MUNDESLEY INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

17th October 2025



Head of Schools Message

Welcome to our second curriculum newsletter of the year!

These newsletters are a way of keeping you updated with our curriculum projects as well as important information about school life.

Inside, you'll find everything from key dates and celebrations to highlights of the children's wonderful learning journeys.

As you'll see, there has been plenty of exciting learning taking place over the last 3 weeks including lots of curiosity about how early humans chose settlements and analysing what makes a successful habitat! Pupils have also been conducting fieldwork, focussing on mapping and exploring settlement design!





Key Dates

Thursday 23rd October
PTFA Event - Hallowe'en Disco

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October
Half Term Break

Monday 3rd November
Welcome Back!

Thank you to all who attended our Parent Events this month - it was lovely to welcome you in to school.

Thank you also for supporting our #HelloYellow Mental Health Awareness Day. Pupils enjoyed wearing splashes of yellow and taking part in our themed assembly to discuss the importance of looking after ourselves inside and out.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter!
With warm regards, Claire Pateman

LIVING WITH THE LAND

EYFS & Y1



Puffin Class

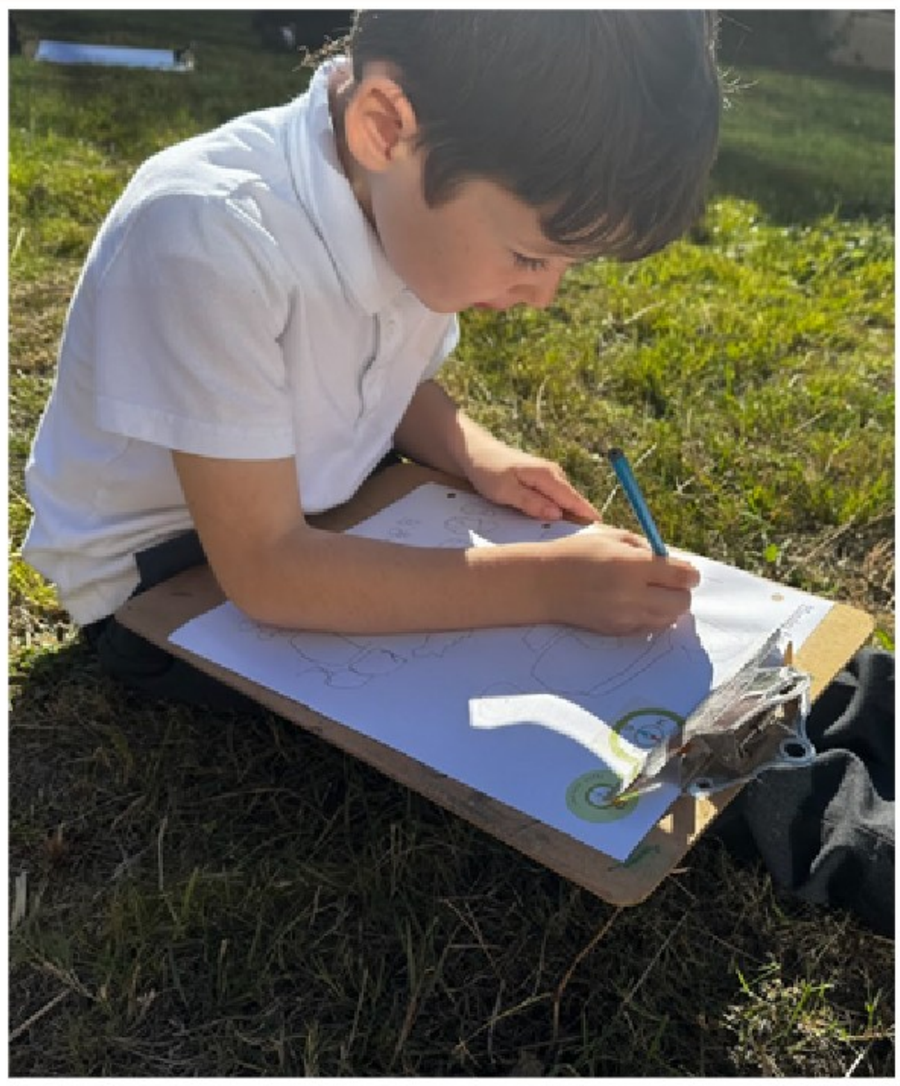
Puffin Class have had a fantastic few weeks continuing with our All About Me topic! We began by reading the much-loved story Elmer and talked about what makes Elmer special and unique. This led to a lovely discussion about what makes each of us different and why that's something to celebrate. The children then made their own colourful Elmer suncatchers to brighten up our classroom windows.

