

Weekly News

20th – 24th April 2026

**Weekly
Celebration
Friendships**



Final Reminder for Charity Fortnight Donations

- Sponsorship money can be donated via your Parentpay account.
- Look for payment item 'Charity Fortnight Sponsorship Money'
- Use 'custom amount' to add your own total. Every little helps!
- If you qualify for Gift Aid, complete your sponsorship form, tick the box and bring it to the school office.
- If you have collected cash donations please bring them to the school office too.
- **A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU!**
- **We look forward to welcoming Claire Lunham, our PAPAYA Representative, back in to school on Thursday 23rd April to share the final amount raised with her during assembly.**



Pastoral and Parent Support Team

Togetherness is an NHS emotional health digital learning hub. It contains some really useful resources and information for parents about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children. Attached to this weekly newsletter is April's publication. It has some useful tips for coping with **moving up** in School and **taking SATS**.

Also attached is a leaflet aimed at new nursery and reception parents with details of support with **toilet training**.

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Welcome back - Let's get playing

TTRS again.

Well done 2P and 3D!



Champions!

Join us in celebrating with our Year 6 Boys Football team who beat Knowle in the Borough Cup Final 2:1. Retaining the cup.

Thanks go to Mr Coley and the Sports Team for coaching the team to success. Mr Tolman escorted them to victory on the day!

Thanks also to their dedicated parents for taking them to Solihull Moors to play and being their biggest supporters.

The very large cup takes pride of place for another year in our trophy cabinet. Come and take a look at it in the KS2 entrance when you are next in school you can't miss it!

Class	End of the week
2D	47%
2P	52%
2S	43%
3D	94%
3P	69%
3S	88%
4D	88%
4P	66%
4S	79%
5D	69%
5P	42%
5S	31%
6D	28%
6P	28%
6S	38%

Endeavour

Reception: Poppy, Hugo, Cillian

Year 1: Caden, Xanthe, Nancy

Year 2: Ben, Reign, Salwa

Year 3: Noah, Charlie, Clara

Year 4: Charlotte, Mila, Sophie

Year 5: Ellie, Mia, Theo

Year 6: Connor, Ramy, Callum, Sienna

Please refer to the
Summer Term Newsletter
for Summer Term Diary Dates

Parent Council
met on Wednesday 15th April.
Minutes will be shared on the website.

Nursery What a fantastic first week back after the Easter holidays. The children have settled back into their routines amazingly and we are so proud of how quickly they have readjusted. This week, **ND** thoroughly enjoyed their Footie Bugs session on Tuesday and **NP** had a wonderful time with parachute play in their PE lesson on Thursday. It's been lovely to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic in their learning and activities. A gentle reminder, if you still need to send in your child's pumps, please do so as soon as possible. It's really important for the children to have these in school so they can practise putting them on and taking them off independently. We have now completed our topic on the story *We're Going on a Lion Hunt*. The children really enjoyed exploring this story together. Next week, we are excited to begin our new topic all about dinosaurs. We know we have lots of dinosaur enthusiasts in Nursery, so we're sure this topic will be a huge hit. In phonics, the children have been continuing to practise their oral blending skills and recognising the initial sounds in words. We can really tell that lots of you have been practising at home, thank you for your continued support. Next week, we will be learning our new letter sound, **e**. We would also like to remind parents to please ensure you are making lunch choices on Arbor. Please also remind your child each morning what they will be having for lunch, as this really helps to prepare them and avoids any confusion or disappointment later in the day. Have a lovely weekend everyone and we look forward to seeing you all next week.

