



Weekly Newsletter: 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy week at school with so much learning going on. At the start of the week, I had a wander around the classrooms and was so impressed with the progress that the children have made from the work they were producing at the end the last academic year to now. Every class that I visited had a real sense of purpose and determination as the children tackled their learning tasks.

Yesterday and today, I have had the great pleasure of teaching our Caterpillar class, while Mrs Hammond carried out some 'quizzes' with the children. I have had a great couple of mornings with the newest members of our school. As well as making sure that I was doing everything correctly (admittedly I did forget to change the day and date on the Maths board, which they were very quick to tell Mrs. Hammond!), they have been superstars at tackling their learning and working together during their provision time. They are definitely going to be a cohort to look out for (in a positive way) as they move through the school.

Today, in Stars Assembly, we appointed our School Council members for this academic year. The children were elected by their classmates after delivering a speech explaining why they would make good school councillors. I understand from speaking to staff and children involved that the election results came down to the difference between a couple of votes. I look forward to meeting with the new councillors (and Miss P) in the coming weeks to get their ideas on how we can make Acton even better – this usually involves the plan to install a swimming pool and banning school uniform!



Unfortunately, as you may have seen yesterday, the FOAS AGM was cancelled at the last minute. I know that Nicola and the team are busy working out a new date and I will share that with you as soon as I have it. In the meantime, if you are keen to get involved with FOAS then please speak to myself or the FOAS representative in your class's group chat.

I hope that you have a fantastic weekend

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
131	145	192	122

Autumn 2026 Term Dates

- 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	Winnie	Rose	Luna
Leopards	Ted R	Maeva	Ada
Pandas	Ocean	Honey	Hudson
Llamas	Isla	Lula-Mae	Lily
Orcas	Jacob	Bella	Stanley
Penguins	Ruby	Travis	Lincoln
Wolves	Mia	Ellie	Poppy

Class News

Caterpillars

What a fantastic week we have had in Caterpillar Class. Our Drawing Club story this week has been 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. The children have done a fantastic job drawing the characters and settings from the story. They have also loved retelling the story and acting it out in our Small World area. In Phonics, we have been learning the sounds i, n, m and d, as well as revisiting the sounds we learnt last week. We have enjoyed playing lots of sound recognition games and have been practising blending VC and CVC words. Our Maths focus this week has been matching and sorting. The children have enjoyed sorting a variety of objects by size, colour, type and design. They have been fantastic at explaining how and why they have grouped different objects together. In Art, our focus has been on primary colours. I wonder if the children can remember the three primary colours we have been painting with this week? In our outside classroom, we have been busy chalking, playing in the sand, building obstacle courses and exploring some of our new building resources. The children have shown lots of creativity, teamwork and imagination during their outdoor learning. Great work, Caterpillars.

Leopards

This week, we created story maps and retold the story 'Five Minutes' Peace'. When creating our story maps, we thought about the order of events within the story as well as the key words we needed to include. We then used our story maps to help us with our writing. In Maths, we learnt to use practical resources and pictorial representations to count both forwards and backwards. In Science, we thought about the difference between an object and the material it is made from and, in History, we started to discuss how the materials used for toys have changed over time. In RE, we explored telling the story of 'Jesus and the children'. Next week, we will begin our learning linked to a new story with a familiar setting. In Maths, we will learn to find both 1 more and 1 less. We will also use the key terms fewer, more and the same. In History, we will continue to learn how the materials used to make toys have changed over time and, in PE, we will explore making curled shapes. Our Phonics will focus on longer words.

Pandas

This week in Year 2, we finished writing our explanation texts about the Great Fire of London. We also practised our editing skills, using a green pen to go through and check punctuation and spelling, as well as reading it aloud to check that it all made sense. In Maths, we have used beadstrings and Numicon to support our place value learning, as well as comparing numbers. In D.T. this week, we practised a variety of skills including chopping, grating and spreading. We then sampled some different foods to consider what would make a good combination to include in our wraps next week. In History, we learn about what happened after the Great Fire of London, and how it changed the houses and streets to make London safer, if a similar event were ever to occur. In P.E., we created our own games, which we then taught to our friends; whilst on Friday with our coach, we practised netball skills. In R.E., we read the story of 'Jonah and the Whale', which appears in the Torah and in the Bible. We reflected on the meaning of the story, and made our own peg crafts to show the whale swallowing Jonah. Next week, we will be celebrating National Poetry Day, by learning and performing a poem linked to the theme of 'Wonder'.

