



## Weekly Newsletter: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

You can always tell when Spring is on it's way as the birds starting singing loudly, the evenings get a little lighter and the school trips start up again.

This week our embarrassment of Pandas have been time-travelling back to the Victorian and Roman periods. Yesterday, our Year 2 children, donned in Victorian finery, headed off to [Braintree Museum](#) to experience what life was like for children in the early 1900s. Despite a couple of fire alarms, causing a bit of a kerfuffle, the children had a brilliant day

Today, our pod of Orcas were due to navigate a little further back in history to explore the Roman period at Colchester Castle. However, a powercut (possibly caused by the ghost of Boudicca?) meant that, sadly, they were unable to go! However, Mrs Garrod saved the day and made sure the Orcas still had a great in-school Roman day.



Thank you to everyone who took part in the [FOAS Hoe Down](#) on Saturday night. From what I have heard, it was a great success and a barn-storming time was had by all involved. I haven't got a final fundraising amount yet but I look forward to sharing it with you soon.

Ahead of Parents Evenings in the week before half-term, next Friday you will (hopefully) be receiving your child's [Mid-Year Report](#) (Key Stage 1 and 2 children only). In previous years, this has been a paper report which has been sent home. In an effort to reduce the amount of paper which we use/send home, your child's report will come out via an email to the account which we have on Arbor. There will be link in the email that will allow you to download the report. This is the first time that we are using this method of delivery so I thank you in advance for your understanding should there be any teething problems (which, of course, there won't be!).

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards  
Jonathan Gray

Headteacher

## House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
103	99	97	122

## 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

- Parents/Carers Evenings: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February
- FOAS Palentines Disco: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February
- Half-term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February
- Children return to school: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- World Book Day: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March
- FOAS Easter Bake Off: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Holidays: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

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



## Stars of the Week!



Class	Strive	Support	Succeed
Caterpillars	Henry	Mati	Florence
Leopards	Mollie J	Ocean	Eden
Pandas	Phoebe	Hev	Lily
Llamas	Anesui	Eloise	Hunter
Orcas	Georgia	Corinne	Phoebe
Penguins	Michael	Annabelle	Bailey
Wolves	Lottie-Beau	Hannah	Peaches

## Class News

### Caterpillars

This week, we have enjoyed sharing the story 'The Magic Crayon' and the children have had lots of fun exploring the different settings in the story. They have also been very creative, drawing their own crayon pictures which we uploaded on to the computer to make their characters come

to life (just like in the story). In Phonics, we have recapped the digraphs th, sh, ch, ng and nk. The children have used their blending and segmenting skills to read words and have also written CVC words using these digraphs. Our Maths focus this week has been Growing 6, 7, 8 - recognising the numbers, sorting the numbers and finding 1 more and 1 less. In Art, the children have continued to investigate printing with different materials. This week, we used a variety of recyclable materials to print and paint with. The children created some very colourful pictures.

### Leopards

This week, we retold the traditional tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We then moved on to start our learning about instructions by finding key features. In Maths, we compared and ordered numbers to 20. In Science, we went on a senses walk around the school grounds and, in PSHE, we took part in the NSPCC PANTS lesson, which taught us about the parts of our body that should be kept private. In History this week, we learnt about Queen Victoria. We discovered that she was one of the longest reigning monarchs and also the first monarch to travel on a train. Next week, we will learn to follow a set of instructions and find out how imperative (bossy) verbs are used. In Maths, we will begin our addition and subtraction within 20 unit. This will build on our previous learning of addition and subtraction within 10. In History, we will compare monarchs and, in DT, we will continue working on our moving storybook. 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 need to start with our wonderful school trip to Braintree Museum on Thursday. Having excitedly counted down all week (or more!), we set off on the coach to the museum. We had such a fantastic time looking at all of the artefacts, exploring the displays and becoming part of an 1899 classroom. The teacher was quite strict- we had to sit up straight, no turning around, have our hands checked for cleanliness, before chanting our times tables and using slates to practise our handwriting. We also really enjoyed our trail around the museum finding various Victorian artefacts. We found a penny farthing, a mourning hat, a police rattle and some beautiful textiles amongst other things. Also this week, we have been describing Victorian Britain using similes and expanded noun phrases; learning about 3D shapes and their properties in Maths; completing a routine sequence including jumps and rolls on the equipment in P.E.; learning all about the festival of Eid in R.E. before making some beautiful cards with a crescent moon. In Art this week, we went on a texture hunt using crayons to make rubbings, before taking these ideas to create painted textures. We used forks, sponges, bubble wraps and tissue paper to create the desired effect.

