

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026



Preparation for life's journey

Dear Families,

We have had such a brilliant week! It was wonderful to see so many exceptional outfits yesterday for World Book Day, we really appreciated all of the effort put in to make it such a fun occasion. We ended the day with a special reading assembly where the staff 'pitched' their book to the children and they could then choose who they went with for a story. I've popped some photos on the next page so you can see a little bit of what we got up to.

The Year 5s went to Cromer Pavillion Theatre on Tuesday to see Cromer Academy's dress rehearsal of Annie which was excellent. A huge thank you to them for inviting us but also for paying for our coach hire. We had such a great time!

We also need to say an enormous thank you to our parent helpers Rachael and Lucy who supported us on the Year 5 farm trip on Thursday and to everyone at Gresham Hall Estate who generously allowed us to visit the farm and hold some piglets!

Have a fantastic weekend,

Faye Herron and the Gresham Village School & Nursery Team

SPRING CONCERT/ RED NOSE DAY

Our Spring Music Concert will take place at Gresham Village Hall on Friday 20th March at 1.45pm.

Due to capacity within the hall, we have assigned two seats **per family**. If you cannot attend or only need one, please let the office know so that we can give these to anyone who would like additional seats.

Children will need to be in uniform for the concert and so we will not be having a non-uniform day for Red Nose Day. They are still able to wear Red Noses/ other Comic Relief accessories if they have them.



**Thank you so much to
Morrisons who donated
this amazing selection
of books to our school!
We were nominated by
their Community Cham-
pion—the children will
be so excited to read
them!**



WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN...



PUFFINS?

In Puffins Class, we have been working incredibly hard over the past two weeks. In English, we started a new book, *Beegu*. We decoded messages from Beegu, wrote character descriptions using adjectives and the conjunction "and," and even created our own questions for them. In Maths, we continued our work on addition and subtraction, revisiting adding and subtracting 10s and 1s using Base 10 to support our understanding. We also began our new topic on *Length and Measurement*, exploring how to measure using blocks, centimetres and metres. In Science, our new topic is *Plant Survival*. We explored how plants grow from seeds and bulbs, and on shrubs and trees. In R.E., we finished our learning about *Buddhism*. We explored prayer flags and made our own, including drawings of *Lung ta* (the wind horse) which brings strength and good fortune. We also learned how dance can be used to tell stories, watching performances by monks and other Buddhists before trying some movements ourselves. In PSHE, we continued learning about the *Zones of Regulation*, building a toolkit of strategies to help us manage our emotions in the red, blue, yellow and green zones. In Art, we started a new topic called *Flower Heads*. We explored artists inspired by flowers, including glasswork, paintings and sculptures. We then went outside to sketch flowers in our school grounds and created some fantastic artwork. In Computing, we completed our *Programming* unit on Scratch Jr by creating a final project using all the skills we had learned.

Forest School reminder: Please ensure your child brings a warm, waterproof coat as the weather is cold, and that they have spare shoes in school (if they do not already).



STARLINGS?

Starlings Class have had a very busy and productive couple of weeks. The children have been thoroughly enjoying this half term's class story, *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman. We have been mixing things up by sometimes reading the story together in class and at other times listening to the audiobook, which the children have really enjoyed.

In maths, the children have been continuing to work hard in our multiplication and division unit. On Fridays, Year 2 have been learning about money, while Year 3 have been focusing on length and perimeter. Please could all children continue practising their 2, 5 and 10 times tables at home. Year 3 are also practising their 3, 4 and 8 times tables, which some of the Year 2 children have also begun to explore. It has been wonderful to see the progress all of the children have been making with their times table knowledge. We have recently come to the end of our *Rocks, Relics and Rumbles* geography unit, which has been thoroughly enjoyed by the class. We are very much looking forward to sharing what we have learnt during our celebration assembly, where the children will also be signing a song inspired by their learning. Next week, we will be moving on to a new art project called *Ammonite*. During this project, the children will be developing their sketching skills, which links nicely to what they have already learnt about fossils. It has been lovely to see such a positive work ethic from the children recently, and their continued progress has been very impressive. They should feel really proud of themselves!

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN...



SKYLARKS?

