



Weekly Newsletter: 16th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has felt very much 'back to normal' after the excitement of returning to school and the slightly shorter week (for the children). As you will see from the class news, there has been lots going on from mummified tomatoes to Roman vending machines (yes, that one surprised me too!).

I know it was mentioned in last week's newsletter but, with the rain yesterday, came another round of complaints from our Lambert Drive neighbours. Unfortunately, driveways and dropped kerbs were blocked and one reported a near miss following a car pulling out and nearly hitting a child. While I appreciate that parking restrictions only apply to the area directly outside the school, I would ask you to consider where and how you are parking at the end of the school day for the safety of the children and to maintain the positive relationship we have with our neighbours.

Thank you for support with this tricky area of school life.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards
Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
50	46	44	49

Unused Toiletries Wanted

At Christmas, sometimes we are gifted toiletries (e.g. shower gels, face creams etc) which do not agree with our skin or aren't our preferred scent. Rev. Faith runs The Pantry in Great Waldingfield, which is a resource to support local residents, and would appreciate any donations of **unused** toiletries, which could go to a new home and be used (rather than collecting dust at the back of the bathroom cupboard or going in the bin). There will be a collection box in the office foyer for any donations.



Spring Term Dates

- Cedar House Cake Sale : Friday 23rd January
- Y2 Trip to Braintree Museum: Thursday 29th January
- Y4 Trip to Colchester Castle: Friday 30th January
- Parents/Carers Evenings: Wednesday 11th February and Thursday 12th February
- FOAS Parentines Disco: Friday 13th February
- Half-term: Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
- Children return to school: Monday 23rd February
- World Book Day: Thursday 6th March
- FOAS Easter Bake Off: Friday 20th March
- Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

Details about events and trips to be shared nearer the time.



Stars of the Week!



Class	Strive	Support	Succeed
Caterpillars	Annie	Teddie	Ted R
Leopards	Saoirse	Willow	Robyn
Pandas	Rory P	Liam	Isla
Llamas	Stanley	Addyson	Rupert
Orcas	Aiden	Lula	Lincoln
Penguins	Olivia	Izzy	Poppy
Wolves	Max	Aurora	Bethany Cu

Class News

Caterpillars

This week, the children have enjoyed sharing the story Beegu. They have been thinking about the character, setting and using their imagination to think of other adventures Beegu might go on. On Tuesday, we joined the whole school for our No Outsiders morning, sharing the book 'Hello, Hello', a story about greeting and welcoming everyone.

In Phonics, we have learnt the digraphs oo, ar and or. We have also started our guided reading sessions this week. We are very impressed with how well the children have worked during these sessions. Our Maths focus has continued with the theme of Alive in 5, and we have been playing lots of games: comparing numbers to 5 and the composition of the numbers 4 and 5. In Art, we look at photos of a variety of different buildings before going on to do some fantastic observational drawings.

Leopards

It has been a busy week in Leopard Class. We have all settled back into school and are enjoying our new units of learning. In English, we have continued to learn about traditional tales. We started the week focussing on sequencing and writing sentences, making sure we used a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces when writing each one. We then moved on to using 'and' to join words and two parts of a sentence. In Maths, we learnt to count to 20. We then learnt about the numbers 11-16. We used concrete manipulatives and investigation mats to look at each number in greater detail. In Computing, we learnt to log into Purple Mash, and in PSHE, with Mrs Fisher, we thought about the importance of bedtime routines. Our big question this half term is 'Who were the greatest Monarchs?' We started our learning linked to this by considering the key roles of a monarch. Next week, we will use adjectives to describe and sequence a traditional tale in preparation for writing. In Maths, we will learn about the numbers 17 -20 and begin to find one more and one less. In Science, we will think about our five senses, and in History, we will begin learning about Queen Elizabeth I. In Phonics, we will continue to consolidate the sounds we have learnt and learn some new ones too.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have continued reading 'Oliver Twist' as part of our English lessons. We learnt about contracted words and then used these in speech between Mr Bumble and Oliver. We also recapped conjunctions and how to use these to add detail to our sentences which made our writing more descriptive. In History, we looked at the life and work of Florence Nightingale. We discussed the differences between hospitals and hygiene in the Victorian times and now. We were surprised by the old conditions and talked about our own experiences of clean hospitals with kind doctors and nurses. Also, this week, we have learnt about 2D shapes and their properties in Maths; used the equipment and apparatus to up-level our jumps and rolls in gymnastics; learnt about ragtime jazz music in Music; and looked at safe and unsafe situations in PSHE. We really enjoyed R.E. this week, as it allowed us to get creative! We talked about Allah being compassionate to animals and read four stories. We then made models of the animals in our stories to use to act out the stories later. Cardboard tubes, bottle tops and pipe cleaners made for some amazing cats, birds, dogs and even a couple of ants!

