

ST COLUMBA C OF E SPRING 1 NEWSLETTER



Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of this half term, I would like to thank our staff and parents for the consistently positive contribution you make to our school community. Your support, commitment and partnership truly strengthen school life and make a real difference for our children.

This half term we have welcomed Mrs Jones to our after school club provision and Mrs Evans, who is working across the school as a HLTA. Both have already made a significant impact and we are delighted to have them as part of our team.

As you move into the holidays and enjoy some well earned time together, I would really encourage you to see everyday moments as powerful learning opportunities. The strongest progress we see in school is always reinforced by what happens at home. When home and school work together, children retain more, make stronger connections and grow in confidence.

Talk matters.

Vocabulary is one of the greatest predictors of future success. Simply talking with your child about their day, asking them to explain ideas, discussing news, cooking together, or describing what you can see on a walk all build language. Encourage full sentences. Introduce new words. Ask them to clarify and expand their thinking. These small conversations make a significant difference.

Reading in both directions is vital.

Children benefit enormously from:

- Hearing you read aloud, even as they get older
- Reading independently
- Reading to you and discussing what they have read

When children are read to, they access language and ideas beyond their current reading level. When they read aloud to you, they practise fluency, decoding and expression. When you discuss the text, you strengthen critical thinking.

Maths is everywhere.

Use everyday situations to reinforce learning:

- Cooking and measuring ingredients
- Calculating change while shopping
- Reading timetables
- Estimating time and distance on journeys
- Spotting patterns and shapes in the environment

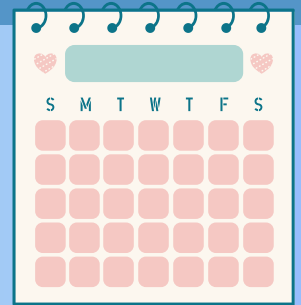
These practical experiences help children apply what they learn in school and deepen understanding.

Over the holidays especially, learning can be reinforced. Short, regular, low pressure opportunities to practise key skills will help your child return to school ready to build on what they already know.

Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us. Together, we give your children the very best chance to thrive.

Mrs Viola

Dates for your Diary



February

16th - 20th - HALF TERM

24th - Athlete Visit



March

5th - Willow Class School Trip

11th - Mothers Day Shop

17th - Parent Support Meeting 2pm

23rd - Easter Service 9:30

27th - Easter Egg Hunt (Children Only)

30th EASTER HOLIDAYS

April

13th - Return to School

14th-15th - Parents Evenings

28th - Parent Support Meeting 2pm

29th - Supporting children with anxiety workshop

30th - SATs Parents information

May

11th -14th - SATs week

22nd - INSET DAY

25th - 29th - HALF TERM



June

1st - INSET DAY

16th - Parent Support Meeting 2pm

17th - Fathers Day Shop

19th - Sports Day

July

10th - Summer Fair

14th - Parent Support Meeting 2pm

20th - Leavers Service

22nd - LAST DAY OF TERM

INSET DAYS

2025/26

3rd September 2025

4th September 2025

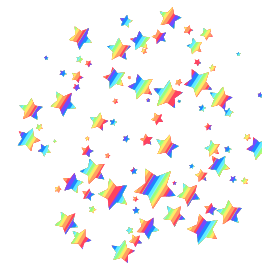
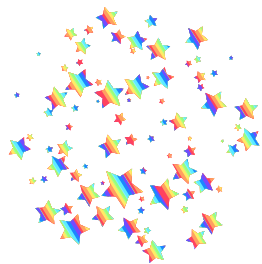
19th December 2025

22nd May 2026

1st June 2026

SAVE THE DATE

HAZEL CLASS



Hazel Class have thoroughly enjoyed their dinosaur topic this term and have shown such enthusiasm in all their learning. The children loved exploring dinosaur-related science activities, including investigating fossils, learning about herbivores and carnivores, and discovering how we know dinosaurs once roamed the Earth. They have been curious, creative, and full of fantastic questions! To top it all off, we had an amazing time at the disco – the children danced their socks off and had so much fun celebrating together. What a “roar-some” half-term it has been!

