

HEAD OF SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



End of Spring Term 2026

As we come to the end of the spring term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, purposeful and rewarding few months. Although this is only my second term at Bidwell Brook School, I feel fully settled into the role and incredibly proud to be part of such a dedicated and vibrant community. Thank you for the warm welcome you have continued to extend.

Highlights

Celebrating our Community

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Open Classrooms and our End of Spring Term Celebrations. It was truly heart-warming to see so many of you come together to celebrate the incredible learning and progress of our children. Your presence and enthusiasm make such a difference, and it reminds us how strong and connected our community is.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

This term has been full of rich experiences that have helped our students grow in confidence, independence, and curiosity.

- Our trip to *The Box* in Plymouth was a great success. Students had the chance to film themselves reading the news – an activity that encouraged communication, creativity and a lot of laughter.
- Careers Week was another highlight. Our Futures & Careers Fair was very well attended, and we hope families found it informative and inspiring. Students took part in interview workshops and even completed mock interviews with myself and Megan, our HR Assistant. Their confidence and professionalism made us incredibly proud.
- KS2 students continued to enjoy swimming sessions at the local pool, while others took part in tennis and climbing. These activities help build physical skills, resilience, and teamwork.
- Our community links remain strong, with students taking part in shopping trips, litter picking, and work experience opportunities. These real-world experiences are invaluable in preparing them for life beyond school.

Highlights

Teaching, Learning and Independence

Across the school, teaching and learning continue to strengthen. Staff are working hard to provide our students with the knowledge and skills they need for their next steps. Travel training, library visits and activities that promote a love of books and reading have been central to this term. World Book Day was a joyful celebration - full of creativity, colour and some truly fantastic costumes.

And of course, back by popular demand, our Easter Chicken (also known as Nigel!) led another brilliant Easter Egg Hunt. It brought smiles to every corner of the school.

Celebrating Achievement

Our weekly assemblies continue to shine a spotlight on student achievements. Whether big or small, every success matters, and it is a privilege to celebrate them together.

A special mention must go to our Year 11 students who represented the school so beautifully during their Calvert Trust residential. Their independence, teamwork, and spirit were outstanding.

Our Student Council has also been active, sharing ideas and helping shape school life in meaningful ways. Their voice is an important part of our community, and we are proud of the leadership they show.

A note on our recent Ofsted Visit

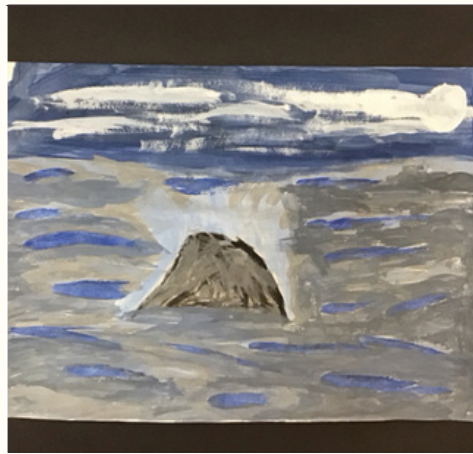
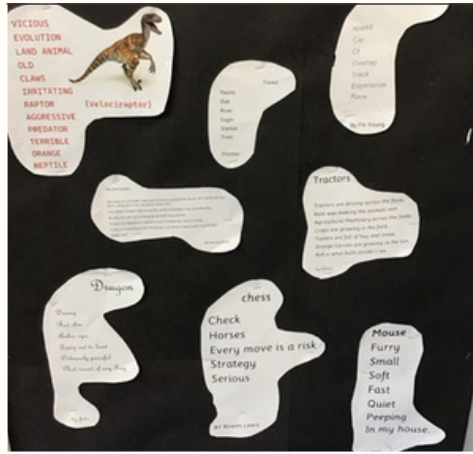
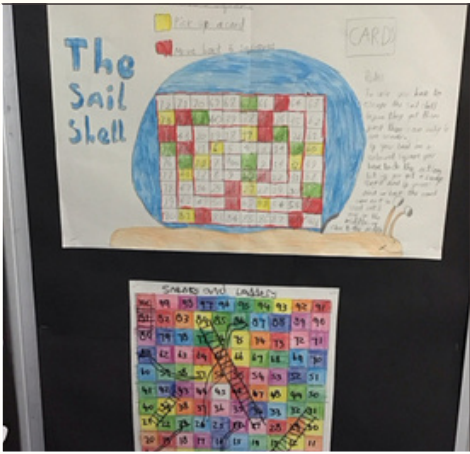
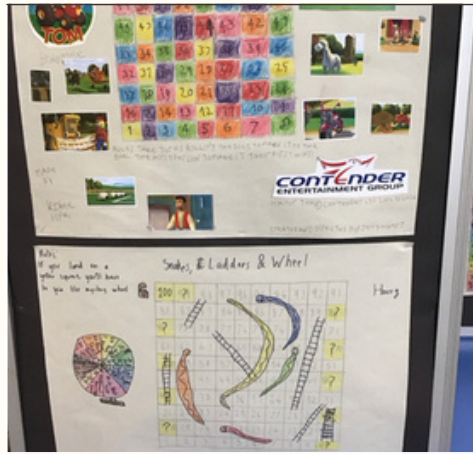
And last but certainly not least, we were visited by His Majesty's Ofsted Inspectors last week. Although I am not yet in a position to share the official outcomes with you - as the report has not been published - I can say that we are all delighted with the feedback we received.

