



## 17th February is: Random Act of Kindness Day

### Designated Safeguarding Lead

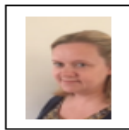


Joanne Fennelly.  
Headteacher

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Rachel Rosevear. Deputy Headteacher



Jennifer de Board.  
Assistant Headteacher



Laura Cunningham. Inclusion Lead



Hannah Garrard.  
Family Support Worker



Natalie Richards. EYFS Lead

# Can being kind make you healthier?

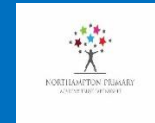
A study by researchers at the University of Exeter and Oxford think this might be the case!

They asked a group of volunteers to listen to recordings that encouraged them to be kinder to themselves.

These recordings lowered the heart rate (how fast the heart beats) of the volunteers, and they seemed more relaxed and less stressed than before the recording started.

A low heart-rate can be very good for your health and well-being.





Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of another term has arrived, and it has been another great success! It was wonderful during the week to see all parents and carers join their child for their TLC. Seeing the pride on the children's faces when they shared their books and achievements was lovely, along with seeing the pride on the adult's faces after the meetings; knowing the great things that your child has achieved throughout the year so far.

The TLCs are a time to congratulate and share the great things, along with taking time to reflect on the small next steps to continue the wonderful learning journey that your child is on. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to talk to so many parents on Tuesday and Thursday and to be part of those passionate conversations is a privilege.

As we will soon be in term 4, I hope you can take the time to rest, enjoy time with your family and friends and take time to enjoy the Spring weather.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday February 27th.

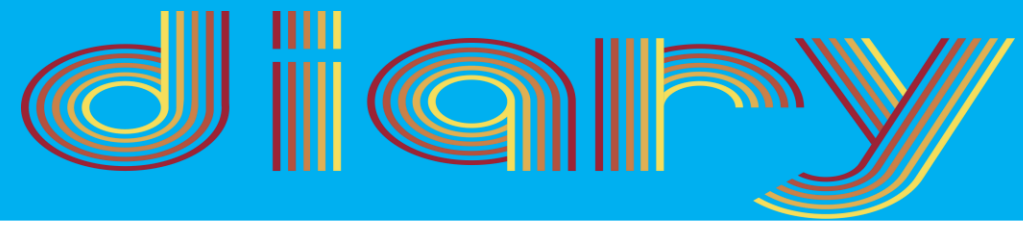
Mrs Fennelly

# Dates for your



Date	Year group	Event
16th February	Whole School	3:15 pm. Break up for Half term.
27th February	Whole school	We welcome our children back at 8:45am Clubs commence
4th March	Reception & Year 6	Heights and Weights
7th March	All Year Groups	World Book Day – All children can dress up as their favourite book or book character
7th March	Whole School	Stay and Read – 8:50am-9:15am
21st March	Rowling class	Recorder performance to parents at 9:30am

# Trips dates for your



Year Group	Date	Event
Reception	23rd May	Crocodile World
Year 1	14th June	Woburn
Year 2	9th May	Cadbury World
Year 3	20th – 21st June	Frontier Centre
Year 4	26th – 28th June	West Runton
Year 4	4th June	National Art Gallery
Year 5. Dyson	18th March	RSC Performance at the Royal & Derngate
Year 5. Einstein	18th June	Festival performance at the Royal & Derngate
Year 6	12th June	STEAM Event at Northampton university
Year 6	1st - 5th July	Isle of Wight

## Poster of the Week

**This week we celebrated the successes we had achieved throughout the term and discussed the road travelled to achieve them. There are sometimes bumps in the road, twists and turns, however we the confidence, determination and drive everyone has achieved so much! Well done to everyone.**





WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

# World Book Day

## Thursday 7th March

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

**The Reading Ambassadors would like to invite you all to celebrate World Book Day this year by dressing up as your favourite book character!**

Additionally, we will also be holding a book swap and will be inviting parents in for a stay and read session.

