



Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Week and World Book Day 2026

Thank You for Supporting Our Book Fair

We extend our sincere thanks to all parents who attended the school's Book Fair and supported their children's love of reading. Your enthusiasm—browsing the titles, discussing stories, and purchasing from the wide range of books on offer—helps nurture a strong reading culture at home.

This year, we worked closely with **Chiltern Bookshops** to curate a collection that was inclusive and representative of a diverse range of authors, characters, and cultural settings. We are committed to continuing this approach and warmly welcome suggestions from parents and pupils as we begin planning for the 2027 Book Fair.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to the staff who supervised and supported the event, ensuring everything ran smoothly. We would like to give a special thank you to **Miss Martins, Mrs Galloway, and Mrs Canali**, whose exceptional hard work made Reading Week, the Book Fair, and World Book Day 2026 such a tremendous success!

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,

School Uniform Expectations

We would like to thank our parent community for working in partnership with the school to ensure that pupils attend in the **correct school uniform**. Our uniform provides a shared identity and helps maintain a smart, collegiate appearance across the school.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in pupils wearing jewellery that is not permitted under the school uniform policy. Items such as **bracelets, beaded or elasticated charm bracelets, threaded friendship bracelets, non-religious necklaces, and hooped earrings** are not part of the approved uniform. In addition to being non-compliant, these items can pose **potential health and safety risks** during the school day.

Pupils wearing prohibited jewellery will be asked to **remove it** and hand it to their **class teacher** for safekeeping.

Items can be collected at the end of the school day.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that children do not come to school wearing clothing or jewellery that is in violation of the uniform policy. Working together helps us maintain high standards and keeps our pupils safe.



Parent News Section 2,

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!!**
- Well done to **Pear class** who achieved **100%** attendance!



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	100%
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 in Nursery

This week, two more groups worked with **Mr Bradley** on our gardening project. The children helped to plant wildflower seeds and talked about how to care for them to make them grow. They spread the seeds out and covered them with soil.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 2

Gardening in Nursery

The children then went into the **Forest School** area to put more seeds on the ground. We will be observing how they grow and if they grow at the same speed as the ones in our prepared flower bed.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 3

Seed Planting in Nursery

Planting:

Nursery's English story this week was **The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle**. All the children followed instructions to plant their own bean seed, recalling the steps that they needed to take. They also wrote their own name on a tag, so they know which their plant is. We have planted our seeds on cotton wool, so we can watch as the different parts grow. Each week for the rest of the half-term, we will be making observations of how our seeds grow and develop!

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 4

World Book Day in Nursery

We had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day! It was fantastic to see the children dressed up or in their pyjamas. We read lots of stories and were lucky enough to have visitors pop in to see the children. **Mrs McGuinness** came to read a lovely story in the morning, and **Miss Brindley** came in the afternoon. We also had a visit from the **Big Bad Wolf!** The children really enjoyed all of our book themed activities.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 6

World Book Day at St Mary's

We had a lot of fun on World Book Day!

Nursery Team



Reception News, Section 1

Reading Week in Reception

In Reception we thoroughly enjoyed all our **Reading Week** activities. It was great to see some of our pupils and parents at the Book Fairs too. We especially loved pyjama / dress up day, making bookmarks and illustrating front covers of our favourite books. Another highlight was receiving our new books and enjoying them in our daily story time.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 2

Reading Week in Reception

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 3

Reading Week in Reception

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 4

Reading Week in Reception

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 5

Reading Week in Reception

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 6

NELI at St Mary's



Cinderella has been our focus story in NELI groups. We had fun acting out the story with masks and sequencing pictures to retell the story. The prince had to **PERSEVERE** to find who the glass slipper fitted so he could live happily ever after with his princess.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Reception Team



Year 1 News, Section 1

Reading Week in Year 1

Year 1 had so much fun during reading week and World Book Day on Thursday! The Year 1 children all looked **brilliant in their costumes and pyjamas**. We had a very busy week and had some very exciting visitors such as a **librarian** and a **rockstar**!

