



THE STOBOROUGH SCOOP

Stoborough CE VA Primary School AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 Edition 030

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Headteacher Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Community members,

'Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Love for ourselves, for each other and for the world.

As we reach the end of a particularly full and busy term, it is a pleasure to reflect on all that has been achieved at Stoborough.

A very warm welcome to our newest members of the school community- Hedgehog Class. They have been a fantastic addition to Stoborough School and have made such a positive start to their school journey. It has been wonderful to see how confidently they have settled into school life and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm they bring to each day.

The festive season has provided some special moments for our community. Our **Christmas nativity** and **carol concert** were heart-warming celebrations and a joy to share together, showcasing the children's confidence, compassion and festive spirit.

A huge thank you must go to our PTFA for organising the **Christmas fayre**. Their hard work resulted in an impressive **£1,378 being raised** through the fayre and raffle. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support and commitment to enriching school life for our pupils.



What makes Stoborough so special is our thriving wider community and the rich experiences we offer beyond the classroom. This term alone, pupils have enjoyed a wealth of opportunities, including the **Land and Wave** residential for Year 6, a **Birds of Poole Harbour** boat trip for Year 4, an **Etches Collection Museum** visit for Year 3 and a **Wareham Library** visit for our Reception children.

Alongside this, our staff have benefitted from training and the sharing of good practice with colleagues across the **Coastal Learning Partnership**, including Maths, English and Early Years conferences. This collaboration ensures the very best outcomes for our children.

Pupils have also taken part in a wide variety of clubs, some of which feature in this edition of the newsletter, helping to nurture interests, confidence and friendships.

What a busy - and wonderful - term it has been. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warmest regards

Mrs Murray

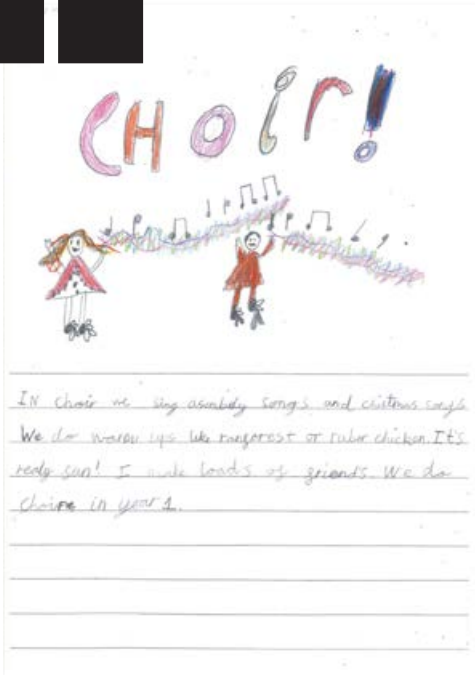
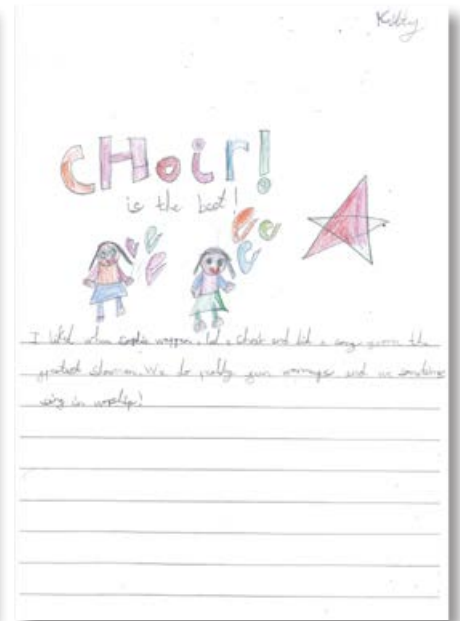
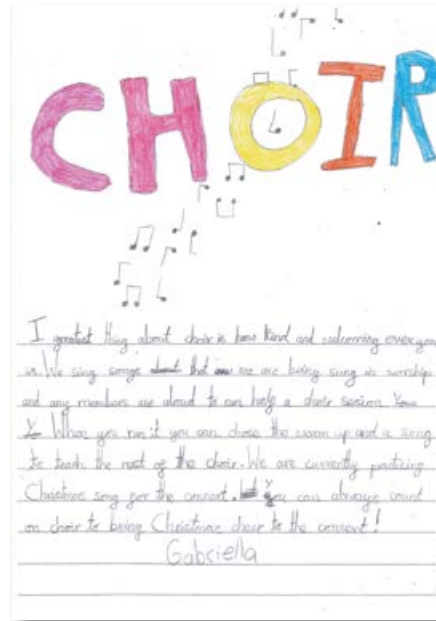
Head Teacher



