

# SMUPS Newsletter 16/1/25



**Friday 16th January**



## **Hello from Mrs Harvey**

Hello all SMUPS children and families and welcome to the weekend,

We have had an icy but calm and positive start to the Spring term and 2026 during the first two weeks back. We excitedly ended this week with our visiting Pantomime performance of 'Snow white' today-oh yes we did! The children were a respectful and joyful audience for our visitors.

The Spring term is when the children progress the most in their learning and stretch as tall as beanstalks as the sun starts to shine again. There has already been a lot of cooking going on across the school as we focus on Food Technology in DT this term. Willow class have been making dips inspired by the Mayans and Mrs Dennis has started cooking club after school. We look forward to many tasty treats this term. All classes will prepare a dish or dishes for our school dinners with our Kitchen Manager Mel Cook.

Please support your children to leave the school site safely using the pathway. A member of our Senior Leadership Team will always be there to remind children to stay close to their

adults, walk on the pathway rather than the grass where we have bulbs planted and wait at the bottom of the slope before crossing. We have had several phone calls of concern this week from members of the public who whilst driving have seen our children run or scoot across the zebra crossing without stopping. As we communicated before Christmas, if our older children aren't able to walk home appropriately, we will ask for you to pick them up.

Please see our uniform expectations again below as a reminder, this includes no nail varnish or nail treatments, make up or eyelashes.

Check out the diary for key dates for this term.

Have a fantastic, fresh weekend,

Mrs Harvey



## Acorns



Acorns have had an amazing first two weeks back to school! I have loved seeing what fantastic and independent learners they have become. I have been so impressed with how well acorns have stepped up to the challenge in writing their magic code phrases in drawing club and how creative their ideas are!

In understanding the world we have enjoyed being historians and discovering how we listened to music, used a telephone and a computer or typewriter in the past. We have also been curious scientists this fortnight, experimenting with what happens when water freezes!

Acorns also had great fun supporting our school's healthy eating by helping Mel in the kitchen to chop up and prepare a huge salad for the whole school to eat for lunch!

Well done Acorns I am so proud of you all!

Miss Snell x

## Oak



Oak Class have had a lovely start back and have shown that they are more than ready for 2026! We had lots of fun in DT making a fruit salad for the whole school, where we chopped bananas, apples, pears, grapes and watermelon, took turns and used our best manners in our groups. In maths, we are learning about teen numbers and how many tens and ones are in each number, and in Drawing Club we have been writing some fabulous sentences. Ask your child at home about *The Greatest History Makers* — they would love to tell you all about it!

Ms Willis :)

## Ash



We have had an amazing start back to term, we have been very busy!

The children have reflected back on their learning from Science last term and have been writing some great English work about protecting our oceans from filling with microplastic.

In Maths we are focusing on money and really making sure we understand the difference between pounds and pence. The children have even been shopkeepers and practiced buying different items with money.

DT has started with trying foods from around the world and helping Mel prepare the tomato sauce for our pizzas on Monday. The class are very much looking forward to inviting you in once they have prepared their own feast!

- It's great that the children continue to be so enthusiastic towards their learning, I can't wait to see how our Spring Term builds!

## Pine



What a fantastic start to the Spring term! ✨ Pine Class have returned after Christmas feeling enthusiastic, motivated, and ready to learn. We have begun our History topic on the Stone Age, which has been extremely exciting. As part of this, the children explored Stone Age art and created their own cave drawings.

In Maths, we have been learning how to multiply 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. This is a tricky skill, and everyone has shown great resilience and determination. We have also been practising our times tables—please continue to use TTRS at home, as it really supports our learning in school.

In PE, we have started our Dance unit based on the musical, book, and film *Matilda*. The children have created a short routine inspired by Matilda and Miss Trunchbull, thinking

carefully about how each character moves and how their body language reflects their personality.

