



School Newsletter

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2026

Headteacher's insight

As we approach the end of September, I wanted to share another important part of how we start each school day and ensure that every child feels happy, safe and ready to learn.

Last year, we introduced daily wellbeing check-ins, encouraging children to rate how they were feeling on a scale of 1–5. This simple routine has helped us understand how our children are feeling as they arrive at school, recognise when someone might need a little extra support and create opportunities for meaningful conversations.

This year, as we embed The Good Morning Club (TGMC) across our schools, we have built on this established practice by introducing TGMC's wellbeing rating visuals. These provide children with a clear, accessible way to communicate how they are feeling, helping them develop the language to recognise and express their emotions. Importantly, they also help our adults notice changes, respond with care and make intentional connections with children who may need a little extra reassurance or encouragement.

Our 1–5 wellbeing rating isn't just for the children! We also use it as part of our staff briefings, giving colleagues an opportunity to share how they are feeling and helping us look out for one another. It is a simple approach that can easily be transferred into family life too. Why not try asking everyone at home to share their wellbeing rating over dinner or on the journey to school? Sometimes, a simple number can open the door to a really important conversation.



HOW
ARE
YOU?





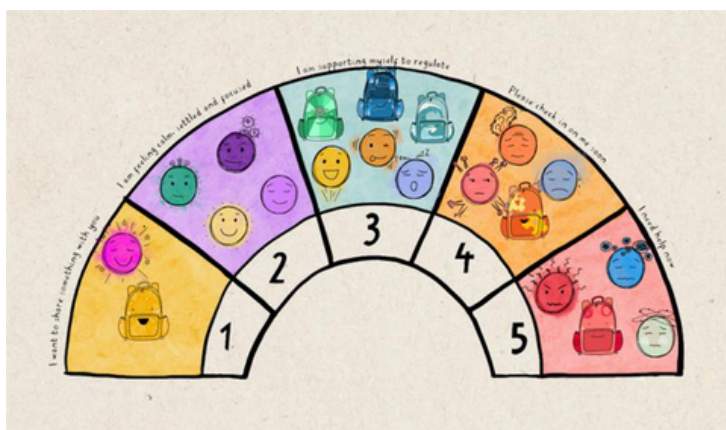
Continued.....

Alongside our Say Hey Your Way greetings, these daily check-ins are helping us create a positive and purposeful start to every day. We know that children (and adults!) do not always arrive at school feeling their best, and that is absolutely fine. What matters is that they know there is someone who notices, listens and cares.

It is another example of our belief in action: when children feel seen, heard and connected, they are in a much stronger position to be ready to learn.

I hope you have a positive first weekend of October and find some time to take actions that support your wellbeing ratings to be 1s and 2s!

1		I am great. I am happy and confident.
2		I am feeling good. I am ok.
3		I am a little bit worried or tired.
4		I am quite worried or upset. I need some help.
5		I am very angry or extremely worried. I need space or some time out.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Our School Trip Overview for this academic year has now been mapped out, outlining the minimum number of trips and experiences pupils can expect throughout the year. You can find the full overview on our school website [here](#)



Punctuality matters

Our lesson timetable starts immediately at 9:00.

When children arrive late, they miss the start of lessons, important instructions and valuable learning time.

1 minute
late each day



1 minute
late each day

Over an academic year
(190 school days) that's...

190
MINUTES
(3 hours 10 minutes)

3 minutes
late each day



3 minutes
late each day

Over an academic year
(190 school days) that's...

570
MINUTES
(9 hours 30 minutes)

5 minutes
late each day



5 minutes
late each day

Over an academic year
(190 school days) that's...

950
MINUTES
(15 hours 50 minutes)

A prompt start helps every child make the most of their day.

Thank you for your support.





