



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



# NEWSLETTER

"A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love"  
Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 15 v 12

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

There are daffodils appearing in the school grounds and we know that this is always the first sign of spring! We are looking forward to seeing the sunshine appear more and we can begin to see more signs of spring. It is almost February half term and the link below may give you some ideas for the week off.

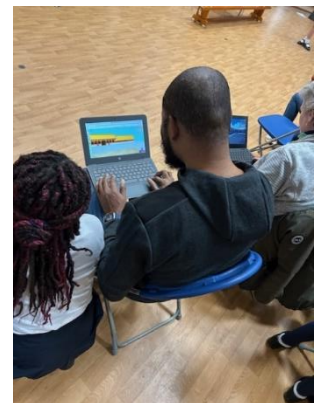
February Half Term Activities - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHORSHAM/bulletins/3cd42b8>

## Church Links

**Reflection** - This week's reflection is about humility, thank you so much to Mrs Smith for putting this together for our school community. [Service](#)

## Learning

**Computing** – Mexico had their class assembly this week, at the end of the assembly Mexico class shared their games with their parents. The children had designed a game with levels and lives and the parents tried out the game. It was great to see them learning together.



**English** – It is always lovely to take some children to The Anchorage to improve their speaking and listening skills as part of the English curriculum. The children were able to meet with the residents and talk about many different topics.



**Forest School** – India Class had a very creative session at Forest School this week – look at some of the things they made! It is the last session next week and then Italy start their sessions after the February half term.



## News

**Kindness shield – February – Rex E (SA)** - You are, without question, one of the kindest people I have ever met! You are always thoughtful and considerate towards others, never thinking twice about offering to help those around you. These qualities have been evident on many occasions this year. You empathise with your friends and can be relied upon to provide gentle encouragement and reassurance. In addition to this, you are always helpful and polite towards adults around the school. You are a true ambassador for St Mary's and consistently set an outstanding example in all that you do.



**John Milne MP Horsham** – It was good to have John Milne MP for Horsham District visit our school this week. We are passionate about inclusion for all our pupils and John Milne came to talk about SEND provision in the Horsham area and find out more from Headteachers, parents and Governors.



## Things to know...

**International Day** – Huge thanks to the parents that have offered to come into school and share their knowledge and experience of various countries and languages with the children on International Day. We are very lucky to have a wide variety of cultures and traditions within our community and we are very much looking forward to learning more about them. If you are able to volunteer a couple of hours to come and share some information with our children on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025, we'd love to hear from you and have you join us for what is sure to be an enriching day for all.

**Chartwells' meal choices** – Please could we ask that when ordering your child's meal choice, you sit down together and choose their preferred option. We have had a number of children refusing to eat what was ordered for them and, as a school, we only receive what you have ordered to reduce food waste.

**February Cut off Dates**

**HALF TERM**

**Thurs 13/02 for w/c 24/02**



**March Cut off Dates**

**Thurs 20/02 for w/c 03/03**

**Thurs 27/02 for w/c 10/03**

**Thurs 06/03 for w/c 17/03**

**Thurs 13/03 for w/c 24/03**

**Dates for your diary – SPRING TERM**

Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Egyptian Day NZ/SL/USA – Costumes if you wish

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Tudor Dress up day for India and Italy

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Italy celebration assembly

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – INSET DAY**

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> to Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb – HALF TERM**

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> March – African Drumming Y6 and Ukulele workshop Y5

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> March – NZ Class celebration

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day – Book character costumes please

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> March – Reports come home

Tue 25<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Evenings

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> April – Last Day of term

**Celebrations**

**Class Assemblies** – These are the dates for class assemblies for this term. Please come and celebrate the children's achievements with them. These will start at 9am.

