

PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

May 2025



Dear Parents/ Grandparents/ Carers,

We are having a strong push on the 'basic knowledge' for Maths, Reading and Writing. This is to ensure that all of our children have the best start in their education to prepare them for their futures.

We are very lucky, that as an All-Through school, we are able to meet with secondary trained colleagues to share information and knowledge of the pupils (some we have known since they were 4 years old). We know where gaps are in learning and we are able to work well together to ensure all our pupils are ready for their secondary stage of education by the time they are ready to move to Key Stage 3 in Year 6.

Our 99 Club TIMES TABLE CHALLENGE has proved to be very successful with the children and we have achieved the best results for the school so far in our Year 4 Times Table Check. So, with this in mind we are now having a big push on handwriting and fluency in reading. This helps children to eventually write and read with pace. This benefits them hugely as they move through school, enabling them to work a lot quicker. The best way to improve this is practise. Any additional practise with handwriting at home will help.

The main push we are having is with reading fluency. We have noticed that the children are achieving well using their sounds (phonics) to read and now they need to build fluency. If you could help with this at home, it would make a huge difference. Here are some **TOP TIPS TO HELP READING FLUENCY**:

1. Teach children to read words they know straight away and NOT sound them out
2. When they sound a new word, look at the shape and get them to spot this word again in the book so they read it straight away (often, younger children sound it out every time and they don't need to).
3. Ask them to read at a conversational pace (not too slow, not too fast).
4. Ask them to use expression so they don't sound like a robot when they read!
5. Challenge them to a **1-minute SPEEDY READ** (see chart to target the correct number of words). Set the timer, allow your child to read a few pages first, then get them to re-read it out loud to you and time it for 1 minute. Then count how many words they have read. If you log it in their homework book and try it once a week, they can see how much quicker they are getting.

| Reading Fluency | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 25 wpm* | Reception |
| 70 wpm | Year 1 |
| 90 wpm | Year 2 |
| 110 wpm | Year 3 |
| 140 wpm | Year 4 |
| 150 wpm | Year 5 |
| 150-200 wpm | Year 6 |

wpm – words per minute

Attendance League Table

Each week, the class that gets the best overall attendance is awarded the Trophy, a certificate and a prize (ice-lollies/chocolate, etc). The children love to win. Here is the league table so far...by ensuring your child is at school every day, you help your child's class to win the prize 😊.

| Class | Percentage of Attendance % | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Overall | Week 29 | Week 30 | Week 31 | Week 32 |
| Reception | 93 | 96 | 93 | 92 | 92 |
| Year 1 | 90 | 91 | 87 | 96 | 87 |
| Year 2 | 89 | 98 | 92 | 84 | 81 |
| Year 3 | 87 | 85 | 79 | 91 | 94 |
| Year 4 | 91 | 94 | 94 | 86 | 90 |
| Year 5 | 92 | 91 | 94 | 92 | 91 |
| Year 6 | 95 | 93 | 92 | 99 | 95 |
| Primary Overall | 92 | 92 | 91 | 92 | 91 |

SPORTS DAY

On Friday 27th June, we will be holding our annual sports day. This is a fun event for the children to attend and parents/carers are welcome to join. Please feel free to bring blankets/camping chairs to sit on. Please can I remind you that **NO DOGS/ NO VAPING SMOKING / NO ALCOHOL** is permitted on the school grounds.

For those who have attended Sports Day previously, all visiting adults, sit in the middle of the Sports Track and the children move around the outside in their classes with their teachers. Visiting adults cannot enter into the area where the children are due to our safeguarding protocols. Children know that if they want to pop and see you, they can do so with permission from a teacher. The weather isn't normally too hot in the morning which is why we run sports day first thing, but please ensure your child comes to school in their PE KIT with COLOUR T-SHIRT, has a hat, a drink and suncream if needed (this can be applied before school).

WRAP AROUND CARE – SEPTEMBER. BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We will be welcoming our new Wrap Around Care Provider in September and they will join us on Sports Day and after school on Thursday so you will be able to meet them and ask any questions you may have about the NEW BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB LAUNCHING IN SEPTEMBER. They will have all the costings and information available for you. This means that staff will no longer be running the frequent breakfast and after school clubs from September. Staff have volunteered to do this for a few years now to support working parents/carers. Although some clubs will still be running to support the wider development of the school, childcare will now be accessed to through our partner provider.

