



Spring Common Academy Parents & Carers End of Term Newsletter

[A message from Rebecca, Headteacher](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we step into spring, we are excited to share some wonderful updates and highlights from our school community.

March Reading and Phonics Audit

Our recent Reading and Phonics Audit, conducted in partnership with the English Hub, provided valuable insights into our strengths and areas for growth. We have incorporated these findings into our Teaching and Learning Development Plan to ensure continuous improvement in literacy across the school.

Enhancing Literacy Through the Foyle Grant

Thanks to the generous support of the Foyle grant, we have been able to purchase a range of new texts and literacy resources for use throughout the school. These resources will enhance our library spaces and improve literacy learning for all pupils. We look forward to rolling out these improvements after Easter.

World Book Day – A Celebration of Reading

World Book Day was a joyful occasion, with many of our pupils dressing up as their favourite book characters. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for books, and we appreciate the support from families in making the day so special.

Welcoming New Families

We are currently in the process of meeting potential pupils for our new Early Years class starting in September. It is always a pleasure to welcome new families into our school community, and we look forward to building strong partnerships in the coming months.

International Connections – Belgian Student Visit

We recently hosted sixth form students from St Niklaas in Belgium as part of our international schools collaboration. These students shadowed our staff, gaining insight into the workings of our school while developing their employment and social skills. Our pupils also benefited from engaging with new people and showcasing their learning. The feedback from our visitors has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are excited to continue this partnership. Next term, a small group of our students will be visiting Belgium as part of this ongoing project.

LA Academy

We are very fortunate to have both a hydro and main swimming pool at school and our children benefit greatly from them in terms of health and independence skills. To support with the high costs of repairs and ongoing maintenance, we have been hiring out the facilities for some time.

During the summer term, we plan to increase the hiring to be daily after school and at weekends. In addition to support with pools costs and long-term viability, this will enable local children and SCA pupils to access swimming lessons via one of the hiring companies. This is a separate arrangement to school and any interested family should contact the providers direct.

Details of one of our new providers, LA Academy, has already been sent out via parentmail, but is also below for ease. For any SCA children attending after school swimming with a hire company, they do need to be collected from school at 3:05pm and supervised until swim lessons begin at 3:30pm.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our school community. We look forward to a busy and productive term ahead.

Rebecca

A message from Leigh, Deputy Headteacher

The shortest term of the year often feels like it is over almost as soon as it has begun, but despite this brevity it has been wonderful to see how much classes have packed in to the past few weeks!

Drier conditions than last year have been conducive to more learning happening outside of the classroom, whether in our wooded area or outside of the school gates. We are really proud to have had some beautiful feedback from members of the community as to how well behaved our pupils are when out and about.

This time of the year sees lots of visitors being hosted in classes, and once again we have received many compliments about the positive attitude of all our pupils.

As well as looking outside, we have turned our gaze inward with a Spring Common Spring Clean, to help keep our learning environments looking their best. I am looking forward to celebrating classes which have maintained, or improved, their a high standards of care. I know from speaking to many parents that you are rightfully pleased and impressed when your young people help out at home, and we expect the same at school, so classes have been working on empowering learners to take responsibility for their environment.

As ever at the end of term, I am also incredibly privileged to award Spring Common Stars to those pupils who have demonstrated great citizenship over the term.

Pupil Survey Spring 2025

Every year we survey our young people to find out what they think and feel about their school. Feedback from pupils was really positive, but we don't take this for granted: every day we are learning and looking at ways to make our school the best it can be. The survey results do show the impact of the day to day work by our staff, with lots of lovely comments from pupils about the kindness, help and support offered to them.

- 80% of our pupils strongly agreed that they like being at school.(94% agreed or strongly agreed)
- 77% of our pupils strongly agreed that they have friends at school (95% agreed or strongly agreed)
- 92% of our pupils strongly agreed that the adults at school look after me (99% agreed or strongly agreed)
- 85% of our pupils strongly agreed that they know how to ask for help at school (96% agreed or strongly agreed)
- 82% of our pupils strongly agreed that they feel safe at school (98% agreed or strongly agreed)

Suggestions for making school even better included having more things to do outside, having more quiet spaces and spaces to calm down, and more trips out of school.

