



ALL SAINTS' THURLESTONE

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the first half of the spring term, it has been a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on just how much our children have achieved. Week after week, they continue to impress us—not only with the progress they are making, but with their enthusiasm, curiosity, and positivity.

As I spend time in different classes, I am consistently struck by their attitudes towards learning. Whether they are eagerly sharing what they've mastered in their steel pan music lessons, proudly talking through their sculpture work in art, or showcasing their increasingly impressive pieces of writing, their excitement is infectious. It is a joy to see them so engaged and so keen to celebrate their learning.

Looking ahead to next term, we have many exciting opportunities planned. World Book Day preparations are already underway, and we know it will be a wonderful celebration of reading across the school. Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are also gearing up for their residential—an experience that always brings adventure, independence, and lifelong memories. We also have our parent evening consultations in the first week back, please sign up for an appointment if you have not already done so.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you all a restful, enjoyable, and well-deserved half-term break.

Warm regards,
Mrs Ruston

Advance Notice: World Book Day — Thursday 5th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day with a range of fun activities, including dressing up as a favourite book character. There's no need to purchase a costume—there are plenty of simple, creative ideas that can be made at home, and staff are always happy to help with suggestions.

We would also like to invite parents and carers into school to share a book with your child/ren from **3:00–3:20pm** in the afternoon. We look forward to celebrating a love of reading together!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 16th February- Friday 20th February – Half Term

Monday 23rd February- Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 24th February and Wednesday 25th February- Parent consultations

Thursday 5th March- World book day

Monday 9th March- Friday 13th March -Year 5/6 Residential

Monday 16th March- Friday 20th March- Science Week

Wednesday 1st April- 9:00am Easter Service at church (all welcome)

Thursday 2nd April- Last day of Term

Friday 3rd April- Easter Holidays

Monday 20th April- Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 21st April- First day of term

Forest school sessions next term-

Steeple Cove and Yarmer catch up sessions:

Tuesday 24th February

Tuesday 3rd March

Sedgewell Cove and Leas Foot:

Friday 27th February

Tuesday 10th March

Tuesday 17th March

Friday 20th March

Tuesday 24th March

Steeple Cove Nursery



Steeple Cove have been very busy this last week before half term! Exploring the difference between opposites and spreading the love by getting creative with our Valentine's Day cards.

On Tuesday the children managed to explore the Forest school area with only a little amount of rain, they made mud soup in the mud kitchen in the forest as well as exploring the different wildlife they may find in the fields. We cannot wait for our Forest school sessions next term, and we will be starting our music sessions once again!

Yarmer (Reception/Year 1)

We've had a busy and exciting week in class!

In RE, we explored *The Precious Pearl* and talked about how it symbolises things that are truly valuable and worth caring for. The children made their own special boxes to keep a "pearl" safe and were very thoughtful in their designs. We also braved a very wet and rainy Forest School session — the children were still full of enthusiasm and loved the adventure! This week included a secret mission too: making a special card for Mrs Oggelsby as she gets ready for maternity leave. Finally, we learned about Queen Elizabeth II, looking at key events in her life and adding them to a class timeline. A lovely week of learning, creativity and excitement!

Leas Foot (Year 1 and 2)

This week in Leas Foot we have enjoyed being musicians, learning the rhythm and singing and performing 'rainfall' in groups to the class. As artists we spent time reflecting on our sculptures from last week at the beach and thought about how ours showed similarities and differences to the work of Andy Goldsworthy. During internet safety day earlier in the week, we learnt about voice assistance and how they can be used safely and how they are different to humans. Finally, children had a great PE session on Wednesday, being excellent team players and showing lots of encouragement to each other!

Sedgewell Cove (Year 3 and 4)

Sedgewell have been fantastic writers this week by finishing off the tour of the water cycle where they were leading it for the water wanderers – lovely writing! As mathematicians we have enjoyed learning how to measure and calculate the perimeter of shapes. In Geography we were enthralled by earthquakes, how they are caused and the different types there are. We had our last steel drums lesson (for now) and it was wonderful to see such focus from everyone during the lesson. It's been so great to learn these unique percussion instruments and look forward to returning to them later in the year.



Butter Cove (Year 4 and 5)

Butter Cove have really enjoyed learning about Scott of the Antarctic in readiness to recreate a diary entry for English. The language they are using is impressive and I am so pleased prior learning is sinking in, where they are using fronted adverbials and relative clauses as well as creative language. We have been converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa this week. It is a tricky skill, but I have been really impressed with their perseverance. I have been blown away with their IT skills, creating Scratch animations and teaching me a few tricks too! As historians, they have learnt what life was like in Britain as a Viking, understanding their customs, clothing and food.

Bantham (Year 6)

We have had another fantastic week in Bantham this week and I am feeling super proud of all the hard all the children have worked this half term. A huge well done to all the children that have joined our morning SATS session this half term. These sessions are open to all and will be focusing on both English (grammar and reading) and Maths. These sessions run on a Tuesday and Thursday from 8am and are run by the wonderful Mrs Mckay.



This half term in art, we have been exploring the work of Henry Moore and have created our own sculptures inspired by his work. The children loved exploring how to manipulate wire to build the armature and then build bulk and create smooth textures using tissue paper. In our IT sessions, we have been creating a piano on Scratch! I was super impressed with the perseverance all the children showed whilst navigating the coding site.

Attendance

Thank you for all your efforts to maximise the children's attendance. We would really to see an improvement in our attendance, let's work together to achieve this.

The attendance this week can be seen on the table below.

Whole school attendance (Target 98%)	93.5
Yarmer (Reception/ Year 1)	92.3%
Leas Foot (Year 1/ Year 2)	92.6%
Sedgewell Cove (Year 3 and 4)	93.1%
Butter Cove (Year 4 and 5)	92.3%
Bantham (Year 6)	97.4%

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week

Steeple Cove Nursery	Austin Matley
Yarmer (Reception/ Year 1)	Lotty Beau-Arthur
Leas Foot (Year 1 and 2)	Noah BrownJohn

Sedgewell Cove (Year 3 and 4)	Rowan Kaczmarski
Butter Cove (Year 4 and 5)	Freddie Bouverat
Bantham (Year 6)	Charlie Taylor

Home learning

Yarmer (Reception/ Year 1)	R – Maths activity sheet: 1 + letter formation ‘h’ Y1 – Maths activity sheet: 6+ spellings ‘er’ ‘est’
Leas Foot (Year 1 and 2)	Y1 – Maths activity sheet and spellings ‘er’ and ‘est’ Y2 – Maths activity sheet and homophone words.
Sedgewell Cove (Year 3 and 4)	Spellings, a Maths activity sheet about perimeter and TTRS please – approx. 3 x garage games at least 4 times a week.
Butter Cove (Year 4 and 5)	Spellings and English grammar activity. Please can you go on Rollama and TTRS.
Bantham (Year 6)	Over half term I have created a small learning pack to be completed. This includes a reading comprehension, a SPaG test and an arithmetic paper. These do not need to be completed independently or need to be timed. Don't forget to log on to Rollama and TTRS!