



16 Jan 2026

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Headteacher's insight



As we reach the end of the second week of the Spring term, it has been a pleasure to see how quickly pupils have settled back into routines and learning. Across the school, we are already seeing accelerated academic progress as children build on the strong foundations laid last term. Spring term is notorious for rates of progress to increase when children have the right environment to learn in.

Year 6 pupils are now entering their final two terms of primary school, and there is a real sense of purpose and determination among them. They are laser-focused on developing the knowledge, skills and independence needed to ensure they are fully prepared for the transition to secondary school. The maturity and commitment they are showing in lessons has been impressive, and it is a credit to both their hard work and the support they receive at home. We take our responsibilities for preparing them for secondary school seriously and this extends beyond their academic levels. It won't be long before they find out which secondary school they will be attending and then the targeted transition work can begin.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the upcoming **Quiz Night in Horningsea next Wednesday at 7.00pm**, organised in conjunction with the Fen Ditton PTFA. A couple of our staff teams will be taking part, and it promises to be a fun and sociable evening. Teams can include up to six people, with a cost of £2.50 per person, and we would love to see as many parents there as possible to support the event and enjoy the evening together.

We continue with our packed sports programme with some exciting opportunities planned such as our first ever swimming gala. I particularly enjoy swimming, having spent several years teaching swimming to children and babies. I am looking forward to providing the children selected for our swimming team the experience of a competitive gala.



...continued

We are fortunate to be able to extend our sports offer beyond the competitive, team selection opportunities we have as part of the Anglian Learning Primary Sports Alliance such as this week's KS1 event in which the Fen Ditton team were victorious, to offer regular whole class, inclusive opportunities with our two schools together such as next week's Year 5 Matball event.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we move through what promises to be a busy and productive term. I wish you an enjoyable weekend...I wonder how much longer we will need to wait for the hopeful signs of Spring!



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



Fundraising Update

We're off to a great start! Thanks to all who have helped us reach **34%** of our target already.

Please [share the link](#) to our fundraising page with **friends, family, businesses** and **employers**. It's a great opportunity for businesses to raise their profile and brand awareness by donating and using their business name!

34% of target raised

£252.50

Raised of **£740.00** goal

By 9 supporters



DONATE

Movement Miles Update

Well done to those who have kick started and hit the ground running (or walking, cycling, swimming etc!) with our Anglian Learning Movement Miles Competition.

As of 10am on Wednesday, here are the standings!

Bottisham Primary - 6 Entries - 18 Miles

Stapleford Primary - 4 Entries - 6.4 Miles

Marleigh Primary - 4 Entries - 5.75 Miles

Fen Ditton Primary - 1 Entry - 5.2 Miles



The competition ends next Friday (23rd January). All movement that can be measure counts. Remember, you can submit in Meters also which will be added to the overall score!

Here's a top tip to help your school! If you walk, cycle or scooter to school, use a Maps app to find out the distance you travel to and from school. Add those distances together over the week and submit your weekly active travel distance! Remember , you can log miles you have already completed also, any movement from Monday 12th January will be counted).

Keep the Active Miles coming in and help your score travel the furthest! We would love to see some photos of you taking part in our challenge also. The weekend is fast approaching, lets see how many miles we can do as a school community.

[Log your miles here!](#)



History: Request for helper

We'd love a parent or grandparent volunteer to visit on Wednesday (21st Jan) to briefly chat with the children about a toy from their childhood. If you are willing to help, please speak to Mrs McLachlan or contact the school office.

Ladybirds Class

It's been another busy and exciting week in Year 1! In maths, we have been deepening our understanding of numbers to 20. The children explored number lines, talked about which numbers come before and after, and practised counting forwards and backwards with growing confidence.

In English, we became newspaper reporters! After learning all about the Great Fire of London, the children wrote their own reports using the 5 Ws to explain what happened, where it started, and who helped. We even had "visits" from King Charles II and Samuel Pepys to help us gather our facts — a highlight of the week and a brilliant way to bring our learning to life.

In art, we have begun our new unit on colour mixing. The children experimented with different media to explore how colours change, blend and layer, ready to build towards more structured painting work.

Well done Ladybirds — what a week of creativity, curiosity and fabulous learning!





