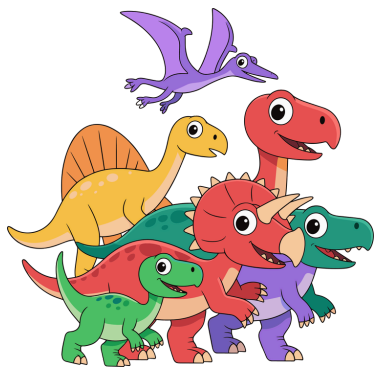




February

Newsletter



A roarsome term in EYFS!

This term, Butterfly and Bumblebee Class have been learning all about dinosaurs and what an adventure it has been! The children have loved exploring when dinosaurs lived and discovering the different things they ate. (Maybe you can test them... do they remember what a meat-eating dinosaur is called?)

The classes also had great fun becoming archaeologists for the day, carefully digging for fossils and dinosaur bones in the playground. There was even a rumour that some dinosaur eggs were spotted hiding up in the trees!

But the most exciting moment of all was the discovery that a baby T-Rex had been exploring our school - and may have even wandered into their classrooms! I'm sure you've heard all about the excitement at home.

It's safe to say Butterfly and Bumblebee Class have had a truly roarsome term!

Out of this world learning in Year 1 & 2

KS1 have been exploring the fascinating history of space travel this term and have particularly enjoyed discovering who, and what, has ventured beyond our planet. The children learnt about early space missions and were especially captivated by Yuri Gagarin, the first human in space. They can now recall lots of interesting facts about his life, and why he is such an important figure in history.

In Science, the children have been investigating everyday materials and their properties. They explored which materials are best for building rockets. Using this knowledge, they designed and made their own model rockets. The children showed great creativity and made impressive progress in practical skills.





Inspiring Individuals, Inspired Learners - Year 3 & 4

Throughout this term in LKS2, the children have explored the lives of six inspiring individuals in History, learning about their achievements and influence. Meanwhile, their Reading lessons have centred around *The BFG*, helping them strengthen key comprehension skills. Science lessons have given pupils the chance to investigate electrical circuits and create their own working models. In Art, the children have enjoyed experimenting with tessellations and producing their own printed designs. Finally, Music sessions have begun to focus on learning the songs for our exciting Peter Pan performance next term.



