

Quality

Respect

Love

Happiness

Equality



Madley Primary School Newsletter

‘Be the best you can be’



Newsletter May 2026



Headteacher’s Awards

Every fortnight during Monday morning assembly we celebrate children who have received a Headteacher’s Awards. We then share with parents in the next Headteacher Update on ParentMail.

Positive Playtime Award

This is a national award recognising our whole school commitment to breaktimes and play.

Social interaction and playing together is a vital aspect of child development, especially with competition from screens. Our children have a very broad range of play opportunities (sometimes too many) and incidents of poor behaviour are extremely rare.

The award aligns with our values based approach to everything. We will also host some visits from other schools to demonstrate what we do.

The Positive Playtime Award

Awarded: 2026-2029



www.positive-playtimes.com

Contact us or stay in touch by:



Telephone: 01981 250241

Email: admin@madley.hereford.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.madleyprimaryschool.co.uk/>

X: <https://twitter.com/madleyprimarysch>

May Values
Inspiration and Care

June Values
Empathy and Humility

KEY DIARY DATES

Check ParentMail messages for other important dates

MAY

Fri 22-Fri 29 Half Term

JUN

Mon 01 INSET

Tue 02 INSET

Wed 03 Y4 Science Festival

Thu 4 Luctonians Tag Fest

Fri 05 Y3 Science Festival

Fri 12 Y6 County Show—Malvern

Mon 15 Girls Cricket—Hereford Cricket Centre

Thu 18 Mixed Cricket Fest

Tue 23 Mixed Cricket Fest

Wed 24 Sports Day

Mon 29 Chess Tournament at St Pauls

RECEPTION



In Reception the children have sustained an interest in the story *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis, and they have been using various sized cardboard boxes as 'large loose parts', an aspect of the Reggio Emilia approach, to inspire their play. The children have used the fabrics, hats and bags in the outdoor classroom to enhance this play and we have observed them role-playing scenarios learned from our curriculum visit to the *Hereford Ambulance Station* and visit from a local veterinary team at *Belmont Farm and Equine Vets Ltd*.

Inside the classroom the children have been using 'small loose parts' in the

form of different natural materials to create a city with variety of key features such as houses, a swimming pool, restaurants and a park. The children have been working collaboratively to develop their ideas and keep things going from day-to-day.



RECEPTION Cont...



The children in Reception have also been enjoying wood-working sessions with Miss Teague and have practised skills including hammering, weaving and whittling. With Mrs Khan the children have been learning to sew after Miss Thomas shared an old bookmark she had made as a child showcasing a variety of different practise stitches.



The children have enjoyed experimenting with charcoals for the first time and mark making in their Art Journals, and they were particularly delighted by the effects charcoal had on their hands! We have since started to look at how we can use handprints and footprints with colourful paints to create a large-scale collaborative art piece with the intention of creating a garden full of flowers. We look forward to sharing our progress.

Thank you to all our recent visits and visitors who have helped us with our theme this half term, 'Help is at Hand'. We couldn't have done it without you! We anticipate wrapping up this project with a visit to *Peterchurch Fire Station* and a visit from our local *Police Officer* this week.

Well done, Reception. What an engaging half term you have had.





YEAR ONE

Cake Sale

Firstly, a big thank you to parents and carers for your support in helping us set up the cake sale with a hugely generous amount of cakes. This allowed us to sell them in school time and continue the sale after school too. We really appreciate the effort that you went to in supporting us which has resulted in us being able to choose two animals to support with the final total coming in at £137.96! The children were allowed two votes for their favourite animals from the selection on the WWF website. Before we voted, we used maps and atlases to find out where abouts in the world these animals are living and this helped us to think about why they might be in danger. The children were very interested in how the money supports the animals and we talked about how we are supporting to keep them in the wild. We also thought about the climate and habitat they are living in and how this could be affecting them too. After everyone casting their two votes, it resulted in a very tense counting process which ended in a tie break. We asked the

different adults who work with us for their casting votes to help us come to a conclusion but we can now announce that our chosen animals are... a snow leopard and a rhino! We will keep you updated when we have more news!

Our cake sale linked really well with our learning in Maths as we have been looking at money. We have started to understand the value of coins and creating different totals by adding coins together. They enjoyed being the 'shop keepers' taking the money to sell their cakes but I'm not sure they were very good at giving change so apologies to anyone who didn't receive any - something for us to work on!





YEAR ONE CONT...

