

Date: 7th March 2025

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ramadan Mubarak to the families who are currently taking part in Ramadan. The children were really interested in learning about this festival during assembly this week.

We enjoyed our pyjama day yesterday which set the scene for sharing books and stories for World Book Day. It was lovely to hear the children explaining reasons for choosing

their favourite books and listening to them share books they look forward to reading in the future.

The Year 4 children are becoming increasingly excited about the prospect of having 2 nights away from home for their residential visit to Ufton Court. This visit provides the perfect setting to develop academic skills and knowledge as part of their work on the Vikings, whilst developing their confidence, independence and numerous life skills. We hope they have fun!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fraser, Headteacher



Red Nose Day

On Friday 21st March, we will be taking part in Red Nose Day by asking children to wear something red along with non-school uniform. We will have a Red Nose Day link which will be shared nearer to the day.



Attendance Policy Update

Our attendance policy has recently been updated. To read the latest version, please use this link: [School Attendance Policy](#)

TD Day

The staff had a fantastic TD Day on Monday 24th February as this was the Blue Kite Trust Collaboration Day. We received training on the following areas:

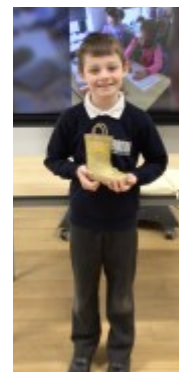
- building an empathy based approach for SEND
- the use of technology in school
- providing scaffolding and support
- Maths mastery questioning skills

Gold Book

Well done to all of the children who were in the Gold Book — we are very proud of you and your achievements!



Golden Welly: Well done to Ethan and Matthew for being awarded the golden welly award for making great choices at playtimes and engaging in excellent play.





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School Diary

March

Mon 10th—Science week
Mon 10th—Wed 12th Y4 Residential
Mon 17th—Y4 Sports, Stripes and Scales workshop
Tue 25th —Y5 Sports, Stripes and Scales workshop
Fri 21st —Red Nose Day
Fri 21st —Class reps meeting
Mon 24th —Reception Infant Voice Festival
Thurs 27th—Parent’s consultation meetings

April

Fri 4th —PTA bake sale
Fri 25th —PTA Crazy hair day
Tue 29th—Book fair for 3 days

May

Mon 5th PTA School fete and circus

June

Mon 9th Y1 Phonics screening check
Mon 2nd June Y4 Multiplication tables check
Fri 20th PTA sponsored event
Fri 20th PTA ice cream van

INSET TD DAYS—school closed to children:

23rd May 2025

4th July 2025

1st September 2025

2nd September 2025

Don't forget our online social media accounts:

Facebook—William Morris Primary School

Instagram—williammorrisprimary

Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes

What have we been learning in Nursery?



Over the last two weeks, we have focused on a book and a classic nursery rhyme: The Tiny Seed and Old MacDonald Had a Farm. When reading The Tiny Seed, we talked lots about what a plant needs to grow. The children have some great understanding and we planted sunflowers and are carefully watching them each day to see them growing. This week there are lots of new roots to see and we are hoping for some stems to appear next week.

We were so happy to meet Farmer Gow's animals, the children got to talk about the animals and their young, cuddle baby chicks and feed the goats. All children had an amazing hands on experience and came back full of excitement about the visit. We were so lucky with the weather too!

We are currently looking to expand our maths areas in our rooms and as a result would love it if you could have a little look at home for any old simple games such as snakes and ladders or any early maths games.

Thank you for your continued support. Have an awesome weekend and we will see you ready to go again on Monday!

The Nursery Team

Reminders—Please label all items of clothing that children bring to school, we have a pile of lost property that is slowly growing due to unlabelled items.





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Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes



Fabulous farm visit





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Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes



Planting our own tiny seeds



Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes



The chicks and lambs are so cute!



We loved meeting the animals



Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes

What have we been learning in Reception?



