

Friday Flyer

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents,

As we move into a new year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind families of the importance of e-safety and online awareness. We hope that parents are able to take time to read the e-safety newsletters shared at the beginning of this week, as they contain valuable guidance and updates. We ask that parents continue to keep a close eye on their children's use of devices, including online gaming and messaging platforms. Social interactions, disagreements and group dynamics that take place online can have a significant impact during the school day, and being aware of what children are experiencing outside of school can help us support them more effectively. January offers a fresh start, and working together to promote safe, positive online experiences will help set the tone for a calm and successful term ahead.

Butterfly Class



Happy New Year – and what a fun week we have had. When I awoke on Monday morning, I had that usual first-day-back fluttery feeling of excitement. It was made even more exciting and magical on seeing our children's faces as they saw the snow on the field once they came in. I clearly

remember my favourite day at primary school, the one when it had snowed, and we spent as much time as we could bear outdoors making snowmen; I even remember that a group of older children built me an igloo to sit in! There was probably more snow back then, but on Monday our children had pure joy on their faces. They were respectful of each other when playing with the snow, only throwing it with consent and never at faces. They really showed themselves at their very best. We have welcomed new TAs into class this week and enjoyed all the new and exciting skills that they bring to us. This term we hope to continue building our team game skills in PE on Wednesdays: how to interact with each other in a competitive environment, whilst pertaining to rules of gamesmanship - respect for teammates and opponents whilst trying to stay in control of emotions. Have a lovely weekend, stay warm.



Frenchie Class

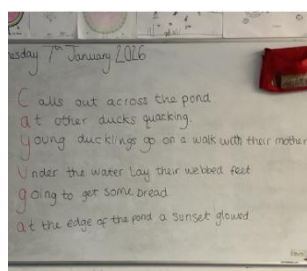
Frenchie class have had a productive first week back and start to the new term. We have continued learning about fractions in maths with a focus on equivalent fractions. All the children have returned to their learning with determination and have been applying themselves, remembering learning from the previous term. We have explored practical learning in geography, where we built a muddy terrain outside within a tuff tray. Due to the cold weather, the ground was frozen solid, so we took loose mud from the molehills on the backfield and mapped a mud island within the tray dubbed 'Skull Island' with a mountain and its own shoreline. We discussed the cycle of water and erosion as we poured water over our mountain and watched it corrode, making paths through the mud back to the 'sea'. We all shared the joke that we had in fact made a 'mountain out of a molehill' during our lesson. Our other practical lessons have stretched to making robots out of cardboard in DT and creating delicious overnight oats, following a recipe in cookery that used oats, yoghurts and berries. Creativity has followed us to the end of the week, with an exploration of shading and pencil use in art. The lesson ended with the young people drawing a still life, applying the shading techniques learnt with the use of different pencils. Due to the cold, wet and snowy weather there has been some inside play during breaktime in the atrium and the class have been playing together making up

some truly inventive games. It has been really heartening to see all the class work together and listen to each other to make up game rules and take turns to play. We wish you all a warm and restful weekend and look forward to another week of learning and playing well together.



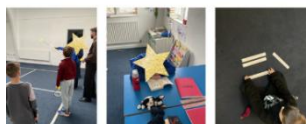
Mandela Class

Mandela class are settling back in nicely after a lovely break. Some things are the same: enjoying Wordle, familiar faces, happy students, whereas other things are changing: the weather's cold but we're keeping active with enthusiastic games of badminton – definitely a new sport for some. Relations between students in the classroom are also warming, which is lovely to see. Clocks, poetry and the digestive system – our learning for this term is starting well. Happy January from Mandela class!



Cayuga Class

Happy New Year, Cayugas! It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break. Returning to routines can be tricky for both young people and adults, but Cayuga have shown great resilience and enthusiasm as they have settled back into school life and engaged positively with new learning. We have taken time to re-establish friendships through games, shared interests, conversations, and creative play, helping everyone feel connected and ready to learn. In English this half term, we are exploring poetry and the young people have been working collaboratively to create an acrostic poem titled "Cayuga"; the class are beginning to discover the history and purpose of poetry and we look forward to building on this creativity and teamwork as the term continues. Have a great weekend.



