



Newsletter - February 2026

A message from Mrs Kendrew-Jones

Dear St Mary's Families

As we wrap up this half term, I just want to take a moment to celebrate all the lovely things our children have been up to over the last six weeks. It's been wonderful to see their excitement and enthusiasm as they've taken part in lots of activities beyond the classroom.

Our PE sessions at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy have been a brilliant chance for the children to build their physical skills and work together in a new setting. The Y2 visit to The Deep really sparked their curiosity as they explored marine life and learned about the artic. Plus, Vocal Group had an amazing time performing at the Young Voices event, showing off their talents and confidence in front of a big crowd.

A big thank you to our PTA for organising the Valentine's Disco – it was such a fun event and brought smiles to so many faces. Your support really makes a difference to our school community.

Thanks also to all the staff, parents, and volunteers who help make St Mary's the special place that it is. I'm looking forward to the exciting things coming up next half term as we keep supporting our children to grow and thrive in every way.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and enjoyable half term break!

Rebecca Kendrew-Jones

Headteacher



St Mary's CE Primary and Nursery School

www.tickhillstmarys.co.uk¹

¹<http://www.tickhillstmarys.co.uk/>

A message from Mrs Over



As we reach February half term, it's unbelievable to realise that we are now half way through this academic year! Looking back on the last three half terms, it makes you realise how much the children have achieved and what exciting things are still to come.

Highlights for this half term include watching lots of classes participate in PE lessons with sports coaches from Premier Education, some beautiful volcano art, exciting visitors into school for immersive launches into our history units and I have had lots of visitors from children working super hard on their handwriting targets as well.

Now let's hope for some spring sunshine after the half term holiday so that we can get outside a bit more for our learning!

Shout outs to:

- Eliza S-B - for coming into school every morning ready for the day and radiating joy
- Pippa C - for being a superstar role model in our collective worship time
- James P - always happy to get stuck in and have a go, no matter the lesson or activity!

Mrs Over x



Nursery - A message from Mrs Johnston



What another busy half term we have had! We have welcomed five new children into Nursery, all of whom have settled well, and we are delighted they have joined our St Mary's family.

This half term, we have been exploring traditional tales. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning new stories, acting them out, and creating some lovely pieces of artwork to accompany the stories. They have painted trolls, drawn maps to find the goats, and even illustrated the Three Little Pigs. I think their favourite was The Three Little Pigs!

We have been busy on Welly Wednesday, observing the change in seasons, making houses from available materials, and jumping in puddles on rainy days.

To finish off the half term, the children have focused on Valentine's Day and made some lovely cards for their grown-ups. We have talked about why they love us and how we show love to others.

Shout outs to:

- Frankie – for always looking after her friends in Nursery and helping them when they are upset.
- Rory – for gaining more confidence, independence, and settling into Nursery well.
- Isabelle – for showing confidence and resilience by coming into Nursery on her own.







Reception - A message from Miss Belnavis



What a super start to 2026 we have had in Reception! The children have loved our 'Who Can Help Us?' topic—so much learning and joy has taken place. We began with our text *Supertato*, where we learned about the qualities that make Supertato a hero. The children had great fun searching for Evil Pea, creating wanted posters, setting traps, and making jelly to finally capture him! *Superworm* was another hit; the children continued to think about why he is 'super' and completed some lovely writing activities linked to the story. They also learned about, explored, and created their own habitats on a plate for an earthworm. Additionally, we created our own wormery for the children to observe worms up close.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have discovered many different people who help us in our homes, school, and community. The children have been able to make connections

between 'superheroes' in stories and the real-life heroes around them. We had a fantastic visit from Andy, who spoke about the importance of policing. He brought equipment for the children to explore, answered lots of questions, and shared so much new knowledge. Of course, the best part was being able to sit in the police car! Thank you, Andy!

We also welcomed Lucy and Sarina, who kindly took the time to talk to the children about midwifery and nursing. The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit—thank you both!

Throughout the half term, the children have explored many different professions, engaged in role play in our vets area, and put their creative skills to the test using a range of different media.