Our pupils said:

“Amazing, really good, all the people are good to me.”

“School is good at helping me learn.”

“The grown-ups look after me.”

“School is brilliant because I’m with friends.”

“You help me with everything, you don’t need to make it better.”

Take care! Leigh

An update from Sam, Assistant Headteacher

I say this in every newsletter, but time really does fly!

It has been another productive and exciting term at school. The spring term is always a time of growth, and I find it’s when classes truly flourish. Routines are firmly in place, expectations are understood, and progress is evident across the school. The improving weather certainly helps too!

One of the biggest highlights this term was the grand opening of our Early Years provision. It has been wonderful to see each child settle into school life so seamlessly. A huge well done to our EY team for creating such a nurturing and engaging environment.

Key Stage 1 continues to amaze me with the brilliant learning happening every day. Our teachers are providing inspiring, hands-on, and practical activities—there’s been plenty of messy, exploratory learning, which is fantastic to see!

In Key Stage 2, our students are making great strides in their learning journeys. What stands out the most is how many of them are stepping up as role models, supporting their peers and demonstrating our school values in action. It’s always a pleasure to visit the classrooms and see their enthusiasm and dedication.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter—just don’t eat too much chocolate!

A message from Shari, Safeguarding Lead & Assistant Headteacher

PREVENT is a government initiative aimed at identifying and supporting individuals who may be at risk of being drawn into harmful or extremist ideologies. The goal is to offer support early on, ensuring that young people and families have access to the help they need before problems escalate. If you are worried that something is not right, more information can be

found on the ACT Early website or speak to a member of the PREVENT Team 01480 422277 for advice. [Tips for talking about radicalisation | ACT Early](#).

Child safety on YouTube Kids

What's the problem?

[YouTube Kids](#) automatically filters out most inappropriate content for children aged 12 and under. But no automated system is perfect, so it may not catch everything.

Videos that look like they're child-friendly could include violent or disturbing content. They might be suggested videos, or appear in search results.

5 steps to take to help keep your child safe.

YouTube Kids takes you through parental controls when you set it up. Make sure you set yourself up as a parent and then add child accounts.

You can set it up on the website (<https://www.youtubekids.com/>) or download the app. Once you're set up, follow the steps below.

1. Set parental controls to help protect your child from seeing inappropriate content

- You can set content settings so your child only sees videos intended for certain ages (4 and under, 5 to 7, and 8 to 12), or so they only see videos you approve. You choose this during the set-up process, or can change this after set-up
- You can also turn off search so your child can only see recommended videos under each category in the home screen, and can't search for videos

To do either of these things, go to the following page and select the relevant tab for your device, then scroll down to 'Change your child's content level settings' or 'Turn off search':

<https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6172308>

2. Block videos or channels that you don't want your child to watch

You can block specific channels and videos from both your linked parent account and the YouTube Kids app.

You can find instructions here: <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/7178746>

3. Report inappropriate content

YouTube Kids filters and safeguards against inappropriate content, but can't guarantee complete safety. Make sure your child knows how to report content that makes them uncomfortable or that upsets them.

You can find instructions here: <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6130562>

4. Set a timer to limit time on the app

You can set a screen time limit on YouTube Kids to encourage healthy habits.

See this page to find out how: <https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6130558>

5. Turn off auto play

Auto play allows related content to play after the current video has finished.

To find out how to block it, go to the following page and select the relevant tab for your device, then scroll down to 'Turn off auto play':

<https://support.google.com/youtubekids/answer/6172308>

Attendance Newsletter March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Spring Common Academy, we believe that regular attendance is essential for a child's academic and social success.

We are excited to share with you some of the ways we are promoting excellent attendance and celebrating the hard work of our students. We recognise that many of our children achieve good attendance, for them, despite their medical barriers and have incorporated inclusive opportunities via class based achievements and improved attendance. Together, we can make sure every child has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Why Attendance Matters

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- **Achieve better academic results:** Consistent attendance allows students to engage fully in lessons and develop stronger learning habits.
- **Build positive social connections:** Regular attendance helps students form friendships and integrate better into school life.
- **Develop strong life skills:** Good attendance teaches responsibility, punctuality, and the importance of being prepared.