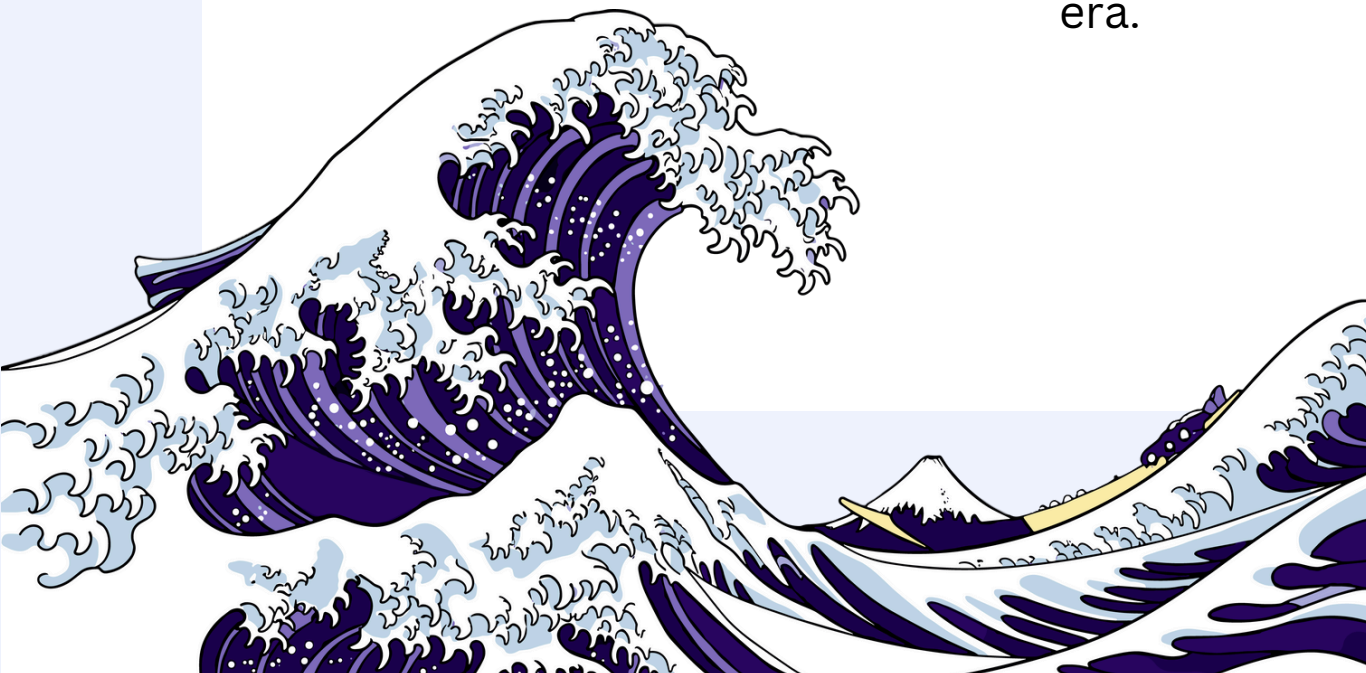
A term of discovery in Year 5 & 6

This term in UKS2 for English, the children have just completed a narrative based on a book called *Arthur and the Golden Rope*, which links to our topic this term – The Vikings.

For their science topic, the children have been learning about Evolution and Inheritance, which has included exploring how animals have adapted certain features in order to survive in their environments.

As part of their art learning, the children have been studying Hokusai and his painting *The Great Wave*. They have learnt how to sketch waves and have painted their own interpretations of the artwork.

In history, the children have learnt about Viking gods, Viking homelands and settlements, and have created a timeline of events that occurred during this era.



Lower Key Stage 2 Trip

Winchester Science Museum

On Monday 2nd February, Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed an exciting visit to Winchester Science Museum. The children had a fantastic time exploring the interactive exhibits, especially those linked to space. They investigated gravity on different planets, tried on an astronaut suit, drove space-themed remote robots, and discovered lots of fascinating facts about our solar system.

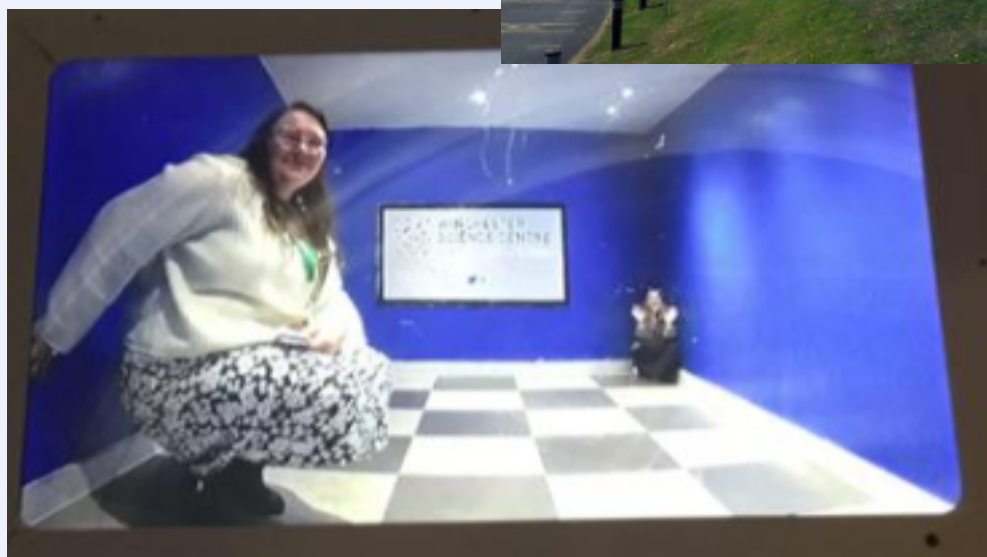
The optical illusion exhibits were another highlight, with pupils having great fun making themselves appear bigger and smaller. Children also explored activities linked to noise pollution and learned about ways we can help keep our planet healthy.

As part of the day, all pupils took part in a workshop connected to their science learning on States of Matter. They created oobleck, a fascinating substance that behaves like a liquid when poured or touched gently, but like a solid when squeezed or pressed. This hands on activity really helped bring their classroom learning to life.

