



# Spring Common Academy Parent & Carer End of Term Newsletter May 2025

[An update from Rebecca, Headteacher....](#)

**Summer Term – Half-Term Update | May 2025**

*🌿 Celebrating Growth, Community and Learning 🌿*

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the half-term break, we would like to take this opportunity to share and celebrate some of the wonderful achievements and developments taking place at Spring Common Academy this term. It has been a vibrant few weeks full of rich learning experiences, exciting updates, and meaningful connections within our wider community.

**🥚 Hatching Curiosity: Science in Action**

One of the highlights this half term has been our engaging science project focusing on lifecycles. Through our egg incubation programme, pupils were able to observe the lifecycle

of chicks from egg to hatching, sparking immense curiosity across many classes. The high level of engagement has been truly heartening and it's been a joy to witness our pupils interact with science in such a meaningful and tangible way.









 **Community Kindness: The King of the Belgians Supports Us**

We are incredibly fortunate to have strong links within the local community and beyond. We are pleased to share that *The King of the Belgians* has kindly chosen Spring Common Academy as one of **three nominated charities** for their **Beer Festival** fundraiser. We are truly grateful for their generous support — thank you for thinking of us! The event is taking place Friday 23rd May - Monday 26th May, please show your support if you can!

**NEED A TAXI?**  
**veezu.**  
 smarter local taxis.  
 The **smarter** way to book your ride home.  
 Download our app or call 01480 714 714  
 THE NEW NAME FOR LOCAL TAXIS

**TASTING NOTES 2025**  
 23-26 MAY MIDDAY to 11pm  
 EST. 2013  
**KING OF THE BEER FESTS**  
 EVERY PENNY OF PROFIT GOES TO LOCAL CHARITIES  
 @ KING OF THE BELGIANS HARTFORD, HUNTINGDON PE29 1XU  
 Multi Award Winning CAMRA pub  
 45+ REAL ALES, CRAFT BEERS & CIDERS  
 ALL PROFITS TO LOCAL NEEDY ORGANISATIONS!  
 WE ARE SUPPORTING:  
 SPRING COMMON ACADEMY, HUNTINGDON VOLUNTEER CENTRE, HUNTINGDON CLOTHES SWAP  
 LIVE BANDS Fri/Sat/Sun  
 www.kingofthebelgians.com

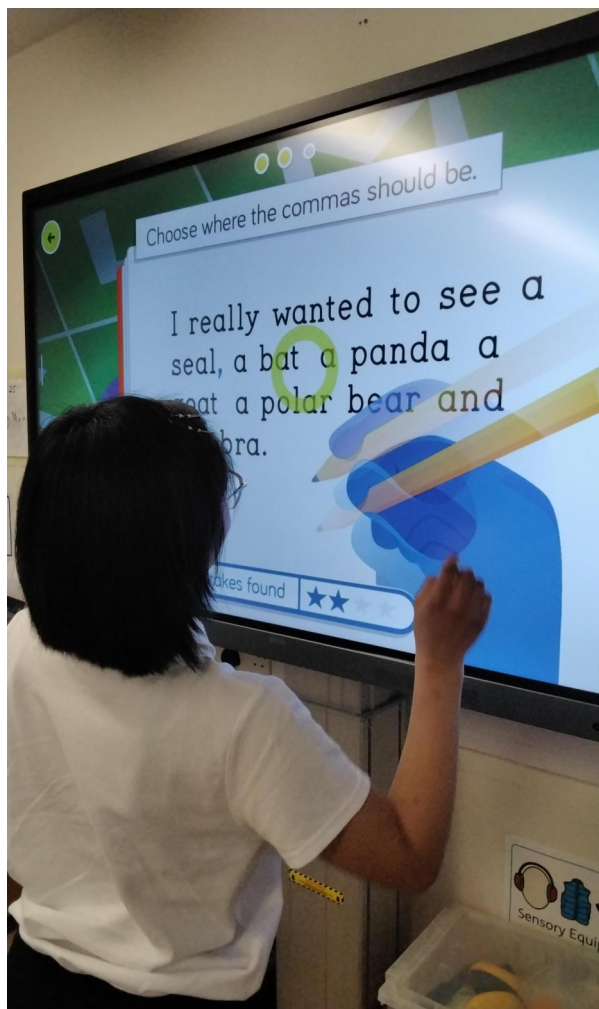
Please note that photographs and footage will be taken throughout this beer festival. These might be used by the beer fest committee for marketing and publicity in our publications, on our website and in social media or in any third party publication. Please contact the Chair of the committee if you have any concerns or if you wish to be exempted from this activity.  
 \*For the King of the Beer Fests, the Chair is Mark Spence who can be contacted at: jana.spence76@icloud.com

