



School Newsletter 16th January 2025

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Headteacher's insight

One of the key focuses across our classrooms this term is the development of positive learning behaviours—a cornerstone of success not only in education but in life beyond the school gates.

In particular, we have been emphasising the importance of striking a balance between independence and collaboration. These skills are vital for all children to develop, and we are proud to see real progress, especially within our Key Stage 2 classrooms.

Learning to work independently is an essential skill. It fosters resilience, critical thinking, and self-discipline. However, we also encourage our children to recognise when it is appropriate to ask for help. This requires self-awareness and the courage to acknowledge when guidance is needed, turning a potential challenge into an opportunity for growth. Equally important is the ability to collaborate effectively with peers. Group work and discussions help children to share ideas, listen actively, and build on each other's strengths. But we also emphasise the importance of knowing when to focus individually, ensuring that every child has the chance to develop their own understanding and contributions.

We are delighted to see significant strides in these areas. In our Key Stage 2 classrooms, children are demonstrating an impressive ability to navigate these dual responsibilities. They are learning when to lean on their peers for support and inspiration, while also recognising when to take ownership of their individual tasks. This balance is creating a dynamic and engaging learning environment where every child can thrive.

As parents and carers, you play a pivotal role in reinforcing these behaviours at home. Encouraging your child to tackle tasks independently, while reassuring them that it is okay to seek help when necessary, mirrors the practices we cultivate in school. Similarly, promoting opportunities for your child to work collaboratively with siblings or friends can complement their experiences in the classroom.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us nurture these critical skills. Together, we can ensure that our children develop the habits and attitudes that will serve them well throughout their education and beyond.

News from our classrooms

Narwhal Class

This week, Narwhal Class have been busy settling in to their new classroom. They have particularly enjoyed investigating sound and vibrations by experimenting with musical instruments during Science. The class's favourite was observing how glitter on a drum jumps when the drum is played!



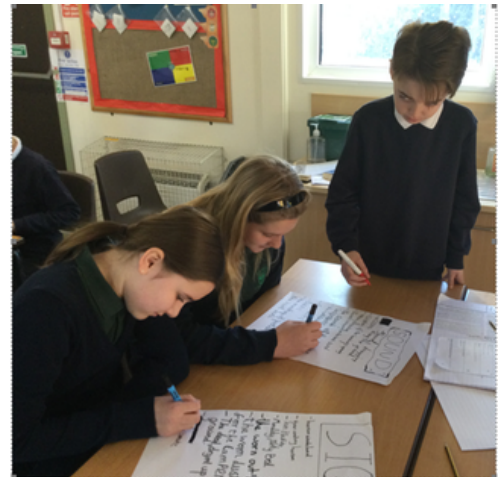
Starfish Class

In Starfish this week we used evidence in history to compare our school experience with those of our grandparents. We also looked at photographs of Fen Ditton school from 1932.



Stingrays Class

The children in Stingray class have been really enjoying our new book this term: "Holes", by Louis Sachar, which tells the story of a boy wrongly accused of a crime and sent to a prison camp. Here, the pupils are building up vocabulary banks to describe the setting of the story: the sights, sounds, textures, tastes and smells of the arid, desolate Texas desert landscape!



Celebration Corner



Spotted by staff:

Ruby in Starfish for always following the expected behaviours when walking through school.

Monir in Narwhal for his positivity, enthusiasm and resilience in everything he does.

Conner in Dolphins for some lovely writing in his Rocket phonics session.

Bella.J for her explanation of how to calculate the missing degree of a triangle.



House Point Totals

Blackburn - 31 points (3rd)

Franklin - 30 points (4th)

Hawking - 36 points (2nd)

Darwin - 37 points (1st)



This week we wish these members of our school family a very happy birthday:
Molly (Starfish)

Upcoming events and reminders

Key upcoming dates:

January

16th - Parent Forum & Coffee morning at Fen Ditton

February

7th - Year 3 & 4 Class Assembly at 9.15am

14th - Last day of half term

24th - Back to School



Reminders

Area SEND inspection for Cambridgeshire Local Area Partnership

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are visiting our area to inspect the local arrangements for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

The inspectors want to know about the help and support that children and young people with SEND get. You can contribute by filling in a survey using the link below. Information shared on the survey will be treated in confidence.

The survey will close at 9am on Tuesday 21 January 2025.

<https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10352388>

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Parent Carer Emotional Regulation Workshop

Monday 20th January 2.10PM

Fen Ditton Primary School

Does your child find it difficult to regulate themselves emotionally?

Do you wonder how best to support them?

Come and join us in a judgement-free session on emotional regulation with other parents/carers

Your child's school is currently collaborating with the Local Authority, Health, and Pinpoint - the parent carer forum for Cambridgeshire - to enhance inclusivity A pilot project. PINS



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