



31 January 2025

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Headteacher's insight

As technology becomes an even bigger part of our children's lives, ensuring their safety online is more important than ever. This week, I want to highlight two key areas that can make a significant difference in keeping our children safe: understanding PEGI age guidelines and managing online chat features.

PEGI age ratings are designed to help families make informed decisions about which games are suitable for children based on their age. These ratings not only consider the content of the games but also factors like online interactions. Ensuring your child is playing age-appropriate games is a simple but powerful way to protect them from exposure to inappropriate content. For more information about PEGI age ratings, please visit <https://pegi.info/page/pegi-age-ratings>.

Another critical area to consider is online chat features, which are common in many games and platforms. While these features can allow children to connect with others, they also come with risks. Unmonitored chat features may expose children to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or contact from strangers. In some cases, these interactions could lead to grooming or other harmful behavior.

To help protect your child, we recommend using parental controls to disable or limit online chat functions wherever possible. Encourage open conversations at home about who your child interacts with online and help them recognise and report anything that makes them uncomfortable. As a school, we're committed to teaching children how to navigate the online world responsibly, but we know this is a shared responsibility. By working together, we can create a safer digital environment for all our children.

Thank you for your ongoing support in promoting online safety at home. If you'd like additional resources or advice, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Emily Thompson

Executive Headteacher





News from our classrooms

Spitfires Class

We have had a busy time in Nursery, full of learning, exploration, and fun! Here's a little glimpse of what we've been up to:

Celebrating Lunar New Year: We've been learning all about Lunar New Year, and the children have enjoyed exploring the culture. We had fun with sensory play, using rice and noodles to explore textures and practice fine motor skills as the children scooped and poured. It was a fantastic opportunity to introduce new vocabulary and make connections to different traditions around the world.

Role Play Area Fun: Our role play area has received some new additions this week, which has been a big hit with the children! They've been practicing their fine motor skills while using the new items such as the clothes airer to engage in imaginative play. These activities are great for developing communication, coordination, and social skills.

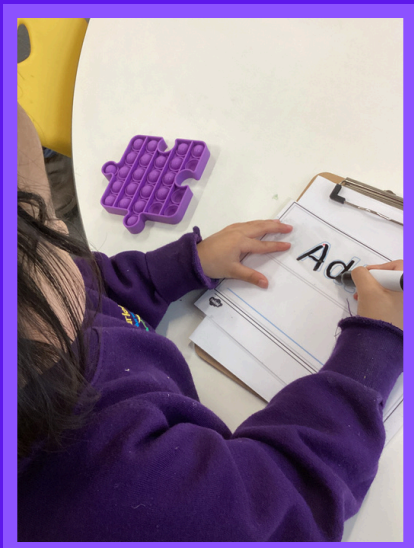
Name and Numeral Writing: We've noticed some children are really enjoying practicing writing their names, as well as working on writing numerals. It's wonderful to see their progress and enthusiasm for mark making. We've been offering lots of opportunities for them to practice and build confidence in their writing skills.

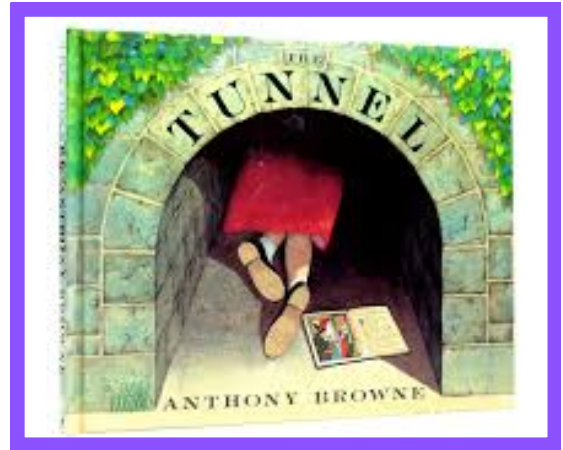
Maths – 1, 2, 3 Learning: In maths, we continued our theme of 1, 2, 3, focusing on recognising, showing, and ordering numbers. The children loved exploring ways to represent the numbers 1, 2, and 3 and even enjoyed sorting objects by size based on the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. These activities are helping to lay the foundation for early number sense.