This week in Skylarks, the children have been consolidating our knowledge and skills in division and multiplication. The children have been very enthusiastic about their homework, which is tables practice, and this will all help support them in our new topic of fractions next week. In writing, the children have been creating descriptions of an imaginary volcanic island, inspired by our text 'Koji's Island.' The writing focus is to be able to include expanded noun phrases, prepositional phrases and fronted adverbials in sentences to add detail and interest. The children have also been making model versions of the island to inspire their imaginations. Some children have been using paper mache, while others have been building with Lego.

In science, we started a new topic of electricity, and the children all made at least one series circuit using various components including light bulbs and buzzers. In art, our theme is 'Animal' and the children have practised sketching animals using shapes to create the initial outline. We have also worked on texture and our final outcome will eventually be a clay sculpture.



GOLDFINCHES?

Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic week in Goldfinches. Our trip to the farm on Thursday was brilliant and the weather couldn't have been better. The children asked excellent questions, persevered in the sun while walking and had a cuddle with a piglet. We are doing lots of practise with calculations at the moment. Please could children practise their 3-digit by 2-digit multiplications at home. I will hand out some sheets next week. We are currently doing coding in the afternoon. We are learning to make different games! If the children want to practise at home, they can make their own accounts on scratch either on a laptop or an iPad.

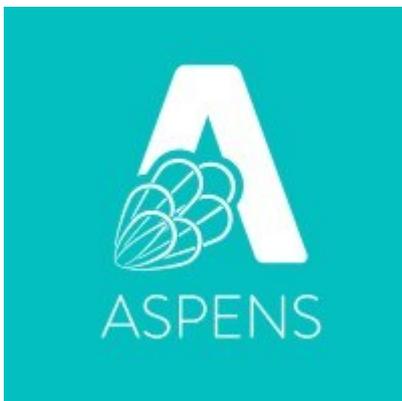
WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN...



KESTRELS?

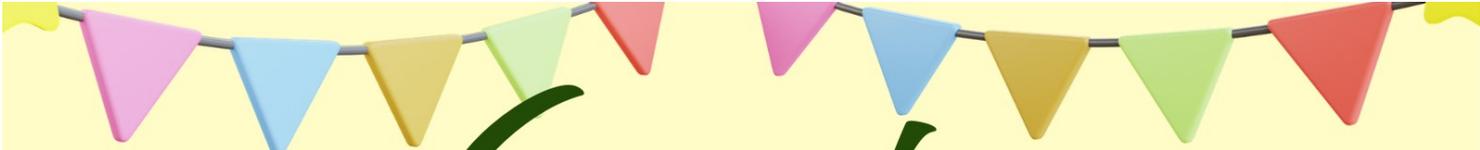
Kestrels class have returned from the Half-Term break full of positivity and enthusiasm. Much of our recent English learning has been inspired by the beautiful and thought-provoking book *The Day War Came* by Nicola Davies. It tells the story of a young refugee girl, what war took from her, and her struggle to find a place in the world after her home is destroyed. We have used her story, along with the stories of other refugees, to inspire our own poetry and descriptive writing, which we are very much looking forward to sharing with you at our next celebration assembly. In DT, we have been studying and building bridges, using our engineering and carpentry skills to design and construct a bridge that meets a specific design brief. This has been both challenging and fun, and some of the bridges that the children have created are extremely impressive. As always, we continue to enjoy keeping active in PE, particularly through learning handball, which for many of us is a new and exciting sport. As the weather improves, we look forward to more opportunities for outdoor learning and activities in the fresh air.

ASPENS TASTER SESSION



Aspens will be doing a taster sessions for parents and carers on Thursday 12th March at 2.45pm in the school hall. Please come along, taste some samples and find out more about the school dinner options in school.

We hope to see lots of you there!



Easter

£3
PER
CHILD



EGG HUNT

Join us for a day of family fun as we search for hidden Easter eggs! The hunt will run alongside the Methodist Chapel's Spring Fair.

Saturday, 21st March – 3pm start



Meet outside the Pavilion on the playing field.

Free parking: Gresham Village Hall, Gresham,
Norwich NR11 8RT

Booking essential. Please use the QR code
or email

gresham.vh.bookings@gmail.com



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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