



Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Week and World Book Day 2026

We are looking forward to celebrating **Reading Week** and **World Book Day 2026**, a highlight in our school calendar that brings our whole community together to share the joy of reading. Throughout the week, pupils are taking part in a range of activities designed to inspire a love of books and storytelling.

Key events include:

- **World Book Day** on Thursday 05th March — We can't wait to see the creative character costumes/comfortable pyjamas pupils come to school in.
- **Book Fair** on Tuesday 03rd and Wednesday 4th March — A selection of age-appropriate books will be available for families to browse and purchase, supporting both reading at home and our school library.
- **Reading Competitions** — Pupils have the chance to take part in friendly competitions celebrating creativity, comprehension and enthusiasm for reading.

These events are always a wonderful opportunity to celebrate imagination, reading and the power of stories. Further details and schedules are shared in the newsletter.

It is the **responsibility** of all the community to maintain a supportive environment for everyone. 😊

Values

- St Mary's Christian Values for the **spring term** are **wisdom, responsibility and honesty**.
- Our school Bible quote which we aspire for all children and adults to achieve is **'I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.'** (Proverbs 4:11)

Parent News Section 1,

Expectations for Conduct at Drop-off and Pick-up

To maintain a **calm, safe** and **respectful** environment for all members of our school community, we ask parents and carers not to approach other children, parents or visitors at the start or end of the school day. Any concerns, disagreements or incidents—no matter how small—must be raised through the appropriate channels.

- All complaints or concerns should be directed to the school office, where they will be managed in line with our safeguarding and communication procedures.
- Emails sent to officestaff@stmarys.slough.sch.uk will be acknowledged and dealt with promptly, ensuring that issues are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner.

This approach helps us protect the wellbeing of pupils, maintain positive relationships across the school community, and ensure that all matters are handled fairly and consistently.



Parent News Section 2,

Reading Week 2026

As part of our **World Book Day celebrations**, we are hosting several reading themed events during Reading Week (Monday 2nd March – Friday 6th March)

Book Fair – Tuesday 3rd March and Wednesday 4th March

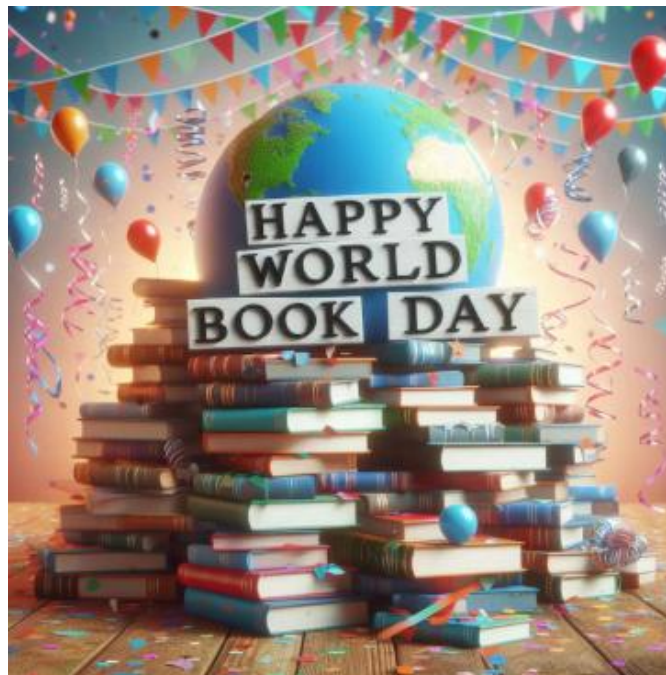
- In partnership with Chiltern Bookshops, an independent local book chain, the school is hosting a book fair giving parents an opportunity to buy high-quality, topical fiction books, carefully selected to represent our diverse community. **Look out for email communication sharing key details.**

Visitors

- Each day during Reading Week, children in KS1 and KS2 will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers share their stories about how reading influenced them as a child and how it continues to support them in their careers. **We will even be visited by a rock musician!**

Reading Week Competition

- All entries must be handed in by **Friday 6th March**. We look forward to seeing your fantastic entries!

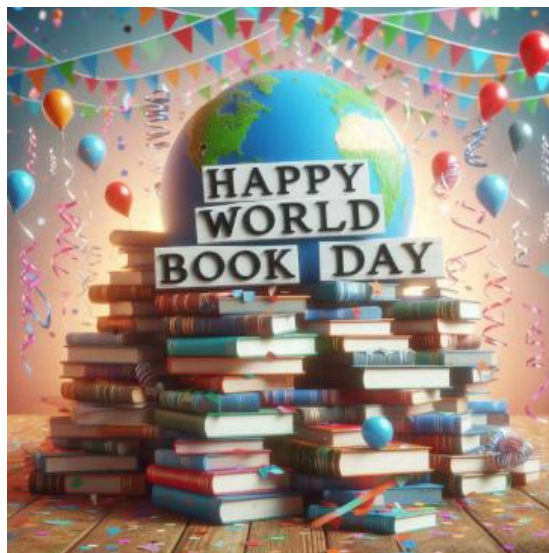


Parent News Section 3,

Reading Week 2026

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

- On **World Book Day**, children are invited to wear pyjamas, dressing gowns or dress up as a character from a book and ‘cuddle up with a book’. Across the school, year groups will read and explore books that share the universal theme of **‘morals and values’**.
- Each year group will focus on a different high-quality text linked to this theme. All work completed on World Book Day will be centred around their chosen book.
- Children will take part in a range of exciting activities including a piece of extended writing, as well as art and drama activities inspired by their class text.
- We will also be hosting a fun **‘Masked Reader’** event, where children will listen carefully and try to guess which member of staff is reading the mystery story!
- Throughout the week, each **class** will receive a **book a day** to add to their **book corners**, helping us to further enrich our reading environments.
- **In addition, on World Book Day the school is generously gifting a book to each child to encourage their love of reading!**
- World Book Day vouchers will be shared on the day too, which can be used in WHSmith stores to purchase books at a reduced cost.





