# St Walburga's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy

*'Putting Others First'*

*"Let no-one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour"*

*(1 Corinthians 10:24)*

## Autumn 1 Newsletter - October 2025

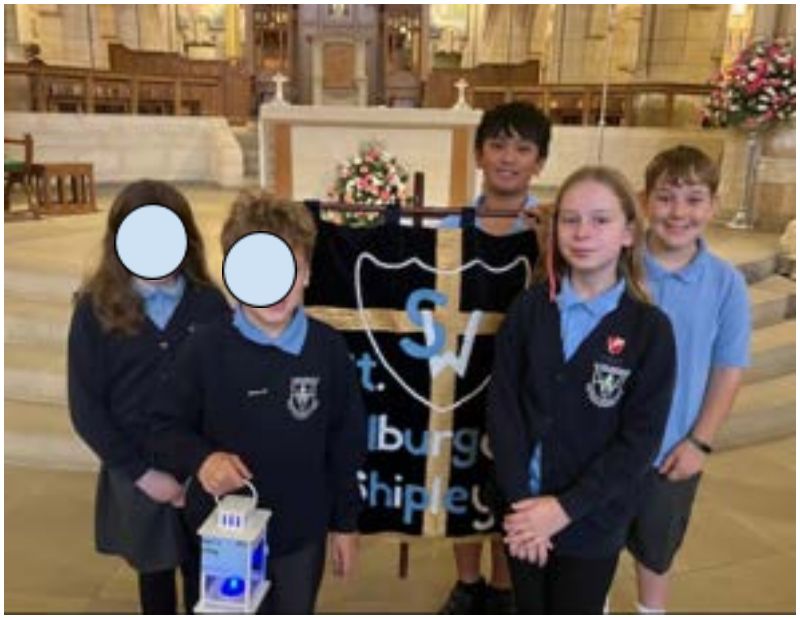
# Catholic Life

It has been a busy but prayerful first half term back and it has been wonderful to share lots of spiritual time with the children in the presence of God.

**Joint Schools' Autumn Term Mass**

On Tuesday 13th October, the whole school went to church for the first time this academic year to celebrate a joint schools' Mass with our friends from St. Anthony's and the Parish . As always, it was lovely to have everybody together to pray and sing as a parish community.

**Mini Vinnies**



The Mini Vinnies are 7 to 11 year olds based in schools and parishes across England and Wales, and in several other countries across the world. They come together to form a part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of England and Wales, a voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms. Mini Vinnies meet to pray, discuss and support however they can to help make a difference in their communities.

On 23rd September, our newly elected Faith Leaders from Year 5 and 6 represented our Mini Vinnies and the school at a special Mass, at St. Anne's Cathedral in Leeds. This was to recommission our school Mini Vinnie's group and to recognise all the hard work that they have done, and will do this year, serving those in need in our community.



We were given a special gift from the St. Vincent de Paul Society of a lantern, which can be seen in the entrance of school.

The children were wonderful ambassadors for the school and made Mrs Hahn very proud.

**Travelling Rosaries**

The month of October is the month of the Rosary and families from across school have been enjoying taking home our travelling rosaries. This is a lovely opportunity for families to pray together to Mary.

**Harvest Foodbank Collection**

Monday 19th October saw our special Harvest Assembly where we thanked God for His creation and that He provides for us; we gave thanks for the hardworking people who produce the food that we eat and we also thought of others who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Thank you to the school community for your huge and unending generosity in the collection for the North Bradford Foodbank. Your donations will be massively appreciated by people in need in our local community. Thank you also, to our Year 6 Mini Vinnies, who sorted the donations for collection.










