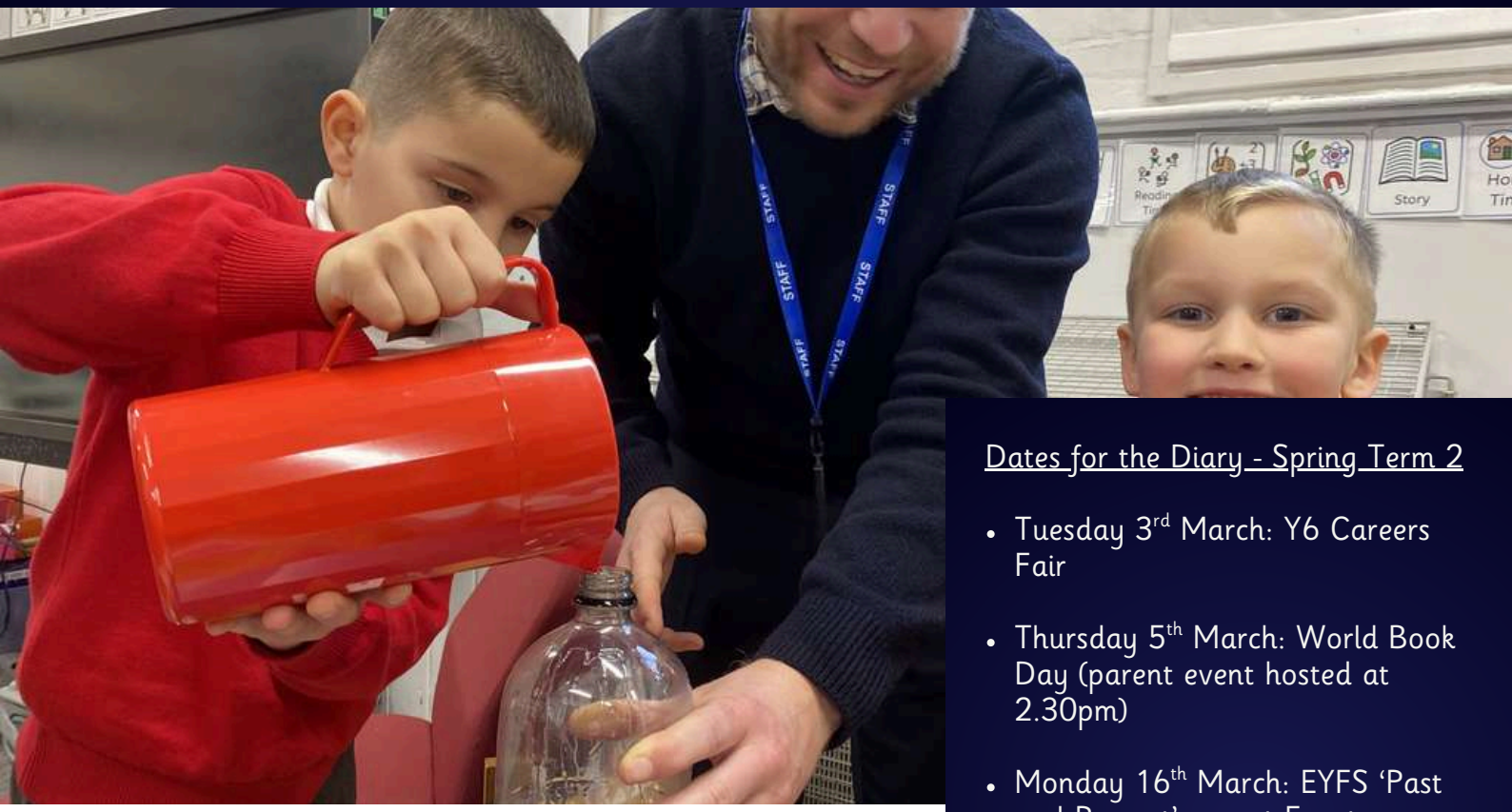
HORNING PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th February 2026



A message from Mrs Andrews
(Head of School and SENDCo)

Thank you to all our families and children for a fantastic start to 2026. As we welcomed new staff and new pupils into our community, our little village school has continued to show how we support one another like one big family—a feeling that was clear to Steff Aquarone during his visit earlier this month, when he spoke with children and staff about the importance of Horning Primary School and why small schools matter.

