



Hartford Headlines 21



Hartford Infant and Preschool & Hartford Junior School Newsletter Friday 14th February  
2025

## Headteacher Highlights...



- **This week** we have enjoyed our **Sensory Activities at lunchtime** as part of [OPAL](#).
- The children have enjoyed digging in the **sandpit**, creating in the **mud café**, transporting in the **water station**, dancing to **music** and using **carboard boxes** to create.
- We have had **visitors in Year 6** to support their **RE** leaning about Humanism.
- **Mr Tom McClennan** from **St Peter's School Science Department** has visited the **Year 3** children to talk about fossils, and provided resources to enable the children to be archaeologists for the afternoon!
- The **discos** were super. A **HUGE** thank you to all the staff who supported. I think the **Infant children** enjoyed not having mums and dads in the hall, they certainly had more space to move about. **Thank you for trusting us.**
- After the half term break I can share with you more information regarding the **stairwell renovations** happening in the **Junior School**.
- **Thank you** to everyone who has said positive words about the new style newsletter....I am learning a new skill every week!
- We have loved having the children this half term, **OPAL** has been a joy to watch at lunchtimes, **Mrs Leech** [our Site Manager ] is coping with the mud! However, we are hoping that we have some **welly racks** for **Junior School** children soon.

- We say a fond farewell to **Mrs Ellie McPherson** who has recently helped out in Year 5 and Year 6 this half term. She has been a cleaner for us for quite some time and we will miss her as she begins her maternity leave.
- We are pleased to announce that **Mrs Ellis Henderson** had a beautiful baby girl earlier this week, called Nora. How exciting!

## **!Attention Attendance!**



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*Please Bee on time for school.*

*It is extremely important to aim for 96+%, this will ensure your child makes the best progress.*

**Junior School: 8.40am - 3.15pm Infant School: 8.45am - 3.15pm Preschool: 9.00am - 3.00pm** This week the **best attendance** was seen in: **Class 4 in the Infant School** and **Willow Class in the Junior School**. Our **Bee on time** winner is **Kirat**. We reward the child with the **best punctuality** each week in the Infant Class with the best attendance. A **Tesco voucher** for home and a **lil' prize** for the child is given.

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### **OPAL Occurrences...**

We are excited to share that **Class 5 in the Infant School** and **Chestnut Class in the Junior School** collected the most items for our **OPAL Bingo**. **Congratulations** to them they will receive an extra playtime. How exciting!

## Golden Welly Award...



Our **winners** for... Last week: **Nevaeh** in Year 1 & **Abbie** in Year 5 This week: **Jax** in Year 1 & **Sofia** in Year 3 **Well done to the children for showing us how to play well.**

**Thank you for all your support.**

**Don't forget those wellies so they can access all areas.** Junior children please start to bring in **named wellies** in a **named bag.**



*1 - welly!*



*2 - mud, mud, glorious mud...*



*3 - water, water, everywhere!*



*4 - sandy days...*

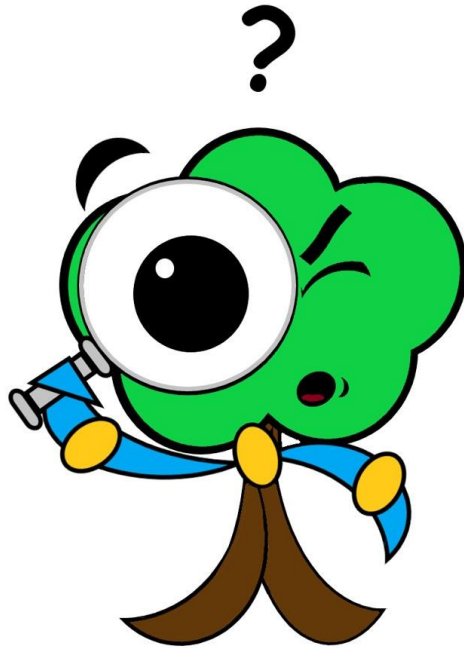


*5 - want some?*



6 - dig, dig digging...