**Zephania Assembly**

The children had another wonderful treat on Tuesday 20th October when we were visited by Julie from the Zephaniah Trust. Julie is a wonderful story teller and the children enjoyed listening to her stories and all about Jesus, as well as having a fabulous sing-song! Thank you to Julie, and we will see her again next term…

**St Carlo Acutis Feast Day**
**Monday 12th October 2026**

Year 5 celebrated the Feast Day of St Carlo Acutis by learning more about his faith and how he used his love of technology to share his faith with others. Inspired by the websites Carlo created, the children designed their own webpages on google slides showcasing his life, values and faith in action. We also completed some pop art pictures of St Carlo Acutis to add to our class display.

We also enjoyed a football match in Carlo's honour, remembering his love of sport and his joyful approach to life. Our celebrations finished with a special worship, giving us time to reflect on Carlo's example and how we can use our own talents to make a positive difference in the world.





# Autumn 1 in Preschool

What a wonderful start to the year the children have had in Preschool! The new children have settled in beautifully, and the returning children have been fantastic role models, showing kindness and support to their new friends. It has been lovely to see so many friendships blossoming already, alongside growing independence and confidence as the children learn the Preschool routines. We are so proud of them all!













This half term, Preschool has focused on feelings and emotions, helping the children to recognise how they feel and how to express their emotions in positive ways. Through stories, discussions, games and activities, the children have explored different feelings, including happiness, sadness, anger and worry, and discussed ways to manage them. They have also been learning how to make friends, share, take turns and play together kindly. The focus on ourselves and our families has encouraged the children to share what makes them special and celebrate the people who are important to them

The children have been introduced to prayer and have explored the wonderful Creation Story. They have been thinking about the beautiful world around them and discussing little ways they can help to look after it. The children have also begun taking part in collective worship, which they have thoroughly enjoyed, joining in with songs, prayers and moments of reflection.



Our little mathematicians have been busy exploring colours, matching and sorting! Through fun, hands-on activities, the children have been identifying colours, finding matching objects and sorting items into groups. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they explore, investigate and share their ideas.











Forest School sessions have been full of wonderful autumn discoveries! The children have loved exploring the woods, investigating the natural environment and noticing the changes around them. They have embraced the season by creating their very own Leaf Men, making adorable Owl Babies and experimenting with beautiful leaf rubbings. These activities have encouraged the children to explore nature, develop their creativity and follow their curiosity





# Autumn 1 in Reception

## RE

This half term we have been learning about the Creation Story and how God created the world. We visited our onsite woods to find some of the wonderful things God has created for us to enjoy, and talked about how we can care for our wonderful world. We then moved on to learning about baptism and how it welcomes a person into the Christian family. The children discovered the importance of water and light as symbols of baptism and discussed why these are special.








## Maths

In maths we have been having lots of fun exploring maths through practical activities! The children have been creating their own sorting rules to group objects together and explaining why they belong in each group. We have also been comparing objects by size, exploring which are heavier or lighter, and investigating which containers hold more or less.

## Literacy

In literacy we have been getting ready to become confident writers! We have enjoyed lots of fun Pen Disco activities to help develop our fine motor skills and strengthen the muscles we need for writing. We have also been practising making big movements in shaving foam and on large sheets of paper, helping us to develop control and confidence with mark-making. A big focus has been learning to write our own names, with the children working hard to recognise and form the letters in our names.




A massive well done to all our amazing Reception children who have settled in wonderfully to our school. We are so proud of you all!

