



HEADTEACHERS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful February half term and were able to enjoy some good family time. It was lovely to welcome the children back last week; there has been a real sense of energy and readiness for the weeks ahead.

We have a busy and exciting half term in store. Our Class 6 Young Leaders held a fantastic bake sale on Tuesday 24th February — thank you to our librarians for taking the lead in organising this for our school community and to all the bakers. Our grand total raised was £130.00.

National Careers Week (2nd–6th March) will be a whole school focus, including our Careers Fayre in the school hall on Friday, giving the children a chance to think about the many possibilities open to them in the future. We will also be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March with what promises to be a wonderfully imaginative day centred around *Alice in Wonderland*, kindly organised by our very own Mrs Westcott.

Alongside this, we have our Instrumental Concert, Parents' Evenings, and the Year 6 SATS and Okehampton information evening — all important events in the term.

As we move towards Easter, we will take time to reflect together through Acting Easter in school, before gathering as a school for our Easter Service at St Catherine's Church. We will then finish the term in true All Saints style with an exciting new event organised by our cross-country ambassadors — the Easter Bunny Run in support of Samaritan's Purse – Beehives Bring Benefits charity — alongside the ever-popular Easter Bonnet Parade in Montacute Borough.

Please see dates for events at the end of this letter.

I am always so proud of the way our children immerse themselves into school life with enthusiasm, kindness and **perseverance** — our Christian value this half term.

School Council Fundraising Charities 2025/26

We are delighted to share that our School Council have carefully selected the two charities we will be supporting through our fundraising efforts this year.

After thoughtful discussion and consideration, the pupils have chosen:

Wallace & Gromit's Children's Foundation

A charity dedicated to supporting sick children and their families through medical, emotional and practical support.

Samaritan's Purse – *Beehives Bring Benefits*

An initiative that provides beehives and training to families around the world, helping them to build sustainable livelihoods and stronger communities.

We are incredibly proud of our School Council for choosing causes that show such compassion, creativity and global awareness. We look forward to a fantastic year of fundraising and community spirit as we work together to support these important projects.

Community news - Young Leader's fund raising

We are incredibly proud of one of our Year 6 young leaders, Grace, who shared the following inspiring words about an event she organised in her own time.

'On the 14th February 2026, I was at Odcombe Village hall doing and organising a bake sale, raffle, lemon-drop treasure map, paracord keyrings and craft table. I was raising money for an association that have been a massive part of my life right from the start. The NDCS, The National Deaf Children's Society. Before even doing the actual event I had already raised £130 due to early raffle ticket buyers and donations. At the event, I thought of raising £200 but that night the totals were in, I had raised £656.20p.

Such a fantastic amount raised Grace! Congratulations.

Retirement news

It is with a heavy heart that I have accepted Mrs Smith's resignation as she prepares to embark on a very well-deserved retirement as of July, after so many years of dedicated service.

Mrs Smith joined All Saints as Assistant Head in 1996, ahead of the school's official opening in January 1997, and she has been part of its story ever since. From the very beginning, she has given her time, her expertise and her unwavering dedication to the school community, shaping not only its ethos but the spirit that continues to define it today.

Although I did not have the privilege of working alongside Mrs Smith during her years in EYFS, the lasting impact of her work is unmistakable. She played a key role in the earliest chapters of so many children's lives, nurturing curiosity, confidence and joy in learning. As a colleague, she has been a driving force for innovation, always leading with purpose and clarity. Her determination to introduce STEAM into our curriculum transformed learning for our pupils, encouraging them to think deeply, persevere and recognise their own potential.

When Mrs Smith tells a story, she tells it like a true professional. She has a remarkable gift for transforming the simplest object into something extraordinary. An old tin can in her hands becomes the most magnificent treasure on earth. With careful detail and a cleverly woven narrative, she draws children in — inviting them to question what it is made from, where it might have come from, and who might once have held it. Before long, that humble tin can is no longer ordinary; it is a prized treasure in the eyes of every child in her class.

