



## School Newsletter Friday 30th January 2026

### Headteacher's insight

One of our key priorities in school is **helping children to secure their core knowledge** – particularly in **reading, number facts and times tables**. We know that children learn best when key facts are rehearsed regularly in small, manageable chunks. This kind of repetition builds confidence, fluency and long-term understanding.

This is where **learning at home plays such an important role**. Home learning does not need to be formal or time-consuming to be effective. Simple, everyday moments can make a real difference. Reading road signs as you travel together, spotting number bonds on door numbers while out for a walk, or answering a times table question for each step as your child walks up the stairs to bed are all powerful ways to reinforce learning in a natural, low-pressure way.

**Regular reading at home** is especially important. Reading to your child, listening to them read, and talking about books together all help to develop strong reading habits. Recording this reading in your child's reading record allows us to celebrate progress and support them effectively in school. Children also benefit greatly from seeing adults read for pleasure; modelling reading at home sends a powerful message that reading matters.

We have also been **delighted to see the creativity sparked by our menu of learning tasks**. The range of responses and individual styles has been wonderful to celebrate. These tasks provide valuable opportunities for discussion at home about what children are learning in school, and they often lead to learning being deepened even further. Most importantly, they show children that their learning is valued beyond the classroom.

By practicing little and often, and by talking positively about learning at home, children begin to see learning as part of everyday life rather than something that only happens in school.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to support your child – your involvement makes a lasting impact and we can see the benefits to your children in the classroom.

I hope you enjoy the weekend together. I am looking forward to our final fortnight of this half term that will have us celebrating **national storytelling week, NPSCC number day, Children's mental health week**, finalising and sharing our scheduling for next half term with you and ending on our PTFA Wild Hair Day.



*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](#)

Our whole school attendance is currently  
93.8%.....

Come on Team Fen Ditton - lets see if we can  
reach 95% next week!

We can achieve this!





# Help us raise funds for a New Projector



We have  
reached  
10% of our  
target!

£211,25

Helping to bring learning and  
celebrations to life for everyone  
involved.

**Every contribution helps, thank you for  
your support!**

**THANK YOU!**

**DONATE**





## KS2 Spark Tank Innovation Challenge

We are excited to launch the Spark Tank Innovation Challenge for our **KS2 pupils (Years 3-6)**

Children are invited to design an invention that could help make the world better by:

- ♻️ reducing waste
- ⚡ saving energy
- 💬 helping people feel safe and included

This is an optional homework challenge, where pupils create an idea for a new invention and present it on a poster or through drawings, diagrams or models.

### Key information

- Open to KS2 pupils
- Children can work alone or with a friend
- Entries due: 25 February
- School will choose three winning ideas

The winners will then work with real engineers to develop their inventions further and attend a showcase event in March.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children to develop creativity, confidence and problem-solving skills.

We look forward to seeing their amazing ideas!



**SPARK TANK  
CHALLENGE**

— Can your idea change the world? —

Call out a problem!! Invent something!! Enter the competition!!

Your challenge is to invent something that helps people or the planet!

Your invention must help with ONE of these:

- ♻️ Less rubbish and waste
- ⚡ Using less energy
- 💬 Helping people feel safe and included

Create an invention and show your idea on a poster, drawing, or model. Tell us:  What problem does it solve?  How does it work?  Who does it help?  Why is it important?

Teachers will choose 3 winning entries to develop their idea with a real engineer to present at the finals on in March!

**EXTRA:**  
**WHO CAN ENTER?**  
KS2 pupils - Work alone or with ONE partner.  
Hand in your idea to your teacher by 25 FEBRUARY



## Champions of the Movement Miles Competition!

 Congratulations, Fen Ditton Primary – Champions of the Movement Miles Competition!

Children, parents and staff went above and beyond during the 2-week Anglian Learning Movement Miles Competition, running, walking, cycling, swimming and more before, during, after school and at the weekends — and the results speak for themselves!

 Fen Ditton Primary travelled an incredible 715.87 miles! That's roughly the distance from Cambridge to Barcelona and back — now that's a European adventure! 

 Friday afternoon alone, pupils racked up 193 miles during a whole school Movement Break around the 200m wellbeing track — showing just how much energy and determination this school has!

 The enthusiasm during the 'Movement Breaks' in lessons had a massive impact on learning and wellbeing, keeping minds sharp and bodies active. With this energy and teamwork, the pupils truly led the way!

 Next challenge is coming soon...

Stay tuned, Fen Ditton —how far can we go?! 





