

# EAST HUNSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *Newsletter*

7th March 2025

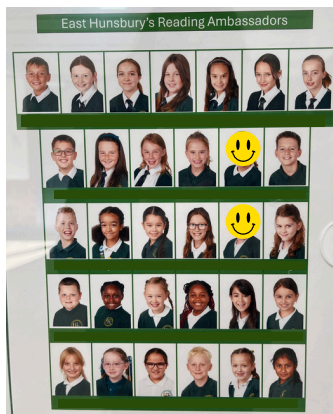
### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families

What a week it has been! Packed not only with learning but fun community events including Parents' Evenings and pancake races.

#### **Assembly**

The week started with an assembly led by our amazing Reading Ambassadors who told the school all about what was coming up this week for World Book Day! The reading ambassadors should be incredibly proud of the way they led



the assembly and communicated to the whole school. This year's WBD theme is all about 'Read Your Way' and it was great to learn what this meant and hear from Mr Gilder about how he likes to read and other authors including Bluey and Tom Palmer! See below for what we got up to on World Book Day...

#### **Annual House Pancake Race**

Tuesday saw the return of our legendary House Pancake Day races!! Children from across the school were selected to represent their house and run in the races. Our wonderful house captains helped organise it all whilst our teaching team of House Leaders ensured it all went smoothly! I am sure that you could hear the cheering and laughter from outer space. What a fun event this is and a special well done to the children in Salcey house who are this year's Pancake Day victors!

#### **Parents' Evening**

It was lovely opening our doors to so many families this week as we held our second Parents' Evening. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to offer a kind word and to support our school. Understanding how your child is progressing at school is really important to us, so if you were unable to attend your appointment, feel that you need to know more or have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in contact with either your child's class teacher, phase leader or myself who will be more than happy to talk to you.

#### **World Book Day**

Thursday was such a special day for us (it always is as we put reading at the centre of everything we do)!

Here are just some of the things that we got up to but please see a page dedicated to the day further on in our newsletter.

- Year 6 children read with our younger classes in Reception and Year 1.
- We had a teacher swap for half an hour.
- The author and poet, James Carter – a firm favourite of ours – visited us by Zoom (he actually did this on the 5th) and led inspirational and rather bonkers workshops across the school.
- Every child received one of the £1 World Book Day books as a gift from the school
- Year 4 & 5 took part in a live football quiz which was led by the Literacy Trust

- Years 4 & 6 heard from the amazing Ross Mackenzie, who wrote The Nowhere Emporium trilogy. This special virtual visit was organised as part of our work with Positive Footprints and raising aspirations within our Careers and Aspirations Team.
- Year 3, 5 & 6 took part in a BBC Live Lesson building up to a special live moment when children in schools across the UK read a book they love for 60 seconds all at the same time.

...And we even designed Book Tokens and chatted endlessly about books, books, books!

## Smile Mile

Finally, I am very thankful to share that our Smile Mile event raised an incredible £763 to go towards our Change Makers' Appeal (watch this space for information on the structure we can purchase). **Does your company match fund? If so please contact [Miss Welch](#) to discuss this further.** THANK YOU EVERYONE!

## EHPS goes out and about!

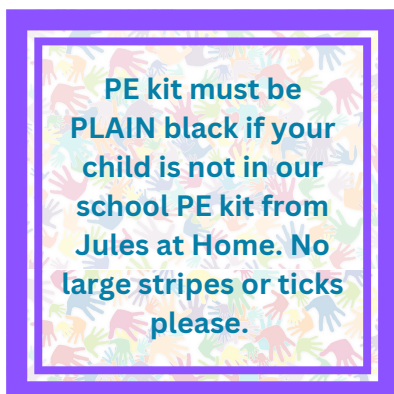
And have you seen our new addition... we have a new minibus! We are looking forward to getting out and about on it – please give us a wave if you see us.



Phew – the staff and children deserve a rest after this week. Here's to the weekend!

See you all on Monday and don't forget next week is Walk in Wednesday with Spring Crafts and the closing date for Parent Governor nominations is Monday 10th March.

*Ms Pennington*



**Remember to nominate your child for a shout out if they have done something amazing – then we can put them into our newsletter.**



**No sweets or chocolate bars in lunchboxes please**

## March Issue



This newsletter focuses on all the amazing events, clubs and groups that families, children and young people can access across the county that are free or affordable to attend.

