



# Monthly NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

*School closes today for the half-term break and re-opens on Tuesday 3rd November. We hope you all have a well-deserved break.*

## Year 6 school applications

Don't forget the closing date for secondary school admissions is **31st October**. You do need to complete the application with the council in the area that you live – not the schools' council.

**West Berkshire applications can be made here:** [Applying for Secondary School Places - West Berkshire Council](#)

**Reading applications can be made here:** [Secondary admissions - Brighter Futures For Children](#)

## Hello Yellow - World Mental Health Day

On Friday 9th October the children wore something yellow to school to recognise World Mental Health Day. It was lovely to see so much yellow during assembly!



## Choir – Arlington Arts Centre

On Tuesday 6th October the choir, along with some ex pupils from Theale Green were invited to sing during the West Berkshire Sports Awards ceremony at the Arlington Arts Centre in Newbury. The children sung beautifully and it was wonderful to see our ex pupils, first at the rehearsal on the 2nd October and then in the evening performance.





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## Sibling Photos – Change to date

The school photographer is now coming on Thursday 26th November to take sibling photos and photos of any children that were absent in October. Please can we ask that the children come into school in their uniform for their photo to be taken and bring their forest school clothes/PE kit with them to change into later if it is a forest school/PE day

## NHS Sensory processing workshops—for parents, carers, and people working with children and young people.

Please see a links below to some online sensory processing workshops developed and run by occupational therapists. These sessions are designed for parents, carers, and people working with children and young people.

<https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/advice/sensory-processing/online-workshops>

## Poppy Merchandise

We will be selling poppy merchandise when we return from half term. All money raised goes directly to the British legion. We will only be selling the items during break and lunchtimes, they **WILL NOT** be available before or after school. The prices are as follows:

|                        |                     |              |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Poppies - 50p          | Snap bands - £1.50  | Pencils - £1 |
| Poppy reflectors - 50p | Wrist bands - £1.00 |              |

As the money is put straight into the donation box we are unable to give change.

## Parking

Unfortunately, again this week we have had some complaints regarding parents/carers parking inconsiderately in Latimer Drive; this includes blocking driveways and children having to walk in the road. Please ensure your children are walking safely on the pavement, and we are respecting local residents and parking considerately during drops offs and collections. We do have permission to use the car park at Beansheaf community centre, which is located almost opposite to Latimer Drive, for parking during these times as an alternative.

## Smart Watches

Please ensure that smart watches are not worn to school as per our mobile phone policy. Smartwatches are wristwatches with smart technology in them. They can be used to tell the time, send and receive text and voice messages, make calls and listen to music. Some smart watches have wellness and health-related features.

Smart Watches:

- Watches that only display the time and/or count steps are permitted.



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- Smart watches with features such as connectivity, cameras, video recording, messaging, or gaming are not allowed.
- Any prohibited watch will be collected, stored securely, and returned at the end of the school day.

## Children in Need

On **Friday 13th November**, we will be supporting **Children in Need**! This year's theme is '**Challenge Yourself**', encouraging children to have a go, try their best and challenge themselves in different ways.

Throughout the day, each year group will be taking part in the **Calcot Mile**, giving the children an opportunity to get active, challenge themselves and have fun whilst supporting this fantastic cause.

Children are welcome to **wear their own clothes** on the day, so they can come dressed comfortably and ready to take on the challenge!

We will not be collecting any monetary donations in school. However, if you would like to donate to this wonderful cause, you can do so online through the official [BBC Children in Need donation page](#).

Thank you for your continued support!

## Request

Are you having a half-term clear out? If you have any of the following books, to donate to our Junior Library, we would be really grateful:

- Graphic Novels - Dog Man, Cat Kid, Bunny vs Monkey, Pablo & Splash, Investigators, etc
- Annuals - Guinness World Records, Ripleys, etc
- Diary novels - Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Tom Gates, Lottie Brooks, etc

Poetry and verse novels - The Final Year, Joseph Coelho, etc

We do not have much storage so please could we ask that donations are limited only to books from these categories at this time. Thank you so much for your support.