Llamas

The Llamas have been working incredibly hard in Year 3 this week. In English, we have been reading more of 'Tilly and the Time Machine', then we used certain parts of the story to help us write expanded noun phrases. We also learnt about compound and complex sentences, and conjunctions. In Maths, we have been learning how to add tens and hundreds to a number without having to count in ones. We also worked on crossing the next ten, hundred and thousand when we're adding. In History, we learnt all about Skara Brae, a Neolithic settlement which is still standing today. We discussed what Skara Brae teaches us about how people used to live in the Stone Age and how it was preserved in sand until the 1850s. In Computing, we completed a quiz on appropriate and inappropriate online behaviour and in PSHE, we discussed

how to be considerate during conflict within our friendship groups. Well done for all your hard work this week, Llamas.

Orcas

We are really getting into our topics now that we have spent a month together in Orca Class. We have also done a super job of displaying our school motto this week. Firstly, we have really been striving with our Maths. We began the week by learning about negative numbers, before spending the rest of the week learning how to round to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. This is not an easy concept to get your head around, but everyone put in a lot of effort. We have also been working hard on using speech punctuation correctly in our English writing, with 'The Butterfly Lion' providing us with plenty of inspiration. Next, we have been showing each other support. In PE, we created bridge sequences in pairs before performing them to another group, which required lots of cooperation and teamwork. We also worked together in French to practise counting from 1 to 10. In SPaG, we supported one another while learning about different verb tenses, including the simple, progressive and perfect forms. Finally, we succeeded this week by completing our first Science topic of the year. Before finishing, we had one final lesson about producers, predators and prey. We also absolutely smashed our TTRS tournament this week. I am really pleased to see how much time everyone dedicated to practising their times tables and helping us achieve a super score. Well done this week, Orcas.

Penguins

Fabulous focus from all the Penguins this week. In English, we used our oracy skills to gather and reflect on key facts about Michael Rosen, ready to use colons, semi-colons and bullet points to write a biography about him to share with the whole class (including our carefully chosen cohesive devices). In Maths, we moved on from rounding to working with negative numbers and also started to solve problems involving Roman numerals. In Science, we have started learning about the Earth and space, collecting our prior knowledge before discussing concept cartoons and enjoying a human-scale model solar system with Miss Sparkes. We used our new planet knowledge to create planet fact files and found out lots about astronauts from our key space scientist - Maggie Aderin-Pocock. In PE, we enjoyed playing small-sided games of netball (only without the nets!) and our tag rugby session included lots of successful tries and sidesteps. In Music with Mrs Fisher, we analysed 'Smoke on the Water' by Deep Purple and then, in PSHE, we described the important ingredients for a successful friendship. In RE with Mrs Fisher, we found out even more about Tawhid and after that - in French - we performed a song linked to our Pets topic.

Wolves

We began the week with Mrs Fielder. In Maths, we continued working on our addition and subtraction skills and in Dance, our Samba group dances are coming along nicely. In Computing, we discussed the importance of setting boundaries when we share information online and in French, we completed sentences about our day, the subject studied and the times. In English, we wrote our first piece of descriptive writing about water using all that we have learnt so far - fronted adverbials to vary our sentence starters; the senses to show what we can hear, see, taste etc; and personification to add extra detail. It was a good challenge for us all and the results were incredible. Mrs Clow was also hugely impressed with the level of homework produced for our Geography posters this weekend - well done Wolves and keep it up. Our Geography topic on Brazil continues to be really interesting and this week we have been looking at how the rich and poor live - very often only a few metres apart - and how it would feel to be a child growing up there. In addition, we wrote a letter to a friend describing the push and pull factors of living in rural and urban Brazil. With Coach Dan, we continued to work on the tricky task of running forwards whilst passing the ball backwards in tag rugby and with Mrs Fisher, we discussed the importance of saying 'no' when under pressure from others in PSHE. Finally, in RE we looked at the different Muslim communities across the world and then studied the second pillar of Islam where they prepare to pray and contribute to a sense of community.



@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.)
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- Learn all the padel shots and tactics
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- Have FUN!

FROM **£104**
13 WEEKS

- 4:30pm-5:15pm 6-9yrs old
- 5:15pm-6:00pm 10-15yrs
- Friday 11th September - Friday 11th December

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BLAST OFF

Comets disability football at AFC Sudbury

A safe space for disabled children aged 5-11
to kickstart their football journey

Email: mike.onslow@afcsudbury.co.uk

FRIDAYS **5-6pm** **Aged 5-11** **FREE!**

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>