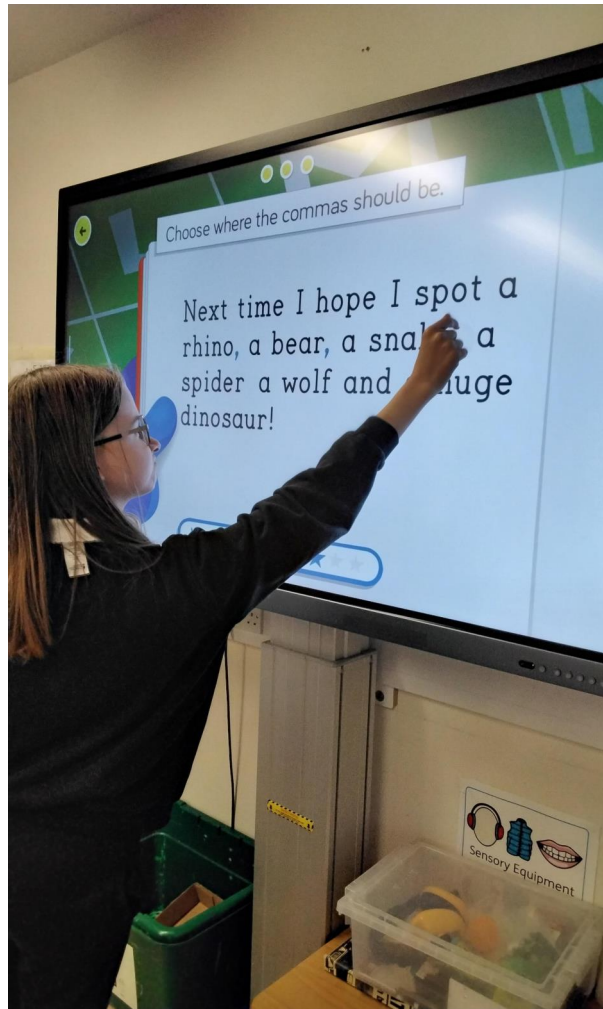
We know that you have enjoyed the provision of tables and chairs at this event. Please note that for health and safety reasons, all chairs and tables will have to be removed from this event. We thank you for your understanding and support for this event. We are grateful for your support and cooperation. The Beer Fest Committee.

