

ST JOSEPH'S NURSERY, INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL'S



NEWSLETTER

a message from Mrs METCALFE and Mr Day

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting first half of the Autumn Term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what a wonderful start the children have made. It has been truly impressive how quickly they have settled back into school routines, embraced new learning opportunities and demonstrated our school values every day. This term has been filled with memorable experiences that have enriched our curriculum and brought learning to life. We have welcomed a range of visitors into school, including people who support and help us in our community, alongside exciting educational visits to the Planetarium, the Novium Museum, the cinema and Sussex Cricket. Children have also thoroughly enjoyed meeting the History Man, whose engaging workshops helped make the past come alive. These experiences play an important role in broadening horizons and creating lasting memories for our pupils.

Attendance has been a key focus for us this term. We know that regular attendance is one of the most significant factors in helping children achieve their full potential, and we are delighted to have seen such positive improvements. It has been wonderful to celebrate so many children who have achieved 100% attendance, as well as those whose attendance has improved significantly. Thank you to all our families for supporting this important aspect of school life.

We are also proud to have expanded our enrichment opportunities, with an exciting range of new clubs available for children to enjoy. Alongside this, we continue to develop our music provision and are particularly delighted that Rock Steady will be starting with us in November, providing even more opportunities for children to develop their musical talents and confidence.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we have made a fantastic start to the academic year, and we look forward to all that the remainder of the term has to offer.

Nursery



The children have settled back into nursery life beautifully this term and have thoroughly enjoyed our People Who Help Us topic. We were delighted to welcome PC Pack, who spoke to the children about her role in the community, and Chris North, who led an engaging storytelling session that captured everyone's imagination.

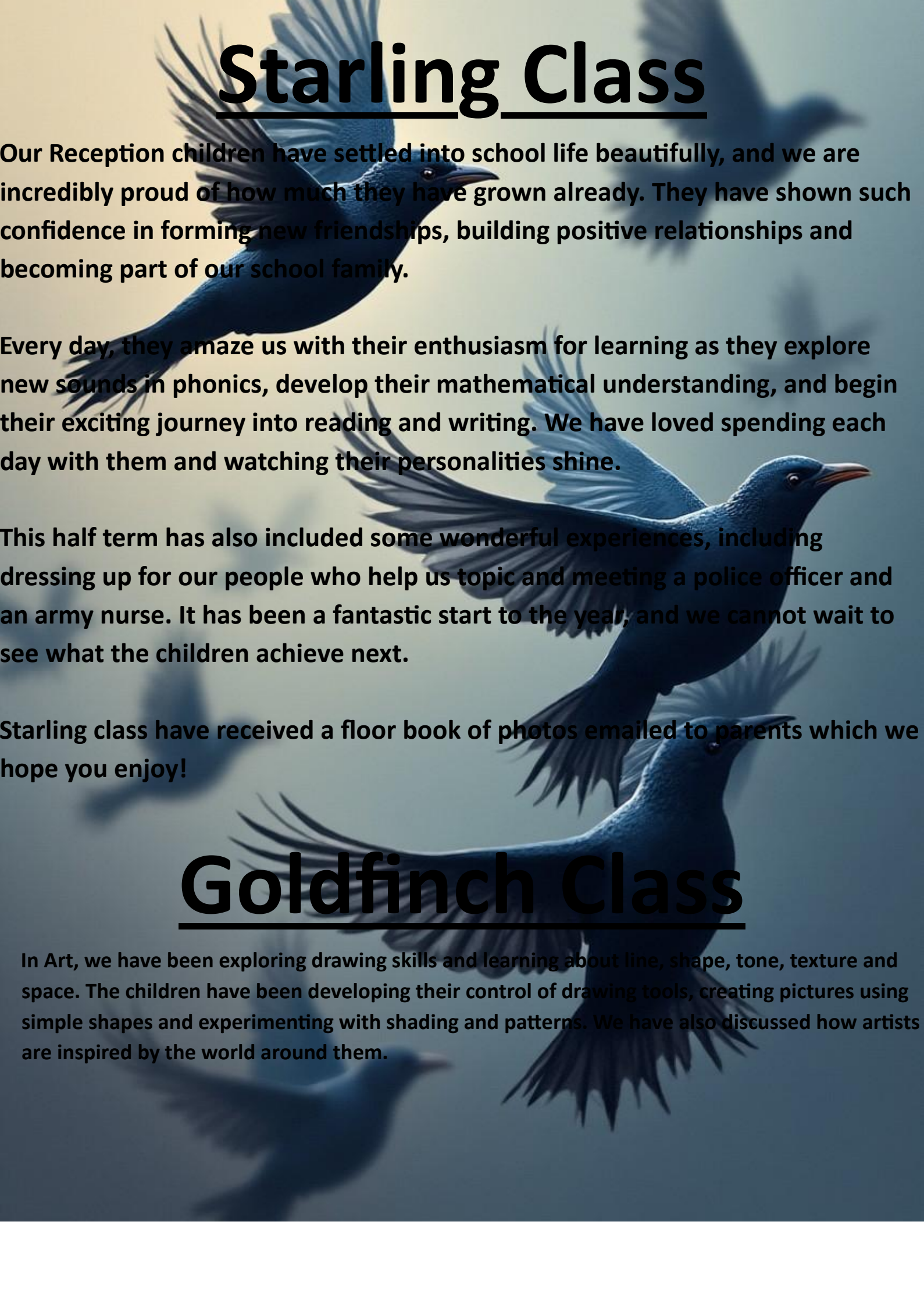
The children have also enjoyed exploring the changing season on our autumn walks around Bishop Gardens, taking time to observe the signs of autumn and the natural world around them. These experiences have encouraged curiosity, discussion, and a greater understanding of the world we live in.