READING WEEK COMPETITION!

Prizes include a new book!
KS2 winners look out for a bonus
scrumdiddlyumptious prize!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Create a drawing/ painting of
a character from a book



YEAR 3 & 4

Create an object from a book.
This could be a Harry Potter
wand or Paddington Bear's
suitcase!



Year 5 & 6

Create a diorama (a scene in
a box) of a book of your
choice.



HOW TO ENTER

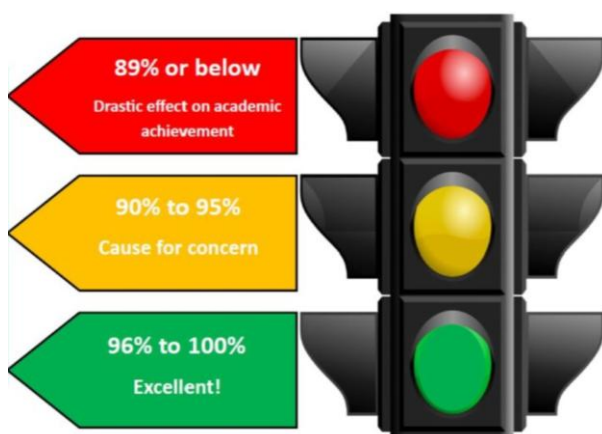
1. Create the chosen competition entry for your year group. Remember don't tell us what book your entry is linked to- we want to guess!
2. Hand it to your teacher by Friday 6th MARCH .



Parent News Section 4,

Absence

- Attending school every day is important for children to learn well.
- On the rare occasion children are absent, please report this on our **Study Bugs** system.
- If reporting your child's absence, clearly state your child's **name, year group, class** and the **reason why** your child is absent. We ask that you are **specific about your child's illness** so we can recognise trends and local outbreaks.
- We do not authorise holidays during term time, and you may be fined through the authority.
- Please try to arrange appointments out of school hours. If this is not possible, please email the school office with conformation of the appointment: officestaff@stmarys.slough.sch.uk
- Well done to **7** classes who achieved **96%** or more attendance last week!
- Well done to: **Bluebell, Damson, Cherry, Pear, Plum, Sycamore and Beech classes!!**



GATES OPEN: 08:20 am

GATES CLOSE: 08:30 am

Children **must** be in class, registered and ready for learning at **08.30am**.

Please avoid lateness as this impacts on the front office and a calm start to your child's day.

Attendance Competition



We are repeating our attendance competition again this year. It is open to everyone who attends St Mary's school.

All children who achieve **100%** and flourish in their school attendance will be receiving a **special certificate** to thank them for coming to school every day for a **whole term**.

Those who achieve **100% for the whole year** will receive a special celebration and receive some prizes.

They will automatically be entered into a draw where one lucky family will win a summer **family day** out for **four** to **Legoland**.

Good luck everyone!



Attendance for last week

Nursery AM	84.6%
Nursery PM	90.1%
0Poppy	92.9%
0Bluebell	96.0%
0Daffodil	95.8%
1Damson	96.6%
1Cherry	98.3%
1Apple	91.3%
2Pear	97.5%
2Plum	96.0%
2Peach	92.5%
3Ash	95.8%
3Sycamore	97.9%
3Juniper	95.8%
4Larch	87.5%
4Beech	99.0%
4Oak	92.9%
5Hazel	91.7%
5Alder	90.4%
5Elm	95.8%
6Willow	91.6%
6Maple	92.9%
6Rowan	86.0%

96% or more is the target.

Classes with 100% attendance for the week earn a **collective reward!** **2** classes have earned the reward so far this year.

The senior leadership team have pledged that if **5 classes** achieve **100%** in the **same week**, they will come to school wearing **superhero costumes!** Please bring your child to school every day 😊

Nursery News, Section 1

Gardening at St Mary's

This half term in Nursery, our topic is Sensational Spring. This week, the children have begun their gardening journey by working with Mr Bradley to create a garden and allotment on our playground and in the flower beds. The children did a wonderful job of weeding the flower beds and clearing leaves and rubbish to make our playground ready to be planted.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 2

Gardening at St Mary's



Nursery News, Section 3

Shrove Tuesday and Pancake Day at St Mary's

We also made pancakes to link to Shrove Tuesday which happened during half term. The children looked at the ingredients and talked about what was happening as the ingredients were mixed together.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 4

Shrove Tuesday and Pancake Day at St Mary's

Once they were cooked, the children were able to try them, if they wanted to.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 5

Shrove Tuesday and Pancake Day at St Mary's

We had a lot of fun and are looking forward to doing more baking in the future!