Year 1 What a super first week back we've had! In English, we have begun a unit of work on the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. The children enjoyed reading the letters from the different crayons and wrote about how different crayons were feeling. We have also been focusing on extending our sentences with the conjunction because. They also tried to imagine what different items in our classrooms might be feeling. The children have worked hard to expand their vocabulary using words like devastated, heartbroken and exhausted! Next week, we will be writing some response letters to the crayons. In maths, we have been looking at length and height. The children have been using rulers to measure items to the nearest centimetre and comparing lengths using the vocabulary such as longest, bigger/smaller, tallest and shortest. In science, we have begun our new unit of work on plants and have been planting our own sunflowers. We will be monitoring the growth of our plants and taking measurements. We can't wait to see how they grow and develop! Have a wonderful weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Reception A new term begins in Reception with three exciting topics across the classes. RD will be exploring *The Three Little Pigs*, RP will dive into *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and RS will enjoy *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. In phonics, we are continuing to focus on adding **-ed** to the end of words. Last week, we looked at words such as *wanted*, *jagged*, and *waited*, where the **-ed** is pronounced 'id.' This week, we will be learning about words such as *brushed* and *picked*, where the **-ed** is pronounced 't.' Please keep practicing all tricky words and sounds. Many thanks. In maths this week, the children will continue to develop their subitising skills (seeing the quantity without counting) in increasingly complex arrangements. Another key focus is the ongoing development of visualising skills: encouraging the children to look carefully at structured arrangements, such as those shown on dice and 10-frames and then to close their eyes and explain what they see. RS will be heading out on their Forest School adventures every Thursday, RP will be having lots of fun in their Footiebugs sessions on Tuesdays and RD will be developing their skills and confidence in their Friday PE lessons.

Year 2 Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Easter break! This week we have started lots of new units ready for the summer term! In English we have begun our unit of work on Paddington. The children have been looking at writing in past tense and adding conjunctions into their writing to add more detail. They have loved hearing about Paddington's adventure with the Browns so far. In maths we have begun looking at time. We have focused on O'clock, quarter past, half past and quarter to this week and reading these on an analog clock. We would really appreciate any extra practise on these times at home with the children as this is always notoriously hard for them to grasp. In history we have begun our unit 'What is a monarch?' and the children have looked at the key roles of the monarchs in England and all the responsibilities King Charles III currently has. In science we have continued looking at habitats and we have been making our own rock pools. Thank you for all of the seashells and rocks our have sent in to help with this. Have a lovely weekend!
The Year 2 Team

Year 3 Welcome back to the final term of Year 3 – we can't believe it's here already!

In English, the children have been busy planning their own Roald Dahl-inspired trick to be played on either Mr or Mrs Twit. We have focused on using our reading to inform our ideas, ensuring that their tricks could fit seamlessly into the original story. We are really looking forward to seeing how they bring their ideas to life in their writing next week.

In maths, we have now completed our money unit and have begun a short unit on length and perimeter. We would really encourage you to continue practising money skills at home, as this was an area many children found challenging. Simple activities such as working out total costs and expected change when shopping can make a big difference.

After learning about Ernest Shackleton's expedition on the Endurance in geography, the children used 4-figure grid references to track his journey. This was a challenging skill, but they showed great determination and were very proud of themselves when they succeeded. They were also amazed by the difficulties Shackleton and his crew faced along the way. We have also started our final unit in science on forces and magnets. The children have begun by learning what a force is and how it can be measured. It has also been a busy week for sport! A highlight was our bench ball practice session led by Arden staff and students this afternoon. The children listened carefully, demonstrated excellent teamwork, and showed a wonderfully competitive spirit. They are already excited for the festival later in the term.

Finally, as we work towards completing all Year 3 learning this term, please encourage your child to complete all homework tasks from the outset. This really does make a significant difference to their progress and confidence in class. If they would like to do any additional work, they can access all reading, SPaG and maths activities on the Century Tech platform – a great way to revisit and strengthen key skills or areas that they feel less confident in. TTRS continues to be our main maths homework and is an excellent way to continue developing quick and accurate recall of times tables. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Have a great weekend. The Year 3 Team

Year 4 We have all really enjoyed welcoming the children back after the Easter holidays and hearing about all the fun they have had.

