

We Inspire, Cherish and Believe
in each person that they might flourish
and fulfil their potential

Chefs in the making?



We were delighted to welcome Sarah from Abbeycroft Leisure into school this week to host two special after-school cooking events for some of our families. The sessions provided a wonderful opportunity for parents, carers and children to come together, learn new skills and enjoy spending quality time with one another.

During the events, families worked side by side to prepare and cook a simple, healthy 'Sweet Potato Curry with Flatbread' guided by Abbeycroft Leisure's friendly and knowledgeable team. The focus was on practical cooking skills, healthy choices and building confidence in the kitchen, all in a relaxed and supportive environment.

There was a real buzz throughout the sessions, with families sharing ideas, trying new ingredients and proudly tasting what they had made together. For many, it was a valuable chance to discover affordable, nutritious recipes that can easily be recreated at home, helping to encourage healthy habits beyond the school day.

We would like to say a big thank you to Sarah and Abbeycroft Leisure for delivering such an engaging and enjoyable experience, and to the families who took part for their enthusiasm and involvement. Events like these help strengthen our school community and support learning that goes beyond the classroom.

We hope to be able to offer more family-focused activities like this in the future.

News from Otter Class



Otter Class (Year 6) have started the year full of energy and enthusiasm, throwing themselves into every learning opportunity!

In English, our writing unit based on *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold has completely captivated us. We are currently writing newspaper reports about key events from the story - but don't worry, we're being very careful not to reveal any spoilers!

Science lessons have been hands-on and fascinating as we've been learning about the kidneys. This week, we carried out an experiment to demonstrate how kidneys filter substances from the blood, helping us understand just how incredible the human body is.

Our new history topic has taken us back to World War II, where we've been learning about evacuees. We stepped into their shoes by writing letters home, imagining what it would have been like to be separated from family. We've also explored rationing and were amazed at how people managed with such limited resources, showing true resilience - a quality we are all aiming to develop ourselves.

In music, the children explored the theme of Spring by listening to and watching two contrasting pieces: Vivaldi's *Spring* from *The Four Seasons* and *Spring* from *Regenerate: Seasons for Change*. They compared similarities and differences between the performances, focusing on how different instruments were used and how stamping techniques created contrasting effects. This led to thoughtful discussions about climate change and how music can be used to reflect and respond to changes in our world.

In maths, we've been sharpening our number skills by converting fractions into decimals and percentages, building confidence and accuracy along the way.

What a fantastic start to the year for Otter Class - we're excited to see what comes next!

Some Amazing Writing

Arctic Express
January 2026
Monthly News from Bear Island

Reported by Laraine J. A. Smith
The Conductor of the Polar Express


April Wood, a determined youngster with a thoughtful mind, was rescued last on the night of the coast of Svalbard yesterday as she secretly went on a lone quest to save a polar bear by venturing it back to its native land.

Her father, a meteorologist known as Edmund Wood, first triggered the alarm that his brave daughter was missing after discovering a note sitting on his desk.

This has shown a true, impossible bond and amazing courage. "He reached me," she explained. "And it went out... I would him."

April's father remarked, "This is the most brave and resilient person I know. Not only did she save the bear but she also saved a human life." A message of gratitude was sent to April from family and friends.

When the rescue ship arrived at the M. Wright, it was found in Svalbard, waiting for them were experts of the Norwegian Polar Institute. Lisa, a marine biologist, said, "I have never seen such an extraordinary bond between human and animal. It's proof that no matter what you are or if you can even understand each other, you can still do amazing things. It's truly incredible."



Arctic Express
January 2026
Monthly News from Bear Island

SMALL SAVVY POLAR BEAR SETS A DIFFERENCE


Reported by Robin Help

April Wood, a courageous school girl determined to save polar bears, was rescued near the coast of Svalbard in the Barents Sea yesterday, after she attempted to bring a polar bear back to its home land on her own.

