



Weekly Newsletter: 22nd May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today marks the end of an era here at Acton CEVC Primary School as our beloved cleaners [Mary and Keith](#) hang up their mops and cloths for the final time and start their retirement together.

Mary has been a member of our school community for 28 years working in the kitchen, volunteering to support in the classrooms, being a midday supervisor and cleaner/caretaker and Keith joined the team in 2020. It isn't just the cleaning that we will miss but Mary's gentle nature with the children and Keith's ability to talk sport with anyone who will listen (especially his love of AFC Sudbury). It also goes without saying that the staff will miss Mary's chocolate brownies, which, and I am not exaggerating, are some of the best brownies I have ever had (and I like to think myself to be bit of a connoisseur). Today, we welcomed Mary and Keith in to our Stars Assembly to say goodbyes. We are all going to miss them hugely but know that we will see them (and their dog Stanley) around the village.

I warned you last week to watch out for the invasion of the [Ancient Greeks](#), so hopefully you caught sight of them on Wednesday as the school hall became Ancient Athens. The children all looked fantastic in their costumes and I know, from the cheering and laughter coming from the hall, that they had a fantastic day.



Thank you to everyone who supported our [Book Sale](#) on Monday and Tuesday. There were over £400 worth of books sold over the two evenings, which means that the school has received £207.51 worth of vouchers to buy books for the children.



I seem to write this a lot but I cannot believe that we have reached the end of another half-term, which means that we only have one more left of this academic year. The second half of the Summer term is always my favourite, despite it being really busy, as we get to look back on all that has happened, all the successes and everything that we have learnt (children and adults) before we start to look forward to the summer holidays.

I hope that you have a fantastic half-term and enjoy the brilliant weather that has been forecast!

Kind regards
Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
152	186	187	138

The Airfield Derby

Yesterday, our U11 football teams played against Great Waldingfield CEVC Primary School in the Airfield derby (as part of the Sudbury Prestige Sports League). Tensions were running high before the matches due to it being a local derby.

The boys kicked off their game first and fell behind to a breakaway goal within a couple of minutes. This was a bit of a shock as it was the first goal that they had conceded in the league. As the game moved towards half-time, the boys started to get into the match but couldn't really get their usual passing game flowing. After the break, they played much better with a great through ball from Frankie setting up Alfie to score the equaliser. The boys started to click and they were on the front foot until a goalmouth scramble (involving three fantastic saves from Archie) led to a Waldingfield goal. Despite the Acton boys' best efforts, including a very tense last 30 seconds where they just couldn't find enough space to take a shot, the game finished in a 2 v 1 defeat.

Next were the girls. They started off really strongly and it wasn't long before Sophia had given Acton the lead with a wonderful solo goal, dribbling from the touchline, beating a number of players before slotting it past the goalkeeper. The girls maintained their lead until

just before half-time when two quick goals by Waldingfield reversed the advantage. As the second half started it was wonderful to see the girls knocking the ball around and making some great passes. Unfortunately, Waldingfield scored a third just before the end of the match which finished 3 v 1 to the host team.

Summer Term Dates

- Half term: w/c Monday 25th May to Friday May
- Children return to school: Monday 1st June
- PSD Football League vs Glemsford: Thursday 11th June
- Y6 Residential to Thorpe Woodlands: Monday 22nd June to Wednesday 24th June
- Y1 visit to Hollow Trees Farm: Friday 26th June
- Y4 visit to West Stow: Monday 29th June
- **Sports Day: Wednesday 1st July (Parents invited from 12pm for a picnic on the field before the afternoon races, starting at 1:15pm)**
- **FOAS Colour Run: Friday 3rd July**
- Y6 RSC Performance at the Mercury Theatre: Thursday 9th July
- Y3 visit to Dawes Hall: Tuesday 14th July
- Last day of the year: Friday 17th 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	Ted R	Sierra	Max
Leopards	Ava	Frank W	Elsie
Pandas	Tillyanna	Matilda	April
Llamas	Reuben	Rishaani	Libby
Orcas	Ava	Beau	Lula
Penguins	Michael	Rosie (nominated by Mrs Fisher)	Emily (nominated by Hev)
Wolves	Charlotte	Annabell	Bethany Cl

Class News

Caterpillars

This week, we have enjoyed sharing the story 'Sam Plants a Sunflower'. This story linked to our topic learning around life cycles and plants. We also looked at the story in Drawing Club, thinking about the characters and setting in the story. In Phonics, we have been revisiting Phase 2 and 3 phonemes, reading and writing longer words and short captions. Our Maths focus this week has been sharing and grouping. The children have been fantastic at sharing objects evenly between a given number. They particularly enjoyed helping Mummy Bear, share out her cakes, at the fairy-tale party. In Art, the children have been busy painting sunflowers and following simple picture instructions to draw their own sunflowers. We have also enjoyed lots of time outside; planting, building dens and playing tennis. We hope the children have a lovely half term holiday.