This term in Nursery, the children have been developing their early literacy skills through our daily phonics sessions and Scribble Club activities. In phonics, the children have enjoyed exploring a range of sounds, learning to listen carefully, recognise initial sounds, and join in with songs, rhymes, and games that build the foundations for reading and writing in a age appropriate way.

Through Scribble Club, the children have been developing their fine motor skills, hand strength, and mark-making confidence. They have explored a variety of movements, patterns, and tools to help prepare them for forming letters and writing. The children have shown growing confidence in making marks with purpose, talking about their drawings, and beginning to give meaning to the marks they make.

We are very proud of the enthusiasm and progress the children have shown as they take their first steps on their literacy journey.





Starling Class

Our Reception children have settled into school life beautifully, and we are incredibly proud of how much they have grown already. They have shown such confidence in forming new friendships, building positive relationships and becoming part of our school family.

Every day, they amaze us with their enthusiasm for learning as they explore new sounds in phonics, develop their mathematical understanding, and begin their exciting journey into reading and writing. We have loved spending each day with them and watching their personalities shine.

This half term has also included some wonderful experiences, including dressing up for our people who help us topic and meeting a police officer and an army nurse. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we cannot wait to see what the children achieve next.

Starling class have received a floor book of photos emailed to parents which we hope you enjoy!

Goldfinch Class

In Art, we have been exploring drawing skills and learning about line, shape, tone, texture and space. The children have been developing their control of drawing tools, creating pictures using simple shapes and experimenting with shading and patterns. We have also discussed how artists are inspired by the world around them.

In Computing, we have been learning about online safety and responsible technology use. The children have explored what the internet is, how online content can affect our feelings, the importance of being kind and respectful online, how to keep personal information safe, and ways to balance screen time with other activities.

In Maths, we have been developing our counting skills by counting forwards and backwards within 100. We have been learning that one ten is the same as ten ones and using practical resources to represent and explore multiples of ten. Games and investigations have helped us build confidence with place value.

In Science, we have been exploring everyday materials and their properties. The children have enjoyed using feely bags to identify and describe materials, investigating floating and sinking, and carrying out experiments to find out which materials are absorbent and which are waterproof.

Wren Class

What a wonderful start to Year 1 Wren Class have had! The children have settled brilliantly and have already packed so much exciting learning into their first half term. Forest School has been a real highlight, giving everyone the chance to explore the outdoors, develop new skills and enjoy learning beyond the classroom.

