

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026

Thank you to everyone who has made this such a strong year - our parents, whose support at home makes the difference we see in the classroom; our staff, for their dedication both in and beyond lessons; our pupils, for their curiosity, resilience and kindness; and our governors, for their guidance and time throughout the year.

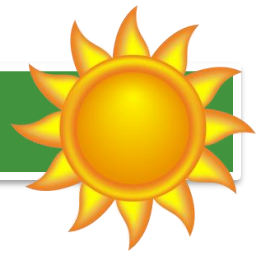
We've had plenty to celebrate - from sporting and academic success, wonderful trips, fabulous PTA events and a whole host of all things in-between have made this another successful year for everyone at CSG.

Wishing every family a restful, happy summer - we can't wait to welcome everyone back in September ready for another year of learning and memory making!

Alastair Haywood
Headteacher
Chalfont St Giles Village School



School View



Nursery

We planted sunflower seeds and waited for them to grow.



We even planted our own beanstalk which has now grown right to the top and is producing a crop of beans!



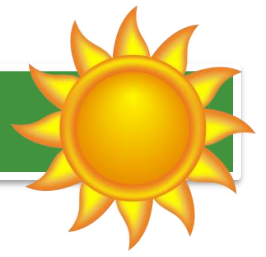
We visited Goldilocks at the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Goldilocks read us the story of Goldilocks and the three bears and then we helped her to make some porridge for the bears in her cottage.



Goldilocks took us on an adventure into the woods where we had fun working together to build dens for the bears.

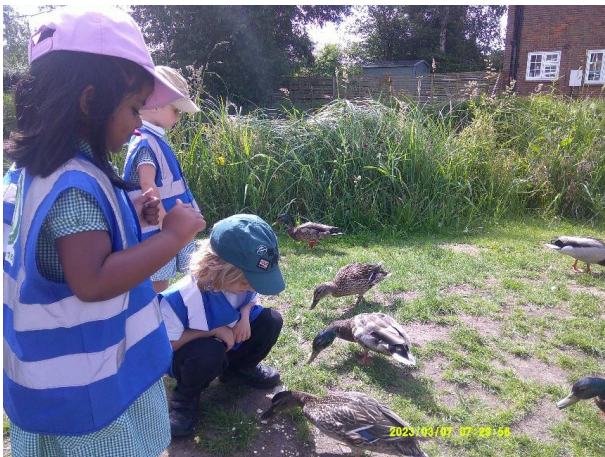


School View



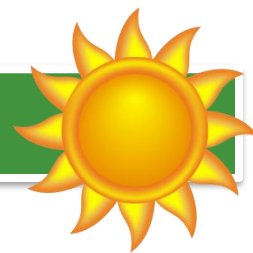
Nursery

Back at the three bears' cottage we watched the bears tasting the porridge which wasn't too hot or too cold It was just right!



Another highlight of the term was our walk to the village which was our treat for reaching 10 diamonds! We fed the ducks who were very friendly and we played in the park. It was so much fun!

School View



Reception

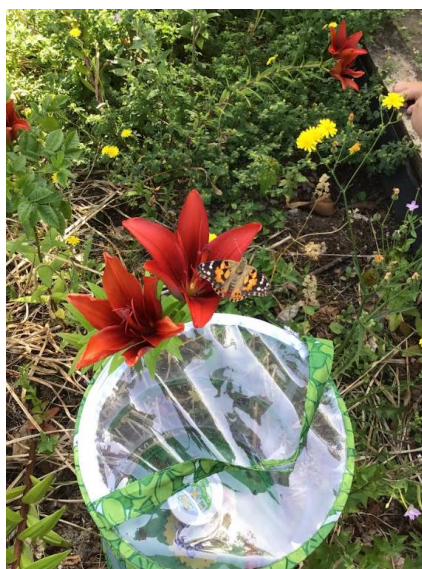
Summer term has been yet another busy term for Reception. The children have learnt all about The Very Hungry Caterpillar where they used their phonics to write all about the foods that the hungry caterpillar liked. They then performed their assembly based on the retelling of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and they did fantastically well. As well as learning about caterpillars, they have also learnt about a variety of different animals from crocodiles to giraffes, always creating beautiful writing.

