

14TH FEBRUARY 2025

ISSUE 19

PRIORY SCHOOL NEWS

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Headteacher's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy half-term, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and to celebrate everything our pupils have achieved over the past few weeks.

From exciting school trips and special events to the hard work happening every day in the classroom, our children have shown curiosity, determination, and kindness in all they do. A huge well done to them!

After the break, we have lots to look forward to, including World Book Day, Science Week, and Parents' Evenings. Please check your emails and the school website for key dates and updates. To our staff team, thank you for your dedication and care—I hope you all have a well-earned rest. And to our families, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable half-term.

- ✂ Parents' Evening – 25.02.25 & 26.02.25
- ✂ Travelling Book Fair – 03.03.25 – 07.03.25
- ✂ World Book Day – 07.03.25
- ✂ Holi Colour Run (After School) – 10.03.25
- ✂ Science Week – 7th-16th March
- ✂ International Women's Day – 8th March
- ✂ Young Carers Day – 16th March

Attendance

Weekly attendance percentages - W/C 3rd February

Whole School - 91.8%

Year 1 - 91.6%

Year 2 - 89.5%

Year 3 - 95.1%

Year 4 - 94.9%

Year 5 - 87.8%

Year 6 - 94.8%

Congratulations to 6Darwin with 99.1% the highest attendance this week!

Important dates:

[Click here](#) to link to the school calendar

[Click here](#) to see term dates for 2024-2025

Leaflets and letters:

Please [click here](#) to go to our leaflets page on the website and choose external providers

Sign of the week:

No SOTW this week

Nursery Peek at the Week

14th February 2025



Our Learning

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This week we have been reminding our children to keep each other safe in class by remembering to **walk** inside and not to run.

Communication & Language Development

This week as part of our Jigsaw PHSE program we have been reading the story of 'The Hare and the Tortoise' and learning about determination. We talked about all the things we find difficult to do in nursery and decided that we need to have an 'I can do it' attitude.



Physical Development



In our music sessions we often move with scarves. Tossing scarves back-and-forth develops fine motor skills and helps teach directional tracking as we visually track our scarves' movement. These are some of the skills we need to help us with our writing development.

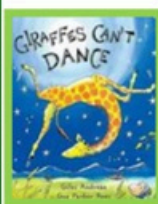


Thank you to all parents who have signed up for a Parents' Evening session on either Tuesday 25th or Wednesday 26th February. Reminders will be sent out on Monday 24th February.

Friday 7th March World Book Day


Our chosen book in Nursery is 'Giraffes Can't Dance'. You may like to choose this as a costume theme, or another book character, or

the very comfy option of some cosy pyjamas. Please can we request no one-sies for nursery children due to the difficulty of going to the toilet in these!



Valentine's Day Activities



 **Child of the week:** Thomas for always being so happy, being a great friend to others and showing enthusiasm towards all the learning opportunities he is given.

Nursery rhyme of the week: HEART Valentine's Day Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgAx_sQ0mqE
child to watch the video and to sing along.

Please encourage your



Contact us: nursery@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week–Reception

14/02/25

We have had a wonderful end to the term! This week we have finished our Space topic, focusing on the animation The Clangers for Drawing Club. We saw some wonderfully imaginative drawings from the children!

Towards the end of the week, we have enjoyed lots of lovely Valentines Day themed activities. The children had lots of fun creating cards and on Friday we decorated biscuits!



Coming up:

- 25th and 26th February–Parents Evening.
- 27th February–Farm Visit (in school)

Communication and Language

This week we have completed Spring 1 of [Little Wandle](#), and have finished our end of unit assessments. We encourage you to read with your child over the break, they have a decodable reading book and a library book in their book bag. We are not sending phonics homework home over the break!

Phonic information for Parents [here](#)

Physical Development

We have received some new balance bikes in Reception. Learning to ride a balance bike is great for developing a range of skills—including coordination, spatial awareness and gross motor skills. It is also a wonderful way for children to develop resilience, trying an activity they may find tricky.



Reception song of the week:

[We are the Planets](#)



Reception Stars of the Week:

R Rupert: Noah R Paddington: Mihita



Peek at the Week

Year 1 – 14th February 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

Please can all book bags be brought in on a Thursday so library books and reading books can be changed.

Please log in to Numbots.



Homework

- Please read with your child for at least 15 minutes a day and record it in their reading diary.
- Focus core math skill: Can you find an item that is worth £1 in a shop and pay for it using a £1 coin? Can you give the £1 coin to a shopkeeper?

Send in a picture what you find!

Year1@priorschool.com

It was so lovely to see all of the pictures of the children using weighing scales. We were particularly impressed with **Talha** who made some very yummy cookies!



Our Learning

This week:

In math, we have continued our unit on mass and volume. The children have learnt about the key words capacity and mass and have practiced recognising when a container is full, empty, nearly full or nearly empty.

In English this week, we have finished off our unit on The Emperor's egg. The children have spent time writing facts about penguins by creating their own information texts. Their writing really showcased how knowledgeable they have come about Emperor penguins – we are really proud!