Village walk

This term we have been learning about Madley Village and the local area. We took a walk around the village and identified physical and human features. We compared some different buildings, such as the Church and The Village Hall, and thought about how they have changed over the time and how they were built. Whilst on our journey around the village, the children worked in pairs to create maps. We focused on adding labels to help us identify what we had seen whilst on our journey. The children showed great care and it was lovely to listen to their conversations on our journey around the village.

When we returned to school, we used Google Maps to look at the route we had taken and if the maps we had created looked similar.

MESC

The children had a brilliant visit to Madley Environmental Centre last week. The children listened carefully to the instructions from Louise to help to keep safe by the pond and also to find the most creatures. We worked in teams looking carefully at the creatures that we had found. We used



identification sheets to help us to work out which creatures we had found and also compare them too.



On Monday, we reflected on our visit and used our knowledge to create instructions to explain to someone else how to complete a pond dipping activity successfully.

YEAR ONE CONT...



Looking at the history of Madley and Herefordshire

A huge thank you to George's Mum and Grandad for joining us this week to share a huge wealth of knowledge about our local area. The children had the opportunity to look through old black and white photos and maps. We thought about why the local area might have changed over the years and Mrs Hobby shared photos of how the roads have had to change due to more transport, we thought about the introduction of electricity, train lines being removed and also the development of housing. All of these have played a significant factor to how the landscape has changed. The children were able to see comparative photos and maps and had lots of questions. We then spent time looking through old books and seeing if our houses are on the maps. The children show huge enthusiasm and interest, thank you for your time Mrs Hobby!



Dance

We have been lucky enough to have Emily joining us this term for dance sessions. The children have enjoyed finding ways to link movements together to create short commercial dance sequence. It has been lovely to see the focus and respect that they show Emily and they are excited for her sessions. They have



had the opportunity to explore moving in different ways whilst using the ribbons developing co-ordination and agility skills. They will continue with their sessions after half term with the aim of showcasing their routine with you in the final term.



Reggio at Madley

Madley Primary School has had a long history of being 'Reggio Inspired' and so it was wonderful to see the Reggio Emilia approach to learning featured so much in the news recently with Catherine, Princess of Wales' visit to the city of Reggio Emilia and the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy.

At Madley, we strive to honour 'The Hundred Languages of Children' written by Loris Malaguzzi. We use the indoor and outdoor learning environment, our beautiful county of Herefordshire, and beyond, as the third teacher, to inspire the children and give them real experiences that honour their interests and celebrate their unique selves. In the Early Years classrooms, we aim to provide an environment that feels homely and uses nature



and real-life resources to stimulate their learning experiences. We also believe that art and technology, in all its forms, supports inquiry and can be used as a response to various provocations such as a flower, a bird's nest, animal bones, everyday objects, food and recycled materials. Children are encouraged to discover the world around them and develop a sense of awe and wonder which is supported by teachers through questioning and finding out together. Learning is documented through photographs, and each child has their own personal *Learning Journey* which is continued as they move up through the school.





Reggio at Madley Cont...

Educational settings outside of Reggio Emilia can never fully be 'Reggio' schools because the philosophy of 'Reggio Children' is that it is unique to that place and those people. Hence, educators who believe in and follow this approach can only ever be 'Reggio Inspired'.

Here, Miss Thomas, Reception class teacher, who has worked at several 'Reggio Inspired' international schools around the world before coming to Madley, has included some of her own photos taken on a study week at the *Loris Malaguzzi International Centre*, in April 2023, showing many of the places Catherine, Princess of Wales visited herself this May.





RNC Blind visit

The Royal National College for the Blind (RNC) is a co-educational specialist residential college of further education and students who attend the college are aged 16 to 25 and blind or partially sighted. The college is situated in Venns Lane, Hereford and Madley Primary School has a long history of working with the team and students there.

Previously we have offered opportunities to students interested in careers in early years and Madley children worked with the RNC sound department and recording studios. We have also engaged in joint sports activities. The RNC football team visited Madley and taught us how to participate in the sport of blind football. Relying entirely on spatial awareness, communication, and the sound of an audible ball makes this a really challenging sport and we were delighted to play against their superb team at their Venns Lane pitch. The experience was truly inspirational for both the children and adults taking part and the children were keen to continue playing the sport at school.

Throughout the year we offer work experience opportunities for students and adults interested in a career in education. We recently invited a group of students from the RNC to join us at school. One of the RNC students had worked here on work experience for a week earlier this year. The students and tutors had a full tour of the school and forest school and were very complimentary about our school, education and the experiences and opportunities the children have.

This is one example of the many connections the school has with other educational settings and businesses and is a very important part of life at Madley Primary School.