In Maths, we've been busy exploring sorting and comparing. The children sorted pompoms in different ways – by size, colour, and even whether they were sparkly or not! We also learned about size and mass by sorting pictures into 'big' and 'small' and ordering objects by size. Using balance scales, the children experimented with playdough to find out which pieces were heavier or lighter – lots of great mathematical thinking! We've also enjoyed learning about the Harvest Festival and why it's such an important time of year. Our story time has been filled with traditional tales such as The Gingerbread Man and The Stinky Cheese Man, which inspired us to make our own salt dough gingerbread men and decorate real gingerbread biscuits. We also went on a lovely autumn walk, collecting colourful leaves and natural treasures to create beautiful autumnal pictures. Puffin Class have shown great curiosity, creativity and teamwork throughout – well done, everyone!









Seal Class



Seal Class have been working on our Living with the Land project, developing our skills as Field Mappers. We have moved from close-up observations to a wider spatial awareness, exploring both our familiar indoor and outdoor environments.

Throughout the project, we have identified natural and human-made features, learned how to read and use maps, and gained an understanding of compass directions. These skills have helped us grow into confident Field Mappers, deepening our understanding of the land around us.

We've created detailed maps of our school grounds, collaborated to design our own parks, and used both natural and human-made resources to create a variety of crafts. Through these activities, we have developed a strong appreciation for the importance of understanding and caring for the land we live on.

LIVING WITH THE LAND

Y2 & Y3



Turtle Class

We have been developing our field mapping skills through our project Living with the Land, in Turtle Class. Throughout the project we have been looking at natural and man made materials, using some that we found to create some artwork with.

We have also been exploring our school grounds, taking a closer look at objects and drawing maps. We used our advocacy skills to create posters explaining to people why they should protect nature and designed our own perfect parks.

In English, we have been focusing on nouns and pronouns. Our lessons have followed two stories, Tidy and The Paper Caper.









Hare Class

Hare Class have been very busy over the past few weeks working on our new project, Living with the Land.