In afternoon sessions this week, the children have really enjoyed learning about the formal elements in art. They have spent time printing to create a repeated pattern and had a go at creating different shades, tints and tones.



The children have worked really hard this half term and have definitely earned a week off. Well done, year 1!

After half term:

- **English** – We will be starting our new text: *What the ladybird heard*.
- **Math** – We will be starting adding numbers within 20.

Star of the week

1Donaldson: Ananya

1Jeffers: Sienna



Words of the Week: **through** **again** **water** **want** **many**

Contact us: year1@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week

Year 2 – 14th February 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

25.02.25/26.02.25 - Parents'

Evenings

13.03.25–Windsor Castle Trip



Please read with and to your child every day and discuss what you are reading. Once the children have used their phonics to decode the words in the book, please re-read the book several times over the week to help them build up their pace and fluency.

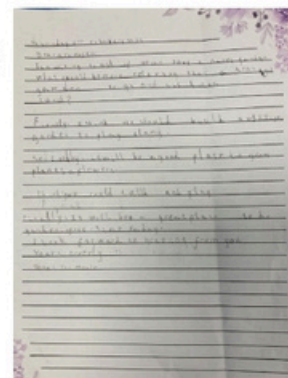
Spellings are sent home on Fridays with a spelling quiz the following Friday. Please practice writing these spellings daily if possible. Please also login in to NumBots and Times Table Rockstars to practise both number bonds and timetables.

Please send your child in the correct PE uniform on **Wednesdays**.

Please also send your child in with a coat daily as we are outside learning in our Year 2 garden for part of every day.

Our Learning

This week in English, we have finished writing up our letters to Mrs Foster and will deliver them before half-term. We have also enjoyed creating contraction caterpillars!



In maths, we finished our unit on money and have

been comparing different amounts. In Geography, we learned more about the countries: Scotland and Wales and made posters to show some of the facts we learned about Scotland. In PSHRE, we took part in a workshop with the NSPCC and were able to share what we'd learned about 'Speak Out, Stay Safe'.



Next half-term, we will be exploring and basing our writing on a new text in English: The Queen's Hat, by Steve Antony. We will begin by reading the story and describing different London Landmarks. In



maths, we will be looking at multiplication, focusing on groups of objects and repeated addition number sentences to start with. We will also be starting our new topic in history looking at the features of castles and how Windsor Castle has changed over time.



In the garden, we enjoyed this fun fine motor skills activity this week, where we used tweezers and pipettes to make love potions for our family and friends.

Child of the Week

2Newton: Maverick

2Franklin: Amelia





Peek at the Week

Year 3— 14th February 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

27.02.25 3 Jenner swimming lesson

25.02.25/26.02.25 Parents' Evenings 04.03.25

Year 3/4 performance of Disney's
Finding Nemo Kids 2pm

05.03.25 Year 3/4 performance of Disney's
Finding Nemo Kids 10am

HOMEWORK

Please read with your child for at least 15 minutes every day and record this in their reading record. Ideas for reading at home can include reading a library book, a book from school or home, reading a bedtime story or following a recipe among other opportunities!

Books can also be read online at <https://www.collinshub.co.uk/login/>

Please practise number bonds and multiplication tables with your child. Times Tables Rockstars: <https://ttrockstars.com/>

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniform to school each Monday.

Our Learning

This week, Year 3 had an amazing experience when they visited Whipsnade Zoo. Please check out the website to see some photos of our trip. The children took part in a workshop to learn about animal diets and visited lots of the different exhibits. Back in school, we have been working hard in English to write our own version of the Happy Prince. In Maths, we have been exploring measure.

After half term, we will be rehearsing ready for our dress rehearsal to the school of the Year 3 and 4 performance of Disney's Finding Nemo Kids. The children are really looking forward to sharing their hard work with parents too the week after.

In English, we will begin a unit of work of poetry. In Maths, we will be continuing to focus on measure, particularly using cm and m to measure length.



Word of the Week: circle

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year3@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Year 4 Peek at the Week

Friday 14th February 2025

Important Dates /Reminders

Wednesdays: wear the correct PE uniform to school. Please bring in a water bottle.

Fridays: Spelling test. Please remember to read at least three times a week and record it in the reading record. Your child also need to be practising their times tables as much as possible.

Dates for the Spring Term

Finding Nemo performance for parents–Tuesday 4th March
2PM

Finding Nemo performance for parents–Wednesday 5th
March 10AM

Year 4 trip to Ufton Court–
Thursday 27th March.

If your child needs suggestions for their costume, please speak to their class teacher.

Our Learning

This week we have continued to practise our performance that we are looking forward to sharing with you in the second week back after the holidays.

In English, the children have planned their writing based on the book 'Journey'. This was a good opportunity to think about how children could include similes, expanded noun phrases and dialogue in their writing.

In Maths, the children have been learning about kilometres and metres. They now know that there are 1000 metres in a kilometre and we have talked about which unit of measure is best to use when measuring different items.