In topic we have been learning all about maps. The children have loved looking at maps of our village and spotting all the familiar landmarks. They have made maps out of classroom resources and made paper maps. Flags have also been a favourite topic, especially with the world cup being played.

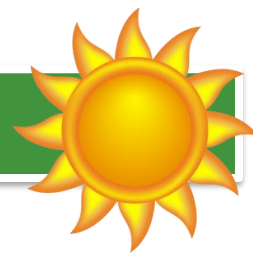
One of our favourite science activities has been watching our classroom caterpillars grow and change. A special few got to see them being released as they all decided to hatch on the hottest day of the year.

Their maths has gone from strength to strength and they have learnt all about odd and even numbers, as well as strengthening their knowledge of number bonds to 10.

They thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Amersham School where they played rounders against other schools and the sports leaders did a good job at guiding the children from each rounders game to the next.



School View



Reception

Their second school trip of the year took them to Willows Farm where the children saw lots of animals, sheep racing, watching a Peter Rabbit show, holding guinea pigs, feeding animals and they even learnt all about how to milk a cow. Lots of fun was had by all and the adventure playground was also a great hit.

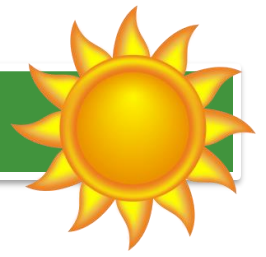


The children had their first Sports Day at the Infant School where they were so focused and all tried their best and cheered on each other when they were watching. Those in Water were very happy to see their house win Sports Day.



They have spent some time looking back on how far they have come, how much they have grown and the amazing friendships they have made along their Reception journey. After all their hard work and determination throughout their very successful first year of school, Reception are definitely ready for new adventures that await them in Year 1.

School View



Year 1

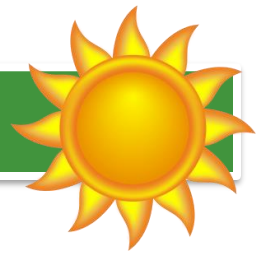
In April, Emerald and Ruby classes visited Waddesdon Manor. We had a wonderful time exploring nature and learning about the world around us. In the morning, we listened to the classic story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and learned all about the life cycle of different insects. Before lunch, we visited the aviary and enjoyed observing the different species of birds. To finish off our adventures after lunch, we spent time in the woodland building our very own bug hotels, creating cosy spaces for insects to live.



Ruby and Emerald have enjoyed our last term of Outdoor Explorers with Mrs Lloyd-Evans. We listened to the story The MinPins and created our own Spittlers on trees using clay and natural materials. It has been lovely to see everything in full bloom during the Summer season. We were very thankful for the trees as the warmer weather hit.



School View

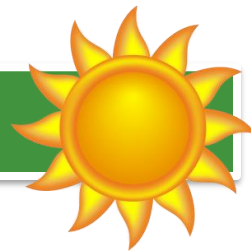


Year 1

We had an amazing trip to Wellington Country park in July. We took part in a 'Farm detectives' workshop where we learnt about the different animal diets. We shared our super Science knowledge and vocabulary with the staff when we fed the sheep, goats and alpacas. We rode the train, spotting different scenes set up along the journey and had lots of fun finding a sausage dog wearing sunglasses! In the afternoon, we enjoyed walking through the dinosaur trail, identifying and learning about different dinosaurs.



School View



Year 2

What a busy and exciting Summer term Year 2 have had – it really has been jam-packed with lots of exciting things!

