

MOSSY LEA MESSENGER

Monday, 18th May 2026 XVIII.V. MMXXVI

Another Wonderful Week at Mighty Mossy

Acorn Class

In **Science**, we explored the dangers facing the rainforest, thinking carefully about the threats to rainforest plants and why it is so important to protect these incredible habitats.

In **Geography**, we compared Sherwood Forest and woods closer to home with the mighty Amazon Rainforest. We discovered lots of similarities and differences — for example, they both have trees, but sadly we can't grow bananas in the UK!

Oak Class

Whilst our fantastic Year 6 children completed their KS2 SATs with confidence, determination and a wonderfully relaxed approach, the rest of Oak Class continued with an exciting **English** poetry unit linked to Kings and Queens. We explored poetic devices such as alliteration, onomatopoeia and other creative language features to make our poems come alive! Don't forget to take a look on SeeSaw to hear our amazing final poems!

In **Science**, we became investigators and started a microorganism experiment to discover the best conditions for mould to grow on bread. We placed bread in different conditions and will be observing the changes closely over the next week.

In **History**, we learned all about Queen Victoria, the formation of the British Empire, and created our own version of The Queen's Handbag, linked to countries within the Empire. We even linked our learning to Geography by using atlases to plan travel routes across the world.

We also joined our fantastic Year 6 children for their end of SATs celebration and enjoyed celebrating all of their hard work and achievements!

Special Visitor – Lancashire Library Service

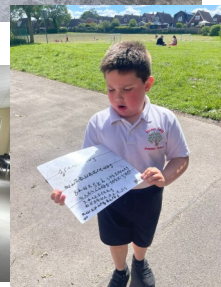
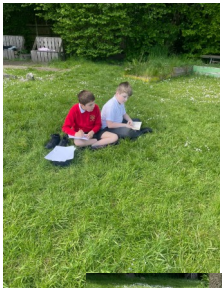
We welcomed a visit from the Lancashire Library team, who launched the exciting Summer Reading Challenge. Children can join the challenge at any Lancashire library for the chance to win prizes and even enjoy free entry to museums across Lancashire. Happy reading everyone!

Mental Health Awareness Week & Forest Friday

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we joined a special assembly with fitness favourite Joe Wicks and spent time thinking about wellbeing and looking after our minds and bodies.

Research shows that spending just 15 minutes outdoors can improve mental wellbeing. It's thought that people spend only around 7% (87 minutes) of their working week outside, so for Forest Friday we decided to make the most of our wonderful outdoor spaces!

We headed outside, away from technology, and enjoyed activities including reading, meditating, sketching, writing and simply appreciating the beautiful green spaces around our school.



Yes Year 6 – It's All Done. And You Did It.

All done and dusted.

And what a week it was. SATs papers? Conquered. Every single one. But more than that...you changed. You grew. You didn't just turn up — you turned up with grit, with grace, with guts.

Let's process that for a moment — really sit in it.

Think back to last Monday. For some, it felt like panic. That amygdala doing backflips. "Fight or flight" kicking in. Your body saying, "This is big, this is scary." But you did it anyway. You walked in with your shoulders back and your pencils sharp. You didn't let the fear decide. That's huge.

Fast forward a few days — and you're walking round school saying you loved it.

How powerful is that?

You've proven to yourself — and to everyone — that you can do difficult things. And not just survive them... but thrive in them. Enjoy them, even. That's the kind of strength that takes people places in life.

So what does this say about you? It says you're brave. It says you're resilient. It says you're more ready for life than you even realise.

Because the real test? It wasn't in the paper.

It was in your mind.

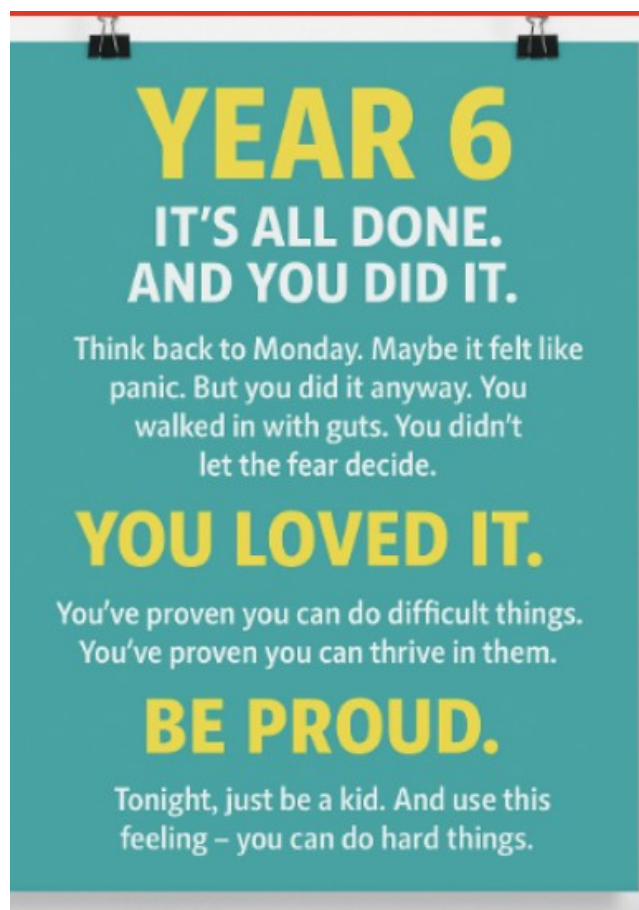
And you passed with flying colours.

Use this feeling. Remember this feeling. Let it shape how you take on the next challenge, and the next. This is your evidence — you can do hard things.

There are so many clichés trotted out around SATs, and frankly, most of them are as stale as last week's toast. Here's the truth: yes, we have to do them. But as ever at Mossy Lea, we do them our way — with determination, with a quiet confidence, with humour and compassion in spades. We don't treat SATs as some apocalyptic reckoning... just a chapter in our story. Part of life. Nothing to fear, and everything to be proud of.

Gettin kids, and well in. Mr P and Mrs G

Print off this poster kids - slap it on your fridge, it will remind you how powerful you are.



Attendance Update

Your overall attendance
93.9%

You are in decile 8, the bottom
20-30% of schools

Please find below details of the after-school clubs available for next half term.

As we prepare for our exciting *Jigsaw Club*, we would also greatly appreciate any unwanted jigsaw puzzles you may have at home. If you are able to donate any, please send them in — all donations are very welcome.



Day	Club
Monday	Chorley SSP—Target games
Tuesday	
Thursday	Jigsaw Club
Friday	Book/Film Club

A Word to Parents, for what it's worth

Can I just say this plainly: being a parent isn't easy. It's exhausting, relentless, emotional, expensive, joyful, chaotic; often all before 8:30am.

But genuinely, from where we stand, you're doing brilliantly. The children are arriving in good spirits, showing kindness, resilience and character. That doesn't happen by accident.

So well done. You're absolutely nailing it. Like I say to the kids - process that, and be proud.

Diary Dates

	May
21st	New intake meeting 4pm
22nd	Break up
June	
1st	INSET
2nd	Back to school
4th	Class Call in 15:30
8th	Wigan Warriors visit

Weekly Awards



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



See full reference list on our website

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