This term our topic is 'Not a Box'. This topic encourages the children to use their imagination with a focus on creating, inventing and engineering. We started our journey this term with the story 'Not a Box' where we have imagined our cardboard boxes into many different things such as a race car, a boat and even a robot!

This week we have climbed aboard our cardboard box rocket ship and journeyed to the moon with our story 'Whatever Next!'. As part of our learning through this story, we have started to learn the text using our Talk for Writing process.

In PE this term we will be focusing on gymnastics, the children did a brilliant job learning a range of different balances last week in PE. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school, if you have not yet returned it after the half term break.

The children have been wowing us with their Maths this week. We have been focusing on doubles and spotting real life doubles in our environment.

We have had an exciting end to our week with a pyjama day to celebrate World Book Day. The children enjoyed sharing their stories together and buddy reading with Year 2 and Year 3 children. The farm visit was another highlight of the week, the children demonstrated fantastic behaviour throughout the visit being mindful of the visiting animals. Together they enjoyed meeting lots of farm animals, feeding the goats and holding the baby chicks!

Thanks for your continued support,

The EYFS team

Reminders:

- Tricky words - a big well done to all the children who have been working hard to learn the tricky words. Please continue to support your child at home and colour the words once they know them by sight on 3 occasions.
- Reading - please record all reading in your child's yellow reading record so that we can continue to celebrate the children with their reading achievements. 25 reads earn them a bronze bookmark, it would be fantastic to see all the children achieving at least bronze this term.





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Reception—Bellflower and Sunflower Classes





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Reception—Bellflower and Sunflower Classes



Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes

What have we been learning in Year 1?



Wow what a busy two weeks we have had in Year 1! To launch our topic 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers' we had an exciting but strange delivery arrive in our classrooms at the beginning of last week. A box! But the box had signs on it saying do not touch, fragile and it had small holes around the top. The children had to guess what mysterious creature could be inside the box. Each class came up with a list of ideas using a range of questions to get them thinking about what it could be.

In English this term, we are learning the text 'The Tiger who came to tea' which the children already know so well. We have learnt our model text, which is a shortened version of the book, and we came up with actions to help us retell the story. This week, we have started by using the boxing up method, breaking the story up into beginning, build up, problem, resolution and ending. We have also tried to write the story out before we innovate next week.

In Maths, we have continued to tell our number stories using the language 'first, then and now'. We have been telling stories to help us write and solve equations. Last week, we looked at addition and this week we have been doing subtraction. We have also been really lucky to have some new tens frames and counters, which we loved using to tell our number stories and then wrote the equations on whiteboards.

In Science, we have been measuring, recording and comparing temperature in the mornings and the afternoons. We discussed why these temperatures are different and also noticed the difference in location to our thermometer. We have continued to look at the changes throughout the seasons.

In Art, we have explored and compared artwork with an animal theme. We have made observations and evaluations of the artwork and chosen our favourite painting and created our vision.

In PE, we have been learning target games, which involved learning to throw accurately towards a target. We have also been playing team building games to develop our trust and resilience.

For PE, please could you provide your child with a pair of daps or trainers for when we do outdoor PE.

We know that some concerns have been raised regarding when children in Year One are allowed to use the toilet during the school day and a separate email has been sent to address this.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year One Team



Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes



Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes



World book day



Sharing our favourite stories

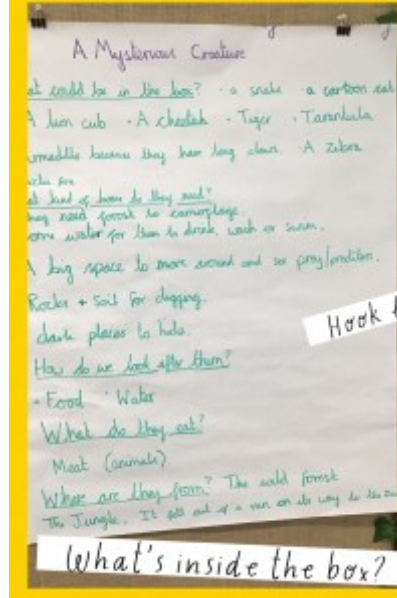


PIC-COLLAGE



Maths stories - addition

PIC-COLLAGE



Hook lesson

What's inside the box?



