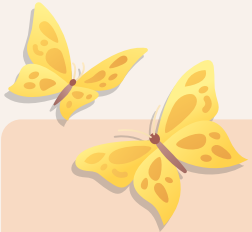


MARCH NEWSLETTER



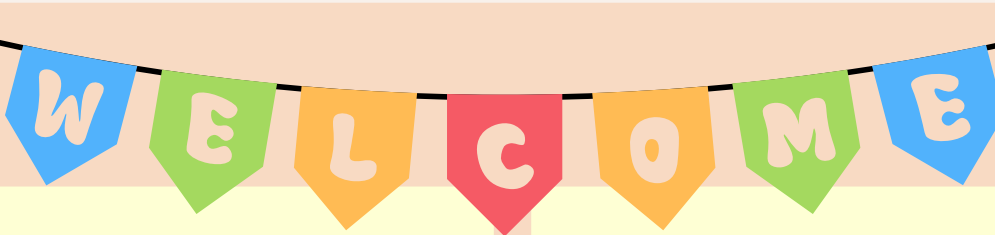
A message from Mrs Foston...

The spring term has flown by and Easter is just around the corner! As usual it has been a busy time in school and the children have been involved in fantastic curricular and enrichment activities, which I am sure they have all been talking about at home!

With the summer now fast approaching, I would once like to thank all of our families for your ongoing support and contribution to our school communities and wish you all a wonderful Easter break, hopefully filled with sunshine 😊



Staffing



Susan Brittain will be moving from St Gilbert's to Donington Cowley in her role as Teaching Assistant after Easter. Susan is a familiar face at Donington having worked across the schools. We thank her for her incredible contribution at St Gilbert's and wish her well in her new role and extend a warm welcome to our team at Donington.

I would also like to welcome Holly Fulbrook, who joined our school earlier this month. Holly has been working in Badgers class and will be taking on the role of class teacher after the Easter holidays.

We are saying good bye to Claire Wilderspin, who joined our school in January 2022 as a teaching assistant. We would like to say a huge thank you to Claire and wish her the very best of luck in her new adventure.

Debbie Cowley, a member of our cleaning team, has also said goodbye. Debbie joined us in 2020 and is now looking forward to spending more time with her beautiful grandchildren. We thank her and wish her well for the future.

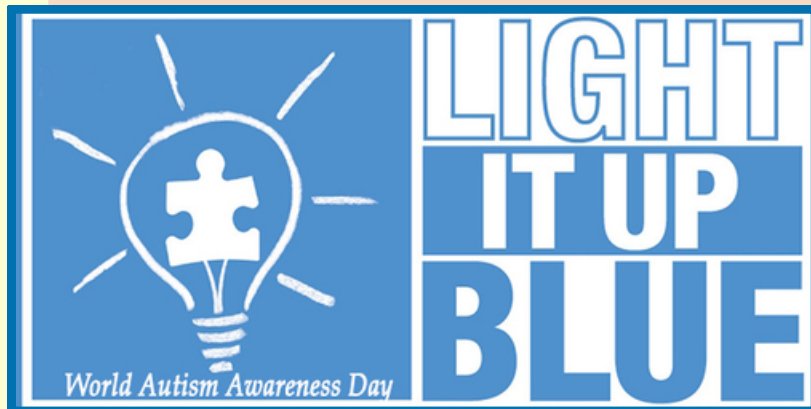
thank
★ you ★



SEND

We will be celebrating **World Autism Day on Wednesday 2nd April 2025**, which is a brilliant opportunity for us to learn more about autism and to appreciate the wonder of neurodivergence and how everybody's brain works differently! Autism can affect how a person communicates with others and how their senses interact with the world around them. It can also make it more challenging for the individual to understand and respond to their emotions. It is a timely reminder to us all that some disabilities are hidden, and that kindness is the greatest gift we can offer each other. If you would like to find out more about autism or would like some advice and guidance on how to support a child with autism, the National Autistic Society hold a treasure trove of resources and can be found at www.autism.org.uk

Please come to school wearing something blue.



Attendance

When we come back after the Easter holidays there are only 59 school days left this academic year!



SCHOOL DAYS ARE PACKED WITH MOMENTS OF...

CURIOSITY, WONDER AND CONNECTION.

SEARCH 'ATTENDANCE' ON THE EDUCATION HUB

HM Government

NHS

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.