## Classroom Curiosity...



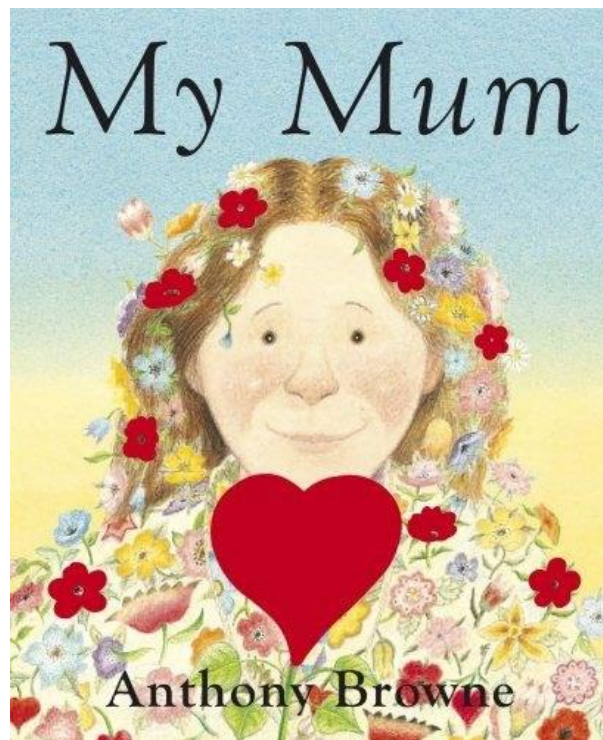


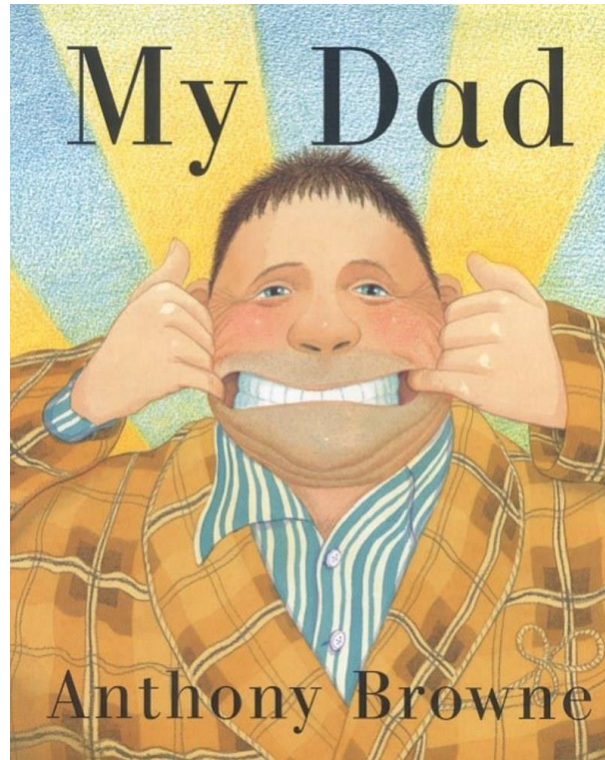
## Preschool

**This week** we have been thinking about the people who are important in our lives and some of us made pictures and cards, we also read, '**My Dad**' and '**My Mum**' by **Anthony Browne** and everyone did so well thinking of something that was special about their own special person!

**'My Dad is good at fixing cars'** **'My Dad is good at football!'** We also drew around our own feet and then used this as 'rulers' looking around our environment to find items that were 'longer', 'shorter', 'bigger', 'smaller' or 'the same' size as our feet. We used lots of lovely mathematical language.

**After half term**, we will be making bird food and also introducing our new core story 'The Three Little Pigs'. Do share any photos on Tapestry of anything you do over half term, we love to look together and share these experiences at Preschool.



