



# Monthly NEWSLETTER

Jan  
2026

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www.calcotschools.co.uk | Calcot Schools—Inf: 01189 418189 | Jun: 01189 428727

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely rest and break. It was lovely to welcome the children back into school at the start of the month. Thank you for all your support last term. We were all very grateful for the personal gifts and thank-yous from you.

## 📌 Important Safety Reminder: Mobile Phones & Road Crossing

Please can we remind all families that **children must not cross roads while using a mobile phone**. Distraction from screens significantly increases the risk of accidents, especially at crossings and busy roads.

We kindly ask parents and carers to **talk with your child at home about road safety**, reinforcing key messages such as:

- Stop, look, listen, and think before crossing.
- Put phones away and remove headphones near roads.
- Use designated crossings and follow signals.

Your support and conversations at home make a real difference. Thank you for helping us promote safe habits every day.

## 📌 Important Uniform Reminder

Please be reminded that **all children are expected to attend school in full school uniform every day**. On **PE days**, children should **bring their PE kit into school and change on site**. PE kits should not be worn to school unless otherwise communicated.

## 📌 Important Arrival Reminder

Please be reminded that **children should not enter school via the main Junior Office** unless this has been **pre-arranged with a specific member of staff**.

All children are expected to **start the day on the playground** and enter the building via the **Year 3/4 or Year 5/6 doors**, as part of our normal morning routine.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping our mornings run smoothly and safely.

## Year 4 MTC Meeting

In June 2022 the government introduced a statutory assessment for all year 4 pupils across the country, in order to assess them on their times tables. The purpose of the Multiplication Check (MTC) is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently up to 12x12- an essential skill for future success in mathematics. Year 4 will be holding an information meeting after school on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. More information about this will be sent out soon, we hope you will be able to attend.



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## Parents Meetings and SAP Meetings

This year SAP meetings will be held on Wednesday 11th February straight after school. Bookings are now open and they will close on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

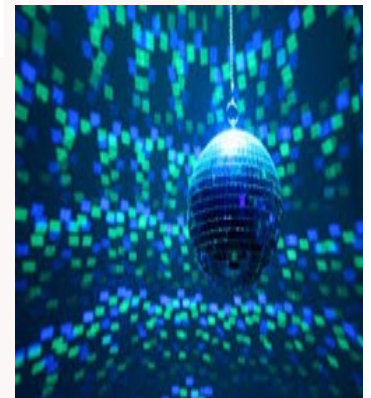
Parents meetings are on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. If you have had a SAP Meeting on the 11th February you will not need to book an additional parents evening. Bookings will open Monday 2nd February at 9am for Nursery through to year 5, please log onto to MCAS to make your booking. Communication has already been sent regarding year 6 bookings.

## Junior School Tuck – Valentines Cookies

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Parlour and Mrs Philbin will be selling Valentines cookies alongside the usual tuck menu. The cookies will be 50 pence.

## PTFA School Disco is coming Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Years 1 to 6 (no reception due to H&S reasons)

Disco bookings are now open! Please book your tickets using this link [Calcot Schools PTFA](#) Disco bookings close Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, if you have not booked a ticket by then your child will be unable to attend. Please be reminded that this is a PTFA run event and the tickets can only be purchased through them.



## Reading Week

2026 is the National Year of Reading and we are planning a whole-school celebration\*, as part of our annual reading week. On 5<sup>th</sup> March (World Book Day), at 2pm, we would like to invite you to join your child in school for a 'Reading Festival', which will include lots of reading-related activities, including live storytelling, arts & crafts and the opportunity to buy books and redeem World Book Day vouchers.

In order to make this exciting day a success, we would like to ask for your help:

- Do you have any expertise in a subject, that you would be willing to share with groups of children - e.g. People Who Help Us, the Human Body, Animal Science, History, Transport?
- Do you have any medium to large sized pebbles, which could be used for painting?
- Do you have any old suitcases, which can be used to hold books?

Can you volunteer to help the PTFA serve refreshments on this day?

More details to follow - we can't wait to celebrate reading with you and your children!