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## **Bath Road Crossing**

Some of you may be aware Olivia Bailey MP is petitioning for West Berkshire Council to introduce a reduced speed limit and look at other measures to improve the safety of the pedestrian crossing on the A4 Bath Road near Calcot Schools. We have been affected on numerous occasions when the lights have failed, making this very dangerous for our families trying to cross the A4. Please support her by signing the petition on this link:

<https://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx ID=153&RPID=796637250&HPID=796637250>

## **Year 3 & 4 Orchestral Concert - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

Well done to our musicians in years 3 and 4 who have made a fantastic start learning their new instruments this term. It has been wonderful to see so many children taking instruments home and practising hard. This will really help children to develop their perseverance and teamwork and we are looking forward to inviting you in at the end of next term to hear them play.

Many thanks for all your support. Music practice is very much like reading – children don't need to spend a long time – little and often will get the best results. Keep up the great work children.

## **Forms**

Please use this link for all of our generic forms that can be found on the school website – please use this link to take you straight to them

## **Calcot Schools - Forms**

**Please ensure you have completed the forms needed for this year**, remember, your child will be unable to attend an early bird or tea bird's session with a completed registration form **and** terms and conditions form.

## **Community links pages**

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

Below is the link for the new West Berkshire directory;

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

**Florence Rostron**

Headteacher



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## Sports Update

### KS1 Multisport Event – Wednesday 30th September

A huge well done to **Ishmael, Luna, Poppy, Rosie, Halle and Dexter** from Year 1 and Year 2, who represented our school at a fantastic KS1 Multisport Event at Theale Green School.

The children showed great teamwork and determination, finishing in an amazing **3rd place!** They also achieved the top score in the Archery challenge – what a fantastic achievement!

The event organisers were full of praise for the children, particularly commenting on their beautiful manners and excellent behaviour. Mrs Aram was incredibly proud of how well the children participated, supported one another and, most importantly, celebrated the successes of other children with exceptional sportsmanship.

Well done team Calcot!



### Year 5 & 6 boys Bill Mac Cup – Monday 5th October

Our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team took on John Rankin in the first round of the Bill Mac Cup.

The boys put in a fantastic effort, working hard throughout the match and showing brilliant teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship. They encouraged and supported one another from start to finish, demonstrating a positive attitude even when faced with challenges.



Unfortunately, despite their determination and hard work, the boys were defeated and have been knocked out of the competition.

Although it wasn't the result we had hoped for, the boys should be incredibly proud of the way they represented our school. **Well done, boys – you've done us proud!**



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## **PTFA Update: Thank You for Your Amazing Support!**

As we head into another busy and exciting term, we'd like to say a huge **thank you** to all the parents, carers and family members who have already offered their time and support to the PTFA.

Behind every successful event is a team of wonderful volunteers, and we've been overwhelmed by the number of people helping out. From organising paperwork and planning events to wrapping presents, collecting donations, organising the cauliflower card designs (art work looks amazing) and supporting fundraising activities, so much work happens behind the scenes. Every contribution, big or small, helps make a difference for our children.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is a great time to join us! Whether you can spare an hour at an event or would like to help with planning and ideas, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch at [chairman@calcotschoolsptfa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@calcotschoolsptfa.co.uk)

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Diwali Sweet Sale—6th November**
- **Dress Down Day for Christmas Fayre Donations—27th November**
- **Christmas Fayre—11th December**

These events are always fantastic opportunities to bring our school community together while raising valuable funds for the children.

### **Could You Help Even More?**

We're currently seeking support with:

#### **Match Funding**

Many employers offer match funding for charity and community fundraising events. If you, a family member, or a friend work for a company that provides match funding, we'd love to hear from you. This can significantly increase the money we raise at our events.

#### **Raffle Prizes**

Our Christmas Fayre raffle is always a highlight of the festive season. If you know a local business that may be able to donate a prize, we'd be incredibly grateful. Donations can be sent to **Junior Reception**.

### **Where Does the Money Go?**

Every pound raised by the PTFA goes straight back into supporting our school and enriching the children's experience. Thanks to your generosity, we've already been able to contribute towards:

- A school trip for pupils
- New classroom equipment in the Infant School
- Development of the school allotment

These projects help create exciting learning opportunities and improve the school environment for all our children.