In English, Cave Baby and The Naughty Bus have captured our imaginations, sparking lots of fantastic discussion and some wonderful writing. Our mathematicians have also been busy, impressing us with their growing confidence and understanding of numbers to 20 and 100.

We rounded off a brilliant half term with our Harvest celebrations, including a lovely walk to church to take part in the Harvest Festival service. Well done, Wren Class, what a fantastic start to Year 1!

Owl Class

Owl Class have made a fantastic start to the autumn term! We have enjoyed writing fact files and we have loved sharing the poems we wrote for homework. We became 'vloggers' in English this week and had a marvellous time touring the school and using time adverbials to describe our dream destinations! In maths, we have been working hard on addition and subtraction, including lots of problem-solving activities. In music, we have been exploring Blues music and learning about identifying changes in pitch. We are almost at the end of our second chapter book, George's Marvellous Medicine, and were inspired by a visit from author Mayo Agard Olubo, who spoke to us about what it means to be a writer after he shared Kid Rex to the Rescue with us. Our science and PSHE learning allowed us to consider how we can stay healthy and look after ourselves. We had brilliant ideas for looking after ourselves and others! During PE, we have loved learning new karate skills and taking part in gymnastics lessons - we put together a sequence including rolls, balances, shapes, travelling and jumps!

St Anne's Class

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to life in the juniors, stepping back in time and becoming Romans for the term! Their learning has taken them beyond the classroom, with a fascinating visit to the Novium Museum, a walk along Chichester's historic Roman Walls and a special visit from local Roman expert Paul Ullson. The children really brought history to life by taking part in a Roman battle, examining historical swords and even dressing up as Roman soldiers! Their enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement have been wonderful to see. And the adventures don't stop there! Next term, Year 3 can look

forward to even more exciting experiences, including a cinema visit and a trip to Goodwood Farm.

St Paul Class

St Paul Class has had a fantastic start to the year, with lots of exciting learning and memorable experiences.

In science, we learned about the human skeleton and discovered how our bones help us move, protect our organs and stay strong.

We explored the city of Chichester in geography and uncovered its fascinating Roman history.

In English, we enjoyed reading *Fantastic Mr Fox* and used our imaginations to write and publish our own final chapters.

We were inspired by the incredible author Helen Peters, who taught us about the process of publishing a book.

