



Weekly Newsletter: 21st November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, I had a very exciting meeting with [Chris Harman](#) (Dexter's Dad), who came to present the school with a copy of his newly published book, '[Dexter and the Blue Ammonite](#)'. Chris wrote the adventure story after creating stories with Dexter, whilst driving in the car, and has used this as inspiration for the book. We are hoping to get Chris into school after Christmas to talk to the children about his inspirations and the writing process. The book would make a great stocking filler this Christmas (and can be purchased [here](#)).



Each week, we always recognise our Stars of the Week with a certificate and sticker. This week, I would like to recognise all of our [parents and carers](#) who deserve to be Star of the Week this week following a surprise visit from a Civil Enforcement Officer at the end of the day on Monday (sorry, I haven't got enough stickers to go around). Our visitor was very impressed with the perfect parking and calm arrivals and departures. He actually commented that it is the best school that he had been to (cue: Proud Headteacher Moment!).

In this week's newsletter, you will find information about a new Eco-Council Allotment project and the date of the [FOAS Christmas Disco](#).

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

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

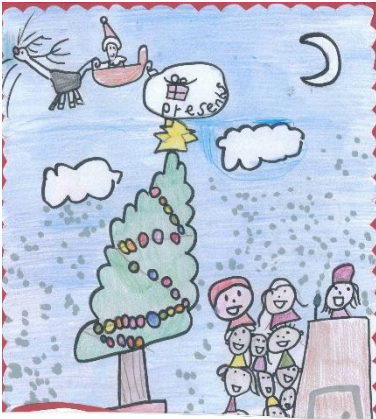
Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
296	251	248	264

Eco Council: Allotment Project

Eco Council met up with Miss Sparkes on Tuesday afternoon to start planning a huge Eco Project for the rest of our school year. Miss Sparkes explained that she wanted some help creating an allotment area on the school grounds, particularly as we can grow different types of plants there which will help us apply for our Level 3 award from the Royal Horticultural Society. Eco Council worked in small groups to put together mood boards that will help Miss Sparkes decide what we need to work on first. Thank you for taking the lead Miss Sparkes - we can't wait to get digging!



Acton Christmas Light Switch On



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

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).

Christmas Performances

Below are the dates and times of the Christmas performances, tickets are now available [via the Arbor Parent app](#).

- 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

- Reception Nativity: Wednesday 10th December, 2pm
- KS1 Nativity: Wednesday 10th December, 9:30am and Thursday 11th December, 2pm
- FOAS Christmas Disco: Friday 12th December YR, 1 2, 3 5-6pm, Y4, 5, 6 6:15-7:15pm
- 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	Sienna	Zach A	Ted R
Leopards	Robyn	Mollie T-B	Frank P
Pandas	Archie	Lula-Mae	Lily
Llamas	Libby	George and Harvey	Althea
Orcas	Isla	Phoebe	Poppy
Penguins	Michael	Ellie Freddie T, Freddie W and Kit (nominated by Miss Sparkes)	Daisy R
Wolves	Alissa	Owen	Max

Class News

Caterpillars

This week the children have enjoyed listening to and sharing the story, "The Runaway Pea". In Drawing Club, the children designed their own vegetable characters and then used their imagination to think of a new adventure for the runaway pea.

In Phonics, we have learnt the sounds z, qu and ch. We have also written captions and sorted objects by their initial sound. Our focus in Maths this week has been shape and positional language. We started the week looking at circles and triangles before looking at positional language, playing a variety games including Simon Says, Bear Hide and Seek and a barrier game (where they had to build matching towers). This week has been Road Safety week, so we talked about the importance of staying safe near roads and the children made some fantastic road signs.

