



# Spring 1 Newsletter



## Headteachers' Message:

Dear Parents and Carers,

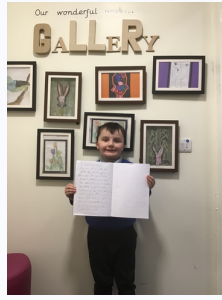
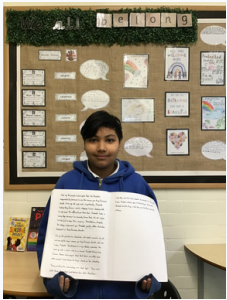
As we come to the end of a busy (and extremely rainy!) half term, we wanted to take a moment to share how incredibly proud we are of the wonderful learning filling our classrooms. Every day, we have the pleasure of seeing children learning together, being kind friends and growing in confidence and resilience.

We will be holding Parents' Meetings next half term, and we can't wait for you to see and hear about the great progress your child is making. Have a restful, fun-filled half term. We really hope that the sun finally comes out so you can get outdoors and enjoy the break.

Warmly, Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Small



## Focussing on the Curriculum Driver of:



One of our four curriculum drivers is a focus on vocabulary. We believe that words are the keys that unlock the world for our children, and seeing this "driver" in action across all subjects has been truly inspiring.

Our staff and pupils work on discovering, understanding, and using ambitious new language. Whether it is a Year 1 pupil describing a character using "exquisite" adjectives or a Year 6 student debating who is to blame for death of King Duncan. By prioritising vocabulary, we are giving our children the tools to express their thoughts with clarity and confidence.

Here is our curriculum driver of vocabulary in action...

We are incredibly proud to celebrate one of our Year 6 pupils for his fantastic progress in writing. His work is a joy to read, filled with rich, ambitious vocabulary and thoughtful ideas that truly bring his writing to life. His determination, resilience, and hard work have led to extraordinary progress in such a short time. He is a wonderful example of how perseverance and a positive attitude can lead to great success. Well done!

One of our fabulous Year 2 pupils has written a super diary entry focusing on using rich vocabulary and how to join ideas. It is beautifully presented too. We are so proud of you!

## School Dinner

Jacket potatoes are available to order from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. The options will be cheese, beans or both with a side salad and the children choose this when in the hall. The cost the same as a school dinner, £3.16. Please pre-order this option up to 2:30pm the day before via the online ordering form.



## Dates for the diary:



### February:

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Return to school for pupils  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 residential - Lea Green

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Move Together ATTFE project begins  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Year 5 Viking Day

### March:

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day - more information to follow

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Year 6 residential - High Adventure

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening 3:30pm - 5:00 pm - more information to follow

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Year 1 to Matlock Farm Park

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Rock Steady Concert

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - last day of Spring 2 half term

### April

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Start of Summer term for pupils

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Year 5 residential - Walesby

## Attendance

Thank you to our families for your continued support with attendance this term. Regular attendance is essential for children's learning, wellbeing and progress.

Our current whole school attendance for Spring Term 1 is 93.1%.

We've had 182 pupils with 100% attendance up until week ending 6th February 2026. Well done!

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, can you please ensure you contact school before the start of the school day. Can you also ensure that children are on time for school so that they don't miss important parts of the curriculum.

If you can, please refrain from collecting children earlier than the end of the school day. If your child has an appointment and needs to be collected early, can you please bring the appointment card/letter to the school office so that this can be recorded.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation.



## Christmas cards

Wow!! We raised £271 from our Christmas cards. We will spend the money on wet playtime games.

Tiger Tags are run by the same company who create our Christmas cards. For each set of stickers or labels purchased, £1 is donated to school. To order, please use the following link: <http://www.tigertags.co.uk/school/5441>

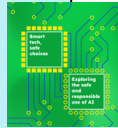


## Year 1 and 2 Parent Reading

It is great to welcome parents into Year 1 and 2 for our parent reading sessions. The children love sharing their reading and we love to see you all there sharing a love of books with your child. Everyone is welcome every Friday between 8:45-9:00am. Come and join us!

## Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February was Safer Internet Day. The theme this year was '**Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**'. Year 5 and 6 had a workshop around being critical of what you see online, and each year group has completed work around AI. Please ask your child about the work they have completed.



## School Council

School council have been very busy this half term thinking of fundraising ideas for events like Valentine's Day, Comic Relief and Easter. Please keep checking class dojo so you can see what is coming up. As always, we really appreciate all your support with these events.



## Garden Gang

This half term, Garden Gang has worked hard to plant many various Spring bulbs, including tulips and daffodils in pots to add to our Kindness Garden. We have also planted many vegetables in biodegradable toilet paper roll planters, including tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage and broccoli. Some of these vegetables were planted in 'seed snails', which will allow for many seeds to begin growing without the use of pots - they are created with recycled bubble wrap and old newspaper sheets.



## Spring Parent Meetings

Our Spring Term Parent Teacher meetings will be available to book via Scopay after half term. Meetings will take place afterschool on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Information for separate dates and times for individual parent teacher meetings to follow. Appointments can be made for either face to face meetings or phone calls.

## Wraparound care update:

Priestic's wraparound care, which includes before and after school provision will be starting in the Summer Term. More information will be shared soon.

## World Book Day

We're really looking forward to celebrating World Book Day and all things reading. It will be a lovely opportunity for the children to share stories and enjoy reading with their peers and adults. A separate letter has been sent with more information.