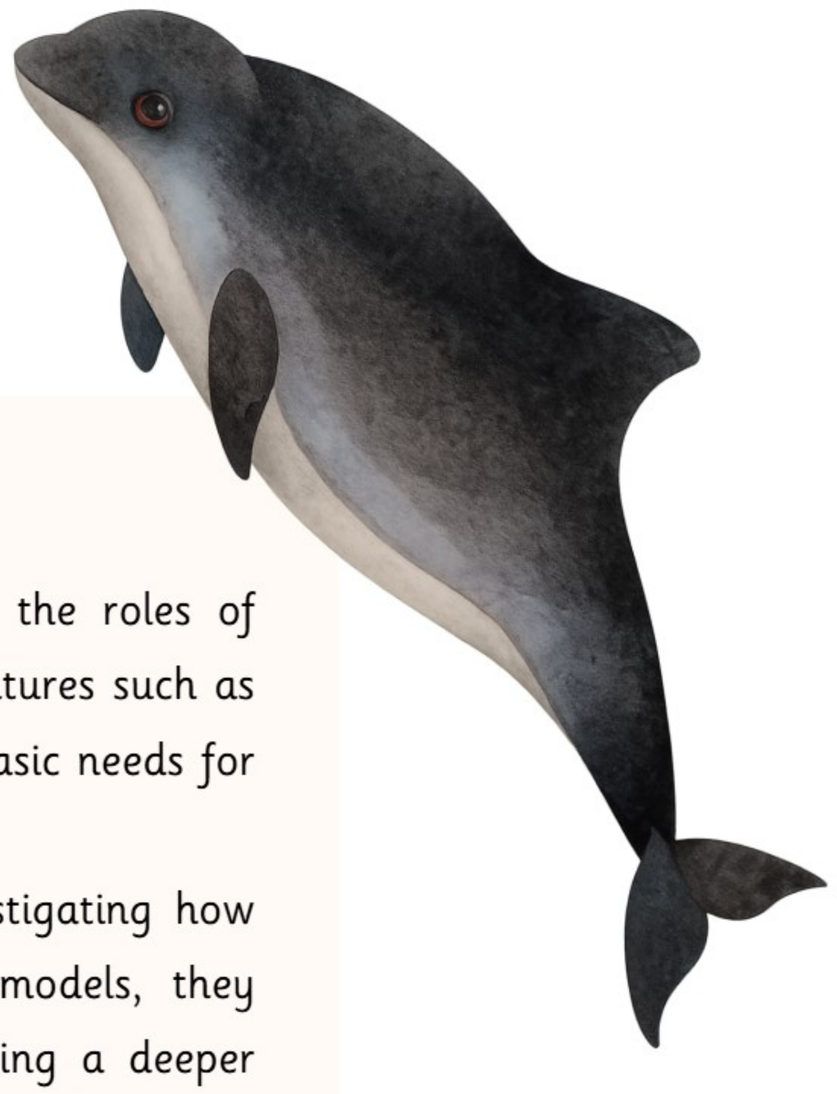
In Science and Project lessons, we have become archaeologists — studying rocks, fossils, and ancient cave paintings. We have also been exploring how early humans lived, discovering how people once used natural resources such as rivers, trees, and stones to survive in their natural habitats.

In English, Hare Class have been exploring The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein. Inspired by the story, we have been practising our writing skills by using fronted adverbials and adding sensory language to bring our stories to life! Using our knowledge of the book, Hare Class have also created our own cave paintings, using natural resources such as charcoal to tell stories of our own.



LIVING WITH THE LAND

Y4 & Y5



Falcon & Porpoise Classes

Porpoise and Falcon Classes have been exploring life in the past through the roles of Environmental Archaeologists. By learning how early humans used natural features such as rivers, forests and caves, pupils gained an insight into how people met their basic needs for food, water and shelter.

As the topic progressed, children become Archaeological Site Planners, investigating how Iron Age communities designed permanent settlements. Using maps and models, they considered how land was used for farming, defence and daily life, developing a deeper understanding of the connections between geography and history.

