

NEPTUNE NEWSLETTER

January 2026



Headteacher Updates

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our January newsletter. We have had a strong start to the term and are pleased to share some key updates.

The funds raised from our Christmas Fayre have been used to build class planters, created by our talented caretaker, Jamie. These will support our entry into the Phoenix Annual Garden Competition this year, more info will follow.

We are also delighted to welcome Ellen, our new SENDCo, to the team. Throughout January, pupils have explored Veganuary and taken part in learning linked to several significant international days, including the International Day of Education, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and International Lego Day.

In the coming weeks, we will be launching a new reading initiative, Reading for Pleasure, and further information will be shared shortly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Julie Norris

Safeguarding Team

Julie Norris – Headteacher / DSL 0330 135 8202
Jamie Wright – Deputy Head / DDSL 0330 135 8202

Darren Jackson :07587747868
Operations Manager (Senior Education Designated
Safeguarding Lead)

Key Dates

Feb

2

Parent/Carer evening

Feb

4

Parent/Carer evening

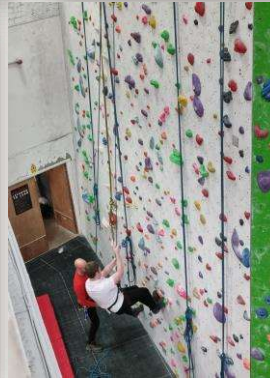
Feb

13

Last day of term

SPOTTED IN NEPTUNE

Pupil's Gallery





Sophie Megan Sarah

THERAPIES TEAM

Therapies Team Update – Focus on Vocabulary Development

This month, our Therapies Team is shining a spotlight on vocabulary development. Learning new words isn't just something children do in school—it's a lifelong skill that helps all of us understand others, express our thoughts clearly, read confidently, and navigate everyday life. Even as adults, we constantly come across new vocabulary, whether we're following a recipe, reading an official letter, completing forms, or learning something new. Because of this, helping children develop effective ways to learn and remember new words is incredibly valuable.

How You Can Support Vocabulary Learning at Home

When your child comes across a new word—whether in a book, from TV, or in conversation—you can help them make sense of it by exploring the word in lots of different ways. The more connections the brain makes with a word, the easier it becomes to remember and use it.

Here are some helpful strategies:

Explore the word from different angles

You can guide your child to think about:

Syllables – How many beats does the word have? (e.g., “elephant” has three beats: e-le-phat)

Meaning – What does the word mean in their own words?

Use – What would you do with this word? When might you hear or use it?

Connections – What does the word make you think of? Do you know other words that are similar?

Category – What “group” does the word belong to?

Opposites / Similar words – Does it have an opposite or synonyms?

Try making a Word Map

A **word map** is a simple but powerful tool. Put the new word in the middle of a sheet of paper and add doodles, questions, or mini-notes around it. You might include:

A picture

The syllables

A child-friendly definition

Examples of the word in a sentence

Words that mean the same or opposite

Things the word makes them think of

This helps children make lots of strong links in their brain, making the word easier to remember and retrieve later.



Fun Games to Build Vocabulary

Here are some enjoyable ways to sneak vocabulary practice into everyday life:

1. “What’s the Word?”

Give clues about a word and see if they can guess it.

Example: “It’s an animal. It lives in the ocean. It has tentacles.”

2. Syllable Clap

Say a word and clap out the syllables together. Make it a challenge to find words with the most or fewest beats.

3. Odd One Out

Say three words—two go together, one doesn't. Ask your child to explain why.

Example: “Car, bus, banana – which one is the odd one out?”

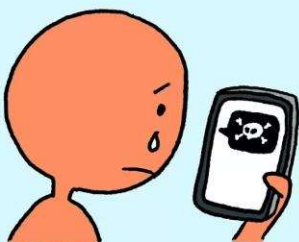
If you'd like more guidance or ideas for supporting your child's language skills at home, please get in touch with our Therapies Team—we're always happy to help!

SOCIAL MEDIA!

How to make **SOCIAL MEDIA** **SAFER** AND **KINDER**

Social media can be a great way to connect with your friends, but it can also be a cruel and dangerous world. Here's how you can make it a better place for yourself and others.

Don't say anything that you wouldn't say to the other person's face. Insults hurt online too.



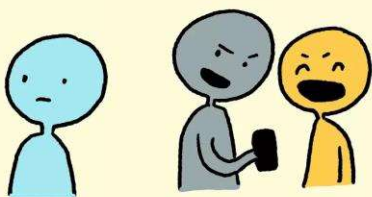
Don't post things you'd be embarrassed about if everyone could see them. Secrets are never safe online.



