



Spring 2026 Newsletter



A message from Mrs Bartley

As we approach Valentine's Day, it feels like the perfect moment to celebrate the kindness and community spirit that make our school such a special place. We are incredibly grateful for the love and support shown by our wider community, especially those who quietly provide everyday essentials such as food bags and other resources for families who need a little extra help. If you are experiencing financial strain, please do contact the school office. We may be able to connect you with community support that could make things a little easier.

It is also wonderful to celebrate the continued success of our pre-school provision. Our toddler groups are now well established, well attended, and full of energy and joy. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Weaver and Mrs Rowley for their dedication and leadership in making this happen.

At this time of year, it also feels important to reflect on the Christian values that guide our school every day. Peace, Hope, Perseverance, Community, Wonder and Compassion shape everything we do – from our behaviour policy to the curriculum and the experiences we offer our children. These values are not just words on a page; they influence how we treat one another, how we learn together, and how we support our community. Although we are a small school, we believe this strong ethos and the way we work with each other is what makes our community truly special.

We are also delighted to welcome new children into our school community. We currently have spaces available in some year groups, and we would be grateful if you could spread the word among friends, neighbours, or anyone who may be looking for a warm, nurturing school. If anyone would like further information or to arrange a visit, please encourage them to contact the school office, where we will be very happy to help.

Finally, you may have noticed that our trim trail has now reached the end of its life. We are beginning to explore ideas for a replacement, and in keeping with our school ethos, we hope to create an outdoor environment that is creative, accessible to all, and supportive of children's wellbeing and play. We would also love to work with contractors who are local to our community wherever possible. If you are interested in helping with fundraising, or if you have ideas, contacts, or expertise that could support this project, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Reception's Bee Programming

Ladybirds and Dragonflies have been learning how to program BeeBots.

They successfully programmed them to move around the school field.

One child we interviewed said, "It was 10/10 and so much fun!" while another added, "It was so fun I would do it again."

It sounds like they had a brilliant time – we wonder what they will program next!

By John, Orson and Teddy

Art Work

This half-term, Butterflies class have been studying William Morris and his artwork. For their end-of-term project, they created prints in a William Morris style, building three or four layers of ink using colours such as green, blue, red, yellow and white.

Swift's class have been exploring sculptures and how they differ from paintings.

They have been learning about artists including Henry Moore, Albert Giacometti and Antony Gormley.

They are building up to creating their own final sculptures.

By Wilf, Joshua and Charlie

Bees Class Cafe

Bees class have been exploring solids, liquids and gases.

They created incredible lava lamps using oil, water, food colouring and effervescent tablets.

They also made bubbles and investigated how many water droplets could fit on a 2p coin. This links to their science learning about states of matter!

By Iona, Octavia, Hannah and Nico



Butterflies Class Cafe

In Butterflies class café, we conducted an experiment to find out which material would be best for sprinkling on icy roads.

Parents were invited to help us carry out the science investigation.

Every three minutes we sprinkled a pinch of either flour, sugar, salt or sand onto ice and measured how much melted.

Flour was awful because it turned into dough, and sugar made syrup, so both were ruled out! Sand wasn't very effective either – but salt was excellent at melting the ice.

By Iona, Octavia, Hannah and Nico

Cheerleading Festival Success

On 10th February in Mildenhall, a brilliant group of Bees – Lyla, Flora, Kirthi, Maisie, Lilly, Lexie, Frankie, Laura, Bella and Henrietta – took part in a cheerleading competition.

With the help of dance club leaders April, Bessie, Lacey, Molly, Kourtney, Elodie and the fabulous Mrs Rowley, the group learnt a routine to The Greatest Showman.

Their performance was the result of weeks of hard work and dedication during breaktime and lunchtime rehearsals. Overall, they came a superb second place and also won the Loudest Shouting Award!

Six schools took part, and the dancers said that the experience of going on stage and performing to an audience was spectacular.

Well done dancers – you were amazing!

By Bessie, Lacey, Molly and Kourtney

Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday 10th February, it was National Internet Safety Day. Bees and Butterflies joined together to watch a BBC Live Lesson. We learnt how to keep ourselves safe online, especially when using AI (artificial intelligence), and we created a unique AI chatbot. The chatbot took the form of a vulture, to reflect how important it is to protect endangered species.

We learnt that you can't always trust what you see online and that it's important to double check information. Everyone designed their own vulture profile picture to show they were talking to the AI vulture. We also learnt that we should never share personal information online, as AI is a tool – not a human – and cannot understand feelings.

By Bessie and Lacey

Marvellous Mini Medics — Introducing Mental Health

On Monday 2nd February 2026, Emily Barrett – who teaches children about mental and physical health – visited Butterflies class to talk about looking after our mental wellbeing. After the discussion, we played a fun snap game about feelings and emotions.

Before free time, we explored strategies for managing our feelings by writing ideas from A-Z.

To finish the session, we enjoyed some calming, mindful activities such as bracelet making with stretchy loom bands and glittery beads, playing Top Trumps and completing fun word searches.

By Maisie and Elspeth



Ladybirds' Trip to Anglesey Abbey

On Monday 9th February, Ladybirds class went on a trip to Anglesey Abbey. When they arrived, the children enjoyed playing on the grass after the journey.

They then searched for snowdrops and other flowers in the fields. After finding them, everyone sat down to eat some fruit.

The children carried their backpacks and walked through the grounds, spotting many trees. After playing in the park, they observed the statues placed around the field. They later sat on benches to eat lunch from their bags.

After a busy, happy day, Ladybirds got back on the bus and returned to school. The children said the trip was very exciting and lots of fun.

By Matilda, Abby and Abi

Scratch in Key Stage 2

Scratch is a fantastic programming tool that helps children explore and understand coding. In Bees and Butterflies class, we have been creating quizzes using Scratch. Butterflies have been learning about program design and outcomes, such as: if answer = true then say “Well done!” else say “Uh-oh!”

Bees class have been exploring Scratch by programming their own games. They experimented with adapting the ‘Catch a Shark’ game to make versions like ‘Catch the Pufferfish’ and ‘Catch the Basketball’.

By Rosie, Noah and Owen

STORIES & SMILES
at Swaffham Prior

CRAFTS - STORYTIME - BOOK SWAP

Join us for fun-filled sessions of
small crafts and story time for
children age 0-5

EVERY THURSDAY
10:40 - 11:30

SWAFFHAM PRIOR SCHOOL

Under 5s
toddler
group

FREE ENTRY! No need to book