

## Newsletter 13/02/26



Children who demonstrate an acceptable standard of behaviour are awarded points. To be awarded a point the children would have to be in the right place, at the right time and doing the right thing.

This week **384** children have been GREEN all week.

WELL DONE!



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week it's been! With the Year 2 visit to Pontefract Castle and a visit from some dinosaurs, it's been the most fantastic end to this half term! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the enrichment opportunities offered since January and the dinosaur visit has been described as the "best visitor ever"! We've also had workshops for both KS1 and KS2 as part of Safer Internet Day. This year's focus is all around AI and how this is growing in today's society. A huge thank you to those parents that attended the parent/carer workshop – I'm sure you'll agree it was of great benefit.

### Upcoming Dates

23/02 – Return to School  
 26/02 – 2KW Stay and Read  
 26/02 – Year 3 Coal Mining Museum Trip  
 27/02 – 5KR Stay and Read  
 04/03 – 1KR Stay and Read  
 05/03 – 4NR Stay and Read  
 05/03- World Book Day  
 11/03 – 1JS Stay and Read  
 11/03 – SEND Coffee Morning Positive Sleep Routines @9am  
 12/03 – 4EC Stay and Read

18/03 – Year 2 Trip to Tropical World  
 24/03 – Year 5 Parents Residential Meeting @2.30pm  
 27/03 – Break Up  
 13/04 – Return to School  
 20/04-24/04 -Year 5 Residential to Dallow Gill  
 11/05-14/05 – Year 6 SATS Week  
 20/05 – Year 1 Yorkshire Wildlife Trip  
 22/05 – Break Up  
 02/06 – Return to School

### Stars of the week

**NURSERY AM- Orla. C!** For fantastic work with her drawing club and her Talk for Writing task this week. For encouraging other children to have a go and try their best!

**NURSERY PM - Kai. B!** For building his confidence and his speech and language with those around him!

**RRS- Grayson** for always trying his best and having a positive attitude.

**REH- Poppy C** for working hard in Phonics and for reading confidently in Phonics 2.

**1KR- Roseann** for trying very hard in her phonics and reading.

**1JS- Jessie** for making great progress with her writing and having a go by herself.

**2KW- Lilah** for her green behaviour and amazing listening on the school trip.

**2LR- Nelly S.** She has tried so hard in her after school club and in writing, she is really focusing on forming the letter a correctly. Well done, Nelly.

**3ED- Jessie** for trying hard to be green. Well done!

**3SF- Olivia!** For always being super green and helpful.

**4EC- Paige** for contributing her ideas more and more each day! And for fantastic science work, keep it up Paige! Well Done!

**4NR- Cassie** for amazing Geography performance about the wonders of Greece and for really concentrating in her learning and demonstrating what it means to be green! Well done Cassie!

**5KR- Maddison** for always trying her best and working hard in her lessons.

**5CT- William D** for giving everything into his work presentation and showing his understanding of his learning through the end of the unit recaps with his hand constantly up!

**6SW- Isabella** for her effort in Writing lessons.

**6SC- Zach** for phenomenal effort in Maths, even attending breakfast club interventions.



### Nursery

This week in Nursery we have had a go at creating our own story maps of 'The 3 Billy Goats Gruff'. The children have all had a go at either drawing their story or orally telling their stories and they have all blown us away with their confidence and their use of the vocabulary we have learned.

In Phonics this week we have focused on initial sounds, and the children have been learning how to spot and emphasise the sounds at the beginning of words. In Maths this week we have been learning about composition of numbers. We have used songs, such as 5 Little Speckled Frogs to help us understand that there can be items in different places but there is still an overall quantity. 3 on the log, 2 in the pool and 5 altogether.

We have been busy in the classroom making pancakes with Mrs Franks for Pancake day. We chose a variety of toppings, but they were all lovely. We had a visit from some dinosaurs and we have had a go at exploring clay like our inspirational artist. A very busy last week of half term!



