



# NEWSLETTER Issue

Motivate Educate Nurture



It has been a very busy term, filled with lots of learning, exciting opportunities and wonderful experiences for the children. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and the enthusiasm they continue to show in their lessons and wider school life.

A special thank you to our School Council for raising awareness of Children's Mental Health this week. It was lovely to see the children coming into school in their comfy clothes today in support of this important message. When children feel safe, supported and emotionally secure, they are able to thrive and learn at their very best.

Please remember to look out for your child's class newsletter next term for updates and key information. We are already looking forward to celebrating World Book Day and Science Week — two highlights that always bring lots of creativity, curiosity and fun!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term.

Yours faithfully,

**Sarah Matthews**  
Head of School

Next term's value



## House Points

Points for Term 3 – Well done Oak!

| HOUSE   | ASH  | BIRCH | OAK  |
|---------|------|-------|------|
| TERM 3  | 402  | 398   | 441  |
| OVERALL | 1915 | 1891  | 1924 |

## Keeping Children Safe

This week we have been celebrating Safer Internet Day 2026. Mr Miles, our computing lead, led a super assembly about this year's theme "Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."

We encourage all families to continue the conversation at home and explore online safety together.

Click here for more information [Top Tips for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## Green Team



We are really excited to introduce our new Green Team!

We have already met to start discussing our plans for the rest of the year and are very excited to get going so watch this space! The 'Design a New Logo' winner will be announced the first week back! Thank you again to everyone who applied and we look forward to involving you all soon.

Mrs Hunter and The Green Team

## Library Update

We started this term by reordering the older fiction shelves to make sure the books were grouped by genre and we have attached some clear labels to the shelves so that children can find the books they like the best. We also started work on the non-fiction section and this will continue into next term. We have all the new books that families kindly donated to the school just before Christmas and we are just putting some special labels in these before we get them on the shelves for the children to read.

The librarians have already started to get ready for World Book Day next term by planning an Escape Room mystery for all the children to solve. We are also working on some flow charts, which are proving harder than we thought, for the children to have some fun with and to try and find books that they might like to read and to help them understand what the different genres mean. We're also making a collection of previous World Book Day small books (the ones you get with the vouchers) to make a display in the library. The librarians have so many ideas on how to encourage their peers to read and enjoy the library - it's such a joy to see their enthusiasm.

Mrs Cole & the Librarians

## Sporting Update

### Fortius PE Competitions

Y5/6 Hockey Competition - On a very cold Thursday morning, Rory, Emily, Ronnie, Rhys, Finn, Florence and Sophie travelled to The Deanery School in Swindon for a hockey competition. After warming up, it was straight into matches for the team. The teams in the first game were very evenly matched, with both teams working well together, resulting in a 1-1 draw. Their next match was much tougher, meaning they had to defend hard, resulting in a loss. The team were brilliant at staying positive, praising each other's efforts and encouraging each other to keep their heads up. The next match was another close one, in which the other team scored an unfortunate early goal. Despite creating scoring chances, they couldn't capitalise on them, resulting in a narrow 1-0 loss. The team really enjoyed the final match and all said that they'd had a great morning of hockey.

Y5/6 Football Competition - Rory, Oscar, Ronnie, Arlo, Rhys, Ella and Florence were really excited about their first school football competition of the year. In the group stage, the team played four matches, improving each time they played, drawing two (0-0, 1-1) and winning two (1-0, 1-0). The team were invited to play a friendly match whilst the results were being calculated, which they won 1-0. In the semi-final, the two teams were evenly matched with a result of 1-1 at full time. The team battled on in extra time, but the opposition scored a quick succession of goals, knocking them out of the competition. An enjoyable afternoon was had by the entire team.

### Netball League Matches

SSQ A Vs. Rushall A – The team started the match strongly, attacking from the first whistle to move the ball up the court and score first. Rushall fought back quickly to score 2 successive goals and another later on. The team remained positive and pulled the score back to 3-2 in the third quarter. Despite the team's best defending efforts, Rushall scored another 3 goals in the final quarter. The Stanton team continued to battle and managed to score another goal, making the final score 6-3.

SSQ B Vs. Rushall B – The team played this match in very wet conditions but managed to maintain their focus for the duration of the match. Throughout the court the team were consistently strong with both their attacking and defending and were beginning to space much better. Passing accuracy and shooting from all continued to improve which allowed our game to flow well. The team's efforts and focus rewarded them with a 4-0 win.



Darling Class Newsletter Spring Term 1 2026

**All About the Weather** – An upside to all the rain we have been having is the daily recordings from our rain gauge that we have been able to make! We have been looking at weather patterns in the UK and how this affects our daily life, from the clothes we wear to the jobs we do. We have started to keep a daily weather log and learning sign language for the different types of weather.

