

Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Fordcombe Families,



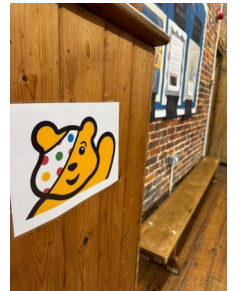
This week, we were thrilled to receive a visit from 'This is Us'. They are an inclusive dance company, currently supported by Children In Need. Children in Elm and Beech had workshops in the hall where they were encouraged to reflect on their thoughts and feelings and express themselves through movement.



They also enjoyed exploring and connecting ideas with different fabrics - stretching, scrunching and floating. Children were encouraged to consider their breathing and be 'in the moment'. I know they all really enjoyed the session. Thank you to Jan and Hannah!



The children have thought about water again this week - but this time, reflecting on the story of John the Baptist and the importance of forgiveness. As one of our school values, the children are certainly familiar with this concept. They are, in general, very forgiving of one another. Sometimes, they need encouragement to forgive themselves!

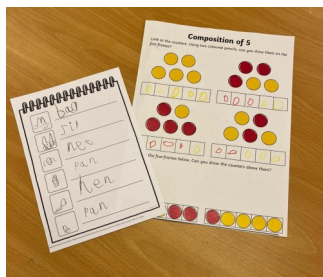


Please see term dates for 2026/2027 attached.

Kind regards,
Julie Burton

Ash

In Ash class, we have been continuing our topic of Cold Places and have been sharing the book called The Night Iceberg. The children have thoroughly enjoyed it. The children have been writing lists of what the little girl in the book might take with her on the iceberg.



In maths, they have also been learning all about mass and capacity. They have been using balance scales and investigating the capacity of various

containers. They have also been thinking about the composition of 5. How many ways can they remember to make 5?

We have also started painting winter tree pictures with brushes and fingers.



Fordcombe

Church of England Primary School

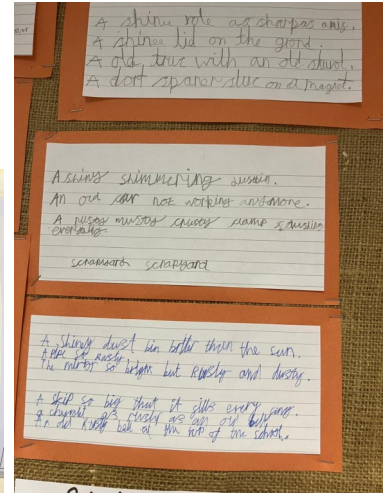
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Elm

Pupils rose to a Scrapheap Challenge this week in Elm Class, writing poetry to accompany our book, The Iron Man. Their wonderful Scrapyrd poems are full of detailed description and determiners (a/an), making us view rubbish in a completely different way! To end the week, they have been experimenting with painting techniques - dabbing, stippling and pointillism.



Beech

What could Amelia Earhart see from her plane?

big colourful splashy
whale fish dolphin
fierce fluffy shiny
tiger birds leaves
orange horny dotty
sand deer giraffe

Beech class have been using expanded noun phrases to describe what Amelia Earhart might have seen as she flew over the Ocean, the Jungle and the Savannah.



We had a wonderful music lesson where we were singing traditional folk songs from the British Isles. A particular favourite was 'My Bonnie flew over the ocean' as it made us feel like we were sailing.

In maths we have continued working on addition and subtraction using base 10 manipulatives to help us.

Oak

This week in English, we began researching and creating fact-files about The Caribbean, linking our writing to our new class text "Tales of the Caribbean". The children are enjoying exploring interesting facts and organising their research into their own fact-files. In Maths, we've focused on finding fractions of amounts. I'll be sending home some practice questions next week as part of the homework - apologies that this hasn't come home today. In History, Oak Class learned about the development of steam-powered mills in Manchester and discussed how industrial changes transformed the city and people's lives.



Next week in art, we will be starting to develop our "Memory Museums". **If you have any old shoe boxes that you could donate, I would be very grateful!**



Celebrating our values this week:
Jacob and Zoe - always showing love
Noah - perseverance coming to school
Logan - being kind, helpful, patient...!

Elm class had the best attendance this week. Remember, if your child feels better later in the day, you can bring them in later too!

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Stars this week:

Oliver - Trying hard
James - Fantastic phonics
Evalyn - Improving handwriting
Ivy-Sylvie - Trying hard to sound out
Alyosha - Pattern spotting in maths
Finlay - Perseverance and contribution to lessons

Lunch leader awards:



**Wilf, Zoe,
Edie and Emily**

Outdoor learning

As we move towards Spring, we will be moving into the next phase of revamping our forest school area. If you have any of the following that you might be able to donate, please do hold onto them for us and we will have a collection week soon!

- tarpaulin
- twine
- carpet/lino samples
- logs
- planks
- magnifying glasses
- sturdy storage boxes
- tent pegs
- metal pots and pans
- guttering

Dates for your diary

February 10th	Safer Internet Day
February 16th	Start of half term
February 23rd	School closed - INSET day
February 26th	Parents Consultations
March 5th	World Book Day
March 26th	Travelling Book Fair visit
March 30th	Elm and Oak Swimming Week

Other early dates for your information:

June 17th	Residential
July 3rd	Sports Day (Join us at 12:30 for a picnic before activities start)
July 13th	Oak Class production
July 20th	Leavers' Service at the Church
July 21st	Awards Assembly and Leavers' send off

Please contact us via the office if you have any questions about your child's learning or their well-being at Fordcombe Primary School.



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