

News on the Ninth

March 2025

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the March Edition of Our School Newsletter!

As we step into the vibrant month of March, we're excited to share the wonderful things happening at our school! This month, we've had the joy of celebrating Book Week, a time to celebrate the magic of reading and explore new stories. Our pupils had a blast participating in activities, dressing up as their favourite characters, and sharing their love for books.

Looking ahead, we have even more fun learning experiences, creative activities, and exciting events to look forward to as we embrace the arrival of spring. We hope you enjoy reading about all the highlights, and achievements in this edition!

Parent Forum



Why not come along to the Parent Forum on **19th March 2025 at 8.50am?**

We aim to review the Special Educational Needs policy.

Please contact the office by 3pm on 17th March if you wish to attend the forum as this will help us to organise an appropriately sized room for the meeting.

PTA Quiz night

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent Quiz Night! It was a fantastic evening of fun, friendly competition, and community spirit. Your support made the event a great success, and we couldn't have done it without all the participants and volunteers. We look forward to hosting more events like this and continuing to work together to make our school even better!

Online Safety Theme – Privacy and Security

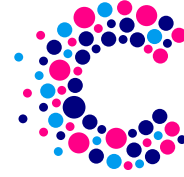
At home, please could you have a discussion with your child regarding this area.

- In EYFS and KS1, it could be discussing what is 'private' information and 'adults they can trust'.
- In Lower KS2, discussions about keeping passwords to themselves and types of private information which they should not share online.
- In Upper KS2, discussing what to do if they think passwords are not secure and 'seeking' consent when popups / terms and conditions appear.



Book Week – Bring and Buy book sale

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated books and supported our recent book sale! Thanks to your generosity and support, we raised an incredible **£522** for Cancer Research. Your contributions not only helped provide new homes for books but also made a real difference in supporting vital cancer research.



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

RE Day - Appreciating Creation with John Hardwick

On Monday, 24th February, John Hardwick visited us to teach about Appreciating Creation through a series of workshops and an assembly. John brought his friend Charlie along (with his juggling batons and guitar) and helped us explore the Creation Story from the Bible as part of our RE learning. We imagined what our planet must have looked like at the start – shiny and new.

We learned about the word caretaker and discussed how we do not own the Earth, but instead, we have a responsibility to look after it. John encouraged us to think about the current state of our planet and the responsibilities we have as caretakers of the world and our future.

The workshops were great fun, and we had the opportunity to share our thoughts on the world and what is wrong with it today. We also discussed ways to improve it, such as tackling pollution and litter, and how we can all make a difference.



Big Walk and Wheel

We're taking part in the 'Big Walk and Wheel'. We're trying to encourage as many children to take part on as many days as possible between 24 March and 4 April by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school.



Polite Reminders

Please be reminded not to park your vehicle across resident driveways or in front of garages. Thank you.

Book Week

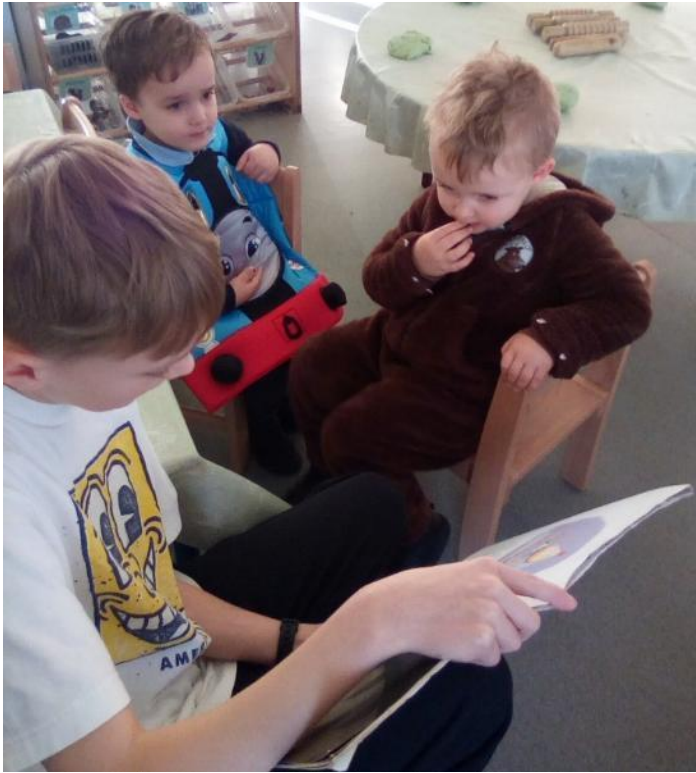
We had a brilliant time celebrating World Book Week! The highlight of the week was a visit from author Rebecca Colby, who led fun and engaging creative writing workshops. She helped the children come up with imaginative characters and exciting stories.