## A Warm Welcome to Our Newest St Walburga's Families!

What a wonderful first half term it has been for our newest members of the St Walburga's family! We have been delighted to welcome our new Preschool and Reception children and their families into our school community, and it has been lovely to see the children settling in so happily, making new friends and growing in confidence.
Our fantastic PFA has played a wonderful part in helping our new families feel at home, organising two special events to bring everyone together.
On **22nd September**, our **New Starters' Coffee Morning** provided a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to meet one another, share experiences and begin forming friendships that we hope will continue throughout their children's school journeys.
Then, on **22nd October**, it was the children's turn to celebrate at our **New Starters' Disco!** What better way to mark the end of their very first half term than with music, dancing, pizza and, of course, plenty of glitter tattoos! It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to have fun together and celebrate just how far they have come in these first few weeks.
We are incredibly grateful to our excellent PFA for the time, energy and enthusiasm they put into organising these events. Their commitment to bringing families together makes such a difference and helps create the strong sense of community that is so special to St Walburga's.
It has also been heartwarming to read the lovely comments shared by our new families in our recent **Parent Survey**. Here are just a few that made us smile:
*"She comes home happy every day and asks me every night if she can 'go to school tomorrow'."*
*"Since starting, she has grown so much in confidence and genuinely looks forward to coming in, which as a parent is probably the biggest reassurance you can have."*
*"The school is lovely. It feels like a little family. Everyone knows each other and all the teachers know the children's names."*
*"What makes St Walburga's special to us is the genuine sense of warmth, faith and community. It feels like a school where children are really known and valued as individuals."*
These comments mean so much to us and reflect everything we strive to achieve at St Walburga's: a school where every child feels happy, safe, loved and valued, and where families feel a genuine sense of belonging.
**What a brilliant start to their school careers!** We are so proud of how well our youngest children have settled, and we are absolutely delighted that they and their families are now part of our St Walburga's family. We look forward to sharing many more happy memories, milestones and celebrations together in the years ahead!

## All about YOU day!

On Thursday 15th October, Reception celebrated our wonderful differences with our very own All About You Day! The children came to school wearing something that represented them, whether it was their favourite colour, a football team, a favourite princess or something else that made them feel special. We talked about how we are all unique and that being different is something to celebrate - our differences are our super power!

The children enjoyed decorating their own superhero masks and shields before sharing their special superpowers with their friends. It was a lovely day celebrating just how amazing each and every one of our children is!












# Buddy Assembly

Our Year 6 children did a fantastic job of introducing their Reception buddies to the whole school community during our special Buddy Assembly. They confidently shared lots of lovely facts about their younger buddies, including their favourite foods, games and hobbies, as well as telling us about their brothers and sisters. It was wonderful to hear them speak so clearly and proudly about the children they will be supporting throughout the year.

Our buddy system is a special opportunity for our oldest and youngest pupils to build friendships, show kindness and look out for one another. With Jesus as their role model, our Year 6 children will help their buddies to feel safe, happy and included as they settle into school life, putting our mission of *Putting Others First* into action. We are very proud of the caring role models they are becoming!









**A Pantomime Treat!**

On Friday 2nd October, the children enjoyed a special mid-term treat as M&M Theatre Company visited our school to perform their pantomime of *Cinderella*. The children loved watching the familiar fairy tale come to life, with plenty of fun, laughter and audience participation along the way! It was a wonderful way to celebrate a super start to the year.




snapshot

# Year 1

## Art

This half term, we have been learning about ***Piet Mondrian*** and his style of abstract art. We have worked hard on our recreations of one of his famous pieces that uses lines and primary colours.

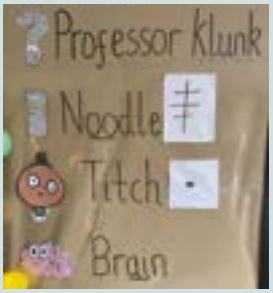




## English

Professor Klunk has asked us to help him on his quest to learn how to write! He sends us notes and questions through the magic mustard tin, and we are helping his brain to grow by drawing and writing back to him in our English lessons. The children are already making fantastic progress with their sentence writing.






## Choir

The children have loved starting weekly choir sessions with Miss Daly. Their singing is already improving and they have been impressing their teacher with their volume!








In PE, we have been developing our gymnastics skills, practising balances and positions such as the front straddle, arabesque, V-sit and bridge. We have also explored different ways of travelling, including crab walks, camel walks and tiptoes. Working in groups of three, we used our teamwork skills to plan, practise and perform a short gymnastics sequence. We worked together to link our movements and balances, building our confidence when performing in front of others.

