

Wednesday 5th
February 2025

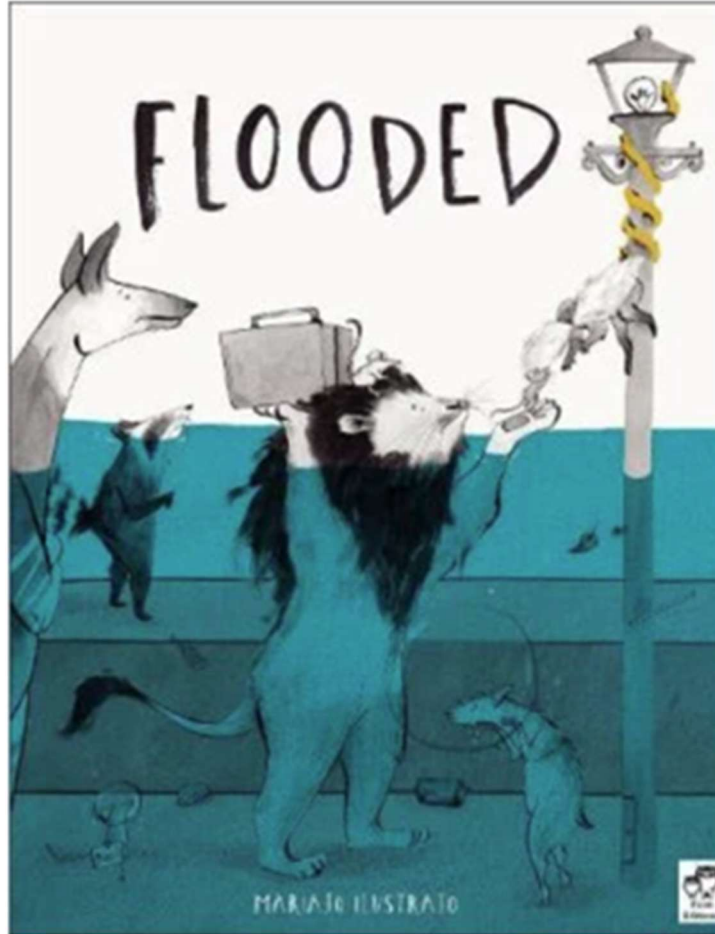


Our Christian
value this term
is Respect

'The one who gets wisdom loves life' Proverbs 19:8

Charlton Mackrell Primary School & Pre-School

It has been an extremely busy start to 2025 already. Teachers have been planning our geography unit 'Rivers to Mountains'. Mr Collicutt organised a whole school walk to the river Cary. All the children took part and we were able to show them the different landscapes around the school. There were very few grumbles, as it was quite a long way across country and teachers have been using pictures from the walk and the local countryside to explain why the Somerset Levels and Moors are a site of Special Scientific Interest. The children have also been engaged in a whole school writing unit based around the book 'Flooded' by Mariajo Illustrajo. This is a beautifully illustrated book which demonstrates that the power of community spirit and working together mean that problems can be overcome. The children were very engaged in the moral dilemmas the subject raised. Much of the writing is on display and you are very welcome to celebrate this with the children at our open afternoon on March 10th.



More Reading News - World Book Day:

We will be celebrating reading on World Book Day in school. The children are invited to come to school either dressed as a book character or to bring with them an object which best represents their favourite book or character from a story. The teachers will each read an excerpt from different books and the children will be able to choose which stories they would like to listen to in the morning. This will be followed by a cup of hot chocolate in the hall which will kindly be served by Friends of School. There will be lots of opportunities for children to discuss these stories and to explain which are their favourites and why.

The children are achieving many dojos in school and teachers have linked the rewards not just to academic subjects but also to our school values. We are waiting for a large delivery of bronze stars - so apologies to the children who are waiting. They will be here soon. Thank you for your continued support in hearing your children read at home. This is important in every year group, but particularly in Rainbow class where the children are bringing home a carefully selected phonics book which matches their reading in school. Wherever possible, please could you spend time reading from these selected books every day. This will support your children with their reading progress in school.