Mr. Wood, a meteorologist on Bear Island, said that his daughter was gone and triggered the alarm. After several fruitless hours of searching, meteorologist from the Norwegian Polar Institute succeeded in locating her in the middle of the Barents Sea. The Norwegian Polar Institute was unable to get them to open up at home. Dr. Lisa said she was amazed by April's bravery. "I have never seen such a young girl," she said. "It was truly amazing. A certificate of courage and determination was given to April by the Polar Institute."

After being checked over several times by doctors, April was reunited with her father. The bear was then sent to a wildlife center where it will be released in the wild when it is strong enough. Photos of April and the bear were shared to the world to show their incredible story.

Environmental groups say that this shows why we need to protect the Arctic. "This should be a reminder to everyone," said Lisa Esil. "We need to protect our world. An Arctic campaign has been set up following this."



Arctic Express
January 2026
Monthly News from Bear Island

Each Make's Grand's Week a Polar Bear!


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Arctic Express
January 2026
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THE SECRETS OF BEAR ISLAND


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From Otter Class

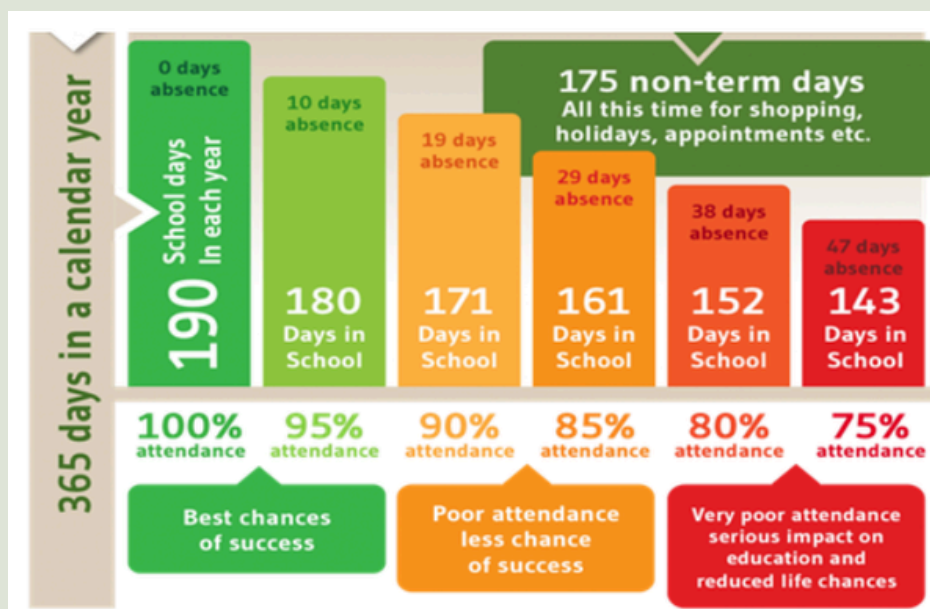
Attendance Matters!

Across the school, our attendance rates have fallen and are currently the lowest they have ever been. When we look at the comparison table of schools across Suffolk, this places us very low out of over 250 schools, which highlights how important it is that we work together to improve attendance.

Coming to school every day and arriving on time makes a huge difference to children's learning, confidence, and friendships, and it helps them get the very best from all that school has to offer. We are looking ahead to a Spring Term filled with irresistible learning opportunities, exciting activities, and special events that we want every child to be part of. While the law states that parents are responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly, our focus is on working positively with families.