Our Stay and Read session will take place between 8.50 - 9.15 where you can come into your child's classroom and share a book together.



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

# World Book Day

## Thursday 7th March

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

### **Book Swap!**

We are inviting every child to bring a book to school on World Book Day to take part in our Big Book Swap.

Please bring a book to school for the book swap and during the day, you will have a chance to visit the book swap and choose a book to swap and take home.

If you have any other books that you would like to donate to our book swap, please bring these into school on Friday 1st March.

Any books that are left over and are not swapped will go into our Reading Shed and Library.



## Think of the Week

A **think** is an **unusual question** that makes you **think**. A beguiling question about everyday things that stops you in your tracks and helps you start to look at the world in a whole new light.



**If you could travel  
anywhere today at  
3:15, where would  
you go and why?**



## Nearly New Clothes Sale

**Thank you to everyone who donated clothes and came along to buy clothes. The Eco Ambassadors raised nearly £200, which they are now planning to spend on developing the pond area. We are all very proud of them!**

# Friendly February 2024

MONDAY



5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

TUESDAY



6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

WEDNESDAY



7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

THURSDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

FRIDAY

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

SATURDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

SUNDAY

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

29 Acknowledge someone's problem or pain rather than trying to fix it



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

# CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This is awarded to  
**SIMON DE SENLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

for completing a 200K Wellbeing Walk

**MICHELLE LEIGHTON**  
Community & Evnets Fundraiser Lead

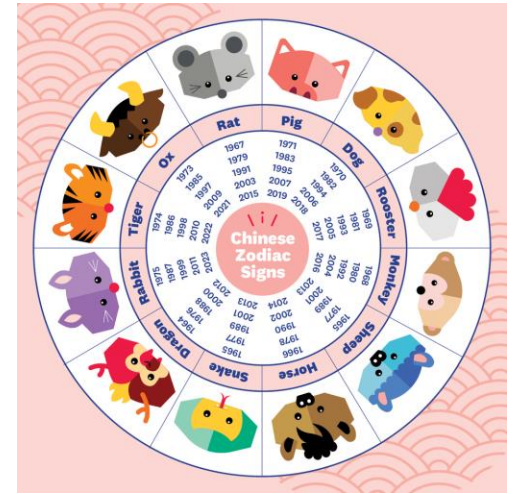
  
**Cynthia Spencer**  
Care, Support, Choice



**TOTAL RAISED**  
**£685**

# IN ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

In assembly this week we learnt about Chinese New Year. We found about the customs and significance of the Chinese dragon. We were excited to find out about the 12 animals that make up the Chinese zodiac. Did you know that our year 6 children were born in either the year of the dragon or the snake?



# ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR'S UPDATE

Congratulations to Lizzie in Year 6 who won our online safety competition to design a poster following our workshops with Simon Aston in January.



More exciting news....

On Wednesday 13th March, our new team of ambassadors will be heading off to Bedford for their training day hosted by The Diana Award. They will be learning all about how to identify and prevent bullying behaviours, how to support children in our school and how to plan campaigns to make our school an even happier and safer place for everyone.



# Food Aid / Community Larders. No referral required

Day	Time	Location	Membership / costs
Monday	1:30pm – 2:15pm	Roade village Hall. Bailey Brooks Lane. NN7 2LS	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Monday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Tuesday	2pm – 3pm & 6pm - 7pm	The Nest, Woodford Halse Primary Academy, Scrivens Hill, Woodford Halse, NN11 3SU.	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Tuesday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Wednesday	11am - 1pm	Dostiyo Community Fridge. Northampton Town Centre	No Criteria
Wednesday	4:15pm – 6pm	Towcester Community Larder Riverside Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Wednesday	4:30pm – 5:15pm	Brixworth Community Larder	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w

# Food Aid / Community Larders. No referral required

Day	Time	Location	Membership / costs
Wednesday	5:30pm – 6:15pm	Moulton Community Larder	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Wednesday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Thursday	10am – 11:30am	Towcester Community Larder Riverside Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Thursday	11am - 1pm	Dostiyo Community Fridge. Northampton Town Centre	No Criteria
Thursday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Friday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Saturday	12pm - 2pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Sunday	12pm - 2pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items



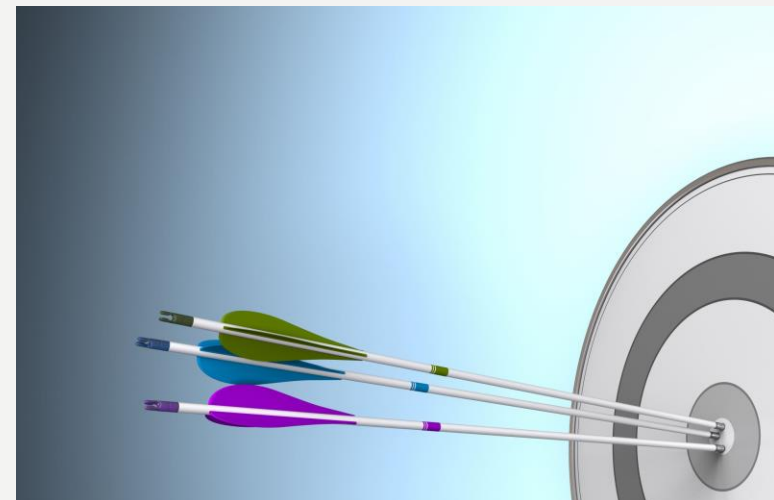
# SPORTS – ARROWS ARCHERY

Some children this week from Robinson class attended a Soft Archery competition at Benham Sports Arena. They played lots of fun games helping to develop strength, balance coordination and mental focus. It was a chance to try an Olympic and Paralympic sport.

If you would like to try this exciting sport for yourself then why not go along to the local clubs and explore this challenging sport. Northampton Archery club have several venues including John Ashby Sports Centre and there is a club in Wellingborough at Old Grammarians Sports Ground.

For more details follow the links;  
[W.O.A.C – Wellingborough Open Archery Club \(woac.co.uk\)](http://woac.co.uk)

[Welcome to Northampton Archery Club - Northampton Archery Club](#)





# Simon de Senlis Primary



## School Mental Health Leads

### Ms Cunningham and Miss Garrard are the Mental Health Leads at Simon de Senlis

If you have any worries or concerns about any aspect of your child's mental wellbeing please speak to your child's class teacher or contact us in school.



Laura Cunningham

Inclusion Leader  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Senior Mental Health Lead



Hannah Garrard

Family Support Worker  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mental Health First Aider





## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2024



[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)

### ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

### TESCO

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024

### SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

### BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

### GREENE KING PUBS

Kids Eat Free all-day with the purchase of an adult's meal. Deal, Monday-Friday, between Mon 12th - Friday 23rd February 2024

### TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

### SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

### TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase a full priced adult's main meal (App needed)

### IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

### GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

### PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

### YO! SUSHI

From Mon 12th - Fri 23rd February 2024 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

### BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

### WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

### DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

### TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

### HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

# SEND FAMILY SWIMMING

(BOTH SWIMMING POOLS WILL BE OPEN)



**28 January &  
25 February**  
2.30 - 3.30 pm



**Brackley Leisure  
Centre, Brackley,  
NN13 6JJ**

**Family ticket - £12**  
**(2 adults & 2 children)**  
**Adult swim - £4.75**  
**Junior - £3.80**



# Sports

## Looking for something active to do at Half Term?

Try out some new sporting activities at Benham Sports Arena with Northamptonshire Sport. The daily activities are themed around the multi-abilities, creating an environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging, achievement and success – regardless of ability. Skills will be taught and developed through a series of fun games and activities. Even if your child is not ‘sporty’ then our nurturing approach is ideal for them.

