



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been absolutely fabulous to enjoy such lovely weather over the past week or so! Seeing and hearing the children's excitement at being able to get out on the field during play and lunchtimes has been just wonderful.

This term has flown by, and we have managed to pack in so many fantastic experiences. Our children have had the opportunity to take part in two residential trips, where they truly connected with nature. Woodpecker Class spent time at New Barn near Dorchester, while Falcon Class explored the countryside and coastline at Leeson House near Swanage. These experiences are invaluable, as research shows that children remember more, develop important social skills, and build strong relationships during these trips. A huge thank you to the staff members who volunteered their time to ensure these trips could happen – their dedication is greatly appreciated.

We have also celebrated some fantastic whole-school events, including World Book Day and Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who supported the children with their costumes and hats, making these days both fun and memorable.

Heron Class have had an enriching term too, with exciting visits to Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Lifeskills Centre in Bristol. They also enjoyed an unforgettable trip alongside other local Year 6 pupils for a walking tour of central London and theatre visit to see Matilda at the Cambridge Theatre. Meanwhile, Falcon Class stepped back in time with a visit to the Roman Villa at the Newt.

A huge congratulations to both Kingfisher and Woodpecker Classes for their fantastic Easter production – what a wonderful way to put a spring in our step as we head into the holiday! We are also incredibly grateful to the Friends of Wyke for their continued fundraising efforts, including the recent Easter Bingo event, which was a great success.

We are excited to announce the launch of our new after-school club, Night Owls, which complements our breakfast club, Early Birds. This now means our wraparound care provision is available from 7:30am to 5:30pm every day, giving more flexibility for families.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break – hopefully, the sun will continue to shine so you can enjoy these longer days!

Best wishes

Ed Birkett





**Easter 2025**

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## Children Who Read Succeed!

Reading is one of the most powerful tools for learning, and children who develop a love for books build strong language skills, creativity, and imagination—helping them succeed in all areas of life!

We know that parental involvement plays a huge role in fostering a love of reading, and there are plenty of ways to support your child at home. From sharing bedtime stories to discussing books together, small moments can make a big difference.

Holiday times are also the perfect opportunity to enjoy reading as a family. Why not take a trip to **Gillingham Library**, where they have lots of fun activities planned over the Easter holidays? Children can get creative with **Easter card making**, **have fun with LEGO**, and **enjoy an Easter Bunny craft session**.



## A Huge Thank You to Our Residential Trip Heroes!

We would like to acknowledge and give a massive thank you to all the staff who generously gave their time and energy to take both our Woodpecker and Falcon classes on their residential trips to New Barn and Leeson House, respectively.

Without their willingness to spend time away from their own families and volunteer, these incredible experiences simply wouldn't be possible. We're sure you'll join us in expressing our sincere gratitude for their support.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Turner and Miss Cheetham for organising and leading the trips. Their hard work and dedication ensured the adventures were not only successful but also filled with wonderful memories for the children. Thank you also to all the children for their fantastic engagement and for representing our school values so brilliantly throughout. A true success all round!



## FANTASTIC NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION!



The latest fundraising events and initiatives run by our amazing Friends Association, including the disco, Bingo, Mother's Day sale, Asda Cashpot and Easy Fundraising has raised a whopping £1317.20 !!! Thank you to our families for all your support, and to the committee for their dedication, and their brilliant work!

## IMPORTANT—SCHOOL LUNCH REMINDER



Just a reminder that the cut off for ordering a hot school meal for your child for the first week back after the Easter

holiday was Sunday, 6th April. If you have missed the deadline, please send your child in with a packed lunch. Thank you.





### WREN CLASS NEWS

What a fantastic term we've had in Wren Class, full of exciting learning!

Our Curious City enquiry this term has been 'How Do We Move?' and we've really enjoyed lots of fun learning while answering this through lots of mini questions each week.

We began by learning about how humans move. The children were fascinated to discover that while they thought bones were what make us move, that it's actually our muscles that do the work! Our bodies, skeletons, and muscles sparked lots of curiosity, and the children loved learning about what's inside us.

