

27th February 2026 Issue 7



Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see the highlights of this week in school:

- Unfortunately, I missed the first 3 days of this exciting week as I was struck down by the dreaded chicken pox virus, shingles, so I stayed at home until the spots had all healed over just like all the children have to and I bathed in calamine lotion and tied my hands up in oven mitts so I couldn't give into that seven-year itch!! However, I soon caught up with all the news that children were keen to share with me.
- On Monday, 35 children from our extremely large choir made the journey to the O2 in London to join the largest children's choir in the world made up of 9000 children and they spent a whole day rehearsing for an evening of spectacular entertainment. The children didn't get home till almost midnight in some cases but they had an experience of a life-time. The electric Umbrella company (of BGT fame) performed on stage to the delight of all who recognised them!! And, of course, there was the now traditional appearance from the UK-based hip hop theatre company who performed live on stage during the concert, led the mass dance routines that children learnt in advance and created a high-energy choreography that got the entire arena moving!!! A huge thank you to Miss Batt & Mrs Millard, our 'Choir-Masters', Ms Clarke, Mrs Noe and Ms Byrne who all gave up their valuable time to supervise 35 excitable children through the ear-splitting volume, flashing lights, endless queues (especially for the toilets!), late-night travel and wonderfully chaotic whirlwind that is Young Voices at the O2!!
- The dreaded Dentist turned up on Monday looking for little beings whose teeth could be painted and several children were ferried out of class to have the magic liquid applied to their teeth. And magic it really is - my own children had the procedure when they were small and they're now in their thirties (yikes!) and not a filling in sight for either of them! It's really worth doing if you get the chance!
- Tuesday saw an influx of clowns in EYFS. The 'Clowns without Borders' Team visited with 4 clowns who taught the children that every child can make another child smile! What a great message to bring into school! And every EYFS child went home with a red nose and eye-mask so I'm sure they made their families laugh as well.



- Our Year 6 children are growing up fast and this week they began their 6 week course on 'Preparing for my Future'. We usually see a real shift in aspiration during this course as the children begin to see that their futures lie in their own hands and they can be or do whatever they can dream if they put the hard work in. Nothing is beyond them.
- Tuesday was also the scene of the dreaded school Health and Safety Audit! I had to leave Mr Finch and Ms Haynes to face the music alone as I was still medically declared "unsuitable for public viewing"! However, all went extremely well, according to the two of them (I've yet to see the report, though, so I'll hold back comment until I get that!!)
- Wednesday and Thursday were 'Review Days'. These are days when we visit every class to look at the learning taking place - this week we were looking at maths and, as usual, your children did you proud with outstanding behaviour for learning. I missed KS2 but the infants were a joy to behold and they could tell me everything they were learning and could show me exactly how they calculated all their sums - the confidence was superb.
- Year 6 went on their long-awaited Harry Potter Trip on Thursday and returned with the excitement of fans after a Quidditch final, a sugar rush and very little volume control. This is always one of the most exciting trips of the 7-year school journey and it serves to bring the text alive that the children are studying.
- Mr Charlee took a group of our talented Year 1 children to take part in an athletics competition and they had a blast - first time for many and they were so excited. As always, behaviour was impeccable, reflecting the high standards we expect and they consistently uphold.
- We are delighted to share we have achieved the Gold standard Award for the prestigious Artsmark which recognises the excellent progress made in placing the arts at the heart of our curriculum and school life. The evaluators said that we "*wove Creative learning meaningfully across all subjects – from Bunraku puppetry in literacy to Composer of the Month in assemblies – with pupils confidently reflecting on and refining their work.*" They said that our commitment to equality and inclusion ensured that all children access rich, representative artistic experiences, enhanced by events such as Black History Week and community performances. They also mentioned that our free instrumental tuition for disadvantaged pupils and the growth of our Performing Arts group from six to sixty members further reflected the strength of our provision. We're so proud of this award because we strongly believe that the creative arts are really important in all learning. I must commend our teachers here for their hard work in planning lessons and activities that encompass creativity rather than sticking a worksheet in front of a child for an easy life. Our teachers are complete stars and a special mention for Mrs Bracken who spent hours drawing together all the evidence for the judges. Thank you Mrs Bracken for taking the time to ensure the school is recognised for its unwavering commitment to creativity, high standards and giving every child the opportunity to express themselves and shine.

- And finally, we said a very sad goodbye this week to Mrs Hak in the office. Mrs Hak has been with us for about 8 ½ years and in that time, she's seen many changes as you can imagine. Throughout those years Mrs Hak has been a particular support for me, especially when I first took over as Head Teacher and she has always shown herself to be unfailingly calm, utterly dependable and deeply committed to ensuring that every child, parent and member of staff feels welcomed, supported and well cared for. Working in a school environment brings its own unique brand of controlled chaos, and Mrs Hak always had that rare gift of knowing exactly when to be resolutely professional and when to see the humour in the sheer absurdity of the moment – and goodness knows, we shared many laughs along the way! Now Mrs Hak is ready to retire to the peace and sanctity of slower mornings, unhurried cups of tea and days that are no longer dictated by the ringing of the school phone – though I suspect she may find herself missing the drama before too long! I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Hak the very best in her well-deserved retirement and thanking her wholeheartedly for the dedication, warmth and quiet efficiency she has shown to our school community over so many years.
- And that's it for news this week - it just remains for me to wish you a lovely weekend and I leave you with this thought:

***“After years of writing everyone else’s timetables,
there comes a moment when you finally get to design your own.”***

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs. Searle



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Stars of the Week



- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| R1 Jax | 4A Murtajiz |
| R2 Jacob | 4B Milana |
| 1A Ronnie | 5A Mason |
| 1B Isaiah | 5B Ola |
| 2A Callum | 5C Fikayo |
| 2B Aarish B | 6A Daniel A |
| 3A Rohan | 6B Sophia |
| 3B Ameer | Willow Mujtaba |

Kindness Award

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| R1 Shaveer | 4A Aisha |
| R2 Isaiah | 4B Rebecca |
| 1A Ruby | 5A Aadam |
| 1B Rukah-Ya | 5B Promesse |
| 2A Sehaj | 5C Drey |
| 2B Luna | 6A Lily |
| 3A Paula | 6B Diana |
| 3B Riley | |



Congratulations to

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| Daisy R1 | Ailiyah R2 |
| Dior R1 | Harper R2 |
| Myiah R1 | Dollie 3B |
| Mikaeel R1 | Adelaide 6B |
| Paige R2 | Daria 6B |
| Freddie R2 | Diana 6B |



on earning your 50 points to choose a book from our vending machine. Well done!

Achiever Badges

Congratulation to

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Dev R1 | Aariish A 2B | Aisha 4A |
| Dior R1 | Archie 2B | India 4A |
| Hurain R1 | Siyana 2B | Elliot 4A |
| Zaina R1 | Kamilija 3B | Dottie 4A |
| Rayaan R2 | Kevin 3B | Elizabeth 4A |
| Aaliyah R2 | Isobel 3B | Laura 4A |
| Nila IB | Alicia 3A | Regi 5A |
| Rukah-Ya IB | Maddison 4A | Shriyah 5B |
| Samraj IB | Teddy 4A | |



for reaching gold 5 times and earning an achiever badge. Well done!

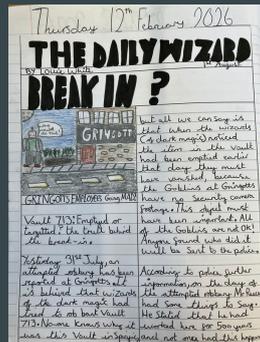
Reaching gold this week

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Aadanan R1 | Annie 2A | Aisha 4A | Amelie 4B |
| Oscar R1 | Billie 2A | Nate 4A | James 4B |
| Yunus R1 | Harley 2A | India 4A | Regi 5A |
| Dev R1 | Idrees 2A | Elliot 4A | Harry 5A |
| Dior R1 | Meltem 2A | Murtajiz 4A | Reyan 5A |
| Hurain R1 | Mannat 2A | Diyar 4A | Jamie 5A |
| Zaina R1 | Arisha 2B | Dottie 4A | Vivien 5B |
| Noah R2 | Bella 2B | Mia 4A | Murtuza 5B |
| Nova R2 | Luna 2B | Shannon 4A | Shriyah 5B |
| Rayaan R2 | Aariish 2B | Lenny 4A | Jordan 5C |
| Yaqub R2 | Archie 2B | Elizabeth 4A | Ibrahim 5C |
| Amayah R2 | Siyana 2B | Laura 4A | Mason 5C |
| Ariah R2 | Dexter 2B | Isa 4A | Grace 5C |
| Nikolas R2 | Albie 3A | Woody 4A | Freddie 6B |
| Aaliyah R2 | Alica 3A | Summer 4A | Shayan 6B |
| Ronnie 1A | Dion 3A | Zaheen 4A | |
| Yeva 1A | Nellie 3A | Ibraah 4A | |
| Mia 1A | Kamilija 3B | Arlo 4A | |
| Amelia 1B | Charlie 3B | Maddison 4A | |
| Arthur 1B | Layla 3B | Ali 4A | |
| Nila 1B | Kevin 3B | Dalia 4A | |
| Rukah Ya 1B | Evani 3B | Aarshy 4A | |
| Samraj 1B | Isobel 3B | Teddy 4A | |
| Inaaya 1B | Sofia 3B | Finn 4B | |
| N'Myah 1B | Deivid 3B | Lorin 4B | |



Presentation Award

Lovie in 6A



Spring Term Dates

- Monday 2nd March - Year 5 trip to the British Museum
- Wednesday 4th March - Year 3 trip to Colchester Castle
- Thursday 5th March - World Book day
- Wednesday 11th March - Year 1 Victorian trip to Braintree Museum
- Wednesday 11th March - Scootfit workshops
- Thursday 12th March - Scootfit workshops
- Friday 13th March - PTA Mother's Day stalls
- Monday 16th March - Stay and Learn week - (not 3A)
- Thursday 19th March - PTA Non-uniform day - bring an Easter egg!
- Monday 23rd March - EYFS Cycle Awareness day
- Tuesday 24th March - Year 1 Victorian Assemblies to parents 1A - 9:30 1B- 2:30
- Wednesday 25th March - Year 4 Easter Play to parents
- Thursday 26th March - Year 2 trip to Ingrebourne Country Park
- Friday 27th March - Easter Bonnet Parade and PTA Easter egg hunt
- **Friday 27th March break up at 1:30 for Easter**
- **Tuesday 14th April - Return to school**

Golden Welly Award

The award for great OPAL play this week goes to:

Hallie in 2A
Joshua in 5C

Well done!