Go to the website for more details or scan the barcode. <https://www.northamptonshiresport.org/type/events/february-half-term-activity-camp/>

Stay Active.  
Miss Bland

# February Half Term Activity Camp

northamptonshire  
**sport**

19 – 23 February 2024  
9:00am – 4:00pm

Benham Sports Arena  
5 – 11 year olds

Experienced & knowledgeable staff with enhanced DBS checks

Safe & inclusive activities designed for all ability levels

Fun & enjoyable sports & physical activities

£25 per child per day  
10% discount for siblings



**We are Northamptonshire's leading physical activity, health and wellbeing charity.**

[www.northamptonshiresport.org](http://www.northamptonshiresport.org)

UK registered charity number: 1184107



# Ideas of things to do in Half Term



## **February half term fun at Delapre Abbey**

The historic abbey will reopen from Sunday February 18 to Sunday February 25, with a range of family fun activities like a quiz trail, storytelling and a balloon room. This half term the abbey is celebrating all things that fly. Bring your kite to fly on the battlefield, take part in a balloon hunt round the house, take part in the paper aeroplane challenge, wade through a room of balloons... Look out for the balloon arch round our entrance door to help you find the way. Quiz trail sheets will be £1.50 on the door, no booking required. A general admission ticket is £5 per adult. Under 18s go free. *Photo: Delapre Abbey*



## Kids February Half Term Party



Cogenhoe and Whiston Village Hall is hosting a half term party for all. On Friday February 23, there will be a bouncy castle, games, a disco and lunch. Tickets are priced at £5 per child and £1 per adult. Children must be supervised. Find tickets on [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk) Photo: Kids February Half Term Party

# Half term crafts



Hunsbury Library will host a half term crafts and family learning event on Thursday February 22 from 10am. The event promises fun, engaging crafts for children with from Family Learning. The event is free for children aged four to eight. Email [hunsbury.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:hunsbury.libraryplus@westnorthants.gov.uk) to book your space. Photo: Google

## February half term activity camp



Benham Sports Centre is hosting a February half term activity camp on Friday February 23. The session is from 9am to 4pm and is suitable for children aged five to 11. Northamptonshire Sport is hosting the event and said: "Skills will be taught and developed through a series of fun games and activities. Even if your child is not 'sporty' then our nurturing approach is ideal for them." The camp is £15 per child. You can register your child on the Northamptonshire Sport website. Photo: Google

## Kids eat free



The Eccentric Englishman in St Giles Street is hosting a kids eat free Teddy Bear's Picnic. The offer will be on from February 19 to February 23. The cafe says: "Our half term offer is another kids eat free. We will have a little menu exclusively for children including nuggets and chips, sausage and chips etc. They will also have the chance to pick a picnic box option including sandwiches, sausage rolls, juice box, crisps and cakes. Colouring sheets will also be available and we will be showing children's movies on our big screen upstairs." Any child under the age of 12 will be able to eat free with a paying adult. Photo: The Eccentric Englishman



## Meet the animals at Mini Meadows Farm

Mini Meadows will run a series of meet the animals sessions across half term, which are free as long as you've bought a general admission ticket. The sessions are as below: Monday: Meet charming guinea pigs. Tuesday: Pamper Mia and Apricot – meet the ponies. Wednesday: Spend the day with Julianna pigs. Thursday: Hang out with quirky Polish chickens. Friday: Join the pygmy goats on their very own island. Photo: Facebook/Mini Meadows Farm

## Kid-friendly shows at Royal & Derngate



The theatre has a number of shows on during half term, which are sure to be hits with the little ones. Fireman Sam: The Great Camping Adventure will take to the stage on February 19 at midday and 3.30pm. Rude Science will take place at 1.30pm on February 20. There's a Monster in Your Show will then take over from February 21 to 25. Visit the [Derngate website](#) for more information and tickets. Photo: Royal & Derngate

