

NEWSLETTER

16th May 2025

Clubs

Day	Club
Monday	Knitting (4.30pm finish)
Tuesday	Tennis (4.30pm finish)
Wednesday	Football (4.30pm finish) French (4.30pm finish) Class 3 TT Rockstars (4.30pm finish)
Thursday	Photography (4.30pm finish) Cricket (4.30pm finish)
Breakfast club daily	From 7.30am
After school club daily	Until 5.30pm

FAB AWARDS

- ★ Evie
- ★ Archie
- ★ Lucy
- ★ All Year 6
- ♥ June
- ♥ Esther
- ♥ Jude
- ♥ Izzy & Lacey

**Children achieving
100% this week
across school
96.1%**

Quick glance dates...

Date	Event
23 rd May	Last day of term
2 nd June	Return

This week we wish Happy Birthday to...
We have no Birthdays this week!



This week at St Mary's...

It has been a privilege to see the Year 6's complete their SATs with such positivity and determination. Across school, the children have taken the slight changes to routine in their stride and we thank them for respecting the quiet that the Year 6's needed to focus. We have enjoyed our lunch outside today in the sunshine and there has been lots of fun and games happening in Class 4 to celebrate the end of a long week. Class 1 have some new visitors in their classroom in the form of tiny caterpillars which has brought about much excitement and discussion. Children in class 2 have shown me some wonderful writing this week and have enjoyed their singing sessions with Steve and Ruth.

House Leaderboard



Oak

326



Birch

232



Pine

285

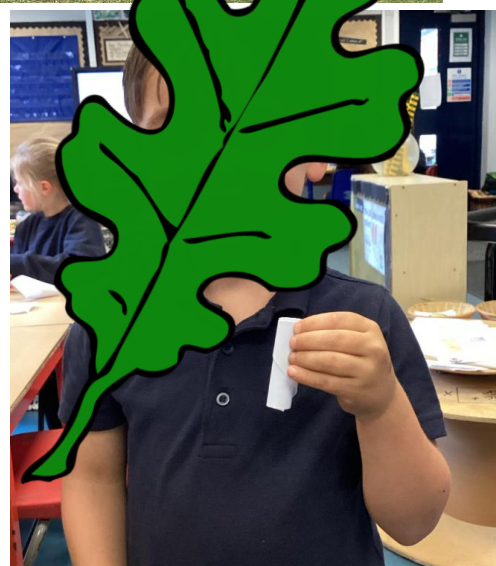


Willow

328

Our week in photos!

Reminder that photos accessed on Class Dojo are not to be shared on any social media.



Notices

Please remember:

- Children should not be wearing jewellery except for one set of studs for pierced ears if a consent form has been completed.
- Please ensure children are in PE kit on PE days only and that this is the correct uniform colours – White/Navy. No footballs shirts to be worn.
- The car park is for staff and visitor vehicles only, please refrain from using the carpark unless in an emergency.
- No **Photography club** next week.
- As the weather continues to stay warm please ensure children have had suncream applied before school and bring a water bottle/hat with them.

School Dinners

As the weather is now getting rather warm children will **ALL** eat their lunch in the school hall except on **Fridays** where (when it is not too hot) **everyone** will have the opportunity to eat outside and enjoy the sunshine! Children have enjoyed eating their cooked school dinner outside today!



Chicken enchiladas

Home-made chocolate buns



Fur-st Day of School

Some schools have a very special helper... with four paws and a waggy tail! The National School Dog Alliance is running a competition to find the UK's School Dog of the Year 2025. Many schools across the country have dogs who visit or live at school, to help children feel calm and happy. There are different types of school dog. Some only visit for a short time. They might come with a charity or a special helper. Other dogs live at the school all year, because they belong to a teacher or



Picture: A dog studying the 'bones' of maths. **Source:** Canva.

staff member. Studies show that having dogs in school can help children feel better. They can also help if someone feels nervous or upset. Some children even read stories to their school dog, to help build their confidence.

Do you have a dog or another animal at your school? What do they do? Are they funny, helpful, or just very cuddly?



Picture: A dog getting ready for his 'fur-st' day of school. **Source:** Canva.

Balloons Over Bristol

Some lucky schools in Bristol might get a very special visitor, a hot air balloon! The Schools Tether Roadshow is giving schools in the Bristol area the chance to host a balloon right in their playground. The balloon won't fly away but will be safely tied to the ground, so children can see it up close. It's part of the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta, the biggest balloon festival in Europe! Every August, hundreds of hot air balloons float over the city, and many people come to watch. Now, children can learn all about how hot air balloons work, meet real balloon



Picture: Hot air balloons flying in the sky! **Source:** Bristol International Balloon Fiesta on Facebook.

pilots, and find out about the science and teamwork behind flying. 'We can't wait to inspire the balloonists and engineers of the future,' said Ben Hardy, the fiesta's executive director. He also said the roadshow aims to capture the imagination of children, teachers and parents alike. **Would you like to take a ride in a hot air balloon?**

Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?



I think that it should be everyone's responsibility because it will help our environment so we won't be breathing in toxins ... if we don't clean up our mess then animals could get stuck or birds might eat glass and we don't want that. **Minnie**

Let us know what you think about this week's news

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Windows of Opportunity

Teachers and staff have confirmed that adding 70 windows to a school in Illinois, USA, has improved students' wellbeing and performance. Funding from glass cleaner producer, Windex, through their 'Windows of Opportunity' programme, has enabled Eisenhower Elementary to introduce much more natural light to their classrooms. Some schools built in the 1970s were made without many windows on purpose, because it was believed that this would reduce distractions and help students focus better and learn more! Many people, including staff, at Eisenhower Elementary School now believe the opposite



Picture: Teacher and pupils in a classroom with large windows. **Source:** Canva.

to be true. School psychologist, Amanda Howell, explained how things at school have improved, 'What we have been finding is that it really has increased their moods. In general, we see much more positive attitudes. Absence rate also is decreasing.' Principal at the school, Tim Chipman, said, 'To look up, look out, see a tree, a cloud, snow falling, gives them the inspiration they need to keep learning.'

