



HEADTEACHERS NEWS

JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this newsletter on a dry Monday morning, I can't help but breathe a sigh of relief and hope that today will remain free from wet play! (Although I may have spoken too soon...)

We have had a busy and inspiring start to the spring term.

On Monday 19th January, we enjoyed a wonderful Vision and Values Day, focusing on our shared school value of compassion. At All Saints, days like this give us the chance to pause, reflect, and reset—helping us deepen our understanding of ourselves and one another.



Through the parable of the Good Shepherd, our children explored how empathy and compassion can guide the way we treat and support others, especially those who may be struggling. A special thank you to Mrs Sheila Hopkins for joining us for the day. Mrs Hopkins led a session on listening

and truly hearing others, using the example of the shepherds to remind us how important it is to give time and attention to those around us.

As part of the day, the whole school worked together to create a collage representing the story of the Good Shepherd. Key Stage 2 children reflected on parables from the Bible, finding quotes representing compassion to support their understanding of theology and its connection to everyday life. Key Stage 1 children created their own class pledges, sharing ideas for how they can show compassion during school time.

It was a thoughtful, reflective, and creative day—one that left us all inspired to show kindness and care in everything we do.



Thank you to all our staff and pupils for helping to create a wonderfully reflective day.

A fond farewell and a partial goodbye...

It is with great sadness but immense gratitude that we say a fond farewell to Mrs Kamal this half term. Mrs Kamal has been a treasured member of the All Saints family for many years, giving her heart and soul as a class TA, 1:1 support, and more recently as our wonderful ELSA.

Countless children have had the joy of spending time with Mrs Kamal, and without fail, she has always had their corner, offering unwavering support, kindness, and encouragement. Her warmth, patience, and understanding have touched the lives of so many, helping children feel safe, valued, and truly heard.



Mrs Kamal has a magical gift for capturing children's imaginations, nurturing their curiosity, and making each child feel seen and understood. Mrs Kamal's dedication, warmth, and positivity have made a lasting difference to so many in our school community. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the very best in the next chapter of her journey.

We also have another change in our staffing from February half term. Mrs Saville will be reducing her hours to all day Wednesday and Friday mornings, as she takes on a new role within the County Hearing Support Team.

We are so proud of Mrs Saville! Her dedication, expertise, and unwavering care have made a real difference to children and families at All Saints. We know that her experience and knowledge will now help even more children and families thrive, and we are thrilled for this next step in her career.

While we will miss her presence in school on the other days, however we look forward to continuing to see her make a difference in this exciting new role.

Kind regards

Mrs Bowditch

FOAS LATEST NEWS

JANUARY 2026

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 27th February – FOAS Spring Term Disco (details to follow)

REMINDER

School lottery is a simple way to support the school while having a bit of fun too!

Tickets cost just **£1 per week**, and you can either buy a **one-off ticket** or **set up a weekly direct debit** – whatever works best for you.

There is:

- **A guaranteed winner from our school every week**
- **The chance to win the national £25,000 weekly jackpot**
- **Entry open to parents, family members, and friends**

Best of all, **all proceeds go directly back into the school**, helping us to improve resources and opportunities for the children.

Please copy link below into your browser for more information -

[Support All Saints Church School when you play Your School Lottery - Your School Lottery](#)

Textile Bin - please keep filling our textile bin. The bin will be permanent as long as we use it enough, so remind any local friends and family that they can use it too.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school – it really does make a difference.



ACORN NEWS

JANUARY 2026

We have been enjoying our learning on 'People who help us'. We have looked at the emergency services, church and RSPCA so far. We will be now looking at farming and how people in the wider community are all linked together.

A big thanks to Miss Terry for coming into talk to us about the amazing work that the RSPCA does. The children loved practising their questioning skills and learning about all the different animals the RSPCA supports.



In **RE** we have been exploring God and the story of creation. What the word 'God' means to different people and why it is so important to Christians.

In **Literacy** we have enjoyed books such as Zog and the Flying doctors and Hospital Dog. The children are doing amazing with their writing and are enjoying learning new words such as pondering, anxious and thrilling!

In **Maths** we have been further our understanding of the composition of numbers, looking closely at number bonds to 5. We are starting to explore terms such as odd and even, using physical resources such as numicon and building buses with different numbers of passengers. We have also been exploring weights and measures supported by the book Mr Archimedes bath!



In **PSHE** we have been exploring the Zones of Regulation and how we can identify which zone we are in as well as what tools we might use to help to self-regulate.

