

# 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!

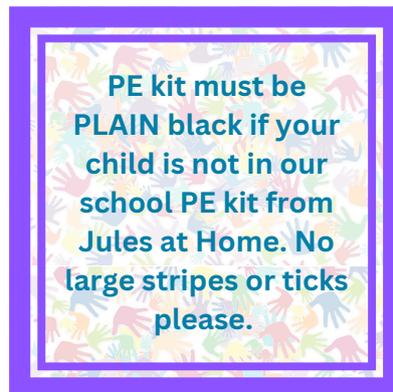
And have you seen our new addition... we have a new minibus! We are looking forward to getting out and about on it – please give us a wave if you see us.



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*



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



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

## 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.

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

**CHECK OUT NOW!**

**PAGE 18 - 19**

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

\*All mascot package purchases are subject to a £100 booking fee.



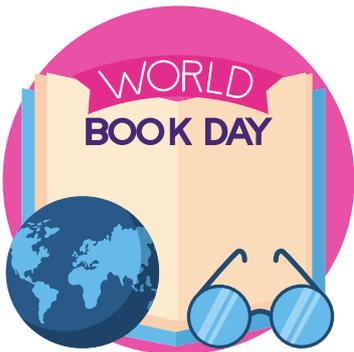
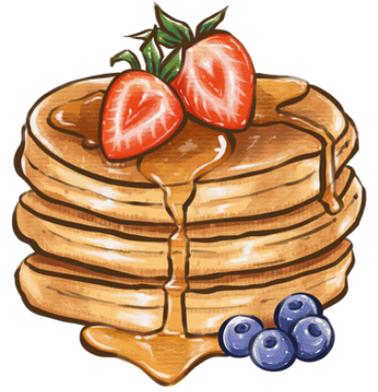
Always switch your engines off when in a parked car. Leaving your engine running when your vehicle is stationary is called idling. This creates air pollution by increasing the levels of exhaust fumes and harmful gases in the air. No one, especially children, should have to breathe in these fumes.

## HAIR ACCESSORIES

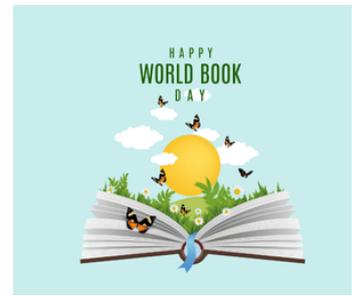
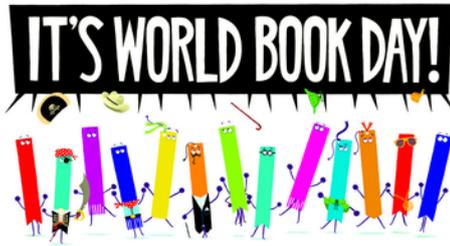
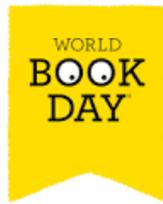
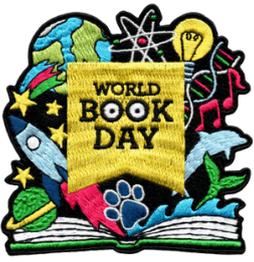
Plain hair bands, clips and bobbles are allowed in school colours. Please do not send your child in with multicoloured bright bows, clips or headbands (including ones with cats ears etc).