\*Please note, due to scale of this event, it will not be suitable for nursery children, but they will be involved in other activities throughout the week.



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## A little Help Needed from Year 1 – Science Curriculum

The Year 1 science curriculum is changing this term and becoming even more exciting, hands-on and immersive for the children. To help bring our learning to life, we are kindly asking if any parents would be able to support us with donations for an upcoming science lesson. We are looking for:

**Bedding plants** for a plant dissecting lesson (these will be replanted during Forest School after the lesson where possible)

**Loose parts** that can be used to build a plant, such as: Milk bottle lids, Wool, Fabric/material scraps, Fake leaves.

Any donations would be hugely appreciated and will help us create engaging, practical learning experiences for the children. If you are able to donate then please take them to the Infant office. Thank you so much for your continued support – it really does make a big difference.

## Forms—Update

We have added a year group tab under forms which will include all forms related to that year i.e school trip forms. On the main form page is the links for our generic forms to the school website – please use this link to take you straight to them [Calcot Schools - Forms](#) bird or tea bird's session without a completed registration form **and** terms and conditions form. We are unable to give your child medication unless the completed medication form has been completed.

## Community links pages

If you are looking for any activities to do please look at our community links page on our website, this is regularly updated [Calcot Schools - Spring 2026 Activities](#)

Below is the link for the new West Berkshire directory, this has just been launched and they are still busy making lots of exciting developments;

<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/directory-search?pageNumber=1&pageSize=15&sortOption=Rank%3Basc&distance=1609>

*Florence Rostron*

Headteacher



## Article on Roblox and online safety

A child tells you they love playing Roblox, and their parent's only advice is "just be sensible." What might we want to explore further?

### **An answer**

Roblox is used by children from a very young age, with many starting in primary school and a particularly large number of players aged around 8 - 12. There is no fixed minimum age to play, and children often share games and social spaces with much older users. This mix of ages, combined with user-generated content and social features such as chat and voice chat, means children's experiences can vary widely. As a result, generic advice like "just be sensible" gives us very little insight into what a child is actually seeing, doing, or who they are interacting with.

Helpful lines of curiosity include:

- What games are they accessing, and are they age-appropriate?
- Is chat enabled, and who can message them?
- Have they come across anything violent, hateful or worrying?
- Are they using private servers or public spaces?
- Are parental controls or age settings in place and actively used?
- Does the parent feel confident managing the platform?

Disclosures of concerning content on Roblox should be treated as safeguarding issues, not just IT problems, and may relate to online safety, digital resilience or Prevent duties. The goal is curiosity, not panic. We want to help children talk openly about what they encounter and support parents to move beyond "just be sensible".

### **What helps most in practice includes:**

- Regular, interested conversations about what children enjoy playing, who they play with, and what they notice online
- Adults showing curiosity, including watching or playing alongside children, so games are not treated as a secret or separate world
- A clear understanding of personal information, including why chats should stay about the game and when to tell an adult
- Agreed rules around spending, with children knowing when real money is involved and when permission is needed
- Reassurance that worries should be shared, including exposure to upsetting content, mean behaviour or hate-based language
- Confidence using block and report tools, so concerns can be addressed calmly and practically
- Active use of safety settings, including age-appropriate controls, chat restrictions and parent account oversight

More information can be found here: <https://corp.roblox.com/safety-by-age>

Download an editable table of settings:

<https://6282.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Roblox+Safer+settings+January+2026.docx>



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## January Sporting Events

### **Year 3 & 4 Park House Football Tournament — Monday 19th January**

The year 3 and 4 boys squad played fantastically, winning every single one of their games, earning a gold medal at the end of the tournament. The boys have been invited back to play in the finals' night in a few weeks. Well done Calcot and thank you to Mark - our amazing coach- and Miss Stephenson-Lewis for supporting the boys. A huge thanks to Miss Munro and Miss Bell and all that parents that came along for cheering our team on along the side-lines.