Miss Brindley (RE Co-Lead, Y1 Cherry Class teacher)



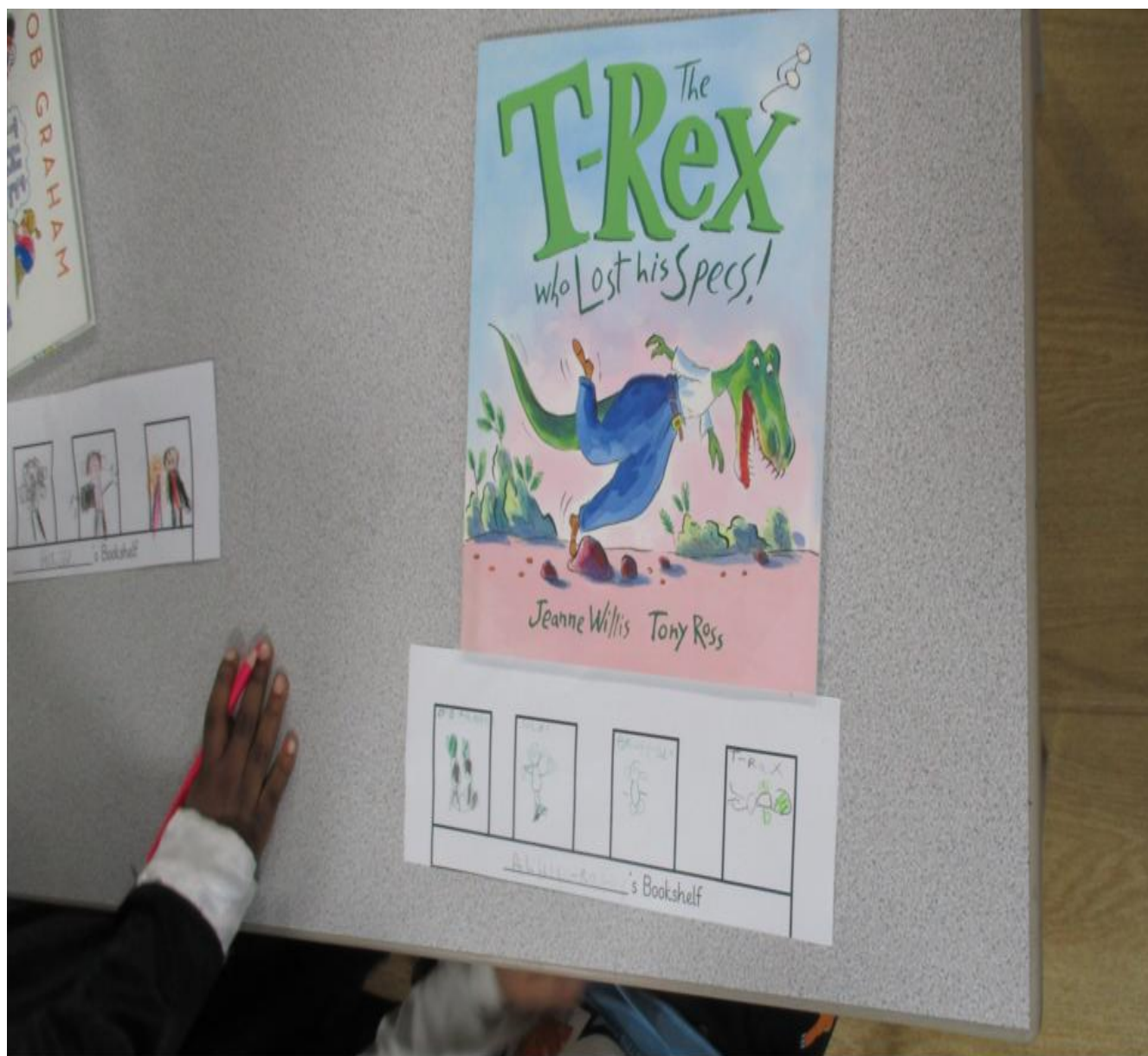
Year 1 News, Section 2

Reading Week in Year 1

Year 1 had so much fun during reading week and **World Book Day** on Thursday!

On World Book Day, the children did fun activities such as made their own **bookshelf**, **designed their own book** and had a **parade to showcase** all their **excellent outfits!**

Miss Brindley (RE Co-Lead, Y1 Cherry Class teacher)



Year 1 News, Section 3

Reading Week in Year 1

Year 1 had so much fun during reading week and World Book Day on Thursday! The Year 1 children all looked brilliant in their costumes and pyjamas. Year 1 especially enjoyed when Mrs Khan came in as the big bad wolf, the children were very excited!