Weekly and Half-Term Incentives

To celebrate and encourage excellent attendance, we have introduced a range of exciting **attendance incentives**:

Weekly Best Class Attendance Award

- Every week, the class with the highest attendance will receive a **Certificate of Excellence**.
- The winning class will also be awarded the **Attendance Trophy**, which will be presented during our weekly assembly.
- **Lower school classes** will have the **Attendance Mascot Teddy** visit them for the week, offering a fun and motivational way to celebrate their success.

Half-Term Forest School Treasure Hunt for Summer 2025

- Each half-term, the class with the **best overall attendance** will earn a special **Forest School Treasure Hunt**. This adventure is a fun way for students to enjoy outdoor learning while celebrating their commitment to being at school. The first treasure hunt will be Easter themed and take place on the first week back after holiday between the 22nd and 25th April. Parents of the winning class will be notified and dietary requirements can be catered for.

Certificates for Individual Achievements

- At the end of each half-term, we will recognise **individual students** who have shown **excellent attendance** or **improved attendance**.
- These students will receive a **Certificate of Achievement** during our celebration assembly, highlighting their dedication and commitment.

Our Current Attendance Rates

As of now, our overall attendance rate for the years is **85.7%**. We have made a small improvement in attendance this half term in comparison to last. Whilst we are happy with the progress, we know that by working together, we can achieve even better results. Every school day counts, and your child's attendance plays an important role in their success.

How You Can Help

We encourage you to help your child establish a **consistent morning routine** and ensure they arrive on time each day. If your child is absent due to illness or another reason, please contact us as soon as possible to let us know. Regular communication helps us support you and your child more effectively.

Let's Keep Up the Great Work!

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students have made and the dedication our families have shown in ensuring good attendance. By continuing to support one another, we can create an environment where every child feels motivated to come to school and make the most of their educational journey.

Well done to the follow pupils who have improved their attendance this half term:

Finley A

Rose B

Antos

Brooklyn

Taye

Matilda

Jack H

Freddie L

Ryan O

James P

Mo

Sofia

Tyler

Colby

Jack W

Naeem

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to celebrating our students' attendance achievements throughout the year!

Kind regards,

Shari Welsford

[Parent & Carer survey findings - Spring 2025](#)

We are pleased to share with you the results from our recent Parent and Carer survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us and we are grateful for your continued support. Below

are some key findings that highlight the positive impact our school has on your children and the areas where we are working to improve:

Overall Satisfaction:

- **98% of parents and carers** believe that their child or young person is happy at school.
- **96% of parents and carers** feel that their child is safe at school.
- **95% of parents** would recommend our school to another parent.
- **91% of parents and carers** feel their child is doing well at this school.

Communication & Engagement:

- **85% of parents and carers** feel informed about what their child is learning at school.
- **84% of parents and carers** are happy with the communication from the school.

Support and Concerns:

- **87% of parents** agree that concerns raised with the school are dealt with fully.
- **56% of parents and carers** feel that the quality of Earwig evidence is of good quality.

Opportunities for Involvement:

- **51% of parents** expressed interest in volunteering if a "Friends of Spring Common" group was set up. While the results show that many parents and carers are happy with the school's efforts, we recognise that there are areas to continue improving, particularly with the quality of Earwig evidence. Rest assured, we are working on strategies to address these concerns. If you need any help accessing Earwig, please make the office team or class teacher aware. We are also excited about the possibility of increasing parental involvement through the "Friends of Spring Common" group. If you are interested, please get in touch with us by emailing the office, it will be helpful to know if you are interested in a co-ordinating or supporting role.

Thank you again for your valuable input. We look forward to continuing to work together to make Spring Common Academy an even better place for our students.

