

We are inclusive, confident, and enterprising learners who are brave, curious, optimistic, and kind. We are ready to embrace the future!



LEARNING
ACADEMIES TRUST

FRIDAY, 4TH APRIL 2025

CONTACT US ON



01752 225314



<http://hydepark-inf.plymouth.sch.uk/>

<http://www.hydeparkjuniorschool.co.uk>



office@hydeparkprimary.co.uk

Update - Mrs. Jones

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers,

As we reach the end of this vibrant and rewarding term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on all that has made it so special here at Hyde Park Schools. From exciting curriculum projects to brilliant performances and sporting achievements, this term has been filled with memorable learning experiences and moments of genuine joy.

The dedication of our pupils, the support of our families, and the commitment of our staff continue to foster a warm, nurturing environment where every child is encouraged to grow, flourish, and reach their full potential. None of this would be possible without the collective effort of our entire school community.

I'd like to offer a heartfelt thank you to our Governors, whose steady guidance and strategic input help shape the direction of our school. Likewise, we are incredibly grateful to our wonderful PTFA, whose tireless fundraising and generous contributions such as supporting competition leotards and enhancing enrichment activities, make a tangible difference in the daily lives of our pupils.

As we now approach the Easter break, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all our families. May this holiday be filled with rest, celebration, and special time spent with loved ones. I also encourage you to continue engaging with your child's learning over the break, whether through reading together, exploring nature, baking, or simply having meaningful conversations. These shared moments support curiosity and confidence in ways that last far beyond the classroom.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we are filled with excitement and optimism for all the opportunities and milestones to come. Thank you for being such an important part of the Hyde Park School community. Your continued support, encouragement, and involvement truly make our success possible. Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Easter.

Reception Readers and Rising Sports Stars!

In Reception, it has been wonderful to see our young learners growing in confidence as they develop their early reading skills. The children are using their phonics knowledge to read decodable words and are beginning to talk about what's happening in picture books using clear and thoughtful language.

The children have also been active and energetic in their physical development sessions! The children have loved using sports equipment to practise sending and receiving balls; building coordination, teamwork, and having lots of fun along the way!



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A Community That Cares

We recently had a heartwarming display of generosity during our recent Mufti Day, where the Charity Council was overwhelmed by the incredible number of chocolate donations received. These contributions will make a real difference to our funding of pupils for the Turing Spain Trip, and we extend our sincere gratitude to all our families for their kindness and community spirit. With your generosity we raised **£312.21** for our children going to Spain! Thank you to everyone and special thanks to Mrs Burford and the Charity Council for organising.



Creative Caterpillars and Butterfly Art in Reception!

Our Reception classes have been buzzing with creativity this term! Inspired by *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, the children explored paint and folding techniques to create their own beautiful symmetrical butterfly designs. Alongside their artistic adventures, they continue to build strong friendships through shared play experiences. It's a joy to hear their imaginative storytelling come to life during small world play, including scenes on the farm and beyond!



Year 4 Dive into Ocean Discovery with Plymouth Marine Scientist!

Recently, as part of the ProBleu project, our Year 4 pupils had the incredible opportunity to welcome a scientist from Plymouth Marine Laboratory! The children were thrilled to explore how sound travels through water and discovered the fascinating ways various marine animals communicate. They engaged in thought-provoking discussions about noise pollution, reflecting on its impact on marine life. This inspiring visit sparked their curiosity and motivated them to consider their roles as future citizens in protecting our oceans. We are so proud of our students' enthusiasm and commitment to understanding and preserving the underwater world!



Year 1 Explore Animal Adaptations for British Science Week!

To celebrate British Science Week, our Year 1 children have been learning all about animal adaptations. They explored how different animals have evolved to survive in various habitats—considering temperature, camouflage, and diet. Inspired by their discoveries, the children used junk modelling to design and create their very own adapted animals, each perfectly suited to a chosen environment. It was a week full of curiosity, creativity, and scientific thinking!