Our Education Welfare Officer continues to review attendance regularly, and as a team we are here to support you—please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help make mornings and transitions to school easier. Here's to a Spring Term of fantastic attendance and lots of irresistible learning activities and events.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|---|
| Overall attendance | 94.0% | You are ranked 195th out of 250 schools |
| Overall absence | 6.0% | You are ranked 195th out of 250 schools |
| Authorised absence | 5.1% | You are ranked 223rd out of 250 schools |
| Unauthorised absence | 0.9% | You are ranked 96th out of 250 schools |
| Persistently absent | 12.2% | You are ranked 127th out of 250 schools |
| Severely absent | 1.4% | You are ranked 193rd out of 250 schools |



Safeguarding- January



Safeguarding Focus
January
NSPCC - PANTS

LEARN PANTOSAURUS' FIVE EASY RULES FOR STAYING SAFE

PANTS ARE PRIVATE
ALMOST REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU
NO ONE SHOULD SEE YOU IN YOUR UNDERWEAR
TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS
SOMEONE IS DOING SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT

NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe.

Can you remember the Pantosaurus rules for staying safe? Have you read the story or heard the song before? Speak out to stay safe!

Talk to a trusted adult if you have concerns.
There are lots of trusted adults at Barnham that you can talk to if you need to.

Here is our Safeguarding Poster for January- the children will be discussing this in their classes but we would appreciate you continuing these conversations with them at home. The PANTS story and song can be easily found online if you'd like to watch or read them with your child.

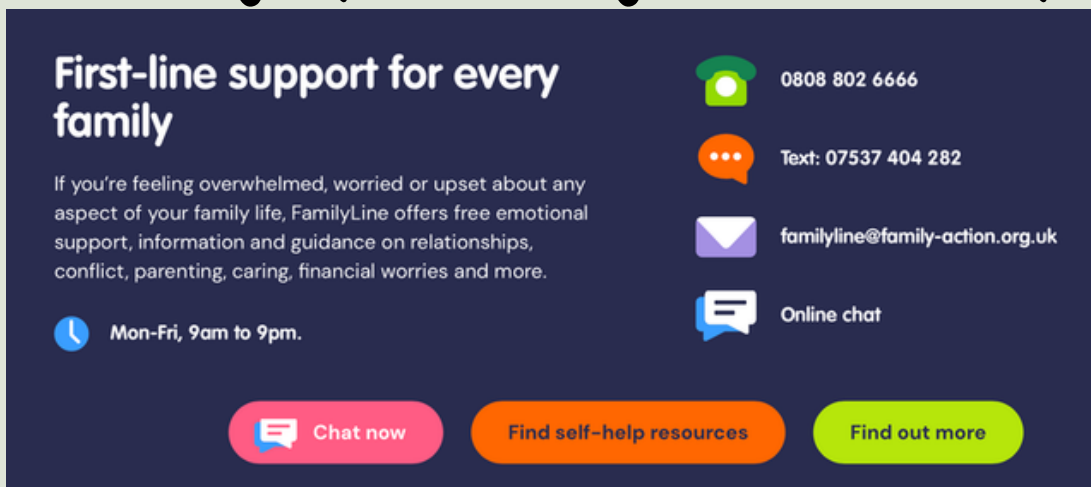
If you are a member of the public and have concerns about the safeguarding of a child or adult in Suffolk you can call Customer First on 0808 800 4005 (this is a freephone number).

You can visit the Suffolk Safeguarding website for more information:
<https://www.suffolksp.org.uk/concerned>

If the child or vulnerable adult you are concerned about is in Norfolk here is the website to visit:

<https://norfolkscp.org.uk/people-working-with-children/how-to-raise-a-concern>
You can also call 0344 800 8020

Signposting and Support



First-line support for every family

If you're feeling overwhelmed, worried or upset about any aspect of your family life, FamilyLine offers free emotional support, information and guidance on relationships, conflict, parenting, caring, financial worries and more.

Mon-Fri, 9am to 9pm.

0808 802 6666
Text: 07537 404 282
familyline@family-action.org.uk
Online chat

Chat now Find self-help resources Find out more

'you are'
NOT ALONE
in this

We know how challenging life can be sometimes and would like to signpost and share resources, websites and telephone numbers with you of different charities and sources of support. The above information is from Family Action about their Family Line. Please don't hesitate to contact them if you need to. If there is every anything that we can do as a school to support you and your family in a practical way, please do speak to somebody in school.