News from our classrooms

Squirrels Class

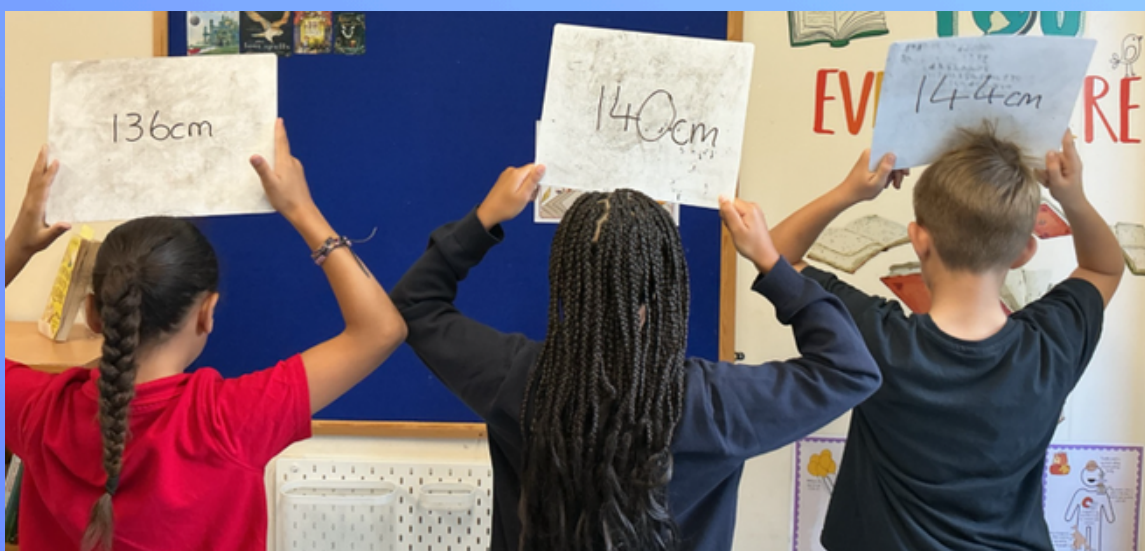
It has been another busy week of learning in Squirrel Class!

In **Writing**, we have been reading *Leon and the Place Between*. We have focused on exploring speech and how we can uplevel some of the vocabulary in the book. We identified a range of synonyms for said and asked to make our writing more interesting and engaging. These lessons have helped us understand how to correctly punctuate speech, ensuring that speech marks are always around what has been said.

We have continued reading *Arthur and the Golden Rope* in our **Reading** lessons. We have explored Arthur's journey and the range of emotions that he has felt throughout his adventures. To do this we worked collaboratively to make a feelings pathway to map out Arthur's development through the story.



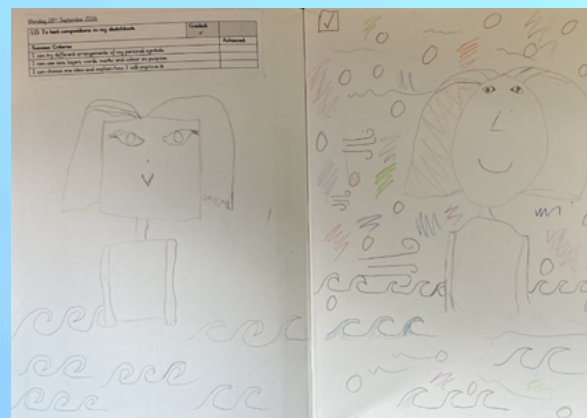
In **Maths** we have continued to work on our place value knowledge. To do this we did a practical investigation where we ordered ourselves according to our heights. We discovered our heights range from our shortest Squirrel at 125cm all the way to our tallest Squirrel at 150cm!





Squirrels Class continued....

In **Art**, we have been looking at Jean-Michel Basquiat and the artwork he has created. This week we have been practicing different compositions and layouts in preparations for creating our final piece.



We have also been exploring how childhood has changed and stayed the same throughout **History**. This week, we focused on why some Tudor children had to work and discussed whether they were jobs we would like to do.

In **RE**, we began learning about Humanism, discussing what they believe. We also shared our own ideas about what makes humans unique and special.



In **Science**, we have been investigating friction and its effects. We carried out an experiment to discover which material creates the most friction. We rolled a toy car down ramps covered in wood, tinfoil, sandpaper and a tea towel. Then we measured how far each car travelled. Surprisingly, the tea towel didn't allow the car to move at all!

