



## Weekly Newsletter: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

One of the things that I have always loved about teaching is the variation and, sometimes, unpredictability of the day – no two days are ever quite the same. When you think that you have seen it all, something happens to make you think again.

In the twenty... many years of teaching PE in my career, I thought I had covered most sports or physical activities so felt confident when I planned to cover the Year 4 PE lesson yesterday. As you can probably imagine, I was a little shocked when I was to be teaching a Quidditch lesson!

Not being the biggest Harry Potter fan, I knew that this involved flying around on broomsticks and chasing a special winged ball so was a little confused as to how it was going to work (as I was pretty sure that the children only arrive at school on bikes or scooters!) It took me a while to get my head around the terms chaser, quaffle and beater but I think we got there in the end!

The reason behind my brush with the wizarding world of Harry Potter was that Mrs. Garrod had accompanied the Penguins on their journey to North Norfolk to visit Aylmerton. If you follow our Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/actonprimary/>), you'll have seen a few snippets of the fun they have been getting up to. As you read this, they are currently on their way home after a very exciting few days – full of stories to share of seals, safaris and sand. Thank you Mr. Newcombe, Mrs. Garrod and Mrs. Ridgeon for making sure everything went smoothly over the three days and for ensuring the Penguins had a memorable residential.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend!

Kind regards  
Jonathan Gray  
Headteacher

### House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
60	110	74	52

## Summer Term Dates

- PSD Football League vs Wells Hall: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April
- Y6 'Breakfast Week': w/c Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May
- PSD Football League vs Glemsford: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May
- Y6 trip to High Lodge: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May
- Y3 Ancient Greek Day: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May
- PSD Football League vs Great Waldingfield: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May
- Half term: w/c Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday May
- Children return to school: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June
- Y6 Residential to Thorpe Woodlands: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June
- Y1 visit to Hollow Trees Farm: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June
- **Sports Day: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**
- FOAS Summer Event: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July
- Y6 RSC Performance at the Mercury Theatre: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July
- Y3 visit to Dawes Hall: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July
- Last day of the year: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

More dates to be added as the term goes on. Details about events and trips to be shared nearer the time.



### Stars of the Week!



Class	Strive	Support	Succeed
Caterpillars	Leo	Flora	All of the Caterpillars
Leopards	Ocean	Willow	Charlie
Pandas	Amber	Lilly-Mai	Isla (nominated by Coach Dan)
Llamas	Anesu	Phoenix	Marley
Orcas	Ruby	Travis	Amelia F
Penguins		Lily-May and Michael (nominated by Mrs.Fisher)	
Wolves	Charlotte	Bonnie	Ollie

## Class News

### Caterpillars

This week in Caterpillar Class, we have enjoyed sharing the story 'Rainbow Fish'. In Drawing Club, we used the story to look at the characters and the settings. The children have drawn some great pictures and are now writing some super sentences to go alongside their drawings. We also linked some of our creative activities to the story, creating our own colourful rainbow fish and using paint to create under the sea paintings. In Phonics this week, we revisited the digraphs oo, ar and or. The children have been busy working on their blending and segmenting skills to confidently read and write words using these digraphs. Our focus in Maths this week has been 'To 20 and Beyond', we have explored building numbers between 10 and 20 and have then been counting orally beyond 20. The children have blown us away with their knowledge of two-digit numbers, especially when identifying missing numbers on a 100 square. We have also enjoyed spending lots of time outside in the sunshine, building ramps for our cars, chalking two digit numbers and enjoying our new sand area.

### Leopards

It has been another busy week in Leopard Class filled with lots of learning. Before we delve into this week's learning, we'd like to tell you about the exciting end to last week. Last Friday, Mr Davy, a vet, came to visit us. Mr Davy told us about his job and how he takes care of animals. We enjoyed pretending to be vets and would like to thank Mr Davy for visiting. This week, we answered questions and wrote sentences about fairy tales. We also learnt about plurals. In Maths, we compared mass and volume and measured weight and capacity. In History, we looked at pieces of artwork painted by Thomas Gainsborough. We chose our favourite piece and gave reasons for our decision. Our Computing unit this half term focuses on giving clear, concise instructions. Using Purple Mash, we followed instructions to complete a given task. We learnt that it is important to follow the instructions carefully and complete one step at a time. Next week, we will retell the story of Cinderella. In Maths, we will begin learning about multiplication and division, and in PE, we will develop our jumping skills. In Phonics we will continue to apply the skills we have learnt.

### Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have read 'The Dragon Machine' and 'The Paper Bag Princess' in English, both dragon fantasy stories which have inspired us in our descriptive writing. We used adjectives, adverbs and nouns to describe the events and characters in the story. In Maths this week, we have focused on finding halves and quarters. We sorted images into groups, before finding half and quarter on set quantities. This was quite tricky so we will continue to practise this next week, as well as looking at unit fractions. Also this week, we looked at climate zones and planned journey lines using the atlases in Geography. We worked hard to include positional language and compass directions, as well as using the names of the oceans and continents. In PE, we continued with our racket skills, playing games to improve balance, technique and aim. On Tuesday, we enjoyed our 'No Outsiders' book learning all about sign language. We even practised some words to improve our communication with someone who finds it difficult to hear. In PSHE this week, we learnt all about the importance of washing our hands and how it keeps us safe from harm. In RE, we started our new unit about Judaism and the joy of the Torah. We looked at a beautiful painting showing people rejoicing before we thought about what makes us 'dance for joy'.

