George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 27th February 2026

As we come to the end of our first week back after half term, and I am delighted to share some wonderful news with you — our school has been awarded School of Sanctuary status.

What School of Sanctuary mean?

Being recognised as a School of Sanctuary means that we are formally acknowledged as a school that is committed to creating a culture of welcome, understanding and inclusion. It reflects our ongoing work to ensure that every child and family feels safe, valued and respected within our community.

As a School of Sanctuary, we:

- Promote kindness, respect and empathy.
- Help pupils understand what it means to seek safety.
- Celebrate diversity within our school and wider community.
- Ensure that our values are lived out in everyday practice.

This award recognises the ethos that already exists within our school — one where children are encouraged to show compassion, stand up for others and understand the importance of belonging. A huge thank you to Mrs Waller who has led the school to achieve this status for our children and our families. Thank you Mrs Waller!



Looking ahead, next Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day. Miss Whing, our English and Reading Lead, has planned a fun-filled day of reading-inspired activities, some of which will take place as

house events. We are very much looking forward to celebrating our love of reading together and sharing the joy that books bring.

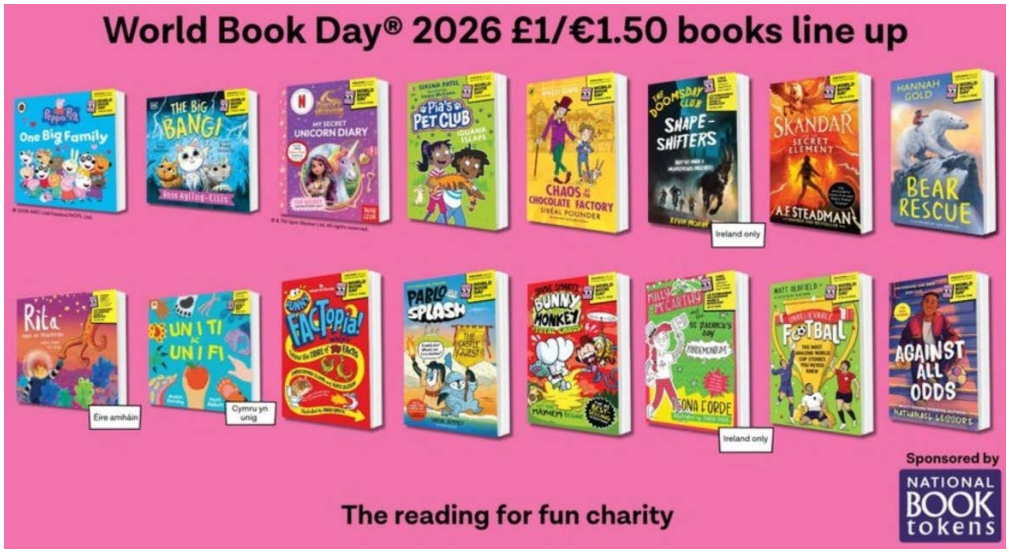
Have a lovely weekend.



On Thursday 5th we will be celebrating World Book Day, children are encouraged to come dressed as a character from a book or in their pyjamas.

All children will be taking part in whole-school activities that celebrate the magic of books, alongside exciting, creative activities within their year groups. Throughout the day, we'll be sharing stories, sparking imaginations, and celebrating our love of reading together.

Next week every child will be coming home with a World Book Day voucher which can be exchanged for one of this year's World Book Day books, these are available in supermarkets and book shops.



This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week. Each individual child's attendance counts towards this.

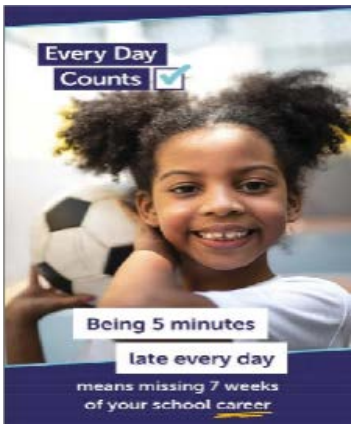
Well-done to 4T this week, for having the highest attendance.

6E: 97%
6W: 98%
5W: 89%
5D: 93%
4T: 100%
4B: 99%
3C: 95%
3L: 95%

Whole school attendance for this week: 96%

School Target: 96%

Please remember the gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:50.



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Thorpe, Miss Whing, Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020



Look at what we're learning

Year 3

Year 3 have been exploring **equivalent fractions**, discovering how different fractions can represent the same amount, such as 1/2 and 2/4. Using visual models and practical activities, the children have built confidence in explaining how fractions can look different but have equal value.





Year 4

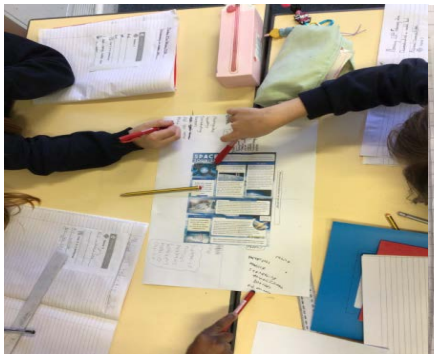
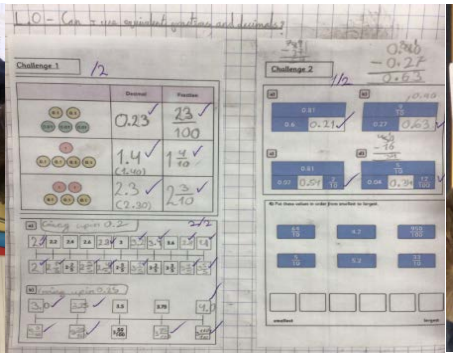
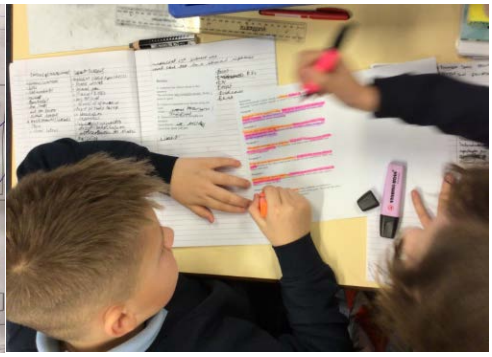
Year 4 has had a lovely first week back after half-term. In mathematics, we have been focusing on tenths. We began by recapping our fractions learning from before half-term and remembering tenths as fractions. Then, we began making connections between tenths as fractions and tenths as decimals. We then applied this learning to number lines. We are now experts in all things 'tenths' related!