This Week's House Points

Franklin



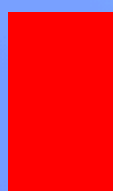
90

Darwin



87

Hawking



60

Blackburn



39



Sedric, Dragonflies Class
Ryleigh, Badgers Class





Owls Class

Owls have settled amazingly into the new school year and have enjoyed a busy and exciting first few weeks of learning. The children have shown fantastic resilience, enthusiasm and determination in everything they have done, and it has been wonderful to see them embracing new challenges and making a positive start to the term. Across the curriculum, they have been exploring a wide range of engaging topics and developing their skills and knowledge every day.



In **Maths**, we have continued to build our understanding of place value, developing our skills in reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers, as well as mastering the challenging concept of rounding. The children have grown in confidence when explaining their reasoning and justifying their answers using mathematical vocabulary. We have recently started our Addition and Subtraction unit, and it has been fantastic to see how their strong place value knowledge is supporting them to tackle 4 digit by 4 digit addition/subtraction problems.

In **English**, we have begun our new class text, Freedom Bird. The children have really enjoyed exploring the themes of freedom, justice and courage through rich discussions. We have written poems, narratives and letters of advice, while also developing our grammar skills by using conjunctions, modal verbs and abstract nouns. The children have shown great imagination and thoughtfulness in their writing and have worked hard to improve the quality of their sentences.

Our **Reading** lessons have centred around the book Hidden Figures, which has sparked lots of curiosity and discussion. The children have been fascinated by learning about the experiences of African Americans during the 1950s and have demonstrated excellent empathy when exploring the emotions and challenges faced by individuals during this period in history. They have asked thoughtful questions and have made insightful connections between the text and our wider curriculum learning.





Owls Class Continued....

Our **Science** topic this half term is Mixtures and Separation, and it has quickly become a class favourite! The children have loved taking part in practical investigations each week. So far, we have explored different methods of separating materials, used sieves to sort mixtures and even designed and created our own water filtration systems. The excitement, curiosity and teamwork shown during these experiments have been fantastic to see, and the children have enjoyed working scientifically to make predictions and draw conclusions

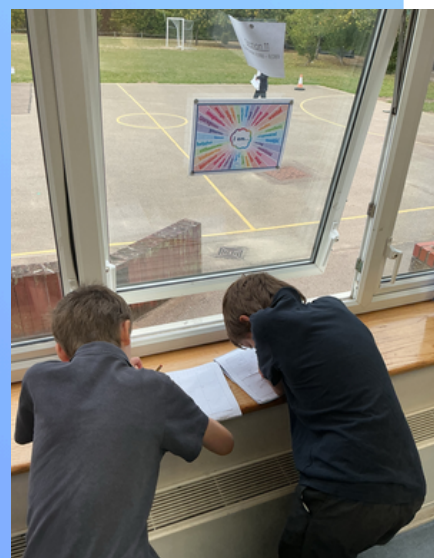


In **History**, we have been investigating our key question: How has childhood changed? The children have been comparing the lives of children throughout history, particularly during the Victorian and Tudor periods. They were shocked to learn about the harsh working conditions many children faced and could hardly believe that some children worked for up to 18 hours a day in dangerous environments such as mines and factories.

In **PE**, the children have been developing their football and netball skills. They have worked on passing, movement, teamwork and game awareness, showing excellent sportsmanship and determination throughout lessons. It has been great to see their confidence and skill levels improve each week.

In **RE**, we have been exploring the concept of religious freedom and discussing important themes such as prejudice and discrimination. The children thought carefully about why everyone should be treated fairly and with respect. As part of our learning, they imagined they were world leaders and created rules designed to protect religious freedom and prevent discrimination. Their discussions were thoughtful, mature and full of empathy.

We are incredibly proud of the positive start Owls have made this year and look forward to another exciting few weeks of learning ahead!