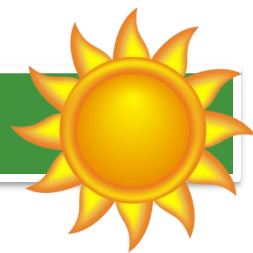
In Science we learnt all about plants, their life cycles and what plants need to germinate and to grow and stay healthy. We carried out comparative tests after planting sweet pea seeds and putting them in different conditions. We also learnt that the windowsill in Amethyst classroom receives far less sunlight than in Diamond class! You may have seen the sweet pea flowers in the fence box, carefully nurtured by Mrs Gillam! After half term we revised some of the learning from previous science topics this year, testing different materials to find which would make the best eco-friendly plant pot. We decided to make our plant pots from newspaper and these have been sent home after planting a sunflower seed. We would love to know if anyone manages to grow their sunflower over the summer!

We have had great fun in Art this term, exploring colour and texture, where we have used different tools to recreate a variety of textures. We spent time experimenting with various tools and mixing colours to see what we liked best. We then used everything we had learnt to create some fantastic collages – we were really proud of our final creations!

We have also explored clay, learning to roll, flatten and smooth our clay, and developed our understanding of the scoring and slipping technique. We have absolutely loved making pinch pots and house tiles – we especially loved finishing off our tiles by painting them in bright, vibrant colours!



School View



Year 2

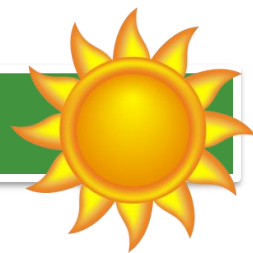
We have thoroughly enjoyed our computing lessons this year. This term we developed our skills in coding and it was great to see how well we had retained the learning from Year 1. We used the programme Scratch Junior and learnt how to use code to create a variety of different projects, culminating in making a quiz. The children were able to use code to start the programme in different ways, change the background, use speech and move their sprite in different directions as well as shrink and grow or disappear. Their final projects were very impressive, with great creativity and the children loved trying out each others!

Linking to our history lessons, we had an amazing trip to the Tower of London to find out more about castles and the British monarchs. We visited the White Tower and also saw the cloak, sceptre, orb and crown that King Charles III wore for his coronation ceremony. We all loved seeing the crown jewels – this was definitely the highlight of the trip for most! Whilst we were there, we all took part in knight training, passing with flying colours and were then all knighted by Sir Nicholas. We also loved seeing the ravens flying around the Tower!



During this busy term we have also had a great time with transition week, sports day, our sponsored walk and visiting the junior school for their mini-enterprise. Finally, we finished off with an amazing leaver's assembly, where we all shone brightly together and showed just how ready we are for Year 3. We were so proud of you all!

School View



Year 3

As we come to the end of another great term, we wanted to share some of the wonderful things that the children have done throughout the summer term.

Creativity has certainly been in full swing! Using recycled cardboard, the children designed and built impressive castles, demonstrating excellent teamwork, problem-solving skills and imaginative thinking. Each castle was unique and it was great to see their ideas come to life. In music, we have been learning to play the glockenspiels; Mrs English is often heard saying, "Beaters in the air!". The children have really enjoyed developing their creative sides.

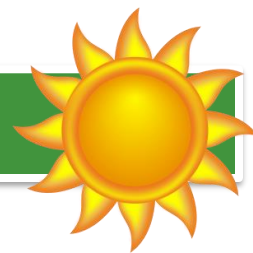


In Literacy, inspired by *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, the children wrote their own chapter for Edward's adventures. Their writing was full of creativity and imaginative ideas. For the last few weeks, we have been exploring poetry in *Marshmallow Clouds*, which is all about the world around us. The children explored personification in poetry. They chose an item from around the school grounds and brought it to life by giving everyday objects their own voices, thoughts and feelings. Their poems were thoughtful, descriptive and it was lovely to hear them sharing them with the class.

We had a fascinating visit to Milton's Cottage, where the children stepped back in time to learn about the life and work of the famous poet, John Milton. They explored the historic house, asked thoughtful questions and discovered what life was like hundreds of years ago.

