



Summer 2026 Newsletter



A message from Mrs Bartley

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful year for our school community. The children have achieved so much, both academically and personally, and it always an honour to watch them grow in confidence, resilience and kindness. None of this would be possible without the support of our parents and families and I would like to sincerely thank you for the encouragement, partnership and trust you have shown throughout the year.

No doubt everyone will have their own highlights from the year, but there are a few moments that stand out particularly for me. The school productions, from our Nativities to the outstanding end-of-year performance, which showcased the confidence and enthusiasm of our children. I am always incredibly proud of how they rise to the occasion and perform with such joy and commitment. Equally special is the children's singing, which is truly excellent. Hearing their voices every day reminds me what a special place our school is. It is a genuine privilege to experience that pure joy daily.

Another highlight is seeing how our older children look after and nurture the younger members of the school. Their kindness, patience and sense of responsibility create a community where everyone feels valued and supported. These moments often happen quietly and away from the spotlight, but they are a wonderful reflection of the caring culture that exists throughout our school.

For me, one of the greatest rewards in education is witnessing the progress children make in learning to read. There is something magical about seeing those first tentative steps with letters and sounds develop into fluent and confident reading whatever age and however long it takes. It is a journey that requires hard work and perseverance from children, staff and parents alike, but the results are worth it. Watching children discover the pleasure and power of reading remains one of the most satisfying aspects of my role.

It has certainly been a busy and, at times, exhausting year, but it has also been an incredibly rewarding one. As we look ahead to the summer break, I hope everyone has the opportunity to rest, relax and spend time with loved ones. I am immensely grateful to our dedicated staff, our wonderful children and our supportive families for all they have contributed. I wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Attendance Matters

Attendance across the school this year has been 94.8%. While this may sound like a strong figure, it places us 130th out of 210 primary schools in the county, which is disappointingly below the average. As a school, we are ambitious for all our children and know that we can do better. Every day in school really does count, and we would like to see this reflected in our attendance figures next year.

A school attendance rate of 94.8% means that, on average, children have missed just over 5% of their teaching time. Whilst two pupils have achieved excellent attendance and have been in school every single day, for others the amount of learning lost has been much higher. Even a small number of days missed can quickly add up over the course of a school year.

It is important to remember that every school day has value. While some days may appear less academically demanding than others, these are often the occasions when children develop equally important skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience and creativity. They also miss out on the social experiences that come from learning, playing and spending time with friends. School is about much more than lessons alone, and children benefit enormously from being present every day.

As you begin planning for the next academic year, we ask that holidays and routine medical or dental appointments are booked during school holiday periods wherever possible. We fully understand that children will sometimes be genuinely unwell and need to stay at home to recover. However, if a child is simply "feeling under the weather", they can often successfully soldier on and enjoy a normal day at school.

Together, let us make attendance a shared priority next year. With the support of parents, pupils and staff, we would love to see our attendance rise to 96% and beyond. Every day really does count, and every day in school is another opportunity for children to learn, grow and thrive.

Twist!

On the 7th and 8th of July, KS2 performed TWIST!, our exciting adaptation of the classic story Oliver Twist. Everyone had a fantastic time taking part in the production. The show opened with a dramatic scene as the children marched onto the stage carrying silver bowls, creating a powerful atmosphere. Many children said they enjoyed learning the dances, and the audience loved the energetic performances and the loud cane of the villain, Bill Sikes. It was a brilliant show that everyone will remember!

Written by Teegan



Swimming weeks

During the summer term, every class visited Swaffham Prior for swimming lessons. Before Year 5 and 6 travelled to France, Owls and Butterflies enjoyed their swimming sessions.

While they were away, Kingfishers (Years 3 and 4) and Doves (Years 1 and 2) had their swimming week. All the children showed great determination, excellent behaviour and had lots of fun in the pool while developing their swimming skills.

Written by Monty



Year 5 and 6 trip to Pizza Express

The Year 5 and 6 children who did not go on the residential trip enjoyed a visit to Pizza Express in Newmarket. During the trip, they had the chance to make their own pizzas by adding their favourite toppings.

Once the pizzas were ready, they were cooked in the restaurant's ovens and enjoyed by everyone. The children had a great time learning how pizzas are made and, of course, tasting the delicious results!

Written by Wilf

Cricket Tournament

On 21st May, Owls Class (Years 5 and 6) travelled to Bottisham Village College to take part in a cricket tournament. The event gave the children a chance to represent the school and improve their cricket skills.

