



## Weekly Newsletter: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after half-term! I hope that you all had a great week and enjoyed the festivities that are in full flow from the end of October. I know that many of the children enjoyed Trick or Treating in the village last Friday. I happened to have popped into school to get a few jobs done and, as it got dark, the sounds of screams, shouts and laughter from Lambert Drive and the park could be heard from my office (I'm not going to lie .... it was a little unnerving!).

This week, we received some exciting news as we were awarded our Royal Horticultural Society School Gardening Award Level 2. This recognised the efforts that have been put in by the Eco Council, Mrs. Fisher and children from across the school (and Mr. Newcombe who submitted the paperwork!). To achieve the award, we needed to demonstrate how we all contribute to our gardening plans, how we learn new skills to help with growing plants and caring for gardens, and how gardening, and being in our outside spaces, has supported our wellbeing. As a prize, we have received a book and gardening voucher to help us on our mission to reach Level 3.



This week, our Year 5 and 6 School Councillors have been busy collecting donations for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal ahead of Remembrance Day next week, when we will come together at 11am for a period of silence and reflection.

This week, under the guidance of Mrs. Fisher, all of the children have been busy contributing to an art installation inspired by the poppies (thank you for all of the plastic bottles and old umbrellas). We are currently finalising how this beautiful artwork is going to be displayed as there is a lot of it and it looks too good to be hidden away – I've got my fingers crossed that it stays dry so we can have an outdoor exhibition.

I know that many of you and the children will be attending firework displays over the weekend. I hope that you have a fantastic (and safe) time!

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray  
Headteacher

## House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
248	223	207	224

## Christmas Performances

Below are the dates and approximate times of the Christmas performances, further details regarding tickets will be released nearer the time.

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm– Reception Nativity Performance
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 9:30am – KS1 Nativity Performance
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm – KS1 Nativity Performance



## Autumn Term Dates

- Individual Photos: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November
- Reception Nativity: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm
- KS1 Nativity: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 9:30am and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm
- Carols on the Playground Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2:30pm
- Christmas Holidays: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

All dates for the Spring and Summer Term can be found on the [calendar](#) on our school website.



## Stars of the Week!



Class	Strive	Support	Succeed
Caterpillars	Chloe	Maeva	Kai
Leopards	Peter	Noah B	Frank W
Pandas	Isla	Florence B	Lily-Mai
Llamas	Muku	Anesui	Lucas
Orcas	Beau	Travis	Amelia F
Penguins	Nyla	Jack (nominated by Daisy B)	Freddie W (nominated by Mrs Fisher)
Wolves	Peaches	Mya	Charlotte

## Class News

### Caterpillars

This week we have started our new topic linked to celebrations. Our focus this week was the Hindu festival, Diwali. The children have enjoyed learning about the Festival of Light, making their own Diya lamps, firework paintings and Diwali celebration cards. Outside the children also enjoyed creating their own firework dances using colourful ribbons and saying firework words like bang, pop, crash and whizz. We also celebrated Bonfire Night on Wednesday as the children had great fun creating fantastic splatter painting fireworks outside. In Phonics this week, we have continued to work on phase 2 sounds and high frequency words, playing lots of different games. We have learnt the phonemes ff, ll, ss and j. Our focus in Maths this week has been composition of 1, 2 and 3. The children have been using a variety of resources to sort, match and count 1, 2 and 3. The children have had a busy week and have settled back into school routines well.

### Leopards

We have had a great first few days back following the half term. This week, we discovered why we have Bonfire Night on 5th November every year. In English, we began our stories with repeating patterns unit by reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. We discovered that this is definitely another favourite of ours. We watched Michael Rosen share the story before going on to sequence events from it. In Maths, we learnt how to write addition number sentences and found number bonds within 10. We used practical resources and pictorial representations to support our learning. In PE, we took part in our first tag rugby lesson led by the rugby coach and, in Art, we created some fantastic firework art pieces. Next week, we will turn our attention to thinking about the significance of Remembrance Day. In English, we will continue our learning linked to 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and, in Maths, we will learn about number bonds to 10. In Phonics, we will learn some new sounds.

### Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have come back to school with a bang, learning all about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. We watched the story and discussed what happened, before creating a 'Wanted' poster. We also used a variety of evidence to prove whether certain statements were true - this included pictures, signatures, coins and photos - it was like being a detective! Also this week, we ordered the story of 'Lost and Found' in English and added in what the characters were feeling at each stage, whether there were any obstacles and the setting. We could then talk about how stories change as we read them, and although the middle was quite sad, it got better in the end. In Maths this week, we have been working on adding and subtracting ones and tens. We completed lots of number tracks, as well as using counters and ten frames to help us understand partitioning. Also this week, we have started our art unit learning all about shading and tone. We talked about texture, how we can use shadow and shading to represent this in our drawings. In PE this week, we enjoyed some fireworks yoga, a tennis lesson with Rachel and ball skills with Caragh.

### Llamas

We've had a super start to our Autumn 2 term in Year 3. In English, we have started our new focus - traditional tales from Africa. This week, we have read a few African tales and used them to practise our summarising skills. In Maths, we are continuing our addition and subtraction unit and, this week, we have been using the bridging method to help us cross the tens and hundreds. We also started our new Geography topic, which is Africa. We have begun by refreshing our understanding of the seven continents and then learning about the Equator and hemispheres, and how they affect the climate in Africa. In PSHE, we discussed how we show someone that we are listening to them and showing respect. We also discussed how we respond respectfully to things we are told or asked before we played a game to test our listening skills! On Tuesday with Mrs Fisher, we created poppies out of plastic bottles ready for our Remembrance Day display.

