



NEWSLETTER

Thursday 9th October 2025

WEEKLY CLASS FOCUS



The Drum class topic this half term is 'Into the Forest'. Their story is 'The Gruffalo' and they are having fun meeting the characters and exploring items such as wind-up mice and fur to match characters. The children are also practising their matching skills by matching pictures or symbols of the animals or homes in the story. Charlotte wowed everyone by physically matching the symbols last week when she has only ever eye pointed to the matching picture before!

In The World sessions they have looked at what can be found in the forest and what happens in Autumn. Jack loved the spiky conker shell and Zachary was interested in the autumn wellies stomping.



In Art the focus is collage, so they have explored ripping and scrunching paper and different types of glue. They are now practising making a collage of one of the story characters each week by following three steps: choose a material to put on, by reaching or using the Aided Language Display (ALD); putting on glue; sticking the material down.



Chloe made a brown mouse independently and Elana enjoyed exploring the glue and fur for the Gruffalo. Sam surprised the staff by using the ALD to request colours of paper to put on his collage and had them running backwards and forwards to the art cupboard for colours that weren't out ready!

In Communication sessions the children are working on matching objects, photos and symbols so that they can see how they all represent the same thing. Photos and symbols are then used to request favourite books and toys. Tiger loves choosing a book using a photo whilst Órlaith is using an ALD to request books and toys, she is also starting to use 'I want' so that she is making a full sentence.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS— OLD AND NEW!

The next Parent Coffee Group being held at school is at 1.30pm on **Wednesday 22nd October.**



These meetings are open to all parents and carers and are an ideal time to meet up with people experiencing, or having experienced, similar circumstances. Having a child with severe learning difficulties is challenging and affects day-to-day family life. Meeting up with like-minded others in similar situations and being able to swap information, stories and solutions to problems has been beneficial to many of our parents and carers.

It is a relaxed gathering with non-alcoholic(!) beverages provided. So, if you would like to come along and have a chat among friends, you are very welcome.

Remember—you are not alone.

PARENTS' EVENING

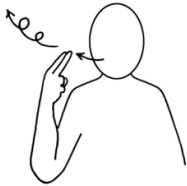

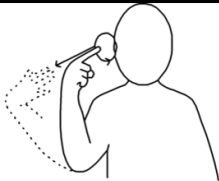

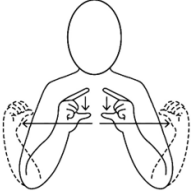


Thursday 23rd October

If you have not already done so, please could you remember to contact your child's class teacher, via ClassDojo, to arrange a suitable time for you to have a discussion, either via a video call or in person. Session times were sent out last week. We will do all we can to accommodate preferred times. There are a number of organisations in the hall on the evening, including Andover College, Purple Oak Support and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to name a few.



SIGNS AND SYMBOLS OF THE WEEK



			
sing	dance	loud	quiet
	 Hands make alternate outward movement, twisting at wrist Direct towards appropriate people		
quiet (sound)	take turns		again

AUTUMN TERM 2025

OCTOBER

- 13th FE Community Action Project week
- 20th Christmas Shoebox collection week
- 22nd Parents' Coffee Group (1.30pm)
- 23rd Parents' Evening and exhibition of support groups
- 24th **INSET DAY (FE students only—not Cello)**
- 27th **HALF TERM WEEK (WHOLE SCHOOL)**



NOVEMBER

- 21st Children in Need
- 28th School photographer (individual & family photos)

DECEMBER

- 3rd FE Christmas market
- 5th Hampshire Music Special Celebration, Winchester
- 11th Nativity—St Mary's Church, Andover
- 15th Hanukkah theme week
- 16th House Reward Trip—Pantomime at Basingstoke
- 18th Christmas Lunch (+ special guest)
- 22nd—5th Jan **CHRISTMAS BREAK (WHOLE SCHOOL)**

SUPERSTAR OF THE WEEK

The following students have been awarded the Class Star of the Week Award

Chimes	- Missy
Drum	- Charlotte
Maracas	- Matthew
Tambourine	- Noah
Triangle	- Akosua
Trumpet	- Logan
Oboe	- Neil
Harp	- Ruby
Cello	- Marley



The School Superstar of the Week is LOGAN!!

This member of Trumpet class loves a joke, a hug, and helping with jobs around school, such as stacking the chairs with Dave after lunch time, raking in the house points for his team! Logan loves a movement session, especially dance and yoga, and has done some fabulous Bollywood-inspired dancing with scarves this term. He is a funny, kind, and empathetic member of his class and enjoys cooking, learning to use the washing machine, and shopping trips to Tesco, where he always chooses his favourite BBQ Pringles for snack.

INSET DAY—FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER

Tomorrow the teachers from Icknield will be travelling to the Business and Design Centre at The Angel, Islington to attend the Times Education Supplement SEN show which will include speakers and exhibitors.

We will be taking the opportunity to attend a variety of talks and looking at new methods and equipment which may benefit our children in school.

This will be our first such trip and we are hopeful it will be successful one.

