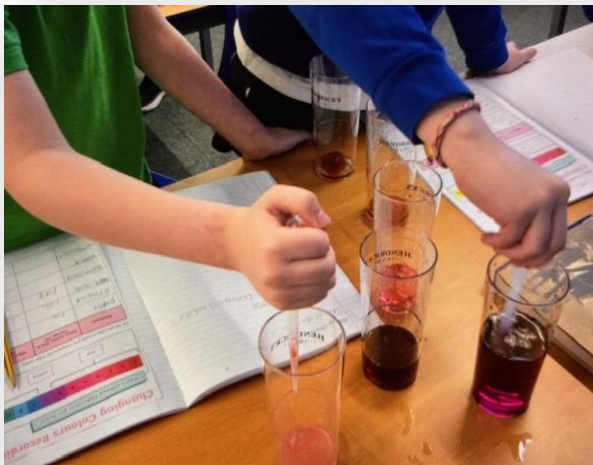


## Newsletter 17th March 2025

*"Let your light shine"*

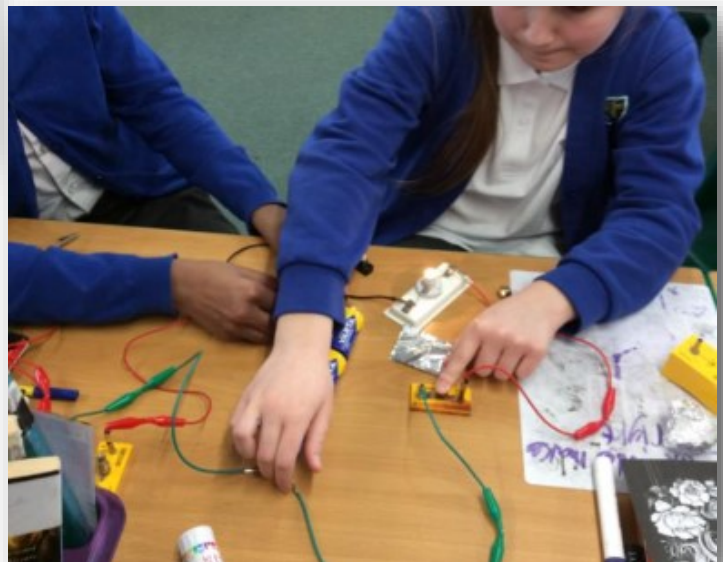
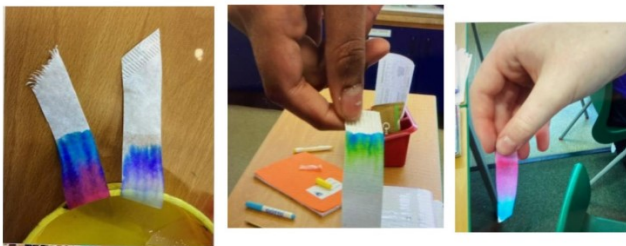
It was wonderful to see all the STEM (Science, technology, Engineering, Maths) based activities across school this week as part of science week, after Mrs Collins launched science week with a special assembly at the start of the week. There has been planting, flowers and mixing different liquids - all of which the children have loved. It was also lovely to welcome Reception class from St Oswalds Academy for the day to work and collaborate with our Early Year's children. Miss Fearn and Miss Courtenay offered the children a range of activities, my favourite was the shrinking paper keyrings which all children were able to design and take home.

Miss Cullen, Head Teacher



Scientists in Simon Class used red cabbage to make a Ph indicator. They then tested different substances to see what their Ph was.

Wilde Class worked on "lenses" and Rowling Class tried chromatography to discover which colours make up different colours. The class also worked to find a way to make 2 lightbulbs light independently of each other with switches. It took a lot of thinking and every hand but they succeeded!





# EYFS STEM DAY

EYFS teachers from Ryton-on-Dunsmore and St Oswald's Academies came together to create an inspiring and creative STEM day for the children last week. Using resources, knowledge and staff from both settings allowed them to create a huge range of activities for the children to experience.



