



Welcome to our February newsletter and to a new month of learning in the Lower School. February is a busy and exciting time, filled with opportunities for our students to grow, explore, and enjoy their learning. We look forward to working closely with our families as we continue to support the children in developing confidence, curiosity, and positive learning habits throughout the months ahead.

Mrs Aoife Greaves

Headteacher

## Values

This month we are focusing on the value of love. Love means showing care, kindness, and compassion to others through our words and actions. It helps us build positive relationships, include everyone, and support one another, especially when someone needs help or encouragement. By practising love each day, we create a warm, safe, and happy school environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

## Relationships and Sex Education Policy

We have a statutory duty to consult parents when we review our RSE Policy.

Please click [this link](#) to read our reviewed policy. If you have any comments, please email them to the office email: [office@hockliffelowerschool.co.uk](mailto:office@hockliffelowerschool.co.uk) FAO Mrs Greaves by 20th February.

## Spare Clothing

Children sometimes have wet themselves in school or play in muddy, wet puddles. We are running very low on socks for Willow and Maple class and trousers/skirts for years 2, 3 & 4. If you have any spares at home, we would very much appreciate them. Please pop them in a bag and give them to one of the adults at school. Thank you in advance.

School Nursing Health Clinic



## School Nursing Health Clinic

Hockliffe Lower School – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 8.45am

We are pleased to announce that we are offering health clinics for parents/carers. Just drop in for a chat. These clinics will be staffed by your school nursing team at school.

**All are welcome to attend.**

The School Nursing team help support your child's health throughout their school journey.

Clinics will encourage the early interventions/advice that you may need to ensure your child is able to reach their full potential.

**We look forward to meeting you.**



Please click the link to view an animation explaining our service and how to contact us  
<https://vimeo.com/840387234/0a3c6c32db?fl=pl&fe=sh>



Hockliffe Lower School is involved in a project that will run jointly between schools and Bedfordshire Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting of police attended domestic abuse incidents to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, where there are children in the home.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, Mrs Greaves, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

### **Message from the HSA**

#### Valentine's Day Friday 13th February

Every child will receive a donut at the end of the day. Children with allergies will be given the appropriate donut.

Reminder: children can come in non-uniform. The theme is Shine Bright for Mental Health

#### World book day competition. Friday 6th March

We are asking children to create their own story /comic / picture book / video story to be handed into school by Monday 2nd March.

There will be a prize for each year group.

Children can come dressed as a book character or ready for a bedtime story. They will be taking part in World Book Day Orienteering so need to wear trainers and have a coat etc according to the weather.

#### Carer's Afternoon Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Our Carer's afternoon will be held on 12th March. Please watch out for more details. 2.00 - 2.30 Rowan Class plus siblings, 2.35 - 3.05 Willow & Maple Class

Thank you from the HSA

## Willow Class

This half term we read a story called *You're Snug With Me* by Chitra Soundar & Poonam Mistry.

We thought about what it must be like for polar bear cubs to see their world for the first time after being born in a den in the snow. We made pictures of winter landscapes based on the illustrations in the book using similar colours to represent the cold ground and the rising of the sun in spring.



We have enjoyed being creative in Drawing Club. We have drawn characters and settings from the stories we have read and made up our own adventures and inventions based on the stories.

We have looked at maps of the school, of Hockliffe and the surrounding area and we are beginning to be able to recognise how different environments and features are shown on maps.

We have been thinking about journeys and made models of vehicles using craft and recycled materials.



We read *The Train Ride* by June Crebbin and have used our role-play area as a train and station.

Miss Stanbridge kindly donated a beautiful wooden train track and buildings to our class and we have had fun setting up the track.



In RE, we have been talking about places that are special to us. Some of us chose home as our special place, others chose holiday destinations, or homes of other family members. We have also talked about special religious buildings and special places in the community, such as hospitals and schools.

We enjoyed a super dance workshop based on Chinese dances and the Lunar New Year, which we will be learning more about before the half-term break.

In PE, we have started gymnastics, using space as a theme for learning shapes and moves on and off the PE equipment. We have learned rocket and star jumps and have practised bending our knees when we land!

In Music, we have learned what a lullaby is and have learned some sign language to our song about a baby elephant and baby buffalo.



