

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed the half term break. Thank you to all parents who supported children with the homework projects in preparation for the upcoming learning this half term, particularly learning important topic-based words. A broad, rich vocabulary; the words we recognise and know how to use allows a child to understand and enjoy the things they read, to learn about the world around them, and to express themselves and their thoughts so that people will listen. Research suggests that a strong vocabulary in childhood is linked to future success and happiness, both at school and in later life. Look out for the curriculum newsletter which was sent home in book bags last term for an overview of the curriculum coverage. This will help you to continue talking about school learning with your child at home.

This week we marked 'Anti-Bullying Week' across our schools. This is an important time for our pupils to celebrate kindness, respect, and friendship. It helps everyone understand that bullying, whether in person or online, is never okay, and that small actions can make a big difference. Throughout the week, pupils took part in activities that encourage empathy, teamwork, and inclusion, reminding us all that we each have a role in making our school a safe and happy place for everyone. We feel proud of the school environment we have created where every child feels valued and supported.

We work very hard to be a smart school where children can feel proud. An important part of this is our school uniform. As the weather gets colder, please remember that children are expected to wear black school shoes and not boots as these are not safe when they are moving around the school and in the playground. If you would like your children to wear boots when travelling to and from school then they must also bring their school shoes to change into when they arrive. At different points in the day, children may remove jumpers which can easily be misplaced in busy classrooms. As well as making sure all uniform has your child's full name, please can you also check that items belong to your child and have not been picked up by accident. We ask that any items that are not yours be returned to class and to their rightful owners the next school day.

This half term you will receive your child's 'Autumn Report Card' at Parents' Evening on Thursday 11th December 2025. This will give more information about achievements so far, as well as learning targets for the upcoming term. Letters inviting you to parents' evening along with details of the online booking system will be sent home in the coming weeks. We are keen to make sure that all parents meet with their class teachers and discuss their child's progress, as well as take up the opportunity to look through their workbooks and celebrate their hard work. If you are finding it difficult to make an appointment, please call the school office who will be happy to help you. School contact details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher | Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher

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Reminders

School Start Time

School starts at 8.55am. Please ensure children arrive on time to line up and enter the school with their class teacher when the bell goes.



School Shoes

Smart black shoes for school please. School uniform items can be purchased from Mapac. To order, please scan the QR code on the next page or visit our school website for the link.



Remembrance Day

As part of their Remembrance Day learning, the EYFS children made their own poppies using card and scissors. They demonstrated confidence and control in their fine motor skills. They also discussed why the poppy is an important symbol of remembrance.



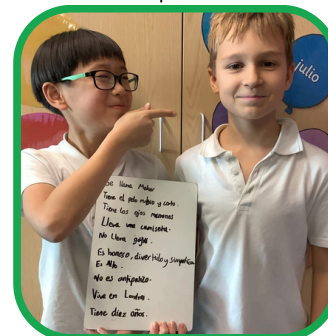
Comparing Animals

This week in Science, Year 1 have been comparing animals to find similarities and differences. Working in pairs, the children created their own questions to help sort animals according to their features, how they move, and where they live.



Spanish Vocabulary

In Spanish, Year 5 have been learning to describe themselves and others. Pupils can now describe their friends and teachers using a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures. Pupils enjoyed writing descriptions of their peers. ¡Buen trabajo, chicos!



Debate Mate

The Debate Mate team had an amazing day at the Debate Mate launch! They watched a live debate in action and learned how real debaters share and defend their ideas. They also met debaters from other schools and even had a go at debating themselves!



Art Club

This week, children in Art Club created button trees! Using buttons of different shapes and sizes, students designed blooms to form their own unique floral masterpieces. Each artwork showed the children's creativity, resulting in a colorful forest of imaginative designs.



Key Dates

Cedar Class Assembly

Thursday 20th November at 10:15am - New Hall

Elder Class Assembly

Thursday 20th November at 10:45am - Dinner Hall

Parents into Learning: Exploring Humanities at Orchard

Wednesday 26th November at 9:00am

Walnut Class Assembly

Thursday 27th November at 10:15am - New Hall

Holly Class Assembly

Thursday 27th November at 10:45am - New Hall

Year 6 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'

Monday 1st December at 2:45pm

Year 5 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'

Wednesday 3rd December at 2:45pm

Year 4 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'

Thursday 4th December at 2:45pm

Winter Fayre

Friday 5th December at 3:30pm

Year 3 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'

Monday 8th December at 2:45pm

Year 2 Seasonal 'Sing-Along'

Wednesday 10th December at 2:45pm

Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space at 9:15am on a Friday. These allow you to meet with other parents as well as to learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 28 th November	<u>Behaviour and Culture</u> : How does the school promote a culture of kindness?
Friday 5 th December	<u>Parent Reading Celebration Event</u> (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2)
Friday 19 th December	<u>Christmas Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
Date	EYFS Workshop
Friday 21 st November	<u>Fine Motor Skills and Handwriting</u> : How can I support my child to develop the skills for handwriting?

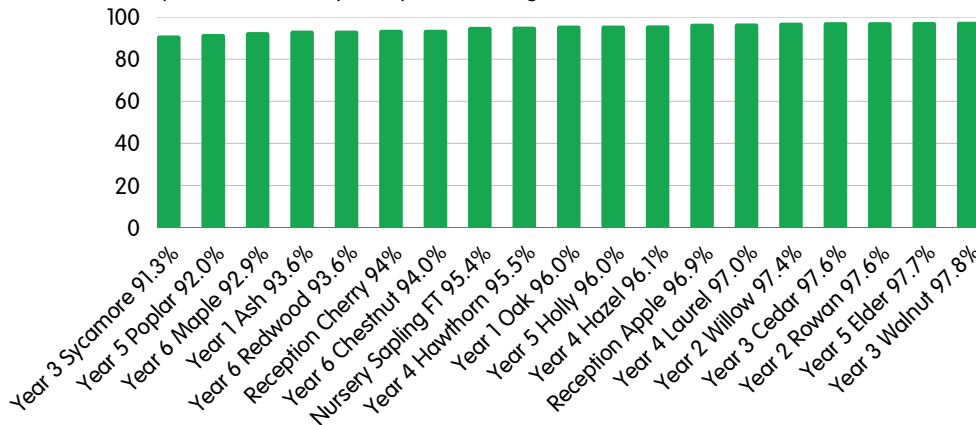
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 95.4%.

Well done to Year 3 Walnut Class, last week's winners with 97.8% attendance.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



Term End and Start

The second half of the autumn term ends on Friday 19th December at 1:00pm.

Please scan the QR code to view our 2025

-2026 term dates.



School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



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