

# TUDOR TIMES



## Message From Mrs Powar, Our Principal

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

One of the many things that are unique about our school, in addition to all our wonderful pupils and our school community, is being part of a journey towards growing our school into a two –form entry setting. I am pleased to inform you we will be admitting our first two-form entry intake into our Reception classes in September 2024. We will be appointing new staff to both teaching and support staff roles in the summer term, in preparation for the next academic year.

We are pleased that our graded Ofsted inspection in February has validated the good work that has been implemented at our school following the opening of our new school building in September 2021. Active partnerships with our parents/carers is integral to the success of all that we endeavour to achieve. I would like to thank all our parents/carers for the support provided in supporting our pupils to achieve their very best outcomes in partnerships with the school.

We continue to implement many firsts as we move along our journey of a growing school. Our Year 2 pupils participated in a fantastic residential experience in February and the behaviour and attitude of our pupils was nothing less than commendable. Our Year 2 pupils demonstrated great confidence, resilience and independence through this experience and have forged memories that will last them a lifetime. Once again, a huge thank you to our parents/carers for your support and trust in the school and assisting this residential experience to become a reality for your child.

Our pupils enjoy opportunities to develop their leadership experiences ahead of what would be expected in a typical primary school setting. Our School Parliament and School Ambassadors for example, selected from Year 2 to Year 4 have met with a number of play equipment companies to identify what they would like to see to support their physical development and enjoyment in our KS1 and KS2 playground area. These pupil leadership groups will meet with three companies over the school year and present a proposed design to our PTA and Local Governing Board members working with their peers through Class Council meetings in the summer term. This will spur us on for some fundraising to make their proposed plans come to fruition and offer our pupils a real sense of purpose and agency in their school.

We look forward to appointing, through a democratic process, pupils to elected roles for the start of the new academic year in the summer term.



## Dates For Your 2023/2024 Diary

### Summer Term

<b>TERM STARTS</b>	Monday 8th April 2024
<b>HALF TERM</b>	Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024
<b>TRUST INSET</b>	Friday 28th June 2024
<b>TERM ENDS</b>	Thursday 18th July 2024
<b>INSET</b>	Friday 19th July 2024

Warwickshire County Council 2023/2024 Term Dates are available here: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/school-term-dates-induction-days-training-days-holidays/3](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/school-term-dates-induction-days-training-days-holidays/3)

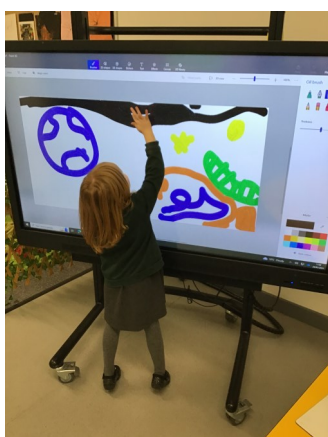
\*please note that on INSET days the Academy is closed for staff training. Further INSET days are to be confirmed



## Message From Our Class Teachers...

### Miss Harris and Ms Hood - Seedlings Class - Nursery

We have been learning about our planet and about the animals that live on it. We loved the illustrations in our book 'Notes for Living on Planet Earth' and talked about them during our family group time. We have found out ways to keep ourselves healthy; sorting different foods into groups. We have created some digital art based on our book and also some bubble pictures using different sized bubble wands dipped in coloured bubble mixture.



We have been learning about recycling and how this can help to protect our planet. We looked at different objects and sorted them into different groups ready to recycle. We also found out that we cannot recycle everything.



Seedlings have been finding out about Spring; we went on a walk to see if we could spot any signs. We saw some new buds on the trees and some small flowers in the grass. We also noticed some spiders and we could hear the songbirds overhead.

This week we have had a visit from some lambs!



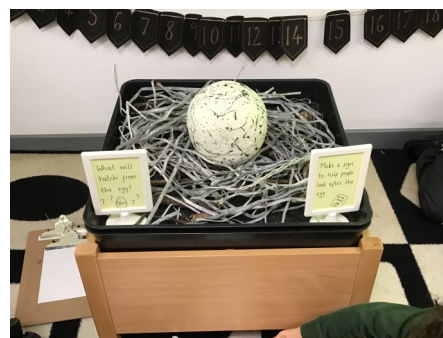


## Message From Our Class Teachers...

### Mr Crockett - Hazel Class - Reception

This term we have been exploring amazing eggs!

