

22nd January 2026



The Grange Times



Birch

Birch Class have been learning about the history of toys as part of their topic 'Toys and Tech'. We explored modern-day toys as well as toys that our teachers played with between the 1970s and 2000s.



We also learned about toys that our grandparents may have played with. Mrs Downer's Mum and Dad visited our class to talk about the games and toys they enjoyed in the 1950s. We discovered lots about how children played in the past and how different play is today. We especially enjoyed trying out some traditional games, including tiddlywinks, hopscotch and rolling a hoop with a stick! This is what Birch class discovered



Lexi: kids used to play outside.

Sidney: I learned how to play Tiddlywinks!

Amelia: I liked spinning the hoop with a wooden spoon!

Alexis: I learned how to play Hopscotch!

Shaan: In the olden days, they didn't have many cars, children played outside.

Tawfeeq: I saw the game Jacks- it looked fun!

Arya: I learned to play Hopscotch!

Orla: They played hopscotch, marbles and Jacks.

James: Toys had no batteries.



Beech

Beech have enjoyed the first couple of weeks of the Spring Term. Its always nice to be starting new topics.

This term's theme is war and conflict. We are looking at emotional pictures in art with Picassos Weeping Woman.

In English we have had a dramatic start to the play with the main character being killed on an electricity pylon.

Jack: I have enjoyed English because I like the interesting story of Humpty Dumpty. I have read the backstory, and I read as the character 'Terry Dumpton'.

Raf: I have enjoyed maths because I like it a lot. I have learnt about play scripts in English.

Cameron: I have enjoyed PE because we are playing dodgeball. In gymnastics I have learnt how to do a forward roll off a platform.

Dylan: I have enjoyed DT options because we use the machinery and make cool fun stuff out of wood. I have really enjoyed doing dodgeball in PE.

Eva: I have enjoyed art because I like doing Picasso style drawings and using the oil pastels. I've learnt how to do a very tricky drawing by Picasso called the Weeping Woman.

Tristan: I have enjoyed PE because I like dodgeball and gymnastics. I learnt to do a forward roll.

Amber: I have enjoyed English because I like the new book were reading. I have learnt about the characters in the book.

Amelia: I have enjoyed animal care because I like working with the horses. I get to pet them. I will get to groom them. I don't have a favourite horse they are both cute.

Emilia: I have enjoyed animal care for my options because I'm really proud of my work. I have learnt that hamsters have bendy spines and can turn round in their tunnels. They can store food all around their body not just in their cheeks.

Justine: I have enjoyed PE because I like dodgeball. Dodgeball is fun because its fast paced and without limits. It is good exercise and always makes me out of breath.



Maple



Maple Class have been enjoying learning all about the bones inside their body.

They have focused on a variety of different bones and which part of the body they belong to and exploring why bones are important. Our new topic in Science is 'The Human Body'.

Marcel: The ribs help you to breathe.

Samuel: The skull keeps the brain safe.

Riley: A baby has 300 bones in their body.

Jack: The tiny bones in your fingers and toes

are called Phalanges.

Alfie: The tibia and fibula are below your knee cap.

Levi: You have 12 ribs on each side of your body.

Cody: The femur is the longest bone in your body.

Teddy: Bones connect as your body grows, adults only have 206 bones, babies have 300.

Alex: The ribs protect your heart and lungs

Olo: The coccyx is at the bottom of your spine.



Pine

This term in science Pine are learning about properties of materials, including magnetism, electrical conductivity and thermal insulation.

Pupils have been developing their skills of prediction and testing through a range of practical experiments. In this week's experiment we have been looking at electrical conductors and testing materials using circuits.

Aaron: We did materials in science last week. We found out about metals and non-metals and conductors and insulators. I did a test to find

insulators and conductors using a circuit. The light will turn on when something is a conductor.

