

# Kilby St Mary's C of E Primary School Newsletter



February, 2025

**Christian Value Focus: Hope**      **British Value Focus: Tolerating Faith's and Beliefs of Others'**

Another half term has rattled past, and it seems unbelievable that so has half of the academic year!

This week in school we have been thinking about the Bible passage *1 Corinthians 13*. In this passage Paul talks about love. It is a good reminder for us everyday. "Love is patient, love is kind."

We have seen some wonderful acts of kindness in school this term from looking out for and helping our friends, encouraging others, being patient, using kind words. I have certainly enjoyed giving out plenty of certificates and awards celebrating this.

As we move into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Spring term, we have many events to watch out for; World Book Day, Mother's Day assembly and the Easter Service at the church. So please make a note of these in your diaries.

I want to wish you all a happy half term break and see you all back at school on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Miss Hartshorne



# Diary Dates

- ▶ Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Safer Internet Day
- ▶ **HALF TERM - 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February**
- ▶ Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Parents Evening 1
- ▶ Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Parents Evening 2
- ▶ Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day
- ▶ Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Mothers Day assembly
- ▶ Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April - Church Easter Service
- ▶ Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Class photos
- ▶ **EASTER HOLIDAYS - 14<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> April**
- ▶ **SATs Week - 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May - ALL CHILDREN MUST BE IN SCHOOL**



# Attendance

Attendance is a statutory element which staff and governors are required to monitor in accordance with the school attendance policy. The government requirements regarding attendance were updated in August 2024 and our Attendance policy has been updated and shared with parents accordingly. Our whole school target for attendance is 96%.

It is important to ensure that all children attend school in order that they continue to make progress across all subjects as well as socially.

Attendance for the school year up to 07/02/25 by year group.

Foundation Stage 95.5%

Year 1 96%

Year 2 96%

Year 3 94.1%

Year 4 95.9%

Year 5 95.9%

Year 6 97.4%

**Well done everyone - most year groups have met the target. Congratulations to Year 6 who have exceeded it!**

# Seedlings

Seedlings have had a super few weeks blasting off into space! We have loved our space station role play area; talking to each other on the space walkie talkies, looking at the stars and planets through our telescope and of course lots and lots of chanting '5, 4, 3, 2, 1 ... blast off!!'

We have enjoyed lots of stories set in space but especially the adventures of Baby Bear in Whatever Next? and QPootle5. We thought about what we would take with us if we went into space too!

We have practiced our turn taking skills in space race games and were fabulous at cheering and congratulating each other when we reached the top of our rockets. We have also been very creative - creating our own moon with special puffy paint and making our fantastic space helmets.

Have a lovely half term little astronauts!





# Oak



Oak class loved finding out all about Chinese New Year. We learnt some traditional dance moves and we shared some wonderful foods - we even tried out chopsticks! We found out that the Chinese tale 'The Great Race' tells how 13 animals had to race across the river to get to the Emperor. Each animal was then given a year of the zodiac according to their position in the race. We found out this is the year of the snake and made our own long, twisting snakes!

We have then become space explorers and have found out about the planets in our wonderful solar system. We have loved pretending that we are astronauts blasting off into space and finding new stars and planets! We have been using our amazing writing skills to create a wonderful display and imagine what our life would be like up in space...



# Willow



- ▶ Willow class have loved their design and technology project about pizzas. We learnt about different bread bases, toppings and sauces. All our pizzas had at least one fruit or vegetable and a range of toppings to fit our design brief.
- ▶ We learnt about food safety and the importance of keeping our kitchen/ work area clean around food.
- ▶ We even got to test our pizzas and review them. Yum!

# Maple

Maple Class have been working hard this half term. We have completed our soup cans in the style of Andy Warhol (not that we'd like to taste them) and written a chronological report.