# Pancake Day in Reception



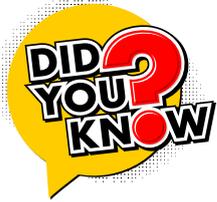
James Carter



# Buddy Reading



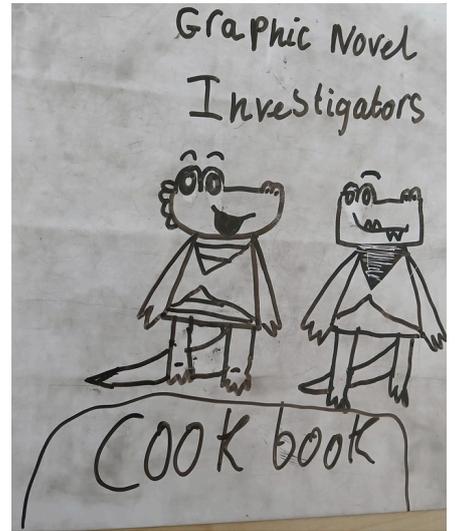
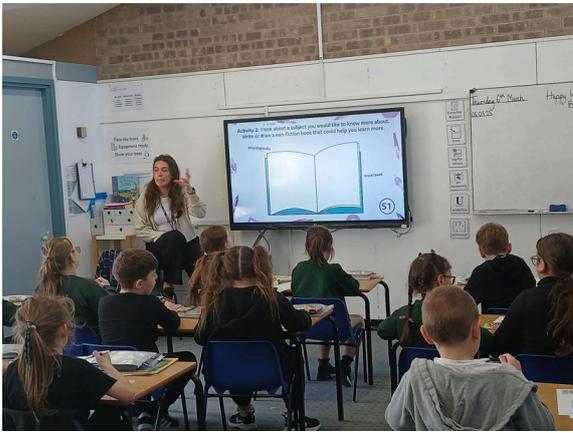
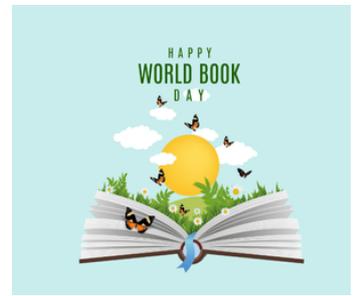
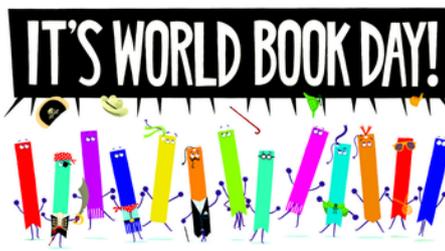
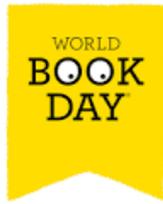
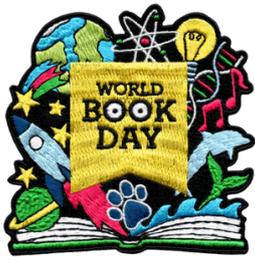
## We've been designing book tokens



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:





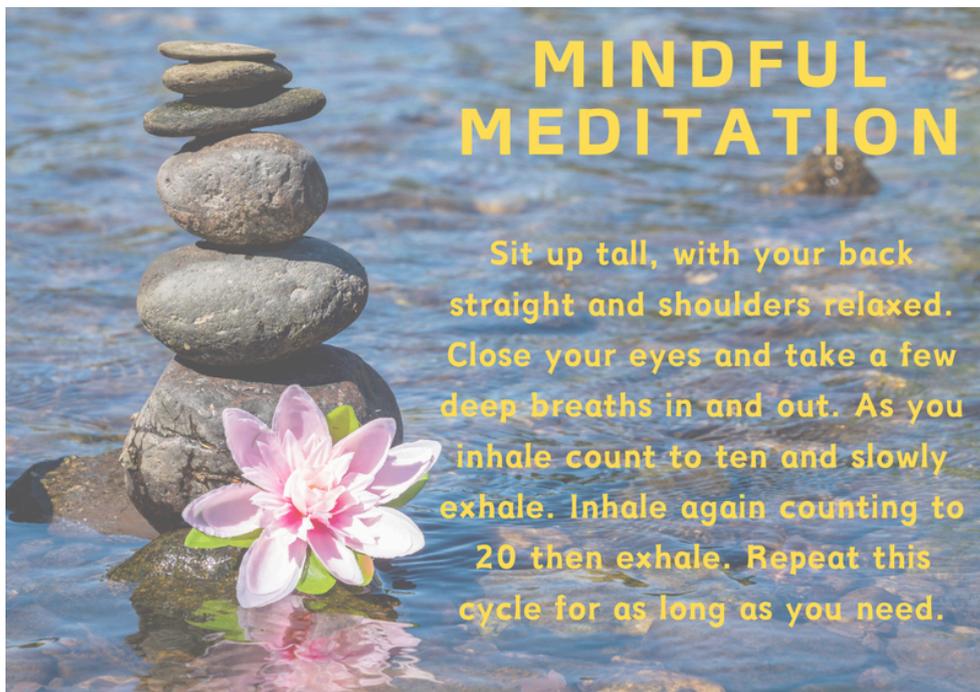
Teacher Swap





# EHPS HOUSE POINTS TOTALISER

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



## NOMINATIONS FOR PARENT GOVERNOR

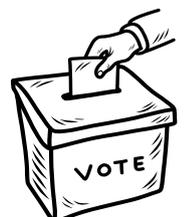


If you are aware of any parent who has not received [the letter](#) regarding nominations for parent governor and would like a copy, please ask them to contact the school office.

