



We are thrilled to share the highlights of our recent World Book Day celebrations, which proved to be a resounding success! The excitement began at the start of the week with a fantastic visit from Gareth Davies, an inspiring storyteller who captivated the children with his engaging narratives and powerful storytelling techniques.

On Thursday, the entire school celebrated the joy of reading with a series of themed activities that brought beloved stories to life. Each teacher embraced a different book, encouraging the children to immerse themselves in the magic of literature while dressed in costumes inspired by their chosen characters. The children enjoyed a carousel of activities throughout the day, promoting creativity, collaboration, and a love for reading.

Miss McPhilbin chose "The Tiger Who Came to Tea" by Judith Kerr. She invited the children to retell the story through drama using character headbands, allowing them to take on the various roles. The Year 2 children took this experience further by collaborating to create detailed story maps, reinforcing their understanding of the narrative.

Miss Gossington brought the traditional tale of "Little Red Riding Hood" to life by initially retelling the story dramatically but purposefully leaving out the ending. This inspired the children to use finger puppets to introduce new characters and devise their own twists to the tale. Working in small groups, they skilfully acted out their revised versions, showcasing their creativity and collaborative skills.

Miss Greasley focused on "Funnybones" by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The children were delighted to create stick puppets and speech bubbles, which enabled them to explore the characters' personalities and engage in imaginative dialogues. This interactive activity allowed the children to delve deeper into the story and express their own interpretations of the characters.

Over in Mr Farooq's class, the story of "Elmer's Special Day" by David McKee served as an inspiring backdrop. After listening to the tale, the children attentively examined the diverse animals and their unique patterns. They then had the opportunity to design their own Elmer patterns on blank templates, fostering their artistic skills while celebrating individuality and creativity.

Mrs Bloom introduced her class to "The Gingerbread Man." By reading the story aloud, she captivated the children's attention, after which they engaged in a fun activity on Purple Mash using Chromebooks. The Foundation Stage children decorated pictures of the gingerbread man, while Key Stage 1 created their own unique gingerbread man 'books', incorporating dragged images, typed story portions, drawings, sound effects, and their own voice recordings to effectively retell parts of the story.

Mrs Henson embraced the delightful narrative of "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Oliver Jeffers. She encouraged the children to express their thoughts and feelings by writing letters to the crayons, asking them not to quit, while also guiding them in creating crayon bookmarks. This activity sparked their imaginations and invited them to think critically about emotions and the value of friendship.

I know the children in school and nursery will remember many aspects of the day - they really embraced all the opportunities presented to them. A heartfelt thank you to Miss McPhilbin for organising the day and to all the staff for creating some amazing activities that ignited their love for reading.

As we carry this enthusiasm forward, we encourage you to reinforce their reading habits at home. Sharing books together, discussing stories, and visiting libraries can create a wonderful reading culture.



At our school, children are taught reading using the Little Wandle phonics programme, which is designed to cultivate a strong foundation in reading skills. As part of our commitment to enhancing your child's reading journey, we are keen to encourage you to reignite the joy of reading at home. To support you in this endeavour, we have provided strategies and resources that can enrich your child's reading experience and foster a love for literature.

You can find valuable materials, including helpful strategies and video links, at the following resource page: [Little Wandle for Parents](#).

As your child brings home reading books, it is essential to understand the two types they may receive.

1. **Reading Practice Book:** This book is specifically selected according to your child's current phonic stage, allowing them to read it fluently and independently. When your child reads this book, please listen attentively and provide plenty of praise. Celebrate their successes, no matter how small! If they encounter a word they cannot read, kindly read it to them. After their reading session, engage in a discussion about the book, encouraging them to share their thoughts and feelings about the story. Aim for at least 3 reads a week and add a comment in your child's diary too.
2. **Sharing Book:** This book is chosen from our library for both of you to enjoy together. Unlike the reading practice book, your child may not be able to read this independently. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to bond over a story. Read the book alongside your child, discussing the illustrations, predicting plot developments, and engaging with character dialogues by using different voices. If it's a non-fiction book, explore the facts together. The key is to make reading a fun and interactive experience.

