



Weekly Newsletter: 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that is the end of another busy week already, it seems like only yesterday that I was writing last week's newsletter (you know what they say about time flying ...).

Yesterday, there was an addition made to our office entrance as a Book Swap was created. Our staffroom has a very active book swap book shelf and it is not uncommon to see the staff swapping books (and reviews) in the corridor when they arrive in the morning! On Wednesday, our ELSAs visited Great Waldingfield Primary School as part of their ongoing training and support for their role. While they were there, Mrs Smith noticed a communal book swap in the entrance area so 'magpied' the idea and got to work sourcing a bookshelf and, with the help of our school librarians, decorations.

Now all we need is for people to start using it and swapping books. So next time you finish your novel and aren't sure what do with it, please consider bringing it down to the school office and swapping with one that is already there. There is a shelf for adult books, children's books and puzzle/game books so there is plenty of choice for everyone.

We hope that if the children see their parents engaging with a love of reading that it will inspire them to read too.



Thank you to everyone who will be donning cowboy boots and Stetson hats tomorrow to dosey-doe the night away at the FOAS Hoe Down. I hope you all have a great night and thank you (as always) to our FOAS team for organising the event.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards
Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
85	83	74	99

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

- 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 Palentines 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	Leo	Ezra	Madison
Leopards	Frank P	Ava and Barnaby	Noah B
Pandas	Jerry	Harishva	April
Llamas	James B	Libby	Nancy
Orcas	Travis	Amelia B	Amelia F
Penguins	Rocco	Oscar H	Ellie
Wolves	Bethany Cl	Charlotte	Billie-Mae

Class News

Caterpillars

This week in Caterpillar Class, we have enjoyed sharing the story 'Paper Dolls'. In Drawing Club, we used the story to look at the characters and the settings. The children have drawn some great pictures and we are now encouraging them to write a simple caption alongside their drawing. We also linked some of our creative activities to the story, creating our own paperchain dolls and observational drawings of rag dolls. In Phonics this week, we revisited the phonemes

v, j, y, qu and d. The children have been busy working on their blending and segmenting. Our focus in Maths this week has been exploring weight and capacity. The children have enjoyed using balances and a variety of resources to explore weight, using the vocabulary heavy, light, heavier and lighter. We then looked at a selection of different containers and explored their capacity by filling them with different loose parts. In Art, the children enjoyed printing with a variety of different objects to see what patterns they could create.

Leopards

It's hard to believe we are half way through this half term. We can't quite believe how fast time is going! This week, in English, we used adjectives to describe the giant from 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We then went on to sequence the story and learnt about adverbials of time. Adverbials of time give us information about when actions or events happen. We used these to specify the order of events in the story. In Maths, we learnt to identify the numbers 1-20 and find one more and one less. In Science, we learnt to name our five senses and say which body part is associated with each sense, and in Computing, we learnt to navigate Purple Mash. As part of our History topic, we learnt about Queen Elizabeth I and what it was like during the time she was queen. We enjoyed finding out lots of facts. Next week, we will retell 'Jack in the Beanstalk' before moving on to learning about instructions. In Maths, we will learn to use a number line, compare and order numbers to 20, and, in Science, we will use our senses as we go on a senses walk around the school grounds. We will also learn about another monarch as we continue to consider the question 'Who were the greatest Monarchs?' In Phonics, we will continue to consolidate the sounds we have learnt and also learn some new ones.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we finished reading Oliver Twist and created a storyboard of the story, sequencing each section. We have also focused on grammatical skills such as contractions, conjunctions and question marks. In Maths, we have continued to look at 2D shapes, exploring their properties. We also learnt about symmetry. We found lines of symmetry in shapes and also in capital letters. After that, we completed shapes, drawing their symmetrical opposites. The Pandas were incredible at this! Also this week, we found out about the Muslim festival of Ramadan and wrote 3 facts we learnt, 3 feelings that might be associated with Ramadan, and 3 questions we'd like to ask a Muslim. In Art, we recapped primary colours and how we can mix them to create secondary colours. We then added white to each colour gradually to create different shades of colour. In History, we created a timeline of the life of Queen Victoria using fact cards to find out the important parts of her life. In Music with Mrs Fisher, we sang 'Hands, Feet and Heart' about music in our bodies; in PSHE, we thought about different situations and how we can respond to them; whilst in P.E. we really enjoyed gymnastics creating sequences to jump, roll and balance.