World Book Day itself was full of fantastic costumes, with children and staff bringing their favourite book characters to life. Throughout the week, different year groups came together to share books, making it a wonderful opportunity to enjoy stories with new friends.

What a fantastic week filled with creativity, imagination, and a love of reading!









OUR SCHOOL HAS ACHIEVED THE

LPPA

Leading Parent Partnership Award

Developing positive relationships with parents

2024 - 2027

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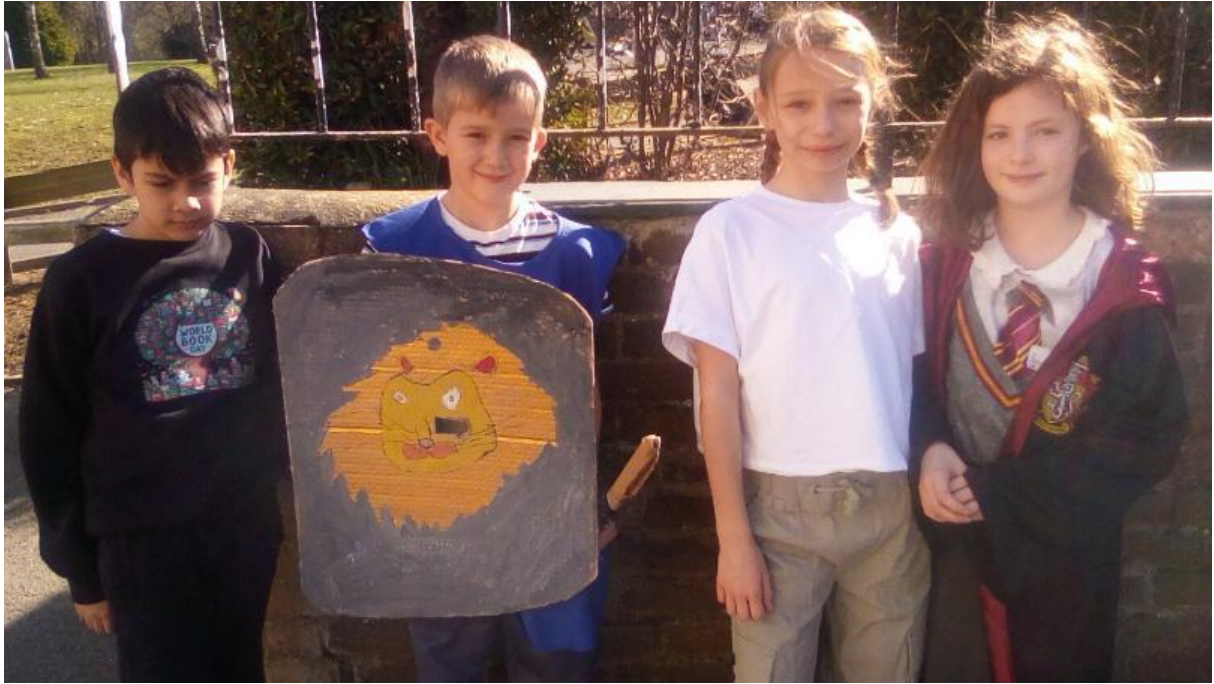
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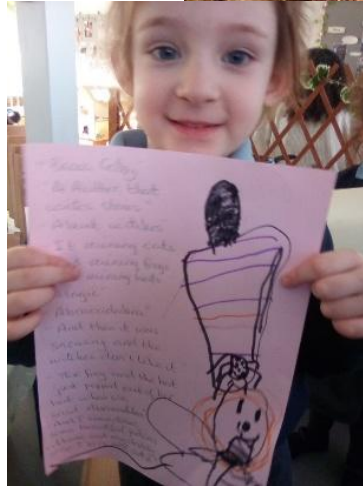


Nursery

We have noticed that lots of plants are beginning to grow now that it's the start of spring. We've seen many shoots sprouting, and some plants have already flowered! We've also observed that many trees and bushes have buds on them.

We've been guessing what these buds will grow into—some of us think they'll turn into flowers, while others believe they'll become leaves. We will continue to watch them closely to discover what they will be!

We were very excited to meet the author, Rebecca Colby, during Book Week! After her visit, one of the challenges was to draw a picture of the author or a character from the story she shared with us.

