



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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## National Storytelling Week

We will be celebrating National Storytelling Week with a range of exciting activities designed to spark imagination and a love of stories. Throughout the week, children will explore tales in creative ways. On Friday, we will finish with Dress as a Vocabulary Word Day, with pupils arriving as glittering, stormy, curious, enchanted, or mysterious!

**KEY DATES:**  
**National Story Telling Week**  
**Dress Up – 6<sup>th</sup> February**

**Half Term 16th – 20th February**

**Ludlow Castle Trip (yr R – Yr4) – 25th February**

**Parents Meeting for Pioneer Centre Trip**  
**3pm 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb**

**World Book Day – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Yr 4 Pioneer Centre Trip**  
**18th–20<sup>th</sup> March**

**Easter Service at Newcastle Church with Rev. Lois 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Easter Holidays – 30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April**



## HEROES IN UNIFORM

Last week was a particularly exciting and informative one for the whole school. We were delighted to welcome a member of the Fire Service, who delivered a fantastic fire safety talk to all pupils. The children learned how to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire, focusing especially on fire safety in the home and the importance of regularly checking smoke alarms. They also had great fun practising the "Stop, Drop and Roll" technique, and several children even had the chance to dress up in real firefighter safety clothing – an experience they won't forget!

We also had a visit from the school nurse, who spoke to some of our younger pupils about the importance of good dental hygiene. The children are now very confident about how to brush their teeth properly, how long to brush for, and why it matters.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Kai, who has joined us in Year 1. His family has recently moved to the area, and it has been lovely to see how quickly he has settled in and how warmly the other children have welcomed him.

In Music with Mrs Frankel, we have begun practising songs for Shropshire Sings, a special whole-school performance where we will join other schools from across the county. This exciting event will take place in the summer term at the Shrewsbury Showground.

Finally, it has been wonderful having Mr Bagshawe with us as part of his teacher-training placement. The children have built strong relationships with him, and we are grateful for the energy and enthusiasm he has brought to our school.

## Message from Ms Mullock

A few minutes of shared reading each day makes a big difference. The Reading Framework highlights that regular reading aloud builds vocabulary, background knowledge and comprehension, and that re-reading improves fluency—helping children lift meaning from the page more easily. It also explains the importance of creating a strong reading-for-pleasure culture at home as well as school because enjoyment and frequency go hand-in-hand with better outcomes. I know that everyone wants to give their child the best chance of success so please do keep reading aloud—even with KS2 children. You can make a huge difference.



## Teacher Feature

**Oak Class**

Over the past two weeks, Oak Class has been incredibly busy and enthusiastic in all areas of learning. In Science, we have continued exploring the fascinating workings of the human heart. The children loved acting out the journey of blood around the body, becoming oxygenated and then deoxygenated. We also created our own "blood models," complete with red and white blood cells, plasma and platelets, and measured our heart rates at different times of the day—including after exercise. We certainly have some budding scientists among us!

In Maths, we have focused on multiplication, division and the order of operations (BODMAS), and the children have shown wonderful progress. In English, we have been writing in role as members of Shackleton's 1915 Antarctic expedition, using formal language and period-appropriate vocabulary.

We are also pushing times tables knowledge and celebrating a huge buzz around reading thanks to BookFest. After half-term, we can't wait to begin creating our own film trailers inspired by these brilliant stories.

**Acorn Class**

Acorn Class have had a wonderful few weeks of learning! In English, the children explored life in the Stone Age and compared it with life today, discovering how differently people once lived. Our Year 1 and Reception pupils also wrote fantastic dragon descriptions, showing amazing imagination and vocabulary.

In Science, the children carried out several exciting investigations. They made ice cream to explore how materials change when heated or cooled. They also watched raisins dance in fizzy lemonade and mixed solid bicarbonate of soda with liquid vinegar, observing how the reaction created a gas.

In Topic, Reception and Year 1 learned about job roles in a castle, while Years 3 and 4 studied the Palaeolithic period and used charcoal to draw Stone Age animals.