



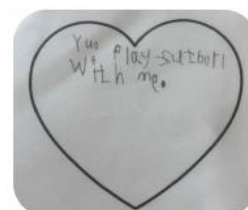
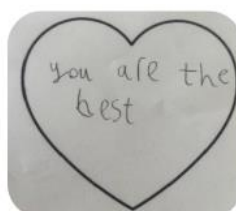
A MESSAGE FROM MRS HAYES-SMITH...

Be Kind

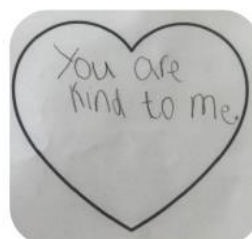
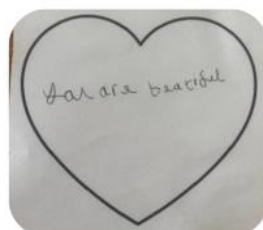
As we have continued the theme of kindness this week with our value 'Be Kind' here is a further selection of work.



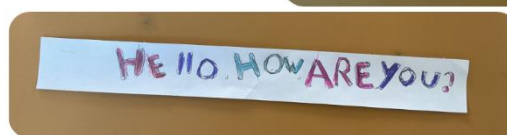
TEAM GORILLAS



Team Gorillas thought about people that we love and the reasons why they are special to us. We wrote down one reason inside a heart.



TEAM TURTLES



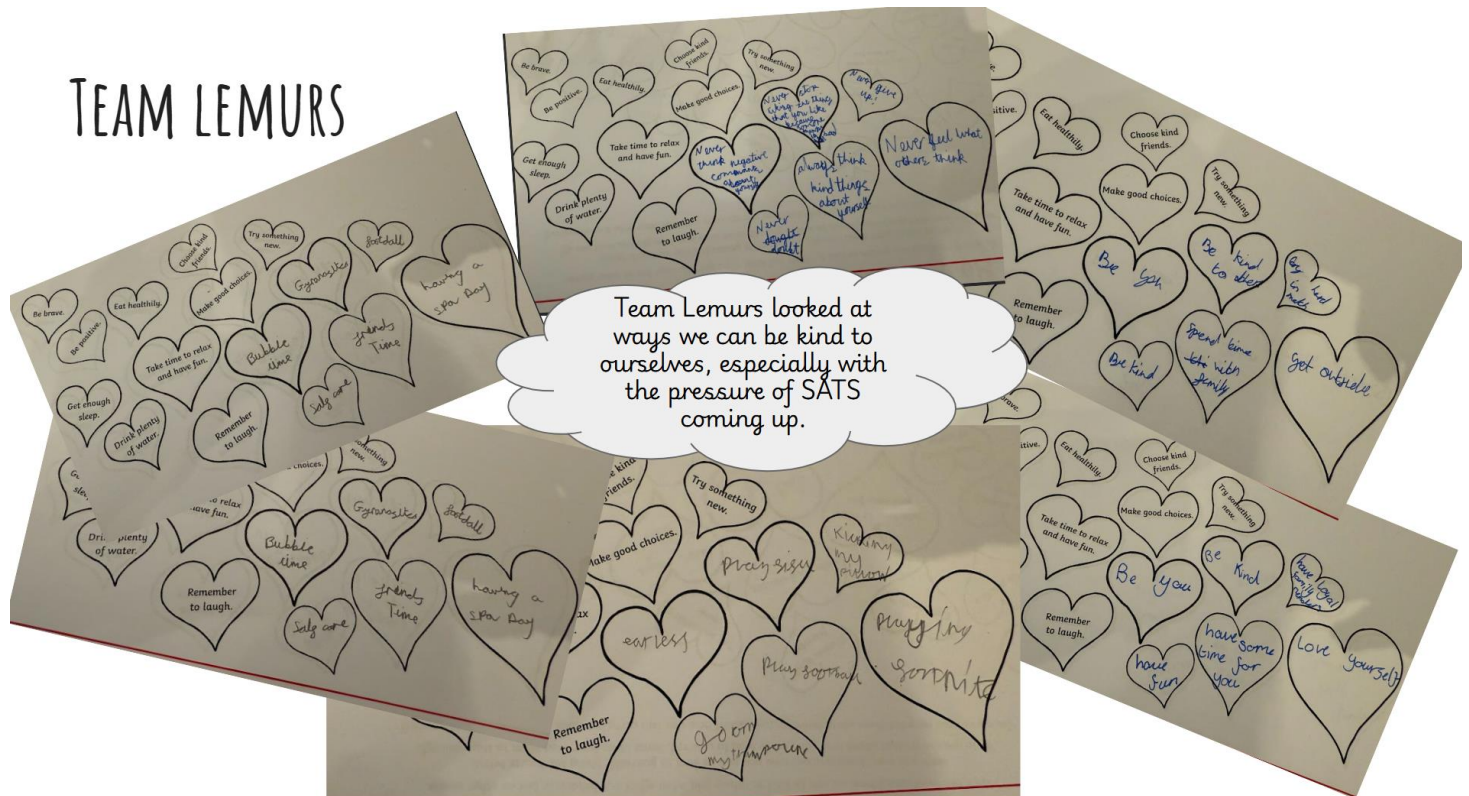
In Team Turtles, we discussed how we can **be kind** using our words. As a class, we wrote a list of kind things we could say to others. We went round the circle and each said something kind to the next person. We talked about how this made us feel happy and warm inside. We then used these ideas to create a kindness paper chain, which we have put up in the classroom to remind ourselves to be a chain of kindness around school.