A special visit to the planetarium rounded off the trip. The children were captivated as they travelled through space, exploring planets and stars in an immersive, 360-degree show. For many, this was the highlight of the day.

The children were all wonderfully well behaved throughout the trip and represented our school beautifully.

It was a brilliant day full of curiosity, discovery, and excitement.







Book Fair

We are hosting a Scholastic school book fair on Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th, Friday 6th and Monday 9th March where adults and children are welcome to come in and buy a book!

This will be a cashless book sale via online payment through scanning a QR code. You will need to bring your card details for this, unfortunately Scholastic Book Fair does not accept Apple pay.

All book profits help our school buy books and rewards for our reading areas.

Competition

To celebrate, we are hosting a competition where children can win a free £5 book voucher! We would like the children to design their very own character for a book.

Please can all entries have your child's name and their class name on it and be handed to your child's class teacher!

There will be 5 lucky winners who will receive a £5 book voucher that they can spend at the book fair. All entries need to be handed in by Monday 23rd February.



CHILDREN'S BOOK CHARACTER COMPETITION



Design your own character for a book!

5 lucky winners will receive a £5 book voucher that they can spend at the book fair (4th-9th March).

All entries need to be named and handed in by **Monday 23rd February** to class teachers.

🌟 Celebrating Our Sporting Stars! 🌟



We are incredibly proud of the many talents and achievements our pupils demonstrate both in and out of school. So many of our children show fantastic dedication and commitment to their extra-curricular sporting clubs – and we would love to celebrate this in school!

Does your child attend a sports club outside of school? Have they recently taken part in a tournament, earned a medal, achieved a new belt in martial arts, been awarded “Player of the Week,” or shown outstanding commitment to their team?

We would be delighted to recognise their hard work and success.

Sport teaches valuable life skills such as teamwork, resilience, determination and confidence – qualities we are always keen to celebrate and encourage.

📷 How to Share Achievements:

Take a photo of your child in action (with their medal, certificate, or kit).

Share details of the club, sport, and achievement.

Send photos via Class Dojo to your child’s class teacher.

We will proudly display photos and achievements in school to inspire others and celebrate the dedication of our sporting stars!

Let’s work together to recognise the effort, commitment and success of our amazing pupils – we can’t wait to see their achievements!



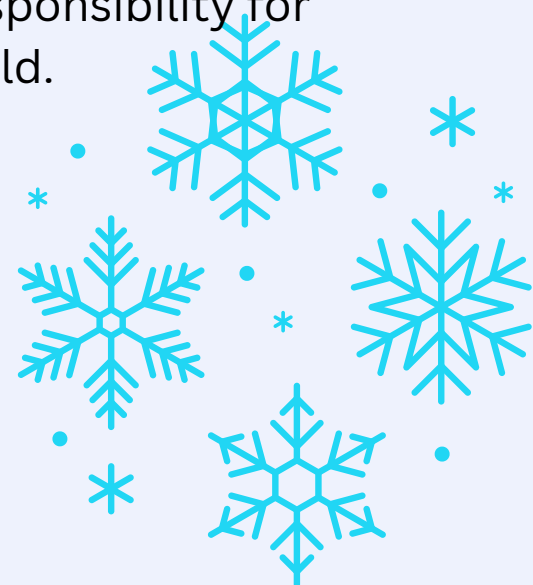


Emergency Closure Procedures

As we begin the new year with chilly winter weather, we want to remind families of our emergency closure procedures. If severe weather or other emergency conditions occur, please check School Dojo, Parent Mail, and/or the school website for updates. We will post a message if the school needs to close due to snow or other circumstances.

We will always make every effort to keep the school open. However, if the school is closed, please note that no teachers will be on site, and parents must take responsibility for confirming that the school is open before leaving their child.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Safer Internet Day 2026

On Tuesday 10th February 2026, the children took part in Safer Internet Day 2026, exploring this year's theme: "Smart, tech, safe choices. Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."

Each class held its own assembly, introducing what AI is and how it appears in everyday life, from digital assistants to online games. The children then completed follow up activities designed to help them understand how to use AI safely - thinking about asking sensible questions, checking information, and knowing when to speak to a trusted adult.