A wonderful, action-packed half term. Well done, Reception class!

Shout outs to:

- Jude, Vinnie, and Peaches – We have had three wonderful new starters in Reception who have settled brilliantly! It feels like they have always been part of our school, and they are fantastic additions. Well done for settling in, smiling, exploring, and forming new relationships. We are super proud of you all—keep it up! :)









Year 1 - A message from Mrs Kabesh



Wowsers trousers! What a busy half term we have had! We have been learning all about the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as some of the stories associated with them. We know about the Loch Ness Monster and where he comes from, as well as Finn McCool pretending to be a baby! It has been ace to learn all the geography alongside some really fun stories.

This term, we have had a little dinosaur called Joey visit us. He sits with the children at the smartest table to make sure they are listening well and being the best they can be. Joey will be around all next term and will be joined by Madam Dragon, who will be keeping an eye on the children's work as well.

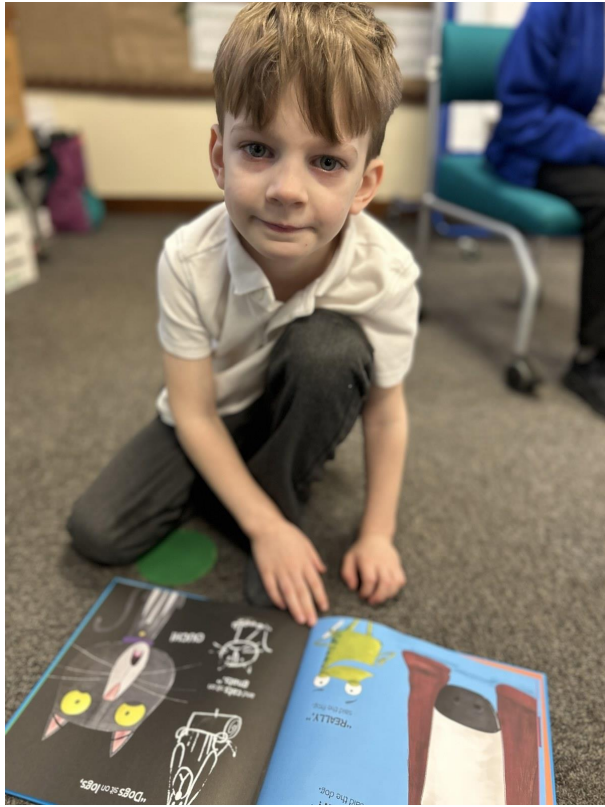
We loved going to Sir Thomas Wharton and spending the morning doing all the different activities there with the Year 7 children. We also enjoyed the visit from Riot Act, who came in to teach us all about the Green Cross Code. So, so much fun!

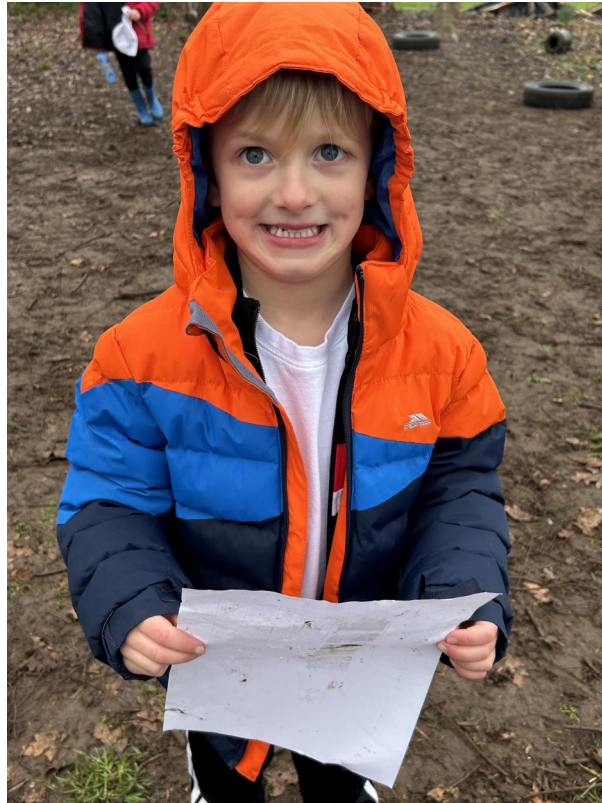
Shout outs to:

- Zachary – for being such a lovely friend and a role model to his peers
- Paisley – for never giving up and trying super hard each day
- Brodey – for giving 100% to anything I ask him to do









Year 2 - A message from Mrs Ashbridge



Wow, I can't believe how quickly this half term has flown! What a jam-packed half term it has been!

