



25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Our Value of the Month:

# Determination

*the ability to continue trying to do something, even if it is difficult*



## Our Learning this Week

### Nursery

In nursery this week we have been focussing on ourselves and learning to recognise our own names. The younger children have done a great job of finding their names when they come in to nursery and for the older children our book voting system is up and running. They have enjoyed finding their name card and then voting on the story they would like to read that day. We have also enjoyed lots of painting this week. We have painted leaves using our hands and even decorated our name labels.



### Reception

In reception, this week we have continued to explore our collaging skills. We have linked it to our focus story which is Owl Babies. We thought about the different colours for the mummy owl and then using a variety of materials to make the baby owls. We are able to retell the story and talk about how the different characters feel at points in the story. In maths, we have continued to explore the numbers 1 and 2. We have been thinking about how they are represented and spotting them in the environment.



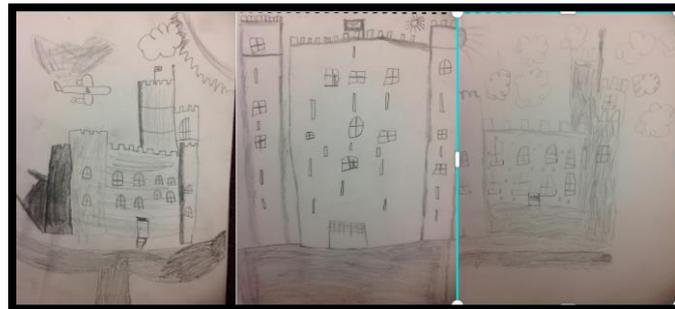
## Year 1

In Year 1, we have been looking at physical and human features. We now know that physical features are natural on earth and have not been made by humans. We looked at pictures of Banbury and identified if it was a human or physical feature. We have also started looking at the part whole model in Maths and splitting wholes into two parts. In English, we have been reading Zog and writing simple sentences about the characters.



## Year 2

This week, in Year 2, we have been continuing to work on our understanding of place value. We have worked to explain which numbers are greater or less than each other, and we have used the part whole model and the bar model to represent two-digit numbers. In English, we have been expanding our sentences with adjectives and conjunctions. The children have written some fantastic final pieces of writing. In foundation lessons this week, we have continued to learn about life inside castles, and developed our sketching skills in art as we worked to draw pictures of medieval castles. The children really enjoyed this and worked very hard to add the finer detail to their drawings



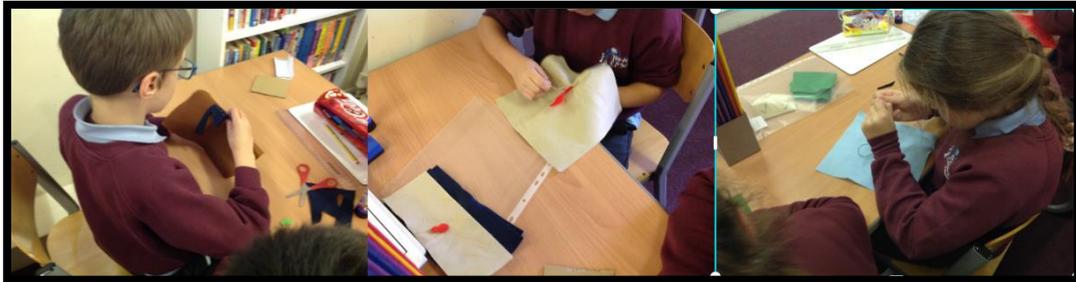
## Year 3

In year 3 this week, we started our descriptive writing topic. By the end of our learning journey we are all going to write our own descriptive pieces about an ancient Egyptian setting. This week we have been developing our writing through adding expanded noun phrases and finding synonyms for our adjectives. In maths we have been using our known facts to find multiples of ten that compose 100 through using the cuisenaire rods and counters to support our understanding. In our topic lessons we have been learning more facts about modern Egypt and in DT we have been finishing off our Egyptian necklaces.



## Year 4

This week, we have started planning a retell of the Viking saga of 'Freya and the Goblins'. As we are determined to make this our most exciting retell, we have been exploring the use of conjunctions to make our writing more interesting. The topic of lifestyle and beliefs of the Vikings has been the focus during our curriculum studies and the importance of physical and mental well-being have been discussed during PE, re-engagement assemblies and HRE (Health and Relationships Education). During Art, we have continued to extend our skillset by threading a needle and practicing the running stitch to join two pieces of fabric together.