The team played brilliantly and finished in second place. Although another school just beat us to first place, everyone was proud of our achievement. The best part was receiving medals and celebrating together after a fun and successful day. It is an experience we will remember for a long time.

Written by Thomas

Sports Day!

On 17th June, the whole school took part in our annual Sports Day morning. Lots of parents and families came along to cheer on the children as they competed in a range of races for their team.

The atmosphere was full of excitement, encouragement and teamwork. After all their hard work, the children enjoyed a refreshing ice pop to help them cool down. Sports Day is always a highlight of the year because everyone joins in, tries their best and leaves with a smile on their face.

Written by Evie

Science week

From 15th to 19th June, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School celebrated Science Week. Throughout the week, the children took part in exciting activities designed to inspire curiosity and a love of science.

On Monday, the Wildlife Trust visited to teach us how to care for nature and protect local wildlife. On Tuesday, an ecologist showed us how to identify signs of animals and helped us create hedgehog holes to make gardens more wildlife-friendly. We even learnt that hedgehogs can travel up to three miles in one night!

On Wednesday, we measured trees and learnt how to estimate their age. Thursday brought our Science Fair, where children proudly shared their creative projects. Some experiments even included exciting reactions! On Friday, we joined a Zoom call with polar scientist Peter Fretwell and learnt about wildlife living in the polar regions.

It was a fantastic week full of discovery and learning.

Written by Phoebe



Residential trip to Normandy

From 22nd to 26th June, Year 5 and 6 visited France. The trip gave the children an opportunity to learn about a different culture, practise their language skills and explore important historical sites. During the visit, they learnt about William the Conqueror, World War II and life in France. They also visited a cheese factory, explored the D-Day beaches and experienced a 360-degree cinema. Temperatures reached an incredible 42°C, but despite the hot weather, everyone had an amazing time.

The trip was full of memorable experiences that the children will never forget.

Written by Shamariah

Bikeability

This year, Year 6 pupils take part in Bikeability training to improve their cycling skills and learn how to stay safe on the roads as they prepare for secondary school.

Throughout the week, children practised important cycling techniques with the support of experienced instructors. The sessions were both educational and enjoyable, helping pupils gain confidence while having lots of fun with their friends.

Written by Evie

Bulbeck Band

Bulbeck Band is a group for toddlers and their parents to enjoy time together at our school.

The children sing songs, play with a variety of toys, listen to stories and take part in fun activities led by Mrs Weaver.

The sessions take place every Wednesday during the morning and are always enjoyed by the families who attend.

Written by Wilf



Sponsored Rideathon!

Recently, Swaffham Bulbeck held a Rideathon to help raise money for new playground equipment.

The event took place on the Denny on 3rd July. Children brought bikes, scooters and together they completed 2022 laps of the Denny!

Family and friends sponsored them for their efforts, helping us raise over £2000 towards our goal of £10,000 for exciting new play equipment. Everyone had a fantastic time while supporting a great cause.

Written by Thomas



All Things PTA!

What an amazing end to the school year ... Our Rideathon day was a huge success, with the total of our Go Fund Me being £2099, and £100 in cash donations. Making our total £2199. A huge thank you again to the children for taking part. You should all be very proud of yourselves. What fun we had! Thank you also goes out to, Parent/Carer helpers on the day, Parents/Carers for collecting donations, teachers for their support on the day, reception staff for all their support and work for the event, school catering team for making some of the children's lunch's early and PTA members for all their work behind the scenes and on the day! A special thank you also to the village shop for their kind donation towards our event. Our amazing end of year Disco went ahead despite the heat, with fans blasting the children, and an amazing time was had by all. Some of our year 6 leavers attended and enjoyed there very last Bulbeck disco. And they absolutely made the most of the evening.

We would like to wish our year 6 leavers the very best of luck starting college in September. Remember how amazing you are. Congratulations on finishing Primary School. Thank you as always for your support this school year.

Marie - Chair PTA

Class Books

Dragonflies (Nursery)

Dragonflies Class have loved reading Walking Through the Jungle this term. It has been a class favourite and received an impressive 5-star rating.

Owls (Years 5 and 6)

This term, Owls Class have been reading The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. The class particularly enjoyed the exciting adventures throughout the story and gave it 4 stars.

Kingfishers (Years 3 and 4)

Kingfishers have been reading The Firework-Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman and The Witches by Roald Dahl. The children have really enjoyed both books, rating them 4 and 5 stars.

Doves (Years 1 and 2)

This term, Doves Class have been reading books by Eric Carle, including The Tiny Seed. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the stories and look forward to reading more.

Written by Teegan