



Abbey Court **MATTERS**

Summer Term 5 2024 Issue 384 Circulation 1112



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS



**Partnership
Governor and
Vice Chair —
Jean Kerr**

I am writing this on a morning with blue skies and a temperature of 21 degrees! After what seems like months of rain, what a difference it made to wake up to summer coming. A little bit of sun helps us to look forward to new life and new growth, especially down on the school farm.

I am so looking forward to the farm open day on Saturday 22nd June. The last time I visited with my family was just before Christmas, when we huddled together in our winter coats for 'Carols on the Farm'. I still remember it being magical, especially when a hungry goat tried to nibble Reverend Sue's hair while she was singing.

The Summer open day will be a wonderful opportunity to see how the farm has developed, how much the animals and plants have grown, and to maybe meet some new members of the farm family.

As Vice Chair of the Governors, the development of Larkin Farm has been one of the highlights of the many years I have been involved in Abbey Court, but even that doesn't surpass the sheer joy I see in the eyes of our young people when they are working on the farm.

So will you be there on 22nd June? If you are, please say hi to me. I am usually the one trying to get Waffle the goat to behaveand failing miserably!

Jean Kerr

Living Land Event



A group of secondary pupils attended 'The Living Land Event' on Thursday 2nd May. We were able to promote Larkin Farm, our Young Farmers Club and our Outreach programme. We chose to showcase our Cayuga ducks, our Sussex and Brahma chickens, and our range of rabbits.

The students showed lots of school children the different wool our sheep produce, the eggs that our ducks and chickens lay, and a range of scented herbs too.

Our Young Farmers showed their knowledge and experience of handling the rabbits to confidently and safely get them out to show visitors. The students were also ensuring that the animals had plenty of food and water and were calm in their environment.

It was great to showcase our farm.



Larkin Farm

Open Day

Saturday 22nd June 2024 10am or 1pm session

Templars Drive, Strood, Kent, ME2 3FD

Click [here](#) to book,
or scan the QR code
to reserve your place



£5 per adult £6.50 per child
£25 for up to 2 adults and 3 children

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FAMILY FUN!

Flower & Vegetable Plants - Animal Adoption Boxes - Cakes -
Ice Cream Van - Rabbit & Guinea Pig Petting Corner -
Stories in the Hedgehog Hideout - Bug Hunt - Groom a Pony -
Walk the Pygmy Goats - Walk the Alpacas - Meet the Lambs -
Hook a Duck - Tombola - and much more!



Telephone: 01634 338 220



Email: office@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk



Abbey Court School
'We grow people'

Bowles Rocks Residential

In April, a very excited group of Key Stage 4 pupils went to Bowles Rocks in Tunbridge Wells, for an adventure based residential experience.

The pupils had a very busy schedule, including activities such as archery, pool kayaking, abseiling, orienteering and bush craft, as well as time around the camp fire roasting marshmallows and an impromptu disco!

The pupils gave everything their best efforts, and showed great confidence and persistence throughout the activities.

All of the pupils were willing to put on their harness and helmet and prepare for abseiling; four got to the top of the wall, and two abseiled down the wall! This was a huge achievement for all of the pupils.

The pupils and staff have fond memories of this trip, and each have their own personal highlights. We are excited to go back again next year!



Abbey Court vs Five Acre Wood



Over Under Ball Pass



'Run Waiter Run'



'Fill the Bucket with Pasta'

Abbey Court School and Five Acre Wood School participated in an exciting sports relay event on Monday 22nd April.

12 Key Stage 3 pupils from each school challenged each other to a range of games.

Everyone had a great time and displayed brilliant sportsmanship! Five Acre Wood were the overall winners. All the participants congratulated one another and were very proud of their efforts.

Every pupil received a certificate of participation and Five Acre Wood took the trophy this time. We will be aiming to win next time!



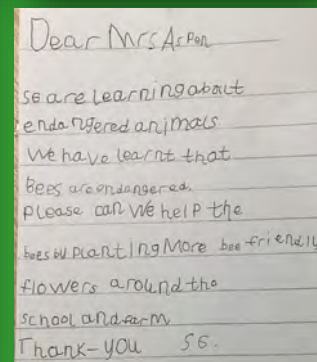
Extinct & Endangered Animals

In Science, S6 have been learning about extinct and endangered animals and how different factors are causing animals to become extinct, as well as what we can do to help this. We have focused on one animal in particular, the British bumble bees.

