

HAMPTON DENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

One School, Cherishing All

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parents' evenings before the half term break. We hope that by conducting these half way through the academic year we can give you a greater insight into the work completed and guide you as to what you can do to support your child to be successful as they complete the year.

We would welcome parental feedback as to the timings of the evenings please let us know by emailing admin@hamptondene.hereford.sch.uk with you preference of time of year, dates and times. Thank you.

March brings World Book day (Thursday 5th), Mrs Davies has planned an exciting Treasure hunt for all children on the field that day, depending on the weather you may wish to provide your child with Wellies for this event. We also have Buzzards Class assembly (parents of Buzzards children please come along: 9am in the school hall), on Wednesday 4th Mr Legdon is doing an Accelerated Reader workshop for Kites class and their parents and on Friday 6th Mrs Davies is inviting parents in Ladybirds class to join in the daily phonics lesson at 8:50am in the main hall.

Best Wishes

Mrs E Kearns



Kestrels Class have enjoyed a range of community walks recently, helping to develop important life and independence skills, including road safety awareness.

The children have particularly enjoyed visits to the park, where they have explored cooperative play and spent time socialising with friends in the café (while enjoying some toast too!).

In class, we have been reading *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, which was brought to life with a special visit to Pets at Home to meet 'Freddy' the rabbit. We especially enjoyed hunting for Windmills as part of our study into Seasonal Changes and weather in Science as well as a visit to the bookshop.

Miss Reynolds was especially proud of Kestrels when a kind member of the public recently wrote to Mrs Kearns to praise the children's excellent behaviour in Marks and Spencer's café. What wonderful ambassadors for Hampton Dene School! Keep up the fabulous work, Kestrels!

Diary Dates

March

Wednesday 4th—Kites Class Accelerated Reading Workshop 8.50am School hall

Thursday 5th—World Book Day, Buzzards Class assembly, Ospreys library visit, PTFA Meeting 7pm School hall

Friday 6th—Ladybirds—Phonics lesson for children and parents 8:50am School hall

Wednesday 11th—Butterflies Gospel Project HCA

Thursday 12th—Oakerwood Parents Meeting 3.30pm

Wednesday 18th—Owls and Kites, Bridges project

Thursday 19th—Ladybirds Class Queenswood, Ospreys Class Ledbury train, Buzzards road safety visitor

Monday 23rd—Year 5/6 Football @Wyeside

Wednesday 25th—Yr1 and Yr5 Buddy trip Bristol Zoological

Thursday 26th—2:30pm Ladybirds Class assembly

Friday 27th—Last day of the Spring Term

Easter holiday: Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April

April

Monday 13th —start of summer term

Thursday 16th —LCC swimming lessons HALO

Friday 17th—Owls Class trip Cadbury World

Monday 20th—Osprey Class swimming Beacon College

Friday 24th—Hawks Kites Eagles—Cardiff fun swim

On a wet and freezing cold afternoon, boys from Years 4 through to Year 6 represented our school at a **football tournament** held at Lads Club. Despite the challenging weather conditions, the team showed great determination, resilience and teamwork throughout all their matches.

Although we were unable to secure a place in the final rounds, the boys should be extremely proud of their efforts. Their behaviour, attitude and sportsmanship were wonderful to see, and they represented the school brilliantly. Well done boys.

Mr Legdon



The theme for **Safer Internet Day** this year was Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI. In Owls, we watched an online seminar about how AI chatbots work and how you can make your own. The children had different tasks to do to make sure the AI chatbot had the correct information and could answer people's question accurately and politely.

Miss B Jones



National Year of Reading 2026

We are very much enjoying getting stuck into various reading challenges in school and can't wait to take part in the treasure hunt for World Book Day! We hope we will be able to decode the secret message and share it with you.

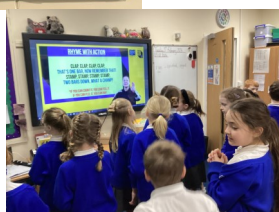
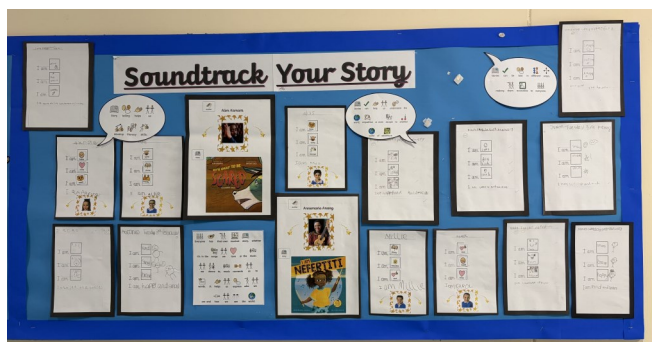
Last month, we took part in National Storytelling Week. It was great to see and hear so many classes getting involved in various ways, as well as even more displays appearing around school.

Kestrels took part in the live workshops with Anne Marie Anang and Alim Kamara, creating their own 'story soundtracks'.

In Ladybirds, we focused on the poem 'Earthworms' by Simon Mole. We enjoyed listening to it being read aloud and adding in different actions alongside music with Simon and Gecko. We designed new bug characters to add into our own adventures, mud wriggler was a big hit! Afterwards, we met the sock puppet 'Noodle' who was going to star in the story too. We thought about different names for the puppet, where it could go on an adventure and how it would feel if our character met someone else.

