



Minet Junior School Newsletter

Spring Term: 25th March 2026
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<https://www.minetjunior.org.uk/>
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On Monday 23rd March 2026, we came together to spread awareness, share kindness, and celebrate the incredible contributions of people with Down Syndrome. Our school had a brilliant time raising money through a colourful sweet sale - made even brighter by everyone rocking their fun, mismatched socks!

Thank you to everyone who joined in, donated, and helped make a positive difference.



Upcoming Dates
27th March– End of Term, school closes at 1:30pm
13th April– School Open, Children return



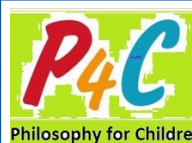
On Friday 20th March, the children wore red to school in return for a £1 donation to Comic Relief. They also became Eco-Warriors and took part in a sponsored run, completing laps of the playground over a 15 minute period to raise money for WaterAid.

The children raised £84.90 for Comic Relief and £153.80 for WaterAid. The energy and enthusiasm shown were incredible and it was wonderful to see everyone getting involved for such a meaningful cause. Thank you for your generosity!

We were very fortunate enough to win a free STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Lego workshop with Affinity Water. Children across Years 4,5 and 6 were able to discover where water comes from and how it is used every day. After being put into small teams, the children had to build and code their own Lego robots and compete in exciting



real-world water-saving challenges on a floor map. A virtual total of 4,964 litres were saved by the children! It was a fantastic day where the children explored their creativity using STEM skills. Thank you Affinity Water for gifting us this experience!



Picture News
What makes someone a champion?

Please discuss this question with your child. They can then share their family's ideas with the class. There are no right or wrong answers.

Athletes from around the world have been competing in the Winter Paralympic Games in Italy. The Paralympics are an international sporting event for athletes with disabilities. This year's competitors took part in events such as skiing, snowboarding, wheelchair curling, and ice hockey. Many athletes train for years to compete at this level. Some have overcome injuries or health challenges, while others were born with disabilities. Using specialised equipment and incredible determination, they compete for medals.

Things to talk about at home ..

- Who do you find inspiring in sport? Ask someone at home about who they find inspiring.
- What does being a champion mean to you?
- What helps people overcome challenges? Talk with someone about their experiences.



UN Rights of the Child

Every child with a disability has the right to a full life, which includes having the same opportunities as everyone else to stay active and play a part within their community.





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Celebrating World Book Day at Minet Junior School

At school this week, we enjoyed a week of activities celebrating books, stories and the joy of reading. From visiting our local library to welcoming a real author into school, pupils had many exciting opportunities to explore the world of books and develop their love of reading.

Library Visits



Over this week, every class at Minet Junior School visited Botwell Library. During the visit, library staff explained how pupils can use their library cards, not only to borrow books but also to access audiobooks and even loan sports equipment! The children enjoyed exploring the library and discovering the wide range of resources available to them. The visit helped encourage reading beyond the classroom and built excitement in the lead up to World Book Day.

World Book Day 2026

On Thursday 5th March 2026, Minet Junior School celebrated World Book Day with a fantastic display of creativity and enthusiasm for reading. Pupils arrived dressed as their favourite book characters and brought along a book that they enjoy or that holds special meaning to them.



Throughout the day, children shared their books and discussed their favourite stories. Each class also held a costume competition, with winners receiving a book written by our visiting World Book Day author. We saw a wonderful range of characters across the school including: Matilda, Mary Poppins, Willy Wonka and Harry Potter and friends. The children looked fantastic and many members of staff joined in the celebrations by dressing up too!



Author Visit – Chitra Soundar



To continue our World Book Day celebrations, we were delighted to welcome children's author Chitra Soundar to Minet Junior School on Friday 6th March. During her visit, Chitra led a special assembly and ran writing workshops, sharing her experiences as an author and inspiring pupils in their own storytelling.

Following the sessions children had the opportunity to purchase one of Chitra's books and have it signed and dedicated by the author. It was a wonderful experience for pupils to meet a real author and learn more about the journey from imagination to a published book!





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Celebrating British Science Week at Minet Junior School

Mother Nature



On 12 March, pupils across the school took part in an exciting and interactive science assembly delivered by Mother Nature, an external provider.

The session brought science to life through a range of engaging demonstrations. Pupils explored key scientific concepts including vibrations and air pressure, seeing first-hand why a balloon moves in the opposite direction when released.

They were fascinated by experiments involving bubbles, learning how different sizes and shapes can be created.

