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## March 2026 Newsletter

Can you believe that there is only 1 term left of this academic year! With the lighter mornings and evenings, the warmer weather on its way and the excitement that the summer term always brings, there is lots to look forward to.

This term has been a busy one as usual. Children throughout school have continued to work hard and make super progress in all areas. Visitors to the school throughout the term have commented on the wonderful learning behaviours seen in every classroom, and the passion and thirst for learning shown by the children. We are all very proud of them.

As we finish for 2 weeks holiday today (27th March), everyone at Windhill Primary hopes that you all have an enjoyable half term. We are looking forward to hearing all about the memories that the children have made when we return on Monday 13th April.

Take care,

Ms Howard

## Curriculum Updates!

Since returning to school in January, the children have been busy with lots of new learning. Our Phase Leaders: Mrs Fletcher (EYFS), Mr McDonald (KS1), Miss Woodward (LKS2) and Mr Hedar (UKS2) have provided updates on what has been taking place.

### **Early Years (Pre-school, Nursery & Reception)**

In Early Years we have had a very busy term. The children are all well settled and have adapted to their new routines. We welcomed our January starters to Pre-school and Nursery and they have also settled in lovely.

Our topic in Nursery and Reception for the first half term was 'People who help us'; the children absolutely loved this topic and learnt so much from our visitors. We were very lucky to have a nurse, some police officers, a dentist and a firefighter come into our classes to talk the children about their role in our community. The children also asked lots of questions they had thought of.

In the second half term our topic has been 'Growing'. The children have learnt all about the life cycle of a bean and planted their own to take home over the holidays. They have also learnt about fruit and vegetables that grow in the ground, they then tried some fruit and vegetables. They chopped the fruit and vegetables themselves and then everyone tried it together.

Across the whole of Early years, we celebrated 'World Book Day' where the children dressed up as characters from a book. While in school, the staff then read their favourite book to the children. The children made book marks to use in their books at home and took part in a quiz all about traditional tales.

Sticking with the reading theme, we also hosted an Early years Mother's Day reading event. Mums, grandmas, aunties and sisters were all invited to come and share a bun and a book with their child. During the event the children handed out their cards they had made their mums and a daffodil - it was lovely to see so many of you at this event.

In Pre-school, the children have been very interested in people's jobs and their roles in the community. They have been able to explore this through their provision and have covered lots of different roles. They talked all about what they would like to be when they grow up. The Pre-school children also really enjoyed 'catering week' where they made their own sandwiches and buttered their own bagel. The children were very independent in doing this and really enjoyed their ham sandwiches.

In Nursery they celebrated Valentine's Day with a spa and special snack. The children enjoyed some chilled lemonade with strawberries while dipping their feet in the warm, bubbly water. After all the children had a go in the spa, they sat down together to have a valentines themed snack.

Overall, it has been a very busy term and we are looking forward to our next topics: 'On the Farm' and 'Under the Sea' in the summer terms!

















### **Key Stage One (Years 1 & 2)**

We are delighted to share with you some of the wonderful experiences and achievements from our Key Stage One children during the Spring term. It has been a busy and exciting few months, filled with creativity, exploration, and lots of hands-on learning.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed becoming young chefs as part of their writing topic. They created a range of delicious dishes while learning how to write clear and detailed instructions. This practical experience really helped bring their writing to life and develop their understanding of sequencing and clarity.

One of the biggest changes this term has been to how we teach phonics skills. This crucial aspect of reading underpins future success and our staff and children have been excited to

undertake this journey together. Mrs Wilson, our phonics tsar, also hosted some workshops for parents and carers to help explain the changes.

For the majority of the term, pupils explored the topic “Around the World” and Year 1 pupils had a fantastic opportunity to taste a variety of Indian foods. This sensory experience sparked curiosity and enthusiasm, helping the children learn about different cultures in a memorable and engaging way. In Physical Education, all classes have been developing their movement skills through dance and gymnastics. The children particularly enjoyed learning cultural dances from around the world, building coordination, confidence, and an appreciation for global traditions.

We also celebrated World Book Day in style! The children came dressed as their favourite book characters and spent time reading and sharing stories together, including chance to read with some older children. It was wonderful to see their excitement for books and storytelling shine through. Our writing curriculum also took an imaginative turn, as the children wrote their own versions of “The Jungle Book.” They demonstrated fantastic creativity, bringing their stories to life with adventurous ideas and vivid descriptions.

In Art, pupils explored painting techniques, focusing on the colour wheel and learning about impressionism. They experimented with colour mixing and created their own expressive pieces inspired by this artistic style.

We ended the term with an incredible Enterprise Event, where the children had the opportunity to develop important real-world skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, and communication. It was a fantastic way to celebrate all their hard work and growth over the term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are very proud of all that the children have achieved and look forward to another exciting term ahead.













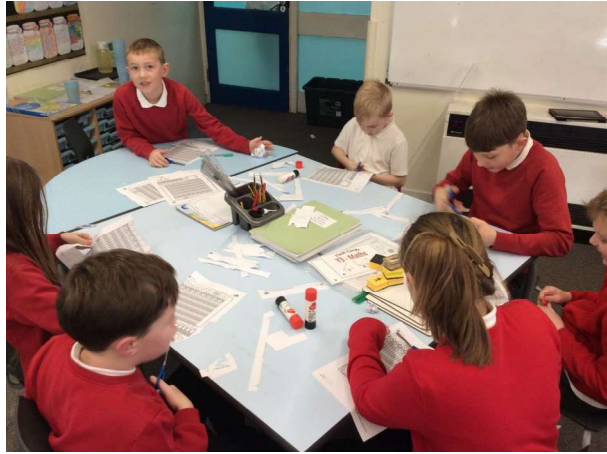


### **Lower Key Stage Two (Years 3 & 4)**

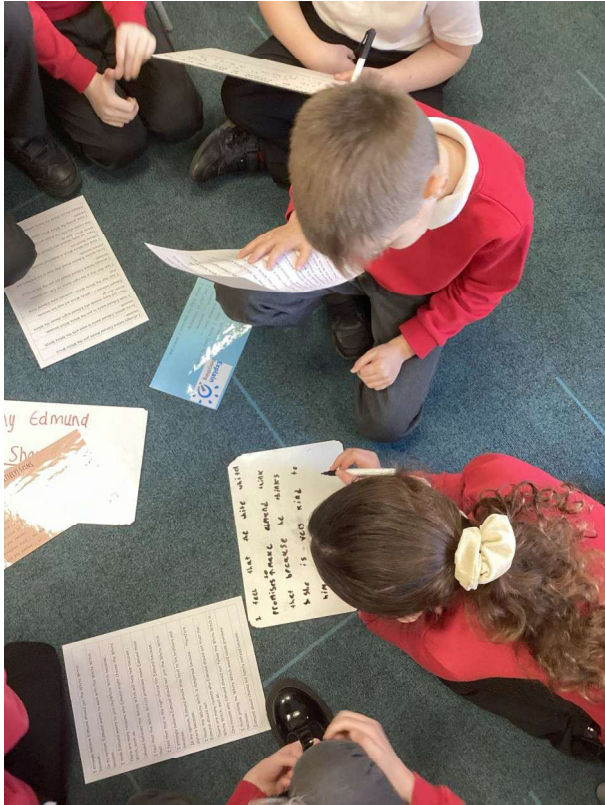
Lower Key Stage Two have had a wonderfully busy and engaging Spring term! In topic lessons, our focus has been learning all about Italy! We began our topic with an exciting food tasting experience, alongside making Italian flags and practising some key Italian phrases. Throughout the term, we explored Italy's location, as well as its human and physical geography, and learned about its thriving tourism industry. This topic has provided a fantastic foundation as we look ahead to our summer term, where we will begin our learning about The Romans.

In English, we continued our work on *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, producing some excellent persuasive writing in response to the question, "Should Edmund join forces with the White Witch?" We used our oracy skills to rehearse our arguments before writing thoughtful pieces to Edmund. This half term, we have also been studying *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, writing detailed descriptions and beginning our own mini stories inspired by the text.

Year 3 had the exciting opportunity to work with Phil Sheppard from The National Literacy Trust, creating poems about woodland animals and attending a special poetry celebration at Mexborough Business Centre, where they confidently performed to other schools and parents. We were very proud! We also enjoyed a live draw-along with Chris Mould, and every child received a signed copy of *The Iron Man*. Meanwhile, Year 4 have worked incredibly hard in swimming this term and thoroughly enjoyed a fun final session. Well done to everyone for such a fantastic term!