Comic Relief 2025

On Friday 21st March the children all came in ready for some Red Nose day fun!

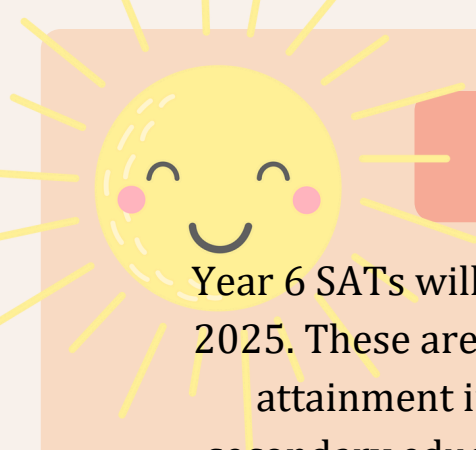
The day began with a whole school art competition, all children were tasked with creating a self portrait only using the colours black, white and red. Each year group had a different medium to work with, whether it may be paint, oil pastels, wax crayons or pencil crayon. The school council judged the winners throughout the afternoon, and they were spoilt for choice! The winners will be announced in an assembly next week and they will be awarded their prizes. During the afternoon each year group began their 'a-thon' to raise awareness for Red Nose Day as well. There were dance-a-thons and trike-a-thons in key stage one and read-a-thon, hula-a-thon and goal-a-thon in key stage two. The children all had an amazing day. After school, the school council held a bake sale, and the key stage one and key stage two choir held their recital to contribute their efforts to raising awareness and support for Red Nose Day. Well done all! Thank you to everyone for their kind donations, as a school we raised an amazing **£216.82!**

School Council

This term, School Council have worked hard to raise money for Red Nose Day. They spent time baking cakes, cookies, rocky road and flapjacks and sold these at the choir recital after school. We raised £66.70 and this has been donated to Comic Relief! We also worked together to pick a winner for the art competition where the children had drawn a self-portrait using a different art material. We did this by having two votes each and then voting for our favourite from each year group.



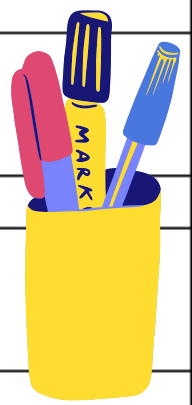
**RED
NOSE
DAY**



Statutory Assessment

Year 6 SATs will be taking place week commencing Monday 12th May 2025. These are external statutory tests to assess pupil progress and attainment in English and Maths in readiness for transition to secondary education. The timetable for the week will be as follows:

Date	Tests
Monday 12 th May	English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grammar and punctuation paper - Spelling paper
Tuesday 13 th May	English reading paper
Wednesday 14 th May	Maths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arithmetic paper - Reasoning paper 1
Thursday 15 th May	Maths reasoning paper 2

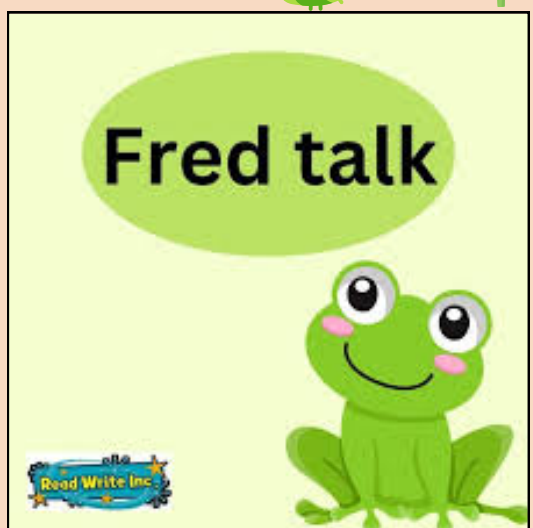
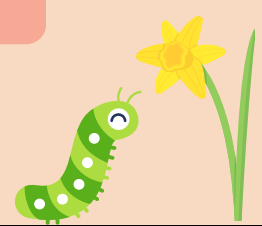


Attendance and punctuality are extremely important- we want to be able to start the tests as soon as possible once the children arrive. All children must attend each day.

To support your child and ensure they have a good start to the day, we ask that all year 6 children arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 am.

Y1 Phonics Check

The phonics screening check will be administered during the week beginning the 9th June. Children will be reading 40 words. 20 real words and 20 'alien' words. To prepare for this, please read with your children as much as possible and encourage them to use their Read Write Inc techniques 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word.' Class teachers will be able to tell you if there are any sounds your child needs support with.



