

Outdoor Learning and Teaching / sustainability magazine  
Issue 18!

AS Winton



Thank you to our eco reps, who collected a wide variety of materials from the garden to complete our new Blatch Patch bug hotel.

#### POSITIVE NEWS!

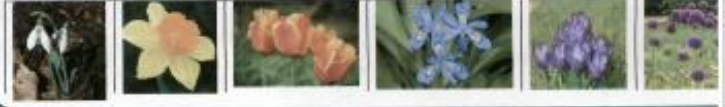
You have all been working hard to help the environment by turning off lights, connecting with nature outdoors by being involved in activities like building our bug hotel and making sure we look after resources and recycle what we can. Well done!

Wonderful mini beasts have been spotted moving into the bug hotel!



Blatch Patch M  
Autumn / winter  
2025/2026.

Gardening club planted a wide variety of spring bulbs that we should see appear over the next few months. They planted snowdrops, daffodils, tulips, miniature iris, crocuses and alliums.





**ECOREPS**  
2025 - 2026



Thank you to our eco reps, who collected a wide variety of materials from the garden to complete our new Blatch Patch bug hotel.



Wild strawberries



Planting violas



## ECO REPS MEETING - 21<sup>ST</sup> November 2025

### Sharing achievements and going forward:

- Cole and Marnie went to the working party sustainability meeting with Mr Brentnall, Nikki (Governor Chair) Carly Regan (business manager) to discuss ideas.
- Signs to go up in the playground encouraging green behaviour (e.g. not dropping litter) made. We need to put them up around school.
- Arrange walk around school perimeter- write to council- can we put similar signs up there?
- Bin ordered - for target bin to encourage using/not littering.
- Eco hope assemblies x3 JW/ waste assemblies x3 KH
- Eco Christmas assembly - 05/12 - encouraging class to make presents/ recycle paper etc- each rep to talk to class
- Make information signs to go with bug hotel and garden - e.g. information on creatures living there.
- Blatch Patch Bug hotel complete
- Upcycled items and game for the Christmas fair made - reps and upcyclers help sell
- Indoor plant for each classroom

After xmas- start organising Little recyclers event and World Book Day upcycled clothes event- reps to lead in class and make advertising posters/ help with collection on the day

LET YOUR CLASS REPS KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY SUSTAINABILITY IDEAS FOR OUR SCHOOL!

Thank you to everyone who's fed the fish Mr Selkirk fed them for us over the holidays- thank you!



After a drier year in 2025, our Hardy Banana grew back and multiplied! We used straw and plastic to protect it from the cold and wet over winter, so fingers crossed it should make another healthy appearance in 2026.



# Maths focus - 25/26

16.12.25

WALT: Spot 2d and 3d shapes outdoors

Today we went outside on a shape hunt! We found lots of shapes in outdoor objects and even made some using twigs and natural materials!



Skylarks using the outdoors to further their learning about shapes.  
Get outside! How many different shapes can your class find?



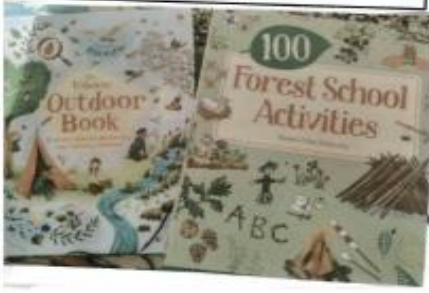
**Activity:**  
Collect both natural and man-made objects, such as sticks and wood offcuts, from the garden. Be very careful when collecting any long sticks or pieces of wood.  
**Challenge yourselves to make as many different 2D shapes as you can.**  
Extra challenge: Can you create a pattern of tessellating shapes?

**Play Square it!**  
Using chalk and a ruler, draw a 5 x 5 grid of dots that are 10 cm apart from each other. You need either 2 coloured chalks, one for each player, or find a collection of natural objects that each player can use: e.g. some white and brown stones. Take it in turns to claim a dot: the winner is the first to make a square.

Claim all 4 corners of a square to win

**Making Shapes**  
How many shapes can you make (including shapes within shapes) using a set number of sticks (ex. 6 large sticks and 6 small sticks)? Is there a way to make more or fewer shapes using the same number of sticks?

Before doing this activity, you will want to talk to them about the properties of shapes. You can discuss how many sides and points different shapes have. The shapes in most classrooms are standard in appearance, so often children assume that shapes must look a certain way. For example, they will not recognize a triangle if it is rotated with the point side down or if it is an obtuse triangle versus an equilateral triangle. This activity will allow children to move the shapes around, and to look at them from different perspectives. They can then discuss how the shape is still a triangle even if seen from a different perspective or if the sides are moved to change the angles. This will help children to solidify their understanding of the properties that define each shape.  
<https://playofthewild.com/>



Autumn/winter

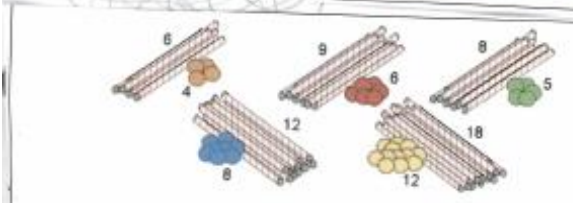
2025/26



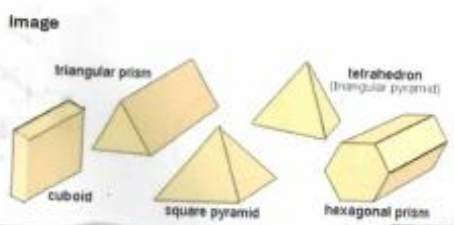
This shows a cube and a skeleton cube:

**Image**

**Collect sticks – how many sticks and balls of clay/salt dough, do you need to create the cube?**



Look at the shapes below and decide which piles are needed to make a skeleton of each shape.



### Stick puzzles

Choose sticks that are quite straight and roughly the same length then set out these puzzles. Can you or your friends solve them? You'll find the solutions at the back of the book.

1 Turn these three sticks into six. You can't snap them in half.

Clue: you'll need to think like a heron.

2 Which three sticks should you reposition to leave only three squares?

3 Move just two of the sticks to make this goblet so the pebble is no longer inside it.



**What's my rule?**

- Can you draw a shape in which the area is numerically equal to its perimeter? And another?
  - Can you draw a shape in which the perimeter is numerically twice the area?
  - Can you draw a shape in which the area is numerically twice the perimeter?
  - Can you make the area of your shape go up but the perimeter go down?
  - Can you make the perimeter of your shape go up but the area go down?
- Use chalk on the playground.*
- Can you draw some shapes that have the same area but different perimeters?
  - Can you draw some shapes that have the same perimeter but different areas?