Dates for the Diary - Spring Term 2

- Tuesday 3rd March: Y6 Careers Fair
- Thursday 5th March: World Book Day (parent event hosted at 2.30pm)
- Monday 16th March: EYFS 'Past and Present' parent Event
- Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th March: Parent's Evening
- Monday 23rd March: Easter Extravaganza at Horning Village Hall
- Friday 27th March: Family Hub
- Friday 27th March: End of Term

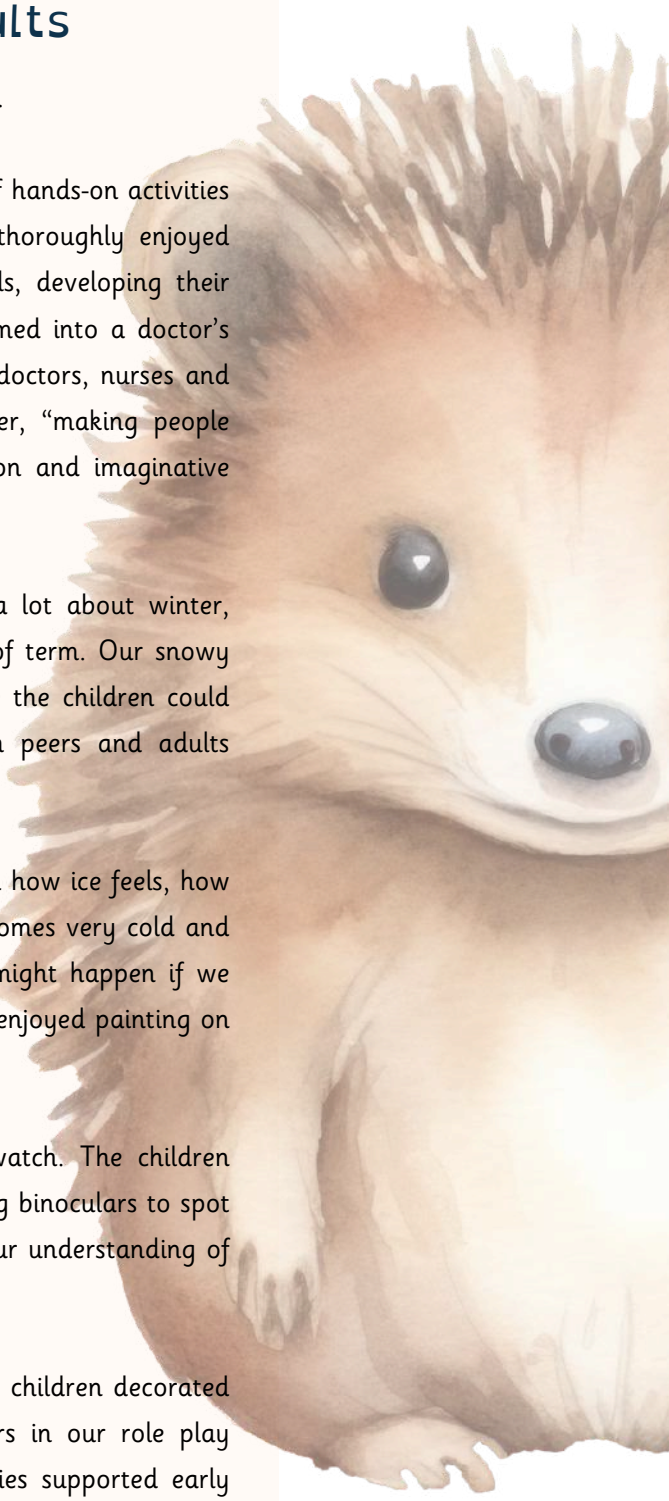


We had great fun on Number Day, raising a small sum for the NSPCC and enjoying some wonderfully creative number outfits, while our Valentine's Disco raised £90 for our PTFA, funds that will be spent directly on our children. Our Year 4 pupils also had an unforgettable residential trip to Hilltop, where they showed real independence as they stayed away from home, climbed to extreme heights, tried new foods and made new friends. There has been a real buzz for learning around school this half term, and we are very much looking forward to seeing this continue next term too.

