



Yox Valley Newsletter

May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Summer 1 term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to reflect on what has been a very positive and productive half term for our school community.

It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm for learning across all year groups. They have shown resilience, curiosity, and a real pride in their work. The classrooms have been full of purposeful learning, and it is always a pleasure to see the progress being made.

I would like to offer a special congratulations to our Year 6 pupils, who have approached their SATs with great maturity and determination. They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year, and we are very proud of the way they conducted themselves during the assessments. Their positive attitude and perseverance have been commendable, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

This half term has also seen continued collaboration between Middleton and Yoxford, through our joint work on Tuesdays. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities for pupils to learn alongside peers, share ideas, and develop their confidence in different learning environments. The staff have also benefited from working together, ensuring we continue to provide a rich and engaging curriculum for all pupils.

As we head towards the half-term break, I would like to take this opportunity to remind families about the importance of online safety. With increasing time spent online, it is vital that children understand how to use the internet and social media responsibly. We encourage parents to monitor online activity, have open conversations at home, and ensure appropriate age restrictions are followed on apps and platforms. Keeping children safe online is a shared responsibility, and your support in this area is greatly appreciated.



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Yox Valley Newsletter

I would also like to emphasise the importance of good attendance. Regular attendance at school is crucial for children's learning, wellbeing, and social development.

Every day in school counts, and even small amounts of absence can have a significant impact over time. Thank you to all families who continue to prioritise this and ensure children arrive in school ready to learn.

OUR SCHOOLS' ATTENDANCE

Southwold	94.17%
Middleton	93.94%
Yoxford & Peasenhall	95.18%
National Attendance	94.9%

Looking ahead to the Summer 2 term, we have many exciting events planned, including Sports Day, transition activities, and end-of-year celebrations. Further details will be shared with you shortly.

In the meantime, we hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Mrs Katy Last



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Academic Calendar 2025/26

Last Day of term - 21ST May

PD DAY - 22ND May - No Children in School

Half Term - 25TH May - 29TH May

First day of term - 1ST June

PD DAY- 20TH July - No Children in School

Summer Holidays begin on 21ST July

Yoxford & Peasenhall

JUNE

- 4TH - KSI Sizewell Trip
- 16TH - New Reception Parent meeting
5:00-5:30pm
- 19TH - 20TH - Scout camp
- 22ND - Elm Class Trip to Green Farm
- 24TH - New nursery/reception children visit EYFS 1:15pm-3:00pm
- 29TH June - 1ST July Y6 Residential

JULY

- 3RD - New nursery/reception children visit EYFS 9:00-11:30am
- 6TH - Sports Day
- 8TH - KS2 Performance 6pm
- 9TH - New nursery/reception children visit EYFS 1:15-3pm
- 10TH - Celebration Assembly
- 15TH - Yoxford Transition Morning
- 17TH - Leaver's Assembly 2:30pm

Middleton

JUNE

- 4TH - KSI Sizewell Trip
- 12TH - Reception Transition Morning
9:30-11:30am
- 23RD - Reception Transition Afternoon
1:15-3:00pm
- 26TH - Celebration Assembly 8:45am
- 29TH June - 1ST July Y6 Residential

JULY

- 13TH - Middleton & Southwold joint Sports Day
- 14TH - KS2 Performance 6pm
- 16TH - Leaver's Assembly 2:30pm

Southwold

JUNE

- 4TH - KSI Sizewell Trip
- 26TH - We made this animation workshop
- 29TH June - 1ST July Y6 Residential

JULY

- 3RD July - Celebration Assembly
- 13TH July - Middleton & Southwold joint Sports Day
- 15TH July - KS2 Performance 6pm

Year 6 Transition Dates

18TH June - Thomas Mills High School

26TH June - Pakefield High School

2ND July - Beccles High School

3RD July - Alde Valley High School

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025									
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	40			1	2	3	4	5	44						1	2
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
40	29	30						44	27	28	29	30	31			48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							January 2026							February 2026									
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1				1	2	3	4	5							1
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	29	30	31					5	26	27	28	29	30	31	9	23	24	25	26	27	28		

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

June 2026							July 2026								
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	27			1	2	3	4	5
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	29	30						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, the children learned about healthy eating and plants, discovering how to make balanced choices and what plants need to grow and stay healthy.

They worked hard on tally charts, developing their skills in collecting and interpreting data.



In RE, the children enjoyed learning about Bible stories and discussing the important messages within them.

History lessons focused on significant women in history, where the children were inspired by the achievements and contributions of influential women from the past. In PE, pupils have been developing their athletics skills, practising running, jumping and throwing with great enthusiasm and determination.

Cooking Club also came to a wonderful end this half term, with the children making a delicious carrot cake to celebrate all the skills they have learned.





Middleton Primary School News

SPRUCE

This half-term in Science, the children have been learning about adaptation and how animals are suited to their environments. The children took part in a fun investigation where they used different tools as “beaks” to discover which type worked best for picking up different kinds of “seeds”. They used tweezers, tongs, pegs and chopsticks to explore how birds’ beaks are adapted for the food they eat. The children showed excellent teamwork and scientific thinking as they tested, compared and discussed their results.



