



# Yox Valley Newsletter

Spring Term 2 - March 2026

Dear Families,

At last, there are signs that Spring is on its way and the weather is beginning to brighten. This term, as always, has passed quickly, and the children have enjoyed a rich variety of curriculum experiences and wider opportunities.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the final term for our wonderful Year 6 pupils. This is a special and emotional milestone – a chance to celebrate their achievements, reflect on their journey, and prepare for the exciting transition to secondary school.

Before the celebrations begin, our Year 6 children will be taking their SATs. These assessments, running from Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May, offer pupils the chance to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have developed throughout their primary years.

While SATs play an important role, they are just one part of your child's learning story. They do not measure creativity, kindness, effort, or the many unique qualities that make each child who they are. Our aim is to help pupils feel confident, supported, and ready to do their best without unnecessary pressure.

## How you can help at home:

- Ensure your child gets plenty of rest and a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Offer encouragement and reassurance, focusing on effort rather than results.
- Keep routines calm, predictable, and positive throughout the week.

We will be offering a light breakfast in school each morning to help pupils start the day feeling settled and ready to learn. Please ensure your Year 6 child attends school every day during SATs week. Further details will be shared early in the new term.



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In the weeks ahead, Year 6 will also take part in a range of activities designed to make their final term memorable.

These will include:

- End-of-Year Production - A wonderful opportunity for our pupils to showcase their talents and teamwork.
- Leavers' Assembly - A heartfelt celebration of their time at our school, filled with smiles and (quite possibly) a few tears.
- Residential - Two nights away with friends and teachers, offering new experiences and a chance to build confidence and independence.
- Leavers' Party - An evening of fun, music, and friendship to mark the end of their primary journey.
- Transition Activities - Opportunities to meet new teachers, ask questions, and build confidence ahead of their move to secondary school.

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent consultations this half term. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher, please arrange an appointment after the Easter break so you can discuss their progress.

Please also look out for class newsletters when we return, which will outline the learning for the upcoming term. Do talk to your child about their new learning focuses and ask them to share what they are discovering in school.

The Summer Term promises to be full of exciting events, including plays, sports days, class photos, and assemblies. Please continue to check the diary page and your emails for updates.

We wish you a happy and restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April.

Happy Easter,

Katy Last

Academy Head



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# Academic Calendar 2025/26

Half Term 30<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> April

Back to school - 13<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday

Last Day of term - 21<sup>st</sup> May

PD DAY - 22<sup>nd</sup> May - No Children in School

Half Term 25<sup>th</sup> May - 29<sup>th</sup> May

## Middleton

- 1st May - Celebration Assembly
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May Y6 SAT'S
- 26<sup>th</sup> June - Celebration Assembly
- 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July Y6 Residential
- 14<sup>th</sup> July - KS2 Performance 6pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> July - Leaver's Assembly 2:30pm

## Southwold

- 8<sup>th</sup> May - Celebration Assembly
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May Y6 SAT'S
- 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July Y6 Residential
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Celebration Assembly
- 15<sup>th</sup> July - KS2 Performance 6pm

## Yoxford & Peasenhall

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May Y6 SAT'S
- 15<sup>th</sup> May - Celebration Assembly
- 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June - Scout camp
- 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July Y6 Residential
- 8<sup>th</sup> July - KS2 Performance 6pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> July - Celebration Assembly
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - Leaver's Assembly 2:30pm

## Year 6 Transition Dates

18<sup>th</sup> June - Thomas Mills High School

26<sup>th</sup> June - Pakefield High School

2<sup>nd</sup> July - Beccles High School

3<sup>rd</sup> July - Alde Valley High School

September 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

October 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

PD Days							
1/9/2025 - Statutory Training							
2/9/2025 - School Directed							
5/1/2026 - School Directed							
22/5/2026 - School Directed							
20/7/2026 - School Directed Wellbeing							



# Middleton Primary School News

## ASH

This half term, we have had a fantastic time exploring digital art in IT, drawing inspiration from artists such as Piet Mondrian, Wassily Kandinsky, and Henri Matisse. The children thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with colour, shape, and pattern to create their own digital masterpieces.