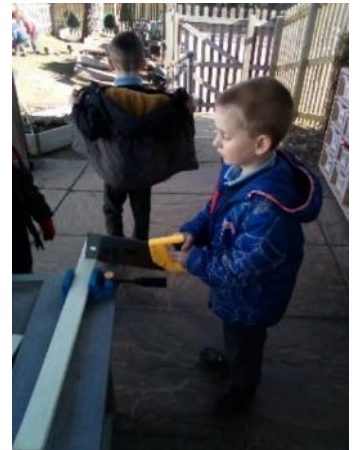


Reception

In Reception, we have been excited to use our brand-new stage in the garden! We've dressed up as different characters and shared lots of stories. These have included some of our favourite stories, as well as creating our own using interesting story language.

To celebrate Book Week, we have also been writing and acting out our own stories, and we proudly displayed some of our creations in our book corners for our friends to read.

Continuing our learning in the garden, we have recently introduced saws in our woodwork area. We have learnt how to use them safely and are excited to see what wooden creations we can make!



Year 1

In Year One, our history theme is Welwyn Garden City in the Past. We explored a range of artefacts that would have been found in homes when WGC was first developed. After examining these items, we discussed how they differ from what we have in our homes today. Our conclusion? It was much harder to clean and cook in the past!



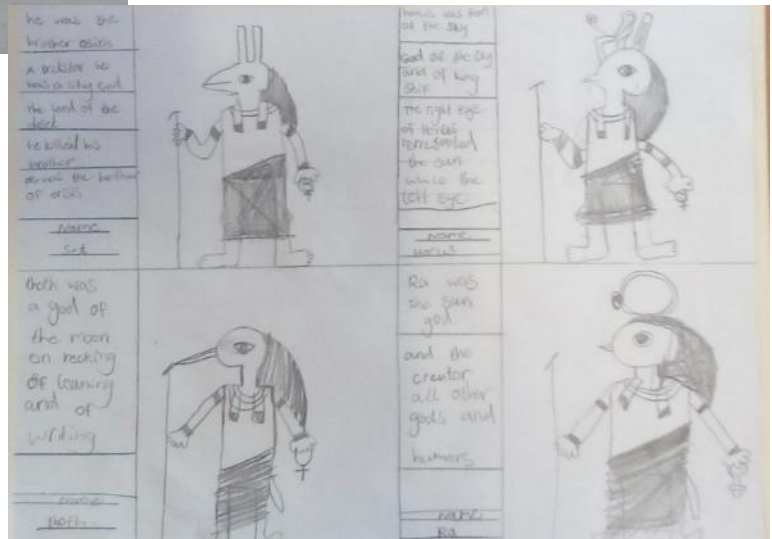
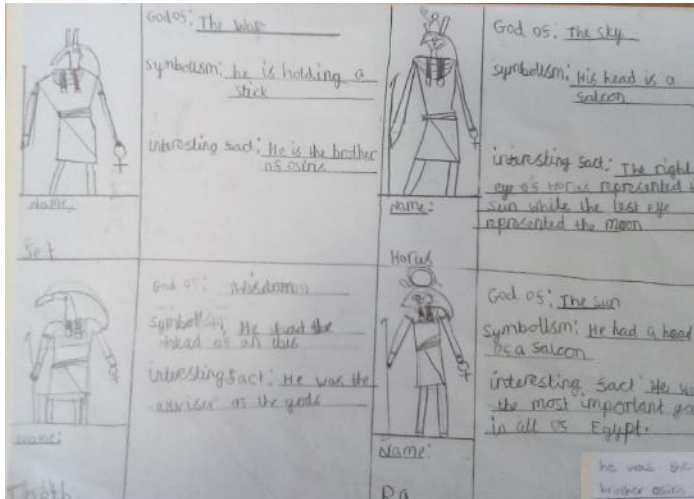
Year 2

In our Computing lessons, Year 2 have been very busy creating algorithms for Beebots. The children developed a set of directional instructions to help their Beebots move around the map and land at different locations. This task was made trickier by obstacles! The children often had to 'debug' their algorithms if their Beebot hit an obstacle, which meant adapting their instructions. The children had a lot of fun watching their Beebots try to reach their set destinations!



Year 3

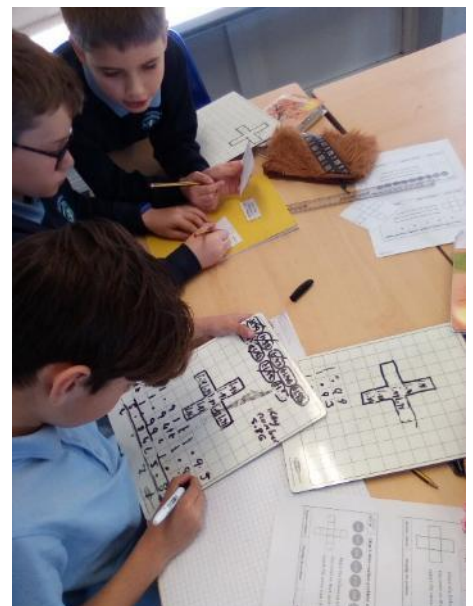
Before half term, we completed our learning about the Ancient Egyptians. Our final lessons focused on the many Egyptian gods that they worshipped. Each of us chose a god to research and then created a poster about them to display. Here are some of our amazing posters!