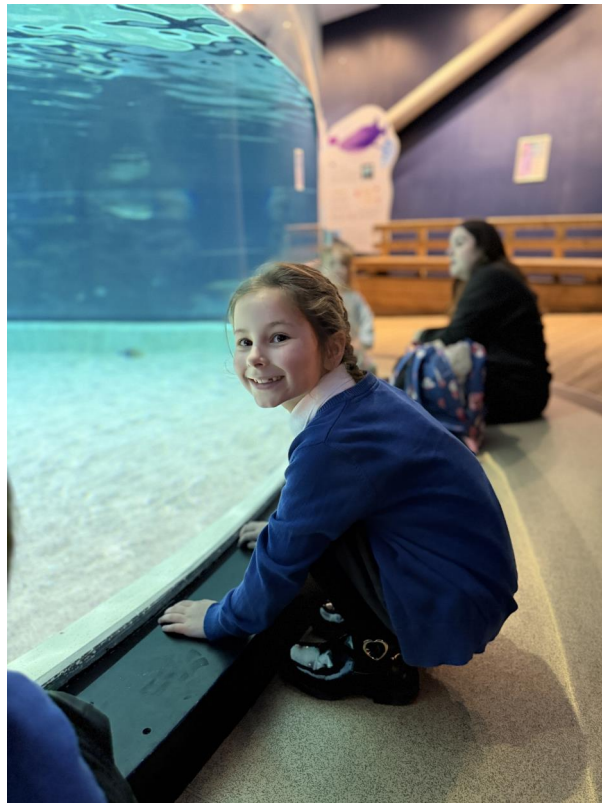
This half term, we have learned all about the climate and weather conditions of Antarctica in comparison to our own country, as well as the various animals found there, including emperor penguins and leopard seals. To launch this topic, we went on a class trip to The Deep, one of the UK's leading aquariums! We had an absolutely AMAZING time, but our highlight was definitely watching the penguins being fed during feeding time! Inspired by this, we even drew our very own emperor penguins in our Art lessons.

In Maths, we have learned a lot about money, making sure we recognise the value of pounds, pennies, and notes. We also learned how to add pounds and pennies together. Initially, we found this a little tricky, but with perseverance, we managed to grasp it in the end!

To finish off our busy half term, we went to Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, where some lovely Year 8 children delivered a multi-skills event filled with lots of fun and engaging activities. We had a fantastic time and were certainly worn out afterwards!

Shout outs to:

- Leo Berrios – Super proud of how much you have grown this half term. Keep working hard!
- Kit Thompson – For always wanting to push your inquisitive mind further.
- Noah Hutchinson – For engaging so well with your reading this half term. Super proud of you!





Year 3 - A message from Miss Siddall



What a start to 2026! It has been a real pleasure to see the children continue to grow in confidence and excitement as we have begun some brilliant new topics.

We had a fantastic Roman Day to launch our new history topic, where the children dressed up and truly immersed themselves in Roman life. They tried writing like Romans, practised using Roman numerals, and even played knuckle bones, just as Roman children would have done. The classroom was full of energy and curiosity, and the children asked some fantastic questions.

In English, we have recently finished our unit on poetry, focusing on volcano poems. The children absolutely loved exploring rhythm, syllables, and rhyming words.

