

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY 2025



UPDATE FROM MR ASKEW

Dear All

I hope you enjoy the first newsletter of 2025. There are lots of articles sharing some of the excellent learning and activities that have been taking place in school recently. As well as information about upcoming events, including World Book Day.

I also wanted to share with you some new initiatives that we are launching this half term. Firstly, we are launching a Zones of Regulation approach across the whole school, which is intended to support pupils' mental health by helping pupils to be able to understand and communicate about feelings. It will also equip pupils with some strategies to support their regulation during the day helping them to access their learning better and contribute towards their wellbeing.

Last year, children in our reception class were part of an Anglian Learning Trust Project called "Creative Collaboratives". The intention of this project was to bring more opportunities for children to follow their own interests and develop their learning skills. Following on from the success of this project, children in years 2,3 and 4 will be starting an approach to develop their meta cognition skills. This is going to be called Project Time and will replace golden time.

There is some further information later in this newsletter about these two initiatives, and as always, your feedback will be appreciated once we get going.

BOTTISHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Children's Mental Health Week 2025 – 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'

Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2025 is taking place from 3-9 February in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the Inside Out 2 characters.



In school this term, the children have been learning how to develop their emotional awareness in our Key Stage assemblies. During Children's Mental Health Week, we will be launching a new whole-school initiative in each class, based on The Zones of Regulation™ framework. This is an internationally renowned, evidence-based approach which aims to teach children to recognise and communicate their feelings in a safe and non-judgemental way and to develop tools to help empower them to manage and regulate their feelings effectively.

Further detailed information on how we will use this framework at school will be provided in a separate communication to parents and carers during Children's Mental Health Week. We will also give you some ideas should you wish to adopt some of the language of the framework and strategies at home.

For those parents interested in finding out more in the meantime, please visit: <https://zonesofregulation.com/how-it-works/>



Project Time

Last year, the children in our reception class were part of an Anglian Learning Trust Project called "Creative Collaboratives". The intention of this project was to bring more opportunities for children to follow their own interests and develop their learning skills.

Following on from the successes of this project, now the children in years 2,3 and 4 are embarking on their own exciting venture which we are calling "Project Time".

What is Project Time?

Once every fortnight, the children will be given a session in school where they will have a chance to choose from a range of projects they would like to pursue. There will be an overarching theme and then a selection of solo or joint activities to choose from. There will be links to various areas of the National Curriculum and children will have the chance to apply their learning in a project of their choosing.

What is the purpose of Project Time?

An opportunity for children to engage in pupil-led learning.

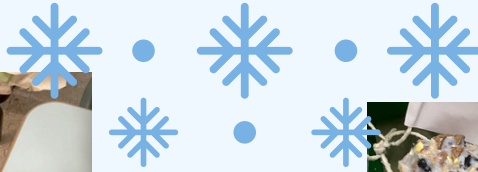
An opportunity for children to apply their curriculum learning in an independent project.

Allow children opportunities to develop wider learning skills e.g. collaboration, forward planning, creative thinking, making connections.

Give children opportunities to have pride in their own work and their ideas.

After a period of time, we will review the impact of this project to evaluate its merits in line with the intended outcomes. We hope the children will enjoy this new feature of our school curriculum and embrace the new learning opportunities it will offer. If you have any questions about this project, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mr Askew/Mrs Palmer.

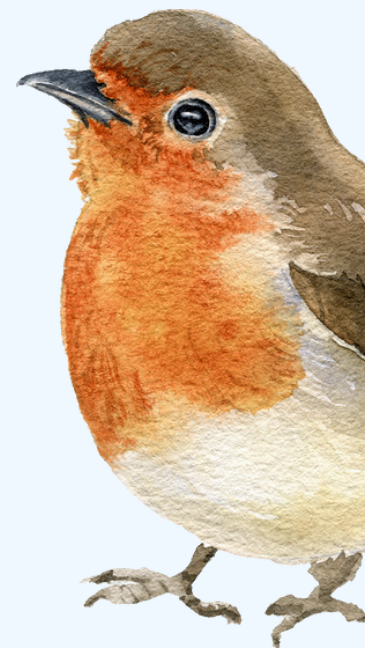
Acorns Pre-school

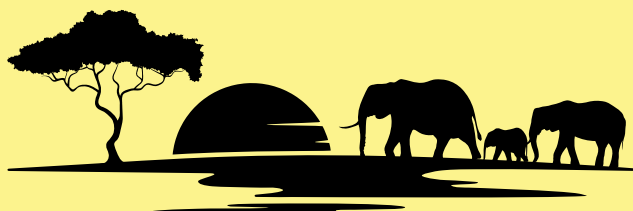


Since the start of term, Acorn Preschool Class have been exploring winter. We have been learning about winter weather, winter games and winter clothes. The children have been thinking about animals that live in cold climates and what would happen to them if all the snow and ice melted.

