Weekly Newsletter: 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone! I hope that you had a great half-term and enjoyed making the most of the autumnal sunshine before the dark evenings have really kicked in.

The children have returned full of energy and have been busy getting into their new units of work. As is the way, at this time of the year, I have spent a lot of time showing prospective parents around our school, ahead of them choosing their child's school for their Reception year in September '27. This week, there have been 7 tours in four days so our children are very used to seeing me appear at their classroom door (with a basket of cuddly toys!). One thing that has struck me, over the many tours so far this term, is the number of visitors who have commented about the wonderful things that they have heard about our school or the really positive comments from parents of children at our school. I am really grateful.

Since I became headteacher, in 2021, we have worked really hard to promote awareness of our school and increase the number of children we have attending (growing from 160 to nearly 200 in that time). A lot of the promotion of our school comes from word-of-mouth and the positivity which is shared by our parents. It has made a real difference so thank you from myself, the staff and the governors.





Today, we were able to announce a number of winners in Stars Assembly.

First of all, congratulations to Evie (Y6) for her entry into the Acton Christmas Light Switch On competition. The Parish Council chose Evie's entry as the winner. Her design will be turned into the poster, to be displayed around the village and on social media, advertising the event on the 28th November when Evie will be presented with her prize.

We also congratulated Elsie (Panda Class) and Nina (Llama Class) for correctly guessing 77 pink hats in the 'Wear It Pink' picture competition, and Mrs Ridgeon for winning the staff room competition.

This morning, I spend the morning with our U11 Girls Football team at the School Games Sudbury Tournament (rearranged after the biblical downpours on the original date). Below you can find out how they got on!

I hope that you have a fantastic (and safe) fireworks weekend.

Kind regards

Jonathan Gray
Headteacher

House Points

Willow	Cedar	Oak	Lime
287	316	395	306

U11 Girls Football Tournament

Today, our U11 Girls Football Team took part the in School Games Sudbury Tournament at AFC Sudbury. This was a very exciting event as many of the team were playing in their first football match (let alone tournament!).

The girls started with a match against Pot Kiln – this was a close game with PK winning by a solitary goal (which was scored from an impossible looking angle). The second match was against St. Gregory's. This proved to be another very close game, with St Greg's scoring the only goal of the match. Next up were Bures and Hadleigh. These were both great games with the girls growing in confidence. Unfortunately the curse of the one-nil loss continued as this was result in both matches.

After much talk of celebrations (if they were to score), in the gap between the Hadleigh match and the next, the girls took to the field against Boxford. After a lot of pressure from the Acton girls, the deadlock was broken as Poppy fired Acton into the lead. This was the moment they had been waiting for as the girls broke out the 'Bowling Ball' celebration in the middle of the pitch. Thankfully the game ended with (the other) Poppy, in goal, not having to touch the ball.

The girls' final game was against Long Melford. This was the best game of the tournament with both teams playing some great football and really putting in some hard (but fair) tackles. Quite rightly, it ended in a 0 v 0 draw and both teams left the field happy with the result.



When all of the points were counted up Pot Kiln were announced as the winners of the tournament (and we wish them luck in the County Finals). Mr. Gray and Miss Flye were very proud of the girls and their positive attitude to the tournament, even with the frustration of losing the close games. The girls should be really proud of themselves for the enthusiasm and effort they put into each match (and celebration practice!).

Christmas Performances

I know is it a long way off but below are the dates and approximate times of the Christmas performances. Further details regarding tickets will be released nearer the time.

- Tuesday 8th December 2pm - KS1 Nativity Performance
- Wednesday 9th December, 9:30am – KS1 Nativity Performance
- Wednesday 9th December, 2pm– Reception Nativity Performance



Autumn 2026 Term Dates

- Individual Photos: Monday 16th November
- Acton Christmas Light Switch On: Sunday 28th November
- Christingle, All Saints Church: Sunday 6th December, 4pm
- Last Day of Autumn Term: Friday 18th December (Carols on the Playground, 2:30pm)

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	Esme	Arlo	Luna B
Leopards	Max	Teddie	Kitty
Pandas	Leo	Frank W	Felix
Llamas	Rory P	Amber	April
Orcas	Harvey	Hudson	James B
Penguins	Amelia B	Phoebe	Corinne (nominated by Mrs. Fisher)
Wolves	Jack	Nyla	Miguel

Class News

Caterpillars
This week, we have started our exciting new topic all about Celebrations, beginning with the Hindu festival of Diwali. The children have loved learning about the Festival of Lights and have enjoyed taking part in a range of creative activities, including making their own diva lamps, colourful firework paintings and Diwali celebration cards. Outdoors, the children had great fun creating their own firework dances using colourful ribbons, moving in different ways and using exciting firework words such as *bang, pop, crash* and *whizz!* We also celebrated Bonfire Night on Thursday, with the children using chalk to create some fantastic firework pictures. In Phonics, we have continued to practise our Phase 2 sounds and high-frequency words through a variety of fun and engaging games. Our Maths learning has focused on exploring the composition of

numbers 1, 2 and 3, before moving on to recognising and describing circles and triangles. It has certainly been a busy and exciting week, full of creativity, exploration and learning! The children have settled back into school routines beautifully and it has been lovely to see their enthusiasm and enjoyment throughout the week.