The Spring Common Leadership Team

Spring Common Academy Stars

We make a special effort to celebrate our pupils who have consistently demonstrated good citizenship by helping or supporting others, the school, the wider community, or the environment. This term's winners were:



Spring 2025

- **Laila Y** She has been taking more ownership over her learning and ensuring she attends her lessons with other teachers on time. Laila has set high aspirations for herself and is evidently working hard to achieve this. Laila's helpfulness and caring personality is seen and felt across the school; she completes jobs for classes, is caring towards other students and takes on many responsibilities making her a good role model for other students in **school**.
- **Billy W** has shown positivity and resilience when going for his spinal op and has shown a real 'can do' attitude during his recovery and phased return to school. He always comes in with a smile and we are thrilled to have him back.
- **Kaya K** for showing a caring nature towards other children in the school, for having a helpful attitude, for her general enthusiasm, effort and good attitude.
- **Annabelle B** for being an excellent role model in and out of the classroom and especially being brave and confident enough to support our Belgium visitors and trying her best always. Well done Annabelle.
- **Harry S** for being consistently polite and kind towards adults and peers.
- **Phiwe M** for taking great interest in others and giving them a high five when she sees them.
- **Frankie Lin** for always helping around the classroom, being happy and engaged throughout the day and a great foreman to make sure the adults are doing their moving and handling correctly in class.
- **Sonny N** for making wonderful progress.
- **Sonny A** for his general enthusiasm, effort and good attitudes in school and for brightening up everybody's day with his smile. Sonny always comes into school smiling and excited for the day ahead, and this is something the whole team look forward to each morning 😊

- **Taye F** is a happy, enthusiastic learner and is a valued member of our class. Throughout the school day he is very helpful and will always help to tidy away resources without being asked. He assists the grown-ups in putting chairs away after Circle Time and volunteers for any jobs that need doing - for example, he did an amazing job of using the big car wash sponges to clean all the chalk from our chalking wall! Taye is a true team player and contributes positively to our class community every day.
- **Callum O** for consistently setting a great example for our class. He demonstrates learning behaviours and attitudes that we promote at Spring Common. He uses the resources appropriately and takes care of our classroom and our toys. He joins adult led sessions and gives his attention and focus. He initiates his own learning and often chooses to look at books. He will explore all new resources and is keen to learn new things. Callum is kind towards the other children and shows genuine care for us all.
- **Ayaan Q** for showing the other children a real 'can do' attitude when he is at school. He actively participates in our circle, bucket and phonics sessions by following instructions and copying sounds and actions. He maintains focus and attention and has favourite activities that he seeks out. He has a lovely sense of humour and brings a smile to our faces every day when he shows us how much he is enjoying school.
- **Amari N** for brightening up everybody's day with her smile.

Well done to our stars! We look forwards to seeing who will be our stars next year!



Swimming superstar



Jess Gooden in 4VC attended a swim trial with the city of Cambridge para team last July and secured a place within the academy which started in September 2024.

She is now training 3 evenings a week and attends strength and conditioning training in the Gym with the performance team once a week.

Since September she has attended 3 para mini meets and each time she has laid down excellent timings, she already has two qualifying times for Nationals and will be joining the performance team in September for the East regionals.

Once classified by swim England for S14, Jess will be moving over to the Olympic pathway with the city of Cambridge para team.

We are all incredibly proud of her - Well done Jess!

Jess says, ' Go big or go home!!!!'

Phonics teaching in our school



Scan me!



Scan me!



Scan me!



Scan me!

At Spring Common Academy we follow a systematic, synthetic phonics programme.

What is phonics? Phonics is an approach to teaching some aspects of literacy, by developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the relationship between written symbols and sounds to read written language. This involves the skills of hearing, identifying and using the patterns of sounds Teaching phonics can benefit students' overall pronunciation, a basic understanding of language and long-term communication skills.

Phonics is taught discretely in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2 and some classes in KS3 and 4 where necessary.

Direct teaching in frequent, short bursts is the most effective means of teaching phonics with opportunities for over learning and repetition.