Llamas

In English this week, we have been learning all about similes and how we can use them to describe settings. We used chapter 3 and 4 from our book to describe the quarry that the characters have begun working in. In Maths, we focused on our 8 times tables and then consolidated our 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables using missing number and division problems. We also had our No Outsiders morning on Tuesday, starting with our assembly about a fish and chip shop which opened on Christmas Day to provide food and company to vulnerable or lonely members of the community. We then continued our discussions about compassion as we looked at our book 'Beegu' and completed an activity to get us thinking of what we can do to make sure we show others that they are welcome. The highlight of our week has undoubtedly been our History lesson all about mummification! We learnt about the steps the Ancient Egyptians followed to preserve their dead pharaohs and why it was so important to them. We then put our learning to the test by following the steps to mummify a tomato! We're keeping an eye on them over the next week or so to see if we were successful. Well done on another fantastic week of learning, Llamas!

Orcas

We have had a lovely week in Orca Class, learning all sorts of different things. Rather excitingly, we got to learn all about the Romans this week in History, with the class asking lots of questions. Our first lesson was about the beginnings of the Roman Empire and what Rome looked like around 117AD (when it was at its peak). The class had to decide whether they would have liked to have lived in Rome at that time or not. We then learnt about many of the Roman's inventions, such as roads, the vending machine and even fast food! In Maths, we have been learning how to use bus stop (short) division and also recapped using formal multiplication. In English, we have been looking at how to effectively use pronouns to stop our writing from being repetitive. We incorporated this with our architecture unit by writing a guided tour for a room of our choice in

Windsor Castle. These were fantastic- maybe a future career choice!? In PE this week, we were lucky enough to have our first gymnastics slot on Tuesday. This lesson was based on floor work, where the class practised their pike/tuck positions etc. and then used these to jump and forward roll. In Computing, we looked at how to use keywords to search for things effectively and in PSHE we talked about dangers, risks and hazards. Well done for working hard this week, Year 4!

Penguins

In Penguin Class this week, we travelled further through our Crime and Punishment History unit by learning about the life of notorious highwayman Dick Turpin, after comparing trials in Roman and Anglo-Saxon times (using our own Class Court) and finding out about the gruesome punishments used by the Tudors. In English, we continued our study of "War Horse" by Michael Morpurgo, using the book to inspire our own sentences containing carefully selected relative clauses, following a careful analysis of the opening chapters. In Maths, we started to add, subtract and compare fractions, including those with different denominators. In PE, we worked in colour teams to "Cross the River" aiming for the shortest time or the most treasure, after recapping our work on Battleships last week. For No Outsiders, we again came together with Year 6 for collective worship and then discussed "Mixed" by Arree Chung and developed our understanding of discrimination. In Music with Mrs Fisher, we learnt the song "All Over Again" on the glockenspiels and - in PSHE - we discussed the difference between friends and fans online. In RE with Mrs Fisher, we learnt all about Krishna and Arjuna and, in French, we spoke and wrote about the rooms in our homes.

Wolves

Firstly, a 10 out of 10 Wolves for all completing your first lot of CGP homework! Fantastic effort- keep it up! On Tuesday, we read the book 'Leaf' for our No Outsiders session. It was all about a polar bear who got lost and ended up in the woods. He was ignored by the other animals for being 'different'. There followed a very good discussion about differences and how we can make everyone feel welcome. In Maths this week, we calculated the volume of 3D shapes with Mrs Fielder and, with Mrs Clow, we began a new unit on ratio and proportion which also includes finding percentages of amounts. In Music, we listened to Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons' to start our unit on creating a spring soundscape, and in French, we learnt the vocabulary to help us tell the time. We continued with Wild Boy in English, this time focusing on how tension and suspense are created through a text. We realised that it isn't just vocabulary that creates tension but punctuation also. In PE, with Coach Dan we continued working on our netball skills and with Mrs Fielder, we worked really hard during our circuits session- there were certainly some rather red faces at the end!



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

Community Events



LEGO
EVENT!

Sunday 1st February 2026
LONG MELFORD SCOUT & GUIDE HUT
Open 10am - 4pm

£2 ENTRY FOR ADULTS **50p ENTRY FOR CHILDREN**

Raising Money for
1st LONG MELFORD BROWNIES

The poster features a vibrant LEGO-themed landscape. In the foreground, a male LEGO minifigure wearing a red hard hat and blue overalls holds a green brick. Next to him, a female minifigure in a yellow 'Brownies' uniform and brown hat waves. The background includes a LEGO castle, a train, a rocket launch, and various colorful bricks scattered around. The text is presented in bold, stylized fonts against a red brick wall and a blue sky background.

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](#).

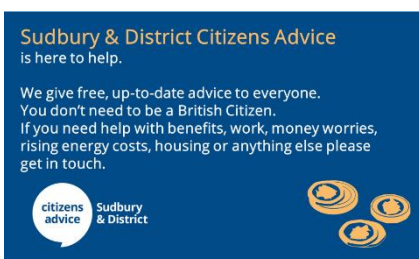
Free NHS Virtual workshops – Supporting Young People's Mental Health

These free virtual workshops (Zoom) are 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 minutes long.

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>



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