



School
Newsletter
Friday 9th
January 2026

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026

Headteacher's insight

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term at Fen Ditton Primary. It has been wonderful to see the children return this week with such positivity, settling quickly back into school life and routines. Returning after any break – and particularly after the Christmas holidays – can be a big transition, so staff have intentionally prioritised the 3Rs: relationships, routines and resilience, ensuring all children feel secure, supported and ready to thrive.

As we begin the new year, it is also important to reflect on the many highlights from the end of the Autumn term. The PTFA Christmas Fayre was a fantastic celebration of our community, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed their time, energy and generosity. The inflatable snowglobe provided an obvious highlight but there were many strengths to the event that provided us all with an enjoyable experience.

The children's performances were a joy to watch and showcased their confidence, creativity and hard work. Our Carol Service at Fen Ditton Church and the end of term Christmas Service with Barnwell Baptist Church were special moments of reflection and togetherness, and in some cases laughter-the chaos of 12 Days of Christmas in particular!

There were many other memorable moments that helped make the end of term so special: the pupil Christmas lunch was a real highlight for the children; and the Santa Dash brought great excitement and festive spirit to the final days of term.

It is important that we proactively seek to grow the size of our school family. If you know of local families considering a move of schools, we would encourage you to signpost them to apply for a place with us. Our growth is beneficial to us all, increasing resources, strengthening our offer and broadening opportunities for children and staff alike.

The Spring term promises to be one of continued momentum, building on a very successful Autumn term. I am extremely grateful for the ongoing support of our parents and carers, which enables our staff to do their work so effectively for the benefit of the children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Lets begin a positive 2026 in our classrooms!

Butterflies Class

One Thing We're Looking Forward To

Butterflies are most excited about learning more phonics.

Our Class New Year Intention

Butterflies intention is to include everyone in our Busy Learning times and to be the kindest we can be.

A Highlight From Our Week

Playing in the vets, bandaging the animals and taking x-rays.

Something We Learned This Week

We learned that everybody has a special place that makes them feel safe.

Class Book Update

We are still enjoying our Ten Core Texts - our favourites are Six Dinner Sid and Alan's Big Scary Teeth.



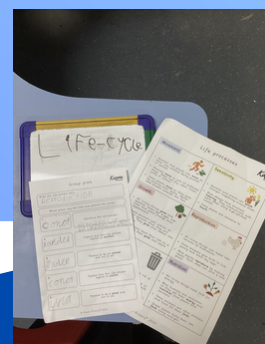
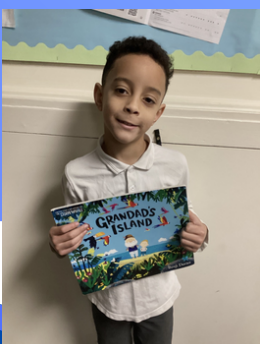
Dragonflies Class

In Dragonflies class, **we are most excited to learn more about ourselves.** This week we explored life processes and were amazed to find out how similar we are to plants. We talked about what we would like to know more about in this topic, and the **children were very interested in the human life cycle and wanted to learn how people grow and change.**

This year, **our class intention is to be kind, try our best in everything we do, and help each other learn and grow!** ✨

In Dragonflies class, we have started **our new book Grandad's Island**, and we have been loving diving into the story during our English lessons. 📖😊

This week has been amazing as we enjoyed a **great sports event and had the joy of walking over to Marleigh** to join our friends and take part in some exciting games.





Squirrels Class

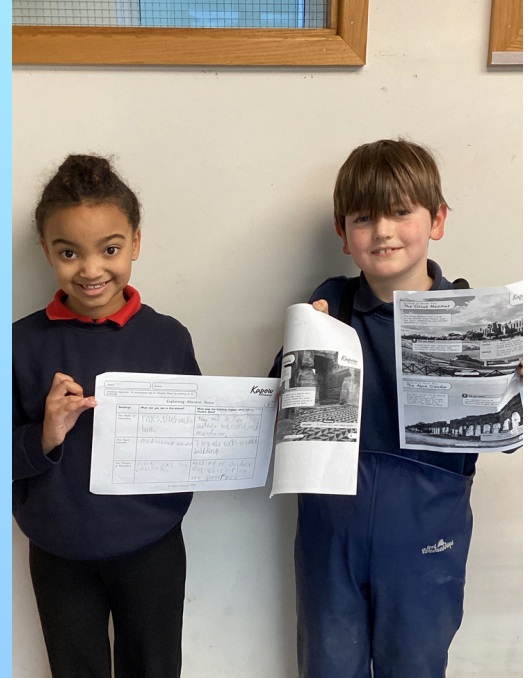
In Squirrel Class, **we are looking forward to** our new Art unit exploring abstract 3d sculptures.

Our class intention for 2026 is to promote kindness!

A **highlight from our first week** back was learning about Roman buildings in History.

