

Muscliff Primary School Newsletter



**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
2026**

Forest School has arrived!!

This half term I have been busy developing part of the school field and developing it into a Forest School site.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to get it up and running.

We still need some items for the mud kitchen like old pots and pans or utensils so if anyone has a spring clean, we will happily take your old items!

Year 5 will be the first classes to take part in Forest School after half term. Sessions will include a topic, den building, tool work and lighting a campfire. We try to go out in all weathers so please ensure your child has spare clothes which they don't mind getting muddy. Waterproofs are ideal so we can still go out in the rain. Wellies or old trainers too. Bring a spare plastic bag to put dirty/wet clothes in after.



After school club – I will also be running an ASC every Wednesday 3.15 - 4.15 for years 2 and 3. For more information and to book please visit the link <https://www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings/2026/02/25/muscliff-primary-forest-school-after-school-club>

I look forward to getting started.

Miss Jones

Thank you to our kit sponsor!

We would like to say a huge thank you to The Corporate 5's for their generous support in providing our new cross country and athletics kit. Thanks to their sponsorship, our pupils can take part in sporting events feeling confident, comfortable, and proud to represent our school.



The kit will be used for cross country and athletics events throughout the year and will benefit children across multiple year groups. We are incredibly grateful for The Corporate 5's support of school sport and the positive opportunities it creates for our pupils.

Thank you for helping our children run, compete, and achieve their best!

‘Water only’ school policy (in water bottles)

We are writing to remind families about our water-only drinks policy in school. This approach is in place to support children’s health, concentration, and wellbeing throughout the school day.

Why water?

Better hydration: Water keeps children alert and focused without the sugar highs and lows that come from other drinks.

Healthy teeth: Dentists strongly recommend water between meals, as it is the only drink that does not contribute to tooth decay when sipped throughout the day.

Improved learning: Staying properly hydrated helps children concentrate, think clearly, and feel their best in class.

Simple and consistent: A clear water-only rule avoids distractions and ensures fairness for all children.

Why not flavoured water?

Although flavoured water may seem like a healthy alternative, most varieties contain added sugar, sweeteners, acids, or flavourings that can damage teeth and affect energy levels. Even “no added sugar” or “sugar-free” options often include acidic flavourings that can erode enamel when drunk regularly.

Because of this, flavoured water is treated the same as squash or juice and is not permitted during the school day.

What children may bring

Plain still water in a refillable bottle.

Children can refill their bottles at school whenever needed.

(The children can bring squash/ juice/ flavoured water in lunchboxes only).

We appreciate your support in helping us promote healthy habits and create the best possible learning environment for all pupils. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.



Kind regards,
The School Team



What have we been up to this term?

RECEPTION



This half term, in Rainbows, we are learning all about space. We have loved finding out about the solar system and the planets and learning so many interesting facts about them. We have also made some wonderful collaborative collages of the different planets. We have been learning about astronauts and what life is like aboard the International Space Station. Some of us think we would love to be astronauts when we grow up. A highlight of this half term has been inviting our parents into school to get creative with us and make rockets using plastic bottles. You can see them zooming around our rainbows corridor!

Year 1 started the term as detectives where they were faced with a terrible crime scene in the small hall. Who had done such dreadful things to these poor fruits and vegetables?! It was the children's mission to get to the bottom of it.

In English, the children have enjoyed improving their sentence writing using colourful semantics, using Sue Hendra's books as inspiration.

We have also created our own snails out of clay, using different sculpting techniques and then we used our ever-growing understanding of combining colours to paint our snails. Our snails were inspired by a book by Sue Hendra called 'Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell'. We hope that these snails are taking pride of place in your homes.

YEAR 1



The children have even used computers to explore different ways of creating some digital artwork.

It was lovely to finish our learning as designers, making fruit salads. The children used the kitchen equipment so carefully; they were really proud of what they had made.

This half term, Year 2 have been busy travelling back in time to 1666 as part of their exciting history topic on the Great Fire of London. The learning began with a truly magical starter that captured everyone's imagination: the children designed and made their own model houses, which were then safely set alight under close supervision to help them understand how quickly the fire spread through the wooden streets of London. This experience sparked lots of curiosity and enthusiasm and set the scene perfectly for the learning that followed.