Nursery Team



Reception News, Section 1

PE and Dance at St Mary's

This term we are lucky to have some students from Creative Academy to lead our PE session on **dance**. It was Bluebell's turn this week. After a warm-up we had to move round like different animals. The children were very creative, and the students were very impressed how well they listened to the instructions.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 2

PE and Dance at St Mary's

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 3

NELI at St Mary's



In NELI sessions this week we have learnt various items of clothing along with the words

buy and make. Ted set up a shop and we asked to buy some play dough from him. We then used the pakly dough to make something. Many thanks to Mr Bains for making the play dough! Top Tip : using playdough helps strengthen finger and hand muscles which will help our handwriting improve.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 4

NELI at St Mary's

Click on the link below to read our NELI Newsletters.

<https://st-marys-church-of-england.secure-primariesite.net/neli-nuffield-early-language-intervention/>

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 5

Lunar New Year at St Mary's

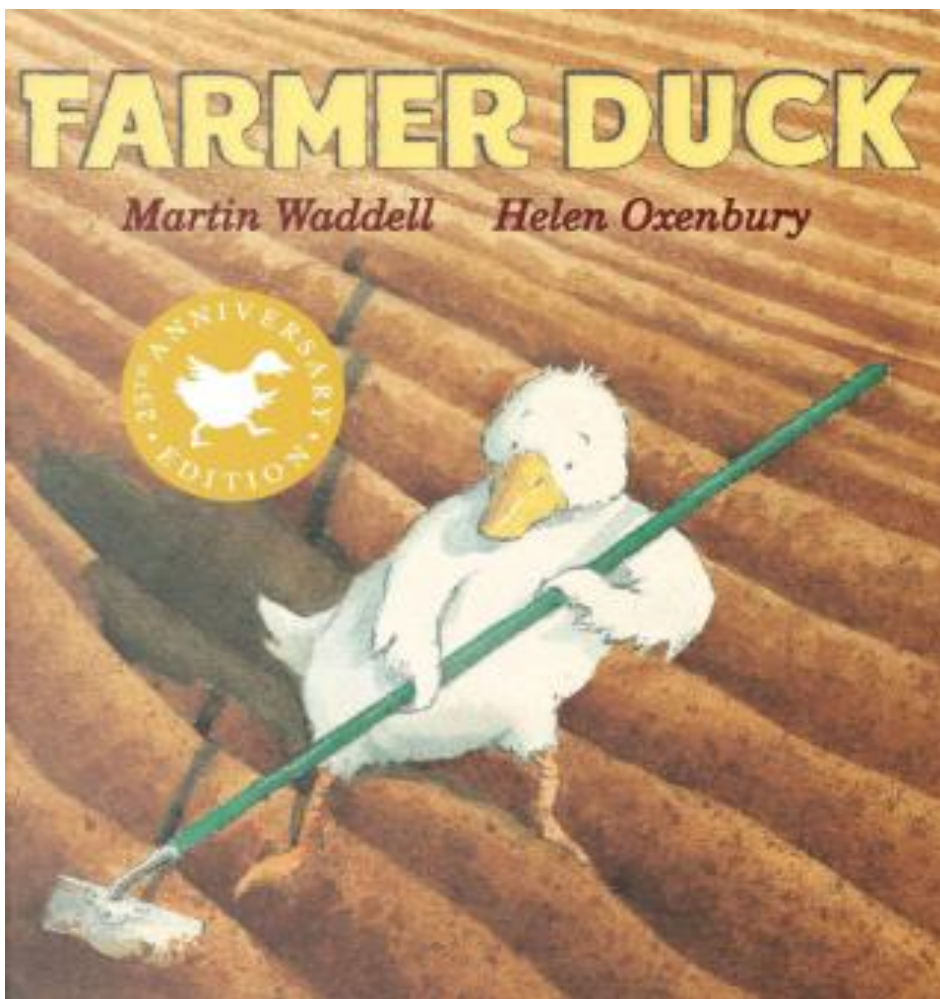
Our focus book is now **Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell**. We had lots of fun getting into role of the lazy farmer or the hardworking animals. This helped us to understand how characters might feel at key points within the story and use repeated phrases from the book. 'How goes the work!'

We used our phonics, and the red words **he** and **the** to write sentences about the Farmer Duck.

'Fred Talk' cannot be used to read and blend the sounds in '**red words**' so we need to learn them by **sight**.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Year 1 News, Section 1

Geography in Year 1

This week in Geography, the Year 1 children took part in some exciting fieldwork around the school grounds. Using simple fieldwork skills such as observation, questioning, and map awareness, the children successfully located the school landmarks, including: the fort, Reception play area, KS1 and KS2 playgrounds, Year 1 outdoor area, polytunnel, forest school area, school field, and car park.

The activity helped them develop teamwork, spatial awareness, and a stronger understanding of the geography of their immediate environment.

Miss Jenkins (Phonics Lead, Y1 Damson Class teacher)



Year 1 News, Section 2

Geography in Year 1

The activity helped them develop teamwork, spatial awareness, and a stronger understanding of the geography of their immediate environment.