### **Year 3 & 4 Football—Tuesday 20th January**



Another success again just a day later for our year 3 and 4 squad who knocked out Fir Tree in the first round of the Adam Page cup at 3-1. They then played St Nics in the quarter final, winning a fantastic 6-2! The boys played an hours worth of football and played fantastically together, showcasing excellent sportsmanship and are now through to the semi-finals. Well done boys, you have made Miss Stephenson-Lewis and Mark proud! Thank you again to Mark for supporting our boys.

### **Year 5 & 6 Netball —Wednesday 21st January**

On Wednesday, our Year 5 and 6 netball team proudly represented the school at a tournament held at Bradfield College. This was their first competitive event, and they showed great determination and teamwork throughout the day. Although they did not secure a win, the team played some excellent netball and scored several impressive goals. A big thank you to Mrs Bellanti and Mrs Kirkby for accompanying and supporting the team.



### **Bill Mac Cup Year 5 & 6 Tournament – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January**



The boys played fantastically beating Fir Tree 4-0, they are now through to the quarter finals. Thank you to our coach Mark for supporting at the event .

A huge thank you to Mr Purvey for driving the team on the school minibus and all the parents that came along to support the matches. The children love having you there to support them.



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## Message from Year 6 Change Team

On Wednesday 21st January the change team took part in the first visit to the Friends of the Eldery care home based in Calcot. The residents were very pleased to see us and we all had lots of fun. We took part in a quiz that they had designed for us to do. We are hoping that a different group of year 6 children will get to visit with Mrs Rostron each month.



We have now finished creating our prayer room questionnaire and this has been given out to the junior school children this week. We are hoping to get the results soon.

We are now on the 2nd term of Baking club. We are really pleased with the feedback we are getting from the children, they are having so much fun!

We are looking forward to "Calcot's got Talent" over the next couple of weeks. I know everyone is practising hard and we are looking forward to the showcase assembly of all the best acts before half term.

We are currently planning another sale for the end of term, we are hoping this will be on Friday 13th February. We will send out posters soon.





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CALCOT SCHOOLS' PRESENT...



**5th**   
**March**  
**2026**

**2pm**

**Mystery reader**



**Book fair**



**Rock Painting**

**Arts & Crafts**



**Refreshments**



**Choir**

**Am-dram performances**

**Stories around the  
fire**

**and more to be  
announced!**



Come join us for an afternoon of  
celebrating the importance of reading





## Young Poet Laureate competition

Following our workshop Poet workshop in December with the lovely Natalie Sanderson, children were invited to bring in their poems in order to enter the Young Poet Laureate competition. Mrs Settle has now received all the poems and statements to enter. Please find our student entries below, we have some very talented poets!

### **Dog on the Beach**

I see my dog race by the sea,  
His tail wave high, he's wild and free.  
The sun shines bright, the water gleams,  
He chases gulls and sandy dreams.

I hear the eaves crash loud and strong,  
My dog barks back, a joyful song.  
The ocean roars, the seagulls cry.  
We laugh together, you and I.

I smell the salt, the seaweed too,  
My dog sniffs shells both old and new.  
The breeze is fresh, it fills the air,  
Adventure waits for us out there.

He tastes the foam, it's not so sweet,  
Then munches treats, a crunchy feat.  
I taste the air, so cool, so fine,  
A seaside feast that feels divine.

The sand feels warm beneath my toes,  
My dog rolls round, the fun just grows.  
His fur is damp, I hug him tight,  
Beach days with him are pure delight.

By Tommy

### **A poem about a dog on the beach!**

Sand and stones, sea wavering.

Swish swish my name is KC.

My favourite food is pasta.

I am white and brown.

I love surfing, I feel like I'm flying.

I like playing frisbee but there is

NO food around I'm starving.

What should I do I am so hungry

Then I smelled something its from my left!

Sniff sniff yay French fries

Yummy I should tell my owner

Woof woof then my owner sees French fries

I should get it for my dog KC

She is probably tired from playing frisbee!

Let's head home.

Happy ending.



By Ruqayyah Kassam

### **All About You**

You, you, you're great and amazing

You, you, you're intelligent and fantastic

You, you, your heart is a star

You, you, you're a bright sun shining

You, you, you're graceful and creative

And you brighten up people's sad days.

