Weekly Newsletter: 14th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The highlight of my week has to be the beautiful Remembrance Day art exhibition which was on display on Tuesday - it made for a very poignant backdrop to our Remembrance Service in school. The artwork covered all four sides of the hall as we observed a two-minute silence, following the reading of the Acton Roll of Honour by our older School Councillors. We were also joined by Corporal Daniels from the Parachute Regiment, based in Colchester, who took part in our service before spending time in the classrooms. We are always very lucky to have a special guest from the Paras join us as it gives the children the opportunity to talk to an active serviceman and ask lots of different questions (not all of them related to shooting guns and war).

As always I am thankful to Mrs. Goodwin for being our liaison with the Parachute Regiment and to 'Team Poppy' for ensuring that the exhibition came together in time and the children got the opportunity to show off their fantastic work.

Today, the mood was a little lighter, as we raised money for Children in Need. The School Council came up with today's theme of 'Wear your Hat and Gloves Day' – although 'Bring an Umbrella to School Day' might have been a little more appropriate! The children have thoroughly enjoyed wearing their finest headwear and gloves, while trying to write, calculate and type. Thank you for all of the donations, which have raised over £130!

This week has also seen a team of Year 5 girls take part in a STEM Olympiad and the winner of the village Christmas Light Switch On poster competition (see below for more details).

Just ahead of the weekend, there are a couple of important things happening on Monday:

- Individual photos - we will endeavour to make sure the photos are taken before playtime so the children are still looking their smartest!
- Parent Governor Nominations Deadline – if you would like to put yourself forward for this important role, please hand your submission form into the office.

As always, I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

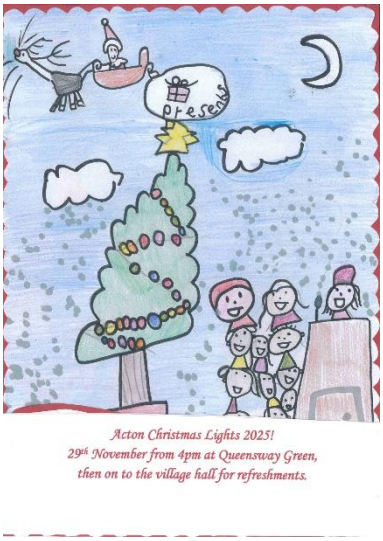
House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
273	233	230	246

OBH STEM Olympiad Day

On Monday, we sent a team of budding scientists over to Old Buckenham Hall School for their annual Girls in STEM Day. Our five Year 5 girls took part in a range of different activities including coding to program a robot, building a wind-powered kart, hot chocolate insulation problems and maths challenges. They had a wonderful time and really enjoyed taking part in all of the activities. They were brilliant ambassadors for our school throughout the day and should be very proud of themselves.

Acton Christmas Light Switch On



Well done to Ada in Leopard Class, whose poster design has been chosen by the Parish Council to advertise this year's Christmas Light Switch on.
This year, the event will take place at 4pm on 29th November, before refreshments in the village hall (where our school choir will be performing).

Spare Trainers and Jumpers for PE

This term, we are lucky enough to be welcoming Coach Jay, from Northampton Saints RUFC, to Acton for some excellent Tag Rugby sessions. The children in Year 1, 3 and 5 have been having a wonderful time. To reduce the risk of injury due to trips and falls, these sessions are taking place on the field. This, as you may have noticed, has led to muddy trainers and school uniform. If your child is taking part in one of these sessions (Year 1 and 5 on Tuesday, and Year 3 on Thursday). Please could you provide them with a spare pair of trainers/football boots and a spare jumper on these days. This will keep our lovely cleaners, Mary and Keith, happy and prevent school uniforms from getting really muddy too.

Christmas Performances

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

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

Autumn Term Dates

- Individual Photos: Monday 17th November
- Reception Nativity: Wednesday 10th December, 2pm
- KS1 Nativity: Wednesday 10th December, 9:30am and Thursday 11th December, 2pm
- Carols on the Playground Friday 19th December, 2:30pm
- Christmas Holidays: Saturday 20th December to Sunday 4th 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	Ted S	Ezra	Jack
Leopards	Reya	Tilly	Ada (nominated by Sarah in the kitchen)
Pandas	Esmae	Rory P	Jerry
Llamas	Hudson	Reuben	Kieran
Orcas	Arthur	Ruby	Lilly
Penguins	Rocco (nominated by Mrs Ridgeon)	Azalea	Lily-May
Wolves	Alfie	Mya and Alissa (nominated by Mr. Gray) Archie	Oscar