In creative activities the children have combined painting and collage techniques to create a wonderful penguin and snowman display for our classroom.

Finally, to mark the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch Event (January 24th - January 26th), some of the children have made pinecone birdfeeders.





Year 3 and 4

In Year 3/4, we have been looking at stories from different cultures in our English lessons. Our story was named Zahra and it was about a little girl who works really hard to save an Acacia tree in her African village. To explore this even more and to immerse ourselves in our writing, we made our own African villages. We had so much fun thinking about the colours and the buildings. It really made us feel like we were there in person. Just look at some of our amazing work:





Burwell House Residential



In late December, Year 4 went to Burwell House. They had lots of fun and really enjoyed being out in nature.

It was amazing for them to share the experiences with their friends and have a sleep over for 1 whole night (a few hours for some)! They did lots of team building exercises and enjoyed some delicious food.



★ Star Writers



These are our Star Writers so far this academic year. Parents are very welcome to come and view their writing in our welcome area on display.





World Book Day

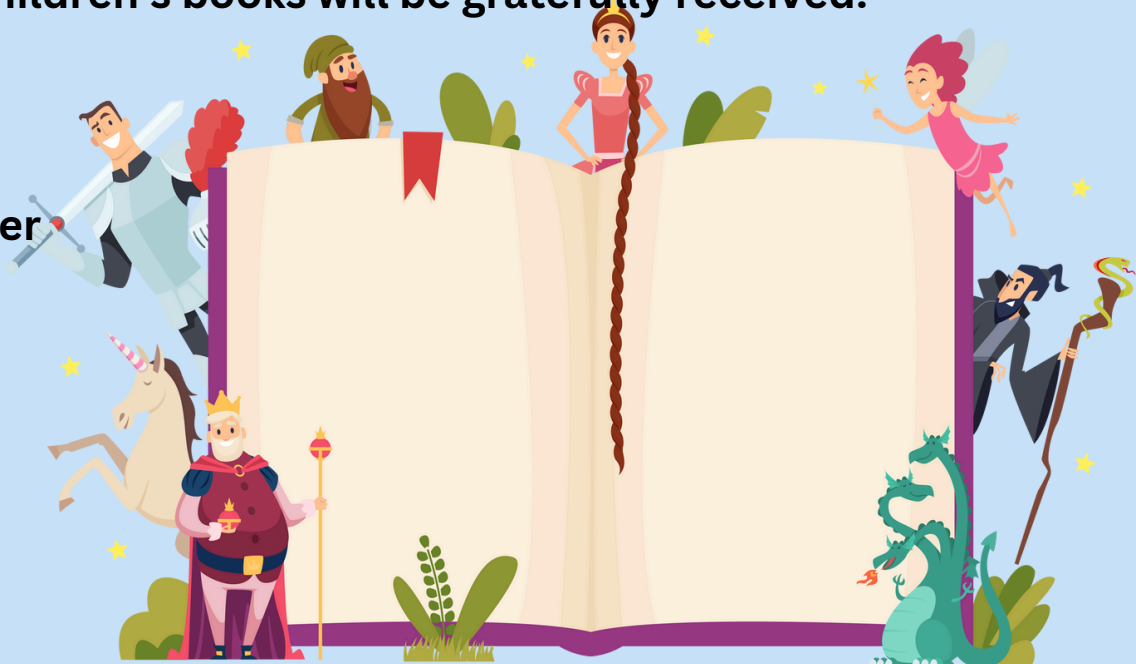
We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March**. As always, we want to get the most out of the day, to encourage and inspire reading for pleasure. We are pleased to announce we have booked a local author to join us for the day. Children (and adults 😊) can also come dressed up as their favourite book character. This year, to keep things simple, your child could come dressed as an adjective e.g. frilly, fancy, posh - princess dress. Scary, terrifying - monster, ghost. Cruel, mean, evil, bad - pirate, witch. More ideas will be sent in a letter soon!

If any parent would like to volunteer to come in at the end of the school day and share part of your favourite book with the class, please speak to your child's class teacher.

There will also be a chance to buy second hand books after school on the day, run by our fantastic year 6 librarians. Any donations of good quality children's books will be gratefully received.

Thanks!

