

This half-term's Pathway:

Reflection

January 2026

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026. By now, you should have received a copy of your child's year group newsletter as well as the Spring Term Dates. As always, this term will be busy so please make sure that you check our website, Facebook page and Parenthub messages regularly.



Attendance Winners

Our attendance cup winners for January 2026 were:

Week ending	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
16 th January	Miss Pearson	Mrs Leavesley
23 rd January	Mrs Vellender/Mrs Nicholls	Mrs Rawle/Miss Hadley
30 th January	Miss Swansborough and Miss Pearson	Mrs Rawle/Miss Hadley

Safeguarding Update

Over the coming weeks we will be focusing on children's mental health as well as online safety. Along with our assemblies and PSHE lessons, Phase Trust will host workshops for our Year 5 and 6 pupils.

The theme for Internet Safety Day is: **'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'**. Further resources to support conversations with your child can be found at:

- **Safer Internet** - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers> or <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>
- **Childnet** - <https://www.childnet.com/>
- **Our online safety page** - <https://www.straitsprimaryschool.com/online-safety/>

The Theme for Children's Mental Health Week is: **'This Is My Place'** and the following are useful resources for families.

- **Children's Mental health Week** - <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>
- **Happier Minds** - A mental wellbeing website for young people, parents/carers and school-based staff in Dudley <https://happierminds.org.uk/>
- **Place to Be** <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>
- **Mental Health** <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>
- **BBC** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/childrens-mental-health-week/zk37bdm>
- **Young Minds** <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Open the Door @ Straits



On Tuesday 20th January, we hosted an 'Open the Door' event for parents of our Year 6 children and on Tuesday 27th January we hosted a session for our Reception parents. These were lovely opportunities for parents to join their child in school and they had great fun exploring a range of maths activities together as well as finding out about some ideas they could try at home.

All future sessions will be from 9.00am – 10.00am and dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 25th February – Year 2
- Wednesday 15th April – Year 4
- Tuesday 28th April – Year 5

Year 2 Knights and Castles Day

On Friday 23rd January, Year 2 had a very exciting visit from Sir Robert the Hood who came to teach them all about Knights and Castles. The children had a fantastic day learning about what Saxon and Norman soldiers would wear in battle, taking part in a jousting competition, building a castle and exploring how to attack a castle using a trebuchet. The children learnt lots and looked amazing in their costumes!



People who help us



This term, Reception will welcome a range of visitors into their classroom to support their 'People who help us' topic. They've already found out how to cross the road safely and have been visited by a nurse, police officer, dentist and a vet. Future visits include: a police dog handler, a paramedic, the fire service and a postal worker.

Parking

I have been having contact with local residents, who continue to raise concerns about the parking around school at the start and end of the day. The local residents have asked that consideration is shown to those who live in the vicinity of the school and that parents do not block driveways, use driveways to turn around in or park fully on the pavement so that no-one can pass. It has also been noted that cars are driving too quickly on the roads around school and that some parents are parking on bends and near crossings so that it is dangerous for pedestrians to walk on pavements or to cross roads safely. Please can we work together to keep our children safe.

Upcoming Events

February

Monday 2 nd	Reception 'Play Village' Day
Monday 9 th	Book Fair in school for one week
Monday 9 th	Children's Mental Health week
Tuesday 10 th	Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 10 th	Year 3 Egyptian Day
Tuesday 10 th	Parents' Evening (3.50pm – 7.00pm)
Wednesday 11 th	Year 5 Victorian Day
Thursday 12 th	Parents' Evening (3.50pm – 7.00pm)
Monday 16 th	Half-term
Monday 23 rd	Back to school
Tuesday 24 th	Year 5 Robotics Day
Wednesday 25 th	Year 1 Bodenham Arboretum trip
Wednesday 25 th	Year 2 'Open the Door' @ 9.00am
Friday 27 th	Reception Chinese New Year Day

March

Thursday 5 th	World Book Day
Monday 9 th	Year 4 Residential
Tuesday 10 th	Year 4 Residential
Tuesday 10 th	Year 2 Mothers' Day event @ 2.45pm
Wednesday 11 th	Reception Mothers' Day event @ 2.45pm
Thursday 12 th	Year 1 Mothers' Day event @ 2.45pm
Wednesday 18 th	Musical Theatre production @ 6.00pm
Thursday 19 th	Musical Theatre production @ 6.00pm
Friday 20 th	Red Nose Day
Friday 20 th	Year 5 Easter Story @ Himley Church
Thursday 26 th	School Discos (after school)
Friday 27 th	Last Day of Term - earlier finish @ 2.00pm

Key Information

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February from 3.50pm until 7.00pm. Bookings for this event are now live and will close on Wednesday 4th February. Discussions with your child's teacher will take place in their classroom and Mr Freear and Mr Wade will be available in the hall along with the school nurse, our uniform provider, an opportunity to taste our new hot meals menu, lost property and the Book Fair.

Healthy Breaktimes

Reminder - you will recall that we shared information with you regarding our 'healthy breaktimes' policy asking that children eat a healthy snack at breaktime. This could be a piece of fruit or vegetable, a cereal bar, a yoghurt or crackers and cheese. The items we will be asking our children not to eat at breaktimes are crisps or chocolate bars; please do not send these into school as your child's breaktime snack.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be in school the week commencing Monday 9th February. The children will have a chance to visit the Fair on Monday 9th and then the fair will be open for families to visit (to purchase books) on Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th, from 3.30pm – 4.00pm and at parents' evening (Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th) from 4.00pm – 7.00pm.

Early 'heads up' – we will be inviting children to dress up on World Book Day (Thursday 5th March).