Kyle: We tested materials for being conductors and insulators by making a battery-powered light bulb called a circuit. We predicted whether stuff was a conductor or an insulator and then tested it to get our results.

Connor: This was a very interesting lesson. We learned how to use different metallic and non-metal materials as part of a circuit experiment. I connected two different wires to a lightbulb and a battery, but when it came to larger objects, I used four wires. For example, I tested the kettle, walky-talky and Miss Tomkins' ring to determine that they are conductors while some of the others were insulators.

Rayan: I enjoyed doing about electrical conductivity and making circuits. We were testing different materials to see if it is a conductor or an insulator. We set up our circuits, plugged in the wires and attached to the objects. Before testing the materials, we predicted whether aluminium, plastic, steel and the ruler would conduct electricity.

Marcus: In this experiment we were testing for electrical conductivity. An electrical conductor is a material that allows electricity to pass through it whereas an electrical insulator prevents electricity from moving through. We tested several materials including copper, steel, aluminium and plastic to determine their electrical properties. Apparently, the metal handle on the fridge was also a conductor!

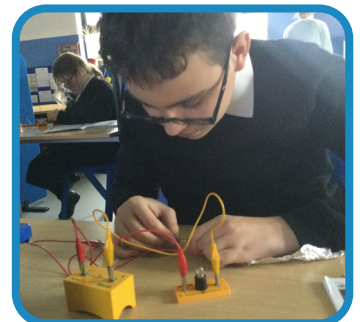
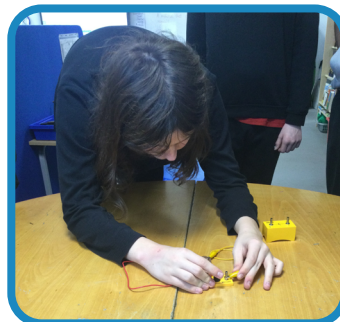
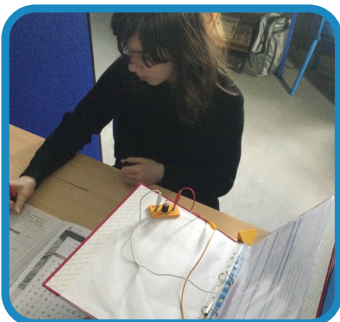
Emmanuel: We tested to see whether the lightbulbs in the circuits would come on and if we could set the system up ourselves. We tried to see if it would work with a bunch of different materials.

Aishah: We had to connect our circuit to materials to see if which is a metal and which is not. A material that does not let electricity pass through it is an electrical insulator such as wood, plastic and our desk trays. A material that allows electricity through is an electrical conductor such as steel, paper clips, titanium, tin and aluminium. We did prediction and testing whether the item was a conductor or an insulator.

Lucy: I was finding out about conductors and insulators and I enjoyed it. I liked seeing the light come on when I found a conductor. We put copper into the wires and it made the light work.

Asia: We learned about different materials and connected them to our light and battery to see if it works or not. If it works, it is a conductor and if it does not then it is an insulator.

Oliver: We checked to see if the light of a bulb works or not. Mine did not always come on but I set the whole circuit up myself and demonstrated this to the rest of the class. I also tested to see whether scissors, an onion skin from food tech and a headphone wire would turn the light on, but they didn't.



Rowan



Rowan class have been learning about Space and doing lots of fun activities that involved making aeroplanes as this is what prompted the invention of the space rocket.

Stephen: I have been learning about the planets. My favourite planet is Earth because this is where we live. We can access cars and roads. I also learnt a bit about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake who are astronauts.

Sophia: In my class Mrs Shafiq set up a sensory space area which I really like. I am excited to go to the space centre and explore the weather video with my friend Aneesa.

Lewis: I have been learning about the different planets. My favourite is Jupiter, because it is the biggest planet in the solar system. I also like learning about the topic space as it is fun.