MUSIC

March was a musical month at Madley. Year R took part in 'big sing little voices' held in Withington Village Hall. The children from 5 different schools had all been practicing the same 6 songs based on a fairy tale theme. The children all dressed up as fairytale characters and sang together. The event was organised by Encore music services.

As part of their music learning year 5 have been understanding Musical Theatre. The Hereford 'Gilbert and Sullivan Society' perform at the Courtyard in Hereford each year and Year 5 were introduced to the operetta 'Princess Ida'. The musical director and other performers came to school to give a workshop of singing and dancing from the show 2 weeks before. Year 5 then went to The Courtyard to watch the matinee performance. Shortly followed by another Musical Theatre workshop of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' given by Jack Ludwig of Ludwig Theatre Arts as a contrast in Musical Theatre style. So much dancing, singing and fun to be had by all.



iRock is now in school and a really good number of children are signed up. We now have 4 bands with children of varying ages from year R to year 6 learning electric guitar, drums, keyboard and vocals. All total beginners enjoying their lessons and learning so many musical skills and playing together. They will get to perform with their rock band to the whole school and the end of the summer term.



YEAR 2

Class 2 Assembly

We recently invited parents to come to our 'sharing our learning' assembly. It was lovely to see so many parents engaging enthusiastically with the activities and following the leadership of the children. Inspired by the famous painting 'Starry Night' by van Gogh the children taught the parents how to make woven stars using a paper plate loom. They also enjoyed sketching owls and reading their owls information books with their parents as well as teaching them times tables games and some French!



YEAR 2 Cont...

Class 2 Visit

Hereford College Of Arts

We were lucky enough to take part in an immersive drama production 'Wonderland: When tick forgot to tock' at the college recently. We took along our own fish puppets that we had made beforehand at school to perform with, and were involved with the production at every step of the way. Such a great experience for the children!



Class 2 Music

We have been learning about musical notation, keeping to the beat, and counting rhythms in music with Mrs Blaker. We have loved playing the different percussion instruments and have shown great engagement and focus.

MASC

At our fabulous afterschool club, children have the opportunity to try lots of stimulating and exciting activities, or just take a little time to read or chill with their friends.

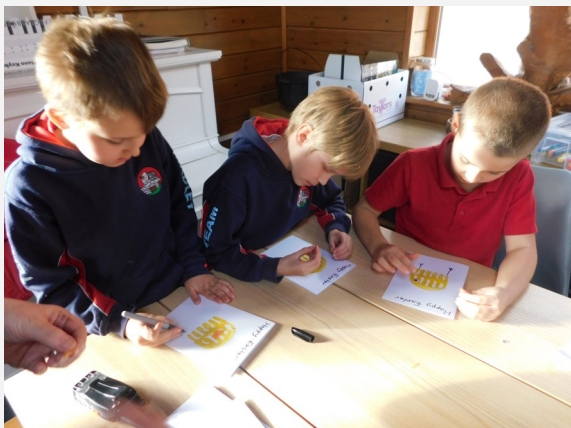
They are encouraged to take responsibility and be independent and enjoy helping the adults prepare food, set up the tables and clear away, just like they do at home!



Recently at Madley After School Club, we have been incredibly lucky to have two new members join our dedicated team: Janet, who has been supporting on a regular basis and Amelia, a former Madley Primary School pupil, who will be working with us every Monday. It is important for the children to have a wide range of staff members as each person brings different skills and ideas to our happy and nurturing environment.



At the beginning of this term, we have continued to develop links with the Eco team as we support them on their mission to achieve another Green Flag Award through introducing "Meat-Free Mondays". With this initiative, we will be encouraging the children to think about different meal ideas that we could introduce. We have already been enjoying fresh produce from the Comet's Meadow growing spaces and look forward to using any homegrown produce as they become available.



YEAR 3

It has been a very busy and exciting half term for Year 3!

We began with a Curriculum Visit to the Revealing Our Roots workshop at the Herefordshire History Store. As part of the research project, the children worked with Ben and an artist called Sarah. They were thrilled to see the real Herefordshire Viking Hoard and had the opportunity to design their own Viking armlet before creating it in clay. Sarah will transform these into metal armlets, which will later be returned to the children. Even more excitingly, three of the children's final designs will become part of the replica Herefordshire Hoard.

We also enjoyed our residential trip to Longtown, which you can read more about elsewhere in this newsletter, as well as tennis sessions at Madley Tennis Club and our class assembly workshops with parents.

In class, the children have been learning about the rainforest and the Maya civilisation as part of our theme work. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of column subtraction, while in Art we have been exploring different clay techniques. In PE, the children have also been working on their hockey skills through dribbling, passing and tackling activities.