In RE, we have been learning about Noah's Ark and the promise God made to Noah to never flood the whole earth again. We explored how the rainbow is a sign of God's promise and reminds us of His love and care for us. We then linked this learning to Baptism, discovering how water is a special symbol of new life and how we are blessed with holy water as we are welcomed into God's family. We enjoyed re-enacting a Baptism, taking on the roles of the priest, baby, proud parents and Godparents. We learnt about the special promises made during Baptism and how Godparents promise to support, guide and encourage the child as they grow in their faith.











In Art, we have had a fantastic unit exploring painting! We started by learning about colour mixing and how to change the shade of a colour by adding white and black. We then explored the work of Piet Mondrian, discovering how he used bold colours and straight lines to create his famous artwork. We experimented with thick and thin paintbrushes to create our own Mondrian-inspired paintings, carefully using straight lines and bright, bold colours. We then applied our learning in a different way by using a painting app on the laptops, exploring how we could use digital tools to create artwork inspired by Mondrian.



# Careers Day

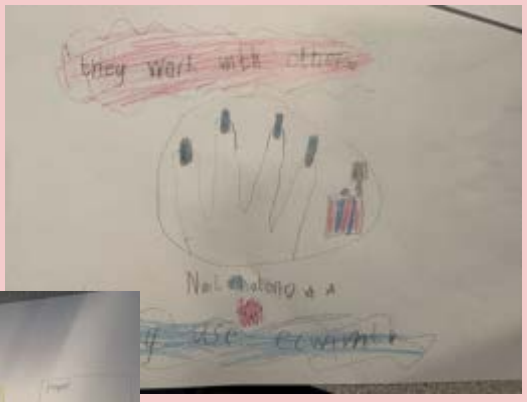
On 6th October, we were visited by Michelle Hogan from 'Own Futures' to work with some of the classes on careers.

In Year 1, the children had lots of fun guessing different jobs using props and familiar characters. They explored the different ways people work and enjoyed sharing their own hopes and dreams for the future. There were some lovely ideas about what they would like to be when they are older!

In Year 2, the children put their detective skills to the test, using clues to guess different jobs. They thought carefully about the skills and qualities people need in different careers, including kindness, patience, confidence and teamwork. They also discovered that people work in lots of different places and different ways. The children then enjoyed choosing a job and creating their own posters, sharing interesting facts and showing off their knowledge.

It was lovely to see the children so enthusiastic and excited about their futures. Who knows - We may have some future doctors, teachers, pilots, builders or even inventors among us!

In Years 5 and 6, the children learnt all about financial literacy. Firstly, they considered what costs might be















**Phonics & Maths Parents' Information Evening**

This half term, we held a successful information evening for our Reception and Year 1 parents regarding our Phonics and Maths teaching. Parents came to learn about how we teach Phonics and Handwriting with Supersonic Phonic Friends at St Walburga's, as well as getting the chance to have a look round their child's classroom and the phonics provision on offer. We also covered the fundamental skills in Maths and how parents can support children with their mental maths knowledge at home. Thank you to all those who attended and for the support you give your children at home - it really makes a difference to your child's learning.




**Art day in Year 3 and 4**

They had an amazing art day with Mr Bullock, working to explore the work of two inspiring Indigenous artists, Kenojuak Ashevak and Norval Morrisseau. We learned about their distinctive styles, looking closely at their use of bold colours, striking patterns and nature-inspired imagery. We then put our creativity to the test by recreating some of their famous artwork, experimenting with different techniques and developing our own artistic skills. It was a fantastic opportunity to explore different artistic cultures and produce some wonderful pieces of art that we are very proud of!

# Year 3 snapshot

## PE

In PE, we have been working with Miss Walker and Mr Hahn on gymnastics and netball. We have especially enjoyed developing our blocking and defending skills in netball, learning how to work together as a team, improve our positioning and make quick decisions during games. We have really enjoyed these sessions and are proud of the progress we are making!