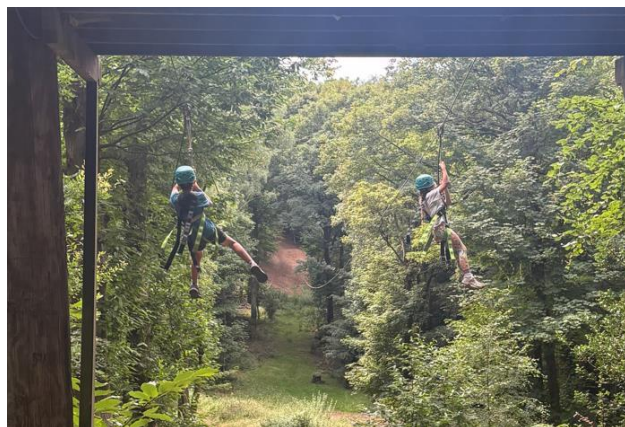


School View



Year 3

We were also lucky enough to spend a glorious day at PACCAR Scout Camp. Blessed with beautiful sunshine, and luckily lots of shade, the children enjoyed a day filled with outdoor activities, teamwork and adventure. Their enthusiasm, resilience and excellent behaviour made it a day to remember.



Our annual Sports Day was another highlight of the term. The children showed fantastic determination, sportsmanship and encouragement towards one another throughout the events. They took part in running races and were challenged by a team effort with a hoop!

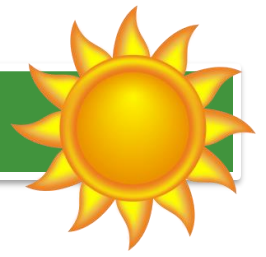


'Peace out Year 3'

Year Three also had the opportunity to watch the Year Two Leavers' Assembly; it was great to see the soon to be Year Three children in fine form. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a gymnastics taster session, where they developed their balance, coordination and confidence while learning new skills.

It has been a busy and rewarding few weeks and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. We hope you all have a wonderful, restful summer break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for the exciting adventures of Year Four.

School View



Year 4

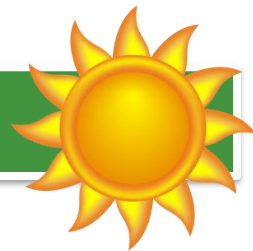
Year 4 have had a fantastic summer term, packed with exciting learning experiences, creative projects and memorable adventures. It has been wonderful to see everyone working hard, trying new things and growing in confidence throughout the term.

In English, we thoroughly enjoyed reading *When I Was a Rat*, which inspired lots of thoughtful discussions, creative writing and opportunities to explore the characters and themes in depth. Science lessons were full of fun and curiosity as we learnt all about the digestive system. One of the highlights was demonstrating how digestion works by squashing food through a pair of tights! It was certainly a messy but memorable way to understand the journey food takes through our bodies, and everyone enjoyed getting involved.

We really enjoyed welcoming our families to school on family day and reading with Reception children when they visited from the Infant School. Other highlights included sports day, the sponsored walk and the frisbee festival.



School View



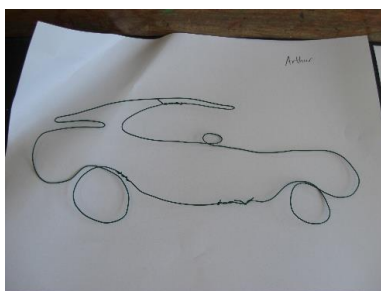
Year 4

In PE, to combat the heatwave, we played some team games that involved transporting water using pipes....it was trickier than it looked!

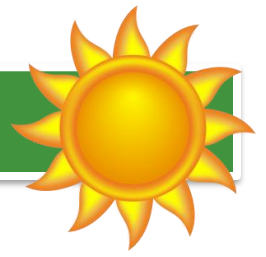


In Geography, we learnt about rivers, exploring their features, how they are formed and the important role they play in shaping our environment. In History, we travelled back in time to discover the fascinating world of the ancient Maya civilisation, learning about their achievements, daily life and lasting legacy.