...continued

Useful information to note:

- Nursery external doors are locked between sessions for safety reasons so you will need to ring the doorbell if your arrival is during a session time. **Prompt arrival for sessions and pickup is appreciated.**
- We will be starting **Forest School Sessions** with **Mrs Wordsworth** on a **Wednesday**. Please ensure children have clothing that covers legs and arms and have suitable footwear - preferably wellies in school.
- We have sent out, via email, updated permission requests for **Tapestry**. Please can you complete this even if you signed up before this term.
- Snacks - please can snacks be in a separate box from any lunch boxes as it can be tempting for children to eat everything!





Blackbirds Class

This week in **English**, we continued our descriptive writing unit based on **The Tunnel** by **Anthony Browne**. To enhance our descriptive writing skills, we set up engaging sensory stations that helped us develop rich, descriptive language.

The children explored our **forest area** outside, carefully observing their surroundings to gather adjectives for their writing. They listened to recreated forest and tunnel sounds in the classroom to inspire sound-related descriptions. We used opaque bags that were filled with objects to recreate textures from the book's setting of the forest and waste ground and even explored different scents to develop their vocabulary for smell. This experience brought their writing to life, and the stories they created were fantastic!

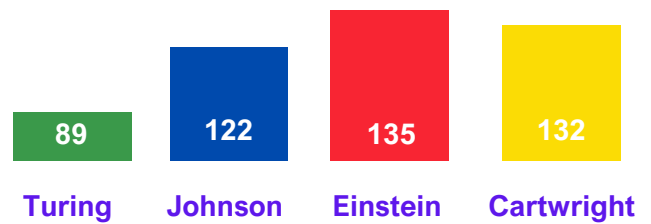
In **Music**, we learned how to create a **soundscape**. After watching a short, animated video, the children worked in groups to compose accompanying music using objects from around the classroom and mouth percussion. They experimented with different sounds to match the atmosphere and action in the video, resulting in some wonderfully creative compositions.

Our **Science** lessons continued with our exploration of **sound and vibrations**. This week, we investigated the relationship between sound and distance. Working in pairs outside, the children measured the **decibels** of their partner's incredible animal noises, then stepped back 5 meters at a time to observe how the volume decreased over distance. As you can imagine, this was a hugely fun experiment with a range of very interesting animal noises, and we recorded some brilliant data to analyse as well.

We have had a fantastic week and looking forward to what next week brings.



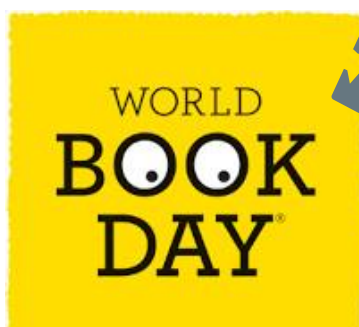
House Point Totals



Upcoming events

We will be celebrating **World Book Day 2025** on **Thursday 6th March** by:

- Inviting the children to attend school in their Pyjamas / loungewear to celebrate the joy of bedtime stories
- Inviting parents and carers to join their child in their classroom for a reading breakfast session 08:40-09:10
- In class learning opportunities during the school day that celebrate and promote our love for reading
- Inviting the children to enjoy a film night after school. Films will be film adaptations of children's books. Entry to this event is 'paid' by bringing to school a new, or good condition, children's book to donate to our school library stock. Collection will be at 5pm.
- On Wednesday 5th March Keith Hatton, local children's author, will be visiting and leading workshops with each class



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Anika - Hurricanes
Amaya - Hurricanes
Bertie - Hurricanes
William - Hurricanes
Rafferty - Vulcans





Happy Lunar New Year

We wish everyone observing the Lunar New Year (also known as Chinese New Year) a wonderful time spent with friends and family, celebrating the change from the Year of the Dragon to the Year of the Snake.

