



Trull C of E VA Primary School

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YEW CLASS NEWS

*I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.
John 10:10*

This week was STEM Week (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) or as our visitor Nick, who was part of our festivities on Monday and Tuesday, called it STEAM Week, the A for ART!

On Monday we built rockets with Nick, the Rocket Man, who we met later on in the afternoon to watch him launch a dynamite rocket in the playground (safely of course) and successfully landed on the field and Year 6 got to watch Miss Guilford take it out from a tree. It was a lot of fun and many people enjoyed it!

On Tuesday Year 6 and Ash Class made our rockets, we built them together and tested them after break time. Some of them were fantastic, they went so high.

We have also had some fantastic visitors in this week, Monday we were visited by an ex-student who is now a doctor and she told us all the things she did to get there. Tuesday, we had some visitors from the radiotherapy department at Musgrove and they brought us in some of the equipment they use and told us about the machines they are in charge of (worth over 3 million pounds!). The moulds we saw were great and we had fun making one of Olly.

We also had a visit from Will who explained what his company does in tracking emissions, which modes of transport are best for the environment, how data can be collected and the sort of people he helps. It was really interesting.

We also spent some time with Mr Davies, looking at a programme called tinkercad that helps us design things for the 3D printer at school. We made some great objects and are very excited by the competition that is coming soon.

Today we ended STE(A)M week with an assembly this morning, where we watched some experiments, including elephants toothpaste and how to make an invisible egg, and shared some of our favourite bits across the week.

Marina Myridaki and Yew Class





STEM WEEK Report



WOW! What an exciting week! The school has been buzzing with curiosity and chatter about all that has been going on.

The week started with a visit from Nick of STEAM.Co with his camper van and rocket. He delivered an inspiring assembly captivating everyone from Reception to Year 6. He had strong messages about never giving up, the power of reading and aiming higher than high. Every child made a rocket with their partner from the other key stage, and launched it.



We have had fantastic visitors, who have kindly given up their time to inspire the children about their roles in STEM jobs. Ex-pupils, parents and friends of the school have all left their mark and got the children thinking. Thank you so much to them.



Teachers have planned design & makes, science investigations and maths challenges to engage the children and encourage curiosity.



Mr Davis has introduced the 3D printer and CAD program to KS2 children for future challenges.

Mrs Bowler has been teaching all the KS1 & 2 classes how to write code for the MICRO:bits.

The best part is how much the children have enjoyed being curious, challenged and excited as they learn! They may have told you that the 3 best presents they could have are...





Oak Class had a great day at Cheddar yesterday learning about the Stone Age.

Thank you to everyone that has attended and bought from the Book Fair this week. Commission from the sale will go back into buying new English resources for the children.



Spring Term – Important Dates

March

Wednesday 19th	Open the Book Assembly - parents welcome
Friday 21st	Ash Class Assembly Comic Relief (see below)
Friday 28th	Oak Class Assembly

April

Tuesday 1 st	Castle in the Community Concert rehearsal
Wednesday 2 nd	Castle in the Community Concert
Friday 4 th	Easter Hat Parade TSF Uniform sale
Tuesday 22 nd April	School breaks up for Easter Holidays
Tuesday 29 th April	School reopens Bag to School Collection

ATTENDANCE

The class with the best attendance this week are:

ASH & BEECH CLASSES!

LUNCHTIME AWARD

The class who received the most lunchtime tokens for kindness, respect and good behaviour this week is:

OAK CLASS!



For Comic Relief next Friday (21st March), children can come to school wearing either odd socks, a colourful tie, or both! Collection buckets will be at the gates in the morning if you wish to make a donation.



We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: Miss Grammer, Mrs Cerullo, Mr Bottomley or Mrs Crudge. Alternatively, you can ring Childrens Social Care on: 0300 123 2224 or Email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.





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Premier Education | INSPIRING ACTIVITY

Venues near you this Easter:

-  Holy Trinity Primary School, Taunton, TA1 3AF
Multi-Activity Camp - Mon 7th-Thurs 10th April & Mon 14th- Thurs 17th April
-  Parkfield Primary School, Taunton, TA1 4RT
Multi-Activity Camp - Mon 14th-Thurs 17th April
-  Cotford St Luke Primary School, Taunton, TA4 1HZ
Dodgeball & Nerf Camp - Tuesday 8th and 15th April
Football Camp - Wednesday 9th and 16th April
Gymnastics Camp - Thursday 10th and 17th April
Multi-Activity Camp Monday 7th - Thursday 10th April
-  Birchfield Community School, Yeovil, BA21 5RL
Football Camp - Monday 7th April
Gymnastics Camp - Tuesday 8th April & 15th April
Nerf and Dodgeball Camp - Monday 14th April
Multi-Activity Camp - Wednesday 9th & Thurs 10th & Monday 14th - Thurs 17th April
-  St James Primary School, Taunton, TA1 1XU
Multi-Activity Camp - Mon 14th-Thurs 17th April
-  Herne View Primary School, Ilminster, TA19 0DS
Multi-Activity Camp - Mon 7th-Thurs 10th April & Tues 15th-Thurs 17th April
-  Knights Templar School, Watchet, TA23 0EX
Multi-Activity Camp - Monday 17th-Thurs 20th February
-  All Saints School, Dulverton, TA22 9EN
Multi-Activity Camp - Monday 7th-Thurs 10th April

PLEASE BRING
PLENTY OF WATER
SUITABLE CLOTHING
LOADS OF ENERGY!

Our Holiday Camps keep children entertained, safe & on the move during the school holidays.

A bucket load of fun activities, every school holiday. With great value sports, performing arts, and games to enjoy each half term, we have plenty for your children to get stuck into in the school break.

Book now for a school holiday full of fun!

✔ Visit www.premier-education.com to book

✉ Contact dcrysell@premier-education.com for queries



TRULL MEMORIAL HALL

60th Anniversary Party

29th March 2025
6pm

FREE ENTRY

MUSIC, DANCING & BAR (CARD & CASH)
RAFFLE

Fancy dress encouraged from 1960s, or following eras!