

# Monthly Newsletter

January 2026



## New Year, New Start

Christmas and New Year seem to be a distant memory as we approach the middle of January. However, we hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and have now returned to your everyday routines. It was lovely to see the snow on our first day back and the children loved the opportunity to play and explore in the snow.

This term we would like to welcome Mrs Verity Lockwood, as a permanent member of the school teaching team in Owls class. The pupils have already made Mrs Lockwood feel very welcome!

In this newsletter, please find a range of information keeping you informed of new developments taking place in school this term. We have also included our usual 'Dates for your Diary' which we hope keeps you informed of school events taking place this term.



## The 'Zen Den'

Over the last year we have been raising funds to help improve our wellbeing space in school with the help of Tesco 'Stronger Starts' Fundraising Scheme and donations from the PTFA. We are very excited to say the 'Zen Den' is now open and supporting our pupils in school each day. This space has been fully equipped and resourced using these vital funds. A huge thank you for your help and support in raising this money to support all of our pupils across the school we couldn't have made this possible without your assistance. Thank you.



# Reading Challenge

This term all the classes have been re-introduced to our whole school reading challenge with the theme 'Reading Around the World'. The children begin the challenge with their first passport bookmark at home with their suitcase. Each time they read they are able to colour in a star and when a bookmark is complete, they are given a reward of 10 house points and move onto their 2<sup>nd</sup> passport bookmark travelling to a new country. Many of the pupils have already made a fantastic start and are working towards completing their first passport bookmark. We look forward to seeing how far around the world the children can travel. Do help your child to travel as far around the world as possible, good luck everyone!



## Thank you Howarth Timber!



On the last day of the Autumn Term, we felt very lucky to be the recipients of a huge sack of toys donated by Howarth Timber and Building Supplies. It is wonderful to be part of such a kind and caring local community who want to help and support our pupils. The children were overjoyed at the opportunity to select a toy or game of their choice, at the start of the Christmas holidays.

Our school ethos committee received the sack of toys on behalf of the rest of the school and thanked our guests from 'Howarths' who enjoyed meeting our pupils.

## Online Safety Tips

This month, we are providing advice on 'online gaming'. Many families will have bought new devices as Christmas presents or vouchers towards online games. However, it is important we know the risks these could pose and ways we can keep our children safe when playing them. Please find below a link to the NSPCC website which gives some helpful advice.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>



# Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

NURTURE - GROW - SUCCEED TOGETHER

## Dates for your Diary

### SPRING TERM 2026

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	PTFA meeting
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Y4 Dodgeball Sports Competition
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5/Y6 Tchoukball Sports Competition
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/Y6 Futsal Sports Competition
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day in School

### 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February      HALF-TERM WEEK

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	4-6.30pm Parents Evening
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/Y6 Girls Benchball Sports Competition
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	4-6pm Parents Evening
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y5/Y6 Netball Competition
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Skateboard Workshop Day
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30-4pm Book Fair in the School Hall
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30-4pm Book Fair in the School Hall
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Big Sing event St Edmundsbury Cathedral
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/Y6 Basketball Sports Competition
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term

### SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
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**BEST WISHES**

**MISS TYLER**

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**