NURSERY/PRESCHOOL

HEDGEHOGS

A message from our Hedgehogs adults



This half term has been a busy and exciting one in Hedgehogs Preschool.

We have been exploring the theme of "People Who Help Us", with lots of hands-on activities thoughtfully woven into our continuous provision. The children have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own emergency vehicles using a range of craft materials, developing their cutting, joining and design skills. Our role play area has been transformed into a doctor's surgery and fire station, where the children have taken on the roles of doctors, nurses and firefighters. It has been wonderful to see them caring for one another, "making people better", putting out imaginary fires and developing their communication and imaginative play skills.

The weather has also been a big focus for us this term. We talked a lot about winter, especially the fantastic snowfall we experienced at the very beginning of term. Our snowy tuff tray was a huge hit and provided a rich sensory experience where the children could then recall their own snowy experiences and share their stories with peers and adults surrounding them.

We extended our learning by exploring real ice. The children investigated how ice feels, how it changes over time and talked about how it is formed when water becomes very cold and freezes. We experimented with ways to melt the ice, discussing what might happen if we held it, added warm water or left it in the room. The children especially enjoyed painting on the ice and watching the colours spread and change as it slowly melted.

At the end of January, we took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. The children enjoyed making bird feeders, learning about different types of birds, using binoculars to spot birds outdoors and creating their own bird nests. This linked nicely to our understanding of the natural world and caring for living things.

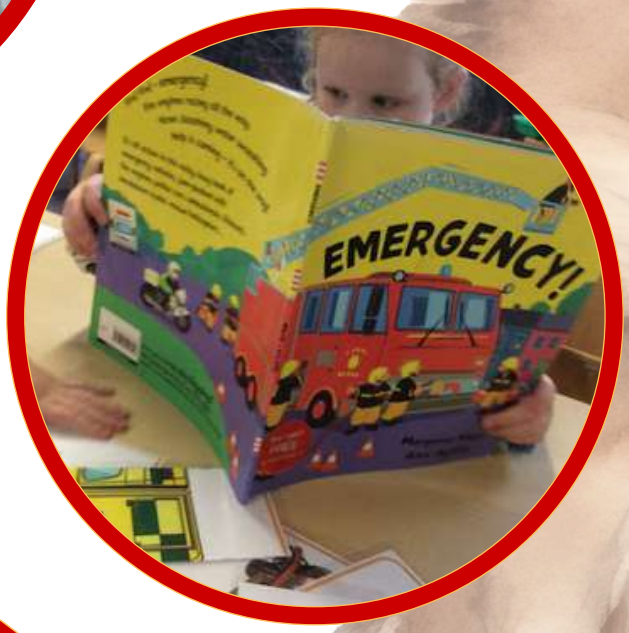
We also joined the main school in celebrating NSPCC Number Day. The children decorated numbers creatively, dialled numbers on telephones, tills and calculators in our role play areas, and took part in a magnetic number hunt in rice. These activities supported early maths skills, including number recognition, counting and developing fine motor control in a fun and engaging way.

As always, we are so proud of how the children continue to grow in confidence, independence and kindness towards one another. Thank you for your continued support.

NURSERY/PRESCHOOL

HEDGEHOGS







RECEPTION/Y1/Y2

OTTERS

A message from our adults in Otters class

We have had a lovely half term in Otter Class, learning about our topics of Let's Explore and Habitat Homes. The children have enjoyed learning about what makes a good explorer. We have thought about the equipment that might be used when we explore and also about how we could design a basecamp. We have made our own explorer flags and have also designed our own explorer badges. We have learnt about explorers from the past and also people who continue to explore now.