Leopards

This week, we started the week by focussing on using capital letters and full stops accurately before moving on to invent a new event for the family as they go on their bear hunt. After this, we planned our own 'We're Going on a ... Hunt' stories. As part of this process, we got to choose our own challenges for the family to encounter along the way. The challenges we chose included going through a jungle, across a desert and through a maze. In Maths, we used our addition skills to solve some addition and missing number problems. We then turned our attention to subtraction and discovered that when we subtract the number we start with becomes smaller rather than larger. In Geography, we located Acton on Google Earth. We then located the school and discussed what we could see nearby. Next week, we will continue to write our 'We're Going

on a ... Hunt' stories. In Maths, we will learn to subtract by finding how many are left. In Phonics, we will continue to learn new sounds.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have taken our first tentative steps into this year's nativity! The 'Boogie Woogie Nativity' has been cast, and the singing and staging has begun. Aside from our festivities, this week we have been busy with our art lessons. We looked at the four rules of shading on Monday, and practised shading from light to dark using pressure and tone. We then used these skills to sketch textured drawings of our cuddly toys from home. The children blew us away with their incredible efforts! In Maths this week, we were adding numbers using number bonds to support, before moving on to subtraction, using number lines to count backwards and forwards. In English, we have been creating descriptive writing about a variety of settings as well as looking at different sentence types such as questions and statements. In PE, the students completed a variety of circuits and then enjoyed skills races with Coach Joe. With Mrs Fisher on Tuesday, we sang the song 'Listen to the world around you' which was all about songs in everyday life, whilst in PSHE, we thought about how we make others feel with a wonderfully dramatic performance from Hev!

Llamas

We've had an amazing week of learning in Year 3 this week. In English, we have used traditional African tales to help us work on our oracy skills. We have been practising reading the stories aloud in pairs, thinking specifically about our expression and how we can add actions into our story telling. We have also used one particular tale to help us identify where improvements in our writing can be made - we even re-wrote the tale using expanded noun phrases and conjunctions to make it more interesting! In Maths, we have been working on our column method for addition and subtraction, focusing on how we carry/borrow tens to complete the calculations accurately. We had great fun in PE on Tuesday this week as we continued with our 'Wild Animals' dance sequencing, this time adding swinging and rolling movements into our routines. In Geography, we worked together on interpreting graphs to learn more about Africa's climate, which we then compared to the climate in England - we weren't shocked to learn that it rains a lot more here! And finally, in PSHE, we discussed the communities that we belong to and created a drawing in our books to represent them. Well done on your hard work this week Llamas!

Orcas

It has been another busy week in Orca Class! In Maths, we have been working our way through the times tables, looking for patterns to help us when working them out. So far, we have worked on the 9s, 7s and 11s, with more to come next week. On TTRS, we are now focusing on the 8 times table if anyone would like to practise at home. Also this week, we finished our Science unit, with one final lesson where the class made fantastic posters about an instrument in pairs, explaining how their chosen instrument (mostly guitars) creates sound. We then wrote some rather impressive explanations about how sound is created. On Friday, we started our first History topic of the year - the Celts. Over the upcoming weeks, we will learn all about life during the Iron Age, what roundhouses were, what their typical jewellery/art was like, what jobs they had and more! In PSHE, we had quite an important lesson about why some people are better at keeping friends than others and how to deal with when someone shows 'aggressive' behaviour. Then, in French, we learnt about how to discuss whether we have siblings or whether we are an only child. Finally, with Mrs Fisher, the class added some more newspaper to their papier-mache helmets to strengthen them. Well done for working hard, as always, Year 4.

Penguins

Penguin Class have enjoyed getting their goggles on and magnifying glasses out, ready to begin our Materials and States of Matter topic in Science by: discussing a concept cartoon and mind-mapping our prior knowledge; planning our own investigation into the properties of various rocks; and finally following instructions carefully to set up a salt crystallization experiment. In English, we have planned and drafted our "transport of the future" instructions and explanations, ready for testing in Dragon's Den next week. We have also read and analysed the first two chapters of Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo and worked more on our silent letter spellings. In Maths, we have shifted focus to the short multiplication algorithm, practising all the way up to six-digits!