Combining the classes gave more opportunities for adult led activities such as making shrinking key-rings, using biomimicry to create flying objects, pre-coding activities and seed planting.





Children booked into the Ark last Monday were treated to a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" with games, a lucky dip and an amazing spread including sandwiches, scones, crisps and a choice of squash or real tea!





**RYTON ON DUNSMORE ACADEMY**

**Easter**

# **PARADE & RAFFLE**

**Easter Bonnet/Crown/Headband Parade  
2.45pm Friday 11th April**

**£1 per child to enter, Easter Egg prize.**

**Raffle £1 for 1 ticket: £2 for 3 tickets : £5 for 8 tickets  
Raffle Tickets and Parade entry can be purchased on  
Parentpay.**

**Raffle Prize is a fabulous Easter Hamper!**





Illustrated Story books from £6.99

Small History books £4.99

LKS2 books £4.99-5.99

Cogheart £6.99  
Special offer  
Set of 4 books £22.50

My first phonic reading library £24.95  
Reading library red/blue £39.99

Unicorn books from £3.99-14.99  
Ballet books £5.99-12.99

Graphic novels  
Myths and legends £9.99

12 picture book set £24.99

Do you have a birthday coming up? Are you looking for a non chocolate Easter present? If you missed the book fair or would still like a book, the books are still available. Come and see Miss Barton after school in yr 1 and we can sort out a book that will be perfect for your needs.

(Teenage books and book sets also available)

See inside £9.99

See inside our Body

See inside Space stations and Spacecraft

London

See inside our Body

See inside our Body

Big Book of Stars & Planets

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

See inside our Body

See inside our Body

See inside our Body

See inside our Body

See inside our Body

ASTRONOMY & SPACE

ASTRONOMY

# 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 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training 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 readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

## 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 an easier 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 instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – 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 exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly 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 an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

## 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come 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 auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

## 8 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 see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have 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 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

## Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College



# Pupil Premium

Help Us Access Additional Funding for Your Child's Education

We want to ensure that all our pupils receive the best possible support in school. Did you know that your child may be eligible for additional funding through the Pupil Premium? This funding is provided to schools by the government to help support eligible children and improve their educational experiences.

Your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income below £16,190)
- Universal Credit with a household income below £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive)

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives free school meals as part of the government's Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, applying for Pupil Premium means the school receives extra funding to provide further support for your child.

Applying is quick and easy, and it can make a real difference to the resources, support, and opportunities we can provide for all our pupils.

All applications are confidential, and registering will not affect any other benefits you receive.

Thank you for your support in helping us provide the best possible education for your child.

If you think you may be eligible, please go to:-

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

**Year 2 Parents:**  
This message is particularly important as Universal Infant Free School Meals ends at the end of Year 2.



# Ryton-on-Dunsmore Academy Stars

EYFS Star Learner this week is

*Oliver*



Year 1 Star Learner this week is

*Jessica*

Year 3 Star Learner this week is

*All pupils in Simon Class*

Year 2 Star Learner this week is

*William*

Year 4 Star Learner this week is

*Gerry*

Year 5 Star Learner this week is

*Leighton*

Year 6 Star Learner this week is

*Daniel*

## Value Awards



The "Value Awards" are designed to recognise children who show our school values.

Niamh is the latest recipient, for showing all our values every day.

Well done Niamh!



**LOVE**  
**HONESTY**  
**HOPE**  
**FAIRNESS**  
**RESPECT**  
**FORGIVENESS**



# ATTENDANCE RAFFLE

97 children were entered into the Monday Attendance Raffle, using attendance data from last week.

Each of the 97 children had a number and a random number generator was used.

The winner was Bella from Year 2!

Well done to all 97 children for their excellent attendance last week.