In our Habitat Homes topic, we have become polar meteorologists, thinking about what it is like to be a real scientist who observes weather, seasons and freezing conditions in Antarctica. We have thought about what a research station would be like in Antarctica and how special the continent of Antarctica is. We have learnt about simple compass directions and have located the seven continents and five oceans. As a class, we have identified different weather symbols. We have also enjoyed ice painting and have thought about different animals and how they have adapted to survive in different habitats. We have also enjoyed learning some winter dance moves in P.E linked to our topic of Antarctica!

Resources have now arrived for the sensory room and these have quickly been put to use!

In computing, we have explored how to use paint tools to create different pieces of digital art and have developed our skills of using the chrome books.

Otter Class also took part in the NSPCC number day. We created posters to show different numbers and lots of children came dressed as a digit!

RECEPTION/Y1/Y2

OTTERS







Y3/4/5/6

FOXES



A message from staff working in Foxes class

This term has been exceptionally busy in Fox Class. Our topic themes have been 'Let's Explore' and 'Habitat Homes', the latter focussing on rainforests. In the first topic, the children have learned about why people explore, where they explored and what tools and technology they used to make discoveries. We have also focussed on the major biomes around the world and the differences and similarities between them. Through cross-curricular links with science, we have studied some different explorers, where they went and the problems they experienced when travelling. Tasks within the topic have included a focus on group and paired work, as well as independence.

Our most recent project has zoomed in on rainforests, looking at where they are located in the world using maps, what the climate is and why they are so humid. In looking at habitat homes, the class has looked at what wildlife lives within the different layers of a rainforest, in addition to the effects of deforestation, both from a positive and negative perspective. The children have created Google Slide presentations to show their knowledge of rainforests and computing skills. Furthermore, they enjoyed being news reporters to show where rainforests are located and explain why they are so hot and wet, with reference to the water cycle and the temperatures experienced. They had the opportunity to record themselves doing this, with some realising that it was a little more tricky than they first thought!

In maths, multiplication and division strategies formed the main theme of the first part of the term and this has been followed up by understanding fractions, including recognising fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have also looked at problem solving within these number areas.

The literacy focus has linked to the topic. Firstly, the class looked at diary entries and were able to successfully produce a chronological diary using the past tense, time conjunctions and observations of what they might see in a rainforest at different points of the day. More recently, the class has looked at narrative writing.

PE lessons have seen the class perform dance routines with elements including canon, unison and formation. Placing these elements together has ultimately led to a full dance routine performing in groups. Additionally, the children have learned the skills associated with netball/basketball, which have included different sorts of passing, shooting and movement required for game situations. In all of our PE lessons, the children have had the opportunity to perfect their skills, as well as evaluate their own performance and performances of others by complimenting them.

Like Otter Class, we also took part in NSPCC Number Day and looked at how we could represent different numbers using manipulatives and calculations, whilst dressed as numbers or displaying numbers.

Y3/4/5/6

FOXES









Well Done!

At Horning Primary School, we place a strong emphasis on celebrating achievement, effort and positive choices. Every Wednesday, we come together for our Winner Wednesday assembly, where pupils from each class are recognised for their achievements linked to our Federation's core connections. In Foxes Class, children also celebrate their hard work in Maths and Literacy, with teddies or trophies to take home for the week as a special reward. Throughout the school, pupils can earn Horning Merits for demonstrating excellent behaviours for learning, making positive choices, and going above and beyond what is expected of them. These celebrations help reinforce our shared values and encourage all children to be the very best they can be.