Miss Brindley (RE Co-Lead, Y1 Cherry Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 1

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated '**Reading Week**'. It has been an enjoyable, eventful week full of fun activities. The children loved receiving their mystery book each day, guessing the teacher behind '**The Masked Reader**' and their '**cosy corner**' time to read for pleasure with a **yummy biscuit**.

Year 2 had a special visitor, a **rockstar named Tom** who read, '**The Gruffalo**' and played his awesome guitar to all KS1. **Even rockstars love to read!**

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

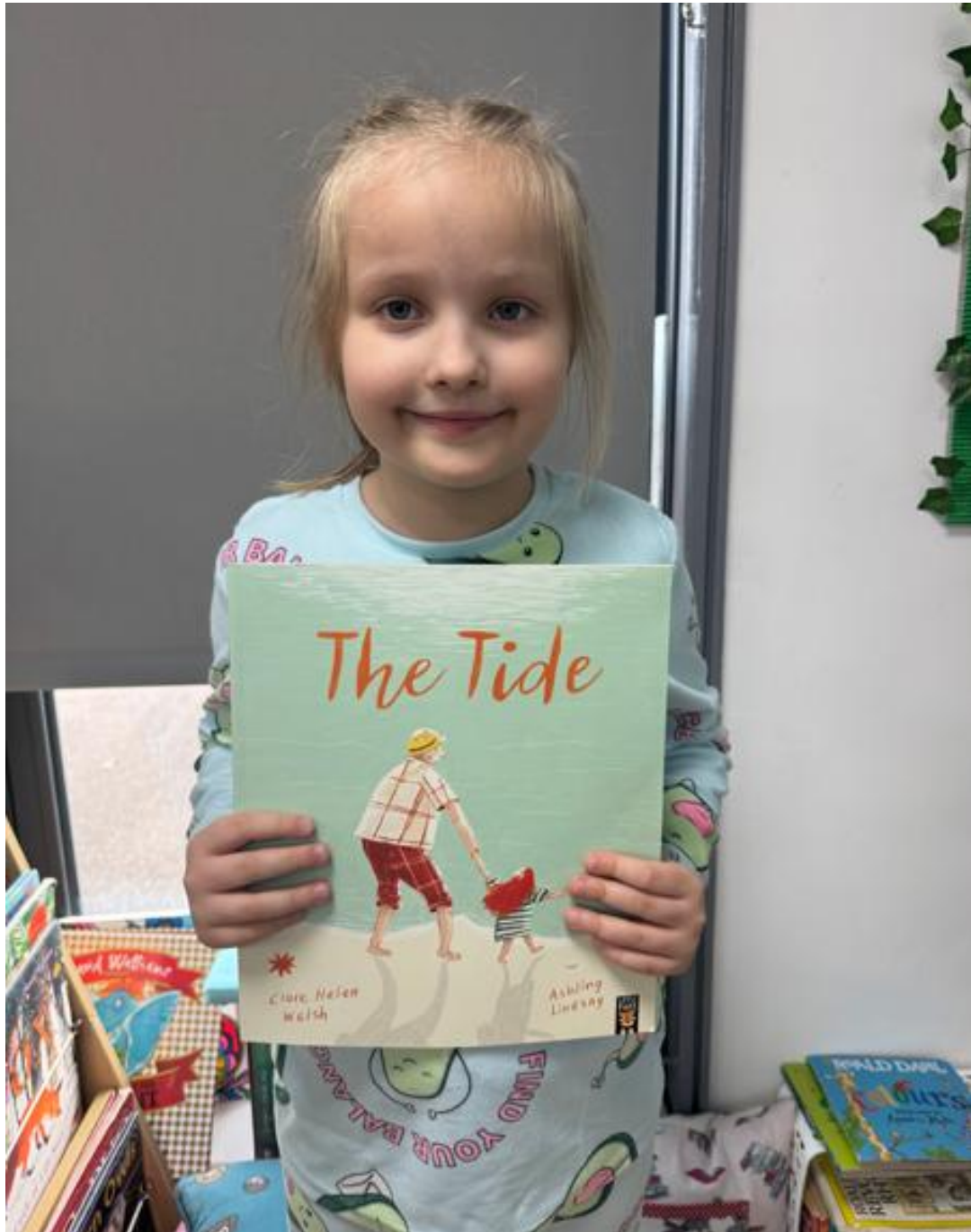


Year 2 News, Section 2

Reading Week in Year 2

Year 2 read **'The Tide'** by **Clare Helen Welsh**, an author who writes stories that help children deal with big feelings and difficult issues. They wrote their own recount of a memory with a loved one and designed their own book cover.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 3

