



‘Nurturing brilliance  
to catch our dream.’



09/02/2024

### Attendance

95.3%



Dear Parents,

We have been focusing on reading in the Academy, particularly this week as our earliest readers have been completing their online assessments for Read Write Inc. Our team has made incredible progress, and many of the pupils have worked really hard to improve their speed in sounding out words and reading.

We noticed that a few children, who were reading a little slower, may still need to practice at home every night to ensure that their reading fluency resembles natural speech. The effort put in now will yield infinite benefits in the future.

Thank you for supporting your children with their reading and speedy sounds. We will be sharing more with you on Seesaw as we attempt to fill in some gaps and help them excel.

We will share with you the sounds your children are missing, so you can practice them online along with speedy words.

### The Big Brunch

Thank you to all of you who were able to support the Big Brunch by helping or consuming. I have been informed that Mrs. Hopkin and her team did a sterling job, raising an incredible amount of money. The PTFA continues to take our breath away with the support, both in terms of time and money, for the Academy.

### Attendance

Please be aware that our attendance has significantly decreased due to the presence of many bugs. We will not be able to authorise any family holidays and we will only be authorising absences in very exceptional circumstances. I am sure you understand the equity behind this.

It is important to note that there may be fines imposed for unauthorised absences by the government for each parent and child, as this has recently become a government focus.



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**Clubs:**

Monday 3:30 -5pm STEM

Tuesday 3:30-5pm DRAMA

Wednesday 3:30-4:30pm FOOTBALL

Friday 3:30-5pm SPORTS

Event	Class/Year	Date	Contact
Half Term Break	All	Friday 9th February	Office
First Day Back	All	Tuesday 20th February	Office
Oak Class Ukulele Band Performance at the Torbay Festival	Oak class	Friday 1st March	Mrs Wood
KS2 choir performing at the Torbay Music Festival	Choir	Friday 1st March	Mrs Wood
World Book Day	All	Thursday 7th March	Mrs Wood
Barn Owl Trust Workshop	All	Friday 8th March	Office/ Mrs Balfour
Cedars Class Performance	Cedars	Wednesday 27th March	Mrs Baker
An Afternoon of Music at Dunsford	All	Thursday 28th March	Mrs Wood
Last Day of the Term	All	Thursday 28th March	Office



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## MAPLES



We have had a busy week consolidating our learning and exploring of British birds and owls. Children in Maples have been re-telling the story of the Owl Babies and Fly by Night.

In forest school this week, we explored the woods, looking at the first signs of spring: snowdrops, daffodils, buds, and seedlings. We also noticed that the birds were singing very loudly and still looking for food.

Next half term, we will be introducing our ‘Down in the Jungle’ theme and topic, looking at the different animals and their habitats, plant life, and all the amazing colours and patterns. Additionally, we will celebrate the Chinese New Year celebrations—the Year of the Dragon.

We hope you have a lovely half term break.

Miss Farress and Mrs Hooper

**Wednesday:** PE - children will need to wear appropriate footwear

**Thursday:** Forest School - children will need to wear appropriate clothing. Children will need wellies, waterproof coat & trousers, hat & gloves





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## WILLOWS

**Attendance**

**96%**



**Otilie Hol.**



**STAR of the WEEK**



**SPORTS STAR:**

**Clementine**

Professor Clayburn joined us AGAIN this week (Science). We talked about different types of cloud and how they form – we even did an experiment to see a cloud form in a jar. It wasn't our most dramatic experiment, but we did see little droplets of water forming inside the glass jar.

As a culmination of learning about the UK (Geography) and collage (Art) we produced a fine collections of London buildings – these are now on display set along the river Thames. Do pop in to take a look!

In Forest School we have started working in groups for which we have chosen our own group names; Buzzards, Robins, Squirrels and Foxes. We have been looking for signs of Spring and when we found some new shoots, we decided that we should build some protection for the newly emerging plants. Let's hope they thrive!

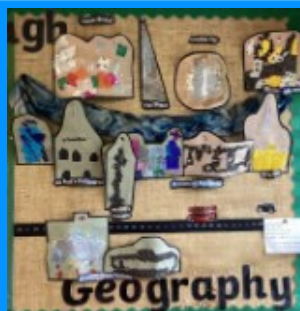
We are halfway through the year and as the children grow in confidence, we'd like to prepare the Year 1s for Year 2 - after Half Term please say your 'goodbyes' to Year 1 children at the gate near Mr Grimley's Office, then they can bring their belongings in independently. We hope you will support us in this small step.

This is a well-deserved time for a break – Willows have been working so hard with their learning, so have a super Half Term.

Happy Holidays from Mrs Clayburn, Miss Smith and Mrs Wilson

**Wednesday & Friday:** PE - please come in PE kit for the day

**Thursday:** Forest School - please bring the following to change in to: wellies, waterproof coat & trousers, hat & gloves







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**CEDARS**



**Austin**

**Octavia**

**STAR of the WEEK**

**Attendance**

**95%**



**SPORTS STAR:**

**Quinn**

What a super half term it has been! The children have loved our Design and Technology project; they have excelled at working within a group, adapting their designs, problem solving - the list goes on. Additionally, the children have written two wonderful pieces of persuasive writing. We will upload these to Seesaw for you to see the fantastic progress your child has made.

As I am sure you heard, we had a few special visitors on Thursday. This session enhanced our learning in science, and the children were able to ask questions about the animals' diet and natural habitat.

After a restful half-term break, we are looking forward to seeing the children on Tuesday 20th February. Please note that Cedars Forest School session will be held on Thursdays. Please make sure your child has everything they need for a successful and enjoyable time outdoors!

Date for the diary - our class performance will be on Wednesday 27th at 2:45pm in the village hall. Details about costumes, props etc. will be sent out in the first week back in the new term.





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**Tabitha**

**OAKS**

**Bertie**

**STAR of the WEEK**

**Attendance**

**96%**



**SPORTS STAR:**

**Thomas, Bryn, Henry H &**

**Henry G**

It has been a lovely final week to the half term with the children continuing to work hard in all of their lessons. They have completed lots of their units across the curriculum and are now ready to begin new units of learning after the half term holiday. The children enjoyed a virtual author event on Wednesday where they learnt about the magical underwater world created by Sobhan McDermott. The children continue to be incredibly excited about welcoming a bearded dragon as a class pet and began their fund-raising efforts on Friday. Thank you for your generous donations to the bake sale.

I look forward to welcoming the children back into class on Tuesday 20th February. It is already looking like a half term jam packed with learning opportunities for the children. They will be performing in the Torbay Music Festival on Friday 1st March – please ensure you have completed the form Mrs Sinton sent out so that I can make sure that we have enough children to take part.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. Have a wonderful break!