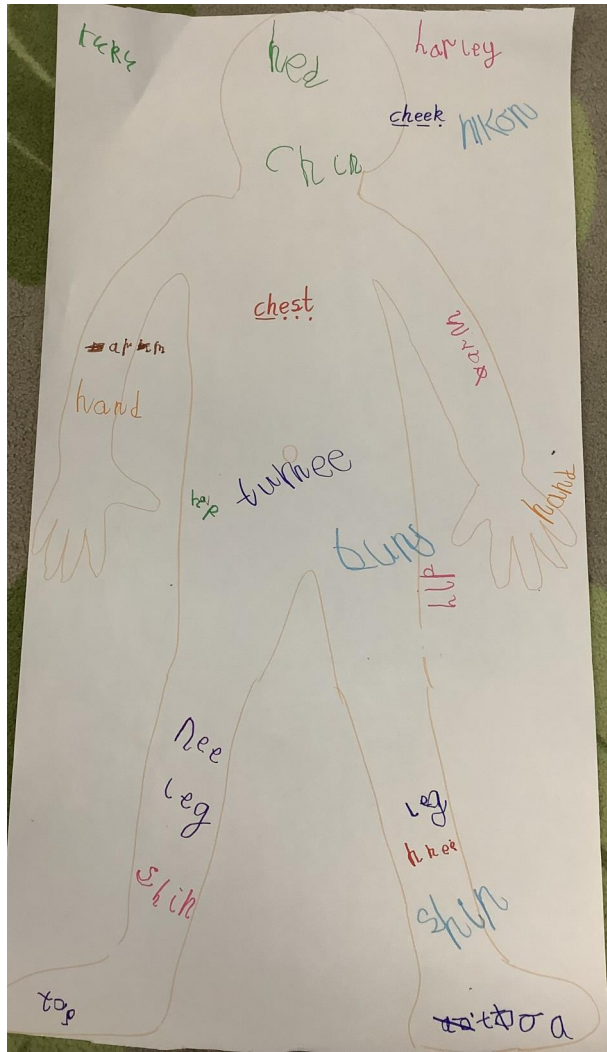




## Year R

**This week**, we made our own 'Enormous Turnip' zig-zag books, using our phonic knowledge to support the writing of labels and captions independently. Our R.E learning has focussed on 'belonging' and we have really enjoyed sharing our homework challenge posts linked to this on Tapestry throughout the week. There is **no** set homework challenge for the half term break, but, as always, we would encourage the children to share their real and **Bug Club** reading books as much as possible. Reading, writing and counting are good activities to continue to work on and we would love to see some **Tapestry** posts of you out and about enjoying some fresh air and exercise in the holiday!

**After half term**, we are looking forward to our 'U.K Games' Sparky Start Day on **Monday 24th February**. We will be sharing our new Literacy focus book 'Supertato' and exploring partitioning numbers into '5 and a bit' to show 6, 7, 8 and 9.





## Year 1

**This week**, we wrote a postcard as an evacuee child to our parents. In maths, we have been learning to tell o'clock times. We enjoyed performing our final presentation of **'Funnybones'** by **Janet and Alan Ahlberg**.. **After half term**, we will be starting our new text, **'Nat Fantastic'** by **Giles Andreae**. We are also looking forward to our **Sparky Start Day** which is all about games in the UK.