[CLICK HERE FOR WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S NEWSLETTER](#)





# Hunsbury Hedgehogs



EHPS Forest school sessions for **toddlers and pre-school** children, 'Hunsbury Hedgehogs' are starting again on 22nd April. It will be a mix of muddy play, discovery, and nature exploration in our school woodland site.

Sessions will take place on Tuesday mornings from 10.45am - 11.45am, starting on Tuesday 22nd April 2025. A block of 5 sessions will cost £30 per child. Adults play for free with at least one fee paying hedgehog. The last session will be on 20th May. [Click this link](#) to book your place.

**CHECK  
OUT  
NOW!**

**PAGE 18 - 19**

MAR-JUNE 2025  
**EAST HUNSBURY Life Magazine**  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY EAST HUNSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Inside:  
What's on in  
East Hunsbury  
Local school updates  
Community news  
and much more...

Your local  
community magazine

East Hunsbury  
Parish Council

**MASCOT EXPERIENCE**  
AGE 6 - 13 + PRICES FROM: £120

Along with the incredible moment of treading the turf before thousands of spectators ahead of a big match alongside the Men in Black, Green and Gold, matchday mascots also receive:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>WHAT IS INCLUDED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stadium Tour</li> <li>Food Voucher</li> <li>Jersey signed by Captain</li> <li>Name in programme</li> <li>Run out with playing squad</li> <li>Photos</li> <li>Name announced Pre-Match</li> </ul> | <b>MORE INFORMATION</b> <p>Once you have purchased your package, you will be contacted via e-mail with your match tickets, with more information also provided about the Mascot Experience and the behind-the-scenes stadium tour on your selected matchday.</p> |
|---|--|

For more information please contact  
**COMMUNITY@NORTHAMPTONSAINTS.CO.UK**

\* All mascot package purchases are subject to a £1.50 booking fee.



Always switch your engines off when in a parked car. Leaving your engine running when your vehicle is stationary is called idling. This creates air pollution by increasing the levels of exhaust fumes and harmful gases in the air. No one, especially children, should have to breathe in these fumes.

## HAIR ACCESSORIES

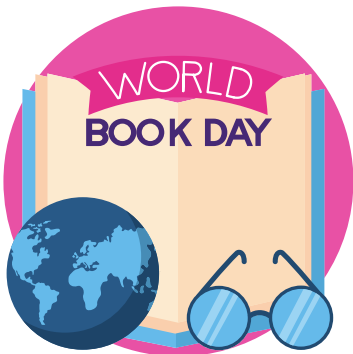
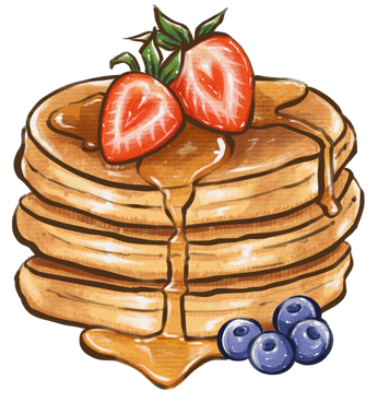
Plain hair bands, clips and bobbles are allowed in school colours. Please do not send your child in with multicoloured bright bows, clips or headbands (including ones with cats ears etc).



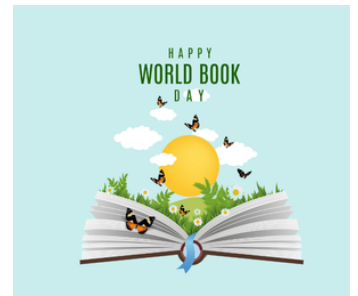
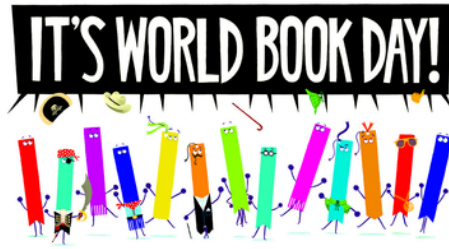
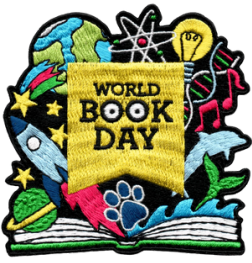