Thank you for being such a supportive and generous community. Together, we're helping to make Calcot Schools an even better place for our children to learn, grow and thrive.

**The Calcot Schools PTFA Team**



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**DESIGN YOUR OWN BOOKMARK!**

**Half-term competition**

Let your imagination shine!

Design the front and back of your bookmark on the competition template.



Judged by the Junior Librarians

Open to infants and juniors

**THE PRIZE**

A class set of bookmarks featuring your winning design!



**Entries due: Friday 13th November**

**Book your tickets here:**

<https://www.ticketsource.com/waltham-band>

*Celebrating 140 years of*  
**WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE SILVER BAND**

*It's Beginning  
to Look Like  
Christmas*

With CALCOT JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIR

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2026**

at 3.00pm

Loddon Hall, Twyford (RG10 9JA)

Adults: £12 online or

£15 on the door

Children 12 and under: £6

Under 3: FREE



[www.walthamband.com](http://www.walthamband.com)



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## Calcot Family Hub Timetable September-December 2026



### MONDAY

#### Outdoor Explorers Sessions

21st September  
5th and 19th October  
2nd, 16th, 30th Nov  
14th December  
10-11am  
Various locations: please see JRN

#### Basic Parent First Aid

Sessions:  
Monday 5th October  
10-12.30pm  
1 week course  
Calcot Hub

### TUESDAY

#### Baby Group

Starting: Tuesday 1st September  
9.30-11am  
St Oswald's Church, Burghfield

#### Dad's Group

Sessions:  
Tuesday 8th September  
Tuesday 13th October  
Tuesday 10th November  
Tuesday 8th December  
6-7pm  
Calcot Hub

### WEDNESDAY

#### Stay and Play

Starting: Wednesday 2nd September  
10-11.30am  
Calcot Hub

#### SEND Connections Sessions:

9th and 23rd September  
14th October  
11th and 25th November  
9th December  
1-2pm  
Calcot Hub

### THURSDAY

#### Stay and Play

Starting: Thursday 3rd September  
10-11.30am  
Theale Village Hall

#### Under 2's Messy Play

Starting: Thursday 3rd September  
1-2pm  
Term Time Only  
Beansheaf Community Centre

#### TogetherNESS: Toddler to Teen

Starting: Thursday 1st October  
12.30-2.30pm  
10 week parenting course  
Calcot Hub

### FRIDAY

#### BOOST

Starting: Friday 18th September  
1-2.30pm  
11 week well-being course  
Calcot Hub

#### Baby Massage

Starting: Friday 13th November  
10-11am  
4 week course  
Calcot Hub

Follow the QR code to explore West Berkshire Family Hubs and register today.



Follow the QR code to book online.



Calcot Family Hub, Curtis Road, Calcot, Reading, United Kingdom, RG31 4XG

## Calcot Family Hub Timetable October half term 2026



### MONDAY

No sessions today.

### TUESDAY

#### Baby Group

9.30-11am  
0-18 months  
St Oswald's Church, Burghfield

### WEDNESDAY

#### Cooking Club

Calcot Family Hub  
10-11am  
All ages welcome

11.15-12.15pm  
Open to children aged 7 and over only, who may be left to attend independently.

Booking is essential for these sessions.

### THURSDAY

#### Stay and Play

10-11.30am  
Theale Village Hall  
All ages welcome

#### Spooky Outdoor Explorers

Linear Park  
(Meet by the carpark)  
1.30-2.30pm  
All ages welcome

### FRIDAY

#### Art Club

Calcot Family Hub  
10-11am  
All ages welcome

11.15am-12.15am  
Open to children aged 7 and over only, who may be left to attend independently.

Booking is essential for these sessions

Follow the QR code to explore West Berkshire Family Hubs and register today.



Follow the QR code to book online.