Maths

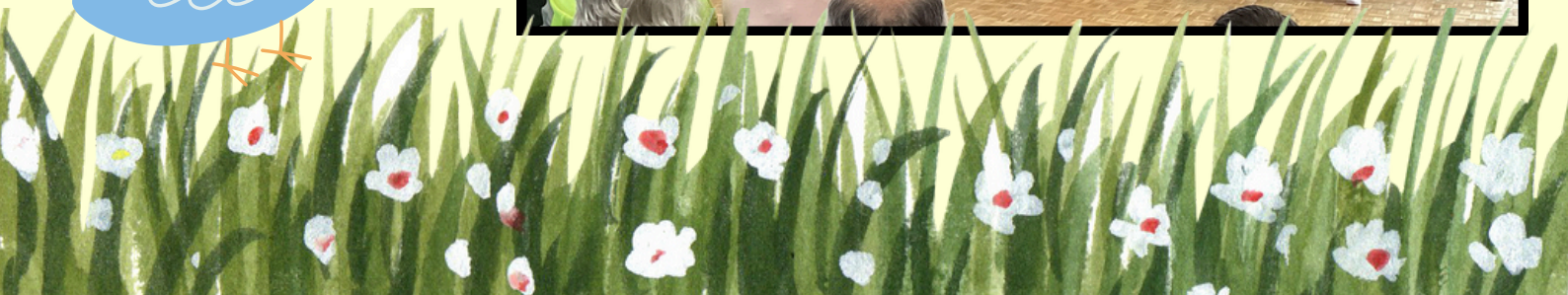


Maths at both schools continues to flourish and our Times Tables Rock Stars battle is coming to an end, the children have been incredibly engaged with the competition and it has been a tight competition and it has come down to the wire between Squirrels class of Donington and Badgers class of St Gilberts. Keep an eye out on Times Tables Rock Stars for any other competitions that may begin.



Music

Our key stage one and key stage two choir both came together to put on an amazing recital to help raise money for Red Nose day on Friday 21st March. They sang a medley of songs from different musicals which ranged from Wicked, Matilda, The Sound of Music and RENT. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the storylines of the different musicals and we were so proud of the performance. The final song of the recital was a duet from one of our year three and one of our year six children, it was a brilliant end of the recital. We have some future stars in the making!



Sport



We have taken part in many different sporting competitions over the last month and the children have been brilliant at them all.

Our first event was the Year 5/6 Cross Country competition where all the children showed great endurance and skill and competed against the other schools brilliantly.

Next, three of our children took part in a goalball competition where the children were blindfolded, and the aim was to role the ball into the oppositions goal. The children were amazing and their attitude, behaviour and determination throughout the event was exemplary.

Finally, we took part in a netball competition against 5 other schools in the Boston area where the children gave amazing performances against the other schools, and they showed that they had all be practising hard.

Unfortunately, they ended up seconds away from representing the county! Really impressive display by all. The children should be proud of their performances.

There are many more competitions coming up over the next couple of months with a basketball and tennis development day as well as some tri-golf and capture the castle.



Science Week



The week started off by children discussing what Climate change is and why we should even think about it. Each Class was then asked a scientific question to find the answer to. Over the week several practical sessions were held, and the children produced some fantastically detailed work. The exhibition on Friday afternoon was very impressive!

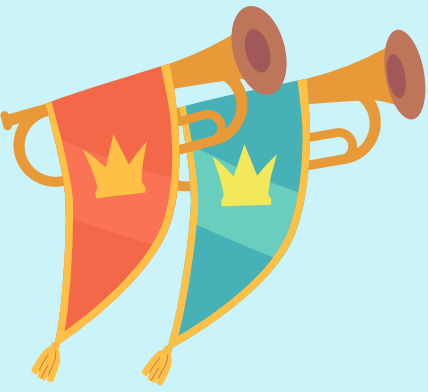
Our Bug Hotel homework saw a high number of entries, with some children even building their own at home. Thank you and well done to everyone for getting involved!



Roots to Food

All classes had the fantastic opportunity to work with Darren from Roots to Food. They took part in the cooking workshops, where they learned new skills, such as chopping, mixing, folding, crushing and stirring and made an extremely tasty Tandoori Chicken with a Bombay Saag Aloo. The children enjoyed trying the different spices and there were lots of empty plates after tasting!