They really enjoyed discussing how to make smart choices online and how AI can be helpful when used responsibly. Our Computing Lead, Mrs McKeown, enjoyed talking to the children about what they have learnt. Here are some of the things they said:

- "We know we can talk to a trusted adult about anything that worries us outside of Computing."
- "We learn about things so we have an awareness before they happen and are aware of what we can do."
- " We know to ask an adult before we ask Alexa for things."
- "We learn not to talk to strangers and not to share our personal information."
- " We know not to search for things we are not allowed to."



Road Safety and Walking to School

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe and promoting healthy habits, we're revisiting the Tales of the Road website. This helpful resource offers child-friendly tips and activities about road safety, and we're sharing it again to support families in continuing these important conversations at home. You can explore more at:

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/tales-of-the-road/>

In our continued focus from the last newsletter, we've included even more top tips for walking safely. Thank you to all the families who walk, scoot, or bike to school - your efforts help reduce traffic, support a healthier environment, and keep everyone active.

Below, we've included additional posters about walking and road safety, and we'll continue to share helpful tips throughout the year.

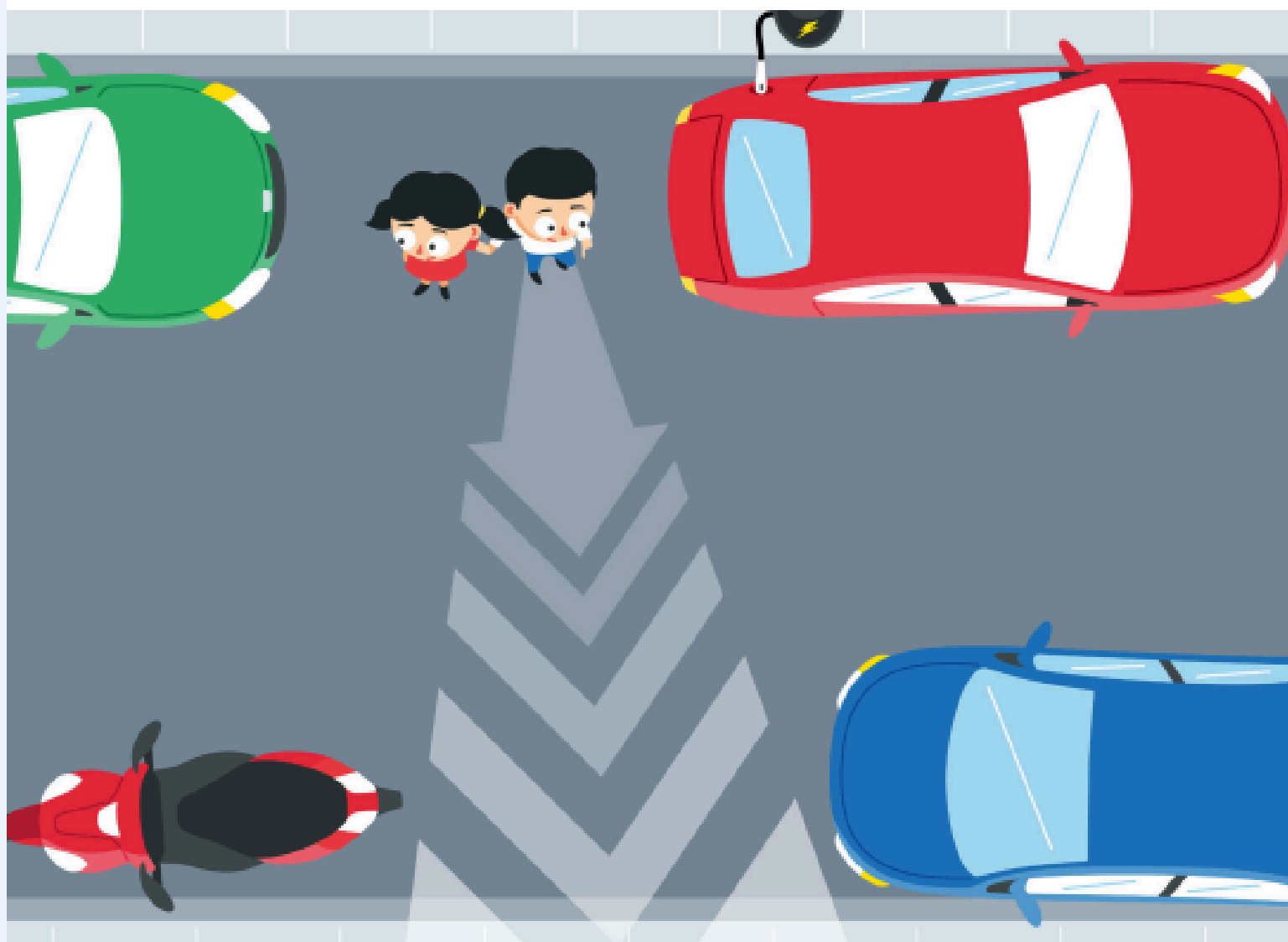
Walking

Parked Vehicles

Try not to cross in between parked vehicles

But if there is nowhere else to cross:

