

Friday 9th January 2026

Happy New Year and welcome back!

It has not been the smoothest start of the year with the ice and snow, but the children have handled it all admirably. Whilst we all pine for the warmth, comfort and company of the Christmas period, once back in the swing, the routine of school is soothing. Though we are all definitely ready for the weekend!

We have some new starters into school, in Beech class, I am sure you will join me in giving the new families a warm welcome to the Fordcombe Family!

National Year of Reading and Purple Mash



2026 has been marked as the National Year of Reading, so we're giving all our Purple Mash subscribers a gift: Purple Mash Library

That means that all Purple Mash users can now access over 250 eBooks designed to promote reading for pleasure, at no additional cost. The library also includes DK Learning non-fiction books so children can 'Go All In' on topics they're interested in.

We will be let you know the other ways that the school is getting involved this year!

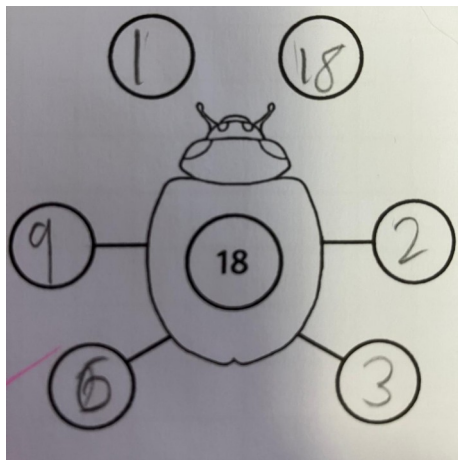
Next week is a busy one for the staff. Miss Huskisson will be absent for a few days for a minor op and Mrs Dunbar will be out for a day completing her paediatric first aid training. Don't worry though, we will have plenty of familiar staff around to support the children.

Elm

We have been learning to multiply numbers by 0 and 1. We have also been learning to multiply 3 numbers and thinking about factors too. All very useful multiplication tricks!



In art we have been exploring a variety of shades and tints - I wonder the children can explain the difference between these terms?



Fordcombe

Church of England Primary School

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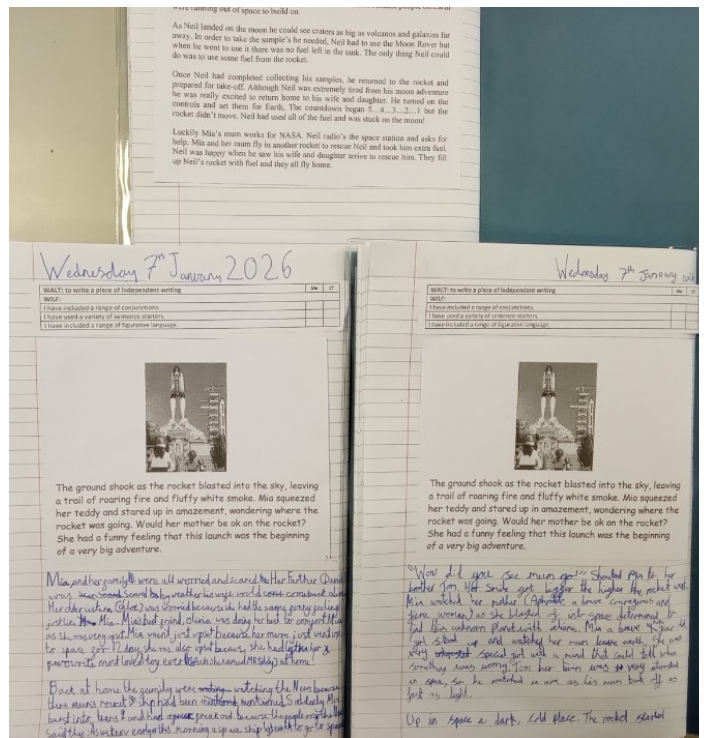
Oak

This week in maths, we have been learning about the order of operations and long division! Everyone has worked very hard to work out "do monkeys smell bad"...do check with your children about what this has to do with long division!