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## Bikeability Holiday Courses 2026

Fun, safe, and professionally led  
Learn essential cycling skills  
Build confidence on the road

Learn to Ride  
(suitable for 8+ years)

Level 1 & 2 Combined  
Bikeability Course  
(suitable for 10+ years)

Level 3  
(suitable for 10+ years, must  
have completed Level 1 & 2)

For children aged 10 years and older | £25 per course\*

To book, please visit: <https://activetravel.wbcroadsafety.co.uk/>

SCAN ME



\*All our courses are run by DBS checked, fully-qualified Bikeability Instructors.  
Your child's bike must be fully road-worthy and the right size.  
Our Instructors have the right to refuse training if your child's bike is deemed unsafe.

everyone  
ACTIVE

Working in partnership



**Book the session here:**

<https://activetravel.wbcroadsafety.co.uk/>

**Book the camps here:**

<https://mnrcoaching.com/let-them-play-holiday-camps/>

Let them play!

# Multi-Activity and Football Holiday Camps

Open to Boys & Girls  
aged 5-12

MAIDENHEAD, NEWBURY, READING

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October  
Freaky Friday! Get Friday for just £5





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## Calcot Infant and Junior Schools

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Telephone 0118 9418189 (Infant) 0118 9428727 (Junior)  
Headteacher  
e-mail [office@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk) Mrs Florence Roston  
[office@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.calcotschools.co.uk](http://www.calcotschools.co.uk)

### Special Educational Needs (SEN) Teaching Assistant

Monday to Friday, up to 32.5 hours per week, Term time only  
(hours to be agreed with the successful candidate)  
Working pattern 8.30am-3.30pm with a 30 minute unpaid lunch break  
Salary: B3, £13,276 /hour  
Contract: Permanent

We are looking for a caring, patient and enthusiastic SEN Teaching Assistant to join our friendly team at Calcot Schools, supporting pupils with special educational needs to access learning and enjoy a positive school experience.

Working under the direction of the class teacher and SENCO, you will provide support to specific pupils within the classroom, helping them to engage in learning, develop their independence and participate as fully as possible in school life. You will also support pupils during lunchtime, helping to ensure they have a safe, happy and enjoyable experience.

The role will involve adapting your approach to meet individual pupils' needs, encouraging positive behaviour, building trusting relationships and working closely with teachers and other staff to support each child's progress, wellbeing and inclusion.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is caring, patient and understanding of the needs of children with SEND.
- Can build positive, supportive relationships with pupils and colleagues.
- Is calm, flexible and able to respond positively to changing needs.
- Can encourage pupils' confidence, independence and engagement in learning.
- Is proactive, uses their own initiative while following guidance from the class teacher and SENCO.
- Is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Previous experience of supporting children with special educational needs would be an advantage, although a positive attitude, a willingness to learn and a genuine commitment to helping children succeed are equally important.

If you are passionate about helping children overcome barriers to learning, develop their potential and feel valued as part of our school community, we would love to hear from you!

We warmly welcome visits to the school and would be pleased to show you around and introduce you to our team.

Closing Date: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Interviews: From 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.

If you would like to speak to us in more detail about this exciting role, or to arrange a visit, please contact our School Office on 0118 942 8727. For an application pack please visit our school website [www.calcotschools.co.uk](http://www.calcotschools.co.uk) under 'Contact Us', or email [ephilips@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:ephilips@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk)

Calcot Schools is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment and is in line with the guidance in KCSIE. All shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a criminal records self-disclosure form. Successful candidates will be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks along with other relevant employment checks including online searches to help identify any incidents and/or issues which may be relevant to your suitability for the role, which the school may want to explore further with you.



## Calcot Infant and Junior School

Curtis Road, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire RG31 4XG  
Headteacher - Mrs Florence Roston

### CASUAL CLEANER – STAFF ABSENCE COVER

Casual / Bank – As and when required  
Rate of pay: B3 – £14.88 per hour

We are looking for a reliable, flexible and hardworking Casual Cleaner to join our friendly cleaning team and provide cover for staff absences across our school site.

This is an as-and-when-required role, primarily to provide short-term cover when members of our cleaning team are absent. There are no guaranteed hours, and the amount of work available will vary according to the school's requirements.

We are looking for someone who takes pride in their work, has good attention to detail and understands the importance of maintaining a clean, safe and welcoming environment for our pupils and staff.