If any secondary pupils collect their siblings at the end of the day and are unfortunate enough to receive a detention, parents will need to pay for their primary child to attend After School Club until 4pm, where they can then be collected.

We look forward to seeing you at all our summer events. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Briner

Reception – Miss Bell and Miss Dashti

Swimming

We are excited to share with you the wonderful progress our class has made in their swimming lessons this term. The children have been having a fantastic time in the water, learning new skills, and developing confidence in the pool.



Over the past few weeks, the children have been introduced to basic water safety and fun water games that help improve their co-ordination and motor skills.

We encourage you to continue supporting your child's swimming journey by practicing water safety at home and celebrating their achievements. Whether it is a splash in the bath or a trip to the local pool, every bit of practice helps.

We are so proud of how far each child has come and can't wait to see how their swimming skills continue to grow.

Summer Assembly



We will be performing our assembly on Wednesday 9th July at 2.15pm. You will be sent individual messages notifying you of the part your child will be performing and the costume they will need.

Handwriting

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

We have begun learning cursive handwriting as part of our early writing development. This is an exciting step in helping children build strong foundations for fluent and confident writing as they move through their school years.

Cursive handwriting involves joining letters together in a flowing style. At this stage, we are focussing on pre-cursive patterns and teaching children how to form each letter with a lead-in and lead-out stroke. These early steps support better letter spacing, rhythm and muscle memory.

You can support your child at home by:

- Encouraging them to practise their letter shapes slowly and carefully.
- Helping them hold their pencil correctly using a comfortable grip.
- Celebrating their effort and progress, no matter how small.



We are very proud of how enthusiastically the children are approaching this new skill. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like tips for supporting handwriting at home.

Year 1 - Mrs Clay

This month has been busy for Year One. We started off the month by going on a springtime walk. The children enjoyed looking for all the signs of spring and learned the names of a number of spring plants. They even had time to play in the park and enjoy the good weather.



With the phonic screening check fast approaching, we have also been revising all of the sounds during extra phonics whole class lessons and our after-school club. The children are doing really well with their reading. Thank you to parents for supporting their reading at home.

Finally, we have prepared and performed our class assembly. The children chose what they wanted to include in the performance and did a brilliant job of performing songs and speaking clearly in front of the whole school and a number of parents. It really showcased their learning and their developing confidence.

Year 2/3 – Miss McLynskey

Cooking Around the World – Year 2 & 3 DT

This half term, our Year 2 and 3 pupils have been diving into the delicious world of international cuisine as part of their Design and Technology lessons. The theme, *Cooking Around the World*, has taken the children on a culinary journey, introducing them to a variety of dishes and the cultures they come from.



Each week, the children have explored a new recipe and learned about its country of origin. So far, they've enjoyed making colourful veggie kebabs and traditional rock cakes – both a hit with our young chefs! Coming up soon, we're looking forward to making tasty spring rolls, which is sure to be another exciting hands-on experience.

It's been wonderful to see the children working together so enthusiastically. Their collaboration and teamwork throughout the cooking process has been outstanding, with everyone taking turns, supporting one another, and sharing in the success of their creations. What's been particularly impressive is the way they've been applying their maths and science learning – carefully measuring ingredients, observing changes in materials, and thinking critically about how things cook.



We're incredibly proud of how engaged and curious the children have been. We can't wait to see – and taste – what they create next!

Year 4 – Miss Heyer and Miss Walker

This month, Year 4 had an exciting and educational experience as they explored the world of healthcare through a series of workshops and a special visit to the orthopaedic hospital. Throughout the month, they took part in engaging workshops held at school, where they learned about bones, joints, and how the body heals. The highlight of



the experience was their visit to the hospital, where the children participated in fun, hands-on activities and were given a fascinating tour of the hospital. The trip not only deepened their understanding of orthopaedics but also sparked curiosity and appreciation for the important work done in healthcare.



Year 5 – Mr Newton and Miss Dashti

This month, Year 5 have been learning a lot.