Open Afternoon:

We are inviting you to an open afternoon on Monday 10th March at 2.00pm. Please join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit, take a tour of school and get to know us a little better.

School Clubs:

Mrs Rushworth has started the first of this year's coding clubs for Tornado class. This takes place at lunchtime and the next class to be invited will be announced soon. Mrs Rushworth is also in the process of selecting digital leaders, who will help with e-safety in school and will have special responsibility for communicating different aspects of computing across the classes. We have already welcomed visits from Wessex Water Workshop to Wildfire and Tornado class and through 'People who help us' Rainbow class have had visits from a midwife, the police and on Friday we will all be working with the Fire Brigade. I will be running 'Little Troopers' after school club on Thursdays next half-term. This is open to all children from military families.

Friday's reading club have been meeting to share their favourite books and Mrs Oliver has applied for the children to receive a Blue Peter badge for reading. Upcoming trips next half term include a trip to Magdalen farm for Wildfire and Tornado classes and a trip to the Bristol Life Skills Centre for Year 6.

Safeguarding:

As a school we have a duty to safeguard the children. They are aware of who the adults with responsibility for keeping them safe are. As a staff we will always listen to your children and follow 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance and guidelines. Our safeguarding policy is available on our website [Safeguarding and Child Protection](#). For your information the adults with specific responsibility for safeguarding in the school are: Alison Allen (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Jenna Marklew and Kim Headley, who are both Deputy Designated safeguarding Leads.

Parking:

I have been asked to remind all carpark users that the speed limit is 5mph and to continue to reverse into spaces where possible. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Sport:

Charlton Mackrell have taken part in a Basketball Tournament where Group B won. Mrs Rushworth is very proud of all the children. Particularly the Year 4s who were playing against some Year 6s from other schools. There is also a Karate Grading coming up in March.

Mrs Marklew is organising an in-house dodgeball tournament next Tuesday - see class dojo for details to follow.



News From Preschool:

We have been very busy at preschool!

The children have learnt about and celebrated the Somerset tradition of Wassailing, the children all sampled apple juice and mulled apple juice, voting on their favourite. We sang a Wassail song to our apple tree and made lots of noise to help wake the tree up from its winter sleep, and scare away the bugs, this was great fun!

We have also been learning about China, and we've celebrated Chinese New Year. The children were able to try foods from China and use chopsticks. They listened to Chinese music and were given the opportunity to have a go at Chinese ribbon dancing and being in a Chinese dragon dance parade. The children were amazing at threading coloured pasta to make beautiful, patterned snakes for the year of the snake.

In preschool we are helping the children develop their emotional literacy, recognising emotions and feelings, we have read the book of the Colour Monster. We understand the importance for all of us to acknowledge and talk about our own feelings, we will continue this valuable learning throughout the year with the children and their families. The children are helping make the monsters to create a display where their words about emotions can be displayed, we invite parents to come in to see the display when it is finished.



Attendance from September:

National attendance figure 93.4%

Rainbow - 96%
Hurricane - 95.8%
Wildfire - 96.7%
Tornado - 96.1%

Dates for the diary:

Friday 7th Feb - Fire Brigade Visiting

Wednesday 12th Feb- Police Visiting Rainbow Class

Friday 14th Feb - INSET DAY

Monday 24th Feb - Back to School

Tuesday 25th Feb - Open the Book

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day

Thursday 6th March - Reception & Yr 6 Height & Weight Measurements

Monday 10th March - Open Afternoon

Tuesday 11th March - Open the Book

Thursday 20th March - Tornado & Wildfire Trip to Magdalen Farm

Monday 24th March - Parents Evening

Tuesday 25th March - Open the Book

Wednesday 26th March - Yr 6 Lifeskills Trip

Wednesday 26th March - Parents Evening

Ali Allen (Headteacher)