## News from our classrooms

### Dragonflies Class

Dragonflies class have been hard at work over the last couple of weeks and have mastered many new concepts!

**Maths** has been a particular highlight over the last two weeks due to the children's dedication, resilience and team work. They have been developing their understanding of column method for both addition and subtraction. They started by working practically with base 10 to understand how to line up the place value and the importance of the word 'exchange' before moving on to working more abstractly in their books. This is such a hard concept which they have tackled with great enthusiasm!

They have also been enjoying writing their own holiday brochures in **English**. They have been trying to persuade people to visit Grandad's Island using rhetorical questions, emotive language and direct address.

Everyone is loving our **PE** unit of gymnastics this half term. They are so enthusiastic when we get the equipment out but are also using all of their gymnastics knowledge to create great shapes, jumps and even rolls via the equipment.

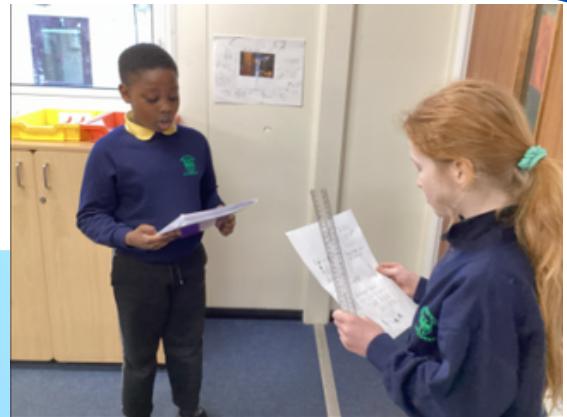
Finally, getting out for our **movement miles** has given Dragonflies an extra boost of energy and focus during our afternoon sessions. They ran, walked and jogged an incredible number of laps over the week and want to continue using this as a movement break every day!





## Hedgehogs Class

We've had another wonderfully busy week in Hedgehogs Class.



Our journey through **The Chronicles of Narnia** continues to spark so much imagination. Last week, the children wrote comparative setting descriptions inspired by the story, and it was fantastic to see them using rich adjectives and Year 4 writing features with growing confidence. Next, we'll be moving on to persuasive writing as the children compose letters encouraging Edmund to rejoin his brothers and sisters.

In **Maths**, we have been working hard on multiplying and dividing 2- and 3-digit numbers. The children are showing great determination, and practising times tables at home really helps strengthen these skills.

In **Computing**, we have been learning about the components inside a computer and how they work together. In Science, our rock investigations continue. Last week, the children created their own video tutorials explaining how fossils are formed — a brilliant blend of creativity and scientific understanding.

In **History**, we debated whether we agreed that the Roman army should or should not invade villages in Britain. We were split into two groups and had to argue our case as if we were villages of the time. In the end, we decided that we would not be happy for the Romans to invade despite the fact we know they did!





## Badgers Class

### **Art: Preparing for Our Platform 26 Exhibition**

The art studio has been buzzing with excitement as we prepare for our upcoming Platform 26 Art Exhibition. Pupils have been developing their skills and experimenting with layering, collage and macro photography before beginning to plan and design their final pieces for the theme of 'Belonging'. We can't wait to celebrate all their hard work.

### **English: Planning a Mock Trial for Macbeth**

In English, the children have stepped into the world of Shakespeare with great enthusiasm. We are currently planning a mock trial based on events from Macbeth, allowing pupils to analyse characters' motives, actions and moral dilemmas.

They have been:

- Gathering evidence from the text
- Preparing arguments for prosecution and defence
- Developing persuasive speaking skills
- Exploring themes such as ambition, guilt and responsibility

This engaging approach has really brought the story to life and deepened their understanding of Shakespeare's language and dramatic tension.

### **A Fantastic Week of Learning**

We are incredibly proud of the focus and creativity pupils have shown across all subjects. Thank you for your continued support.





## House Points

Hawking



188

Franklin



186

Darwin



185

Blackburn



183

Happy Birthday

Daniel, Owls Class

Sam, Badgers Class





### **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!



# Looking for a nursery?

**REGISTER NOW**



Families with children aged 3–4 are invited to apply for a place in Marleigh Nursery, a term time nursery open from 9am-3pm currently registering our next intake of children for the Summer term.

We have a fantastic Early Years team and a spacious play-rich environment where children can thrive.

If you have a little one ready to take their next step, we'd love to welcome them. [Find out more.](#)



## 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.



## 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**

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