Active RE



Mole Class and Squirrel Class have recently come to the end of an exciting Active RE course, led by Susie Bratby, and what a fantastic experience it has been for everyone involved.

Throughout the course, the children explored the big story of the Bible through a series of active games and sporting activities, cleverly combining Religious Education with Physical Education. This innovative approach allowed pupils to learn about key biblical themes and stories while moving, playing, and working together – making learning both meaningful and memorable.

The sessions were full of energy and fun, helping the children to deepen their understanding of the Bible as one connected story, while also keeping active and improving their fitness. The children have absolutely loved taking part and have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork and engagement each week.

A huge thank you to Susie Bratby for her enthusiasm, creativity and commitment in delivering this course. Her ability to bring RE to life through physical activity has made a lasting impact on the children, and we are very grateful for the time and care she has given to our school.

Now that the course has finished, Mole Class and Squirrel Class will no longer need to wear PE kits on Fridays.

We are incredibly proud of how the children have embraced this opportunity and we look forward to building on the learning and enjoyment it has inspired.

Reading Awards



Last Friday, we celebrated all of the children who entered the Christmas Reading Challenges. They chose a raffle ticket that said they could choose a new book or earn a Barnham VIP badge for the week. We were so proud of all of them! 2026 is the National Year of Reading and so we will be having lots more opportunities for reading over the coming year, do keep your eyes peeled.

Number Day is coming soon!

We're excited to support the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on Friday 6th February 2026! This national event combines fun, maths, and fundraising as pupils across the UK take part in creative number-related activities.

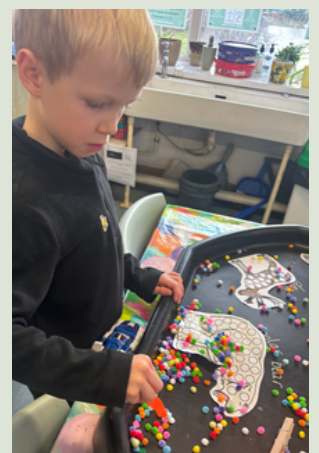
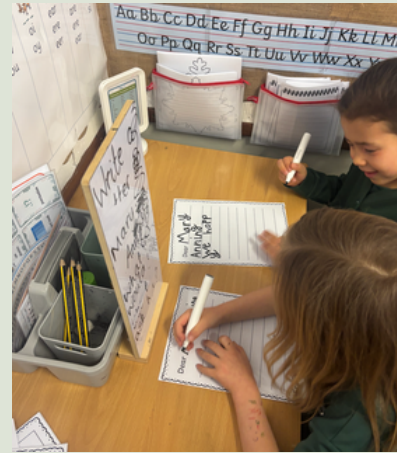
To join in, children can wear an item of clothing with a number on it—like a football shirt, cap, or even a onesie—or dress in a maths or numbers theme.

We're also collecting voluntary cash donations in class to support the NSPCC's vital work, including Childline and the Speak out Stay Safe programme, helping protect and empower children across the UK.

We can't wait for a day full of fun, learning, and numbers—and we really appreciate your support in making a difference!



Exciting News from Mole Class



In Moles, we are increasing continuous provision to support children in developing skills and learning independently. Children take part in enhanced provision activities that include maths, writing, fine motor tasks, small world play, sorting activities, role play, and arts and crafts. Outdoor learning is always available, with dedicated activities and areas designed to improve postural strength and develop upper body and core muscles, supporting writing and sitting at tables as children move through school. Alongside this, children access the core curriculum (including Maths, Writing, Phonics, Science, History, Geography and more) through whole-class inputs and small group book work. This approach enables Miss Anderson, Mrs Darton, and Mrs Holder to work with each child in small groups or on a 1:1 basis during every lesson, providing targeted support, addressing misconceptions immediately, and strengthening understanding at the point of learning. Enhanced continuous provision enables us to better meet the needs and interests of all children, ensuring learning is engaging, purposeful, and well supported. The children have transitioned extremely well and have engaged brilliantly with the enhanced provision, showing enthusiasm, independence, and a positive attitude towards their learning.

