



School Newsletter Friday 16th January 2026

Headteacher's insight

As we reach the end of the second week of the Spring term, it has been a pleasure to see how quickly pupils have settled back into routines and learning. Across the school, we are already seeing accelerated academic progress as children build on the strong foundations laid last term. Spring term is notorious for rates of progress to increase when children have the right environment to learn in.

Year 6 pupils are now entering their final two terms of primary school, and there is a real sense of purpose and determination among them. They are laser-focused on developing the knowledge, skills and independence needed to ensure they are fully prepared for the transition to secondary school. The maturity and commitment they are showing in lessons has been impressive, and it is a credit to both their hard work and the support they receive at home. We take our responsibilities for preparing them for secondary school seriously and this extends beyond their academic levels. It won't be long before they find out which secondary school they will be attending and then the targeted transition work can begin.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the **upcoming Quiz Night in Horningsea next Wednesday at 7.00pm, organised in conjunction with the Fen Ditton PTFA**. A couple of our staff teams will be taking part, and it promises to be a fun and sociable evening. Teams can include up to six people, with a cost of £2.50 per person, and we would love to see as many parents there as possible to support the event and enjoy the evening together.

We continue with our packed **sports programme** with some exciting opportunities planned such as our **first ever swimming gala**. I particularly enjoy swimming, having spent several years teaching swimming to children and babies. I am looking forward to providing the children selected for our swimming team the experience of a competitive gala. We are fortunate to be able to extend our sports offer beyond the competitive, team selection opportunities we have as part of the **Anglian Learning Primary Sports Alliance** such as this week's KS1 event in which the Fen Ditton team were victorious, to offer regular whole class, inclusive opportunities with our two schools together such as next week's Year 5 Matball event.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we move through what promises to be a busy and productive term. I wish you an enjoyable weekend...I wonder how much longer we will need to wait for the hopeful signs of Spring!



Mrs Thompson

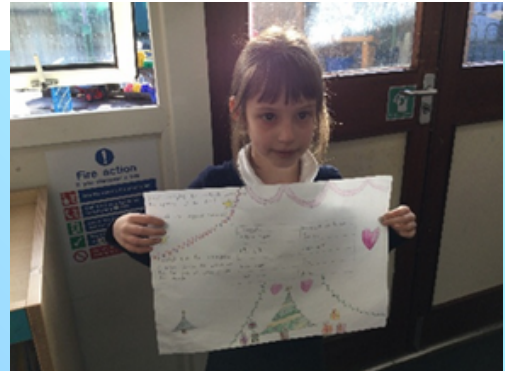
Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher





News from our classrooms

Dragonflies Class



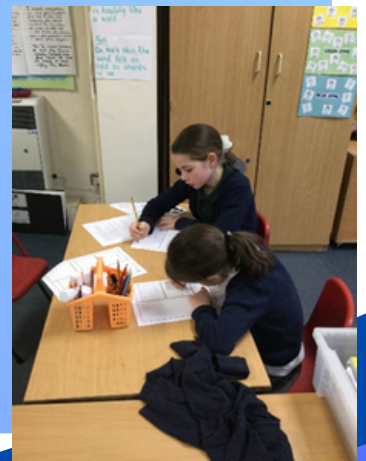
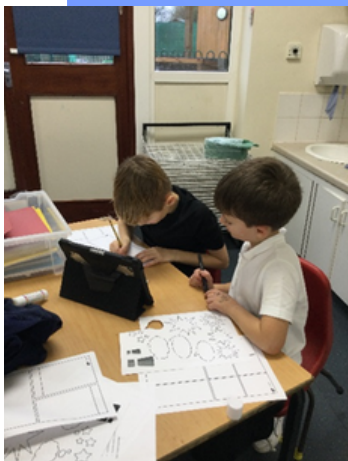
Dragonflies have had a great start to the new year and are already learning so many new things!

In **Maths**, they have been working on developing their understanding of addition and subtraction to 100. Exploring how the tens and ones change when adding numbers and beginning to extend their knowledge of bridging ten when adding and subtracting. They have enjoyed using practical methods to support them with this.

In **English**, they have absolutely loved starting 'Grandad's Island' a book about a little boy and his grandad who go on an adventure to a desert island. This week they have focused on the setting of the book – a dense rainforest – where they enjoyed exploring the 5 senses for a rainforest and using lots of ambitious language to describe the setting.

The afternoons have been filled with exploring lots of new knowledge about the world. They have focused closely this week on safety. **PSHE** explored how to safely interact with adults and what to do if someone they don't know tries to talk to them and computing focused on how to stay safe when beginning to use the internet. The class had lots of insightful ideas and were very mature with their answers.

Art was a highlight this week as they began to explore paint and colour theory. The children used primary colours to create secondary colours and were very confident with how to mix colours. They are excited to develop their understanding of colour to create their own pieces of art.



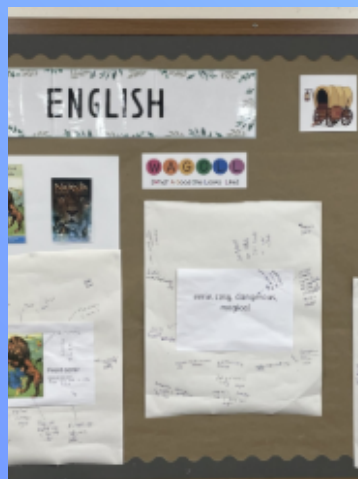


Hedgehogs Class

Hedgehogs Class have had a brilliant start to the new term. The children have settled in beautifully and shown great enthusiasm for all of our new learning.

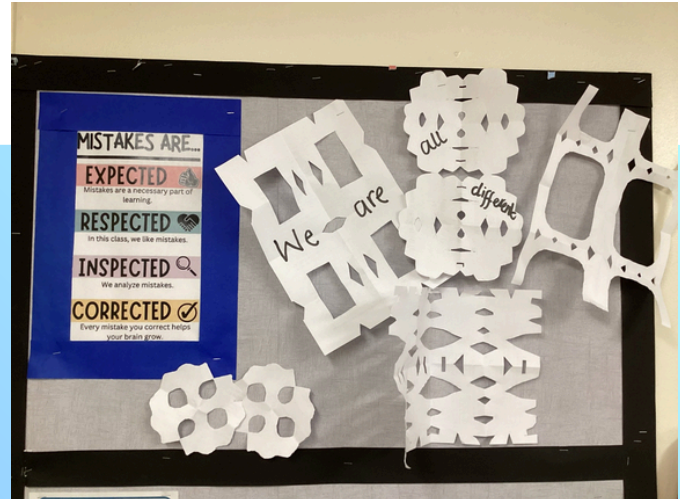
We have started our exciting new **Science topic** of rocks. The children became real rock investigators as they explored a variety of different rock types. They examined each one closely, looking carefully at properties such as texture, colour and hardness, and used these clues to identify and name the rocks. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and scientific thinking grow.

In **English**, we have started our new class story, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The children have been using clues from the text to make thoughtful predictions about what might happen next. Their ideas have been imaginative and detailed, and we are looking forward to exploring the story further as the term continues.





Badgers Class

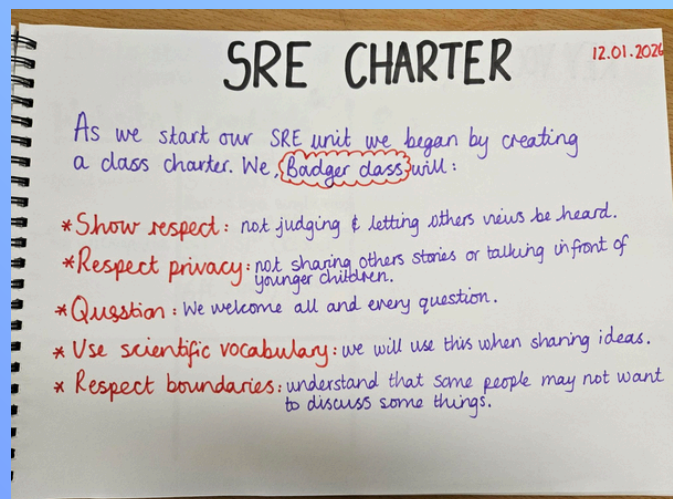
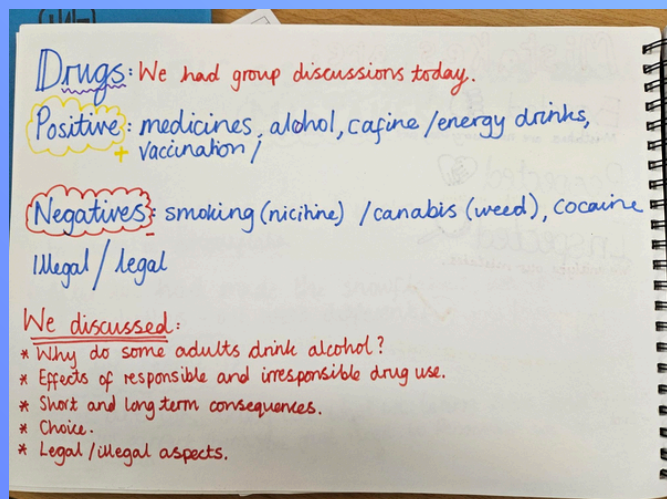


Badgers Class have had a fantastic week of learning, filled with exciting discussions, creative thinking and lots of proud moments.

In **English**, the children explored the murder of King Duncan, using this dramatic moment to spark thoughtful debates before producing some brilliant persuasive writing to Banquo as we get ready to create our own soliloquies.

In **History**, we travelled back to the Tudor era to investigate how Henry VIII used propaganda, analysing different sources to understand how he shaped public opinion.

In **PSHE**, we began by talking about the importance of making mistakes and how they are expected, respected and learned from, before starting our SRE unit with a focus on the effects of alcohol and how it can influence choices and wellbeing.





Happy Birthday

Molly, Dragonflies Class

Benjamin - Squirrels Class

Emely, Owls Class

Dennis, 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: 🖱️ [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.





Help Us Bring Our Assemblies to Life Projector Fundraising



We are fundraising to raise £2,000 to help to purchase a new projector for the school hall. This will allow us to clearly project presentations, images, videos and lyrics during assemblies and performances, helping to bring learning and celebrations to life for everyone involved.

A new projector will be used daily in whole-school assemblies, in class assemblies attended by parents, and during our annual performances. It will benefit all children across the school, supporting engagement, understanding and confidence when presenting to an audience.

This investment will have a lasting impact, enhancing experiences that children take part in regularly and creating a more inclusive and engaging environment for learning and celebration. Every contribution, no matter the size, will help us reach our goal and make a real difference to our school community.

Thank you for supporting our children and helping us bring their learning and performances to life.

To donate please click on this link <https://www.goodhub.com/go/assemblies> or use the QR code



DONATE



£2000



Movement Miles Challenge

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

Starting on the **12th January to 23rd 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: [Anglian Learning School Sport Alliance: Movement Miles – Fill in form](#)

Mid Point Results:

Well done to those who have kick started and hit the ground running (or walking, cycling, swimming etc!) with our Anglian Learning Movement Miles Competition!
As of 10am on Wednesday, here are the standings!

Bottisham Primary - 6 Entries - 18 Miles
Stapleford Primary - 4 Entries - 6.4 Miles
Marleigh Primary - 4 Entries - 5.75 Miles
Fen Ditton Primary - 1 Entry - 5.2 Miles

The competition **ends next Friday (23rd January)**. All movement that can be measured counts. Remember, you can submit in Meters also which will be added to the overall score!

Here's a top tip to help your school! If you walk, cycle or scooter to school, use a Maps app to find out the distance you travel to and from school. Add those distances together over the week and submit your weekly active travel distance!

Remember, you can log miles you have already completed also, any movement from Monday 12th January will be counted).

Keep the Active Miles coming in and help your score travel the furthest! We would love to see some photos of you taking part in our challenge also. The weekend is fast approaching, let's see how many miles we can do as a school community.

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!

Free National Trust Day Pass

Get a free National Trust day pass for your family, please click on the link to see more details:

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/free-national-trust-day-pass-27367255>



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 - Next Week!

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



- **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 5-530pm & MPA 2.45-3.15pm
- **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**

