

Edition 22  
20.02.26

# Weekly News



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Happy Friday everyone!

## Thank you so much for all your support this half term.

It has been a busy and rewarding few weeks, and your encouragement, involvement, and partnership make such a positive difference. We truly appreciate everything you do. It was lovely to see all the children and staff 'Dress Down for Benny' today. If you would like to support Benny please do this directly through the funding page.

**Solving Kids' Cancer UK**

## Benny is fighting a life-threatening cancer

Benny is a happy and caring four-year-old who loves dinosaurs, Ninja Turtles, pizza and dreams of playing for Newcastle United when grows up. In February 2023, at just two years old, he was diagnosed with stage 4 high-risk neuroblastoma. After completing treatment in March 2025, he began DFMO, a relapse-prevention drug. Sadly, scans in September showed that Benny's cancer had returned. His family is now fundraising in the hope that they can travel to Rome for life-saving treatment.

[stand\\_by\\_benny](#)

[Stand By Benny](#)

**You can give Benny hope by donating today:**

To donate online, visit:  
[solvingkidscancer.org.uk/children/benny](https://solvingkidscancer.org.uk/children/benny)

To donate by text, send the word **BENNY** followed by any whole amount (up to £20) to 70085

As an example, texting **BENNY 5** would cost £5 plus your standard network text charge

If you would like to fundraise for Benny, please contact **Solving Kids' Cancer UK** for support at [fundraising@solvingkidscancer.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@solvingkidscancer.org.uk) or on **020 7284 0800**

Funds raised will go towards helping Benny and his family. If Benny no longer needs the funds or is in remission five years post the end of successful treatment, the funds will be used to support other children and families affected by neuroblastoma through Solving Kids' Cancer UK's activities. Solving Kids' Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales 1056001 and in Scotland SC049086.

Registered with **FUNDRAISING REGULATOR**



## Important Reminder: Parking Safely Around School



To help keep all our children, families and neighbours safe, we kindly ask parents and carers **not to park in the Big Club car park during drop-off and pick-up times**. This area becomes extremely busy and is needed for those who use the club facilities.

Please also remember to **park responsibly around school**.

We kindly ask that you park considerately, ensuring driveways are kept clear and that there is enough space for other parents, carers and residents to move safely.

With more cars using Sheraton Road and the surrounding streets, we are asking everyone to take **extra care when crossing**. Slower speeds, careful manoeuvring and safe crossing points make a big difference to the safety of all our families and local residents.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our school community safe.

## Attendance Update

A reminder that if your child's attendance is currently **below 90%**, a letter has been sent home today.

We fully understand that some children may have **authorised absences**, and we appreciate that every family's circumstances are different. However, we are required to ensure that all parents and carers are aware of their child's current attendance percentage record.

If you have received a letter and would like to discuss your child's attendance in more detail, please contact the school office **after the half-term holiday** to arrange a meeting with **Mrs Legge**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

## IMPORTANT

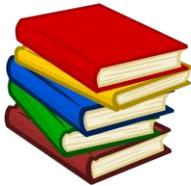
### **Reminder: Sending Appointment Information to School**

If your child has a medical or other scheduled appointment during the school day, please remember to email the details to: [sugarhilladmin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:sugarhilladmin@durhamlearning.net)

**Letting us know in advance helps us keep our attendance records up to date and ensures we can have your child ready on time.**

Thank you for your support in helping the school day run smoothly!

### **World Book Week at Sugar Hill is almost here!**



We're excited to celebrate **World Book Week** starting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Throughout the week, children will be enjoying a range of book-themed activities designed to spark imagination, build a love of reading, and help them discover new stories and authors.

#### **What's happening in school?**

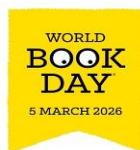
- **Library Visits:** Each class will spend time in the school library and town library exploring new books and enjoying shared reading time. More details will be in next week's newsletter.
- **Fun Reading Activities:** Children will take part in quizzes, storytelling sessions, creative tasks and plenty of book-themed fun throughout the week.
- **Reading Buddies:** Our Year 6 children will be visiting Reception to enjoy stories together.
- **Bedside Stories:** On **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**, children are welcome to come into school in their pyjamas for bedside stories!
- **Extreme Reading competition:** Children can take part in an extreme reading competition – Can your child read in an usual place? Please send a photograph in to school if your child would like to enter the competition.
- **Illustrator visit:** Samantha Green will be visiting school to work with children in Early Years and Key Stage One.