### Orcas

What a lovely first week it has been in Orca Class. We have been smashing our way through the story of 'How To Train Your Dragon' and made some super 'Wanted' posters for Toothless the cheeky dragon, who has been up to no good. In Maths, we have spent the week perfecting our column addition and subtraction methods, making sure we carry/borrow tens correctly. On Friday, we completed an addition/subtraction pyramid challenge as well. In PE this week, we were lucky enough to have a tennis coaching session, working on our aim with a tennis racquet and our throwing skills. We also began our new unit of handball with Dan on Wednesday. Another new topic that we have started this week was sound in Science. On Monday, we went on a sound hunt through the school, trying to find the noisiest and quietest places. We had to listen for sounds that we wouldn't normally hear, such as a clock ticking or the projector whirring. Then on Tuesday, we created cup and string telephones and found out that the string has to be taut for the vibrations to travel properly. More practical lessons to come next week! We started learning how to say the different members of our family (ma famille) in French and about valuing difference in PSHE. Finally, with Mrs Fisher on Friday, the class painted the bottom of bottles to contribute to the school Remembrance display and sewed their own felt poppies. Well done for successfully completing the first week back, Year 4!

### Penguins

It's been lovely to welcome all the Penguins back this week, refreshed and ready for a half term full of fun and festivals! In Geography, we started a unit focused on a contrasting European country, which for us will be Norway - studying modern-day Norway allows us to make connections with our learning about Vikings in History and our understanding of how the seasons are created on Earth, supporting our scientific understanding. We began by assessing our current locational knowledge and our existing knowledge of Norway, before studying Roald Dahl's descriptions of his childhood holidays in "Boy" and comparing a range of European capitals by working closely with our learning partners. In English, we completed a cold write about "The Shirt Machine" and then started working on writing bulleted lists to support our explaining and instructing skills. In Maths, we learned all about factors and multiples, following a short cold assessment to set up our multiplication and division unit. In PE with Coach J, we started our work on Tag Rugby, especially evading and chasing and, in Circuit Training, we learned the twelve movements we will be tracking. In our work with Mrs Fisher, we used our Art and Design skills to put together a powerful collection of pieces highlighting the importance of Remembrance, ready for next week.

### Wolves

Welcome back! We have hit the ground running with lots of new topics this week. The theme for the half term is World War Two with our English, History and even French unit being focused on this area of learning. We began our new English text - Letters from the Lighthouse - which is a story about children who are evacuated to the countryside. So far, we have met some of the main characters and are looking forward to finding out what happens to them over the next few weeks. In History, we began the unit by looking at what caused World War Two and how Hitler rose to power. It was a really interesting lesson with lots of questions being asked. We also looked at the Battle of Britain and how it was an important turning point in Germany being

defeated. We started our WW2 French topic by translating a whole Powerpoint, which impressed Mrs Fielder immensely, and, in Gymnastics, we began creating sequences. We also had our first drumming lesson with Mrs Goodwin where we practised different rhythms on a variety of different percussion instruments to create a Samba carnival- we already can't wait for next week!



[@actonprimary](https://www.instagram.com/actonprimary)

## Community Events/News



**ACTON PLAYGROUP'S FESTIVE FAYRE**  
**SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**ACTON VILLAGE HALL**  
**12 P.M. - 3 P.M.**

Meet Father Christmas  
Raffle, Tombola and Children's Stalls  
Three Counties Miniature Railway  
Catering by The Food Station & Waffles and Scoops  
Gift and Craft Trade Stalls

To book a stall or for more information, email:  
[actonplaygroupevents@hotmail.com](mailto:actonplaygroupevents@hotmail.com)



**JTD MUMFIT**

Looking to buy good quality second-hand toys for Christmas?  
Need Christmas jumpers and outfits?

**Pre-loved Toy & Clothing Market**  
**Long Melford Village Hall**  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
**10am - 12pm**

**FREE ENTRY**

**CASH EVENT**

07982996422  
@JTD\_mumfit  
[jo.h.thornley@gmail.com](mailto:jo.h.thornley@gmail.com)  
<https://bookwhen.com/jtdmumfit>

# Support and Advice

## School's Early Help Webpage

A range of websites and sources of advice on Emotional Wellbeing, Health, Sleep and Parenting Support can be found [here](#).

## Free, Virtual NHS Parent/Carer Workshops

Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust are running free virtual workshops (Zoom) designed to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. The workshops are 60-75 minutes long.

Visit <http://www.nsft.uk/workshops> for more details



**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Parent Workshops**

Free virtual workshops:

- Anxiety
- Big Feelings
- Self-harm
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Tourette's symptoms (TICS)

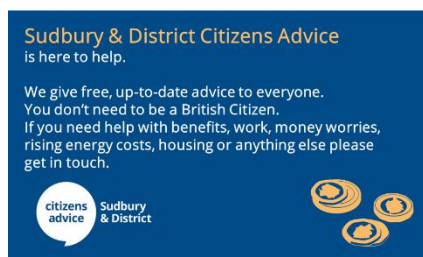
Access here: <https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/parent-workshops>

The poster features the NHS logo and the text 'Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust'. It includes a circular image of three young people walking outdoors.



To book onto a workshop visit [nsft.uk/workshops](https://www.nsft.uk/workshops) or scan the QR code

There are also a number of NHS podcasts and webinars available on YouTube, these can be accessed anytime via <https://www.youtube.com/@NSFT>



**Sudbury & District Citizens Advice**  
is here to help.

We give free, up-to-date advice to everyone.  
You don't need to be a British Citizen.  
If you need help with benefits, work, money worries,  
rising energy costs, housing or anything else please  
get in touch.

citizens advice Sudbury & District

The poster features the Citizens Advice logo and three gold coins.

Click the image or visit <https://www.sudburycab.org.uk/>