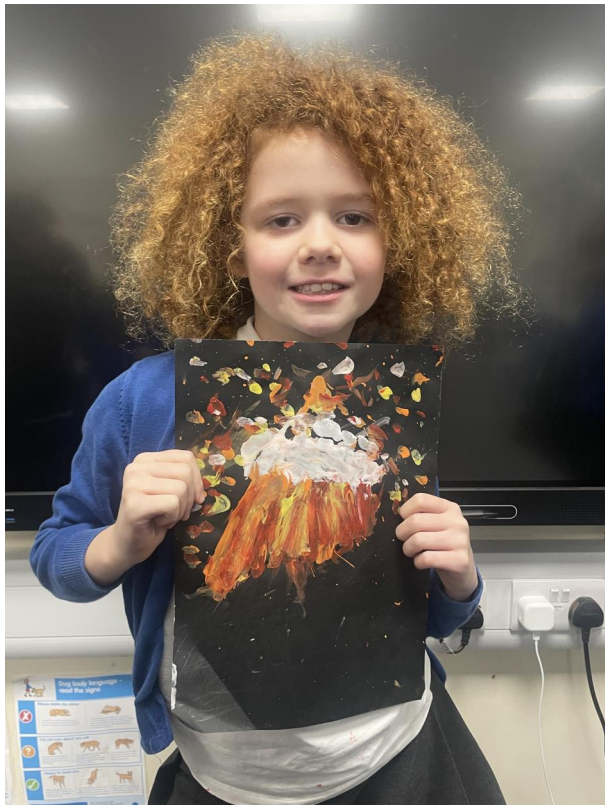
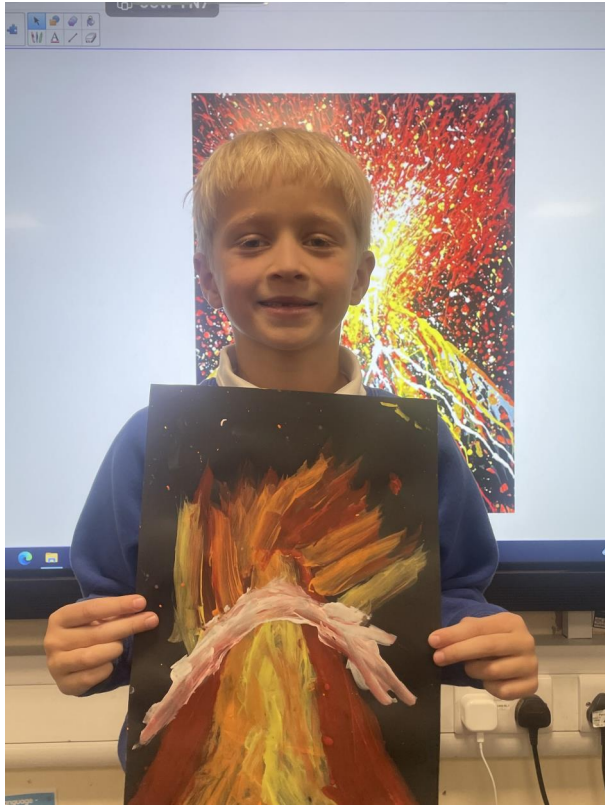
To complement this, we also created volcano artwork inspired by Jackson Pollock. This involved splatter painting (which definitely got a little messy!), but the results were well worth it. We ended up with some striking abstract volcano art.

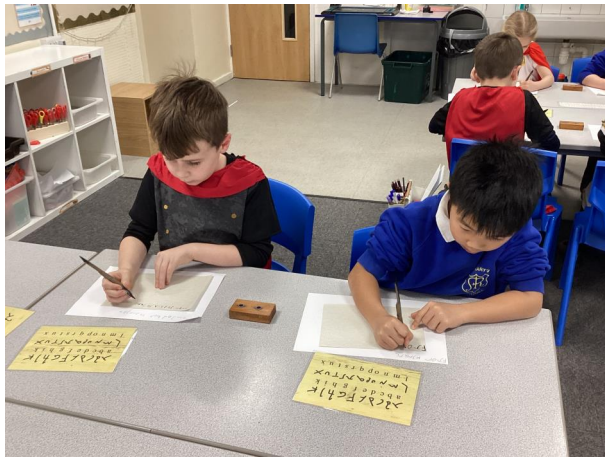
In Music, I was so impressed with the children's musical abilities. We explored how to tell stories through music using percussion instruments, thinking carefully about how pitch, volume, and tempo can change to reflect the mood and atmosphere of a story. The children also had a go at reading some musical notation and practised playing on the beat.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been such a positive half term, and I am really looking forward to everything we have planned for Spring 2.