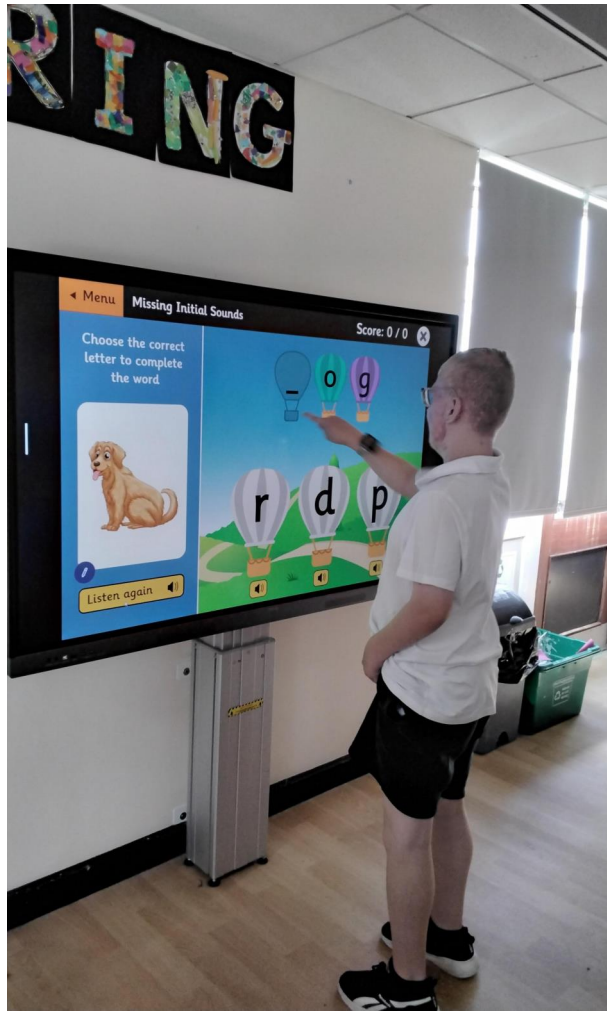


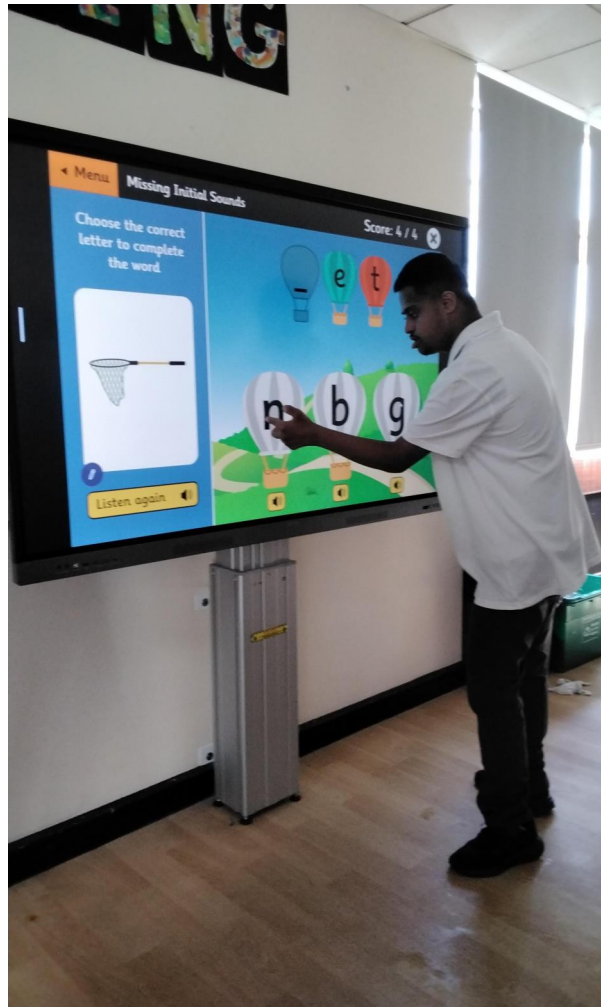
## Embracing Innovation: Interactive Screen Upgrade

We're delighted to announce the successful replacement of all large interactive screens across our classrooms and specialist learning rooms. This exciting development is already having a positive impact on teaching and learning, enabling staff to deliver lessons with even greater creativity. This investment reflects our ongoing commitment to raising standards, enriching the learning environment for every pupil and our focus on improving digital literacy for all.









## Phonics Update: A Smoother Path to Reading

We are currently planning the transition from Twinkl phonics to the **Little Wandle SEN phonics and reading scheme**. This change is designed to ensure greater accessibility and structure for all our learners and enable them to access a high-quality, DfE approved scheme that has recently been updated. We will provide more detailed information to families in due course, and look forward to working together to support this positive change.

## A Celebration of International Communication

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **Parent and Carer Open Afternoon**. The event was a joyful celebration of *International Communication*, showcasing the many ways we express ourselves across the school — through languages, signs, symbols, devices and more. Having so many families onsite made it all the more special.

### **Spring Common Summer Uniform**

As we continue through the summer term, a gentle reminder that pupils should now be wearing their **Spring Common summer uniform**. Photos and guidelines can be found on the school website. Thank you for your support in helping our pupils feel smart and comfortable.

### **Looking Ahead: Welcoming New Families**

Preparations are well underway for our **September intake**, especially within Early Years. We're very much looking forward to welcoming our new pupils and families into our Spring Common community and will be in touch soon with details of transition activities and information events.

### **Caring for Nature: Tree Survey and Renewal**

Following our recent tree survey, we're pleased to report that most of our trees are healthy and flourishing. A small number required remedial work, most of which was completed over Easter, with the remainder scheduled for the summer — after the birds have safely flown the nest.

One poignant moment was the necessary removal of the tree affectionately known as the **Spring Common Tree**', which was found to be diseased. We would love to plant a new tree in its place and **welcome suggestions** from pupils, families and staff. Please feel free to share your ideas with us — we look forward to hearing them.

### **Fresh Spaces: Classroom Refurbishment**

Over the Easter holidays, four more classrooms were **repainted** as part of our **rolling programme of improvements**. This ongoing work is part of our commitment to maintaining a bright, welcoming and inspiring learning environment for all.

### **Belgium Trip: Expanding Horizons**

Our recent trip to Belgium was a resounding success. Students developed confidence, overcame challenges, increased their independence and social skills, while exploring a new culture. We also further strengthened our collaboration with our partner school, *Sint Niklaas*. A huge thank you to all staff who supported this trip, both here at school and abroad — it was a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.



## LA Academy

LA Academy will be hiring the main swimming pool from 2nd June 2025. If you would like to enquire for more information, please email [springcommon@laacademy.co.uk](mailto:springcommon@laacademy.co.uk)

**SWIMMING LESSONS FOR KIDS**

SPRING COMMON ACADEMY

STARTING MONDAY 2ND JUNE

FINAL SPACES REMAINING

- ✓ Private sessions
- ✓ Quality teaching
- ✓ Fast progression
- ✓ Funding available

**JOIN US**

01223 650 348  
[springcommon@laacademy.co.uk](mailto:springcommon@laacademy.co.uk)

**When:**  
Monday - Thursday at Spring  
Common Academy between  
3:30pm - 7pm.

**LA ACADEMY**  
are coming to  
**Spring Common**

**What we offer:**

- Learn to swim
- Private lessons
- Sem Private lessons
- SEN lessons

**Contact Us**  
**01223 650 348**  
[www.la-academy.co.uk](http://www.la-academy.co.uk)

Please join me in wishing Linda Crook well in the future, as she has decided not to return to the Trust following the Easter Break.

As always, thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. Our school thrives because of our incredible community — pupils, families, staff and supporters — working together to make Spring Common a special place to learn and grow.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half-term break.