### Llamas

It's been a very busy week in Year 3 this week! At the beginning of the week, we completed our termly reading assessment to show off our comprehension skills and we all did amazingly. In English, we have almost finished our book, Ma'at's Feather, and were shocked to learn that our characters are considering robbing a tomb! We used a conscience alley to consider what advice we would give to our characters and then wrote a persuasive letter to them, explaining why we think they should or shouldn't rob the tomb. In Maths, we finished our unit on multiplying and dividing multiples of 10 so we put our knowledge to the test with our hot task. In History, we had a look at our mummified tomatoes and noticed that they had completely dried and shrivelled up! We then learnt about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and the artefacts that were found inside. We discussed what we can learn about Tutankhamun using these sources of evidence, such as how rich he must've been to have a tomb filled with gold! Finally, in PSHE, we learnt how to be 'super searchers' on the internet as we discussed how some internet sources may be fake and how the spread of misinformation can be dangerous. You've worked really hard this week Llamas, have a well deserved rest over the weekend!

### Orcas

Despite the sad news we received this morning, we have still had a lovely week in Orca Class. Today, as you are aware, we should have been enjoying a wonderful trip to Colchester Castle. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we instead had a Roman Day in school. We began by creating Roman shields, which we painted and backed with cardboard. Next, we created short drama pieces about either Julius Caesar, a gladiator fight or Emperor Caligula — all of which

were fantastic. In the afternoon, we followed a Roman drawing tutorial and watched virtual tours of Rome. All in all, it was still a lovely day. As part of the build-up to our trip, we concluded our learning about the Romans in History this week. We learnt all about Julius Caesar and why he was such an important figure. We then created a short biography about him, including some fun facts, such as the fact that he wore a wreath on his head not for status but to cover his bald patch! We also spent a lesson looking at the Romans' impact on Britain, including discussions about Boudicca and Hadrian's Wall. Even our English lessons were Roman-themed this week. We created mini non-chronological reports about the Colosseum and then researched a landmark of our choice, ready for our hot task. In Maths this week, we have been learning about equivalent fractions. These are quite a tricky concept, so we will be spending a little more time on them. Finally, with Mrs Fisher on Thursday, the class learnt about the significance of Diwali to Rama and Sita and learnt the folk song Old Joe Clark. Well done Year 4 for another super week, and for being so great today, despite your obvious disappointment.

### Penguins

A huge well done to the Penguins for smashing so many of their assessments in English this week: reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar - what a collection! In Science, we continued our study of forces by completing our investigation into spinning helicopters. Following this we performed another experiment, exploring how levers and pivots affect force output using the maths balances and learned about the life of Isaac Newton, before answering the four key questions on our Hot Task. In Maths, we used the mnemonic "D by d, M by n" to remember how to find fractions of amounts, by first dividing by the denominator and then multiplying by the numerator. In PE, we added "Power Cards" to the games we have played in our OAA unit and began planning our own games to challenge teamwork and collaboration. In Music with Mrs Fisher, we enjoyed "All Over Again" again and, in RE, we continued our work on paths to Moksha, particularly through creating art linked Janmashtami. In French with Mrs Fisher, we wrote about the rooms we do not have in our homes and, in PSHE, we learned the SMART rules for online safety and continued discussing analysing risks.

### Wolves

In Maths this week, we continued with ratio and proportion with Mrs Clow, and converting units of measurement with Mrs Fielder. These are both quite challenging concepts, so well-done Wolves for striving and persevering. In English, we completed some reading and SPAG assessments before continuing with our newspaper report using 'Wild Boy' as our stimulus. We wrote catchy headlines using alliteration and focused on the lead paragraphs, ensuring that the 5Ws were answered. We are looking forward to finishing these, next week. We began our new Science unit on Light this week too. We looked at how we actually see things and how light is reflected off objects in straight lines. We enjoyed using the torches and protractors to discover that the angle at which a light ray hits an object, is exactly the same as the reflected ray. We also looked at why a straw can look bent when it is half in and half out of water. This is called refraction and to prove this theory, we carried out a further two experiments involving an arrow that changed direction and a smiley face that disappeared! More experiments to follow next week. With Mrs Fielder in French, we firstly listened to vocabulary to help us explain our weekend activities before reading and writing them; in PE, we enjoyed another circuits session focusing this time on flexibility, balance and core strength; and in Music, we began creating our sound scape.



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

## Community Events



## 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](#).

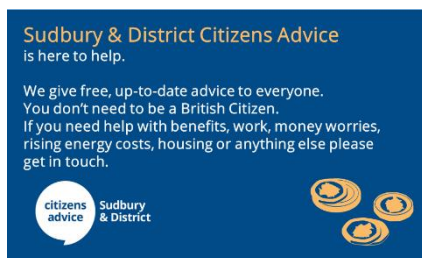
## Free NHS Virtual workshops – Supporting Young People's Mental Health

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](https://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/>