Shout outs to:

- Kingsley – for wowing me in maths and making my brain hurt with all the extra problem-solving and tricky multiplication and division questions we practised!
- Amelia – for growing so much in confidence this half term and really believing in herself. You CAN do it!
- Bodhi – I am so impressed with your joined-up handwriting. You are really trying to better yourself every single day and have made so much progress with your letter formation. Keep it up!





Year 4 - a message from Miss James



Spring 1 in Year 4 has flown by, and we've been busy! This half term, the children have completed two writing units: a setting description and a piece focused on creating tension and suspense. What writers we have in Year 4! They have blown me away with their creativity and their drive to apply all the skills we learn before producing our published

pieces. Special mentions to Pippa and Coops, whose beautiful writing has been displayed on our star wall!

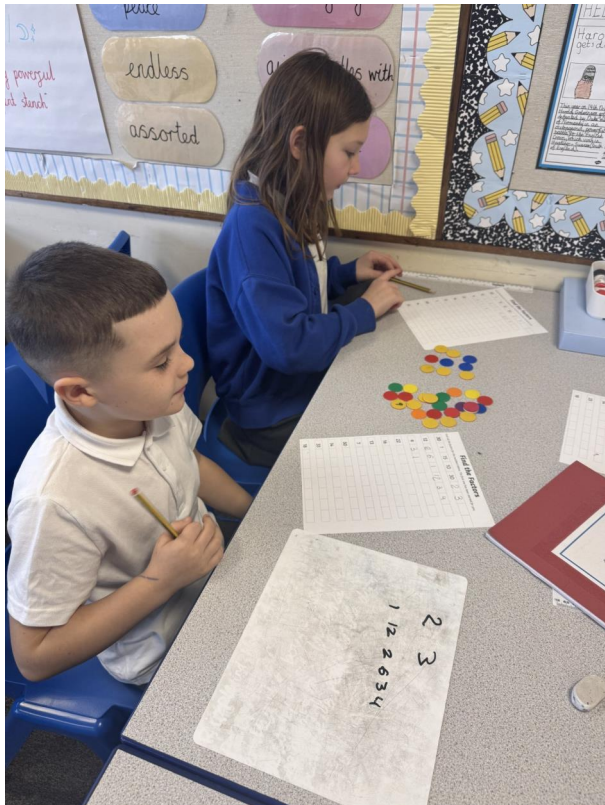
In Maths, this half term we have focused on Multiplication and Division. This is a large unit with many small steps to develop and deepen their mathematical knowledge. We have learned how to multiply 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using the long multiplication method, and how to divide up to 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using a part-whole model. Year 4 have shown great number sense and used their related facts to divide successfully this way, demonstrating great resilience with this learning.

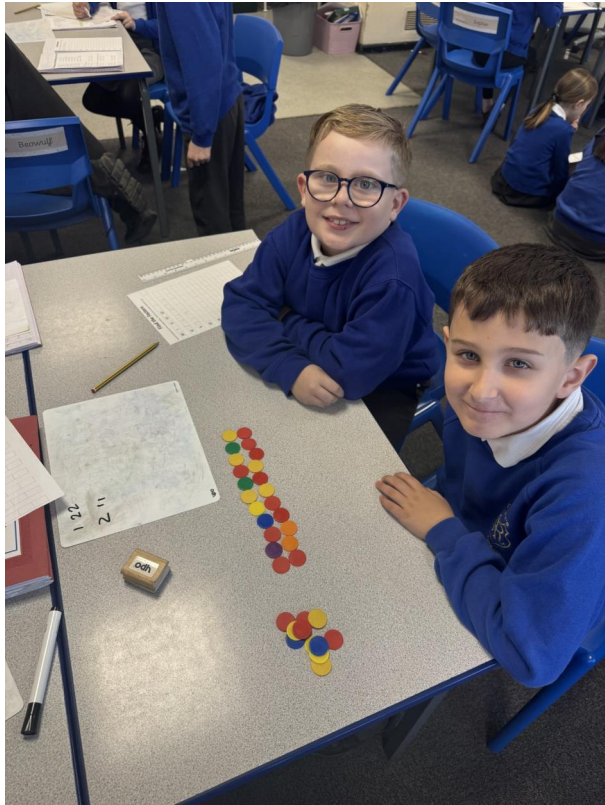
"Watt's the Big Deal?" has been our science topic, and everyone has thoroughly enjoyed learning about electricity! We are applying our new knowledge in our D.T. topic, where we have designed an electronic wire loop game. The children are incredibly excited to build these together with their families and adults this Thursday!

