



## Newsletter 12 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Welcome to our newsletter. We hope you have all had a lovely half term and first week back!

### Year 5 Go Back to Ancient Greece

Year 5 had a fantastic time stepping into history and learning more about Ancient Greece through a really interactive workshop. Pete helped us consolidate the learning we did over the term and also taught us some new facts such as that the Greeks invented the vending machine. We had a go at fighting in a phalanx formation and we made our own Greek jewellery. He was very impressed with the range of Greek outfits he saw too! We all had a great Greek day!



### A Magical Mystery Tour with Year 6

Before half term our Year 6 children went on their trip to Warner Brother Studios as part of their Magical Mysteries work. It was a fantastic day and the children loved every second. Some of the highlights were the walk through the Forbidden Forest with some scary spiders and the dragon at Gringotts. Irha in Oak certainly had a great time, 'I had so much fun at Warner Brother Studios; I loved how realistic the props and sets from the films were!'



### Year 2 Visit a Mosque

Despite the miserable weather, Year 2 had a wonderful trip to the Mid Sussex Islamic Centre on the Thursday before half term. The children were excited to explore the inside of a mosque and the visit sparked lots of thoughtful discussion back in the classroom. A real highlight was listening to the Imam recite passages from the Qur'an and perform the call to prayer. We were incredibly impressed by how attentively the children sat and listened throughout.



### Parking Plea

The academy is receiving an increasing number of calls and messages from local residents about inconsiderate driving and parking around the school site. This includes a recent incident where a parent parked on double yellow lines, blocking a resident on their drive, and then refused to move when asked to. Whilst we continue to recognise the ongoing difficulties with parking on the school run, behaviour like this is completely unacceptable and causes significant damage to the reputation of the school, other people's opinion of our parents and the goodwill of our local community.

We have, once again, contacted West Sussex County Council's Highways, Transport and Planning Officers but are continually being dismissed or ignored. If you would like to add weight to our campaign to get a long-promised site visit from the council to view the issues for themselves, please share your concerns via email to [activetravel@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@westsussex.gov.uk) and/or [schoolstreets@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:schoolstreets@westsussex.gov.uk)

In the meantime, please respect all members of our community and keep all our stakeholders safe by driving and parking responsibly when dropping off and picking up from school.

### Reading Corner

#### **Book Week and World Book Day (Thursday 5th March) are just around the corner!**

Children are once again invited to dress up to celebrate books and reading but this year we're adding a creative twist... come dressed as a descriptive word! Reading exposes us to great vocabulary and we want to celebrate it!

That's right, instead of a book character or book fan, children can choose an adjective and bring it to life.

They might come as a colour, a feeling or any fantastic describing word they can imagine. We can't wait to see how inventive (and expressive!) everyone will be.

We're also very excited about our 24-Hour Reading Rivers challenge and would love for families to get involved too. If you're able to join in and share your reading journey at home, we'd be delighted to see it flow! (Details on the Reading Rivers can be found in the Book Week letter that was sent before half term.)

### Sports News

#### Boccia and New Age Curling

This was a fun and exciting session where children worked in teams to roll, aim and score points using colourful balls and indoor curling stones, practising their teamwork, accuracy and sportsmanship.



#### Indoor Cricket

Our Year 6 Boys Cricket Team took part in an indoor competition, winning their matches and qualifying for the Mid Sussex Finals, taking place in March. Well done children!

#### Cross Country

A select group of our best athletes from both Years 5 and 6 took on a very muddy course for the Mid Sussex Cross Country Finals. They ran with determination and enthusiasm despite the conditions! A big well done to all involved!

#### Netball Festival

LPA Year 6 girls took part in a fun and active netball session. This was an introduction to the game where pupils learnt passing, shooting and teamwork skills while building confidence and enjoying friendly mini-matches.



### Talk Time Together!

We're excited to launch a new feature designed to get everyone talking - yes, even the "I don't know" experts! In each newsletter we'll share a simple talking point you can use at home to spark a conversation.

Being able to express ideas clearly, explain thinking, ask questions and listen carefully are skills that help children in every subject area and in life! Oracy builds confidence, deepens understanding and (bonus!) gives you a wonderful window into how your child's mind works. Just five minutes of chatting in the car, at the dinner table or even before bedtime can make a real difference.

*WARNING: Answers may include wild imagination, surprising logic and at least one mention of dinosaurs or Minecraft!*

**This week's idea: If one of the toys or items in your room could talk, what would they say about your day?**

### Academy Term Dates for Next Academic Year

Please see the term dates for the next academic year 2026-27.

#### Autumn Term 2026:

**Starts:** Tuesday 1 September

**Half term:** Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October

**Ends:** Friday 18 December

#### Spring Term 2027:

**Starts:** Monday 4 January

**Half term:** Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February

**Ends:** Thursday 25 March

#### Summer Term 2027:

**Starts:** Monday 12 April

**Half term:** Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June

**Ends:** Wednesday 21 July

#### INSET Days:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 2nd November 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Thursday 25th March 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Wk Beg 2nd Mar - Book Week

Tue 3rd-Thu 5th Mar - Parent Consultation Evenings

Tue 3rd Mar - Year 1 & 5 Planetarium Visit

Thu 5th Mar - World Book Day

Wed 11th Mar - Year 2 Jaws and Claws Visit

Thu 12th Mar - Online Safety Parent Workshops

Fri 13th Mar - Year 1 & 5 Space Day