Class News

Caterpillars
This week we have had a bear themed week, sharing the stories 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. In Drawing Club, we looked at the characters and the setting for the story 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear', drawing one of the bears and the cave that they live in. We continued with our bear theme today, linking our learning to Children in Need, by bringing in a cuddly toy from home and helping to raise money. The children enjoyed having a Teddy Bears' Picnic with their toys, eating the delicious biscuits that they decorated. In Phonics, we have learnt the sounds for v, w, x and y. Our Maths learning this week has focused on using the part, part, whole model and 5 frames. We have explored making the number 3 in different ways and finding one more and one less than a given number, within 5. Rehearsals for our Nativity have been in full swing this week and the children are really enjoying singing the songs.
Leopards
We started this week by considering the significance of Remembrance Day. We learnt why this day is so important and took part in our school Remembrance service. We also made poppies to remember those who served our country. In English, we continued our stories with repeating patterns unit by answering questions about 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We then focussed on using capital letters and full stops when writing sentences. In Maths, we learnt to find number bonds to 10. We used a tens frame and counters before moving on to pictorial

representations. After this, we moved on to adding two numbers within 10 together to give us a total. In RE, we started thinking about the key question ' Why is learning to do good deeds important to Jewish people?'. Next week, we will continue to focus on using capital letters and full stops as we write key phrases and sentences from 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We will also decide on a new challenge for the family to encounter on their journey and plan our own 'We're Going on a ... Hunt' stories. In Maths, we will solve addition problems and, in Science, we will consider how we can keep our body healthy. In Phonics, we will continue to learn new sounds.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have been working hard on writing in different tenses in English. We looked at the difference between past and present tense and how the verbs change. We then wrote a short story based on 'Lost and Found' in the past tense. We then discussed the progressive past tense and how we can use 'was' and 'were' to change the tense again. We wrote some amazing sentences about how the penguin might have sabotaged the building of the boat, because he didn't really want to go to the South Pole (he was just lonely). In Maths this week, we have continued working on our addition and subtraction skills, working with 3 one-digit numbers. In History, we looked at the differences between London in the 1600s and London today. We sorted the statements into those which were true and those which were false. We then recapped all of our knowledge from the unit so far and enjoyed sharing together everything we remembered. In Art, we used crayons to create rubbings of different textures from around the room before labelling them with words to describe how they would feel. We will then use these skills next lesson to create 2D pictures that appear textured. In P.E., we got active completing circuits on Wednesday, whilst on Friday we enjoyed ball skills with Caragh. In PSHE with Mrs Fisher, we talked about the people who are important to us and how we look after those who are special. On Friday, we watched the BBC live lesson all about Anti Bullying Week. We thought about how to treat our friends with kindness, which linked well with Children in Need which we also celebrated by raising money by wearing gloves and hats.

Llamas

We've been working amazingly hard this week in Year 3. In English, we took a break from our African tales unit to focus on Remembrance Day poetry. After discussing what Remembrance Day is all about, we each planned an acrostic poem before writing it up neatly onto some lovely poppy paper. In Maths, we finished off our mental addition and subtraction unit so we completed our hot task. In Geography, we learnt all about Kenya, including the rivers, mountains and climate there, then we compared it to the UK. In PSHE, we learnt about different types of families and the different relationships that we all have in our lives. On Monday with Mrs Fisher, we learnt how to play 'When the Saints go Marching In' on our glockenspiels, and in RE, we discussed what reconciliation looks like in our everyday lives.