Next, we explored how animals move. We were amazed to find out that animals move in so many different ways! The children had fun imagining what it would be like to have wings and fly, just like the birds. We also read the lovely story 'Perfectly Norman' which is about a boy with wings who is worried about being different. Wren Class love celebrating how unique we all are!

We then moved on to the theme of transport, where we discovered how vehicles help us move faster, further, and for longer distances. We had a lot of fun exploring wheels and how they work. Playing with ramps and tubes has been so much fun!

One of the highlights of our term has been reading the story 'Naughty Bus' which led to an exciting surprise – when a bus, just like the one in the story, appeared in our classroom! We have no idea where it came from, but the children loved spotting what mischief the bus had been up to each night! Thankfully, some of the children built a trap to keep the bus secure and stop all the mischief! Phew!

In maths we have had fun exploring the properties of 3D shape - playing with them is the best way to do this - working out which shapes can stack, roll, slide etc. We've also become repeating pattern experts - we can make patterns with objects, ourselves and even with sounds!

This final week has been all about exploring the meaning of Easter. The children have been really interested in the Christian story of Easter as well as enjoying a classroom full of Easter fun!

We hope the lovely sunshine continues into the Easter holidays and that you all have a fun, and restful break.

Happy Easter everyone! *Mrs de Villiers & Mrs Turvey*





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## OWL CLASS NEWS

Wow - another busy term for Owl Class. We have had so many fantastic days throughout this term, it has been wonderful to be a part of.

In Maths we have worked on two tricky units: time and fractions. Owl Class enjoyed making their own clocks and using them to help with their learning. The children learnt how to read the time at o'clock, half past, quarter past and to, as well as 5 minutes past and to. It was tricky but the children showed great resilience. Owl Class have really enjoyed learning all

about fractions and can confidently answer lots of questions about half, quarter and third, using counters to help share. They also know the difference between unit and non-unit fractions, as well as being introduced to counting in fractions!

During English the children have loved our book 'Rosie Revere, Engineer', about a young girl who dreams of being a wonderful engineer but has to learn to fail first in order to succeed. The children have completed lots of amazing pieces of writing, and finished with an explanation text of their own wacky invention. I have been so proud of all the wonderful progress with the children's writing this term.

Owl Class have been amazing Historians this term and have enjoyed learning all about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We have discovered all about his achievements including the Thames Tunnel and Clifton Suspension Bridge. The highlight was when children built their own bridge using many different materials! They worked amazingly as a team and made all of the adults in the classroom very proud!

It has been a fantastic term and all the children deserve a great break! Have a lovely Easter!

*Mrs Hodge and Miss Bryan*





### WOODPECKER CLASS NEWS

This half term has been INCREDIBLY busy for Woodpeckers. We have been enquiring 'Who Stood Here Before Us?' and finding out all about life in Anglo Saxon times. The highlight of this was our residential to New Barn Field Centre which was the first night away from home for many of us! The adults were so proud of how well the children conducted themselves and how resilient they proved themselves to be. We spent most of Thursday orienteering and learning new map skills while we whizzed about the site finding the markers. We were also able to meet the animals including the very friendly pig! The evening consisted of pottery and a night walk where we learnt all about Poundbury and the area around Dorchester.

On the Friday, we put our Anglo-Saxon learning into action where we completed lots of activities such as butter making, medicine making and grinding flour from wheat. We especially enjoyed sitting in the replica Anglo-Saxon house. We returned very tired but full of lots of new learning!

As well as this, we have also been busy with our Easter production, 'A Springtime Surprise'! The children have worked hard learning their lines and lots of songs and I'm sure you'll agree that they performed it brilliantly!

Our time with our ukulele teacher has now come to an end and we are finishing the term with a new skill. We have learnt chords and melodies and really loved the opportunity we had.

A few weeks ago, we took a small team of footballers to Gillingham School to take part in a tournament with seven other schools. We did brilliantly, scoring five goals and winning our first three matches! We only conceded goals in the final where we finished runners up. A great effort on all parts!

