



Autumn 2025 Newsletter



A message from Mrs Bartley

What a wonderful half term it has been! The children have settled in really well to their new year groups and school has been as busy as ever! The newsletter, written by our Year 6 children, is filled with updates on trips, visitors and our day to day school life.

I am very proud to announce that we received a GILT Award for the Primary Science Quality Mark led by our wonderful Science Lead, Mrs Anderton and a GOLD Primary School Games Award led by Miss Bellwood. Both of these are significant achievements that reflect the whole staff team's dedication to school-wide improvement and ensuring we provide the best learning experiences for all our children.

We are delighted that the expansion of our Nursery provision has been successful and we now have children staying at school all day. If you are interested in a place, please contact the office to arrange a visit or sign up for one of our Open Events coming soon.

Dragonflies — Our Nursery Children

Our class is called Dragonflies. We love to paint, mix colours, and read stories. Our favourite thing to do is role play! We also enjoy phonics sessions, riding bikes and trikes, and playing with Play-Doh.

We are settling in well and having lots of fun. We're learning about The Colour Monster and enjoying every moment in nursery!

(Charlotte, Dorothea and Thomas)

Cooking fun in The Nest

Six children in The Nest have been busy cooking using real ingredients, scales, and the oven! They have made delicious cookies — some with raisins — as well as tasty dips for carrot sticks and pitta bread.

(Dominic)

Year 5 & 6 Football Tournament

On 8th October 2025, Years 5 and 6 travelled to Mildenhall to take part in a football tournament. There were several schools competing, and our team put in fantastic effort and teamwork throughout.

Some of the players scored amazing goals and everyone encouraged each other, even when matches were tough. Although many of the opposing teams were very strong, our players never gave up and gave it their all.

One player said, "This was such an exciting experience — we're pumped for the next game!" Everyone was proud of how brilliantly the team represented our school.

(Wilf and Miller)

Our Amazing Trip to See Charlotte Cane

On Tuesday 7th October, Years 5 and 6 visited Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School to meet Charlotte Cane, our local MP. We were very excited to learn about her job and she told us all about her life in Parliament.

She explained that MPs are allowed to carry swords into the Houses of Parliament and shared some of the important rules of her work. It was a privilege to meet her, especially as we have been learning about politics and our local area in geography. We are very grateful for the opportunity to deepen our understanding of how local MPs represent us.

(Vrinda and Zachary)

Year 3 and 4 Get Dirty at Fantastic Forest School!

Every Friday, Kingfishers (Years 3 and 4) take part in Forest School. They enjoy exciting outdoor activities in our woodland area, using tools and plastic sheets to make dens.

During winter, the class gathers around a child-safe, blazing-hot fire to roast marshmallows and sip warming hot chocolate.

“My favourite part of Forest School is climbing trees,” said one student.

(Phoebe and Florence)

The Year 5 and 6s Return Proud from Cross Country!

On 30th September, Years 5 and 6 took part in a cross-country event at Newmarket Golf Club. The pupils showed incredible determination, hard work, and sportsmanship.

Even though they didn't come first, everyone was proud of their effort and teamwork. The teachers encouraged the children all the way, and it was a wonderful day filled with fun, fitness, and perseverance. Well done to our amazing runners!

(Imogen and Shamariah)

The Harvest Service Grows Bigger Than Ever!

Every October, our school visits Swaffham Bulbeck Church to celebrate the harvest. We bring food donations for those less fortunate than ourselves. On Wednesday 15th October, we will celebrate this year's harvest with a focus on The Parable of the Sower.

Each class will perform a different part of the story:

- Years 1 and 2 are retelling the part where the seeds land on rocks and are eaten by birds.
- Years 3 and 4 are performing the part where seeds fall among brambles.
- Years 5 and 6 are showing how the seeds flourish in good soil.

We will also sing our favourite songs — Harvest Samba and Cauliflowers Fluffy — and Reverend Max will share a message about cereal.

Doves have created beautiful artwork, Kingfishers are acting out their scenes, and Owls have also made wonderful artwork. We all enjoy the Harvest Service, as it reminds us how lucky we are to have farmers and good harvests.

(Evie and Nana)





Duxford Gets an Exciting Visit from Doves Class

On 6th October 2025, Doves Class (Years 1 and 2) visited the IWM Duxford Museum. They went to explore the aircraft and continue learning about their history topic: Flight. Their favourite plane was the Concorde, as they had the chance to look inside the aircraft.

After enjoying lunch outside the American hangar, they went inside to learn more about the different planes. One child, Ptolemy, said, "It was the best experience of my life!" Another added, "That was so much fun. I really enjoyed climbing inside the Concorde!"

When they returned to school, the children excitedly chatted about their day. The teachers were delighted with such a fun and inspiring trip.

(Winnie and Monty)

We met an Astronomer!

Last week, Owls (Years 5/6) met an astronomer at Swaffham Prior Primary School. We walked there in the afternoon to join their Year 5 and 6 class for this exciting visit.

We held a real space rock that was millions of years old — it was very heavy but we all managed to lift it! We learned about the solar system, galaxies, moons, stars, and much more. After the talk, we clapped and cheered to thank the astronomer.

On the way back, we went litter-picking and filled an entire bin bag! We were proud to help the environment and grateful for such an amazing experience. Some photos are now on Class Dojo, our school's sharing platform.

(Sam and Megan)

Events coming up:

- School Disco** 5pm – 7pm 23rd October
- Christmas Bingo** 29th November at 5pm in school hall
- Christmas Fair** 13th December 10-12 in school hall

All things PTA!



