



## School Newsletter Friday 23rd January 2026

### Headteacher's insight

As we move into the second half of the half term, it has been a pleasure to reflect on some of the wonderful learning opportunities and experiences the children have enjoyed this week, as well as to look ahead to the events we will be sharing together over the coming weeks.

This week, our **Year 5 pupils took part in a Matball event alongside children from Marleigh**. The event was a great success, with pupils demonstrating **excellent teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship** throughout. It was lovely to see the children working collaboratively, encouraging one another, and representing our schools so positively.

We thoroughly enjoyed the **Movement Miles Challenge** we have been engaging with for the last fortnight alongside four other primary school in our Anglian Learning school family. Good spirited competitiveness has certainly motivated more movement at a time of year when movement requires a higher level of motivation.

We were also delighted to welcome visitors into school for a special assembly to launch the **SparkTank Challenge**. The assembly generated a real buzz of excitement and curiosity among the children, and we are very much looking forward to taking part in this innovative project. More information will be shared with parents soon.

As we enter the second half of the half term, there are several events to look forward to. **On Tuesday 3rd February, we will be marking National Storytelling Week with a series of workshops in school**, giving children the opportunity to enjoy and explore stories in creative and engaging ways. **On Friday 6th February, we will celebrate NSPCC Number Day, with children invited to come to school dressed to represent or celebrate numbers**. The day will include a range of fun and interactive activities designed to inspire enjoyment and confidence in mathematics.

We will end the half term on a high note with our **PTFA Funky Hair Day on Friday 13th February**. **Children are invited to attend school in non-uniform with a funky hairstyle, and donations to the PTFA will be warmly welcomed**. These contributions play an important role in enabling the PTFA to continue supporting and enhancing our children's curriculum experiences.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very positive weekend. I hope the weather is kinder than forecast, but if it does turn out to be wet and cold, I hope you are able to enjoy a cosy and restful one with your families.



*Mrs Thompson*

Mrs Emily Thompson  
Executive Headteacher



We always want to do everything we can to encourage good attendance habits, and when it comes to illness, it's really important to know when your child can and cannot come to school. Unlike during the COVID-19 pandemic, children are now EXPECTED to come to school if they are experiencing mild respiratory illness, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. A high temperature may mean they are too unwell to attend, but if their temperature is not raised, they should be in school.

Please follow the links below for the latest guidance.



[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

[Children and young people settings: tools and resources - GOV.UK](#)



## News from our classrooms

### Butterflies Class

This week in Butterflies Class, we've been exploring the joys of Spring through the delightful book **Hello Spring** by Jo Lindley. The children have really enjoyed discovering the signs of the new season and have been sequencing pictures to retell the story in their own words. We will continue with this book next week as we extend our writing and look for more signs of Spring in the world around us. We have also been writing in the provision; making books about 'Zoo Animals' as we learn 'z for zoo' in Phonics.

In **PSHE**, we have been learning more about working together. The children have shown wonderful teamwork as they planned and built dens outside—there was lots of communication, cooperation, and creativity on display!

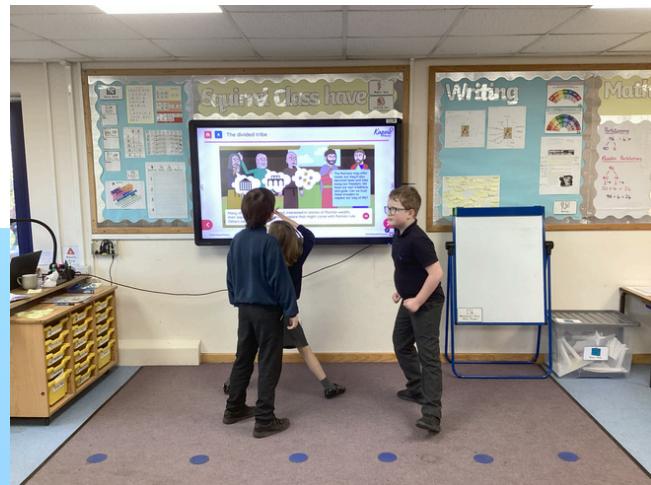
In **Maths**, we've been focusing on the numerals 1 to 5, supported by our favourite friends, the Numberblocks. The children always enjoy spotting numbers in their play and using them during our group activities.

It's been a busy and happy week of learning, and we're looking forward to seeing what signs of Spring we can spot together next week!





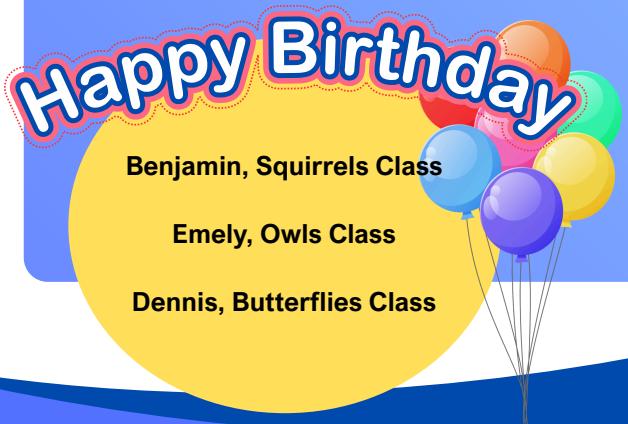
## Squirrels Class



Squirrel Class have enjoyed experimenting with creating structures in **Art**. We have now begun our Picasso-inspired faces and they look great so far!

We have also had a fun **History** lesson learning about the Celts and invading Romans. We did Drama and had a debate about our views, imagining that we were in the Celtic tribe and had to decide to welcome the Romans or not.

We have also enjoyed participating in **Active Maths** as an introduction to measuring length and calculating perimeter. We showed amazing teamwork and resilience to complete this activity in our groups!





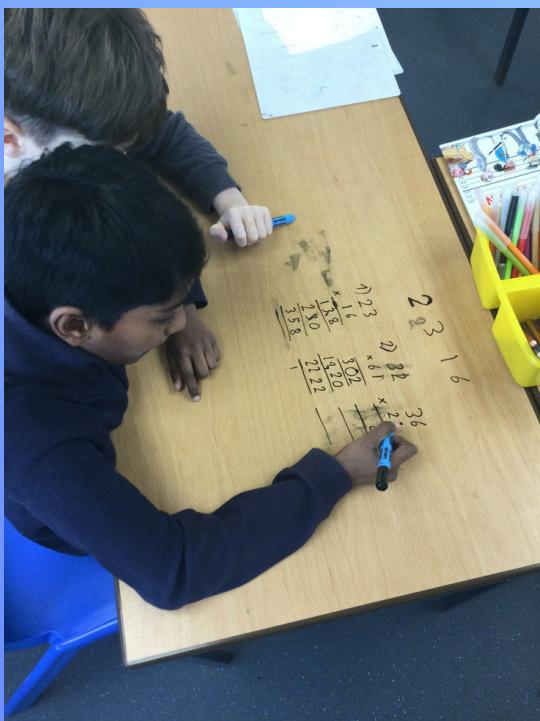
## Owls Class

Owls have had a wonderful week filled with creativity, curiosity and teamwork. They completed their **comparison texts**, exploring the similarities and differences between the wardrobe and Narnia. Their writing showed thoughtful ideas, clear structure and confident use of connectives to link their points.

In **Maths**, we began working on column multiplication and short division. These new methods can be challenging at first, but the Owls have shown real determination. Their perseverance is paying off, and they are now making strong progress with multiplying 2-digit numbers and dividing 4-digit numbers.

**Science** took us on an exciting journey into space. The children learnt about the shapes of the planets, their order in the solar system and the incredible speeds at which they orbit the Sun. A hands-on practical lesson brought the topic to life as the Owls became planets themselves, modelling orbits and movement around the sun.