In Maths, we have been busy learning tricky fractions and starting to see how these relate to decimal numbers. We have explored lots of different poetry types in English based on the book 'Stars With Flaming Tails'. This has allowed us to be really free and creative which we have really loved! We wish you all a well-needed restful Easter break.

*Mrs Turner, Miss Sheere and Miss Pollard*





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## HERON CLASS NEWS

This half term, our Enquiry has been "Who were the greater engineers - the Ancient Britons or the Victorians?" This is always a popular enquiry as we have the chance to be both historians and engineers, together with an unforgettable trip to Bristol to see the Clifton Suspension Bridge, built by the famous engineer himself, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. As well as studying the different materials and engineering techniques from both the Stone Age to Iron Age and onto the Victorian era, we also had the opportunity to put our own engineering skills to the test by designing, building and evaluating our own bridges. Engineering day was, as you can imagine, a very popular day in Heron Class! Whilst in Bristol, we also took the opportunity to visit the Life Skills Centre where we took part in a number of different scenarios focused on helping to us keep safe. These included: safety in the home, at the beach, at the station together with first aid and we even had the chance to call 999 (only a pretend call)!



This term, we also had an amazing trip to London with lots of other children from local schools. We visited some of the sights including Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and saw Big Ben as we crossed over Westminster Bridge. We even managed to see the Changing of the Guards, just as we walked through Horse Guard's Parade. We couldn't believe our luck! In the evening, after a quick stop at McDonalds, we walked up through Covent Garden to the Cambridge Theatre where we watched Matilda the Musical, which was absolutely incredible. An event never to be forgotten, I think.

Last week, we were also lucky enough to receive a visit from Wessex Water who ran a workshop with us in which we had to cost up, buy and build a whole water system enabling water to travel from a water tower to local amenities such as the school, a hospital and a library. We had the chance to be mathematicians, engineers and quantity surveyors whilst completing the challenge and learnt about the numerous jobs that can be applied for when working for Wessex Water. A great experience for the class who worked brilliantly together in their teams.

Finally, with thoughts of moving onto secondary school in September, we had a visit from Niki, our Mental Health support worker, who ran a workshop on transition to secondary school. We had the opportunity to talk about how we were feeling about secondary school including the things we were worried about as well as the things we were looking forward to and Niki gave us some strategies which might help us in managing our worries and feelings over the next few months.

It has been an extremely busy half term and we have had some wonderful experiences. We look forward to next half term with more excitement and experiences. *Mrs Rose and Mrs Hall*





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## KINGFISHER CLASS NEWS

It's been another jam-packed term for Kingfisher Class!

We have thoroughly enjoyed our enquiry entitled 'What is underneath our feet?' We began by learning about the different layers of the earth's structure,

before finding out about the key features of volcanoes and earthquakes. We located the 'ring of fire' on the world map and found out what it would be like to live in a location near to where volcanic eruptions and earthquake tremors happen frequently. We carried out an earthquake safety drill that many children would need to do regularly if they lived in a country which had recurring earthquake tremors. Whilst we thought this was fun to have to hide under our desks in the classroom, we also learnt to realise how much damage and destruction these can cause to people's everyday lives.

Our trip to the Earth Science Centre in Radstock has been a real highlight of our half term. We loved looking at all of the different rocks and carrying out simple tests and experiments to group and sort them. We also had the opportunity to visit a working quarry and find out about the rock cycle.

For the last part of our enquiry, we learnt how fossils are formed and what soil is made up of. We have many children interested in being palaeontologists in their future careers!

We have loved linking our work as authors to our enquiry. We sequenced, retold and role-played the story 'Escape from Pompeii', which was written based on Mount Vesuvius erupting in 79AD. We have also written our own Kenning poems linked to volcanoes.

In Maths we have been learning about fractions. We learnt a secret code: aFiaEpoaW: A fraction is an equal part of a whole! We understand what part the numerator and denominator play in the fraction, and used this to compare and order fractions. We will now be moving on to learning about mass and capacity.

It has been really special to share our Year 3 and 4 Easter play, 'The Springtime Surprise', with our families and friends. We have felt really proud of how brave everyone has been performing in front of so many people. The singing has been fabulous and so many children have learnt many lines and dances to perform – great job Kingfishers and Woodpeckers, you are all superstars!

