



Spring Term 2025 Newsletter

Even though it has been a short term, we have still managed to pack so much in over the past few months. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and hearing all about the events and learning that has taken place throughout school during the spring term.

As we close for 2 weeks this Friday (28th March), we hope you all have an enjoyable break from school - fingers crossed the sun starts to shine more! We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 14th April.

Take care,

Mrs Howard

Curriculum

Early Years:

In Early Years this term we have been very busy and we have taken part in lots of exciting activities. Across all of Early years we really enjoyed world book day and took part in lots of activities including a book carousel where we enjoyed listening to different types of books.

We all celebrated pancake day by making and tasting our own pancakes, children tried all different toppings on them. Mrs Shaw even flipped Nursery's pancakes in the air!

Children in pre-school have been really interested in job roles so they have been exploring what jobs people do in their local community. During this time children have made their own doctors' bags and they have taken part in a catering week where they made their own toast and buns. During this term the children have also been planting in their very own

vegetable garden, they are then going to have the vegetables for snack when they have grown.

In Nursery and Reception, we had a mysterious egg delivered as part of our dinosaur topic. We had a letter with instructions on how to care for the egg, we predicted what we thought might have been in the egg and took great care of it. One day we came into school and someone had been and taken the egg, when we found it again it had hatched and we had our very own dinosaur to take care of.

In Nursery children have now started phase 2 phonics and are working really hard at recognising initial sounds. They practise these in provision both inside and outside and are also trying to write them in drawing club. In drawing club, the children have made amazing progress and are now starting to write initial sounds on items they have drawn.

In Reception as part of their topic 'Handa's surprise' the children tried all the fruits from the book. They went through the book and tried the fruit as the animals took the fruit. They then tallied up the number of children that liked each fruit to see their favourite. They are also completing some writing using 'walking through the jungle' where they are writing about the animals they can see whilst on safari.













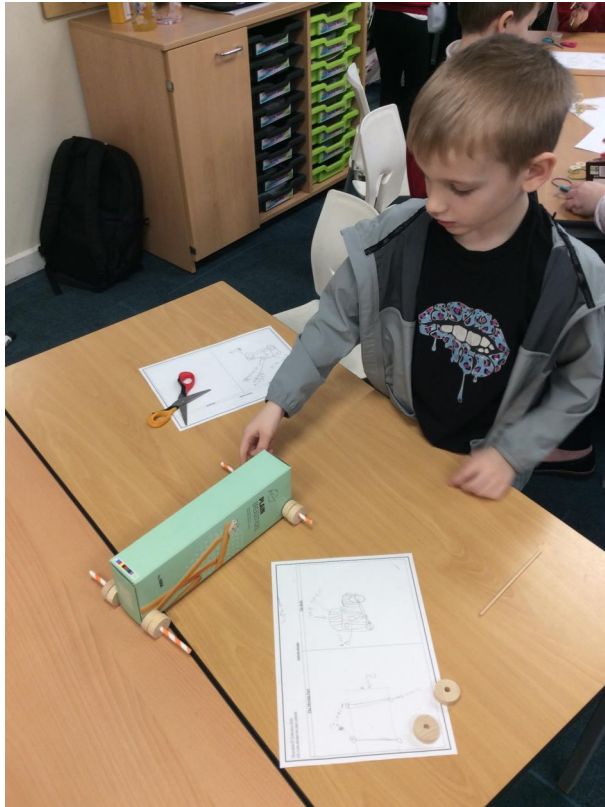


Key Stage One:

There have been lots of exciting things happening in Key Stage One this term. In DT, the children were set a challenge of making a moving vehicle. They tested and evaluated their vehicles by taking part in races against each other. After learning about wheels, axles and chassis, the children designed their own vehicle and used recycled materials to then make it. The children particularly enjoyed racing their vehicles against the vehicle that Mr Roebuck had made from a plastic milk bottle!

Our topic has been about our local area. The children started by learning where Mexborough is in the world, using geographical language such as country, county, city and town. They learnt what human and physical features are, and applied this to things that can be seen in our local area. The children then looked at how Mexborough has changed over time using photographs from the past and present, as well as generating questions about the changes to Mexborough. They have also looked at the development of transport in our local area, beginning with canals and then moving on to trains.