After half term in English, the children will be writing their stories that they have planned this week based on the 'Journey'.

In Maths, we are going to be continuing to calculate the perimeter of different shapes. The children will learn strategies that will help them accurately work it out.

In the afternoons, we will be practising for our performance as we have our dress rehearsal at the end of that week.

Child of the week:

4 Turing: Jay-Jay 4 Lovelace: Haider 4 Chamberlain: Amber M



Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths.

Contact us: year4@priorschool.com 01628 600300



Year 5 Peek at the Week

14th February 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

Parents' Evening: 25th & 26th February

World Book day: 7th March

Stem week: 17th March

Science Museum Trip: Thursday 20th March

Priory's Got Talent: 4th April

Our Learning

This week, we continued with our geography unit and focused on local issues that affect us. We also created a campaign to pitch to our Eco Council.

In maths, we extended our learning from fractions and linking it to decimals up to 2 decimal places, and finding the equivalent fractions.

In English, we continued writing effective sentences, focusing on complex sentences that extend our ideas. We also used a range of punctuation in our work.

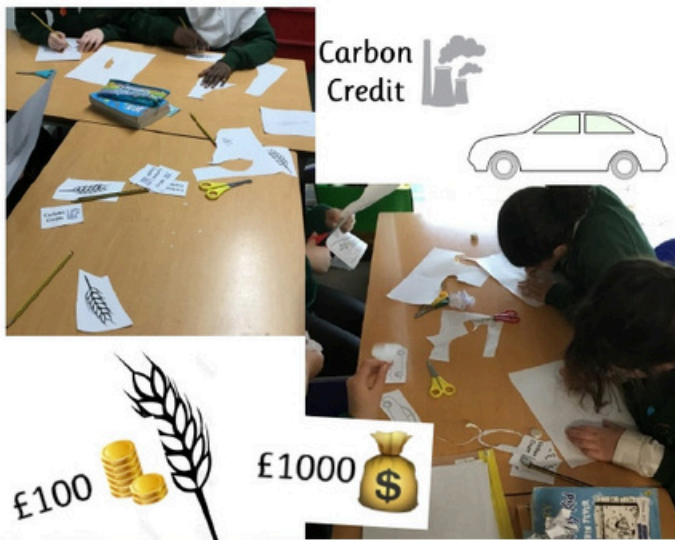
This term in PSHRE, we will be looking at Dreams and Goals. Here we will focus on the values of hope and trust.

After half term, we will begin our history unit on The Islamic Empire. Here we will learn about what makes a successful settlement and also how the Silk Road enabled the spread of knowledge and religion to occur.

In maths, we will continue with our decimals unit and learn new strategies where we will apply our knowledge to the thousands in fractions and decimals, with ordering and comparing.

In English, we will continue focusing on plastic pollution and persuasive pitches with an aim to writing our own pitch.

This week in Geography, we played the climate change trading game, some of us represented the countries making cars and some of us represented the countries making crops. The country with the most carbon credits won!



Child of the Week

5Dawe: **Esha** 5Maple: **Amelia** 5Ofili: **Harsha**

Word of the Week: **nuisance**

Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths and Doodle Maths.

Contact us: year5@prioryschool.com

01628 600300



Year 6 Peek at the Week

Friday 14th February 2025

Important Dates /Reminders

14.02.25 - February Half Term Break

Thursdays: Wear the correct PE uniform to school. Please bring in a water bottle.

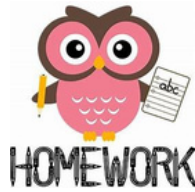
Thursdays: Spelling quiz.

Homework due:

□ Reading record x3

□ Spellings x1

Times tables practice on TTRS



Our Learning

This week, in science, we learnt about microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses.

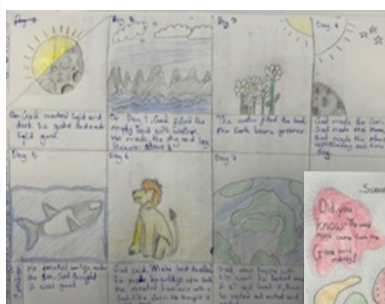
We then started our RE topic on Christianity, exploring the creation story from the Bible and how it links to the theory of evolution.

In English, we sat our SPAG assessment. We were also introduced to more of the characters from our book 'The Last Wild'. We had the chance to write a newspaper article.

In maths, we ordered fractions, decimals, and percentages, followed by finding percentages of an amount. We sat our maths reasoning assessment papers. After half term, in history, we will start our topic on the Ancient Mayans! We will learn about where and when their civilisation was and how their society was structured.

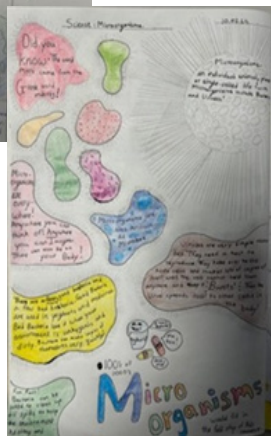
In English, we will be using information we know about the Red-Eye virus from The Last Wild to write our own newspaper report.

