

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of the Spring term 2025.

## Curriculum

I am pleased to report that the children have quickly settled back into their learning and we have been impressed with their engagement and excitement at the start of the spring term. See previous email about curriculum letters with further information about your child's learning.

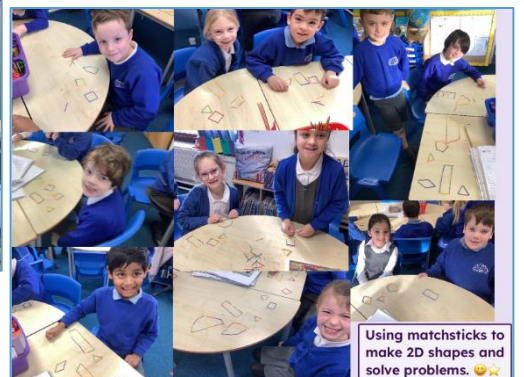


### Curriculum news

This week in Y5, during our French lesson, we learnt about the tradition of la Galette des rois, that French people celebrate every year on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany day. La galette is a cake that hides a lucky charm inside and the person who finds the charm in their slice becomes king or queen for the day. *Ms Duo*



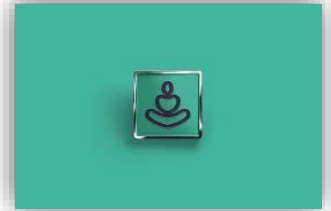
Here are a few photos of learning across the curriculum with photos of Reception's frosty walk, Year 1 Challenge time, Year 2 Maths, Year 3 Computing and Year 4 P.E.





### Well-being award

At the end of last term, Holbrook school was delighted to receive the Well-being badge from the Diana Anti-Bullying Award. This award was in recognition of the work of the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who have introduced break time boxes and mindfulness monitors, led assemblies and workshops, as well as choreographing drama performances. Well done!



### Term-time absence

A reminder that absence from school can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances e.g medical appointments, family bereavements, exams etc. There is no legal entitlement to holidays during term time and these will automatically be classed as unauthorised.

We sometime receive messages from parents/carers stating that their child is away from school unwell, even though the child has already indicated in school that they will be on holiday. This puts the child in a very difficult position and we would like to gently remind you that honesty is the best policy in these circumstances, as well as being one of Holbrook school's five values. If we are made aware that a child is on holiday, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

In line with the DfE guidelines and the West Sussex Code of Conduct, a child who accrues 10 or more unauthorised absences (equivalent to 5 days) in a 10-week period is referred to the Local Authority, who will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to parents. If you are unsure or require further clarification, please visit the school website [here](#) or contact the school office.

### Attendance

In line with DfE requirements, monitoring of pupil attendance takes place regularly. Those parents/carers whose child's attendance is 90% or below will be notified via letter shortly, offering support to improve their child's attendance. If attendance continues to deteriorate and there is no clear reason, such as a health/medical condition, the parents/carers will be invited to a meeting in school.



### Safeguarding - Online Safety

#### Free webinars for Parents through Cyber Choices: THE DIGITAL DILEMMA: Keeping Your Kids Safe Online

Thames Valley Police Cyber Protect are running free webinars to help parents and carers understand some of the risks young people face online, and how they can best protect themselves and their family from falling victim to cyber-criminal behaviours.

Covering social media, gaming and emails, this webinar will give you tips and tricks to help you protect them in today's online world. The webinar is running three times over the next few weeks, and tickets are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/police-south-east-cyber-77121396093> Reserve your space today!



## Picture News

This week's topic for discussion is 'Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?' – see below.



## In the news this week

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has stated that building new homes is a 'top priority.' The government has announced changes to planning rules, aiming to make it easier to build homes in the countryside. Local areas have been set targets to deliver a total of 370,000 new homes each year in England.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > What type of home do you live in? What are the advantages of where you live? Is there anything you find difficult about it?
- > Talk about the area around your home. What facilities are there?
- > Ask an adult whether they know of the nearest 'green belt' areas close to where you live.



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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### CHARTWELLS ORDER CUT OFF DATES

CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59	FOR WEEK COMMENCING
16 <sup>th</sup> January	27 <sup>th</sup> January
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	3 <sup>rd</sup> February
30 <sup>th</sup> January	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb

### Diary Dates (new additions in bold)

<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Y4 virtual Titanic Museum</b>
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Y3 swimming starts</b>
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent Workshop -Supporting children's social and emotional development <b>TBC</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Young Voices at the O2
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half Term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY- school closed to pupils
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Y5 trip to Herstmonceaux</b>

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Ian Holmes  
Headteacher