HORNING PTFA

Valentine's Disco - Thursday 12th February

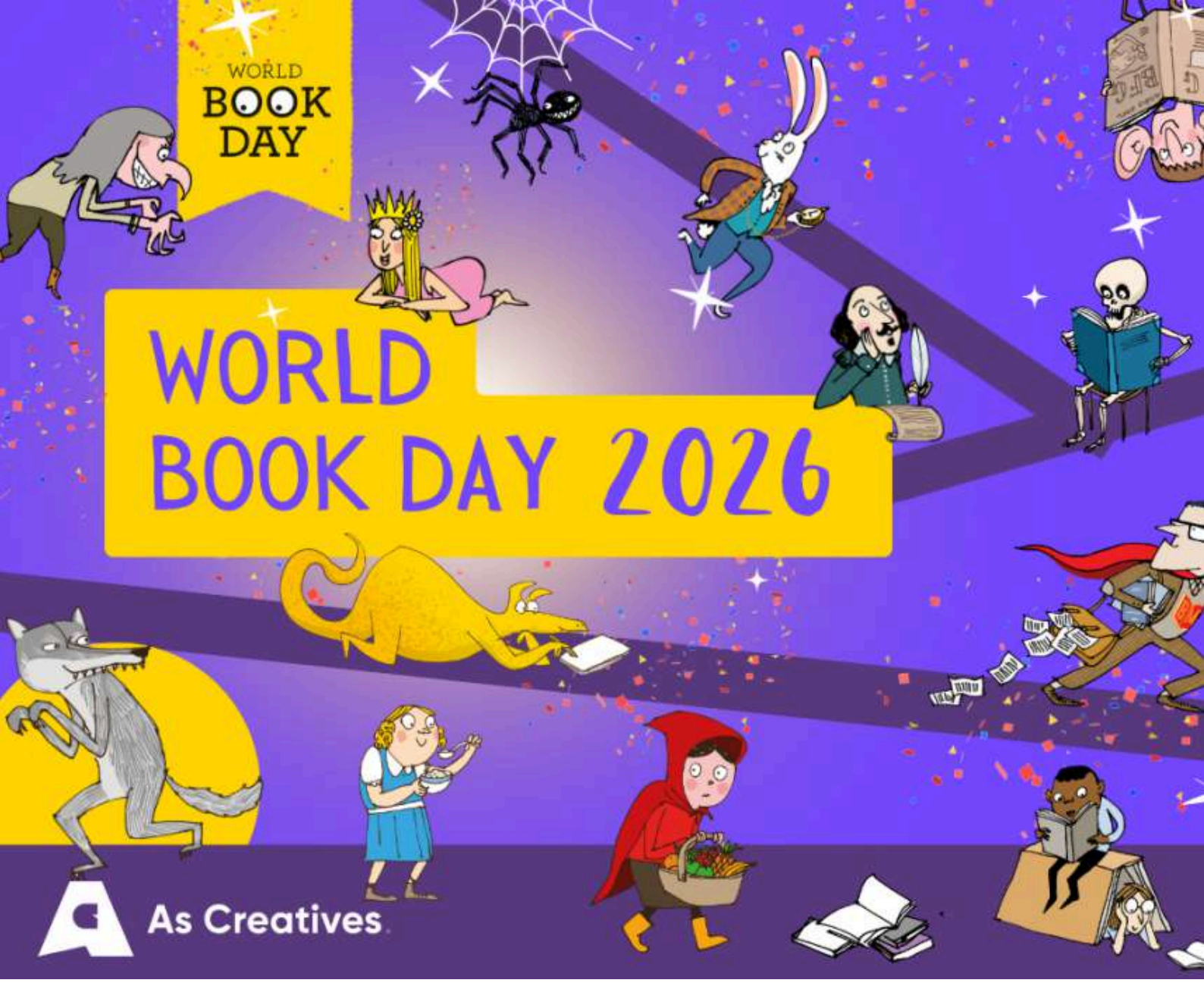
Thank you to all our families, staff and PTFA members who supported our Valentine's Disco this year. Approximately £90 was raised for the school's PTFA pot.











WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day will be hosted on Thursday 5th March 2026.

We invite all children from Nursery to Year 6 to dress up as their favourite book character.

A parent event will be held in Hedgehogs, Otters and Foxes classes for families to attend from 2.30pm.