YEAR 2



The children have produced some wonderful descriptive writing, using rich vocabulary to bring the sights, sounds and feelings of the Great Fire to life. Alongside this, they have shown an impressive knowledge of historical facts, confidently explaining when and where the fire started, how it spread, and the ways it changed London forever. We have been so proud of their engagement and growing understanding of history, and it has been a joy to see their excitement throughout the topic.

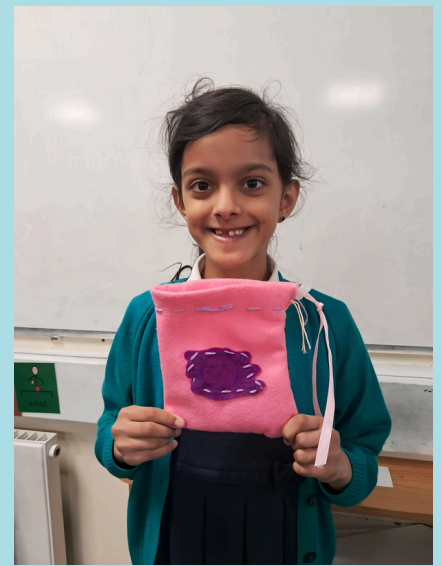
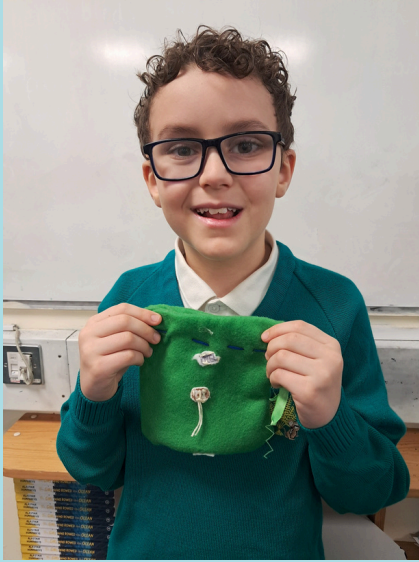
We have LOVED working with your children this half term! It's been full of learning but more importantly, it's been full of smiles and happiness. There's something very special about this group of children and it is always a pleasure to be in their company. Our theme has been the weather, which we really enjoyed. The rain, rain and more rain actually gave us something to talk about, measure and investigate. A highlight was the video weather forecast that some children sent in. Although this wasn't an 'official' homework task, many children took it upon themselves to do something extra. That's what we want - inspired children! (Our theme next half term is fossils... you have our email address should you wish to send a video over the holidays... hint, hint!) We used the Kapok Tree for English and produced the most amazing writing. In fact, we've written a special piece for you to take home with you at parents evening. This will help us to talk you through your child's strengths and next steps when we meet.



YEAR 3



Collages were amazing. We really enjoyed getting stuck in (although I'm not sure our cleaner would agree as we did make a mess) and produced some fantastic art work. The Year 3 team are really looking forward to another fun-filled half term after we've all had a short break!



YEAR 4

Dreams, Courage and Creativity!

This half term, Year 4 have been inspired by the powerful and uplifting story of *The Girl Who Rowed the Ocean*. Through this incredible journey across the Atlantic, the children discovered what it truly means to believe in yourself.

The story sparked thoughtful discussions about dreams and adventures. We explored how every great journey comes with both positives and challenges. Most importantly, the children recognised that courage and resilience is needed to keep going even when things feel difficult.

Inspired by this, the class began imagining their own exciting and meaningful adventures! From daring explorations to acts of bravery that help others, their ideas have been truly wonderful and imaginative. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they realised that with determination and belief, anything really is possible.

Alongside their creative thinking, Year 4 have also been hard at work developing their practical skills. In DT, the children have been mastering their sewing techniques. They explored a variety of stitches and showed great patience and perseverance while creating their very own drawstring bags.

Year 5 have had an enriching and action-packed start to the term, highlighted by a visit to the Winchester Science Museum. They explored the planetarium, tried a wide range of hands-on experiments around the centre, and took part in workshops where they recreated the electromagnetic light spectrum as well as exploring infrared light. The children were impeccably behaved throughout the visit and demonstrated outstanding Muscliff manners, which made us incredibly proud.