## Lambing season at West Lodge Farm Park



West Lodge Farm Park is hosting a lambing festival from February 17 to February 25. The farm says: "Join us to see new life on the farm. Over 100 ewes are due to give birth, will you be lucky enough to witness? Bottle feed our cade lambs plus all of the usual fun on the farm!" Photo: Facebook/West Lodge Farm Park

## Pirate invasion at Chester House Estate



Pirates are taking over Chester House Estate over February half term There will be a treasure hunt in sandpits, a map to help discoverers find loot and the chance to make your own pirate game. Find out more and buy tickets on the Chester House Estate website. Photo: Chester House Estate





## Gruffalo in the Forest

Salcey Forest is hosting an interactive Gruffalo trail. From discovering giant Gruffalo sculptures, or having a go at a Gruffalo orienteering course, there is loads to do. Find out more on the [Forestry England website](#). Photo: Forestry England



## **Songs of self expression at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery**

The museum will host four sessions of songs of self expression on Friday February 23: 10-11.30am, 11.30am-1pm, 1.30-3pm and 3-4.30pm. Inspired by the explosion of Punk in 1976, the workshop invites youngsters to create a song through their own lyrics. Encouraging you The workshop is suitable for children aged between seven and 12 years. Tickets are £7 per child and can be booked online. *Photo: Kirsty Edmonds*

# Puppet Workshop

Briar Hill Community Centre  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
3:30 – 5:00 pm



## Bringing the Easter Story Alive

Come join us in making puppets and learning how to perform with them. To help us we are being joined by the Puppets4All puppeteers.

All puppet making material will be supplied, though if you have any special idea's or puppets of your own, please bring along too.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please phone or email to book your places:  
[admin@stbens.uk](mailto:admin@stbens.uk) or [vicar@stbens.uk](mailto:vicar@stbens.uk)

Free event



## NPAT Academic Calendar 24/25

**Teacher Training Days**  
 Monday 2 September 2024  
 Tuesday 3 September 2024  
 Monday 4 November 2024  
 Monday 24 February 2025  
 Monday 2 June 2025

September 2024					
Mon		2	9	16	23
Tues		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thu		5	12	19	26
Fri	30	6	13	20	27

October 2024					
Mon	30	7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	

November 2024					
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29

December 2024					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tues	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	

January 2025					
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tues		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31

February 2025					
Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tues	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	

March 2025					
Mon		3	10	17	24 31
Tues		4	11	18	25
Wed		5	12	19	26
Thu		6	13	20	27
Fri		7	14	21	28

April 2025					
Mon		7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	

May 2025					
Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30

June 2025					
Mon		2	9	16	23
Tues		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thu		5	12	19	26
Fri		6	13	20	27

July 2025					
Mon	30	7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	

August 2025					
Mon			4	11	18 25
Tues			5	12	19 26
Wed			6	13	20 27
Thu			7	14	21 28
Fri		1	8	15	22 29



Key

School Holidays		Teacher Training Days	
Pupil Days		Bank Holidays	



# NPAT Academic Calendar 25/26

## Teacher Training Days

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026\*  
 (disaggregated)

September 2025					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	

October 2025					
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31

November 2025					
Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	

December 2025					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	

January 2026					
Mon		5	12	19	26
Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30

February 2026					
Mon	2	9	16	23	
Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	

March 2026					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	

April 2026					
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	

May 2026					
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29

June 2026					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	

July 2026					
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31

August 2026					
Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	

**News For  
your  
Children**



# What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

12th - 18th February 2024

# This week's story looks at events related to ...







# Should we learn sign language at school?



## Let's look at this week's story

Pupils in England will have the choice to take a GCSE exam in British Sign Language (BSL) from 2025. BSL is a form of communication using hand gestures and other movements. Pupils, who take the subject, will learn around 1,000 different signs. Fairfield High School (pictured in this week's poster) already runs a successful extracurricular club in response to pupils' interest in learning BSL.