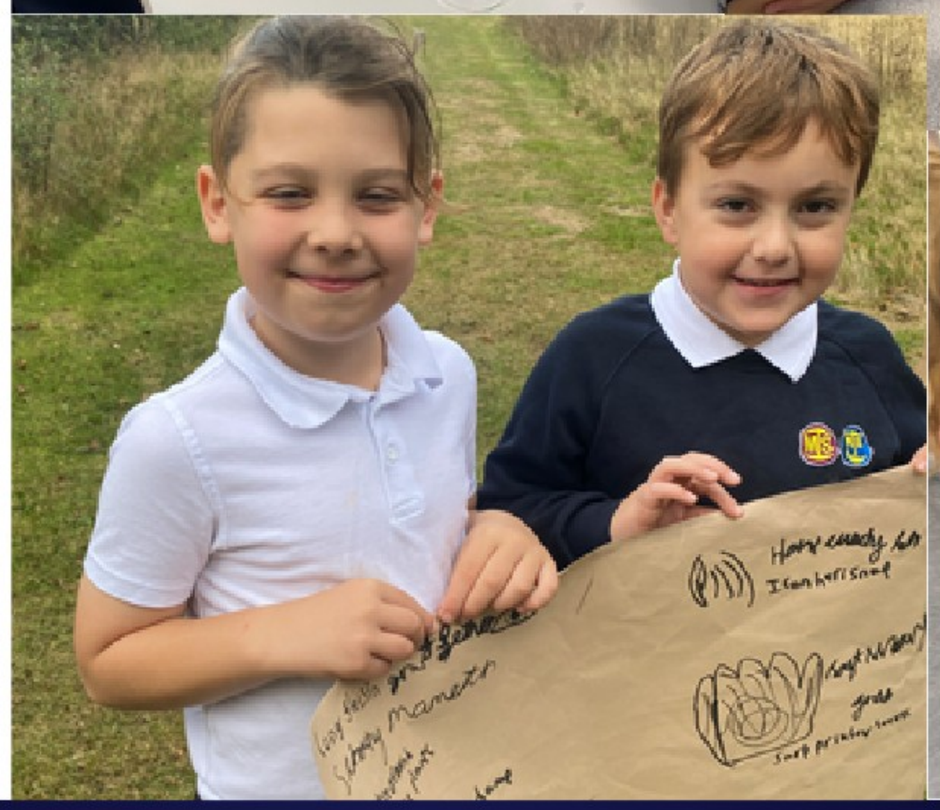














LIVING WITH THE LAND

Y6



Bittern Class

Bittern Class have been busy and enthusiastic learners this Project! In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, particularly with decimal numbers, as well as ordering numbers and exploring coordinates. The children have also worked hard in English, engaging with the story The Last Drawing.

Our Project, Living with the Land, has inspired lots of curiosity and in Computing, the children have been developing their skills in digital drawing, and they continue to practise their Year 5/6 spelling words daily.

In Science, we have explored plant and animal adaptations and learned about evolution, and in PE the children have enjoyed Football with Mrs Grey. They have also continued to love their weekly swimming lessons, showing great progress and confidence in the water.

A special highlight this term was the Harvest Parent Event, which the children thoroughly enjoyed and will remember fondly.







Mental Health Support Teams

Support available for Primary School Children

MANAGING ANXIETY

Parent Workshop - Tuesday 21st October 2025

We are delighted to invite you to a relaxed and friendly workshop on Managing Anxiety, led by two experienced NHS practitioners from the Mental Health Support Team.

When: Tuesday 21 October 2025, 2:00pm

Where: Infant School Hall

How: Please complete the survey form which has been sent to all Parents by the School Office to confirm your attendance.

This session will give you practical tools and insights to:

- Understand what anxiety looks like in children
- Learn simple, effective strategies to manage it
- Feel more confident supporting your child through worry and stress
- Discover how the Mental Health Support Team can help your family

Parenting isn't always straightforward so if you've ever wondered how to ease your child's worries, or your own, then this workshop is a brilliant place to start.

Come along, have a cuppa, and leave feeling informed, supported, and reassured.

www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/mhst/







Well Done!







At Mundesley, we take great pride in recognising and celebrating pupils who demonstrate positive behaviour, kindness and a commitment to our Core Connections.

Throughout the term, children who have been positive role models, made excellent progress in their learning, shown compassion, or contributed positively to our school community are celebrated in a variety of ways.

Every day pupils have the opportunity to impress class teams and move up from 'ready to learn', through to 'brilliant effort', all the way to 'outstanding'! Pupils earn Mundesley Merits for this and the opportunity to have first choice of our Friday enrichment activities.

Each week, pupils are recognised in our celebration assemblies, where we highlight their achievements in front of the whole school.

At the end of each half term, pupils who have consistently gone above and beyond are nominated by their class teams to receive an extra Head of School's certificate and a phone call home!

Throughout the school day, pupils can earn Mundesley Merits for good ideas, kind actions, and positive contributions to class and school life - all of which add up and can be spent in our school Merit Shop!

These moments of recognition help to build confidence, promote our school values, and to ensure that every child has the opportunity to shine.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert



Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.11.2023