Reading Week in Year 2

Year 2 read **'The Tide'** by **Clare Helen Welsh**, an author who writes stories that help children deal with big feelings and difficult issues. They wrote their own recount of a memory with a loved one and designed their own book cover.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

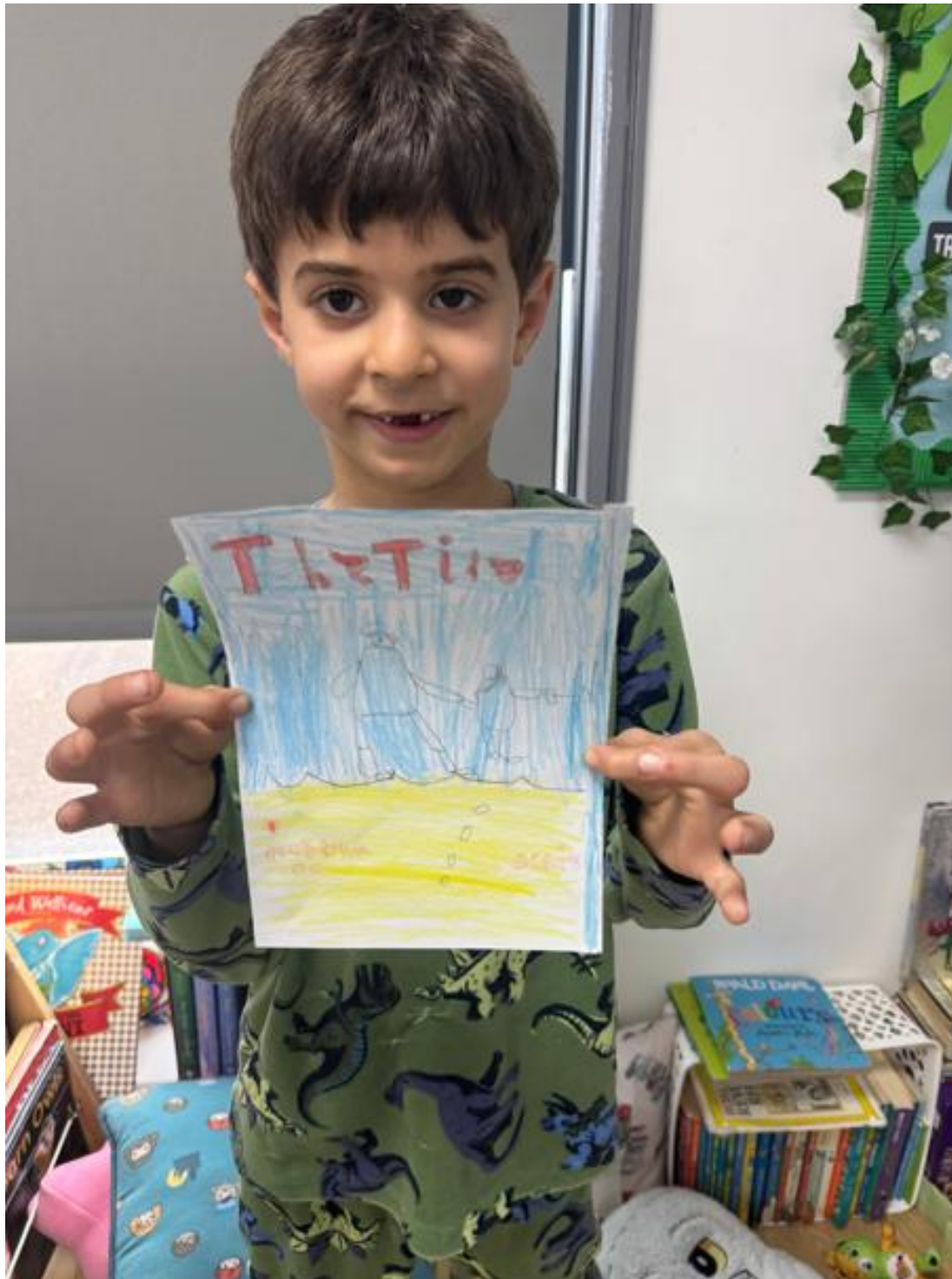


Year 2 News, Section 4

Reading Week in Year 2

Year 2 read **'The Tide'** by **Clare Helen Welsh**, an author who writes stories that help children deal with big feelings and difficult issues. They wrote their own recount of a memory with a loved one and designed their own book cover.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 5

