Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Autumn Term 13th November 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Courage & Generosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy week we have had in school. There has been so much happening, with plenty of opportunities for our children to learn, reflect and enjoy new experiences.

This week, our children have been developing their cycling skills in Skylark through Bikeability. Bikeability is the UK government's official national cycle training programme. It is often described as the modern-day version of "cycling proficiency". The programme teaches children practical skills, road safety, and confidence so they can ride bikes safely on modern roads. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they learn how to ride safely and responsibly out on the roads. They have been out in all weathers and have very much enjoyed it.

We also marked Remembrance Day. Our whole-school Remembrance Service was a thoughtful and moving occasion, with the children showing great respect as we remembered those who have served and sacrificed so much. Several of our Skylark children read In Flanders Fields as part of the service beautifully. The children shared artwork that they had produced in class; bunting, tissue poppies, oil pastel poppies and a wreath of hands. Our Year 5 and 6 children also visited the war memorial at St. Mary's, where they laid artwork that they had created as a special tribute. It was a meaningful opportunity for them to reflect on the importance of remembrance, peace and gratitude. George, who was put on the spot at the time, read a passage as part of the service and it was a great opportunity to be part of the local community. We were very proud of the way they represented our school.





The Eco-Council chose their wining banner to encourage drivers to slow down around our school. There were lots of super entries which were colourful and eye-catching to make sure that drivers aware and to keep our families safe when walking close to school. Lots of thought and effort went into their designs and I'm delighted to announce the winners:

1st – Benji
2nd – Emma
3rd – Milo

Thank you and well done to our winner, Benji, who designed a great poster, so please keep a look out as you come to school over the coming weeks for it when it returns from the printers.

To round off our busy week, we have also been celebrating Children in Need today. It has been wonderful to see our school community coming together to support such an important cause, with lots of smiles, fun and kindness along the way. As always, I am incredibly proud of our children and the way they embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm, kindness and respect. It has certainly been a full and memorable week.















Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

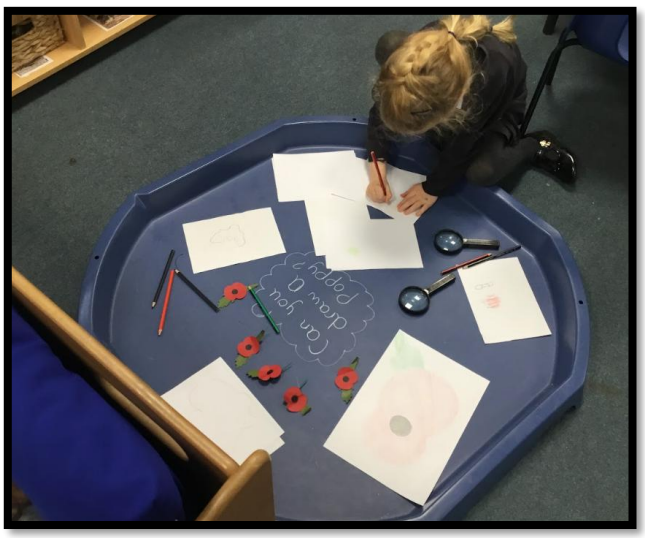
Sarah Cook
Headteacher

Woodpecker Class

In PE, we have been focusing on our balancing skills and learning how to jump correctly. The children had the opportunity to walk carefully across a bench before practising jumping off the end safely, remembering to bend their knees and land with control. To continue with our topic of 'celebrations', we have been learning about Remembrance Day. The children have been taking part in some thoughtful and creative activities. Working together, they created a beautiful poppy wreath using their handprints. They also worked hard to make a large poppy using colourful tissue paper. These activities gave the children an opportunity to talk about Remembrance Day while exploring different creative techniques and working collaboratively.

Down the Burrow has been full of autumn magic this week! The children became little potion makers, searching for and collecting different ingredients to create their very own autumn potions. They enjoyed exploring the different textures, colours and smells of the natural materials, using their imagination and creativity to mix up some wonderful potions.





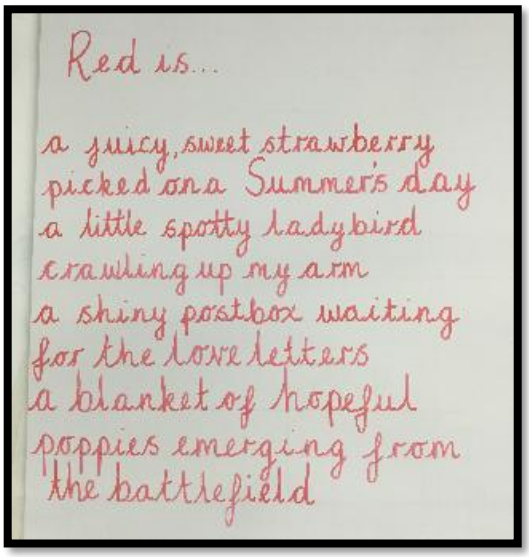




Kingfisher Class

Kingfisher Class have been busy this week, particularly in English, where they have been working on their descriptive skills in poetry. We created our own 'Purple Is...' poem, using adjectives, verbs and adverbs. We then made our own fantastic class poem based on the colour red! Next week we will be then writing up our very own poem based on a colour of our choice. We made beautiful individual poppies this week to commemorate Remembrance Day from paper and tissue. We made these into a wonderful bouquet to display in our classroom. We were so impressed to see a group of children take it upon themselves to decide to write during continuous provision this week, and without any direction create their very own stories! They created little paper books and used their fantastic imaginations to tell their stories. We can't wait to read their final work!