In maths, we will complete the topic on percentages. Next, we will explore and understand the area, perimeter, and volume of various shapes.



Year 6

RE
and
Science



PSHRE Focus: Dreams and Goals. In PSHRE this term, we will understand the difference between realistic and unrealistic goal-setting. We will be able to identify our learning strengths and the steps we need to take to achieve our goals. We will share our dreams for the world by identifying problems and discussing our concerns with other people. We will understand how to work with others to help make the world a better place. Lastly, we will be able to recognise and celebrate our own achievements when our goals are met.



Child of the week:

6 Attenborough: Tommy 6 Anning: Imaan 6 Darwin: Bhavay

Word of the Week: lightning

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year6@priorschool.com 01628 600300



Peek of the Week

The Orchard

Week commencing- 10.02.2025

Important Dates/ information

Trips

Mondays- Cherry class

Community visits

Tuesdays- Apple class
swimming

Wednesdays – Plums TVAP

P.E- Please send children to school wearing their uniform and pack their P.E in their bags . This is to support the children in learning to independently dress themselves. Thank you!

Makaton sign of the week:

Love



Peek of the Week from the Orchard

Assessment Week:

This week in the Orchard the children have been assessed on all the hard work over the last term!

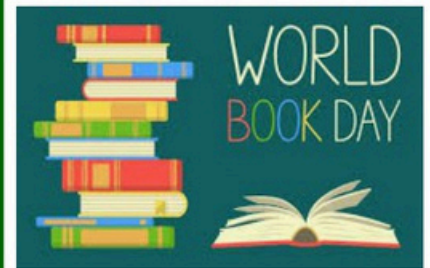
Coming Up!

Next half term in Literacy the children will be exploring Mini Beasts, writing Explanation Texts. Our new topic book will be 'Hotel for Bugs'.



In Maths the children will be learning about Mass & Volume, Length & Height and one to one correspondence.

HELP! For both Literacy & Maths we will need lots of junk modelling materials, please could you send in any containers such as butter containers!



For world book day Orchard will be continuing our fairy tale theme focusing on:

Determination

We are asking each class to dress up as characters from well known fairy tales or PJs:

Cherries- Goldie Locks and the three bears

Plums- Little Red Riding hood

Apples- The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Pears- The Gingerbread man

Stars of the week

Plums: Ahmed- for making a request in the lunch hall

Cherries: Rafi- for his is amazing achievement in his phonic assessment

Apples : Avraaj- for focusing in maths and doing some fantastic addition

Pears: Chanel- for independently completing the priory mile



PE News

The year 5/6 boys football team displayed a valiant effort and courage to play two tough matches in two days vs the two top sides in their league.

They pushed Lynch Hill all the way in a narrow 1-0 defeat on January 30th and a 3-0 defeat against Montom on January 31st

The boys showed fantastic character and team spirit to keep going throughout the whole match.

Mr Glewis and Miss Miller were very proud of their determination and how they all fought for each other
#teampriory



Music News

Priory's Piano Soloist Superstar!

On Saturday 8th February, Mateen from Plums Class took part in a prestigious charity concert, held at the beautiful Dorchester Abbey in Oxfordshire, presented by OSJ Music for Autism. Amongst the other performers were internationally acclaimed pianist Derek Paravicini, and the amazing Michael Howell, who was a finalist in Series 2 of "The Piano".

Mateen performed his two piano pieces brilliantly and with his usual flair (!) and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to perform to such an appreciative audience. The whole evening was totally inspirational, and Mrs Shaw was so pleased and proud to be able to attend. Well done Mateen!

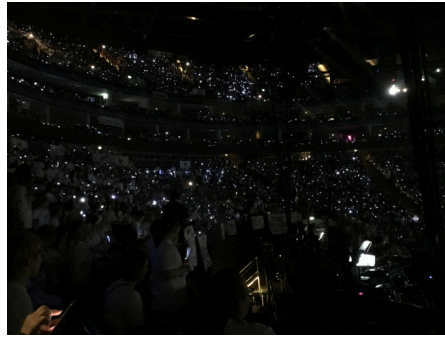


Young Voices Choir Performance

We are so proud of our Y5 and Y6 choir members who took part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena in London last Wednesday 5th Feb. The children have been preparing since early in the Autumn Term to learn all the songs and dance moves, ready to join students from primary schools across England to form the world's biggest children's choir of 8509 singers! Our children sang their hearts out and behaved beautifully.

Thanks go to all the adults who helped with preparations and on the day, to the children for working so hard to be ready for the show and to parents/carers who enabled their child to attend for such a long day. What a fantastic experience!

If you would like to order a video of the concert, please visit www.yv25film.co.uk



Instrumental Lunchtime Concerts

After half term, children who have instrumental lessons in school will be invited to perform in an informal lunchtime concert, to a friendly and supportive audience. If your child is involved, you will soon receive an invitation to attend. The concerts are scheduled to take place on your child's usual lesson day, apart from Mr Keen's Tuesday students, who will have their concert on the Wednesday. PLEASE NOTE THE VARYING START TIMES and save the date:

11:30am concerts:

Monday 3rd March at 11:30am: Mr Lazenbury's piano & violin students

Thursday 6th March at 11:30am: Mr Clements' drum kit students

Midday concerts:

Wednesday 5th March at 12 noon: Mr Keen's keyboard, piano & flute students

Thursday 6th March at 12 noon: Mrs Sumner's guitar students

Year 5's Enlightening Visit to the Mosque in Slough

The Year 5 students from Priory School embarked on an educational trip to the Jamia Masjid & Islamic Centre in Slough. This visit was part of their Religious Education curriculum, aimed at broadening their understanding of different cultures and religions.



A Warm Welcome

Upon arrival, the students were warmly welcomed by the mosque's community members. The mosque, located on Stoke Poges Lane, is a beautiful structure that serves as a spiritual and community hub for local Muslims. The students were excited and curious, ready to learn and explore.

Learning About Islamic Practices

The visit began with an introduction to the basic principles of Islam. The students learned about the Five Pillars of Islam, which are the foundation of a Muslim's faith and practice. They were fascinated to hear about the daily prayers (Salah), fasting during Ramadan, and the significance of charity (Zakat).



Exploring the Mosque

The students were then taken on a guided tour of the mosque. They observed the prayer hall, where they learned about the importance of cleanliness and respect in a place of worship. The intricate designs and calligraphy on the walls captivated their attention. The guide explained the significance of the mihrab, the niche indicating the direction of Mecca, and the minbar, the pulpit from which sermons are delivered.

Interactive Activities

To make the visit more engaging, the students participated in a few interactive activities. They tried on traditional Islamic attire and practiced writing their names in Arabic calligraphy. These hands-on experiences helped them connect more deeply with the culture and traditions they were learning about.



Building Bridges

This visit to the mosque was not just an educational trip; it was an opportunity to build bridges of understanding and respect between different cultures and religions. The Year 5 students left with a greater appreciation for diversity and a deeper understanding of the Muslim community in Slough.

The school plans to continue such visits to various places of worship, fostering an environment of inclusivity and mutual respect among its students.

This visit to the Jamia Masjid & Islamic Centre was a memorable experience for the Year 5 students, enriching their knowledge and broadening their horizons. It was a day filled with learning, curiosity, and respect, leaving a lasting impression on young minds.



UPCOMING EVENTS

20
25

FEB
27

FARM VISIT EY &
YEAR 1

YEAR 3 & 4 DISNEY'S
FINDING NEMO KIDS
2 PM

MAR
04

MAR
05

YEAR 3 & 4 DISNEY'S
FINDING NEMO KIDS
10 AM

TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR
WEEK
3.15 - 4.00PM

MAR
03 - 07

MAR
07

WORLD BOOK
DAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE
UNDERLINED EVENT

UPCOMING EVENTS | 20 25

**MAR
10**

HOLI COLOUR RUN
3.15PM

YEAR 2 WINDSOR
CASTLE TRIP

**MAR
13**

**MAR
17**

YEAR 6 NATURAL
HISTORY TRIP

YEAR 5 SCIENCE
MUSEUM TRIP

**MAR
20**

**MAR
27**

YEAR 4 ANGLO
SAXON TRIP TO
UFTON COURT

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE
UNDERLINED EVENT**

UPCOMING EVENTS

20
25

MAR
27

YEAR 2 SHARING
ASSEMBLY
THE KING'S HAT

SCHOOL EASTER EGG
HUNT (IN SCHOOL EVENT)

APR
02

APR
03

NURSERY ONLY
LAST DAY OF TERM

PRIORY'S GOT TALENT
(IN SCHOOL EVENT)

APR
04

APR
04

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
SCHOOL FINISH TIME
1.30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE
INDIVIDUAL EVENT



L'Appel – The Register

French	English
Bonjour	Hello or good day
Madame	Madam
Monsieur	Sir
Bon après-midi	Good afternoon

Bonjour, monsieur.

Bon après-midi, monsieur.

Bonjour, madame.

Bon après-midi, madame.



Les couleurs – Colours



bleu



rouge



jaune



vert



orange



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZR66TjirDc>



Le déjeuner – Lunch

Quelle
couleur?



French	English
s'il vous plaît	please
merci	thank you
Quelle couleur?	Which colour?

Orange
s'il vous
plaît.



Vert s'il
vous plaît.



Jaune
s'il vous
plaît.



Bleu s'il
vous plaît



Rouge s'il
vous plaît.

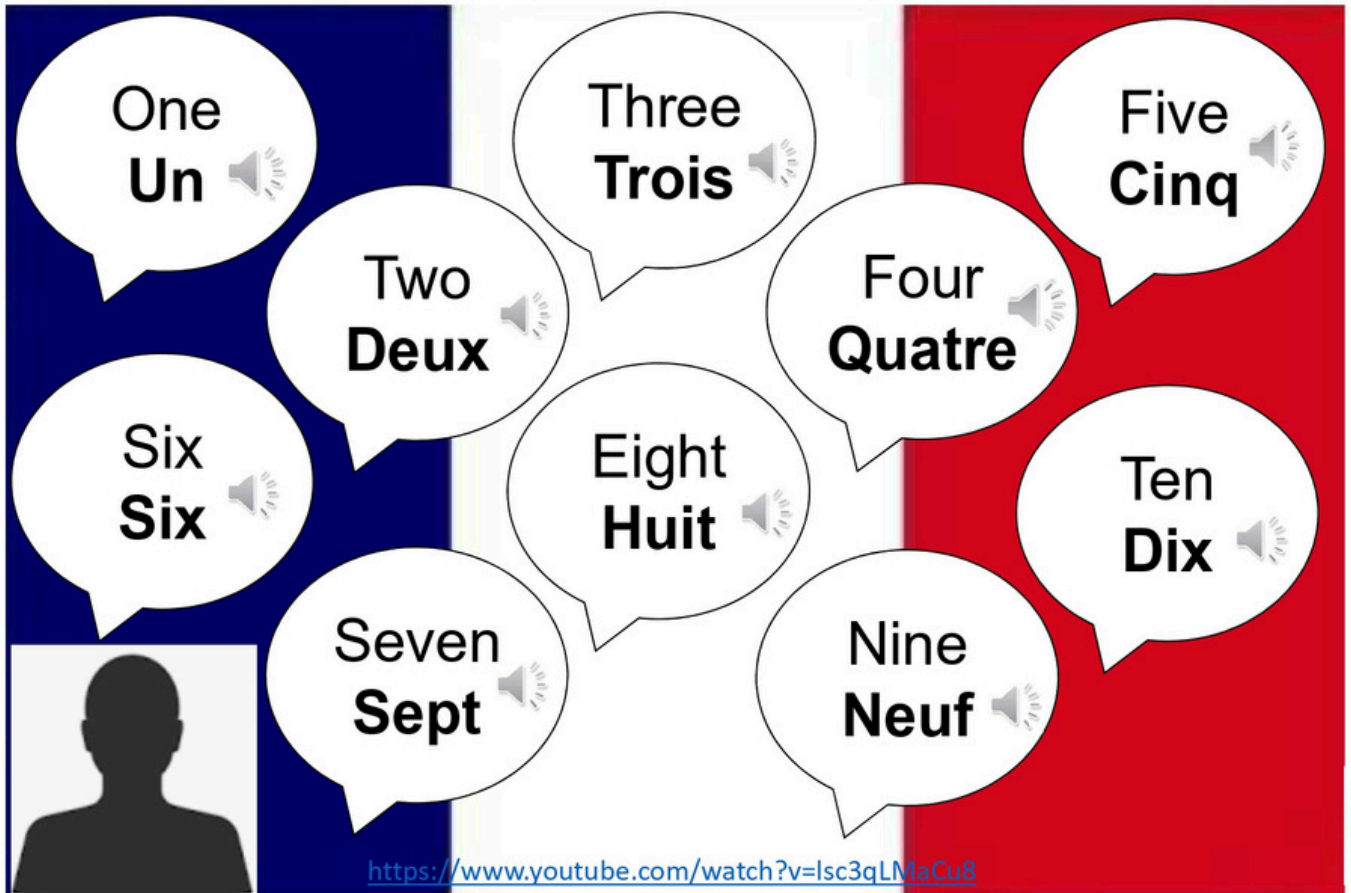




A collection of speech bubbles containing French phrases, arranged on a background with vertical stripes of blue, white, and red. The phrases are:

- Good morning
Bonjour
- Thank you
Merci
- Yes
Oui
- Hello
Bonjour
- Sorry
Désolée
- Well done
Bien joué
- Please
S'il vous plait
- Good afternoon
Bon après-midi
- No
Non
- Goodbye
Au revoir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOdAzpZIS2U>



A collection of speech bubbles containing French numbers, arranged on a background with vertical stripes of blue, white, and red. The numbers are:

- One
Un
- Two
Deux
- Three
Trois
- Four
Quatre
- Five
Cinq
- Six
Six
- Seven
Sept
- Eight
Huit
- Nine
Neuf
- Ten
Dix

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsc3qLMaCu8>



Useful websites:

Facts

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/france>

French national anthem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIQSEq6tEVs>

Frère Jacques

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrPiWFxmY24>



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.



2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.



3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.



4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.



5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.



6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.



7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.



8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.



9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.



10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Phased Transfers Deadline for 2025

For the SEND Team, the first two months, into a new year, are dominated by the Phase Transfer Process.

This is where children and young people, with EHCPs, transition from nursery to reception, or from primary to secondary school. Secondary young adults, moving into post-16 provision, will have their EHCPs finalised in March.