Warm regards,

**Rebecca**

### [An update from Leigh, Deputy Headteacher....](#)

Where did that half-term go? It has absolutely flown by! As we head towards the end of our time together in this year's classes, it has been noticeable how much our pupils have developed in skills and confidence over the year. I have been especially thrilled by how calmly and confidently our pupils in Key Stage 1 present themselves, some of the incredible reading and writing in Key Stage 3. The weather has also been terrific (if a little too dry), and this has meant that our classes have been making the most of the opportunity to take their learning outside, including into the community. Lots of our curriculum work supports pupils to stay safe in the wider world. With the possibility of a particularly hot summer ahead,

please take the opportunity to think about the five sun safety S's: slip on a t-shirt, slop on sunscreen, slip on a hat, slide on sunglasses, stay in the shade. More on sun safety - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>

You may also be interested in think about safety round water and the roads:

*Water safety* - <https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/water-safety-information>

*Road safety* - <https://www.think.gov.uk/>

Take care! **Leigh**

An update from Shari, Assistant Headteacher & Safeguarding Lead.....



### Attendance Update

Well done to **2MM** Class, winners of our Spring Term Attendance Award with a collective attendance of 96.71%. They celebrated their fantastic achievement with a fun-filled Easter-themed treasure hunt—a well-deserved reward for their great efforts. We'll reveal the class winners of the first half of the summer term in assembly after the May break.

98 out of 207 pupils have achieved expected or above attendance for the year to date. As well as many pupils continuing to achieve improved attendance. Our current overall attendance sits at 85.9%. We're very close to reaching our target of 86% by the end of the academic year—thank you for your continued support in helping every child attend and achieve!



### **School Council Collaboration: A visit from Prestley Wood.**

As part of a school council collaboration project, pupils from Spring Common Academy Council were joined by students from Prestley Wood Academy to share about each other's school experiences and school environments to help inspire them in their mission to raise school improvement initiatives. In preparation, the school council developed thoughtful questions to ask their visitors, focusing on daily routines, school values, and the roles of their student councils. During the visit, pupils confidently led a guided tour of their school, proudly showcasing key areas and explaining how their school community works. The exchange not only deepened their understanding of different school experiences but also helped them develop important social and communication skills through meaningful peer interaction. Both school councils are looking forward to meeting up again next half term with Prestley Wood Academy hosting the meeting.



### **Police Engagement Assembly**

On Thursday 15th May, we were delighted to welcome PCSO Daniel and Amber-Rose to school. They led an engaging and informative assembly for some of our Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils, focusing on community safety, online safety, and bullying awareness. Our pupils participated brilliantly—listening attentively, asking thoughtful questions, and showing a great understanding of how to stay safe and make positive choices both in school and in the wider community.

Well done to Aston, who achieved a Keeping Safe Award for sharply telling our visitors who (Shari Welsford) the Designated Safeguarding Lead is at Spring Common Academy.

JOIN US FOR AN  
INSPIRING SEND FESTIVAL!

**PREPARING FOR  
ADULTHOOD: YOUR LIFE,  
YOUR FUTURE**



Event is on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 10–2pm at Burgess Hall, St Ives

This event is for young people, 14-25 years, parent carers and professionals. We will be having information stands, interactive activities, fun activities and information sessions for young people and parent carers. We are also keen for school and colleges to attend in class groups, or young people can visit independently or with parent carers.

To register please contact Marty at:  
[martine.simpsonthomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:martine.simpsonthomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
or register using the QR code.



### Preparing for Adulthood SEND Festival

Preparing for Adulthood SEND Festival: MY Life: My Future - In-Person Event at Burgess Hall, St. Ives PE27 6WU; **When:** Friday, 11th of July 10-2pm

We are holding our second Preparing for Adulthood SEND Festival again this year!!  
[Registration is here!!!](#) Here is a reminder of the event- we hope to see you there!

### An update from Sam, Assistant Headteacher....

#### Dear Parents and Carers,

It might just be the shortest half term on record—but we've certainly made the most of every moment!

**Early Years** have continued to thrive, making fantastic use of our outdoor learning spaces. It's been wonderful to see so much creativity and hands-on, messy learning taking place. The children have been busy exploring the natural world, building with loose parts, and engaging in sensory play that supports communication, social interaction, and early problem-solving. We're also seeing growing independence in routines and a real sense of curiosity developing across the group.

**Key Stage One** have dived into their new topic on *Toys*, centred around the beloved classic *Dogger*. This has sparked lots of meaningful activities around emotions and favourite toys—

both old and new. Looking ahead, next half term promises to be just as creative, as the children step into a world of *Magic and Mystery* with exciting stories and imaginative play.

**Key Stage Two** have been busy out in the community, enjoying a variety of enriching experiences. From visiting local areas of interest and exploring the park, to sessions at the Olympic gym and trips to the shops, it's been a fantastic opportunity to build confidence and real-world skills.