During Storytelling Week, Butterflies enjoyed using their voices, creating actions and using the musical instruments to retell Traditional Tales, including The Gingerbread Man and The Three Little Pigs.

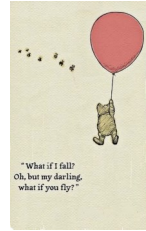
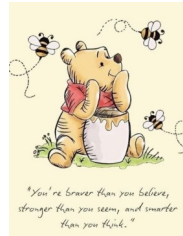
In Owls, they watched an online workshop about storytelling through rap - rhythm and poetry. Then, they wrote their own raps and thought carefully about the rhythm and rhyme of each line.



Kites class listened to MC Grammar's rap of 'The Smeds and the Smoos'. They recreated the rap using percussion instruments for the beat and different rhythms, and some of the children took on the individual roles.

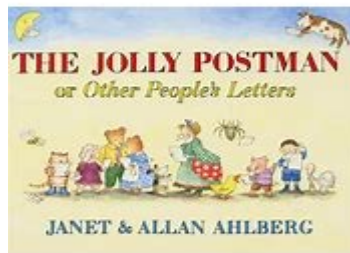
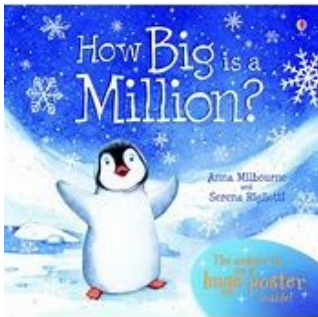
Each month, we hear from different staff about their favourite books and why they love reading them.

March—Mrs Davies



‘Mrs Davies’ Favourite Books...

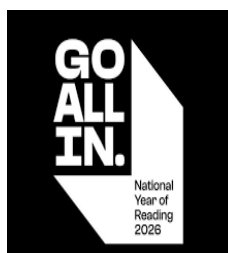
One of my favourite books through my childhood was ‘Winnie the Pooh’. As a young girl, I was read parts of the book and then enjoyed reading it myself as I got older. Winnie the Pooh is one of my favourite book characters; I used to buy lots of memorabilia to match! There are so many fantastic underlying messages in the story such as friendship, kindness and the simple joys of life whilst always taking you off on an exciting adventure. I also loved the story of ‘The Jolly Postman’ as it included lots of characters from various fairytales, with each receiving a different letter. I like how it added a humorous twist to each fairytale and solves problems for some of the characters.



In Ladybirds, one of my favourite books to share with the class is ‘How Big is a Million?’ Pipkin the Penguin loves to ask questions and goes off on an adventure. It's great how it introduces children to the concept of big numbers alongside visual representations such as 10 fish, 100 penguins, 1000 snowflakes and 1million stars. Everyone knows I also love Supertato too; you can't go wrong with a goodie taking on a baddie, all through characters created using food! I really enjoy setting children the task of making a new superhero vegetable very year. I am also very excited for the release of ‘The Gruffalo Granny’ later this year and I am sure it'll be a real hit with the children.

Challenge Time...

Linking with our treasure hunt, can you create a story sack full of physical props, quotes and clues for a family member or friend to work out the story? You could send a picture via Seesaw or Tapestry for your teachers to guess too!



'To all parents and carers of children at St Paul's Primary School, Hampton Dene Primary School, and St Paul's Childcare,

At St Paul's Church, we're conscious of the stresses that go with getting our little people to and from school and nursery, and are aware of the particular challenges faced when the weather is bad. There have been incidents this term of unpleasant language used by parents and 'near-miss' situations around school pick up times that could have been quite nasty. That being the case, we want to remind you all of the following-

During term-time drop-off and pick-up times (Mon-Fri 8.30-9am and 2.45-3.45pm) the Church car park is not available to be used as parking for parents bringing children to and from the schools, unless you are also bringing children to St Paul's Childcare or attending an event in the church at the same time. The church parking is also not to be used as a 'drive-through drop-off' or collection point for the schools, as signage by the entrance clearly indicates.

For parents and carers of children at St Paul's Childcare, there is an annual parking pass that can be issued by the office and must be displayed whilst your car is parked in the Church car park. Please contact the St Paul's Childcare office if you need one.

If you do not display a current pass in your car, you may be asked to move your car and to avoid parking in the Church car park in the future. If this happens, please respect the person asking you to move your car and respond politely. A number of church volunteers and St Paul's Childcare staff have received verbal abuse which is unacceptable.

Could all users of the car park and paths through it please be conscious of the safety of themselves and others whilst walking, driving or supervising children- we have several hundred people moving through the space each morning and afternoon, and none of us want there to be any accidents. This is as important for those walking with children as for those in cars- please ensure that you and your children move safely around the car park area, and remember that while the 5mph speed limit applies to us all, car drivers need to be most careful for obvious reasons.

At the heart of this is a concern for our community- we love seeing folk coming through the churchyard every day, and we're aware of the potential stresses of the school-run, and so would please ask everyone to help us to work together, to build the kinder and more considerate community that all of our children are hoping to grow up into.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this,

Rev Andy Dodwell'

Please pass this on to any relatives or friends who may do the school run on your behalf.