In English, we have been developing our writing skills by creating fact files about monsters, inspired by Quentin Blake's Monsters. The children showed great creativity and enthusiasm in their work.

In Maths, we have been focusing on capacity and measurement, building our understanding through practical and engaging activities.

We were also fortunate to visit Easton Farm Park, where we had a memorable day planting seeds, meeting a variety of animals, and enjoying an exciting tractor trailer ride.





# Middleton Primary School News

## SPRUCE

This term in Science, we have been exploring the fascinating topic of light. Through a range of hands-on activities and investigations, we have been learning how light helps us to see and understand the world around us.

We began by thinking about what happens in the absence of light. Using our “bear cave” activity, we discovered that without a source of light, it is impossible to see in the dark. This helped us to understand that light is essential for vision.

We then explored how light travels. Through a series of fun investigations, we found out that light travels in straight lines. We tested this idea in different ways and observed how light behaves, helping us to build our scientific understanding through evidence and observation.

We also used a lux metre to measure the brightness of light in different areas. This helped us to compare light levels and understand that light can vary in intensity depending on the source and surroundings.

One of our favourite activities was making our own periscopes. This allowed us to investigate how mirrors reflect light. We discovered that mirrors can change the direction of light, enabling us to see around corners. It was exciting to apply our knowledge in a practical way and see our learning come to life.

We have really enjoyed becoming young scientists and developing our curiosity about how light works. Well done to everyone for their enthusiasm and excellent investigative skills!



## OAK

Oak class continued learning about inventions, comparing them and understanding the impact on society. During English, they have enjoyed the story Rosie Revere, Engineer, retelling the story and learning how to set out a fact file.

In DT, Oak class have been looking at and building a simple circuit. They have recognised the items that require electricity and other items that require batteries.

During Science, the children have been looking at the different seasons and what that would look like, what happens to the amount of daylight we have and what type of clothes we may be wearing. Oak Class also thoroughly enjoyed watching the Mad Scientist, who came into school for Science Week. With a few willing participants, everyone was shown how electricity is conducted, but also what type of materials that would repel electricity.



Oak Class have been practising their hand/ball co-ordination, whilst learning tennis skills during PE. Oak have been grasping how to share (division) and put into 'lots of' groups (multiplication) during their maths lessons. They have had a variety of resources to help with this, as well as being shown how to draw 'plates' to share with.

## ELM

We have had an exciting half term! We have been learning the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and looking at the lifecycle. We have been observing our very own caterpillars growing and changing. We are hopeful that they will emerge as butterflies in the next few days.



We have been looking at different types of transport in the past and present and went on a trip to the Ipswich Transport Museum to see lots of old vehicles. It was great fun and the children got to sit in some of the vehicles.



In Squirrels, the children have earned their Super Chef badge. They had great fun learning about food and making yummy things to eat!

We have also learnt the song 'I'm a Spring Chicken' which we performed in the parent assembly on the last day of term.

## SILVER BIRCH

This term in computing, we have combined our knowledge of electrical circuits with our coding skills using 'Crumbles'. We have written code to instruct our Crumble to light LED sparkles and have used push switches as part of our code. We have also written code to control a motor.



## WILLOW

How is it nearly Easter already? We have nearly finished our Great Fire of London topic and written some fantastic stories based on 'The Dot'. Willow class have been busy learning the recorder with Miss Gleason from Leiston Education Partnership. We have also been learning how to play hockey as part of our invasion games in PE!





# Southwold Primary School News

## APOLLO

The children had a fantastic end to the first half term by celebrating with a Valentines Disco! Thank you to the amazing team for making this fundraising event possible.