Stefano: I have learnt that all the planets orbit the sun. The sun is hot and is also a star. I also know that Pluto is a dwarf planet. In the rocket ship there are lot of

rules for astronauts to follow. A rocket ship relies heavily on a lot of gas to get it to go into space.

Tyler: Tim Peake took a cup of tea into space and drunk it from a pouch while in space. The Earth is the only planet that has organic life. I also know that Venus has poisonous gases and space

is dark 24 hours and 7 days of the week.

Dejon: My favourite planet is Mercury because it is the closest planet to the sun. I also found the class activity of orbiting the sun fun, we were the planets and Mrs Read was the sun.

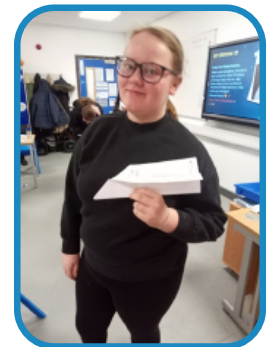
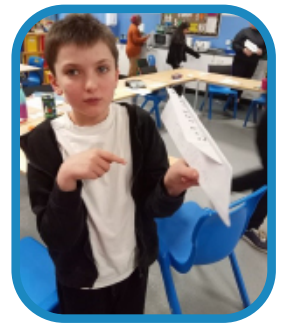
Monica: My favourite class activity was when Mrs Read was the sun and Mrs Shafiq was the moon and we were the planets. We had to identify whether we were in day or night when we were asked to stop.

Nevaeha: I love learning about space, and I have learnt a lot of facts so far. One fact that I learnt about was that astronauts must tape down things like belongings so that they are secure. They also must strap themselves to their mattress to sleep so that they do not float away.

Harry: The sun has eight planets orbiting it. The sun is a big star. I have been helping Mrs Shafiq with a class display creating all the planets for the middle of our classroom.

Aneesa: My favourite planet is Earth and the thought of floating in space makes me feel happy. The Earth has blue and green colours. The green areas are land and the blue areas water.

Eva-louise: I was making planets for a space display for our classroom. I know all the planets names, and I also know there are 8 planets. We used a classroom rhyme to remember this was "My very eager mother just served us noodles"



Walnut



Pupils in Walnut Class have been working hard to complete their Tie Dye draw string bags. They have had fun developing their hand and machine sewing skills! It has involved them coming up with a colour scheme; learning how to use the sewing machines; following patterns and working through industry practices to ensure their bags are useable too.

Toby: I enjoyed sewing and threading the rope for my bag.

Betsy: I enjoyed the sewing on the sewing machine as it was really satisfying.

Courtney: I was happy with how my bag turned out; it was as I expected.

Kayden: I enjoyed learning new things like learning how to sew with my hands.

Ruby: It was good to see that I could still use a sewing machine.

Jasmit: I learnt about tie dying, adding the colour, tying the string. I was happy with how it all finished too.



Eco News

Since returning after Christmas, Eco club have been setting their goals for the new year.

Pupils are looking ahead to International Day of Clean Energy on Monday 26th January and the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch (23rd-25th January). We are also planning an energy walk and litter picking to help keep our school site environmentally friendly.

Some eco tips from some of our committee members:

Keep your environment tidy by putting rubbish in bins (**Sienna, Holly**)

Spread the eco word to friends and family (**Marcus**)

Remember to turn lights and appliances off! (**Freddy**)

Try a vegetarian meal 1-2 times a week (**Luca**)



Acer

In Science, Acer Class have been learning about parts of the body. We have labelled parts of the body, put together the skeleton and shown where the organs go. We worked with a partner to put together our bodies.

Alex: We have been organising our organs on our skeletons. I worked with Louis and we found it quite easy. I want to learn about how they work.

Louis: We have been learning about body parts. We have put in the organs and bones in the body. I found it easy.

Carter: I found the brain and the eyes. I found the skull.