Small group: The children create a Venn diagram (chalk / hoops can be used) and decide on a 'secret' rule based on objects they've collected. They then set up their Venn for others to try and work out what their rule was. This 'backwards thinking' activity is great for problem solving and mathematical discussion skills.



**REWILDING WATERHALL TRIP**

In the autumn term, Starlings had a wonderful time when they visited The Re-wilding Waterhall Project. They were able to observe different moths and butterflies, an adder, a huge variety of plants, ant hills and kestrels swooping in the clear blue skies. Thank you so much to Mike Luscombe from the rewilding project for arranging our coach and leading such a fantastic day.



**Butterflies of the South Downs UK**

The South Downs National Park is a haven for butterflies, offering a diverse range of species to observe. Here are some highlights of the butterfly life in the South Downs:

- **Brimstone:** A medium to large butterfly with a wingspan of around 60 to 70mm, known for its striking yellow and green wings. It can be seen throughout most of the year, especially in spring.
- **Adonis Blue and Chalkhill Blue:** These butterflies are among the rarest found in the South Downs, with sightings being a rare sight.
- **Grayling:** A master of disguise, the Grayling butterfly blends with its surroundings, making it difficult to spot. It is found in secluded valleys and coastal areas.



BRIMSTONE



ADONIS  
(closed wings)



ADONIS

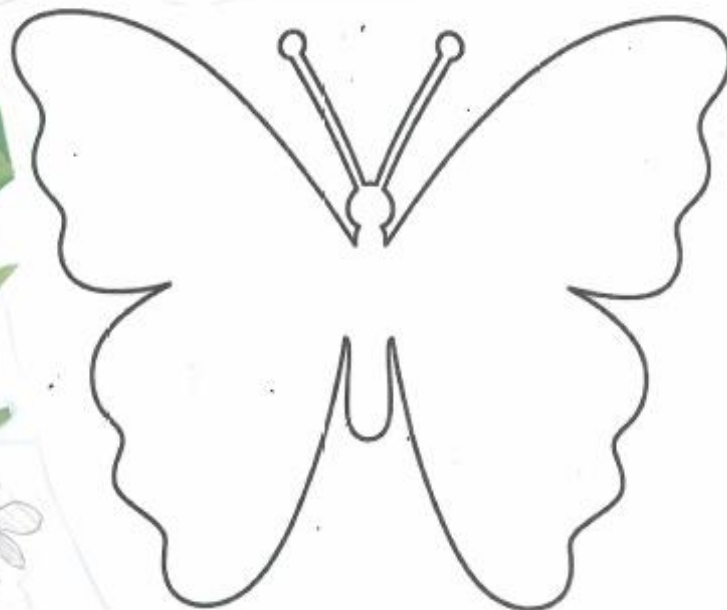


GRAYLING

**Using the outdoors for maths.**

What is symmetry? Butterflies have symmetrical wings. How many lines of symmetry are there on a butterfly?

Can you create a butterfly using chalk and natural objects?



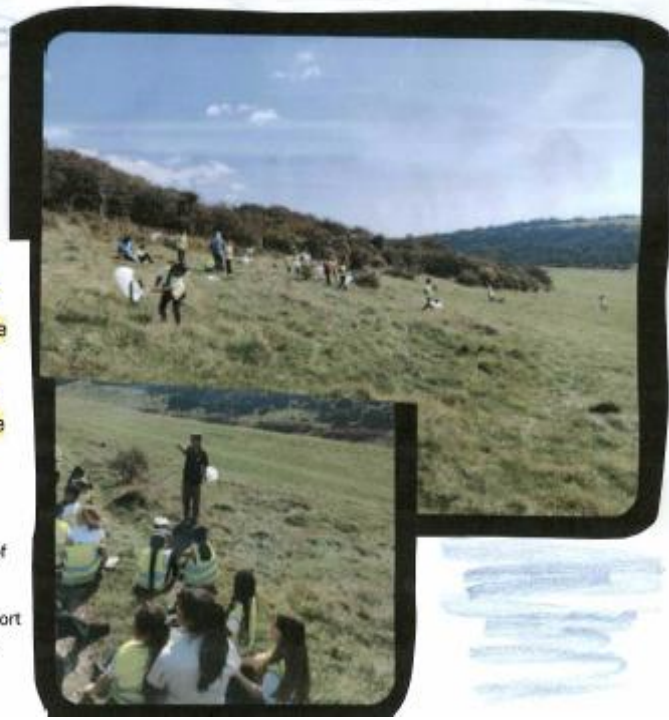
**British Butterflies**



Thanks so much for bringing your pupils to Waterhall yesterday. It was a real pleasure to see you and them again and to share in their excitement and enthusiasm for the natural world. They engaged brilliantly with all the activities we had prepared, were very patient in listening to all our instructions, gentle with the creatures they caught and showed respect, thoughtfulness and kindness to myself and Marie throughout the day. We both very much enjoyed their company!

The work you're doing with them to enable them to understand and appreciate the natural world is clearly bearing fruit as your pupils are already very well-informed naturalists. They are also lucky that you take the time and trouble to bring them out of school on visit and trips ... I know these take a lot of organising!

Please extend our thanks to all the staff and parent-helpers who came along to support the trip. Their generous assistance was hugely appreciated, and we literally can't run these days without them.



In whole school assemblies, we discussed waste and read two books about how we can have too much 'stuff' and upcycling things we no longer use for their original purpose. Do we really need it? Who made it and what is it made from? Can we repair it or upcycle it if it breaks?



Every child in the school, created a sunflower using different art techniques and 'waste'. We used items such as old magazines, food packaging, used gift wrap and envelopes and cereal packets to create our sunflowers. There are so many, that there are many vases of them around the school! Can you spot them all?

Challenge: can you create a picture from waste based on a different famous art work by Vincent van Gogh? Please bring to Mrs Heym for display and to go in the next issue of Blatch Patch!



Congratulations to Neveah in Year 6, who has crocheted this amazing blanket from t-shirt waste. Fabulous work Neveah! Have you created anything at home you'd like to share? Send pictures to Mrs Heym.



Before Xmas

CUT  
DOWN ON  
CARBON



Trinity Yr 6





**UPCYCLING CLUB**

We upcycled old crockery, plant pots for cuttings, and made tree decorations and a fabulous Christmas Tree game to raise money at the Christmas fayre. Stanley and Isabella in Ravens also learn how to use the drill: we used an old bin lid and a wide variety of other materials to make an octopus sculpture. Once finished, the octopus will become part of an art from waste exhibition in the summer term. Thank you to Bradley for volunteering and helping out at the club.





## Please continue to recycle right



What could you do to help at home?

How about being in charge of recycling at home? You need to make sure that the correct items are being recycled and that they are clean and dry before going in the recycling bin. Always ask an adult to help you with anything made of glass.