SEND News

Cub Club



This week we relaunched our nurture provision, previously known as Butterfly Buddies, which is now called The Cub Club. This provision is designed to support children who may find the transition into school challenging.

The Cub Club runs for 15 minutes at the start of the school day to help children settle into school calmly, and again for 15 minutes at the end of the day to allow time to decompress, reflect on the day, and leave school feeling settled before going home.

As part of the relaunch, The Cub Club is now run by two adults, which means we are able to support double the number of children. Children are invited to attend based on need and placements are reviewed on a half-termly basis.

If you feel your child may benefit from nurture support like this in the future, please don't hesitate to speak to Rhonda.

We are proud of how these groups have started this week and the support that the variety of ages with the groups offer to each other!

Just a reminder for those attending Cub Club:

It begins at 8:30am - please enter through the office.

It ends at 3:30pm - please wait on the playground.

Please remember that Cub Club runs Monday- Thursday and not on a Friday.

Thrive Hive

This week we were pleased to welcome children back to Thrive Hive, our internal alternative provision: a wellbeing and nurture provision that supports children who may need extra help with emotional regulation, confidence, and managing school life.

Thrive Hive provides a calm, supportive space where children can talk, reflect, and learn strategies to help them understand their feelings and build resilience. Sessions are small-group based and are designed to help children feel more confident, settled, and ready to learn and thrive in class.

Children attend Thrive Hive by invitation, with placements reviewed on a half-termly basis to ensure the support continues to meet their needs. Most children that attend this provision are on the SEND register and many of them have an EHC plan or will be obtaining a plan in the near future.

Mrs O'Reilly and Rhonda run both of these interventions - please do reach out and speak to them if you have any questions or queries about these provisions.

They can be contacted via e mail or through appointment at the school office:



Rhonda - rtasker@barnham.org

Mrs O'Reilly - joreilly@barnham.org

SEND News Continued

Dyslexia Screening Programme

At Barnham CEVC School, we are committed to early help and early identification, believing that the sooner we understand how children learn, the better we can support them to succeed. This approach is strongly supported by educational professionals, dyslexia charities, and national campaigns for early screening, including those championed by public figures such as Jamie Oliver, who has highlighted the importance of identifying dyslexia early to give children the best possible start.

As part of this commitment, we use the Literacy Gold programme, which includes a dyslexia screening tool. We have decided that as part of our school offer we will screen all children aged 7 and above and this will form part of our policy. We have now completed screening for all children in Badger Class, and screening reports, along with a detailed explanatory letter, have been sent home to families last week following a meet the teacher meeting.

We are also catching up with screening in older year groups. Fox Class is almost complete, and their reports will be sent home next week. Some children in Squirrels and Otter Class have been using the programme for a while and you'll probably already be aware of this as lots have been bringing home 3D glasses. This means that they were screened a while ago but now we are more used to this programme and have developed a clear school approach we will send out copies of their reports to you too and screen any other children we might be worried about. It is generally recommended that screening doesn't take place until a child is 7 years old, so we will only screen Mole Class once they turn 7 and then of course will share these reports with you in due course.

Please do not be alarmed by this screening. The reports are generated by the programme itself and we can not change the content of this but we are always happy to talk and explain it further to you if required. It is a real gift that we are fortunate to have as a school. The screening does not diagnose dyslexia, but it provides valuable indications of children's learning profiles, suggested next steps, and appropriate support. This helps us put timely interventions in place and can save families the need for private dyslexia assessments, which often cost £500 or more.

If this screening causes concerns, Miss Bacon (SENDCo) will be in touch to arrange a meeting with you to go through the report in more detail.

