



January 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Happy New Year! A very warm welcome back to you all. I trust you all had a wonderful and (hopefully) restful festive period.

Attendance

As you may be aware, Schools and Local Authorities monitor pupil attendance. From the age of five, pupils are of statutory school age and are therefore required to be in a school setting unless notified as being home educated. Being in a school setting not only ensures your child has access to an enriched, broad and balanced curriculum, but they are also able to develop socially and emotionally. Support can be put in place if and when required to ensure each child can flourish as an individual. The support cannot be accessed if the child does not attend.

Each half-term we celebrate good attendance. The attendance for the whole school for all of the Autumn Term was **91.99%**. If we were to break this down to cohorts, the attendance for **Robins was 90.49%, Year 1 was 90.93% and Year 2 was 95.49%. This is an excellent achievement all round. Well done.**

Each term the number of children awarded with 100% attendance is increasing. We had five pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn Term. Certificates were presented to **Charlie, Georgia, Lily, Maddie and Oscar** at the Celebration Service in December. Well done to all five of you!

Staffing Update

We would like to inform parents and guardians that two members of teaching staff are currently absent due to long-term sickness. In line with our duty of care, we are supporting our colleagues during this time and wish them well. The school has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure continuity of learning and maintain the high standards of teaching and support for pupils. Cover is being provided by experienced staff and established routines and expectations remain in place to ensure stability for the children. We thank parents and guardians for their understanding and ongoing support. Further updates will be shared where and when appropriate.

Weather

Now that we are in the midst of winter, could **ALL** children have appropriate outdoor clothing every day, such as warm coats (preferably with a hood) gloves and hats. Earmuffs are allowed to be worn, however, they need to be the correct size and not worn as a fashion item. This is for safety reasons, as in the past we have had children wear large oversized ones and they then become a trip hazard when running, as they cannot see where they are going. We are also encouraging children to use the outside areas more, therefore we would like **ALL** children to bring in a named pair of wellies. These can be left in a carrier bag on their peg.

Learning in EYFS – Woodland Animals

This half-term, children in EYFS are enjoying their learning through the theme of Woodland Animals. Through stories, play and practical activities. The children are developing their curiosity and understanding of the natural world. Learning experiences include:

- Reading and retelling woodland stories and traditional tales
- Exploring animal habitats and life cycles
- Using creative materials to make woodland animal artwork
- Developing early maths skills through sorting, counting and comparing
- Building vocabulary and communication skills through role play and discussion

These activities support learning across the Early Years Foundation Stage, encouraging children to explore, ask questions and develop confidence as independent learners. You can support learning at home by talking about animals you may see outdoors, sharing woodland-themed stories, or visiting local green spaces together.

Learning in Key Stage 1

This half-term, children in Key Stage 1 are learning about **The Great Fire of London**, exploring a significant event from the past through stories, history work and creative activities. In the second half of the term, the children will move on to an exciting topic about **Dinosaurs**, linking learning across history, science, literacy and art. A topic grid is attached with further information.

School trips

We are excited to inform you of some school trips we have planned this term. Robins (Nursery and Reception) will be off to Wendover Woods where they will be enhancing their learning on woodland animals. Goldfinches (Year One and Year Two) will be off to the Natural History Museum in London and will take part in a dinosaur workshop, linked to their topic of Dinosaur's which will start after half-term.

As exciting as these seem and the benefits of a school trip are enormous, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to organise these events to make them a success. From Risk Assessments, timings, organising transport and workshops. These trips can often only happen due to transport availability. As a small school the cost of a coach is astronomical. To make them viable we have sought minibuses. These are, however, dependent on the availability of drivers. We also take into account the price of these trips to make it affordable for parents.

More details will follow on both of these in due course.

Reminders

Parking

Can we kindly remind parents and guardians to park considerately when dropping off and collecting their child(ren). Please be mindful of our neighbours and local residents, ensuring that driveways are not blocked and that access for pedestrians and emergency vehicles is kept clear. We would also remind parents that parking on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school is not permitted, as these are in place to help keep children safe at busy times.

We appreciate your co-operation in helping to keep everyone safe and in maintaining positive relationships within our local community. Thank you for your understanding and support.

PE

We would like to remind parents and guardians of the following arrangements for PE:

- PE lessons for **Reception, Year One and Year Two** currently take place on a **Tuesday afternoon**, down at the Village Hall, so it is important that children have their full PE kit in school for PE days
- PE kits should be left on children's school pegs and will be sent home at the end of each half-term to be washed
- Children who wear tights will need to bring a change of socks for PE
- All PE kit items must be clearly named
- For health and safety reasons, no jewellery is permitted during PE lessons
- Children with long hair must have it tied up for PE

Thank you for your support in helping us keep PE sessions safe, well-organised and enjoyable for all children.

Fundraising

The school is registered with Easy Fundraising, so you can raise FREE donations for us when you do your everyday online shopping. All you have to do is find the brand you want to shop with on the Easy Fundraising website or app and they will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you! Sign up for free at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/marsworthcofeinfantschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-sch-n3

This really does make a difference to our school! Thank you for your continued support.

Events Coming Up

Open Mornings and Stay 'n' Play sessions

These will resume on Thursday, 5th March, where parents will have the opportunity to look at their child(ren)'s work or even support them in a couple of activities.

Parents' Evening

Robins Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday, 5th February from 2:15pm with Mrs Williams and Goldfinches Parent's Evening will take place over two sessions, one on Wednesday, 25th February from 3:45pm with Mrs Polatci and the second on Friday, 27th February from 3:00pm with Mrs Lacey. Just a reminder that Goldfinches only need to select **one** session.

Celebration Services

As always, these will take place in the Church on Thursday, 12th February at 2:30pm and on Thursday, 26th March at 2:30pm.

INSET DAY – FRIDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY

Cake Sale

The cake sale for the Spring Term will be on Friday, 20th March straight from pick-up. The cake sale will take place in school and half of the proceeds will be donated to a charity. As part of Courageous Advocacy, the children will vote democratically on a charity. If parents have any charities that are close to their hearts, please do let us know.

Future dates for diaries

World Book Day – Thursday, 5th March – More details to follow

Open Morning/Stay 'n' Play – Thursday, 5th March – World Book Day focus

Mother's Day Service – This will take place on Friday, 13th March at the Church at 2:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Robins school trip – This will take place on Thursday, 19th March

Celebration Service – This will take place on Thursday, 26th March

Goldfinches school trip/Finish for Easter – This will take place on Friday, 27th March

SCHOOL REOPENS AFTER EASTER – MONDAY, 13TH APRIL