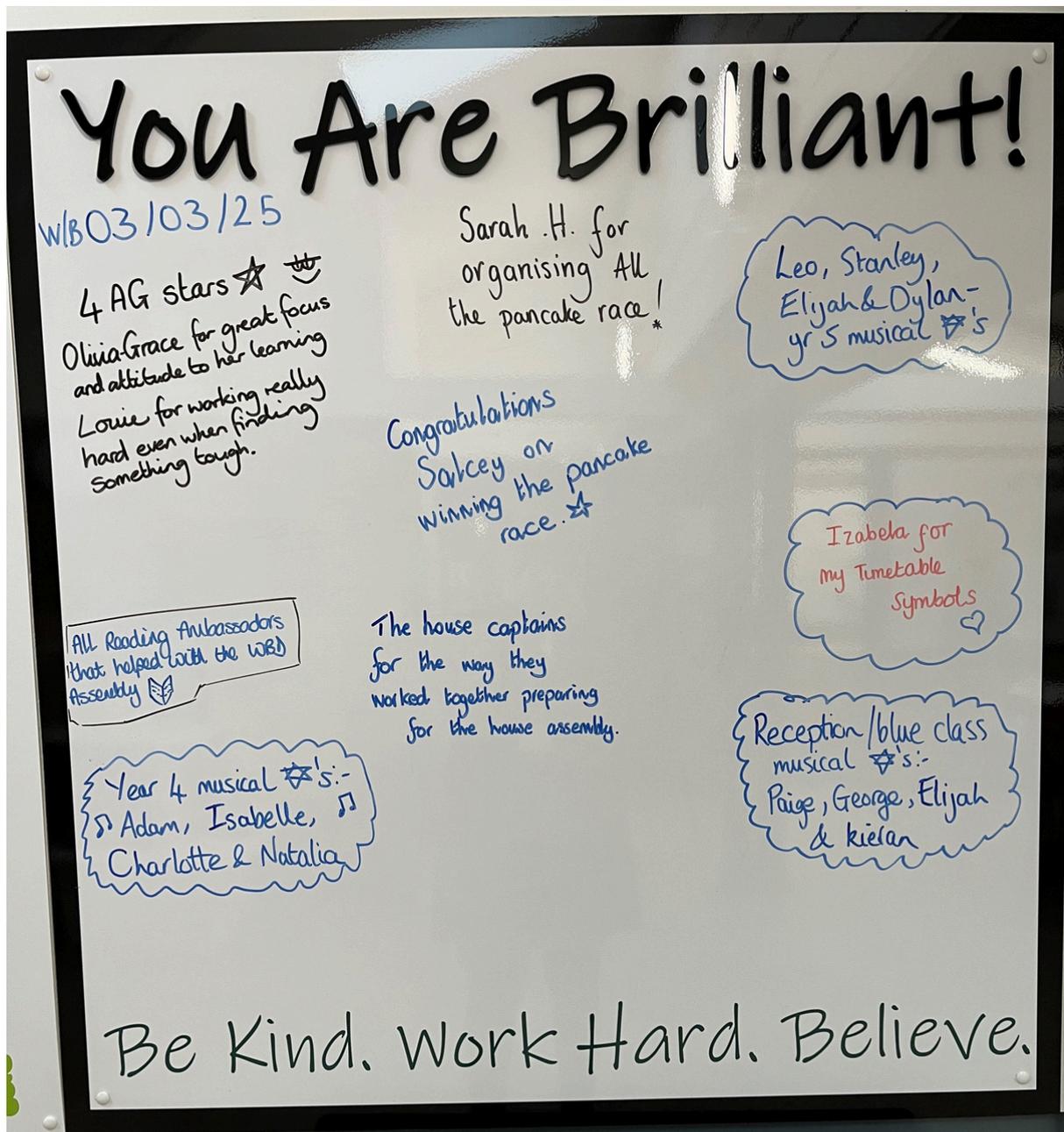
If we are required to conduct a ballot, voting information will be sent via email. If you are aware of any parent who has not provided us with an email address and would like to receive the candidates personal statements and a ballot paper, please ask them to contact the school office to update their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

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### 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-all-risks-to-children/>

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#### 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 a child enjoys. If they prefer an occasional, digital reading item can assist by offering more accessible options. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used to ensure that the 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 customize text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many reasons, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other options, such as dyslexia-friendly fonts, are designed to help those who are struggling. Reading on a screen can also help with text layout and font size, which can be adjusted to suit individual needs and preferences.
- 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 a better time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**  
Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even 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, instructions, character dialogue and mission objectives. Using these games as a tool for objective learning can be a fun and effective way to 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 can help children with reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or 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. Separately, 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 pronunciation and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and understanding of the content.
- 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**  
Voice-to-text software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. About 80% of children with reading difficulties struggle with 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 struggling readers who have trouble with reading and writing simultaneously.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**  
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. About 80% of children with reading difficulties struggle with 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 struggling readers who have trouble with reading and writing simultaneously.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-16 years old, allowing parental controls to restrict access to social media. Encouraging children to use social media responsibly and with parental supervision can help them learn to navigate online content safely. 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 (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	

