



Weekly Newsletter: 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is something very magical about the summer holidays – the memories and thoughts of them seem to disappear as soon as we return to school. It is just like watching a magician make their glamorous assistant disappear!

We have reached the end of our first full week and it is very much like we have never been away – except we have gained a few new faces and lost some older familiar ones (some of whom have already returned to show off their over-sized blazers and share tales from high school).

I know I mentioned it briefly last week, but I have continued to be impressed by our new Caterpillars, who even came into their first assembly on Tuesday. It has been wonderful watching them grow in confidence, with many of them happily walking down from the top gate already. At the same time, it has been lovely watching the older children taking care of the Caterpillars, especially at lunchtime, to ensure that they are okay and where they are meant to be.

If you have been around to collect your children from the playground over the past week, you may have noticed the enormous pumpkins that have grown over the summer. Yesterday, the Penguins picked one and filled the corridors around the school with the delicious smell of Pumpkin Soup. I was lucky enough to have bowl of soup delivered to my office and I was very impressed with how good it was – we certainly have some budding chefs in Year 5!



Yesterday, in assembly, we launched the applications for our three pupil councils: School, Eco and Faith. I am really proud of how excited the children get about playing their part in our school so I look forward to sharing news of the new councillors in the coming weeks – along with this year's House Captains.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime

House Points will start being counted next week once this year's House Captains are announced.

PE Days Autumn Term

Class	PE Days	
Caterpillars (Reception)	Tuesday	
Leopards (Y1)	Wednesday	Friday
Pandas (Y2)	Wednesday	Friday
Llamas (Y3)	Tuesday	Thursday
Orcas (Y4)	Thursday	Friday
Penguins (Y5)	Monday	Wednesday
Wolves (Y6)	Monday	Wednesday

The Caterpillars only have one dedicated PE slot but will be doing lots of active learning throughout their provision and use of their outside area.

Autumn 2026 Term Dates

- FOAS AGM: Thursday 24th September, 7pm
- U11 Boys Football Tournament: Friday 9th October
- U11 Girls Football Tournament: Friday 16th October
- Parents Evenings: Wednesday 21st October and Thursday 22nd October, 3:30-6:30pm
- PD Day: Friday 23rd October
- Half Term: w/c Monday 26th October
- Children Return: Monday 2nd November
- Individual Photos: Monday 16th November
- Last Day of Autumn Term: Friday 18th December

More dates to be added as the term goes on. All term and holiday dates can be found [here](#). Details about events and trips to be shared nearer the time.



Stars of the Week!



Class	Strive	Support	Succeed
Caterpillars	Bella	Teddy	Aurelia
Leopards	Bodhi	Henry	Juno
Pandas	Ada	Nellie	Elsie
Llamas	Lucy	Esme	Harishva
Orcas	Rishaani	Rupert	Jack
Penguins	Poppy	Aidan	Odin
Wolves	Lily May	Albert	Rosie

Class News

Caterpillars

What a fantastic start to the school year we have had in Caterpillar class. The children have settled into school routines brilliantly and have had such a positive start to their time at Acton. This week, we have started our new class topic 'Marvellous Me', the children have enjoyed sharing their holiday diaries, and talking about things that they like to do. In Phonics, we have been playing lots of Phase 1 games, using our listening ears to hear and recognise different sounds and rhymes. In Maths, we have been busy completing number puzzles, exploring a variety of maths equipment and singing lots of number songs and rhymes. The children have also enjoyed exploring the outside classroom, playing in the sand, water and small world areas. Well done for having such a super week Caterpillars.

Leopards

We have had a very busy first full week in Leopard Class where we have been getting used to new routines. Everyone has settled in and we have agreed our class rules. In English, we focused on word writing and sentence structure. We completed a range of learning activities including building, unscrambling and writing words and sentences. In Maths, we started our unit of learning by sorting objects based on their key characteristics. We then went on to use both practical resources and pictorial representations to count objects. This week, we have also started our History topic by finding out about toys from the past and now. We are looking forward to learning more about how things have changed over time whilst exploring our big question 'What was it like when our parents and grandparents were little?' Next week, we will begin learning about stories with familiar settings. In Maths, we will move on to representing objects and recognising numbers and words and, in Science, we will begin learning about everyday materials. In Phonics, we will review our Phase 3 sounds and focus on blending.

Pandas

Welcome to Year 2 Panda Class! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and are settling back into the new school routines. This week, we have started our new topic all about 'The Great Fire of London'. This has allowed us to sequence events, and learn about the difference between London of the past and the present during our History lessons. In English, we read 'Vlad and the Great Fire' which enhanced our learning even more. We found out about the fire from the perspective of different characters and sorted the information into chronological order. We also answered questions about the story and retold it using actions with our partner. Also, this week, we have been learning about place value in Maths, using dienes to support our work. In D.T., we found out about the importance of a balanced diet and sorted different foods into the right food group. In P.E., we created games with our partner using a given selection of equipment, whilst with the PE coach we practised ball skills and dodging. In PSHE with Mrs Fisher, we discussed class rules and created a paper chain of the rules we would like to abide by to make sure we have a happy and safe classroom. Our biggest achievements this week have been reading and handwriting. All of the children have started to learn to join their writing,

starting with the letter 'l' which has taken patience and perseverance. Also many of the Pandas have started Accelerated Reader which is a huge accomplishment for the start of the year.