Next week we will extend our understanding to long multiplication. In PE, we enjoyed putting together a defensive line in Tag Rugby and setting our latest PBs in circuit training. In French with Mrs Fisher, we practised naming pets and, in Music, we learned a new song: Get on Board. In PSHE with Mrs Fisher, we discussed how to have kind conversations and, in DT, we investigated how different sizes of gears interact.

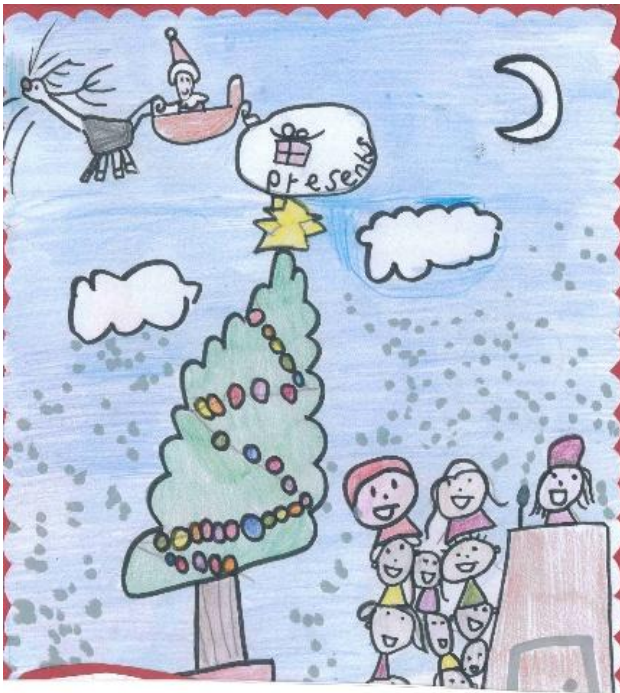
Wolves

This week in Maths, we have learnt how to multiply and divide fractions. We have also continued practising how to add and subtract fractions involving mixed numbers and this culminated in a hot task where we were able to show everything we have learnt. In English, we experimented with a number of different short writing tasks including writing from a character's viewpoint, an apology note and a diary entry, and continued reading our class text. Rationing and propaganda was the focus of our lessons in History this week. We compared a war time meal plan with what we typically eat today and the difference was really quite stark! We also studied an old map of Acton highlighting where the airfield is and where specific buildings would have been back in the 1940s. With Mrs Fielder, we sang some Christmas songs in Music; in Maths, we continued converting between km and miles; in gymnastics, we created sequences in pairs; and in French, we translated French words all about evacuation. Finally, with Mrs Fisher, we discussed differences within our communities and if people should be singled out or targeted for it, in our PSHE lesson.



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

Community Events/News



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

**ACTON
PLAYGROUP'S
FESTIVE FAYRE**

SUNDAY 30TH 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

PRESTIGE SPORTS MEGA SPORTS & ACTIVITY CAMPS

 **TUDOR PRIMARY SCHOOL,
SUDBURY**

 22nd & 23rd

 8:15-9am Early drop off (£3)
9am-3:30pm Sports Camp

 5 - 12 years

 £19.99



Book on EEQU

BOOK ONLINE NOW!

www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com





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 23rd November



**FREE
ENTRY**

10am- 12pm

 07982996422

 @JTD_mumfit

 jo.h.thornley@gmail.com

CASH EVENT



<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)

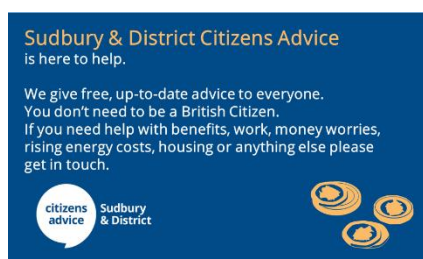
Access here: <https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/parent-workshops>

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/>