Key Stage One have also watched some exciting drama performances this term. We began by watching a live performance of Beauty and the Beast. The children were impressed by the mask used to represent the beast and they enjoyed interacting with the characters throughout the show. We also watched a performance about road safety. The story followed a cat called Muffin who had escaped and was trying to get back to her owner. The puppets used for the animal characters were engaging and the children enjoyed joining in with the informative songs and actions.



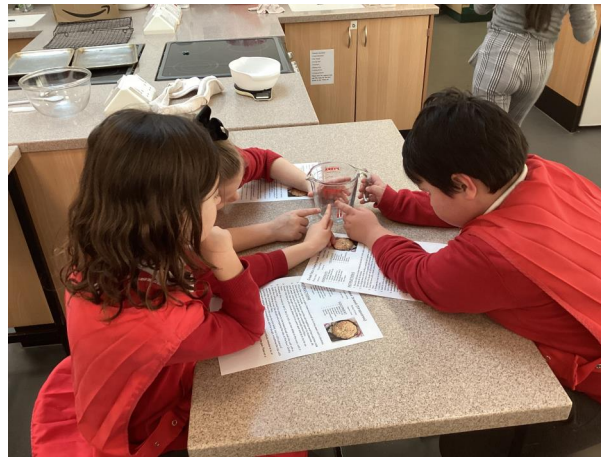


Lower Key Stage Two (Years 3 & 4): It's been a busy and rewarding half-term in LKS2 with plenty of creative learning opportunities. At the beginnings of the term, children visited The Laurel Academy and used their specialist DT facilities in order to bake feta bread. As always, the children were a credit to the school and worked together collaboratively to produce a fantastic final product.

Within art, children have focused on cave paintings. First of all, children had the opportunity to paint within their very own 'caves' using natural materials such as sticks and berries. Children then explored other techniques such as printing, which involved pupils carving their prehistoric designs into polystyrene blocks before painting and transferring the images onto

paper. A standout event was the Stone Age workshop, where pupils had the opportunity to deepen their learning on the Stone Age topic and handle artefacts from the time period. Children then worked extremely hard to share all of their learning by producing non-chronological reports in Literacy and we have since made deer tooth necklaces, using salt dough, to inspire our next writing piece.

Our Stone Age production was a big hit – children were able to bring history to life in a creative and engaging way. All of the children worked so hard and their singing was amazing. A big thank you again to all parents and carers for coming and showing your support.











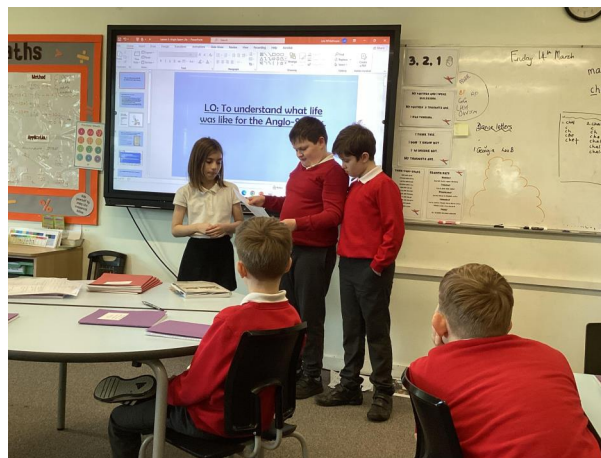






Upper Key Stage Two (Years 5 & 6): In Upper Key Stage Two, they have been learning all about Invaders and Settlers. Children started by recapping their understanding of chronology and finding out where the Anglo Saxons and Vikings 'fitted' in British History. After this, they learnt about the different invaders and have started looking at battle techniques. This

learning will continue into next term! Linking in with topic, they have been reading *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo. Children have worked hard to understand the old style of language and have used the monsters in the stories as inspiration to create and describe their own. They also wrote a description of the hero which they are then going to use to create their own myth. We are all looking forward to reading them! In art, children have enjoyed designing and producing their own Dragon Eyes. They have applied previously learnt skills in clay to create some wonderful pieces! Children have thoroughly enjoyed the Earth and Space topic in science. Year 6 visited Magna and took part in a workshop all about the stars and planets. They loved exploring the different element pavilions – the water pavilion was a clear favourite! Year 5 have been learning all about 'The Space Race' and have produced some excellent pieces of writing linked to this.