## Pancake Day in Reception



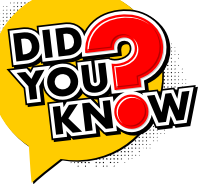
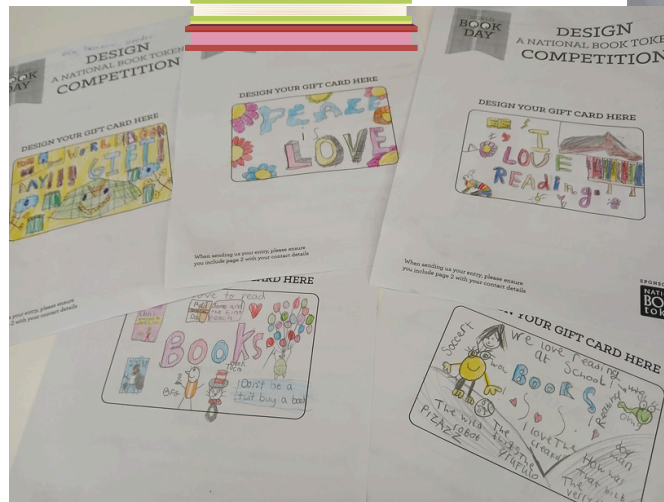




# Buddy Reading



## We've been designing book tokens



Reading is the gateway into other worlds, a chance to grow the imagination and an opportunity to grasp new knowledge. It is also the foundation of accessing so many other subjects. No matter what age your child is, how often do you read with them?

According to researchers in the US, here is how many words children would have heard by the time they are 5 years old:

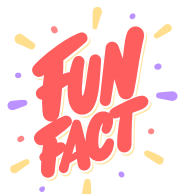
NEVER READ TO,  
4,662 WORDS

1-2 TIMES A WEEK,  
63,570 WORDS

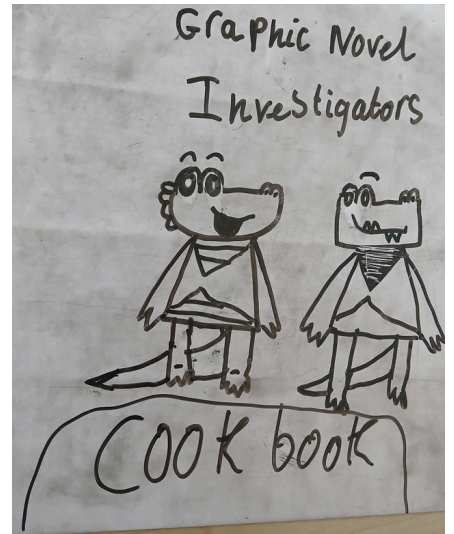
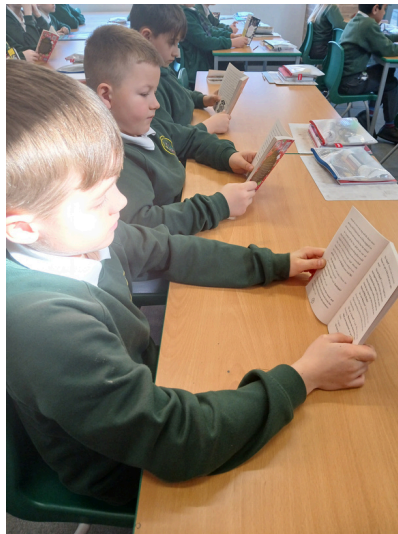
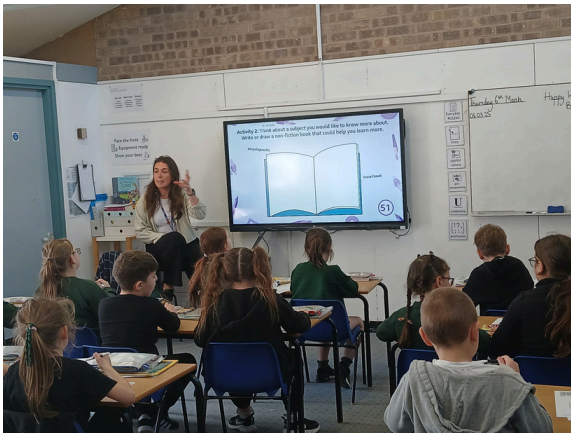
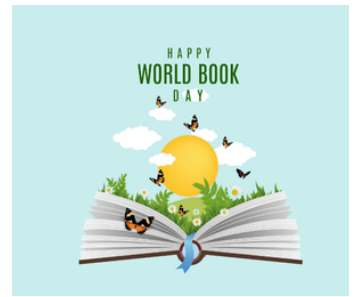
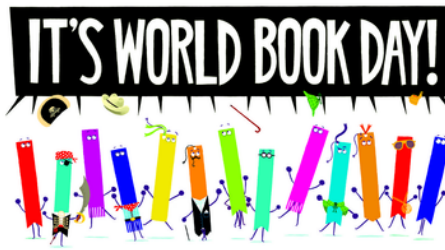
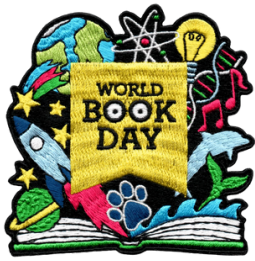
3-5 TIMES A WEEK  
169,520 WORDS