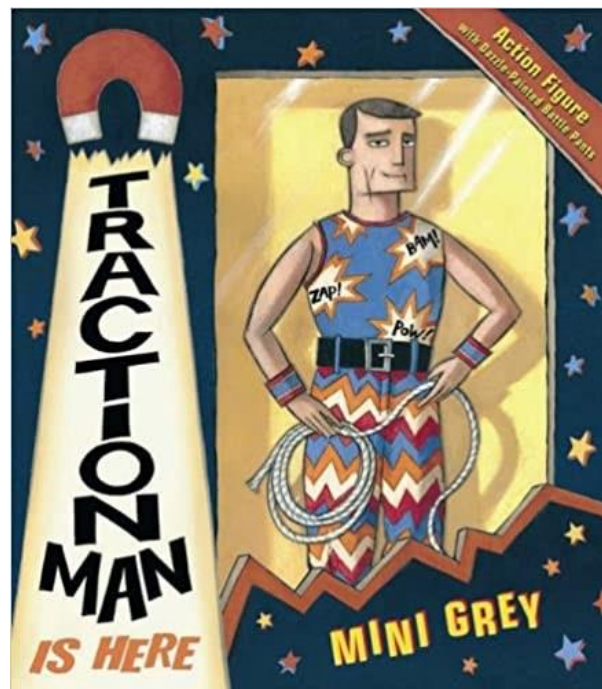


## Year 2

**This week**, we spent time with our teachers editing and improving an explanation text. We learnt how to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers. We used tuned and untuned

instruments to accompany the story of 'Funnybones' by Janet and Alan Ahlberg. We reflected on **Our Learning Journey** this half term, which shows what we remember, what we know and what we can do in history, design and technology, music and science.

**After half term**, we will begin reading our key text 'Traction Man Is Here' by Mini Grey. In maths we will continue adding and subtraction two 2-digits. We are looking forward to being geographers and finding out about the UK and Northern Ireland.

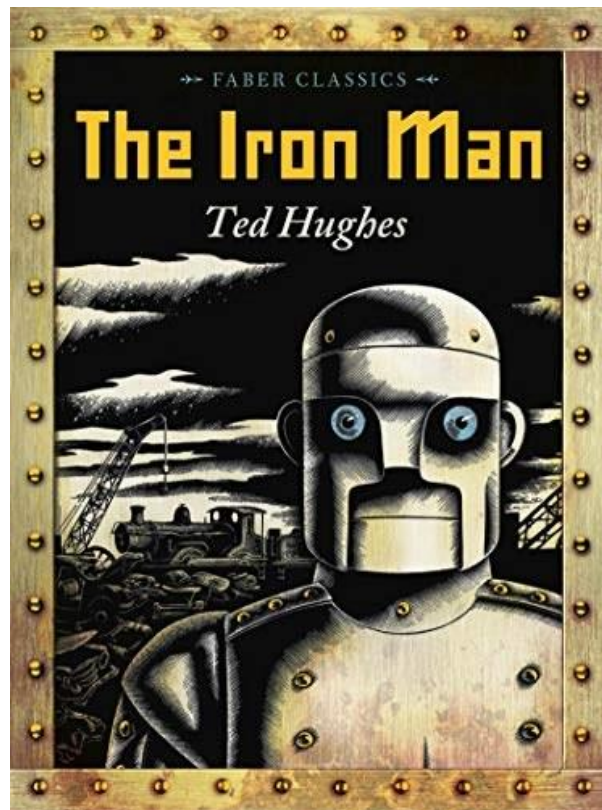


### Year 3

**This week** we thoroughly enjoyed our science visit, where we got to become archaeologists digging and chiselling fossils, and we also got to physically explore some real-life fossils. We have also been exploring Sikhism during our RE days and created some excellent posters.

**After half term**, we will be learning about the Iron Age in history and reading our final

chapter of our class novel. 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We look forward to seeing all of Year 3 back after the half term break, please keep reading!

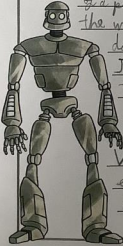


Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
DWO: Proofreading and editing

