

Newsletter / October 2025

LYDNEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY CHILD
ACHIEVES A LOVE OF LIFE AND OF LEARNING.



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

As we approach the half term break, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of our children during this first term. It has been a period filled with hard work and determination and I am immensely proud of our pupils' progress. This week, the children have had the pleasure of welcoming a diverse range of visitors who have shared valuable insights into the skills required for the world of work. I wish you all a happy half term, filled with joy and relaxation.

READING SUGGESTIONS

- ☒ Grimwood by Nadia Shireen, Mr Hayward
- ☒ The Nowhere Emporium by Ross Mackenzie, Miss Wadman
- ☒ The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas, Mrs Bailey

Healthy Eating



We understand that healthy snacks can be an important part of the diet of young people. In the Early Years and KS1 fruit and vegetables are provided as snacks. We encourage KS2 to bring in a healthy snack for morning break.

Please see the link below for advice on healthy snacks.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>



Wrap Around Care

Wrap Around Care at Severnbanks School is available for all children at Lydney C of E.

Children are collected and transported by minibus to Severnbanks School, to play and take part in organised activities.

They are also provided with a snack and drinks.

Further details including fees and timings, can be found on our school website.

<https://www.lydneycofe.co.uk/after-school-club/>

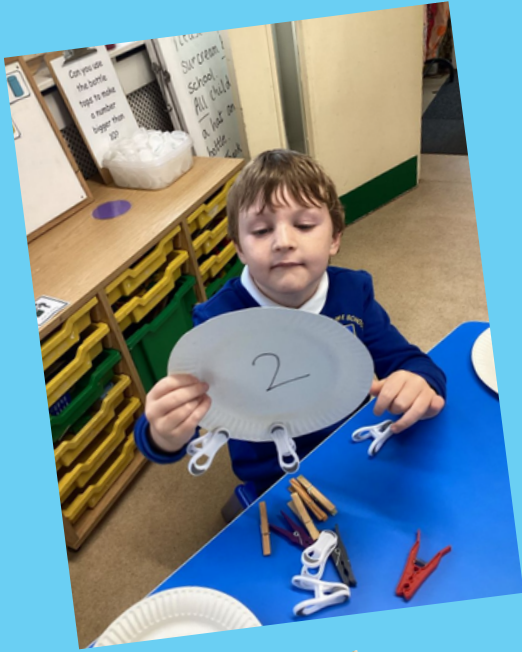


SCHOOL NEWS

LOOK AT OUR
LEARNING!

OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE THIS
TERM IS TRUST

Reception



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Class 1



Class 2

Class 2 have been finding out
about how Muslim people
engage with the wider community.



Many community celebrations take
place for the 'Eid ul-Fitr' festival.
Lanterns are often made as
decorations for the Eid festival

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Class 3



8/9/25
Science at the hospital. Toby was
investigating how sound is created
through vibrations.



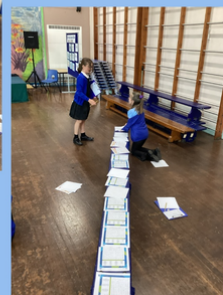
MATHS: Investigating area

As part of our recent maths lessons, the children went to the hall to investigate the area of different objects.

We used square pieces of paper to measure and compare the area of objects such as a bench, gymnastics mat, stage piece, dinner table etc.



Class 4



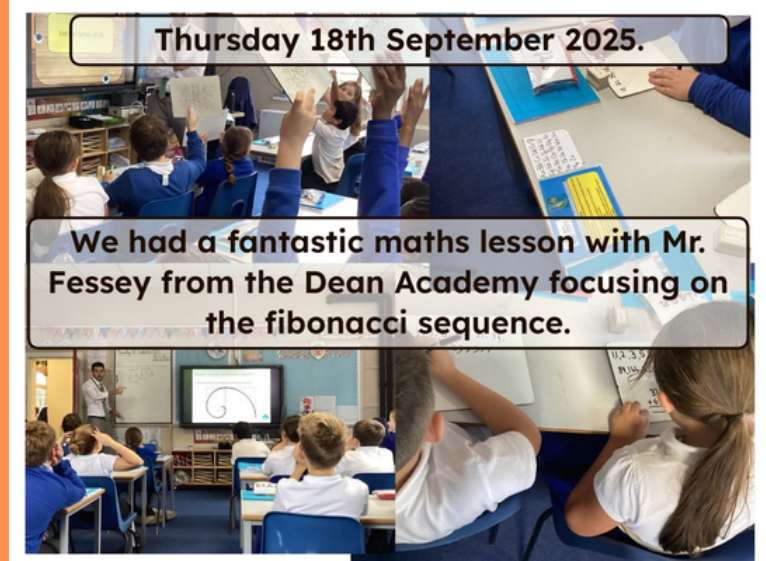
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Class 5



Class 6

Aspiration Week

We have been looking at different careers and have had visits from a lecturer in radiography and also a visit from the local MPs team. They all came in to discuss their careers and we had the opportunity to ask them loads of questions.