**Art & Sculpture** – We have been learning about the Artist Andy Goldsworthy, looking at the natural materials he uses and having a go at recreating some of his iconic creations.



### We the Curious

What a fantastic day we all had at We The Curious! The children were amazing and we all had lots of fun exploring the hands on exhibits. In the Planetarium we went on a journey and landed on planets and had a disco in space! Our Splashes and Bubbles workshop was such fun and we all loved it when the bubbles were popped and burst into flames!



**Writing in our play** – Writing in play is essential for children to embed their phonics knowledge in a fun and meaningful way.



**Spiders** – Did you know that most spiders have eight eyes, but still have poor vision? The children have taken a great interest in spiders, after sharing the book 'Are you a spider?' We have enjoyed going on spider hunts, looking at the different webs they weave, debating whether a spider would make a good pet and taking on spider inspired challenges!

Amazon Class – Term 3 2026

What a busy term we have had in Amazon Class!

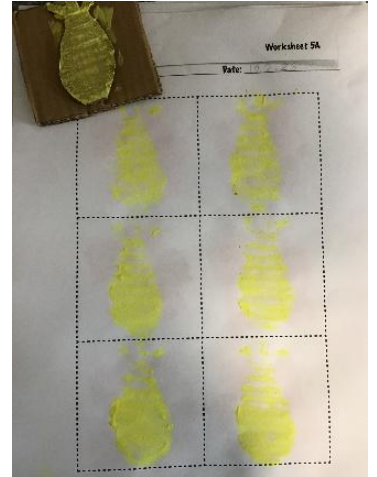
In our writing, we have been investigating 'The Great Paper Caper' by Oliver Jeffers, discovering who chopped all the trees down and writing some fantastic newspaper reports!

Our topic of If you were an engineer... has focused on the evolution of rail travel, looking at how rail travel has changed from George Stevenson through to RA Riddles. We have also looked at other inventions, such as the printing press and created some fantastic block prints! We will continue investigating different inventions next term.



In science this term, we continued our investigations into different forces. We have created our own magnet experiments, testing to see which material would be best to attract a car the furthest distance! We have decided that paperclips have the weakest magnetic pull, with the rubber pot being the best!

This term we also visited We The Curious for our class trip with Darling Class. It was fantastic and we had an amazing time watching hydrogen bubbles explode, making rockets with vitamin c tablets and exploring all of the fun experiments!



Next term we will be practicing for our play, which we are all excited about!



## Rhine Class Update



Our topic, “**Tomb Raiders,**” truly brought Ancient Egypt to life. The children stepped back over 5,000 years using immersive Virtual Reality headsets, travelling into the world of pharaohs, pyramids and mythological gods. They explored ancient tombs, wandered through towering pyramids and examined treasures and artefacts up close. It was a truly magical learning experience, transforming our classroom into the heart of Ancient Egypt.

In English, the children impressed us with their creativity and humour. They wrote fantastic instruction texts on *How to Build a Pyramid* (with plenty of amusing warnings about bossy pharaohs and runaway camels!). They also crafted tense and suspense-filled stories set in ancient tombs and even attempted to

persuade me to purchase the Great Pyramid of Giza — some very convincing arguments were made!

In maths, the children worked extremely hard in their mid-year assessments and had a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate just how much progress they have made this year. I am very proud of their focus and determination.

Our science topic this term was *Living Things and Their Habitats*. The class explored animal classification and the life cycles of both animals and plants. Each week, the children tackled a “Big Question,” conducting research to find detailed answers and examples. Their curiosity and investigative skills have really flourished.

In PE, the children have been developing their skills in tag rugby, dance and gymnastics. They have been practising gymnastic routines in preparation for a competition next term, showing excellent teamwork and resilience.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed our weekly library sessions, along with our new media literacy lessons, where the children have developed their critical thinking skills and learned how to question and evaluate information carefully.

In RE, the children studied how art and patterns express meaning across different religions, linking beautifully with our creative work in art. They loved designing their own versions of King Tutankhamun’s death mask and produced vibrant pastel artwork inspired by Egyptian gods.

In French, Upper Key Stage 2 pupils have been confidently expanding their speaking skills with *Je me présente*, while year 4 have had a fantastic term developing their ukulele skills, showing great rhythm and enthusiasm.

Computing has been full of creativity and problem solving. Year 4 enjoyed their first experience of Logo programming, learning how to guide the turtle to create shapes and patterns using clear, step-by-step instructions. Years 5 and 6 rose to the challenge of creating more complex designs, using repetition and confidently debugging their own code. This built on their previous microbit work and clearly showed how much they have grown as thoughtful, independent programmers.

Throughout the term, the children have demonstrated fantastic perseverance, teamwork and enthusiasm in everything they have done.

Well done, Rhine Class — what a fantastic term

of learning!