## **Parents and Carers – You're Invited!**

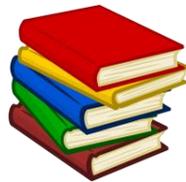
We warmly invite **Nursery** and **Reception** parent and carers to an Early Years Reading campfire trail on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Nursery parents and carers are invited to attend at 1pm and Reception parents at 1:30pm. *Please note: part of this session will take place outside.*

**KS1 and KS2 parents and carers** (Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6) to join us in school on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** at 1:30pm for our '**Book Craft**' afternoon.

You'll have the chance to take part in reading activities alongside your child and see some of the lovely work they have been doing.



**WORLD BOOK DAY is on THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH.** This will be a non-uniform day where children can come to school dressed as book characters.



To celebrate **World Book Week**, we invite families to donate gently used or new children's books to help grow our school library.

If you have books at home you no longer need, we'd love to give them a new home.

Please send donations to school with your child during World Book Week.

Thank you for supporting our readers

## Newsletter Survey

**Are you reading our newsletter?**



If you read this newsletter, tell your child that this week's lucky word to go into a draw to win a surprise is **HOLIDAY**. If they come to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March with their name and the word **HOLIDAY** on a piece of paper and hand it to **Mrs Legge at the gate** as soon as they arrive at school, they will go into the lucky draw.

**To enter the draw, it must be passed to Mrs Legge at the gate!**

**To be in with a chance of winning a prize the words must be posted in the box on the Tuesday morning!** (School is closed Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March)

We wonder who our lucky winner will be?

This week's winner was Emarni in Class 11. We hope you enjoy reading your book Emarni.

There will be a different surprise gift after the half term holiday. Make sure your child enters to be in with a chance of winning!



## This Term's Rota Kids Community Project



Thank you for all your kind donations to this appeal. Our **Rota Kid Ambassadors** will visit the Care Home with Mrs Legge to present the donations after the half term holiday. Watch out for the story in a newsletter coming soon. **The appeal is now closed.**

## Spectacles Collection for Rotary



We are still collecting **old prescription spectacles** to donate to **Rotary** Newton Aycliffe, who will ensure they are passed on to people who need them. Thank you for the donations received so far.



## Thank You for Your Support

Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference. Thank you in advance for supporting our Rota Kids as they continue to help our community.

## **Keeping Children Safe on Instagram**

Although Instagram has a minimum age of **13**, we know that some younger children may still see or use the app. To help keep pupils safe online, here are a few key reminders for families:

### **Privacy First**

If your child uses Instagram, their account should be set to **Private**. This means only approved followers can see what they post.

### **Know Their Followers**

Encourage children to only accept follow requests from **people they know in real life**. Remind them that it's okay to ignore or decline requests.

### **Check Messaging Settings**

Direct messages can be switched off or set so that only followers can send a message. It's a good idea to review these settings together.

### **Think Before Posting**

Talk to your child about what is safe (and not safe) to share online. Personal details such as school uniform, home location, or daily routines should never be posted.

### **Reporting and Blocking**

Show your child how to **report** inappropriate content and **block** accounts that make them uncomfortable. Remind them to tell an adult straight away if something worries them online.

### **Screen Time Balance**

Instagram can be fun, but it shouldn't get in the way of sleep, homework or family time. Setting sensible limits can help maintain a healthy balance.

If you'd like more guidance, the **NSPCC** and **UK Safer Internet Centre** offer clear, parent-friendly advice on social media safety.



SUGAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Learning and Growing Together



# Instagram Safety

## for Primary School Parents



Minimum age for Instagram is **13**. Younger children should be closely supervised.

### What to be aware of:

- Inappropriate or unrealistic content
- Messages, comments & tags
- Location sharing
- Screen time, changes to self-esteem
- Unkind behaviour ("ghosting", screenshots shared)

### How to help keep your child safe:

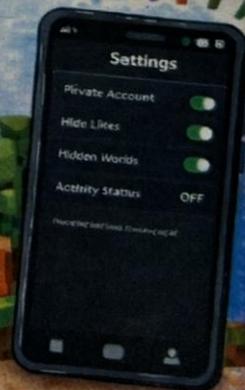
- Talk regularly about what they see & post
- Make the account private & limit who can contact
- Turn off location sharing & tag review
- Hide follower count & check who they follow
- Mute, unfollow & report/block if worried



### Useful settings:

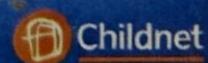
On Instagram: Tap profile icon → Menu → Settings → Privacy →