Mrs Walker



Year 5 and 6



This week, the children in Year 5/6 participated in a series of nutrition and healthy eating workshops. It was great to see them showcasing their existing knowledge while also developing their understanding of healthy eating and making informed nutritional choices. The workshops are part of our ongoing commitment at Bottisham Primary School to take a holistic approach, combining active lunchtimes with healthy eating. Our aim is to equip children with the tools they need to develop lifelong healthy habits.

School Events

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 16 th January	Reception/Yr 6 Weight/Height check
Thursday 6 th February	Oak Class Assembly – 2.30pm
Monday 10-13 th February	Year 5 <u>Bikeability</u>
Friday 14 th February	Professional Training Day (school closed)
Monday 17 th -21 st February	Half Term
Friday 28 th February	Year 4 <u>Bikeability</u>
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 12 th March	Year 1 & 2 Hedingham Castle Trip
Tuesday 18 th March	Parents Consultations
Thursday 20 th March	Parents Consultations
Thursday 20 th March	Mother's Day PTA Event
Tuesday 25 th March	Rocksteady Spring Concert
Thursday 27 th March	Bentley Photographic (Class/Leavers photo's)
Tuesday 1 st April	Year 3 & 4 Production
Wednesday 2 nd April	Year 3 & 4 Production
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 3 & 4 Production
Friday 4 th April	PTA Easter <u>crafternoon/cakes</u> 3.30-5.30
Monday 7 th -22 nd April	Easter Break

PTA Events

Event	Date	Time/Location
Silver Smarties (Acorns to Y4)	Throughout Feb/Mar	Deadline 14 th March 2025
Young Apprentices (Y5 & Y6)	Throughout Feb/Mar	Showcase Friday 7 th March 2025 Deadline 14 th March 2025
Mother's Day	20 th March 2025	9 am
Easter crafternoon and cakes	4 th April 2025	3:30 - 5:30 in the hall
Mr Green Marathon event fancy dress run to coincide	27 th April 2025	TBD
Lolly Fridays	From 25 th April 2025	After school on field
Film night	2 nd May	After school in the hall
Father's Day	5 th June 2025	9 am
Summer fair/Circus**	Friday 4 th July	Field 5 – 7:30 pm
End of year disco and leavers party	Mon 21 st July 2025 (Term ends 23 rd July)	5 – 8 pm School hall

School Menu for the Spring 2025

MENU WEEK 1		SERVED W/C: 6 th Jan 27 th Jan 17 th Feb 10 th Mar 31 st Mar			Innovate IFG
	Classic main meal	VEGETARIAN MAIN MEAL	Sides	FILLED ROLLS	SWEET TREATS
MONDAY	Creamy Tomato & Salmon Pasta	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, with Wedges	Sweetcorn	Ham Roll Cheese Roll	Strawberry Yoghurt with Strawberry Sauce
TUESDAY	Classic Beef Lasagna	Vegetarian Lasagna	Italian Vegetables	Chicken Roll Egg Mayonnaise Roll	Original Flapjack
WEDNESDAY	Roast Gammon & Gravy	Vegan Sausage Puff & Gravy	Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables (Carrots, Swede & Leek)	Ham Roll Cheese Roll	Strawberry Jelly & Mandarins
THURSDAY	Creamy Chicken Korma with Mixed Rice	Baked Mac & Cheese	Tomato, Cucumber & Carrot Salad	Tuna Mayonnaise Roll Cheese Roll	Apple & Chocolate Sponge with Custard
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers & Chips	Vegan Vegetable Nuggets & Chips	Baked Beans	Ham Roll Egg Mayonnaise Roll	Vegan Lemon Shortbread

AVAILABLE DAILY	SALAD AND HOMEMADE BREAD <small>served with all main meals</small>	BAKED POTATO <small>topped with Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Baked Beans</small>	FRESHLY COOKED PASTA	A CHOICE OF JELLY, FRUIT OR YOGHURT
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Attendance

This year we have set an ambitious target of 96% for our overall school attendance. The national benchmark is for an academic year is 95%, and last year our attendance was 94% We would appreciate all of your help to achieve our target.

Current attendance in each Year Group:



Reception - 94.76

Year 1 - 96.3

Year 2 - 95.5

Year 3 - 96.1

Year 4 - 96.9

Year 5 - 95.2

Year 6 - 96.5

Data Protection

Thank you to parents for completing the data collection sheets regards use of photographs. We will be reminding parents who have not yet completed these forms to do so over the next few weeks. Can we also remind you that you can opt out at any time for your child's photograph to be used by any third party

Safeguarding



We take the Safeguarding of the pupils at Bottisham Community Primary School as our upmost priority. If you have any worries about a young person, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to a member of our designated safeguarding team. Alternatively you can email head@bottishamprimary.org¹