



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Spring Term

30th January 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Courage

Dear Parents,

It hasn't been the best of weather this week with the heavy wind and rain, but we have tried our best to get the children outside as much as possible at breaktimes but also for their learning. The sun is trying to come out today and hopefully we may see it a little more of it as we move into February.

Stortford Gymnastics Competition

Some of the children in Kingfisher Class had the opportunity to take part in a gymnastics event in Bishop's Stortford this week. They were very excited and had enjoyed practising leading up to the event with Miss Day in the weeks beforehand. They all said that they had a great time and that it was lots of fun. Thank you to the parents who collected and dropped the children off on the day.



Church Services

We always enjoy parents being able to attend our church services at St. Mary's for celebrations throughout the year. Please note that our Easter Service this year will be held at the church on **Thursday 26th March at 2pm**. We would also like to welcome families to join us for our Collective Worship, which now Rev'd Lynn is leading more frequently since her arrival in the parish and we hope to take more opportunities in conducting these at St. Mary's. Collective Worship is held daily in school, but our Christian values led assemblies are usually on a Thursday so if you would like to join us on **Thursday 12th March at 1pm** then please do come along. I will keep you updated as to when the next one will be.

Headteacher's Award

We had the first Headteacher's Awards handed out as part of our celebration worship today. These are awarded to children on a Friday for extra effort that has been recognised by their teachers. The four children were very proud to share their work and talk about their achievements with everyone. It is wonderful to see such excited learners!

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Sarah Cook
Headteacher

Woodpecker: The children have had a wonderful time learning and exploring this week. On Fridays, we are really enjoying having Skylark join us to look at books. This has been a lovely opportunity to share stories and build confidence. The children have also loved spending time with their buddies. In maths, we have been learning about weighing. During CIL, the children explored weighing different items, comparing them to see which were heavier and lighter. This hands-on learning helped them develop their understanding through real experiences. Our focus book has been *The Rainbow Fish*. The children have engaged beautifully with the story and have enjoyed creating their own fish collages, showing creativity whilst talking about sharing and kindness. Outside, the children have been developing their gross motor skills through an exciting bubble-making activity. Whilst whisking to create bubbles, they discovered that the faster they whisked, the more bubbles were produced, leading to lots of curiosity, laughter, and problem-solving.



Kingfisher: The weather (particularly the strong winds) prevented us from going out for forest school this week. However, Kingfisher stayed busy making some wonderful plaques from salt dough to hang from the trees in the Burrow. The children did a wonderful job decorating them, and they will look lovely when in situ. We have also been thinking about our feathered friends and the challenges they might be facing during this cold, wet spell, so have made some fantastic bird feeders. Cheerios are not just for kids! A big thank you to Louis, who very kindly brought in some of his Grandad's fantastic toys from when he was a little boy. The big hit was his collection of metal army vehicles, which we learned from the reaction of the children are as popular today as they were when Louis' Grandad was a lad.



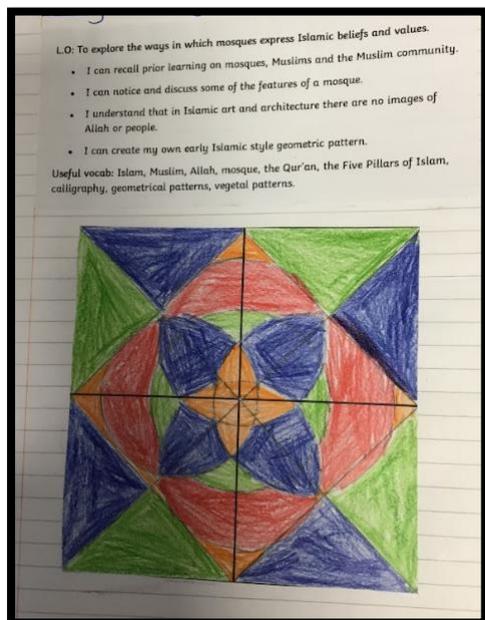
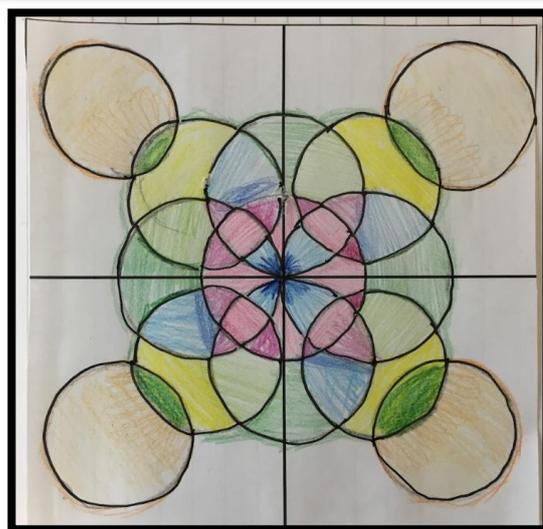
Nightingale: The children have started to plan and write their own narratives based on Lewis Carroll's Alice Adventures in Wonderland. They drew their own wonderlands and were encouraged to use their five sense to describe different parts of their land. They were also reminded about prepositions and interesting sentence starters before starting to write their introductions. We look forward to reading all about their imaginative worlds and characters. In science we have continued our investigations into solid, liquids and gases. This week we have been learning about condensation and evaporation so if you are making a cup of tea over the weekend, see if the children can explain why there is steam coming out of the kettle. The children have also continued their ukulele lessons this week which they are enjoying.