I am so proud of everyone! They make every day a happy day, and I'm very thankful to have a classroom full of resilient, creative, and eager learners. Enjoy your half term break, Year 4; I can't wait to hear about it when you return for Spring 2!

Special mentions go to:

- A Carter – for showing such positivity and resilience this half term. You have been very mature and understanding regarding your injury and what you've unfortunately had to miss because of it, but I'm proud of you for not letting it get you down!
- Vinnie – always working to the best of your ability, you are a WOW writer, and when the work is done, you make everyone smile with that super personality of yours!
- D.S – You hold high expectations for yourself and always show me you are ready to learn! You have a fantastic work ethic, and I'm really proud of you for always showing up as your best self. Well done!





Year 5 - A message from Mrs Buckle





We have had a lovely start to 2026 in Year Five. Blasting off into space has been such great fun! Whether it has been ordering the planets using a range of fruit (who knew that Earth was the size of a cherry tomato?) or representing the phases of the moon using Oreo biscuits, we have zoomed from one activity to another, defying gravity and having a blast. We are just about to publish our space work; photos of this will have to land in the next newsletter as it is currently orbiting the classroom, with intent to make a landing on the final day of half term.

Our PE lessons with Mr Kirtley have been great—gymnastics has followed on from Autumn term's swimming. Mr K also took a team of athletes to Sir Thomas Wharton, where they were complimented on their resilience and determination, even though they were up against children a year older than them. They made us very proud.

Those of us who stayed behind slipped in a cheeky extra art lesson and created some amazing chalk pictures of the moon—have a look at our before and after works of art.

Once we had learned how to ask for different breakfast items in French, we just had to try out our newfound skills and, of course, were rewarded with food.

We have been lucky enough to have Miss Barker join us to support our learning. She will remain with us until Easter and is very much looking forward to continuing to work with such a wonderful class of children.

Special mentions go to:

- Hudson – You have settled into our class so quickly and beautifully that it feels like you have always been here.
- Jacob W – What an improvement in your effort and resilience—you continue to make me very proud.
- Olivia – For your never-ending enthusiasm and cheerfulness, which brighten our classroom.



1 - French breakfast.



2 - French breakfast.



3 - French breakfast.



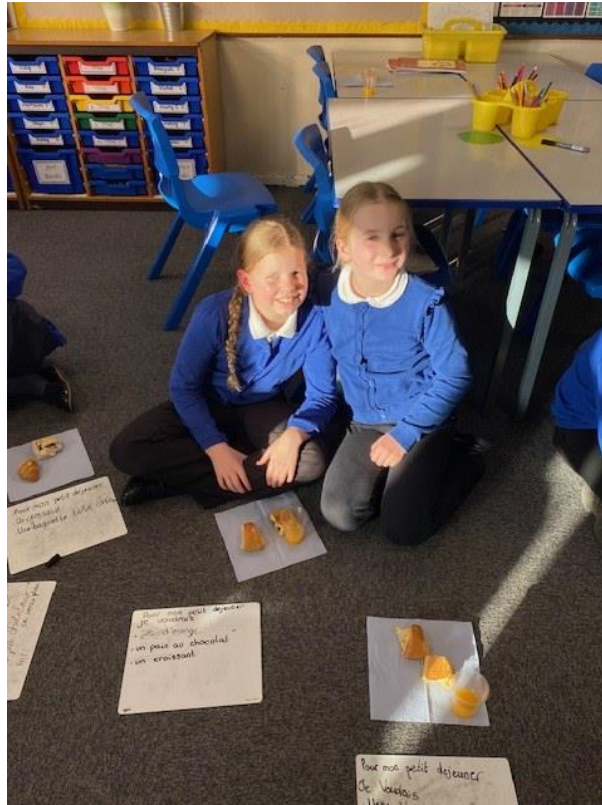
4 - French breakfast.