DIARY DATES

Tuesday 10th February: Internet Safety Day
 Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th February: Parent Consultation evenings
 Monday 16th February: Half Term
 Thursday 5th March: World Book Day
 Thursday 19th March: POP Café
 Friday 20th March- Red Nose Day
 Wednesday 25th March: Class Photos
 Monday 30th March: Easter Holidays Begin
 Monday 13th April: INSET Day

Stoborough School Choir



'Choir is very fun and I've led a few songs with Sasha. I really enjoy it.'

Isla, Year 4

'I love choir so much and you get to lead the choir. Choir is the best.'

Rebecca, Year 3

I liked it when I led the choir.'

Eleanor, Year 3

'Choir is an ongoing fun activity where you sing and have fun. My favourite part of choir is when Isla and I led choir, it was really, really, really, fun. You should join because I love it and you should too. It is fun!!'

Sasha, Year 4

'I like choir because you can lead half of the lesson.'

Kayla, Year 4

'I enjoy choir because of the lovely warm ups we do. I also like the songs. Choir is overall great.'

Sophie W, Year 6

'I like choir because every week there's a different thing almost every time.'

Maia, Year 4

'The greatest thing about choir is how kind and welcoming everyone is. We sing songs that are being sung in worship and any members are allowed to run half a choir session. When you run it you can choose the warmup and a song to teach the rest of the choir.

We are currently practising Christmas songs for the concert. You can always count on choir to bring Christmas cheer to the concert!'

Gabriella, Year 6

'I like when Sophie W led choir and did a song from The Greatest Showman. We do really fun warmups and we sometimes sing in worship!'

Kitty, Year 3

'In choir we sing assembly songs and Christmas songs. We do warmups like Rainforest or Rubber Chicken. It's really fun. I make loads of friends. We do choir in the Year 1 classroom.'

Olivia, Year 5

'I enjoy leading choir.'

Aurora B, Year 3



OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

This half term we have launched our OPAL programme. OPAL stands for Outdoor Play and Learning. The Opal programme enables us to provide every child with rich opportunities to be creative, collaborative and active. This is an ongoing project which will be continued and developed for a number of years. We have already introduced different resources which children can access at lunchtimes. We now have a dance area, skipping area and an outdoor kitchen. The children are thoroughly enjoying the new format and we can already see the benefit in increasing our provision at lunchtimes. Thank you to everyone who has donated items for us to use. Please continue to send items in!

We are currently asking for wellies to be donated so children can use different parts of the field at lunchtime in all weathers. Thank you to Mr Kitching who has kindly built us a welly rack (as well sprucing up the outdoor kitchen and we now need to fill it with wellies! Please bring your spare wellies to our **'Welly Donation Station'** which is situated by the school office.



Please remember our wish list for **OPAL donations** and wellies!

Here is what some of our **Year 2** children thought about our **Opal playtimes** so far!

'I like skipping with the skipping ropes'
Bella

'Making dens are fun!' **Tayla**

"I like building stuff in the dens"
Kasper

Dancing to the music makes me happy' **Annabelle**

'I like playing restaurants in the mud kitchen' **Amelia**

'I like the mud kitchen'
Thomas R





SCHOOL NEWS PUPIL GOVERNORS

Our Pupil Governors have had a fantastic start to the autumn term! Mrs White welcomed the new team in October and congratulated everyone on being elected by their classes.

This year's Pupil Governors are:

- Reception: Hallie and Alex
- Year 1: Charlie and Olivia
- Year 2: Jesse and Bella
- Year 3: Kitty and Lily
- Year 4: Teagan and Georgia
- Year 5: Nico and Joe
- Year 6: Sophie and Lucy

During their first meeting, the group elected their new leadership team. Teagan was chosen as Chairperson, Georgia as Vice Chairperson, and Sophie as Secretary – congratulations to them all!

