

# Wray Common Primary School Newsletter



Inspiring Lifelong Learning



## THE END OF ANOTHER TERM!

### PANATHLON FINAL

Last month, a group of children from Wray Common proudly represented the school at the Panathlon held at East Surrey College. After an outstanding performance in the heats, where they secured a winning place, the team progressed to the Finals this week at Guildford Spectrum. Competing against eight other schools, the children took part in a range of exciting activities, including throwing challenges and curling. They showed fantastic teamwork, determination, and enthusiasm throughout the event. Although we didn't finish in the top three this time, we are incredibly proud to have ranked among the top nine schools out of more than 80 schools - an amazing achievement!



## DT PROJECT - BREAD ROLL

This week, Year 5 finished off their DT project by making their own bread rolls. They first made the dough, following the instructions carefully and making sure they kneaded it well. After letting it proof, they then altered the shape and added their own ingredients. In the afternoon, they did a taste test and evaluated their groups' bread rolls. Great baking Year 5!



## EATHQUAKES AND HABITATS

This week in our science lesson, Year 4 took part in a practical activity to explore how earthquakes affect different habitats. Each child was given a role - animal, plant, part of the earth, water, or shelter to act out. We then played an earthquake sound clip. As it rumbled, children acted out how their part of the habitat might change or react. When the sound stopped, they froze, showing the final impact on the environment.



## GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

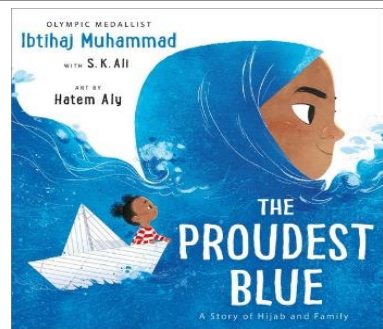
Last Friday, five other children and I went to Caterham School to take part in a big geography quiz. There were eight rounds altogether, and we had to answer lots of tricky questions. Our favourite part was the creative round. We had to make an earthquake scene out of playdough! The judges said they were really impressed with how much effort and detail we put into it – and we were so happy when we won that round. As a prize, we received some brilliant geography books, small globes, and a pencil. It was a really fun day, and we all worked well together as a team! Written by Reuben.



## INVISIBLE DIFFERENCES

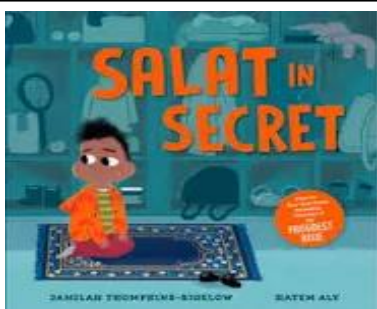
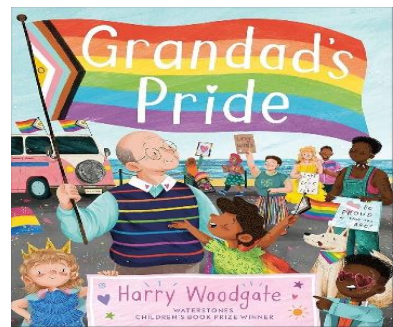
This half term, during our Differences Assembly, children explored a range of invisible differences—those we cannot see. These included personal beliefs (such as religious faith), individual values, who we love, past experiences, personality traits (e.g., shy or confident), and personal preferences.

Below are some recommended books that help children develop awareness and understanding of these differences.



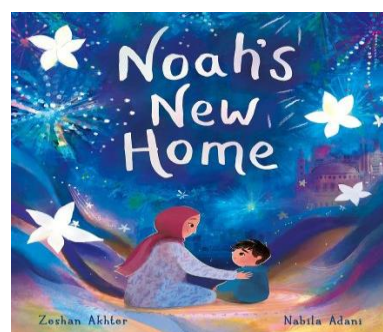
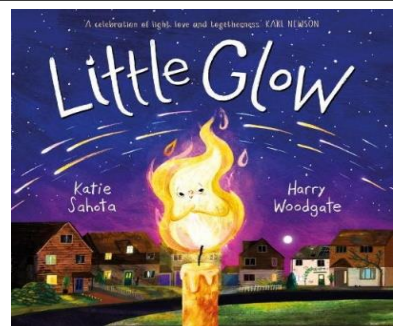
Asiya's hijab is like the ocean and the sky, no line between them, saying hello with a loud wave. It's Faizah's first day of school, and her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab - made of a beautiful blue fabric. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful. In the face of hurtful, confusing words, will Faizah find new ways to be strong? This is an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond shared by siblings and of being proud of who you are, from Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

Milly can't wait to spend a summer at Grandad's cottage by the sea, and is even more excited when she discovers Grandad and Gramps' Pride flag in the attic. Grandad insists he's too old to go to the London celebrations, especially now Gramps isn't around anymore, but Milly has an idea to get the local community together and bring Pride to Grandad...