We invite you to please take a look at the links or scan the QR codes below if you wish to support your child further with phonics (please note level 4 is a revision video so it is not included). We thank you for your support.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO-i3BsM9k4kEjLRxuOziMs1PDPFbAZGY> *Pure Sounds 2*

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO-i3BsM9k4kw-wmROusjOgzC2TikfkN3> *Pure Sounds 3*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN4lVINcBt8> *Pure Sounds 5*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCJIN3aXlOk&list=PLO-i3BsM9k4m3lAvypM5pEyzmZCPNr_UH&index=2

Pure Sounds 6

We look forward to working with you and your child next term - Happy Easter!

Music Therapy Choir with Dreamdrops



We are excited to welcome Rachael, a Music Therapist from *Dreamdrops Charity*, who will be joining us after Easter to work with a group of Key Stage 2 pupils. Rachael will be leading music therapy sessions every Friday from 9:30 to 10:30am, providing a unique opportunity for our students to engage in creative and therapeutic musical activities.

For those who may not be familiar, *Dreamdrops Charity* is a wonderful organisation based in Huntingdonshire. They provide a range of services to support children, families, and individuals through music therapy and other creative therapies. One of their highlights is the *Dreamdrops Choir*, which brings together children of various abilities to sing, perform, and connect through the power of music. Their programs are designed to nurture emotional, social, and creative development, and we're excited to have them involved in our school.

Music therapy is a fantastic way to support emotional well-being and personal growth, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact Rachael's sessions will have on our pupils.

Spring Common Spring Clean 2025

Well done to all our classes who have worked really hard throughout March to improve the quality of their classroom environment!

A very big well done to everyone in 2SW, our overall winner, and a special mention to 2LC, which was the most improved classroom

2SW	1st
4VC	2 nd
3KW	3 rd
1IJ	3 rd
4SB	4 th
3RJ	4 th
2TS	4 th
LBDP	4 th
UBML	5 th



Squeaky Clean Champions

Pupils and colleagues have also been nominated for going above and beyond to keep our school tidy!

Lilah S for keeping 3DH squeaky clean!

Spencer W for his fantastic improvements to the Art Room as a learning space - getting it organized, maintaining it and putting up quality displays which showcase the learning.

Marita S for always making time to tidy and clean up spaces in 4DW, showing great initiative.

Sarah C she is always helping to tidy up, put things away, and clean up spillages, even when they weren't made by her! She consistently puts her rubbish in the bin without prompting and is definitely the 'squeaky clean champion' of 3RJ!

Courtney O has done an amazing job cleaning up the woodland area!

Belgian Visitors



This half term, Spring Common Academy once again hosted staff and students from Sint-Jozef Klein Seminarie – a school in Belgium. The students from Belgium are all studying a humanities course and the highlight of their visit to England is spending two days in our school learning about how we support our students. Their visit started with a meet and greet from our Post-16 and Year 11 students who will be visiting Belgium at the end of April. They took part in a Makaton training session before spending one afternoon and one morning in classes working with students across the school. Spring Common students made them feel very welcome and enjoyed having new faces in their classrooms. On their final afternoon, our Belgian visitors were joined by P16TN out on the field for an afternoon of sports activities. We were very fortunate to see some sunshine too! Their visit ended with a small celebration to thank and congratulate them on their work with our school. It was a very positive two days that was enjoyed by everyone involved. We are looking forward to reporting back after our return journey to Belgium next half term!

Easter Egg Raffle



A really big thank you to everyone who sent in Easter donations for our raffle. We were overwhelmed by the support and we had over 100 raffle prizes! A further thank you for purchasing raffle tickets and items at the shop. The Easter pop-up shop was a big success and I look forward to sharing the total money raised and what it will go towards next term.

Easter rabbit & bubble donation



We have received a very generous donation of chocolate Easter rabbits and bubble wands for all our students from Margaret, the new landlady of The Lord Protector. I'm sure you will join me by thanking Margaret for her generosity. We have invited Margaret to have a tour of the school so she can meet our students and see our school.

We really appreciate all the support we receive from local businesses.

An update from Amanda, Swimming



Once again, we've had a great term in the pool! My big shout outs this term go to Quinn H in 2MM, Huni in 3RJ and Finley A in 3CW!