A reminder that our next **INSET** day will be on **Friday 11th July**. Staff will be using this time to begin preparing learning environments for the 2025–26 academic year. As always, the final two weeks of the summer term will focus on transition activities to support a smooth start in September.

It was great to see so many of you at **Communication Day**—it's always a valuable opportunity to connect and share the great progress your children are making.

Have a great half term break! **Sam**

[An update from Tilly, Post 16 Lead.....](#)



**Thank you**

At the end of the Spring term, Post-16 hosted a pop-up Easter shop and Easter Egg Raffle which was visited and enjoyed by students from across school. Thank you once again for your support by sending in Easter egg donations and making purchases at our shop. I am overjoyed to inform you that we raised a total of £445! The money raised will help to fund our Post-16 prom, which is a very much-loved annual event for our oldest students. We will also be using some of the money to fund our next enterprise project! Watch this space!



**Spring Common Visit to Belgium**

At the end of April, a group of six students embarked on an overseas journey to Belgium for a 4 night stay. This trip is part of a partnership with Sint-Josef Klein Seminarie (SJKS), a school in Belgium, and is a project that has been running successfully for over 10 years. Students travelled on the Eurostar to Brussels and then took a train to Sint Niklaas where they stayed in a hotel. On the Monday evening, they met up with students and staff from SJKS who they had met earlier in March when they had visited us at Spring Common. The visit included activities hosted at SJKS school, cooking activities, a day trip to Ghent where students explored local castles and museums and a day in Sint Niklaas spent exploring the market square and all the food options nearby! Students had a wonderful time, developed independence skills and fully immersed themselves in the Belgian culture.



Next half term, Post-16 and Key Stage 4 classes will be hosting a Summer Fun Day for students. We would be most grateful for any donations of;

- Raffle prizes
- Nearly new toys and games
- Treats including multi-pack sweets/chocolate, cakes, biscuits (being mindful of the expiry date)
- Freezeable ice lollies
- Multi-pack drinks

On this occasion, the event will be for students only. We look forward to sharing more information after the holidays. Please label any donations 'KS4/P16 Summer Fun Day'.

Thank you in advance for your support.

SCA Facebook.....



Social media has become one of the fastest and most widespread ways to share news and stay updated. It's immediate and interactive allowing people to share information in real-time. We would love you to join our Spring Common Academy page and keep up to date with the latest news from our school. Click on the link to join our page [Facebook](#)

Share with friends and family to follow us too!

Uniform





We are proud to wear school uniform to represent our school and show how much we like being part of our school community.

We have our main uniform supplier, Price&Buckland, where you can buy school essentials with the school logo embroidered on. Please visit their easy to navigate website here [UK's Leading School Uniform Supplier | Price & Buckland](#)

We also sell embroidered Spring Common Academy iron-on badges for £1.44 each. These are perfect if you chose to buy more affordable school uniform from the high street or supermarket retailers, as they give the same look but a cheaper option. If you would like to buy school badges, please email [office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk) quoting your child's name and how many badges you would like to purchase. An invoice will be raised on ParentMail, and once paid the badges will be sent home with easy instructions with your child. Amy is modelling the iron-on school badge (top left).

We are also proud to provide pre-loved school uniform. This is uniform in great condition, donated by our parents and carers that no longer fits their young person. It is great for the environment and fits in with our Eco-School ethos. If you would like to enquire whether we have the sizes and style uniform needed for your young person, please email the office [office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk)

We are also grateful for any school clothing donations, we just ask that clothes are washed prior to being donated.

## After School Club - Spring Comets




Spring Comets is an after school club open to pupils of all ages run by the school and staffed by experienced school staff. The aim is to provide a safe, fun environment where pupils can extend their social skills and participate in a range of activities in a relaxed environment. Jan Wall is the manager and Andy Moore is the deputy manager and both are trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) to ensure the safeguarding of pupils. There is also a trained first aider on the team.

The club operates daily 3:15pm – 5:00pm and staff collect pupils from class and take them over to the club in the Elaine Bartlett building. A simple snack and drink are provided (e.g. toast and a drink) which is included in the cost of £18 per session. Fees will need to be paid at least 1 week in advance of the child's booked session.

Applications for the ASC are by completing the form on the school website and emailing it to [asc@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:asc@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk)

## Understanding Autism

**What is Autism?**





Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects how people perceive the world, communicate, and interact with others. Every autistic person is different—there is no single way autism "looks."

**Why Do Some Autistic People Make Loud Noises?**

Sometimes, when autistic individuals feel overwhelmed, anxious, or overstimulated, they may:

- Shout
- Repeat phrases (echolalia)
- Hum, sing, or make other vocal sounds



This is NOT 'bad behaviour'-it's often a way of:

- Releasing emotional or sensory overload
- Self-soothing
- Re-regulating their body and mind



**Being a Good Neighbour to an Autistic Person**

- Understand that autistic individuals might behave or communicate differently. Be patient and avoid judging or making assumptions
- Take time to educate yourself about autism. It helps prevent misunderstandings and promotes empathy
- Don't assume an individual is being 'rude', 'spoiled' or 'undisciplined'
- Let them "steam off" safely



**Remember: Being loud isn't about attention—it's about regulation.**

The above is aimed at raising awareness and understanding about autism within our wider community. The information is designed to help explain what autism is and why some children may behave or respond differently in everyday situations.