Miss Jenkins (Phonics Lead, Y1 Damson Class teacher)

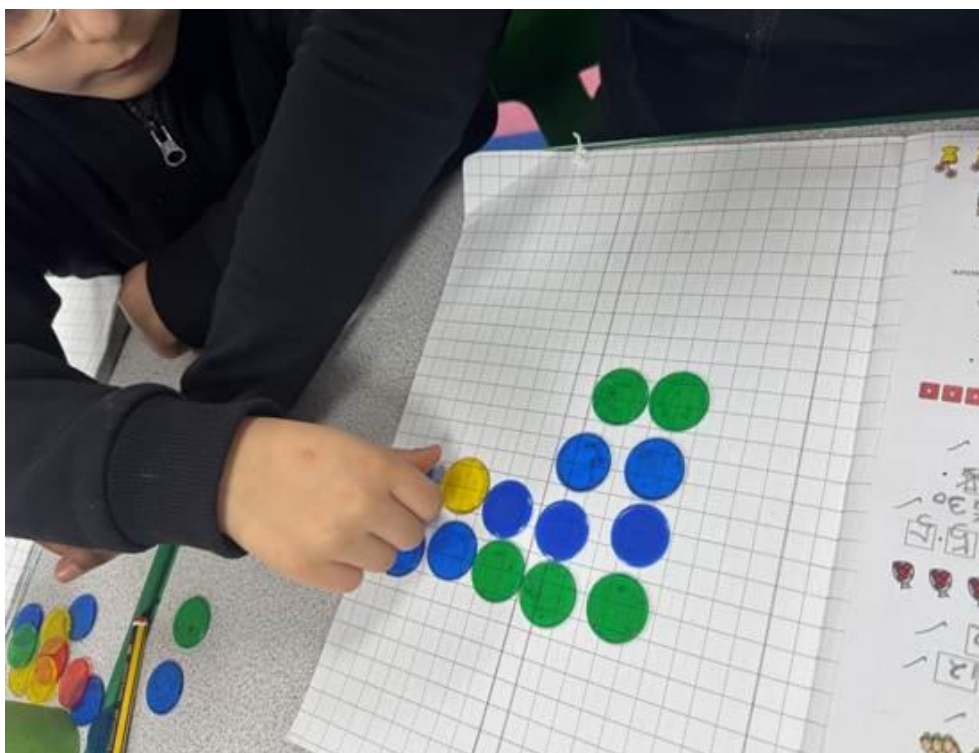


Year 2 News, Section 1

Maths in Year 2

Year 2 have been learning the topic of multiplication and division in Maths recently and have enjoyed making arrays to calculate their answers. It has also been great to see many children using **Times Tables Rockstars** to support their learning!

Mrs Allwood (RE Co-Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

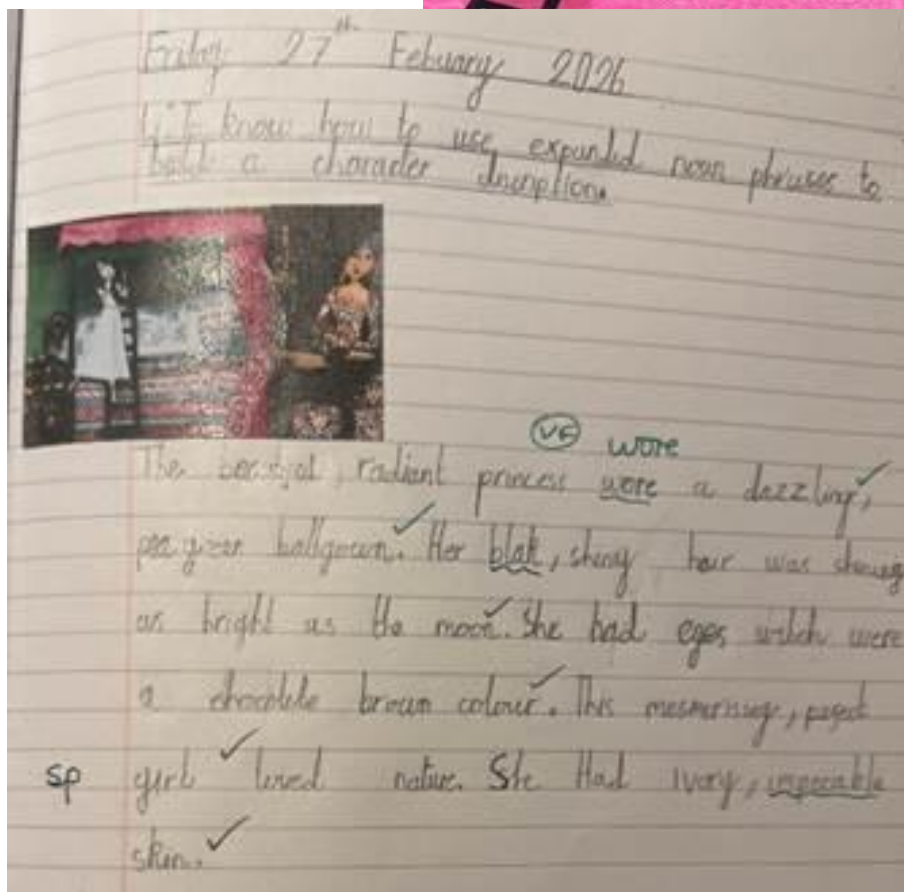
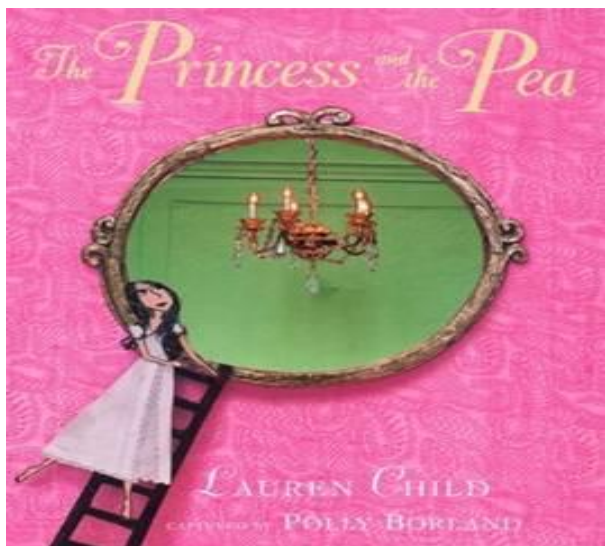