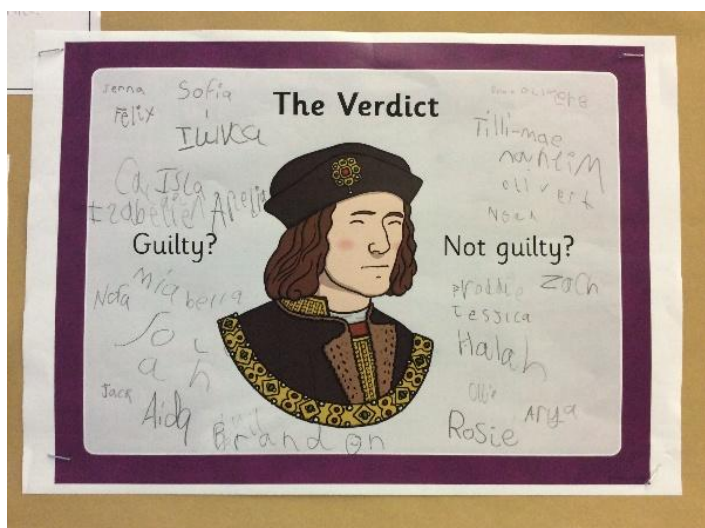
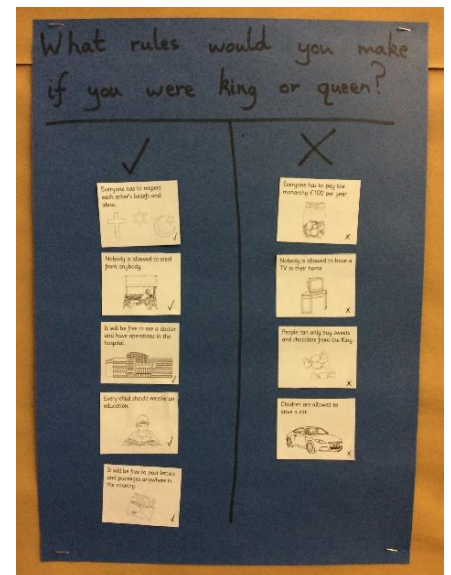
We have been having fun playing and learning together.

## Maple Class

### History – Kings and Queens

In history we have been learning all about famous kings and queens of England. First, we learnt what a monarch was and what rules we thought might be fair if we were a monarch. Then we learned about different Kings and Queens through history.

We learnt about King Richard III who became king because his two nephews mysteriously disappeared. We looked at evidence to decide if we thought he was guilty or not in their disappearance. It was close, but the guilty vote won!



Next, we learnt about the similarities and differences between Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. Queen Elizabeth was queen when she was 25 and reigned on her own. Queen Victoria was queen when she was only 18 and had 9 children with Prince Albert.

## Art – Architecture

Our art topic this half term has been architecture. We started looking at some famous buildings in London. We learnt how to identify features like pillars, arches, stained glass windows and gargoyles. We made careful drawings of some of these famous buildings. Next, we learnt about rose windows and made our own using black paper circles and tissue paper.



Finally, we looked at examples of gargoyles which helped keep water away from the stone walls of churches. We made our own clay pinch pot monsters inspired by the gargoyles on



Southwark Cathedral. First, we made a pinch pot by rolling a ball and pushing our thumbs in to make a hole before pinching the edges to make a bowl shape. Next, we added eyes and other parts like teeth, tongues and tails. We are looking forward to painting them when they are dry!

### Dance workshop – Chinese New Year and Dragon Dance

We took part in a Chinese New Year themed dance workshop. First, we learnt a dance using traditional Chinese dance movements and props. We had a parasol or a fan. The movement had to be delicate and careful. Then we took part in a short dragon dance. A few of us had the chance to try on the dragon head and the rest of us moved the body up and down as if it was flying.



### Rowan Class

This half term has been full of fun and exciting learning; here are some of the highlights! Our topic has been **Ancient Egypt**, and the children have absolutely loved it. We explored Egyptian gods and goddesses, mummification, and daily life in Ancient Egypt, and even carried out a crime scene investigation into the death of King Tutankhamun. A real highlight was our special visit from an “Ancient Egyptian,” who spent the whole day completing hands-on activities with the children. In writing, we have retold Egyptian stories, written instructions for mummification, and produced a non-chronological report all about Ancient Egypt.