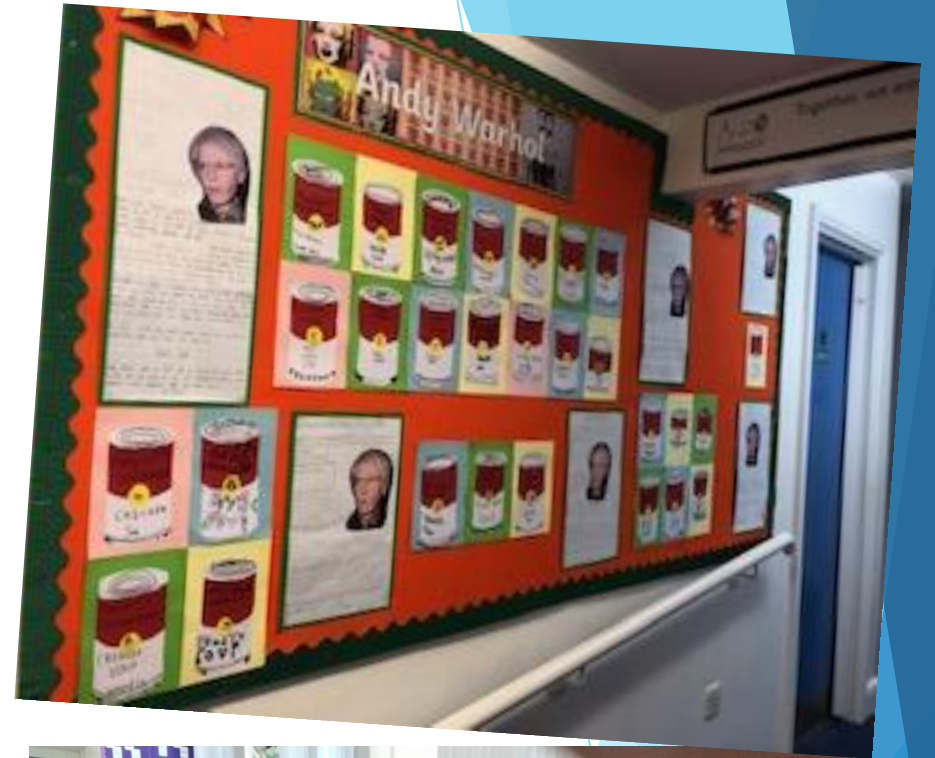
In science, we have been looking at evaporation and the children have set up their own experiments A-F to find the best places in the classroom for evaporation to occur.

The children have been doing gymnastics and are now more flexible and knowledgeable in the stretches used.

This week we have been looking at, 'Safer Internet Week' and thinking about those all the signs of a scam and what we need to know. They were so knowledgeable and accurate in their interactive responses.

I hope you all have a lovely half term and we both look forward to seeing you next half term.

Mrs Connell and Mrs Fielding.



# Rowan

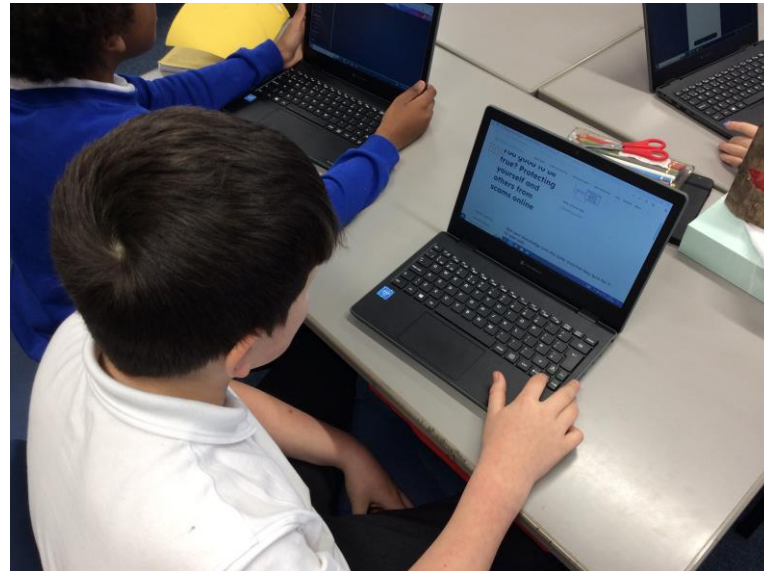
- ▶ In Rowan Class, Year 6 pupils have taken part in a mock SATS week this week. They have all worked really hard, acted upon advice and taken it seriously. Well done!
- ▶ Year 5 pupils have made their own maths times tables board games; they enjoyed playing each others' games.
- ▶ In Art, we have finished our topic about Basquet, finishing our crown designs in the style of the artist.
- ▶ In Science, we have learnt all about Charles Darwin and the Galapagos Islands. Linked to this, we continue our work in English on the novel *'Darwin's Dragons'*, by Lindsay Galvin.
- ▶ Next half-term, we will be studying Rivers and our English work will be linked to this as we study the book *'Journey To The River Sea'*, by Eva Ibbotson.





