



# School newsletter 21st November 2024

## Contents:

- Headteacher's insight
- News from our classrooms
- Staff spotlight
- Celebration corner
- Upcoming events
- Reminders

## Headteacher's insight



One of the greatest joys I experience as a headteacher is guiding, observing and celebrating children's development as readers. I try to carve out time in my week to hear children read whenever I can. Whether it's the confident fluency of an older student or the proud first attempts of a younger child, there is something magical in the way words unlock entire worlds for them. This week I enjoyed listening to a range of children read but particular mention goes to Hugo in Starfish, whose joy when reading about the adventures of a velvet fox was infectious and made me smile from ear to ear!

Hearing a child read is a reminder of the journey they're on—the growth in confidence, curiosity, and comprehension. It is not just about mastering words on a page, but about nurturing a lifelong love for learning and discovery. The sparkle in their eyes as they understand a new word or finish a book they've worked hard on is truly heart warming.

As a school, we are committed to fostering this love of reading, and it is a partnership that extends into your homes. I encourage you to take a few moments each day to sit with your children as they read, share in their progress, and celebrate their achievements—no matter how small. These shared moments create lasting memories and inspire a deep connection to the joy of reading. Our significant investment this academic year in a new phonics scheme (Rocket Phonics) is having a positive impact on our youngest readers and I am very encouraged by the impact this financial investment and effort from the staff is having on our children's reading experience.

Please read the information on 'No Pens Day' at the end of this newsletter so that your child is prepared for our activities to mark this important initiative.

Thank you for your continued support in making reading an enriching part of your child's life.

## News from our classrooms



### EYFS

Dolphins class learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day. They watched a short animation on Ceebeebies representing the war with animals and created lots of poppy inspired activities in the continuous provision. This included poppy stamping with potato's and toilet rolls, making poppy wreaths by cutting and sticking poppy shapes and leaves onto paper plates, drawing poppies and making poppies with stickle bricks, Lego and multi-link cubes.

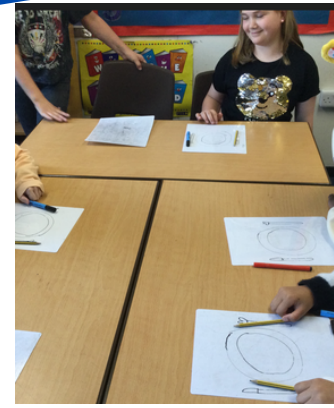


### Key Stage 1

This week Starfish learned about Grace Darling and her heroic rescue.

We participated in drama, thinking about how Grace/her father/the sailors felt.

We also created an artefact wish list for the Grace Darling Museum.



## Key Stage 2

Recently, teachers at Fen Ditton committed to 'sprinkle a little magic' back into literacy lessons – not all lessons should involve writing. Here, the children are enjoying a drama lesson - recreating a pivotal scene from our class book "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio. Set in a lunch hall in an American school, various children react to the 'new kid' who arrives with a facial disfigurement. I particularly admire the creative use of props created by the children here!

## Staff Spotlight

**Name:** Mrs Hearn

**Role:** Executive Deputy Headteacher

**What do you love about your job?** That each day is a different day full of excitement and the opportunity for fun working with all the children in our communities.

**Favourites**

**Subject:** English

**Food:** Tiramisu

**Animal:** Horses

**Children's book:** Ballet shoes

## Celebration Corner



### Spotted by staff:

Olivia (Jellyfish) for her excellent maths work when adding using column method

Charlie (Dolphins) for sharing excellent facts about Scotland in Celebration Assembly.

Melody (Jellyfish) for her excellent enthusiasm and hard work in phonics.





This week we wish these members of our school family a very happy birthday:



IMJ - Jellyfish class



## Upcoming events and reminders

### Key upcoming dates:

#### November

29th - 9.15am Year 4 and 5 class assembly

#### December

12th - Christmas lunch

12th - Winter jumper day

16th - Nativity performances 9.30 and 2.30

18th - Panto trip (whole school)

19th - Carol concert and winter warmer event

20th - Last day of term



### Reminders

Don't forget that we have lots of pre-loved uniform available. To take a look please ask in the office or a leader at the beginning or end of the day. We welcome a small cash donation if possible but the most thing is you take what you need!!

When children access the internet at home ,without close supervision, it is important to regularly remind them about the actions they should take if they come across something that makes them feel uneasy or is unexpected. A simple three step process to reinforce with them is to 1. Stop 2. Close and 3. Tell. We encourage all families to discuss this with their children to help keep them safe online.



Stop what you are doing. Do not click on the page or reply to any message.



Close the laptop. Put your phone or tablet down.



Tell a grown-up.



## Upcoming events and reminders

**NO Pens Day**  
Show and tell

Speech and  
Language UK  
Changing young lives.

On Wednesday 27th November we are marking No Pens Day. Each class will be having a show and tell session so your child will need to bring in to school a small object or photo that they can talk about with their peers. Please support them by selecting a suitable item and practising what they would like to say at home. Reasons we are taking part in this initiative are below for you.

It's a chance for your child to improve their speech, language and communication skills through a day of talking and listening activities – starting with the biggest ever show and tell!

Teachers estimate that, in the UK today, 1.9 million children struggle with talking and understanding words. Without the right support, they face huge hurdles in learning, making friends and staying in good mental health.

### December in school

With a fun filled run up to the end of term please see below the finer details of all events in December.

**12th December - Christmas lunch** - All children will enjoy a festive themed lunch on this day. To take part in the cooked Christmas lunch please book this with our catering team ([does this need a deadline?](#))

**12th December - Winter Jumper Day** - In support of the charity Save the Children we are inviting all children and staff to wear non uniform and a winter themed jumper on this day. We are inviting donations to this charity through our JustGiving page which can be accessed through the QR code.

**16th December - Nativity performances** - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children - 9.30am and 2.30pm. Tickets will be issued to families.

**18th December - Whole school trip to the Pantomime** - If you have not done so please make a donation towards your child's ticket through MCAS.

**19th December - Carol Concert** - All children will be singing in our carol concert at Fen Ditton church at 2pm. We will give each family two tickets for family members to join us for this festive event.

**19th December - Winter Warmer event** - Our wonderful PTFA will run a fun after school event. Look out for communication from the PTFA on how you and your children can enjoy this event.

**20th December - Last day of term - Christmas party** - Children can come to school in non-uniform on this day and will enjoy a class party in the afternoon after morning lessons.



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