As a class, we have started a campaign called 'Save the Bees', and have written a letter to Ms Aspin asking for some bee friendly plants around school.

Bees pollinate lots of crops, many of which we grow on the school farm, and pesticides that are used on crops are another threat to the bees. So, as part of our horticultural work on the farm, we have been planting and taking care of the flowers, fruits and vegetables that are growing, without using pesticides.

This has been part of our learning on the Rights Respecting Schools Award and Global Goals—looking after the world around us for children now and in the future.



Story Massage

Story Massage is a fun and creative way to increase general well-being in children and adults. It is a simple and interactive way of sharing the benefits of positive touch. The Story Massage Programme involves the use of 10 easy to follow massage strokes associated with spoken words that help to build up an engaging story or song.

Pupils have recently begun enjoying the benefits of Story Massage, including relaxation, improved concentration and supporting imagination.

Both pupils and staff are having lots of fun giving and receiving the story and song massages.



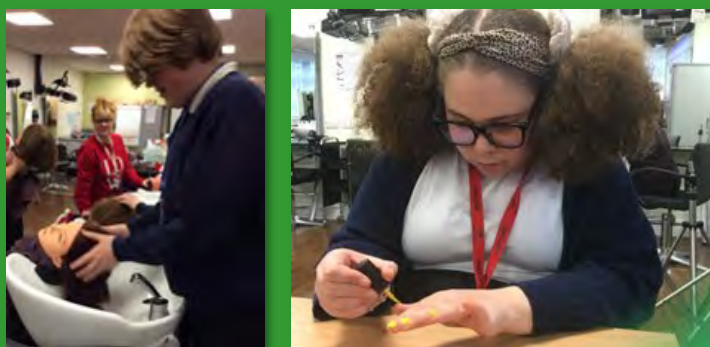
Mid Kent College Hair & Beauty

This term, our FE students attended Mid Kent College to complete a Hair and Beauty vocational taster course. Over six weeks, the students learnt hairdressing skills, how to paint nails, and how to apply make-up onto dress masks.

The students showed great concentration learning how to paint people's nails. Initially, they began by using a nail wheel to practice their technique, and soon progressed to painting the staff's nails, as well as each other's.

In Hairdressing, they learnt how to wash hair, ensuring that the shampoo was massaged in and rinsed out properly. They enjoyed using the hairdryer, and managed to both brush and dry the hair on the models at the same time.

All students who participated earned a certificate of achievement from the college, as well as earning themselves an AQA award in hairdressing.



FE Enterprise Medway Multiply



Enterprise in the FE Department is a crucial part of the curriculum. The students work on various projects throughout the year, to raise money for charity, as well as their own Enterprise fund.

This term, 'Medway Multiply', part of Medway Adult Education services, visited us. They came in to support students in FE3, and taught them how to craft greetings cards to be sold in our Abbey Court Shop.

Students were also taught to calculate how much the resources cost, about labour costs, and then work out the profit they would make, depending on their sale cost.

The students were very excited to learn that for each card they made, they would be making 40p profit. This then spurred them on to continue making more, and even thinking about how they could reduce their outgoings to boost their profit, through using recycled materials.

Our cards are on sale now in the Abbey Court Shop!

Making our own slippers!

During the Summer Term 1, S7 have been working hard on designing and creating their own slippers.

To start with, S7 investigated lots of different types of slippers to decide what type they would like to try to recreate.

S7 then moved on to testing the durability of different types of materials and see which ones they preferred.



A yoga mat material was used for the base of the slippers and pupils had to be careful when using material scissors and a hot glue gun to make these.

Once the slippers had been produced, a fashion show was necessary!



World Heritage Sites

S10 have been learning about World Heritage Sites. We explored the Great Wall of China, The Egyptian Pyramids, Stonehenge and the Eiffel Tower, to name but a few. We attempted to create our own 'strong' structure from marshmallows and spaghetti. We also went on an Educational Visit to Rochester Castle, an English Heritage Site.