Lincoln Castle



Children from Year 1 and 2 had an amazing trip to Lincoln Castle to coincide with their topic for this term: 'Castles, Crowns and Coronations' in which they have been learning about the royals and how they controlled their kingdoms throughout history. The sun shone as the children got to walk around the walls of the castle, taking in the amazing sights and understanding from the tour guide about the fascinating history of the castle. Later, they tried on armour, helmets and shields so they could experience what it was like being a knight and they even had a go firing a bow and arrow. To finish off the trip, they got to make their very own shields and have a banquet with the children dressing up as Kings, Queens, Lords, Ladies and even the Master of Hounds! It was a fantastic day and was described as **'The best day ever!'**



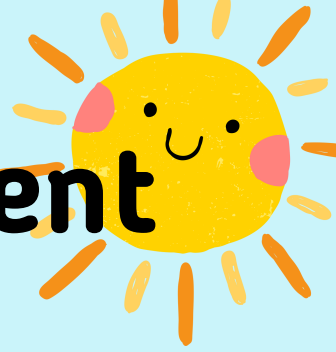
Duxford

Children from Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum to reinforce their learning around our history topic: 'Goodnight Mr Tom', which focuses on World War II. Children explored the different hangars and got to see lots of different vehicles from World War II including Spitfires, Hurricanes, submarines and tanks. We were also incredibly lucky to see a Spitfire take off on the airfield runway. A favourite experience of the trip was seeing a reconstruction of a real operations room. Children were fascinated to learn about the different things that were dropped and used by parachute regiments – even dogs!

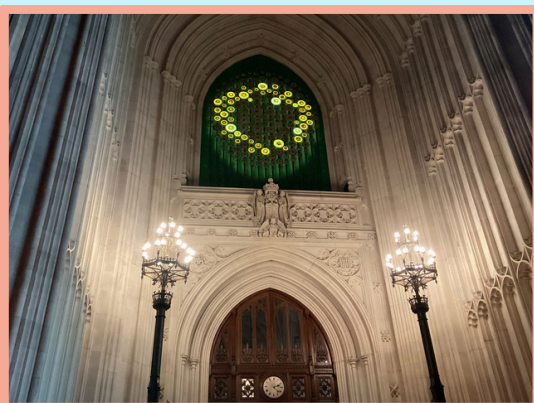




Houses of Parliament



Earlier this half-term, children in Year 6 had the amazing opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. We started off the day when we were dropped off at Buckingham Palace – we just managed to see the Royal Guard and horses through the rain! When we arrived at Parliament, we started with a tour and saw the Palace of Westminster as well as the House of Commons and House of Lords. Children were very interested to see part of a live debate in the House of Commons. We learned more about the different parts of Parliament including how laws are made in our workshop. Before we left, we even got the chance to meet our local MP and ask him questions about his job and our community.



PTFA

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SUMMER FAIR

7TH JUNE 2025 12 - 3PM

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EXTERNAL STALL HOLDERS

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Food
Vendors
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any pre loved uniform,
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EASTER SQUARES

*Monday 31st March -
Friday 4th April*

£1 per
square

10
prizes

IN A CHANGE TO PREVIOUS YEARS - SOME OF THE OLDER
CHILDREN WILL BE SELLING THE SQUARES WITHIN SCHOOL AND
WILL BE VISITING EACH CLASS - THEY WILL NOT BE SOLD ON
THE PLAYGROUND

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Dates for your Diary

April

- 2nd Autism Awareness Day- Light it up Blue!
- 4th End of spring term
- 23rd Start of summer term



May

- 5th- Bank Holiday Monday
- 8th/ 9th VE celebrations- Details to be confirmed
- 12th-15th- Y6 SATs
- 23rd- End of Summer term 1

June

- 2nd- Start of summer term 2
- 7th Summer Fair
- 9th-13th Phonics Screening Check Y1 and Multiplication Check Y4
- 11th - Y6 Theatre Trip
- 20th – Cricket Tournament
- 23rd- EYFS Stay and Play 1.30-3
- 26th- Y6 Gala Dinner
- 27th- Tri Golf
- 30th- Orienteering
- 30th- Bikeability week

July

- 7th- KS1 Sports Day
- 8th Capture the Castle
- 11th Summer Disco
- 14th- KS2 Sports Day
- 16th and 17th Production
- 22nd Y6 Leavers assembly and end of academic year