**Paper and cardboard**  
(flatten all boxes to fit)



**No thanks**

- ✗ Plastic bags and soft plastics
- ✗ Hard plastics such as plant pots, garden furniture, children's toys

**Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays**  
(with lids, pumps and triggers on)



**Drink cans and food tins (rinsed) aerosol cans (empty)**



- ✗ Batteries and vapes
- ✗ General rubbish and other materials

Throughout the autumn term, Miss Wells led assemblies on eco-hope, Mrs Heym led assemblies on 'waste' and we were also extremely lucky to have a visit from Juliet and Gary from the Brighton and Hove council waste team. They talked to us about where our rubbish and recycling goes, how to recycle properly and left us a class set of litter pickers. They also told us about the new food waste collections in our local area and introduced a competition to design some artwork and name the new food management trucks. Here is a small selection of our fabulous designs. Thanks everyone!



Recycle small electrical items at recycling points.



Glass bottles and jars go in your separate black box or glass bin (rinsed with metal lids on).

Take cartons and Tetra Paks to carton bins at recycling points across the city.



Food waste: Weekly food waste collections are being introduced across the city in phases from this Autumn.

Food Waste Collection Trucks - draw your design!

## New items added!



plastic pots



plastic tubs



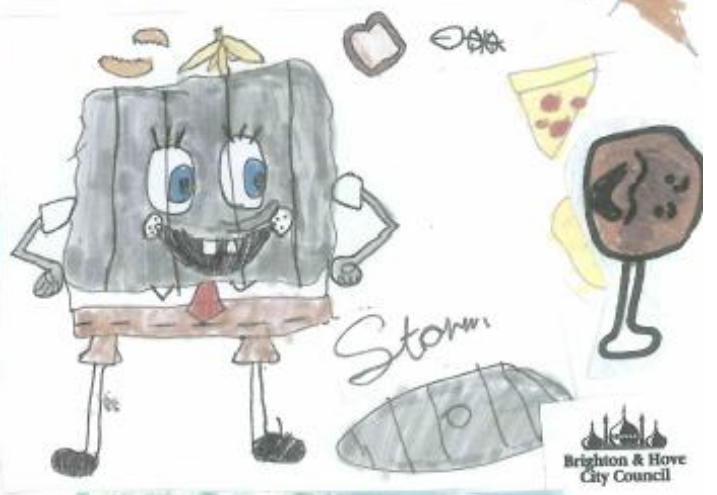
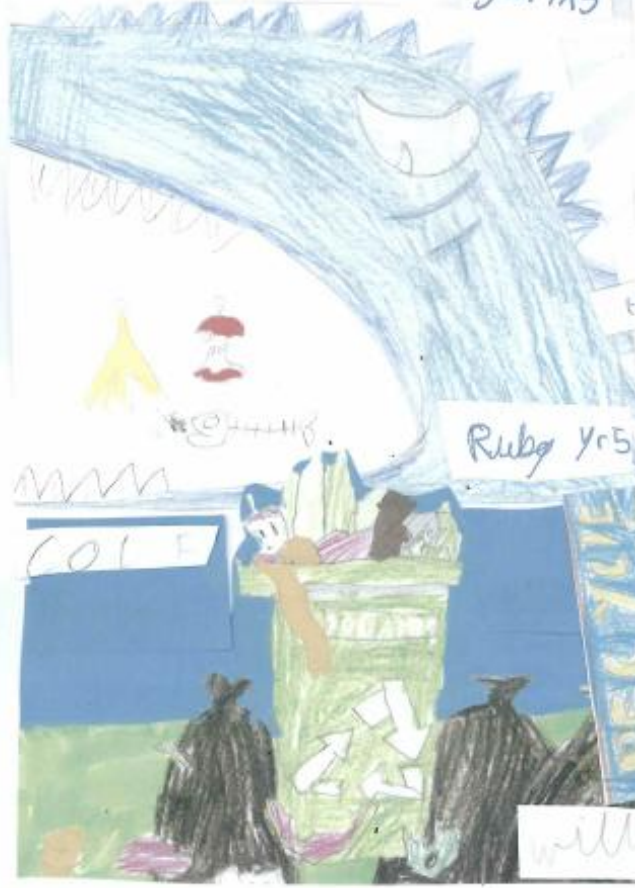
plastic trays

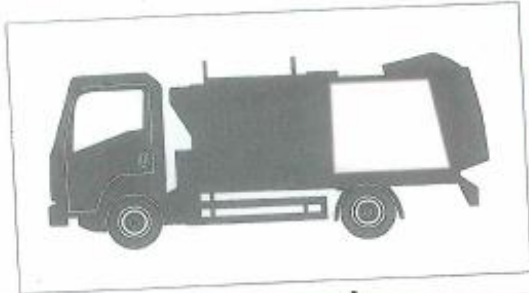
**Plastic pots, tubs and trays now go in your mixed recycling bin**

- Yoghurt pots
- Fruit and veg punnets
- Meat trays
- Margarine and ice cream tubs
- Toothpaste and cosmetics tubes

- Take off any plastic film, as this can't be recycled
- Keep items clean, dry & loose

All go in kerbside or communal mixed recycling bins







Thank you to Trinity and Dexter in Year 6. After attending science club, they were able to support the other children in Year 6 with using the microscopes when studying microorganisms for their IPC work.



#### RAVENS' BIOME DISPLAYS

Aside from paint, glue and staples, Year 6 made these wonderful displays completely from 'waste' materials such as fabric scraps, gift wrap, wallpaper, plastic waste and old toys.

### West Blatchington Primary School opens science club

Young scientists are getting hands-on with lab coats and dinosaur skulls at a new after-school science club.

The club is running at West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School in Hove, part of The Pioneer Academy, and is open to pupils in Years 5 and 6.

It was launched with the support of parent governor Nicky Bryce-Sharron, who helped connect the school with the University of Sussex's School of Life Sciences.

The university has since donated a range of scientific equipment, including microscopes, lab coats, graduated cylinders and 3D-printed dinosaur skull models.

"A huge thank you to our parent governor Nicky Bryce-Sharron for making this possible and thank you to the School of Life Sciences at the University of Sussex for generously donating equipment and supporting our children's enthusiasm for science."

Pupils have described the club as "the best thing in the whole world" and "better than any club."



By Samanta Gladkauskaitė Reporter

## Under the Microscope

Did you know that some creatures are so small that you cannot see them with the naked eye? **Microorganisms** are **organisms** that can only be viewed with a microscope.



### How Many Are There?

It's difficult to estimate how many different **microorganism species** there are because they reproduce and change so quickly. However, scientists estimate that there may be over one trillion (that's one thousand billions) **species**. Amazingly, it is believed that humans have discovered less than 1% of these **species**.







**Puffins' amazing waste box house!**

As part of their learning about electric circuits, Puffins class created box rooms from waste cardboard and paper. Using their knowledge of circuits, they were able to light up each room. All the boxes were put together to create a fabulous cardboard house!

