



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

Welcome back to a new term and Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a wonderful festive break, whatever you chose to do, and that you were able to enjoy some time with family and friends. On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for the kind cards and generous gifts we received at the end of last term. They are never expected, but always very much appreciated.

Although the Spring Term suggests warmer days ahead, we are still very much in winter, please ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately for the weather.

The start of a new year is often a time for reflection and resolutions. I don't tend to set specific New Year's resolutions, but I do keep a mental list of things I would like to do more of, such as spending quality time with friends and family. In school, our focus is always on how we can continue to improve Achievement and Enjoyment for all our children. This term we have many exciting activities planned, including additional music experiences, the choir singing at the O2, the TTRS battles of the bands, our popular 'Come Dine With Me' events, hopefully the start of piano lessons for some pupils and, of course, World Book Day. Please see the diary dates list on the last page.

There are also some key areas we continually work on together with parents, which I often highlight in *News in Views*. These include reading at home at least 4 times per week, ensuring children attend school every day whenever possible, and parking responsibly around the school. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive parent community, and I am hopeful that 2026 will be a positive year, with all of these areas continuing to go from strength to strength.

Finally, next Friday will see our Headteacher for the Day winner, Mr Melendez from 5L, taking the reins. He has some great things planned. Here's to an amazing 2026.

Outdoor Learning

Mrs Morgan, one of our Year 3 teachers and Outdoor Learning lead, has asked the following to be shared with parents.

January and February are usually the chilliest months of the year with very little food around for our garden wildlife. The Eco-leaders have made some simple bird-feeders this week to help birds struggling to find food and wanted to share these ideas with anyone that would like to have a go at home.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/bird-feeder>

We will also be taking part in the RSPB annual bird watch for schools but families at home can also take part in the RSPB Garden birdwatch. It just involves setting aside 1 hour over the weekend to count how many birds visit your garden, balcony or even an area in a park during that hour.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>



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TTRS Battle of the Bands

It's Back! Our annual TTRS 'Battle of the Bands' competition for classes from Year 3 to 6 starts next week. Each week, your child's class will go head-to-head against another KS2 class, earning points by using our online times table platform, TTRS. At the end of the week, the winner will be announced and will earn 3 points, whilst the losing class earns one.

As per last year the maximum amount of time a child's score that can count to a class score is 45 minutes a day. The competition will start at 09.00 on a Monday and close at 08.00 every Friday. We expect it to be another closely fought competition. Just a reminder that TTRS is only available from 06.45 until 21.00 each day.

After seven weeks of battles, the top four teams will go into the TTRS semi-finals (1st versus 4th, 2nd versus 3rd). After the final, the winning team will earn themselves the exclusive TTRS trophy (to keep for the rest of the year) AND an extra 30-minute break time! The reigning champions are currently 5L - can any classes take them on and become our new TTRS Champions?

Governor Update

On Wednesday evening the school's Local Governors met for their termly meeting to look at how the school is progressing, approve policies and discuss the recent monitoring visits they made. Below is a brief report from Mrs Hakes regarding a visit she conducted with Mrs Meeajane.

At the end of the Autumn term, we carried out the first of our biannual governor monitoring visits. Our focus was teaching and learning and SEND provision.

We would like to thank Dawn Jaycock for the time she generously gave to us, taking time to answer all our questions in detail. We were impressed by the consistent commitment made by teachers in supporting pupils with their learning, rigorously monitoring progress, providing intervention where necessary and taking responsibility for their own personal training needs. We also felt that the commitment of the support staff, particularly working with pupils who have additional needs was exceptional.

This was an enlightening and enjoyable visit and we are now looking forward to the Summer Term where we will review progress and celebrate further successes.



Stars of the Week

RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM
Eva	Bertie	Tyler	Mia	Aliza	Max	Riley
3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R
Scarlett	Arnie	Jaxon	Georgia	Diana	Praneet	Daisy



Reading at Home

No reading figures this week as it wasn't a full week. Please read over the weekend.



Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Otto in 2P for always being ready, being super keen, kind, helpful and always following our values.



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Weekly Attendance

An above average start to the year which is great. Let's see if we can get to 96%.

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 1 December 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	92.3%	93.1%	97.9%	96.7%	98.7%	93.8%	95.0%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.8%
Attendance	97.2%	94.9%	98.0%	95.4%	97.9%	94.4%	97.1%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
2C	4J	1B & 5P



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 1 September 2025

Class	RA	RE	1B	1G	2C	2P	3LM	Whole school
Attendance	93.8%	92.6%	97.2%	96.4%	98.1%	94.7%	96.1%	
Class	3T	4CH	4J	5L	5P	6H	6R	95.7%
Attendance	96.9%	95.1%	96.1%	96.6%	96.3%	93.1%	96.7%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
2C	1B	3T



Diary Dates

Monday 12 January

Monday 12 January

Thursday 15 January

Thursday 15 January

Friday 16 January

Thursday 22 January

Friday 23 January

Tuesday 27 January

Tuesday 6 February

Wednesday 11 February

Wednesday 11 February

Thursday 12 February

Friday 13 February

Tuesday 24 February

Tuesday 3 March

Friday 6 March

Friday 27 March

Clubs start

Swimming starts for 4CH

Swimming starts for 4J

Early Years writing workshop for parents 14.30

Mr Melendez Headteacher for the Day

Attendance tea party

Digital Leaders trip to BETT exhibition

Tag Rugby tournament

Don Rae Chinese New Year - Year 1 and 2

Year 6 trip to St Martins to watch 'We Will Rock You'

Parent Consultations 15.30 – 18.00

Parent Consultations 16.30 – 19.00

Break up for half term

Choir to the O2 for Young Voices

Year 1 'come-dine with me' (tbc)

Larchwood World Book Day

Break up for Easter



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