Our creativity really shone in Art and Design Technology. We explored different materials and techniques by tasting and baking our own biscuits, carving soap into sculptures and creating both shadow and wire sculptures. It was fantastic to see everyone's imagination and perseverance on display.



School View



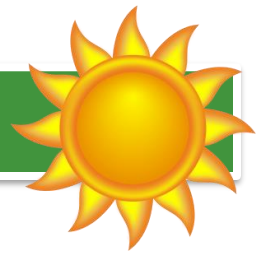
Year 4

One of the biggest highlights of the term was our trip to Woodrow. The children challenged themselves with a range of outdoor activities, worked brilliantly as teams and showed resilience, determination and encouragement towards one another. It was wonderful to see everyone stepping outside their comfort zones and celebrating each other's successes.



We are incredibly proud of everything Year 4 have achieved this term and throughout the year. They have approached every challenge with enthusiasm, curiosity and a positive attitude. We hope everyone has a wonderful, well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to hearing about all of their adventures in Year 5!

School View

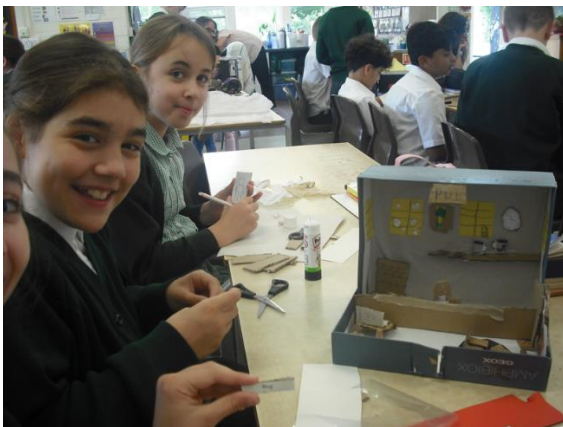


Year 5

As with all year groups, the summer term has been another busy one for Maple and Beech classes in Year 5. First of all, in English we thoroughly enjoyed reading *Clockwork*, the amazing short novel by Philip Pullman. We role-played scenes from the story, using our empathy skills, and also created dioramas of the setting of the story and its main characters.



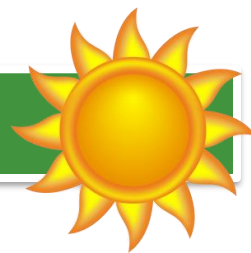
Recreating the scene at the tavern



Dioramas of the main characters at the tavern



School View

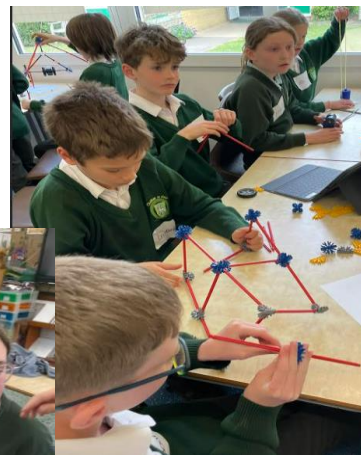
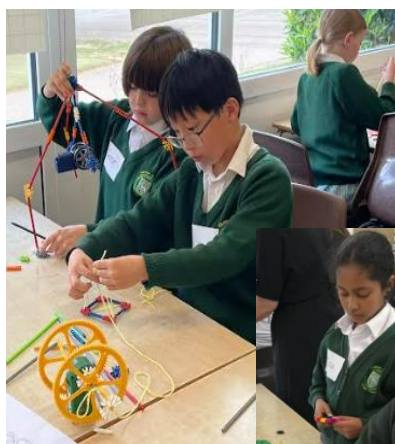


Year 5

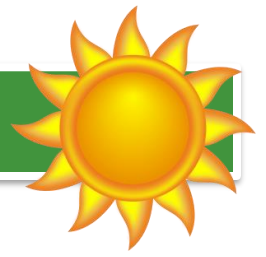
In Design and Technology, we made stuffed toys for a younger child. This involved choosing a suitable animal for our toy and then using a template to cut out the shape from two pieces of fabric. Then we learned how to stitch it together carefully and stuff it before closing it up and adding decorative stitching to finish it off. Voila!