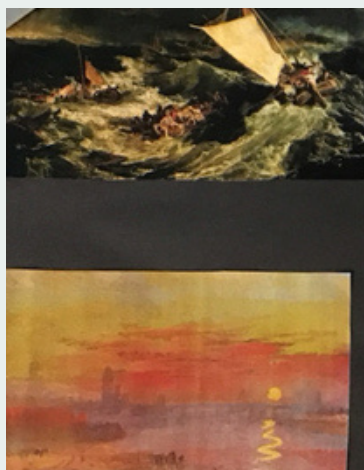
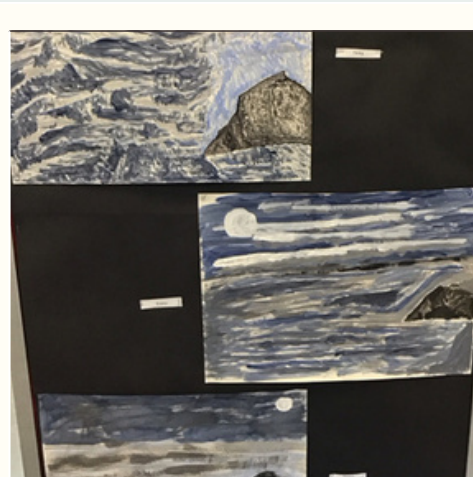
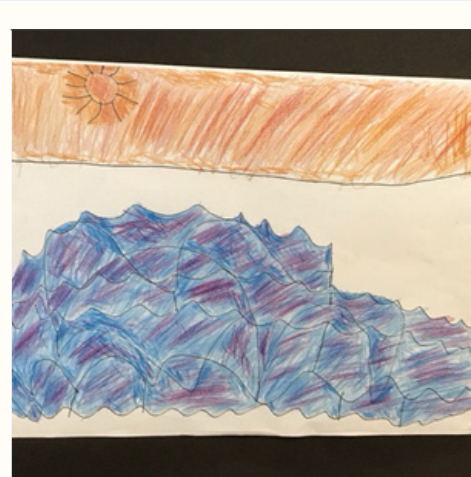
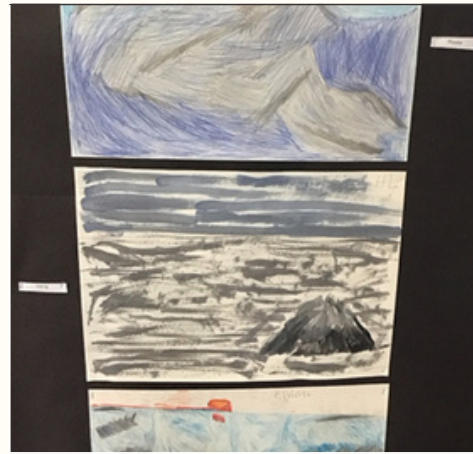
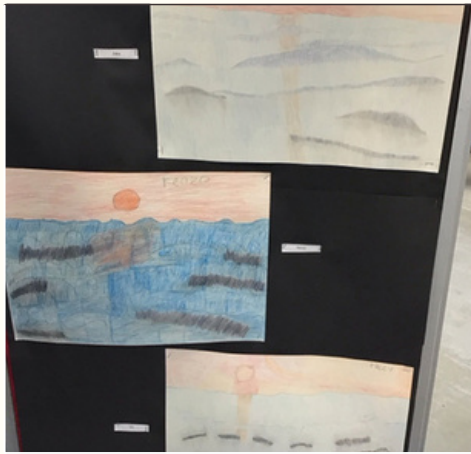
The inspectors highlighted our relational practice, the "*phenomenal relationships*" we have with our young learners, and our strong ambitions for them. Most importantly, our students shone. Their confidence, joy, and pride in their school were clear to see, and they made every one of us incredibly proud.