The **ZONES** of Regulation™ Reproducible E The Zones of Regulation Visual

The **ZONES** of Regulation™

			
			
<p>BLUE ZONE</p> <p>Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly</p>	<p>GREEN ZONE</p> <p>Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Relaxed</p>	<p>YELLOW ZONE</p> <p>Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control</p>	<p>RED ZONE</p> <p>Mad/Angry Terrified Elated/Ecstatic Devastated Out of Control</p>

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From *The Zones of Regulation*™ by Leah M. Kuypers • Available at www.socialthinking.com

In **PE** we are continuing to enjoy gymnastics. We will be starting balance bikes later in the term as soon as the weather improves.



CLASS 1 NEWS JANUARY 2026

Wow, what a wonderful start to 2026 in Class 1. The children came back from the Christmas break with enthusiasm for learning, and they have settled back into school routines very comfortably.

In Art this half term, we are exploring what makes a sculpture. Throughout the unit, children will explore different materials and begin to choose these for impact. They are learning to join and fix different textures, and to discuss what happens when trying different methods and materials. Playful Making is an exploratory unit, and the children are enjoying 'just making' creatively- without a plan or an intended outcome!

"Something that might get stolen..."



"The container of everlasting Happiness..."



"Something loud!"

Vision and Values Day:

Compassion

The Lost Sheep Challenge

We followed clues in a trail which led us around the school, where we collected the letters to spell out "shepherd".



The Shepherd's Challenge

Run by Mr Davies, Class 1 thoroughly enjoyed the teamwork game of 'the floor is lava' where they needed to work together to cross lava, a river of hungry crocodiles, and 'zap fences' to collect the ping-pong ball shaped sheep. They needed to communicate to move resources and keep their teams together.

Compassionate Creations

We used cotton wool, PVA glue, and circles of black and white card to create our sheep. We demonstrated compassionate actions by sharing resources and taking turns with only what we need.



The Shepherd's Listening Tent



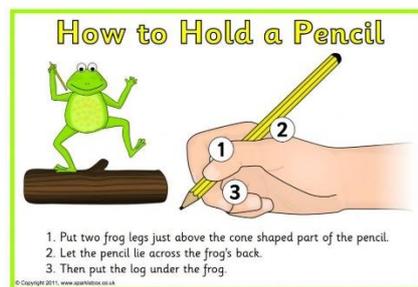
Led by Mrs Hopkins, we enjoyed time of quiet reflection in the Yurt and Forest Area. We thought about what the shepherds may have heard on the hillside, in the Christmas story. Class 1 decided it is easier to listen when we are still and quiet, because we can hear all the “little sounds” around us.



CLASS 2 NEWS

JANUARY 2026

Class 2 have had a wonderful and very busy start to the term. We have been reminding ourselves how to use our best handwriting, focusing on correct letter formation and always trying our best. We continue to practise holding our pencils correctly using “frog on a log” to help us develop a comfortable and effective grip.



We were also very excited to begin our new topic, “**From A to B.**” The children have been enjoying learning about the history of flight, and have found it very entertaining watching clips of early attempts people made to try to fly!

By exploring paper aeroplanes, we have started to think about how things travel through the air.

We found that the paper aeroplane dart was very effective and travelled a long way.

[How to Make Origami Dart Airplane | Origami Aeroplane | Paper Plane Craft | Paper Aeroplane](#)

We have also begun learning about different materials, including flammable materials, and how these relate to the invention and development of hot air balloons.

School Vision and Values Day – Compassion

During our Vision and Values Day, we focused on our new school value:
Compassion.

Through a range of fun and thoughtful activities, the children explored what compassion looks like in everyday life and reflected on the many ways we can show kindness and understanding to one another.

A highlight of the day was taking part in the **Shepherds Team Challenge**. With teamwork and compassion, Class 2 encouraged and supported one another as they completed the task—making sure no one was left behind.



We then solved the **Lost Sheep orienteering trail**, where we found hidden letters and worked together to reveal the word *SHEPHERD*.

The children also enjoyed our creative compassion activity—making sheep for a beautiful collaborative collage that will be displayed in the corridor outside Year 5. This artwork reminds us of the story of the **Good Shepherd**, and how a shepherd gathers and cares for their flock. It highlights the many ways we show compassion at school every day.



Other activities included a peaceful visit to the yurt, learning about pollinators, and taking part in an activity that encouraged the children to show compassion to themselves too.



Class 2 found the whole day thought provoking and meaningful, and we are proud of how well they understand what compassion truly means.

