



## School Newsletter Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026



### Headteacher's insight

As we reach the end of another wonderfully full week, it feels like there has been a **real sense of energy and togetherness across our school**. It has been one of those weeks that perfectly captures what makes our community so special — rich learning experiences, creativity in abundance and a shared focus on wellbeing, fun and fundraising.

Today, the school was buzzing with excitement as we took part in **NSPCC Number Day**. Children across all year groups immersed themselves in number-related learning, exploring maths in imaginative, practical and engaging ways. From problem-solving to games and challenges, it was a pleasure to see enthusiasm and confidence growing as the day went on. With a rather big birthday of my own coming up over the half-term break, I'll confess that I've had numbers on the brain recently — making today's focus feel especially fitting! Age is just a number, right?

Alongside our mathematical celebrations, we have thoroughly enjoyed marking **National Storytelling Week**. Each class took part in storytelling workshops that sparked imagination, developed language skills and encouraged children to share ideas and creativity. There has been a real buzz around books and stories this week, and it has been wonderful to see children so engaged — listening, performing, creating and, most importantly, enjoying the magic of stories.

This week has also been an important one for wellbeing as we recognised **Children's Mental Health Week**, focusing on the theme of belonging. Through thoughtful discussions and activities, children have been encouraged to reflect on what belonging means to them and how we can all play our part in making our school a place where everyone feels safe, valued and included. These conversations sit at the very heart of our school values and are a powerful reminder of the importance of kindness, understanding and connection.

Looking ahead to next week, there is still plenty to be excited about as we round off the half term in style. **Please do support our virtual duck race** if you can by buying a duck — it's a fun and simple way to get involved while helping us raise valuable funds for the school. Please do spread the word to friends and family. The anticipation is already building, and we're looking forward to seeing which duck crosses the finish line first!

We will also be ending the half term next Friday with some colour and creativity as children are invited to come to school with **wild and funky hairstyles and wearing non-uniform**, all in support of fundraising for our fantastic PTFA. What better way to celebrate the halfway point of the academic year than by coming together for a good cause and having fun.

In amongst the fun, assessments in core subjects will be taking place across the school next week. These outcomes will be shared with parents at the **Learner Review meetings next half term**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and involvement in school life. We look forward to finishing the half term on a high and returning refreshed and ready for the exciting learning still to come.



*Mrs Thompson*  
Mrs Emily Thompson  
Executive Headteacher



## Attendance Matters - Every day counts!



At Fen Ditton Primary School, we believe that every day in school helps our children grow in confidence, learning, and friendships. Being present each day gives pupils the best opportunity to succeed.

We understand that some absences are unavoidable due to illness, and your child's wellbeing always comes first. However, wherever possible, we kindly ask families to:

- Avoid booking holidays during term time
- Arrange medical appointments outside school hours where possible
- Support good morning routines to ensure children arrive on time

Good attendance helps children to:

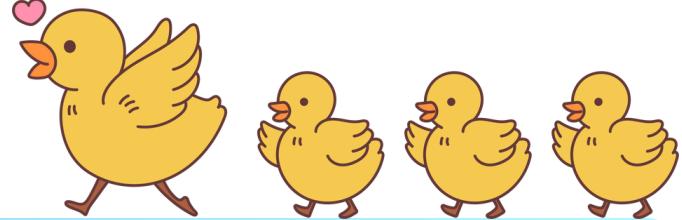
- ✓ Keep up with their learning
- ✓ Build positive routines
- ✓ Develop confidence in class
- ✓ Enjoy strong friendships

By working together, we can make sure every child makes the most of their time at Fen Ditton Primary School.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Our whole school attendance is currently 93.6%**  
**Come on Team Fen Ditton - lets see if we can reach 95% next week!**  
**We can achieve this!**





## 🦆💨 Our Virtual Duck Race is LIVE! 🌬️🦆

Get ready for some quacking good fun as our Virtual Duck Race launches soon!

For just £3, you can enter a duck into the race for a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher 🎁 plus runner-up prizes!

 **Race runs: Monday 2 March – Friday 6 March. Ducks to be purchased by Sunday 1 March.**

🎯 Ducks move randomly every hour – it really is anyone's race!

👀 Track your duck all the way to the finish line!

👉 Enter here and buy your duck:

<https://www.balloonrace.net/mpax>

Perfect for families, friends, and supporters – pick a duck, add a message, and cheer it on 🏁

Go, go, go!

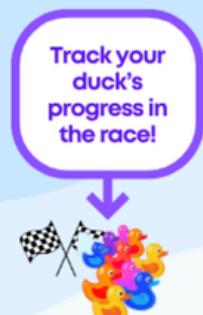
## Enter our Virtual Duck Race!

Race starts Mon 2 Mar & ends Fri 6 Mar

Get a duck for only £3!

When the race starts the ducks move a random distance every hour until the finish date. The movement is calculated by an algorithm, so it's anyone's game!

Track YOUR duck right up to the finish line!



**WIN £50 Amazon voucher!  
+ runner up prizes... GO GO GO!**

**CREATE MY DUCK!**



**Only £3**



# Help us raise funds for a New Projector



We have  
reached  
11% of our  
target!

£239.25

THANK YOU!

