

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 11

27TH FEBRUARY 2026

‘Transforming lives through inspirational learning’

As we step into a short but wonderfully busy half term at the Pines, it has been a joy to see the children settle so quickly into their new learning themes. Classrooms are already buzzing with curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm as children begin their new learning adventures. We thoroughly enjoyed our Engage and Empower days where the children immersed themselves in their new theme and thought about some interesting questions. We are incredibly proud of the positive start they have made. A gentle reminder, too, to join in with our Sponsored Reading Bingo Challenge, kindly supported by our fantastic PFA – it’s a brilliant way to nurture a love of reading while raising valuable funds for the school. We can’t wait to see how many bingo squares will be filled over the coming weeks!

Engage and Empower!

Hedgehog Class - Reception

‘What is a Fossil?’



Our Engage and Empower day began with a video call from a professor. We were challenged to hunt for fossils and completed a fossil log for the museum. We also took part in some dinosaur themed PE, dinosaur mindfulness and enjoyed dinosaur stories.



Squirrel Class - Year 1 'Paws, Claws and Roars'

Year 1 had a wonderful Engage and Empower Day!

The children were thrilled to discover our new theme, 'Paws, Claws and Roars', and were instantly 'hooked' as they spent time with tortoises and Dennis the dog. Throughout the day, they shared what they already know about animals and wondered what they would like to learn next. They spent time in Forest School, collaborating to build animal habitats, ending the day calmly with mindful animal yoga and breathwork.



Rabbit Class - Year 2

'Habitats: Natures Neighbourhood'



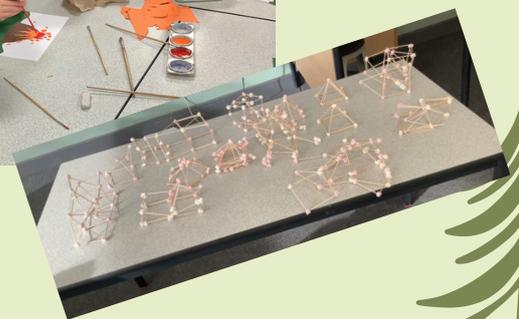
In Year 2 our topic this half term is all about habitats. For our Engage & Empower day we looked at insects and micro habitats. The children made clay butterflies, and we went on a bug hunt in forest school. We also used our critical thinking and collaboration skills to transport pretend 'ping pong' bugs across the stepping stones without touching them with our hands.

Nightingale Class - Year 3

'Rock, Rumble and Rise'



For our Engage and Empower project, we became real-life disaster engineers and scientists! First, we took on the challenge of designing and building earthquake-resistant structures, using only marshmallows and toothpicks. Next, we explored the explosive world of volcanoes. We created vibrant volcano artwork using coloured paper and an exciting technique called blow painting. By blowing paint through a straw, we created dramatic, explosive effects that looked just like real volcanic eruptions bursting into the sky.



Fox Class - Year 4

'What were the Vikings really like?'



On Engage and Empower Day, Year 4 created a fairness charter by discussing the real meaning of making things fair. They also investigated sounds and noise around the school to start our new theme in Science. In addition, they considered what people think Vikings were like - by looking closely at some Viking artefacts, they have started to understand there is a lot more to Vikings than people might realise!



Owl Class - Year 5

'Why do Oceans matter?'

The Year 5 students are exploring the significance of oceans. They participated in an ocean-themed quiz and crafted a stunning ocean painting using marbles.



Stag Class - Year 6

'World War 2'



The Year 6 children are learning about World War 2. After a morning of finding out about what the war was like for children in Britain and how they were evacuated out of the cities, they went outside to play some war games such as Capture the Flag.

Meet our new team member

Dennis



Hello! I'm Dennis, and I'm so excited to be your new therapy dog-in-training.

Therapy dogs like Dennis have been shown to improve wellbeing and foster positive emotional experiences in children. His presence will create a relaxed atmosphere in the classroom, promoting a sense of security and enhancing our children's ability to focus and engage with their learning.