In Science, the children have begun learning about animals, including humans. They have explored the importance of nutrition and started learning the names of different bones in the human body.

Alongside this, the children have taken part in many other exciting learning opportunities throughout the half term. We are incredibly proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, creativity and hard work.



Y3 and Y4 Longtown Residential Visit



At the beginning of May, Year 3 and 4 visited Longtown Outdoor Centre for their overnight residential adventure. During their stay, the children took part in a variety of exciting activities designed to encourage them to challenge themselves, work together, and develop their co-operation skills.

The activities included paddle boarding, climbing, low ropes, zipline, gorge walking, and orienteering. Throughout the visit, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm as they stepped outside their comfort zones and supported one another.

The staff at the centre were extremely impressed with the children's behaviour, manners, values, and positive attitudes throughout the trip. As always, the pupils represented Madley brilliantly and even left the site better than we found it — something we are very proud of.

Well done to all of Year 3 and 4 for making the residential such a memorable and successful experience!



Year 4



Last Thursday, Year 4 visited 'The Bunker' in Rotherwas, in order to support our learning about World War 2. Our focus has been on what it was like for children at home during the 'Blitz' and those that were evacuated out to the countryside. During our visit, we heard an air-raid siren being wound up and played, which was very loud! We learnt about the role of ARP wardens and what life would

have been like inside air-raid shelters through the night. Our hosts were impressed by the questions and curiosity shown by the children, who were keen to find out more. We also learnt about rationing and how you were only allowed small quantities of some foods from the local shops, such as 1 egg and 1 sausage per person per week. The children also had the chance to play some traditional games from the era, like blow football, bagatelle and shove ha'penny, noting how fun they were although not quite the same as their toys and video games they use today.



On our return to school, we have completed the children's own National Identity card with their own details in it. They also made their own gas mask box because we learnt that children had to carry both of these things around with them all the time, just in case they were needed. This week, the children have found out a little part of what this would have been like as they have had to carry their own around with them all day, even at breaktimes which they found quite annoying!

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Year 4 Cont...



This term we have also been learning and developing tennis skills at the local tennis courts at Madley tennis club, under the guidance of Will, a tennis coach. Over a series of weeks, the children have progressed from learning forehand, backhand and serves, to playing for points and holding rallies with an opponent. We learnt about the different lines on a tennis court and several skills to help practise some basic control of a

tennis ball. Alongside this, we have been learning how to play rounders whilst at school and the rules to go with the different disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding. Hopefully, we will have some good weather over the rest of summer so that we can play more sports outside on the school field.



YEAR 5



Linking to the study of Musical Theatre in Music, Year 5 started to think about the process involved in putting a show together. In Art, the children have been working in groups to create a 'set design' for 'a story'. Many chose the desert or the jungle. Their challenge was to think about how the backdrop/props would give context to drama. Many disciplines were used including painting, making, drawing, lighting, scale, perspective and thinking around problems of 'how' to make it work. The photos show some of those that are finished.



In addition to Art, we had a Musical Theatre workshop with Jack Ludwig, where we looked sang and performed parts of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. The children thought about stage directions and the best position to stand and project our voices. We learnt about audience etiquette when visiting the theatre too. It has all built on from our workshop

and visit to the Courtyard when watching Lady Ida.



Y5 cont...

Year 5 have been enjoying learning about Herefordshire. They have looked at maps both printed and online and used these to plan routes, identify where they are, where they live, and where other familiar places are. Their visit to Hereford showed them historical sites with some added ghost stories, which were enjoyed by all! I hope your visit to the city has included your children telling you about the facts they have learnt. As part of this, they also walked the River Wye and learnt about its history, its geography, and the pollution it now suffers from.

Year 5 have been working with Charlie, a coach from Luctonians, to become Sport Leaders. Each week they have sessions where they look at the skills needed by younger children and they have to plan, test out, deliver and evaluate different sporting or Multi skills activities. The progress the children have made with this is fantastic and they are really showing an awareness of themselves being role models. It has led to them working with children in Year 1 and Year 2 as well as leading parachute games for other children during breaktimes. They will continue building on their leadership skills this year and will use these again in Year 6.



Year 5 Music



Last year, Years 5 and 6 visited The Courtyard, Hereford for an all singing, all dancing, and live orchestral performance of *Ruddigore - The Witch's Curse* by Hereford Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

The performance gave the children the opportunity to listen to an operetta performance with a live orchestra, in fact we had front row seats so not only were we in front of the stage but many children could watch the orchestra and the conductor up close.