Year 2 News, Section 2

English in Year 2

Year 2 have been enjoying beginning our new English topic of the **Princess and the Pea** this week. With a particularly exciting start to our unit, when multiple children found **bright, green peas on their chairs!** We have used dictionaries to find the meaning of tricky words in the story and begun using exciting adjectives to describe characters within the story.

Mrs Allwood (RE Co-Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 1

Art in Year 3

This week in Art, Year 3 have enjoyed drawing natural items, with consideration of shape, shading and texture.

Miss Holder (Music Lead and Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 2

Art in Year 3

Miss Holder (Music Lead and Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



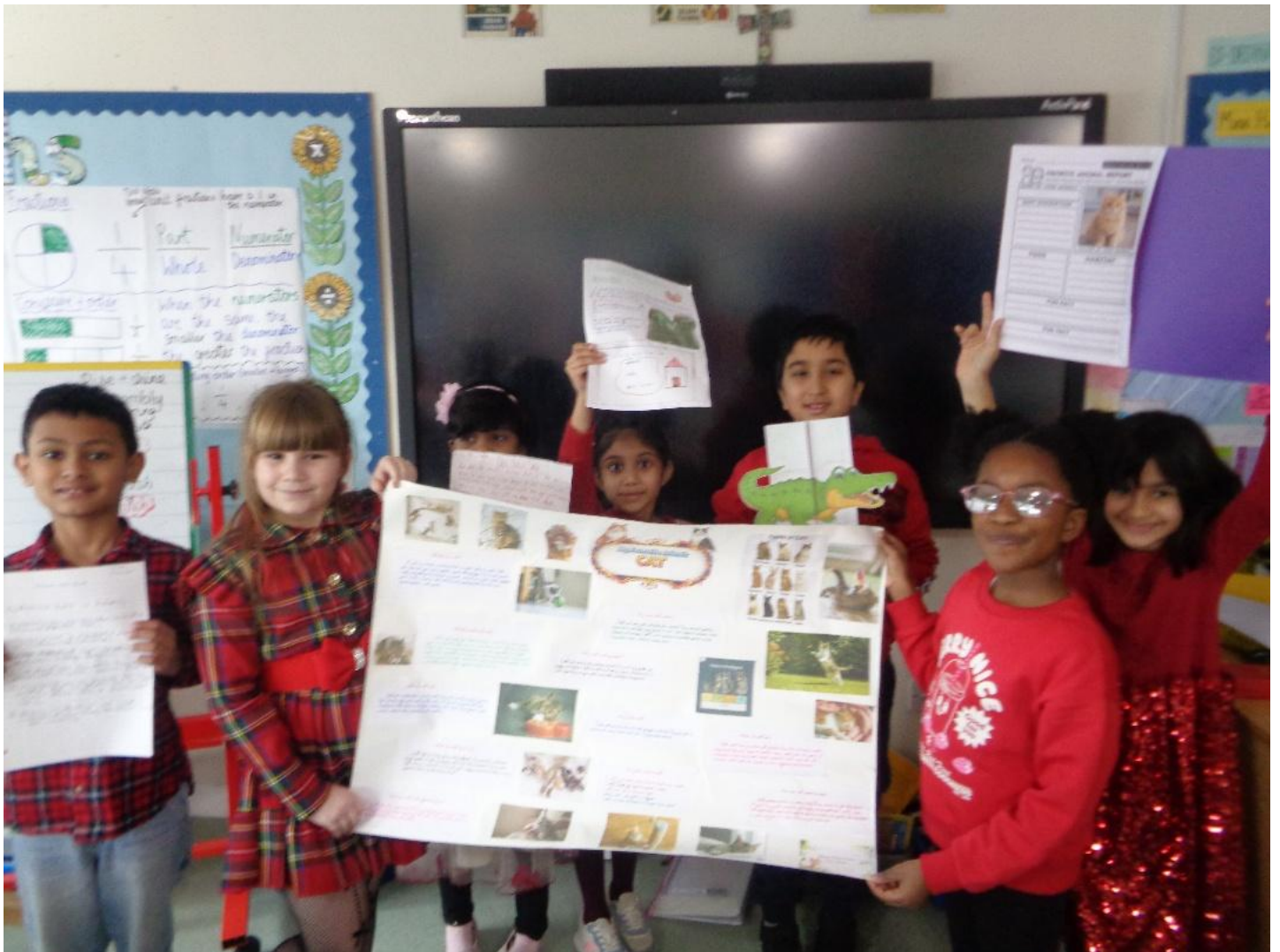
Year 3 News, Section 3

Homework Projects in Year 3

Bingo projects

Shared at the end of last half term, Juniper have really gotten stuck in with our BINGO projects. Here are some students who shared their animal fact files!