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Italy

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Feb - USA

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – SL

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Mar – New Zealand

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Mar – Japan (main hall) Thailand (Small Hall)

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Mar - UK

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Mar – India

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Mar – China

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr – SA



**Vine leaves** – **Charlotte G (USA)** - Perseverance - you always try your best and work consistently hard - even when you have found the work challenging, you never give up. **Miller B (USA)** – Wisdom - you consistently put in a great deal of effort into your work, particularly in writing up your science experiment on evaporation. **Mason M (NZ)** and **Horatio H (NZ)** - Kindness and Generosity - they decided to donate some of their money to charity. **Sid N (SL)** – Courage – you have shown great courage this week wearing new glasses and should be really proud of yourself. **Andrew R (SL)** – Friendship – for working really well together with others during a team game **Zara K (SL)** – Perseverance – you have worked really hard over the last few weeks on your 10 times table and finally scored full marks. Well done Zara! **Erik M (Thai)** – Kindness – for being the only one to stop and help a child who had fallen over, asking if she was okay and wiping the mud off her clothes. **Tommy B (Mex)** and **Isabella M (Mex)** – Service - for offering to collect litter and spending their whole lunchtime doing this. **Arlo S (Chi)**, **Ella S (Chi)**, **Maryanne R (Chi)** and **Ross H (Chi)** - Creativity and Humility - for creating an engaging and interesting gymnastics floor routine; you worked brilliantly together and listened to everyone's ideas.

**Aimee R (Chi)** - Perseverance and Friendship - for not giving up and producing a detailed writing plan in beautifully neat handwriting and for working so well together with others during a team building exercise. **Lincoln B (Chi)** – Service - for being kind and respectful to the adults around you, thank you for trying your hardest all week. **Oakley S (Ita)** - Love - for showing great amounts of love towards his friends and teachers. **Arabella R (Ind)** – Friendship – for engaging and cooperating so well with others during a team activity **Immie W (SA)** – Kindness – for going above and beyond to help others in the class this week. **Ava-May R (UK)** – Friendship – for working so well with others during a fun activity

## Achievements -



**Beatrice G (Mex)** – for passing Stage 7 swimming



**Amelie H (Ind)** – for passing Stage 4 swimming and receiving Player of the Week at rugby



**Teddy L (Ind)** – for getting 10 tri's in a rugby game!



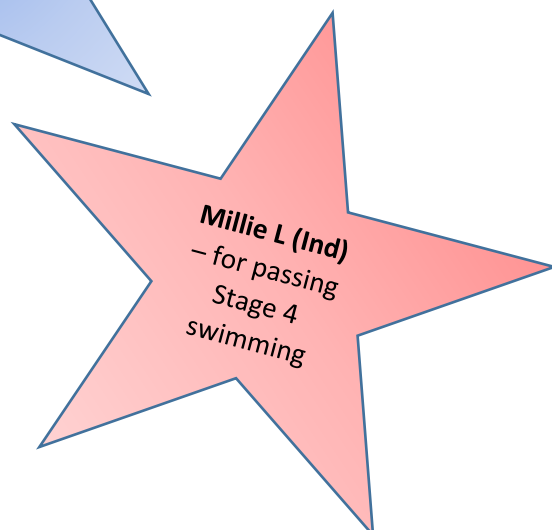
**Ben F (SL)** – for passing Stage 3 swimming



**Orla B (Ind)** – for passing Stage 3 swimming




**Josh D (SL)** – for passing Stage 4 swimming



**Millie L (Ind)** – for passing Stage 4 swimming







**Vince O-B  
(Ind)** – for  
moving up a  
reading level




**Callie W (Ind)**  
– for winning  
Gymnast of  
the Month




**Rex W (Jap)**–  
for winning a  
trophy at  
Taekwondo




**Spencer N  
(Jap)**– for  
winning a  
trophy at  
football



**Archie P  
(Mex)**– for  
getting Man of  
the Match at  
football



**Charlie H  
(Mex)**– for  
getting Man of  
the Match at  
football



**Theo L (Ind)** –  
for getting Man  
of the Match at  
football



## **Billingshurst and District Lions Club.**

### **Art Competition 2025.**

#### **'What Farms do for Us'**

This art competition is to encourage children aged 7 to 11 to creatively think about the world around them.