PIC-COLLAGE

Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes

What have we been learning in Year 2?



In Year 2, we are already full of excitement about our new topics. Here's a glimpse of what we have been up to:

Forest School – This term, we'll be exploring the field as part of our Forest School adventures. We've already started by making our very own Forest School Medallions! We even heard woodpeckers and spotted a deer, making it a very exciting start to our outdoor learning!

Science – For our new science topic 'Plant Survival', we have dived into bulb planting, learning all about the different features of a bulb, and planting our own using our new scientific terminology. We have also been investigating plant habitats, exploring the plants we can find around the field with our fun plant bingo activity. We even discovered holly trees along the way!

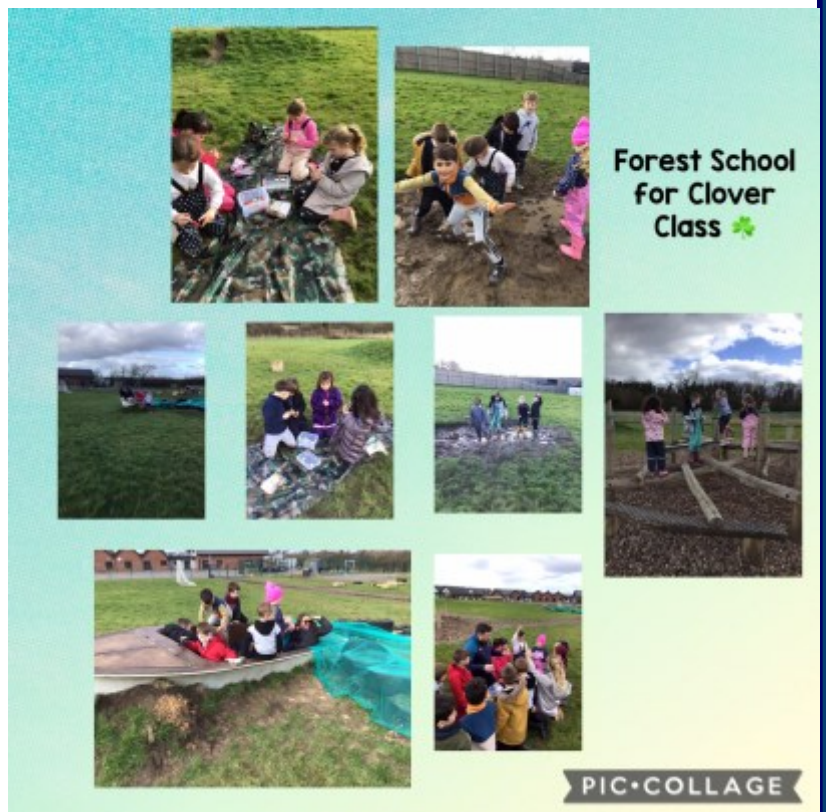
Maths – This week, we have focused on weighing mass. We have estimated, compared, and measured using both grams and kilograms.

English – We are now focusing on imaginative stories with a focus on the classic tale of Jack and the Beanstalk. To help bring the story to life, we have generated new actions that correspond with the key parts of the model text, making it both creative and fun.

PE – Our PE lessons are all about fitness this term, where we'll be building stamina through running exercises. We're also enjoying yoga, with fun themes like underwater animals, including the seal and dolphin poses.

Topic – Our topic for the term is 'The Scented Garden', where we will explore plants, gardening, and nature. This week we have been planting cress seeds and are tracking their growth, learning all about how plants develop. Thank you for bringing in the takeaway pots that have allowed us to do this fun activity! We have also had the opportunity to design our dream gardens, filled with treehouses, vegetable patches, and slides – we now know who to call if we need a garden designer!