This term we will be focussing in school on the value TRUST. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT TRUST TOGETHER...

Trust is a really important value. It must be earned. If we do not **trust** someone it is very hard to build a good friendship with them. Talk together about:

- people who you know that are **trustworthy**
- practical ways that we can show others that we are **trustworthy**
- why it is important to be able to **trust** others when working together as a team

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"Trusting someone is like knowing you can jump and they will be there to catch you"

Anon



FASCINATING FACTS

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI)

When the crew and passengers of boats get into difficulty at sea, they can **trust** the lifeboat crews from RNLI to try their very best to rescue them. Many of the crew and coastguards are volunteers.

- There are over 230 lifeboat stations all around the coast of Britain & Ireland
- Crews are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They must be ready to drop what they are doing at a moments notice to go out on their lifeboat



READ TOGETHER... The Storm on the Lake

The disciples were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following Jesus, listening as he taught them about God's love and watching as he healed people who were ill. Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. Seeing how tired his friends were, Jesus said, "Let's get in a boat and go over to the other side of the lake."

They rowed away from the shore while Jesus went to the front of the boat and lay down. The waves lapped gently against the side of the boat, lulling Jesus into a peaceful sleep.

Suddenly the wind began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The waves weren't so gentle anymore. The little boat began to pitch and rock. The men looked anxiously across the lake. But Jesus still lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

The wind blew stronger. Great gusts rocked the boat. Spray from the waves soaked everyone inside. But still Jesus lay sleeping in the front of the boat. By the time they reached the centre of the lake, the wind had turned into an angry gale that whipped the waves so high that they washed right over the boat. Jesus' friends were terrified. They thought they might drown. But still Jesus slept on.

Finally, one of Jesus' friends went and shook him awake. "Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?" Jesus looked around. He listened to the howling wind. He felt the cold, stinging spray of the waves. He saw the fear in the faces of his disciples.

Jesus stood, stretched out his arms to the wind and the waves, and commanded: "Peace! Be still!" At once the wind died down and the waves became completely calm. Turning to them, Jesus asked the disciples: "Why are you so afraid? Do you not **trust** me?"

Bible story based on Mark 4:35-41



QUIZ Crack the code

Answer the clues to find the letter corresponding to each number and then fill in the message.

Thrown in a board game

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

Jam is stored in this

5	6	7
---	---	---

Opposite of dark

8	2	9	10	11
---	---	---	----	----

Used to carry money

12	13	7	14	4
----	----	---	----	---

Break the code to discover the message in the story:

11	10	4
----	----	---

1	2	14	3	2	12	8	4	14
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	---	----

11	7	13	14	11	4	1
----	---	----	----	----	---	---

5	4	14	13	14
---	---	----	----	----



HALL OF FAME

Aung San Suu Kyi

For many years the nation of Burma was ruled by their ruthless army which refused to allow the ordinary citizens to have free elections to choose their leaders. If Burmese people spoke openly about politics they were thrown into prison or even killed. But a tiny brave woman called Aung San Suu Kyi refused to be silent about the **truth** of what was happening in her country. She campaigned openly but peacefully in the streets and around the world for Burma to have free elections. For this the army put her under house arrest, keeping her prisoner in her own home for 20 years! Whilst under arrest she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for being 'an outstanding example of the power of the powerless'

In 2010 Aung San Suu Kyi was finally freed by the army just after free elections were held in Burma for the first time. On her release thousands of people gathered to welcome and thank her for standing for **truth** and democracy and helping to bring about change in Burma.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Truth be Told

If you could ask a famous person (from history or alive today) to answer a question about themselves what would it be?

For example,

David Beckham - How old were you when you knew for sure that you wanted to be a footballer?

Aung San Suu Kyi - Was there ever a time when you felt like giving up your campaign in Burma?

Make a colourful question mark and write your question on it to take into school to display in the Gallery.



FAMILY FOCUS

The human body is probably the most complex machine on earth. But do you know what your body is made of, how it moves and how all the parts work together?

See if you can answer these questions correctly.

- Your brain is made up of - 20%, 50% or 80% water?
- Taking a step forward uses - 30, 100 or 200 muscles?
- A single blood cell takes $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 or 4 minutes to make a complete circuit of the body?
- An adult has 158, 206 or 278 bones in their body?
- A finger nail takes 3, 4 or 6 months to grow from base to tip?



FASCINATING FACTS... ...ABOUT US



Humans and giraffes have the same number of bones in their necks.

You can't tickle yourself.

You can't keep your eyes open when you sneeze.

Overnight while you sleep you grow nearly 1 cm, but you shrink again next day.

The length from your wrist to your elbow is the same as the length of your foot.