The assembly also introduced pupils to elements of chemistry, including how flames can be produced using different chemicals and the science behind how they work.

The session was highly engaging, with pupils eagerly participating, asking questions and showing great enthusiasm for science. It provided a memorable experience that helped deepen their understanding of scientific concepts in a fun and practical way.

Following the Mother Nature assembly, pupils took part in hands-on science workshops led by their representative.

Children explored non-Newtonian fluids using a cornflour and water mixture, observing how it becomes solid under pressure but flows like a liquid when handled gently. They also made their own slime, learning about the chemistry behind the materials used.

The workshops were engaging and provided a fun opportunity for pupils to explore science through practical investigation.



Whole School Assembly with a Special Guest

On Monday 16th March, the whole school took part in a special assembly introducing this year's theme and exploring the purpose of the event - celebrating science, inspiring curiosity and highlighting the role science plays in our everyday lives.

We were also pleased to welcome a guest speaker, Arex, a pharmacist from a local pharmacy. She introduced pupils to her profession, explaining the key skills needed for her role, including communication, accuracy and scientific knowledge. She spoke about her educational journey and shared how rewarding she finds her job, particularly in helping and supporting the community.

Arex also provided informative leaflets, which were shared with Year 6 pupils to further support their understanding of careers in science.



WE HAVE
ACHIEVED



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Gold

2025 - 2028
unicef
Gold Rights Respecting

Philosophy for Children
SILVER AWARD

Quality Mark
PRIMARY
AWARD

We've introduced

thrive

in our Setting

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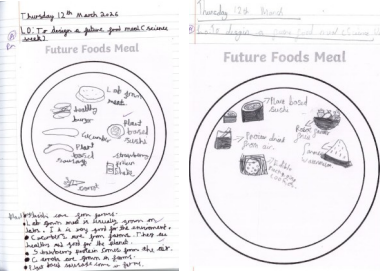
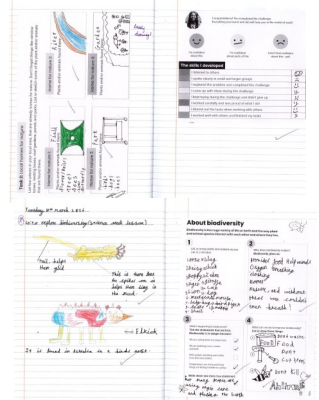
Celebrating British Science Week at Minet Junior School

Learning for a Sustainable Future

During Science Week, all classes across the school took part in exciting, thought-provoking lessons led by their teachers. Pupils explored a range of topics linked to sustainability, innovation and the future, developing their curiosity, creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills through hands-on and engaging activities.

Year 3 – Biodiversity

Year 3 explored biodiversity and the importance of different living things on Earth. Pupils identified a camouflaged animal and discussed how animals are adapted to their habitats. They showed curiosity by asking questions about how animals survive in different environments, including extreme habitats. To conclude, pupils labelled features of a sea creature and explained how it is adapted to its environment, working collaboratively to share their ideas.

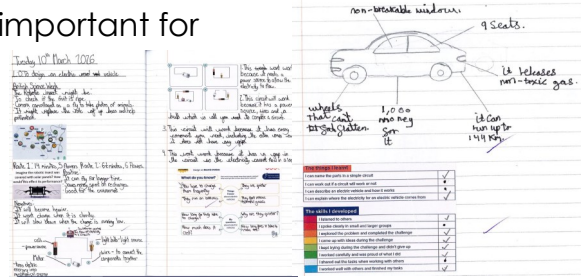


Year 4 – Feed Our Future

Year 4 explored how food choices impact both our health and the planet. Pupils learned about innovative and sustainable food sources, including lab-grown and plant-based options. They asked thoughtful questions about the future of food and explored how technology can support food production. To finish, pupils designed their own “future food,” considering both health and environmental impact.

Year 5 – Electric Cars

Year 5 learned how electric cars work and why they are important for reducing pollution. Pupils explored how vehicles are powered and discussed the future of transport. They showed curiosity by asking questions about charging, efficiency and sustainability. To conclude, pupils designed their own electric concept cars, focusing on innovative and environmentally friendly features.



Year 6 – Fashion Fixers

Year 6 explored the environmental impact of clothing and plastic waste. They learned about issues such as microplastics and how materials break down over time, as well as solutions developed by scientists and engineers. Pupils then designed their own sustainable fashion items, focusing on reducing waste, reusing materials and creating environmentally friendly solutions.

