

JANUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER



Welcome back to school! We hope all our families enjoyed a happy and restful Christmas break. It has been wonderful to see our children return with smiling faces, ready for a new term of learning. As we settle back into routines, please remember to wrap up warm during the colder weather by wearing weather appropriate (named) coats, hats, and layers to stay comfortable throughout the day. We look forward to a positive and productive term ahead.



OPEN AFTERNOON

We would like to invite parents and carers in to join us for an open afternoon, where you will have the opportunity to look through your child's books and see the work they have been completing in class. This is a great chance to celebrate your child's learning, gain an insight into classroom life, and speak informally with staff. This will take place on Tuesday 10th February at 2:00pm. You will be asked to sign in by a member of the teaching team within your child's class upon arrival for safeguarding purposes.

ATTENDANCE

At the end of Term 2, our attendance was 95.6% with 13 children being recorded as persistently absent (attendance below 90%). If your child's attendance has dipped below 90%, you would have received a letter from our attendance officer, Mrs Russell. It is important that we work together to improve the attendance of all children and particularly to show improvements if a letter has been received.

Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of success. When attendance drops below 90%, it means a student is missing nearly one full month of school each year. Those missed days add up quickly and can impact learning, confidence, and progress.

We were really proud of our journey to improved attendance last year as we were one of the highest attending within the trust, and were above National levels. We hope to continue this journey this academic year and would like to thank you for your support with this.

BOOK SHARE

Book Share is a calm and enjoyable time where children share books with their parents and friends. It is an opportunity for the children to listen to stories, talk about pictures, join in with repeated phrases, and begin to develop early reading skills in a relaxed way. The focus is on enjoying books together and fostering a love of reading. Sharing books regularly at home will further support your child's confidence and enjoyment of reading.

Book share this term will take place on:

- Monday 12th January: Hedgehogs
- Tuesday 13th January: Badgers
- Wednesday 14th January: Puffins
- Thursday 15th January: Bees

Please join us at 2:55pm on your child's allocated day to share a book with your child.



PANTO - BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The pantomime will be taking place on Wednesday 21st January. Thank you to those families that have already contributed towards the cost of the show, it is greatly appreciated. A gentle reminder that we are currently running at a £258 loss so if you have yet to do so, please make your contribution of £8.61 per child via MCAS before Monday 19th January.

Unfortunately, unless we cover the full cost of the pantomime, we are not in a financial position to be able to book the fabulous M&M Productions for another year.



NELFT EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TEAM

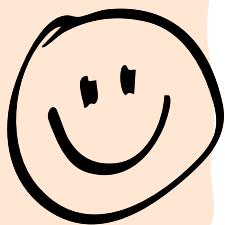
We are pleased to let parents and carers know that our school will soon be receiving additional support from the Kent NELFT Emotional Wellbeing Team. This service will work alongside school staff to help promote positive emotional wellbeing for our pupils and provide guidance and support where needed. Further information about how this support will be offered in school will be shared in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, further information about the service can be found here: <https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/kent-primary-schools>

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February is Children's Mental Health Week.

During the week, we will be taking time in school to help children understand the importance of looking after their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Through age-appropriate activities, discussions, and stories, our children will explore ways to recognise their feelings, talk about emotions, and learn simple strategies to help them feel calm and supported. We encourage parents and carers to talk with their children at home about their feelings and remind them that it's always okay to ask for help.

A lot of our work within school is based around the book "The Colour Monster" so this is a good tool to use in which to have these discussions.



RECEPTION HANDWRITING

Last term, Reception started to learn the correct way to form letters. If you could practice at home with your child, this will help them to become more fluent in their writing.

Letters taught: c, a, d, g, o, q, e, s

Guidance and support with this can be found on our school website.

RECEPTION CURRICULUM

Within Maths, Reception will cover the following:

- Counting to 6
- Counting 6, 7 and 8
- Counting 9 and 10
- Comparing numbers within 10
- Addition to 10
- Measure

Within Drawing Club (Writing), Reception will be using the following texts:

- The Three Little Pigs
- The Gingerbread Man
- The Little Red Hen
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- The Three Billy Goat's Gruff

FOSIS

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the most recent FOSIS Fundraisers.

A total of £332.40 was raised for the Christmas Fair.

For the Christmas Raffle, a total of £643.00 was raised. Please note, winners have either been texted or emailed - please keep an eye out/junk mail.

Money raised will go towards resources for the children to enjoy!