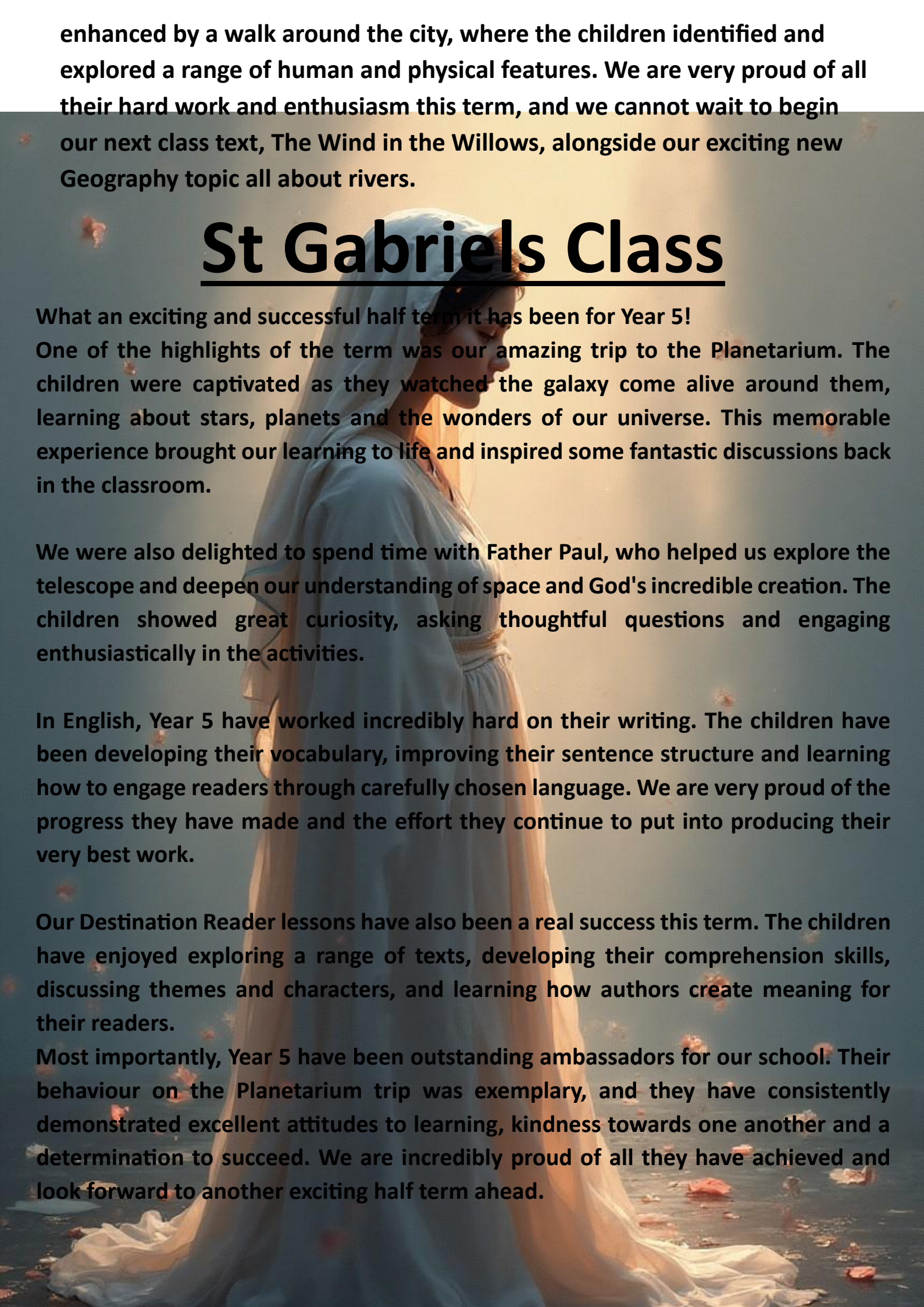
One of the highlights was rocking out with Rocksteady and experiencing the thrill of performing music together.

We also took part in an energetic dance workshop, where we learned new moves and performed with confidence.

It has been a busy, successful and enjoyable Autumn 1 term. Mr Hamilton and the staff team would like to thank all parents for their support with homework and volunteering this term.

St Bartholomew Class

This term, St Bartholomew Class has been incredibly busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, the children have developed their column addition skills and applied their understanding when working with litres and millilitres by creating their own secret potions. We have recently finished our class text, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, which the children thoroughly enjoyed, and they have shown great creativity by writing their own next chapter to the story. In Topic, the children have been learning about the local history of Chichester, creating maps and informative leaflets to showcase their knowledge. This learning was

A woman in a long white dress stands in a field of red flowers, looking down. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with more flowers and a warm, golden light.

enhanced by a walk around the city, where the children identified and explored a range of human and physical features. We are very proud of all their hard work and enthusiasm this term, and we cannot wait to begin our next class text, *The Wind in the Willows*, alongside our exciting new Geography topic all about rivers.

St Gabriels Class

What an exciting and successful half term it has been for Year 5!

One of the highlights of the term was our amazing trip to the Planetarium. The children were captivated as they watched the galaxy come alive around them, learning about stars, planets and the wonders of our universe. This memorable experience brought our learning to life and inspired some fantastic discussions back in the classroom.

We were also delighted to spend time with Father Paul, who helped us explore the telescope and deepen our understanding of space and God's incredible creation. The children showed great curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and engaging enthusiastically in the activities.

In English, Year 5 have worked incredibly hard on their writing. The children have been developing their vocabulary, improving their sentence structure and learning how to engage readers through carefully chosen language. We are very proud of the progress they have made and the effort they continue to put into producing their very best work.