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

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

**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



## News from our classrooms

### Butterflies Class

The children have had a wonderful week filled with energy and enthusiasm. What a wonderful time the Reception children had at our **EYFS Sports Event**. They loved practising their skills and team games, showing growing confidence and coordination. We were so proud of how they cheered one another on, took turns, and celebrated everyone's efforts. It was a joyful reminder of how physical play helps build not only strong bodies but also friendships, resilience, and a real sense of achievement!

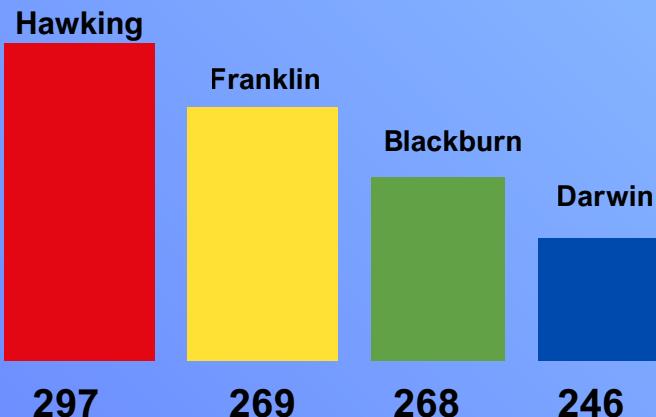
In **Science** we explored what happens to chocolate when it gets warm, predicting what they thought might happen if we placed one on the radiator, one outside and one in our hands. We each held a chocolate button in our hands for 2 minutes and noted how it changed. The children showed curiosity, used scientific language, and demonstrated good observation skills throughout the activity.

As we come towards the end of this busy half-term, the children have delighted us with their enthusiasm.

We are looking forward to Pancake Day activities and sharing kindness and creativity during our Valentine's Day celebrations next week.



### House Points





## Squirrels Class

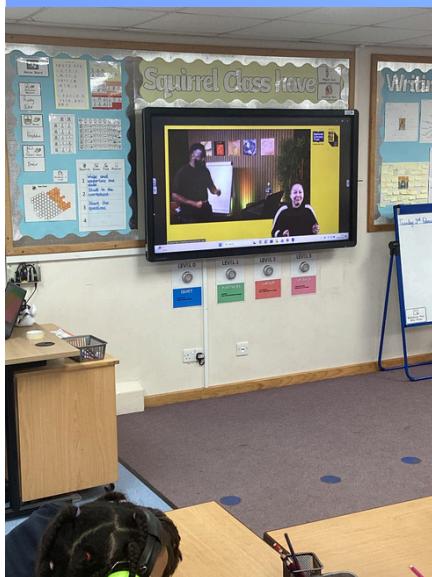
This week, Squirrel Class have been enjoying lots of active and practical learning!

We have been applying our knowledge of measuring to calculate the lengths of jumps in **Maths** and then extending this to calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes. We really enjoyed using the trundle wheels to calculate the perimeter of the playground and larger objects outside!

We have also enjoyed continuing our **Art projects**. We have painted our cardboard faces and started adding additional details - they are looking brilliant!

In **PSHE**, we completed a St John's Ambulance session about how to treat bites and stings, including what symptoms to look for if someone is having a severe allergic reaction. We then practised treating pretend bites and stings with a partner so that we could be sure about the correct steps to take.

We also enjoyed joining the online workshop for **National Storytelling Week** about how to use Rap to tell a story.





## Owls Class

In **English**, Owls class have been busy crafting instructional texts on 'How to Survive Narnia'. To help enrich their writing, the children played adverb bingo and 'guess the adverb', which encouraged them to uplevel their vocabulary. They also worked hard to include fronted adverbials, imperative verbs, and expanded noun phrases. The results were impressive, with some excellent pieces of writing produced.

In **Science**, the class have been investigating how many moons each planet has and exploring how day and night occur. Their enthusiasm for this topic has been wonderful to see, and they have shown great curiosity during our discussions and activities.

In **French**, we have been learning vocabulary linked to clothes. The children created their own characters using a variety of clothing items and then wrote sentences to describe what their characters were wearing. This has been a fun and creative way to build confidence with new language.





## Wild Hair Day - Next Friday!



The poster features a vibrant orange background with various cartoonish hair icons at the top: a pink curly wig with a lightning bolt, a purple starburst wig, a green leafy wig, and blue spiral wigs. The main title 'Wild Hair Day' is written in large, colorful, bubbly letters. Below it, a purple banner displays the date 'Friday 13th February, 2026'. A large photo of a child with a wild, multi-colored wig and matching sunglasses is on the left. To the right, a red circle contains the text '£1 donation'. A purple starburst in the top right corner contains the text 'Friday 13th February NEXT WEEK!'. The bottom right corner features the PTFA logo with the text 'Fen Ditton PTFA Reg Charity No. 102083'.

**Wild Hair Day**

**Friday 13th February, 2026**

Come to school in a hairstyle that's fun, creative and silly

**PRIZES for the most funky hair in each class**

Cash collection on the day or online at <https://bit.ly/FUNKYHAIR> (online min donation £2)

Funds raised will go to help develop the Forest School Area

£1 donation

Fen Ditton PTFA Reg Charity No. 102083

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?

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.](#)

**REGISTER NOW**



## Key dates for your diary



- **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.
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February:** Last day of half term
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February:** School starts
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** Anglian Learning Swimming Gala at Bottisham Village College.
- **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!



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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on Instagram!  
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follow us



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