Her wisdom, warmth and steady presence will be greatly missed at All Saints. Mrs Smith has an exceptional gift for seeing the unique spark in every child and nurturing it into a lifelong love of learning. She embodies traditional values of kindness, respect and high expectations, always wanting the very best for each and every pupil. I often think of the time she told me how she taught herself to play the violin simply so she could lead whole-class violin lessons — a perfect example of her dedication, creativity and selfless commitment to her role.

Although we are deeply saddened to be saying goodbye, we will make the most of the months leading up until summer term. Let's make Mrs Smith's last few months sparkle so that she can take fond memories with her as she leaves for retirement and the new role of a 'lady who lunches'. 😊

Best wishes

Mrs Bowditch

Dates for Spring 2 2026

DATE	EVENT
Monday 2 nd March – Friday 6 th March	National Careers Week
Monday 2 nd March	Cross Country at Aldon
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Careers Fayre in the school hall
Friday 13 th March	Class 2 Praise and Share
Friday 13 th March	Dandelions sleep over 6pm
Monday 16 th March	Parent's Evening 1
Wednesday 18 th March	Parent's Evening 2
Friday 20 th March	Class 6 Praise and Share COMIC RELIEF
Friday 20 th March	KS1 story night
Monday 23 rd March	Cross Country at Aldon
Tuesday 24 th March	Instrumental Concert
Friday 27 th March	Acorn Praise and Share
Friday 27 th March	Governor Easter Bingo
Monday 30 th March	Year 6 SATS & Okehampton information evening
Monday 30 th March	Picturing Easter in school
Tuesday 31 st March	School Easter Service at St Catherine's Church
Thursday 2 nd April	Easter Bunny Run for charity in school
Thursday 2 nd April	Easter Bonnet parade 2pm in Montacute Borough

FOAS LATEST NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 6th March - Pop-up Bookshop

To celebrate World Book Day we will be holding a pop-up bookshop on Friday 6th March. We are kindly asking all children to bring in a book/s they have read and would like to donate on World Book Day itself (Thursday 5th March). All children will then have the opportunity to visit the Bookshop during the school day on the Friday to purchase a book for a small donation.

Friday 20th March – Acorn/KS1 Story Night

With the help of Mrs Sullivan and other staff the KS1 Story Night is returning. Come back to school in the evening, in pyjamas and with a cuddly toy to enjoy stories and snacks. Parents are invited to wait in the hall café where tea/coffee will be served. Tickets will be available on Classlist this week.

Friday 27th March – Non-Uniform Day

All children are invited to wear non-uniform in exchange for a donation for our Easter Rainbow Hamper Raffle. Full details to follow.

Sunday 10th May – Saints Hills Fun Run

Please join us again for this fabulous event as a runner or a supporter! Sign up to run now at: bit.ly/saintshills26

You can also sign up to donate a cake for the event on Classlist if you cannot make the event itself.

Friday 10th July – FOAS Summer Party

Save the date – more details nearer the time.

Any queries please feel free to contact us via Classlist or at:
thefriendsallsaints@gmail.com

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

FEBRUARY 2026

Acorns have had a very busy month looking at people who help us. We have had some amazing visitors from the church, RSPCA, police and farming. The children loved meeting the calves and getting to climb up into a tractor. We got to sit in a real police car with the sirens going! Thank you so much to all our visitors, it really does help to bring our learning to life and make it memorable.



In **RE** we have learnt about God and the story of creation. We made jelly fish from playdough and talked about the difference between jelly and jellyfish! This half term we will be starting to look at Easter and why it is important to Christians.



In **Literacy** we have been enjoying Wacky Races! We designed our own wacky racers and clever inventions to win the race. Thank you for all the reading you have been doing over the half term with the children.

In **Maths** we have been looking at doubles, length and weight. The children have been measuring items using bricks as well as comparing the size of items.





CLASS 1 NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

Class 1 Newsletter

Following a fantastic start to the new year, Class 1 have had fun learning poetry by heart, innovating songs and rhymes, and about writing longer sentences using 'and' to connect their sentences. The class are still enjoying their adventures on 'Curious Quests', where we have been working to use our imaginations to invent, wonder, and problem solve through challenges, writing code sentences to power up our magic.

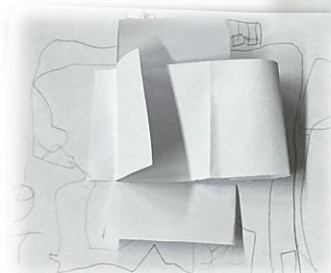
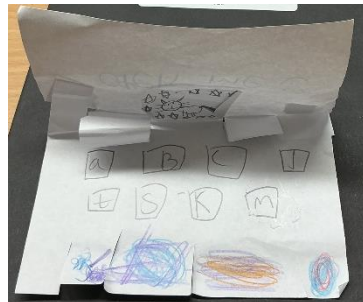
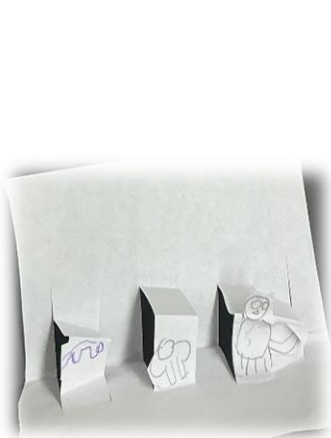


In maths we have explored telling the time to the hour, and half past the hour. We made card watches and learnt about measuring tasks within a given time frame. We were surprised how many hops we could do in 60 seconds!



Applying our science knowledge from Autumn term, we found a good use for all the rain we have had this month; children used a variety of materials to create a bridge or a boat to help our toy badger, Boris, cross the 'flood'! This was a lot of fun and an opportunity to recall what we know about the properties of everyday materials.

In art this month we have concluded our topic on sculpture, Playful Making. Class 1 were proud of their 3D structures using paper joins only (no PVA, no tape)! We discovered that tables can also make pop-ups and two thin strips of card or paper can be folded into a spring.





CLASS 2 NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

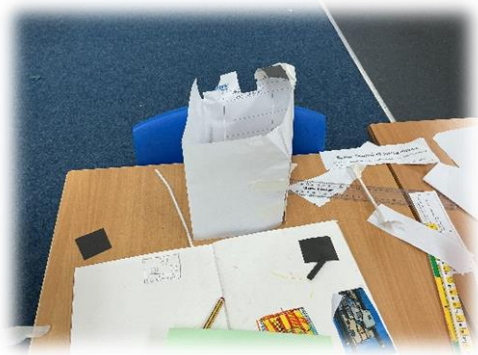
Despite February being a short month, Class 2 has certainly packed in lots of exciting learning!

In RE, we have been exploring what Christians believe God is like. The children have been thinking carefully about the parables Jesus told and the messages behind them. We began with the Parable of the Lost Son and enjoyed a wonderful Godly Play session, where the children worked together to create and perform their own retelling of the story.



Our art topic on architecture has now come to an exciting end. We spent time looking at the work of real architects and noticing how they use both curved and straight edges in their designs. Inspired by this, the children planned and created their own sculptures using only paper!

One of the biggest challenges was making sure their models could stand independently. This encouraged lots of thoughtful discussions about strength, structure, and stability, as well as plenty of creative problem solving. The final sculptures were not only cleverly designed, but also wonderfully imaginative.



For Online Safety Day, Class 2 learned a fun rap all about how to stay safe online. We also spent time thinking about how AI is used in many of the games and devices we use every day.

The children especially enjoyed playing *Quick, Draw*, a game that combines drawing with artificial intelligence. Players are given a word prompt, such as an object, animal, or symbol, and have 20 seconds to sketch it using a mouse, touchscreen, or stylus. As they draw, the AI tries to guess what the doodle is in real time, often with impressive accuracy and sometimes with very amusing mistakes! It was a great way to learn how AI works, while having lots of fun.