## Upper Key Stage Two (Years 5 &6)

This spring term has been a fantastic mix of learning and fun for our Year 5 and Year 6 students at Windhill Primary School. One of the highlights was **Bikeability**, where students (in Year 6) not only improved their cycling skills but also learned important lessons about road safety and independence. This hands-on experience helps our children feel more confident as they navigate their surroundings, building a sense of responsibility that goes beyond the classroom.

Transition days were another exciting chance for our Year 5 students, giving them a peek into their future secondary schools. We thoroughly enjoyed our French lesson! This experience is extremely important for making the move to a new school feel easier, helping students make connections and feel more ready for the next big step in their education.

Our exploration of **Natural Disasters** during Topic sessions has really sparked curiosity and critical thinking, as students dive into real-world events and think about how they affect communities.

Alongside this, literary adventures through books like *The Nowhere Emporium* and *Holes* are helping our students boost their literacy skills whilst writing letters home from other people's perspectives and descriptive narratives.

The **enterprise day** was a real standout, encouraging creativity and teamwork as students came up with innovative projects. This initiative is key in developing entrepreneurial skills,

allowing students to experience the excitement of bringing their ideas to life while working together.

Additionally, our Science unit on **Light** has sparked a passion for inquiry, as students explore the properties of light and how it applies to everyday life.

As we look back on the achievements of our students this term, it's important to celebrate the personal growth that comes with these experiences. Each activity, from Year 5s **Dance in a Day** to our various trips or activities, plays a part in the overall development of our pupils. Dance in a Day not only boosts physical education but also helps students develop social skills as they collaborate and express themselves creatively through movement.

We're incredibly proud of the dedication our students show in their learning journeys. The skills they're picking up - whether through hands-on activities like Bikeability or academic challenges - are setting them up for a bright future. The Year 6 cohort's commitment to preparing for SATs is a true reflection of their hard work and perseverance, qualities that will benefit them long after their time at Windhill Primary School. The support from parents and the wider community is crucial in this journey, and we truly appreciate your ongoing encouragement and involvement in our school's journey.

Together, we're nurturing a generation of confident, capable individuals ready to face the challenges of tomorrow. Let's keep inspiring and motivating each other as we move forward into the next term!





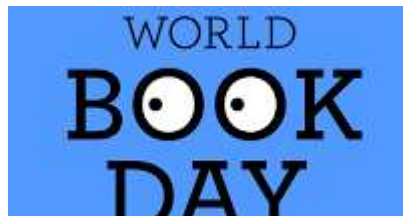








## World Book Day!



We all had a great day on World Book Day. The children looked amazing in their costumes. This year we focused on reading for pleasure and took part in lots of reading activities including: a draw-along with the illustrator Phil Sheppard, reading buddies where older and younger children enjoyed stories together, as well as a fashion show in our assembly.

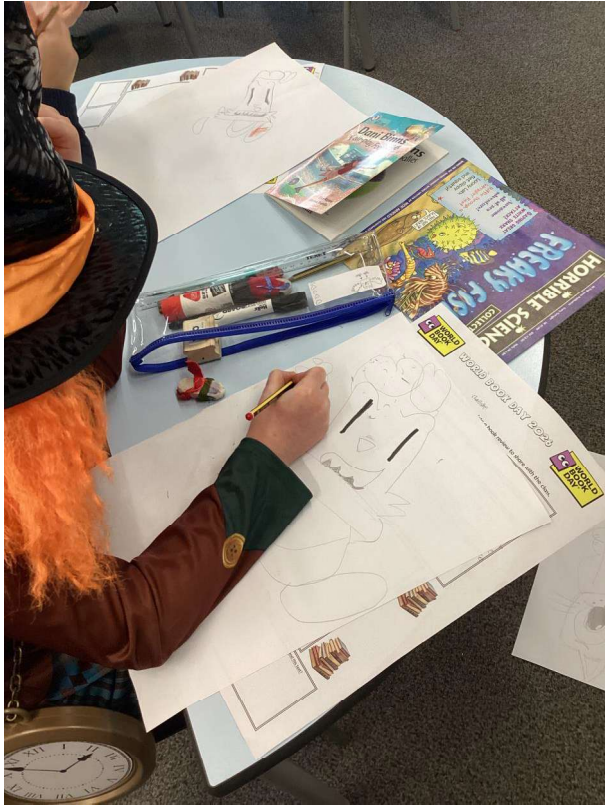
Well done to everyone who entered the 'Story Spoon' competition and created a story character from a wooden spoon. Your ideas were fantastic and it was very difficult to pick the winners.

