



## Weekly Newsletter: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, you may have heard the children talking about a giant tent in the hall and a giraffe named **Harold**. As far-fetched as it might sound, they were telling the truth!

The week, to support our learning in PSHE, we were visited by Nancy (the human) and Harold (the giraffe) as they camped out in the hall inside a giant giraffe inspired tent – which caused a great deal of excitement when it suddenly appeared on Tuesday morning.

Throughout Tuesday and Wednesday, all of the classes spent an hour in the tent learning about different ways to support their mental health and wellbeing. As always, it was a great couple of days and we look forward to welcoming Harold (and Nancy) back next year.



This week has also been **Science Week**. On Wednesday, many of the classes took part in a national live Science Week lesson with children from across the country. This has also been supported by a bit more of a science focus to our curriculum this week and the launching of our Science Week poster competition.

You may also notice a slight change to the Stars of the Week today too. In honour of Science Week, we have rebranded our usual Stars to be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Stars of the Week. There are two STEM Stars from each class, who have shown great commitment, achievement or interest in a STEM subject this week.

Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming Mums, Grannies, Aunties (or any special female relative) into school for some '**Time Together**'. We are trialling this approach, instead of the Mother's Day lunches, so any feedback you have after attending a session would be gratefully received.

Next Friday is going to be another busy one in school. It is **Red Nose Day** and the FOAS Great Easter Bake Off.

For **Red Nose Day**, we would like to invite the children to come into school in their normal uniform, with the addition of something **red**. This could be a pair of red socks, a red hair band, red gloves or hat. If you would like to make a donation to Comic Relief then we will collect those too.

The **Easter Bake Off** will be judged in three categories:

- Reception and Y1
- Y2, Y3 and Y4
- Y5 and Y6

Please drop any (named) entries into the school office in the morning and the cakes will be sold after school.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend!

Kind regards  
Jonathan Gray  
Headteacher

## House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
163	165	188	191

## U9 Football Tournament

Yesterday, our U9 football team made their first appearance in a tournament at Wells Hall Primary School (thank you to Mr. Smith for organising it!). The excitement had been building all week at the tournament got closer and it proved to live up to its expectations.

Despite the incredibly windy (and cold) conditions, the team played brilliantly – with a special mention to Phoebe for playing in her first competitive match. As you can see

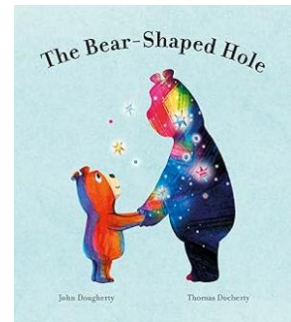


from the results table below, the goals were flowing and the wins came thick and fast. After all of the matches were played, we left not knowing the final table so it was a lovely surprise for the team to find out in assembly today that they had won the tournament. It is safe to say that the future of football at Acton is looking very promising!

Results	Position	Team	Points
Pot Kiln 0 v 3 Acton	1	Acton	16
Acton 2 v 0 Boxford	2	Wells Hall Greens	15
Wells Hall Blacks 0 v 3 Acton	3	Glensford	11
Glensford 1 v 3 Acton	4	Pot Kiln	10
Acton 4 v 0 Wells Hall Navy	5	Wells Hall Navy	6
Wells Hall Green 1 v 1 Acton	6	Boxford	3
	7	Wells Hall Blacks	0

## Recommended Reads for supporting your child at home

Our ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) have compiled a list of recommended reads to support your child at home. These are children's books which can be used to approach various feelings associated with anxiety, bereavement, separation, self-esteem and managing emotions. The list of books can be found attached to this week's newsletter Parentmail and on the [Early Help](#) page of our website.



## Spring Term Dates

- FOAS Easter Bake Off: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Service at All Saints Church: 9:30am 25<sup>th</sup> March
- Rocksteady Concert: 2:30pm Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- Last day of Spring Term: Friday 27<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.