- Choose a place where there is a space between two vehicles. Make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side of the road, so that you can reach the **pavement** on the other side.
- Make sure neither car is about to move off – look for drivers in the cars, car lights and listen for engines running. Never cross the road in front of or behind any **vehicle** with the engine running.
- Do not cross near large vehicles. You could be standing in a blind spot, where the driver cannot see you.
- Walk to the outside edge of the cars and stop. Here you are more likely to be seen by drivers and you can look all around for traffic.
- Use the **Green Cross Code**. When the road is clear, cross. Remember to keep looking and listening for traffic as you go.



Using a crossing with traffic lights

Pelican crossings have a box with a red and green man, which is on the opposite side of the road to you. Push the control button to activate the traffic signals. When the red man shows, do not cross. When a steady green man shows and the traffic has stopped, you can start to cross. Remember to keep looking and listening while you cross. When the green man begins to flash, you **should not** start to cross. If you have already started you should have time to finish crossing safely.

Puffin crossings are slightly different, as the red and green man are above the control box on your side of the road and the green man does not flash

When the green man disappears, there could be:

- a red man signal
- no signal

Do not start to cross if the steady green man is not showing.

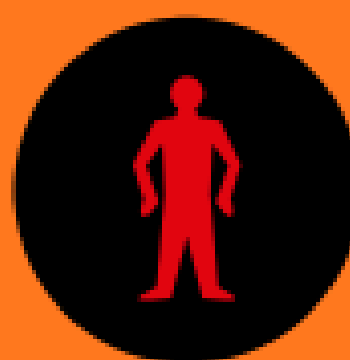


This is a puffin crossing

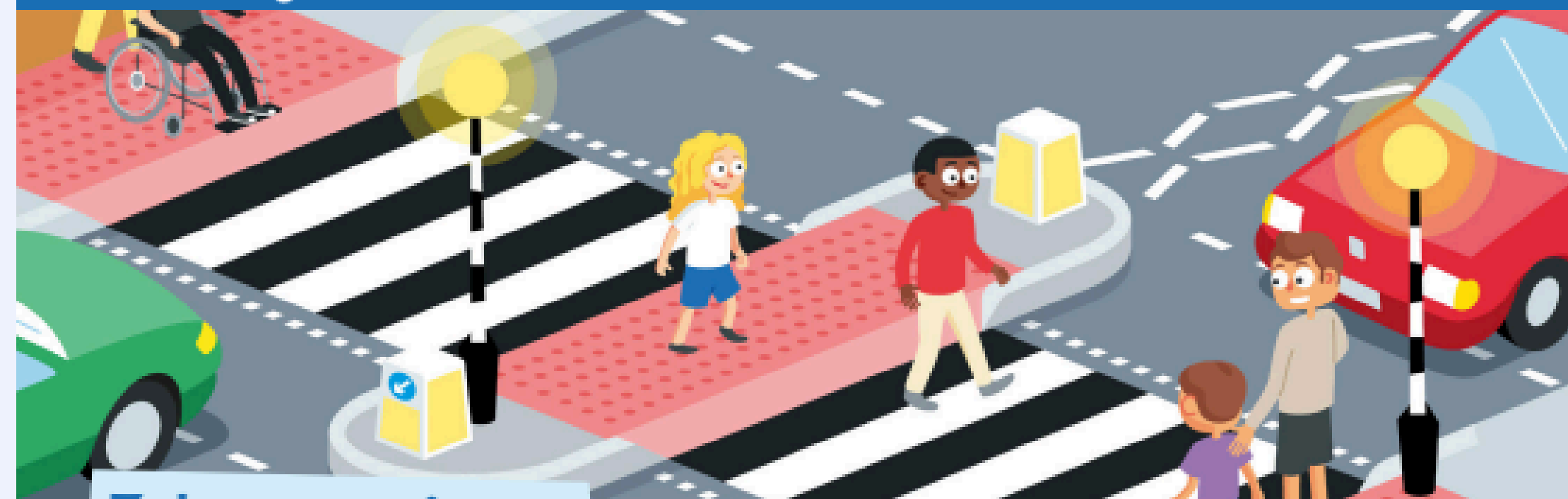
Remember!