## ICT

In ICT, we have been learning all about computer networks and how they help devices communicate and share information. We have enjoyed exploring the different examples of networks around our school and discovering how they are used in everyday life. We then put our learning into practice by designing and building our own networks in the classroom, thinking carefully about how the different devices connect and work together. It has been a fun and practical way to develop our understanding of how technology helps us stay connected!





# Year 4



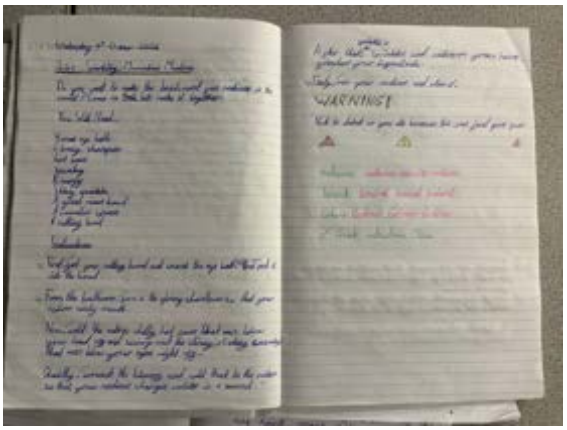
This half term, we have been focusing on developing our handwriting, with particular attention to using cursive joins correctly and consistently. The children have been working hard to improve the neatness, fluency and presentation of their writing. We are incredibly proud of the progress they are making and the fantastic achievements they are demonstrating!





In science, we have been having lots of fun learning about the digestive system in Science! We worked together to put the different organs in the right places before adding our labels. We couldn't believe just how many different parts are involved in digesting our food! There was lots of chatting, teamwork and thinking as we tried to work out where everything belonged. We also learnt lots of new scientific words along the way. Afterwards, we put our knowledge to the test by writing about the journey of a sandwich, from the moment we take our first bite to when it finally leaves our body! We certainly didn't realise how much goes on inside our bodies every time we eat!

In English, we have been thoroughly enjoying our class text, *George's Marvellous Medicine* by Roald Dahl! Inspired by George's unusual creation, we had lots of fun writing our own disgusting instructions for making a rather revolting potion for someone to drink! We had to make sure we included all the important features of instructions, including a title, an ingredients list, numbered steps and, most importantly, a warning at the end! We certainly came up with some weird and wonderful ingredients! Along the way, we have also been busy developing our SPaG skills, using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases with prepositions to make our writing even more detailed and interesting. We definitely wouldn't recommend trying any of our potions at home!



In Geography, we have been learning about the UK vs USA and we have been exploring the different states of America. The children researched a range of states, finding out about their key features, landmarks, climate and interesting facts. Next half term, they will present their findings to the class, developing their communication and presentation skills. We have been so impressed with their enthusiasm and confidence when sharing their learning!







In RE, we have been learning about the story of Abraham and exploring how his faith, hope and love was important to his life. To share our learning, the children used their oracy skills to present the story of Abraham to the class, focusing on speaking clearly, pronouncing words correctly and with emphasis, listening carefully and expressing their ideas confidently. We have been incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and confidence when sharing their knowledge and understanding!

We have been enjoying netball in PE this half term! We have practised different types of passes, focusing on accuracy and control, as well as mastering the tricky skill of pivoting without moving our feet. Teamwork has been a big focus too, with everyone learning the importance of communication, finding space and supporting their teammates. It has been great to see our skills coming together as we take part in mini netball games.







# Year 5 snapshot

## RE

We have been talking about the different Catholic virtues and how they can help us lead a good life and make better choices. We also discussed how these virtues help bring us closer to God and if some of the virtues are more important than others. We then had an auction for the different virtues. Each team was given £100 to spend on virtues. The highest bidder won. Virtues such as kindness, faith, hope, forgiveness, service were sold for the highest amounts.