Red is...

a juicy, sweet strawberry
picked on a Summer's day
a little spotty ladybird
crawling up my arm
a shiny postbox waiting
for the love letters
a blanket of hopeful
poppies emerging from
the battlefield





Nightingale Class
Nightingale have had another fantastic week of learning. In RE, we enjoyed a deep and thoughtful discussion about how Jesus is portrayed in the Bible as both fully human and fully God. The children impressed me with their mature ideas and insightful questions, exploring what these different aspects of Jesus' identity mean to Christians. This inspired some beautiful and thought-provoking illustrations, with pupils using their creativity to express their understanding in unique and meaningful ways.

In Computing, we have been thoroughly enjoying our new scheme of work and are quickly becoming programming experts. Using Scratch, the children have been learning how to create and control algorithms, debug their programs, and bring their ideas to life through coding. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and problem-solving skills grow, and we are already developing a class full of Scratch whizzes.

Skylark Class
We had Bikeability this week in Skylark and many of our Year 5 and 6 children have been enjoying going out, around the village, on their bikes, learning how to cycle safely and independently. They all seemed to have had a great time and have made fantastic progress. To mark Remembrance Day, the children created some beautiful poppies inspired by the work of the artist Georgia O'Keefe. They took their work over to the War Memorial in the Church grounds on Wednesday morning and listened very respectfully, whilst Revd Lynn gave her blessings and prayers, and we stood for a 2-minute silence. We have also started a new topic in science and will be exploring Forces for the rest of this half-term. The children started this week by finding out more about contact and non-contact forces and watching an experiment to learn more about the effects of friction on different materials. In Geography, the children have continued their learning about mountains and really enjoyed using the atlases and Google Earth to investigate the human and physical features of the Alps.



Woodpecker	Kingfisher	Nightingale	Skylark
Ollie Daphne	Dougie		



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker
Albie for always participating in singing.

Nora for having such a positive attitude towards learning.

Nightingale
Reinhardt for approaching every challenge in Maths with a positive attitude and working hard to develop your understanding,

Darcey for consistently demonstrating kindness, respect and a positive attitude towards learning.

Kingfisher

Felicity for growing confidence in her learning, especially in phonics, and always sharing her ideas.

Hadley for great teamwork and working hard in his handwriting and phonics.

Skylark
Oliver G for always giving everything his full effort and focus.

Noah for fantastic progress in reading.

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

George Chivers for confident and clear reading at the church memorial on Remembrance Day.

CREATIVE AWARD

Benji for his great banner design.

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance this week – 96.6%

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.
If you are going to be late and will need to order a school lunch, you can ether make your own selection on Arbor before 8.15 am or ring the school office before 9.15 am. Orders placed after this time may not be accepted.

MENU w/c 16th November 2026	
Day	Menu
Monday	Beef Bolognese Red Quorn Sausage and Gravy (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue
Tuesday	Quorn Hotdog (v) Red Roasted veg lasagne (v) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue
Wednesday	Roast Chicken Red Beany pasta bake (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) Blue
Thursday	Beef Burger Red Baked Bean slice (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue
Friday	Battered Fish Red Margherita Pizza (v) Green Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo Blue

Thursday 19th November	Last netball session for the term
Friday 20th November	KS2 Sharing Assembly
Thursday 26th November	Decorating Day (KS1 am, KS2 pm)
	FPSA Disco 5.30pm
Friday 27th November	Occasional Day
Tuesday 1st December	Reception Class trip to Audley End
Friday 4th December	FPSA Christmas Fair 3.30 – 5pm
Tuesday 8th December	Skylark – St Michael's Carol Service
Wednesday 9th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal 9.30 am
	Christingle 2pm @ St Mary's
Thursday 10th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity performance 2pm
Monday 14th December	Panto @ South Mill Arts
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	Christmas service 2pm @ St. Mary's
Friday 18th December	Term ends at 1.30 pm
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET day
Tuesday 5th January	School opens for pupils

The Stortford **Smartphone Free Childhood** team will be showcasing child friendly phones in Jackson Square on Sunday 15th November (10am-4pm at the top of the escalators).

As they gain more independence, child friendly phones are a great way to keep in contact with your child, without the need to give them a full smartphone. Most of these phones are only available online so this is a good opportunity to have a look at them, and discuss pros and cons, before making any decisions.

If you can't make this date but want to follow for future dates you can either join their Facebook page here or message them at sfcstortford@outlook.com.

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

- **FPSA Event – Paint and Sip taking place on Friday 13th November at 7.30 pm.**