This resource may be particularly helpful for families who have experienced misunderstandings or complaints from neighbours regarding noise or other behaviours related to autism. Our goal is to promote greater empathy, patience, and inclusivity for all children and families in our school community.

We encourage you to read the flyer and share it with others who you feel may benefit from a better understanding of autism.

Thank you for helping us build a more supportive and compassionate community.

### An update from Amanda, Swimming Lead.....



It has been a short but great term swimming, and it's been wonderful to have EY-LW start swimming this term.

This terms swimming stars are;

- **Step 1** Harry 11J

- **Step 2** Molly 2AM, Ethan, Mehwish 2CR, Floyd 2MM, Manaf 2MM
- **Step 3** Conor 2AM, Ryan 2AM, Edward 2MM, Logan 2SW, Johnny J 3DH
- **Step 4** Bella-Rose 2KH, Iris 3RJ
- **Step 5** Alex P 3RJ, Rose 4DW, Kaya 4SB
- **Step 6** Robert 4VC
- **Step 7** Matthew 2SW, Courtney 3DH
- **5 metre awards go to** Rose 4DW & Jack 2MM

Well done to all the students who gained awards this term - *Amanda*

An update from Margaret, Hydrotherapy Lead.....



We have had a very busy term in the hydro pool, stretching and relaxing our muscles, making and developing friendships and enjoying social games.

We ended the term with a sensory story, "We're going on a duck hunt". Our colourful bridge was a big hit, as was the naughty crocodile.

My special shout outs go to;

- Michael L in 2LC for huge progress in independence, he is now happy to move around the pool independently trusting his float aid for support.
- Iseoluwa in LBPD for great resilience when completing her stretches.

## An update from Sara, Music Teacher.....



This term in Music most KS3 classes have been learning how to play 'O Fortuna ' by Carl Orff and work together in ensemble. They have had to learn their part and listen to how it fits in the piece.

## An update from Spencer, Forest School Lead.....



This term in Forest school the pupils have been continuing planting and watering vegetables around school. The Early Years have been planting tomatoes in their garden. Other pupils have continued building little houses and hideaways out of sticks they've found in the forest. The pupils in Key stage 4 made and decorated birdhouses in the woods a little while ago and we have our first baby birds to move in which pupils found very exciting.

Let's take a look at what the classes have been up to this term.....

### 3CW



3CW have had a busy start to our Summer Term. We have been using similes and metaphors in our writing, and we have been working out division in Maths. Our big focus this half term has been cooking and baking in our life skills sessions. 3CW pupils have enjoyed walks into town to purchase ingredients, before baking them into yummy treats the following session!

### 2AM



This term in 2AM, we've been focusing on building independence through everyday life skills. Pupils have learnt to recycle their snack-time rubbish correctly, showing great awareness of environmental responsibility. Some children have also made fantastic progress in becoming more independent at lunchtime, learning to use cutlery with increasing confidence. We've also seen wonderful communication developments, with several pupils using AAC tools such as PECS and the CASEE app to express themselves more effectively. Well done, 2AM!

### 3DH



This half term in Life Skills, pupils in 3DH have been exploring the theme of wild weather through a series of creative cooking activities. They have learned to make a range of themed dishes, including 'Tornado Chilli Twister', 'Stormy Soup', and 'Bad Weather Biscuits'. The pupils have engaged well with each lesson and demonstrated great enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork throughout the topic. Well done class 3DH!

### 2MM



2MM have had a fantastic time learning all about recycling through the sensory story "*Dinosaur and All That Rubbish*". We've reinforced our understanding of size by sorting big and small dinosaurs, and we've begun to grasp the concept of recycling in fun and meaningful ways. To celebrate Earth Day, we created some beautiful crafts using recycled materials. The children also made the most of the lovely summer weather, enjoying water play and role-playing with our class kitchenette play set. This gave us a great opportunity to explore the names of different fruits, vegetables, and cooking utensils while having lots of fun!

## 4SB



This half term 4SB have been designing their own cook book. In literacy, they have enjoyed looking up interesting dishes in cook books and magazines and putting together recipe cards that include the necessary ingredients, equipment and method. They have chosen a selection of their favourite main dishes, desserts and drinks to put into the final product. In Life Skills, they have spent time in the kitchen trialling some of these recipes. They worked sensibly with knives to make a delicious fruit salad that they enjoyed in the sun! The 4SB team wish you a safe and happy half term break and look forward to welcoming the pupils back for the remainder of the year.

## 2CR



This term, 2CR has been practising life skills outside of school.