Llamas

We've had another busy week in Year 3 and it all kicked off with a Monday with Mr Gray! In English, we looked at how a character's emotions can move a story on and focused on chapters 5 and 6 of Ma'at's Feather. We got into character by writing an emotive letter to the temple officials, begging them to let Qen and his brother stay on their family farm after their father died. We did a great job of using similes and lots of emotive language to make the recipients feel sorry for the characters. In Maths, we have been using our times table knowledge to answer calculations with multiples of ten within them, including 3 digit numbers. For example, we learnt that if we know $3 \times 4 = 12$, then $30 \times 4 = 120$. We also applied this skill to division calculations which were quite tricky, but we persevered! In History, we have focused on hieroglyphics this week and, on Monday, we had to find hieroglyphs around the school to translate a secret message. On Wednesday, we used our knowledge to create our own Egyptian cartouche with our names on them. In PSHE, we discussed the difference between danger and risk, how we can assess how risky a situation may be and what we can do to make a situation safer. We all had some great ideas on how to keep ourselves safe and what to do if we ever feel unsafe. Well done for all your hard work this week, Llamas!

Orcas

Well, we have had another lovely week in Orca Class, with a sprinkle of healthy competition from our TTRS tournament! In English, we researched a famous landmark of our choice and then wrote an introductory paragraph about that landmark. This proved quite tricky, as we are not used to writing in the style of a non-chronological report. We also wrote some sentences including some trickier conjunctions, such as whereas or although. In Maths, we finished our multiplication and division unit with some word problems and then moved on to fractions and decimals. We will explore fractions some more next week. In History, we learnt about the Roman army and why they were so successful. Following on from this, we designed shields (scutum) inspired by real ones that legionaries would have carried. Additionally, we learnt about Roman gods and goddesses, researching their special powers and why they were all so important. From our research, we created a Top Trumps card each for a god or goddess of our choosing and played against each other with our cards. In PSHE this week, we discussed what dares are and what to do if they make you feel uncomfortable (especially online). We also had a lovely time using the equipment in gymnastics this week, practising cartwheels, handstands and forward rolls. Well done for working hard, as always, Year 4!

Penguins

This week in Penguin Class, we kicked off our Science Unit on Forces by recording all of our prior knowledge on a cold assessment and commenting on a concept cartoon. Next, we annotated force diagrams and investigated the relationship between Newtons and grams. In English, we extended our understanding of "War Horse" by using dictionaries to define technical vocabulary and identifying the uses of commas when proofreading, as well as creating our own relative clauses linked to events in the story. In addition, we learned all about the ough (O, U Greedy Horse!) words, in preparation for this week's spellings. In Maths, we converted improper fractions to mixed numbers (and vice versa) before bringing together all of our knowledge to compare fractions with different denominators. In PE, we set each other code breaking challenges and enjoyed playing Island Conquer in teams of our own choosing. In Music with Mrs Fisher, we extended our understanding of modern orchestral music, using a song called "All over again" and, in French, we learned to write the names of rooms in houses.

Wolves

We've had a topsy-turvy week this week, with Mrs Clow teaching us on Monday and Mrs Fielder, on Friday! We began the week with our circuits lesson in the hall. We focused on strength using our core to hold us in the plank position; legs to help us with squats and lunges; and abdominal muscles to help us with our sit ups. In English, we have enjoyed looking at the differences between standard and non-standard English as this is how the different characters in Wild Boy speak eg: "I ain't got nothin'" and "I'm gonna get you". We also began to look at the way newspaper articles are set out and written, in preparation for writing our own one next week. In History, we finished our topic on the Industrial Revolution. Our final lessons showed us how important canals were in transporting goods before moving on to the importance of coal and how it revolutionised the way in which transport is used, even today. We undertook character studies and thought about how the invention of railways affected the public and workers who used them. All of this then culminated in a hot task, showcasing all that we have learnt over the last few weeks. With Mrs Fisher, in PSHE, we discussed how being in a group is infinitely better for our mental health than being alone and in RE, we learnt about the discussion at the battle field between Prince Arjuna and Lord Krishna about how to solve conflict.



[@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

Cornard Dynamos Girls are RECRUITING!



WHAT WE OFFER

- FA Qualified coaches
- Fun, confidence building training
- Match day opportunities
- Friendly team atmosphere
- Building new friendships



AVAILABLE AGE GROUPS

- U8 – Year 3
- U11 – Year 6
- U12 – Year 7
- U14 – Year 9



Contact: Lisa MacDonald, Girls Coach 07938 512849

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/>