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Academic Excellence and Personal Growth

We are thrilled to highlight the extraordinary accomplishment of **Poplar Class**, who made school history by winning **all three awards** in our Celebration Assembly—a first for Hyde Park! Their remarkable success included:

- The **Gold Cup** for consistently demonstrating our school values
- The **Outstanding Presentation Award** for impeccable handwriting and book work
- The **Attendance Award** for the highest attendance in the school

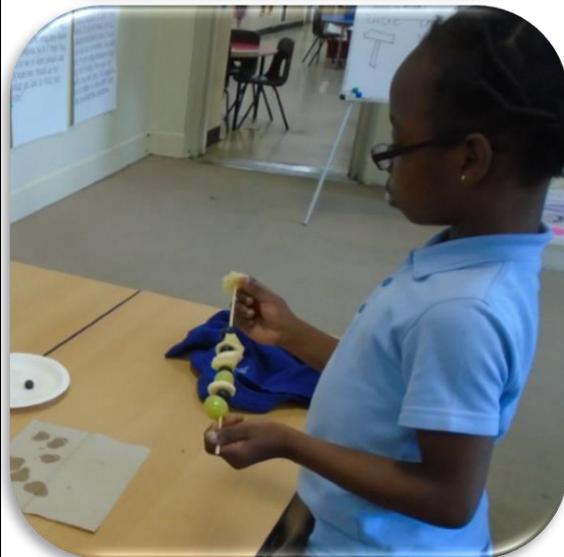
This incredible achievement is a testament to the class's hard work, perseverance, and positive attitude—qualities we strive to instil in all our pupils.



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Year 2 Get Fruity with Healthy Eating!

This week, our Year 2 pupils put their healthy eating knowledge into action by making delicious fruit kebabs! As part of their PSHRE learning, they explored the importance of a balanced diet and discussed how different fruits help keep our bodies strong and healthy. The children had a fantastic time carefully selecting and assembling their creations. They certainly enjoyed tasting a variety of fruits. Well done, Year 2! Why not try making your own fruit kebabs at home?



Fun Fact:

Did you know strawberries aren't actually berries—but bananas are? Nature loves surprises, especially when it comes to fruit!

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Year 3 Shape Fairytales into Clay Creations!

Over the past two weeks, Year 3 has transformed into a studio of young sculptors! Inspired by classic fairytales, the children have storyboarded, designed, and sculpted beautiful decorative tiles using clay. Their scenes bring beloved stories to life, with each tile telling its own magical tale. From shaping to painting, they've shown incredible creativity and dedication in such a short time. We can't wait to see the final masterpieces—can you?



Getting Ready for Reception: New School Readiness Initiative

Starting school is a big step, and a new national initiative is helping parents and carers prepare their little ones for Reception. Backed by the Education Secretary, the **School Readiness Skills Checklist** outlines key areas to support children before their first day—such as toilet training, using cutlery, sharing toys, recognising their name, and expressing emotions. This practical guide ensures all children have the best possible start, helping them feel confident, independent, and ready to learn! Read more about the checklist here:

[School Readiness - Reception](#)

Turing Club Tidy Up: Local Heroes in Action!

Recently, the children in Turing Club stepped up as community champions by heading out for a local litter pick. In under an hour, they collected an impressive amount of rubbish from nearby roads and parks. The children reflected on the harmful effects litter can have on wildlife and our oceans, and they're determined to keep making a difference. Well done, Turing Club, we're proud of your commitment to caring for our environment!



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Year 5 Learn Lifesaving Skills!

Recently, Year 5 children took part in a vital lesson on how to respond in an emergency. They discussed ways to stay calm and safe, and even learned skills that could help save a life. The children practised checking if someone is breathing and confidently placed a patient in the recovery position. A big well done to Year 5 for showing such maturity and care during this important learning experience!



What To Do In An Emergency:

1. Stay Calm

Take a deep breath and try not to panic. Staying calm helps you think clearly and act quickly.

2. Check for Danger

Look around. Is the area safe for you and others? Don't run into a dangerous situation.

3. Check the Person

Talk to them: "Are you okay?" Gently tap their shoulder if they don't respond.

4. Call for Help

Dial 999 for the police, fire, or ambulance.

Say what happened, where you are (give an address or nearby landmark), and who is hurt and what's wrong.

Tip for children: Practise learning your home address and postcode.

5. If They're Breathing But Not Awake

Put them in the recovery position: roll them onto their side, tilt their head back to open the airway, and make sure they're safe. Stay with them until help arrives.

6. If They're Not Breathing

Adults should start CPR if trained.

Children should shout for help, find an adult, and call 999.