We transitioned into the community and visited a nearby playground. Everyone was very well-behaved, walked safely, and followed road safety rules when crossing the street. Students also transitioned smoothly back to class when it was time to return. Well done, 2CR!

## UB-ML



In UB-ML each term we have sensory cooking sessions related to our termly topic, this term our topic has been carnivals around the World. The students have had the opportunity to use the like skills suite and the equipment there as well as getting to experience different ingredients and foods relate to carnivals. The students are involved in smelling, seeing, touching and tasting ingredients as well as helping to mix them (using a switch operated mixer) and place the mixture into cake cases or muffin tins. This half term they have helped make chocolate covered apples, brigadeiros and experience the smells and tastes of hotdogs and chips.

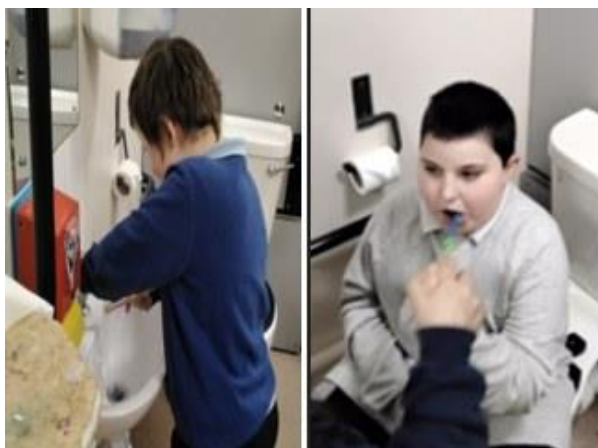
The students have also been out and about in the community visiting the local library, finding books on the topic carnivals and choosing picture books to have read to them. This gives them the opportunity to be out and about in the local community and visit places they could visit as they move towards adulthood.

## P16LC



In P16LC this term, we have been making pizza pinwheels, mini quiches, jam tarts for our topic life skills. We hosted an afternoon tea themed communication event for the parents and carers out in the sensory garden.

## 2SW



In 2SW we have been brushing our teeth everyday after lunch to take ownership of our oral hygiene and looking after ourselves. Brushing your teeth is crucial for maintaining oral hygiene and overall health, it helps with preventing tooth decay, gum disease, and bad breath. It also helps to remove food particles after eating foods.

Well done everyone in 2SW!

## 3KW



In life skills this half term we have been focussing on cooking some simple dishes that we could complete at home. Pupils in 3KW enjoyed making some eggs, whichever way they

preferred. Some chose scrambled and some chose fried! They also each practiced being safe around hot pans, how to turn the hob on and off and how to safely let hot objects cool before washing them up. The 3KW team wish you a happy and safe half term and look forward to welcoming the pupils back for the remainder of the year.

## LB-PD



During this half term, LB-PD went on regular visits to the local supermarket in town. We used shopping plastic bags as an object of reference and went to buy a variety of exotic fruits for our sensory sessions. Our topic for the summer is Africa. The pupils had the chance to see the fruits on the shelves, hold them and feel them before putting them in the basket with support. Some of them were introduced to a shopping list and others had more sensory experience from the visit. Well done to all the children for good engagement outside in the community!

## 2LC



In class 2LC, we are always willing to engage with our Life Skills learning and recognise the importance in doing so.

We often attend the school shop, where we exchange money and buy some of our favourite snacks.

We are also big on cooking! Previously, we enjoyed making some delicious biscuits that we were able to share with our loved ones.

### 3RJ



This term in life skills, 3RJ have been working on making tortilla wraps. We have made sweet and savoury versions and have been practicing motor skills such as chopping, spreading, rolling, and sprinkling. We've used this as a great opportunity to practice our communication skills as we used communication boards to identify which ingredients we wanted to include in our wraps and followed simple instructions by reading our InPrint recipes. We have been really impressed by the increased independence shown by the students throughout this term, and we have been absolutely wowed by the students who tried new foods!

### 4VC



This half term has been busy already with completion of Entry Level accreditations in year 11 and lots of hands on experience of various skills in other curriculum areas. This included our fabulous project with The Norris Museum to design a garden from recycled materials, planting new plants whilst working with volunteers from the museum and St Ives In Bloom once again. We are making huge progress with reading so we continue formal reading on a daily basis. We also visited the school library weekly to choose books to read for pleasure and understand how books are classified by keeping the library tidy whenever possible. There were regular Methodist Church trips as well as work experience in the school shop. 4VC have also used their basic kitchen skills to make tea and toast safely, lay the table and wash up - all useful life skills.

An amazing half term with all of 4VC working hard and doing their best as always. Well done everyone. Veena, Carol and Dina.

## EY-LW



This half term in the early years we have been busy learning about Transport. We have had new books to read including The Duck in the Truck and we have had lots of new resources to play with including a new wooden bus. We have been singing our favourite songs about vehicles such as The Wheels on the Bus.

