

Our Weekly Winners!

Here are the names of our shiny stars, crowned winners in our celebration assembly this week. Well done to you all!

Stars of the Week



**Saplings Class: Archie and Aurora.
Oak Class: Barnaby and Johanna.**



Our Dojo Champions are:

**Saplings Class: Bertie and Oliver.
Oak Class: Zoe and Matthew.**



Our Dojo Runners Up are:

**Saplings Class: Aura and Jaxon.
Oak Class: Barnaby and Alfie.**



**Head teacher Award:
Louis and Aura.**



**Lunchtime Award:
Aurora and Oliver.**





The Valley Primary School Newsletter



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Lateness and Attendance.

Coming to school every day and on time, means that we can learn lots of new and exciting things!

School attendance and lateness is closely monitored to ensure that children have the best opportunity to learn.

School attendance for the week ending 13.03.26:

93.98%

Well done everyone!

Please may we remind you that our school day begins at 8.45am when the doors open to children. They remain open until 9.00am. Children should arrive at school between these times, to ensure that they are marked present and do not incur 'late' marks. Lateness is recorded on children's attendance and it is important that they are on time.

Keeping in touch.

If you have any questions or queries you can contact the class teacher directly using our class email address, we will aim to respond during school working hours; our class email addresses are:

saplings@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

oak@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

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British Science Week.

On Wednesday, we celebrated British Science Week with a fantastic science afternoon full of curiosity and discovery. We began talking about curiosity and explored the different question words we can use when we are being curious scientists.

We then took part in two activities led by Mrs Bould and Mr Greaves:

"What does great teamwork look like?" - where we worked together collaboratively in groups of 4. We held the same pen with pegs to draw a picture. We tried it with and without communicating and evaluated the effectiveness of talking to each other.

"How do birds build their nests?" - where we designed and built a nest using different materials and then tested it against windy weather (Mrs Bould's balloon pump) to see if it would stay together.

We had a lovely afternoon learning, working and thinking together.



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World Book Day.

What an incredible World Book Day we had on Thursday 5th March - a day we hope our children will always remember.

The day was all about inspiration, imagination and believing in what's possible. We wanted every child to feel that they can achieve anything their set their mind to and the excitement around school today showed that.

Tilly was an absolute joy and the children completely adored her! From the moment she arrived, the enthusiasm and creativity in school was wonderful to see.

The activities were fantastic and the children were fully engaged throughout the day. From decorating Paul the Peacock's feathers to creating brand new characters and storylines for Tilly's next book, their imaginations truly came to life.

It has been a day full of stories, laughter, creativity and confidence building - exactly what World Book Day is all about!

A huge thank you to Tilly Matthews for spending the day with us and inspiring our hound readers and writers. We can't wait for the next book.

A message from Tilly Matthews: "I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the whole school. I had such a lovely day, you've got such a wonderful school – the children were so enthusiastic and it really made my job easy.

Thanks again – hopefully here's to more books in the future!

Tilly.



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FARM-FRESH EGGS

From a small local
family farm, laid by
Jaxon's chickens



½ dozen (6 eggs) for £2

Speak to Jaxon's mum,
Megan - 07773441886



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Staying Safe Online.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, tips and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 6- to 18-year-olds, with just 33.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

- #### 1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fiction novel. However, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Set aside all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we can be reading.
- #### 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material: the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices. Not all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.
- #### 3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Putting a book into a ribbon and showing it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title of their own that they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.
- #### 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event or a school bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.
- #### 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Access a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.
- #### 6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we read alone to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we read also foster discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.
- #### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.
- #### 8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negative; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, interact, and track their reading goals with resources like Hoyle and Apple's Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books like bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.
- #### 9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever. It generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Trust offer reading hours at 500 of its properties too as it's their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.
- #### 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert
 Carl Portman is a literacy adviser and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programme, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Can't wait to see you at school? www.nationalcollege.com

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.01.2025

Full guide can be accessed: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/encourage-reading>



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Y3/4 R.E Retreat Day.