By incorporating these practices at home, you can play an invaluable role in your child's reading development. Your involvement will not only enhance their fluency but also nurture a lifelong love for reading.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a reading-rich environment at home. Together, we can elevate our children's literacy skills and inspire them to become enthusiastic readers!





REMINDER - The Spring Term parents' meetings take place soon and you can sign up now for an appointment - see the links below. This is where you will be updated on how your child has settled into school or their new class. You will have a chance to look at your child's classroom, class floor books and in KS1 take a look at your child's learning in their books. We have lots of positives to share about your children - the start of term has been calm and settled with the children showing us that they are ready to learn.

The dates for the parents' consultations are -

F2

Monday 24th March and Wednesday 26th March 2025 - F2 Parents evening (Classes 1 and 2) 3.30pm - 6.00pm

CLASS 1 Mrs Henson <https://forms.gle/QkMyVHnDv3PXBWt97>

CLASS 2 Mr Farooq <https://forms.gle/sN3H93Dr8MEuVSvz5>

KS1

Tuesday 25th March and Thursday 27th March 2025 - Key Stage 1 Parents evening (Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6) 3.30pm - 6.00pm

CLASS 3 - Miss McPhilbin <https://forms.gle/6ncFe5zKnMmx8DKN7>

CLASS 4 Miss Moretto/Miss Greasley <https://forms.gle/6bMMqsmDPXdcBjbp7>

CLASS 5 Mrs McArthur/Mrs Bloom <https://forms.gle/Were3wNXuGYJU7SW9>

CLASS 6 Miss Gossington <https://forms.gle/W6GNqjB8tUq7WHM99>



As we continue to prioritise the safety and well-being of our children, we would like to address an important issue concerning parking outside our school. We understand that dropping off and picking up your children can be a hectic time, but it is crucial that we all work together to ensure the safety of our roads.

Our school is located on the brow of a hill, which can pose additional risks to our children if the roads are not properly navigated. Additionally, we must also respect our neighbours by adhering to parking regulations and being considerate of their properties.

To support this, we kindly ask for your cooperation in the following ways:

- **Avoid Parking on Single Yellow Lines and Zigzags:** Please do not park on these lines at any time, before and after school. These areas are designated for the safety of our children as they enter and exit the school premises.
- **Refrain from double parking.** This practice blocks traffic and creates difficulties for larger vehicles and buses, which can lead to dangerous situations.
- **Do Not Park on Corners:** Parking too close to corners obscures visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. By ensuring we do not park at these locations, we can help prevent accidents.
- **Parking Enforcement:** A CCTV car will be making regular visits to monitor parking compliance. It is essential that we all adhere to the rules to avoid fines and contribute to the safety of our community.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter and thank the vast majority of families who do park safely. By working together, we can ensure a safe environment for all our children and show respect to our neighbours. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Diary dates

- Friday 14th March 9.30am - 11.30am -Parent/carer coffee and chat
- Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day (details to follow)
- Monday 24th March and Wednesday 26th March 2025 - F2 Parents evening (Classes 1 and 2)
- Tuesday 25th March and Thursday 27th March 2025 - KS1 Parents evening (Classes 3,4,5 and 6)
- Friday 4th April 2025- Last day of term (Easter Fun Day - details to follow)

Summer

- Tuesday 22nd April - First day of summer Term
- Half term - Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025
- W/C 9th June 2025 - Year 1 Phonics Screening
- Thursday 12th June 2025 - Year 2 Residential to Gulliver's Valley - details to follow
- Wednesday 18th June 2025 9.30 am - KS1 Sports day 9.30am
- Tuesday 25th June 2025 - F1/F2 Sports day 10.00am / 2.00pm
- Friday 4th July 2025- INSET DAY
- Thursday 24th July 2025 - Year 2 Leavers assembly 2.00pm
- Friday 25th July 2025- Last day of term- END OF ACADEMIC YEAR