#### The role

- Cleaning duties will include:
- Vacuuming, sweeping and mopping floors
  - Dusting and wiping surfaces and touch points
  - Emptying bins
  - Cleaning toilets and other facilities
  - Maintaining high standards of cleanliness and hygiene throughout the school
  - Following the school's cleaning procedures and health and safety requirements

You may be asked to provide cover at short notice, so flexibility and reliability are essential. Previous cleaning experience would be an advantage, although full training will be provided for the right candidate.

The successful candidate will need to work independently, use their initiative and be able to maintain high standards while working as part of our wider school team.

#### Why work with us?

This is a useful opportunity for someone looking for flexible, occasional work, with the possibility of being contacted when cleaning cover is required. We are a friendly school community and would welcome applications from people who are dependable, conscientious and take pride in doing a job well.

#### How to apply

For further information or an application pack, please contact the school office on 0118 9428727 or email [ephilips@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:ephilips@calcot-jun.w-berks.sch.uk).

We warmly welcome visits to the school and would be pleased to show you around and introduce you to our team.  
Closing date: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October

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Website: [www.calcotschools.co.uk](http://www.calcotschools.co.uk)

### Lunchtime Assistants

Monday to Friday 11.55am – 1.10pm, Term time only

Grade B SCP3 (£13.27 per hour)  
(Actual salary £3,651)

This post is offered on a Permanent basis

We are looking for hardworking, reliable and enthusiastic Lunchtime Assistants to join our friendly team and support our pupils during lunchtime. This rewarding role involves setting up and cleaning tables, supervising children while they eat, and actively engaging with them during play. You will help to ensure that children have a safe, happy and enjoyable lunchtime.

Candidates must be happy to work outdoors in all weathers, be proactive, and able to use initiative. You should enjoy working with children and be confident in helping them resolve minor disagreements or friendship issues. You will also need to be creative in coming up with fun, inclusive games and activities that all children can enjoy.

If you are enthusiastic, caring, and a great team player, we would love to hear from you!

We warmly welcome visits to the school.

Closing Date: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2026

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Website: [www.calcotschools.co.uk](http://www.calcotschools.co.uk)

### Level 3 Teaching Assistant (or Working Towards)

Monday to Friday 12.00pm – 5.30pm, Term time only  
Grade D SCP 5-9 (£13.70-£14.36 per hour)  
(Actual salary £16,650 – £18,138) dependent on experience

This post is offered on a Fixed term basis until 31.08.27 with the opportunity to be extended

We are looking for an enthusiastic, caring and reliable Level 3 Teaching Assistant, or someone working towards a Level 3 qualification, to join our friendly team at Calcot Schools.

This is a varied afternoon role, supporting children across different parts of our school day, including lunchtime, Nursery and our after-school club.

Your duties will include supporting children during lunchtime, helping to provide a safe and enjoyable environment; assisting in our Nursery to support children's learning, development and wellbeing; and working as part of our after-school club team to provide fun, engaging and inclusive activities.

We are looking for someone who enjoys working with children, is patient and approachable, and can build positive relationships with children and colleagues. You will need to be flexible, proactive and able to use your own initiative, adapting to the different needs of children and activities throughout the afternoon.

Experience of working with children in an educational or childcare setting is essential.

If you are enthusiastic, caring and passionate about helping children learn, develop and enjoy their time at school, we would love to hear from you!

We warmly welcome visits to the school and would be pleased to show you around and introduce you to our team.

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## Nursery

Autumn has been a big focus this month, and we have explored the changing season in lots of exciting ways! The children have enjoyed investigating pumpkins, conkers, acorns, leaves and autumn spices, creating with playdough, painting pumpkins, making autumn soup in our mud kitchen and collecting natural treasures on our walks. We have also started our monthly baking sessions, making delicious apple, banana and cinnamon oaty bites! Each month, we will prepare a different healthy recipe to help children explore new foods, develop an understanding of healthy eating and practise important skills such as counting, measuring, mixing and following instructions. These experiences support several areas of the EYFS, including communication and language, physical development, mathematics and understanding the world.