Reading:

The Year 5 star readers are Mimi and Dee Dee this month for excellent efforts with their reading! It has been lovely to hear all of them reading. Please can you ensure that you are reading at home with your child as much as possible.

Maths: Please can you keep learning all the times tables up to the 12 times table with your children.



English: Year 5 have produced some amazing lyric poems inspired by Valerie Bloom. They are now writing adventure narratives. We have been learning an adventure narrative story called 'The Adventure at Sandy Cove.' Please find attached a photo of a story map that was drawn by Dee Dee and Gabriel.

Trip: Year 5 and Year 4 went on a trip to The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital this month. They learnt about the health and the hospital. They also learnt about germs. The children got to walk around the whole hospital and got to visit different department. They were particularly interested in the robotic pharmacist. They represented the school extremely well, and the staff said that this was the best-behaved group they had ever had.



Homework: Please ensure that your children are completing their homework. They should be reading three times a week. Please can you make sure that the reading records are signed. They should also be completing their maths and spellings each week.

Year 5/6 football team: The Year 5/6 girls football team played in a tournament at St Edwards' Primary School on Tuesday 20th May. I was very proud of the team, as they had a smile on their faces, and they never gave up. They have improved a lot compared to the last tournament that they played in. Well done girls. Keep it up!



Year 5/6 rounders team: On Thursday 15th May, the Year 6 rounders team went to play a tournament at St Mary's Primary School. We played against some very good teams, but we battled hard and improved throughout the tournament.

Year 3 and 4 hockey festival: There was a hockey festival at Bournville School on Monday 19th May. The children gained some new skills in a new sport. They had a great time!

We look forward to another month of learning.



Year 6 – Miss Withy and Mrs Hathaway

Heart Dissection – Bringing the Circulatory System to Life!

As part of our Science topic on the Circulatory System, Year 6 were lucky enough to take part in a heart dissection with Mr Beaufoy and Miss Mpofu, the secondary school science team, allowing us to see firsthand the structures we have been learning about in class.



Wearing gloves and goggles for safety, the children carefully examined the heart, identifying the four chambers of the heart. These are called the right and left atria and ventricles. These pump blood around the body. We also located the major blood vessels, including the aorta, pulmonary artery, and veins, understanding how oxygenated and deoxygenated blood travel through the heart. We even learnt a rhyme to help us remember.



By exploring the thicker muscular walls of the left ventricle, we discovered why it is stronger than the right ventricle—because it needs to pump blood all around the body. Seeing the valves inside the heart helped them understand how blood flows in one direction, preventing backflow.

This hands-on experience brought our learning to life, deepening our understanding of how the heart functions. We were amazed to see this incredible organ in real life!

Thank you again to the Science department, to help give Year 6 this amazing opportunity.



Primary Dates for Your Diary

| | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------|
| 27.06.2025 | Sports Day 9am – 11am | Sports Field |
| 04.07.2025 | Reserve Sports Day (in case of rain previous week) | Sports Field |
| 09.07.2025 | Reception Assembly | Primary Hall (upstairs) |
| 09.07.2025 | Year 6 LEAVERS AWARDS NIGHT | PPC |
| 11.07.2025 | End of Year Reports to parents | Sent home |
| 16.07.2025 | Year 6 Special School Surprise – more information to follow from Year 6 | Primary playground |
| 18.07.2025 | END OF YEAR REWARDS ASSEMBLY – Not to be missed by pupils | |

PE Kit

Please ensure that your child is sent to school in the correct PE kit outlined below. Please ensure everything is labelled as well.

Can I also remind parents that children should be wearing **black school shoes or plain black trainers** only to school.

Black/blue shorts/joggers/leggings
 Plain white t-shirt
 Blue/black jumper
 Black trainers
 PE bag



Nearly New Uniform Rail

Just to let parents know that we have a pre-loved uniform rail in school, including shoes. This houses many items that have been donated to school (PE kits, summer dresses, trousers, skirts, etc). If you are in need of any items, please come and help yourself to clothing or send a note on dojo and we can pass clothes onto your children. We appreciate uniform is expensive and that children can lose items too. We do not charge for this uniform as it has been donated free of charge.