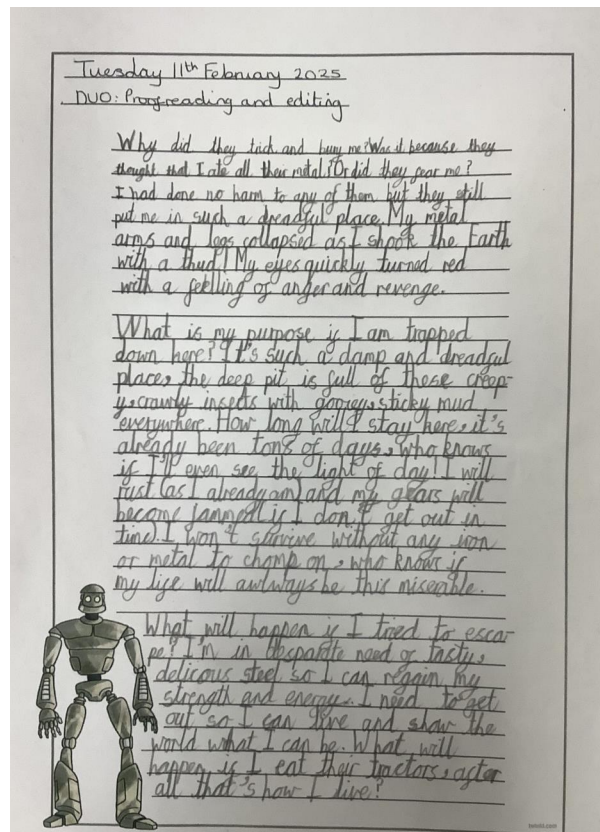
Why did they trick and bury me?  
Did they think I would destroy their houses?  
Did I eat too much metal? It was such a  
terrifying fall to the very bottom of the  
repulsive pit. I had done no harm to any of  
them. I had been careful not to take the delicious  
metal stuck to their houses. I worried they  
would trick me but that's just what they  
did! Whilst I fell my eyes turned a  
deep shade of angry red. What had I done  
wrong? I could not tell.

What is my purpose if I am trapped down  
here? How did the farmer think I would  
survive here? Do they think I can find some  
scrapped metal? There is no metal for me to  
chomp on, just squishy worms. I need to live  
too! The only things I can feel in this nightmare  
is a place are the warty roots of the oak trees and  
the wriggling insects. I can only tell if it's  
day or night from the sounds of the animals.  
Just give me a chance. I was built to stand  
tall and be a great robot. Not to sit  
motionless in this disgusting pit.

What would happen if I tried to  
escape? I'm in desperate need of some  
delicious rusty iron and shiny steel.



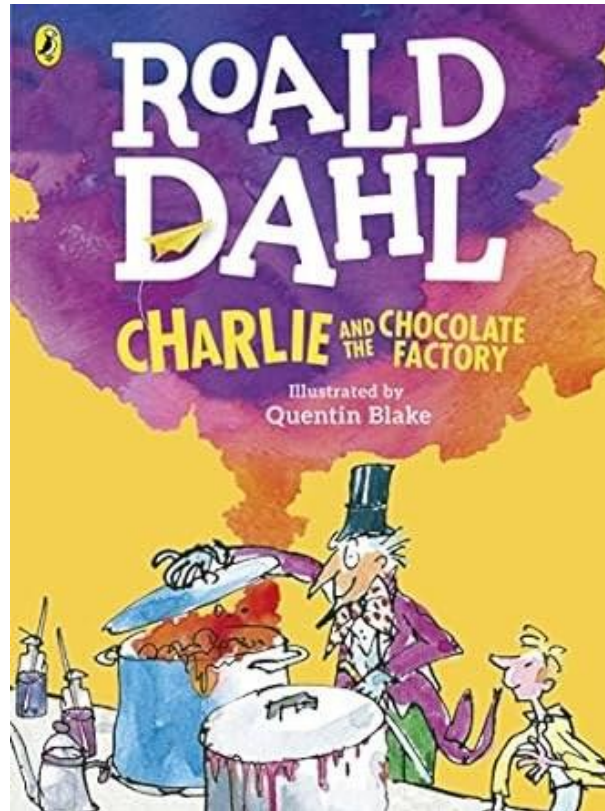




## Year 4

**This week** we wrote a wonderful retell which included expanded noun phrases, time conjunctions, a range of punctuation and direct speech. In history, we learned about one of the world's most famous monuments, Stonehenge.