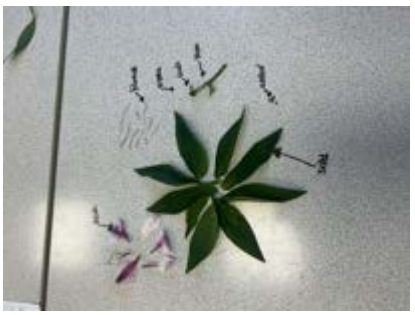


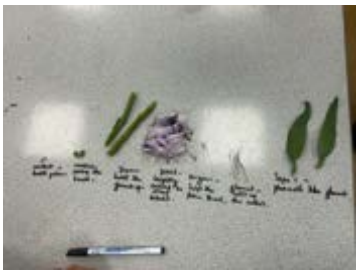




## SCIENCE

In Science, we have been learning about Living Things and their Habitats. We were learning about how plants reproduce and the different parts of a flower. To understand this better, we dissected flowers.









## ART

This term in Art, we have been working on sculptures inspired by Barbara Hepworth. We have thoroughly enjoyed using modroc to create these sculptures and can't wait to finish them off!

snapshot

# Year 6

## New Leaders

Year 6 have stepped up wonderfully to their new leadership roles in school. This includes newly appointed House Captains and Vice Captains, Faith Leaders, Digital Leaders and Wellbeing Ambassadors, as well as being brilliant Buddies to our Reception children. Each child in Year 6 also has a school job which they must undertake - this includes delivering register trays, setting up hall assemblies and managing the audio visuals, recycling and many more. School wouldn't run without these so well done Year 6!

## Art

Year 6 have enjoyed learning about Yorkshire artist Barbara Hepworth in their art lessons: we have studied her abstract organic sculptures and have created their own abstract relief sculptures of the human heart using Modroc. They had to closely observe the heart, plan their abstract form and create a structure to support the Modroc, before finally painting them. A messy process, but a fun one!





## English

Year 6 have impressed with their writing this half term, firstly producing some beautifully detailed descriptive pieces about an arrival in a new place. They used lots of figurative language to 'zoom in' on details and 'show not tell' to infer their characters' personalities and feelings. Next, they led the reader through a fantasy world using instructional language and high level sentence structures. Superstars!

## Bikeability

Year 6 enjoyed their Bikeability courses during the week commencing 19th October. All the children who could previously not ride a bike, now can and a fantastic seventeen of the class went on to earn their Level 2 award, out on the roads around school. The instructors were really impressed with the talent and behaviour of all the children. Well done, Year 6 - We are so proud of you!




A huge congratulations to the children from Years 3–6 who have represented our school in the North Bradford Cross Country League races on 8th and 15th October. The children have shown fantastic determination, resilience and sportsmanship, giving their very best on the course and making us incredibly proud. Well done to everyone who took part and represented St Walburga's so brilliantly!









## Introducing Our Well-being Ambassadors

We are delighted to introduce our new **Well-being Ambassadors** for this school year!

Year 6 - Bea and Rose

Year 5 - Abdul-Hadi and Georgia

Year 4 - Theo and Erin

They have already got off to a fantastic start and are passionate about helping to make our school a happy, kind and inclusive place for everyone.

Their first big event will be **World Kindness Day on Thursday 13th November 2026**, when they will be encouraging kindness and positive actions across school and within the community.

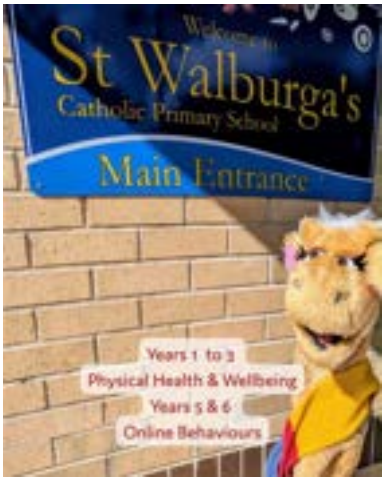
The ambassadors are also putting last year's **£200 well-being grant** to great use. With our Playground Leaders, they chose new playground equipment that will make playtimes more joyful, inclusive and accessible for everyone.