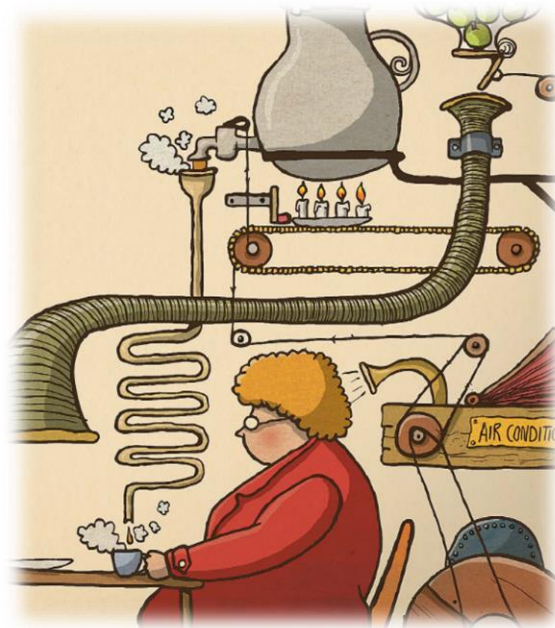


CLASS 3 NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend our whole class Praise and Share Assembly at the end of last half term. The children were so proud to share all their exciting learning and had so much to show, we struggled to fit it all in!

English – We have now launched a new English topic based around 'The Teacher Pleaser Machine' by Pie Corbett. The Children have had great fun imagining some wonderful new inventions to please their teachers and in doing so have learnt some new vocabulary techniques – such as time and causal connectives which will help them to write their own explanation texts on a new invention.



Music – The children are making great progress in learning how to play the Glockenspiel. They have learnt how to play Hot Cross Buns using the notes E–D–C and are exploring the music terminology when playing – such as Adagio, allegro, forte and piano.



Musical Knowledge



We write music on the five lines called the staff.



C (low), E, G, B are line notes.
D, F, A and C (high) are space notes.



CLASS 4 NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

We've had another busy and exciting few weeks in Year 4! The children continue to work incredibly hard and we are very proud of their enthusiasm and resilience. Here's a look at what we've been learning across the curriculum during February.

Science – Classifying Living Things

In Science, we have been exploring how living things are grouped and classified. We learned about the work of **Carl Linnaeus**, who developed a system for sorting plants and animals based on their characteristics.

The children have been identifying similarities and differences between species and using classification keys to group animals and plants. The children became very animated when we discussed how habitats were changing due to environmental implications – so much so that a protest march was suggested for a school trip!

Maths – Building Confidence with Number

In Maths, we have focused on developing strong number skills.

- **Counting Back Through Zero** – The children have practised counting backwards across zero and into negative numbers using number lines.
- **Roman Numerals** – We have learned to read and write Roman numerals up to 1000, including I, V, X, L, C, D and M.
- **Division Using Arrays and Factor Pairs** – The children have used arrays to see how multiplication and division are linked, helping them understand factor pairs and solve division problems more confidently.

English – Beowulf

In English, we have been exploring the gruesome and exciting tale of **Beowulf**. The children were fascinated by the legendary hero and his terrifying battles.

We studied the story's rich descriptive language and dramatic structure before planning and writing our own versions. The children have worked hard to include powerful vocabulary, expanded noun phrases and vivid descriptions to bring their monsters and heroes to life!

Geography – Exploring Europe

In Geography, we have been learning about the diverse continent of Europe. The children have explored major cities, famous landmarks, mountain ranges and rivers across the continent.

We have located countries on maps and discussed key physical features, as well as well-known cities including **Paris** and **Rome**. The children are developing strong map-reading skills and a better understanding of Europe's physical and human geography.

Art and DT

Class 4's art project this half term has been about exploring the art of display. Through finding out about the Fourth Plinth in London, we considered how different people view pieces of art as consumers. With this as their brief, Class 4 created clay people who were reacting to a piece of art. They thought about facial expressions, props and body language, as well as how to mould the clay from one piece. The results were displayed in our Creative Hub and the children were able to review their work with maturity and clarity.