5 - French breakfast.



6 - French breakfast.



7 - French breakfast.



8 - French breakfast.



9 - French breakfast.



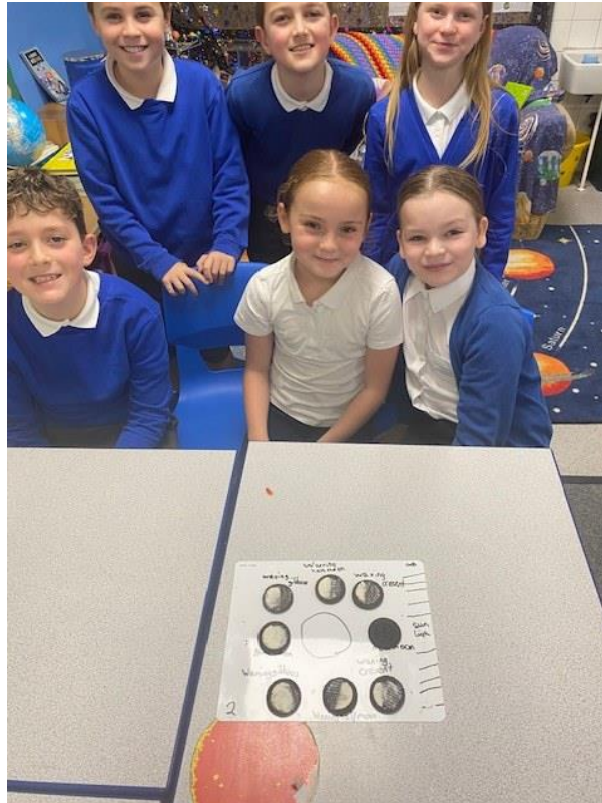
10 - The Moon - before ...



11 - The Moon - final works of art.



12 - We represented the phases of the Moon



13 - using Oreo biscuits.



14 - It was difficult to resist eating them but we managed to hold out



15 - until the photo opportunities.



16 - Best part ... eating the evidence.



17 - How long can we hold this pose?

Year 6 - A message from Mrs Lowe



I can't believe how quickly this half term has gone! Once again, we have been really busy. Building on our trip to Parliament back in September, we organised a debate in our English lessons around the question: Should fast food be advertised on TV? We also discussed whether social media should be banned for all under-16s—many of our children were very passionate about this motion.

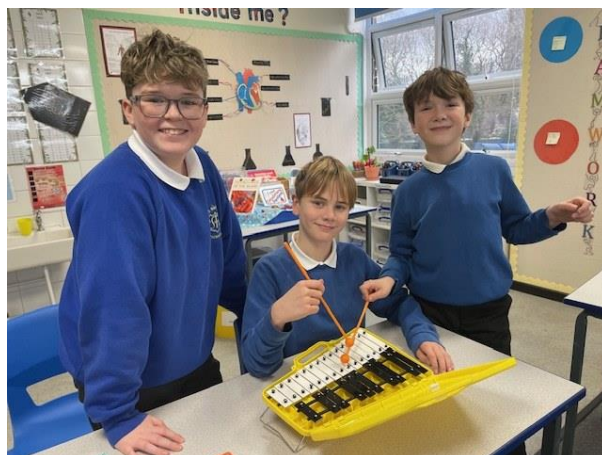
We enjoyed looking at and handling various artefacts linked to our unit on Islam, and we now know a little more about our science topic, *What's It Like Inside Me?*, focusing on the circulatory system. We had fun joining in the Big Birdwatch, recording birds on our playground. We also enjoyed exploring pop art in music this half term.