You, you, you're never alone

You, you, you're always strong and believe people

You, you, you're bold and brave

You, you, you're incredible and determined

You, you, you're lovely kind and caring

You, you, the best thing about you is

You make choices, you make decisions

You are loved no matter what you are.

By Rosie Wrixon



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Poems are here,  
Poems are there.  
Poems can be anywhere!

Poems up high,  
Poems down low,  
Poems that make you say hello!



By Nadine Qasim

## All About You

You, you, you're great and amazing  
You, you, you're intelligent and fantastic  
You, you, your heart is a star  
You, you, you're a bright sun shining  
You, you, you're graceful and creative  
And you brighten up people's sad days.

You, you, you're never alone  
You, you, you're always strong and believe people  
You, you, you're bold and brave  
You, you, you're incredible and determined  
You, you, you're lovely kind and caring  
You, you, the best thing about you is  
You make choices, you make decisions  
You are loved no matter what you are.

By Rosie Wrixon

## Sisters

Little girls with golden hair,  
Really do not have a care.

Near or far,  
Up or down,  
They will always run the town.

Always playing in the park,  
Until it finally becomes dark.

Eyes always green or blue,  
Always there watching you.

Making mess, causing stress,  
Always wanting to wear a dress.

Bossy, sassy, funny too,  
Even when they're pinching you.

By Logan

## Blue

You may feel blue,  
No worries, it's fine,  
Because sometimes you feel it's not the right time.

Feeling blue does not feel good,  
People say you can't do it,  
You could.

Although it sounds silly,  
You really must find,  
That somewhere in blue is a dot of  
SUNSHINE!

By Isla



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## The Sun

The sun put on her yellow blanket,  
And shined her torch all around the planet.

With slow steps, she moved about  
For the moon was nearly coming out.

Finally, when the white shadow of the moon could be seen,  
The sun set and her blanket became an orange bed of light, evergreen.

Then she sank down,  
down,  
down,

Into the blue cushions of the sea.  
“Goodbye!” she said, “Tomorrow,  
It is I you first shall see!”

*The sun is beautiful; so are you.*

*Please remember to embrace that beauty because there's only one you.*

**By Allayna**

We have some wonderful entries and we wish all the children the best of luck. All entries will be shortlisted to 120 and the young poets will be announced in March and their work will be published in our celebratory anthology. All shortlisted students will be invited to take part in a regional masterclass (must be accompanied by a member of school staff) where they'll receive support from professional poets, before performing to a judging panel. The regional judging panels will select their regions' two laureates.



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## Coffee mornings



Mrs Smith and Mrs Chester will be hosting the following events alongside some guest speakers.

### Dates for 2026:

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Lizzie Paterson from the Autism Advisory Team will be joining us in the Junior School from 9am to 10.30am.

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Support with toileting (bedwetting, daytime wetting, constipation) with the School Nursing Team in the Infant School from 9am to 10.30am

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> May** - Lizzie Paterson from the Autism Advisory Team will be joining us in the Junior School from 9am to 10.30am.

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Sleep support/advice from the School Nursing Team in the Infant School from 9am to 10.30am

To show your interest and to reserve a space please email Mrs Chester or Mrs Smith:

[mchester@c-inf.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:mchester@c-inf.w-berks.sch.uk)

[dsmith@c-jun.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:dsmith@c-jun.w-berks.sch.uk)

We look forward to seeing you!!



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**FOOTBALL CAMP**

Ofsted Registered

**LOT THEM PLAY!** Football

SCAN ME

**FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**

**Price + Offers**

- from £20 per day
- Sibling discount: 10% off
- Early Bird discount (15% off) Code: FHT15

**Age**

5 - 12 Years Old

**Dates + Times**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Standard day: 9am-3pm  
Extended day: 9am-5pm

**Venues**

- Newbury: Winchcombe School
- Maidenhead: Alwyn Infant School
- Reading: Calcot Junior School

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!  
For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email [admin@mnrcoaching.com](mailto:admin@mnrcoaching.com) www.mnrcoaching.com

**MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP**

Ofsted Registered

**LOT THEM PLAY!**

SCAN ME

**FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**

**Price + Offers**

- from £25 per day
- Sibling discount: 10% off
- Early Bird discount (15% off) Code: FHT15

**Age**

5 - 12 Years Old

**Dates + Times**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

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- Newbury: Winchcombe School
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WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!  
For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email [admin@mnrcoaching.com](mailto:admin@mnrcoaching.com) www.mnrcoaching.com

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Click here to book your tickets: [Calcot Schools PTFA](#)

**PTFA**

**Y1 - Y6**

**SCHOOLDISCO**

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**INFANT HALL**

**Tickets**  
**£6.50 pp**

**Y1 & Y2 3.15PM - 4.15PM**  
**Y3 & Y4 4.30PM - 5.45PM**  
**Y5 & Y6 6PM - 7.15PM**

**Tickets on sale**  
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 till**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

[https:// www.pta-events.co.uk/ptfacalcotschools](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ptfacalcotschools)

Illustration of eight children in various colorful outfits dancing joyfully at the bottom of the poster.



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GREAT PRIZES  
TO BE WON!

## BLOOMING BEAUTIES & HOLYBROOK PHOTOGRAPHY Competitions

CELEBRATING OUR  
COMMUNITY AND ITS  
CREATIVITY!



OPEN TO  
ALL  
RESIDENTS

- HIGHLIGHTS:**
- **Blooming Beauties:** Share photos of your garden or wildlife-friendly space
  - **Photography Competition:** Capture Holybrook's hidden gems or favourite views (includes a special category for children and teenagers under 17)
  - **Closing dates:** Photography - Friday 6th March 2026 | Blooming Beauties - Friday 10th April 2026

For full competition rules and additional information, visit the events page on the parish website

[www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk)

**Full details of both competitions and their rules can be found here:**

[https://www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk/ UserFiles/Files/  
Holybrook Photography Competition Rules 2026 with Logo.pdf](https://www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk/UserFiles/Files/Holybrook%20Photography%20Competition%20Rules%202026%20with%20Logo.pdf)



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Menstrual Health and  
Period Education Advocates

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### All Yours Period Boxes

In December we celebrated our 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and are delighted to be able to offer period boxes again in 2026 to anyone who is struggling to access period products, for whatever reason. We are happy to support both adults and young people through this service.

You can request a free, confidential All Yours Box here:

<https://www.allyourbox.co.uk/request>

Please note: If you are requesting boxes for more than one person (for example, multiple family members), please indicate the number of boxes needed and any specific product requirements in the comments box on the request form. This helps us make sure everyone receives what they need.

Boxes are prepared and delivered by volunteers, so please allow up to 21 days (though most arrive much sooner).

If we can't deliver to you directly, we'll let you know how to find your nearest collection point.

### Period Pants – collection points

Unfortunately, we cannot deliver period pants to individual addresses but if you live in West Berkshire there is a small stock of period pants at Newbury, Thatcham and Burghfield Common libraries. They have a range of sizes, and you are welcome to collect a pair of pants to try for free.

We hope to be hosting more Period Pants Parties at locations across West Berkshire in 2026 so please keep an eye on our social media for more details. We are @allyourmonthly on both Facebook and Instagram.

With best wishes,

*All Yours*

All Yours Period Box CIC – [www.allyourbox.co.uk](http://www.allyourbox.co.uk)  
Facebook & Instagram - @allyourmonthly



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## Nursery

Nursery has been buzzing with excitement, enthusiasm and exploration this past month, and the children have really embraced our free-flow timetable. The wet weather certainly hasn't held us back from having lots of fun outdoors – splashing in muddy puddles, creating mud pies and even catching the rain on our tongues!

We have made great use of our sheltered courtyard area so that the children can continue to explore messy play activities in the fresh air without getting too soggy. The children have particularly enjoyed making teas, coffees and hot chocolates for their friends, mixing, scooping and whisking their ingredients together. We have also loved using the new sprinkler water system that Mrs Bate has made. Lots of fun has been had watching the different coloured water sprinkle out through the holes in the pipes.