Mrs Heym's Christmas tree, made from hazel 'waste' after hedge cutting. Soon to have new life as natural fencing for our school bug hotel!

Existing, **Endangered**, **Extinct**

Ravens have been learning about the world's biomes, the wide biodiversity within them with all their incredible adaptations, climate change cause and effect and possible solutions for the future. For their exit point, they searched the school garden for evidence of healthy biodiversity and discussed how it could be improved.

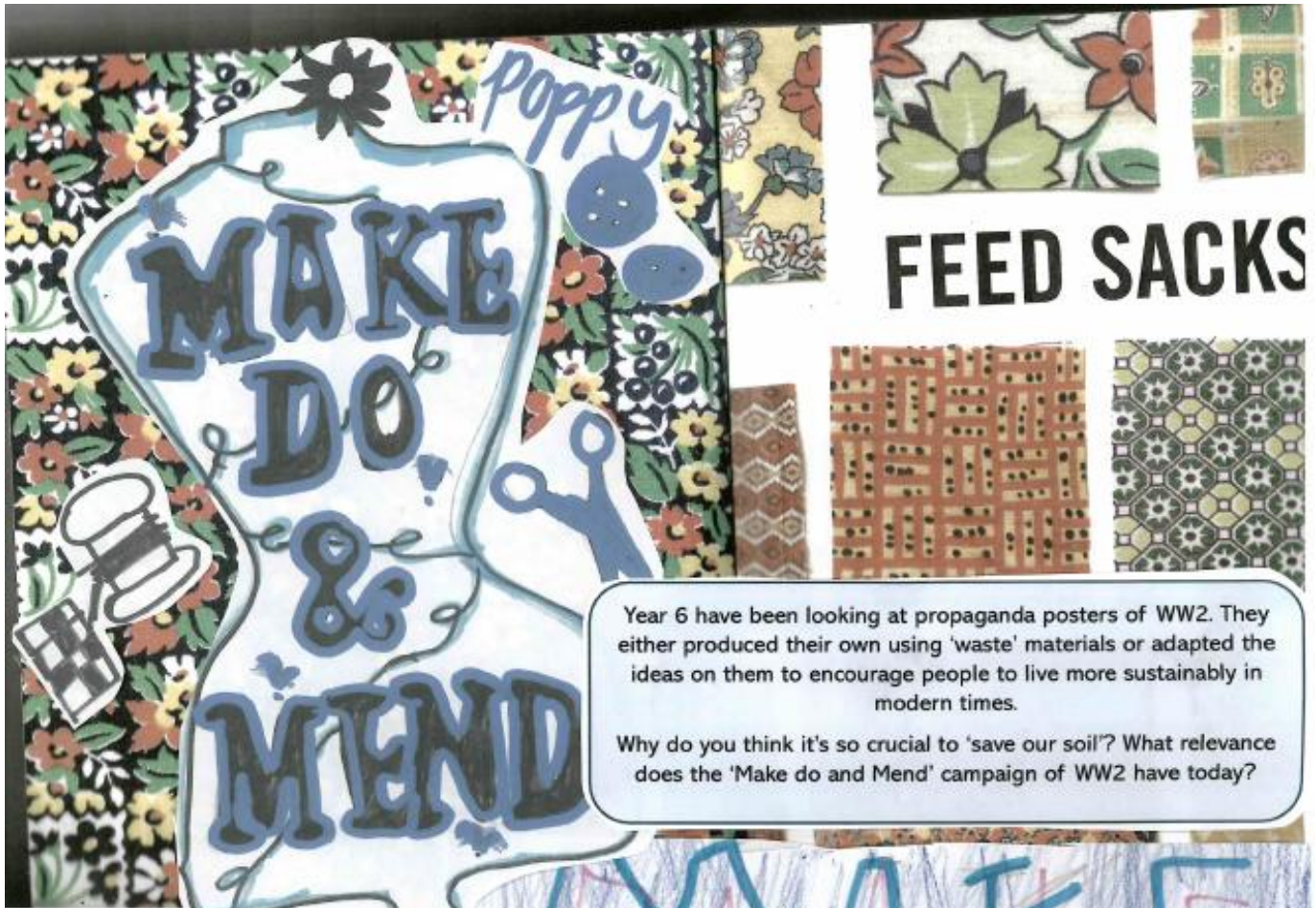


WHAT WE'VE LEARNT AND WHAT WE WONDER.



Year 6 collected leaves, flowers and other natural items from the garden, to help them create classification diagrams.

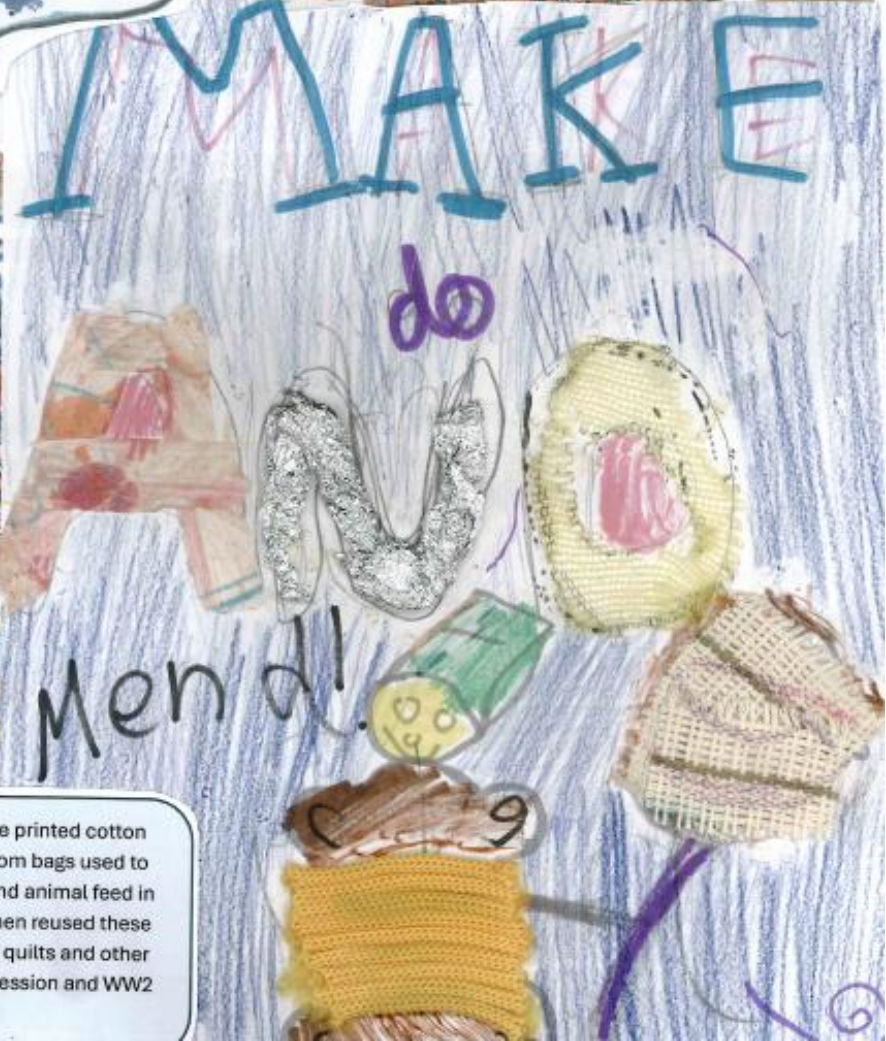




# FEED SACKS

Year 6 have been looking at propaganda posters of WW2. They either produced their own using 'waste' materials or adapted the ideas on them to encourage people to live more sustainably in modern times.