Outdoor Learning



P12 have been learning outside of the classroom. Some pupils have been developing their balancing skills by learning how to get on and off a cycle safely. Then they have been practising their peddling and steering skills to work towards achieving an Abbey Court Cycling Award. Others have been engaging with peers and communicating with them in whatever way they choose. This has led to lots of laughter, allowing them to benefit greatly from socialising with their friends outside of the classroom environment.

HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOUR



P2 have been exploring the Hindu religion, and recreated the festivals of Holi, Vasu Baras and Diwali.

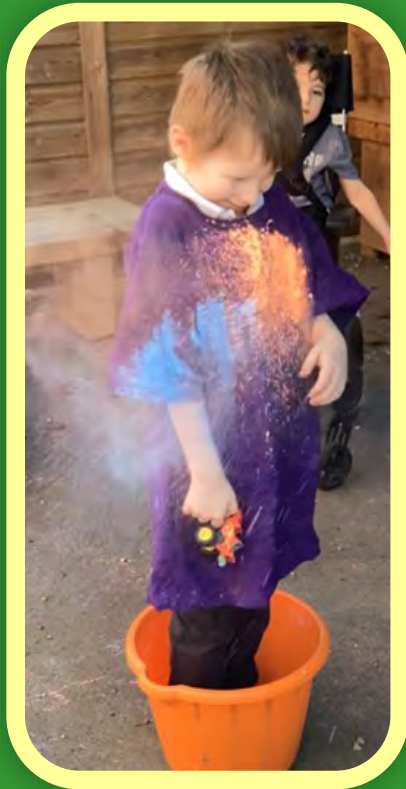
Holi is celebrated around 25th March and is the festival of colour. It celebrates spring, love and new life.



To support our learning, we first engaged in an Attention Autism session where we explored colour splatting. We then used coloured powder to create our own Holi portraits.

Our favourite part was when we all got to experience what it would be like to be in the Hindu festival.

We even had some visitors from P1 to celebrate with us!



New Life on the Farm



This term is very busy on the farm, with new life being brought into the world. Three Brahma chicks were born and are growing quickly. One of our Zwartble sheep, Baa Bara, gave birth to a beautiful, healthy lamb. We are excitedly waiting for our other sheep, Dolly, to give birth too. We are incubating some Cayuga duck eggs, and are also hoping that our Mini Rex Rabbits, Squirt and Clover, will soon be proud parents.

Bore Place Farm Residential

In April, a group of 8 pupils attended the Key Stage 3 residential at Bore Place Farm for three nights.

They enjoyed a wide range of activities, including roasting marshmallows over a campfire, nature walks, planting seeds, creating bird feeders, making pizza, and even seeing the cows being milked!

Well done to everyone involved for a great residential experience.





MUSIC



Throughout the Spring terms, we have welcomed a range of musicians from 'Live Music Now' to work with students in the Secondary and Further Education Departments.

The musicians brought a range of instruments, including a harp and saxophone. Exposure to new and familiar instruments enabled students to engage and become inspired to develop their exploration of music.

The students were welcomed with a 'hello' song, and used scarves to demonstrate the pitch of songs and music. They worked together to create appropriate music and compositions to accompany a nature video. Each session concluded with a 'goodbye' song to indicate the session was 'finished'. All of the pupils were engaged in the sessions and by the end of the third week's workshop, some pupils felt confident enough to lead parts of the session.



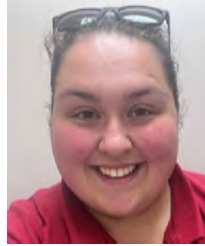
On 15th March, a group of KS2 pupils attended the Medway Music Association Music Festival. 8 pupils learnt and practised 8 songs and then selected their favourite song to perform. The pupils performed with a range of local primary schools. Our pupils were able to experience singing with a large choir, appreciating the performances of others, as well as performing on a stage to an audience. The pupils worked hard to prepare for the event and used Makaton signing to support their performance.