7. Comfort and Support

Reassure the person by saying, "Help is coming." Keep them warm with a coat or blanket if needed.

Key Things for Children to Remember:

- How to call 999
- Their home address
- Stay calm and safe
- Never hang up on emergency services

Sporting Success

We celebrated phenomenal achievements in the **Devon Schools Virtual Gymnastics Competition**, where **16 of our KS2 pupils** competed with skill and determination. Against strong competition from across the county, our gymnasts delivered outstanding performances, earning top-three finishes in multiple categories, including:

- **Year 3/4 Silver:** Lola 3rd
- **Year 3/4 Gold:** Leo 1st, Anastasia 2nd, Emily 3rd
- **Year 3/4 Platinum:** Izzy 1st, Aria 2nd
- **Year 5/6 Gold:** Cotehele 2nd

A special thank you to the **PTFA** for their support in funding competition leotards—your contributions help our pupils shine on every stage.



Fun Facts from Our Gymnastics Stars!

- Gymnastics is one of the oldest Olympic sports, it was first introduced in Ancient Greece!
- Leotards were named after Jules Léotard, a 19th-century French acrobat!
- Flexibility and balance are just as important as strength in gymnastics.
- Practising just 15 minutes a day can help improve coordination and confidence.

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Governors' update

As we near the end of the Spring Term, we reflect on the work we have carried out in support of Hyde Park Schools. The governors have carried out a number of visits this term including a safeguarding walk, observing Maths lessons and visiting Early Years. All visits have been very positive and it is wonderful to see how the hard work of the staff results in continuous improvements across the schools. I am always impressed with the children when they move politely around the school premises and a 'Good morning' or 'Good afternoon' makes my day. As a team, we have also continued with our own development through training, and are aware of the changes being proposed by Ofsted for the next academic year. We continue to work for the best possible outcomes for all of our children.

I wish you all a very enjoyable break and look forward to the Summer Term.

Rachel Mathis
Chair of Governors



PTFA Update

The PTFA have had another busy time of fundraising and spending and together we have raised £2,759!

This term we had our Masquerade Disco, our Sponsored Fun Run, our pre-loved uniform and of course our School Lottery to raise funds.

The sun shone for the children as they ran around Central Park and had they all had a real sense of achievement with their certificate and medal! The children in each year group who raised the most money received a certificate, Easter Egg and Jump ticket, awarded to them in assembly yesterday! Well done to all involved!

This term, we are also delighted to have contributed towards recreating the communal spaces of the school to be calm and inviting spaces for the children to pass through during the day. We have also provided a small amount of money towards requested items for the early years provision, and most recently we purchased several leotards for the school's gymnastics team! We've also provided an Easter Egg for every child and member of staff to enjoy as part of an end of term Easter Egg Hunt! We hope they all really enjoyed the activity!



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Reminder: Collection Arrangements

To help keep our office lines clear for urgent matters, we kindly remind parents that if someone who **regularly collects your child** or **knows the agreed password** is picking them up, there is **no need to call the admin team**.

We have noticed an increasing number of end-of-day calls that can be avoided, so we appreciate your support in keeping communication smooth. If there are **last-minute changes** to collection arrangements, please do let us know as early as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure a safe and efficient pickup process!

Gate Opening Time Update

To further enhance our safeguarding procedures, we will be adjusting the opening times for the school gates. The gates will be opened 5 minutes before both arrival and dismissal times. This change is to ensure a safer and smoother process for all children. We kindly ask all adults dropping children off to walk with them to their designated area. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a secure environment.

Safeguarding: Our Top Priority

At Hyde Park Schools, the **safety and well-being of our pupils** is our highest priority. As we approach **half-term**, we want to share some important reminders and resources to help support children both **online and offline** during the break.

Understanding Bullying vs. Friendship Issues

Recently, we have noticed that the term "**bullying**" is being used more frequently, sometimes in situations that do not meet the definition of bullying. It's important to remember that **bullying is repeated, intentional behaviour meant to hurt someone emotionally or physically**, whereas **friendship issues and disagreements** can be a normal part of growing up.

If your child experiences a conflict with a peer, we encourage open discussions at home about **resolving disagreements positively**. However, if there are persistent concerns about **bullying**, please do not hesitate to reach out so we can **address the situation appropriately**.

