

# Newsletter

February 2025



## Dear Parents & Carers,

A fabulous start to the year, with so much covered already! Have a read through each class's report and see what's been going on. Remember the website is always updated with news too. See you back next week!

### Oak Class

Another busy half term in Oak with lots of learning in different areas and the class working hard! Lots of sentence writing has been based around the story of the Ugly Duckling which links well with our values for this term – *we are all unique and precious and we look after each other and ourselves* – or writing has been linked to our toys topic. The class are learning to use different conjunctions, adjectives and adverbs in their sentences as well as continuing to focus on sentence punctuation and handwriting – Year 2 love trying to join their writing! In art we have created collages and had fun with clay. There was also great excitement creating instructions to complete mazes on the I-pads in computing lessons.

### Birch Class

In Birch Class this half term, we have been very busy. Year 5 have started their weekly swimming lessons and are making great progress whilst the year 6's are having extra lessons in grammar and maths. In Geography we learnt about global trade and focused on imports and exports. In Science we learnt about the Earth and Space which the pupils really enjoyed, particularly creating scale drawings of the Solar System. In RE we have learnt about Hinduism and in Computing we made various databases. In Literacy, the class wrote amazing versions of The Piano and are currently writing formal letters to important local people.

### Sports & Clubs

The year 3 and 4 team took part in a basketball festival on Tuesday. The team played extremely well and showed great commitment and teamwork. Thank you to Mrs Friar for taking the team to this event. On Thursday, a group of year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a UV dodgeball festival. The children all had a great time and enjoyed the experience. Next week, the year 5 and 6 basketball team will be competing in the Gipping Valley tournament at Thurston Community College.

We also had an archery enrichment day which children from the whole school enjoyed greatly.

### Chestnut Class

This half term we have had a fantastic time exploring some wonderful stories that have connected to our topic work. Most recently the children have discovered the history of our Earth through 'The Pebble in my Pocket' and produced fantastic time travelling pieces. In science we have explored rocks and the children loved getting hands on with the different rocks available at school! The children even brought in some wonderful rock and fossil samples from home which brought our lessons to life, thank you for sharing! In RE the children have learnt about the conversion of St Paul and again were able to see how transformations can occur within everyone and objects such as jam jars. In maths the children have been working hard on their times table, division and problem-solving facts. We are working on ensuring we break down the information in a question to help us solve word problems. In computing we have been composing emails and responding to emails with attachments. The children know the importance of being safe when it comes to receiving emails with links and know not to share personal information. In art we have been learning about different painting techniques focusing on the work of Georgia O'Keefe and J.M.W. Turner. In PSHE we are learning about money and its value for people all over the world. In geography we have learnt about the water cycle! The children have been terrific in learning how to dance as spies and know some brilliant samba moves! In music we have been composing with our friends and the children have loved joining in with the songs and sharing their ideas. In French we have been learning about greetings! Well done for working so hard Chestnut Class! Looking forward to our next learning adventure!

### Ash Class

A fantastic start to 2025. In Ash class we have been adventurous learners, taking on new challenges to consolidate and further our learning. We are working hard on our personal and social skills; taking turns, showing empathy and working together as a team and also being independent. In phonics we have started to learn phase 3 phonemes as well as revising phase 2, we are blending these sounds to read words and learning the high frequency words by sight to support our fluency when reading and we are trying hard to apply this to our writing too. In maths we have been exploring numbers to 8, developing our number sense to understand number facts. We also investigated shapes and their properties. We learnt about length, height and weight. We have created art work in the style of Henri Matisse, been on adventures with Tessa and Tom looking at how we can help others and we created a Chinese dragon when learning all about the Lunar New Year. This was definitely a highlight for all. What a super first half to the Spring term.

Mon Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school
Tues Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	Football match vs Stonham
Thurs Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day & Y5 Maths day
Fri Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Enrichment P.E
Mon Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	Debenham Liaison Morning
Fri Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	End of term
Mon Apr – 7 <sup>th</sup> – Mon Apr 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Holidays
Tues Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Back to School
Fri May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Enrichment P.E
Mon May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday
Wed May 14 <sup>th</sup> – Fri May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Thorpe Woodlands (Year 3 & 4)
Fri May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	End of term
Mon May 26 <sup>th</sup> – Fri May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Half term
Mon Jun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Back to school
Fri July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Enrichment P.E
Weds July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Debenham Induction Day
Fri July 18 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term

**PSA**

**The Magical Pantomime – Loved by All!**

Thanks to fundraising efforts and the kind donations from our wonderful school community, we were able to provide a special treat for the whole school. On 8th January, the PSA took all the children to The New Wolsey Theatre to watch Sleeping Beauty – and what a fantastic show it was!

The children were mesmerized from start to finish, with plenty of laughter and excitement throughout the performance. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive – it’s safe to say they absolutely loved it!

Winter might still have its grip on us, but we have plenty of exciting events to warm things up

**Valentines Doughnut Stall** – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February Because nothing says love like delicious doughnuts!

**Crafty Easter Fun & Our Creating St. Mary Primary School Recipe Book!**

We have some wonderful crafty Easter activities planned to keep the children entertained and creative. Plus, don’t forget that our school recipe book will be available later this term—filled with delicious contributions from our school community!

**Family Games Night – Thursday 2nd May**

We’re planning an evening of fun and friendly competition for the whole family. Details will be announced soon, so save the date and stay tuned!

**The Infamous Summer Fayre – Friday 27th June**

Yes, it’s still a little way off, but planning is already underway for our biggest event of the year. Expect all the usual favourites and some new surprises—mark your calendars, and we’ll share more details soon!

**Exciting Plans for PSA Spending!**

We are currently looking into further fun school trips for the summer term, and each class will be getting a little bug-tastic treat after the half term holidays!



Ash Class celebrated Lunar New Year with this wonderful dragon, which has become an annual tradition, and makes its appearance during assembly!

**Absence**

New Dfe rules regarding absence came into effect from August 2024.

**Reminder:**

Ash and Oak classes should arrive between 8.40 & 8.45am. Chestnut and Birch classes should arrive between 8.30 & 8.40am.

Younger siblings can arrive at the earlier time.

**Attendance & Lates from 4/9/24 – 9/2/25**

Ash	100 lates
Oak	68 lates
Chestnut	58 lates
Birch	1 late
Ash	99.6%
Oak	96.2%
Chestnut	96.8%
Birch	95.2%

Remember, the DFE expects all children to attend unless they are too ill to do so.

**BACK TO  
SCHOOL**  
  
**Monday**  
  
**Feb 24th**