Leopards

We have had a busy first week back following the half term. This week, we discovered why we have Bonfire Night on 5th November every year. In English, we began our stories with repeating patterns by reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. We watched Michael Rosen share the story before adding actions to help us orally retell it. We found that this is a story we thoroughly enjoy reading, sharing and listening to. In Maths, we learnt how to write addition number sentences and find addition fact families. We used practical resources and pictorial representations to support our learning. In Art, we created some fantastic firework art pieces and, in Geography, we thought about what we would like to find out about our local area as we started our learning linked to our big question. Next week, we will turn our attention to thinking about the significance of Remembrance Day. In English, we will continue our learning linked to 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and, in Maths, we will learn about number bonds to 10. Our Phonics will focus on CVCC and CCVC words.

Pandas

I hope that you all had a lovely half term holiday and it has been wonderful to hear lots of stories and excitement from the Pandas. We have started the half term with our new topic 'The Gunpowder Plot'. This has led us to talk about what we already know about bonfire night and how we celebrate with fireworks and sparklers. It was important to find out why we celebrate and continue this tradition to this day. We found out about Guy Fawkes and his role in the plot, as well as creating a 'Wanted' poster for his capture. Also this week, we have been learning some key SpaG skills in English, practising apostrophes for possession and commas in a list. These skills will be used as we plan and write our own stories based on 'The Tiger who came to Tea'. So far we have penguins, dinosaurs and even a puppycorn coming round for sandwiches! In Maths, we have been recapping our addition and subtraction skills, correcting errors in number sentences and justifying why we believe an answer to be true. In RE, we began our new Christianity unit about Jesus as the saviour. We listened to the start of the Nativity story, where the Angel Gabriel tells Mary she will be having a baby. We looked at different artistic interpretations of this image before producing our own. In Computing, we are using Purple Mash to expand our knowledge of different art styles. We looked at impressionism this week and look forward to finding out about pointillism next week.

Llamas

The Llamas have returned ready and enthusiastic for learning this week. In English, we have started learning about traditional African tales and have used three of those stories to practise our summarising skills. In Maths, we have been recapping our mental addition and subtraction ready to show off our skills in our hot task on Monday. In Geography, we learnt about the geographical location of Africa and recapped our continents knowledge, while in PSHE, we started our topic of 'Valuing Differences' and discussed how to show respect when speaking and listening. Our PE lessons have been packed with action. We began the week by recapping our passing and catching skills from basketball as we transitioned into netball and, towards the end of the week, we started our PE dance lessons, moving our bodies creatively to represent stormy weather. We also started developing our drawing skills in Art by identifying shapes in the objects around us and using these shapes to start our sketches. Meanwhile, in Science, we kicked off our brand-new unit all about Forces and Magnets. A huge well done to all of Year 3 for such a fantastic, positive first week back after half term—keep up the wonderful energy, Llamas!

Orcas

We have had a lovely first week back in Orca Class. Firstly, we have had a super time reading some more of ‘How to Train Your Dragon as a class, taking it in turns to read the different characters' roles. We have heard some more superb Scottish and Northern accents this week! Then, in English, we performed role-plays of Thors'day Thursday, which included some silly Viking competitions, such as eating seagull eggs and an ugly baby competition. We also

practised writing using speech punctuation. In Maths, we finished our Addition and Subtraction unit this week with some challenging number problems. These were tricky but good fun! Rather excitingly, we started our first History topic of the year – the Iron Age. We spent a lesson piecing together a timeline and learning the basics of the era, including some of the different jobs people did at the time and how the period came to an end. In PSHE this week, we started our new unit, which is all about celebrating differences. We also started our new PE unit in the hall, which is a dance unit all about space exploration. This was great fun and will allow us to learn a little about space over the next few weeks, alongside creating our own space-themed dances. Finally, on Friday with Mrs Fisher, the class created their wonderful poppy soldier display for Armistice Day. This will be displayed around the school and during our Remembrance Assembly next week. Well done for working so hard during your first week back, Year 4!

Penguins

It's been lovely to welcome all the Penguins back this week, refreshed and ready for a half term full of fun and festivals! In Geography, we started a unit focused a contrasting European country, which for us will be Norway. Studying modern-day Norway allows us to make connections with our learning about Vikings in History and our understanding of how the seasons are created on Earth, supporting our scientific understanding. We began by assessing our current locational knowledge and our existing knowledge of Norway, before studying the wild animals native to Norway and comparing a range of European capitals by working closely with our learning partners. In English, we put together lots of exciting adverbials, ready to plan our hot write recounts all about UFO encounters. In Maths, we learned all about prime, composite and square numbers, enjoying some bingo with Miss Sparkes to keep us on the ball. In PE, we started our work on hockey, especially dribbling and shooting and, in Circuit Training, we learned the twelve movements we will be tracking. In our work with Mrs Fisher this week, we used our Art and Design skills to put together a powerful collection of pieces highlighting the importance of Remembrance, ready for next week, as well as starting new units in DT, French and Music.

Wolves

Welcome back! We have hit the ground running with lots of new topics this week. The theme for the half term is World War Two with our English, History and even French unit being focused on this area of learning. We began our new English text, ‘Letters from the Lighthouse’, which is a story about children who are evacuated to the countryside. So far, we have met some of the main characters and are looking forward to finding out what happens to them over the next few weeks. In History, we began the unit by looking at what caused World War Two and how Hitler rose to power. It was a really interesting lesson with lots of questions being asked. We also looked at the Battle of Britain and how it was an important turning point in Germany being defeated. We started our WW2 French topic and continued to share our knowledge, which impressed Mrs Fielder immensely, and in Gymnastics, we began creating a three-part sequence of movements with a partner. In Music, we added the bass to our hip hop tracks and finally, in Maths, we simplified fractions and compared proper and improper fractions using a common denominator

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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.



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