Indoors, we have been exploring a range of sensory materials including playdough, oobleck, coloured rice, chia seeds and jelly baf. These activities have encouraged lots of messy fun while helping the children explore different textures and develop their oracy skills and vocabulary.

Puzzles have also been a big hit this month, with the children working together in teams to complete large floor puzzles and feeling very proud of themselves once finished. A key focus has been learning to order the letters in our names and having a go at writing our names by copying from name cards. Any extra support with this at home would be greatly appreciated.

In Maths, we have been learning about repetition, which will lead on to creating patterns over the coming months.

## Reception

Happy New Year to you all. The children have settled back into school beautifully and are showing great enthusiasm for their learning.

This half term our topic is "Journeys". We began by sharing holiday news and photos on Tapestry before exploring the Polar Regions. The children enjoyed the story "Polar Bear, Polar Bear" and learning about the Arctic and Antarctic. In Maths, we focused on the number zero, subitising, and representing numbers using objects and numerals. The children have been confident in explaining their thinking. In Understanding the World, we explored how water freezes into ice and melts again. We had lots of fun when the snow came! The children are also developing independence when changing for PE—well done, Reception. Please keep encouraging and supporting this at home!

We continued our journeys topic with "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", retelling and re-enacting the story with great enthusiasm. In Maths, we explored how numbers are made of parts and wholes. Reading and early writing are progressing well, and the children are trying hard.

More recently, we launched our new topic Space. The children have loved role-play, Cosmic Yoga, and learning about astronauts, gravity, Tim Peake, and life on the space station. In Maths, we explored mass using balance scales and investigated capacity through practical play.

## Reminders

- Please name all clothing clearly.
- Please remember to put socks in bags if your child is wearing tights on PE days (Thursdays)
- Lunar New Year workshop: Tuesday 24th February 2026, Voluntary contribution £3.50 please; 2.40pm (parent performance).

Thank you for your continued support



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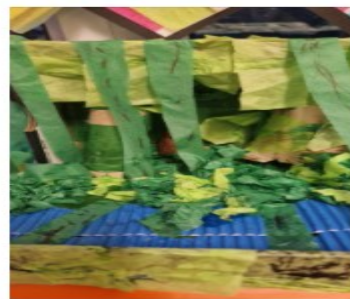
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## Year 1

We have been so proud of how the children have started the new term. They have settled back into school routines brilliantly and have shown such a positive attitude towards their learning. The children have been enthusiastic, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and independence growing already. What a super start to the term all round!

Here are some pictures of the fantastic work we have been doing so far:



## Reminders:

- Forest School will now take place on **Mondays** this term. Please ensure your child comes to school with; appropriate footwear, long clothing, a waterproof coat, change of clothes, spare bag for muddy clothes and boots.
- PE will now be outside, so children will need warm clothing and suitable shoes for outdoor PE. Our PE day is **Tuesday**.
- Library day will remain on a **Thursday**.

## Year 2

We have had a **fabulous start back to school in 2026**, and Year 2 have returned full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. We are so proud of how positively the children have settled back into routines. In Literacy, we have been consolidating everything we have learnt so far by rewriting the narrative "*The Proudest Blue*". We focused on using: expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, adverbs, sentence starters, our Year 2 spelling rules.

The children have worked incredibly hard and have shown great pride in their writing.

In Maths, we have started our learning on **multiplication**. The children are becoming very fluent at skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and can now read and solve multiplication equations. This strong foundation will really support them when we complete the Multiplication Check in the summer term.

In History, the children are learning about **Reading Abbey**. We discussed who might have lived there and the purpose of the building. In the next few lessons, we will be finding out why it is now in ruins. We are very excited to take the children on a visit at the end of term to bring their learning to life.

## Reminders

- **Reading at home** is extremely important. Even if children are not reading their school books, we kindly ask that you encourage them to read at least **three times a week**. This makes a huge difference to their confidence and progress.
- **Forest School** has now moved to a **Thursday afternoon**. The children will be going with our Forest School leads, **Mrs Smith and Mrs Binns**.

*Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to another exciting term with Year 2!*



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## Junior School Update

### Year 3

The Year 3 children have had a fantastic start to the Spring Term and have worked incredibly hard across all subjects. The children were so excited to find out that our Year 3 production will be *'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'*. Mrs Rostron has already started practising the songs with the children.

In English, the class has been reading *'The Egg'* and developing their writing using adverbs and adverbial phrases and clauses to add detail about time, place, manner and cause. Their creativity and writing stamina have been impressive. It has been wonderful to read their retellings and to see the progress that they have made.

In Maths, the children have been using mental strategies to add and subtract 3-digit numbers in different contexts. They applied their strategies in problems involving graphs and tables as well as in real life situations.

Across the wider curriculum, the children have explored the human skeleton in Science, creating and labelling articulated models using card and split pins. The children were so excited to learn facts about the human skeleton, so please ask your child what their favourite fact was from these lessons.

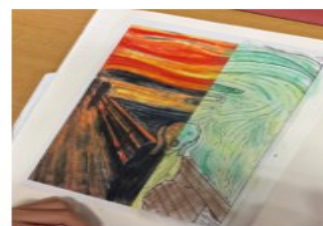
We are all looking forward to our exciting trip to London next week on the 4th February.



### Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy and positive few weeks of learning. The children completed a fantastic hot write, retelling the Greek myth of Perseus and Medusa, where they worked hard to use subordinating conjunctions to make their writing more detailed and interesting. In Maths, pupils have been practising multiplying by 10 and 100 and using their times tables knowledge with increasing confidence. We have also just started learning about coordinates, exploring how to plot and read positions on a grid. In Science, the children have begun a new unit on habitats, learning about different environments and the animals that live there. This links nicely with our upcoming trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park on 6th February, which we are all very excited about. In Art, the children have been studying the work of Wassily Kandinsky, exploring how colours can represent different emotions and experimenting with chalk and oil pastels to create expressive artwork.

Please continue to support your child at home by encouraging them to regularly practise their times tables on Times Tables Rock Stars, as this really helps build confidence and fluency in Maths.



## Reminders

- On PE days children should be coming to school in their uniform, they will be given time to change before lunch.



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## Year 5

Year 5 have had a wonderful start to the year. They have come into school focused, enthusiastic, and ready to learn, which has been fantastic to see.

In English, the children have been studying the tragic narrative poem "*The Highwayman*" by Alfred Noyes. On the first day back, the children were immediately immersed in an exciting hook to learning by becoming detectives. They were intrigued to discover a mysterious body outline in the school corridor and were tasked with finding out who it belonged to. Using a range of clues and photographs, the children worked together to gather evidence, make inferences, and piece together what might have happened over the holidays. This engaging activity encouraged problem-solving, teamwork, and careful observation, while also sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for the learning ahead. They have thoroughly enjoyed getting into character and exploring how the characters think, act, and feel. The children have also been developing their understanding of figurative language, including similes, metaphors, and alliteration, and have used these effectively to engage the reader's senses and emotions when writing a diary entry.

In Maths, the children have been learning how to calculate the area of squares and rectangles, applying their knowledge of multiplication to solve problems accurately and confidently. This term in Science, our topic is Forces, and the children have been having lots of fun investigating different types of forces. They have measured forces using a Newton meter, learned about gravity, and carried out investigations to discover which shapes are the most streamlined.

It has been a busy but fun-filled term so far, and we are very proud of the children's hard work and positive attitude to learning.

## Year 6

Year 6 has blown us away with their attitude to learning this term; we are so proud of them! This has been especially evident in Literacy, where they have produced some really excellent narratives to start the new topic of 'Harry Potter' off well. In Maths, the children have been pleased to move on from fractions, decimals and percentages (after what felt like a very long time and lots of different methods to learn!) and get stuck into shape instead. We have been recapping how to find the area and perimeter of squares and rectangles, before moving on to learning how to apply that knowledge to more complex rectilinear shapes and triangles.