### Reception

This week the children moved away from gingerbread men and worked together to create pitta bread pizzas. We read the instructions, followed the recipe, decided the tastiest toppings and cooked them in the oven. They were absolutely delicious and they enabled us to begin our discussions around healthy eating. The children made a list of food that is good for our bodies, and we talked about how some foods can be less healthy if we eat them all the time. In Maths we continued exploring numbers to 8 and created part-part-whole models in class. We used stickers and plates to subitise, and we worked in pairs to use our vocabulary when explaining the addition of two groups of objects. This week we also explored colour mixing and we used white and red power paint to create pink paint that matched the roses and carnations in the classroom.



### 1KR

WOW! What a wonderful first half term of 2026 we have had. We ended Spring 1 we a dinosaur day with Teach Rex. It was incredible, we learned about dinosaurs and when they existed, what life was like when dinosaurs did exist, what they ate and how they survived! We even met some baby dinosaurs and a life size T Rex! We got to use and experiment with a green screen too. Well done year 1 for a fantastic spring 1 and I look forward to seeing you in Spring 2.



### 1JS

We had a wonderful day with the dinosaurs who came to visit us in school this week. I'm sure the children will tell you all about it. It was very exciting!

We have finished our writing unit on poetry and really enjoyed learning about fast animals. We used these ideas to write a class poem called 'Quickly'.

Maths has been all about working with numbers to 100, reading, writing and partitioning them.

In PSHE lessons, we have been thinking about dreams and goals and how it feels when we succeed at something that was difficult at first. We have been exploring printing in Art, using hard and soft objects as well as making our own printing block to resemble a dinosaur footprint.

This week, we also had safer internet day where we had a visitor from Educare to talk to us about being safe online and in class we discussed AI, with a focus on devices in our homes such as Alexa.



### 2KW

This week we have had an exciting trip to Pontefract castle where the children were able to experience a tour of the castle grounds and the dungeon. They had a brilliant time listening to stories told by Ilbert the dragon and learnt lots more information about Motte and Bailey castles. As well as this they have done some work on online safety for internet safety day and have had an assembly where they met Jam the dinosaur which all of the children enjoyed.



### 2LR

What a busy last week of term! We have finished our castle topic with a visit to Pontefract Castle! The children enjoyed dressing up as dragons with Ilbert and looking at the ruins despite the weather. Then we had a visit from Jam the dinosaur in school - we had to avoid his tail as we tried to run past him to get the chicken. In DT, we have been looking at healthy food and in Science we have examined our previous experiment with bread. The children were shocked with how many germs were on their hands. We have also looked at money this half term and I am hoping the children can wow you with their money knowledge in the holidays.



### 3ED

This week in maths, we have been learning how to read and understand digital clocks, building our confidence in recognising and writing the time in digital format. In DT, we designed our own mining helmets and created electrical circuits to power them. We added some exciting features, including night vision goggles and gas mask attachments, thinking carefully about how the components would work together. For Internet Safety Day, we enjoyed learning about AI. We explored how AI works and discussed how to use it safely and sensibly online. We have also completed our history topic on Victorian coal mining. To finish our learning, we held a class vote to decide whether we would have chosen to work in a Victorian coal mine, using everything we had learned to help us make our decision.



### 3SF

What an exciting final week we've had in Year 3! In reading this week, we have been putting ourselves in Lila's shoes and thinking carefully about how Philip Pullman uses senses to intrigue the reader and help us imagine the story. The children shared some brilliant ideas and really impressed me with their thoughtful responses. In maths, we have continued our learning about time, with a focus on reading digital clocks. The children have worked incredibly hard and have made great progress, I'm very proud of them. On Tuesday, it was Internet Safety Day. We learned lots about how to stay safe online and had important discussions about using AI responsibly. Thursday was the highlight of the week — we met a T-rex! It was super fun and very interactive. The teachers were called up to the front (much to the children's delight!) and there were lots of laughs all round.