## Reading together

- \* Make reading part of your daily routine - find a time of day that works for you and your child to read together. It doesn't have to be at bedtime. It could be in a morning after breakfast or after you have had dinner in an evening.
- \* Find a comfy spot to sit together and share a book with screens turned off.
- \* Keep reading together. Just because your child is older, doesn't mean you have to stop sharing stories together.
- \* Take breaks whilst reading - your child doesn't have to read an entire book in one go. Any time spent sharing and talking about a book together is beneficial, even if it is just a couple of minutes.
- \* Be positive and give your child encouragement with their reading, gently correcting a mistake and re-reading the entire sentence.
- \* Talk about the story afterwards and ask questions to support your child's understanding.
- \* Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again. It is fine to reread the same book. Try rereading it in different voices.
- \* Visit the local library together. There are always lots of free events and activities happening at the library and it is free to join and borrow books.



## Sport Competitions

A huge well done to our Year 4/5 girls who represented the school brilliantly at their basketball competition on 26th January. The team showed fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event. Congratulations also to our Year 5/6 pupils who took part in their basketball competition on 5th February. They demonstrated great effort and enthusiasm and did the school proud.



## Eco Warriors

This half term each class has elected their eco-warrior. Our eco-warriors are going to support us become a more eco-friendly school. They are going to support us to recycle paper and ensure that lights are turned off when classrooms are empty. We also participated in the Ashfield District Council Recycling competition, designing the side of the new bin lorry! Our Eco-Warriors will also be helping us to develop other more sustainable habits around school. Well done eco-warriors!

## Pupil Premium

Trips and experience are subsidised by 50% from our Pupil Premium funding. To apply for Pupil Premium in Nottinghamshire, register for [Free School Meals](#) online through the [Nottinghamshire County Council Citizen Portal](#). You will need your National Insurance Number or NASS number. If you cannot apply online, call 0300 500 80 80. Eligibility is based on income-related benefits.

## Foundation 1

We have welcomed some new children to F1 this half term and we are proud of how well the older children have supported them to settle in. We have been learning about woodlands and sharing some stories based in them. The children have enjoyed using different painting styles to create trees and have painted owl pictures. We had a wonderful visit from a librarian from Sutton-in-Ashfield library where the children got to sing songs and listen to stories. The children have been chefs and made healthy flapjacks with fruit.



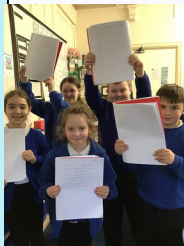
## Year 1

This half term we have been continuing to learn about our local area. We enjoyed a walk around the local community and looking at the different houses and buildings around Sutton. We then created a map of our walk and wrote a report to inform others about our town. We have also carried out a traffic survey on Priestsic Road and used real world maths skills to share our findings. We saw more cars than any other vehicle!



## Year 4

Year 4 have been making their own Ancient Greek vases and looking at the stories the pictures tell on the vases. Based on our learning around Ancient Greece, we have used real life maths, where the children planned a holiday to Greece with a budget of £1200, and had to work out the total cost of hotels, flights and experiences.



## Year 5

Year 5 have delved into their learning about the Romans and launched the topic by turning their classroom into a museum where children had the opportunity to handle and investigate real Roman artifacts. We concluded our learning by creating our own Spaghetti Bolognese dish, creating ways to make it more healthy! As part of Nottinghamshire's Science and Curiosity Festival, Year 5 have taken part in a workshop led by Boulby Underground Laboratory where they learnt about the experiments the site conducts underground and had the opportunity to code their own mini robots.



## Foundation 2

In Foundation 2, we had a visit from the local Librarian, who came and read us some new stories and we sang songs. It was lots of fun!

We enjoyed tasting Chinese food, especially the noodles, whilst we were learning about Chinese New Year. During English, we have read Handa's Noisy Night and found out all about Africa and took part in an African drumming workshop.

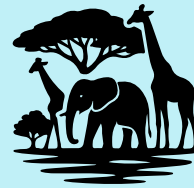


## Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have been learning all about Kenya, Africa. We have created some fantastic art work based on Tinga Tinga School of Art, taking part in some practical real life maths activities to compare climates between the UK and Kenya and discovering all about the Big 5 animals that live there. We were very excited to see a herd of elephants, including the cutest baby ones, on our live webcam to a national park.

## Year 3

Year 3 children have taken part in their very first school residential to Rand Farm. They learnt where their food comes from and made their own meringues and butter! For lunch children made their own pizza from scratch! Whilst at the farm, children took part in farm jobs, helping to feed and muck out animals. A highlight was the soft play centre and meeting some of the farms newest arrivals. Chance to shine cricket sessions have begun in Year 3, which has taught children the basic skills of how to play cricket, and developed their resilience and independence as they have taken on new challenges!



## Year 6

Year 6 had an exciting opportunity to delve into the world of Shakespeare during a drama workshop led by Konflux Theatre. Over two days, the visiting theatre company worked with the children, and the entire Year 6 cohort rose to the challenge of learning and performing Macbeth in just one day! This engaging experience provided a fantastic hook into our English learning for the half term, bringing the play to life through drama, movement and performance. The children showed great enthusiasm, confidence and teamwork, and they truly did themselves proud.

During Holocaust Memorial Week, Year 6 visited The National Holocaust Centre as part of their learning about World War II. Throughout the visit, the children conducted themselves with great maturity and respect. They followed the life story of a boy their own age and learned about how he was persecuted, leading to his parents' heartbreaking decision to evacuate him on the Kindertransport. Pupils asked thoughtful questions, listened attentively and showed deep empathy and understanding. This powerful experience helped to deepen their historical knowledge while also reinforcing the British Value of tolerance and respect for those of different faiths, as well as an understanding of the protected characteristic of religion.