In May, we were delighted to welcome St Mary's School Gerrards Cross as they launched their Year 5 STEM workshops, *The Mechanics of Lifting through Robotics*. The engaging, hands-on sessions brought STEM to life, with pupils working collaboratively to plan, design and build innovative solutions using LEGO® and K'NEX®. As they explored key mechanical principles through practical challenges, the children developed valuable skills including teamwork, resilience, creativity and problem-solving. The workshops were a fantastic opportunity to inspire curiosity, innovation and a real enthusiasm for STEM learning.



School View



Year 5

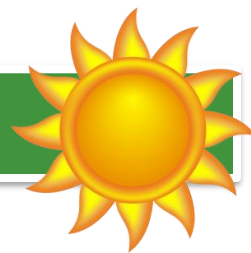
We also had a fantastic visit from Vache Baroque, who gave us a unique musical workshop on the History of Sound. We explored all the weird and wonderful sounds created in nature on planet Earth and found out just how important verbal and non-verbal sounds are to animals and humans.



Finally, a term wouldn't be complete without a chance to read with some of our children from the infants. This summer, we hosted the children at the Juniors' site and shared lots of lovely picture books.

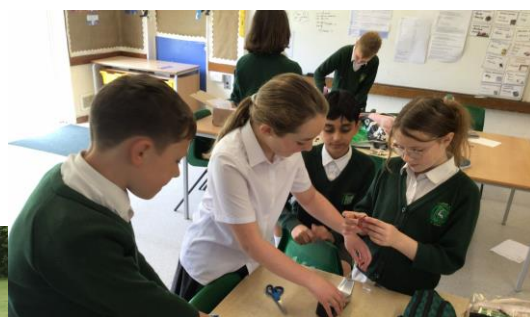


School View

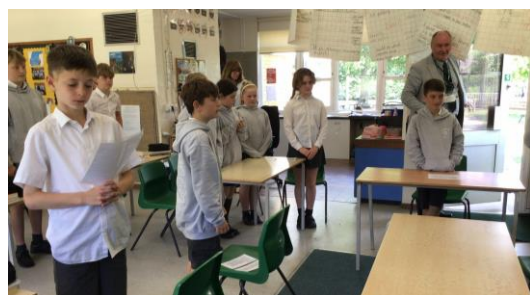


Year 6

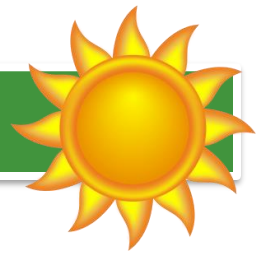
In the afternoons of SATS week, year six started their annual Mini Enterprise challenge. This process involves children designing, making and selling their own products to the rest of the school. The children developed their skills of team-work, resilience and working collaboratively. Some of the products this year included tennis ball pals, bracelets, keyrings, slap bands, and multiple fidget toys! It was brilliant to see the children challenging themselves beyond their comfort zones and working together to achieve a common goal. Overall the children raised nearly £450 with the winning group being Earth One, pipping the team in second place by two pence! The money raised was put towards the children's bouncy day, which was a wonderful fun event to celebrate the end of the year. The PTA also generously contributed to this day to enable the children to have a truly memorable experience.



We have been very lucky this term to have many parents and external visitors come in to talk to the children about their own careers. A special thank you to Mrs Lord, who spoke about critical care nursing, Mrs Arnold, who spoke about product development at Birdseye, Mrs Stevens who organised a team from GE healthcare to come in and talk to the children about their work in healthcare, and Mr Bradley-Barker, who ran a Money Minds workshop. In addition to these enriching talks, we once again hosted some local Magistrates to speak to the children about the law and how magistrates court operates. The children were very engaged in this, and were able to take part in a real-life courtroom scenario, which led to the correct punishment being given to our light-fingered criminal.