**WE WOULD LIKE TO
EXTEND A WARM
WELCOME TO OUR
NEW ABBEY COURT
SCHOOL STAFF.**

Victoria Stevens joined as Abbey Court School's Farm Manager at the beginning of April. She studied agriculture at college, then moved on to work at secondary school farms for the last 10 years. She loves many genres of music, enjoy singings and plays the drums. She is passionate about outdoor learning and is excited about what the team can achieve at Abbey Court.



Raydene Dunne has recently joined the team at Abbey Court as a Teacher in Reception. She has many years' experience in schools and enjoys supporting children with a range of needs, enabling them to reach their full potential. She has four children, one grandchild with another due very soon. She enjoys spending time with her family, swimming and reading.



We would like to welcome back Iwona Davis, who has returned as a Teaching assistant in the Secondary Department. Iwona has been working with SEN children and young adults for over 10 years. In her free time, she enjoys long walks and gardening.



We are sorry to say goodbye to Julie Morse, Specialist HLTA in Phonics, and Emma Hamlin, cleaner. We would like to wish them both the best for the future.



Dates for your Diary



| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday 3rd June | Term 6 starts |
| Week commencing 3rd June | Secondary Sports Week |
| Tuesday 4th June | Parent Meeting for Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition |
| Monday 10th June | Parent Meeting for pupils moving into Reception |
| Tuesday 11th June | Primary Sports Day |
| 12th to 14th June | Practice Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition |
| Wednesday 19th June | Family Feast |
| Thursday 20th June | Parents Evening and Workshop |
| Thursday 27th June | Parent Meeting for pupils moving into Further Education |
| Friday 28th June | SALT Parent Workshop |
| Monday 1st July | Key Stage 1 Stay to Tea |
| 3rd to 5th July | Assessed Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition |
| Wednesday 10th July | EYFS Stay and Play |
| Wednesday 10th July | Year 6 Fashion Show |
| Friday 12th July | Key Stage 2 Thank You and Picnic |
| Friday 19th July | Term 6 ends |



Abbey Court School Trust

SPRING GRAND DRAW

The winning tickets were picked on Friday 3rd May by
MP Kelly Tolhurst and Trustee Sue Evans.

The lucky winners were:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| £400 | <i>Jo Kemp</i> |
| £200 | <i>Janine Gard</i> |
| £100 | <i>Jordan Foreman</i> |
| Laptop | <i>Gina Jemmett</i> |
| Meat Hamper | <i>Maria Stevenson</i> |
| Fruit Hamper | <i>Jo Harding</i> |



We would like to thank the following businesses for their prize donations:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| LW Burt | J Brazil |
| Robin Hood Garage | R J Kingsland |
| Cantium | Salvatori |
| Kent Boiler Maintenance | |

We raised a grand total of £2006!

Trust Lottery Draw

The eighth Trust Lottery Draw of the 2023/24 Academic Year took place on 26th April 2024.

The winners were:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| First prize of £40 | Danny Stewart |
| Second prize of £20 | Karen Joy |
| Third prize of £10 | Ann Howie |

15

58

113

Congratulations to the lucky winners!