Now that the children have built lovely relationships with their friends and grown-ups, we are focusing on developing communication and modelling positive interactions, imaginative play and new vocabulary. The Butterflies have been enjoying daily Bucket Time, using exciting objects and activities to develop attention, listening, anticipation and shared engagement. The Dragonflies have been enjoying daily group times with their key workers, learning nursery rhymes, listening to stories and having fun with Dough Disco to strengthen their hand and finger muscles. We have also introduced early maths and phonics sessions through playful activities, songs and games, developing listening and attention skills, exploring sounds and practising early counting. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence, exploring new experiences and enjoying their learning together!

## Reception

It has been another wonderful month in Reception! The children have continued to grow in confidence, embrace new learning opportunities and develop their independence in the classroom. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm as they explore new activities, share their ideas and learn together.

In Phonics, the children have been learning new sounds, while practising their reading skills and using magnetic letters to build words. We have enjoyed exploring 'My Hair and Foggy Foggy Forest' in the Drawing Club, developing our vocabulary, describing characters and settings, and creating our own labelled drawings. In Maths, we have focused on numbers 1, 2 and 3, exploring patterns and quantities before beginning to investigate one more and one less using practical resources. We have also focused on the shapes circle and triangle.

The children have also enjoyed creating salt dough sculptures inspired by Picasso, exploring musical instruments and developing their handwriting through fun activities to strengthen their fingers and hands. In PE, we have practised different movements, including jumping, hopping and dancing. We have also been thinking about kindness, teamwork and understanding our feelings. As part of Black History Month, we learnt about the inspiring Katherine Johnson and how her love of maths helped her become a pioneering NASA mathematician.

Thank you for your continued support. We are so proud of the children's progress and look forward to another month of exciting learning in Reception!





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## Year 1

What a busy and exciting few weeks we have had in Year 1! The children have continued to work incredibly hard, and we are so proud of all the fantastic learning they have been doing.

In English, we have been enjoying the story of 'Chicken Licken'. The children have loved getting to know the different characters and have been using their knowledge of the story to write some wonderful character descriptions. We have been really impressed with their ideas and the effort they have put into their writing!

In Science, we have been learning all about materials, including materials that can be recycled, such as cardboard, plastic and paper. We have been exploring their different properties and investigating whether they are waterproof. The children particularly enjoyed our exciting boat-making investigation, where they had to choose materials to make a boat that would float and keep their teddy safe and dry! We discovered that although cardboard can float for a short period of time, it is not waterproof and eventually becomes soggy. The children were able to explain that plastic was the best material for our boats because it floated and kept the teddy dry! We had lots of fun testing our creations and making some brilliant scientific discoveries.

Finally, we would like to say a huge well done to all the children for their hard work this half term! We hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term break, filled with lots of fun and family time.

### Reminders:

- Library books are changed every Monday, so please make sure your child brings their current library book back to school in order to choose a new one.
- Homework is sent home every Friday in your child's reading folder, along with their new phonics books. Please continue to read with your child every day, as regular reading makes such a difference to their confidence, fluency and progress.

## Year 2

In English, we have been getting creative in English by designing and making our very own disgusting sandwiches! From wet jelly and stinky toothpaste to sharp pencil sharpenings, we certainly came up with some revolting combinations! We then used imperative verbs to write instructions explaining how to make our disgusting creations. With Halloween just around the corner, why not have a go at making your own disgusting sandwich at home? Just be prepared for plenty of mess!

In Maths, we have continued to develop our understanding of two-digit numbers. We have been partitioning numbers into tens and ones, comparing numbers using inequality symbols and practising our mathematical vocabulary, including greater than, less than, bigger and smaller. We have also been comparing addition and subtraction calculations to decide which equations are greater or smaller. We have been working hard to explain our thinking and use the correct mathematical language.

In History, we have continued our learning about the Tudors and have now moved on to the fascinating life of King Henry VIII! We have been exploring his lifestyle, how he changed Tudor England and his determination to have a son to inherit the throne. We discovered that he had six wives and that his third wife, Jane Seymour, gave birth to his first surviving son, Edward, who later became king. The children have been fascinated by his life as king, and we have been discussing what made him such a memorable Tudor monarch!

### Reminders:

- **Tuesday:** Library and Forest School. Please make sure children come dressed appropriately for Forest School and bring suitable footwear.
- **Wednesday:** PE day. Please ensure children come to school wearing their PE kit.
- Please remember that spelling tests are on a **Friday**. We understand that the spellings are tricky, but 5 minutes of practice a day makes a huge difference.