Why do you think it's so crucial to 'save our soil'? What relevance does the 'Make do and Mend' campaign of WW2 have today?



Feedsack fabric refers to the printed cotton cloth that originally came from bags used to package flour, grain, sugar and animal feed in the early to mid 1900s. Women reused these bags to make clothing, toys, quilts and other household items in the Depression and WW2 eras.

Using 'waste' materials, some children in Year 2 made puppets to help them learn the names for different materials in a poetry unit being studied.

Can you make a puppet using waste materials?

EAL- puppets can be a great way to practice English words and conversations as it is the puppet 'talking' rather than the child, therefore reducing any anxiety in 'having a go'.



### SWALLOWS CLASS

Their wonderful upcycled plates!

Using acrylic paint pens, you can upcycle any unwanted china or glass.

Use nature as inspiration for your designs.



*Cole's fabulous newspaper puppet.*



## Pupil Voice results

September 2025

Do you think it is important we learn about how to care for the environment at school?



Draw signs about taking care of the world.

Pupil voice ideas

Bring plastic containers then take them home and wash them.

Walk to school more.

How worried are you about Climate Change damaging some of the ways we live and damaging nature and the wildlife around us?



How often do you enjoy being in nature with your family?



Use less plastic. Reuse plastic bottles.

How often do we get opportunities to make the environment better at school?

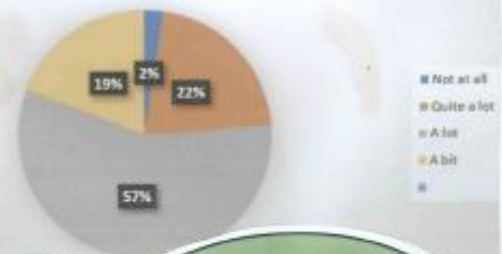


Respect the school.

Plant more plants, seeds and trees.

Do not use the light when the sun is bright.

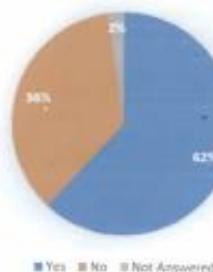
Do you enjoy playing and learning outside in nature?



Go outside more and pick up more litter.

Don't pick flowers or stand on bugs.

Do you think you play in nature and learn enough about nature in school?



Parent voice:

How much do you think your child benefits from learning / playing in nature?





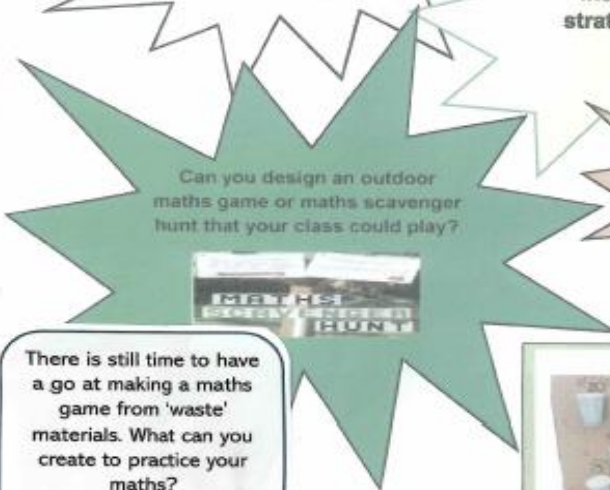
### Christmas Holiday Maths Game Challenge!

Design a game, using as much Xmas 'waste' as possible!

You can either bring it into school on the first day back or take a photograph/ make a video of you playing it. Can you write some instructions to go with it?



Your maths games don't have to involve numbers! Include patterns, strategy or problem solving.



Can you design an outdoor maths game or maths scavenger hunt that your class could play?



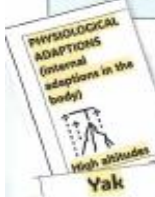
There is still time to have a go at making a maths game from 'waste' materials. What can you create to practice your maths?



Angel's fabulous maths game created from waste.

Well done, Angel!

Remember to either use this piece of paper in your game, for example you could make it into an aeroplane or screw it up to use as a ball, or to recycle it!



They also made a Pelmanism game (pairs) to help them to remember facts about animal adaptations.



Games are a fabulous way to record and practise your learning as the repetition helps facts to stay in your long-term memory. Keep the cards for recap on learning.



WASTE ISN'T WASTE UNTIL WE WASTE IT



Walk to School Week 2026  
 May 19<sup>th</sup> – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

This includes thinking about the distance that the things we buy travels to get to us. If we buy seasonally and locally, we are helping to reduce our carbon footprint. We will focus in the next two terms on 'growing our own' vegetables- a fabulous way to reduce food miles and eat more healthily, cheaply and sustainably.



**FOOD MILES**  
 WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW DO THEY AFFECT OUR WORLD?

Time + distance FROM THE POINT & TIME WHERE FOOD IS *grown* TO WHERE IT IS *consumed*. THE SMALLER THE BETTER!