Quinn has been working really hard on entering the pool calmly, safely and following adults instructions. This week Quinn walked down the steps safely, then sat on the steps and waited for everyone to be ready before going off to swim.

Huni has been working on improving his independent swimming and also his verbal communication while in the pool.

This term not only has Finley made it over to the pool and stayed but he has been joining in with peers in the pool.

Well done boys 😊

An update from Spencer, Forest School



The pupils have been very busy tidying up the Forest area making it clean and easy for all the pupils to be able to access it. They have been very hard at work getting the science garden prepared for planting too. We have planted lots of different vegetable and flower seeds which have started to grow and hopefully will be ready to plant when they come back from the Easter break.

An update from Sara, Music Teacher



This term the KS4 Arts Award bronze students have been sharing their skills with others. The music group taught a group KS2 students how to play the musical story of Peter and the Wolf and the Art group taught students how to create stage make up; scars, bruises and gunshots. It was fabulous to see the different ages interacting and watching everyone grow in confidence.

Life Skills





These were taken during life skills where students from upper school meet each week. They have been making different recipes working together as a team to follow instructions and help each other out.

Lets take a look at what the classes have been up to this term.....

3CW



3CW had a great end to our Spring Term! We have been working on multiplication as repeated addition in Maths, been practising Volleyball in PE, and have been enjoying our visits to the Olympic Gym! In Literacy this term, we have been identifying and using nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs to build our descriptive writing. Have a lovely Easter Break!

2MM



2MM engaged wonderfully with the Tortoise and Hare story during our sensory storytelling session, demonstrating great enthusiasm and enjoyment. The sensory elements enhanced their connection to the story, allowing them to fully immerse in the characters' actions and emotions. In the fast and slow phonics session, students made excellent progress in developing their Phase 1 phonics listening skills. They were able to identify and distinguish sounds related to both the fast movements of the hare and the slow pace of the tortoise, showing improvement in their ability to listen attentively and respond to auditory cues. Overall, our Literacy sessions have been a successful and engaging experience, with students actively participating and developing key phonics skills. Well done to everyone!

EY-LW



In EY-LW this half term we have been busy learning the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have shared the book and listened to some songs about minibeasts and bugs. We even painted pictures related to the story.

Have a lovely Easter break!

2LC



Class 2LC have looked at some wonderful stories in Literacy from the Fables collection. Here, are some of our pupils writing about "The boy who cried wolf". We looked at writing some snippets from the story using pictures as prompts, and also went into the moral of the story too! We also hugely enjoyed dressing up for red nose day, poetry day and St. Patrick's day. It has most certainly been an eventful and busy Spring Term in our wonderful class!

2TS



This half term, 2TS have had a great time learning about *The Hare and the Tortoise* which has been our key Sensory Story text. We have enjoyed a Massage Story linked to our English and Science learning; working hard to recognise key words and phrases by the massage strokes used. We have investigated treasure boxes using both hands to explore each item and used Switches to create bubbles. We have continued to work on Mark Making with poster paint and sensory trays, large scales stencils, and circular vertical and horizontal line work. Our fine motor work has included pipette work to colour the shell of the tortoise, manipulating marbles through a maze, releasing animals from an elastic band prison and playing fine motor skill games such as Pop-Up Pirate.

We really enjoyed celebrating special days this half term too; World Book Day, Comic Relief and World Downs Syndrome Day, and also the build up to Mother's Day and Easter.

Have a fantastic Easter holiday from the teaching team in 2TS.

P16LC



Each week, in sensory phonics, we focus on 2 sounds and we explore different sounds, smells, tastes and textures beginning with those sounds.

3DH



This term in Literacy, one of our foci has been on developing key skills that will benefit the students across all subject areas. One of the areas we've been working hard on is **checking our written work for errors**. This is such an important skill not just for Literacy, but for all subjects, and the children have been making great progress in identifying and correcting their mistakes. Whether it's spelling, grammar, or punctuation, the aim is to help them become more independent and confident in their writing.