**Next term**, we will be studying the Iron Age in history, agriculture and settlements in geography, and we will continue to read '**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**' by **Roald Dahl** in English. **Have a happy and safe break and please make sure your child is reading daily and practising their times tables.** Please scroll down to see our **video workshop** and don't forget [Time Tables Rock Stars](#) is a great way to practise at home.

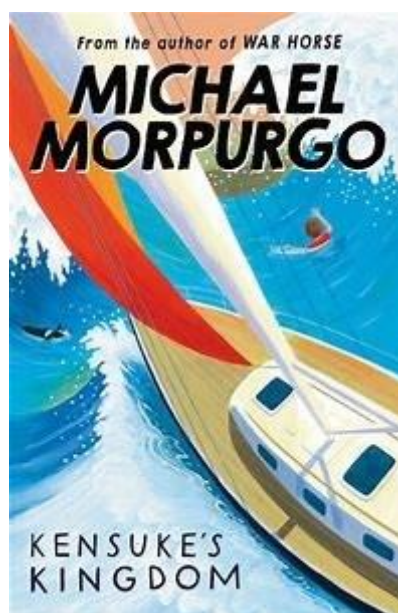




## Year 5

**This week**, we have been learning about how religion is expressed through art. We have also finished reading, '**Kensuke's Kingdom**' by **Michael Morpurgo** – they loved it!

**After half term**, the children will learn about letter writing, diary entries and how to write an adventure narrative.

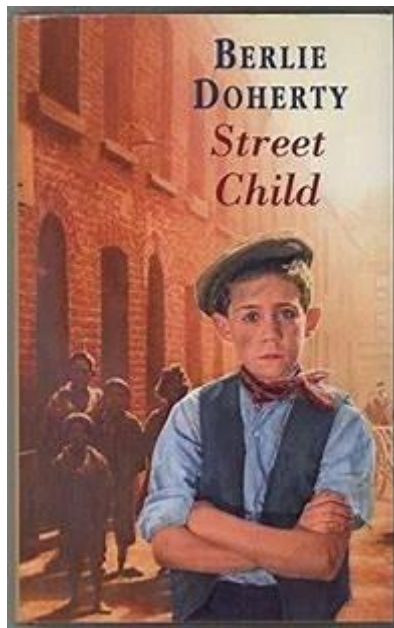


## Year 6

**This week**, we have been calculating angles around a point in maths, reading '**Street Child**' by **Berlie Doherty** in English and thinking about urban planning in geography. We have also enjoyed a visit from a guest speaker, Caroline Wallace who was telling us about Humanism for RE. **Here is what the children said about the visit:**

- Thank you for taking the time to come and talk to us.
- Thank you for sharing fascinating facts about yourself.
- I liked finding out about the different type of belief.
- I liked the information about the things I didn't know about.
- I liked being able to ask questions.

**After half term**, we will be learning about angles in a triangle in maths and starting to think about the human circulatory system in science.



*8 - Agility and balance in PE...*



9 - Aiming high in PE...





## Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check [MTC] Video 2025

Please [click here](#) or **see below** for our 2025 video explaining how the **Year 4 MTC** [Multiplication Tables Check] is administered and how **together** we can help your child meet the threshold.



## Smartphone Sense...



As you will be aware, there are increasing concerns that **smartphones** might be harmful to children's well-being.

There is no doubt that many of the issues that our children encounter around bullying, unkindness, or access to inappropriate content stem from **behaviour on smartphones**.

You may already be aware of the [‘Smartphone Free Childhood’](#) group. They are a grass-roots movement, created by parents, that argue that “childhood is too short to be spent on a smartphone.”

You may have seen the [BBC Breakfast Interview](#) about the campaign, or the short film [‘A Stolen Childhood’](#).

Are you aware of the group, and of their [‘Parent Pact’](#)?