Back in the classroom, our learning has continued to be just as engaging. We have been exploring the non-fiction text *Glow* and discovering why different aspects of the solar system are described as heroes. The children have particularly enjoyed using parenthesis to design their own planets and fact files, showing great creativity and understanding. In computing, they have been learning about vector drawing, quickly picking up new skills and confidently applying them to create and design their own impressive vector images.

YEAR 5

We have also begun thinking about the Greeks through our new class text, *Who Let the Gods Out*, and are very excited to learn more about Greece and the Ancient Greeks on our return to school. Alongside our classroom learning, the children have really enjoyed the tag rugby lessons delivered by a specialist coach, developing both their skills and teamwork.

This half term in Year 6 has been hugely enjoyable! We have been weaving and sketching, dissecting a heart and learning about the body and circulatory system: it's been all go!

YEAR 6



Creativity has been running through all we have accomplished this half term, including in our writing where we have been immersed in the dark world of Victor Frankenstein and his 'creation'. Exploring the gothic themes has been especially enjoyable and we have been working hard to craft a perfect paragraph. Our enormous congratulations to all our hardworking Year 6s for another brilliant half term. Our gothic theme continues next half term, so do please keep an eye out for the topic overview coming home before half term.



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Also, many thanks for your support in ensuring CGP homework is up to date 😊

Sports News!



Girls' Football Teams Shine at Kingsleigh

On 22nd January, we took two girls' teams to Kingsleigh for both a league fixture and a friendly match. The girls were full of excitement, and despite grey skies and intermittent showers, we were fortunate that the weather held. The pitch was muddy, but the girls handled it brilliantly!

With a flurry of fixtures coming up this half term—and having not played competitively for a little while—the girls began with a strong defensive focus. As the matches settled, they found their rhythm, grew in confidence, and soon discovered their attacking stride.

With no subs available, every player completed a full match, showing fantastic resilience, teamwork, and determination. Their hard work paid off with two superb results: a 6–1 win in the league fixture and a 5–2 victory in the friendly.

A huge well done to Eliza, Alba, Delilah, Scarlett, Evie, Aneira, Mia, Arielle, Mya, Ellen, Alice, and Amelie for their outstanding effort and brilliant teamwork throughout the afternoon.

Girls Football League Match Vs Epiphany

Our Year 4–6 girls put in a fantastic performance in their recent first league game against Epiphany, showing determination, resilience and excellent teamwork throughout.

There was a little trepidation going into the match after seeing Epiphany at the recent tournament and knowing they were fielding a strong side this year. However, our girls stepped onto the pitch with confidence, played their football, and took a very welcome early 2–0 lead.

Epiphany responded by increasing the pressure and quickly equalised, taking the score to 2–2. Not to be deterred, our team regrouped and went 3–2 up, only for Epiphany to equalise once again. It was a very well-matched, end-to-end game, with plenty of shots on target from our side that just wouldn't quite find the net.

There were some superb saves from Mia in goal, and the whole team worked tirelessly for one another. Sadly, luck wasn't on our side in the closing moments, as a quick last-minute goal secured the win for Epiphany.

Despite the result, this was a great effort from everyone involved. Well done to Toshi, Arielle, Mya, Ellen, Alba, Eliza, Hollie, Amelie, Delilah, Alice and Mia – a performance to be proud of!



Girls' Football Match Monday 2nd February vs Elm Academy

Our girls' football team put on a fantastic performance on Monday as they faced Elm Academy in an exciting and closely matched game. Despite the bitterly cold weather, the team showed real determination and teamwork throughout.

Elm opened the scoring in the first half, but our girls responded brilliantly, with Hollie calmly converting a well-earned penalty to bring us level. The game remained tight right up to the final minutes, when Elm managed to secure a late goal, giving them a narrow victory.

A superb effort from every player: Mia, Ellen, Mya, Alba, Eliza, Hollie, Amelie, Alice, Arielle, Toshi and Delilah. We are incredibly proud of their resilience, skill and sportsmanship.

Well done, girls!

Girls football - final league fixture

The girls travelled to Winton Primary for their final league fixture of the season and showed fantastic resilience from the very start, battling through torrential rain that greeted us on arrival. Despite a slow start in the first half, the team worked hard, rallied together, and found their rhythm after the break. Their determination and teamwork paid off with a well-deserved 5-1 victory. A great team effort from Mia, Mya, Ellen, Alba, Eliza, Toshi, Arielle, Alice, Amelie, Hollie and Delilah – well done to all involved!