In 30 minutes an average person gives off enough heat to bring over 2 litres of water to the boil.

Answers to Quiz: JESUS PETER HEAL LOAVES FISH NETS COCK ALIVE
Answers to Family Focus: a 80, b 200, c 1, d 206, e 6

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KEY DATES AND INFORMATION

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE:
WWW.LYDNEYCOFE.CO.UK FOR UPDATES

Policies

Policies are updated regularly. A number of school and trust policies have recently been updated and can be found on the following websites.

<https://www.lydneycofe.co.uk/policies/>
<https://www.sfat.uk/policies/>



HOMEWORK



To help your children maximise their learning potential and make the best possible progress, our teachers set homework each week that reinforces what has been taught in class. The expectation is that children complete the following homework each week:

- Read at least 4 times a week to adult which is recorded in their reading record. Reading is absolutely vital!
- Maths pages from the practice journals. This matches exactly what is taught and how it is taught in class.
- Spelling practice for spelling rules that have been taught in class that week ready for a weekly test.



Keep an eye on Seesaw.

This is our online learning platform and an important method of communication with you. You will find lots of pictures about what your child has been learning.

Belinda

Sadly this week, we had the news that Belinda Morgan has passed away.

Belinda, known as Big B, was an inspiration to countless children and families. Her unwavering dedication to ensuring that every child was happy, safe, and felt cherished was genuinely remarkable. She went above and beyond each day, always ready with a smile and kind words to uplift those around her. Belinda was a tremendous part of the fabric of our school community, and her loss resonates deeply within us all.



Studybugs

At Lydney C of E, we use Studybugs to help parents easily log absences and ensure good communication between home and school.

While Studybugs sends automated notifications, we understand that every situation is unique. The system doesn't replace the personal touch, so please feel free to call or visit the school if you'd like to discuss anything. We're here to support you in the best way possible.



Home School Partnership

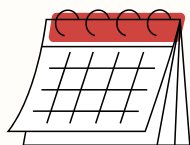
As we move through the school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate our strong partnership with you. A positive relationship between home and school is vital for every child's success. Our staff work diligently to create a nurturing learning environment for our pupils. In return, we ask for your help in reinforcing the school's values and conduct guidelines. When we all model kind and respectful behaviour, it creates an environment where our children feel secure and can thrive.

In our school community, we ask parents and visitors to:

- **Communicate respectfully.** Please treat all staff members, children, and other parents with dignity and courtesy, in person, over the phone, and online.
- **Use the right channels.** If you have a concern, please follow the correct communication procedure by contacting the school to address the issue directly. Our staff will work with you to find a solution and bring about a positive outcome.
- **Address concerns thoughtfully.** If a problem arises, we encourage you to discuss and clarify the situation with school staff to find a peaceful solution, rather than escalating a conflict directly with other children or parents.
- **Model positive behaviour.** As role models for our children, your speech and actions toward all members of the school community reinforce the respectful ethos of our school.
- **Observe school policies.** Please help us by reinforcing our code of conduct. By working together and setting a good example, we can ensure that our school remains a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and your commitment to your child's education.

*Thank
you!*



CALENDAR DATES

Half term 27.10.25 – 31.10.25

November 2025

3.11.25 Return to school

4.11.25 Nasal Flu Immunisations

5.11.25 – 7.11.25 Y5 residential Viney Hill

20.11.25 School Photos

December 2025

15.12.25 Christmas performance EYFS 1:45pm

16.12.25 1:45pm and 17.12.25 6pm KS1 Christmas performances Y1/2

17.12.25 Christmas performance EYFS 1:45pm

18.12.25 Whole School Christmas Panto Monmouth

19.12.25 Christingle Service at St Mary 2pm

Christmas Holidays 22.12.25 – 02.01.26

January 2026

05.01.26 – Pupils return to school

16.01.26 My Plans sent home

February 2026

13.02.26 Mid-year reports to parents

Half Term 16.02.26 – 20.02.26

March 2026

25.03.26 1:45pm and 26.03.26 6pm Year 3/4 performance

27.03.26 My Plans sent home

27.03.26 Easter Service at St Mary's

Easter Holidays 30.03.26 – 10.04.26

April 2026

13.04.26 pupils return to school

14.04.26 and 16.04.26 Parents' evening

May 2026

W/C 11.05.26 Y6 SATs

18.05.26 – 22.05.26 – Y6 France Residential

Half Term 25.05.26 – 29.05.26

June 2026

1.06.26 Return to School

w/c 1.6.26 and w/c 8.6.26 Multiplication Times Table Check

w/c 8.6.26 Phonic Screening

July 2026

8.07.26 1:45pm and 9.07.26 Y5 & 6 evening performances 6pm

8.07.26 My Plans sent home

10.07.26 reports out to parents

15.07.26 Move up morning

17.07.26 – Leavers' service

20.07.26 Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

21.7.26 Summer Holidays