AMERICAN FOOD TRAVELS AN *average* OF 1,500 TO 2,500 MILES FROM FARM TO TABLE

60-70% OF THE COST OF YOUR FOOD GOES TO *production inputs* (FERTILIZER, OIL/GAS, WATER, ETC.), TRANSPORTATION, AND STORAGE THAT USE *limited* RESOURCES, PETROCHEMICALS, & GREENHOUSE GASES

FOOD MILES ARE AMONG THE FASTEST-GROWING SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS *worldwide*

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ALLOWED TO *grow to full ripeness* HAVE MORE NUTRITIONAL VALUE THAN CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTS HARVESTED EARLY AND RIPENED WITH CHEMICAL HARVESTING TECHNOLOGY

GROWING FOOD CLOSER TO *home* ALLOWS US TO HAVE FRESHER FOODS, AND MORE



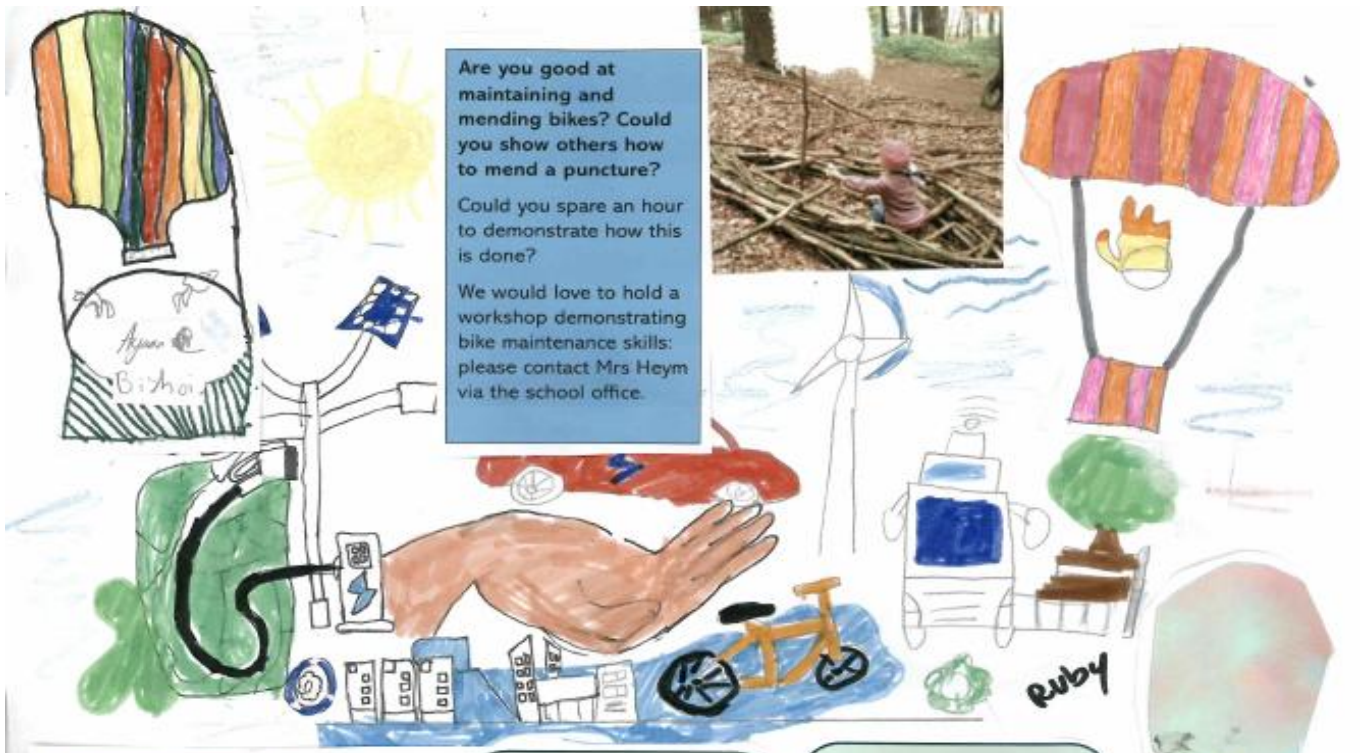
Your own vegetables all the year round...

Our spring term focus is....  
**Transport**



if you  
**DIG FOR VICTORY NOW**





Are you good at maintaining and mending bikes? Could you show others how to mend a puncture? Could you spare an hour to demonstrate how this is done? We would love to hold a workshop demonstrating bike maintenance skills: please contact Mrs Heym via the school office.



**The Walk to School**

Step by step, we're on our way  
 Bright and early, start the day.  
 Fresh air fills our lungs with cheer,  
 Friends and laughter drawing near.  
 Birds are singing, skies so blue,  
 Spotting things we never knew  
 Stronger bodies, minds awake,  
 Every step's a choice we make.  
 Less cars mean the air stays clean,  
 Greener streets, a brighter scene.  
 So, grab your bag, let's make it cool—  
 Walk together, all to school!

Can you add some more rhymes to this poem? For example, you could write about the benefit of getting vitamin D from the sun and use synonyms for walk. Why not add in some of the things you hear, see and feel on your walk to school?



Can you illustrate this poem for our sustainability display board?



BUY LOCAL

Codyr



**Build your own boat/raft challenge:**  
 Have a go at creating these rafts or another boat from 'waste' materials.  
 Use our pond to try your vessels out!

### Mini rafts

You can make your own mini raft from sticks, string and pebbles.

1. Lay out four sticks in a square or rectangle.
2. Tie a piece of string around one of the sticks, near a corner.
3. Wrap the string around both sticks at this corner, then tie a knot.
4. Tie the other three corners together in the same way.
5. Tie sticks across your frame to cover it.
6. Float your raft on a pond or some water in a bucket. How many pebbles can it carry before it starts to sink?



IF YOU  
 LIVE  
 NEAR  
 A SHOP  
 WHY  
 DRIVE?



Eshaan Eshaan



Stanley's snails

a spider magnified



There are over 24 quadrillion spiders in the world.

There are over 50000 spider species.

Spiders have blue blood. due to oxygen

The eco reps had a fabulous idea to make an information board for our garden. Our aim is to have this in place by the start of the summer term. Swallows made these wonderful mini-information posters about some of the minibeasts and insects we might find. We also need information on the plants growing there: please give your pictures/ information to Mrs Heym.



Example information board



Bishop's millipede



### FACTS AB B E E S

- Bees 5 eyes and 4 wing
- Bees communicate by dance, dances and by signals called pheromones.
- There are about 3.5 trillion honey bees in the world.
- Bees drink water nectar and honey.

Summer

Evan's earwig

earwigs use their legs to hold their wings like a fan. nose has small holes to humenit

### More Facts!

- Spiders are not insects, they are arachnids.
- Spiders have 8 eyes
- Spiders heart is a tube
- Spiders blood is called Hemolymph
- Spiders have an exoskeleton that they can shed
- Spiders cannot chew
- Spiders live in every continent except Antarctica

Eshaan





Your sunflowers are so wonderful! Please make a spring flower and give it to Mrs Heym for a spring flower bouquet!

**Collective nouns**

There isn't an official collective noun for sunflowers, but two popular choices are , 'A Ray of Sunflowers' and 'A Van Gough of Sunflowers'.  
Can you think of collective noun for sunflowers? Can you use alliteration?  
E.g. 'A Sensation of Sunflowers'.  
Can you think of collective nouns for the spring flowers that will appear in our garden over this term?  
There will be snowdrops, dwarf irises, daffodils, bluebells, and tulips.