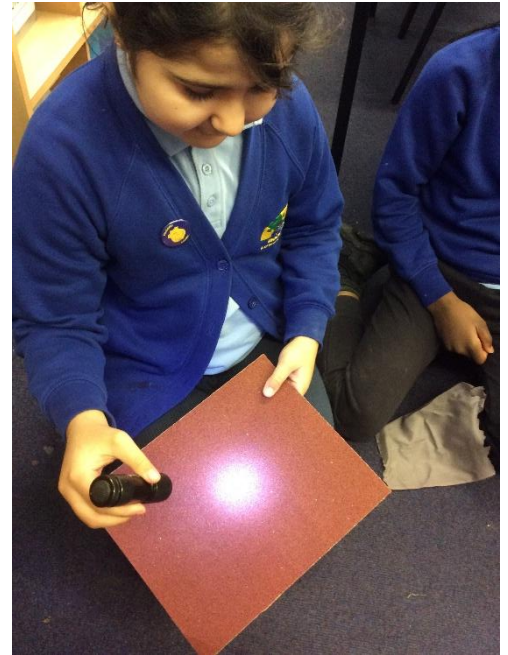
In maths, we have been developing our understanding of multiplication and subtraction using formal written methods, including multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1-digit numbers and dividing 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers.

In computing, we have been learning about computer processing and in art we have created detailed still life drawings.



Science has been enjoyed by all children, and we have been investigating light through practical experiments.

During PSHE, we have been discussing how to stay safe online and how we can make the world a better place. We have also had lots of fun in PE, especially during our gymnastics lessons and an exciting dance workshop linked to Chinese New Year.



It has been a brilliant half term packed with amazing learning.

### **Chinese New Year**

Chinese New Year 2026 begins on February 17, 2026, marking the start of the Year of the Horse in the Chinese zodiac, an animal associated with energy, confidence, and hard work. The date changes each year because the festival follows the traditional lunar calendar, beginning on the new moon between late January and mid-February. We celebrate this holiday to welcome a new year, honour ancestors, and wish for good fortune, health, and prosperity, with traditions such as family reunions, red decorations, fireworks, and gift-giving symbolizing luck and renewal.

### **LGBT+ History Month**

LGBT+ History Month is a time to learn about and celebrate the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, both in the past and today. It helps children understand that everyone is different and that kindness, respect and fairness are important values.




## Many parents don't realise they are Carers too



**If your child has additional needs,  
we offer free support.**

**Get benefits advice, one-to-one  
guidance, fun groups and events,  
Carers grants and more**



You've helped  
me so much,  
I wish I had called  
you sooner.




**0300 111 1919**

**[www.carersinbeds.org.uk](http://www.carersinbeds.org.uk)**

## CHUMS Young People and Parent/Carer workshops

Please see the flyer below which contains information on upcoming workshops organised by CHUMS Bedfordshire. The online workshops are designed as a point for families with children who have low-level difficulties. These are one-off 2-hour sessions conducted via Microsoft teams. Details for how to register for a session can be found at the bottom of the flyer.



**Our online workshops are designed as a starting point for families with children who have low level difficulties. These are one-off 2-hour sessions conducted virtually via Microsoft teams.**

*Please note these workshops do not support moderate/severe difficulties and will not address risky behaviours (self-harm, suicidal ideations).*

**PARENT ANXIETY WORKSHOP**

**17/2/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM**

*(For parents of young people aged 5 - 11 years old)*

One-off workshop exploring emotional development in children, emotional regulation, psychoeducation around anxiety and anxiety management strategies.

**PARENT SELF-ESTEEM WORKSHOP**

**21/1/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM**

*(For parents of young people aged 5 - 12 years old)*

One off workshop which equips parents with an understanding of self-esteem and ways to promote high self-esteem through parenting style and collaborative activities to try at home with their young person.

**11+ ANXIETY WORKSHOP**

**17/2/26 @ 4PM - 6PM**

*(For young people aged 11+, parents also welcome to attend)*

This single psychoeducation session explores emotional development in children, emotional regulation, and focuses on anxiety and anxiety management strategies.

**PARENTAL SEPARATION WORKSHOP**

**3/2/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM**

*(For parents of young people aged 5 - 11 years old)*

One-off Workshop that explores the following topics: Common child responses to separation, emotional regulation, potential disruptive behaviour problems + techniques to manage them and identifying worries in young people and how to work through these.

**BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOPS**

**9/2/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM**  
**25/2/26 @ 1PM - 3PM**

*(For parents of young people aged 5-11 years old)*

A one-off workshop that covers the following topics: Emotional development in children, emotional regulation, common behaviour difficulties and strategies to promote positive behaviours.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND STIGMA WORKSHOP**

**12/2/26 @ 4PM - 6PM**

*(For young people aged 12+, parents also welcome to attend)*

One off workshop for young people focusing on mental health awareness and stigma. Follows a range of topics including puberty, male mental health, LGBTQ+, ethnicity and social media.

**RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>0-5 YEARS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2/3/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(For parents of children aged 0-5 years old)</i></p> <p>This single psychoeducation session explores the importance of relationships, healthy attachments, emotional regulation and anxiety. You will learn evidence based behavioural strategies to help your child thrive.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIMARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>16/3/26 @ 1PM - 3PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(For parents of children aged 5 - 11 years old)</i></p> <p>This single session explores relevant child development including and provides psychoeducation on mental health vs mental health problems, emotional regulation, anxiety and low mood. You will leave with a greater understanding of your child's needs and armed with strategies to build their resilience.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECONDARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>30/3/26 @ 5PM - 7PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(For young people aged 12 - 16 years, parents also welcome to attend)</i></p> <p>One-off Workshop that Explores the following topics: mental health vs mental health problems, emotional regulation, psychoeducation on anxiety and low mood, strategies for relaxation with strategies to build their resilience.</p>
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**PARENT SLEEP WORKSHOP**

**25/3/26 @ 9:30AM - 11:30AM**

*(For parents of young people aged 4-12 years old)*

One-off workshop exploring why sleep is important, what is 'good' sleep, sleep hygiene tips, and strategies for managing worries at night.

**EXAM STRESS WORKSHOPS**

**14/4/26 @ 4PM - 6PM**  
**29/4/26 @ 4PM - 6PM**

*(For young people aged 12+ and parents)*

One off workshop which equips teenagers with an understanding of exam stress, strategies for managing exam stress, revision tips and self-care. The workshop also offers parental tips for supporting their adolescent's exam stress.

**To register for any of our workshops, please fill in the standard referral form in the 'Any other relevant information' section, state that the referral is for a workshop and include the workshop date.**

<https://chums.uk.com/emotional-wellbeing-service/#workshops>

Channel 4's The Dog House is looking for local families to offer a loving home to a rescue dog and share their reasons why on the show! If you're interested, find out more here: <https://c4thedoghousetakepart.co.uk> or email [thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk](mailto:thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk)."

# LOOKING FOR A DOG?



ADOPT A RESCUE DOG  
ON CHANNEL 4'S  
*the*  
Dog House



**APPLY HERE**



**C4THEDOGHOUSEAKEPART.CO.UK**

**B Discover Bucks  
Museum**  
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

Discover Bucks Museum  
Church Street  
Aylesbury HP20 2QP  
discoverbucksmuseum.org  
01296 331441

# February Half Term

14 - 22 February 2026

This February half term, dive into hands-on fun with Sand Art, Dragon Puppets for Chinese New Year, Superhero Capes and Masks, plus dazzling Rainbow Science. Make a day of it and explore the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, discover the I Grew Up 90's exhibition, family trail and sensory room for a week packed with imagination and discovery.

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit [discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://discoverbucksmuseum.org)