One day, we arrived to school to find a large egg in our classroom. We didn't know what it was so used our skills to find out information about different types of eggs. We looked at all types of different creatures that come from eggs and even watched a real chick hatch. We guessed what it might be, then on the Monday... a dinosaur appeared in our cloakroom!



We decided to learn more about dinosaurs as we had lots of experts in the class. We began by naming all of the dinosaurs that we knew and then began to find out some facts.

We thought about the different features of each dinosaur including teeth, body shape, tails, spikes, plates and size.

We made dinosaurs using plates, put skeletons back together, made dinosaur silhouettes and we became palaeontologists where we had to excavate chocolate chips from cookies!



It has been a very exciting topic!

We then finished our term with a celebration of Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and Lunar New Year... and some special visitors!

We had a visit from Paul Sturgess who told us all about his differences growing up and how he has made them into a positive experience, and that we should all do the same!

To celebrate Lunar New Year, we watched the story of 'The Great Race', made Chinese lanterns, dragon puppets, cards and even tried some Chinese food!







## Message From Our Class Teachers...

### Miss Middleton - Willow Class - Year One

Willow Class have had a wonderful half term participating in different events, such as World Book Day, Science Week and Shakespeare Week. We have also had lots of fun learning new things within our school curriculum.

The BeeBots are always a big hit with our Year 1 pupils, and this year has been no different. In our Computing lessons, the BeeBots have helped us to learn what a command is and how we can use the buttons to command our BeeBots to complete specific actions.



In Science, Willow Class have been thinking about plants, and more specifically, trees. We have looked at the different parts of a tree and labelled these on a diagram. We then learnt that some trees (evergreens) stay green throughout the year, whereas other trees (deciduous) lose their leaves every autumn. To support our learning, we went on a woodland walk, into Meon Woods, looking for evergreen and deciduous trees within our local environ-



ment. We all had a lot of fun hunting for trees! The focus of British Science Week this year was 'time', and because we have been thinking about the way deciduous trees change over time, we found the perfect activity to complete. The children made 'seasons wheels' using split-pins to allow the arrow to move, enabling us to understand that this process is a cycle that repeats every year. On our seasons wheels we put the months of the year in the correct order, then we added images of trees in

each season and images of people wearing different clothes, supporting our understanding of the weather during each season. We have stuck our 'seasons wheels' into our science books so that we can look back and use them again when we learn more about weather and seasonal changes in



Summer 2.

Towards the end of this half term, we have enjoyed getting practical in our Maths lessons whilst learning about length and height. We have used non-standard measuring tools (blocks) to measure the length of items around our classroom, and then we moved onto using rulers to measure the same items in centimetres.



## Message From Our Class Teachers...

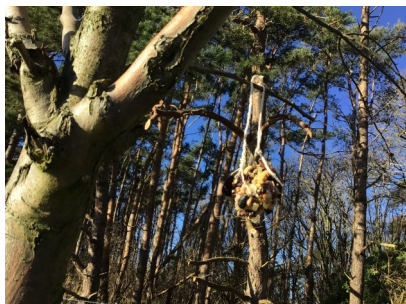
### Miss Hodges - Birch Class - Year Two

The children in Birch Class have had another fantastic half term and we can't believe we are now half way through the year!

This past half term has been an extremely busy one and the main highlight was our first ever residential trip to Blackwell Adventure. The children enjoyed completing lots of activities such as Team Challenge, the Tree Trek, Indoor Rock Climbing, Archery, Crate Stacking and the Zip Line. The children had the opportunity to complete activities they had never completed before and so many of them fought their fears. We were all so proud of the children's attitudes to everything they did and it was wonderful to hear them encouraging each other and sharing their pride. They had an amazing time and truly lived out the slogan of Blackwell Adventure—'Be kind, be brave & be awesome'!



Birch Class enjoyed making bird feeders as part of their English learning, where they wrote instructions. They thought about the imperative verbs, time conjunctions and adverbs they would use in their instruction writing and wrote wonderful instructions. They have been excited to see that their bird feeders are getting smaller as the birds are eating these tasty treats.