The governors began by discussing the *Causeway Speed Limit Campaign* – "30 not 40!". They

agreed that keeping everyone safe on the Causeway remains a key priority and decided to explore more ways to continue promoting road safety in the community. They also started planning for *Children in Need* and other fundraising events. Inspired by last year's successful apple bake sale, Joe suggested more themed bake sales throughout the year – an idea that received lots of enthusiasm!

At the second meeting, the group focused on *Children in Need 2025*, where this year's theme was "Challenge 25." Originally, the plan was for everyone to complete five laps a day around the school track, reaching 25 laps by the end of the week. However, due to wet and windy weather, the challenge was adapted into a fun *Five-Minute Challenge* each day instead!

Every class took part in five minutes of movement – dancing, skipping, hopping, stretching, or any other way to keep active. *The Pupil Governors* encouraged everyone to be creative and have

fun, and the energy throughout the week was brilliant!

The governors also supported *World Diabetes Day (14th November)*, deciding to hold a blue non-uniform day – "Blue to suit you!" – and a cake sale to raise money for both *Children in Need* and a diabetes charity.

Both events were a great success, and the whole school got involved with amazing enthusiasm.

Mrs White and Mrs Spicer would like to thank the *Pupil Governors* and all pupils for their wonderful ideas, teamwork, and dedication to making a difference in our school and wider community. We can't wait to see what they plan next!



Writers' Club:



Writers club is a super fun club on a Thursday afternoon after school. At writers' club, we do lots of fun writing. Recently, we wrote character descriptions about some people/creatures we had pulled out of a bag. This led to some really innovative characters, with strange jobs, hatreds and personalities. This will be published in the library very soon. We don't just write stories, we also do fun writing exercises.

By Bella

Embracing a Coding Challenge

During the week of the 6th October, *Year 5 and 6* were lucky enough to take part in *Dorset Coding Week*. The theme for this year was focused around how to stay safe online, with a particular focus on finances (for example, how to keep your money safe when playing online games). The children were visited by *Pete Gordon, a Barclays Tech Volunteer*, who came to share his knowledge and experiences with coding, and how it can lead to an interesting and inspiring career.

After talking with the children about coding and how it can be used for many different career opportunities, the children were then set the challenge of having a go at some coding themselves, to complete and then play their own game! The children were incredibly enthusiastic and embraced the challenge of creating and adapting code for a purpose and it was clear to see that we have some future coders in our ranks!

It was a wonderful afternoon, full of excitement and experimenting with an area of the curriculum that really piqued our interest. Well done Year 5 and 6!

Miss Roberts
Computing Leader



Year 4 Birds of Poole Harbour

The Year 4 trip to Poole Harbour was an exciting if slightly soggy morning of discovery as the class set out to spot birds around *Brownsea Island* and *Arne*.

We didn't let the weather dampen our spirits as the boat moved gently across the water, the children scanned the shorelines for flashes of colour and movement. They were thrilled to see elegant *Avocets* sweeping through the shallows and *Spoonbills* scooping their beaks feeding in the lagoons. At Arne, we explored the heathland and salt marshes through our binoculars, learning how each habitat attracts different birds.

We couldn't believe it when the skipper of the boat spotted a *White Tail Eagle* sitting and stalking pray up on the banks of a small cliff. We found out that they are one of the

biggest birds of prey in the UK – it has an enormous wingspan of up to 2.4 metres, wider than most adults are tall! They almost disappeared from the UK in the early 1900s, but thanks to careful reintroduction projects, they are now returning, especially around *Poole Harbour* and *Arne*. By the end of the morning, we felt proud and grateful for the experience and new knowledge we gained all inspired by the wildlife of Poole Harbour and the wonderful adult volunteers.

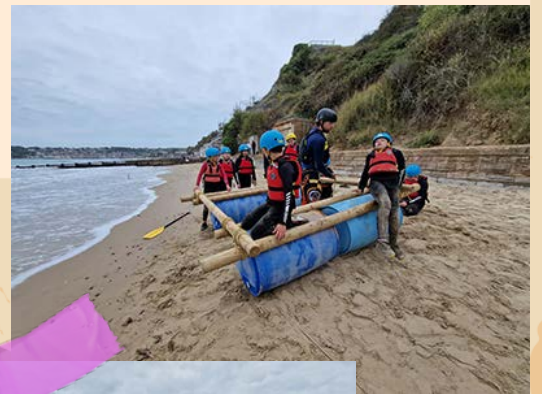


Y6 Trip: Camping, Raft Building Games and some singing

I really enjoyed the camping trip which (on the first day) involved archery and fire lighting. Then we went to the campsite and went into our tents.