Llamas

What a fantastic start to Year 3 we've had! In English, we have been learning about adventure stories, ready to begin our new book, 'Tilly and the Time Machine'. In Maths, we've started the year with recapping our place value and challenging ourselves with 4 digit numbers. We also started our new handwriting lessons and we have been working on forming the letter L in our cursive handwriting. In History, we started our Stone Age topic by learning about survival, discussing things such as hunting, keeping warm and finding shelter! In PSHE, we discussed the importance of rules and why we might find different rules depending on where we go. Towards the end of the week, we continued to practise our basketball skills by perfecting our chest passes, and developed our understanding of colour by exploring cool and warm shades on the colour wheel. Well done to everyone for working so hard during our first week—you have all made a brilliant start. We are officially ready for another fun week of learning next week!

Orcas

Well, what a lovely first week (and two days) we have had together in our new Orca Class! Everyone has done a super job of settling in and adjusting to all the newness of our class. In English this week, we jumped straight into reading 'The Butterfly Lion', which we have been enjoying as a class through our group reading sessions. We have also done some hot seating, had a go at writing speech and created some role-plays based on the story. In Maths, we are currently learning about place value and have been using the 'bin game' to help us develop our understanding. We have started learning about our bodies in Science, beginning with our teeth. We learnt the names of the different types of teeth at the start of the week and then conducted our egg experiment, testing how different liquids affect our teeth if they are left uncleaned. I am writing this before we check our results, so I am hoping for some bouncy eggs that have been in vinegar and some suitably stained eggs from the Coke and coffee! In Computing this week, we discussed some really important e-safety information, focusing on our online identities and how our behaviour online can affect how other people perceive us. In French, we recapped how to greet each other and say how we are feeling. Finally, in PE, we made bridge shapes in gymnastics and practised our netball skills with the coaches. Well done for a lovely first week in Year 4!

Penguins

Well here we are again! The new Penguins have certainly hit the ground running (or should that be waddling?). In History, we started our Vikings topic by collecting our previous knowledge, designing our own Viking shields, writing in runes, creating our own Viking timelines and we really enjoyed "Raiding and Trading" on the tablets this week! In English, we have listened to and analysed the work of Michael Rosen, performed some of his shorter verses and written our own holiday recount poems based on his style, trying to remember to "speak onto the page". In Maths, we assessed our number and place value knowledge and then practised recording larger values in numbers and words, before focusing on the place value of individual digits in numbers up to 1 trillion. In PE, we worked on building up our communication skills in Netball with the expert help of Coach Gray, as well as learning about the key events that make up Sportshall Athletics, ready for the competition later this term. Mrs Fisher has been as busy as ever, beginning units on Tawhid, teamwork and telling the date in French, not to mention some perfect pumpkin preparation. It's been a fabulous start to the year!

Wolves

We have reached the end of our first full week as official Wolves and wow, what a start we've had! Mrs Clow has been very impressed with our attitude to learning, our support of each other and our manners; we will try to remember all of this going forward. We began the week with Mrs Fielder, by completing a cold task in Maths on addition and subtraction before learning about the different school subjects in French and online safety in Computing. We also enjoyed our first PE lesson where we took part in some fantastic Samba dancing to go alongside our Geography unit all about Brazil. We used atlases to locate the different countries that border Brazil as well as learning about the key cities and ecosystems. In Maths with Mrs Clow, we have been focusing

on ordering big numbers up to 10 million as well as finding the value of each digit, and, in English, we began our class novel- The Explorer. So far, we know that it is an adventure story about four characters that find themselves stranded in the Amazon rainforest and we're looking forward to finding out what happens next. Our tag rugby session with Coach Dan focused on the basic rules and skills of passing the ball and with Mrs Fisher in RE, we looked at Tawhid in Islam all about one God, one religion and one community. In PSHE, we discussed ways of solving friendship problems. Well done Wolves on a fantastic first week.



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

Community Events

ACTON PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE
CHARITY NUMBER: 1027943

LATE RISERS CAR BOOT SALE

**SUNDAY
27TH SEPTEMBER**
11 A.M. – 2 P.M.
(SET UP FROM 10 A.M.)

£10 PER PITCH

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ART SCHOOL

AUTUMN TERM

MONDAYS 5.30-6.30PM 8-12 YEARS 7 WEEK COURSE / £70	TUESDAYS 10-11.30AM HOME ED 7 WEEK COURSE / £80
TUESDAYS 5-6PM 5-7 YEARS 7 WEEK COURSE / £70	WEDNESDAYS 5.30-7PM 13-16 YEARS 7 WEEK COURSE / £80

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK WWW.PHILLIPPAGUNNART.CO.UK

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BLAST OFF

Comets disability football at AFC Sudbury

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Email: mike.onslow@afcsudbury.co.uk

FRIDAYS 5-6pm

FREE!

Aged 5-11

COMETS

ENGLAND FOOTBALL

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>