Something we have learned this week is how to make predictions about a text based on clues in a picture.

We have used this skill with **our new English book**, 'The Tunnel'.



Hedgehogs Class

One thing we're looking forward to is our topic of the journey inside a computer!

Our intention this year is to build our resilience by having a go even when learning feels challenging, staying positive when we make mistakes, and showing determination to keep improving in everything we do.

A **highlight from our week** was joining Reception for reading buddies.

Something we learned this week – we have been learning about factor and factor pairs.

We are excited to start our new class book of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.





Owls Class

Year 5 have had a fantastic start to the term and are especially **excited to begin our Spring 1 learning, especially our Science unit on Earth and Space**. The children are already buzzing with curiosity and we can't wait to explore planets and the solar system.

As a class, we have also set a clear intention for this term: to show kindness both in the classroom and out on the playground. We've been talking about what kindness looks like in action, helping others, using encouraging words and making sure everyone feels included. One of the **highlights of our week** was a fantastic debating workshop on Thursday led by The Noisy Classroom. Riley, our workshop leader, introduced us to the world of debating and taught us some invaluable skills. **We learnt how to listen actively, challenge ideas respectfully and build confidence when speaking in front of others.** We were particularly fascinated to discover how debates are run in the House of Commons and enjoyed trying out some of the techniques ourselves by debating the topic 'Should children be allowed smartphones?'

Our class book for this term is The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis which we are very excited to start learning about.

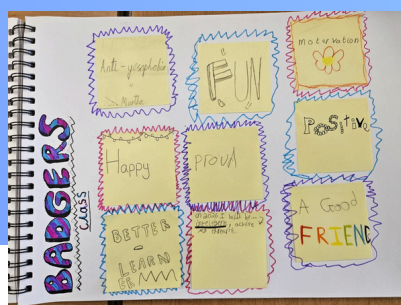
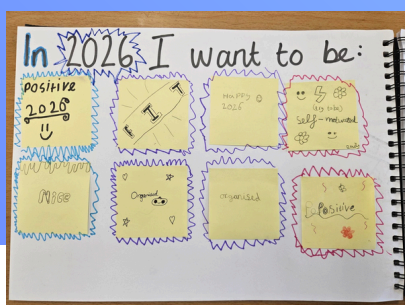
Badgers Class

In Year 6, **we're looking forward to starting our new topic in Art**. We will be studying photomontage advertising posters inspired by Hannah Höch, Chris Plowman, and Graham Holland.

In PSHE this week, we focused on **setting our New Year intentions**. Each student reflected on what they hope to achieve in the coming year and considered the personal goals that matter most to them. We also explored the practical steps needed to turn these intentions into reality, discussing the actions, habits, and mindset shifts that can lead to meaningful change and personal growth. This included identifying potential challenges and strategies to overcome them, as well as emphasizing the importance of perseverance and self-awareness throughout the process.

A highlight of our first week was taking part in The Noisy Classroom Oracy workshop. We focused on how to share our ideas confidently and how to respectfully disagree with others' ideas. We also **started learning about ratio in Maths**, looking at number patterns and how they link to ratio.

Our new class book is Macbeth, which pupils are excited to start. We have been introduced to the characters and predicted what might happen based on the opening scenes and character traits. We also shared our first impressions and questions about the story, setting the stage for deeper analysis.





Tommy - Badgers Class

Micah - Butterflies Class

Pupil Premium Funding - Apply Now

We are encouraging you to check whether your child may be eligible for **Pupil Premium** funding. This is additional government funding provided to schools to support children's learning and wellbeing. It helps us to offer extra tuition, resources, and enrichment opportunities.

Eligibility is linked to certain benefits, including Universal Credit, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, military families and others. Even if your child already receives free school meals (or has done in the last 6 years), applying for Pupil Premium ensures the school receives extra funding.

You can find full details of eligibility and apply online through the Cambridgeshire County Council website: [!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f_img.jpg\) Pupil Premium – Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

If you think you may be eligible, we strongly encourage you to apply. This funding makes a real difference to the support we can provide for your child and others in our school community.

If you need any help with the application process, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued support.

**APPLY
NOW**



After School Clubs



► **Code Ninjas After-School Club**

We're excited to be running Code Ninjas, a fun and engaging after-school coding club again this term.

Children will learn the basics of coding and computational thinking through games, challenges and creative problem-solving activities. No previous coding experience is needed – just curiosity and enthusiasm!

What children will gain:

- An introduction to coding concepts
- Problem-solving and logical thinking skills
- Confidence using technology
- Lots of fun in a supportive environment

This club runs on **Tuesdays from 3.30pm until 4.45pm.**

Book here: <https://forms.gle/tN9rsXZjK7xrqDu49>.