The children have also been really engaged with our new History topic of 'WW1 and WW2', generating some very insightful questions to explore on our upcoming trip to the Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum. As part of these questions, they were really keen to share some of their own families' experiences during the war and we would love to hear more about them. Therefore, if you have a member of your family who was involved in WW2, we would like to invite the children to do a short presentation about them towards the end of term. This can be either slides, pictures/artefacts, a written down version of events or however they feel the most comfortable sharing with the class. We will send out more information about this closer to the time.

## Reminders:

- If you would like to order your child a leavers hoodie please fill in the form, payment is due 27<sup>th</sup> February. [Calcot Schools - Year 6](#) If we don't have a completed form and payment a hoodie WILL NOT be ordered for your child.



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## Infant School Certificates

### January Stars of the week

#### Reception:

RAM - Matthew, Rayna, Eleen and Arnika

RJM - Freddie, Forest, Zoe, Jovan, Arthur and Evan

#### Year 1:

1VW - Marley, Julian, Aria T, Rayen, Nella and Arthur S

1SA - Mikaeel, Jacob, Aaban, Vihaan, Astrid and Ishmael

#### Year 2:

2CK - Tommy, ETTY, Ruben, Andrew, Chellappan and Aurora

2RT - Josh, Aya, Reuben and Kayden

### Infant School Attendance

**Week ending 19<sup>th</sup> December** - Attendance **96.2%** Attendance Certificate awarded to **Miss Tominey's** class, well done!

**Week ending 9<sup>th</sup> January** - Attendance **98.7%** Attendance Certificate awarded to **Miss Tominey's** class, well done!

**Week ending 16<sup>th</sup> January** - Attendance **98.5%** Attendance Certificate awarded to **Mrs Mangik's** class, well done!

**Week ending 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - Attendance **99.1%** Attendance Certificate awarded to **Miss Tominey's** class, well done!

**Year to date Attendance 93.5%**



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## Junior School Certificates

### January Stars of the week

Year 3:

3ST - Jake, Amelia, Abdul, Yashwin, Tahlia-Rose, Oaklee

3FD - Sami, Bertie, Kenzo, Evie, Stefan, Archisa,

3SL - Kaiser, Sophie, Khaza, Myla, Logan, Frankie

Year 4:

4AM - Logan H, Ria, Sahara, Luke, Gracie, Sophie,

4MB - Lilah-Mae, Lila B, Kiara, Harry, Sophia-Rose, Yushaa,

Year 5:

5DP - Elia, Obie, Guste, Louis T, Ethan, Ruqayyah,

5AB - Ugochi, Edna, Aareez, Rian, Rayan, Zaynab,

5LH - Abeesha, Sarah, Cailey, Noah N, Samir, Caelan,

Year 6:

6NC - Reuben, Tilly, Myia, Aniyla, Charlie S, Frankie,

6MH - Mikey, Ashdon, Harley-Jai, Emily, Paul, Mikey,

6RS - Mia-Rose, Jacob, Yusuf, Harper, Tahlia, Eugene,

### French Certificates

Ethan P (Y4) pour ton engagement en français Reuben (Y6) pour ta merveilleuse lettre au Père Noël

Emily (Y6) pour ta très belle lettre au Père Noël

James (Y3) Pour ton fantastique effort

Lexi-Mae (Y5) Pour ton travail, toujours excellent

Harley (Y3) Pour ton excellent effort

James (Y4) Pour ton fantastique effort

Jacob (Y4) Pour ton fantastique effort

Alex (Y4) Pour ton travail est toujours excellent

### January Manners Badges

Year 3: Charlotte

Year 4: Ollie, Albie, Amelia N

Year 5: Ajeebah, Jacob C, Troy

Year 6: Rocco, Freddie R, Grace

### Read a Rainbow Certificates

Aisha 4AM

Khadija 6RS

Mila 6RS

### Junior School Attendance

Week ending 19th December- Attendance 99.5% Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Bedding's class, well done!

Week ending 9th January - Attendance 100% Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Patterson's class, well done!

Week ending 16th January - Attendance 98.5% Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Patterson's class, well done!

Week ending 23rd January - Attendance 99.1% Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Drew and Miss Bedding's class, well done!

Year to date Attendance 93.5%