# What is British Sign Language?

British Sign Language (BSL) is the most common form of sign language in Britain. It is a visual form of communication meaning we see it through body language, facial expressions and gestures (moving parts of the body, especially hands and head). It is mainly used by people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment.

In 2003, the UK government recognised BSL as an official minority language, which raised awareness of it and led to increased funding.

An example of another minority language is Welsh.

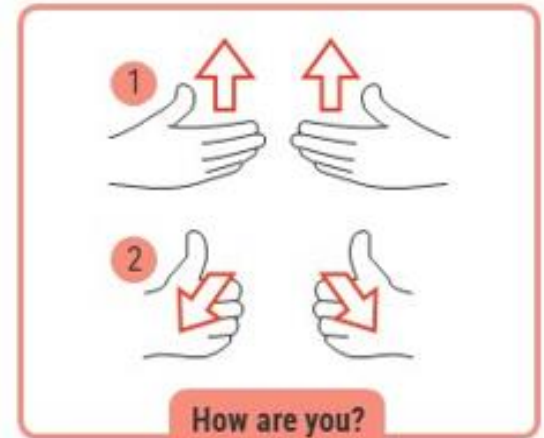
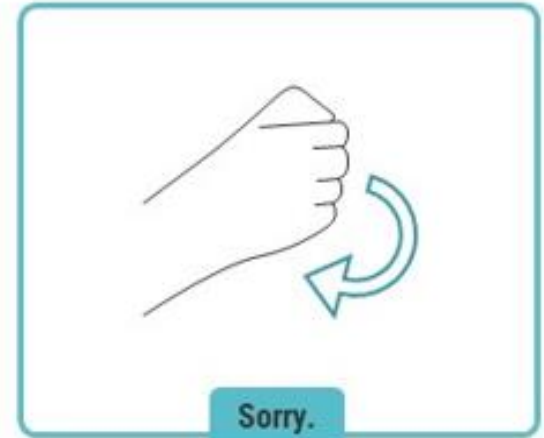


The letter W.

## BSL Fingerspelling

Each letter of the alphabet has a sign so words can be spelt out using hand movements. This is used to spell out words where there is not a sign such as names of people and places.

## Examples of some signs used for BSL



**Can you try communicating something using BSL?**

## New Books for Royal Doll House

Queen Mary's Doll's House is 100 years old this year! To celebrate, its library has been updated with a collection of miniature books written by some of today's most famous authors. The initiative, led by Queen Camilla, has created a modern-day miniature book collection within the doll house's library. Twenty authors, including Sir Tom Stoppard, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Sir Ben Okri, Bernardine Evaristo and Julia Donaldson, contributed to the project by each producing a 4.5cm high mini handwritten book to add to the library. The Queen has even penned one herself! The books are on display, alongside the scaled-down replica of an Edwardian-style royal residence, at Windsor Castle throughout 2024. The doll house that was gifted to Queen Mary has electricity, running water and even working lifts. All the books in the original miniature library, around 175, are real books, handwritten by leading authors of the 1920s such as A.A. Milne, Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle and Vita Sackville-West. The Queen called the library, 'the most breath-taking space in the house', adding, 'These new books highlight the incredible richness of twenty-first



**Pictured:** Books from the new miniature book collection and Queen Mary's Doll's House. **Source:** Royal Collection Trust @RCT X page.

century literary talent - and demonstrate how fortunate we are to have access to so many outstanding writers, whose work brings joy, comfort, laughter, companionship and hope to us all, opening our eyes to others' experiences and reminding us that we are not alone.'

