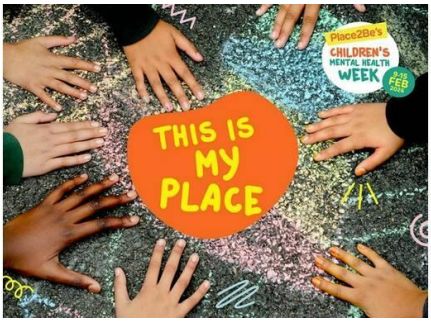
Strive - Support - Succeed

Weekly Newsletter: 6th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't possibly start this week's newsletter without acknowledging our Year 5 Penguins, who completed their Bikeability training this week. Despite some fairly horrendous weather (especially yesterday!), the children have been superstars out on the roads around the village. All of the children achieved their Level 2 qualification and should be very proud of themselves for completing the course, while soggy, wet and a little cold!



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Across the week, we will be talking to the children about ways to look after their wellbeing and feeling safe in their environment as the theme is 'This is my place'. Also, keep an eye out for a Parentmail later today with helpful tips on sleep and talking to your child about how they are feeling.
On Friday, to celebrate the end of the week, we would like to have a non-uniform day to raise money for the Kernos Centre in Sudbury (a 50p or £1 donation would be greatly appreciated). The Kernos Centre provides professional counselling and support for children, young people and adults with emotional and psychological difficulties. As school, we have directed families towards the Kernos Centre and know that a number of children have really benefitted from their services. To find out more about their services, click on the image below.

Kernos Centre
Taking counselling further

The theme for the non-uniform day is "Unique and Wonderfully Me". We would like the children to come into school with their clothing representing them: it might be a football team that they support or play for, a favourite band t-shirt, their favourite colour or just something that makes them feel comfortable. Please do not feel any pressure to create and/or buy something special, we would like this to be a nice, straightforward non-uniform

day (especially as the glad rags will be donned for the FOAS Palentine's Disco after school).

On Wednesday and Thursday, we have our Mid-Year Parents Evenings. Thank you to everyone who has booked their slot. To keep the evenings moving smoothly please ensure that you arrive in plenty of time for your appointment. If you are unable to make the appointment, please can you let the school office know so your slot can be reallocated (or your child's classteacher can take the opportunity to grab a biscuit from the staffroom!). On the Wednesday evening, Mrs. Fielder will be running a SEND drop-in (in the Year 4 classroom) if you have any questions about SEND or support for your child and/or family.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards
Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
110	111	109	137

School Meal Prices

We have been informed by Caterlink, our catering company, that school meal prices will be increasing after half-term. From Monday 23rd February, a school meal will cost £2.85. Caterlink have given the following reasons for the rise in price:

- Increases in Employer National Insurance Contributions
- National Living Wage uplift
- Food inflation over the past two years

Spring Term Dates

- Y4 trip to Colchester Castle 2.0: 9th February
- 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 5th 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	Flora	Ezra and Sienna	Bodhi
Leopards	Honey	Delilah	Peter
Pandas	Elodie	Esme	Peggy
Llamas	Jacob	Kieran and Reuben	Hudson
Orcas	Isabella-Rose	Aidan	Albie
Penguins	Azalea	Daisy R (nominated by Luna and Ellie) and Mia	Albert
Wolves	Amelie	Oscar	Owen

Class News

Caterpillars

This week our focus book in Caterpillar class has been 'The Naughty Bus'. We have enjoyed sharing the story and exploring the vocabulary: passengers, traffic, reflection, handsome and powerful. In Drawing Club, the children thought about the characters and setting used in the story and then used their own imagination during Adventure Time, to think of their own Naughty Bus story. In Phonics this week, we have been recapping those tricky digraphs ch, sh, th, ng and nk. The children particularly enjoyed going on a word hunt around the classroom. Our Maths focus has been looking at the numbers 6, 7 and 8, recognising the numbers, sorting the numbers, finding 1 more and exploring doubles within 8. In Art, the children enjoyed painting themselves, thinking carefully about what features we needed to include and what colour paint to use. A great week Caterpillars, well done!

Leopards

It has been another busy week in Leopard Class. In English, we started the week by reading and following instructions. We then learnt about imperative (bossy) verbs and found that these are used in instructions to tell us what to do. We ended the week by writing a set of instructions as part of a shared writing session. In Maths, we learnt to add by counting on. We used a range of pictorial representations to support our learning. We also learnt to use our number bonds within 10 to help us find related facts. For example, we found that if we know that 6 + 3 = 9, we also know that 16 + 3 = 19 and 3 + 16 = 19. In History, we compared Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. We then thought about whether we would have rather lived during the Elizabethan or Victorian times. Next week, we will plan and write a set of instructions for someone to follow. In Maths, we will learn to find and make number bonds to 20. In History, we will write to King Charles III and, in RE, we will learn about symbols linked to Easter. In Phonics we will focus on consolidating the sounds we have learnt as we 'Grow the Code'.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have been writing detailed descriptions of Victorian Britain in English. We wrote a paragraph about London, the school room and the workhouse using similes and noun phases to describe. In Maths, we completed our shape unit and revisited all that we had done on 2D and 3D shapes and their properties, symmetry and sorting shape. We then started our new unit ready for next week, which will involve us learning and practising our times tables and division facts. Also this week, we learnt all about Brunel in History and the building of the Box Hill tunnel. We then created a fact file, before completing our end of unit mind map about everything we have learnt about the Victorians this half term. From hospitals, to schools, to the railways and Dickens, there was an awful lot of knowledge! In P.E. this week, we created sequences including rolls, jumps and balances which we then performed to the class. We also learnt the 'Macarena' challenge which we will take part in next week! In Art, we created lots of

textures using paint ready to use within our collages next week. We chose our own subject matter for the collage and then used a variety of materials to create textured paper- such as a sponge to make the fluffy fur of a puppy, or a fork to create lines for sticks of bamboo. Next week is a busy one! We're looking forward to Children's Mental Health Week and wearing non uniform, showing our families all of our brilliant work at Parent's Evening, and of course, the all-important disco!