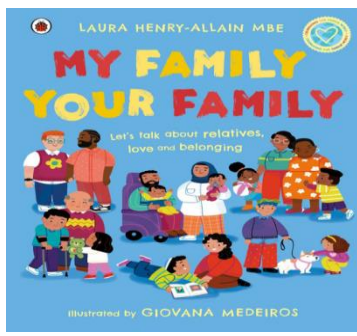


When Muhammad turns seven, his father gifts him his very first salat rug to pray with. Muhammad is excited to begin his salat journey, but is more comfortable silently praying in secret, afraid of the judgement he sees his dad receive when he prays in public. Can Muhammad learn to be brave and embrace his salat practice instead of hiding it from the world?

A rhyming celebration of hope, told through the eyes of an introverted lead character, observing the inspiring ways an inclusive community celebrates light through the year.

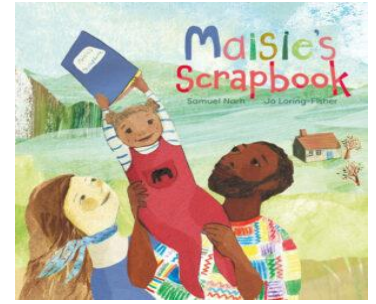


In a tale of home and healing, Noah's family have taken a journey no one should have to make. They arrive in a different country as refugees. While settling into their new house, Noah misses his Baba, Jida and their old home. When a fireworks display brings back both happy memories and difficult moments of their journey and arrival, his family and their new community support him in facing his fears and feeling hopeful for the future.



My Family, Your Family is a powerful non-fiction book that focuses on what makes a family, explores how different families come together and celebrates the idea that every family is unique. Specifically written by producer, educator and consultant, Laura Henry-Allain, My Family, Your Family aims to help children and adults have meaningful discussions on family and belonging in an accessible and approachable way.

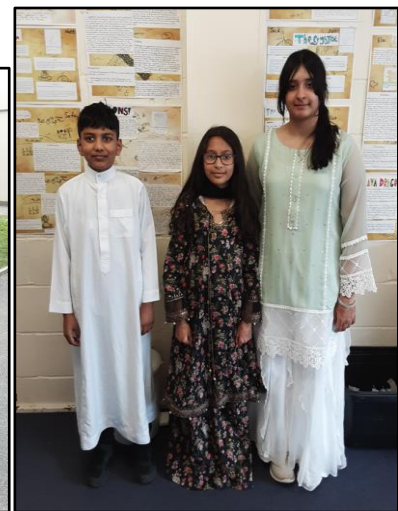
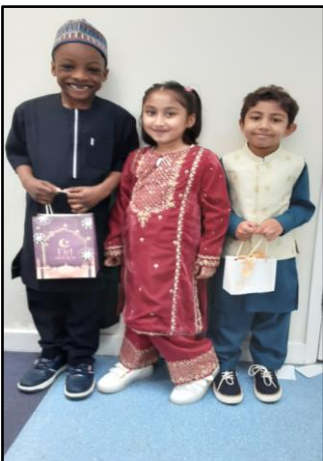
As the seasons turn, Maisie rides her bull in and out of Dada's tall tales. Her Mama wears linen and plays the viola. Her Dada wears kente cloth and plays the marimba. They come from different places, but they hug her in the same way. And most of all, they love her just the same. A joyful celebration of a mixed-race family and the love that binds us all together.



My Shadow Is Pink is a beautifully written rhyming story that touches on the subjects of gender identity, self-acceptance, equality and diversity. Inspired by the author's own little boy, the main character likes princesses, fairies and things "not for boys." He soon learns (through the support of his dad) that everyone has a shadow that they sometimes feel they need to hide. This is an important book for a new generation of children (and adults alike) which exemplifies the concepts of unconditional love, respect and positive parenting.