Robin: The children in Robin Class have been working extremely hard this week, particularly in maths. We have been busy multiplying using the column method and dividing by partitioning, using times table facts to help find remainders. In RE, we explored the Muslim way of prayer. This included learning about the preparation after hearing the Adhan and what prayer looks like. The children then made their own models to represent this learning. We have also been writing about a mysterious, giant footprint and the possibility of Bigfoot. The children are learning how to edit their own work before publishing and have been highly engaged while writing their newspaper articles. We enjoy being reporters! We enjoyed our ukelele lesson this week too!



Skylark: Skylark took their science learning outside this week and enjoyed creating clay models of invertebrates. The children spent some time looking for additional natural resources to bring their models to life and then they chose a type of invertebrate to recreate, thinking about their specific characteristics. In history, we have been finding out more about Tudor times and studied some primary sources giving details of Elizabeth I's royal progress. We then used these facts to create our own eyewitness accounts of the event. In RE we have been finding out about Islamic art and looking at examples of highly decorated Mosques and artefacts. We then enjoyed creating our own Islamic geometric patterns.



WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance – 93.88%

Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact school **every day** of any absence. This can be done by calling **01279 777344** and leaving a message on the absence line.

If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office before 9.00am to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Nightingale Class

Benji
Evie A
Myles
Beatrice



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Daphne for working hard in maths.
Emilia for working hard on her writing.

Nightingale

Beatrice for her enthusiasm and writing using Alice and Wonderland as inspiration.

Kingfisher

Dolcie for her amazing writing and using her phonics to independently spell words when describing the trees in Rapunzel's forest.

Aubrey for his fantastic re-telling of Rapunzel in English.

Robin

Ada for fantastic work in our history topic this week and working hard in her writing.

Skylark

Esme for her fantastic contributions in lessons.
Mollie for great progress with independent work in Maths.

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Raf for amazing hard work and focus on his English newspaper report writing.

Wynter-Rose for fantastic effort and improvement in her cursive handwriting.

William G for amazing focus in his writing and improvement in his times tables recall.

George C for a beautifully presented and crafted newspaper report and super times tables recall.

READING AWARDS

Woodpecker

George V

Nightingale

Finch

Kingfisher

Albert

Robin

Leo

Skylark

Darcey

MENU w/c 2 nd February 2026		DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Day	Menu		
Monday	Quorn Hotdog (v) Red Margherita Wrap (v) Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue	Monday 2nd February	NSPCC Event for years 2,5 &6
		Friday 6th February	EYFS/KS1 Sharing Assembly
		Tuesday 3rd February	Skylark Tudor Day
		Friday 13th February	KS2 Sharing Assembly
		Mon 16th – Fri 20th Feb	Half Term
Tuesday	Pork Sausages & Gravy Red Roasted Butternut Squash Curry (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue	Tuesday 24th February	Skylark O2 Young Voices
		Monday 2nd March	Secondary allocation day
		Wednesday 4th March	Bags2 School Collection
		Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
		Thursday 12th March	Collective Worship St. Mary's Church 1pm – parents welcome
Wednesday	Roast Beef & Gravy Red Roast Quorn Fillet (Ve) with Stuffing & Gravy Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue	Friday 13th March	Y6 Health Questionnaires
		Thursday 26th March	Easter Service St. Mary's Church
		Thursday 26th March	FPSA Easter Disco
		Friday 27th March	End of Term
		Monday 13th April	INSET DAY
Thursday	Chicken Curry Red Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo Blue	Tuesday 14th April	Term starts for pupils
		Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
		Monday 11th May	SATs Week Year 6
Friday	Fish Fillet Fingers Red Margherita Pizza (v) Green Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) Blue	Monday 18th May	Skylark Activity Week
		Tuesday 19th May	Crucial Crew
		Mon 25th – Fri 29th May	Half Term
		Wednesday 3rd June	Bags2 School Collection
		Wednesday 24th June	Sports Day
		Wednesday 1st July	Reserve Sports Day
		Tuesday 7th July	KS2 Faith Tour
		Monday 20th July	FPSA Summer Disco
Tuesday 21st July	Leavers Service 2pm Church		
Wednesday 22nd July	END of TERM		
Thursday 23rd July	INSET DAY		

NOTICES AND INFORMATION



Navigating Smartphones & Tech as a Family

A free event from **SFC Stortford** for parents and educators, featuring candid stories and practical tools you can start using straight away.

- > Presentations
- > Panel discussion
- > Alternative phone display

The Bishop's Stortford High School
Thursday 5th March
6.30 - 9pm

Book here:
tinyurl.com/5MARSFC



DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning, 18th March, St Catherines School, Ware, SG12 0AW

10.00 - 11.30



Delivering Special Provision Locally



You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities. Connect with other parents and carers, Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you. We offer Practical advice & emotional support Meet and chat with others in a similar situation, Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss

Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL, ADD Vance and Angels

We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!