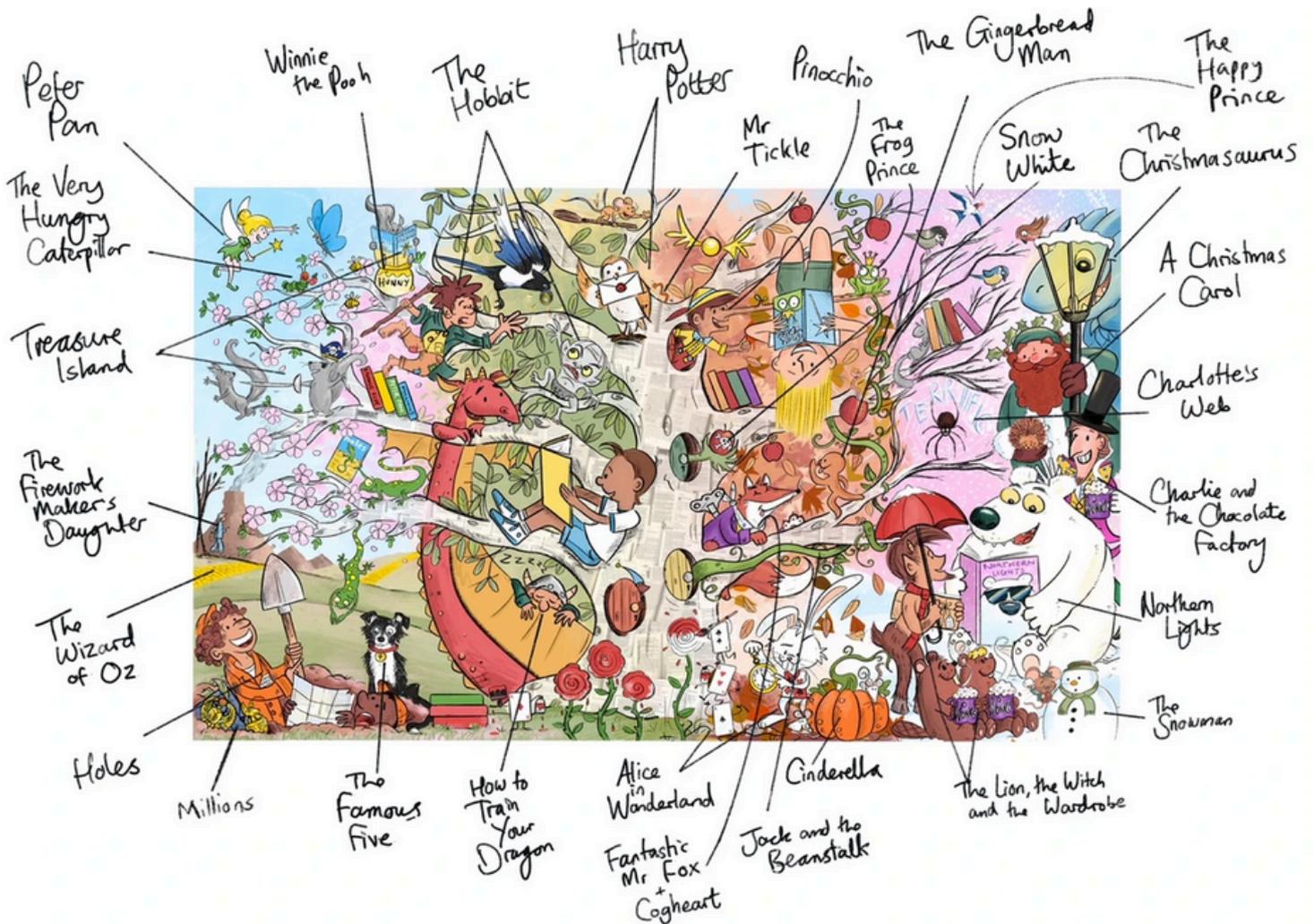
## JUNE

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**

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

**SUNDAY**

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

**MONDAY**

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

**TUESDAY**

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

**WEDNESDAY**

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

**THURSDAY**

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

**FRIDAY**

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**