Abbey People

Seed Swap on Wednesday 12th February 3pm-5pm outside the Food Hub East Barnwell community Centre CB5 8RS Please bring along any seeds you would like to swap. THIS IS A SEED SWAP ONLY PLEASE DO NOT BRING PLANTS AS WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT THEM ON THIS OCCASION.

Abbey Together, Out of this World family event. Tuesday 18th February at East Barnwell community Centre 10.00-12.30 space themed activities and crafts. Booking is required

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/abbey-people-cio/t-zzrzdz>

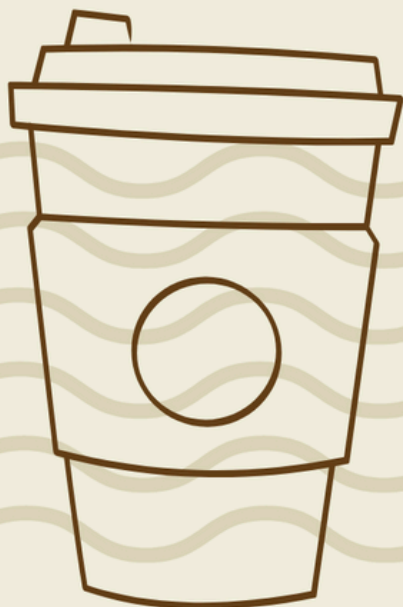
All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Abbey in Bloom open planting session, all ages welcome , children must be accompanied by an adult -booking required. Contact Abbey in Bloom for more info.

Partnerships for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

PINS are conducting a Parent/Carer survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/yeu4vwr4>



COFFEE MORNING

AT MARLEIGH PRIMARY ACADEMY

9-10 AM

**6th February
27th February**



COME AND MEET OTHER
MARLEIGH FAMILIES
RAN BY VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTED BY
MPA STAFF

Your Education Inclusion Family Advisor: Saffron Woodbridge-Pearson



[Education Inclusion Family Advisors](#) offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential environment.

These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence
- Any other family challenges you might be facing.

As Education Inclusion Family Advisors, we support be offering:

- Up to six 1:1 session with parents/carers (virtually or face to face in your child's school on request if possible)
- Workshops on specific topics (currently held virtually)
- Signposting to other services such as parenting courses and support services

For more information, please speak to your school's office or contact me directly on saffron.woodbridge-pearson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 07435753391. Your consent is required to access support from our service:

<https://forms.office.com/e/uLXq9pVPiP>



Thursday
20th Feb

19:00 - 20:00
FREE



FREE SESSION

Supporting Healthy Screen Use

A range of steps that can help minimise the harms from screens

Monday
3rd Feb

10:00 - 11:30
£24



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday
11th Feb

19:00 - 20:30
£24



Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday
18th Feb

19:00 - 20:30
£24



Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness

Get the facts and know the harms about these two drugs so you can hold an informed conversation with your teens.

Tuesday
25th Feb

19:00 - 20:30
£24



Understanding the Teenage Brain

A 'must see' for all parents and teachers of teens and pre-teens. Explains why teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

Understanding Anger	10 FEB 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	11 FEB 10am
Facing Defiance	14 FEB 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN 7pm 25 FEB 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN 7pm 24 FEB 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 FEB 10am 3 MAR 7pm
Improving Family Communication	3 FEB 7pm 4 MAR 10am
AUTISM: Improving Communication	4 FEB 10am 4 MAR 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	4 FEB 7pm 3 MAR 10am
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	10 FEB 10am 10 MAR 7pm
What is ACT?	17 FEB 10am 17 MAR 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 FEB 7pm 18 MAR 10am
Anxiety Explained	18 FEB 10am 18 MAR 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	18 FEB 7pm 17 MAR 10am
Decreasing Depression	24 FEB 7pm 25 MAR 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	25 FEB 7pm 24 MAR 10am