Thank you also for taking the time to respond to the Ofsted survey. Your voice matters, and your support means so much to us. From all of us here at Bidwell Brook, thank you for being such a supportive and engaged school community.

As we head into the break, I want to thank you once again for your ongoing support. It is a privilege to lead this school, and I am excited for all that lies ahead. I hope you all enjoy a restful, happy, and safe holiday.

Monika



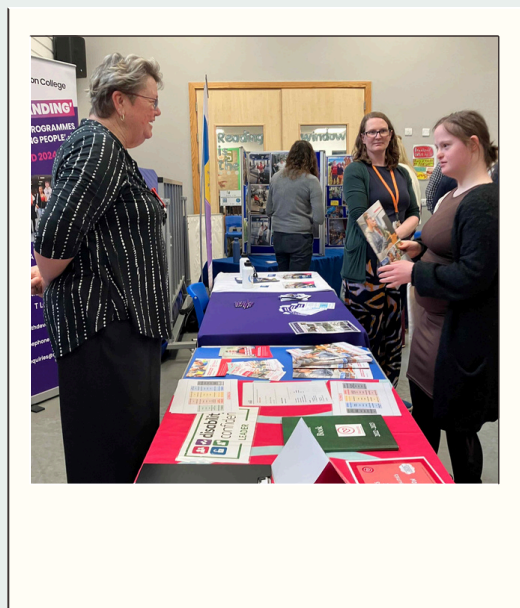


overwhelming force of the elements against the "littleness" of man.

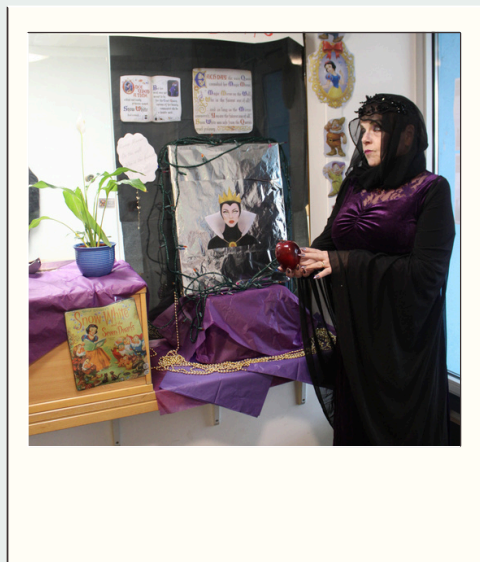
- Dramatic Realism & Chaos:** The composition is deliberately chaotic and asymmetrical, featuring churning water and broken masts to create a vivid, traumatic, and highly emotional experience of a maritime disaster.
- Dramatic Lighting and Color:** The painting uses dark, muted tones (characteristic of Turner's early work) as a dramatic contrast to white, foaming waves and shimmering light on a centra doomed sail.
- Expressive Brushwork:** Turner utilizes visible, rapid brushstrokes to convey the energetic, tumultuous motion of the storm.
- Influence of Dutch Maritime Art:** Turner absorbed the tradition of 17th-century Dutch maritime painters, such as Willem van de Velde the Younger, applying their focus on realistic texture to his own dramatic Romantic vision.

The Scarlet Sunset II, 1830-1840 by J.M.W. Turner is a quintessential example of British Romanticism

- Romantic Landscape:** Turner prioritizes emotional atmosphere and the sublime power of nature over a realistic depiction of a scene.
- Expressive Color and Light:** The artwork is dominated by fiery red, scarlet, and yellow washes to represent the intense light of a sunset.
- Pre-Impressionist/Abstracted Techniques:** The technique is fluid and loose, with the painted sky often appearing to melt into the landscape, a precursor to impressionism.
- Atmospheric Focus:** The scene is characterized by a "fuzzy" or hazy appearance, concentrating on the reflection of light rather than the precise details of the buildings or landscape.









HAPPY 
Easter

See you back at school on
Tuesday 21st April 2026