Lakeside is a nut aware school

Please can we remind you that there are several children in our school with serious nut allergies. Therefore, we kindly ask that you are extra vigilant when sending in food from home.



TEAM LEMURS



TEAM ORANGUTANS

We did a kindness Merry-go-round and wrote on a post-it note something kind for someone else.

"You are a great friend and you always play with me."

"You have good ideas for games we can play."

"You are very good at drawing."

"You are pretty good at Maths."

"You look smart because you are smart. Have a great day."

We also thought about random acts of kindness we could perform and will be filling up our kindness buckets over this coming week.

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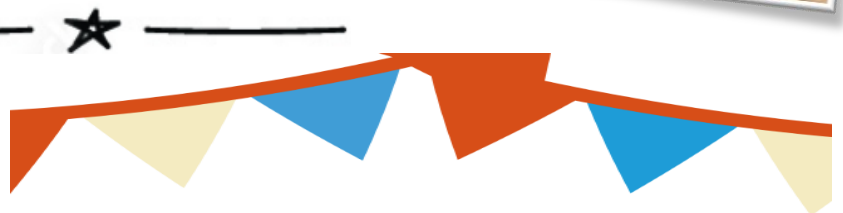
World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



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Save the Date!

THE LAKERS PRESENT

Lakeside Family Fun Day!

Open to the whole community

SATURDAY, 05 JULY • 11 AM - 2 PM

LAKESIDE PRIMARY ACADEMY

GATE FEE: £1 PER ADULT 50P PER CHILD

Market Stalls | Fair Games |
Food | Ice Cream | Inflatables
Entertainment | & More!



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SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

07.03.25

What We Need to Know about 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.

To help struggling readers, many digital platforms offer tools that enhance readability by making text more accessible and engaging. There's also a broad range of accessibility features available, such as screen customisation and text-to-voice technology, which may help children and young people improve their literary confidence. The National College's free guide offers ten top tips on how you can help young readers engage in text and foster a love for reading.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Mental Health



Mindful March 2025

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –

Monday 10th – Friday 14th March

Monday 17th March

Wednesday 19th March 1.45pm

Monday 24th March – Thursday 27th March

Wednesday 26th March

Monday 31st March – Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Monday 31st March – Thursday 3rd April 2025

Friday 4th April 2025

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Friday 25th April 2025

Monday 5th May 2025

Monday 12th May – Thursday 15th May 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

Saturday 5th July 2025 11am to 2pm

Science Week

EYFS Trip to Piglets

Peri and Choir Concert at the church

Parents Evening Week

Year 5 Library Visit

Y4 Residential to Newby Wiske Hall

Y6 Bikeability Training – Information and links will follow shortly.

School closes for Easter

School reopens

Lakers Spring Disco – further details to follow

Spring Bank Holiday – School Closed

Y6 SAT's

School closes for Half Term

School reopens

Lakers Family Fun Day

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