### 4EC

Well, 4EC, another half term complete! What a busy one it has been... For our final week, In Reading, we have officially seen Edward leave Bull and Lucy and now his journey moves onwards. We have pulled different parts of formal and informal language used by author Kate Di Camillo and how this brings the characters personalities to lives. We look forward to continuing the story after half term! In writing, we have looked at poetry this week. We have read and taken inspiration from author Emily Dickinson and her poem, Dear March. We have written our own versions after picking our favourite month and season to write about. We had a special visitor from a very giant creature...A T-REX! Whilst learning lots of different scientific dino facts, we also had lots of giggles watching the giant T-rex in action. 4EC laughed their socks off when Miss Court was chosen to be eaten by the T-rex!



### 4NR

A busy final week! We created some amazing games in our final computing lessons. In reading we had cliff hanger after cliff hanger as our beloved Edward was turned into a scarecrow! In Geography we completed our Greece learning and moved on to rivers the children have worked so hard learning the water cycle and impressed me with using the correct scientific terms! Well done 4NR, enjoy the holidays 😊



### 5KR

For the final week, we have been working in reading on looking at linked texts to deepen our understanding of the novel. In maths, we have continued working on decimals looking at the place value of different numbers and adding and subtracting them. In writing, we have created our own poem and were even able to perform this to the rest of our year group. In Science, we had the opportunity to investigate soil from mars and decide which one we think came from mars. We also then added water and the soil reacted and expanded! This week, we have also had our last swimming of the term where we were able to perfect our swimming techniques!



### 5CT

What a week! We have been looking at decimals within our maths work this week, making sure we have been using our previous knowledge of place value and making sure to line up our numbers properly. In reading, we have been looking at Jim's journey of meeting different characters in the book - looking at the character of Rosie and Shrimps and looking at the language that they use which determines whether they are formal or informal characters. In music, we used our musical investigation ears to create our own upbeat Brazilian music with body percussions and drums - we used music notes to understand the melody. In PSHE this week we created our own steps to success map which we would need to take in order to achieve our dream jobs, the children have done amazingly well in the unit and showed great ambition - I hope they take this ambition and focus into their futures. We had our lovely parents in for Stay and Read on Thursday morning, it was lovely to have such a big turn out for the children, they really enjoyed showing off their library and reading to each other. I hope you all have a lovely half term!



### **6SW**

To mark Safer Internet Day, we took part in a computing session all about the use of AI. We discussed how artificial intelligence works, the benefits it brings and—most importantly—how to use it safely and responsibly online. In Classroom Kitchen, we made our own tomato and carrot soup—and it was absolutely delicious! During the session, we also learned about the added sugars and salts that can often be found in pre-packaged foods and how cooking from scratch means we know exactly what goes into what we eat. A highlight of the week was a very special visit—from the dinosaurs! The children were thrilled to meet the prehistoric team, who not only brought excitement but also helped clear up several misconceptions about dinosaur life and the prehistoric world. We also celebrated Poetry Week and the children created powerful, atmospheric poems all about the Blitz.



### **6SC**

It has been another fantastic and busy week in Year 6! In Classroom Kitchen, we put our culinary skills to the test by making delicious tomato and carrot soup. Alongside chopping and stirring, we explored the concept of *hidden sugars* in prepared foods. The children were surprised to discover just how much sugar can be found in everyday items, and they showed great maturity in discussing healthier choices. In Reading, we continued our work on *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, comparing Bruno's new home with his old life in Berlin. The children demonstrated thoughtful insight when exploring how setting influences mood and character. We also learned about the incredible Katherine Johnson, the NASA mathematician whose calculations helped send astronauts safely into space. The class were inspired by her perseverance and brilliance. To top it all off, on Thursday we even managed to sneak a peek at Year 1's visiting dinosaurs — definitely a highlight of the week! It was wonderful to see such excitement (from adults as well as children!).



### **Simpson's Lane Academy Safeguarding Team**

***If you have any concerns about a child or member of staff, please contact one of our safeguarding team. Our safeguarding leads are –***

Mr Colley (Head of Academy DSL)

Mrs Silburn (Well-being Lead and Deputy DSL)

Mrs Ellis (Vice Principal and Deputy DSL)

Miss Coopey (Assistant Principal and Deputy DSL)

Miss Simpson (Attendance Officer and Deputy DSL)