Or contact Code Ninjas Cambridge for more information
<https://linktr.ee/CodeNinjasCambridge>

► **Other After School Clubs running are:**

- Girls Football Club (Monday, **Years 4-6**, 3.35pm - 4.35pm)
- Science Club (Tuesday, **Years 3-6**, 3.35pm - 4.35pm)
- Home Learning Club (Tuesday, **All year groups**, 3.35pm - 4.35pm)
- Acrobatic Dance Club (Thursday, **Years 3-6**, 3.35pm - 4.35pm)
- CUFC led Football Club (Thursday, **All year groups**, 3.35pm - 4.35pm)

Please log into your **MCAS** account to sign your child up for any of these clubs, except from Code Club where you would need sign up via the above link.

If you have any problems signing up, please contact the school office.



Movement Miles Challenge

Movement Miles Challenge: Children who move more are always a step ahead!

Starting on the **12th January to 26th January**, our school is taking part in the Anglian Learning School Sport Alliance's Movement Miles championship!

In the next two weeks, we need your help! We encourage you and your child to take part in as many Movement Miles as possible (walking, running, swimming, cycling and more...). This can be before school, during school, After school and at the weekends!

Any movement that can be measured can be submitted via the Microsoft form attached which also contains all the information you need (If you don't make a mile, you can still send in your metres and it will still count!) and whichever school has the most Movement Miles will be crowned champions! Please follow this link or scan the QR Code : [Anglian Learning School Sport Alliance: Movement Miles – Fill in form](#)



SCAN ME

Keep an eye out for our Social Media posts for updates and opportunities to share your successes.





Join Us for the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch!

We're excited to announce that we are taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026, running from 6 January to 13 February! This is a nationwide activity where thousands of schools survey the birds visiting their school grounds, helping the **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** understand more about bird life in the UK.

What will we be doing?

Each class will choose some time to go outside and observe the birds in our playground and outdoor spaces. Pupils will identify and count the birds they see, then we will submit these results online to the RSPB — even “zero” sightings matter!



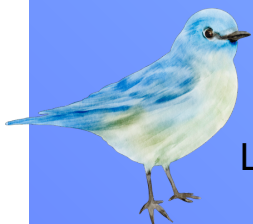
This activity supports real scientific research into birds and biodiversity while encouraging children to get outdoors and connect with nature.

How can families join in?

You're welcome to take part at home too! Simply choose an hour over the weekend of the 23rd to the 26th January to watch the birds in your garden, local park or from your window, and record what you see. It's a fun way to explore wildlife together and contribute to a national project!

Find full details, registration information and resources here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>



Let's make every sighting count — happy birdwatching!

Fen Ditton: Growing Together

Referral Reward Programme, rewarding families for spreading the word

REWARDS



Referring Child Receives

- 20 x Breakfast Club sessions
- Logo school uniform Sweatshirt
- Logo school uniform Polo
- Logo school Showerproof Coat
- Family Cinema Gift Card

New Pupil Receives

- 20 x Breakfast Club sessions
- Logo school uniform Sweatshirt
- Logo school uniform Polo
- Logo school Showerproof Coat
- Extreme Climbing Experience gift card for Clip 'n Climb Cambridge

HOW IT WORKS

Refer a guardian to Fen Ditton



Pupil receives a place & guardian confirms referee



Both referrer's child and new pupil receive their rewards!

Contact Fen Ditton for more information office@fendittonprimary.org



PTFA Event

Quiz night

Wednesday 21 January



The
Crown
& Punchbowl



7PM | £2.50 PER PERSON | MAX SIX PER TEAM
PRIZES AND RAFFLE | BOOK YOUR TEAM IN HERE >>
FUNDRAISING FOR FEN DITTON PRIMARY SCHOOL





Key dates for your diary



- **Tuesday 6th January - Friday 13th February:** RSPB Bird Watch Challenge (See information above)
- **Friday 9th January:** Year 5 woodwind instrumental lessons begin
- **Monday 12th January- Monday 26th January:** Movement Miles Challenge (More information above)
- **Wednesday 21st January:** PTFA Quiz at The Crown and Punchbowl, Horningsea (see above)
- **Wednesday 4th February:** Years 5 & 6 (Parent Only) RSE workshops. **FDP 5pm-5.30pm & MPA 2.45pm-3.15pm**
- **Friday 6th February: Number Day:** Dress up as a representation of a number and donate via our just giving page (more information to follow)



Term Dates 2025-2026

SPRING TERM 2026

Inset Day – Monday 5 January
Spring Term Starts – Tuesday 6 January
School Ends – Friday 13 February
Half Term - 16 February - 20 February
School Starts – Monday 23 February
Spring Term Ends – Friday 27 March

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term Starts – Monday 13 April
May Bank Holiday – Monday 4 May
School Ends – Friday 22 May
Half Term - 25 May – 29 May
School Starts – Monday 1 June
Summer Term Ends – Friday 17 July
Inset Day – Monday 20 July

**We are also now
on Instagram!**
**Click here to
follow us**