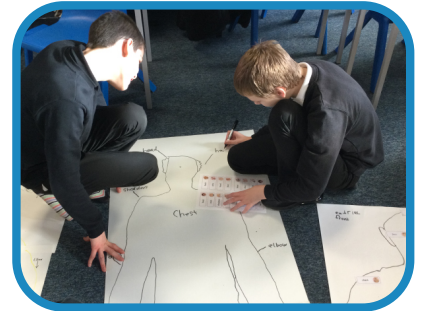
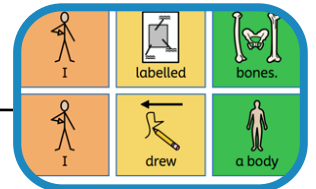
Jack: It was fun labelling the body. I like the way the organs look in the body. I labelled the organs and the bones.

Lewis: I put the bones on the skeleton. I put the pancreas on the body. I labelled the organs.

Gabriel: I stuck on the bone. I put on the organ.

Dominik: Learning about parts of the body. I stuck on the hand and leg.

Aneyk:



Careers

This half term we have got a number of year 10 and 11 students out on internal work experience. They have been doing animal care, food share, LSA support in a number of the primary classes and support in horticulture.

We have had the Fun Food Showdown, a Healthy Eating Roadshow. This was a good way to show the young people interested in a career in food. Every single pupil in the school was able to take part in some way or another. They were able to share the knowledge that they had learnt in food tech lessons.

We would also like to remind parents of our year 11 pupils that there is an **open day at Bedford College on the 31st of January 2026**. This is the deadline for you to choose your child's post 16 placement. If you decide that you would like to attend there in September 2026, then you can apply for a place at the open day.

If there are any parents of year 10 pupils, please feel free to also attend the open day in preparation for next year.

Transition days for your child will be coming up, and you will need to ensure that they attend these sessions. This will help with their transition for September.

If you get any correspondence back from your chosen provider please ensure that you respond. If you require any support, please let me know. sandra.williams@bilitf.org

There is also a Preparing for Adulthood fayre which is taking place on the 4th of March at Bedford University. This is a good opportunity for you as parents to take your child along. I will confirm details nearer the time. I hope you will be able to attend. You can take your child out of school, and they will still be marked as attending present.





Sycamore

Sycamore have been reflecting on their first few weeks back in the spring term.

Ray: In Forest school we have been cooking pancakes. The pancakes were delicious because I put lots of sugar on them.

Ollie: In animal care I have been looking after the chicken. I have realised that in the winter the chickens lay less eggs.

Rodney: As part of my work experience I have been helping Mrs Porter with the food delivery. I enjoy this work experience because I can try and work out what we are cooking each week.
Ibrahim: I have started sports leader sessions with Mr Kilcoyne. I really enjoy sports leader sessions and I look forward to them each week. My favourite sport is football which we are currently doing in PE lessons.
Jake: In art I am completing a project on Lino printing. I have to cut out my design on a piece of lino and then I will then apply ink so I can print my design.

Caoimhe: In art I have been drawing landscapes. I took a photo of the sea when I was in Ireland. I have then based my artwork around replicating the photo using different medium.

Kye: I have been attending repair club at lunchtime with Mr Shea. This has allowed me to develop my DT skills.

Chibunna: I have been working hard on my fitness in D of E sessions in preparation for the expedition.

Notices

**ALL STARS
YOUTH CLUB**

Looking for a fun inclusive space to relax, make friends and try new activities? All Stars is the perfect space for you!

From January 6th and 7th, All Stars Youth Club will be running on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 4:30pm- 5:30pm.

What can you expect at All Stars?
A warm and friendly welcome, the opportunity to chat and mix with your peers & different weekly activities.

To find out more, please speak to Ms Charnock or Miss Frith

Grange Academy
CONSCIOUS

Diary Dates

Friday 13th February 2026 - Last Day of Term

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026 - Half Term

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Pupils Return to School