### Llamas

We've had yet another fantastic week of learning in Year 3! In English, we have been describing different settings from the ancient Greek period. We then used this to help us write a setting description using adverbials, expanded noun phrases and similes. In Maths, we had huge successes with our learning about fractions. We began our unit by learning about unit and non-unit fractions, as well as counting up and down in different fractions. In History, we learnt about Alexander the Great and the reasons why he is considered one of the greatest rulers in history. We also learnt about how different groups of people would have been affected by his decisions. In PE, we have added to our Greek dance knowledge by learning the steps for a Sirtaki dance sequence. We also had our No Outsiders morning on Tuesday where we read 'The Hueys in the New Jumper' and put ourselves in the shoes of an 'outsider' to consider the thoughts and feelings that come with it. In PSHE, we discussed what we can do to help prevent illnesses (washing our hands, using a tissue when we sneeze, covering our mouths when we cough etc.) and created a poster that will remind others to do those things! You've had a super week, Llamas - well done!

### Orcas

The Orcas have had a bit of a mixture this week with Mrs. Garrod, Mr. Gray, Mrs Fielder and Mrs Fisher all teaching them over the week. It hasn't been a surprise to any of the staff working with them that they have been superstars! In Maths, there has been a focus on worded measure problems (always a tricky subject). In English, the Orcas tackled parenthesis (using brackets to add extra information into a sentence). Tuesday's No Outsiders session featured the book 'When sadness comes to call' which explores the emotion of feeling sad and that it is ok to feel like that. In Geography, the OS maps and atlases came out to identify villages and towns in our local area and places of interest. In PHSE,

they discussed what their favourite qualities are. In French, there was a theoretical visit to a café to order food and drink. Music featured the gospel song 'A train is comin' and, in RE, the focus was the story of Abraham and his promise with God.

### **Penguins**

The Penguin Huddle have been busy exploring the North Norfolk coastline. News of their adventures to follow next week.

### **Wolves**

We started the week with Mrs Fielder and a new computing unit - 3D modelling. This really got our brains working first thing on Monday morning, where we had the challenging task of creating patterns using CAD. We then interpreted line graphs in Maths and, in French, we revised greetings, information about ourselves and learnt about which countries around the world use French as their main language. On Tuesday, we had our No Outsiders session which focused on acceptance. We wrote letters to 'Tilly' demonstrating compassion and kindness, and as always, the Wolves were very mature in their approach. We have been working on revising spelling rules this week with a focus on ible, able, tial, cial, tious and cious as well as continuing to work on how to answer some trickier comprehension questions. In Maths, we drew and measured angles using protractors and worked in pairs to practise fractions, decimals and word problems- we find it really helps to discuss how to solve these by talking it through with a partner. In PE with Coach Dan, we practised our throwing skills using shot put and discus and we had another super swimming session on Friday.



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

# Community News and Events

## Book Sale



In Acton Church,  
Satnav: CO10 0BA

**Sat.25<sup>th</sup>  
April**

10.00—2.00  
**Free Entry**

**Teen &  
Children's books  
less than half price!**

All Proceeds to Church funds.

Join us for  
**Thorpe Woodlands  
Family Fun day**

£20pp  
for a morning or afternoon of unlimited  
activities!

*please feel free to bring a picnic or there is a cafe located at Forest Holidays*

- \*Archery
- \*Zip Wire
- \*High Ropes
- \*Canoe Hire
- \*Rock Climbing
- \*Tree Trekking
- \*Caving

scan me to book!  
*(please select the date then click "family adventure day")*

**29.03.26** Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre  
Stamell, Thesford IP24 2HX

9:30am - 12:30pm  
OR  
1:30pm - 4:30pm





## Flatford Nature Day Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Visit Flatford for our May half-term Nature Day

Join in for free, nature-themed activities and crafts including:

- Pond dipping
- Bug hunting
- Tree trails
- Making nature's colour palette
- Using a solar telescope

...and much more!

Free

Drop in activities 11am - 4pm

Enjoy the outdoors around Flatford for the day. There will be something for all the family!

River Stour Trust boat trips are free for children under 14 when accompanied by £8.00 fare paying adult. There is a charge of £8.00 for use of the National Trust car park for non-members. Call Field Studies Council Flatford Mill on 01206 297130 for more details.





## FAMILY PARK COOKING

AGES 8-14 YEARS

25<sup>th</sup> May - 29<sup>th</sup> May  
Subject to availability  
**08:30-16:30**

**FREE**

Parents and children take part in an amazing family day out with a wide range of activities including an outdoor cooking master class where you will cook a delicious lunch together. This Half term recipe will be perfect pizza pocket.

Find Out More

abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF

COMMUNITY FUND

EXPLORE OUTDOOR

Abbeycroft  
Let's Love Life





# 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/>