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## Junior School Update

### Year 3

What a fabulous few weeks of learning we have had in Year 3! The children have been fully immersed in all things **Stone Age**, and it really does feel as though we have travelled back in time!

In **History**, we have been exploring what life was like during the Neolithic period. It was wonderful to bring our learning to life during our trip to **Stonehenge**, where the children had the opportunity to explore Neolithic houses and see fascinating examples of cave paintings, animal fur and Stone Age weapons. It was such an exciting experience and really helped the children imagine what life would have been like thousands of years ago!



In **Literacy**, the children have been busy retelling the story of 'Stone Age Boy', using subordinating conjunctions, expanded noun phrases and descriptive vocabulary to bring their writing to life. We have been so impressed with their creativity and the progress they have made!

One of our highlights was undoubtedly our **Stone Age Day**! The children had a fantastic time getting stuck into a range of hands-on activities. We created cave paintings underneath our tables using natural pigments such as turmeric, paprika and cocoa powder, made our very own clay pinch pots, watched Mr Lally demonstrate how to make Stone Age tools and weapons using slate and flint, and even built our own Stonehenge structures out of Bourbon biscuits! It was a brilliant day filled with excitement, creativity and lots of laughter!

Finally, we would like to say a **massive well done** to all of our wonderful Year 3 children for their hard work, enthusiasm and resilience throughout this term.

**We hope you all have a wonderful, restful half-term break. You have certainly earned it!**

### Year 4

Year 4 have had a lovely few weeks! We have been studying 'The Wild Robot' and have finally come to the end of our wonderful unit. The children have written some fantastic retells, using their knowledge of **expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials**, and their excellent grammar and punctuation skills. We have really enjoyed reading their writing and seeing how much progress they have already made.

In **Geography**, we have continued our study of Australia. The children have learnt all about the **Great Barrier Reef**, the physical and natural features of the land, famous landmarks and climate zones. It has been a fun and very interesting topic, and the children have enjoyed developing their geographical knowledge.

In **PE**, the children have really tried to think carefully about their **core strength and posture**. They have been developing their gymnastics skills and learning how to create sequences using different rolls, including the **straddle, pike and cartwheel**. They have worked brilliantly in pairs to create and perform sequences of movements using **copying, mirror image and cannon**. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and teamwork grow!

We were really excited for the end of term so we could watch 'The Wild Robot film'! We couldn't wait to see how the story we have loved reading came to life. What a lovely way to finish our unit!

### Reminders:

- Please complete the medical form for the trip to the Roald Dahl Museum on Thursday 19th November using this link <https://forms.gle/XMDMyUKJXY9Sy5Co6>



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## Year 5

Year 5 have had a wonderful few weeks full of learning, the highlight of the month has definitely been the visit from the Fire Service. The children really enjoyed learning all about fire safety and discovering what the firefighters do to help keep us safe. They were fascinated by the incredible tools and equipment on the fire truck — and even the teachers couldn't resist having a go!

In Literacy, the children have continued reading *The Explorer* and have produced some fantastic narrative writing inspired by the story. They have worked hard to use commas correctly and to include rich, descriptive language to bring their writing to life. In Maths, Year 5 has been exploring positive and negative numbers and learning how they appear in real-life situations — such as reading thermometers, measuring building levels, and working with money. In Geography, the class has been thinking about how animals adapt to their environments. They used this knowledge to design their very own hybrid rainforest animals, combining creativity and scientific understanding to create some truly marvellous new species!

It's been a fantastic half-term, and we are so proud of how hard the children have worked. We hope you all have a lovely break and we look forward to the children sharing their homework with us upon their return.

### Reminders:

- Please complete the medical form for the trip to the Winchester on Thursday 5th November using this link <https://forms.gle/ihr9WKwpBN6b1EjJ7> All payments must be made by Friday 23rd October.

## Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed a busy and varied few weeks! We took part in a Guinness World Record attempt for the most people reading at the same time - a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our love of books! We will find out soon if the attempt was successful.