We firmly believe that the best outcomes are achieved when home and school work together, and this screening supports that partnership by helping us meet children's needs as early as possible.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



Our WISH LIST

Please can you help us?

We are looking to enhance our play provisions across the school.
We would love any donations of the following:

Old Cable Reels (anyone got an electrician in the family?)

Pegs

Staplers

Hole punches

Buttons

Beads

Gems

Large paint brushes

Spray bottles

Bubble wrap

Pipettes

Rolling pins

Plastic hammers

Threading games

Different-sized bottles

Pots and pans

Tongs

Wooden spoons

Brushes/combs

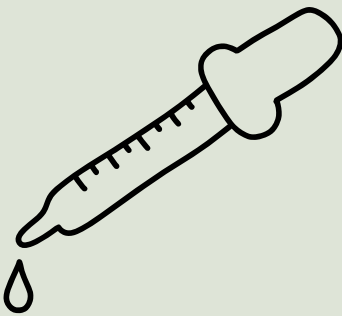
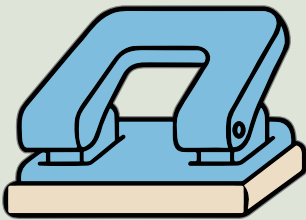
Plastic plates and cutlery

Dressing up clothes

Role play toys- home corner/shop

Golf Tees

Colander



If anyone has an old typewriter - we would love one!!

Please bring them into school and Miss Anderson will be co-ordinating this exciting project if you have any questions.

If you know any businesses or have any links to companies that might be able to help, we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you so much!

We really appreciate all the donations we receive!

Muddy Weather Support!

As we shared in last week's newsletter, we know how much we value outdoor play in all weather conditions and how beneficial it is for children's development.

At this time of year the ground becomes much wetter, which means there is inevitably more mud! To help with this, we would love each child to bring a pair of slippers to school to change into after playing outdoors. This will help keep toes warm, carpets clean and our indoor spaces cosy.

We kindly ask that Hedgehogs bring a pair of wellies to school that can be kept in their own welly tray each day.

All other year groups are very welcome to bring in wellies or outdoor footwear to change into at lunchtime and keep in a bag in their locker if they wish.



Lost Property and Uniform Reminders

We currently have a vast amount of lost property in school, including jumpers, coats, shoes and slippers. Unfortunately, when items are not named it can be very difficult for us to reunite them with their owners.

Please can we remind families to ensure that all items of clothing and footwear are clearly named, including shoes and slippers. This really does make a huge difference and helps us return items quickly to the right child.

If you are missing anything, you are always welcome to ask staff to look through the lost property in the disabled toilet after school.

Our hope is to have a big sort-out very soon and then lay all these items out in attempt to return to their rightful owners!

Thank you for your support in helping us reduce lost property in school.

Please may we also remind you that children should be wearing school uniform PE kit on PE days. We have noticed that children are wearing coloured jumpers, hoodies and zip-ups. Please ensure they wear school PE kit:

Black Joggers / Leggings

Black Hoodie

PE T-Shirt

Trainers



Messages from FOBS



FOBS
FRIENDS OF BARNHAM CEVIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

£3
A TICKET

SCHOOL DISCO

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY

HEDGEHOGS, MOLES & BADGERS 5.00-6.00PM

FOXES, SQUIRRELS & OTTERS 6.15-7.30PM

TUCK SHOP TREATS AND HOT DOGS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE SO BRING SOME EXTRA PENNIES!



FOBS
FRIENDS OF BARNHAM CEVIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

JOIN OUR TEAM!

JOIN OUR PTA!
Small help. Big difference.