Eliza, Violet, Zoe and Bella had a wonderful opportunity on Tuesday to take part in a special R.E. Retreat Day at Great Wood Hall. They joined pupils from some of our sister schools, including Bishop Rawle C.E. Primary School, Great Wood Primary School, Dilhorne Endowed Primary School, Talbot First School and St Peter's First School, for a day focused on the theme of peace.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a variety of thoughtful and creative activities designed to help them reflect on what it means to be peaceful - both within themselves and in their relationships with others. From calming reflection exercises to hands-on crafts and group discussions, every activity encouraged pupils to think deeply about kindness, calmness, respect and the importance of taking time to pause.

The retreat also provided a wonderful chance for children from across the schools to collaborate, make new friends and share ideas.

A huge thank you to Mrs Bailey for accompanying our children and leading one of the activities.

KS2 Gymnastics Festival.

On Wednesday, a group of our talented KS2 children took part in an exciting Gymnastics Festival at the Uttoxeter Gym Centre. The pupils worked hard throughout the session to practise, refine and perfect a gymnastics routine, which they later performed confidently in front of other schools within the CADSSA partnership.

The children represented our school brilliantly, showing determination, teamwork and a wonderful sense of pride in everything they achieved. Their routine was met with great enthusiasm and they returned feeling proud of their accomplishments.

A huge well done to all the pupils involved for their effort and positive attitude. We would also like to say a big thank you to Miss Fisher for accompanying the children and supporting them during the event.

Well done, everyone!



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Comic Relief.

We are excited to announce that our school will be participating in Comic Relief's 'Do Something Funny for Money' campaign on **Friday 20th March 2026**. This year, we have planned different challenge stations for children to complete. The stations include Biscuit Face Challenge, Banana Spoon Race, Beanbag Hat Toss, Silly Walk Obstacle Course and Donut on a String to help raise funds for this wonderful cause. Each station will be 50p a go.

On this day, the children can choose which of the challenge stations they have a go at. They are also invited to wear non-school uniform for the day. Children will still be taking part in their P.E session so sensible shoes are needed please. The aim is to have fun while supporting Comic Relief, which helps people living incredibly tough lives both here in the UK and around the world.

To participate, we kindly ask for monetary donations from each pupil. All proceeds will go directly to Comic Relief, contributing to their efforts in tackling poverty and social injustice.

Our wonderful School Council will be planning many fun-filled activities for the day, all with a clear message of what Comic Relief means to many.

We hope you will join us in making this event a huge success. Your support and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. Let's come together to make a difference and have a lot of fun in the process!

Thank you for your continued support.





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Easter Service – Friday 20th March 2026.

We are excited to invite you to our special Easter service on Friday 20th March, at the Free Memorial Church, starting at 9:30 am. Our wonderful children will be leading the service along with Reverend Scott Beaton.

We would love for you to join us and we look forward to seeing you there.

PTFA Meeting Highlights – 27th February 2026.

The PTFA met on Friday 27th February to discuss ongoing projects, fundraising goals and upcoming events. A warm welcome was extended to all attendees, with thanks shared for those who sent apologies.

Key Updates:

- The group agreed not to pursue charity registration at this time, preferring to keep the PTFA flexible and focused on small-scale school fundraising, with the option to apply for external grants for larger projects.
- A fundraising strategy plan will be developed by Charlotte, Chris and Kirsty to help guide spending and future grant applications.
- The PTFA hopes to invest in a new sound and/or lighting system for school performances. Chris will gather hall measurements to support a quote.
- Plans were discussed to refresh the school environment with calming colours and more natural furniture. Megan shared a possible 10% B&Q discount and parents may later be invited to help with painting.

Fundraising and Events:

- A 'Lego Walk' was suggested as a fun fundraiser.
- Dates are being arranged for the next Bags 2 School collection - possibly to coincide with the Wildlife Garden Opening on 22nd May.
- The PTFA newsletter and new social media guidelines were well-received.

Upcoming School Events:

- Mothers and Others Event – 13th March:
Cake donations welcomed; surplus shop-bought items will be donated to the Foodbank.