## Historic Hedgerows

A new map has revealed that there are enough hedges in England to reach around the world ten times! The hedgerow map was created using low-flying aircraft that scanned the ground with sensors that emitted pulses of light to create 3D images, providing precise information on the quantity, length, and height of hedges below. The whole of England was scanned between 2016 and 2021 to produce the map. Scientists at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) announced that there was a total of 390,000km of fully grown field hedges in England. The information gathered has been used to provide the first accurate map of the hedgerow network across the country. The highest density of hedges are found in Cornwall, Somerset, and Derbyshire. Dr Richard Broughton, leader of the project said, 'The new map enables us to see where hedgerows are sparse and identify sites for targeted planting and restoration efforts, linking up habitats and improving the hedgerow network. It can also be used to estimate the potential amount of carbon that hedgerows could remove from the atmosphere and store.' Researchers believe that the map will help focus efforts to restore the country's hedges - it is estimated that there were twice as many in the 1940's. They say this is important to increase biodiversity, as



**Pictured:** Map of England showing hedgerow densities by area. **Source:** UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology @UK\_CEH X page.



**Pictured:** A view over fields in Widescombe in the Moor, England. **Source:** Canva.

hedges contain many different kinds of plants. Hedges also provide a home for many species of wildlife and aid in the fight against climate change. Furthermore, they can reduce air pollution and even improve soil quality! **Do you know any other benefits of growing more hedges? Alternatively, can you think of any drawbacks?**

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



# Jumbo Jump

Jumbo Jump in Karachi, Pakistan, is now officially home to the largest inflatable castle in the world! The massive bouncy castle measures 1,421m<sup>2</sup> and an astounding 200 people can jump on it at once. Jumbo Castle, as it is named, is part of the popular tourist attraction that also contains other inflatables, including another smaller bouncy castle with ball pits, hoops and climbing towers, and an assault course over 30 metres long. There are also 'jaw-dropping' 12-metre-high slides and a photo booth. Karachi is the capital city of the Pakistani province of Sindh. Over 20 million people live there, and it is the largest city in Pakistan. The brightly coloured bounce house only takes ten minutes to fully inflate but it took six months to plan and design, ensuring it met safety guidelines and had record-breaking dimensions. Safer Khan, Founder of Jumbo Jump, said, 'We believe in creating moments that go beyond the ordinary and breaking the world record for the largest jumping castle at Jumbo Jump is a testament to our commitment to delivering unparalleled joy and entertainment in Pakistan. Our success is not just measured in numbers but in the smiles, laughter, and shared experiences of the communities we serve. Jumbo Jump is not just an event; it's a celebration of the extraordinary, and we look forward to continuing our journey of breaking records and creating memories that last a lifetime.'



**Pictured:** Jumbo Jump in Karachi, Pakistan. **Source:** Guinness World Records @GWR X page.

**Have you ever bounced or played on a bouncy castle?  
Would you like to go on one this large?**

## Last week's topic: Is fashion important?



What's the point in fashion? It DOES make people look good though. But the money used could go to other things, better things ... (I am not a fan of fashion).

**Daniel**

No, I can wake up and be in my PJs and be beautiful, so yes, I think fashion is not important.

**Hollie**

I don't think fashion is important very much to me.

**James**

I think that fashion is not that important because everyone is perfect just the way they are.

**Lyla**

## Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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# Reflection



Learning how to communicate with others ensures inclusivity, helps to break down barriers and increases understanding between different communities.



# TAKEHOME

12 - 18  
Feb



Should we learn  
sign language at school?

Fairfield High School

## In the news this week

Pupils in England will have the choice to take a GCSE exam in British Sign Language (BSL) from 2025. BSL is a form of communication using hand gestures and other movements. Pupils, who take the subject, will learn around 1,000 different signs. Fairfield High School (pictured in this week's poster) already runs a successful extracurricular club in response to pupils' interest in learning BSL.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you ever used sign language or seen it being used by others?
- > Is sign language a language you would like to learn? What do you think are some of the advantages of learning sign language?
- > Are there any other skills or subjects you believe would be useful to learn at school?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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