally a biographical text of his life. The children worked exceptionally hard and are now putting a great deal of effort into creating a persuasive leaflet advertising The Galapagos Islands.

The children have really embraced this topic and have thoroughly enjoyed reading about Darwin, as well as watching videos from [Horrible Histories](#) and [David Attenborough](#)... We are very much focussing on enhancing our writing through the editing and redrafting process as well as exploring the use of more adventurous vocabulary and punctuation—although we do still need to keep an eye on that more basic punctuation as well!

In Maths, we have completed our Fractions topic and have moved on to consolidate understanding of metric and imperial measures, including understanding and calculating using miles and kilometres, which we linked with our Geography topic, 'Leeds Liverpool Canal'. We will keep revisiting these topics as part of our revision towards SATs May as well as continuing to learn personalised Key Instant Recall Facts (SMIRFS).

In Computing, we have been finishing designing and creating websites using Google Sites. The children have produced some amazing ideas and designs, some of which are linked to our 'Grow a Pound' scheme. I am really impressed with their ingenuity and eagerness to explore new media and technologies.

Mrs Pettit has been working wonders in Art as usual in Year 6 and the children have demonstrated exceptional talent and flair. They first completed their printing work inspired by artist, Paul Nash, and are now adding the final touches to their Beatles artwork based on the animation accompanying the famous track, 'Yellow Submarine'. They really are incredible and I can't wait to see them on display!

In Science, we have learned about adaptation, evolution and natural selection and how Charles Darwin discovered his theories through his studies of the flora and fauna of The Galapagos Islands and many other places he encountered on his travels around the world. We will next investigate which shaped beak is best suited to which food items—and how this has contributed to the adaptation and evolution of finches.

Finally, in PE, the children have been learning Rugby skills and Gymnastics and have taken part in a Touch Rugby skills session at Sandylands.

As ever, thank you for supporting your children with their learning both in school and at home. They really do produce some wonderful work and should feel extremely proud. As we continue our year together, we are focussing closely now on how we can become even more independent and take increased ownership of our own learning and progress. We will begin thinking about transition soon, and independence is such a big part of this. I know they can do us proud.



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# Safer Internet Day

Along with thousands of people around the world, Embsay Primary celebrated 'Safer Internet Day' on Tuesday 6th February.

This year's theme was about working together for a better internet: the aim was to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, especially for children and young people.

Activities were undertaken across the school to help celebrate the day, including a class SID assembly, videos and interactive quizzes and tasks.

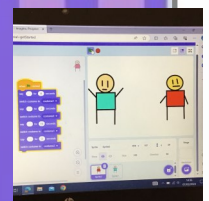
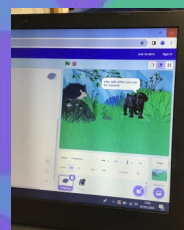
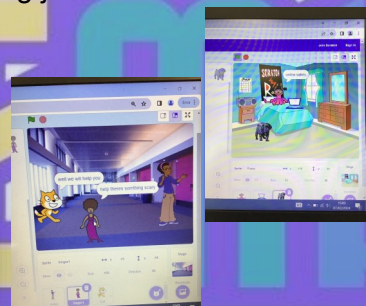


Reception read the story of 'Buddy the dog' to help support their understanding of how to stay safe online. They talked about making sure they ask trusted adults for help if a message or game pops up that they weren't expecting. They then had great fun colouring in pictures of Buddy the dog! Great work Reception!



Year 1 and 2 looked at the Safer Internet Day resources together. Year 1 made some fantastic posters and Year 2 used the 'Hatch Me' story to discuss the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if you see anything online that worries you. Fantastic!

Year 3 had great fun making Online Safety messages and posters using 'Scratch'. Amazing job Year 3!



Year 4 discussed how to stay safe online, how it influences us in good and bad ways and shared some of their own experiences. They then had a go at the 'Kinder Internet Challenge' and thought about ways to make the internet a better place. They even did some drama and are going to make some posters. Brilliant!

Year 5 and 6 both thought about what makes a positive 'influencer' and designed their own. They also thought about how technology could be made safer in the future. Year 6 also thought about how companies use 'persuasive design' to influence us and how this can affect us negatively. Awesome!



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Together for a better internet

## Young Voices 5th February 2024

Oh what a night! Year 5 and year 6 travelled to Manchester to take part in the Young Voices concert on Monday evening joined by 9,000 pupils. The show was full of songs from every era including a Matilda medley, songs from the 1940's Cold Play, Pop Medley and a Moana Mash up.



A big thank you to our parents who travelled to Manchester to see their children perform. Embsay School did us proud!





Outstanding behaviour!

The children sang their hearts out!

The best dance moves—staff and parents included

A HUGE thank you to Mrs Formoso and Mrs Pearce, for the hours of practice put in after school with our school .



An amazing experience !



# Spring Term 2023

*There will be other dates that will be added to the diary as the term progresses, please keep an eye on emails, Google Classroom and Newsletters.*

**Monday 19th February**—First Day of Spring 2 half term

**Tuesday 20th February**—Swimming Starts—Year 3

**Thursday 29th February**—PTA meeting—Elm Tree—7pm

**Thursday 7th March**—World Book Day—Children are invited to bring their favourite book into school and come to school in pyjamas for our "cosy up with a book" - more details to follow

**Monday 11th March**—Reception Open Classroom—2.40pm

**Tuesday 12th March**—Year 4 Open Classroom—2.40pm

**Wednesday 13th March**—Y5 Open Classroom—2.40pm

**Wednesday 13th March**—Y6 Grow A Pound Open Classroom—

**Thursday 14th March**—Crucial Crew—Y6

**Friday 15th March**—Red Nose Day—Non Uniform—Wear an item of red

**Friday 15th March**—Y3 / Y4—Sports Trilogy—Sandylands

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter Eggstravaganza (PTA event)

**Monday 18th March**—Parent Consultations—3-7pm

**Wednesday 20th March**—Parent Consultations—3-7pm

**Friday March 22nd**—End of Spring Term

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June** – Summer Fayre (PTA event)