Rosier

# AUTOBIOGRAPHY of David Attenborough

As I'm getting older, I desire to communicate to others how to take care of 'our planet'. Throughout my journey of being a TV presenter and naturalist, I have experienced many things. I've had the opportunity to teach people about our natural world, wildlife and many more things.

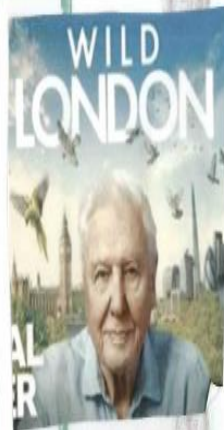


Growing up in Leicester, I was fascinated by wildlife. It was like a second home. But as I was growing up, my connection with nature grew stronger. So I rode my bike to the local countryside to explore more nature in the 1930s. As soon as I arrived there, I searched for stones, fossils and other amazing treasures.

## GET CLOSER TO NATURE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR LIVING ROOM!

This fantastic program hosted by David Attenborough, is full of ways we can help and connect with nature. It is full of positive environmental news. For example, the growing Peregrine Falcon population and the reintroduction of wild beavers, which has had an enormously positive effect for both wildlife and humans. There is lots to make you smile and feel hopeful about: that every action we take, however small, really does make a difference.

Wild London - on BBC iplayer now.



Due to my interest with nature at a young age, I later studied in Cambridge University to go more further. As I go even older, I finished my studies in 1947. But after a few days, I served in the Royal Navy for two years but didn't go beyond Wales.

Straight after I had finished serving for the Navy, I worked at BBC as a producer, creating TV shows like 'ZOO QUEST'. During this period, I had numerous people criticizing my appearance but persevered. Later on, I helped create astonishing wildlife programs and then the director of programming at BBC2 in 1965. As my passion grew bigger, I played a key role in bringing educational shows to the screen. After that, I left the BBC community to focus on making wildlife programs like 'Life on Earth', and traveled the globe to broadcast the animals in their natural habitats. I used new techniques to show the growth and change of animals and plants over time.

## May 8, 2026

David Attenborough's 100th birthday will be on May 8, 2026. He was born on May 8, 1926.

The incredible, inspiring nature pioneer, David Attenborough, is going to be 100 in May! What ideas do you have for celebrating his life and legacy?

**Use of renewable energy 2025- the highest on record!**

**Use of renewable energy 2025**

In 2025, the UK's renewable energy use reached a record high, with wind and solar power producing more energy than ever before. Wind power accounted for nearly 30% of electricity generation, while solar power saw a record year, generating over 18 TWh. The UK's sunniest year on record and the installation of new solar panels contributed to this success. However, despite the record-high renewable energy production, fossil fuels, especially natural gas, still accounted for about 27% of electricity generation. This is due to the need for energy security, as renewable energy sources like wind and solar are not always available. The UK is working towards a more sustainable energy future, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a carbon neutral economy by the middle of the century.



January is a time for reflection and resolutions. Think back to your pledges from last year. How did it go? What could you do this year to show more care for yourself, your community and the planet?

I pledge to.....

Start growing more food  
: Stanley

I pledge to.....

"use my water bottle and not  
throw plastic ones in the bin"

Isaac - Reception

How could you adapt these newspaper articles for a younger audience?

**CONSERVATION**

**Lost frog species to be reintroduced**

By Sally Graycourt

Three frog species which died out in the UK are to be reintroduced with the help of a nature charity. Rewilding Britain has given £15,800 to the conservation company Celtic Rewilding to bring back the agile frog (*Ama doliwaia*), the moor frog (*Ama arvensis*) and the European tree frog (*Hyla arborea*), native to the Westacre Estate near King's Lynn, Norfolk. The plan is to breed in captivity 1,000 frogs, the smallest of which is no bigger than a 60p piece. They were common in Britain 500 years ago and still survive in Europe. Harvey Twiss, of Celtic Rewild-



ing told the BBC: "We think the reason they're not here now is probably a mix of local drainage but also collection for medicine." Historic texts have revealed that tree frogs were often collected and used for medicinal purposes such as swelling toothache. The Westacre Estate has been chosen because it has 250 "pingos" - small ponds which formed when Ice Age moraine material are the perfect habitat for the amphibians. A special frog zone has already been created on site for the breeding programme. Celtic Rewilding has picked 11 projects for its £160,000-plus Rewilding Innovation Fund, of which the frog reintroduction scheme is one.

**SCOTLAND**

**Corncrake chicks among rare finds**

By Lucinda Cameron

The discovery of seven rare species at National Trust for Scotland (NTS) sites last year is a "powerful sign" that its conservation efforts are working, the charity said. Corncrake chicks, lichen, a rare fungus and an unusual beetle were among the "remarkable" species recorded in 2025, many of them found nowhere else in Scotland, the UK or - in some cases - the world. The NTS said the discoveries highlighted the importance of safeguarding nature and were a reminder of the pressures facing delicate ecosystems amid climate change and habitat loss.



A Scotch annulet moth was found on Canna for the first time since 1979

The species found include corncrake chicks on the Treshnish Isles, which were acquired by the trust in 2023. Other species included a "beaver and/or deer" Scotch annulet moth on the Isle of Canna, the first since 1979. A rare rove beetle, which lives beneath stones on mountains, was recorded at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve in the Highlands, and a greater butterfly-orchid was found at Bannockburn, near Stirling.



## Experience

# I cycled the length of the UK on a wooden bike

As told to Sumaiya Motara

**S**ince coming to England from Ethiopia eight years ago, I've lost parts of my cultural identity. I was stuck in a monotonous, isolated routine studying for a biochemistry degree at Imperial College London, without the family-centred lifestyle I was used to. Back in Ethiopia, I'd be surrounded by my aunt, grandparents, friends.

So this year, I took 12 months out and moved to my uncle's house in Leeds. The change helped me try new things, like cycling: as a child, I had never ridden a bike. I bought one in a charity shop. My friends told me that it was made for a 10-year-old and donated an adult-sized bike to me.

The bike had spent two years in my friend's garden, so it was in bad shape.

I spent a month taking it to a repair shop. I also joined a project called the Hackspace - it's a community-run workshop for makers - and built a wooden bicycle. It's mostly made of recycled materials: I used an old flip-flop for the brake. The Hackspace's director, Mark, suggested I go to John o'Groats and cycle all the way down to the south. At first, I thought that was ridiculous, but then reconsidered it: I wanted to do something new.

I hadn't planned any logistics, hoping to figure things out as I went. My friends and family didn't think I'd last a mile. Maybe they had a point: the first three nights were terrible. I hadn't bought a tent to sleep in; only a tarp to cover myself. I'd packed light, relying only on one cotton shirt. The wind and rain were rough.

