



February 2026

It has been wonderful to see the return of the sunshine this week after what has felt like a never-ending barrage of rain. The brighter weather has certainly lifted spirits across the school-some children even felt warm enough to take their fleeces off at lunchtime, which was a lovely sign that spring is finally on its way!

Over the coming days, children will be completing their Spring assessments. These help us understand how they are progressing and how best to support their learning as we move into the summer term. Their progress will be shared with you during our upcoming Parent/Teacher Consultations on the 9th and 10th of March, and we look forward to discussing the achievements and next steps for each child.



This month's Stay & Play theme was Humanities. Thank you to all parents who came and joined in with the learning.

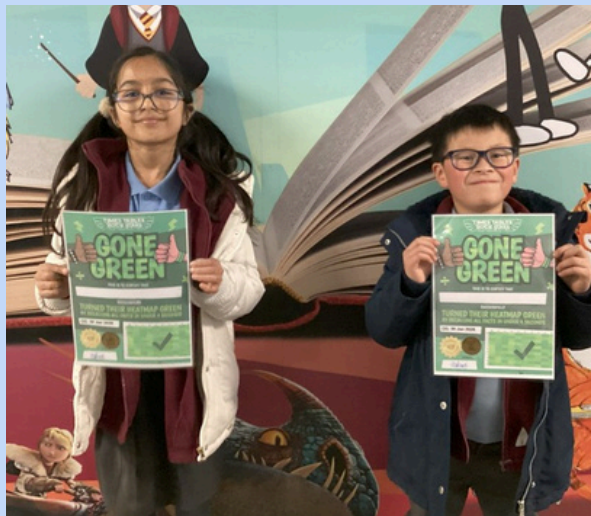
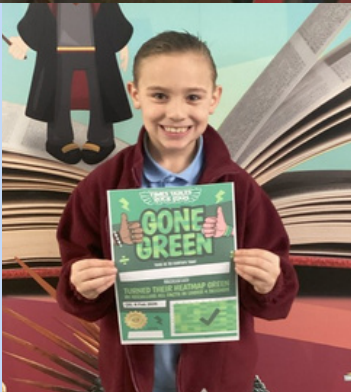


Pupils practised their mapping skills, recalled historical facts, created timelines and put animals in the correct habitats.





Our children loved tuning into Electric Umbrella's live Zoom broadcast this month as they launched the brand-new Electric Umbrella Academy — a free, music-powered online programme designed to help schools celebrate difference, champion kindness and build inclusion. Through interactive assemblies, ready-to-use resources, original songs and inspiring real-life stories, the Academy helps schools put empathy and belonging at the heart of everyday learning.



We Continue to Go Green

Congratulations to these 3 children who can all claim to answering every times tables question up to 12×12 in under 4 seconds!

We have seen a dramatic improvement in the pupils' recall of times tables. It has been found that those who practise using Times Tables Rock Stars for just 10 minutes each day have made the most progress. Keep up the good work.

House Points Monthly Update:

Green: 235

Yellow: 152

Red: 102

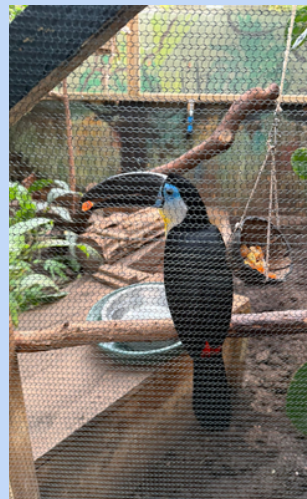
Blue: 131



Year 4 Visit the Rainforest

Late last half term, Year 4 visited the Living Rainforest in Newbury. Pupils were given the opportunity to explore a real rainforest environment and learn more about the plants, animals and climate found there. The visit included an educational workshop led by staff at The Living Rainforest, as well as time to explore the glasshouses.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They commented, "Cinnamon the Sloth was a favourite of ours, because it just hung in the corner even when we shouted its name. We also liked the dart frogs. They had very cool patterns on their backs - black with dark blue spots."



Star Readers

We continue to be delighted to see how many pupils are now reading regularly at home! It's clear that the children below are making strong progress across all areas because of their commitment to reading. Well done — you are all amazing!