Girls Dorset League Fixtures - Final round

On Friday 6th February, the girls' team travelled to Littledown to take part in a round-robin tournament for our final fixtures in the Dorset League. We opened with a challenging match against Broadstone Middle School. The team showed excellent defensive discipline and held their opponents off well, but Broadstone found their rhythm in the second half and secured the win.

Although disappointed, the girls used this early setback as motivation for their next game against St Ives. Their determination paid off—an impressive attacking performance led to a fantastic 5–0 victory! Confidence high, they went into their final match against The Park School and delivered another superb display, winning convincingly 6–0.

The rain thankfully held off despite the forecast, making for an enjoyable and memorable afternoon of football. A huge well done to the whole squad for their teamwork, resilience, and outstanding effort: Mia, Mya, Ellen, Alba, Eliza, Delilah, Toshi, Arielle, Alice and Amelie.

Great work, girls!



Year 5 Boys Football: Final League Game Victory!

On Tuesday 20th January, our Year 5 boys played their final league game at home against MSJ at Muscliff. Despite the grey day, the boys were full of excitement and a few nerves going into the match.

From the first whistle, it was clear how much their confidence had grown over the season! They played some superb football and worked brilliantly as a team. Their hard work paid off with a fantastic 5-0 win, making their final game a memorable one.

A huge well done to Jack, Archie, Oliver, Abel, Derek, Joel, Alex, and Nathan – **we are all so proud of you!**





Year 6 Boys Football League Game

There was a real buzz of anticipation as our Year 6 boys travelled away to Moordown St John's for their final league match. Going into the game undefeated, the stakes were high – a win would secure a place in the semi-finals. The boys were excited but understandably nervous, especially facing stiff competition on a much narrower pitch. An early goal from Moordown was a setback, but it only ignited our boys' fighting spirit. Showing fantastic resilience, teamwork and determination, they battled back to claim a well-deserved 2-1 victory. We are incredibly proud of their performance and can't wait to cheer them on in the semi-finals this March. A superb team effort from Jimmy-Jean, Teddy, Alfie, Alfie, Kyle, Jack, Henry, Ethan and Cairo!



Some of our Year 4 and 5 pupils recently represented the school at the Bournemouth Dance Festival, performing a routine to music from Matilda as part of this year's theme, "Once Upon a Dance." Before taking to the stage, the children also took part in an exciting dance workshop, where they developed new skills and grew in confidence alongside pupils from other schools. Under the bright lights, they performed amazingly, showcasing the hard work they had put into their rehearsals—some of which began at 7:30am! Mrs Capstack is incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and dedication. The festival brought together pupils from 11 other local schools, creating an inclusive, supportive, and fun environment for all the young dancers to shine.

Term dates

February Half Term break Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026

Spring Term 2 2026 Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March 2026 **(1:30pm finish)**

Easter Holiday Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026

Summer Term 1 2026 Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May 2026 (normal finish)
Bank Holiday: 4th May – School closed

May Half Term break Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026

Summer Term 2 2026 Tuesday 2nd June – Wednesday 22nd July 2026 **(1.30pm finish)**

Monday 1st June - INSET day (school closed)
Friday 3rd July - INSET day (school closed)

Summer Holiday begins Thursday 23rd July 2026- start of the summer holiday

Inset days:, Monday 1st June 2026 and Friday 3rd July 2026: the school is closed to children for staff training

Spring 2 - dates for your diary

- Tuesday 24th February 6.30pm Friends meeting
- Week 2nd March Yr5 Bikeability
- Week 2nd March - Parents evening for all years
- Friday 6th March - World Book Day (dressing up - interest/ hobbies) - see letter for more information, including Friends 'Marvellous chocolate ticket' prizes
- Monday 9th March - Disco tickets on sale
- 17 March - School Nurse drop in 9-10am
- Wednesday 25th March - Yr2 trip to Avon Heath
- Thursday 26th March - 'Friends Easter discos' with Outalimits
 - Yr1/2 3:15-4pm
 - Yr3/4 4:15-5:15pm
 - Yr5/6 5:30-6:30pm

Term dates for 2026/27

Hot off the press!.... INSET & term dates for next year agreed at our Governors' meeting this week... please note them in your diaries to ensure you book holidays out of term time. Thank you.