Science Technology Engineering Maths



## Stars of the Week!

Class	STEM Stars
Caterpillars	Bodhi, Blake and Ted R
Leopards	Noah B and Hudson
Pandas	Tillyanna and Nina
Llamas	Nancy and Bella
Orcas	Lincoln and Ruby
Penguins	Freddie T and Jack
Wolves	Hannah, Archie and Annabell (paired work)

## Class News

### Caterpillars

This week we have been sharing the story 'Lost and Found'. The children have enjoyed retelling the story in our Small World Area and making their own small character puppets at the creative table. In Drawing Club, we have looked at the characters and setting used in the story and then thought about how we could extend the story by thinking about having a celebration for the penguin. In Phonics, we have learnt the phonemes ur, ow, oi and ear. The children are beginning to show great confidence in using their phonics during our guided reading sessions and in Drawing Club. Great work Caterpillars! Our Maths focus has continued to be working on our understanding of the numbers 9 and 10, with a focus on number bonds to 10. The children

have also been super busy this week, making some special cards and gifts for their Mums. On Wednesday, the children enjoyed visiting the SCARF tent, as part of our PSHE unit learning all about resilience. They loved meeting Harold the Giraffe.

### Leopards

It has been another busy week in Leopard Class. In English, we started our learning about information texts by discussing key features. We then read an information text and retrieved details from it. In Maths, we began our Place Value to 50 unit by learning to count from 20 to 50. In Geography, we learnt about some extreme weathers, and, in Science, we learnt about animal diets. As part of this, we considered what a range of animals eat and sorted them into the categories of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. This week also saw us visit the SCARF tent, where we learnt about resilience and the power of the word 'yet'. We thought about some of the things we have learnt and some of the things we are unable to do. We then turned the phrase 'I can't do it' into 'I can't do it ... yet!' We really enjoyed this experience and Harold the giraffe even popped by to say hello. Next week, we will learn to use capital letters for proper nouns and question marks for questions. In Maths, we will learn to count by making groups of tens and ones, and in Geography, we will continue to learn about extreme weathers. In Phonics we will continue to learn new sounds whilst consolidating some we already know.

### Pandas

This week in Year 2, the big news of the week was the arrival of the tent in the hall to welcome back Harold. We learnt all about how our brain works and how we can concentrate on making our worries feel better if they start to get too heavy. We helped Harold to overcome his worries and share his feelings. Also this week, it was Science Week which we celebrated with our STEM stars of the week. We enjoyed the live Picture News assembly on Wednesday learning all about the oceans and what happens at each level. We also finished our sensational scientists unit and recapped all of the fantastic scientists we have learnt about this half term and all of their different skills. In English, we wrote from different perspectives based on our book 'Diary of a Wombat', to separate how the wombat and the family were feeling. Then we looked at a variety of other Australian animals and wrote diary entries from their perspective, using the past progressive tense. In Maths, we explored the use of arrays before concentrating on the 2x table and using related division facts. In R.E., we started our new unit about trust and created a trust tree including all of the people we trust and why. In P.E., we enjoyed games and activities in the sunshine allowing us to work together as a team on a variety of skills. In History, we started learning about 'The Great Fire of London'. We recapped what London was like in the 1600s and what we could remember from the Gunpowder Plot unit. We then created a timetable following the events of the great fire, and thinking about how and why the fire spread so quickly. Next week, we will discover what happened after the fire and how this event changed history. Next week, we can't wait to welcome in our mums and grandmas for our special afternoon of crafts and colouring!

### Llamas

In English this week, we have been learning about adverbs and how we can use them in different ways to strengthen our sentences. We found lots of adverbs in different animal poems and then wrote some examples of our own. In Maths, we have been consolidating our written multiplication and short division methods, ready to challenge ourselves with worded problems next week. In Geography, we extended our map skills to find high points in the UK using topographical maps and, in PSHE, we discussed the difference between facts and opinions. In addition to our PSHE lesson, we were also visited by Harold the giraffe in the SCARF tent where we learnt about the brain and all the important jobs it has, including keeping us safe. Finally, in celebration of Science Week 2026, we had an in-class assembly on Tuesday all about the progress being made with robots and mechanics. We discussed what we think a world with robot helpers would look like and if/how they could improve our everyday lives. On Wednesday, we also joined a live-streamed assembly from a science specialist, who talked to us about the different ocean layers and the different living things that can be found in each one. You've been superstars this week Llamas, well done!