What happens during phase transfer for children and young people with an EHCP?

Moving to a new school or further education setting is both an exciting and anxious experience for all children, young people, and their families. However, when your child has an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP), the process can be particularly worrying as you may not be sure how a new setting will meet your child's needs.

The local authority's SEND Service is here to help. They will guide you through the transfer process and answer any questions that you may have. If you'd like to speak with a member of the SEND team, please call: 01753 787676.



The deadline for phase transfer reviews remains the same every year:

- **31 March in respect of secondary to post 16 institutions.**
- **15 February in all other cases.**

Special Voices - A Parent Carer Forum for Slough

A parent carer forum is a group of parents and carers of disabled children who work with local authorities, education, health, and other providers, to make sure the services they plan and deliver meet the needs of disabled children and families.

The main aim of Special Voices is to raise awareness about the rights and needs of children/young people with additional needs, and to ensure that they and their families are consulted and involved in any decisions made, during planning or developing services for them.

Special Voices has a main steering group of voluntary parents/carers who have taken on the role of gathering your collective views and presenting them to service planners and decision makers to ensure that services are needed. To find out more, visit the Special Voices website www.specialvoices.co.uk or call: 07990 693439.



Mandy Gunn
Chair of Special
Voices

update

Since we produced our last newsletter, we have welcomed three new members into our service.

A huge welcome to Jay Murphy, who joins us as our SEND Operational Lead. Jay comes to us with an extensive legal background, having worked as a barrister for many years. Jay's understanding of SEND services, local authorities, and the law, means that she is very well placed to be able to drive the service improvements that are needed and what our children, young people, and families deserve.

We also welcome Charlie Randell and Veronica Cummings, who join us as experienced SEND Case Officers this month, and who are eager to meet some of our SEND Community here in Slough. December was also a month of goodbyes, with some of our case workers moving onto other roles outside of Slough Borough Council. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Joanne Jackson, Vanessa Taylor, Diana Moore-Gibson and Claire Steel for all of their hard work and wish them all the best going forward.

We will be recruiting to further posts in 2025 and we are excited to update you in upcoming newsletters!

You said...

We did...

An important part of any improvement journey is listening to feedback from parents and carers, who have a lived experience of using the SEND service and who are best placed to advise of what we could do better!

Following on from a review of our active complaints, we were able to look at themes such as lack of adequate communication, with families frequently reporting delays in responses, inconsistent updates due to caseworker changes, and a lack of clarity about next steps. There are also ongoing concerns about significant delays in finalising EHCPs, actioning annual reviews, and implementing Tribunal orders, many of which exceed statutory timeframes.

Additionally, complaints often highlight the negative impact these delays have on children's development and access to appropriate support. In addressing these complaints, we realised that we were able to really understand where children and young people, parents, carers, and professionals felt, and where we were going wrong.

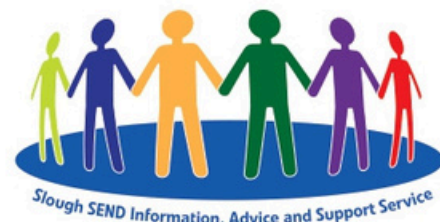
To address some of the common themes we have created the following.

1. A dedicated and experienced Complaints Officer - Sofia Farid,

who was previously a Team Leader in the SEND service and who has extensive experience in all aspects of the SEND processes and casework. Since changing role in December, Sofia has been proactive in responding to any concerns raised corporately, which has seen the number of outstanding complaints reduce significantly for the first time in many months.

2. A dedicated enquiries phone line, that is managed on a rota basis throughout the working day. This enables adequate cover and ensures that there is someone available during office hours, to handle your query. We have also reviewed the telephony system and are currently working with our provider, to ensure that we have a robust and fit for purpose telephone system going forward.

Each month we will take the opportunity to update you on the continued improvement plans and ideas, via our newsletter. But you can take a more proactive role in helping to guide the improvements required, to deliver a service that is worthy of our children and young people. It is easy to get in touch with your ideas and feedback - email us SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk



SENDIASS training opportunities

We are pleased to share that regular training sessions on a variety of SEND topics are available on the SENDIASS website.

These training opportunities are designed to support parents, carers, young adults, and professionals alike, offering valuable insights into the SEND system and how to navigate it effectively.

Both morning and twilight sessions are available, providing flexible options to suit different schedules. We encourage everyone to take advantage of these sessions to gain a deeper understanding of SEND-related topics and improve their knowledge and skills in supporting young people with SEND.

For more information and to book a place, please visit Slough SENDIASS www.sloughsendiass.org.uk



Chat to SENDIASS

We will provide free, impartial, and confidential advice and support to parents, carers, and young people with SEND

Including:

- all aspects of SEND, from initial concerns and identification through to ongoing support and provision
- the law on SEND, health and social care
- Slough's local policy and practice and much more.