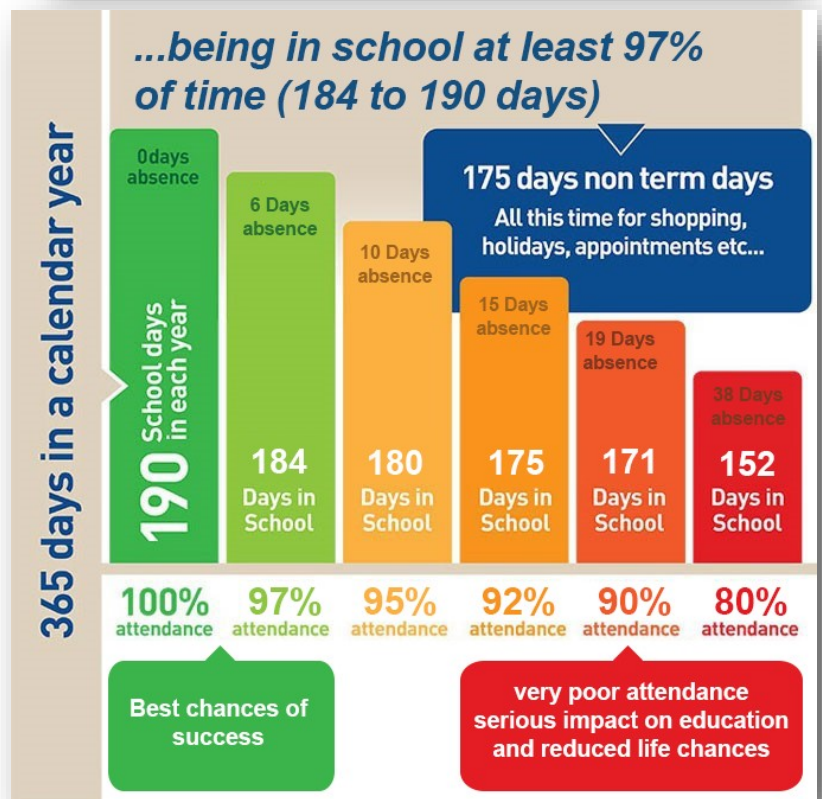
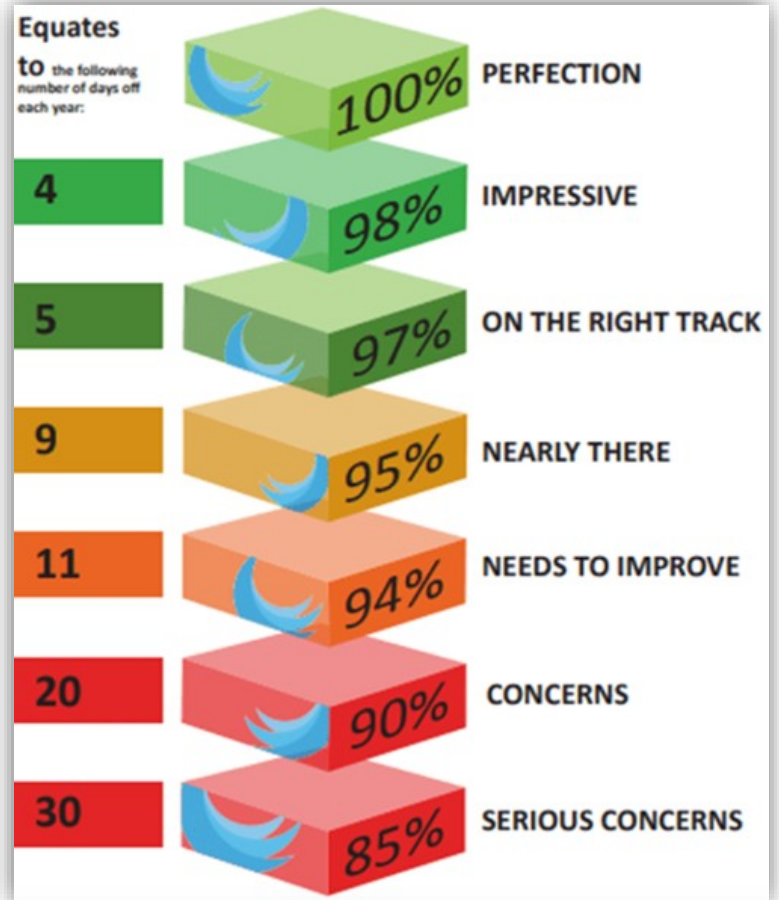