## 2KH



In life skills in 2KH we have been making smoothies. We started off working on our chopping skills and then we had a go at using the blender safely, some of us loved the sound of the fruit being blended. We have worked on remembering and following a simple set of instructions as well as food hygiene practices like washing hands. Some of us tried the yummy smoothie when we had finished.

## 2TS



This half term, 2TS have explored farm animals through sensory play, songs, and stories—using leaves, feathers, plants, textured materials, and sound buttons to bring the theme to life.

We ended this half term with a fantastic visit to Wimpole Hall Farm, where pupils experienced the sights and sounds of real animals including goats, pigs, cows, shire horses, Next half term, we'll continue our Life Skills learning by thinking about how to care for our world as we explore recycling and becoming global citizens.

## 1KI



In 1KI this half term we have continued visiting the school shop! We take it in turns to come up to the counter, choose what we would like, and hand over our money to the cashier, before sitting back down to enjoy our snack! The class love this part of our weekly timetable and their confidence in following this shop routine and understanding of paying for items has really grown since we've started attending. I am sure this is a life-skill session that they will be looking forward to continuing in our last half-term.

## P16TN



This half term, P16TN have been practising travel training skills by catching the local bus. Students have been learning how to safely wait at a bus stop, how to communicate confidently with the bus driver and how to maintain safety whilst travelling on the bus. Students have been on the bus into town multiple times and, most recently, we took the bus to Hinchbrooke and walked to the country park. When we are on the bus, we particularly enjoy looking out the window from the top deck. I wonder where our bus travels will take us next!

Have a lovely half term break. **Tilly, Caroline and Bobby**

## 4DW



Class 4DW have had a busy term so far. We have been learning about strangers and safe strangers, leisure activities that people have fun doing in their free time. We have also had the opportunity to play some leisure activities such as boccia, archery and bowling! Each week we continued to use our money skills to choose and buy items from the school shop and use social skills to communicate with others. Class 4DW also enjoyed saying hello to the new baby chicks that hatched in the school, using gentle hands and quiet voices. Have a safe and happy half term.

## 1J



This term, we have been exploring the exciting theme of *Toys*, with our key text being *Dogger* by Shirley Hughes.

The children have really engaged with the story, developing their understanding of friendship, emotions, and the importance of caring for special belongings.

We've taken full advantage of the beautiful weather by bringing much of our learning outdoors, the outdoor environment has made our learning even more meaningful and enjoyable.

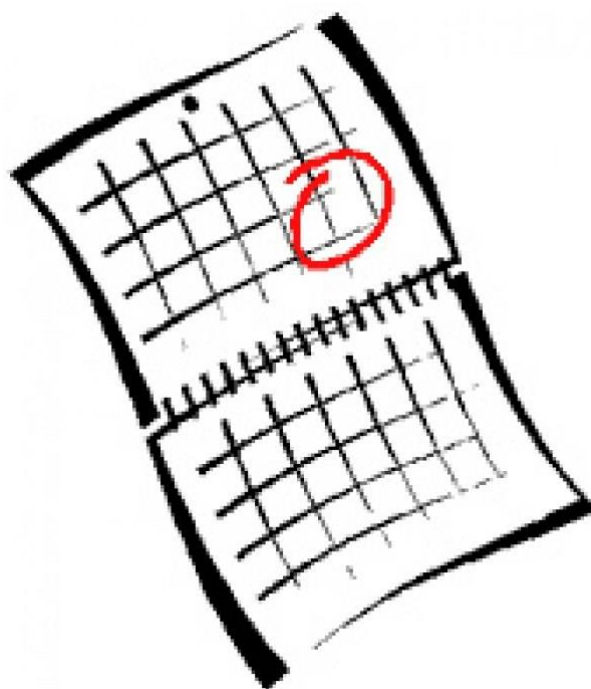
In phonics, we have been working hard every day—reading, recognising, and matching single letter sounds. The children are becoming increasingly confident in identifying sounds and beginning to apply them in early reading and writing activities.

In numeracy, we've been doing lots of *active maths* using songs, dancing, and movement-based games. It's been a fantastic way to develop number skills while having great fun!

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful half-term break!

**The 1J Team**

Dates for your diary



- Monday 2nd June - Back to school.
- Wednesday 4th June - Year 8 & 9 vaccination catch up clinic.
- Monday 23rd June - Arts Festival Week.
- Friday 27th June - Parents & Carers open visit to celebrate Arts Festival Week 1.30 - 2.30 pm. More information to follow.

- Wednesday 9th July - Parent & Carers evening.
- Friday 11th July - Staff training day - SCHOOL CLOSED.
- Wednesday 23rd July - Last day of Summer term.
- Monday 28th July - Friday 1st August - Spring Comet's Summer Club.

## Term Dates

**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





## Communication calendar

2025



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th
5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th
19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th weekend	25th weekend
26th no school	27th no school	28th no school	29th no school	30th no school	31st weekend	weekend

2025



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2nd back to school	school	school	school	school	weekend	weekend

We hope you have a lovely half term break and we will see you when we return on Monday 2nd June 2025!