Dinner was nice and their chocolate cake was delicious. We had a campfire and sang silly songs around it as well as some games. We then went back to our tents and slept (a bit). In the morning we did raft building. We got very cold and our team's raft (Bob) broke straight away but I really enjoyed every thing and loved the camping trip.

By Sophie B-H



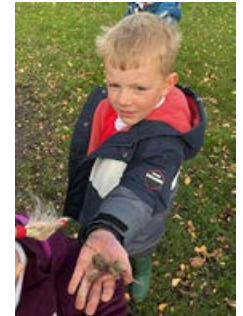
Reception: No Hibernation for our Hedgehogs

Hedgehog class have had a wonderful first term at school and have settled beautifully into school life! The Reception staff are so proud of how confident they are, and how well they have adapted to our new routines, made new friends and how enthusiastic they are for learning.

We have been very busy learning about the **four seasons**, and how we may notice changes throughout the year as the seasons change. We went out on a walk around the school grounds to identify signs that **Autumn had arrived**. The children found so many interesting items: leaves that had turned brown, yellow and red, acorns, conkers, mushrooms and lots of berries on the bushes. We collected some items to bring back to the classroom with us, which we used for a range of activities including collaging, conker rolling and imaginary play.

In **Maths**, we have been learning about the numbers 1–5. We can now identify one more and one less up to 5, and are beginning to understand the different ways that 5 can be composed. In **Art**, we have been exploring colour mixing, and learning how we can mix two primary colours together to make new colours.

Following this, we experimented with adding white to create different shades. In **PE**, we have been developing our movement skills through gymnastics, practising our climbing, balancing and learning how to jump and land safely. What a busy term!



Year 1: Fairytales, Maths, Science and Weather

Year 1 has got off to a great start, packing so much into the Autumn Term .

In **Science** we have been learning about materials that objects are made of and have carried out investigations to find out about the properties of different materials. Is it heavy? Is it waterproof? Can it bend or twist or stretch?

In **Geography** we have learnt about weather around the world, exploring what seasons are and carrying out our own weather checks using our weather station and weather watcher board.

In **Maths** we have been learning about grouping and sharing as well as comparing numbers and amounts

using the phrases 'more than', 'less than' and equal to. We have also been learning the symbol to use when we want to write this as a number sentence.

In **English** we have been retelling fairytales using drama, role play and storytelling. We have created our own story maps to help us with our writing and have written letters to **Goldilocks**, from **Baby Bear**, and to **Jack's Mum**, from Jack, telling her all about his adventures. We've also been learning how to keep safe online in our computing lessons.

We've voted for our pupil governors, gone wild with **Forest School**, learnt about parables in **RE** and explored colour and texture in **Art**.





Year 2: Little Pigs and Pointillism

Year 2 have been working very hard on their writing this term. We have enjoyed reading '*The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*'. In this story the wolf tries to convince us that he didn't really mean to blow the pig's houses down. It was all because of a sneeze! At the end of the story the wolf gets put in jail.

One morning *Kingfisher Class* came into school and found posters up in the classroom explaining that the wolf had escaped! To help catch the wolf again we wrote character descriptions of the wolf.

To write an effective character description, the children had to make sure they knew what a noun and adjective was. They were then able to write expanded noun phrases.

The children also learnt about the subordinating conjunction 'because' and how to use it accurately in a sentence.

The children wrote some fantastic character descriptions and we are sure the wolf will be caught again!

In art we have been learning about *Henri Edmund Cross*. We have learnt that he uses a technique called 'pointillism' to create his art. *Pointillism* is a painting technique using tiny dots of pure colour. The tiny dots build up to create an image. We also learnt that he enjoyed painting seascapes. We created our own seascapes using *pointillism*. We have made our artwork into calendars to sell at the *Christmas Fayre*.



Year 3: Exploring rocks, fossils and the Stone Age

Year 3 have had an exciting and busy start to the Autumn term.