Donations for raffle prizes at the Christmas Bingo and Christmas Fair would be greatly appreciated. Anything from unwanted gifts, toys, books, sweets, chocolates, biscuits, bottles of alcohol etc. Please drop into reception and state they are for the PTA.

If you are interested in becoming a PTA member, please contact Marie Cass. Thank you as always for your continued support.



School Books

At Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School, we love reading!

Dragonflies (Nursery) are reading *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas.

Blurb: Today the Colour Monster is feeling very mixed up – he's yellow, blue, red, black and green all at once. Can you help him?

Doves (Years 1/2) are reading *Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure* by Alex T. Smith.

Blurb: When Boudicca Bones from the museum calls for help, Mr Penguin springs into action. Can he and Colin find the missing treasures?

Kingfishers (Years 3/4) are reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

Blurb: Four adventurers step through a wardrobe door into Narnia – a world enslaved by the White Witch.

Owls (Years 5/6) are reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar.

Blurb: Stanley's bad luck unfairly lands him in a juvenile detention centre, Camp Green Lake – a strange place that isn't green at all.

(Henry and Reggie)

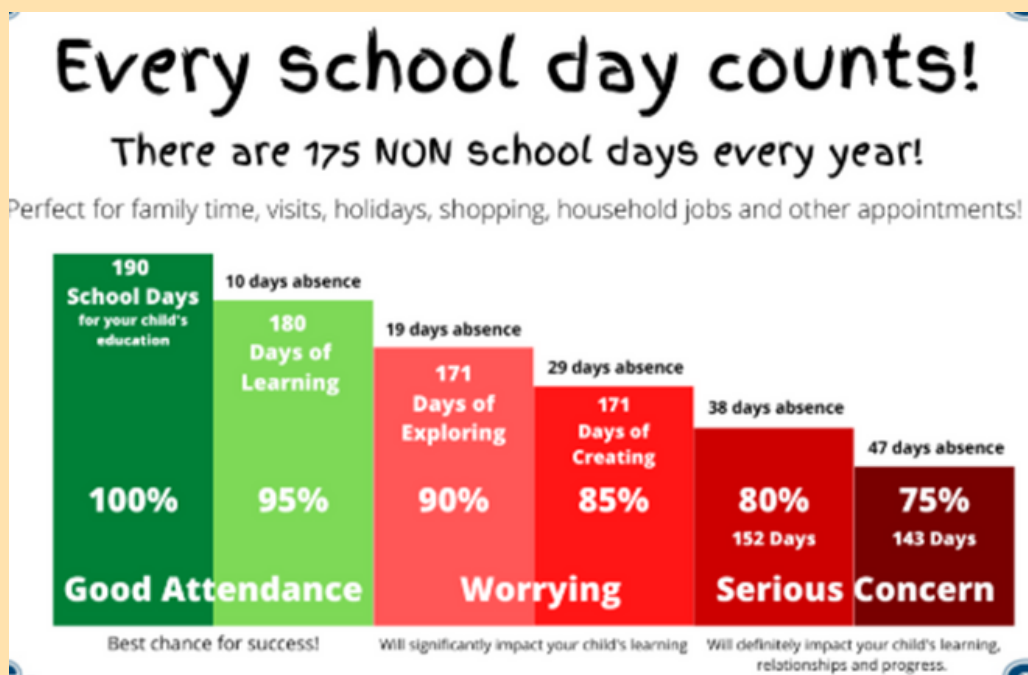
Class Attendance

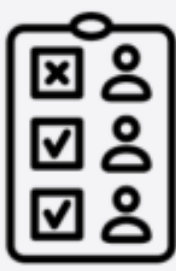
Doves : 96.6%

Kingfishers: 95.1%

Owls: 98.6%

A reminder to please contact the Office by 9:00 to inform them of why your child is absent and please be sure to check in with the Office each day of the absence.



 The target for ALL children is 96%+	When you're in school you.... • Achieve • Make friends • Learn to communicate, work as a team • Experience new things and cultures • Build confidence When attendance is inconsistent children... • Fall behind then try to catch up so • Lose confidence • And don't enjoy it Good habits start early. Bad Habits are hard to break.	Did you know? Government research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = 1 GCSE grade DROP in achievement. Working Together to Improve School Attendance 
 Is my child well enough?	Do not bring to school with • a high temperature (38+) As soon as they improve, they can return to school. Stay at home for 48 hours after diarrhoea or vomiting	NHS Guide – Is my Child too Ill to attend School? 
 What to do	• Call, Dojo or email the office by 9am to inform them why your child is absent • Check in with the office every day of the absence • School may carry out a welfare check if we consider the pupil to be missing	Please be specific about the symptoms your child is displaying. We may be able to help.
 Holidays & Appointments	• The majority of holidays will not be authorised • Where possible, make appointments for outside of school time • Please provide evidence of appointments	There are 175 days of the year when children are not in school and can take holidays or attend appointments.
 Punctuality	• The gate opens at 8.35am and shuts at 8.45am • Please sign your child in if they are late	Lots of key learning takes place within the first hour of school. Missing this can mean your child regularly misses the same lesson and could fall behind.
 We are here to help	Expect school to offer both support and challenge: • Wellbeing support for Emotionally Based School Avoidance • Signposting to additional services • Attendance contracts	For further advice contact the Education Inclusion Family Advisor, Emily Norman Emily.norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk