



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.

Best Harvest Festival At Swaffham Prior!

Harvest Festival Highlights

On Wednesday 15th October, the children celebrated Harvest at the church. Ladybirds and Dragonflies started us off by singing Big Red Combine Harvester while proudly showing their collage, followed by a whole-school performance of Autumn Days. Year 6 pupils closed the service with a heartfelt prayer they had written themselves. Then, on Monday 20th October, the school was surprised by a creative display of cereal donations – arranged like dominoes! One lucky volunteer knocked them down, causing a joyful chain reaction. Thank you to everyone who donated. It was a truly wonderful harvest celebration!

(Matilda, Hannah and Abi)

Cross Country Strikes Again!

On 30th September, Years 5 and 6 took part in the Cross Country tournament at The Links Golf Course, running an impressive 2.4km. The children showed fantastic determination and sportsmanship, with several qualifying for the finals! Huge thanks to Mr Rundell (Phil), our brilliant trainer. Congratulations to all our amazing runners!

(Rosie, Elspeth and Aleysha)

Dragonflies and Ladybirds have settled in!

Dragonflies and ladybirds have settled in bravely in their new classroom. They have been kind and strong and they also love their friends. They have been learning about colour mixing and have smiles on their faces. Playing is their favourite thing to do. They love all of their teachers and work hard everyday, learning new things every day!

(Owen and Charlie)

Fantastic Football Tournaments

Butterflies class took part in two exciting football tournaments in Mildenhall this October.

On the 8th, they played five competitive matches, showing great perseverance and teamwork. One pupil said, "We enjoyed it so much, we'd love to do it again!"

Then on the 14th, they joined a non-competitive tournament, playing four fun and fair games. "It was awesome!" said one enthusiastic player. Well done to all who took part!

(Wilf, Molly and Holly)

Mathew's exciting space visit to Swaffham Prior Primary

A couple of weeks ago, a special space visitor, Mathew, came to Y6/Y5 class to talk about space. Mathew told them many mind-blowing facts and he even showed them a space rock! Apparently it was part of an asteroid belt and is the oldest thing we will ever hold. Hopefully, Mathew will visit again.

(Joshua, John and Teddy)

Swifts Soar at Duxford!

On 6th October, Swifts Class (Years 1 and 2) visited the IWM Duxford Museum as part of their history topic on aircraft. The children were amazed by the huge hangars and especially fascinated by the Concorde – the longest and thinnest plane they saw! Although they couldn't go inside, they watched planes take off and land during lunch, adding to the excitement. The trip was rated "ten out of ten" by the children – a truly joyful and inspiring day!

(Orson, April and Kourtney)



Super Zoom Call from Space!

On Thursday 9th October, we joined a fascinating Zoom session with Team Tim, featuring a cartoon version of astronaut Tim Peake and a clever invention called the portal box. We learned about life in space – from growing plants to exercising with special machines and even playing ping-pong with water!

The children were amazed by how astronauts eat in zero gravity and inspired by the idea of working with NASA one day. A truly out-of-this-world experience!

(Abby D-P and Iona)

Fantastic Forest School

Every Friday, Ladybirds and Dragonflies (reception and nursery) head into the world of wilderness but first they listen to beautiful bird songs. Climbing trees, swinging in hammocks. It's heaven! The best part is digging holes in the mud! Those little builders love creating things with the logs. Be prepared to put your coats and wellies on because it's about to get messy!

By Elspeth, Rosie and Aleysha

Brilliant Bees Build Pneumatic Toys!

This autumn, Bees Class designed and built creative pneumatic toys for Year 1 children to enjoy. Using air pressure to power their inventions, they learned all about air compression and how it can be used safely in toy-making.

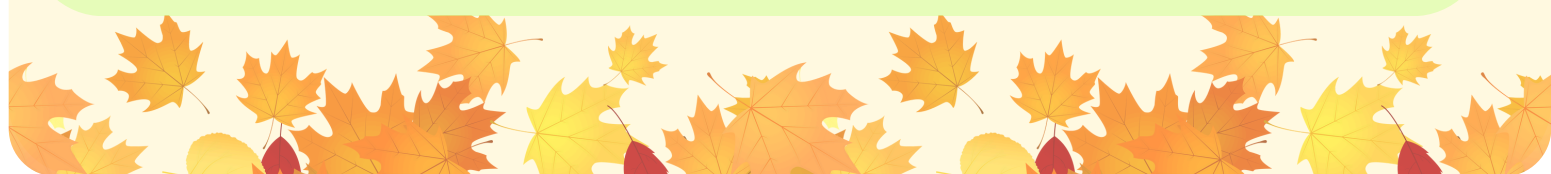
Despite time challenges, the children showed great perseverance and imagination – from scary monsters to eye-catching designs. Flora loved making the eyes, while Hugo and Alex were fascinated by the science behind it. Well done, Bees Class – your creations were amazing!

(Bessie and Lacey)

When Charlotte Cane Came To Visit!