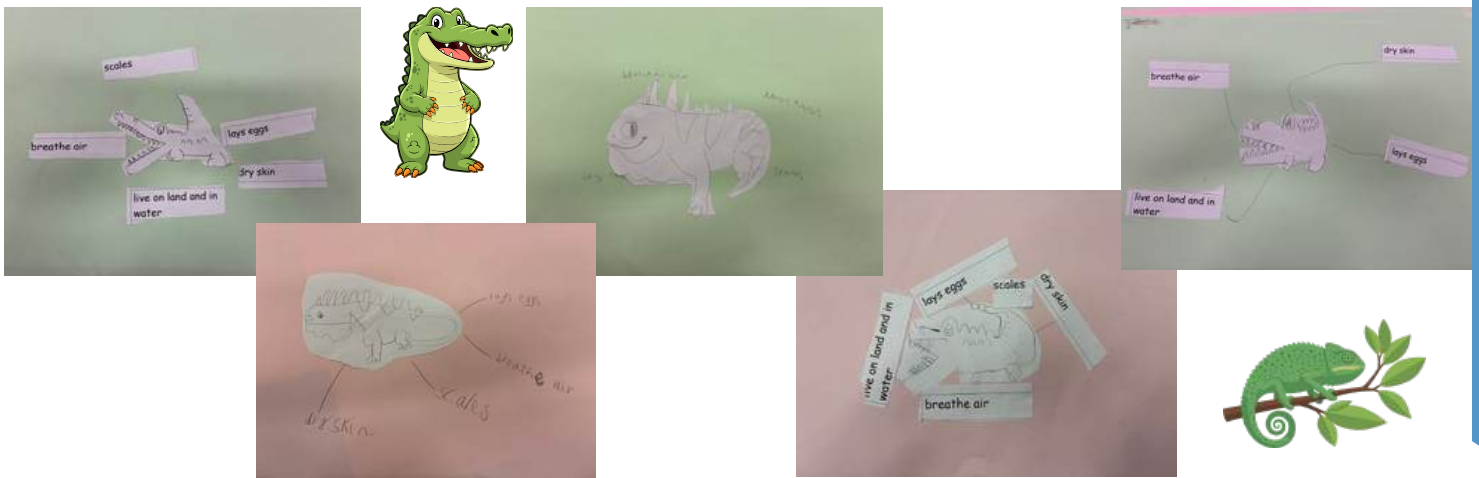


WILLOW CLASS

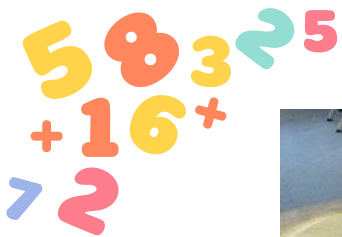


During Science, we have been learning all about animals and classifying them as either a Bird, Fish, Reptile, Amphibian or Mammal.

We know crocodiles and iguana's belong to the reptile family. Look at some of our awesome drawings!



On Friday 6th February, it was NSPCC's Number Day! We celebrated this in school by participating in a range of number-themed activities and raising awareness of the NSPCC and how they can help children and families.



BEECH CLASS



We have had a busy, happy and wet half term in Beech. Our topic 'Disappearing Rainforests' has enabled us to explore and carry out investigations on different types of plants including cacti, celery and daffodils! The topic was supported by our trip to Staunton Hothouse where we could experience what it would be like to be in the Amazon Rainforest. We were lucky enough to get the chance to hold a Madagascan Hissing Cockroach and a Giant African Land Snail.

We have been lucky to have Hampshire Music Service in to teach us drumming on Tuesdays, and Portsmouth Football Club to support our maths and writing on Mondays. As well as completing activities for World RE day, NSPCC number day and Internet safety day.

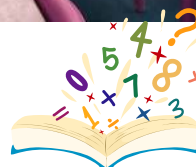


OAK CLASS



In art, we've had some fun recreating famous painting, considering perspective, angles and composition to arrange ourselves and our props to make the most accurate recreations! You may recognise paintings such as 'The Scream' and 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'!

We've also had fun on NSPCC Number Day! We used a range of mathematical resources, including dice and digit cards to practice our problem solving and resilience when challenging ourselves!





ACORNS WRAPAROUND



We've had a fantastic first half term at Acorns Wraparound Care! The children have thrown themselves into a wide range of exciting, hands-on activities including ice sculpting, sensory shaving-foam play, slime making, den building, and even creating their own sock puppets and puppet shows, pancake making for pancake day and so much more .



They've also loved getting outdoors and embracing the mud at Forest School, discovering, and getting wonderfully messy has been all part of the fun.

It's been a brilliant start to the year, and we can't wait for even more adventures next half term, starting with celebrating Chinese New Year!



LUNA ACROBATICS AND AERIAL ARTS



The children had an absolute blast during their taster session with Luna Acrobatics and Aerial Arts! Mastering brand-new tricks, they threw themselves into every moment with huge smiles and tons of enthusiasm. They loved trying out so many new skills — and honestly, we're not sure who had more fun... the children or the adults watching them shine!

