Issue 16 9th January 2026

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Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

A **Happy New Year to you all**! I hope that you enjoyed a good break over the festive period. The spring term has officially started at Merebrook and although this half term is only 6 weeks, there is lots happening at school. Please make sure that you refer to the dates on page 2 each week.

Miss Elliott will be absent from school on Monday for a period of time due to an operation. Separate communication via Arbor has been sent to all EYFS families. Further to this communication, please note that **the new date for the EYFS celebration of work is Tuesday 3rd March 2026.**

Next week, **Starling class look forward to their first swimming lesson of this year.** Although our EVS clubs start next week, **please note that our Merebrook clubs do not start until the following week**, beginning Monday 19th January.

This week, the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has asked all Headteachers to share a handy resource to support Parents and Carers with the increasing challenges associated with the digital world. **More information can be found on page 3 of the newsletter.** There is a guide which aims to support families in navigating this part of modern life with their children.

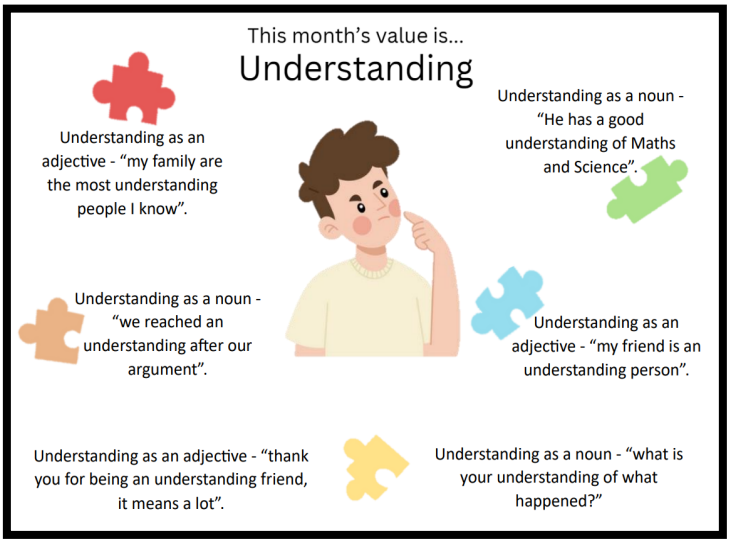
Have a relaxing weekend,

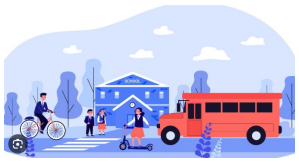
Mrs White
Executive Headteacher

Please respect our school community

As a school we cannot control activity in public areas outside the school gates, but we ask families to remain respectful when taking photos or videos immediately outside the school site. **Please be mindful of who appears in the background and avoid capturing other children without permission.** Thank you for supporting a considerate school environment.







Travel Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, we are looking at how our school community travels to and from school. Understanding transport choices will help us identify ways to reduce our environmental impact and promote greener travel options. We kindly ask you to take a few minutes to complete our Transport Survey by 31st January. Please click here to complete the survey.

Golden Book

Wagtails: Maria and Poppy

Robins: Alessandro and Aadhira

Starlings: Zoe and Eppy

Woodpeckers: Vlad and Autumn

Kestrels: Arthur and Roza

Finches: Mikayla and Killian

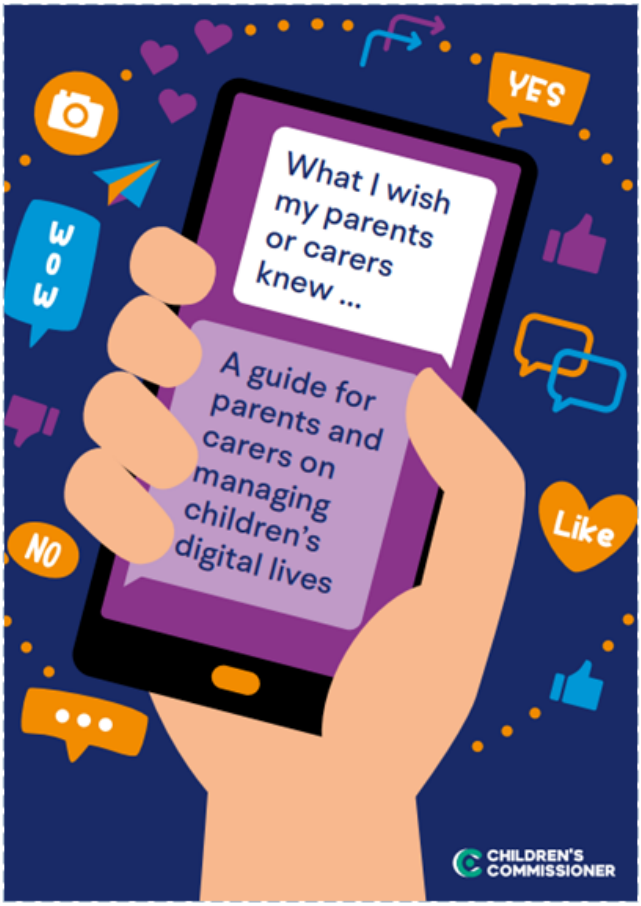


Spring Term dates

These dates are for both Merebrook and Emerson Valley unless otherwise indicated. NEW EVENTS IN RED.

13th January 2026	**Year 6 SATS information evening for parents 5:00pm**
16th January 2026	**Turtles Parks Trust trip**
19th – 23rd January 2026	**Science Week**
20th January 2026	**Starling class to Westcroft library**
21st January 2026	**Finch class to Westcroft library**
22nd January 2026	**Year 6 to Bletchley Park**
23rd January 2026	**Axolotls Parks Trust trip**
26th January 2026	**Young Voice choir to Birmingham**
28th January 2026	**Year 2 Biscuits with books** parents invited from 2pm
29th January 2026	**Year 5 trip to Silverstone**
2nd February 2026	**Year 3 celebration of work pm** time to be confirmed
4th February 2026	**Year 4 celebration of work pm** time to be confirmed
5th February 2026	**Year 6 celebration of work pm** time to be confirmed
6th February 2026	**Year 3 Pizza and pyjama party** 5:30-8:30pm
9th February 2026	~~**EYFS celebration of work pm** time to be confirmed~~
3rd March 2026	**Snapdragons to Campbell Park**
4th March 2026	**Cherry Blossoms to Campbell Park**
5th March 2026	**World Book Day**
6th March 2026	**Sunflowers to Campbell Park**
10th and 11th March 2026	**Parent Consultations from 3:40pm**
13th March 2026	**Bluebells to Campbell Park**
17th March 2026	**Robins to Westcroft library**
18th March 2026	**Kestrels to Westcroft library**
20th March 2026	**Red nose day:** non-uniform day
25th March 2026	**Year 5 performance to parents** 2:30pm
27th March 2026	**Rocksteady concert to parents** 2pm

‘What I wish my parents or carers knew…’: A guide for parents and carers on managing children’s digital lives



Supporting children’s safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children’s lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There’s no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence. **Click here to access the guide and associated resources available online.** There is also a an activity pack that you might like to share with your child.