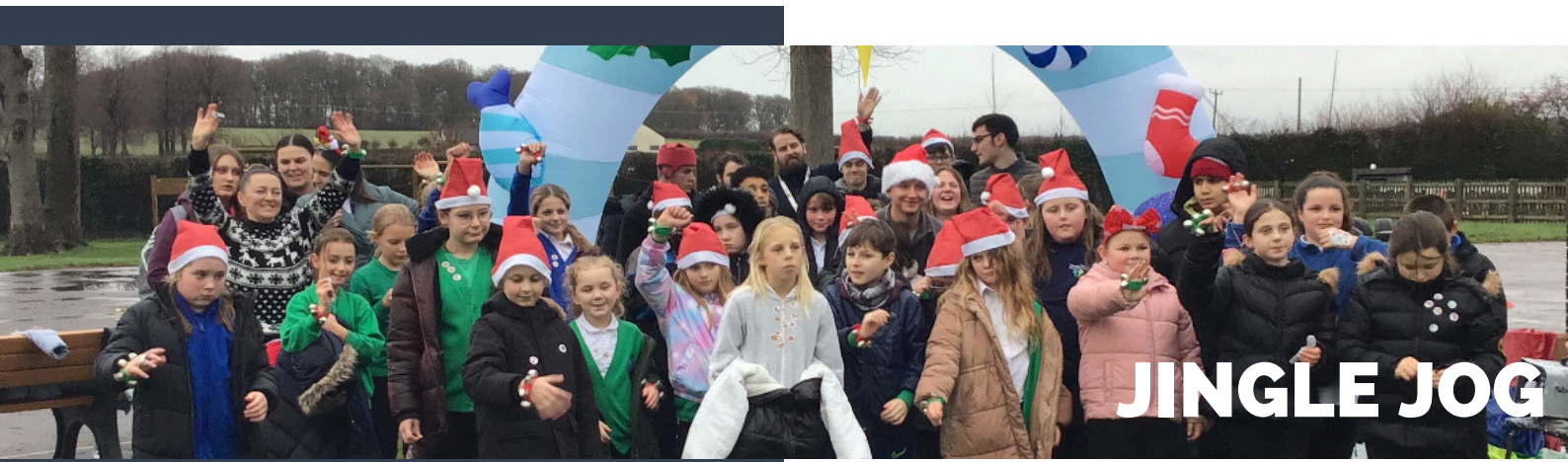


TEAM TALK

FEBRUARY 2026 | 03





JINGLE JOG

Before Christmas, students from every school within the Trust gathered at Whaley Thorns for a delightful 'Jingle Jog.' This wonderful event spread festive cheer throughout the trust, and there was even a surprise appearance from the mischievous Grinch!

The Jingle Jog not only promoted physical activity but also strengthened the sense of community across the schools, leaving everyone with warm memories and a shared holiday spirit.



OPAL PLAY



Last week, the children at Model Village were having a fantastic time with the new additions to their OPAL play. Dressed in their waterproofs and wellies, they were eager to explore the new trim trail features and the outdoor gymnastics equipment.

In the weeks ahead, Model Village plan to introduce the BIG DIG area along with a new construction zone for the children to enjoy during lunchtime.

These initiatives are part of our ongoing effort to provide a dynamic and enriching environment where children can learn and grow through play. We can't wait to see the innovative ways the students will interact with these new spaces, and we're confident that these additions will become cherished parts of their school experience.



DATA LESSONS

This week in computing, Year 2 pupils from Model Village have been busy collecting data and representing it through tally charts. They then entered their data to create a pictogram.

The students utilised the software Jit5, which has become a favorite among the children. It's so popular that many have even started using it at home! This hands-on approach not only enhances their computing skills but also fosters critical thinking and teamwork as they collaborate on projects.



ART LESSONS: EMBRACING ROMERO BRITTO



This term, Model Village's art lessons have centered around the work of artist Romero Britto. He aims to promote love and kindness through his vibrant creations.

The Year 2 students at Model Village were given the exciting challenge of embodying this spirit by designing a Valentine's card that features a heart in the distinctive style of Britto. Expect bold, bright colors and a plethora of patterns!

RSPB BIRD WEEK

At Whaley Thorns, the school marked RSPB Bird Week with a comprehensive focus on wildlife conservation and appreciation. The Eco Team took the lead by organising an assembly that highlighted the various birds commonly seen in our gardens, the challenges their habitats face, and the simple actions we can all take to make a difference.

Midweek, the entire school participated in a bird-spotting activity. Every class ventured outdoors with tally sheets to document the different species observed in our local area. This hands-on experience allowed students to connect with nature and grasp the significance of monitoring local wildlife.

To conclude the week, classes crafted acrostic poems inspired by birds, merging creativity with environmental education.