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated 'Reading Week'.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 6

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated 'Reading Week'.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 7

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated 'Reading Week'. It was wonderful to see children dressed up as book characters or in their comfy pyjamas.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

Plum Class:



Year 2 News, Section 8

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated 'Reading Week'. It was wonderful to see children dressed up as book characters or in their comfy pyjamas.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

Pear Class:



Year 2 News, Section 9

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated 'Reading Week'. It was wonderful to see children dressed up as book characters or in their comfy pyjamas.

Mrs Pterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

Pear Class:



Year 2 News, Section 10

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated 'Reading Week'. It was wonderful to see children dressed up as book characters or in their comfy pyjamas.

Mrs Pterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

Peach Class:



Year 2 News, Section 11

Reading Week in Year 2

This week St Mary's celebrated 'Reading Week'.

Year 2 staff dressed up as characters from the classic, 'Alice in Wonderland'!

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead and Y2 Pear Class teacher)

Year 2 Team:



Year 5 News, Section 1

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Alder Class

Alder Class began the book festivities by celebrating and learning about Mary Anning, Britain's first woman palaeontologist (1799-1847). She discovered fossils and sold them to support her family. She made many incredible finds of Jurassic fossils: a Plesiosaur, a Pterosaur, and an Ichthyosaurus. Her discoveries are still displayed at the Natural History Museum in London. The children are amazed and inspired by her passion, courage, resilience, and determination.

Mrs Deans (Y5 Alder Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 2

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Alder Class

Another world-renowned personality we celebrated was our late Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022); the children found her life of service to her God and her subjects genuinely admirable. They were shocked to read that, during her 70-year reign, her Majesty had met 15 British Prime Ministers, 14 US Presidents, and numerous world leaders.

Mrs Deans (Y5 Alder Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 3

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Alder Class

Mary Anning, Spiderman, Harry Potter, and Cinderella joined forces to promote book and reading-based activities and festivities in Alder Class.

Mrs Deans (Y5 Alder Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 4

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Alder Class

Alder Class turned favourite books with stories set in the past into book covers and now proudly display them as bunting in their class.

Mrs Deans (Y5 Alder Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 5

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Alder Class

Creating bookmarks for the bookmark potluck. Each child made a bookmark and wrote their recommendation on the back; the bookmarks will be picked randomly by different children at the end of the day.

Mrs Deans (Y5 Alder Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 7

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Elm Class

Elm Class held a lively assembly on 5th March all about reading. They performed a fun skit conveying the message that ‘there is a book for everyone!’, sang a cheerful song for World Book Day and gave short speeches about what they learned through their reading lessons in Year 5 so far. The assembly reminded everyone of the power of books to educate, entertain, and inspire.

Mrs Rajan (Y5 Elm Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 8

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Elm Class

Elm Class held a lively assembly on 5th March all about reading. They performed a fun skit conveying the message that 'there is a book for everyone!', sang a cheerful song for World Book Day and gave short speeches about what they learned through their reading lessons in Year 5 so far. The assembly reminded everyone of the power of books to educate, entertain, and inspire.

Mrs Rajan (Y5 Elm Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 9

World Book Day 2026 Celebrations in Elm Class

On Thursday, Elm class dived into a variety of reading activities to celebrate World Book Day. The children created beautiful bookmarks, showcasing their creativity and combining their love for reading with artistic skills. They also enjoyed a special 'Cosy Reading Time' where they chose books from the class library corner and relaxed with their reading while munching on biscuits provided by the Reading week team.

Mrs Rajan (Y5 Elm Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 1

Reading Week in Year 6

As part of Reading Week, Year 6 read **FARTHER** by **Grahame Baker Smith**. The children marvelled at the illustrations and unpicked the meaning behind the author's choice of words and phrases from cover to cover, before writing their own book reviews. The work concluded with the children producing some wonderful wings as depicted in the illustrations and their significance to the story.