## EID

On Monday, Mrs Iqbal, Mrs Wasif and Mrs Akhtar visited KS1 to tell them all about the Muslim celebration of Eid. They shared that they celebrate the end of Ramadan with a big festival enjoying presents, delicious food and spending time with loved ones. The children who celebrated Eid wore their best new clothes and the girls showed their beautiful henna designs. As a school we welcomed anyone celebrating Eid to wear their traditional clothing to school if they wished.



## FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



This week, Wray Common proudly took part in a football tournament against other local schools, held at Sandcross School, the team played brilliantly throughout, showing determination, teamwork, and skill in every match. Their fantastic effort saw them progress all the way to the semi-finals, where they faced a strong Reigate Priory side.

Although the match didn't go our way, the team gave it their all and should be incredibly proud of their achievement. A huge well done to everyone involved for demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, resilience, and team spirit - an outstanding effort all round!

## READING COMPETITION

After the Easter holidays, the Wray Common Reading Competition is back! At Wray Common, we are passionate about inspiring a lifelong love of reading and encouraging children to read for pleasure. Reading regularly at home is essential — not only does it help children get inspired and lost in exciting stories, but it also strengthens and reinforces the skills they learn in school.

We are delighted to launch our Reading Competition again next half term. For every three reads completed at home and recorded in Home Learning Journals, children will earn one raffle ticket. They can then choose which book prize to enter their ticket into for a chance to win. These will be shared with the children after the holidays. Remember: every three reads = one raffle ticket—so the more you read, the greater your chances of winning! Winning raffle tickets will be drawn in the final celebration assembly of the half term, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May so you have plenty of time to get stuck into lots of excellent reading at home! Happy reading and good luck!



## KS2 BOOK RECOMMENDATION

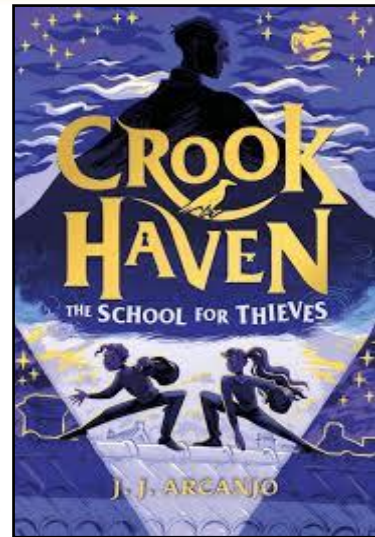
Mrs Laing recommends 'Crookhaven'.

**The first book in the 'criminally good' Crookhaven series, the secret school where students are taught to do wrong, so that one day, they can put the world to rights.**

*"So this is really a school for criminals." It was meant as a question, though it came out more as an accusation.*

*"We are so much more than that," Caspian said, sitting in a plush leather chair and gesturing for Gabriel to sit in a similar one across the table. "We are a home for the forgotten, a sanctuary for the lost and ... yes, a training ground for the greatest crooks of the future."*

13-year-old Gabriel is a brilliant pickpocket, a skill which he uses to keep his often empty belly not quite so empty. And then one day, he's caught. But instead of being arrested, he is invited by the mysterious Caspian Crook to attend Crookhaven - a school for thieves. At Crookhaven, students are trained in lock-picking, forgery and 'crim-nastics', all with the intention of doing good out in the world, by conning the bad and giving back to the innocent. But ... can you ever really trust a thief? With a school wide competition to be crowned Top Crook and many mysteries to uncover, Gabriel's first year at Crookhaven will be one to remember...You can also watch the new Crookhaven TV series based on the books on iplayer. Enjoy!



## STAFF UPDATE

As previously announced, we said goodbye to Mrs Evans earlier this week. We would also like to share that we have recently said farewell to Mrs Gill and Mrs Bettison.

Mrs Gill has provided fantastic support across the whole school, working in a variety of classes and most recently in Year 3. We are very grateful for her hard work and commitment to the Wray Common community.

Mrs Bettison leaves her role as a Midday Supervisor after more than 25 years at Wray Common. During this time, she has played an important role in supporting and caring for children on the KS2 playground. We sincerely thank her for her many years of dedication.