For further guidance, visit:
Anti-Bullying Alliance – <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>
NSPCC - What is Bullying? – <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-bullying>

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Online Safety During Half-Term

With more free time over the break, children may be spending increased time online. While the internet is a **fantastic resource for learning and entertainment**, it also comes with risks. We strongly encourage parents to **monitor online activity**, set **appropriate boundaries**, and **use parental controls** to ensure a safe digital environment.

Here are some key **online safety tips** for half-term:

- ✔ **Monitor screen time** – Set limits and encourage breaks from devices.
- ✔ **Enable parental controls** – Use filters to block inappropriate content on devices and apps.
- ✔ **Check privacy settings** – Ensure your child's accounts are set to **private** and they only connect with **trusted people**.
- ✔ **Talk about online behaviour** – Remind children that **being kind online** is just as important as in person.
- ✔ **Encourage safe gaming and social media use** – Be aware of who they are interacting with and what they are sharing.

Useful Online Safety Resources for Parents

ThinkUKnow (Online Safety Advice & Games) –

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Internet Matters (Parental Controls & Advice) –

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

NSPCC Online Safety Hub –

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

CEOP (Report Online Abuse or Concerns) –

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

We appreciate your **continued support** in safeguarding our pupils. If you have any concerns or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the school. **Together, we can ensure a safe and happy half-term for all our children.**

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Suitable Water Bottles for School

We kindly ask that pupils bring **water bottles with a sip-top lid** rather than those with large openings. Bottles with wide openings often lead to unnecessary **spills in the classroom**, causing distractions and mess.

To help keep our learning environment **clean and safe**, we encourage you to choose **spill-proof, sip-top bottles** for your child. Thank you for your support in this matter!

The Graduated Approach and SEND Inclusion

At Hyde Park Schools, we are dedicated to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive, regardless of their individual needs. Through our **graduated approach** to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and inclusion, we provide tailored support that is aligned with each child's unique requirements.

This approach follows a clear process of **assess, plan, do, and review**, ensuring that we consistently monitor and adjust the support provided to achieve the best possible outcomes for every pupil. We work closely with parents, carers, and external specialists to create personalised learning plans that enable children to reach their full potential.

Our policies and procedures are designed with inclusivity in mind, making sure that all pupils—whether they need additional learning support or specific interventions—feel valued and included in every aspect of school life.

Parents play a key role in this process, and we encourage open communication to ensure that your child's needs are met. If you have any concerns or feel your child may need extra support, please don't hesitate to contact **Mrs. Cecilia Harris our SENDCO**. Together, we can provide the right support for every child to succeed.



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Family Support Advisor

At Hyde Park Schools, we are fortunate to have a dedicated **Family Support Advisor** who is here to offer guidance and support to families. Our Family Support Advisor works closely with parents and carers, helping to address any challenges that may impact a child's well-being, learning, or development. Whether you need advice on parenting, assistance with routines at home, or help accessing external services, we are here to listen and offer practical solutions.

The goal is to build strong partnerships between school and home, ensuring that every child feels supported both in and outside of the classroom. If you ever have any concerns or need someone to talk to, our Family Support Worker **Mrs. Leisa Warne** is available to offer confidential support and advice tailored to your family's needs.

We encourage all families to reach out if they need assistance—together, we can work towards ensuring the best outcomes for your child.

Hyde Park Schools Join Turing Project!

We are thrilled to announce that LAT has successfully secured funding for the **Turing Project**, and Hyde Park Schools are excited to be a part of this wonderful initiative. This academic year, we will have the opportunity to take 10 pupils to Spain for an enriching cultural and educational experience.

As part of the funding, there will be exciting projects for the children to participate in, with strict guidelines in place for pupil selection to ensure a fair and rewarding process. Further details about the trip and the selection process will be shared in the weeks ahead. We look forward to this incredible opportunity for our pupils!

A Reminder of Our School Values and Responsible Use of Social Media

At Hyde Park Schools, we prioritise fostering a positive and respectful environment that reflects our core values of **kindness, respect, and community**. As part of this, we want to remind parents about the impact of social media, including WhatsApp groups.

While these platforms can be helpful for staying connected, we kindly ask that any concerns or queries related to school matters be directed to your child's **class teacher** or the **Senior Leadership Team**, rather than discussed in group chats. This ensures that issues are addressed appropriately and in a timely manner, in line with our school's commitment to effective communication and the well-being of all pupils.