Have a lovely weekend,
The Year 2 Team :)





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Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes



Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes



Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

What have we been learning in Year 3?



What a great first few weeks we've had in Year 3! We are continuing with a geographical based topic this term with 'Flow' a topic which will take us in a journey through all things rivers! We were excited to come back after half term and see how our eco projects are coming on and I can confirm our bulbs and seeds have begun to sprout!

We kicked off our topic with a news report about the sewage leak in the River Ray a few years ago and the children were incredibly knowledgeable about the topic off the back of our eco projects last term. They conducted their own research and took on the roles of presenters, residents and water company workers when recording a news broadcast about the event. We have now moved on to diary entries and found a mysterious case in the playground, which we think belongs to Dylan. He is the main character from our class novel and goes on an adventure to the Amazon Rainforest!

In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication, so now would be a great time to reignite the children's passion for Times Tables Rock Stars at home to consolidate and support their learning in class. We have been working on compact multiplication and will move on to division next week, which can also be supported by engagement with TTRS outside of school.

In our Science lessons, we have been finishing off our magnets topic by looking at magnetic and non-magnetic materials, we're also looking forward to Science week next week where we will be carrying out an investigation into dissolvable and non-dissolvable materials, which we should or shouldn't flush!

We also had World Book Day this week and it was great to see all of the PJs, books and hear about the children's favorite characters in our character battles! The children had to complete a short bio of their character and a 'Top Trumps' style rating system so they could then 'battle' other people's characters to see who had done the best job describing their character's greatness.

In PE, we started playing dodgeball and learning football skills. Our days are now Monday and Wednesday. We would ask that PE kits are in school all week as we are also planning an interhouse sport morning for KS2. This will be closed to parents like last year, but we will be sure to let you all know how it goes.

We hope everyone had a great half term and welcome you all back for an exciting new term.

Year 3 Team



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Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes



Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

What have we been learning in Year 4?



We have had an exciting start to the term with our new 'Potions' topic!

Mr B started off our topic by demonstrating making some 'potions' before the children had a go. The children have designed some amazing potion bottles and made them come to life with clay! In English, we've been thinking about instructions on how to make potions. We have studied the features of instruction writing, written engaging and humorous introductions and carefully chosen our imperative verbs for our instructions on how to turn your teacher into a toad!

We've also been busy with lots of Science work, learning about states of matter. We can describe the properties of solids, liquids and gases and also explain particle theory. We conducted a 'wacky races' experiment, racing liquids and explaining how the viscosity of a liquid affected its speed down the ramp. As well as this, we've measured the temperature of water in different states to help us understand why water can change its state.

In Maths, we've been working hard on multiplication. We started the term using partitioning and place value columns where appropriate for the question and have now moved on to the formal written method. The children are making great progress with this! We have also been busy practising our times tables in Maths Meetings.

We're all very excited for our residential on Monday! We know that the residential will be very tiring for the children at the start of the week. With this in mind, we would like to let the Year 4 children leave school at 1pm on Friday. If you would like to collect your child at 1pm on Friday 14th March, please come to the side gate where they can be dismissed. If you are unable to collect your child, please let the school office know.

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

The Year 4 Team



Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes





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Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes



Year 5 - Thistle and Acorn Classes

What have we been learning in Year 5?



Off With Her Head!

As we kick off Term 4, our class has been diving into the fascinating history of the Tudors! We've been exploring the reign of Henry VIII and his six wives, immersing ourselves in our class novel *Treason*, and uncovering intriguing facts about Anne Boleyn through research. It's been an exciting journey into the past!



World Book Day!

For World Book Day, Year 5 had a fantastic time dressing up in their cozy pyjamas and sharing their favourite books with each other! From thrilling adventures to magical tales, everyone had the chance to talk about the stories they love and inspire their classmates to read something new. It was a wonderful day filled with storytelling, imagination, and a shared love of books!