In *Science*, we began by exploring rocks, fossils, and soils. The children investigated different rock types, learned how fossils are formed, and compared soils to understand their properties. Later this term, we are looking forward to our trip to *The Etches Collection Museum*, where we'll see real fossils up close and deepen our understanding of this topic.

More recently, our Science lessons have taken a brighter turn as we began our new topic on Light. The children have been investigating reflective materials and exploring how shadows are formed. They have also discovered how the size and shape of a shadow change depending on the position of the light source, and how the properties of different materials affect the shadows they create.

In *Geography*, we've been learning about earthquakes, what causes them, how they affect people and places, and how they link to the *Earth's tectonic plates*. Using maps, the children have explored the relationships between earthquakes,

volcanoes, and plate boundaries, focusing on case studies of *Chile* and *Haiti* to see how geography and human factors influence their impact.

Our *History* lessons have taken us far back in time to the *Stone Age*. We've discovered how early humans lived, the tools they used, and how they built shelters.

The children also learned what an anachronism is and enjoyed coming up with some very creative examples of their own!

It's been a fantastic start to the year!



Year 4: The Warrior Queen and Training Dragons

We've had a wonderful, busy first term in Year 4, full of exciting learning!

They have particularly enjoyed humanities subjects as we've kicked off the year with two interesting topics. The **geography** topic on '**Mega Cities**' really inspired the children and in their **art lessons**, they created impressive cityscapes, experimenting with different techniques and media, including using watercolours to paint reflections.

Our **history** topic has also been a highlight. We have been learning about why the **Romans invaded Britain** and how **Boudicca** tried but failed to defeat them. The children were very enthusiastic in working in groups to organise timelines and using their drama skills to explore different key moments.

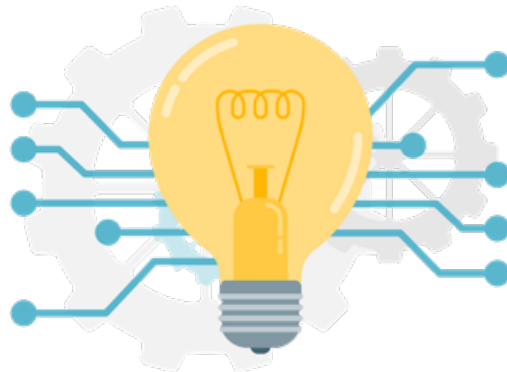
"Art is amazing, I had so much fun doing cityscapes. I liked that we got to do a mixture of watercolours, pastels and sketch pencils." -**Allannah**

"I loved the art lessons that we did about cityscapes because of all the inspirational artists and picky bits that I included in my sketch piece. I loved it because I got to shade it instead of having to use colours." -**Ralph**

"History might not be my favourite subject, but I only just realised in the past few weeks that it is actually quite interesting. We have been learning about Romans in Britain and important people at the time like Emperor Claudius and Boudica." **Kayla**

"It inspired me when we did our history lessons about Boudicca and how she tried to defeat the Romans but failed." -**Faye**

In our **science** lessons about the digestive system and teeth, the children's curiosity shone through during our '**eggsperiment**' about dental health. We tested how different sugary and acidic drinks affect teeth by observing what happened to uncooked eggs over four days without brushing—we were



surprised by the results! Later in the term, we explored electrical circuits. The children loved the hands-on investigations, using wires, batteries, and switches, and adding bulbs and buzzers to see how different circuits work.

"I enjoyed science because we did an experiment of lighting up a bulb and a buzzer. You had to use a battery and lots of wires to make them work." -**Charlotte**

"I particularly liked science, learning about electrical components and circuits. I found building components was amazing fun and interesting." - **William**

"I really enjoy science. We have been learning about circuits and how electricity flows in them. My favourite part was when we made actual circuits, I enjoyed it a lot." -**Isla**



English, we started with a simple but effective text 'Iron Man' and enjoyed the language **Ted Hughes** used to describe the character's actions. We thoroughly enjoyed our second class text, '**How to Train Your Dragon**' by **Cressida Cowell**. The children have been busy developing their comprehension and vocabulary skills, really getting to know the characters ready to prepare them to write a non-chronological report about their own dragon, as well as a diary written in first person as the main character Hiccup.