Miss Holder (Music Lead and Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 1

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

As part of our learning on the Victorian era of British history, Year 5 pupils had a fantastic visit to the Eton College of life where they were able to travel back in time to see what schooling was like during the Victorian Era. During the visit, our budding historians had the chance to:

- Observe a real-life model of a dorm from the Victorian period
- Study photographs and newsletter literature from the time period
- Practice writing with metal tipped ink dipping pens
- Learn about the differences between an Eton Boy's learning timetable and that of child in modern Britain.

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 2

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

For more information of visiting the Eton College Museum, check out the link below:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 3

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

For more information of visiting the Eton College Museum, check out the link below:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 4

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

For more information of visiting the Eton College Museum, check out the link below:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 5

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

For more information of visiting the Eton College Museum, check out the link below:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 6

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

For more information of visiting the Eton College Museum, check out the link below:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 7

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

For more information of visiting the Eton College Museum, check out the link below:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 8

Eton College Museum of Life: History Trip in Year 4

For more information of visiting the Eton College Museum, check out the link below:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 9

Geography: 4 Grid references

As part of our learning on the learning of local geography, Year 5 students have been practising reading 4 grid references and using compass directions to describe the location of towns and villages around Slough.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Spi-7sT2Y5E>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



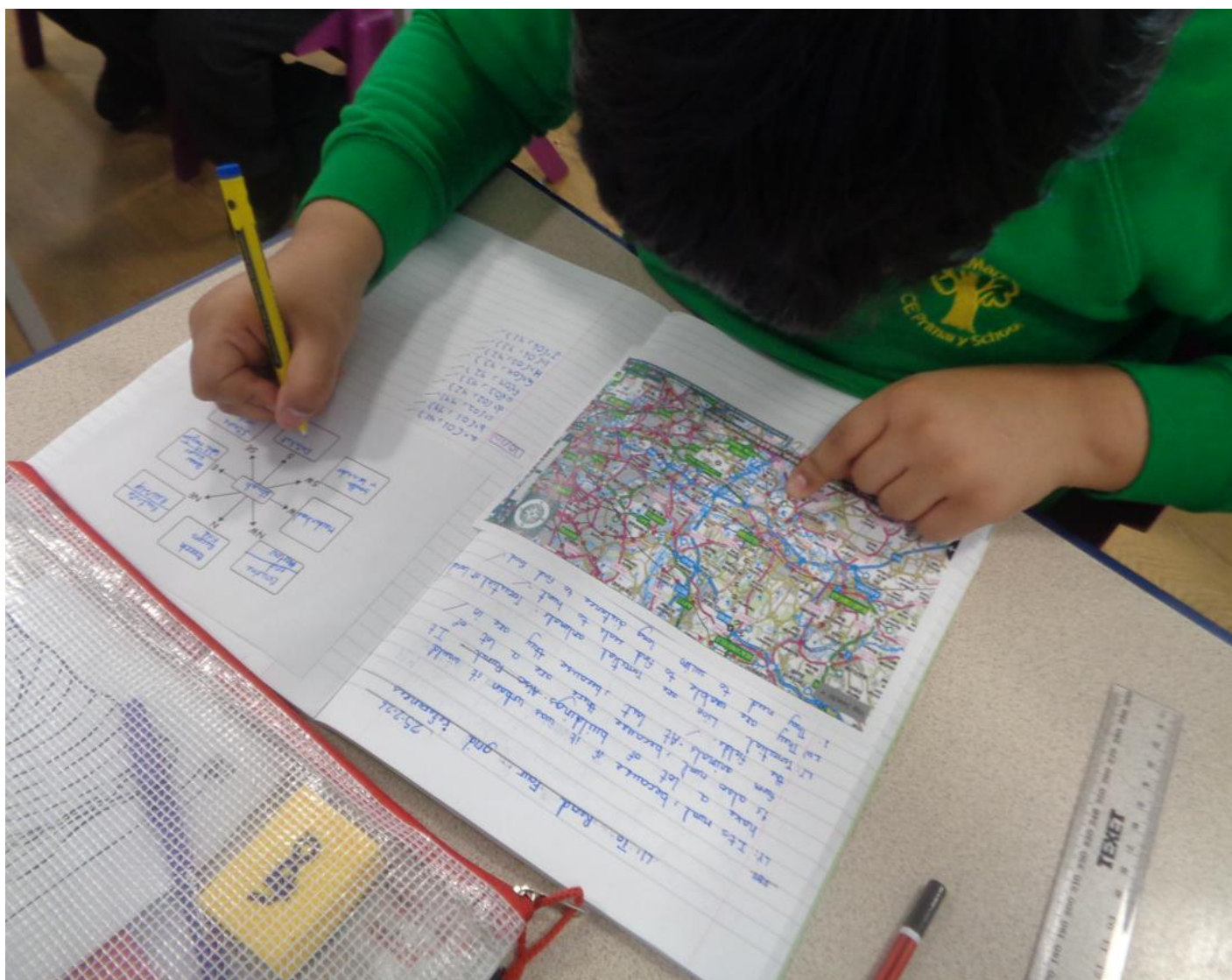
Year 5 News, Section 10

Geography: 4 Grid references

As part of our learning on the learning of local geography, Year 5 students have been practising reading 4 grid references and using compass directions to describe the location of towns and villages around Slough.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Spi-7sT2Y5E>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 11

Computing – coding on Scratch

This half term, year 5 children have started to practice coding using the online Scratch website. Check out the website link below if you would like to try it for free.

<https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk/scratch/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 12

Computing – coding on Scratch

This half term, year 5 children have started to practice coding using the online Scratch website. Check out the website link below if you would like to try it for free.

<https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk/scratch/>

Mr Ali (Humanities Co- Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 1

World War 2 History Workshop in Year 6

On Tuesday, year 6 took part in an interactive workshop about World War 2. They were given the opportunity to dress up as evacuees as they were taken back in time to being a child during this time. The children were met by air raid warden George Atkinson who escorted them into the hall to meet their headteacher Miss Harper, who told them they were being evacuated to the countryside by train.

Ms Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 2

World War 2 History Workshop in Year 6

KA, our head boy, evaluated the performance. His words were, 'I want to do it all again. I would change nothing about the workshop.' We have already booked it for next year.

Ms Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 3

World War 2 History Workshop in Year 6

KA, our head boy, evaluated the performance. His words were, 'I want to do it all again. I would change nothing about the workshop.'

We have already booked it for next year.

Ms Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 4

World War 2 History Workshop in Year 6

KA, our head boy, evaluated the performance. His words were, 'I want to do it all again. I would change nothing about the workshop.'
We have already booked it for next year.

Ms Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 5

PE and Dance in Year 6

On Wednesday, Maple class were fortunate enough to take part in their first dance session with students from the Creative Dance Academy. In this session, they practised mimicking actions in unison. Once they had overcome their initial shyness, they thoroughly enjoyed busting some moves!

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead and Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 6

PE and Dance in Year 6

On Wednesday, Maple class were fortunate enough to take part in their first dance session with students from the Creative Dance Academy. In this session, they practised mimicking actions in unison. Once they had overcome their initial shyness, they thoroughly enjoyed busting some moves!

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead and Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Spanish Corner! Section 1

Year 5: The Weather report!

The Year 5 children have turned into professional weather reporters overnight! Their language skills and their pronunciation of quite tricky weather expressions impressed their audience and me particularly.