# Internet Safety Day February 11th

- ▶ Our school took part again this year in activities to do with keeping safe online.
- ▶ This year's theme was 'Scams'. Children were taught what scams are, what 'phishing' is, and how to protect themselves, both online and offline.



# Dodgeball

- ▶ Last week, our Year 5/6 team took part in the local Dodgeball competition. We came 6<sup>th</sup> overall and won the Spirit Of The Games Award for our Honesty, Team-Work and Respect. Well done!
- ▶ This week was the turn of Year 3/4 at their Dodgeball Festival. They had a great time playing with and against other schools, and their behaviour was exemplary as always!



# E Safety

- ▶ This month's E Safety Guide from National Online Safety is all about: 'Fortnite'
- ▶ See the attached guide for more details.



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Twitter - [@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

Facebook - [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 31.07.2019

## Congratulations Mrs. Turner



This month Mrs. Turner was awarded a certificate and gift in recognition of achieving 25 years service with Leicestershire County Council. Most of that service has been here at Kilby St Mary's. We would like to offer our congratulations to Mrs. Turner on this achievement and say how grateful we are for her commitment to our school.



This week PCSO Kirsty Reid visited collective worship to introduce herself to the children. They were interested to hear about her role and how she will work with our school community and Kilby village.



Congratulations to all the children who received an Art Award for shape and pattern. Your work will be displayed on the gallery next half term.



# February half-term at Leicester Cathedral

**FREE!**  
No booking  
required – just  
drop-in



## Make a clay grotesque!

Come and get creative and learn about the grotesques at Leicester Cathedral

**Make your own clay grotesque on:**

**Tuesday 18 February**  
1.30 – 3.30pm

**Thursday 20 February**  
10.00am – 12.00pm



### Tuesday 18 February

10.00am – 12.00pm  
Stained glass inspired craft at  
**Belgrave Library**

Ages 3+  
All children must be  
accompanied by an adult

### Wed 19 February

11.00am – 3.00pm  
Richard III crafts at the  
**Haymarket Shopping Centre**



[www.leicestercathedral.org](http://www.leicestercathedral.org)



7 – 16 March



# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2025



### Ready for Your Next Challenge?

Join Foxton Canal Museum's School Competition!

In partnership with British Science Week, we're inviting schools to take part in our exciting 'Egg Elevator Project'—a creative engineering challenge!

#### What's Included?

- FREE worksheets to guide your project
- Downloadable support materials
- Hands-on school workshops to inspire creativity



### Inspired by Engineering Marvels!

Based on the incredible Foxton Boat Lift, pupils will learn essential problem-solving techniques to tackle an exciting challenge:

**How do you lift a weight up an inclined plane?**

Using basic materials and their imagination, students will create innovative solutions to this fun engineering task!

#### What's at Stake?

- A prize for the winning school!
- The chance to take part in Science Week at the Museum.