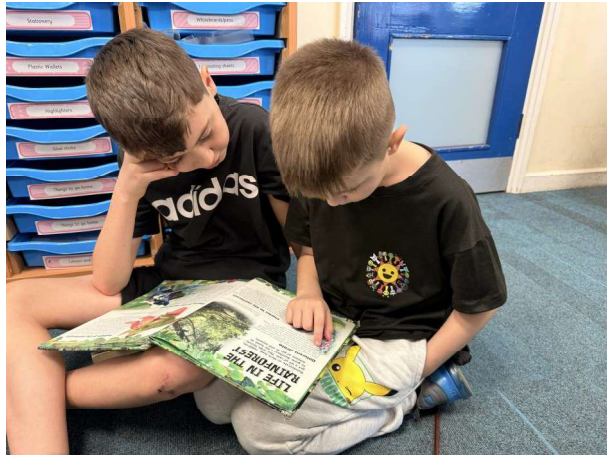












## Primary Enterprise Challenge



Throughout this week, children in Years 2 to 6 have taken part in the Primary Enterprise Challenge. In groups, they have been set a challenge to work with others to design a sensory nook and create a model of their ideas. They have then pitched their design to a panel - in a 'Dragon's Den style'!

We have been very impressed with their collaboration, ability to listen to each other's ideas, resilience, presentational skills and overall positive attitudes. Winning teams will go through to the finals in June where they will compete against other schools. Good luck to our winning teams 😊

Read, Write, Inc

# Phonics

At the beginning of the term, we introduced a new phonics programme called 'Read, Write, Inc' for those children learning to read. If you were able to attend one of our Parent/ Carer workshops, you will already know that this was a different approach to the teaching of phonics at Windhill but we are so pleased with how it has been implemented. The children (and staff!) have become 'Read, Write, Inc' experts and we are delighted that recent checks of the children's learning has shown that they have all made super progress. We are very proud of all these children - well done!

## Attendance



We have been very impressed with the children's determination to win the whole school attendance prizes this term. Hopefully they will smash this week's challenge and win the non-uniform day and Easter Egg Hunt this Friday - keep an eye out for the Class Dojo announcement on Friday.

The Department for Education has set the school a target to improve our Whole School Attendance and most weeks this has been met - well done everyone and keep it up!

## Diary Dates for the summer term



### **Year 6 SATs week (National Assessments)**

11th May, 12th May, 13th May & 14th May

Year 6 children are invited to come for Year 6 Breakfast Club starting at 8am on all of these days. This is free of charge. It's always a nice time to chat with friends before the start of the tests.

### **Year 1 Phonics Check**

Children in Year 1, and those in Year 2 who need to resit the Phonics Screening Check, will do this between Monday 8th June and Friday 12th June.

This is not sat as a formal assessment, but is done on a 1:1 basis with the class teacher. Your child's class teacher will be able to provide further information if required.

### **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check**

Children in Year 4 will sit their times table check throughout the week commencing Monday 1st June.

All children sitting national assessments (above) need to be in school during those weeks.

### **Trips:**

Tuesday 5th May:            Reception visit to Cannon Hall Farm

Thursday 7th May:       Nursery visit to Cannon Hall Farm  
Friday 12th June:       Year 3 & 4 visit to Royal Armouries  
Thursday 18th June:     Year 1 & 2 visit to Filey

**Sports Day:**

Nursery:                 Monday 18th May @ 9.30am  
Reception:             Tuesday 19th May @ 9.30am  
Years 1 & 2:            Tuesday 19th May @ 1.30pm  
Years 3 & 4:            Wednesday 20th May @ 9.30am  
Years 5 & 6:            Wednesday 20th May @ 1.30pm

*These may change depending on the weather!*

**Holidays:**

School closes for 1 week on Friday 22nd May at 3.15pm  
School reopens on Monday 1st June at 8.45am

School closes for the summer break at 3.15pm on Friday 17th July