The children were also so proud of themselves and their fantastic sewing skills when making their animal puppets. They were amazing at designing their puppets and were extremely creative when adding their decorative features to their puppets. You can see some of them hanging up in our classroom window.



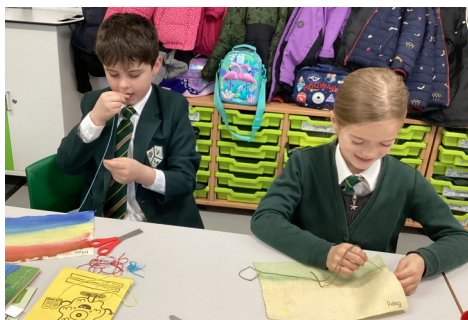




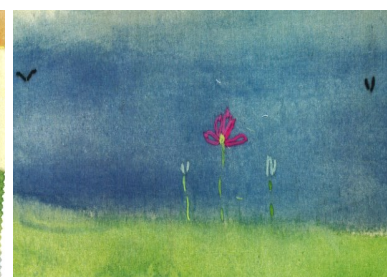
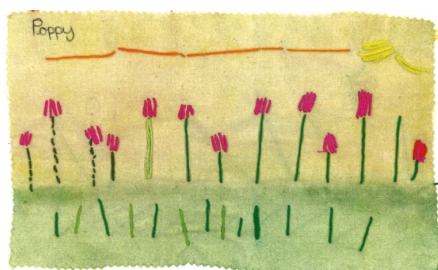
## Message From Our Class Teachers...

### Mrs O'Donovan - Pine Class - Year Three

Pine Class have had a wonderful half-term, with lots of exciting lessons and new experiences.



In Art, we used mixed media to create an abstract landscape. First, we learnt how to use watercolours to paint a background which we later embroidered on. We explored the work of textile artists, Hannah Rae and Alice Kettle and used this as inspiration for our own projects. There were so many fantastic pieces of artwork created. The children had lots of fun and should be really proud of themselves for their perseverance, especially with threading the needles! Well done to those children who tried out trickier stitches, such as French Knots and the Lazy Daisy.



In Computing, we created our own animations using iMotion on the iPads. We learned how to create frames and turn these into mini films using 'onion skinning'. It was exciting to see our cardboard Roman Soldiers fighting, falling and running up stairs on screen.

We became journalists in our History lessons. We have learnt so much about the history of our local area, from the Anglo-Saxons founding Stratford to the use of Long Marston as an RAF Base during WWII. We wrote a newspaper article about the findings on Meon Hill and why settlers in the Iron Age would have chosen that place to build a hillfort. It was exciting to know some of the history of the area where we live.



In celebration of Children's Mental Health Week, we were lucky enough to have a visit from two World Records holder, Paul Sturgess. As Britain's Tallest Actor and Britain's Tallest Basketball Player, there was lots of entertainment and an abundance of basketball skills that we were able to learn. Paul also helped us to understand that with the right attitude to life, we can use our differences to help us to achieve our dreams. This was the perfect end to our 'Dreams and Goals' PSHE topic.



## Message From Our Class Teachers...

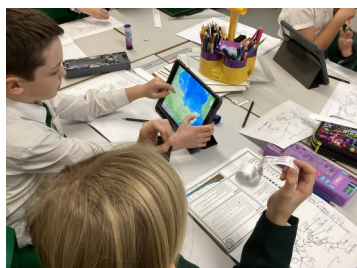
### Mr Greygoose - Spruce Class - Year Four

The new year has brought a great number of exciting activities and learning opportunities to Spruce Class. Pupils have enjoyed finding out about rivers in their weekly Geography lessons, the Romans in their History lessons, and investigating states of matter and the digestive system in Science in addition to continuing to develop their English and Mathematics skills. This, however, is just the tip of the iceberg... read on to find out what other projects pupils have undertaken over the last few weeks!



In English this half term, the children have been reading *The Great Chocoplot* by Chris Callaghan whilst developing their descriptive writing skills. They have been using a range of figurative techniques such as metaphors, similes and onomatopoeia, to describe their perfect chocolate shop and, recently, continued the story to describe how the main character might have felt when meeting Mr Garibaldi and tasting his horrible chocolate!

