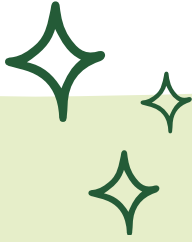




SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 12

7TH MARCH



'Transforming lives through inspirational learning'

ENGAGE AND EMPOWER DAYS

We were thrilled to welcome our pupils back to school with another exciting round of our 'Engage and Empower' theme days! These days are always a highlight, and this half-term was no exception. Our pupils embarked on a series of thrilling adventures that sparked their imaginations and encouraged hands-on learning.

From the dramatic sounds of air raid sirens to the excitement of packing for a rainforest jungle expedition, there was never a dull moment. The children were also amazed as dinosaur eggs hatched before their eyes and fossils cracked open, offering a glimpse into the distant past. And, of course, no adventure would be complete without the occasional cola volcano eruption to add a dash of drama and excitement!

These engaging experiences not only allowed our pupils to explore new topics in a fun and interactive way but also helped to ignite their curiosity and passion for learning.

Reception: What is a fossil?

Year 1: I wonder what happened to the dinosaurs?

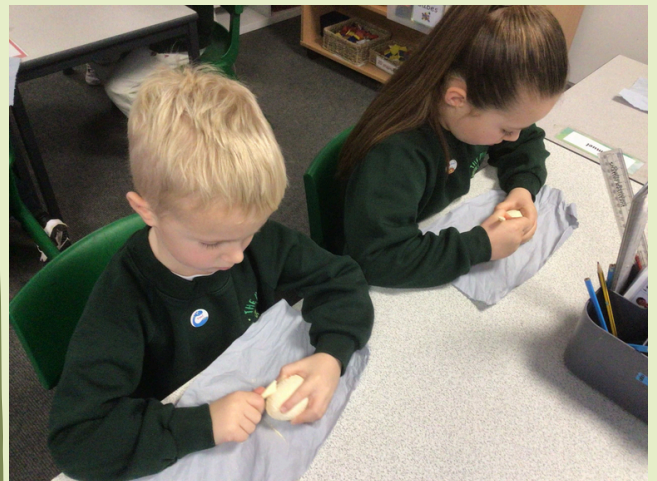
Year 2: What lives where?

Year 3: What lies under our feet?

Year 4: Why are rainforests important to us?

Year 5: Why do our oceans matter?

Year 6: We will never surrender! (World War 2)



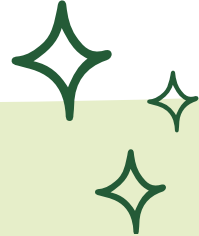
BETWEEN THE PAGES...

This week, we've been celebrating the magic of books and reading! It's been a fantastic time filled with fun activities and exciting events. We were thrilled to welcome parents to our reading cafes, where we shared how we teach reading in school and discussed the importance of reading with the whole community. It was wonderful to see so many parents involved and eager to support their children's reading journey. We also had the pleasure of reviewing the wonderful entries for our 'Read Your Way' competition – the creativity on display was truly inspiring!

Today, we marked World Book Day with our exciting theme of 'Amazing Adventures.' The children had a blast exploring new stories and imagining their very own thrilling journeys.

We are also excited to announce the launch of our new 'Reading for Pleasure' initiative. We are encouraging all students to read for at least five minutes every day as research shows that regular reading, along with being read to, boosts children's imagination, vocabulary, cognitive skills, empathy, and overall well-being. These benefits help to shape confident and curious learners!



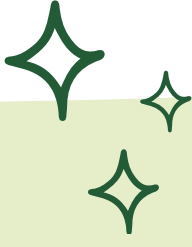


To help support your child's reading journey, we kindly ask that parents and carers write a brief note in their child's reading record each time they read at home. A simple comment about how they got on with their reading session would be wonderful. For children in Year 5 and Year 6, this will take place in their reading journals, where they can also add their own reflections and thoughts about their reading activities as they become more independent readers.

To make it even more exciting, we'll be rewarding the children's reading efforts with star stamps! For each reading session completed, children will earn one star stamp. If they collect at least 25 stars in a half term, they will be able to choose a free book to take home, giving them even more opportunities to continue their reading adventures.

Thank you for your support in helping us foster a love of reading in every child. Together, we can inspire a lifelong love of books and reading!





OPAL UPDATE

We are thrilled to see the scooters and suitcases becoming such a hit with the children! It has been wonderful to watch them explore, challenge themselves, and enjoy their playtime with such enthusiasm. The playground has truly come alive with their creativity and energy, and we can't wait to see even more fun-filled adventures ahead.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Horka for their incredible generosity and hard work in building our new stage. The children are already buzzing with excitement about the performances that are to come! We're just waiting for the final covering to be delivered, and then the stage will be ready for action. It will provide a fantastic space for our budding performers to shine, and we look forward to seeing the wonderful shows the children will create



WHATSAPP

With the forthcoming Online Safety Act featuring so heavily in the press at the moment (OSA) we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone about the potential dangers of WhatsApp and other messaging apps for children. While these platforms can be seen as a way for children to stay in touch with friends, they also pose some risks, including exposure to inappropriate content, online bullying, or contact with strangers, which is why the majority have a 13 years plus rating.

As a school, we strongly encourage open conversations with your child about online safety. It's important to remind them to only communicate with trusted friends and family members, and to always come to you if something makes them feel uncomfortable. Setting up privacy settings and regularly checking in on their online activity can also help ensure a safe experience for everyone.

If you have any concerns or questions about online safety, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe and happy!





Reminder!

Welly Boot Amnesty

Wednesday, 12th March

Before the Easter holidays our aim is that **every** child will have a pair of welly boots for lunchtime use.

These will be essential for your child to get the most out of OPAL play.

If you could please send your child into school with a pair of welly boots **before** the easter holiday.

We kindly ask that these boots are **clearly labelled** inside and on the sole with your child's full name.

To help with this we are holding a **'Welly boot Amnesty' on Wednesday 12th March.** If you have any surplus Wellington boots that you are willing to donate, please bring them to school on this day. We will mark out some size zones in the playground (weather permitting) where you can leave the welly boots. This will allow the children to swap old boots for new ones if they require a pair in their size.

Should you have any concerns or queries regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.





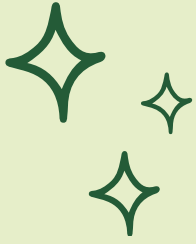
**Would you like to meet
your local
Red Lodge Community
Police Officers?**

**Coffee
with a
Cop**



**Tuesday 25th March
from 2pm
in the library**





PFA NEWS



Volunteers needed

The PFA are in need of more volunteers. If you are able to spare some time and help organise and run events, please get in touch with them by emailing; pfa@pinesprimary.org

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The PFA are in need of volunteers for the Red Lodge Music and Beer Festival. If you are able to spare some time please get sign up [here](#).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



12th
March

Welly Boot Amnesty

19th-
25th
March

Book fair

25th
March

Meet and Greet Community Police Officer - 2pm in the
school hall

25th
March

Y5 Trip to Felixstowe

26th
March


Reception Visit to Sedgewick Museum

7th
April

Easter Break

22nd
April

PD Day - Pupils not on site



23rd
April

Easter Egg Competition - More info to follow