Autumn term 2026:

Wed 2nd Sept* – Fri 23rd Oct

Half term: Mon 26th Oct - Fri 30th Oct

Mon 2nd Nov *– Fri 18th Dec (1.30pm finish)

Spring term 2027:

Tues 5th Jan* – Fri 12th Feb

Half term: Mon 15th Feb - Fri 19th Feb

Mon 22nd Feb – Thurs 25th March (1.30pm finish)

Summer term 2027:

Mon 12th Apr – Fri 28th May

Half term: Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June

Tues 8th June** – Wed 21st July (1.30pm finish)

*INSET dates

Tues 1st Sept 2026

Fri 20th Nov 2026

Mon 4th Jan 2027

Mon 7th June 2027

Fri 2nd July 2027



PE days for Spring 2

Reception - Wednesday and Friday
Year 1 - Monday and Tuesday
Year 2 - Monday and Thursday
Year 3 - Wednesday and Thursday
Year 4 - Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 5 - Monday, Wednesday* and Friday
Year 6 - Tuesday and Thursday

**Forest school day - Y5 please wear PE kit and bring in spare outdoor clothes*

Friends Update



We hope you enjoyed reading the new newsletter sent to you from Friends this week - this outlined the fundraising plans and events coming up. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th February at 6.30pm. Please come along if you would like to be involved. Thank you,
Hollie & Christina (Co-Chairs), Mel (Secretary), Ozay (Treasurer) and the Friends team

News from the local community.

Swanage Railway

Community Weekend – 14 & 15 February

A chance for families to meet our volunteers, explore the railway, and enjoy a relaxed, hands-on introduction to how the railway works. Dorset residents receive 50% off tickets.

Railway 200 Inspiration Train – 16 to 18 February

A travelling exhibition at Corfe Castle Station celebrating 200 years of Britain's railways. Entry to the exhibition is included with a standard train ticket (timed entry required).

Both events are designed to be engaging for children and families, combining history, learning, and a fun day out.

The logo for Swanage Railway is presented in a stylized, blocky font. The words "SWANAGE" and "RAILWAY" are stacked vertically. The letters are a dark green color with a white outline, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The entire logo is enclosed within a double-lined green rectangular border.

**SWANAGE
RAILWAY**

BCP Council Libraries**Schools' Newsletter**

**activities for children and families
during Half Term.**

Check opening times for each library before revisiting bcpcouncil.gov.uk/libraries

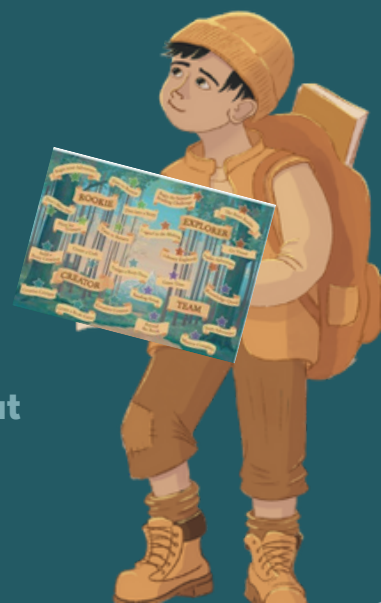
Bournemouth Library	Chinese New Year crafts - make a hobby horse and colouring activities	Monday 16th - Saturday 21st February - Drop in
Broadstone Library	Chinese New Year horse craft and picture trail	Saturday 14th - Wednesday 18th February - Drop in
Broadstone Library	The Great Storytelling Challenge competition and dressing up costume swap	Drop in all week. Competition closes on Saturday 28th February
Canford Heath Library	Chinese New Year craft	Monday 16th February 2:30 -4:00 - Drop in
Canford Heath Library	Valentines cards and story	Saturday 14th February 10:00 - 12:00 (Story at 11am)
Canford Heath Library	BookTrust Storytime and craft	Saturday 21st February 10:00 - 12:00 (Story at 11 am)
Castlepoint Library	Valentine cards and colouring	Saturday 14th February - Drop in
Castlepoint Library	Lunar New Year treasure hunt, crafts and colouring	Monday 16th - Saturday 21st February - Drop in
Christchurch Library	100 years of Winnie the Pooh crafts and activities	Saturday 14 th - Saturday 21 st February. Drop in
Creekmoor Library	Chinese New Year horse craft	Saturday 14th - Saturday 21st February Drop in during opening hours
Ensburry Park Library	'The Weather' craft activity	Tuesday 17th February 10:30 -11:30
Kinson Library	Create your own parachute and button figure	Saturday 14 th - Saturday 21 st February - Drop in
Oakdale Library	Children's crafts - including Chinese New Year	Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th Friday 20th February - Drop in