Year 4

In Year 4 Maple, we have been working hard to improve our reasoning and explaining skills. In English, we're learning how to add more detail to our answers in reading comprehension. In Maths, we've been explaining how to add fractions and solve problems.

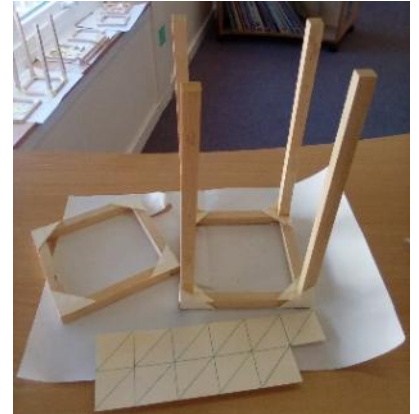
Our new book, *Leon and the Place Between*, has sparked our imagination, and we're focusing on adding exciting dialogue to our narratives. This week, we started the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award, and we're looking forward to sharing our learning in the Year 4 Assembly on 26th March.



Year 5

Year 5 have been hard at work on their DT project, designing and creating 'Cam Toys'. Through careful measurement and the safe use of a saw, the children have successfully built the frames for their toys. Next, we will move on to build the cams and complete the final decorations.

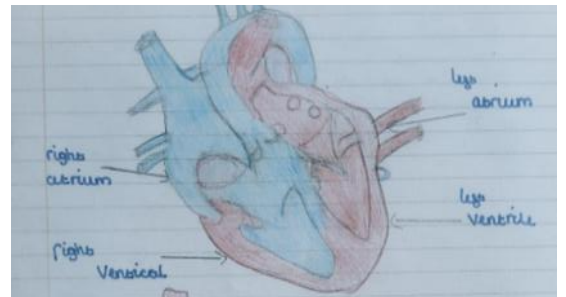
We are also continuing to practise our dance for the Campus West Dance Festival on 19th March, and we look forward to sharing our performance with you!



Year 6

In Science, we have started learning about the circulatory system. We have identified and named the main parts of the human circulatory system and described the functions of the heart, blood vessels, and blood. Next, we will explore how our diet and lifestyle choices can affect our heart health.

In RE, we are studying the Christian belief in the Creation story and comparing it with the world today. We are designing a piece of art with two halves: one half depicts the story of the Garden of Eden, up to the picking of the fruit, while the other half shows the desecration of the Earth due to human involvement.



Emotion of the half term

Sadness

This half term, we will be learning about 'sadness': how it feels, what causes it and how it might look in someone else.

Please discuss this emotion with your child at home.

An important point for children to understand is that all emotions are temporary. They will not remain forever.

Talking to someone about how you feel and sharing your feelings, will help you to feel happy again. Exploring the reason you feel sad and making a plan to deal with the source of the sadness can also help you to feel more positive.

Sometimes, sadness will be covering another emotion too.

The following website offers parent advice and access to free stories that help children to understand and cope with feelings of sadness.



Helping children understand and cope with feeling of sadness ([storyberries.com](https://www.storyberries.com))

Anti Abuse Curriculum – Keeping Safe

To embed the Anti-Abuse Curriculum into our teaching, we focus on one key theme each half term, which we discuss during Snack and Discussion time in our classrooms.

This half term, we are concentrating on *Keeping Safe*, understanding what is not okay, and restoring safety. These objectives closely link with our PSHE topics and our discussions on the Emotion of the Month. Here are just some of the things we have been discussing across the school:

- I know why it is important to follow instructions and routines.
- I understand that I should tell an adult if I see someone being unkind.
- I know that everyone has the right to feel safe and that people who feel unsafe need to access support.
- I know that racism is commenting on, being unkind to someone or treating them unfairly based on how they look.
- I know that doing nothing is a negative step when someone is being hurt, including myself, and that there are always positive steps I can take.
- I know how to say no when I want someone to stop hurtful or upsetting behaviour toward me and others.

At home, why not speak with your child about which adults they trust to speak to when they need support (refer to Helping Hands). Reinforce the teaching of what racism is and that it is never acceptable to treat somebody unfairly based on how they look.

Art -

This half term, we have been exploring the iconic art deco sculpture Christ the Redeemer. We discussed what we already knew about the sculpture, what we liked and disliked about it, and examined the details, the mood it creates, and any questions it raised.

Children will have the opportunity to revisit this piece in class.

Please take some time to discuss it with your child at home as well!

Christ the Redeemer

An art deco sculpture

It's 30 meters tall!

Do you know which city in Brazil it towers above?

(The Olympics were held there in 2016)

Can you see all the people at the bottom of the statue?



School Diary

March	
10 th	Great Big Dance off Y4
11 th	Local library visit Y5 – Palm
12 th	Local library visit Y5 – Pine
12 th	SATs Meeting followed by PGL Meeting for year 6 parents
18 th	Local library visit Y4 – Magnolia
19 th	Parent Forum – 8.50am review of Special Educational Needs policy
19 th	Local library visit Y4 – Maple (with some year 3 children)
19 th	Year 5 Dance Festival
24 th	Last week of clubs
25 th	Local library visit Y3 – Hazel
26 th	Local library visit Y3 – Hawthorn
26 th	Year 4 assembly @ 8:50
26 th	Year 1 – Orchard Day
31 st	Rock Steady Concert at 2:30
April	
1 st	Local library visit Y2 – Cherry
2 nd	Local library visit Y2 – Cedar
2 nd	Year 3 assembly @ 8:50
4 th	Term Ends at 12:30pm
7 th – 21 st	Easter Holidays
22 nd	Staff Inset Day – Children do not attend
23 rd	Term Commences
May	
5 th	Bank Holiday
6 th	Local library visit – Acer class
7 th	Local Library Visit – Alder Class
7 th	Year 1 trip to Lea Valley
23 rd	Staff Inset Day – Children do not attend

May	
12 th – 15 th	Year 6 SATs week
13 th 16 th	Reception trip to Aldenham PTA Family Race Night
19 th	Class Photos
20 th	Nursery trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
20 th	Local library visit – Year 1 Beech class
21 st	Local Library Visit – Year 1 Birch Class
23 rd	Staff Inset – children do not attend
26 th – 30 th	Half Term
June	
2 nd – 13 th	Year 3 swimming each day
23 rd – 27 th	Year 6 residential trip
27 th	Nursery Sports Day - Morning
July	
1 st	KS2 Sports Day – AM
1 st	KS1 Sports Day – PM
5 th	PTA Summer Fair
10 th	Transition Day – year 6 pupils attend their secondary school – all children visit their new classroom
10 th	Opportunity for parents and children to visit new classroom and see work from current and next year group – after school 3:15pm – 4:30pm
21 st	Year 6 – Bell ringing
22 nd	Year 6 - trip
22 nd	Year 6 - BBQ
23 rd	Children's last day of term



Commonswood Primary & Nursery School is a Safeguarding School

We are an Encompass School working with external agencies to support children who are victims of domestic abuse.

'All schools have a clear responsibility placed on them by the Children Act 1989 and by guidance from the Department of Education to safeguard the welfare of all their pupils. In doing so schools are expected to consult with Social Services if they believe there is a possibility that a child may be suffering from abuse or neglect.'

If you have any concerns about children, please contact 0300 123 4043.

Mrs G Seymour (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mr S Burt (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs D Lindsay-Hill (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead), Miss K Dean (Designated Safeguarding Lead) Chair of Governors Mrs Julie Noakes

Free Parenting Courses



Are you a family with children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities looking for local activities?

The SEND community activities directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups, some activities will also include discounts for families registered on our Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND).



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDdirectory



In partnership with Hertfordshire Council, British Cycling is excited to offer FREE Cycling City Hub and Academy sessions for children across Hertfordshire!

Held at both the Welwyn Gosling Track and St Albans Pump Track, these sessions are the perfect opportunity for students aged 7-14 to build BMX and velodrome cycling skills in a fun, safe environment.

What: Skill-building cycling sessions, BMX and Velodrome skills Who: Confident riders, ages 7-14 When & Where: St Albans Cycle Hub: Tuesdays, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM , Welwyn Gosling Park: Wednesdays, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Cost: Free! (Bike rentals available at St Albans; Welwyn riders, please bring your own) New sessions will also be launching soon at The Sele School, Hertford and Edwinstree Middle School, Buntingford.

Don't miss this chance for students to enjoy professional coaching and foster a love for cycling! Sign Up via <https://group.spond.com/SMDKB> (or use code SMDKB if you're already on Spond). For more info, contact Iffat Tejani at cityacademyherts@britishcycling.org.uk