In addition, we've been putting a lot of effort into **presenting our poetry and story work** to others. The children have enjoyed sharing their creative pieces with classmates, building both their speaking and listening skills. Presenting their work not only boosts their confidence but also allows them to appreciate the different styles and ideas of their peers.

We're so proud of the hard work the students have shown so far and look forward to seeing their continued progress as they refine these essential skills!

2KH



One of the highlights for 2KH this term was World Book Day. The pupils loved dressing up as their favourite characters for the day. We focused on one of our favourite class stories 'The Three Little Pigs' and the pupils loved joining in with reading the story together in the class group as well as individually to an adult. One of the activities the pupils enjoyed the most was making their own houses, some of the pupils use sensory items like straws and sticks while others used 2D shapes and puzzles to challenge themselves.

UB-ML



In UB-ML each term we have a different topic. This term has been Pirates of the Caribbean. We explored a variety of resources related to Pirates and had a variety of sensory sessions all with the same theme. Music Interaction, Creativity, Cooking, Sensology, Massage Story and

Sensory Story. A sensory story explores a sequenced set of resources linked to a story. Our story was Ahoy There Me Hearties this term. Each part of the story was matched to a resource that could be explored using their 5 senses. The story was presented several times to allow the students to get used to them and to the sequence so that they could predict what was coming next and eventually they would explore the items a little more and a little differently each time they saw them.

4SB



This term 4SB having been using their reading skills to follow instructions for planting seeds. The students have all planted a sunflower seed and a selection of flowers and vegetables in our outside area.

The students also enjoy listening to stories either on the whiteboard, a peer reading or a staff member reading to them. Or spending time in our Read and Relax area in the classroom

4VC



This term has been extremely busy for 4VC - we started a new project with The Norris Museum called The Recycled Garden where we are reusing materials to make flower beds in the museum garden. Application of our literacy skills has been a strong theme in lessons for

our accreditation work and out in the community. We also continued with our daily formal reading practise, reorganised our book area and made a class story book called Arctic Adventures to promote our love of reading! The class have also visited the Methodist Church regularly to continue with our community links. Can I also congratulate the class, who always aim to come into school smartly dressed in uniform - wonderful role models for our school. Thank-you 4VC for working hard and always trying your best. Well done.

The photos show the project started at The Norris Museum and our interactive story writing workshop with an author for our literacy week earlier in the term.

We look forward to seeing you all after the holidays - Happy Easter! Veena, Carol & Dina

2AM



2CR



We are so proud of the hard work 2CR students have shown in their reading and writing efforts! Over the past few weeks, students have been busy practicing their literacy skills through engaging Digital Literacy reading and spelling activities. They've also been exploring their creativity by creating sensory props for sensory stories and developing their sentence-building abilities by describing images in detail. Well done, everyone!

Have a wonderful and restful holiday, and make the most of this well-deserved time off!

11J



Our core text this half-term has been 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy; it is the story of Baby Bear, who travels to the moon in a rocket he has made from a cardboard box. Needless to say, when he returns home, Mummy Bear doesn't quite believe him! We have had lots of fun completing activities linked to the book across the whole curriculum. Some of our favourites have been creating our own rocket from cardboard boxes (and of course some tinfoil and sparkles), exploring a moon themed sensory tray, choosing symbols to help Baby Bear to pack his bag, and of course reading the story itself. Have a look at our photos to see what we have been up to!

3RJ



3RJ have been working hard in literacy this term with our individualised structured TEACCH workboxes. A key skill a lot of the 3RJ students have been working on is tracing and we are now able to do this independently, which is a great step forward. We've also been looking at using adjectives and adverbs to describe actions and objects, writing some simple sentences, and using communication boards to answer questions about different stories. We're really impressed with the progress made by our students this term!