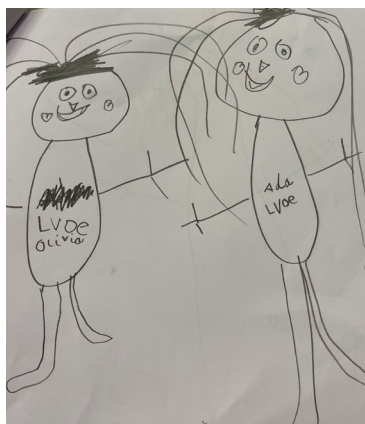
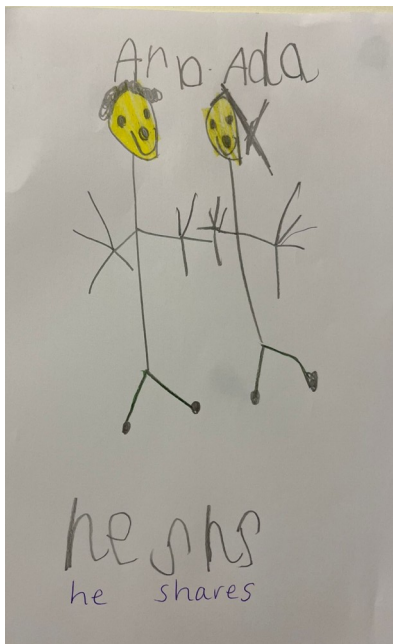
In English, we have been doing a piece of science fiction creative writing before we start our next power of reading book next week.

In History and Geography, we have been looking at two very important cities: Manchester and Birmingham. We looked at how Abel Heywood was an example of rural to urban migration, when he left Preswich to move to Manchester to look for work...at 9 years old!



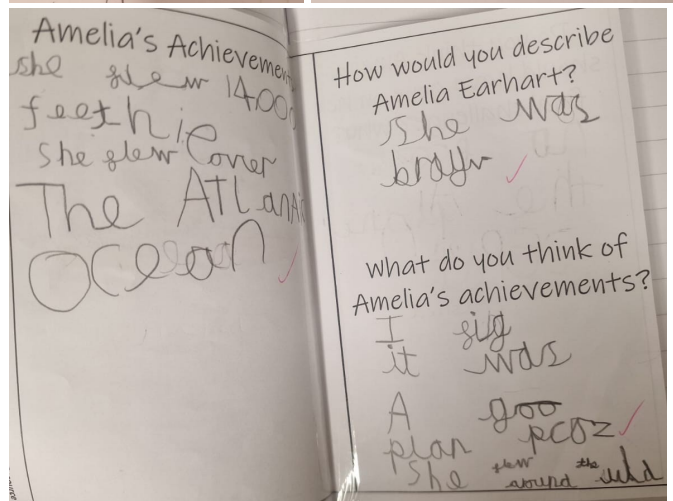
Ash

In Ash class we have had a busy start to the term. We started our new topic of cold places which the children are enjoying (perfect timing!). We read the book 'Iris and Isaac' which is about polar bears and some children chose to do polar bear collages.



We talked about what makes us special in RE and have looked at recognising zero in maths.

Beech We have embraced our new topic 'How do we learn to fly?' They have loved hearing all about Amelia Earhart and the Wright brothers and are enjoying the playmobil airport set at choosing time. We have been adding and subtracting in maths and using our number bonds to help with this.





Celebrating our values this week:

Phoenix - being a fabulous member of the school
Charlie - showing perseverance in writing
Mimi- showing perseverance with her broken arm

Well done to Elm class with a fantastic 100% this week.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Let's keep those winter bugs away!



Stars this week:

Jacob and Arlo - phonics
George - fantastic analysis writing
Finlay A - always trying hard
Leonardo, Bodhi and Evie for settling in so well

Lunch leader awards:

Ethan - being so kind to younger children in the lunch hall



UNIFORM SALE

We are offering 20% the price of our uniform stock in school - purchase through Arbor whilst stocks last!

Protect children from scams in games

Did you know, neurodivergent children are more likely to become victims of scams in online games? Here is a helpful link for what you can do to support their safety and digital wellbeing. <https://www.internetmatters.org/>



Dates for your diary

January 15th	Closing date for Reception class admissions for September 2026
February 10th	Safer Internet Day
February 23rd	School closed - INSET day
February 26th	Parents Consultations
March 5th	World Book Day

Other early dates for your information:

June 17th	Residential
July 3rd	Sports Day (Join us at 12:30 for a picnic before activities start)
July 13th	Oak Class production
July 20th	Leavers' Service at the Church
July 21st	Awards Assembly and Leavers' send off

Please contact us via the office if you have any questions about your child's learning or their well-being at Fordcombe Primary School.



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