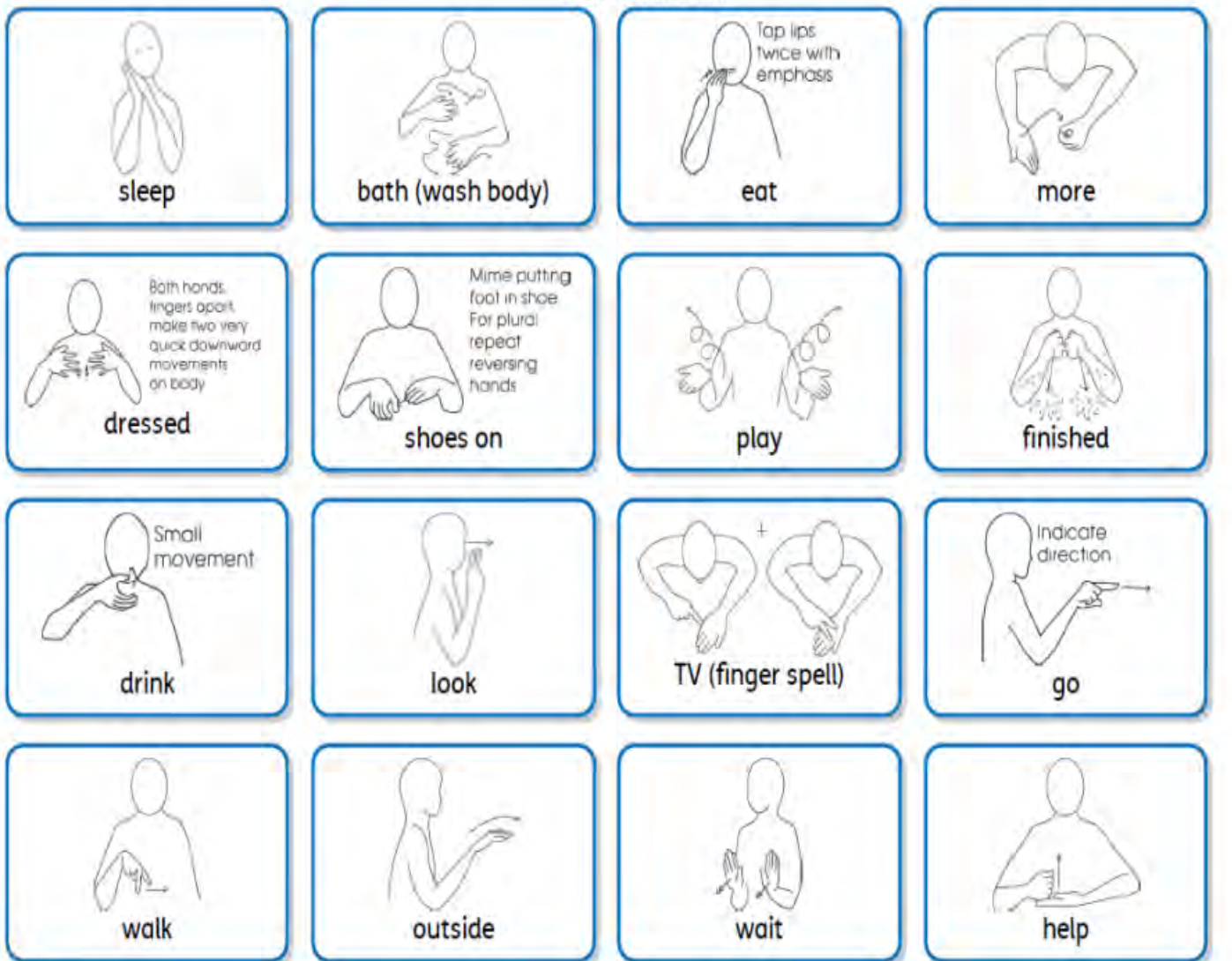


Let's talk Makaton

Below is a list of Makaton signs relating to Communication.

Please share these with your family and friends to enable them to communicate with your child.

Remember to always say the word when you are Makaton signing. Use your dominant hand to sign slowly and to the length of the word.



What is Makaton?









Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate.