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead, Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 2

Reading Week in Year 6

As part of Reading Week, Year 6 read **FARTHER** by **Grahame Baker Smith**. The children marvelled at the illustrations and unpicked the meaning behind the author's choice of words and phrases from cover to cover, before writing their own book reviews. The work concluded with the children producing some wonderful wings as depicted in the illustrations and their significance to the story.

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead, Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 3

Reading Week in Year 6

As part of Reading Week, Year 6 read **FArTHER** by **Grahame Baker Smith**. The children marvelled at the illustrations and unpicked the meaning behind the author's choice of words and phrases from cover to cover, before writing their own book reviews. The work concluded with the children producing some wonderful wings as depicted in the illustrations and their significance to the story.

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead, Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 4

Reading Week in Year 6

As part of Reading Week, Year 6 read **FARThER** by **Grahame Baker Smith**. The children marvelled at the illustrations and unpicked the meaning behind the author's choice of words and phrases from cover to cover, before writing their own book reviews. The work concluded with the children producing some wonderful wings as depicted in the illustrations and their significance to the story.

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead, Y6 Maple Class teacher)

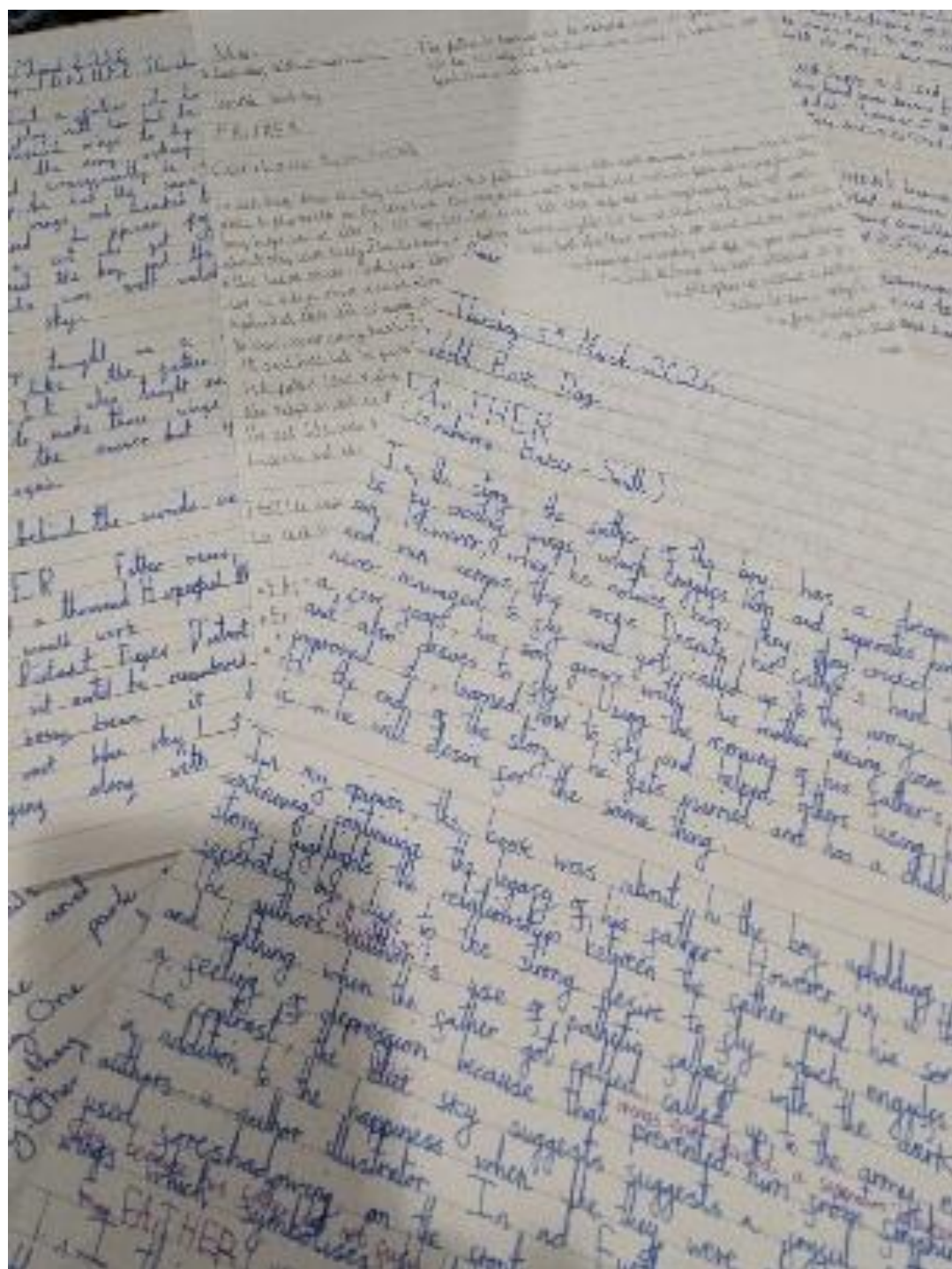


Year 6 News, Section 5

Reading Week in Year 6

As part of Reading Week, Year 6 read **FARTHER** by **Grahame Baker Smith**. The children marvelled at the illustrations and unpicked the meaning behind the author's choice of words and phrases from cover to cover, before writing their own book reviews. The work concluded with the children producing some wonderful wings as depicted in the illustrations and their significance to the story.