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- Easter Parade – 27th March:
Theme changed to “An Easter Creation.” Prizes and treats will be bought for all participants, including allergy-friendly alternatives.
- Wildlife Garden Opening – 22nd May:
Activities will include crafts and a scavenger hunt. An alcohol licence will be applied for.
- Oakamoor Festival:
The PTFA will be entering a raft in the race. Forest School will remain open with volunteer support.

Other Business:

- The group discussed starting PTFA activities earlier in the school year and preparing an annual diary of events each July.
- Concerns about the loft stairs were reviewed and resolved, with site supervisors confirming they are safe.

The PTFA thanks everyone for their continued support and contributions.

Next meeting: Friday 17th April, 7pm at The Talbot, Alton.



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Diary Dates.

Spring 2

- 17.03.26 – KS2 Dance Festival
- 18.03.26 – Y5/6 Football Tournament
- 19.03.26 – Saplings Mindfulness Session led by Mini Me Mindfulness.
- 20.03.26 – Comic Relief
- 20.03.26 – Easter Service in Church
- 24.03.26 – Reports out
- 24.03.26 – Saplings/Oak Class Maths Workshops 9.30am.
- 25.03.26 – Y3/4 Football Tournament
- 26.03.26 – World Maths Day
- 26.03.26 – Y3/4 Football Tournament.
- 27.03.26 – PTFA Easter Bonnet/Egg Parade 2.30pm.
- 27.02.26 – Break up for Easter holidays.

Summer 1

- 13.04.26 – School opens for pupils.
- 15.04.26 – Y1/2 Gymnastics Competition.
- 17.04.26 – PTFA Meeting – 7pm, The Talbot Inn, Alton.
- 21.04.26 – Cross Country League ****NEW DATE****
- 23.04.26 – Girls Football League.
- 27.04.26 – Academy Photography.
- 28.04.26 – Cross Country League ****NEW DATE****
- 30.04.26 – Girls Football League.
- 04.05.26 – May Day Bank Holiday.
- 06.05.26 – Y3/4 Tag Rugby.
- 07.05.26 – Girls Football League.
- 11.05.26 – 15.05.26 - Y6 SATs Week.
- 15.05.26 – Y5/6 Tag Rugby.
- 22.05.26 – Grand Opening of The Valley Wildlife Garden 2pm (with special guests).
- 22.05.26 – Break up for May half term.

Summer 2

- 11.07.26 – Cheadle Carnival.
- 01.06.26 – INSET DAY
- 02.06.26 – School open to pupils.
- 02.06.26-05.06.26 – Y4 Multiplication Times Table Check.
- 03.06.26 – Y3/4 Cricket.
- 08.06.26-12.06.26 – Y2 SATs Week.
- 08.06.26 – 12.06.26 – Y1 Phonics Screening Check.
- 10.06.26 – Solos and Duos @ TCA (children transitioning from Y6 to Y7).
- 10.06.26 – Y5/6 Cricket.
- 11.06.26 – Y3/4 Girls Football Tournament.
- 15.06.26-19.06.26 – Y6 Residential.



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Diary Dates continued.

Summer 2 continued.....

- 25.06.26 – Y5/6 Rounders.
- 29.06.26 – Whole School Trip to Formby Beach.
- 01.07.26 – KS2 Athletics Event
- 01.07.26 – New Intake Morning (Reception 2026)
- 01.07.26 – New Intake Parent's Evening (New Reception Parents 2026)
- 03.07.26 – Nursery Graduation Ceremony.
- 06.07.26 – End of Year Reports sent out
- 08.07.26 – New Intake Morning and lunch (Reception 2026).
- 09.07.26 – Sports Day.
- 10.07.26 – Y6 Leavers' Church Service @ Free Memorial Church.
- 10.07.26 – End of Year Disco 6pm.
- 11.07.26 – Cheadle Carnival.
- 13.07.26 – End of Year Production Dress Rehearsal.
- 15.07.26 – End of Year Production 2pm and 6pm.
- 17.07.26 – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9.30am.

Please note that dates are subject to change and we will inform you as soon as possible to these changes.