World Book Day

As part of World Book Day 2025, the children took part in a range of new activities. Everyone enjoyed the 'Book Cafe' where they were able to sample and try out lots of different types of books and reading materials. There were a range of books on offer such as picture books, graphic novels, maths stories, magazines as well as other books by new and exciting authors. The children were keen to share their thoughts with staff, and new books, based on their interests and preferences, will be bought for classroom reading areas and the school library.

To celebrate the children's love of reading, every child also created a 'Story Stone' showing an image from their favourite book. They drew an initial plan then created amazing designs on the stone which will soon be displayed on school grounds for everyone to enjoy.

The children all looked fantastic in their costumes and enjoyed showing these to others in an whole school fashion show. As always, it was a great day!

















There's No Smoke Without Fire!

A huge **'Well Done'** to children in Years 3 and 4 who performed in the production, 'There's no smoke without fire' this week. The singing, acting and dancing was brilliant, and they had all clearly learnt so much from their Stone Age topic this term.

Thank you to everyone who came to watch the performance.



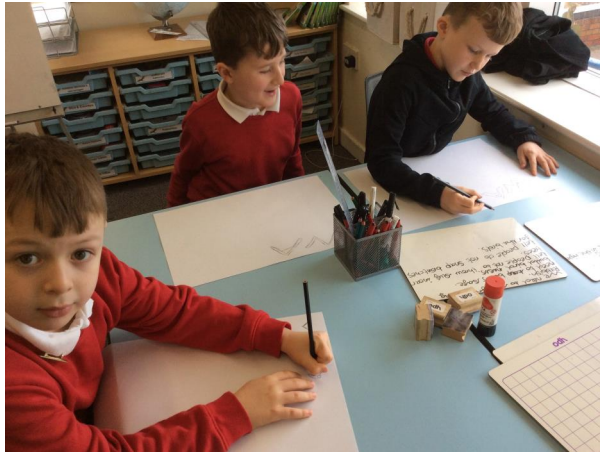


Eco-council



Windhill's Eco-Council received an engaging morning on Global Citizenship, led by the City of Doncaster Council. Pupils looked at some of the environmental issues facing the world and how we can do our part in school. After a chance to think creatively, the council settled on some ideas for the rest of year, including creating an area of the field for wildflowers to help pollinators.





Sporting Achievements

Windhill Girls' Team successfully won the Mexborough and Rawmarsh cluster of this year's Totty Cup. The pupils, who have all been dedicated to the school's Friday training sessions, represented school very well not just in their exceptional performance, but their attitudes and demonstration of key values such as respect and good sportsmanship. As a further cause for celebration, in a time where many schools were unable to field a girls' team, Windhill were able to play with two!



Diary Dates

Monday 14th April	School reopens for all pupils
Thursday 17th April	Reception classes visit to The Butterfly House
Friday 18th April	Good Friday - school closed
Monday 21st April	Easter Monday - school closed
Tuesday 22nd April	Nursery Class visit to The Butterfly House
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday - school closed

Thursday 8th May	VE Day celebrations in school
Sunday 11th May	Year 6 Revision Session
12th - 15th May	Year 6 SATs week - all Year 6 must attend everyday & on time
Friday 23rd May	3.15pm Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June	Staff Inset - school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 3rd June	School reopens for all pupils
Summer Term 2	
Tuesday 1st July	(am) Nursery sports day (pm) Reception sports day
Thursday 3rd July	(am) Key Stage Two sports day (pm) Key Stage One sports day
Wednesday 16th July	Summer Fayre (2pm start) <i>Children will finish at 2pm on this day to enjoy the summer fayre. For parents/ carers unable to attend/ collect their child, these children will stay in school with staff until 3.15pm.</i>
Wednesday 23rd July	School closes for the summer holidays.

Enjoy the break - see you all on Monday 14th April @ 8.45am!