Kelly Class

Welcome back to Kelly class! We hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing break and are ready for the exciting learning ahead. In maths this week, the children have been developing their understanding of integers, exploring how they are represented both in numerals and words. They practised comparing and ordering integers, worked with intervals on a number line, and deepened their understanding of place value, particularly when comparing decimals. In English, we launched our new topic based on the adventure novel *Treasure Island*. The children researched the author, Robert Louis Stevenson, and discussed the key features that make a successful adventure story. They also examined an image from the text and impressed us with a wide range of rich and descriptive vocabulary. Our history lessons marked the start of our learning about the English Civil War and we discussed the reasons England went to war and identified the opposing sides involved. The children then explored a timeline of the English Civil wars and worked collaboratively to sequence the key events in chronological order. We are looking forward to building on this knowledge over the coming weeks. In cooking, the children thoroughly enjoyed making savoury pastry rolls; they were given a choice of ingredients and applied a range of previously learned skills to prepare and assemble their pastries. The results were both creative and delicious!

Hamilton Class



The first week of 2026 has seen a positive start to the term and the winter weather provided a reason to enjoy time outside and Hamilton pupils had fun making snowballs. This week, we have introduced our new topic 'Non-Fiction and Travel Writing'. Pupils are exploring how to blend information with entertainment and we will be analysing travelogues and extracts from writers like Bill Bryson to identify techniques for descriptive, vivid writing. Functional Skills Practice is also underway and to keep building exam confidence, students have begun practising with Functional Skills past papers. This focus helps them apply English skills to real-world scenarios, such as reading non-fiction texts and writing formal letters or reports. The mood in the classroom remains settled and positive and, as Hamilton staff eagerly await warmer temperatures, pupils are keeping their fingers crossed for more fun in the snow! Have a lovely weekend.

Darwin Class

Darwin Class have begun the new year in their usual manner – with diligence, enthusiasm, and plenty of laughter and positivity. We are so impressed with how quickly they have adapted to the new term's structure after the long Christmas break. Their positive attitudes and eagerness to learn have set a wonderful tone for the term ahead. In English this week, the class were introduced to their new novel, *Once*, and made perceptive predictions about future events. It was wonderful to see so many students participating actively in discussions and sharing their interpretations with confidence. Students analysed an unseen poem demonstrating mature critical thinking when they moved beyond surface meaning to explore language and underlying ideas; they formed independent interpretations, supported by precise evidence and their thoughtful engagement displayed confidence and originality. In cookery, the students created delicious vegetable puff pastries and showed creativity and independence by adapting the recipe to suit their own tastes, by experimenting with different fillings and seasonings. The teamwork in the kitchen was fantastic, and everyone took pride in tasting and evaluating their creations at the end of the session. Several students stepped up to take on the role of team captains during Badminton in PE this week, developing their leadership and communication skills. It was impressive to watch how effectively they organised their teams, encouraged one another, and strategised to achieve their points. The cooperation and sportsmanship shown were exemplary. Art lessons revolved around the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci and the class were fascinated to discover his incredible range of talents, from art to science and engineering. Many were particularly surprised to learn that da Vinci formed early designs resembling modern helicopters—centuries before they became a reality. It has been a fantastic first week back for Darwin class with opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration, and the students have embraced every challenge with maturity and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing how they continue to build on this wonderful start to the term.



Dahl Class

In maths, Dahl Class have been sharpening their measuring skills by learning how to use a protractor! They've also been investigating the sum of angles in different polygons and enjoying the challenge of problem-solving. The children are thrilled to be starting a powerful new class novel, *Once*, in English lessons and are already making predictions and asking thoughtful questions about the story. In history, the class are beginning an exciting new project on the English Civil War, discovering what life was like during this dramatic period in British history. In PE, Dahl Class have been learning all about the muscles in the human body and put this knowledge into action by creating their own warm-up routines — a great mix of learning and movement! In PSHE, the children are exploring moral dilemmas, developing their thinking skills and learning how to discuss different choices and viewpoints respectfully. What a busy and brilliant week for Dahl Class!

Final Thought

As we begin a new term and a new year, January offers a natural moment for reflection and renewal. After two weeks away from school, returning to routines can feel challenging, and it is important to recognise that this transition may look different for each child, family and member of staff. The new year is often linked with resolutions and fresh starts, which can be a positive opportunity to try something new, but it is equally a time to look back and acknowledge what has already been achieved. Rather than placing pressure on ourselves or others to meet unrealistic goals, this is a chance to value progress made so far and to move forward in a way that feels meaningful and achievable for our school community.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Pine
Headteacher