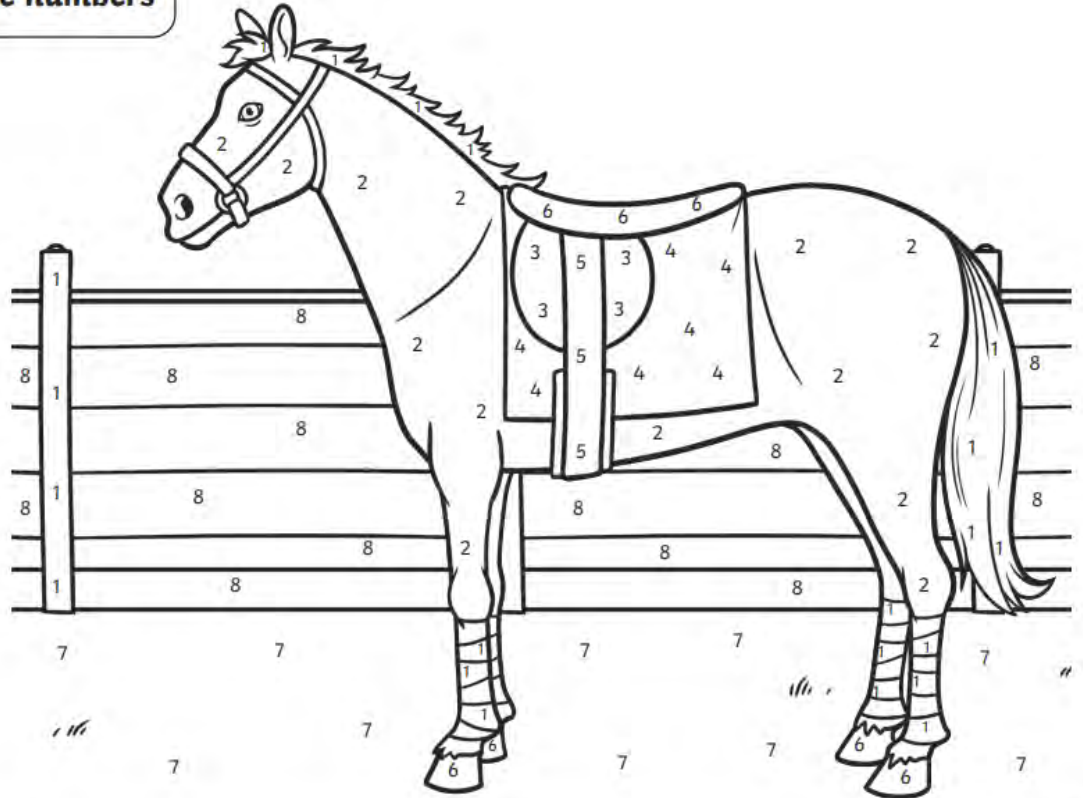
It supports the development of essential communication skills, such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall, and organisation of language and expression.

Siblings Page

Horse Colour By Number

Match the colours to the numbers

- 1 - 
- 2 - 
- 3 - 
- 4 - 
- 5 - 
- 6 - 
- 7 - 
- 8 - 



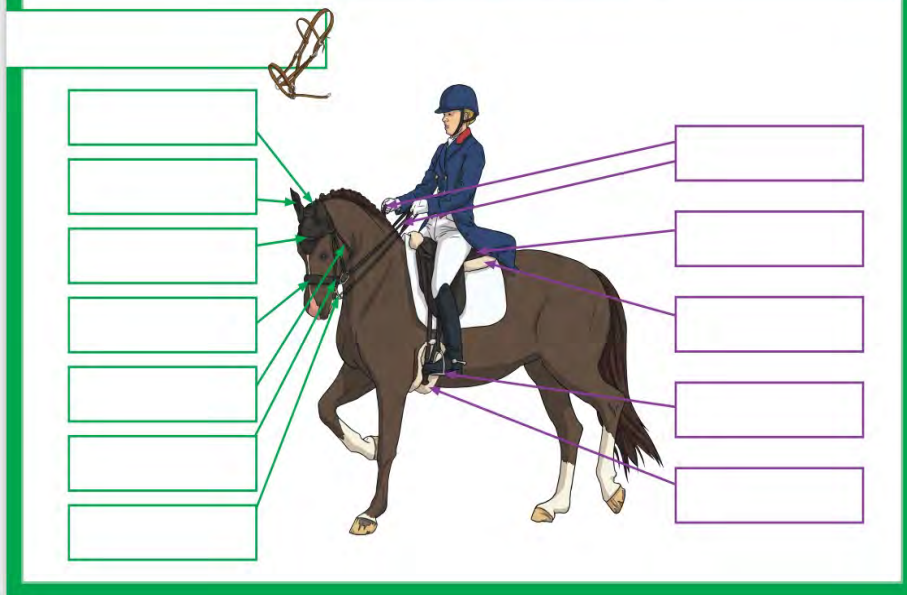
visit [twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)



Horse Equipment



Take a look at this image of a horse. Can you label the horse's equipment?



| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| throatlatch | saddle |
| browband | noseband |
| saddle pad | cheek piece |
| girth | ear net |
| stirrups | reins |
| headstall | bit |