I have a feeling this is going to be a fantastic term for Year 3, and I look forward to seeing all the wonderful things we can achieve together. 😊

## Beech



We have had the most wonderful start to the term. The children have been working really hard on their writing in particular learning how to write formal and informal letters. We have been having fun writing letters of complaint regarding a negative experience at a restaurant. They have shared and developed some wonderful ideas of complaints, many which have made me laugh out loud. In our art sessions I have seen some superb observational sketches duplicating patterns using view finders and they are enjoying the process.

French sessions have been fun and energetic learning verbs in a kinaesthetic manner which really helps to make the knowledge stick. I have been very impressed with their recall and pronunciation of some quite tricky French vocabulary. The children are beginning to understand expectations which allow us to immerse ourselves in the learning. Well done Beech class and keep up the good work.

Mrs Scandrett

## Holly



Holly class have had a great couple of weeks learning lots, in all their lessons. In maths, we have been introducing ourselves to the concept of ratios and how to solve problems involving them and we have shown such confidence with this. In English, we have been looking at a new, more professional, style of writing by exploring biographies and the life of Charles Darwin. We have also been discussing what our dream jobs would be and writing CVs for them. In music, we have become grime artists and have been familiarising ourselves with digital tools for making music on the computer. Further work on the computers has included the coding of micro-bits, where the children were able to make digital name badges, musical tunes and compasses. It has been a busy couple of weeks of really exciting learning. The children have come back after Christmas full of energy and motivated towards success; it is so lovely to see and I hope we keep this attitude going ! Well done Holly Class !

## Willow



We have had a brilliant week this week. We especially enjoyed our Maya-Inspired Cooking Day on Wednesday. We explored smelling and tasting spices and typical vegetables, that would have been used in Mayan cuisine, then made Guacamole and Salsa. The menus we created are coming home soon - so you can hopefully extend this day by trying to make dishes designed as homework. We have also started our new Music unit (Fresh Prince/ Hip Hop and Rap.) We had lots of fun trying to fit all the words in to learn the rap and are adding body percussion, before trying the Djembe Drums as accompaniment. Well done for all your enthusiasm and hard work Willow Class.

## Elm



Elm class have had a super week- we started off learning about Charles Darwin and his assistant Syms Covington and their adventures around the world on HMS Beagle before writing a CV for a job in Australia! We heard about how Syms had an ear trumpet and looked at a picture of one of these. In science we have been learning about the eye and light, experimenting with torches and looking at a model of the eye. We also learn how to program microbits to make them into mini thermometers, using our maths skills to find the warmest and coldest parts of the school and finding the mean temperature using spreadsheet. Thank you for your support with homework- don't forget to bring it in on Monday!

### Stars of the Week/s



Acorns: Abigail & Jaydin Kyron & Elara

Oak: Lilly & Luca, Evanna & Jacob

Ash: Aishpreet & Annabelle, Sierra & Lilly-Sue

Pine: Jesse & Amelia Oliver & Bea

Beech: Emmett & Isla, Elijah & Ikra

Willow: Leilani & Riley, Elsa & Olivia

Elm: Isaac and Jack, Ralph and Caleb

Holly: Isabelle & Sabrina, Jake & Sophie

## Collective Worship



We welcomed Church Team back this week who told us the Creation Story of how the world began. Acorns are also learning about this in RE and making their own picture books. Our theme for Collective Worship this half term is Justice and we are thinking about how we can support those that need it most and use our voices to stand up for them.

## Attendance



Acorns: 97.79 %

Oak: 96.3%

Ash: 94.25%

Pine: 95.11%

Beech: 95.02%

Willow: 96.77%

Holly: 91.85%

Elm: 96.62%



- Thursday 26th February: PTFA 'Spots and Stripes' DISCO

## Staying Safe



Please park safely when dropping your child or children off and picking them up. We have had several unsafe parking concerns reported especially regarding cars that are parked on the pavement. We continue to report the issues and the local PCSOs are monitoring the situation. You can use this link to report a parking problem too, see below.

[Report a parking problem - Roads and transport](#)