French – In My Pencil Case

In French, we have been learning how to say what classroom objects we have in our pencil cases. The children can now confidently say phrases such as “Dans ma trousse, j’ai...” and name items like a pencil, pen, ruler and rubber.

We have also practised correct pronunciation and learned about masculine and feminine nouns. The children have enjoyed role-play activities to build their speaking confidence.

Thank you for your continued support at home. It makes such a difference to your child's learning. We look forward to another exciting half term ahead!

Warm wishes,

The Class 4 Team



CLASS 5 NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

What a fantastic and productive February it has been in Class 5! The children have shown great enthusiasm, creativity and determination across all areas of the curriculum, and we are very proud of their hard work.

As part of Safer Internet Day, the children explored how to stay safe online, with a particular focus on artificial intelligence (AI). They covered the many ways AI can be useful in everyday life. However, they also learned the importance of using AI responsibly and with caution. The children had thoughtful discussions and a mature understanding of both the benefits and risks of this technology.



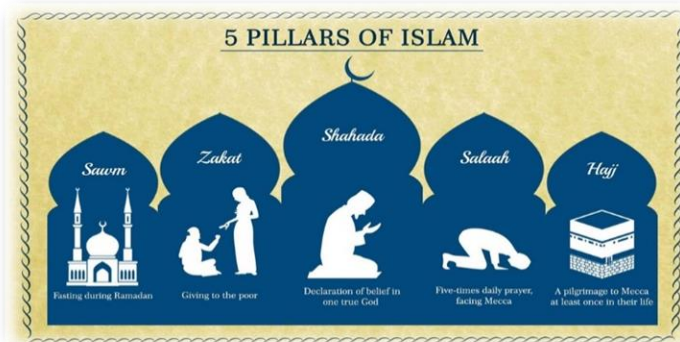
In English, we explored the idea of twisted tales, focusing on Hansel and Gretel. As part of a fun STEAM challenge, the children designed and built their own woodland settings and candy houses. They reimagined and retold the story with the witch as the protagonist, exploring how perspective can change a narrative. The children also created their own twists on well-known tales — their descriptive writing, creativity and storytelling skills have truly shone.



In Maths, the children have worked extremely hard and made excellent progress with fractions and decimals. Additionally, they have developed strong multiplication skills and can now confidently multiply by two-digit numbers using formal written methods.

In Geography, Class 5 put together some heartfelt, informative presentations to conclude their geography unit on rainforests. Their research developed their understanding of the threats to animal and plant life in the different layers of the rainforests, as well as the impact on human populations reliant upon the rainforest.

In RE, as we revisited Islam, the children were able to bring their wisdom to discussions about commitment, enabling them to truly understand the five pillars of Islam and the dedication they involve. They were able to see parallels between Christianity and Islam through sharing the story of The Night of Power through Godly play.





CLASS 6 NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

This last month, our playground was filled with sunshine, laughter, and lightning-fast dodges as students enjoyed dodgeball and football. The children showed brilliant teamwork, quick reflexes, and plenty of sporting spirit. It was wonderful to see everyone active, energised, and soaking up the spring sunshine!



In English, our students stepped into the shoes of journalists as they transformed *Romeo and Juliet* into newspaper articles.

From breaking news headlines about the Capulet–Montague feud to dramatic eyewitness accounts from the streets of Verona, pupils showed fantastic creativity and a deep understanding of Shakespeare's story.

Our class has burst into life with an exciting 3D art installation project, where students have been experimenting with bright, bold colours, repetitive and abstract patterns, and a range of mixed-media 3D elements. They have also incorporated light features powered by parallel circuits, drawing on their recent science learning to enhance their artwork. The result is a vibrant, glowing gallery that beautifully showcases both artistic flair and scientific understanding.



Preparation for the upcoming Spelling Bee has been buzzing with excitement as students try out inventive ways to master their words, with favourites this week including Wordle challenges, Spelling Tag and multiple choice quizzes. We look forward to seeing what other inventive ways the children can come up with next week!

Finally, at the end of last term, the children got to see some beautiful little calves who were just 9 weeks old.