*"By signing this Pact, you're joining a growing community of parents in Cambridgeshire choosing to wait to give their child a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9.*

*The Pact is anonymous, but the more of us who sign, the more powerful it becomes in shifting the social norm in our community.*

*Plus we'll use the data to show the Government how much this matters to parents across the country, so that they take urgent action to protect children from the harms of smartphones and social media.*

*Your choice – and your voice – really is powerful."*

School recognises that this is absolutely a matter of **parent choice**, but we also recognise the potential value of this movement.

We know that many of you feel a pressure to provide smartphones for your children because you know (or your children tell you) that all their friends have them.

We know that many parents and carers find themselves providing smartphones for their children even though they have their own very strong reservations about doing so.

This is an opportunity to reduce the pressure on families; if children know that none of their peers have smartphones, they are less likely to feel they will miss out by not having one of their own.

Some studies suggest that the average UK 12-year-old now spends 29 hours a week – equivalent to a part-time job – on their smartphone.

This leaves little time for the real-world activities and relationships that enable them to learn essential life skills.

The resources and community that [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) provide may support you to decide for your own children.



## Parking Plea...

'**Cars near our school can be scary!**' This is our pupil voice. There are **parking orders** that are clearly shown [see images] that explain when and where parking is allowed. **Please** adhere to them, there is ample parking behind the Mayfield shops, with a subway for easy safe and access to school. **Please keep us all safe by *not* using Mayfield Crescent as a place to park, drop off, pick up, stop, or a turning around space...thank you :)**



**PEDESTRIAN  
and CYCLE  
ZONE**



**Mon - Fri  
8.30 - 9.30 am  
2.45 - 3.30 pm  
Term time only**





Crop



  
**No  
stopping  
on entrance  
markings**



Diary Dates...



## Diary Dates

Sparky Start	<b>Infant School</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	An exciting day of PE activities to start our geography work on UK countries. <b>Children need to wear PE kits.</b>
NSPCC Assemblies	<b>All schools</b>	Wk beg Monday 24th February	We will be investigating how to 'Speak out. Stay safe.'
NSPCC Workshops	<b>Year 2 Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	Tuesday 4th March	We will be further investigating how to 'Speak out. Stay safe.'
World Book Day	<b>All schools</b>	Thursday 6th March	More information to come...a little change to our normal activities.
World Book Day Menu	<b>All schools</b>	Thursday 6th March	An exciting lunch to celebrate World Book Day.
Stairwell renovations	<b>Junior School</b>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	More details to follow regarding the upgrade to our stairwells.
Vision Screening	<b>Year R</b>	Wednesday 12th March	The NHS Vision Screening Team will be in school to check the vision of all children in Class 1 and 2.
Red Nose Day	<b>All schools</b>	Friday 21st March	We will support this worthwhile charity. More details to follow.
GENR8 Assembly	<b>Junior School</b>	Monday 31st March	The GENR8 Company will explore eater with the children in a special assembly.
Easter Concert	<b>Year R</b>	Tuesday 1st April	Our children in Year R [classes 1 & 2] will perform a few Easter themed songs for families to enjoy.
Easter Fete	<b>All schools</b>	Wednesday 2nd April	Our PATHS team will be organising our annual festive fair for the children.
Easter Menu	<b>All schools</b>	Wednesday 2nd April	An Easter lunch to celebrate Easter.
Easter Bonnet Parade	<b>Infant and Preschool</b>	Thursday 3rd April	All Preschool and Infant children are invited to make an Easter bonnet at home to bring to school for the annual parade.
Easter Fun Menu	<b>All schools</b>	Friday 4th April	An Fun Easter lunch to celebrate Easter and the end of term.
Last day of term	<b>All schools</b>	Friday 4th April	School will shut for the Easter Break.
Treehouse Club closed	<b>All schools</b>	Friday 4th April	No Treehouse Club for this evening.
Summer Term begins	<b>All schools</b>	Wednesday 23rd April	School reopens for all children. 8.40am for KS2, 8.45am for Year R and KS1 and 9.00am for Preschool.

**Infant School** children don't forget PE Kits on **Monday 24th February** please for the **Sparky Start Day**.

**Have a wonderful half term!**