Squirrels Class

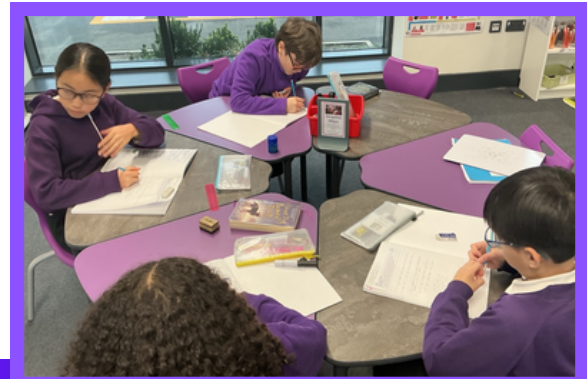
This week in Squirrels Class we have been busy learning about explanation texts in English. We worked in groups to highlight the features on different examples and made giant text layouts on flipchart paper.

We also used the iPads to do some research linked to our text for this half term – Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. We researched variation in different species, in particular the Galapagos finches – ask us about their beaks and the foods they eat! We will be working on writing our own explanation texts linked to Darwin's theories.





Badgers Class



This week, Year 6 Badgers have launched into our exciting new Spring topics, with lots of curiosity and enthusiasm across the curriculum.

In Science, we began our new unit on Space, starting with models of the solar system. The children explored how planets are arranged and discussed how models can help us understand vast distances in space.

In History, we opened our new topic on The Tudors, focusing on Henry VIII and his six wives. We explored his reasons for marriage and the strict expectations he had for a queen, sparking lots of thoughtful discussion.

In English, we've been completely enthralled by Macbeth. The children have loved hot-seating characters and reading more of this gripping tale, developing their understanding of character, motive and tension.

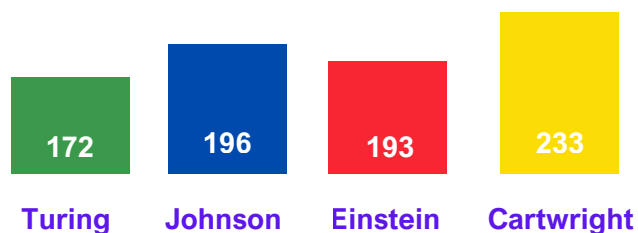
In Maths, we've been working on ratio and scale drawings, as well as exploring shape with Mrs Parker. The children have shown excellent focus and problem-solving skills.

In Computing, we've been learning about search engines and what it means to be a digital consumer, linking closely with our PSHE work on becoming discerning consumers of online information. This learning was reinforced during our Key Stage assembly on Internet Safety and AI, which prompted some excellent questions and reflections.

A fantastic start to the Spring term – well done, Badgers!



House Point Totals



Parking in Marleigh !

A gentle reminder to please avoid parking outside the CO-OP and instead use the nearby Park and Ride. Over the Christmas break, an incident involving parked cars blocked emergency access to Monkey Puzzle nursery, delaying an ambulance's access to a child in need of treatment. It's vital that this area remains clear at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.

Get a free National Trust day pass for your family day out!

Simply head to the likes of the Mirror and the Express, or another participating Reach plc title and fill out the online form to gain a free pass. You need to be quick as there are just 126,000 available.

If you miss out you can purchase a physical newspaper instead any day until Sunday 18 January, and inside you'll find a voucher to take to a participating National Trust property of your choice.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Hope - Badgers
Jack - Dragonflies
Toby - Dragonflies
Abram - Caterpillars
Nancy - Owls





Celebrating Arts Award Adventures: 384 Pupils Achieve Discover Arts Awards!

We are delighted to share that 384 of our primary pupils have earned the nationally accredited Discover Arts Award, following their incredible participation in our Trust-wide project Inspire25, in partnership with Stapleford Granary.

Inspire25: A Creative Journey

Back in October, 520 pupils and teachers from 11 Anglian Learning primary schools stepped into The Tin Forest at Stapleford Granary, an immersive world of music, movement, puppetry, and imagination. Guided by expert artists, pupils became part of the story through sound, song, and performance, from mechanical birds and human sound machines to body percussion and choral singing.

Thanks to the generous support of The Zobel Trust, this experience didn't end there. Pupils continued their creative journey back in school, producing personal arts logs and deepening their engagement with the arts, culminating in 384 Key Stage 2 pupils achieving their Discover Arts Awards!

What is the Discover Arts Award?

Managed by Trinity College London and Arts Council England, this award encourages children to:

- Participate - Explore the arts around them and try new art forms.
- Research - Learn about professional artists and their work.
- Share - Show their creative journey and favourite discoveries to others.