They have also been busy preparing for our new **Calm Club**, which will begin across school next half term. Calm Club will provide a quiet space at lunchtimes where children can colour, relax and unwind when the school day feels particularly busy or overwhelming.

We are excited to see all the wonderful ways our Well-being Ambassadors will make a difference this year.

# SCARF Workshops

We were lucky enough to welcome our lovely friends Julia and Harold the Giraffe for a series of engaging SCARF PSHE workshops! Designed to help children develop confidence, wellbeing and essential life skills, the interactive and immersive sessions explored a range of important topics. Children in Years 1-6 enjoyed workshops tailored to their age groups, including My Body in Year 1, Feelings in Year 2, Meet the Brain in Year 3, It's Great to Be Me in Year 4 and Wellbeing in the Online World for Years 5 and 6. The children thoroughly enjoyed these exciting sessions, developing their understanding of themselves, their feelings and how to look after their wellbeing.












This half term, we had our life caravan session with Harold. We learnt about our bodies and how we can stay fit and healthy. We learnt about the food groups and what each group does for our bodies.

We identified the organs that keep our blood pumping and give us **energy!**

We finished by watching a video about





sharing with our friends. We helped Derek to think about how he can talk to his friends and work as a team.





## LIFE CARAVAN WORKSHOP - WELL-BEING IN THE ONLINE WORLD




For our SCARF workshop this year - children explored the realms of the online world -

- Digital Domain
- Kindness Cove
- Risk Ravine
- Influence Island
- Mind Mainland

At each of these realms, they discussed different aspects of the online world, what's safe, how to stay safe and accessing appropriate content.

They analysed group chats and thought about what was happening / how the people in the group chat were feeling at that time using emotion cards.

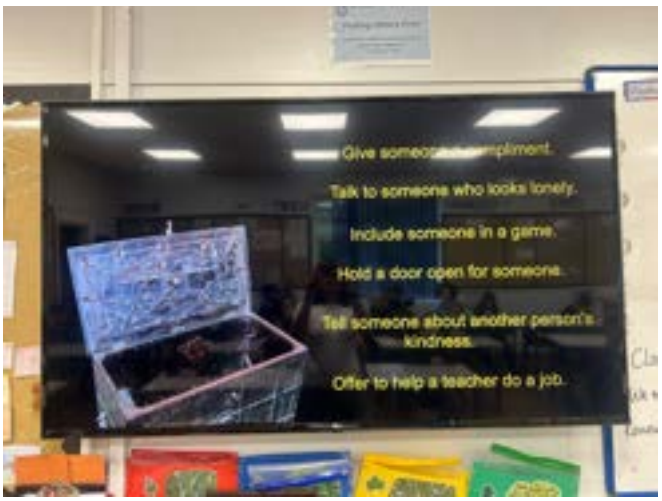






At each of the lands, children had tools that they could use to help them navigate the online world. At the end of the session, children were left with a kindness challenge to complete either in school or at home.




Finally, Year 6 said goodbye to Harold for the last time! 😭







# SENDiVERSE 2026 Festival is back!

We're excited to let you know that **SENDiVERSE Festival is back this October half-term**, with **71 activities** taking place across Bradford District from **Saturday 24th to Saturday 31st October**.

SENDiVERSE FESTIVAL 2026

Created for children and young people with SEND, their families and communities, the festival is packed with opportunities to try something new, get creative and have fun. From scuba diving, LEGO building and pumpkin trails to forest adventures, music-making, sensory play, storytelling, crafts and much more – there's something for a wide range of ages and interests, including older teenagers and young adults.

Activities take place across the district and **most are completely free**.

[sendiverse 2026 — THE LEAP]