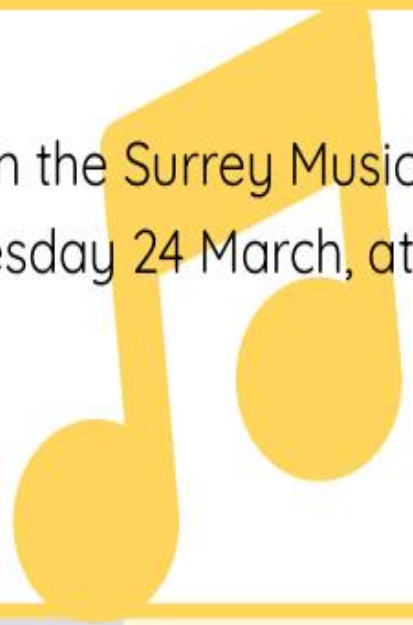
We wish both Mrs Gill and Mrs Bettison every happiness and success in their next chapters.



# Music this term at Wray Common

The School Choir is participating in the Surrey Music Hub Primary Schools Festival, Tuesday 24 March, at Dorking Halls

Mrs Miller



What have we been doing in extra curricular?

**BEATS LAB:** learning body percussion for days of the week and a piece to accompany the choir

**CHOIR:** learning songs for the Music Festival and our own performance

**FUN WITH MUSIC:** learning rhythm to accompany Moana, dance and other games LB



## What have we been learning this half term?

### Year 3

**Ensemble Skills 1:** Call & Response (Recorder / Glockenspiel) We developed our ensemble skills by learning to play call and response songs together on our instruments. We practised reading music from a staff and listened to each other to perform confidently as a musical team.

**Composition Skills 1:** Pitch, Rhythm and Structure We developed our composition and improvisation skills to create our own music and paint sound pictures. We explored musical structure and used our knowledge of pitch and rhythm to build and perform our own pieces.

### Year 4

**Reading Notation 2:** 2, 3 and 4 Time We explored different time signatures by reading, listening to, and playing music in 2, 3, and 4 time. We learnt new rhythm names and performed intricate patterns together as a rhythm ensemble.

**Exploring Staff Notation 2:** Follow the Score (Glockenspiel) We deepened our understanding of staff notation by following the score to play melodies and accompaniments on the glockenspiel. We improved our pitch-reading skills and performed confidently together in two or more parts.

### Year 6

**Reading Notation 4:** Rhythm Ensemble We challenged ourselves by reading and playing intricate rhythms to perform as part of a four-part rhythm ensemble. We sang rounds and partner songs while playing complex rhythms to develop our timing and ensemble skills.

**Developing Sight Reading Skills 2:** Note Names + Durations (Glock) We refined our sight-reading skills by focusing on note names and durations to play melodies on the glockenspiel. We performed pieces across an octave range using dynamics and articulation, preparing us for advanced ensemble playing.



## Coming up....

	Weeks 30-33
Y3	Exploring Musical Theatre: Forte and Piano
Y4	Ensemble Skills 2: Melody and Accompaniment (Glockenspiel OR Recorder)
Y6	Pop Music 2: Chords and Bass Lines (Glockenspiel OR Ukulele)

	Weeks 34-37
Y3	Becoming Musicians 1: Dynamics and Tempo
Y4	Composition Skills 2: Sequences and Pentatonic Phrases
Y6	Composition Project 1: Improvisation, Composition and Notation

## Singing Assembly Song of the Term:

Be the Change and Wonder. They have loved the different warmups

## READING CHALLENGE

Cosy up and read this Easter time! Below you will find a set of 12 fun and spring-themed reading challenges to take part in over the holidays. Complete as many or as few as you wish. If you complete at least a line of challenges, pop your name and class on the bottom of the sheet and return it to your teacher after the holidays for a chance to win a book token prize. Happy reading!



# SPRING



## Reading Challenge

Read in a garden or park	Read to a family member	Read a recipe and make it
Read whilst wearing odd socks	Draw a picture of what you are reading	Ask a family member about their favourite story
Read on a comfy chair	Read on a blanket under a tree.	Read a non-fiction book
Read to a pet	Read a book with green or yellow on the cover	Read whilst wearing sunglasses

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri - End of Spring Term



Mon 13<sup>th</sup> - All children return to school

## SAVE THE DATE: LEARN WITH YOUR CHILD

Next half term, we are excited to invite parents/carers into school to take part in a 'Learn With Your Child' session which will focus on how we teach Reading at Wray Common. You will be invited to listen to Miss Fosbueary sharing our approach to Reading in the Juniors (Years 3 - 6) while Miss Palmer will share information regarding our Reading approach in the Infants (Reception to Year 2). You will then be invited to go to your child's class to participate in a Reading activity with them. Further details will follow after the Easter holidays but please take note of the following dates:

**Infants (Reception to Year 2) - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Juniors (Years 3 - 6) - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

## FAMILY SUPPORT

If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can help you source information about support through the right agencies, and make referrals ourselves to local support groups. Here are some of the things we have supported families with recently:

- School uniform, school bags, P.E. trainers and school shoes
- Pre-loved clothes for children
- Foodbank referrals
- Housing applications and letters of support
- Seasonal gifts for children

If you have any questions or would like to talk about how we can help, please contact Miss Baldwin on 01737 761254 or email [familysupport@wray-common.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@wray-common.surrey.sch.uk)

## VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

If you wish to volunteer in the summer term and do not have a valid Wray Common DBS you will need to attend the next Safeguarding training which will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April. This is particularly relevant to parents of Reception children who will be swimming at the end of the summer term. If you wish to volunteer and help with swimming you must have attended this training and have a valid Wray Common DBS. Please complete [this form](#) if you wish to attend the training.

## THANK YOU WRAY COMMON!

Thank you to everyone who participated in raising money for Comic Relief last Friday by coming to school dressed in wonderfully silly or red outfits. You all looked fantastic! Thank you for your generosity in raising money for such a worthy cause. Our combined Just Giving Page and cash donations total is: **£430.73!**

## HONOUR BOOK

RH	Sophia	For engaging positively with our learning pit and using it to support her when something is tricky.
RP	Oliver	For demonstrating courage this week by putting his hand up more frequently to contribute to class discussions.
1LP	Ada	For contributing to class discussions this week. It's been lovely to hear your ideas.
1P	Jude	For being a super role model at play and lunch time showing the Wray Play way!
2T	Charlotte	For her excellent effort in her non-fiction writing about jellyfish and responding to feedback about her handwriting.
2F	Maryam	For coming into school with a great attitude and being determined to succeed in all areas of learning.
3EM	Jackson	For working hard on his persuasive writing and being a great role model representing WC at the Panathlon this week.
3F	Olivia	For really focusing on her learning and trying her best.
4B	Jake	For always aspiring to be the best he can be and taking on board adult feedback.
4S	Noah	For seeking solutions during maths to solve tricky decimal questions.
5A	Amelia	For always approaching her learning with positivity and enthusiasm.
5J	Sariye	For always being ready to learn and trying her hardest in every lesson.
6C	Iona	For working hard during maths lessons this half term, particularly improving her arithmetic.
6F	Nevaeh	For an incredibly hardworking attitude towards her learning this week.

Limited Early Bird Tickets  
Available - Don't Miss Out!

# The CIRCUS

is coming to Wray Common!

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Tickets Here!**



**TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

[bit.ly/wraycommoncircus](https://bit.ly/wraycommoncircus)

**Early Bird Tickets**

**Adult £15**

**Child £12**

**Family Bundle £50**

**(2x Adults 2x Child**

**+ 4x Drinks)**

**General Sale**

**Adult £20**

**Child £17**

**Family Bundle £70**

**(2x Adults 2x Child**

**+ 4x Drinks)**

Performed by the **INCREDIBLE**

**HAPPY'S**  
**CIRCUS**

# PAINT + SIP SOCIAL



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
FRIENDS OF WRAY COMMON

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY

7PM FOR A  
7:30PM START



BRING  
YOUR  
OWN  
BOTTLE!



TICKETS: [BIT.LY/WRAYCOMMONPAINT](https://bit.ly/wraycommonpaint)  
£35 P/PERSON

INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS + MASTERPIECE TO TAKE HOME  
+ GLASS OF FIZZ ON ARRIVAL



# Flexi X Flics

Gymnastics



## Easter Holiday Sessions

Our 3 hour sessions are back for Easter in Caterham!

The session consists of learning new skills on the floor and different apparatus, games and lots of fun!

**Wednesday 8th April - 10am - 1pm**

**At The All Day Gym  
4-6 Raglan Precinct, Caterham, CR3 5UG**

(3hrs) - £22.50

For members and non members from 4 years+

Run by Qualified, Insured and DBS Checked Coaches



For more details or to book a space please contact Flick on

07557 351405 - [flexiflics@gmail.com](mailto:flexiflics@gmail.com)