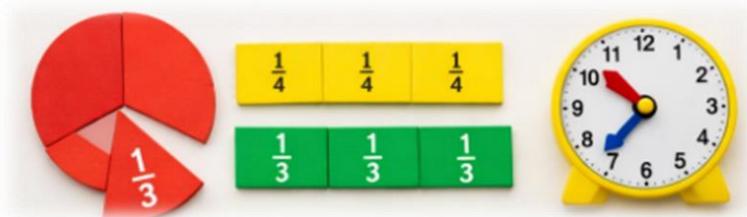


CLASS 3 NEWS

JANUARY 2026

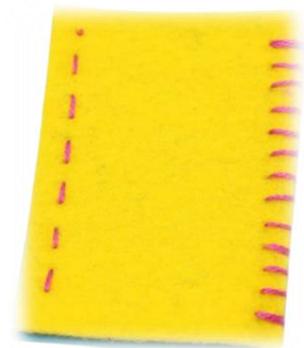
We are whizzing through the Spring Term in Year 3 and the children have been working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence in their learning.

In **Maths**, we have been learning all about fractions. The children now understand what a fraction is and have been practising how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. Alongside this, we have been learning about time. The children have been working on ordering the months of the year, learning how many days are in each month, and practising how to tell the time. Any extra practice with telling the time at home would be really helpful and greatly appreciated.



In **English**, we have been exploring persuasion as a genre. The children have really enjoyed learning how writers use persuasive language and techniques to influence a reader. They have been experimenting with their own persuasive skills, and this learning will culminate in them writing a piece of persuasive text to encourage someone to buy their very own invention.

In **Design and Technology**, the children have been practising their sewing skills and are very excited about making their own cushions. They are currently designing and choosing how they would like their cushions to look before moving on to making the final product.



We have also been busy in **Art**, creating hanging clay birds. These were inspired by Roald Dahl's *The Minpins*, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. The children have loved shaping and designing their birds and we are excited to paint them and add feathers to our creations soon.

In **French**, we have been learning about the four seasons. So far, the children can name each season and describe what the weather is like in winter.

In **Geography**, we have been learning about rivers and the water cycle. The children have enjoyed learning about the journey of a river and using lots of new vocabulary. They have also loved finding out about the water cycle and watching our very own mini version in the classroom!



In **Science**, our Physics topic 'Forces and Magnets' has got underway. We have investigated the push and pull of contact force and how friction and resistance can change the way objects move. This week, we explored the force of gravity (a non-contact force) and tested our predictions of whether a ball or piece of paper would fall the quickest. We are so impressed with the children's scientific questioning.

In **RE**, we have explored the Creation Story and learnt that in the Christian world, Humans are 'stewards' or perhaps 'caretakers' of the world for God. With this in mind, the children came up with some heartwarming suggestions of how they would be God's steward and care for an abandoned garden;

"I would make bug hotels with the dead branches for the insects" Reggie.

"I would water all the plants and flowers" Jacob

"I would plant some new flowers for the bees" Eleanor.

We think Class 3 would make fantastic stewards for God's world.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.



CLASS 4 NEWS

JANUARY 2026

The weather has not dampened our spirits in Class 4 as we continue to flourish and explore with our learning, filled with exciting learning across all subjects. Here is a taster if you are unable to attend our Praise and Share tomorrow.

English

In English, the children have been working hard to write **non-chronological reports** about their own **mythical creatures** which we have published in a book full of the children's imaginative creatures.

We have explored how to improve our writing by using:

- **Expanded noun phrases**
- **Prepositional phrases** to add detail
- A wide **range of sentence openers**
- Correctly punctuated **direct speech**

All of these skills are helping us prepare for writing our **marvellous myths** over the next couple of weeks!

Maths

In Maths, our focus has included:

- **Making arrays** to build a deeper understanding of **area and perimeter**
- **Counting back through zero**, including work with negative numbers
- Reading and writing **Roman numerals** up to 100

The children have enjoyed exploring these concepts through practical tasks and problem-solving activities.

History & Geography

Our topic this week has taken us back to the early medieval period as we explored:

- **Where the Vikings came from**
- **Why they invaded Britain**
- How geography influenced their travel, settlements, and raids

Children have enjoyed using maps and historical sources to investigate these questions.

Science

In Science, we have continued learning about:

- The **characteristics of living things**
- How we group and **further categorise animals and plants**
- Similarities and differences between different living organisms

The class have been sorting animals and plants based on observable features and discussing how scientists classify living things.

French

In French, we have been learning the names of **classroom objects**, practising pronunciation, ready to say and write simple sentences to explaining what we have in our school bags and pencil cases.

P.E.

We are loving our jaunts into Yeovil for swimming, and I am impressed at the high level of swimmers we have in Class 4 and at the progress the children are making in finetuning their strokes.