DAILY  
296,660 WORDS

5 BOOKS A DAY  
1,483,300 WORDS!







Teacher Swap









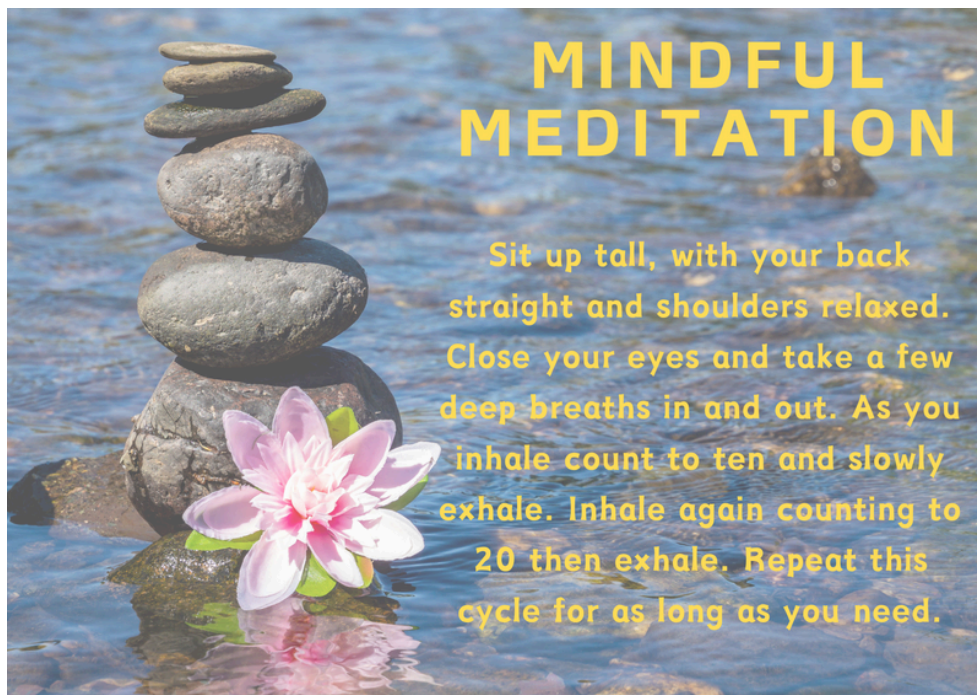
this newsletter





# EHPS HOUSE POINTS TOTALISER

|             |  Whittlewood |  Harlestone |  Everdon |  Salcey |
|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| This week   | 491   | 388  | 405  | 486  |
| Grand total | 3935  | 3425   | 3801   | 3625   |



## NOMINATIONS FOR PARENT GOVERNOR

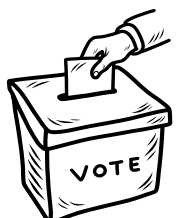


If you are aware of any parent who has not received [the letter](#) regarding nominations for parent governor and would like a copy, please ask them to contact the school office.

If we are required to conduct a ballot, voting information will be sent via email. If you are aware of any parent who has not provided us with an email address and would like to receive the candidates personal statements and a ballot paper, please ask them to contact the school office to update their details.