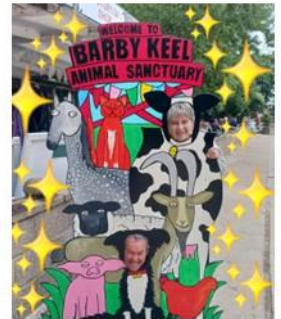
Are you surprised by these findings? Do you prefer natural or artificial light?



Picture: Before and after pictures of Eisenhower Elementary School. **Source:** Windows of Opportunity / Windex on YouTube.

No Slowing at Ninety

90-year-old, Barby Keel, has helped over 10,000 animals at her animal sanctuary in Sussex, UK. She opened the Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary in 1979, and is still working hard today - with no plans to slow down or retire! She began with just three animals - two dogs and a bushbaby. Barby explained how her charity grew, 'Before long I had about 40 cats, and started taking in farm animals like sheep, cows, pigs, and goats.' There are now more than 600 rescued creatures being cared for, including 160 cats, 16 pigs, 8 dogs, 6 horses, 100 chickens and 80 rabbits. Barby has 14 volunteers to help her run the sanctuary. Some of the animals are re-homed, but the majority live out their days on Barby's 12-acre plot. It isn't always easy as she goes on to explain, 'I'm always told that I don't seem like



Picture: Barby Keel at her animal sanctuary. **Source:** Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary (Registered Charity No. 1095382) on Facebook.

I'm 90 years old. Hard work and a breakfast of beans every morning keeps me going. Some days I am shattered, it's hard work. But then I get a little nose 'boop' or a face peers up at me, and I remember why I'm doing this. I don't have plans to stop any day soon. My animals come first and always will.'

Have you ever visited an animal sanctuary? How can we help animals that don't have a loving home?

Whose job is it to keep our local places clean and tidy?



Everyone because people should be helpful and pick up litter but the bin people also need to help since that is their job. **Joshua**

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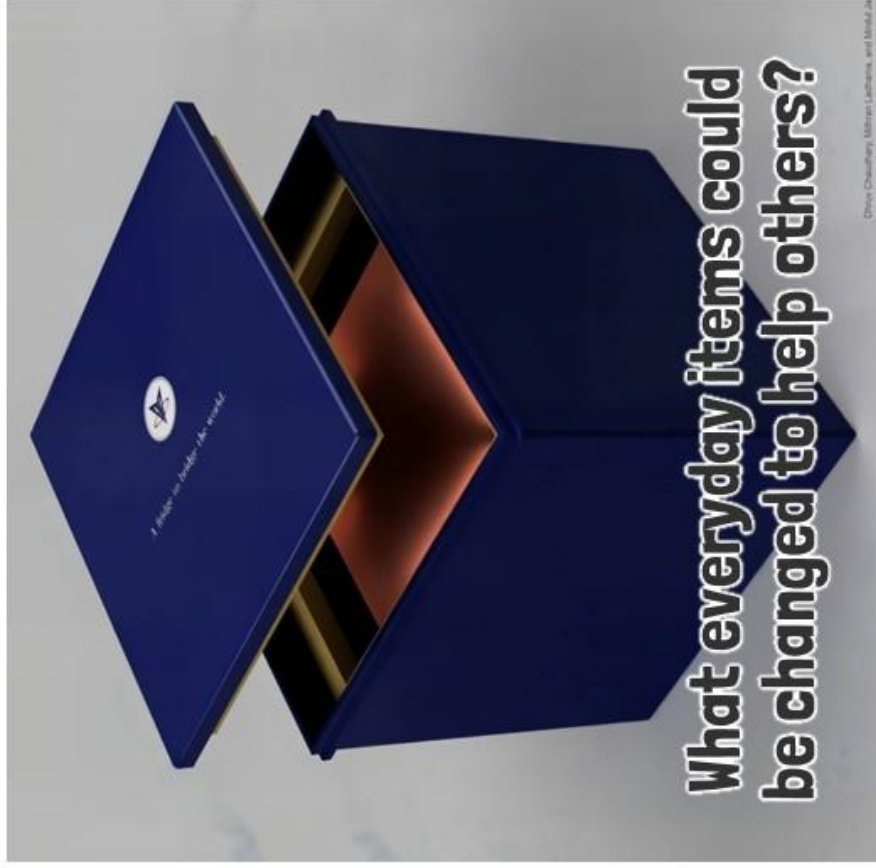
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TAKEHOME

12th - 18th
Play



What everyday items could be changed to help others?

Dhruv Chaudhary, Mithran Ladhania, and Mridul Jain

In the news this week

Three teenagers from Indore, India – Dhruv Chaudhary, Mithran Ladhania, and Mridul Jain – have created a salt-powered fridge. Their goal is to support hospitals in rural areas around the world that lack access to electricity. Their invention, called the Thermavault, was submitted to The Earth Prize, a global competition which aims to inspire young people to solve world-wide problems.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your thoughts on the new fridge invention. Who do you believe will benefit most from it?
- > Make a list of everyday items at home. Which make your life easier?
- > Can you think of an item you use that could be improved? How?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