R.E.

We are looking at the Gospel and the role of the disciples.

As you know, we have opted for online learning as homework. In the past, I have liked to send homework out with a letter of explanation with examples, and, thanks to the wonderful Mrs Sharp, this will still be possible so I will endeavour to do this most weeks. However, if you require paper versions at any time or have any questions relating to the homework please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warmest regards from the Class 4 team.



CLASS 5 NEWS JANUARY 2026

Class 5 have had a very busy and exciting start to the new year.

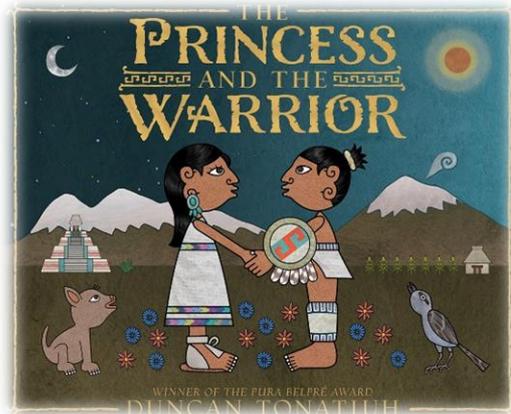
On our Vision and Values Day, the focus was compassion where the children took part in thoughtful activities which helped them to think about showing compassion to others, the world around them and themselves.



We also really enjoyed our visit to Stancheater when taking part in a Javanese gamelan music workshop. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a new style of music. The instruments were beautiful and the children showed excellent engagement and concentration!



In English, we have been reading *The Princess and the Warrior*. The children have explored the features of legends and written their own imaginative stories about how a Mexican landform was created.



In History, we have started our new unit on the Maya civilisation. We began by learning where the Maya lived and the significant events in the Maya's history. This has sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful questions which we will continue to explore as the unit progresses.

In Art, the children have begun learning about set design, thinking carefully about how settings can be created to support storytelling and performance.

Our geography unit on rainforests has begun with investigations into different biomes around the world. We have focused on the rainforest biome in particular, finding out about the people, plants and animals who live there and the threats to their environment.

In French, the children have begun learning how to talk about the weather and are on their way to becoming French weather presenters – hopefully with no rain to report!



CLASS 6 NEWS

JANUARY 2026

A Belated Happy New Year!

It may have been cold, wet and windy outside but our classroom is full of energy and enthusiastic for learning.

This month, the children have been immersed in the mysterious short film *Alma*, using it as inspiration for their own narrative writing. We have focused particularly on characterisation, setting and creating atmosphere, exploring how authors build tension and draw the reader into a story.

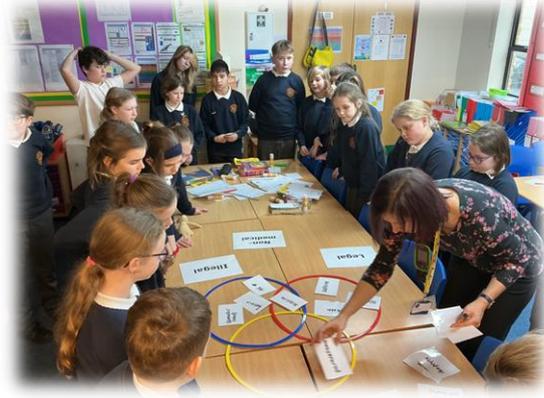
To develop their writing skills further, pupils have also been practising using colons and semi-colons to extend and link ideas in more sophisticated ways. The progress in their descriptive writing has been fantastic to see!

In Art, we have been studying the work of installation artists Olafur Eliasson and Liz West, whose use of colour and light transforms spaces into immersive experiences. Inspired by their work, the children have been experimenting with colour, shape, and light effects.

We are excited to share that we will soon begin creating our own light-based art installations, applying everything we have learned about colour theory and visual impact.

Our History lessons have continued to focus on World War Two – in particular the Battle of Britain. We explored why this turning point in WWII was so significant and discovered the important role that East Anglia played during this period, including its airfields, pilots, and local contributions to the war effort. The children asked brilliant questions and showed great curiosity about this key moment in history. Over the next few weeks, we will begin to start to look at the where the West Country featured in the war effort.

We were delighted to welcome Coram Education into school for a special workshop. Their session focused on helping children understand choices, consequences, peer influence and decision-making. The children engaged thoughtfully and demonstrated mature thinking about how to approach challenges and look after their wellbeing.



Thank you for your continued support. We are proud of the children's hard work and look forward to another exciting month of learning ahead.