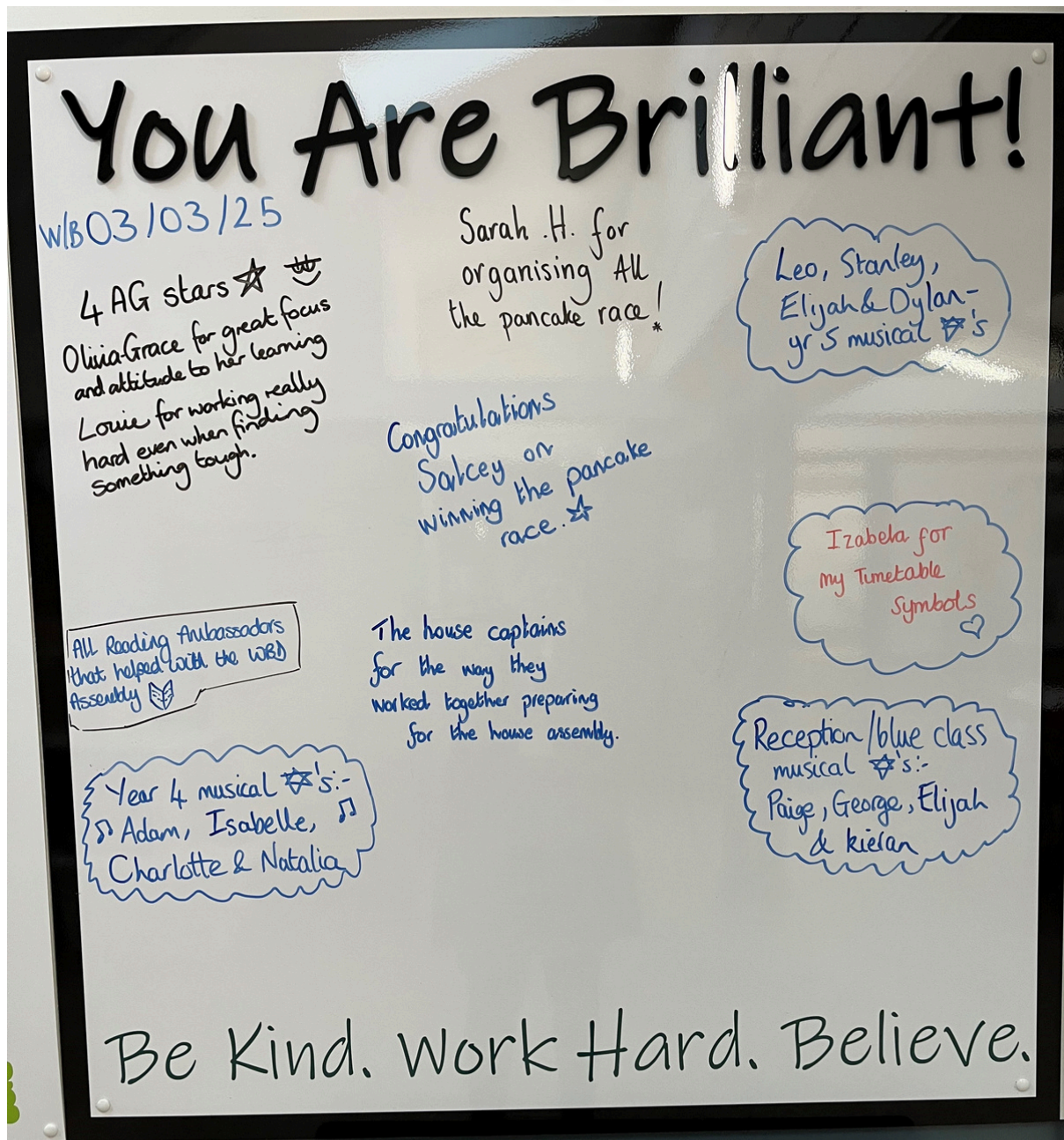
[office@easthunsburyprimary.org](mailto:office@easthunsburyprimary.org) or 01604 677970

If you would like to stand for election as a parent governor, please complete the [Nomination Form / Declaration of Eligibility Form](#) by 9am on Monday 10th March.





Who's been brilliant this week?



Please do not let your children/toddlers play on the Forest School equipment or the all weather pitch before or after school.