In English, a fictional news report claiming that children would have to attend school on Saturdays prompted plenty of discussion! This provided the inspiration for our complaint letters, helping us explore how to express our views clearly and persuasively using formal language.

In PE, the children have celebrated successes with vaulting and incorporated rhythmic equipment into their gymnastics work. Our French lessons are also going well, with pupils developing their language skills. In History, we have been exploring the events in between the end of the First World War and the beginning of World War Two. In Geography, we are learning about tectonic plates and how they can cause different natural disasters. Our Science lessons investigating light and light phenomena have now concluded and we shall be moving on to learn about the Human Body next half-term.

As part of World Mental Health Day and 'Hello Yellow', we created personal wellbeing toolkits, thinking about strategies that can help us manage our feelings and look after our mental health. We have also been working on Remembrance art, taking time to reflect on the importance of remembering those affected by war.

Thank you for supporting your children to complete homework - please remember that we are here to support if your child is struggling to complete it at any point.

We wish you all a happy half-term break!

### Reminders:

- Please complete the medical form for the trip to the Imperial War Museum on the 12th November using this link <https://forms.gle/agpq2VqhyPTanJmXA>
- Please complete the permission form for your child to attend the Ebenezer scrooge performance at Theale Green on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. <https://forms.gle/ZF9zrWdtuYSjysqt9> The children will travel by coach and to help cover the cost of transport, we kindly request a voluntary contribution of £6 per child. Payment can be made via MCAS.



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## Infant School Certificates

### October Stars of the week

RAM - Tiya, Bonnie, Gabby, Tayah, Anam and Qadra

RDR - Neo, Zachy, Rebeka, Ruby, Aiden and Amira

#### Year 1

1AM - Oscar, Ella, Ashyro, Ember, Jordan, Madison, Ava Rose and Rosie

1VW - Lianna, Matthew, Rayna, Freddie, Archer, Nylah, Liam and Matthew

#### Year 2

2SA - Everlie, Arthur S, Toby, Luca, Poppy, Noah, Julian and Isla

2FD - Charlie, Myrah, Eden, Ishmael, Hope, Jacob, Dalia and Ishmael

### October Manners Badges

Year 1 - Ashyro

## Infant School Attendance

**Week ending 25th September-** Attendance **100%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Drew's class, well done!

**Week ending 2nd October** - Attendance **99%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Drew's class, well done!

**Week ending 9th October** - Attendance **98.3%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Wood's and Miss Rackley's class, well done!

**Week ending 16th October** - Attendance **98.6%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Drew's class, well done!

**Year to date Attendance 95.3%**



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## Junior School Certificates

### October Stars of the week

#### Year 3

3WM: Aila, Kayden, Erin, Joshua, Florence and Yazhini

3RT: Etty, Ruben, Oakley, Junior, Renaya and Andrew

#### Year 4

4DP: Sophie, Eubridge, Albie and Freya

4MB: Amelia, Dylan, Eliot, Frankie, Reeva and Jake

#### Year 5

5AB – Harry, Hajra, Tessa, Imran, Laia Sofia, Lucas B, Alyssia and Lilah-Mae

5LH – Ethan R, Aisha, Eshaal, Mason, Amelia N, Sahara, Lottie and Sophie

#### Year 6

6RS – Aareez, Wali, Louis, Edna, Oskar, David, Shiloh and Alice

6SL – Saraya, Thea, Chase, Laray, Caelan, Ajeebah, Kye and Elia

### October Manners Badges

**Year 3:** Naliah, Jastin and Lucy

**Year 4:** Khaza,

**Year 5:** Luke C, Lucas, Ethan J and Dylan

**Year 6:** Izfaar, Noah, Marley and Jorgie

### Junior School Attendance YTD

**Week ending 25th September-** Attendance **99%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Stephenson-Lewis' class, well done!

**Week ending 2nd October** - Attendance **98.7%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Stephenson-Lewis' class, well done!

**Week ending 9th October** - Attendance **98.7%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Stephenson-Lewis' class, well done!

**Week ending 16th October** - Attendance **99%** Attendance Certificate awarded to Miss Stephenson-Lewis' class, well done!

**Year to date Attendance 96.3%**