This achievement shows the power of creativity to inspire, connect, and create lasting memories. We are incredibly proud of every one of our new Arts Award achievers and grateful to Kate Romano, the Stapleford Granary team, Emma Mason, Lesley Morgan and all staff whose dedication made Inspire25, and its legacy, possible.

Learn more:

[Anglian Learning Inspire25](#)
[The Making of The Tin Forest](#)
[Discover Arts Award](#)



FOLLOW US

Term Dates 2025/26

[For 2026/27 dates see our website](#)

Autumn term 2025

Thursday 4th September to Friday 24th October

Half term: Monday 27th October – 3rd November

Tuesday 4th November to Friday 19th December

Christmas holidays: Monday 22nd December to
Tuesday 6th Jan

Spring term 2026

Tuesday 6th January to Friday 13th February

Half Term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20
February

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March to Friday
10th April

Summer term 2026

Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May

Half Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July

Summer Holiday: Monday 20th July onwards

INSET Days (closed to pupils)

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Wednesday 3rd September

Monday 3rd November

Monday 5th January

Monday 20th July

CAMBRIDGE UNITED FC

SCHOOLS

TICKET VOUCHER

APPLICABLE FIXTURES



24TH JAN 2026
15:00



14TH FEB 2026
15:00



14TH MAR 2026
15:00



21ST MAR 2026
15:00



11TH APR 2026
15:00

ADULT AND U18 FOR £12!



THIS CODE ENTITLES THE HOLDER TO 1X ADULT & 1 X U18 SEATED TICKET IN THE MEAD PLANT & GRAB FAMILY SOUTH STAND FOR £12.00. THIS CODE CAN BE REDEEMED FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICABLE FIXTURES VIA [CUFCTICKETS.COM](https://www.cufctickets.com). REDEMPTIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER PERSON AND ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

PLEASE NOTE ALL FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CHECK [WWW.CAMBRIDGEUNITED.COM](https://www.cambridgeunited.com) FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Let's get crafty together



Bring any crafty project that you're working on and connect with other likeminded people from the community. No need to book, just turn up.

Every Wednesday 2-4pm at the Community Centre



Free Baby and Children Clothing Swap



HOW IT WORKS:

- BRING ANY CHILD AND BABY CLOTHES YOU DON'T NEED ANYMORE
- HELP YOURSELF WITH ANYTHING ON THE RAIL
- YOU DON'T NEED TO DONATE SOMETHING TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP CLOTHES FROM THE RAIL
- ONLY CLOTHES THAT CAN FIT ON THE RAIL ARE ACCEPTED
- PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY BAGS OF CLOTHES HERE
- NO TOY DONATIONS
- NO OTHER BABY OR TODDLER ITEMS

WHO IS THIS FOR: EVERYONE! LET'S SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY BE MORE SUSTAINABLE



Pickleball Taster

FREE

Open to everyone over 16 year old starting Wednesday 7 January 2-3pm at The Hangar (community centre)

Pickleball Rules Quick & Easy Guide

Objective of the game

Score points by hitting the ball over the net into your opponent's court without committing a fault.

Scoring system

- Only the serving team scores points.
- First team to 11 (win by 2) wins the game.

Serving rules

- Serve underhand, below the waist.
- Must serve diagonally to the opposite court.
- Only one serve attempt allowed per player.
- Both teammates serve before giving up the serve.

The Kitchen

- 7-foot area on both sides of the net.
- Players cannot volley (hit before bounce).
- Step inside only after the ball bounces.

Double bounce rule

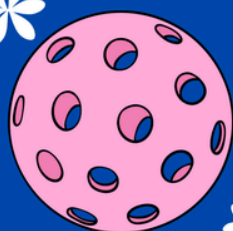
The ball must bounce once on each side before volleys begin.

Common faults

- Ball lands out of bounds.
- Ball hits the net or fails to cross it.
- Volleying in the kitchen zone.
- Ball bounces twice before being returned.

Court areas

- Baseline: Serving line.
- Sidelines: Mark width of play area.
- Centerline: Divides service courts.
- Kitchen Zone: Non-volley area near the net.



Quiz night

Wednesday 21 January



7PM | £2.50 PER PERSON | MAX SIX PER TEAM
PRIZES AND RAFFLE | BOOK YOUR TEAM IN HERE >>>
FUNDRAISING FOR FEN DITTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