# Attendance News

Whole school average attendance this week was

**96.49%**

We are aiming to be at **96% +** every week.

|           | Weekly Attendance | Year Group | Weekly Attendance |
|-----------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Reception | 95.57%            | 1          | 94.23%            |
| 2         | 98.56%            | 3          | 97.60%            |
| 4         | 95.30%            | 5          | 96.88%            |
| 6         | 97.18%            |            |                   |



## How to report your child's absence

Call: 01604 677971

Email: [absence@easthunsburyprimary.org](mailto:absence@easthunsburyprimary.org)

## Walk in Wednesday dates

|          |                                     |            |           |
|----------|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 12.03.25 | Walk in Wednesday 4 - Easter Crafts | 08:30-9:00 | Classroom |
| 07.05.25 | Walk in Wednesday 5 - Reading       | 08:30-9:00 | Classroom |
| 18.06.25 | Walk in Wednesday 6 - Science       | 08:30-9:00 | Classroom |

**BE KIND**

**WORK HARD**

**BELIEVE**

#weareEastHunsburyPrimarySchool #wearebrilliant





# E-Safety & Wellbeing



## Online Safety Newsletter March 2025

### The impact of smartphones



There is a growing concern on how excessive use of smartphones can affect our children.

In addition to the effects of seeing inappropriate content online, the risk of cyberbullying and grooming, it is important that we also highlight the effects of smartphone use on our children's mental health.

If your child is using a smartphone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit.

According to King's College London, "two new studies of smartphone habits in teenagers have identified links between problematic smartphone use and depression, anxiety and insomnia." You can read more about these studies here: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-down>

Compass have published an article as well on what effects mobile phones have on children here: <https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

### Artificial Intelligence (AI)



#### What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to increase, and examples include:

- Virtual assistants like Alexa and Siri.
- Chatbots such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat

#### Potential Risks of AI?

- Chat apps - A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of apps already available and just scrolling through, you can see that they are not suitable for children with many rated as 17+.
- Image manipulation - there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- Deepfakes - there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos which can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

Child Rescue Coalition discuss the dangers in more detail here: <https://childrescuecoalition.org/educations/the-dark-side-of-ai-risks-to-children/>

#### How can I protect my child?

As always, to keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

#### Further information

For further information, the NSPCC and Internet Matters provide useful guides on their websites:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

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## Contents



### Impact of smartphones



### Artificial Intelligence (AI)



### TikTok



### Stars Messenger App

[Click here for more information](#)

## Top Tips



### Choose the right type of text



### Use audio books



### Try text-to-voice technology



### Experiment with interactive reading programmes

[Click here for more information](#)

### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1 CHOOSE THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**  
Before integrating technology, consider the type of text that a child engages with. If they read for an occasion, digital reading can be used by learning and online videos or resources. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used to ensure they're part of their routine learning process. Proper teaching and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**  
Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many reasons, while text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas white text on a black background is the easiest to read, whereas white text on a black background is the easiest to read, whereas white text on a black background is the easiest to read.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**  
Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have trouble with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a slower pace of the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**  
Many digital reading devices, such as e-readers and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help readers to learn new vocabulary words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes also allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**  
Many video games require players to read text, listen, observe dialogue and mission objectives, making them an effective way to learn. Games like Minecraft, which require players to read and understand text, can help improve reading skills. Encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**  
Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it allows them to work in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**  
Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency for struggling readers. Listening to audiobooks before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and motivation.
- 8 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**  
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. About this function built in, when enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for students who struggle with reading or writing skills simultaneously.
- 9 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**  
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children use the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to hear their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13+. Parents should monitor their children's social media use and ensure they are using appropriate parental controls. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION

BE KIND

WORK HARD

BELIEVE

#weareEastHunsburyPrimarySchool #wearebrilliant



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Date             | Activity  | Time              |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>MARCH</b>     |   |                   |
| 12.03.25         | Walk In Wednesday Easter Crafts                 | 8.30am - 9.00am   |
| 17.03 - 21.03.25 | Neurodiversity Week                             |                   |
| 18.03.25         | School of Life - East Hunsbury Library          | 10 - 11.30am      |
| 20.03.25         | Yr 4 to Hazard Alley                            | All day           |
| 20.03.25         | Yr 1 Phonics Test Information Meeting           | 3.30pm - 4.00pm   |
| 21.03.25         | Chocolate Mufti                                 | All day           |
| 21.03.25         | Odd Socks Day for World Down Syndrome Day       |                   |
| <b>25.03.25</b>  | <b>Yr 5 to Stratford</b>                        | <b>All day</b>    |
| 28.03.25         | Year 1 Class Assembly                           | 9.30am-10.30am    |
| 29.03.25         | Easter Cafe                                     | 11.00am-1.00pm    |
| 31.03.25         | Yr 1 Muddy Education                            | All day           |
| <b>APRIL</b>     |   |                   |
| 01.04.25         | School of Life - East Hunsbury Library          | 10.00am - 11.30am |
| 02.04.25         | Autism Awareness Day - Wear Blue<br>(No Charge) | All Day           |
| 02.04.25         | SU Show   | 10.00am-11.00am   |
| 03.04.25         | iRock Concert                                   | 2.45 - 3.15pm     |
| 07.04 - 21.04.25 | Easter Holiday                                  |                   |
| 22.04 & 23.04.25 | Earth Days                                      | All Day           |



## MAY

|               |  |                   |
|---------------|--|-------------------|
| 02.05.25      | Yr & Green Class to Hunsbury Library   | 1.45 - 2.45pm     |
| 07.05.25      | Walk In Wednesday Reading              | 8.30am - 9.00am   |
| 09.05.25      | Yr 2 & Green Class to Hunsbury Library | 1.45pm - 2.45pm   |
| 12 - 15.05.25 | Yr 6 SATS                              | Mornings          |
| 15.05.25      | Endangered Species Census Day          |                   |
| 22.05.25      | Year 4 Spring Assembly                 | 9.15am - 10.00am  |
| 22.05.25      | Reception Sports Day                   | 10.15am - 11.45am |
| 22.05.25      | Year 6 Sports Day                      | 1.30pm - 3.00pm   |
| 23.05.25      | Year 5 and Yellow Class Assembly       | 9.30am - 10.30am  |
| 26 - 30.05.25 | May Half term                          |                   |

## JUNE

|                  |                           |                 |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 02.06.25         | Training Day              |                 |
| 02.06 - 13.06.25 | Yr 4 Multiplication Check |                 |
| w/c 09.06.25     | Yr 1 Phonics Check        |                 |
| 11.06.25         | SU Sports Morning         | 9.30 - 11.30am  |
| 11.06.25         | Yr 6 Steam UoN            |                 |
| 16.06.25         | Class photographs         | All day         |
| 18.06.25         | Walk In Wednesday Science | 8.30am - 9.00am |
| 25.06.25         | Yr 4 to National Gallery  | All day         |