P16TN



This half term in P16TN, our English focus has been on 'functional reading skills'. We have been exploring different symbols and reading materials that we encounter in everyday life including road signs, menus and newspapers. Pupils have particularly enjoyed reading the First News newspapers that we have delivered to school. We completed a Newspaper Treasure Hunt to spot some different stories in the newspapers and many of the articles we find have led to interesting discussions. It can also become a little competitive when we reach the puzzle pages!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter break! **Tilly, Caroline and Bobby**

2SW



2SW have had a wonderful half term, we have been working on the text "the town mouse and the country mouse" which has given us lots of learning opportunities such as writing and structuring sentences, comparisons between towns and the countryside, some fun role play using masks and props to retell the story and lots more! We have also covered more sounds in phonics and have increased our planned reading opportunities within our day which is lovely and enjoyable.

3KW



3KW have had an excellent half term learning all about the city of London. We have looked at topics such as the Plague, the Great Fire of London and the Royal Weddings. In life skills we have made dishes such as Eton Mess to celebrate each of these different events. In creativity we had a great time using chalk to create a London sky line during The Blitz.

The 3KW team wish you a very happy and safe holiday and look forward to welcoming you back for the summer term.

1KI



This term 1KI have been loving our space topic book 'Whatever Next!'. We've been enjoying practicing our reading skills using the story characters, props, and even using images from the books to order the story. I think this has been our favourite book so far this school year; the class have really taken to Baby Bear's adventure to the moon, especially his picnic! It has made for lots of great literacy learning and some fun role playing as well. It's been an amazing space filled half term, we can't wait to see what we can get up to in the summer term!

4DW



Class 4DW have been very busy again this term, learning lots of new things and especially focusing on our life skills and work related learning skills. Pupils have been busy with this terms enterprise project of researching ideas and making the decision to cook and sell Easter cookies. Over the term pupils have been busy collating orders, making cookies, placing them into bags and presenting them to sell. They then had to use good communication skills to help deliver the cookie orders and thank people for ordering them. The chocolate chip cookies have gone down a treat! Pupils have been doing lots of reading and listening to stories and then completing writing and reading activities around stories. Numeracy has seen pupils using lots of their number skills, measuring weight, length and height in non-standard and standard units of measurement and making comparisons. The miniature frog balance scales were very popular with the pupils.

Thank you for your continued support and the class 4DW team hope you all enjoy a relaxing Easter break.

LB-PD



School calendar

TERM DATES 2024-25



***Autumn Term 2024 (3 September to 20 December)**

Staff training day: Tuesday 3 September
Staff training day: Wednesday 4 September
Autumn term opens: Thursday 5 September
Half term: 28 October – 1 November
Staff training day: Monday 4 November
Autumn term closes: Friday 20 December

Spring Term 2025 (6 January to 4 April)

Spring term opens: Monday 6 January
Half term: 17 - 21 February
Staff training day: Monday 24 February
Spring term closes: Friday 4 April

Summer Term 2025 (22 April to 23 July)

Summer term opens: Tuesday 22 April
Early May Bank Holiday: 5th May
May Half term: 26 May – 30 May
Staff training day: Friday 11 July
Summer term closes: Wednesday 23 July



*Prestley Wood Academy will be opening a new building and shall have a planned, staggered start to Autumn term 2024.

TERM DATES 2025-26



Autumn Term 2025 (1 September to 19 December)

Staff training day: Monday 1 September
Staff training day: Tuesday 2 September
Staff training day: Wednesday 3 September
Autumn term opens: Thursday 4 September
Half term: 27 - 31 October
Staff training day: Monday 3 November
Autumn term closes: Friday 19 December

Spring Term 2026 (5 January to 27 March)

Spring term opens: Monday 5 January
Half term: 16 - 20 February
Staff training day: Monday 23 February
Spring term closes: Friday 27 March

Summer Term 2026 (13 April to 20 July)

Summer term opens: Monday 13 April
Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May
May Half term: 25 May – 29 May
Staff training day: Friday 3 July
Summer term closes: Monday 20 July



Moody Mondays

Feeling low or worried?
Come and talk to us.
This is an informal, safe, and confidential space run by volunteers and professionals to support your wellbeing.

9.15 - 11.30 am
Every Monday
(term time only)

The Coneygear Centre
Huntingdon
PE29 1PE

**Talk to us, don't
suffer in silence.**



www.cambridgeacornproject.org.uk

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break and we will see you when we return to school on Tuesday 22nd April!