Our Destination Reader lessons have also been a real success this term. The children have enjoyed exploring a range of texts, developing their comprehension skills, discussing themes and characters, and learning how authors create meaning for their readers.

Most importantly, Year 5 have been outstanding ambassadors for our school. Their behaviour on the Planetarium trip was exemplary, and they have consistently demonstrated excellent attitudes to learning, kindness towards one another and a determination to succeed. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and look forward to another exciting half term ahead.

St Catherine Class

What a busy and exciting first half term it has been for St Catherine! The children have embraced their new responsibilities with enthusiasm, taking on important leadership roles as School Council representatives, Ambassadors and members of other pupil leadership teams across the school. In History, they have thoroughly enjoyed learning about World War II, including a visit from a history expert who brought the topic to life through an engaging evacuation workshop and a thrilling air raid experience. The children were also fascinated by exploring a range of wartime artefacts linked to rationing, which sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful questions as they discovered what daily life was like during the war. In Science, the children have been exploring electricity, developing their understanding of circuits through a range of practical, hands-on investigations. Meanwhile, in Art, they have been expressing their creativity through graffiti-inspired artwork, experimenting with one-point perspective and learning how to upscale their designs. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and maturity St Catherine have shown this half term and look forward to all the exciting learning still to come.

St Richard Class

St Richard Class stepped back in time for an unforgettable journey into World War II with the brilliant Paul Ulson. From the moment he began speaking, the children were completely engrossed, hanging on every word as he brought history vividly to life through fascinating stories and artefacts.

The pupils discovered what it was really like to be an evacuee, learned how the Blitz changed the lives of families across the country, and explored the impact of the war on the local community in Chichester. Paul's captivating storytelling helped the children imagine the challenges, courage and resilience of people living through this extraordinary period in history.

The session sparked endless curiosity, with children asking thoughtful questions and eagerly sharing their ideas. Seeing their enthusiasm and excitement was wonderful, and the experience provided a truly memorable

way to deepen their understanding of our history topic. It was a fantastic day of learning that brought the past to life and left the children inspired to find out even more about World War II.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2026

DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD!

LET
YOUR
CREATIVITY
SHINE!



DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

Wednesday 11th November 2026

All children are invited to create a festive Christmas card inspired by one of this year's themes.
Many schools choose to offer this as a Half Term activity or undertake in a wider curriculum session across the school.



THEME 1 Vincent van Gogh Starry Christmas Night

Use Van Gogh's swirling brushstrokes and vibrant colours from *The Starry Night* to create a magical Christmas scene.

Ideas:

- ★ A Christmas tree beneath a swirling starry sky
- ★ A snowy village with a bright Christmas star
- ★ A reindeer silhouette against a Van Gogh-style night sky
- ★ A church and Christmas tree with swirling stars overhead



THEME 2 Romero Britto Festive Pop Art Christmas

Britto's artwork is colourful, bold, joyful and full of patterns, making it perfect for Christmas cards.

Ideas:

- ♥ Patterned Christmas baubles divided into sections
- ♥ Bright reindeer filled with hearts, stripes and dots
- ♥ Festive robins using bold black outlines
- ♥ Christmas trees with colourful geometric patterns



THEME 3 Free Choice

Create your own Christmas card design using any style, medium or technique.



ANY STYLE
ANY MATERIALS
BE CREATIVE!
HAVE FUN! ♥

HOW TO ENTER:

- ✓ Include your name, year group and school on the back of your entry
- ✓ Use any art materials or techniques
- ✓ Be creative, colourful and festive!

SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO:



ghunt@dcac.academy

GOOD LUCK!

We can't wait to see your amazing Christmas card designs!





**Children in Need. Friday 13th November 2026.
The Year of Reading and Challenge 26! This year
our activities will include:**

Fund raising:

**Come to school ready to read in your pyjamas or wear something
spotty. If you would like your child to participate, please bring in a £1
donation on Friday 13th November!**

**Pennies for Pudsey! Bring your pennies to school for our copper
collection which we will start on the playground at drop off and
collection times for the week starting on Monday 9th November ready
for a big count on Friday 13th November.**