Healthy Snacks and Lunches at Hyde Park Schools

At Hyde Park Schools, we encourage healthy eating to support our pupils' well-being and concentration throughout the day. Nutritious snacks and balanced lunches provide the energy children need to stay focused and ready to learn.

Here are a few suggestions for healthy snacks and packed lunches:

Snacks: Fresh fruit, vegetable sticks (like carrots, cucumbers, or peppers), rice cakes, or wholegrain crackers.

Lunches: Wholegrain sandwiches or wraps with lean protein (such as chicken, turkey, or hummus), salads, yoghurts, and water or milk to drink.

We kindly ask parents to avoid sending sugary snacks or fizzy drinks, and instead opt for healthier choices that contribute to the children's overall health and energy levels.

Thank you for helping us promote a healthy and positive learning environment!

Uniform Expectations at Hyde Park Schools

We would like to remind parents and pupils of the importance of adhering to our **uniform expectations** at all times. Maintaining a smart appearance is part of our school ethos and helps promote a sense of pride and unity among children.

Uniform: Pupils should wear the full school uniform as outlined in our guidelines.

Hair accessories: Hair accessories should be kept simple and in **school colours**.

Braids: Any braids should be **natural to hair colour**.

Earrings: For safety reasons, only **small stud earrings** are permitted.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in ensuring that our uniform standards are upheld throughout the school year.

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Important Reminder: Spare Clothes for School

Please remember to send a set of **spare clothes** with your child to school. This is especially helpful in case of unexpected spills, or accidents during the day.

Kindly ensure the spare clothes are labeled with your child's name and placed in their bag. Thank you for your support in keeping our children comfortable and ready for learning!

Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice & Support

In today's digital world, keeping children safe online is more important than ever. **Internet Matters** provides expert advice, practical tips, and resources to help parents navigate online safety with confidence. From managing screen time to understanding social media risks, their guidance supports families in creating a safe and positive online experience for children.

Visit [Internet Matters](#) for essential information on parental controls, cyberbullying prevention, privacy settings, and much more. Let's work together to ensure our children explore the online world safely and responsibly.

Support for Our PTFA – We Need You!

Reminder that our **PTFA urgently needs your support**. As mentioned in our recent letter, we are at risk of not being able to continue organising the much-loved events that enrich our children's school experience. Whether you can help occasionally or take on a more active role, **every contribution makes a difference**.

How can you get involved?

- ✔ Volunteer at an event – even an hour of your time helps!
- ✔ Support existing initiatives
- ✔ Attend PTFA meetings to learn more and offer input

Please reach out to ptfa@hydeparkprimary.co.uk if you can help. Let's work together to keep these wonderful events running for our children!



Recycling at Hyde Park Schools



At Hyde Park Schools we are passionate about our environment. Being a coastal city, it is important that we reduce the amount of plastic entering our oceans. The children have been thinking of ways to help recycle even more plastic.

We are going to be collecting **soft plastics at school** - that cannot be recycled in ordinary bins - (see the guide below) and turning them into eco bricks to create green spaces around the school grounds. We also need **CLEAN 2 and 4 litre milk bottles with lids!**

Thank you for supporting us to be Plastic Free Champions!



Green recycling bin **at home:**

- Glass – all glass bottles and jars can be recycled, whether they are clear, brown, green or blue
- Plastics – drink bottles, shampoo bottles, food trays, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, fruit punnets, detergent bottles
- Paper and card – newspapers, magazines, office paper, directories, cereal packets, envelopes, junk mail and cards, catalogues, cardboard packaging, shredded paper
- metal – food and drinks cans, aerosols, aluminium food trays and containers, biscuit and cake tins, clean sheet cooking foil, metal lids, tops and caps.

Please give your pots, tubs, trays, bottles and jars a rinse to remove any food waste.

Soft plastics and milk bottles **at school:**

Just follow these three steps:

- Clean it** – First, rinse your packaging and bottles out.
- Scrunch soft plastics** – Now, scrunch it up tight - if it pings back, it's a useful indicator it's soft plastic.
- Recycle it** – Send it to school and your child can pop them in recycling bins in the school office.