Come and meet the PTA and see how you can get involved, our team is getting smaller and to be able to continue with these amazing events for the children **we need your help!**

Join us in the school hall
Thursday 22nd January

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9am Coffee and Croissants | 2.30pm Tea and Cake | 6pm Cheese and Wine |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

Wicked Sing-A-Long



YOUNG VOICES

WICKED
WORLDWIDE
SINGALONG

Thursday, 22 January 2026 • 3pm GMT

Streamed live from The O2, London

#WickedWorldwideSingalong

WICKED The O2 HAL LEONARD

We're excited to share that our KS2 children will be taking part in the Young Voices Wicked Sing-Along this month!

We'd like to invite families to join us and watch our singing at 3pm in the school hall as we join thousands of other 'Young Voices' on a live link to The O2!

Please sign it at the office at 2:50pm if you are able to join us so that we can be ready to start the live singalong on time!

We know that lots of children have 'Wicked' themed accessories/ clothes- hats, tiaras etc- so if they'd like to bring those in to school to change into, they'd be more than welcome!

If you are attending the FOBS event above, you'll still be able to attend the sing along!

Our Value is Resilience

This week in collective worship, we have been focusing on Embracing Who We Are. We explored how resilience comes from understanding and accepting ourselves, including both our strengths and our weaknesses. We reflected on how confidence grows when we embrace who God made us to be, recognising that everyone is unique and valued. We were also thrilled to welcome Helen Matter to school on Wednesday to share with us; her assemblies always get everyone involved and create memorable learning experiences for us all.

Here is our BIG QUESTION for this week:

How can embracing our differences help us grow?

I am sure this would give you some great conversations to have around the dinner table! Remember, we love to hear stories from you all of our children showing resilience outside of school, please e mail any photos and stories to Miss Bacon to be featured in the newsletter.



Picture News

What do you think to this week's big question and news story?

"Can famous people help others make good choices?"

Famous online creators have come together at the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai to talk about how their influence affects people around the world.

You can learn more about this week's focus news story by visiting the Picture News website or by asking your children who will have accessed this story in their classes this week.

<https://picture-news.co.uk/discuss/1-billion-pri>



Our RESILIENCE Bible Verse -

"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength."

Philippians 4 v 13

Lunch Menu for Next Week

| Monday 19 th January | Tuesday 20 th January | Wednesday 21 st January | Thursday 22 nd January | Friday 23 rd January |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Pizza, diced herby potatoes and sweetcorn OR Jacket Potato | Hunters chicken, rice and veg OR Quorn Fillet | Cottage Pie and veg OR Vegi Sausages | Sausage Roast OR Vegi Sausages | Fish fillet, chips and veg or beans OR Vegi Fingers |
| Chocolate Crunch & Sauce | Strawberry Smoothies | Sprinkled Cake | Jelly & Fruit | Chocolate sprinkled ice cream |

Please note, our menu is subject to changes and these will be communicated via ParentMail

Diary Dates

Thursday 22nd January - FOBS Recruitment Day

Thursday 22nd January - WICKED Sing Along for KS2- Families can join us from 2:50pm

Friday 23rd January - National Handwriting Day

Friday 30th January - FOBS Disco

Tuesday 3rd February - FOBS AGM

Friday 6th February - NSPCC Number Day "Dress up as digits"

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th February - Tiny Plays Workshop for Year 5

Wednesday 11th February - Tiny Plays Workshop for Year 6

HALF TERM - Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

Tuesday 24th February - Tiny Plays Workshop for Year 5

Wednesday 25th February - Tiny Plays Workshop for Year 6

Thursday 26th February - Author Visit

Friday 13th March - FOBS Non-Uniform Day

Thursday 19th March - FOBS Easter Bingo

Monday 23rd March - Parents Consultations (from 1:10pm - 6:50pm)

Tuesday 24th March - Year 5 & 6 Tiny Plays visit to Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 25th March - Year 3 & 4 Performance - 9:30am and 2pm

Thursday 26th March - Church Services - 9:30am and 2pm (Split similarly to Christmas)

OUR SCHOOL BIBLE VERSES:

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Jesus said 'I am the vine; you
are the branches.

Those who abide in my and I in
them, will bear much fruit.'

John 15:5