Year 5 Thistle and Acorn Classes

Yoga!

This term in indoor PE, we are learning all about Yoga! Yoga is a fantastic way to improve flexibility, strength, and mindfulness. Through a series of poses and breathing exercises, Year 5 are not only building physical skills but also learning how to relax and focus their minds. We look forward to seeing how yoga helps us feel more centred and energised throughout the term!



Year 5 Thistle and Acorn Classes

Fractions!

In Year 5, we have been making great use of our new maths resources to deepen our understanding of fractions! These hands-on tools have helped us visualise fractions more clearly, making it easier to compare and order them with confidence. Using these resources has made learning fractions more engaging and enjoyable for everyone!



Year 5 Thistle and Acorn Classes

Every Friday, we have the pleasure of 'Book Club!' This is a designated time each week to enjoy a book voted for by the class and then additional time for the children to read their own book in the comfort of the class book corner or on the furniture in the corridor, sitting with our friends and enjoying delving into exciting stories!





Parents and Friends of William Morris Newsletter

This week's news...

*And the
Winner
is...*

Seren Sharman

Thank you for all the incredible entries to the drawing competition! We thoroughly enjoyed looking at each one, and selecting a winner was a challenging decision.

Congratulations to Seren Sherman what a lovely masterpiece! We look forward to featuring it on the front cover of the program. Your £5 worth of fete tokens can be collected from the PTA table on the day of the event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 4th Bake Sale
- April 25th Crazy Hair Day
- April 29th-1st May Book Fair
- May 5th School Fete and Circus
- June 20th Sponsored Event
- June 20th Ice Cream Van
- July 22nd Summer Disco

SCHOOL FETE RAFFLE

We are looking for raffle prize donations for our school fete. If you are or know a business that would be willing to donate a prize, please email pta.at.williammorris@gmail.com.

Don't forget to get your tickets for the circus.



As always, thank you so much for your support. All proceeds from our events go straight back to the school to provide equipment and resources.

Easter Camp



SJR SPORTS

HALF TERM MULTI SPORTS
AT
WILLIAM MORRIS PRIMARY
SCHOOL
SN25 2PP

Action packed week full of different sports and games! Including - football, dodgeball, handball, hockey, basketball and many more!

DATES



TUESDAY 8TH APRIL
WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL
THURSDAY 10TH APRIL
FRIDAY 11TH APRIL



Book now at -
www.sjrsports.org

AGE

5-11
YEAR
OLDS

TIME

9:00AM -
3:00PM

PRICE

1 DAY - £18
2 DAY - £34
3 DAY - £46
4 DAY - £58



Neurodiversity Parent 101:

How can diet and nutrition impact?

Do-IT>

You are what you eat and your child is too! A healthy brain is one that can perform all the mental processes that are collectively known as cognition, including the ability to learn new things, intuition, judgement, language and remembering.

How does food impact on our child's behaviour?

- **Fatty acids** – Some children may be either not eating a very healthy diet or have a restrictive diet (only eating some foods) or they may not absorb the good fats in their diet. This has been seen in some children with ADHD.
- **Coloured foods** – certain food colourings have been found to increase hyperactivity in some children. These include:
 - E110 - Sunset yellow
 - E122 - Carmoisine
 - E102- Tartrazine
 - E124 – Ponceau 4R



How can you help your child?

- ✓ Ensure your child has a balanced diet – with 5 portions of fruit and vegetables every day.
- ✓ Avoid processed foods as much as possible and those with colourings if you notice it has an impact on your child.
- ✓ Regular fish intake at least 2-3 times per week especially oily fish such as salmon and mackerel.
- ✓ There is evidence that some children with ADHD are helped by taking an EPA supplement and it can help them
- ✓ with improved mood as well as behaviour, attention, spelling, hyperactivity and memory function, used alongside other medication that may be pres



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lawri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College