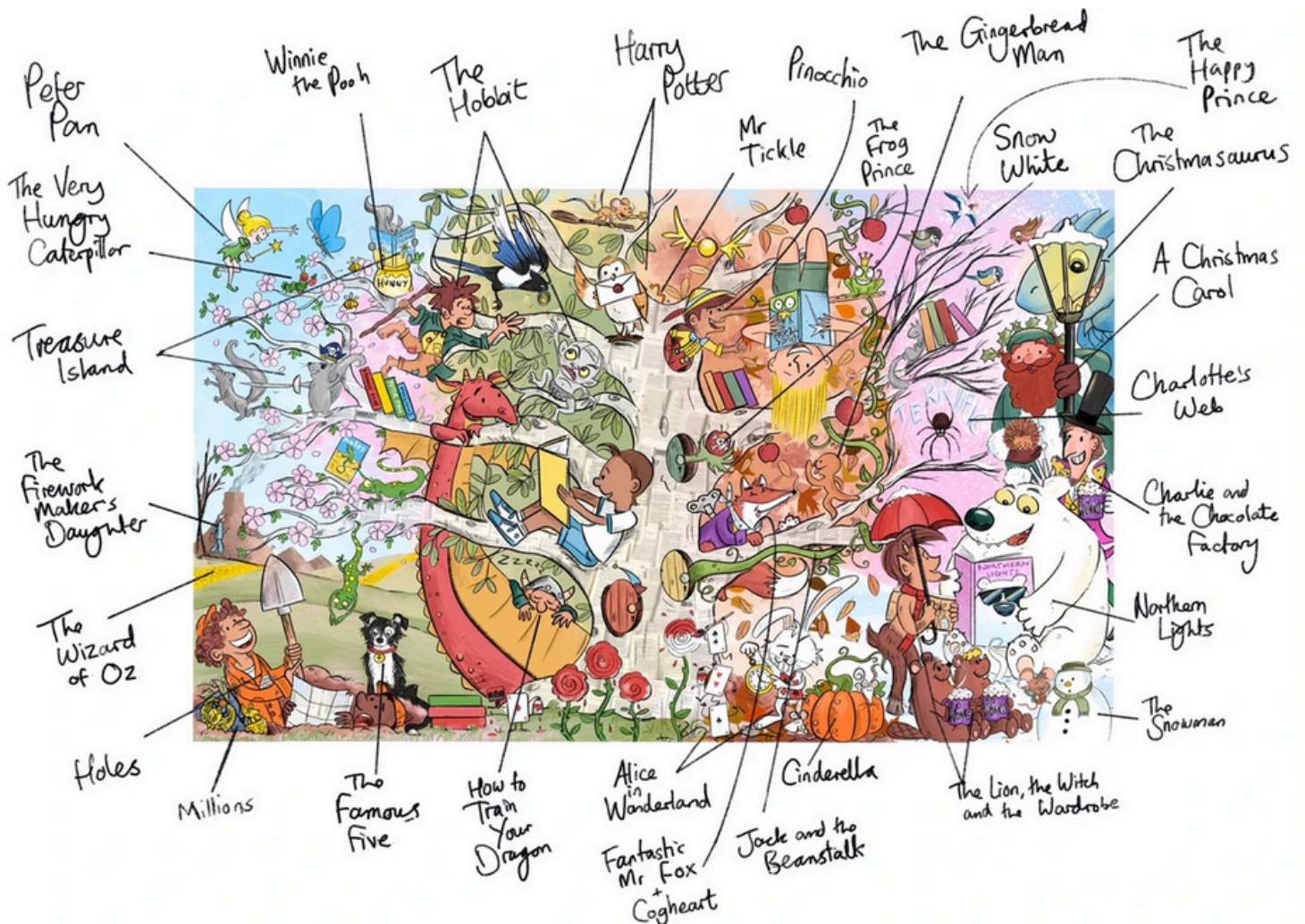


|                  |  |                 |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
| 26.06.25         | Sports Day Year 1  | 9.30 - 11am     |
| 26.06.25         | Sports Day Year 2  | 1.30 - 3pm      |
| 27.06.25         | Sports Day Year 3  | 9.30 - 11.00am  |
| 27.06.25         | Sports Day Year 4  | 1.30 - 3.00pm   |
| 28.06.25         | Whole School Summer Fayre (Country dancing & Maypole by Years 2, 5, Purple & Yellow) | 10.00 - 1.00pm  |
| 30.06 - 03.07.25 | Yr 5 Bikeability   |                 |
| 30.06 - 04.07.25 | Careers & Aspirations Week   |                 |
| <b>JULY</b>      |  |                 |
| 04.07.25         | Reception & Blue Class Assembly  | 9.30 - 10.30am  |
| 04.07.25         | Brilliance Exhibition  | TBC             |
| 08.07.25         | Music Gala   | 5.30pm - 7.00pm |
| 09 - 11.07.25    | Yr 3 Residential Everdon   |                 |
| 10.07.25         | Sports Day Year 5  | 9.30 - 11.00am  |
| 15.07.25         | Yr 6 Leavers' Performance  | 6.00pm - 7.30pm |
| 16.07.25         | Yr 6 Leavers' Performance for toddlers to attend                                     | 5.00pm - 6.30pm |



# JULY

|                  |                                   |                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 17.07.25         | SU Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly         | 9.30am-10.30am  |
| 21.07.25         | Year 6 Leavers' Party             | 7.00pm - 9.00pm |
| 22.07.25         | Mainstream Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly | 10.00 - 11.00am |
| 23.07 - 29.08.25 | Summer Holiday                    |                 |
| 01 & 02.09.25    | Training Days                     |                 |





# Mindful March 2025

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1

Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2

Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world



3

Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

4

Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

5

Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

6

If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

7

Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8

Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9

Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10

Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11

Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12

Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13

Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14

Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15

Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16

Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17

Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18

Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19

Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20

Focus on what makes you and others happy today

21

Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22

Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23

Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24

Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25

Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26

Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27

Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28

Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29

Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30

Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31

Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together