We would also like to say a huge well done to our Year 6 children for the fantastic effort and resilience they showed during their SATs. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitudes, determination and maturity throughout the week.

The children are continuing to enjoy collaborating with Yoxford every Tuesday. These sessions have been a wonderful opportunity for the children to work together, build friendships and develop their confidence through shared learning experiences.

OAK

The children have been enjoying the nicer weather this half term and have been practising for their upcoming sports day. They have also enjoyed learning about parts of the plant and what they need to grow during their Science lessons, which links well to the RSHE lessons, all about healthy living and what foods we need and how we can stay healthy. Also during our Art lessons, Oak have been using different plants to make dyes, ready to use for their tie dye for the end of half term.



In RE Oak class have found out about different Bible stories, for example Daniel in the Lion's Den and what these stories are teaching us. In music, Oak have been learning some call and response songs, like Boom Chicka Boom and having a go at body percussion.

We have all loved learning about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, looking at how they had an impact on nursing and how they both helped in the Crimea war. It was fantastic when the children could recall so much information about the two ladies, when we had an assembly for International Nurses Day.



Oak class also showed how much knowledge they had when recalling recording data, such as tallies and pictograms they had learnt in Maths, and applied it to their ICT lessons. Oak class completed learning about notes and coins during Maths and has now moved on to fractions, understanding how items are shared equally. During English the children were enjoying writing a recount of their school day and have started learning and planning how to write instructions on how to look after an animal of choice.

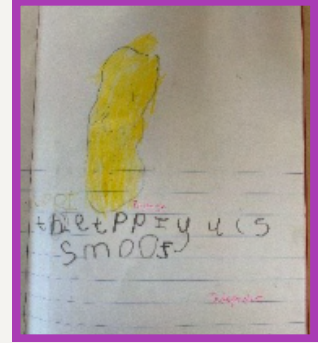
The children thoroughly enjoyed a recent assembly from iRock, with some children getting up to try some of the instruments, while everyone joined in by clapping and singing.



School News

ELM

This half term we have been focussing on the book *Handa's Surprise*. As it is based in Africa, we have been learning about their culture and way of life. We have learnt about different fruits; watched videos on how they grow, tasted, described and written about them. We have watched videos on children living in small villages in Africa and commented on what we noticed. We have compared our homes with their mud huts.



We have also been listening to African music and have watched children dancing. We had fun making our own shakers and decorating them in bright colours so we could join in with the music and the beat.



We have written our own *Handa's Surprise* stories and learnt about some of the wildlife in Africa.

In *Squirrels* we have been learning all about plants and have an ongoing experiment to see which conditions are best for seeds to grow. The children have also taken their own seed home to observe. I hope they are beginning to grow!

In maths, we have been getting to know the numbers 11-20 and have found a pattern to the number system. We have been calling on lots of our previous learning and using these skills to solve problems and explain our understanding.

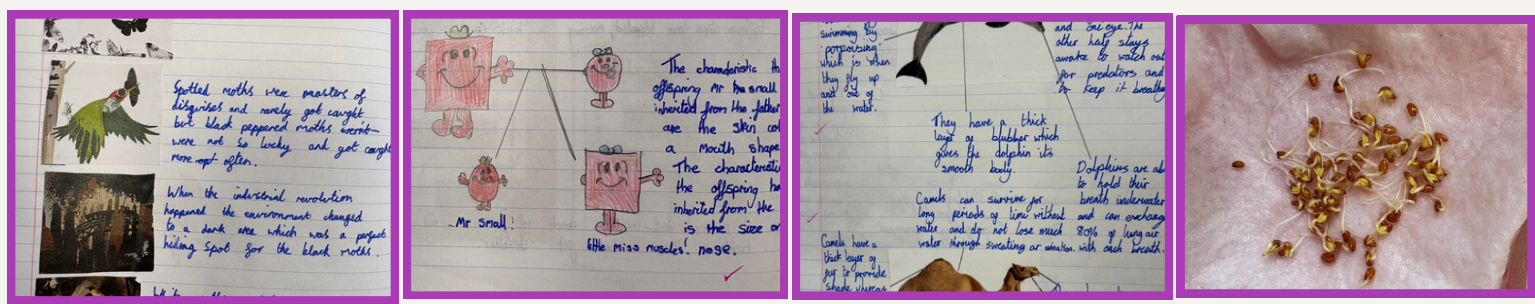
The nursery have been having lots of fun learning about capacity.