- Private account" ON
- Hidden Words" ON
- Hide Likes" ON
- Activity Status" OFF



THINK  
UENOW

For advice visit: [thinkuknow.co.uk](http://thinkuknow.co.uk) | [childnet.com](http://childnet.com)





# Alice's Adventures in WONDERLAND

## The Opera

 Sir  
Thomas  
Allen  
Assembly  
Rooms  
Theatre

 Wednesday 25th  
February, 19:00  
Thursday 26th  
February, 19:00  
Friday 27th  
February, 19:00  
Saturday 28th  
February, 14:00 and  
19:00

Tickets: 

Music by Will Todd  
Words by Maggie Gottlieb

Come and explore Wonderland with the internationally award-winning Durham Opera Ensemble!



active future

# Mindful Movers

Active Future Darlington are excited to announce our parent and child yoga sessions!

**WHEN**

3<sup>rd</sup> February  
10<sup>th</sup> February  
17<sup>th</sup> February  
24<sup>th</sup> February  
5pm - 6pm

**WHERE**

Newton Aycliffe  
Youth &  
Community Centre,  
DL5 4HT

**WHAT**

Join us for a fun and relaxing parent and child yoga session, designed to help families move, breathe and connect together



**Scan Me!**  
For more information.

**Book now:** <https://pbbl.uk/4k1zm7x>





**clubbercise<sup>®</sup>**

**BRINGING A NIGHT OUT  
TO YOUR WORKOUT**

**FAMILY CLUBBERCISE sessions**

**Wednesdays 6.30pm at the big club**

**£8 for adult and 1 child (£2 per additional child)**

**Suitable from age 7+**

**A fun and social way to get fitter together!  
(Dark room, glow sticks and party anthems!)**

**Contact Jules on 07966 968388 for more info**

**Facebook: clubbercise in Aycliffe with Jules**

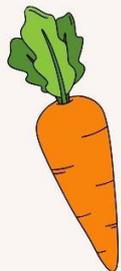


## GROW YOUR OWN VEG WORKSHOPS



### WITH GREAT AYCLIFFE GARDEN GUILD!

All our events are suitable for beginners of all ages and experienced gardeners alike!



Learn how to prune your fruit trees - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 1-3pm

Seed Sowing! Grow your own potatoes and tomatoes!

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 10-12noon

Garden planning and crop rotation - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 6.30 to 8.30pm

No Dig Gardening - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 1-3pm

Seed Sowing! Grow your own veg seeds - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 5-7pm

Seed Sowing! Grow your own veg seeds - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10-12noon

Garden tips and looking after your veg plants! - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 5-7pm

Garden tips and companion planting - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 5-7pm

Taking plant cuttings and harvesting tips - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 5-7pm

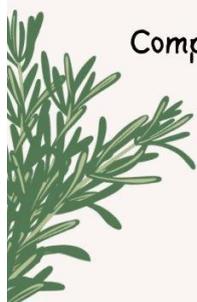
Composting and looking after the soil - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 5-7pm

Please get in touch to find out more and book a place!

Join us at Clarence Chare Allotments, Clarence Chare,

Newton Aycliffe DL5 5HX. 07340606402.

Great Aycliffe Garden Guild on [Facebook](#)



Outdoor  
And  
Sustainability  
Education  
Specialists

Compost toilet on site!



Aycliffe & District  
*Bus Preservation*  
 SOCIETY



**EVENTS 2026**

<b>FEB 21</b>	<b>AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY</b> The Story of the Newtonian • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Home Fleet • Free Bus Rides
<b>APR 18</b>	<b>DARLINGTON &amp; DURHAM RUNNING DAY</b> 10:00 - 16:00 Guest Vehicles • Stalls & Refreshments • Free Bus Rides
<b>MAY 30</b>	<b>AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY</b> The Story of LHN 860 • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Home Fleet • Free Bus Rides
<b>JUL 25</b>	<b>AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY</b> The Story of United • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Classic Vehicles • Free Bus Rides
<b>AUG 08</b>	<b>AYCLIFFE &amp; DISTRICT RUNNING DAY</b> The Story of ADBPS • 10:00 - 16:00 Guest Vehicles • Stalls & Refreshments • Free Bus Rides
<b>AUG 22</b>	<b>AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY</b> The Story of the Newtonian • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Home Fleet • Free Bus Rides
<b>DEC 12</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS AT AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM</b> 10:00 - 16:00 Visit Santa • Exhibition • Free Bus Rides

**BURTREE ROAD**  
**NEWTON AYCLIFFE**  
**DL5 6BL**

[aycliffe-bus.com](http://aycliffe-bus.com)

[aycliffebus](https://www.facebook.com/aycliffebus)

What Three Words: [works.ample.toned](https://www.what3words.com/worksampletoned)

Charity Number: 1158142 • Accredited Museum No - 320



### **A message from Alex Willis**

'I am the Chairman of the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society, based in Newton Aycliffe. We are a local registered charity dedicated to preserving and sharing the area's rich transport heritage through our vehicles, museum open days and community events.