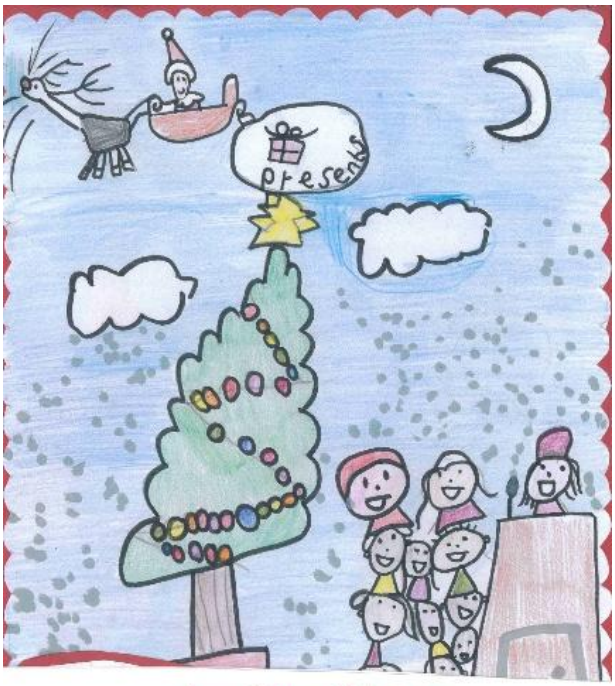
Orcas

We have had another lovely week in Orca Class, working hard in lots of different subjects. Firstly, we progressed a little further with 'How to Train Your Dragon' and had great fun creating a 'Thor'sday Thursday' drama scene (on Wednesday). This had to be a recreation of one of the day's activities, such as an ugly baby competition or eating as many seagull eggs as you can in one minute -Good fun! We finished addition and subtraction in Maths this week, ready to move onto multiplication next week. We will start by looking at each of the times tables. During our Science lesson on Tuesday, we created an awful lot of noise, exploring how various instruments work and how to change the pitch with them. We then discussed animal ears on Thursday and how they rely on them for hunting, hiding, communicating and more. Additionally, we have looked at sound waves differ, depending on the pitch and volume of a sound. In PE this week, we started a new unit, all about children around the start of WW2. This week, we looked at lots of photos of people, before acting out what we thought they would have done in their day-to-day lives. With Mrs Fisher on Friday, the class began creating their papier mache helmets, which they designed last week. The children have chosen whether they want to create a Roman/Viking/Celt helmet. I look forward to seeing these soon! Well done for working hard, as always, Year 4. To note - a tournament has started on TTRS against Y5. Log in to find out more!

Penguins
The Christmas music has started in Penguin Class during our Accelerated Reader time this week (don't tell Mr Gray!). In Geography, we have completed our study of Norway, analysing the climate of Tromso and comparing it with London, learning about the life of Roalds Amundsen and Dahl and discussing the relative merits of Norway and the UK as places to live, which prepared us to perform exceptionally well on our Hot task. In English, we enjoyed reading and responding to instructional and explanation texts, finding out about silent letter spellings and using parentheses to improve our sentences all about famous inventor Alexander Graham Bell. In Maths, we made square and cube numbers out of multilink in order to fully understand them and then completed our unit by using factor trees to identify prime factors and make progress towards our Hot assessment. In DT with Mrs Fisher, we have begun our unit on gears and, in PSHE, we discussed the qualities of a great friend. In PE, we set personal records in circuit training and improved our evasion skills using small-sided games in Tag Rugby with Coach J. For Anti-Bullying week we completed a BBC Live Lesson with DeGraft and Abby, writing our own pledges and for No Outsiders we wrote letters in the character of Rose Blanche.
Wolves
On Tuesday, we had our 'No Outsiders' morning. We read a book called 'The Only Way is Badger' where the main character decides that unless all the creatures are like him, they must all leave the forest and live on the other side of the wall. At the end of the story, the Badger realises his mistakes and says sorry. The theme of this session was all about freedom of speech and, as always, the Wolves were very mature in their discussions and thoughts. In English, we continued with our text 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and answered comprehension style questions as well as writing diary entries. We learnt how to convert between measures in Maths with Mrs Fielder and even tackled the tricky concept of converting miles to km and vice versa. In History, we are continuing to enjoy our World War 2 topic and Mrs Clow was really impressed with our homework that we did on the Battle of Britain. This week, we looked at 'The Blitz' and evacuation and wrote letters imagining what it must have been like being a child living through these events. In Music, with Mrs Fielder, we once again took to the drums to create some more Samba rhythms and, in PE, we enjoyed another (rather muddy!) tag rugby session with Coach Dan. To finish the week, we were treated to a fantastic performance of King Lear at OSA.

@actonprimary

Community Events/News



Acton Christmas Lights 2025!
29th November from 4pm at Queensway Green,
then on to the village hall for refreshments.

Support and Advice

School's Early Help Webpage

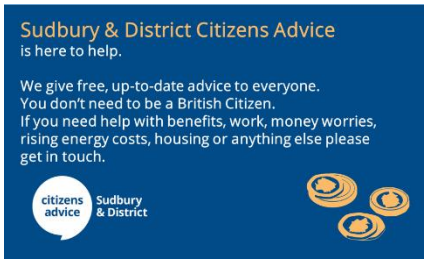
A range of websites and sources of advice on Emotional Wellbeing, Health, Sleep and Parenting Support can be found here.

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

To book onto a workshop visit 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



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