School News

SILVER BIRCH

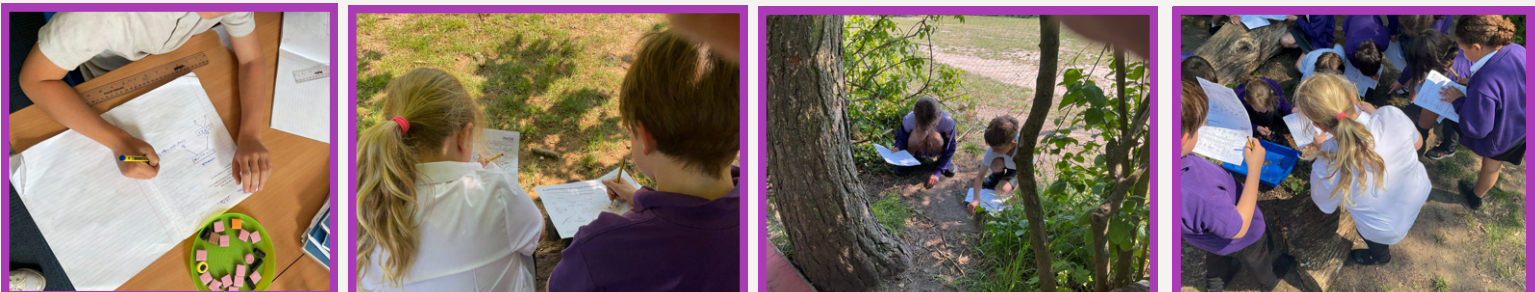
In science, Silver Birch have enjoyed learning about evolution and adaptation in living things. We have learnt how offspring inherit characteristics from their parents. We have considered how animals are adapted to the environment in which they live and how animals can evolve over time when the conditions of that environment change.



WILLOW

Willow class have been busy with lots of science and history this half term. In English we have written letters about Basil Brown, the archaeologist and our own legends based on the tale of Beowulf. We are also going to West Stow to explore the Anglo Saxon village and see how the people lived nearly 1000 years ago.

in science we have explored classification keys - using Liquorice Allsorts to understand the process and then moving on to classifying leaves and animals.





Southwold Primary School News

APOLLO

Apollo Class have had a very creative and imaginative half term. On Thursday 23rd April we walked to St. Barnabas care home to sing our range of songs to the residents. They loved hearing the singing with the range of old and new tunes.

Our whole school share session was a great success. Based on 'The Gruffalo', each house team concentrated on a character from the story to create a fantastic garden for everyone to enjoy.

Congratulations to Stanley for being the Southwold science competition winner-he had a fantastic afternoon with the other finalists talking levers, gears and pulleys!

On Friday May 1st our choir performed at the Southwold Arts Festival, demonstrating they are respectful and active citizens. They sang six songs in total, and everyone agreed the singing was fantastic.

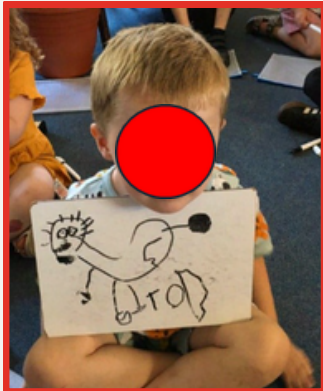




Southwold Primary School News

ASTRONAUTS

Astronauts have been exploring making marks in a variety of ways this term, we are exploring colours and shapes through different medias and also learning to draw animals with step by step instructions.



MERCURY

Mercury Class have loved writing recounts about their imaginary day at school, using their creativity and imagination to describe fun and exciting events. They have also written about a real school day where they enjoyed playing with bubbles and eating biscuits, focusing on remembering events in the correct order. In Maths, the children have really enjoyed their learning on measurement and have been busy measuring a wide range of objects around the playground using metre sticks. They worked carefully and confidently, developing their measuring skills through practical, hands-on activities.





School Scouting Sessions at Yoxford & Peasonhall

Primary School

This term in KS2 we are enjoying having Willow, Silver Birch and Spruce (Middleton) joining together for our Scouts sessions. We are working towards our 'Environmental Conservatorship' badge. We started by spending a session looking after our school grounds. The children were really proactive in finding areas where they could make a difference including litter picking, sweeping the playground and even sorting out KSI and Early Year's wellies. We have also enjoyed learning about the importance of recycling batteries, repurposing old sticks to create art work and the role butterflies play in nature. Alongside this we have been very excited to join Mrs Sutton and KSI to enjoy some cooking on the camp fire.



In Squirrels this half term we are working towards our 'Let it Grow' badge. We looked at what plants need to grow successfully and then had a go at growing some of our own plants from seeds. We started with cress seeds, then sunflowers before finally growing broad bean seeds. The children were fascinated to see how much bigger the broad bean seeds were to the tiny cress seeds. Finally we are learning about how some fruits and vegetables grow. It will be exciting to learn some more about this on our trip next half term.



Beavers have been working towards their Cook's badge. They have been learning about kitchen safety and ensuring they have a balanced diet learning about the main food groups.

The Beavers have been cooking on the fire and making a variety of food. One week they made pitta pocket pizzas then they baked bananas and finished with some traditional smores which they shared with the Cubs. They enjoyed being risk takers and trying new foods. They were curious in asking about different foods and if they made up a balanced diet.