Year 5 took part in a workshop a couple of weeks ago in order to understand the plot better and year 6 were a returning audience having seen the performance

last year of *The Gondoliers*.

The children were a very good audience and the cast came out to see us as we were leaving!



YEAR 6

“Wars of the World”

As historians, Year 6 have been looking at the causes of war, focusing particularly on the events building up to the Second World War and some of the key events during the conflict. They also had the opportunity to find out about the heroic actions of Alex Dinnen, who served in the Royal Navy during the war and was stationed on HMS Bulolo during the D-Day Landings. John Dinnen kindly shared his father’s story and brought along some artefacts to show to the class. Over the next few weeks, the children will explore how the war ended and also think about some of the current conflicts around the world.



Forest School

Before Easter, Year 6 worked incredibly hard to finish building their “invertebrate installations” at the Forest School site using a range of tools and equipment. During the last few sessions, the children have been working in teams to create their own “tribes”. Together they have undertaken a variety of tasks: they have designed their tribal name and symbol, which they have wood-burnt onto a wooden disc; they have made lights from clay using a range of materials to burn; they have worked together on various team-building challenges; and set up their own camp with designated areas. The next challenge is for them to cook a meal as a tribe, which they have already started to plan.



YEAR 6 Cont...

Having fun with clay

One of the children's favourite activities in the last few weeks has been designing and making a gargoyle-inspired clay pinch pot with Mrs Prosser. The focus and care during the whole process has been wonderful to see and the children should all be very proud of their final pieces, which they will be taking home on Friday.



And finally...

A huge well done to all of Year 6 for the determination and positivity that they showed in the build-up to and the week of SATS. Breakfast in school helped to get each day started in the best possible way and the week was over before they even knew it had begun. Whilst we were unable to get to the park to celebrate on the last day, the children had a great time enjoying an afternoon tea in the classroom, followed by one of Miss Hirst's legendary games of Pass the Parcel.



What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos – providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

Universal, suitable for all ages	Parental Guidance required	Suitable for people aged 12 and over	Suitable for people aged 12 and over, with some content restricted to 16 and 18
Suitable for people aged 15 and over	Suitable for people aged 18 and over	Adult content only available in specially licensed cinemas and specialist retailers	

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to get in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft/Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info



Half Term Activities

at Madley Environmental Centre

Tues 26th & Wed 27th May

10am -12 midday

*Join us to find fantastic creatures in the pond and
make a fabulous flapping dragonfly!*



£11/child (adults free)

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Activities aimed at ages 3-12 years

[Buy your tickets at www.mesc.org.uk](http://www.mesc.org.uk)

**For more information email: contact@mesc.org.uk
or call 07587 595705.**

MESC, Stoney Street, Madley Herefordshire HR2 9NH
Charity reg. 1088379



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10AM TO 11.30AM



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£1 PER CHILD

THE JOHN MOORE MUSEUM

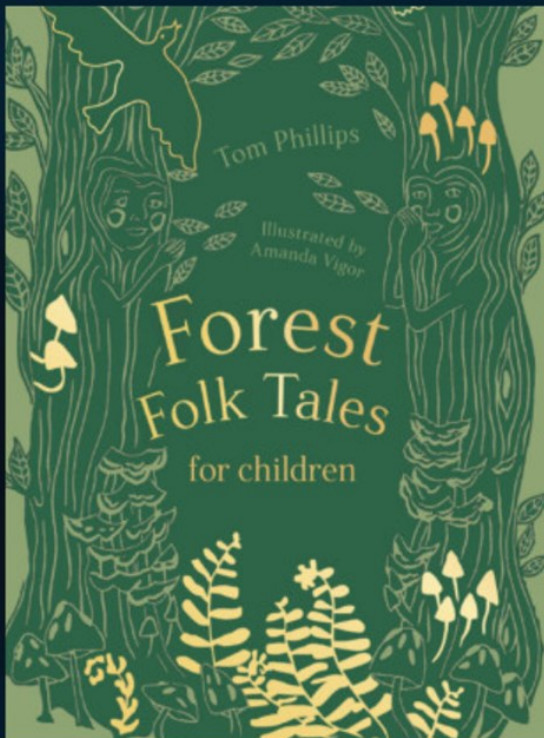
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TEWKESBURY HISTORY FESTIVAL

Thursday 18th - Sunday 21st June



**Storytelling: Forest
Folk Tales for
Children**

**Sunday 21st June at
11am**

**Children £8
Adults £2.50**

The Watson Hall

**One of twenty-one fabulous
speakers, including
Suzannah Lipscomb,
Alison Weir and lots more!**