On Tuesday 7th October, Charlotte Cane, our local MP, visited Butterflies and Owls Class to talk about her role as MP. She told us that when she goes to parliament to vote, she is allowed to bring a sword in with her! You also have to bob instead of put your hand up! It was a privilege to meet her and we are very lucky to have had to opportunity to deepen our understanding of how local MPs represent us.

By Maisie and Octavia



Class Attendance

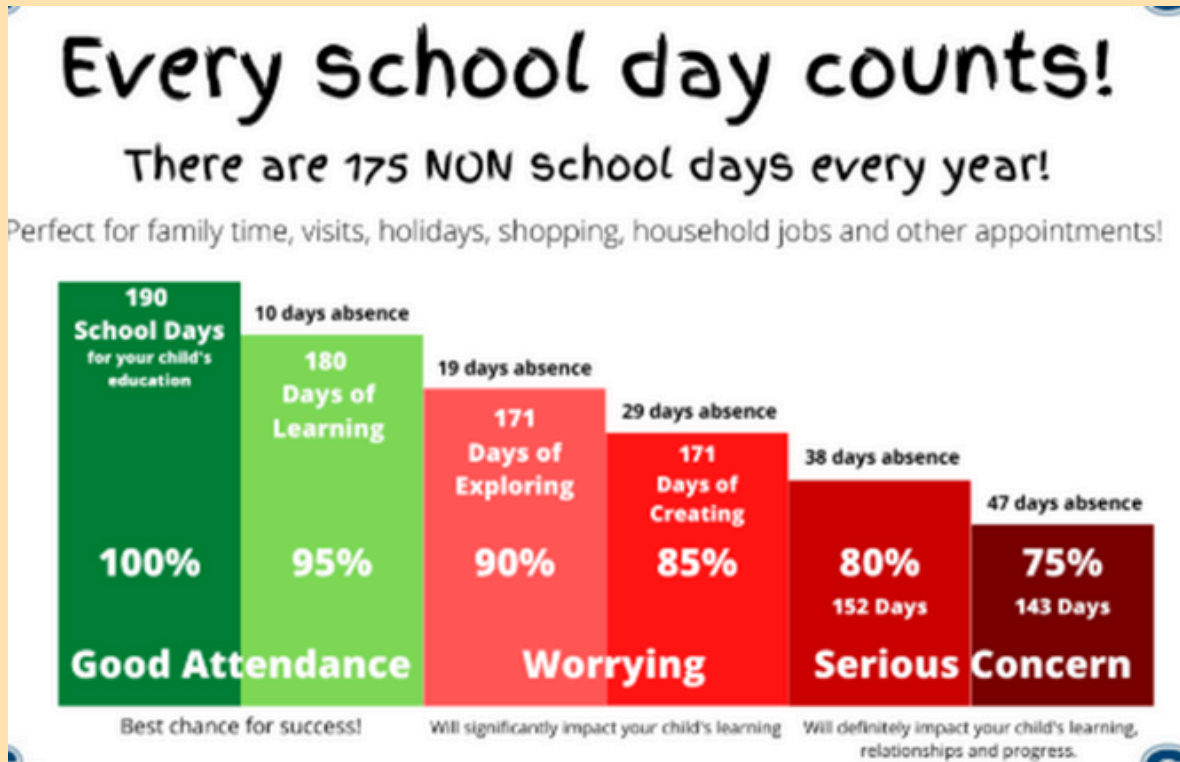
Ladybirds : 96.5%

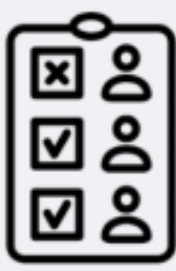







Swifts: 95.4%

Bees: 96.8%

Butterflies: 96.4%

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.



 <p>The target for ALL children is 96%+</p>	<p>When you're in school you....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve • Make friends • Learn to communicate, work as a team • Experience new things and cultures • Build confidence <p>When attendance is inconsistent children...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall behind then try to catch up so • Lose confidence • And don't enjoy it <p>Good habits start early. Bad Habits are hard to break.</p>	<p>Did you know?</p> <p>Government research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = 1 GCSE grade DROP in achievement.</p> <p>Working Together to Improve School Attendance</p> 
 <p>Is my child well enough?</p>	<p>Do not bring to school with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature (38+) <p>As soon as they improve, they can return to school.</p> <p>Stay at home for 48 hours after diarrhoea or vomiting</p>	<p>NHS Guide – Is my Child too Ill to attend School?</p> 
 <p>What to do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Please be specific about the symptoms your child is displaying. We may be able to help.</p>
 <p>Holidays & Appointments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of holidays will not be authorised • Where possible, make appointments for outside of school time • Please provide evidence of appointments 	<p>There are 175 days of the year when children are not in school and can take holidays or attend appointments.</p>
 <p>Punctuality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gate opens at 8.35am and shuts at 8.45am • Please sign your child in if they are late 	<p>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.</p>
 <p>We are here to help</p>	<p>Expect school to offer both support and challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing support for Emotionally Based School Avoidance • Signposting to additional services • Attendance contracts 	<p>For further advice contact the Education Inclusion Family Advisor, Emily Norman Emily.norman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>