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead, Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Spanish Corner! Section 1



La semana del libro – Book Week

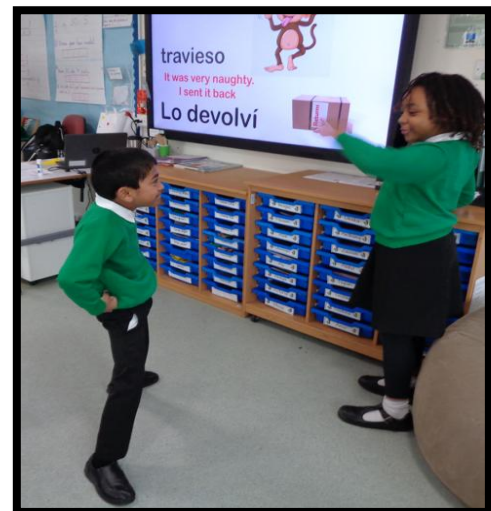


To celebrate this year's Book Week, we read a story in Spanish. There were fairy tales, Greek fables and traditional Spanish stories. Reading opens the mind to different experiences, people and points of view. Pretty much what learning languages do. We all enjoyed the week very much. See for yourself:

Year 3:

We read the famous story by Rod Campbell called 'Dear Zoo'. The children read it in Spanish and performed the story afterwards. Great acting and lots of participation.

Señora Aguilar
Teacher of Spanish



Spanish Corner! Section 2

Year 4:

The students read a famous fairy tale: The Three Little Pigs. They also enjoyed the Walt Disney short film from 1936 and learn the famous song 'Who is afraid of the big, bad wolf?' in Spanish.

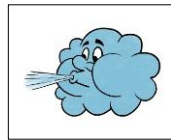
Señora Aguilar
Teacher of Spanish



Spanish Corner! Section 3

Year 5:

In Year 5 we have been learning about the weather, so we read a fable from Aesop called 'The fable of the Wind and the Sun'.



El viento



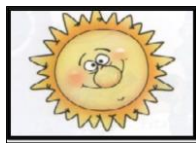
El sol



El hombre



Haceviento



Hacesol



Hace
frio



Hace
calor




fuerte



sopla




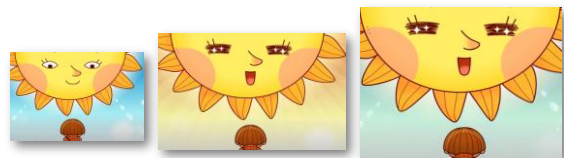
La chaqueta

El  está muy cansado.






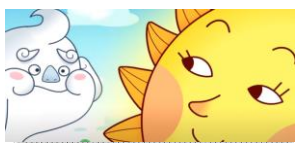
The wind is very tired.

El  brilla y brilla y brilla.



The sun shines and shines and shines.

El  dice: " Tú ganas,  .
Tú eres el más  .



The wind says: " You win, sun. You are the strongest.

MORALEJA



Más vale maña que fuerza.

Better to be skillful than to be strong.

FIN

Spanish Corner! Section 4

Year 6:

In Year 6, the students performed a traditional Spanish tale called 'The Conceited Little Rat' (La ratita presumida). It was lovely to see the children take up the challenge with such sense of humour and great language skills.

Our three 'Ratitas':



The wedding:



The rest of the cast:



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

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
-------------------	--