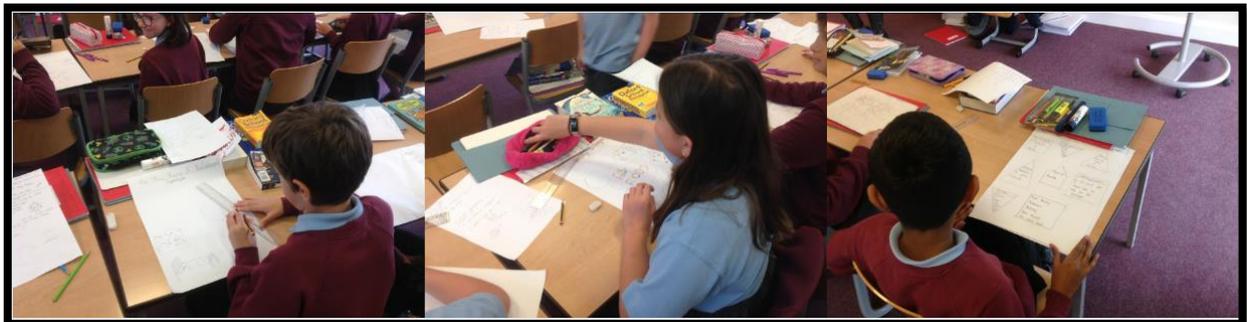
## Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed starting their English work on Neil Armstrong. We are learning all about his life and next week we will be completing a biography. In maths we have been revising our methods and reading numbers up to 1 million on a number line. The children were excited to start our work in geography this week. We are learning about counties in England as well as the features of a river. The class have been working on their teamwork skills in all areas of learning as well as their play times and lunch times.



## Year 6

This week, in Year 6, we have been developing our mental strategies when adding and subtracting. We have been using our knowledge of place value and bridging to cross the millions boundary. In English, we have completed our narrative openings and these have been put on display in school. We have improved our proofreading skills and have considered how we can up-level a sentence so it captures the reader's attention. In Science, we have learned about the history of electricity and explored symbols in a circuit. We have also created a poster about what it means to lead a balanced lifestyle.



**This week's stars:** Congratulations to the following children who have wow'd the staff this week – keep up the hard work!

### Star Writers



**YR:** Rhys  
**Y1:** Archie  
**Y2:** Anna  
**Y3:** Jake  
**Y4:** Bogi  
**Y5:** Elliot  
**Y6:** Hayden

### Stars of the Week



**YR:** Gracie  
**Y1:** Mya  
**Y2:** Leo  
**Y3:** Iyla  
**Y4:** Cain  
**Y5:** Evie  
**Y6:** Blossom

### Star Readers



**YR:** Ezmay-Rose  
**Y1:** Charlotte  
**Y2:** Zach  
**Y3:** Noah  
**Y4:** Charley  
**Y5:** Jace  
**Y6:** Joshua

### Primary School Admission – Reception Entry Sept. 2021:

Applications for children starting Reception in September 2021 will soon be opening. Key dates are listed below, and all applications are made through Oxfordshire County Council, not the school. Please note that if your child already attends our Nursery this doesn't guarantee a place in Reception and you will still need to apply via Oxfordshire County Council.

Key dates when applying for Primary School:

- 3rd November 2021 – Applications open
- 15th January 2021 – Closing date for applications
- 16th April 2021 - National offer day

Please apply to Oxfordshire County Council via the link below:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>

### Secondary School Admission – Year 7 Entry Sept. 2021:

- From 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Applications open
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 – Closing date for on-time applications
- 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – last date for change of address to be considered
- 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 – Online applications will receive an email with school offer

If you make a late application, it **must** be made on paper. You cannot apply online. You will receive a school offer letter on 6 May 2021.

Please apply to Oxfordshire County Council via the link below:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/admission-secondary-school/make-application>

**What to do if your child is unwell:** If your child is unwell, please phone the office at your earliest convenience to let us know the reason for their absence. We have recently received some updated guidance from the government around the management of coronavirus symptoms which we will be following. Your child, and the rest of the household, **must** self-isolate immediately and arrange to have a test should your child display any one of the following symptoms:

- a new, continuous cough;
- a high temperature; or
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.

If we observe any of these symptoms in school, we will call you to collect all of your children and take them home. You must then follow the government's '[Stay at Home Guidance](#)'. You will need to organise a swab for the child displaying symptoms. The **swab must be done within 5 days of onset of symptoms**. If this is not possible, the child will need to complete **10 days of isolation**, and all **household members will need to complete 14 days isolation**. The household will only need to be swabbed if they develop symptoms themselves, of which they will need to isolate for a further 10 days.

**Even if the child is feeling better** but unable to have a test, they will need to **still complete their 10 days** of isolation.

They do not need to self-isolate if their **swab is negative** and:

- everyone you live with who has symptoms tests negative
- everyone in your support bubble who has symptoms tests negative
- you were not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace – if you were, see [what to do if you've been told you've been in contact with someone who has coronavirus](#)
- you feel well – if you feel unwell, stay at home until you're feeling better

**Parent Forum:** The Parent Forum is a partnership between parents and the school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvement.

The aims of the Parent Forum will be to:

- work together to improve the education provided for our children
- share information, knowledge and skills
- meet in a mutually supportive environment
- further improve communications between parent/carers and staff/governors

There will be termly meetings with the Head of School to discuss school operations, sharing ideas and driving forward parental engagement. Each class should have one Parent Forum representative. If more than one person per class volunteers, then a ballot will be held to decide the representative.