### Orcas

We have had a lovely week in Orca Class, with a sprinkling of STEM across many of our lessons to celebrate British Science Week. In Maths, we have been multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, which has proved rather tricky, but we gave it our best effort. Sadly, we finished our Geography topic this week with a final lesson all about Mount Vesuvius. We learnt about it's most famous and deadly eruption in 79 AD and then created posters encouraging tourists to visit the area today. This led nicely into the start of our new Science topic for the half term: Electricity! In our first lesson, we learnt about what mains-powered and battery-powered mean and discussed which appliances in our homes use each type of power. On Wednesday, we also took part in a live British Science Week lesson all about the different layers of the ocean, which was very interesting. We enjoyed our session in the SCARF tent on Tuesday, which focused on keeping our bodies healthy. We also discussed taking breaks from playing games online and how not to feel pressured by friends to keep playing. In our PSHE lesson, we talked about the UN's Rights of the Child and discussed why rules exist and why they can be different in different places. Our Computing lesson was a little tricky this week, as we had to follow some coding instructions and then complete a debugging challenge. Well done to everyone who persevered and gave it their best! Well done for working hard, as always, Year 4!

### Penguins

The Penguins wanted to share an in-depth look at their SCARF session in the Learning Space with Nancy this week - don't worry, we've been working hard across the curriculum as always (focusing on "The Raven" in English, percentages in Maths and finishing our Rivers topic in Geography).

Nancy welcomed Penguin Class into the SCARF tent on Tuesday morning. We discussed the work we had done on physical wellbeing in the tent in previous years and then focused on our mental wellbeing this time. We reminded ourselves what SCARF stands for and next Nancy talked to us about the different parts of the human brain and what they do. Nancy set us a challenge and instructed us to celebrate our mistakes, which felt quite unusual but fun, like a game. We completed an activity that helped us to notice our emotional response to different pictures – different people felt very differently, which was so interesting to hear about. We also described our physical responses to different situations and there were so many ideas to share! Finally, we developed a personal toolkit to enable us to manage stressful situations and allow our hippopotamus (joke) to take over from our amygdala and steer us safely. We tested our toolkits on some tricky questions and said goodbye to the lovely Harold. Thank you Nancy – you are an amazingly engaging teacher!

### Wolves

This week has been another busy one! With Mrs Fielder, we started a new unit all about the planets in French; in Maths we continued with our 'mean' learning; and in RE, we looked at art work related to the Last Supper. We also recreated the famous Da Vinci painting and considered how the disciples would have felt. On Tuesday afternoon, we were treated to a session in the SCARF tent. The focus was on our wellbeing and we discussed techniques to help us deal with stress and keep calm. In English, we began a new unit which is based around a short animation called The Piano. After watching it several times, we analysed it using the 5 S approach - setting, story, symbol, sound and sequence. We realised that the more we watched it, the more we saw, which helped us with the overall understanding of it. As it has been Science week this week, we recapped over our previous learning on electricity and light before watching Horrible Science and took part in a live lesson where we learnt all about the different layers that make up the structure of the ocean. We learnt that 'The Trenches' are as deep as Mount Everest is high; the 'Abyss' is so deep that humans can't explore there; and that different creatures live in the 'Twilight' and 'Sunlight' layers.



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

## Community Events



Children £4  
(upto 7 years)  
Adults £1

JACKIN' BEATS  
DJ SERVICES

ACTON PLAYGROUP'S  
**Bunny Hop**  
EASTER DISCO

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March  
4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at Acton Village Hall

Easter Games  
Cupcake sale

Easter Bonnet  
Competition

For tickets, email: [actonplaygroupevents@hotmail.com](mailto:actonplaygroupevents@hotmail.com)  
(limited availability)



**Harry Potter**  
DANCE CAMP  
BOOK NOW!

**TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> & WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**APRIL**  
**LONG MELFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**9AM - 3PM      4 - 11 YEARS**  
**PERFORMANCE AT 2:45PM**

£26 FOR 1 DAY  
£45 FOR 2 DAYS

ARTS & CRAFTS  
DANCING  
GAMES

To book or enquire please email  
[info@elizabetschoolofdance.com](mailto:info@elizabetschoolofdance.com)

*Elizabeth*  
School of  
Dance

**EASTER TENNIS CAMPS**  
**Lavenham Tennis Club**  
Sports and Recreation Ground, Bridge Street, Suffolk, CO10 9SH

🕒 6 - 16yrs old    🕒 12:00pm - 3:00pm  
📅 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

[contact@fullswingtennis.co.uk](mailto:contact@fullswingtennis.co.uk)    booking: 

[www.fullswingtennis.co.uk](http://www.fullswingtennis.co.uk)

**Full swing**  
tennis coaching

# 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](#).



### Child and Adolescent Mental Health Parent Workshops

Free virtual workshops:

- Anxiety
- Emetophobia
- Tourette's Symptoms/Tics
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Access here: <https://nsft.uk/Workshops>



## 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>

**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.



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