Examples of soft plastics:

- Bread bags
- and vegetable packaging
- packets
- Baby and pet food pouches
- Fruit
- Crisp
- Salad bags



Recycling at Hyde Park Schools



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- Recycle it** – Send it to school and your child can pop them in recycling bins in the school office.

YES PLEASE

Some of the most commonly recycled items include:



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Does your child love to perform?

There are spaces available in our

Junior Musical Theatre Club

Mondays 3:30pm-4:30pm
£55 for a minimum 10-week term.

Learn and perform songs and dances from popular films and shows!

Contact Vicki:
vickigreen2011@hotmail.co.uk

Message from Head of SEND for the Local Authority

Dear Families

As part of the SEND Improvement journey Plymouth City Council have enhanced the SEND support offer for all children and young people.

We are excited to launch our new SEND Graduated Approach and Mainstream Targeted Funding for Plymouth. We would love to see you at one of the online events below to share our updated platform and answer any questions you may have!

I look forward to meeting you soon.

www.plymouthgati.co.uk

Lisa McDonald (Head of SEND)

Wednesday 23rd April 7pm-8pm

Thursday 24th April 10am-11.30am

Monday 28th April 1pm-2pm

Meeting links are on ClassDojo and our Facebook page

	
March 24th to 28th, 2025	
Cedar	Rory
Ash	Noah
Beech	Faimah
Poplar	Krithika
Willow	Adam O
Holly	Rodrigo
Elm	Rose
Sycamore	Joanna
Keller	Whole Class
Seacole	Eleanor
Barnardo	Makil
Attenborough	India
Curie	Emmie
Hawking	Wilf
Gandhi	John
King	Rose
Mandela	Lucky-Mae
Pankhurst	Lacey
Douglass	Sonny T
Dickens	Navin

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Nominations for being a Confident Learner

Cedar	Elliot
Ash	Nancy
Beech	Teddy N
Poplar	Zahra
Willow	Benny
Holly	Evelyn
Elm	Lily
Sycamore	Marcel
Keller	Freddie
Seacole	Jayden
Barnardo	Aliyah
Attenborough	Penny
Curie	Lola, Maisie and Alliyah Grace
Hawking	Sakiru
Gandhi	Bobby
King	Holly
Mandela	Ruby
Pankhurst	Isaac Fe
Douglass	Liam
Dickens	Isla



March 31^s to April 4th , 2025

Cedar	Heidi
Ash	Tabby
Beech	Janvia
Poplar	Reign
Willow	Aiden
Holly	Eva
Elm	Sienna
Sycamore	Isla
Keller	Finlay
Seacole	Freddie
Barnardo	Sienna
Attenborough	Miheli
Curie	Abel
Hawking	Daniel
Gandhi	Torera
King	Esther
Mandela	Romiliy
Pankhurst	Nathaniel
Douglass	Alfie
Dickens	Poppy

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Nominations for being a Optimistic Learner

cedar	Sheila
Ash	Otto
Beech	Jimmy
Poplar	Davina
Willow	Ometh
Holly	Teddy
Elm	Priscilla
Sycamore	Raine
Keller	Alana
Seacole	Phoenix
Barnardo	Freddie
Attenborough	Ava
Curie	Faizah
Hawking	Charlotte
Gandhi	Royal
King	Rosemarie
Mandela	Harry G
Pankhurst	Reuben R
Douglass	Chase
Dickens	Tryphena



April 2025

Week 1- 21 st - 25th April	
Monday 21st	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22nd	Children return to school
	Year 4 Swimming @9am
	Earth Day
Wednesday 23rd	Eco Council meeting @3:30pm- 4:15pm
	Charity Council Meeting @3:30pm- 4:15pm
Thursday 24th	Year 2 swimming @12:30
	Sports Council Meeting @3:30- 4:15pm
Week 2- 28 th April- 2 nd May	
Year 1 Week of Experience	
Tuesday 29th	Year 4 Swimming @9am
Wednesday 30th	Play Council Meeting @3:30pm- 4:15pm
	Media Council Meeting @3:30pm- 4:15pm
Thursday 1 st May	Year 2 Swimming @12:30pm
	Teaching and Learning Council Meeting @3:30pm- 4:15pm
	EYFS September 2025 induction Evening @5pm
Friday 2 nd May	Sycamore Class Assembly @9:10am
	Tempest Class Photographs
	PTFA Bag2School Collection

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