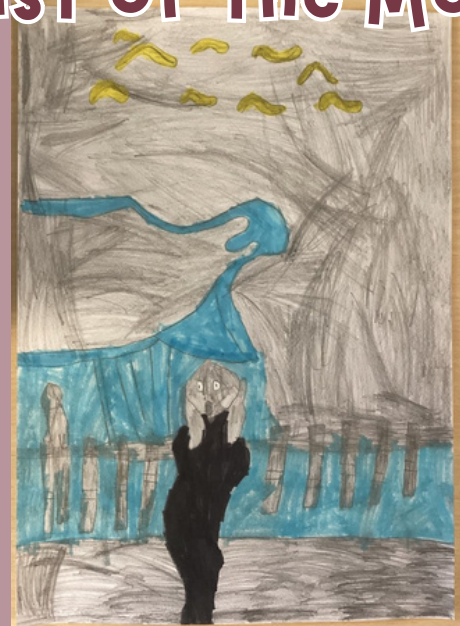
Reception	Maisam, Isla, Celine, Lois, Joaquin, Beau, Leander, Sophie, Rosie G, Hudson, Maryam, Ayla, Evie, and Rosie P
Year 1	Sophie, Matin, Rocco, Eva, Cora, Jake, Kheandreaa, Aarohi, Vivaan, Felicity, Anokhi, Shine, Melissa, Beau, Allexx and Alec
Year 2	Alina, Emma, Alexander, Bryan, Amanda, Leticia, Anaaya, Henry, Lacey and Henley
Year 3	Agnes, Ariana, Andrew, Rayan, Laura, Edward, Luca, Liam, Aubrey, Henry K, Drew, Timeea, Harry, Ralphie and Henry C
Year 4	Aaron, Arthur, Caleb, Cara-Rose, Chloe, Dortehea, Emily F, Emily K, Iqra, Kevin, Megan and Pandora
Year 5	Amelie, Amelia P, Arthur, Harry, Jamie, Jessica, Lilly, Nicholas, Oliver, Reyhaneh, Rokas, Rose, Sidharth, Siya, Teo and Tilly
Year 6	Ariella, Tio, Phoebe B, Vienna, Annabel, Emilee, Lewis Mc, Lucas, Lewis Me and Edward

Staffing

Before half term, we said "goodbye for now" to Mrs Rogers and Miss O'Neill as they took their maternity leave. In their place will be Mrs Razick and Mr Clark. We warmly welcome you both to the staff.

We are also pleased to have Mrs Thorn teaching in Year 5 on Monday and Tuesday afternoons as PPA cover. Mrs Thorn teaches in Year 2 on Thursdays, and we are grateful that she has agreed to come in even more!

Artist of the Month



This week's Artist of the Month is Henley, who has re-created his own version of Edvard Munch's "The Scream". He has used a combination of pencil and felt-tip pen to provide contrast. Excellent effort, Henley.

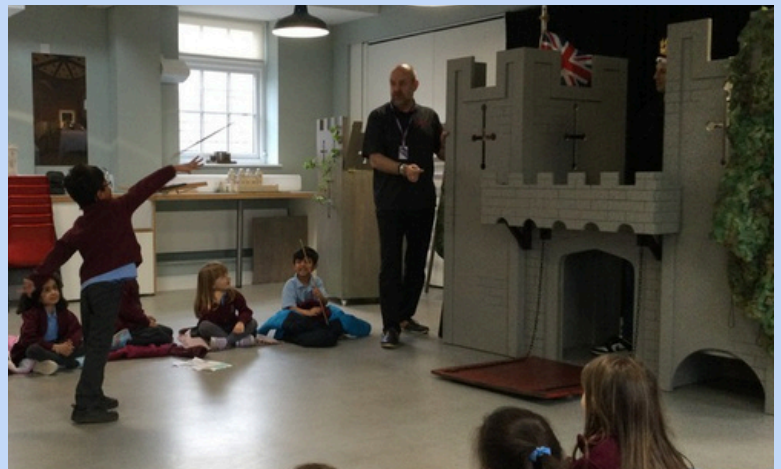


This art was created by Year 5, inspired by the space art of Peter Thorpe. This linked with their current science topic (the Planets).

Year 1 Visit Windsor Castle



Year 1 had a wonderful time visiting Windsor Castle and were full of excitement as they explored its many treasures. The children particularly enjoyed taking part in the activities—spotting a royal teapot proved a firm favourite—and were amazed by the grandeur of the rooms, especially the enormous chandeliers. Other children remarked: "I loved pretending we were in a real castle and firing a catapult." "The beds that the royal guards sleep in were enormous!" "There was so much gold there—even the picture frames were gold!". Overall, Year 1 thought that the day brought all of their learning throughout the half term to life. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to help on the trip.



Attendance

Below are the February attendance figures. I am pleased to see the percentages rising. Well done to Year 5 - you have consistently been high in attendance this month, and deserve the award.

Nursery	91.7%
Reception	94.9%
Year 1	96.6%
Year 2	92.9%
Year 3	95.7%
Year 4	96.0%
Year 5	97.8%
Year 6	95.8%
Whole School	95.6%

Please note that all absence requests must be completed using the correct 'Application for Leave of Absence' form which is available from the school office. Please also remember that most absence requests are likely to be unauthorised due to the requirements set out by the DfE.