Leopards

Wow, this half term certainly whizzed by! It's hard to believe that we are half way through the summer term already! This week, we focussed on a range of key skills including spelling common exception words and the days of the week. We also consolidated our learning about plurals. In Maths, we learnt to find a half and quarter of a quantity. We started by using concrete manipulatives and then moved to using pictorial representations to help us find a half or quarter of a given amount. We found finding a quarter tricky to begin with but were resilient and didn't give up. In Art, we enjoyed using shapes and lines to create our own pictures and, in RE, we learnt about worship at a synagogue and what happens at the end of Shabbat. We also considered whether having Christmas or birthdays every day is a good idea or not. Next half term, our big question is 'What makes the United Kingdom an island?'. In English, we will learn about fantasy stories and letters, and in Maths, we will begin the half term learning about place value to 100. In Science, we will learn about plants, and in Geography, our focus will be on the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and their capital cities. Have a lovely half term.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we have been busy with our end of Key Stage 1 assessments. We showed off our incredible reading, grammar and spelling skills, trying our best to put into practise all the skills we have learnt in Year 2. Also this week, we enjoyed seeing Coach Dan again and having our first of two rounders games of the week (definitely our new favourite sport!) In English, we concluded our dragon stories unit and chose an extract to write in neat. In Maths, we have been telling the time to the nearest 5 minutes, both past and to the hour. This has proved tricky, but we are persevering! In RE, we created mezuzahs to hang near our classroom door, detailing a message of thanks or gratitude. In Computing, we made an online art portfolio of all our creations from the last half term. On Thursday, we had a fantastic Science afternoon with Dr Rawlins. We learnt about leaves and how they carry water, amongst other plant-based experiments. It has been such a busy half term, and the Pandas have worked incredibly hard as ever. Today we wished a fond farewell to Keith and Mary on their retirement, and we hope they enjoyed their card and pictures. We will miss them and all their hard work cleaning up our pencil shavings and wiping down the tables after a messy lesson! I hope that you all have a wonderful half term break and come back refreshed and ready for the final half term in Panda Class!

Llamas

What a fantastic end to this half of the summer term we've had in Year 3 this week. In English, we completed our hot write all about Greek gods and goddesses; everyone worked really hard to include features such as expanded noun phrases, similes and paragraphs! In Maths, we used a fraction wall to learn about comparing fractions which was pretty tricky. In Computing, we shared the PowerPoint presentations we've been working on this term and we also completed our reading assessment this week - we all did brilliantly! The highlight of our week was, of course, our Greek Day on Wednesday. In the morning, we were told the story of the battle between Greece and Persia before working in teams to find information around the hall to answer our quiz questions. We then completed puzzles and played a board game called Pettiea, which was a bit like chess! In the afternoon, we learnt about weapons and armour (we even got to try on a few pieces!) and then we split into Athens and Sparta as we competed in our own Olympic Games! We had an amazing day and our costumes looked fantastic. You've had an excellent half term, Llamas.

Orcas

We have had a lovely, creative week in Orca Class to finish the half term. In Art, we have been inspired by the rainforest. First, we created four different pieces of artwork from one image, using a viewfinder to help us focus on smaller sections. These turned out brilliantly and captured the colours and textures of the rainforest creatures beautifully. We then designed our own repeating patterns inspired by William Morris. In English this week, we created poems about the seasons. We also explored the poem 'Willow Pattern Plate' and performed it in groups, thinking carefully about intonation, pace and volume to create an effective performance. In Maths, we have continued our work on money and have used column subtraction, column addition, long

multiplication and bus stop division to solve problems - all very useful skills for shopping during the holidays! We have also enjoyed sharing lots of poems during class reading time, alongside continuing our reading of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone', with many children enthusiastically taking on different character roles. During our tennis lesson on Tuesday, we put our skills to the test by playing several doubles matches against each other. Then, on Thursday, we finished the half term with some final attack-and-defence-based Quidditch games in PE. We have had a lovely final week and a fantastic half term together. Have a wonderful holiday, everyone - see you soon, and don't forget to practise your times tables!