I hadn't brought enough food, either, and had to ask people for help - in those remote parts it was hard to find a shop and I didn't have much money. These wonderful people were often elderly and isolated, but eager to help. This inspired me to use my journey to fundraise for Age UK and Mekedonia, an Ethiopian charity for vulnerable people.

During the two and a half months I was on the road, I was prepared for

**Friends and family didn't think I'd last a mile. Maybe they had a point**

the worst. But people offered me their friendship. A DJ discovered my videos on TikTok and sent me money for hotel stays. After I finally bought a tent, people let me pitch up in their gardens. I was invited into homes, garages, village halls and even barns to stay. I met builders in the Scottish village of Tomatin, who offered me a place to stay for the night, and I helped them in return. I spent the next day bricklaying, making friends I still keep in touch with now.

The wooden bicycle caused a stir wherever I went. Locals would go crazy over it. I'd tell them my story, they'd gather their friends and family to take pictures, and donate to my fundraiser.

It wasn't all easy cycling. During Storm Floris, I was passing through Dalwhinnie, another Scottish village, and desperate for shelter. Then, the loveliest couple invited me in, gave me hot food, took me to their community hall and set up an air mattress for me.

I feared my bike would fall apart by the time I reached England. But I was always offered help. When my chain broke near Newcastle, some cyclists helped me hitchhike to a shop, which then fixed it for free. A man in the Bedfordshire village of Haynes replaced my front wheel with one from his daughter's bike, then let me sleep in his van.

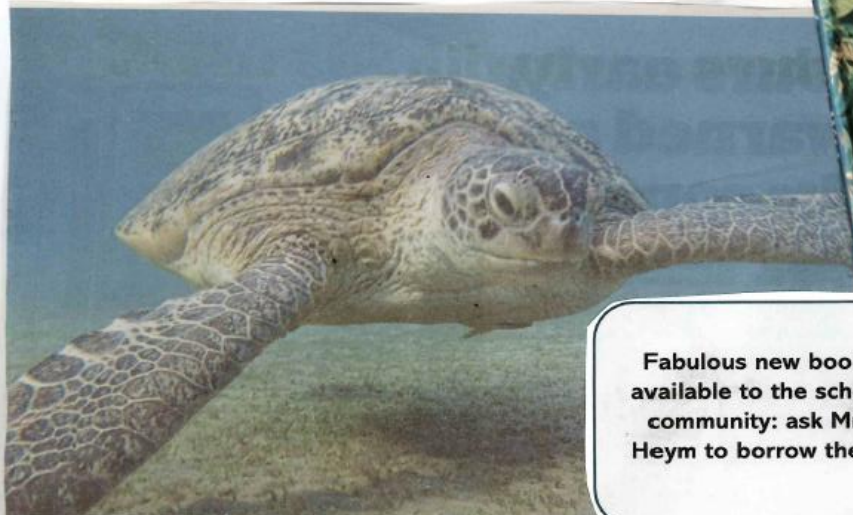
I wondered if I would face racism. I did have some tricky encounters, but hopefully I've changed their minds. I also got to know Ethiopians in Britain, who followed my progress on social media. Whenever I reached a city with a sizable Ethiopian population, they would offer to host me.

The last few days were hard. I had been catching up with my friends in London, and leaving felt difficult. But again, people helped. One lady in Faversham hosted me in her house. We watched Avatar together. Later, an Ethiopian who'd seen my TikToks booked me a hotel room in Canterbury.

The next day, I reached Dover. A party of 10 Ethiopians travelled from London to meet me, with food, music and a trophy: a small bike with my name on it. My journey came to an end.

I had previously felt the absence of community in my life: doing this adventure made the world feel bigger. The community helped me finish my journey. Not money or my resilience - just the kindness of strangers.

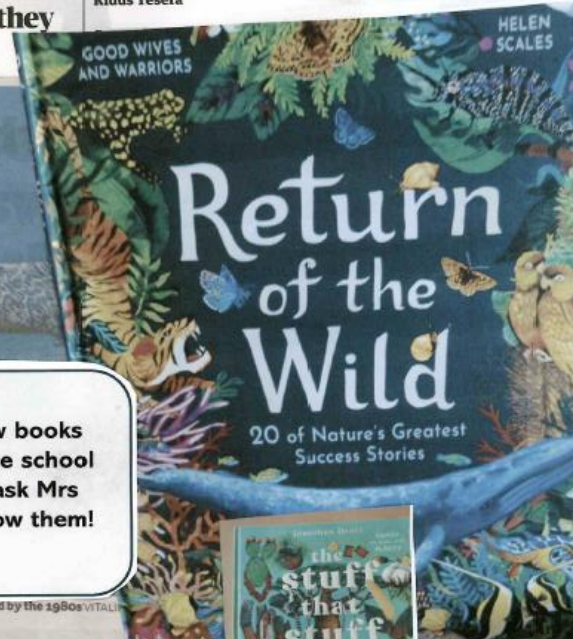
Kidus Tesera



Green sea turtles were once hunted for their skin, flesh, eggs and shells, and numbers fell so low that they were listed as endangered by the 1980s. [www.vitality.com](http://www.vitality.com)

WILDLIFE

## Green sea turtles taken off endangered list thanks to global conservation effort



Fabulous new books available to the school community: ask Mrs Heym to borrow them!



## Useful contacts at Brighton & Hove City Council

### School Travel Team

Early Years initiatives and  
Travel Plans  
01273 292357

### Road Safety Publicity & Initiatives

01273 292258

### Schools' Parking Enforcement

0845 6035469 Option 3

### Public Transport Team

01273 292480

### Active for Life/Sports Development

01273 292724

### Healthwalks

01273 292564 or 01273 292574



For further information  
to comment on this  
please email  
road.safety@  
ov.uk



## Useful websites

### Brighton & Hove City Council

Early Years active travel:

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/early-years-travel](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/early-years-travel)

School travel: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooltravel](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooltravel)

Road safety: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/roadsafety)

Active for Life: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment)

Healthwalks: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthwalks](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthwalks)

### Active travel advice

Sustrans: [www.sustrans.org.uk/families](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/families)

Change 4 Life: [www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life) click on 'Get going'

### Recommended activity levels

NHS: [www.nhs.uk/livewell/fitness](http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/fitness)

British Heart Foundation: [www.bhfactive.org.uk](http://www.bhfactive.org.uk)

### Road safety

Department for Transport: [www.think.direct.gov.uk](http://www.think.direct.gov.uk)

Road safety charity: [www.brake.org.uk](http://www.brake.org.uk)

Car seat information: [www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk)

Child Accident Prevention Trust: [www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice](http://www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice)

### Cycling

Sustrans: [www.sustrans.org.uk/get-cycling](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/get-cycling)

In Brighton & Hove: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cycling)

### Public transport - trains and buses

Brighton & Hove City Council:

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/publictransport](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/publictransport)

Traveline: [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

Trains: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)