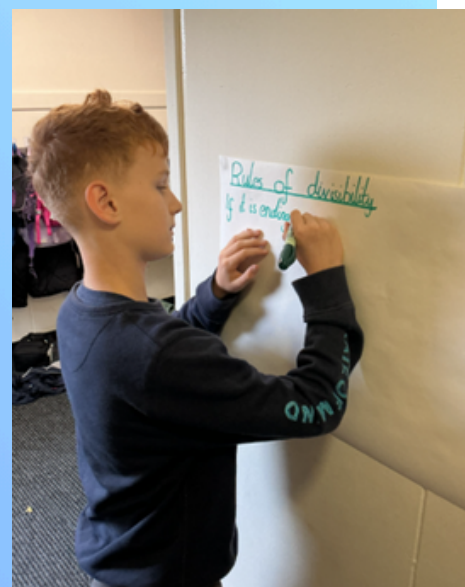


Badgers Class

This week in Badgers Class, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. We are enjoying our classroom environment, each morning begins with a check-in activity, giving children time to settle, connect with one another and prepare for a positive day of learning ahead.



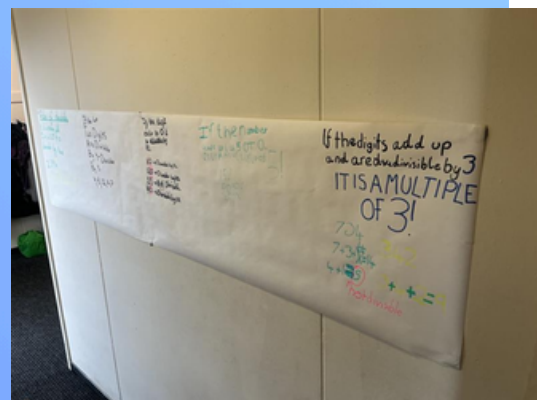
In **Maths**, we have been learning about the rules of divisibility. We took part in an investigation to explore what patterns and rules we could discover for ourselves. After sharing our ideas, we recorded our findings on a class display and worked together to check whether our rules were correct. We discovered lots of interesting rules, and there are many more to find, so we will continue our investigations over the coming weeks.



In **English**, we have been enjoying our class text, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. We used drama to explore how different characters might be feeling and stepped into their shoes to understand their thoughts and emotions. This helped us view events through a character's perspective and deepened our understanding of the story.

In **Science**, we have started investigating life cycles. As part of our learning, we created our own propagation stations using ivy cuttings. Over the next three weeks, we will carefully observe and record any changes as the plants develop roots and begin to grow.

This week, we also took part in our first sporting event of the year against Marleigh. Our pupils represented the school brilliantly while playing tennis. It was a fantastic experience that allowed everyone to demonstrate teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, and we are very proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the event.





Class Assembly Dates



Badgers Class: Tuesday 10th November 3pm-3.20pm

Owls Class: Tuesday 17th November 3pm-3.20pm

Squirrels Class: Tuesday 24th November 3pm-3.20pm



Christmas Cards

As we have done in previous years, the children will be creating beautiful winter designs in school and you will then be able to choose to turn their artwork in to Christmas cards to send to your family and friends. This year we are using a new company which promises to make the experience easier with less administrative burden as well as offering a broader range of printing options to families beyond just cards. **The children will bring their art work home to you by next Friday (9th October).** You will then have 2 weeks to place your order with the company. The ordering instructions will be with the art work. **If you choose to place an order you must then return your child's art work to your child's class teacher by Friday 23rd October.** Art work will be picked up from school when school reopens after the half term break so the printers can work their magic with your child's art work. All profits will go towards enhancing your children's experiences in school and for that we thank you in advance for your support.





NEXT WEEK



Fen Ditton Primary School  ANGLIAN LEARNING

Scholastic Book Fair!

Open 7th – 12th October

EVERY DAY, AFTER SCHOOL.

Location: Playground (or Hall if wet)

Thursday 8th
Individual
school
photos



ANGLIAN LEARNING

Harvest FESTIVAL

Small donations make a big difference

We are collecting food donations for our Harvest Festival to support families in our community. This year, our donations will be going to

ABBEY PEOPLE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

We are collecting:



Canned
food



Pasta



Cereal



Any long life
products

Tinned fruit, vegetables, soup, beans, pasta sauces,
UHT milk, biscuits, tea, coffee and more...