## Calendar

Month & school events	
<p><b>Forest School</b>  <b>Maple &amp; Rowan</b> will have Forest school in the summer term. Which half of the term will be confirmed in the spring term. Children will be required to wear their Forest School clothes into school each week for the 6-week block. Please send a change of clothes on wet days.</p>	
<p><b>February</b>            9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Wear Bright Shine Bright            CHUMS Children's Mental Health Week            10<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day            13<sup>th</sup> HSA Valentines non-uniform - Wear Bright Shine Bright            13<sup>th</sup> Break up for half term            23<sup>rd</sup> SEND parent meetings week            24<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit            24<sup>th</sup> Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit</p>	<p>LGBT+ History Month            9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Children's Mental health Week            10<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day            14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Random Acts of Kindness Week            17<sup>th</sup> Chinese New Year            17<sup>th</sup> Feb – 18<sup>th</sup> March expected dates for Ramadan            21<sup>st</sup> International Mother Language Day</p>
<p><b>March</b>            3<sup>rd</sup> Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit            3<sup>rd</sup> Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit            10<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit            10<sup>th</sup> Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit            12<sup>th</sup> HSA Carer's Event afternoon times TBC            20<sup>th</sup> Yr3/4 Joy of Movement Festival during school day            20<sup>th</sup> Rocksteady Concert 2.30 TBC            27<sup>th</sup> Last day of term Early Close 1pm</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March Purim            3<sup>rd</sup> World Wildlife Day            4<sup>th</sup> Holi            8<sup>th</sup> international Women's Day            13<sup>th</sup> Young Carers Action Day            16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sign Language Week            19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Eid al-Fitr            21<sup>st</sup> International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination</p>
<p><b>April</b>            17<sup>th</sup> Dance workshop all children USA street dance (during the school day no cost)            22<sup>nd</sup> Cluster Sports KS Brooklands approx. 4.30 pick up</p>	<p>Stress Awareness Month            1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Passover            2<sup>nd</sup> World Autism Awareness Day            5<sup>th</sup> Easter            7<sup>th</sup> World Health Day            14<sup>th</sup> Vaisakhi            14<sup>th</sup> Sikh New Year            14<sup>th</sup> Bengali New Year            15<sup>th</sup> World Art Day</p>
<p><b>May</b>            14<sup>th</sup> Enterprise Day children only £1 needed in change e.g. 10 x 10p or 6 x 10p + 2 x 20p (avoid £1 coin) Each class will</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Vesak            4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Deaf Awareness Week            9<sup>th</sup> Fair trade Day</p>

<p>devise some games / activities. The children will have the opportunity to try each other's game / activity. Within the school day.                  22<sup>nd</sup> HSA Non-Uniform                  22<sup>nd</sup> Break up for half term</p>	<p>11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Mental Health Awareness Day                  15<sup>th</sup> International Day of Families                  18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Walk to School Week                  21<sup>st</sup> World Day for Cultural Diversity</p>
<p><b>June</b>                  1<sup>st</sup> SEND parent meetings week                  8<sup>th</sup> Sports Day parents / grandparents invited from 1.30 – 3.00                  9<sup>th</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am                  9<sup>th</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am                  10<sup>th</sup> Cluster Sports KS1 (Brooklands) approx. 4.30 pick-up TBC                  16<sup>th</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am                  16<sup>th</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am                  18<sup>th</sup> HSA Carer's Event (time to be confirmed)                  23<sup>rd</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am                  23<sup>rd</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am                  30<sup>th</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am                  30<sup>th</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am</p>	<p>Pride Month                  5<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day                  14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> World Refugee Week                  21<sup>st</sup> World Music Day</p>
<p><b>July</b>                  1<sup>st</sup> Year 4 Transfer Day (TBC)                  2<sup>nd</sup> Year 4 Transfer Day (TBC)                  2<sup>nd</sup> Internal Move Up Day                  7<sup>th</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am                  7<sup>th</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am                  9<sup>th</sup> Parent teacher report meeting (only if required to discuss report) 3.15 – 5                  10<sup>th</sup> Rowan Activity Day during the school day                  15<sup>th</sup> Rowan End of year graduation celebration for yr 4 parents all Rowan invited 2.30 – 3.10 (subject to change)                  16<sup>th</sup> HSA Disco 2.15 – 4.00 all children invited, price to be confirmed. Children can bring in clothes to change into at lunchtime.                  17<sup>th</sup> Last day of term Early Close 1pm</p>	<p>30<sup>th</sup> International Day of Friendship</p>
<p><b>September 2026</b></p>	

HSA

**Bank Details**

Account Name: Hockliffe School Association		
Account number: 72738481		
Sort Code: 40 33 33		
Reference:	PUPIL	NAME
<b>Note: please do not pay for events until asked to do so by the HSA</b>		

**The 2025/2026 calendar of events**

EVENT	DATE	COST
HSA Christmas Raffle	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December (tickets pulled after the Carols in the Playground)	£5 per strip
HSA Valentines non-uniform -Wear Bright Shine Bright	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Included in annual fee
World Book Day competition <i>(More details to follow)</i>	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Included in annual fee
HSA Carer's Event	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2.00 and 2.30	£5 per child (one adult – mum, dad, aunt, uncle, gran, grandad per child)
HSA non-uniform day	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Included in annual fee
HSA Carer's Event	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 8.30-9.00am	£5 per child (one adult – mum, dad, aunt, uncle, gran, grandad per child)

HSA End of year Disco	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2.15 – 4.00pm	£5 per child Children to bring clothes to change into at school
Cake sale, donut sale, ice lolly sale	Dates to be confirmed	Included in annual fee