

# STAPLES ROAD PRIMARY

October 2025



## *October at Staples Road School*

October has been a vibrant month of learning and fun at Staples Road! To celebrate Black History Month, our pupils have been thoroughly engaged in discovering and learning about influential black people who have significantly shaped our world. We also had a fantastic time learning about the wonderful festival of Diwali in our assemblies and in the classrooms. And to deepen their understanding of Christianity in RE, Year 4 had a visit from Reverend Malcolm from St. Mary's Church who answered the children's thoughtful questions. Additionally, we enjoyed some fun events organised by SRS PA including the recent discos and our popular pumpkin competition which was held today.

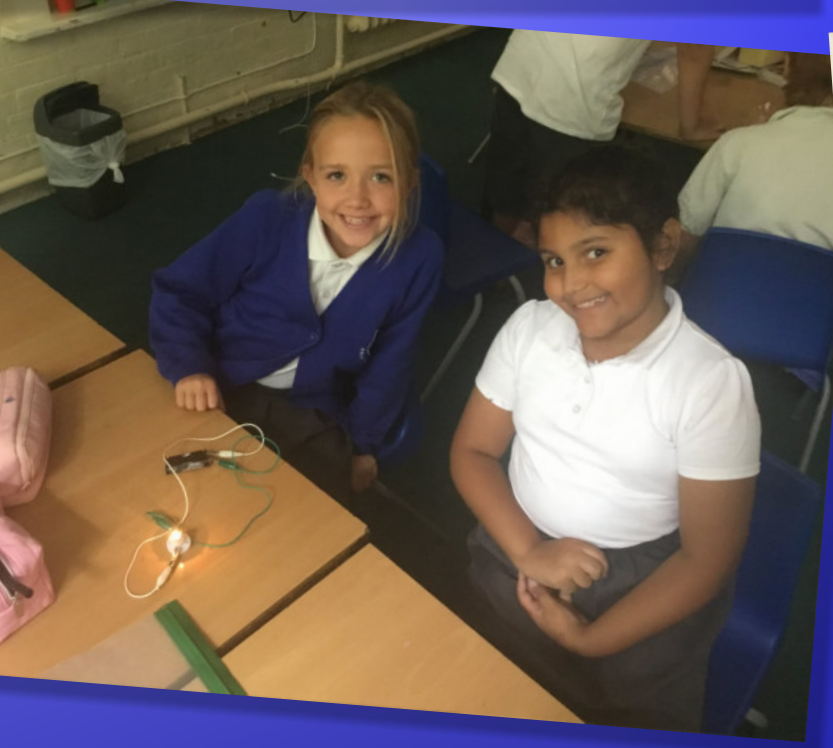
In our lessons, many of our classes have embraced the outdoors to support their learning this month. Reception have been looking for signs of autumn and enjoyed collecting leaves in the forest. Year 1 also visited the forest to create lovely autumn artwork including animal designs. Year 5 used nature as inspiration for their writing, creating Andy Goldsworthy-style sculptures after a forest walk to motivate their adventure stories. We have also been busy in Science this month. In Year 1, children carried out an investigation to find out what would happen if the gingerbread man swam in the river just like in his story. They found out that the biscuit got all soggy and fell apart! Year 2 got hands-on as part of their healthy living unit: choosing, chopping, and blending their own ingredients to make delicious smoothies. In Year 3, the children have been learning about natural disasters as part of their Extreme Earth topic, creating interesting models at home. Year 4 have also been busy scientists, constructing electrical circuits and exploring the forest when building bug hotels. Finally, Year 6 conducted a science investigation to test if salt dough is a conductor, discovering that it indeed allows electricity to pass through even though it is not shiny!!

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



EYFS and KS1

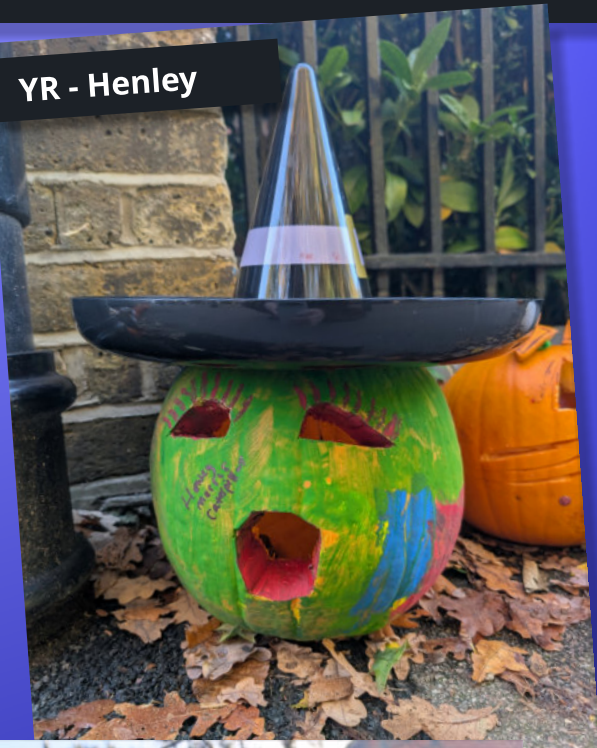






# PUMPKIN WINNERS

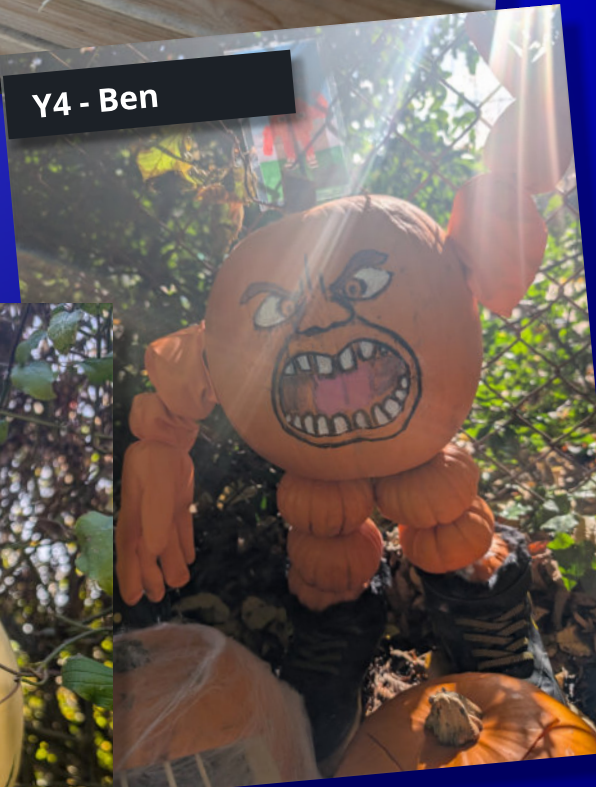
YR - Henley



Y1 - Iris



Y4 - Ben



Y2 - Darcy



Y3 - Vivian



Y5 - Rocco



Y6 - Everly



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

## SPREADING MISINFORMATION



While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

## EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

## MASKED MESSAGES



Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

## HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

## PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS



Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

### MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES



Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

### TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY



Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

### FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE



Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



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