Please bring your
donations by

Thursday
8th October

Thank you
— ♥ —



Key Dates/Events

Events - Autumn term

There are several curriculum events being held during school time that your child will be able to tell you about and we will share in the newsletter and on social media. Below are a list of only dates that we feel are most important for parents to be aware of or may require some support/action. We hope it is helpful to have these dates in advance.

OCTOBER

- **Thursday 8th October:** Harvest Festival (food donations encouraged for collective donation to local food bank, info on previous page)
- **Thursday 8th October:** Individual and sibling photos
- **Friday 9th October:** Learner Review schedule and booking information for Learner Reviews shared with parents (see below for dates of Learner Reviews)
- **Monday 19th October:** Parent and Child Workshop Reception and Year 1 - Phonics 3:30-4pm
- **Friday 23rd October:** PTFA Halloween Bake Sale
- **October half term:** 26th - 30th October

NOVEMBER

- **Monday 2nd November:** INSET Day - School not open for children
- **Monday 2nd November:** Book Advent Calendar Raffle tickets go on sale
- **Tuesday 3rd November:** Tea towel order deadline for parents and carers
- **Friday 13th November:** Non uniform day - donations welcomed to support the Christmas Fair
- **Monday 16th to Friday 20th November:** Learner Review meetings for each pupil and parent/carer from Reception to Year 6. Each family will make a 10 minute appointment and attend in person or online to review their child's learning with the class teacher.
- **Friday 27th November:** Confirmation of Spring term clubs schedule and arrangements for securing places to be shared with parents and carers
- **Sunday 29th November:** Deadline for Book Advent Calendar Raffle tickets purchasing
- **Monday 30th November:** Winners of Book Advent Calendar Raffle announced and prizes given

DECEMBER

- **Wednesday 9th December:** School Christmas Dinner
- **Thursday 10th December:** Parent and Child Workshop Year 3 and 4 - Times Tables 3:30-4pm
- **Friday 11th December:** Christmas Fair 3:30-4:45pm
- **Friday 11th December:** Christmas Jumper Day
- **Thursday 17th December:** Last Day of Term - School closes for Christmas

Reception Open Day 2027

We invite you to visit **Fen Ditton Community Primary School**, register today for a group tour.

Group Tour Dates & Times

Monday 5 Oct, 11am - 11:45am

Monday 12 Oct, 2pm - 2:45pm

Monday 19 Oct, 4pm - 4:45pm

Monday 9 Nov, 11am - 11:45am

Monday 16 Nov, 2pm - 2:45pm



REGISTER NOW



If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 you need to apply for Reception for September 2027.

Deadline for applications is 15th January 2027



FOLLOW US



AUTUMN TERM 2026

Autumn 1 Term Starts – Friday 4 September
Autumn 1 Term Ends – Friday 23 October
Half Term - 26 October - 30 October
Inset Day – Monday 2 November
Autumn 2 Term Starts– Tuesday 3 November
Autumn 2 Term Ends – Thursday 17 December
Inset Day – Friday 18 December
21 December – 1 January – Christmas Holidays

SPRING TERM 2027

Inset Day – Monday 4 January
Spring Term 1 Starts – Tuesday 5 January
Spring Term 1 Ends – Friday 12 February
Half Term - 15 February - 19 February
Spring Term 2 Starts – Monday 22 February
Spring Term 2 Ends – Thursday 25 March
Friday 26 March – Friday 10 April – Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2027

Summer Term 1 Starts – Monday 12 April
May Bank Holiday – Monday 3 May
Summer Term 1 Ends – Friday 28 May
Half Term - 31 May – 4 June
Summer Term 2 Starts – Monday 7 June
Inset Day – Friday 2 July
Summer Term 2 Ends – Wednesday 21 July

**Click here to
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Instagram!**



ANGLIAN LEARNING