- Some green men will only work if a **pedestrian** pushes the control button.
- You may have to wait. Be patient.
- Cross the road quickly between the white stud marks. **Do not run.**

- Some crossings have an island in the middle of the road. Treat each half of the crossing as a separate crossing; press the control button and wait for the green man.



Walking



Zebra crossing

Crossing at a zebra crossing

- If there is a **zebra crossing**, use it.
- Wait on the pavement near the kerb and give traffic plenty of time to see you and to stop before you start to cross.
- Drivers need plenty of time to slow down, especially in wet weather when the road is slippery.
- After traffic has stopped from both directions, walk across on the black and white stripes.
- Keep looking all round and listening in case a driver or rider has not seen you and attempts to overtake a **vehicle** that has stopped.

Crossing where there is an island in the middle of a zebra crossing

Use the Green Cross Code to cross to the **island**. Stop there and use the code again to cross the second half of the road. Remember to look all around and listen. Watch out for

drivers or riders who have not seen you and attempt to overtake the vehicle that has stopped.

If there is an island then treat each half of the crossing as separate crossings. Do not assume that vehicles will stop. Check that they have stopped before crossing.

Parallel crossings

Parallel crossings are for people walking and people cycling, with black and white stripes for people walking and white square markings for people cycling. When crossing, people driving will stop for people waiting to cross by foot or cycle.

Crossing at a junction

If you have to cross at a road **junction**, look out and listen for traffic turning into the road, especially from behind you. Traffic turning in or out of a **junction** should stop to let you cross. Do not start to cross the road until the traffic has definitely stopped.

Key Dates

Term 3

2026							JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

Monday 5th January - Staff development day - no school for children.

Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school.

Tuesday 13th January - School book club 'The Last Bear' 3.15-4.15pm.

Thursday 22nd January - Parent SAT workshop (Year 5/6 parents) 2.30-3.15pm.

Monday 2nd February - LKS2 (Year 3&4) trip to Winchester Science Museum.

Monday 2nd February - Butterfly & Bumblebee open classrooms 2.30-3pm.

Tuesday 3rd February - Rabbit, Hedgehog & Squirrel open classrooms 2.30-3pm.

Thursday 5th February - Fox, Badger & Otter open classrooms 2.45-3.15pm.

Friday 6th February - Kestrel, Buzzard & Kingfisher open classrooms 2.45-3.15pm.

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th February - EYFS Phonics workshop for parents 8.45-9.30am.

Thursday 12th February - KS1 Phonics workshop for parents 8.45-9.30am.

Friday 13th February - last day of Term 3. Break up at 3.15pm. Non-uniform £1 voluntary contribution to for the school fund.

Term 4

Monday 23rd February - First day back of Term 4 for all children.

Tuesday 24th February - Key Stage 2 Parent Meetings 1-5pm.

Wednesday 25th February - EYFS/ Key Stage 1 Parent Meetings 1-5pm.

Tuesday 3rd March - KS2 Book Club - 'I am Lenny Brown' by Dan Freedman.

Wednesday 4th - Monday 9th March - Book Fair open after school 3.15-4pm.

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day. Dress up as a word of your choice!

Friday 6th March - Book Swap in school for all children.

Friday 13th March - Drop in attendance surgery for parents 9-10am.

Thursday 19th March - LKS2 Performance of Peter Pan for parents and carers (Yr 3&4) at 1.45pm.

