



12 June 2026

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Headteacher's insight

As our Year 1 children complete their Phonics Screening Check this week, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the importance of early reading and celebrate the excellent outcomes our pupils have achieved.

We are incredibly proud of our children. The results reflect the hard work of pupils, staff and families and validate the priority we place on teaching phonics and early reading from the very beginning of a child's school journey. They show that when children are taught systematically, consistently and with high expectations, they can achieve remarkable success.

However, we also know that these outcomes are not the end of the journey. Learning to read is the single most important skill children acquire in primary school because it unlocks every other area of learning. The earlier a child can decode words accurately and read fluently, the more cognitive capacity they have available to think deeply, solve problems, develop vocabulary and engage with the rich knowledge of the curriculum. Put simply, children who read well learn more, learn faster and enjoy greater success across all subjects.

The evidence behind this is compelling. Research has shown that reading for pleasure is one of the strongest indicators of future educational success, even more significant than family background in some studies. Children who read regularly make greater progress not only in reading itself, but also in vocabulary, spelling and mathematics.

Most importantly, reading has a profound impact on children's future life chances. Strong literacy skills are linked to higher educational attainment, greater employment opportunities, improved wellbeing and better long-term outcomes in adult life. That is why we place such importance on ensuring every child becomes a confident, fluent reader as early as possible.



...continued

The role of families in this journey cannot be overstated. Listening to your child read each day remains one of the most valuable things you can do to support their learning. Equally important is reading to your child, even after they can read independently. Sharing stories exposes children to rich vocabulary, develops comprehension, sparks imagination and nurtures a lifelong love of reading. Some of the strongest predictors of future reading success are simply having books at home, talking about stories and making reading a normal and enjoyable part of family life.

Thank you for the support you continue to provide. Together, we can ensure that every child develops not only the ability to read, but also the habit of reading and the love of reading that will open doors throughout their lives. At a time when I can often think "I don't have time to read for pleasure", this week has made me challenge this and I will endeavour to make some time this weekend, even a short snippet, to read a book just because!

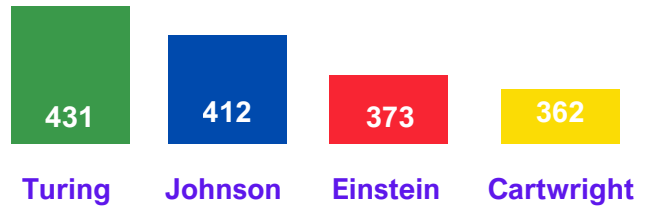


Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



House Point Totals



Summer Safety

Sun Safety



Warmer weather increases the risk of sunburn, dehydration, and heat exhaustion.

- Apply sunscreen regularly and encourage children to wear hats outdoors
- Ensure children drink plenty of water throughout the day
- Encourage regular breaks in the shade, especially during the hottest hours (11am-3pm)
- Remember that children can still get sunburnt on cloudy days

Road Safety

As the weather warms up, children are often outside more, walking, cycling, scooting, and playing in their neighbourhoods, which could be near roads

- Remind children to stop, look, listen, and think before crossing roads
- Talk about the dangers of crossing the road between parked cars
- Encourage helmet use when cycling or scootering
- Talk about avoiding distractions such as phones or headphones near roads
- Watching these videos with your child may be useful

Film: Road ready? Expect the unexpected – THINK! (Age 7-11)

Song: Safer journeys anthem – THINK! (Nursery, Reception and Year 1)

Crossing roads: kids know best – THINK! (Nursery, Reception and Year 1)



Caterpillars Class



This week, the children have enjoyed lots of outdoor learning opportunities. They explored water play by experimenting with floating and sinking, investigating how water flows through different containers and channels. The children also loved making "potions" using natural resources. These activities encouraged communication and language development as the children shared ideas, described their discoveries, and worked together. They also developed fine motor skills by using scissors and other tools carefully during their play.

Inside the classroom, the children demonstrated excellent independent learning through tower-building. There was lots of friendly competition as they compared their structures, using mathematical language such as higher, taller, shorter, and the same to describe and compare their creations.

In maths, we focused on subitising with our cookie activity. The children used their "fast eyes" to quickly recognise and say how many chocolate chips were on each cookie without counting individually, helping to develop their number sense and confidence with quantities.

We have also begun our exciting new topic, Summer at the Beach. The children have been exploring the sand tray, investigating shells, and enjoying beach-themed small world play, sharing experiences of holidays and seaside adventures.

In phonics this week, our focus sound has been "sh" for sheep (and shell!), and the children have enjoyed spotting and saying words that begin with this sound.





Butterflies Class

What a wonderful creative week we have had in Butterflies, this week!

We have been developing our fine motor and threading skills by making colourful bracelets. The children worked carefully to thread beads and create their own designs, showing great concentration and perseverance. We also linked our learning to mathematics by creating repeating patterns using different colours.

In our creative area, the children have been exploring music and sound by making their own musical instruments. We created rainmakers using rolled-up cardboard tubes and rice, and pan flutes using straws. The children enjoyed investigating the different sounds their instruments could make and experimenting with rhythm and volume.

Our imaginations have been working hard too! We have been thinking about an imaginary world that we would like to live in. The children shared lots of fantastic ideas, including magical lands, animal kingdoms, rainbow worlds and places filled with exciting adventures. They have enjoyed drawing, designing and talking about their imaginative creations.

We are so proud of the creativity, enthusiasm and teamwork shown by all the children this week. Well done, Butterflies!





Dragonflies Class

In Dragonflies we have started our new English text, Fantastic Mr Fox, and have already written character descriptions using some carefully chosen vocabulary. Maths has taken us into position and direction, where the children have been thinking about turns, movement and direction language.

We also took part in the Speed Kit Challenge, which brought lots of energy and excitement to the week. In computing, we have been learning about the International Space Station and thinking about how technology is used in space. We are incredibly proud of how well the whole class did in their class assembly. They worked so hard and performed brilliantly. A big thank you to all the parents who were able to come and support us.





Owls Class

Another busy week of learning in Owls class! We have been really engaged with producing our sandwich recipes based on the style of Michael Rosen. Writing in a humorous way is much harder than we thought, so we worked together to make funny sentences we could use in our recipes: 'You mustn't put the cheese slices on your head, put it on the bread'.

In maths, we have now moved onto position and direction. We have remembered the phrase 'along the corridors, up the stairs' to help us differentiate between the x and y axis. To help with our fluency, we plotted lots of coordinates and joined them up to make intricate pictures. Soon we will be writing coordinates without the help of labelled grids.

In science, we investigated how food affects muscle fatigue. Owls challenged themselves to hold a T-pose until they felt tired. A few of us lasted over 10 minutes! Even with tired arms, we repeated the test three more times and compared our results with each other.

The Owls class put in a lot of effort to get the top speed in the Speed kick challenge from Premier. We cheered for each other and some of us were surprised with their speed score.

Despite the weather, Owls have worked hard to have a positive week 😊🦉



Key dates 2025-26

June

Wed, 17 Jun

Year 5 Sport Event afternoon - all children
Ladybirds class assembly, parents & carers invited for a 09:15 start
Year 6 Residential Trip (returning Friday 19 June)

Fri, 19 Jun

Fathers Day Gift Shop

Tues, 23 Jun

Caterpillars and Butterflies Teddy Bears Picnic.
Bring a teddy!

Wed, 24 Jun

ALPSA Tournament Golf Years 5 and 6 (selected children)
Squirrels class trip to Ditton Meadow
Butterflies class assembly, parents & carers invited for a 09:15 start

Mon, 29 Jun

Caterpillar's trip to Anglesey Abbey.

July

Wed, 1 Jul	Sports event Year 6 <u>Butterflies trip to South Angle Farm</u>
Fri, 3 Jul	Science Fair project presentations in school Summer Fayre - after school
Wed, 8 Jul	ALPSA Festival Multi Skills Year 1 & 2 (selected children)
Thur, 9 Jul	Sports day (morning)
Fri, 10 Jul	Year 6 Play in a Week performance 9am Science Fair event - 3:15-3:45pm - parents and carers invited to attend
Tues, 14 Jul	<u>Whole school trip to Milton Country Park</u>
Weds, 15 Jul	ALPSA Tournament Athletics Year 3 & 4 (selected children)
Thurs, 16 Jul	Year 6 Leavers assembly 9:15 - parents and carers invited to attend End of Year Disco - after school
Fri, 17 Jul	Nursery Graduation Ceremony 2:30pm Last day of the academic year

Autumn term 2026/27 begins 4 September 2026



FOLLOW US

Term Dates 2025/26

[For key upcoming dates see our website](#)

[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