We are very keen to encourage local students and their families to visit the museum, learn about local history, and enjoy a family-friendly day out right on their doorstep.

Our events for 2026 are as follows:

- Saturday, 21 February 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of the Newtonian
- Saturday, 18 April 2026 – Durham & Darlington Running Day (Rally Day)
- Saturday, 30 May 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of the Heartbeat Bus
- Saturday, 25 July 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of United (Classic Cars and Home Fleet)
- Saturday, 08 August 2026 – Aycliffe & District Running Day: Aycliffe on Wheels (Rally Day)
- Saturday, 22 August 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of Darlington Corporation (Classic Vehicles and Home Fleet)
- Saturday, 12 December 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Christmas Open Day: The Story of Our Vehicles

All of our events are designed to be welcoming, educational and enjoyable for families of all ages, and they provide a great opportunity for children to engage with local history in a hands-on and memorable way".

thrive

## Top-Up Swimming Lessons This February Half Term

Swimming  
Lessons

Durham County Council is offering free top-up swimming lessons this February half term for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who are not yet meeting the National Curriculum swimming and water safety requirements.

Swimming is an essential life skill. Being able to swim confidently, competently and understand water safety can help keep children safe. With County Durham's proximity to rivers, lakes, and the coastline, developing these skills is particularly important. These sessions aim to focus on building confidence, developing swimming skills, and helping pupils work towards the National Curriculum outcomes.

### Peterlee Leisure Centre

Monday 23 – Friday 27 February  
(5 x 30 minute lessons)

#### Available times:

1:00 – 1:30pm

1:30 – 2:00pm

To book please call

**03000 261 084**

### Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Monday 23 – Friday 27 February  
(5 x 30 minute lessons)

#### Available times:

9:00 – 9:30am

10:00 – 10:30am

10:30 – 11:00am

1:00 – 1:30pm

To book please call

**03000 266 466**



### The Louisa Centre Leisure Centre

Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 February  
(3 x 30 minutes lessons)

#### Available times:

10:00 – 10:30am

10:30 – 11:00am

To book please call

**03000 262 444**

### Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre

Monday 23 – Friday 27 February  
(5 x 30 minute lessons)

#### Available times:

11:00 – 11:30am

11:30 – 12:00 noon

To book please call

**03000 261 322**

### Lesson Booking Information:

To book a space for your eligible child, simply get in touch with the leisure centre you'd like to attend.

Please have your child's name, school, and school year ready.

We'll also ask for a contact telephone number and an email address so we can keep in touch.



### What's on Offer?

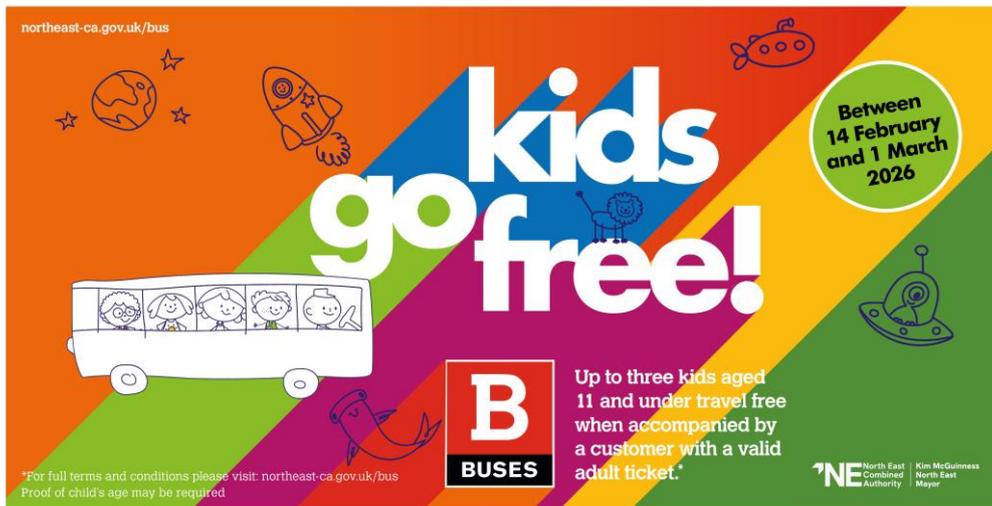
#### FREE\* top-up swimming lessons

\*for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils  
eligible for free school meals,  
available at four local swimming pools  
during the February half term.