As part of their continued work on community engagement and sense of place, Apollo Class performed a rendition of five songs at the Voluntary Help Centre, Southwold on the 26th February.

The children were joined by Daisy and Nathan Williamson and there was a very positive response to our performance from the audience.

Promoting our creative development as imaginative and creative learners, we celebrated our love of books and reading on World Book Day. We visited Southwold Library to celebrate the year of reading. Charlotte read us the hilarious book 'Tad and Vlad'.

We have been continuing our Victorian learning in preparation for our class trip to Christchurch Mansion on the 26th March. We have learnt a lot of information about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and what life was like for rich and poor Victorians. We look forward to putting all this knowledge together on the forthcoming trip.

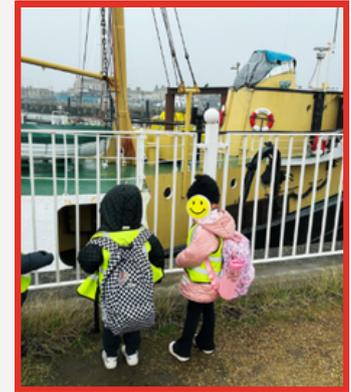




# Southwold Primary School News

## ASTRONAUTS

Reception enjoyed an exciting trip to Lowestoft as part of our transport topic. It truly was a triple treat! We began with a bus journey and a tour around the bus station, followed by a visit to the train station. To finish the day, the children explored an historic fishing trawler and learned all about life working as a fisherman.



## MERCURY

Mercury class have had a fun term learning about inventors. The children have had fun discussing materials and learning about seasons in Science. They have been enjoying using a range of practical resources to support their learning in multiplication. They have explored making equal groups and creating arrays, using sweets to help them see how numbers can be grouped in different ways.

This hands-on approach has helped the children to understand that multiplication is about making equal groups and counting them carefully. They have been developing their confidence in recognising repeated addition and beginning to use multiplication language such as groups of, lots of, and array.

As part of World Book Day celebrations the class visited the local library and enjoyed activities linked to the book - Who Stole My Hat. The children also had a great day out at Easton Farm Park as an introduction to their next Science topic All About Plants.





## School Scouting Sessions at Yoxford & Peasonhall Primary School

In Cubs everyone was offered a marshmallow. They were then given the choice whether to eat the one marshmallow straight away or wait until the end of the lesson, when they could have two instead. Some were nervous that it could be a 'scam' and that they wouldn't end up getting any. Others chose to wait until the end so that they would have enough to share with siblings at home, whilst most opted to wait for two as they knew it was more. We discussed how when you wait for something it often makes it feel more special. We also spoke about how if you save money you can buy something worth more than if you only spend small amounts each time.



In Squirrels we linked our Super Chef badge to the whole school text for World Book Day - I Want my Hat Back by Jon Klassen. The story is about a bear looking for his pointy red hat. Elm each had a go at making themselves 'bear on toast'. First we put the bread in the toaster. Next they sliced three pieces of banana. When the toast was ready they used a knife to spread chocolate spread. Then they added the banana slices and blueberries for the ears, eyes and nose. Finally they added half a strawberry to make the pointy red hat. Of course they then all also enjoyed eating them.



The Beavers were very responsible in acting out real life scenarios. They also enjoyed learning how to apply a bandage and how to clean and dress a cut or graze.



## School Scouting Sessions at Middleton Primary School

The Beavers have been diligently working towards their Emergency Aid Staged Activity Badge, exploring various emergency situations, and practicing first responder skills. They've gained valuable insights into kitchen safety, emergency response, and role-play calling emergency services.

Meanwhile, the Cubs have been striving to achieve their Money Matters badge, developing essential financial skills through practical activities. They've researched currencies, what influences us to buy things, shopping methods, and budget-friendly meal planning, even creating a recipe for a meal under £5 and preparing a delicious spaghetti bolognese and pitta pizzas. Well done, Middleton!