Regular attendance helps children build confidence, stay connected to their learning, and make the most of every opportunity school has to offer.

Zoolab

At the beginning of February Nursery, Reception and Year 5 had so much fun meeting and exploring different animals. They learnt lots of amazing facts and could choose to look, touch or even hold them depending on how brave they felt!

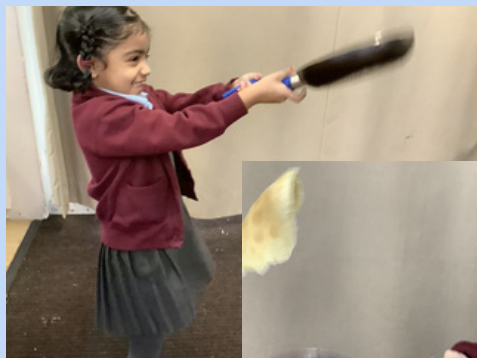
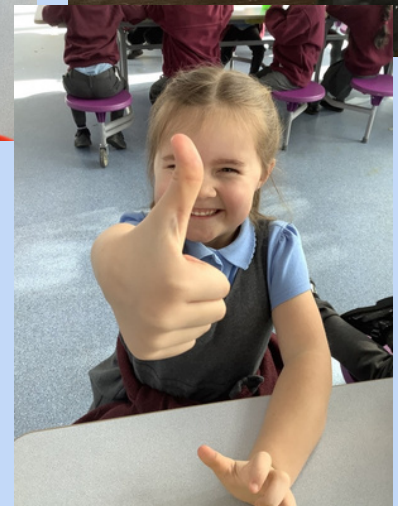


Pancakes Fly in Early Years



We had a great time mixing, cooking, flipping and eating pancakes today! Don't worry, we didn't eat the ones we practiced flipping with...

As part of our studies about understanding the world, people and communities we looked at Shrove Tuesday, Lent and how Christians prepare for Easter.



Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following children who their peers have chosen as Stars of the Week.

Reception	Hudson, Lois and Leander
Year 1	Hershitha, the Whole Class and Cora
★ Year 2	Anaaya, Tiana and Alina
Year 3	Drew and Safiya ★
Year 4	Minha, Dortehea and Kevin
Year 5	Amelie and Jamie
Year 6	★ Lewis Me, Zahra S and Abigail

Acts of Kindness



Thanks to the money parents generously donated after our Christmas performances, we have been able to purchase the above "Skandar" series of books, by A.F. Steadman. There has been a real buzz surrounding these and we cannot wait to hear the children's feedback - one pupil has nearly finished the second book already!