#### FREE\*\* recreational swimming

\*\*available for all children and young  
people aged 18 and under throughout  
the February half term,  
across all 10 Durham County  
Council swimming pools.





*We have been asked to share the following information with all parents and carers.*

### **Kids Go Free and the reduced entrance fee to local attractions if you travel by bus.**

Jump aboard and explore the beautiful North East with a discount if you arrive by bus - <http://www.goodjourney.org.uk/>

#### **Kids Go Free on the Bus!**

During school holidays, up to 3 kids aged 11 and under can travel FREE when accompanied by an adult with a valid ticket - thanks to the Mayor's Kids Go Free initiative. Hop on and explore the North East!

#### **The Mayor's Fares:**

##### **Under 22 / GRF£1:**

This festive season, hop on the bus!  
With the Mayor's Fares travel for just £1 if you are 21 or under.  
👉 Visit [northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus](http://northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus)

##### **GRF£3:**

£3. All day. All over.  
Unlimited travel if you are 21 or under on bus, Metro & Shields Ferry with the Mayor's Fares.  
👉 Visit [northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus](http://northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus)

##### **Adult Fares / £2.50:**

Just £2.50!  
Take any single journey across the North East for no more than £2.50 with the Mayor's Fares!  
T&Cs apply.

##### **£7.50:**

One ticket. All day. Any bus! Anywhere across the North East with the Mayor's Fares!

# new football session

DELIVERED BY ALP ACTIVE

AGES: 5-8

FIRST SESSION 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH



- Greenfield Academy (indoors)
- 16:30 - 17:30
- Every Friday night
- £4 per child - first session free

**We have also been asked to share this with all parents and carers**

Dear Sugar Hill Primary School,  
We're launching a new Friday night football session for ages 5-8 at **Greenfield Academy**.  
We'd appreciate your help spreading the word to parents.

## **Session Details:**

- **Start Date:** First session 6th March
- **Time:** 16:30 - 17:30
- **Location:** Greenfield Academy (indoors)
- **Day:** Every Friday night
- **Cost:** £4 per child – **first session free**

This is a brilliant opportunity for your pupils to stay active, develop their football skills and have fun in a safe, supportive environment.

Given our strong local partnership, we'd really appreciate it if you could share this with parents – whether that's via your newsletter, parent app, or notice boards. We've attached a poster that's ready to go.

Here is the sign-up link for parents to register. They will be required to create an account:

<https://alpactive.ipalbookings.com/>

If you need any more information or have questions, just let me know.

Thanks for your continued support.

**Tyler Bowater**

ALP Active Attendant at Greenfield Academy  
greenfieldacademy.org.uk

**DIARY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR- Spring Term 2026**

**PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY EACH WEEK**

*Thank you*

**Spring Term (2)**

<b>WEEK 8</b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN</b>
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	School re-opens to all children
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	We warmly invite <b>Nursery</b> and <b>Reception</b> parent and carers to an Early Years Reading campfire trail  Nursery parents and carers are invited to attend at 1pm and Reception parents at 1:30pm. <i>Please note: part of this session will take place outside.</i>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>WORLD BOOK DAY is on THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH.</b> This will be a non-uniform day where children can come to school dressed as book characters.  <b>KS1 and KS2 parents and carers</b> (Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6) are invited to come into school <b>at 1:30pm for our 'Book Craft' afternoon.</b> You'll have the chance to take part in activities alongside your child and see some of the lovely work they have been doing.
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 4 and Class 6 Library Visit</b>

	All children are welcome to come into school in their pyjamas for bedside stories!
<b>WEEK 9</b>	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 5 Library Visit</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 9 Library Visit</b>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 7 and Class 10 Library Visits</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b>WEEK 10</b>	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 11 and Class 12 Library Visits</b>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 8 and Class 13 Library Visits</b>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 14 Library Visit</b> <b>Red Nose Day- non-uniform day</b>
<b>WEEK 11</b>	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>Class 1 Library Visit</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 2 Library Visit</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b>WEEK 12</b>	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Nursery Library Visits with parents and carers- more information to follow via Tapestry</b> <b>Last day of Spring Term</b>

Wishing you and your families a **very happy, safe, and restful half-term holiday.**

**We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for the next exciting term ahead! Please remember school is closed Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and we will see you all Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

Kind regards,

Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs Legge