To round off the week, the class took part in their first **Year 5 sports event** with Marleigh playing Matball. Every child demonstrated fantastic teamwork, encouragement and sportsmanship. It was brilliant to see them supporting one another and enjoying the experience together.





# 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**

### PTFA Quiz Night Success!

Wednesday night's PTFA quiz at the Crown and PunchBowl pub in Horningsea was a fantastic success and a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all involved.



It was lovely to see such a wide mix of people taking part — from families and staff directly connected with the school to members of the wider local community. The atmosphere was warm, friendly, and full of laughter, with teams enjoying some light-hearted competition and plenty of good humour.



The quiz was great fun and helped raise valuable funds for the school, but most importantly it offered genuine opportunities for connection. Events like this remind us how strong and supportive our community is, and how much we benefit from coming together outside the school gates.



Our thanks go to the PTFA for continuing to organise and provide these opportunities, and especially to Hélène for spearheading this event and making the evening was such a success. We are also grateful to the staff at the Crown and PunchBowl for hosting us.

#### Interested in Becoming a Parent Governor?

**JOIN US!**

We are inviting parents and carers to express an interest in becoming a Parent Governor. Parent governors play an important role in shaping the strategic direction of the school, offering a parent perspective, and helping ensure the best outcomes for all pupils.

You don't need any previous experience—just an interest in the school, a willingness to ask questions, and time to attend meetings and training. This is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to school life and make a real difference.

If you would like to find out more or register your interest, please contact the school office. We would be very happy to talk through what the role involves.



## NSPCC Number Day – Dress as a Number!

On Friday 6th February we will be taking part in the **NSPCC's Number Day** to celebrate maths across the school and to help raise funds for the NSPCC.

**Children (and staff!) are invited to dress up as a number.** Costumes can be as simple as wearing a number badge or a football shirt, or as creative as turning yourself into a maths problem! Low-cost and homemade options are very welcome.

During the morning, each class will take part in a special maths lesson dedicated to a number. We will also introducing the Maths Through Stories competition, where children will create their own maths-themed stories.

We kindly encourage our families to consider making a donation to the NSPCC. **Donations can be made via their website by clicking here:**



We are looking forward to an exciting day celebrating maths, creativity and problem-solving while supporting a really important charity.

Thank you for your support!





## Wild Hair Day



Friday 13<sup>th</sup>  
February!

Get ready for a day of colour, creativity and fun as the PTFA invites all pupils to take part in our Fun Hair Day on Friday 13th February.

On this day, children are welcome to come to school in **non-uniform** and show off their **wildest and most wonderful hairstyles**. Think big hair, bold colours, wigs, crazy hair-dos and plenty of hairspray — the wilder, the better!

There will be **prizes to be won**, with winners chosen and announced on the day, so everyone has a chance to get involved and have fun.

We kindly invite you to **make a donation of cash on the day OR by clicking here:**

**DONATE  
NOW**

All funds raised will go directly to the **PTFA**, helping us continue to enhance opportunities for all our children.

Thank you, as always, for your support — we can't wait to see the fantastic hairstyles on the day!



## 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>





## Key dates for your diary



- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** Workshops in school to mark National Storytelling Week
- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February:** Years 5 & 6 Parent Only RSE workshops. **FDP 5-530pm & MPA 2.45-3.15pm**
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February:** Number Day: Dress up as a representation of a number and donate via the just giving page.
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February:** Wild Hair Day. Children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform and show off their wildest and most wonderful hairstyles. Donations of cash on the day or online are welcomed.
- **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day - Children will be invited to dress as a word for our '**Words Come Alive**' theme this year. They can literally dress as any word so it can be as simple or creative as they want to make it!



## Key dates for your diary



Presents

# Primary Platform Exhibition 26

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an exhibition of artwork from Anglian Learning  
Primary Schools

**7 & 8 March 2026  
10 am to 3 pm**

The Marven Centre, New  
Road, Sawston Village College

**All welcome**





## 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