#### **Contest Rules.**

To be run during the **Spring term** with a **closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> March.**

The contest is open to children in **years 3, 4, 5 and 6.**

The challenge is to create a **poster** with the theme of **'What Farms do for Us.'**

The Artwork is to be **no bigger than A3 and no smaller than A4.**

Only one entry per child, and each entry must be the work of only one child. It must be that individuals **ORIGINAL ARTWORK.**

All media are accepted. **DO NOT LAMINATE ENTRIES.** However fixative sprays may be used where needed.

The artists, **name, age, form and school must be on the back** of their poster.

#### **Prizes.**

Winners and runners up **certificates** will be awarded for every class.

The winner in each class will also receive a **book token for the Lions bookshop.**

We hope to **exhibit** a number of the winning entries at the **Billingshurst Community Centre.**

# Henry Adams & Chichester Festival Theatre are delighted to announce

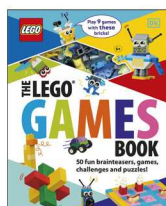


Your challenge is to **make a well-known Book Character** using a recycled cardboard tube/s along with other reclaimed materials and anything else you have at home.

## The Prizes!

As well as our traditional LEGO book prizes, we are delighted to say CFT are providing prizes for 2 winners across all of our schools:

- A family ticket (4 tickets, minimum 1 adult) for the Christmas production in the Minerva Theatre (ages 3-7)
- A family ticket (4 tickets, minimum 1 adult) for the youth theatre Christmas production in the Festival Theatre (ages 7+)
- Interval ice-creams



Examples of LEGO book prizes

Please bring your entries back to your local Henry Adams office for a sweet treat or back to your school by **Wednesday 5th March**.

Don't forget to **add your Name, Year Group and School on your entry**.

Please ask your parents/carers to share your designs on Facebook or Instagram and tag Henry Adams so we can share them too.

We look forward to seeing all your wonderful designs when we return to school for the prize giving assembly in March.

**chichester  
festival  
theatre**

  
**Henry Adams**  
estate agents

# Thank you for taking part!





## February half term

February half term is delivered with love at Sky Park Farm, delicious family food, elegant evening dining with a special Valentine Menu and hours of fun for the children.

Deer are at the heart of what we do, but we have so much more to share. This half term we're bringing nature inside - observe an owl, hang out with a hedgehog, ogle a toad and handle a snake with Wild About Britain or track badgers, go behind the scenes with the Rangers, toast s'mores and build dens at Ranger School. Experiment with supersonic science, dance and sing with Suzie Songtime and immerse yourself in the world of Trainmaster UK. If the term has taken its toll and a recharge is needed then book a seat at our movie screenings with popcorn and a drink, we offer a relaxed, family-friendly viewing experience.

Sky Park deer will be grazing in their paddocks throughout half term, feed them by hand and observe the various species in close-proximity. February is the last month to admire full sets of antlers before they are cast in March. The Farm's Adventure Playground will be open for explorers to climb, swing and slide until their heart's content.

Breakfast, brunch and lunch are available seven days a week with a 'Little Fawns' menu available everyday and a Bottomless Brunch from Monday – Saturday every week.





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

“Fake news” refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It’s often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

### “CLICKBAIT” PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying “Have you seen this video of yourself?” or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that’s been shared on social media. This kind of “bait” is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our “need-to-know” instinct.

### SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don’t miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it’s legitimate.

### YOU’RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we’ve won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there’s something to be gained by doing so.

### FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they’re not to gain their victims’ trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they’re a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

### PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child’s account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they’re in trouble and need help.

### FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called “business opportunities” or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies’ social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people’s digital lives: talk about what they’re doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

### ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that’s to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what’s on offer sounds too good to be true.

### TALK TOGETHER

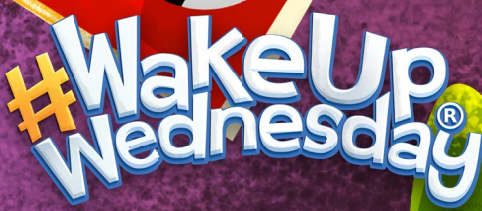
Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they’re unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don’t pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

### BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don’t wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they’re aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children’s understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](https://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>



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