Poole Library	Paper kite making	Wednesday 18th February 10:30 - 11:30 Booking essential - limited places
Rossmore Library	Fairy tale story creator and lollipop stick puppets	Saturday 14 th - Saturday 21 st February - Drop in
Rossmore Library	Individuality Swimming - water safety talk for families	Tuesday 17th February 11am - Drop in
Rossmore Library	Library legends crafts and character hunt	Friday 20th February 15:30 - 16:30 - Drop in
Springbourne Library	Children's crafts - puppets, masks and a collage for Chinese New Year	Monday 16th February 14:00 - 16:30 - Drop in
Springbourne Library	Creative kids' crafts, and public health and community outreach	Tuesday 17th February 14:00- 16:00 - Drop in
Southbourne and Pokesdown Library	Create your own clouds	Monday 16th - Saturday 21 st February - Drop in
Tuckton Library	Chinese New Year horse craft	Monday 16th February 10:30 - 11:30 Please book with Tuckton Library
Westbourne Library	Chinese New Year horse and dragon crafts	Saturday 14 th - Saturday 21 st February - Drop in
West Howe Library	Chinese New Year - make a horse mobile Children's Mental Health Week - decorate a hand Library Legends - design a book cover	Monday 16th - Saturday 21st February - Drop in during opening hours
Winton Library	Creative pebble painting (Winton Library Garden Volunteers)	Saturday 14th February 10:30 -12:30



LIBRARY LEGENDS

There's still plenty of time to join our Library Legends challenge. Have a go at some quests to earn stickers, collector cards and perhaps even a medal. It's free to join. Just ask for a booklet at any BCP library.



Come along and take anything you would like, donate stuff too if you wish! Bacon and egg rolls are available, along with activities for children completely free - donations always welcome if you are able 😊

St Thomas' Church
2 Western Avenue
Ensbury Park
Bournemouth
BH10 5BN

Free CLOTHES SWAP



First Saturday of every month **9am - 11am**



- * Find some wonderful new outfits
- * Pass on the clothes, shoes, coats & children's toys you no longer use
- * Enjoy some great company & a bacon roll



We will take donations of clothes and toys whenever the church is open, (currently Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday until 4pm and Friday morning) or even on the day - but please don't feel you have to bring anything!

- * We accept all clean, usable clothes from tiny baby size, through to XXXL mens & more.
- * If any items can't be swapped, we have a clothes recycling bank just outside ---->



See you on the first Saturday of the month!

Completely FREE (donations always welcome)



HOLI 2026

MUSCLIFF YOUTH CENTER & MUSCLIFF PARK

SUNDAY, 15TH MARCH 2026

12 PM - 5 PM

COLORFUL PARTY • MUSIC • DANCE • FOOD • FUN!

**DJ
ABHI**

**SHILLINGSTONE DRIVE,
BOURNEMOUTH
BH9 3LR**





And finally a message from Mrs Fenby....

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a very positive half term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate everything the children have achieved. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing confidence have been a joy to see each day. Whether they've been tackling new challenges, collaborating with friends, or sharing their ideas with increasing independence, they have shown real pride in their learning.

Across the school, children have been deeply engaged in a wide range of experiences—from hands-on practical activities to creative projects and thoughtful discussions. It has been especially lovely to see them supporting one another, asking thoughtful questions, and showing resilience when faced with something new. Their energy and eagerness to learn truly brighten our classrooms.

Thank you for the support you give at home. The partnership between school and families makes such a difference, and we appreciate the time you spend reading with your children, practising key skills, and encouraging their interests.

We look forward to sharing the children's achievements and progress with you during our parents evenings (week of 2nd March) - please book via Arbor.

We look forward to a busy Spring Two half term; including World Book Day celebrations, parents evenings and school discos.

We hope you all have a lovely half term. See you on Monday 23rd February!
Thank you for your support,

Mrs Fenby