School View



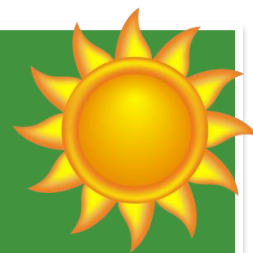
Year 6

In June, Year Six travelled to Liddington, Wiltshire, for three days of adventure and fun at PGL. It was a real pleasure to take the children away on this trip: they were consistently enthusiastic towards all activities we did and polite to PGL staff. Particular highlights included the Giant Swing, building shelters in 'Survivor' and an impromptu campfire sing-a-long lead entirely by year six, much to the delight of PGL staff. We were also able to show the first England match of the World Cup, the children running celebratory laps of the field will hopefully have created a core memory for them all. The trip was hilariously documented as ever, through the Blogging of the fantastic Mrs Starrs, which provided parents with a day by day account of the fun and frivolity.



Making the Vision Real

Tracking Pupil Progress



Looking at your child's recent report may have led to questions about how we reach the judgements that are given in each subject. This piece will focus on the core subjects and how we arrive at our assessments and the evidence that we collect to help us do that.

In Key Stages 1 and 2 for reading, writing and maths, we judge every child against one of four bands:

- Below - the child is not yet secure in the skills expected for their year group, and may need some targeted support to catch up.
- Low Expected - the child is making progress towards the year group's expectations and has secured some, but not yet all, of the key skills.
- Expected - the child has secured the full range of skills set out for their year group.
- Greater Depth - the child has not only secured those skills but can apply them independently, in more complex or unfamiliar contexts.

Some schools may only use three bands: working towards, working at the expected standard, and working at greater depth. We add a fourth - Low Expected - because 'working towards' and 'expected' on their own can hide a lot of ground. A child who has secured two-thirds of the expected skills and a child who has secured almost none of them would both be labelled 'working towards' under the three-band system, even though they need very different support. Splitting that band lets teachers, and you, see genuine movement within a year rather than a child appearing stuck in the same category from September to July.

Each band is built from specific skills - not a general impression of how a child is doing. For example, in reading, moving from Low Expected to Expected in Year 4 might depend on whether a child can independently infer a character's feelings from their actions, rather than only from what they say. Moving from Expected to Greater Depth might depend on whether they can compare how two different authors create the same feeling in a reader, unprompted. Moving in Writing might hinge on punctuating direct speech correctly across a whole piece, or using varied conjunctions instead of just 'and'/'but'; and greater depth on deliberately varying sentence structure for effect (e.g. a short sentence for tension), unprompted. In Maths the key skill is around applying a taught written method (e.g. column subtraction) accurately across varied problems, not just from a worked example.

Teachers gather evidence for these skills continuously through the objectives we teach. This is through lessons, independent work and targeted questioning rather than through a single test on a single day. An objective is only awarded once a skill has been shown consistently, not as a one-off. Because these are professional judgements rather than test scores, the key is knowing that two teachers are judging the same skill the same way. This is done through moderation, continued professional development and clear plans and schemes of work and progression so each teacher is clear about the steps needed for children to achieve a given objective.

The band you see on an annual report is a judgement of the secure, evidenced skills at that point in the year and is certainly not a ceiling and not a permanent label. Children may be judged at one level in the autumn and move by the summer once the remaining skills are secured. If you're ever unsure what's behind a particular judgement for your child, your child's teacher can tell you exactly which skills are already secure and which ones we're working on next - that's the same evidence the band itself is built from.

I plan on delivering more detailed information for parents in the autumn term to explain this further and give more details about how this works - looking at children's work and the judgements we have to make as well.

Alastair Haywood