On that note, we think it is fair to say that Kingfisher Class have worked their socks off this half term and all deserve a good rest. Have a wonderful Easter break with your families and we look forward to seeing you for the start of the Summer term – fingers crossed for some sunshine!

*Mrs Abbott, Mrs Simpson, Miss Long, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Pollard*



### ROBIN CLASS NEWS

Robin Class have been amazing engineers this term with our Curious City enquiry 'How do we move around?' We started the enquiry by thinking about how we move in different ways. We had to lead a blindfolded partner over an obstacle course which was great fun! We then looked at how books move and learned about the different mechanisms used to make pop-ups, sliders, pivots and levers. We tested out each mechanism to see if we could recreate a moving picture. We then looked at things that move around in our school environment. We found both physical and human features. We used these features to design and create our own moving picture of our school grounds and chose which mechanism we wanted to use to make them. They are brilliant!



Alongside making our pictures move, we have also been making a robot move as programmers in Computing. We explored the directions and commands we could give the Bee-Bots. We made predictions for the commands we needed to give, and then learned about debugging when the commands did not work! We then had a story map and had to create algorithms for two different routes for our robot to take to end up at the same place on the map. We had to work as a team and plan the algorithms, test them out and then debug if the robot did not reach its destination. We had to show lots of resilience!

This week we have started a mini enquiry into how our school changes in the spring, as we did for autumn and winter. We looked in the garden for signs of spring and found flowers in bloom, new leaves growing, insects including bumblebees, and two frogs and tadpoles in our pond. We look forward to creating art using signs of spring to add to our seasonal art.

In Maths we have enjoyed counting and representing numbers to 50. We have started to partition the numbers using part-whole models and base ten and also estimating where the numbers would be on a number line.

Our writing in Curious Quests continues to get better and better and we are all trying to write a bit more now. We have been learning about verbs, adjectives and proper nouns which we can use to improve our sentences.

In PSHE we have been learning about how to keep ourselves healthy and safe. We have thought about food, exercise, medicines and road safety. We have been very thoughtful about making healthy choices.

This week we have been getting very excited about Easter. We enjoyed eating hot cross buns with Mrs de Villiers and finding out about the symbol of the cross. We all enjoyed the Easter story presented through Lego!

The sun has made us all feel very happy this week and enjoy being outside. Let's hope it stays with us over the Easter holidays and Robin Class can have a well-deserved fun time over the two-week break! Well done Robins!

*Mrs Beales, Mrs Scammell and Mrs Jones*





### FALCON CLASS NEWS

Falcon Class have had a very busy end to the Spring term! Our enquiry has been 'Who is trading with whom?' and we started out as Geographers learning all about trade, including what the global supply chain is as well as what the UK imports and exports. After that, we became Historians, and learned all about the legacy of the Romans in Britain with a particular focus on trade. As part of this we took a trip to the Roman Villa and Museum at The Newt and had a brilliant time being given a guided tour by guides in full costume, as well as learning skills such as weaving, mosaic making and archaeology! For our final challenge we created a poster all about the Romans and what they left behind!



As Authors, we have been reading the book 'The Man Who Walked Between the Towers' by Mordecai Gerstein, which is the true story of a French performer, who tightrope walked between the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. This inspired us to write a discussion text about whether this controversial act was right or wrong. The children all worked really hard to create a balanced argument, including points from both sides, while remembering the key grammatical features of the text such as modal verbs and adverbs of possibility.

This half term we were also lucky enough to head off on our two-night residential trip to Leeson House on the Dorset coast, where we enjoyed an array of fabulous outdoor activities. This included a coastal walk to Dancing Ledge, smuggling stories around a campfire, exploring the sand dunes at Studland, orienteering, pond dipping and finding great crested newts, fire-lighting and environmental art! The children were perfectly behaved throughout the trip and impressed all the adults with their enthusiasm and positivity for all the activities. Well done Falcon Class!

You have all worked super hard this term Falcons, have a well-earned rest over the Easter break!

### Miss Cheetham