Penguins

The Penguins have enjoyed another fabulous half term - we'll see them back from a deserved week's rest, ready to begin their metamorphosis into Wolves very soon! In Art and Design this week, we finished our architecture unit by taking time to design our own Zaha Hadid-inspired dream schools, either in plan view, perspective view or as a front elevation. In English, we completed our persuasive speeches unit by arguing that homework should be banned (!), after using the start of the week to assess our reading and SPAG knowledge. In Maths, we assessed our measurement skills, having finally completed all sorts of word problems. We look forward to getting into geometry after half term. In PE, we enjoyed lots of smaller games of Killer Catch in tennis, utilising our backhand skills and, with Coach Gray, we finished our cricket unit by mastering the forward defensive. In PSHE with Mrs Fisher, we counted up all of our star qualities and, in RE, we reflected on holiness, particularly in Judaism. In French with Mrs Fisher, we finished our Clothes unit with some highly successful reading, writing, speaking and listening and, in Music, it was fabulous to see Rosie leading our whole class Glockenspiel recital!

Wolves

Normal service has resumed this week in Wolf Class after the excitement of Breakfast/Cake Week and Thetford Forest! We began the week with Mrs Fielder using Purple Mash to finish our packaging design that we have been working on over the past few weeks. We printed them out to make a prototype of our design and we were very pleased with the results. In French, we compared Port-au-Prince in Haiti to Paris in France and, in Maths, we undertook a challenge whereby we had to answer the question: 'How many times does the number 5 appear on a 24hr clock?' On Tuesday, we began our new Science unit- Evolution and Inheritance. We looked at how fossils are formed and delved deeper into the life of Mary Anning and her work with fossils. With Miss P, we finished our memory boxes by spraying our clay tiles before painting them and then we were really lucky, as we added gold leaf to parts of our tile to emphasise special elements. We then arranged our boxes in a fabulous display for us all to enjoy. Thank you Miss P for a fantastic set of Art lessons! Finally, on Friday, after our swimming, we enjoyed a trip to Sudbury Arts Centre to take part in Crucial Crew. We all found it really fascinating as we learnt the basics of first aid using DRSABC and enjoyed trying out CPR on dummies. We also learnt what to do if a fire breaks out at home; what to do if someone falls in a river; how to dial 999; and the dangers of drugs. Have a wonderful half term everyone.



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

May Half Term



Mastering the Basics of Cooking

Using slow cookers and Air Fryers

FREE COURSE

6 WEEK COURSE

STARTING WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE 1-4PM



Call 01787 880619 or click the link in the bio to book your space!



BOUNCE INTO FAMILY FUN



From action-packed Adventure Days, to Crash Courses, we've got all that it takes to keep children entertained this May half term.

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- Ⓞ XHeight
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- Ⓞ Explore Outdoor
- Ⓞ Racquet Sports
- Ⓞ Junior Gym

Book Now - abbeycroft.org.uk or via our app

*Not all activities are available at every site



May CAMPS

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ACTIVITY CAMPS

FOOTBALL DAY 10-14YRS

OPEN FOR BOOKINGS: **ONLINE NOW!**

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MAY HALF TERM 2026
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● LINTON ● SOHAM

● GT YELDHAM ● STETCHWORTH



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★ KEEP ACTIVE
★ BUILD CONFIDENCE
★ TRY NEW THINGS



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£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

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- *Caving

- *Zip Wire
- *Canoe Hire
- *Tree Trekking



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

29.03.26

Thorpe Woodlands
Adventure Centre
Stowmen, Thorpe
IP24 2RX

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

Flatford Nature Day

Tuesday 26th 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 £6.00 for use of the National Trust car park for non-members. Call Field Studies Council Flatford Mill on 01226 227110 for more details.



FAMILY PARK COOKING

AGES 8-14 YEARS

25th May - 29th 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.

*Free for those eligible for free school meals or meet Suffolk Country Council eligibility criteria

abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF

Find Out More









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 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/>