Friday 20th March - World Down Syndrome Day. Children can wear odd socks.

Wednesday 25th March - World Maths Day.

Friday 27th March - Last day of term 4. Break up at 2pm. Non-uniform £1 voluntary contribution to for the school fund.

Please note some of these dates may be subject to change if needed and we may add more throughout the term.

Online Safety and Age Ratings

We've shared this image to remind parents of the minimum age ratings for popular apps. Most social media platforms set these age limits, often 13+, because they include features such as public messaging, content sharing, and large online communities that aren't suitable for younger children.

Following these age guidelines helps protect children from inappropriate content and unwanted contact, and it's important for parents to keep an eye on their child's online activity to ensure they are using technology safely and responsibly.

APP AGE RATINGS

A guide for parents



13+

X



13+

Facebook



13+

Instagram



13+

Pinterest



13+

Messenger



13+

TikTok



13+

Discord



13+

Snapchat



13+



13+



13+



13+



16+



16+



16+

Parent Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to complete our recent parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable and helps us continue to shape and improve our school community.

In Term 1, many of you asked for more opportunities to come into school and be involved in your children's learning. Since then, we've introduced open classrooms, hosted an art junk-modelling day, run phonics and SATs workshops, and increased communication on Dojo. We're delighted that so many of you have noticed these changes and shared such positive feedback.

I've included some of your lovely comments below. We value every comment, and they all help us continue to grow.

Please keep letting us know how we can improve - we truly appreciate your input and are committed to strengthening our partnership with you. I will keep you updated on any actions that arise.

Thank you again for your support.

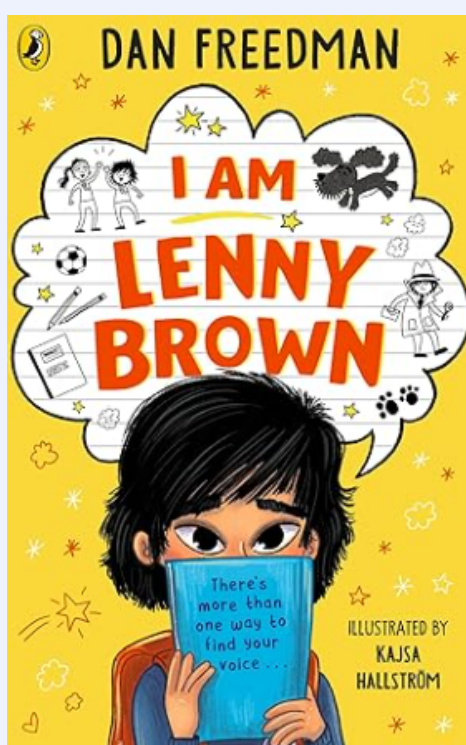


Parent comments:

- 'Having moved from another school fairly recently, this schools communication is above and beyond what I have experienced before and my child has never been happier to attend school.'
- 'The school is good. My child can struggle at times with coming in and everyone is always supportive of this and giving them time and different things and options of what to do also they help me as I struggle with this and the ladies on gate and in office are always lovely. Thank you.'
- 'Whilst raising my children, we have been a part of 5 different school communities and Ludgershall Castle has been the most welcoming. The staff have gone above and beyond to make my child feel comfortable and safe whilst also giving them a very high standard of education. Additionally, the back and forth communication that is available with the classroom staff helps to ensure peace of mind when needed. I don't have any negative points or issues to make about Ludgershall Castle. The staff are approachable and my child is very happy and thriving in their environment.'
- 'I love how caring all staff are towards my children. They make them feel safe and heard. I always recommend this school to people.'
- 'The best thing I did was transfer my children to this school they have excelled since.'
- 'SEN is good. Senco is really approachable and understanding. All the ta and teachers help and want the best for each child.'

School Book Club

Our next School Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March 3.15-4.15pm for all Key Stage 2 pupils who have read 'I am Lenny Brown' by Dan Freedman . We have ordered copies of the book for each Key Stage 2 classroom but you could borrow a copy from the library or buy your own copy.



Learning at home:

We really value the learning you encourage at home. Reading regularly plays a crucial role in your child's development - just a few minutes every day can make a huge difference and help your child make amazing progress.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes such a difference to our school community.