Every Wednesday
Starting 15 January 2025, 5-7pm

Email or call for Teams log in:
sendiass@slough.gov.uk
01753 787693





GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

The GEMS team is passionate about transforming services for children, young people and adults who have been diagnosed with, or who may have autism and/or ADHD. Helping people navigate their way through a range of information and make sense of this, reflecting their personal needs and preferences.

As a parent/carer, you may feel that more information, help, or advice is needed when supporting the needs of your child, who may have behavioural, sensory, social and/or communication challenges. GEMS recognise this and have provided a variety of FREE courses and workshops that will help develop your knowledge of autism and/or

ADHD. Your child does not need to have a diagnosis for you to be able to attend, they can be waiting for an assessment, or you can suspect they may have Autism and or ADHD.

You will be listening to and speaking with trainers with extensive experience of delivering autism and or ADHD courses and will have the opportunity to meet and share strategies with other parents/carers. To view and book on available training on a range of topics, visit the website:

www.gems4health.com/workshops

Landline: 01753 373244

Freephone: 0800 999 1342

Email: gems.4health@nhs.net

Sibs

For brothers and sisters
of disabled children and adults

Sibs exists to support people who grow up with or have grown up with a disabled brother or sister.

It is the only UK charity representing the needs of over half a million young siblings, and over one and a half million adult siblings.

Have you ever thought about running a group support for young siblings? Our sibling group leader training session, will give you all the information that you need to plan, run and evaluate your own local sibling group. It is taking place online via Zoom on Wednesday 26 March at 9.15am-1.15pm. For more information and how to book, please visit www.sibs.org.uk



Newsletter feedback:

this is your newsletter!

If you would like to suggest any changes to this newsletter, see additional information, be added to the mailing list, and/or give feedback, please email sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk

Thank you to Joanna Adams (SEND Officer)

For her work on supporting a child at our school. Previously I have had poor experiences where SEND Officers will avoid any communication and not pick up the phone or respond to emails unless escalated.

From my perspective, the entire experience was incredibly positive. Joanna demonstrated a high level of professionalism and a solution-focused approach throughout.

I was particularly impressed by her responsiveness and proactive communication. When I sent an email requesting an urgent

meeting, she promptly scheduled a Google Meet for the following morning, demonstrating a clear commitment to addressing my concerns.

Joanna's dedication and professionalism serve as an excellent example of the high standards we should all strive for within Slough. If this level of service and support becomes the standard, I am confident that the future of SEND provision and education in Slough looks bright.

Coral Snowden
Principal - Western House Academy

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us. If you would like to make any article contributions, in future editions, get in touch SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Feeling Colourful

February half-term family fun at Slough Libraries

Feelings Monster

Langley Library, Monday 17 February 2-3pm

Children aged 4+ can explore feelings and emotions through this creative activity to decorate a colourful monster.

Free activities
with a burst of
colour to brighten
up a grey day.

Creative heritage activities with Museums Partnership Reading

The Curve, Tuesday 18 February 10am-12noon

LEGO drop-in

The Curve, Tuesday 18 February 4-5pm

A big pile of bricks plus a child's imagination will inspire amazing creations. For children age 5+

Connect through colour

The Curve, Thursday 20 February 11am-12noon

Design your own jigsaw piece then connect it with others to produce a work of art. For children aged 4+

Colourful cup of surprise

Cippenham Library, Thursday 20 February 1.30-2.30pm

Brighten up a cup with your own colourful design and we will add some tasks for you to complete. What will your challenge be? It's a surprise! You can add in your own tasks too.

For children aged 4+

Rainbow of Inspiration

Britwell Library, Friday 21 February 11am-12noon

Be inspired to express yourself through the colours of the rainbow. For children aged 4+

Please note the age guidance for activities. Colouring will be available for younger children. Parents/carers should stay in the library during the activity.

Our regular story and music times are paused during the half-term holiday.



Look out in
the library for
our cheerful photo
frame to take
your snap.

Throughout the
week, children can
pick up a special
feeling colourful
wordsearch to
complete at
the library.



To keep up to date with
what's on in libraries visit:
www.slough.gov.uk/events

Library membership is free and gives you
access to both print and digital books. You can
join online at www.slough.gov.uk/libraries

Parent Workshop On Home Routines

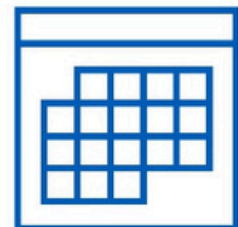
Aims of the workshop:

Join us for an interactive workshop designed to help parents establish clear, effective routines at home! Learn practical strategies for managing daily tasks, setting expectations, and fostering a calm, organised environment for the whole family.



Topics Covered:

- Developing routines for mornings, after-school, and bedtime
- Tips for staying flexible and consistent
- How routines reduce stress and improve family dynamics
- Encouraging children to take ownership of their responsibilities



Tuesday 25th February
2pm – 3pm
Priory School



If you want to contact us or need more information...

Contact: **Getting Help Team**

Email: CAMHSGettingHelpEast@Berkshire.nhs.uk

Phone: **0300 247 3002**