In Maths this term, pupils have continued to work on their multiplication and division as well as exploring perimeter and, more recently, fractions. Pupils have learnt about factor pairs and multiples, the use of standard written methods and how to use their tables knowledge to complete complex calculations. Pupils have also regularly completed TT Rockstars to practice their quick recall of tables facts.



Year 4 have been learning about the digestive system in Science lessons this half term. During this time, they have looked at the differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, what food chains are and they all start with a producer, the functions of different teeth, and how the digestive system works.

In Art this term, pupils have been looking at the work of Paul Cezanne! They have created their own still life pictures using a combination of pencil and watercolour paints and have focussed on the use of shadows within their artwork. More recently, they have begun to create their own collages by painting and cutting out different objects and laying these on each other.



In History, we have been looking at the Romans and how they came to be an intricate part of life in Britain. Children have learnt about the rise of the Romans in Italy, how they successfully invaded Britain, their conflict with Boudicca and the Iceni tribe and finally what positive aspects they brought with them.

With so many more activities having been completed: refining handball skills in PE, further developing Latin sentence structures, researching festivals in RE, creating algorithms in Computing, learning about musical notation and so many more, there's never a dull moment in Spruce Class!



## Reading Round-Up

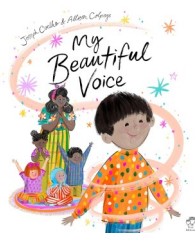
### Recommended Reads

It is lovely to hear how much our children love reading and how positively they talk about their reading experiences both in school and at home. Our Recommended Reads lists for each year were re-launched in Autumn 2 and the children are enjoying selecting their books from the trolley in their classrooms.

### Children's Mental Health Week

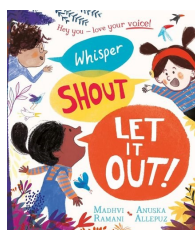
This term, we have been raising awareness of mental health with our children by taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. We marked this with a very special visit from the world's tallest man; Paul Sturges and thought about this year's theme; 'My Voice Matters'.

'My Voice Matters' is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This month's reading recommendations are linked to the theme of 'Children's Mental Health Week'.



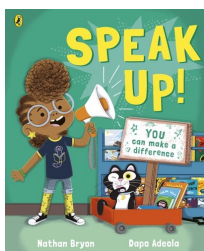
#### **'My Beautiful Voice' by Joseph Coelho**

This book is about a shy child unlocking the power of their voice through poetry with the help of their teacher. This story shows children that everyone's voice can be powerful and beautiful, however small it is.



#### **'Whisper, Shout, Let it Out!' by Madhvi Ramani**

This is the perfect book for shy, anxious or quiet children to help them with building their confidence and a positive mindset. It is an empowering book, which helps children celebrate their voice and express themselves in their own way.



#### **'Speak Up' by Nathan Bryon**

Bookworm Rocket loves to visit the library to borrow new books but when she finds out that the library is closing down she is heartbroken. Rocket uses the power of her voice to speak up and stand up for what matters to her.





On February 5th this year, all pupils at Tudor Grange Meon Vale celebrated Safer Internet Day. This important occasion involved all classes completing a variety of exercises, designed to highlight how to stay safe online, whether that be through a computer, tablet, phone or games console.

Parents were also invited to attend workshops exploring how parental controls and guidance can be used to ensure that using the internet at home is a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Everyone at Tudor Grange Meon Vale is committed to ensuring that all people stay safe online. To help us better understand what parents and children think about the internet and what they use it for, we would ask that you take 5 minutes to complete the following questionnaire. The results of this survey will allow us to address any concerns you may have and help us to better plan internet safety sessions in the future.

[Complete the questionnaire here](#)

## Don't miss out on Free School Meals

**Did you know?** Government statistics show that 18% of children in state schools in England are entitled to Free School Meals but that many don't claim them.

It is simple to check whether you are entitled and to apply, you just need to visit: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals)

**FREE  
SCHOOL  
MEALS**

Information & Support



If you are eligible for Free School Meals claiming will save you money and provide your child with a healthy balanced diet and the extra funding the school then receives will buy valuable resources for learning that will support your child's education.