Shout outs to:

- Francesca – in Maths, for showing resilience and not giving up on an algebra challenge. You got there using all your maths learning! I was very impressed.
- Alfie and Sophia – for making us believe your alternative endings for *Pig Heart Boy* (our class reading book). Fantastic writing!
- Charlie L – for surprising yourself and producing an amazing piece of art when we sketched an anatomical heart.



18 - Learning about Islam in RE



19 - Creating variations on a theme in music



20 - Playing maths games to practice substitution in algebra



21 - We applied our theory learning about parts of the heart as we dissected the pig hearts in science

Spring Term 2 Dates 2026

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Return to school | Monday 23 February |
| YR Hearing & Vision Checks, School Nursing Team | Monday 23 February |
| Y1 Parent Engagement Session, Y1 Classroom | Wednesday 25 February at 1415 |
| Y6 Aspire Club starts | Thursday 26 February at 3.20-4.30pm |
| World Book Day (dress up as anything) | Thursday 5 March |
| British Science Week | w/c Monday 9 March |
| Y3 Dodgeball at STWA | Friday 13 March |
| Parents Evening Option 1 | Tuesday 17 March |
| Y2 Parent Engagement Session, Y2 Classroom | Wednesday 18 March at 1415 |
| Red Nose Day (Comic Relief, <u>wear red</u>) | Friday 20 March |
| Y4 Basketball at STWA | Friday 20 March |
| YN, YR & Y3 Parent Engagement Session, YN, YR & Y3 Classrooms | Tuesday 24 March at 1415 |
| Y6 Parent Engagement Session, Y6 Classroom | Wednesday 25 March at 1415 |
| Parents Evening Option 2 | Wednesday 25 March |
| End of term Church Service (Y5 to lead) NO Y6 ASPIRE CLUB TODAY | Thursday 26 March at 2.00pm |
| INSET DAY – School Closed | Friday 27 March |
| EASTER HOLIDAY | |
| School reopens to pupils | Monday 13 April |

Date Change Notification

Please note that the Y3 Dance Festival at STWA has been rescheduled to the morning of Friday 17 April.

Please note these dates are subject to change

Residential Dates & Final Payment Deadline Reminder

Y3 Sherwood (Wed 3 June to Thu 4 June 2025) - Final payment due by: Friday 20 March 2026

Y4 Castleton (Wed 10 June to Fri 12 June 2026) - Final payment due by: Friday 20 March 2026

Y6 & Y5 Whitby (Tue 16 June to Fri 19 June 2026) - Final payment due by: Friday 20 March 2026

Weekly Reminders w/c 23 February 2026

WEEKLY REMINDERS

| The week ahead w/c 23 February 2026 | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 23 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome back! YR Hearing & Vision Checks – the School Nursing team will be coming in in the afternoon to carry out these checks. |
| Wednesday 25 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y1 Parent Engagement Session (History Launch: Events in your life) – this will start at 1415 and finish at 1520. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend this session. Guitar lessons will take place with Mr Merrett from 11.10am (for KS2 children). Don't forget to bring in your guitar! |
| Thursday 26 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y6 Aspire Club – the first session will start at 1520 and finish at 1630. Piano Keyboard lessons will take place with Mr Nettleton from 9.50am (for KS2 children). |

Dinner Menu – w/c 23 February, Week 2

Please note that you must book your child/ren's dinners two weeks in advance when ordering on ParentPay. You will not be able to make any changes your child/rens options after this time.

| Attendance | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Whole school attendance w/c 2 February is: 97.4% | | | |
| Attendance for each year group for last week w/c 2 February: | | | |
| YR: 97.8% | Y1: 95.8% | Y2: 99.3% | Y3: 98.3% |
| Y4: 97.1% | Y5: 97.0% | Y6: 96.3% | |

Happy Half Term Break