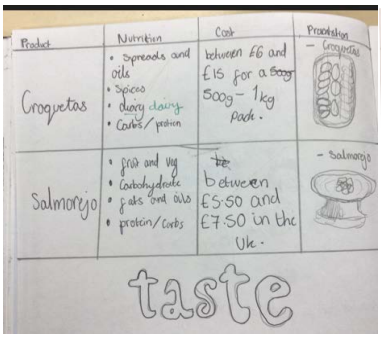
Year 5

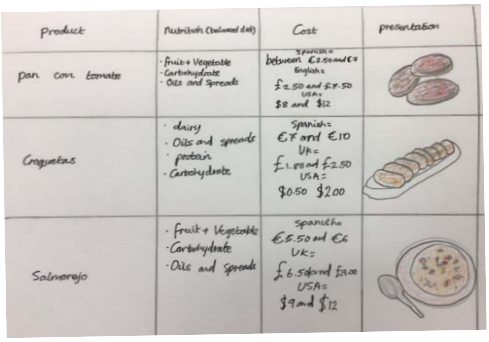
Year 5 have had a fantastic first week back! The children have returned with great attitudes, settled quickly into routines and are already working incredibly hard. In PE, we have started developing our netball skills, focusing on the different types of passes. In Geography, we have launched our new topic on tectonic plate movement, and the class has shown great curiosity learning about how earthquakes and volcanoes are formed. Well done Year 5!

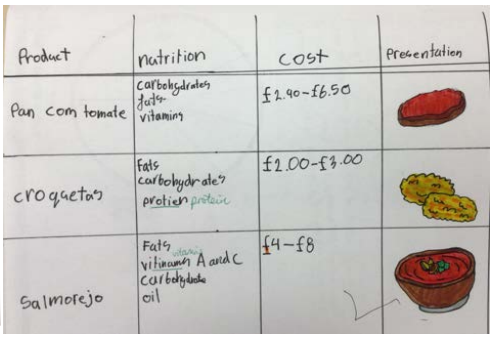




Year 6

In Year 6 this week we have begun to think about plastic pollution and climate change in our English and Geography lessons. We are planning to write a persuasive letter about single-use plastic. In DT, we focused on nutrition and the balance of foods needed for a healthy lifestyle. We applied this to our research on Spanish foods, which we will be sampling and making ourselves in the upcoming weeks.

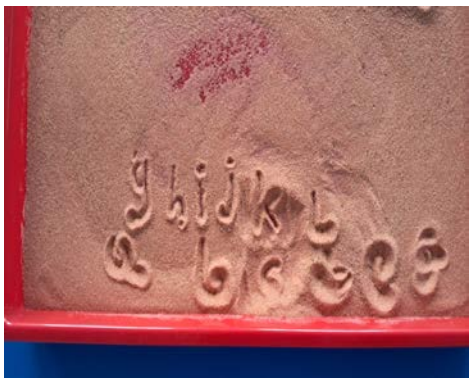
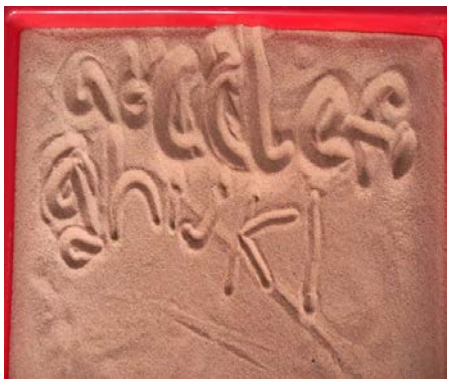






SRB

This week, we are focusing on handwriting. This begins with letter formation and fine motor development. We have been using sand to write letters using fingers, paintbrushes and sticks, and then an adult has supported children to start and end letters in the correct place. We will move from here to writing legibly in our books so that we can read and be proud of our work.


Dates for the Diary 2025/2026

Thursday 5th March	World Book Day – Children are welcome to come dressed in either a costume related to a book or in their pyjamas and we will be carrying out a range of book related activities throughout the day.
Monday 9th March	Year 4 Trip to How Hill
Tuesday 17th March	Year 3 Trip to Norwich Castle Museum
Tuesday 17th March	Open Classroom for all year groups 3.20pm
Wednesday 18th March	Year 6 Visiting Sewell Park Academy Science Experience Day
Tuesday 24th March	School Photographer in taking Class group photos and Year 6 Leavers Portraits
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day
Thursday 26th March	Easter Bonnet Competition and parade
Friday 27th March	End of Spring Term – 3.20pm
Tuesday 14th April	Start of Summer term 1 – gates open at 8.30am
Monday 4th May	Bank holiday Monday – school is not open on this day
Monday 1st June – Wednesday 3rd June	Year 6 Residential trip to Eaton Vale
Monday 8th June	Aspirations Week- Details to follow