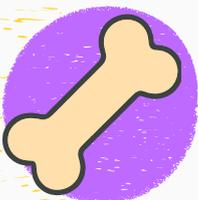
We understand that some children may have allergies or fears related to dogs, so we want to ensure that everyone feels comfortable. If your child has any concerns or would prefer not to be near Dennis during his visits, please do not hesitate to reach out to us so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Additionally, we kindly ask that all parents encourage their children to treat Dennis with respect and kindness. He is a gentle companion, and we want to teach our pupils the importance of being compassionate towards animals.

My Favorites



Hobbie: I love going for walks



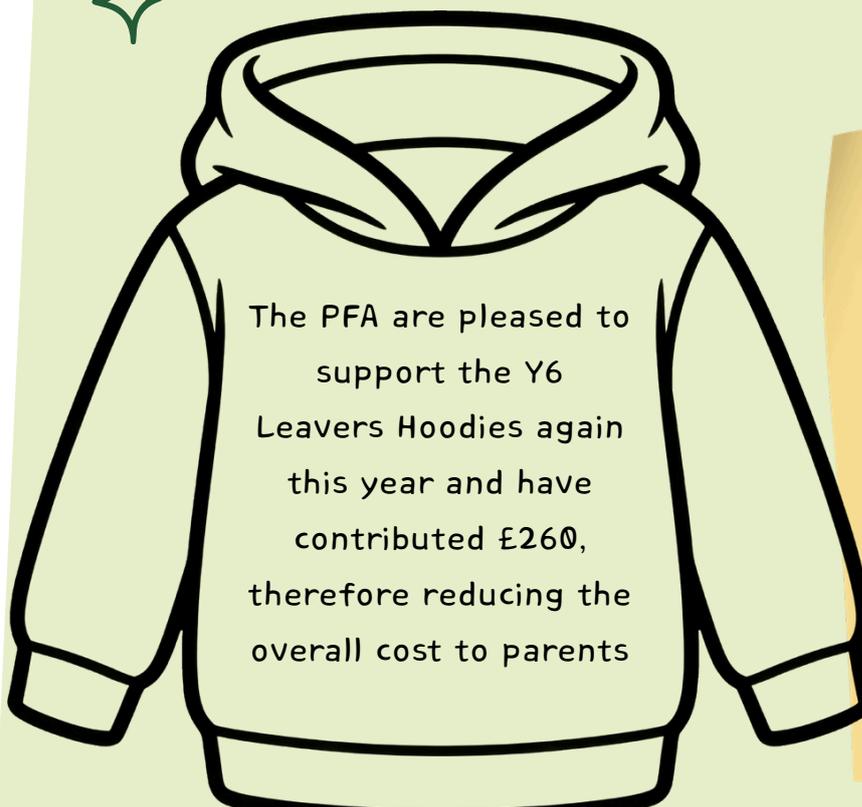
Snack: I like to eat EVERYTHING



Toy: Squeaky Chicken



PFA NEWS



The PFA are pleased to support the Y6 Leavers Hoodies again this year and have contributed £260, therefore reducing the overall cost to parents

How can you help:
Spring Disco!
We need volunteers for the Spring Disco, Friday 20th March. Please complete this form if you can help:
<https://forms.gle/sBbppx7wZkHPZUUH8>



The PFA purchased a number of stationery and art supplies requested by the school, totalling £314.20



The PFA were glad to support a request from Year 2 to fund equipment for their Bug Hunt on Engage and Empower Day, totalling £39.92

We would like to hold an Easter Egg raffle to raise funds for the Reading Nook plus other egg-citing things. If you would like to donate an Easter Egg please bring it to the office before the 25th March. Thank you!

Dates for your Diary

Friday 13th March - Tuck Shop
Friday 20th March - Spring Disco
Monday 23rd March - Decorate an Egg Competition
Wednesday 25th March - Easter Egg Raffle
Friday 27th March - Tuck Shop

Completed Bingo Cards should be returned by Friday 6th March along with sponsorship forms and money. One lucky child will receive a prize!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



4th
Mar

Illustrator visit to EY & KS1

5th
Mar

World Book Day & Sponsored Read closing date

6th
Mar

Illustrator visit to KS2

WC 9th
Mar

Science Week

24th
Mar

2.30pm Y1 Phonics Session

19th-
24th
Mar

Book Fair

26th
Mar

6-7pm - Parent Forum

30th Mar
-10th Apr

Easter Break

13th
April

PD Day