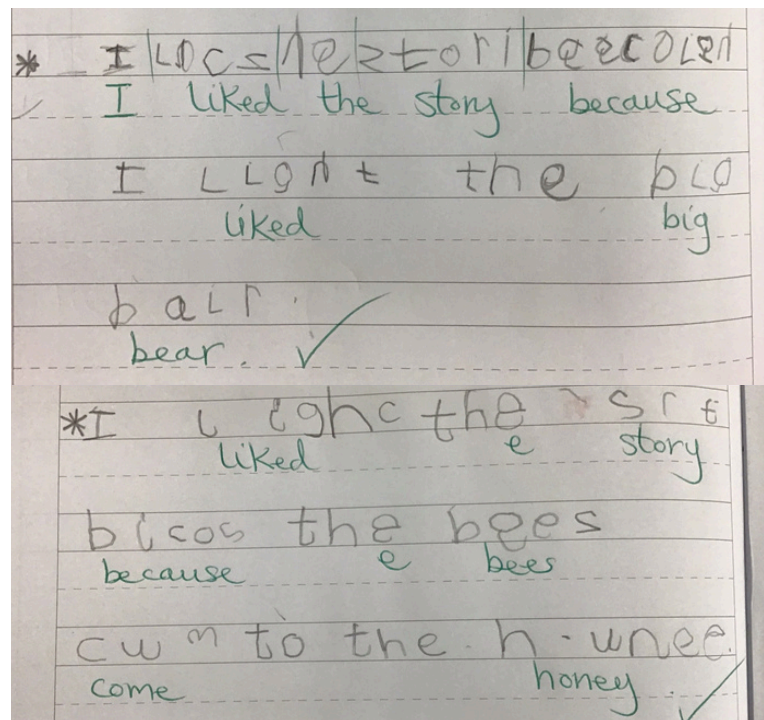
ME & MY COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

During EYFS literacy lessons at Model Village, students have been engaging with the story "The Bumblebear" by Nadia Shireen to help young children understand the importance of celebrating differences.

The story follows Norman, a bear who adores honey. In a clever twist, he decides to disguise himself as a bee to gain constant access to honey. He claims to be a special bee from a far-off land, which explains why he looks different. Throughout the tale, the bees learn how to fend off predators like bears. However, when one bee discovers Norman's true identity, he is banished. Norman proves his worth by saving the day from a big bear, becoming a hero!

The children expressed why they enjoyed the story, and their responses showcased their learning progress:

- Describes main story settings, events and principal characters in increasing detail.
- Begins to link sounds to some frequently used digraphs.
- Uses their developing phonic knowledge to write things such as labels and captions, later progressing to simple sentences.
- Enjoys an increasing range of print and digital books, both fiction and non-fiction.



ENGAGING HEALTH TALKS FOR STUDENTS



Year 6 pupils from Whaley Thorns enjoyed an enlightening discussion with the school nurse focused on the significance of sleep. The children posed insightful questions and identified a strategy to enhance their sleep quality. For instance, they decided to turn off their phones one hour before bedtime to allow ample time to unwind.

Meanwhile, the EYFS and Year 1 students welcomed the local nurse, who taught them about the importance of good hygiene. They learned the proper techniques for handwashing and explored additional ways to maintain their health.



A FANTASTIC TRIP TO THE HARLEY GALLERY



Recently, Year 1 pupils from Model Village had an amazing experience at The Harley Gallery! Upon their arrival, they were treated to a guided tour of the gallery and engaged in a variety of activities, including picture scavenger hunts and drawing sessions. In the afternoon, the children crafted delightful animal clay sculptures, which they thoroughly enjoyed!

Overall, it was a wonderful day filled with enthusiasm, and the children displayed exemplary behavior, representing the school exceptionally well.



YEAR 4'S MUSICAL SHOWCASE

Year 4 pupils from Model Village delighted the school community and their parents with a sharing session, showcasing what they have learned in their weekly music lessons with the Derbyshire Music Partnership.

During the event, the children:

- Played their djembe drums
- Clapped along to the beat and rhythm of a rhyme
- Sang in a round

They also performed a song that featured a quick rap, complete with accompanying actions! The children displayed remarkable confidence and enthusiasm throughout their performances!

This musical showcase not only highlighted the children's progress but also underscored the importance of creativity in education. As the audience applauded, it was clear that the experience had been a resounding success, leaving everyone looking forward to future performances.

MINI MODELS' ADVENTURE WITH THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

The children in Mini Models have been exploring the tale of The Three Little Pigs. They have had a great time repeating key words and phrases from the story.



EXPLORING THE IMPORTANCE OF TOOTHBRUSHING

At Model Village's Nursery, students have been discovering the significance of toothbrushing as a key part of their daily routine. They are learning about the reasons behind brushing teeth and how it contributes to maintaining their cleanliness and health. To add an element of fun, the children listen to a toothbrushing song, which encourages them to brush for the appropriate duration. The children are truly enjoying this activity and are gaining confidence as they practice this essential skill.



Together, the children collaborated to construct houses for the pigs, aiming to create sturdy structures that the wolf wouldn't be able to blow down! They have thoroughly enjoyed reenacting their favorite scenes from the story, taking turns to portray either the wolf or the pigs.