



The 4 Bees Newsletter

'Life in all its Fullness': Believing ~ Being Our Best ~ Being Creative ~ Belonging



For the Love of Reading!

Newsletter No. 17

29th January 2026



This half term we have been celebrating our love of reading across the school and are delighted to have purchased a range of exciting new books for our library. Our Learning Council, who also take on the role of school librarians, led a wonderful collective worship exploring how a love of reading helps us experience Life in all its Fullness. They proudly shared the new books with the children and spoke about why reading matters so much. As one of our librarians, Isla, beautifully put it, *"reading opens a new mindset."*

Research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that children who read regularly make significantly more progress, with approaches such as reading comprehension linked to an average of five months' additional progress. Today the Learning Council met to discuss their many creative and enthusiastic ideas for promoting reading and learning across the school!

Review of Spelling

As part of our ongoing work to strengthen writing across the school, we are reviewing our approach to spelling. We already teach phonics explicitly, which gives children a strong foundation, but research shows that traditional spelling tests alone don't always lead to lasting accuracy in independent writing. Focusing on spelling patterns, rules, and applying phonics knowledge helps children understand how words work and supports them in becoming confident, independent spellers.

By developing secure spelling skills, children can focus more on *what* they want to write rather than *how* to spell, which in turn supports their overall writing attainment and creativity. As part of this review, we are gathering feedback from parents, pupils, and staff to help shape our approach. We would be very grateful if you could take a moment to complete the short online questionnaire via the link below—thank you in advance for your support.

<https://forms.gle/LPjs8GnAyrMQoEPo9>

As you may have noticed from numerous buckets when it rains we have a rather leaky roof in our hall. Fortunately the local authority have agreed to come and fix it during half-term. In preparation for this they will be putting up scaffolding on Friday morning. As a result **we will sadly not be able to hold our usual Celebration Worship.** Please come and join us next week when normal service will resume! In the meantime please take care around the scaffolding.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Vessey



Healthy Teeth in Puffin Class!

As part of their science learning, Puffin Class have been finding out how to keep their teeth healthy. They have been learning about which foods and drinks are best for strong teeth, how often we should brush our teeth, and why brushing for two minutes twice a day is so important. The children then had great fun using disclosing tablets to check how well they had brushed their teeth, helping them to see which areas needed a little extra care!



Diary Dates— Spring Term 2026

Parent4Parent Coffee Morning—Friday 6th February (after worship)

Children's Mental Health Week—wc 9th February

Safer Internet Day— 10th February

PTA Pancake Breakfast—Thursday 12th February

Valentines Day Tuck Shop—Friday 13th February

Half-Term—16th-20th February—children return to school on Tuesday 24th (23rd is an Inset Day)

Young Voices (Yr 5 and 6) at the O2— Monday 23rd February

Book Week—wc 2nd March (Fancy Dress Book Character Day—Friday 6th March)

Mothers' Day Lunch—Friday 13th March

Parents' Evening (incorporating Caterlink Food Tasting!) - Tuesday 24th March

Class Assemblies:

Kestrels—13th February

Puffins—27th February

Doves—13th March

Wagtails—20th March

Magpies—27th March

Weekly Scores on the Doors

Earth	273
Water	255
Fire	232
Air	169

Congratulations to **Earth** who are our weekly house point winners!



Please come and help yourself to free **Pret-A-Manger sandwiches and treats**, provided by Touchpoint, at 5.30pm tonight. Also remember our **free weekly yoga** with Che which is at 7.00pm in the hall every Wednesday.