Llamas

In Maths this week, we have been introduced to the written multiplication method which has allowed us to work on multiplying with two and three digit numbers. We found it pretty tricky to begin with but we've had lots of practice to help us master it! In English, we found out that our main character, Qen, has been exiled after robbing a sacred tomb so we are now preparing for our hot write which is to write our own ending to Ma'at's Feather. We have been discussing what thoughts Qen would be having in the desert and we also created a storyboard to map out our final chapter. In History, we learnt about some of the Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses, including what they were the god/goddess of and how they can be identified in Egyptian artefacts. In Computing, we learnt how to spot problems in branching databases and how to debug them, and, in PSHE, we created a poster about safety around medicine. In preparation for Children's Mental Health Week, we also began an art project all about belonging. We have sketched out our own islands, and next week, we will continue filling them with different places and landmarks which represent the places we feel we belong in. Well done for all your hard work this week Llamas, one more to go!

Orcas

We have had a lovely, creative week in Orca Class. We started our Art unit at the beginning of the week, which focuses on painting and colour mixing. Firstly, we learnt how to create tints and shades by adding white and dark colours to paint. We then used this knowledge to paint a piece of fruit in 3D, using a grid to support our drawing. In English this week, we have been creating our non-chronological reports about the landmark or building that we researched last week. These look super and everyone should be proud of what they have created! Our Computing lesson on Wednesday focused on fake news and how to spot it. This was a very helpful skill to learn for both the children and the adults in the room. In Maths, we have covered several topics from our fractions unit. We began by learning how to calculate equivalent fractions, before moving on to counting up and down in tenths and hundredths. We then learnt how to calculate fractions of amounts. The class have been doing incredibly well in all of these lessons, so well done to them! In PSHE this week, we discussed how to keep ourselves safe in different situations, including online scenarios. We have also started our new class book, which links to our next English topic: Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone — a firm favourite. In addition, we are now focusing on the 7 times table in TTRS. Well done for all your hard work this week, Year 4. Just one week to go (and hopefully a trip to the castle)!

Penguins

A super fun and unusual week in Penguin Class, as groups of us have been working on our cycling proficiency - a huge thanks to our Bikeability coaches for their expertise and instruction. As much of the class have been outdoors pedalling for a large part of the week, we have taken the opportunity to work through our coding unit on Purplemash, creating football, item catching and alien blast games using blocks and functions. We've really enjoyed working together to help get our code just right. In English, we moved from -able/-ible spellings to words with silent letters and put the finishing touches on our War Horse playscripts for our hot assessment. In Maths, we refined our skills when multiplying fractions, finding fractions of amounts and revised our mixed number/improper fraction conversions. In PE, we worked on incorporating "Power Cards" into our personally planned group games. In PSHE with Mrs Fisher, we discussed vaping and, in RE, we wrote facts about Krishna. In Music with Mrs Fisher, we

learned the song "Do You Ever Wonder?" and, in French, we revised rooms ready for our assessment next week.

Wolves

I'm always proud of the Wolves, but particularly this week where they have undertaken a series of assessments to show all they have learnt so far this year. Great job all of you! In other lessons this week, we finished writing our newspaper report about the gruesome murder of one of the characters in Wild Boy, ensuring that we used a catchy headline to lure the readers in, a lead paragraph telling us the main facts and both reported and direct speech to interview the witnesses. In Maths, we finished our ratio and proportion unit by enlarging shapes and lines by a scale factor, as well as continuing to revise percentages of amounts. We also completed our Science topic on Light. We used prisms and torches to demonstrate how light, although it looks white, is actually made up of all the colours of the rainbow. We also used coloured overlays to demonstrate how light enables us to see different colours. With Mrs Fielder, we undertook the 'Thunderstruck' challenge in circuits; we added bird song to our Spring soundscapes in Music; and solved word problems involving decimals in Maths. Finally, with Mrs Fisher, we discussed drugs and the law in PSHE and, in RE, we read a recount of Krishna's birth and made Janmashtami cards for his birthday.

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Community Events

Support and Advice

School's Early Help Webpage

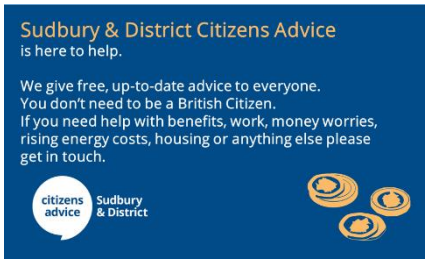
A range of websites and sources of advice on Emotional Wellbeing, Health, Sleep and Parenting Support can be found here.

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



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