"I love my English lessons because when we were writing a chapter about Iron Man, we were allowed to use onomatopoeia and speech in it." **Maia**

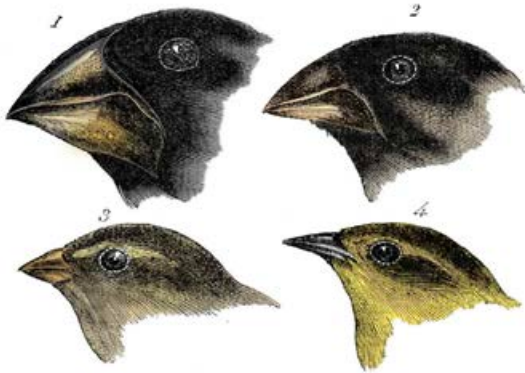
"English was really fun because we have learnt about dragons." -**George**

"In English I really enjoyed writing about 'How to Train your Dragon' because we got to make up our own dragon and write a non-chronological report." - **Cleo**



Year 6: Darwin, World War II and Artistic Inspiration.

Darwin's Finches



This science lesson was focused on adaptation. **Charles Darwin** (who came up with the concept of evolution) was intrigued about the different types of finches on the many different islands of the **Galapagos Islands**. He studied the various birds and researched their differences. Some had different beaks to eat certain foods from their habitats. Others might have had certain colour feathers to blend into plants to hide from predators. After his research, he realised they had adapted to where they lived. We set out to test how adaptation might work.



Experiment: Why did the finches have different beaks?

Equipment: lolly sticks used as chopsticks, tweezers, tablespoon, teaspoon, forks and a tray.
'Food' for the finches: string as worms, big beads as nuts, small beads/buttons as berries and leaves.

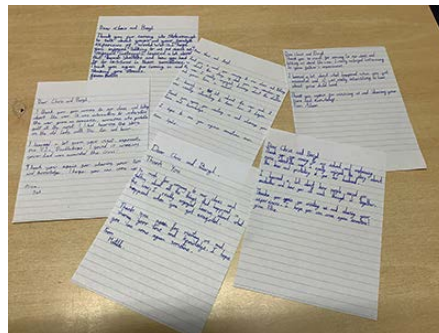
The actual thing:

Food is placed in a tray or a bowl. Hand out equipment between 5 players. Set a timer for 30 seconds. Start the timer and fight for the food in the tray. The person at the end with the most wins. Try not to pinch others.

Conclusion: The tweezers were found to be the best for big beads and leaves. The fork was also useful for worms and leaves.

By Seb and Louis

World War II



In our history lessons, we have been learning about **World War 2**. Many people in our class are very interested in the topic. On Friday 17th we had some guests come in and share their story of being evacuees in the war. Their names were Chris and Beryl. Chris' father fought in Italy and Africa, whilst Beryl's father worked as an ambulance driver and warden. We all learned lots from them and their times being evacuated. We were very thankful and had a great time.

By Jeevan Gwinett

Artistic Techniques

Last week in art we tried a lot of different styles and techniques. One



of the artists we looked at was **Henri Cartier-Bresson**. He did very cool street photography. We studied him but getting a silhouette of a person and sticking them into our books, then we had to draw the world around them. We also looked at **Henry Moore, Georgia O'Keeffe and Edward Hopper**. As a result, our art week was very, very fun and our class has made some super cool artwork.

By Ava Green



Autumn/Winter Sports News

Congratulations to our new Sports Ambassadors



It has been a busy start to the year for sport. Firstly, I would like to say congratulations to our new *year 5 sports ambassadors*, they will complete their training at the Purbeck school in late November. We had so many children who wanted this responsibility so thank you to all those who put their names forward. We have a great team to help develop sport at our school. We also have two new heads of sports so congratulations to *Thomas and Ellie*.

Progress in the Purbeck Cup as we *Dare to Believe*

We have had lots of events to begin the new school year including *football, multi sports, dare to believe and handball*. We also played our first game in the annual football *Purbeck Cup*, we beat Sandford 5-2 with goals scored by *Theo x2, Bertie, Reggie and Thomas*.

All of the pupils who have attended this event have had so much fun and loved having the opportunity to participate in these events. Well done to all those who have taken part.

Mr Merredew
Sports Coach