**100% ATTENDANCE  
RAFFLE**

# Attendance Update

Please note that if your child is ill you must still contact us every day to let us know

Attendance	
Nursery	88.5%
Reception	89.1%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	98.8%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	89.3%
Year 6	98.2%





Department  
for Education



February 2025

## Spring HAF 2025 Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Department for Education (DfE) funds the Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme. HAF provides young people the opportunity to access enriching activities alongside healthy meals over the **main school holidays at Easter, Summer & Christmas.**

**Please note that this programme is entirely separate from the Local Welfare Scheme's household support funding (i.e. supermarket HUGGG vouchers).**

Each eligible young person (in full-time education from reception to Year 11 who receives benefits-related free school meals) with a HAF code can access a maximum of **4 funded sessions** during our Spring delivery (Easter). Families have the flexibility to book with multiple activity providers if desired. All activity providers can request additional funding for 1-to-1 support if this is required, however this will depend on their staff availability and qualifications. We do have a number of SEND- specific activities which may be a more suitable option.



**Family Information Service**

0800 408 1558

[fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Facebook: @WarwickshireFIS





Department  
for Education



Eligible families need to request a HAF Code via a brief online form. This can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/haf) or you can scan the QR code below. HAF codes are valid for the academic year, so if you've had a HAF code starting with a 'W' before, the same code can be used. If you need codes to be re-sent, just send us an email via [hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk)

For families not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, we can release a limited number of HAF codes for each delivery period. A separate referral form will need to be completed on behalf of your family, if you're facing a significant financial barrier and one (or more) of the following criteria apply:

- Have an allocated family support worker or social worker
- On an open early help plan
- Your child(ren) acts as a young carer

The referral form is available upon request from a professional/allocated worker or school contact through [hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Spring activity listings will be available online from **Monday 10th March 2025**. Within this information will be details of how all activities can be booked using an eligible HAF code.

**Scan the QR code below to visit the HAF website.**



Thank you for your continued engagement with the Warwickshire HAF programme. Please contact us directly if you have any queries related to the HAF scheme.

Warwickshire HAF Team



**Family Information Service**  
0800 408 1558  
[fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
Facebook: @WarwickshireFIS



Friday 21st March	Think Tank Trip for Years 3 4 5 and 6
24th March	Assessment Week (Children will be assessed for Maths, English and Reading levels)
Tuesday 25th March	SEN Reviews
Thursday 27th March	Mother's Day event (This date has been amended from our original plan due to staffing changes)
	SEN Reviews
1st and 2nd April	Parent Consultation Meetings
2nd April	Kenilworth Castle trip
2nd/3rd April	SEN Reviews
Friday 11th April	Break up for Easter holiday
	2.45pm Easter Parade and Raffle draw
Monday 28th April	Back to School
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 12th May (2:45pm)	Relationships, Sex, Health Education Parent Meeting
Friday 23rd May	Crowning of the May King and Queen, break up for half term holiday
Monday 2nd June	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 3rd June	Back to School
2nd-6th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
9th-13th June	KS1 Phonics Check
11th June 2.45pm	Wilde Class Come and Learn
	Father's Day Event
Monday 30th June	New parent meeting 5pm, Early Years
Wednesday 2nd July	Moving On Day
Thursday 3rd July	Sports Day and Picnic
Friday 11th July	End of year reports given out



#### MUSICIANS WANTED

Places are available to learn keyboard, guitar, ukulele and singing at school. Learning an instrument promotes confidence and other skills such as multitasking. To register your child's interest please send an email to [Chris@truemusic.uk](mailto:Chris@truemusic.uk)





30th March 2025

Family Holy Communion  
for

**Mothing Sunday**

*at*

*St Leonard's  
at 9.00 am*

*Posies will be available  
for children (of all ages)  
to give to their parents or carers*