### Find Out More

- Email us: [Learning@foxtoncanalmuseum.org](mailto:Learning@foxtoncanalmuseum.org)
- Visit our website: [www.foxtoncanalmuseum.org/school-visits](http://www.foxtoncanalmuseum.org/school-visits)

Unleash your students' creativity and problem-solving skills with this unforgettable experience!



# MENTAL HEALTH Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

## WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH?

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through to adulthood. A report published by NHS England in 2023 found that one in five children aged 5 to 16 were identified as having a probable mental health disorder.

That's 6 children in every classroom!

Source NHS England

Many factors can affect children and young people's mental health. Traumatic events such as losing a loved one, bullying, physical or sexual abuse can trigger mental health problems for those children and young people already vulnerable. Changes to their life such as parents who separate or divorce, moving schools, financial worries or the birth of a sibling can all contribute to feelings of anxiety and poor mental health. For older children factors such as the changes to their body, struggling with school work or caring for a relative and taking on adult responsibilities can affect their mental health.



## RECOGNISE THE SIGNS OF POOR MENTAL HEALTH

Many children and young people will experience behavioural or emotional problems at some stage. For some, these will resolve with time, while others will need professional support.

It can sometimes be difficult to know if there is something upsetting your child, but there are ways to spot when something's wrong.

Look out for:

- Significant changes in behaviour
- Ongoing difficulty sleeping
- Crying more than usual or persistent sadness
- Withdrawing from social situations or losing interest in friends.
- Not wanting to do things they usually like
- Self-harm or neglecting themselves
- Being reluctant to talk
- Irritability and aggression, particularly if this includes unprompted outbursts.
- Changes in appetite or rapid weight loss or weight gain.



The Mental Health Foundation has more information on how to spot the signs of poor mental health. Click the image to find out more.

## Advice and Support

There are a number of services and charities that can offer advice and support on all areas of mental health in young people. Click on the logos to head straight to their website!



**Do you need help now?**  
 24/7 support is available over the phone.  
 CALL NHS 111  
 SELECTING 2 FOR MENTAL HEALTH  
 This number is open 24 hours a day  
 and is totally free and confidential.



## Key Dates

- WORLD CANCER DAY- 4TH FEBRUARY
- TIME TO TALK DAY- 6TH FEBRUARY
- CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK- 3RD TO 9TH FEBRUARY
- EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK- 22TH FEBRUARY TO 6TH MARCH

## Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 2025 will take place from 3-9 February 2025. The theme for 2025 is focus is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. The aim of the week is to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them.

Check out the range of resources, activities and support available for families here!



LET'S GET SOCIAL!



Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity





Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity  
Supporting South Leicestershire Schools to provide opportunities for all young people

# South Leicestershire Community Board

*Teen Health aims to help all children and young people in Leicestershire live healthier and happier lives. They provide support through a range of options such as group work, workshops, and one-to-one sessions. When needed the team will refer and signpost to other services across the county.*

**teen health**  
11-19 service

[Find out more here](#)

**ACTIVE Leicestershire**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORT HARSHIP FUND**

The fund will support young people from Leicestershire, Leicestershire and Rutland, in the greatest financial need, to overcome economic constraints and access physical activity and sport as a participant, official, coach, volunteer or talented sports person. Young people should be aged 21 years or under on 31st March 2025, or up to the age of 25 years for young people with SEND.

[active-together.org/funding/index/21812](https://active-together.org/funding/index/21812)

**ROUND 1 DEADLINE: OCTOBER 6TH 2024**  
**ROUND 2 DEADLINE: MARCH 2ND 2025**



**Click here**



The Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust have created a directory of mental health support available in your local area and how to access it.

[Find out more here](#)

Local Area Coordinators (LAC) support residents who wish to make changes to their current situations, whether they would like to find local groups and activities, or get involved in volunteering. They may be able to help them with benefits, budgeting or provide access to food and hygiene banks.



[Find details of your Local Area Coordinators here](#)

**Find local support services in your area this winter [here](#)**