Señora Aguilar
Teacher of Spanish



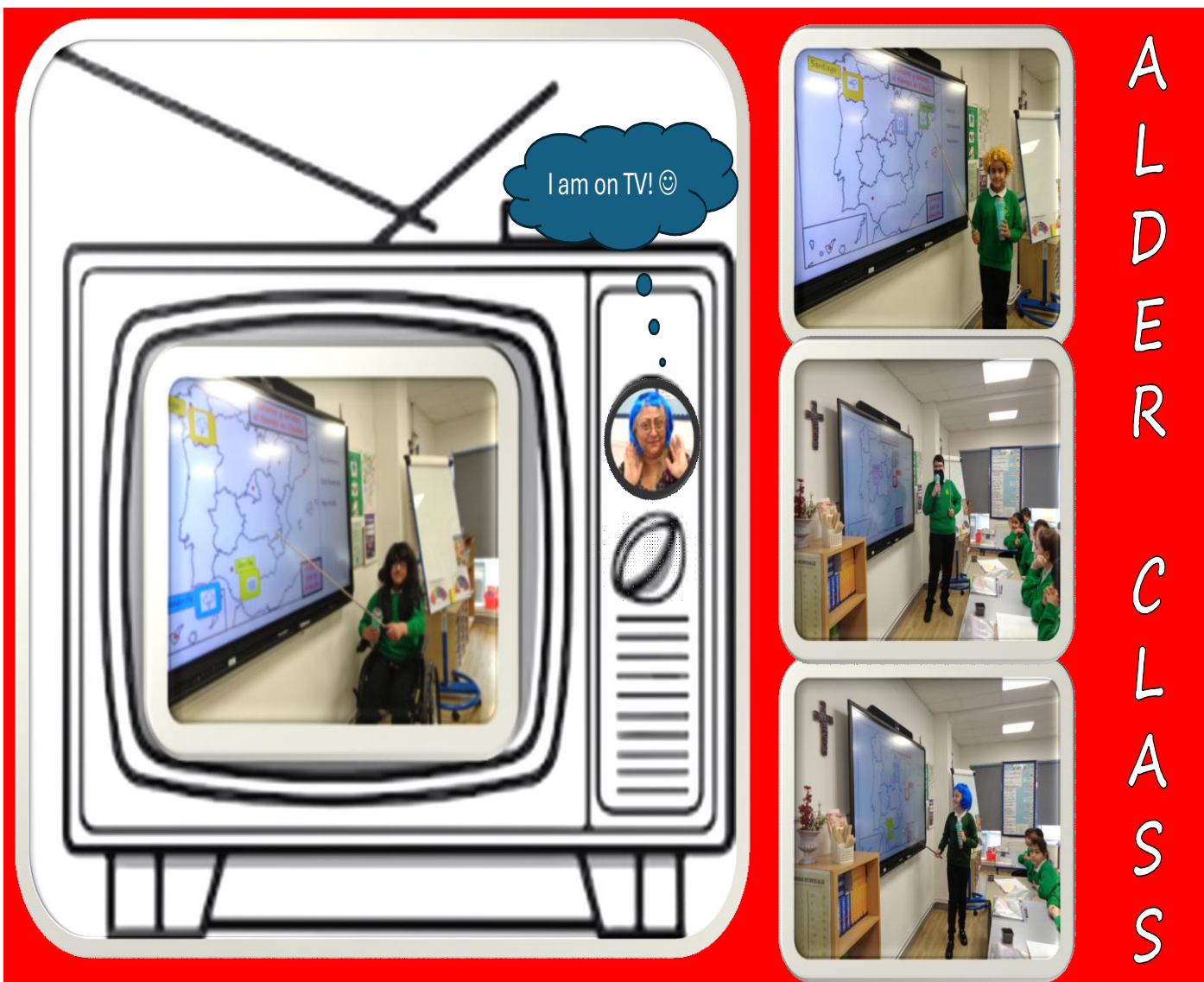
Spanish Corner! Section 2

Year 5: The Weather report!

We had a bit of fun dressing up for the part: colourful wigs, beards, microphones and pointers, they all played a part in this fun activity to mark the end of this popular topic.

I believe there are ready to be employed by any Spanish TV station. Watch this space. 😊

Señora Aguilar
Teacher of Spanish



Spanish Corner! Section 3

Year 5: The Weather report!

I believe there are ready to be employed by any Spanish TV station. Watch this space. 😊

Muchas gracias,

Señora Aguilar
Teacher of Spanish



Rocksteady Music at St Mary's C.E. Primary



Hi Parent or Guardian,

Do you want your child to experience the magic of playing music in their very own band? Rocksteady Music School is the leading provider of in-school rock and pop band lessons for primary age children – and we're delighted to let you know we're teaching in your child's school!

How does it work?

With Rocksteady, children learn to play an instrument through weekly band lessons. It's the perfect way to learn new musical skills, make friends and have fun – all at school! Rocksteady lessons are also shown to boost confidence, wellbeing social skills and even academic achievement.

Your child will learn to play songs instantly through listening and playing. There's no music theory involved and lessons are designed to be fun, inclusive and accessible. They will be making progress in every lesson and can also achieve an Ofqual-regulated Trinity Music qualification, without having to take a single exam!

Here's what else you need to know:

- Most lessons take place during the school day. There's no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.
- You can choose if they shine on vocals, keyboard, drums, guitar or bass.
- Proudly watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing just how far they have come!
- Rocksteady band leaders are professional musicians who inspire a passion for music and support your child every step of the way.

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time.

For more details on availability and cost, visit rocksteadymusicschool.com and find your school on the sign up page or call 0330 113 0330.

Best wishes,

Rachel Hawker | Director of Education



0330 113 0330
(Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)
rocksteadymusicschool.com



Find out what parents
say about Rocksteady →

Music at Slough Borough Council



Slough Youth Orchestra



Film music, Theatre, Classical, Pop, and more -
The World of Orchestra is limitless, and continually developing!

Required Grade 2+ standard on your instrument.

Meet like-minded musicians from schools in the community.
Perform in exceptional concert venues.
Develop your string, brass, wind, or percussion playing.

For more information, contact us: music.service@slough.gov.uk



Diary Dates

Please check 'diary dates' weekly. As new school events are confirmed, the 'diary dates' section of the newsletter is updated. Each week's new confirmed dates are shown in [blue](#).

Spring Term

02.03.2026	Reading Week
05.03.2026	World Book Day
05.03.2026	Assembly: Y5 Elm Class at 3pm
06.03.2026	Assembly: Y3 Juniper Class at 8.50am
09.03.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y1: Phonics at 8.30am and 2.45pm
11.03.2026	Rocksteady Crew Performance for Parents at 2pm
12.03.2026	Assembly: Y2 Peach Class at 3pm
13.03.2025	Assembly: Y4 Oak Class at 8.50am
16.03.2026	EYFS Natural World 'Living Eggs' experience at St Mary's school
17.03.2026	Workshop: Y3 History 'Stone Age' experience at St Mary's school
18.03.2026	Trip: Y2 to Whipsnade Zoo
23.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Laurence's Church for morning Nursery Parents at 9.30am
23.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 1 for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6
24.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Laurence's Church for afternoon Nursery Parents at 2.00pm
24.03.2026	Trip: Y6 to Imperial War Museum
24.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 1 for Y3, Y4 and Y5
25.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 2 for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6
26.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Mary's Church for Y3 and Y4 Parents at 9.30am
26.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 2 for Y3, Y4 and Y5
27.03.2026	Nursery and Reception Easter Egg Hunt
27.03.2026	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Easter Bonnet Parade
27.03.2026	Last Day of Spring Term 2
	Easter Holiday
13.04.2026	First Day of Summer Term 1 for Children