Remember that everything you post online could stay there forever, even if you delete it.



Don't talk behind other people's backs or make fun of them online.



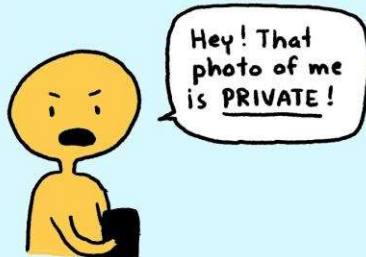
Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.



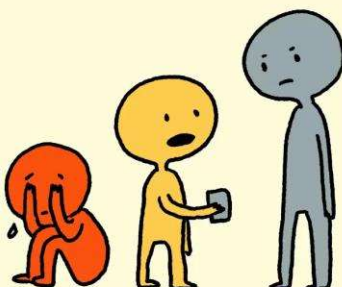
Don't share personal information online, and never give anyone your password.



Don't post other people's pics or tag them without their permission.



If a friend is in trouble online, talk to an adult.

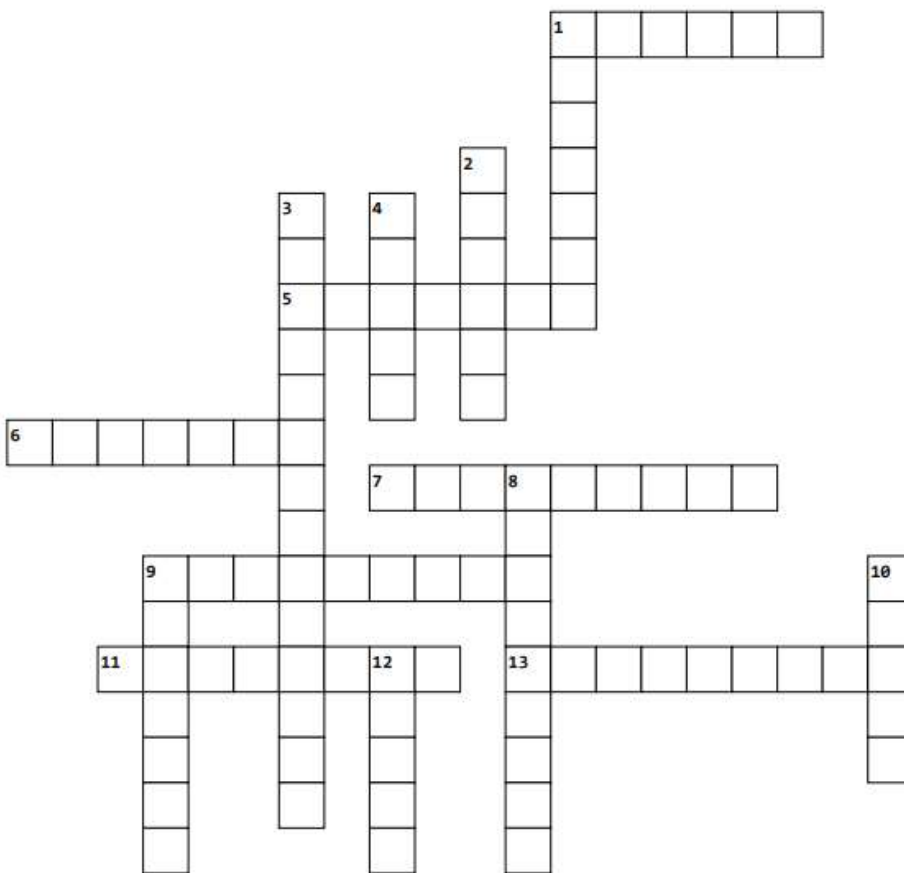


Report hateful, violent or inappropriate posts and comments.



ALFIE'S QUIZZES

Newsletter Crossword: Term 3



Across

- 1. Bread or butter (6)
- 5. Coward? (7)
- 6. Veg coloured like traffic lights (7)
- 7. Pizzeria staple (9)
- 9. On the cob (9)
- 11. Umami caps (8)
- 13. Playground game also known as "Sardines" (9)

Down

- 1. Pickled pickle (7)
- 2. Arugula (6)
- 3. Pizza for leadership! (2,5,2,5)
- 4. Green or black (5)
- 8. Iconic controversy-starter (9)
- 9. Small dog variety (7)
- 10. Slab I (anagram) (5)
- 12. Like ogres, have layers (5)



2025-2026

Neptune School

Key
School Holidays
Inset Days
Bank Holidays

September '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						