This week has seen the start of many exciting new topics across the curriculum.

In maths, we have begun the first of our two units on decimals. So far, the children have been learning how to find tenths on a number line and how to convert fractions into tenths as decimals and vice versa.

In English, we have started our new topic on debating and persuasive texts. We have been reading *Zoo* by Anthony Browne, and the children have been creating their own debates around whether zoos are ethical. Next week, we are fortunate to have Mrs Gimson visiting us to talk about how debating is used in real life through her work as a judge. We are all very much looking forward to this experience.

In Science, we have started our new topic on Sound, and in History, we have begun learning about the Ancient Maya civilisation.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

The Year 4 Team.

Mr Root Boys Football After School Club

Mr Williams, Sports Coach,
invites **Year 4 Boys**
to join his After School Club
on Tuesday nights
on the KS2 field 3.30-4.30pm.
Follow the booking link for more
information and to register.

<https://mr-root-s-sport-s-club.classforkids.io>

select Boys Football Year 5&6

Electric Social Family Disco Flyer

Please see the attached flyer for the QR code for tickets. Add the code DORRIDGE when booking and DPSPTA will receive £1 for every ticket bought by Dorridge parents.



Year 5 What a fantastic week for reading in Year 5! I felt very proud reading Mrs Biddlecombe's glowing feedback on our improved levels of reading at home. I appreciate that family life is busy, thank you for your continuing support to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child.

This week in Year 5, the children have made a fantastic start as they settled into their new English groups. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and confidence growing as they begin working with new peers and teachers. In English, we have started exploring *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, introducing some of the key characters: Hermia, Lysander, Helena and Demetrius. The children have enjoyed learning about the relationships between these characters. Looking ahead to next week, we will delve deeper into the play and discover the chaos and confusion caused by Puck, under the instruction of King Oberon. This promises to be an exciting part of the story, and we are looking forward to seeing how the children respond to the twists and humour within the plot. Please follow the link below for a summary of the story:

[short-stories-shakespeare-a-midsummer-nights-dream-transcript.pdf](#)

In maths, we have begun a new unit on shape. The children have been learning how to classify different types of angles and have started using protractors to measure angles accurately. This is a skill that requires both precision and practise, and the children have approached it with great focus and determination. In science, we have launched our new topic on life cycles. The children are beginning to understand how living things grow and change over time, and we will continue to build on this knowledge in the coming weeks.

Finally, in geography, we have started learning about deserts. The children are already curious about these extreme environments and are keen to explore how plants, animals and people adapt to survive there. PE and Forest School will return to Thursday next week. Enjoy the weekend. The Year 5 team.

Year 6 Welcome back! This is a busy term for us in y6 - we will be preparing for SATs, but also balancing this with our usual afternoon projects. Please let us know if your child has any concerns or questions via class dojo. This week, English started with a trip to Forest School. In our book, *Kensuke's Kingdom*, Michael has found himself stranded on a desert island after being washed overboard. We tried to imagine this situation and how we would survive - starting by building shelters and cooking some of the local plants (wild garlic and nettles!) Back in the classroom, we have been making notes on how to find food, make fire, find drinkable water and build a shelter, ready to write our own survival guides. In maths, we are continuing to work through graph and shape work, moving on next week to a focus on angles and angle rules. Our history unit about who should go on the £10 note this week turned to the story of Mary Seacole, and we learnt more about her contributions in the Crimean War. Finally, [congratulations](#) to our boys' football team, who returned back to school last night with a very large winner's trophy!!

Year 6 Netball Information Club

Next Thursday, 23rd April, Netball Club will go ahead as planned. This is the final training session this academic year.

Please pick up at 4.30pm promptly.

There will be some matches to play during the summer term, however, Mrs Barker is awaiting confirmation of dates from other schools. Thanks for your patience.

Watch this space!