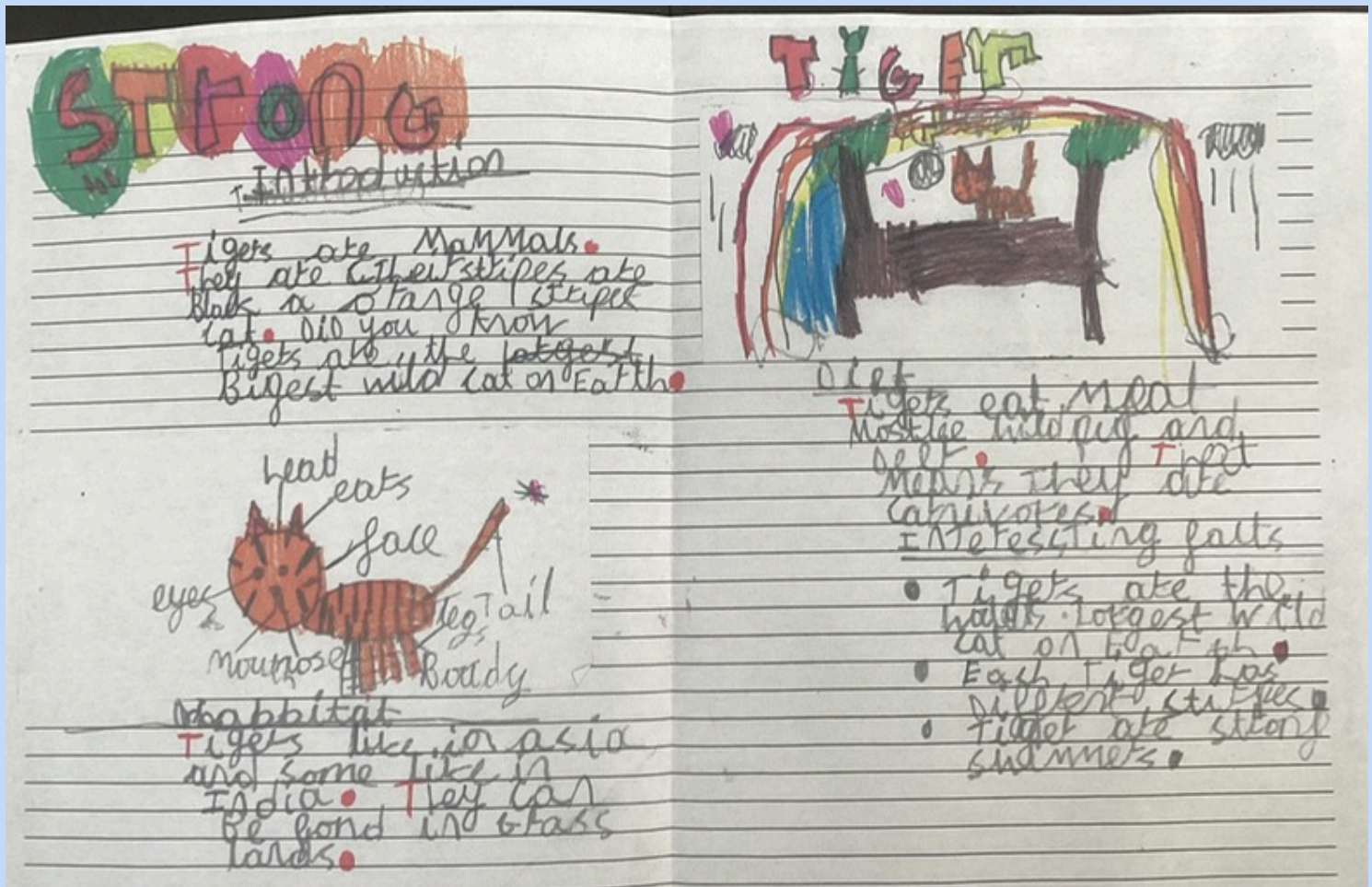
The School Council have been hard at work organising playtime boxes for each class. They have considered the thoughts of their classmates, and have chosen the equipment very carefully. The box-scheme will be launched on Monday, where councillors will be informing pupils of the challenge they will set for classes to look after the equipment.



Our wonderful PTA have raised enough money for us to purchase 15 iPads, meaning that we now have a complete class set. This will make such a difference to the children—every pupil will be able to get hands-on with technology without waiting for a turn, and teachers can plan even more exciting and interactive lessons. It opens up new opportunities for creativity, research and learning across the curriculum, and we're so grateful for the PTA's hard work (and your) generous support.

Writers' Corner

Year 2 have been writing non-chronological reports about animals. They studied the book "Big Blue Whale", by Nicola Davies. They planned their ideas using mind maps and learned how to organise facts so that their writing would be engaging, accurate and easy to follow. The children are very proud of their final pieces, and we are delighted to share this piece written by Leticia.



Our Vision

At our school we will provide a safe and stimulating learning environment which challenges all learners and promotes outstanding achievement.

We encourage all members of our learning family to be open, honest and accepting of others.

We seek to instil a thirst for and love of life-long learning in everyone who is a part of this family.

Everyone at our school works as a team; supporting, encouraging and caring for all who join us on their learning journey.



admin@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk

head@stmeryl.herts.sch.uk



@st_meryl

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 2nd March - Martisor - children invited to wear red, white and traditional clothes

-St David's Day - children invited to wear a daffodil, a leek or yellow clothing

-KNEX Challenge in Year 5 and 6

-Book Week begins

Tuesday 2nd March - Stay and Play - Book Week

Wednesday 4th March - Holi - children invited to wear traditional clothes

-Year 3 Class Assembly

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day (see letter sent this week)

Monday 9th March - Y5 Cycle training begins

Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th March - Parent/Teacher Consultations

Monday 16th March - STEM Week begins

Tuesday 17th March - St Patrick's Day - Children invited to wear green

Wednesday 18th March - Tomos Roberts (author) in school

Thursday 19th March - Y6 Class Assembly

-Nursery Rhyme Time

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day

-Cheerleading club performing in assembly

Monday 23rd March - Eid-al-Fitr - children invited to wear traditional clothes

-Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop

Thursday 26th March - Last Day of Term

-children invited to wear an Easter bonnet

-Year 2 Class Assembly (9am)

-Rocksteady Assembly (10am) - Easter Raffle will be drawn in this assembly

-School Breaks up at 2pm

Monday 13th April - Summer term begins

LOKO CHEER

EASTER CAMP 2026

St Helen's School

AGES
4-11



7th-10th April 2026

9:30am-3pm

£28 per day or £100 for 4 days

Activities

- Egg Hunt
- Cheer Routines
- Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Performances

To Book
07809 878438

Louisekochdance@aol.com



St Helen's School
Northwood, HA6 3AS