Should you be interested in volunteering to be on the Parent Forum, please email [info@hardwickschool.org](mailto:info@hardwickschool.org) with details of your child/ren's year group.

**Numbots (Reception-Year 2):** The children in Reception & Key Stage 1 will be coming home with their log on details for an exciting new programme – NumBots – which aims to boost children's addition and subtraction skills.

### **Big Difference**

NumBots is an online game and playing little and often will significantly improve your child's recall and understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts. These are critical foundations in maths so we are excited by the impact NumBots will have.

### **Logging In**

The children have brought home a username letter. They might need some help navigating to the website and entering the details but once they're in, they just need some quiet space to get on with the games for 5 minutes. Please ask your child's teacher if they are struggling to login. Maths Circle (the creators of NumBots) cannot provide username and password information to parents, even during school holidays or out of hours.

**Important:** please don't allow siblings, friends or family to answer for them but do support your child if they're stuck.

### **Little and often**

In order to get the best out of NumBots children should regularly play for short bursts so we would ask you to give them 5 minutes on Saturdays and 5 minutes on Sundays (or more!)

## Game Types

1. Story Mode – the emphasis is on learning the ideas and concepts behind addition and subtraction so it features more diagrams, shapes and question styles.
2. Challenge Mode – the emphasis is more on speed of recall of key facts, like number bonds to 10, doubling small numbers or adding & taking away in your head.

**TTRockstars (Years 3-6):** The children in Key Stage 2 will be coming home with their eagerly awaited



TTRockStars Logins. This online programme has proven

benefit for improving children's fluency in the use of their multiplication, and related division fact. The key here is little and often – children will gain more from this playing 5-10 minutes daily than they will playing for an extended period of time only once or twice a week. We look forward to seeing who our 'Top Rockers' are each week!

## Goal

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.

Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables!

To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to  $12 \times 12$  in less than 3 seconds!

## Logging in to Times Tables Rock Stars

1

Type **play.ttrockstars.com** into your browser's address bar.

2

Click Login! > School > Student

3

Enter the School Name.

A screenshot of the login form. At the top, it says 'Enter the School Name.' Below that is a purple header with the word 'Login' and a close button (X). Underneath is a text input field with a home icon on the left and a red asterisk on the right. The text inside the field reads 'School, family or organisation \*'.

4

Enter your child's username and password.

A screenshot of the login form. It has two input fields: 'Username \*' with a person icon and 'Password \*' with a lock icon and an eye icon. Below the fields is a grey 'Login' button.

## Game Modes

### Single Player

**Garage** - the questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week. It will include multiplication *and* division questions.

As pupils start to answer questions, TT Rock Stars works out which facts they take longer on and will give them more of these questions to answer. The Garage is best for getting quicker at a few facts. Players get 10 coins per question.

**Studio** - the questions in the Studio can be anything from  $1 \times 1$  up to  $12 \times 12$ .

TT Rock Stars calculates the mean response time from their last 10 games in the Studio and translates that time into a Rock Status.

$\leq 1$  sec/qu = **Rock Hero**

$\leq 2$  secs/qu = **Rock Legend**

$\leq 3$  secs/qu = **Rock Star**

$\leq 4$  secs = **Headliner**

$\leq 5$  secs/qu = **Support Act**

$\leq 6$  secs/qu = **Breakthrough Artist**

$\leq 7$  secs/qu = **Unsigned Act**

$\leq 8$  secs/qu = **Gigger**

$\leq 9$  secs/qu = **Busker**

$\leq 10$  secs/qu = **Garage Rocker**

$> 10$  secs/qu = **Wannabe**

If you don't play in the Studio you don't get a Rock Status.

Players earn 1 coin per question and the Studio is the place for them to set their best time across all the tables.

**Soundcheck** – When you play Soundcheck, you get 20 questions each with a 5-second time limit. The questions are multiplication only and evenly weighted in terms of difficulty each time you play. Players earn 5 coins per correct answer.

### Multiplayer

**Rock Arena** - The Arena allows players to compete against all other members of their Band (their Bandmates would need to join the same game in order to compete together).

A new Arena game starts every 15 seconds and once the clock starts they race to answer more questions than the others. In the Arena, questions will only come from the times tables the teacher has set for the week, similar to the Garage. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

**Rock Festival** - The Rock Festival games are open to players from around the world. Like the Arena, there is no limit to the number of players who can join a game; however, unlike the Arena, questions are selected at random from  $1 \times 1$  to  $12 \times 12$ .

Pupils might choose the Rock Festival if they were playing at home (and therefore couldn't easily synchronise playing against a classmate) or wanted to compete against others not in their Band. They earn 1 coin per correct answer.

**Contacting us:** The office is now manned 5 days a week between the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm but will be closed to parents unless by prior appointment. The best way to communicate with the office is through the [info@hardwickschool.org](mailto:info@hardwickschool.org) email account or the telephone 01295 285355.

**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Online Parents’ Evenings

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Individual School Photos (Due to the current situation we are unable to offer family groups)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – School closes for Half Term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – School Reopens

Have a lovely weekend!



Graeme Page and the school team