



Spring Newsletter

February 2026



UPCOMING EVENTS

24th February: Teacher Training Day

Every Monday: Forest School

Every Friday Lunchtime: Gymnastics Club

Music Tuition

5th March: World Book Day

16th – 18th March: St. Briavels Castle Residential (KS2)

20th March: Speech Making and Poetry

27th March: Celebration Assembly

30th March – 10th April: Easter Holidays

Head Teacher's Welcome

As we reflect on the past term, I am filled with pride at all that our pupils have accomplished. One particular highlight was our swimming lessons, where the children not only thoroughly enjoyed their time in the pool but also developed significant new skills and confidence in the water. For many, it was an opportunity to overcome personal challenges, while others refined their techniques and stamina. It was wonderful to see their resilience and determination on display, and we are grateful to the staff who supported them in making such strong progress.

Alongside enriching experiences for the children, we have continued to prioritise staff professional development to enhance our provision for all pupils. This term, our focus has centred on trauma and attachment difficulties, equipping staff with a deeper understanding and practical strategies to support children and their families. The nurture training undertaken has been particularly valuable, helping us to translate theory into meaningful, real-life application. By embedding these approaches into daily practice, we are strengthening our commitment to providing stable, safe spaces where every child feels understood, supported and a true sense of belonging.

Although we experienced several spates of illness among the children this term, it has been encouraging to see overall attendance rising. Being in school every day truly matters: it supports academic progress, nurtures friendships, builds routine and fosters emotional security. We greatly appreciate the efforts families make to ensure children attend regularly and arrive ready to learn. The term concluded beautifully with our “Meditation and Snuggles” experience, where pupils were treated to a calming sound-bath of soothing chimes, bells and sound bowls. It was a peaceful and reflective way to end a busy term, leaving both children and staff feeling relaxed and restored.

We now look ahead with excitement to a new term and a renewed focus on learning essential skills for life. One of our upcoming developments is a new dining experience, where pupils will sit at pre-set tables in groups of four, encouraging conversation, social development and shared responsibility. We are also eagerly anticipating the residential visit to St. Briavel’s Castle for our KS2 pupils, which promises adventure, teamwork and rich learning beyond the classroom. There is much to look forward to, and we are confident that the coming term will bring further growth, joy and success for our whole school community.

Mrs. D. Gibbs-Naguar
Head Teacher

Forest School



New Look of Key Stage 2 Class

Key Stage 2 pupils gave Mrs Gibbs-Naguar a list of suggestions to improve their learning environment. Many of which have been implemented, including a reading / relaxation tent, a prayer area, and a fish tank. The children have already named all the fish!



Upcoming Residential

Children and staff are all very excited for the upcoming residential trip to St. Briavel's castle in March!

Pupils will stay at St. Briavel's Castle, a 12th-century royal fortress which was used as a crossbow bolt factory and debtors' prison. Today, it is a Youth Hostel Association venue.

The 2 night stay is packed with many fun activities including playing team games, learning to fence, participating in a treasure hunt, campfires, stories in the chapel, walks, baking bread, art activities, a banquet, and a castle tour.



Monday 9th February marked the start of Mental Health Awareness Week. The whole school explored mental health through key texts, with EYFS and KS1 focusing on *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies to understand changing emotions. The week ended with pupils painting pebble “friends” to remind them of strategies that support their mental wellbeing.



Swimming

The children have all enjoyed the opportunity to do swimming this term. Three KS2 pupils have spoken about their experiences:

“Holding the float and kicking my legs, I learnt to keep on going. Instead of joining in playtime, I kept practising so I could improve more.”

Hardy

“I learnt to swim in 4 lessons. I enjoyed swimming and want to go again.”

Raf

“During the first lesson, I held my breath under water for 15 seconds. On the last lesson, I managed to do this for 30 seconds. Sometimes we played with a big ball. The instructors made each lesson fun.”

Scarlet

Trauma and Attachment Training

Staff have recently attended Trauma and Attachment training. Below is a short interview with Mrs Friedmann, one of the staff members who attended this course.

- **What was the Trauma and Attachment staff training about?**

How to identify trauma and manage it in the school and emotion coaching.

- **What was a key focus area?**

Attachment, adversity in childhood, brain functions, 3 stages of emotion coaching;

Stage 1 – Empathise, Validate, Label

Stage 2 – Set Limits

Stage 3 – Problem Solving

- **Did you learn any new skills? What did you find beneficial?**

I enjoyed the information around the brain and how it reacts to different external stimuli.

- **What did you learn that you can bring to a school environment?**

Patience and understanding are key, Connect before you correct.

Nurture Practitioner Staff Training

Over the past few weeks, staff at the school have undertaken training with Nurture International, exploring a developmentally led, trauma-sensitive approach to learning. The nurture approach focuses on emotional needs, attachment and well-being to support children's learning, particularly for those who may face social or emotional barriers. It uses structured, relationship-focused strategies to build confidence, resilience and secure attachments. The training has given staff time to research and reflect on how best to support all pupils to access learning effectively.

As part of this work, staff explored six key principles that support mental health, well-being and achievement: meeting pupils' social, emotional and cognitive needs; reflecting on communication; understanding behaviour and developmental needs; celebrating diversity and inclusion; building positive self-esteem and identity; and ensuring pupils feel emotionally safe. The training also considered the neuroscience of communication and regulation, including how the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems influence children's responses. This understanding will help staff recognise pupils' "window of tolerance" and support them in managing their sensory and emotional needs, ultimately enhancing learning and helping every child reach their full potential.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.nurtureinternational.co.uk/>

Mrs Kent

Lunchtime Changes

As of Monday 2nd March, our lunchtime arrangements have changed. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils are now at mixed at tables, which are laid with a tablecloth, dinner plates, cutlery, cloth napkins, and a small vase. A collective meal prayer is also said in the dining hall.

These changes are designed to create a calmer, more social dining experience for pupils, while also developing table manners, independence, and a sense of shared responsibility.

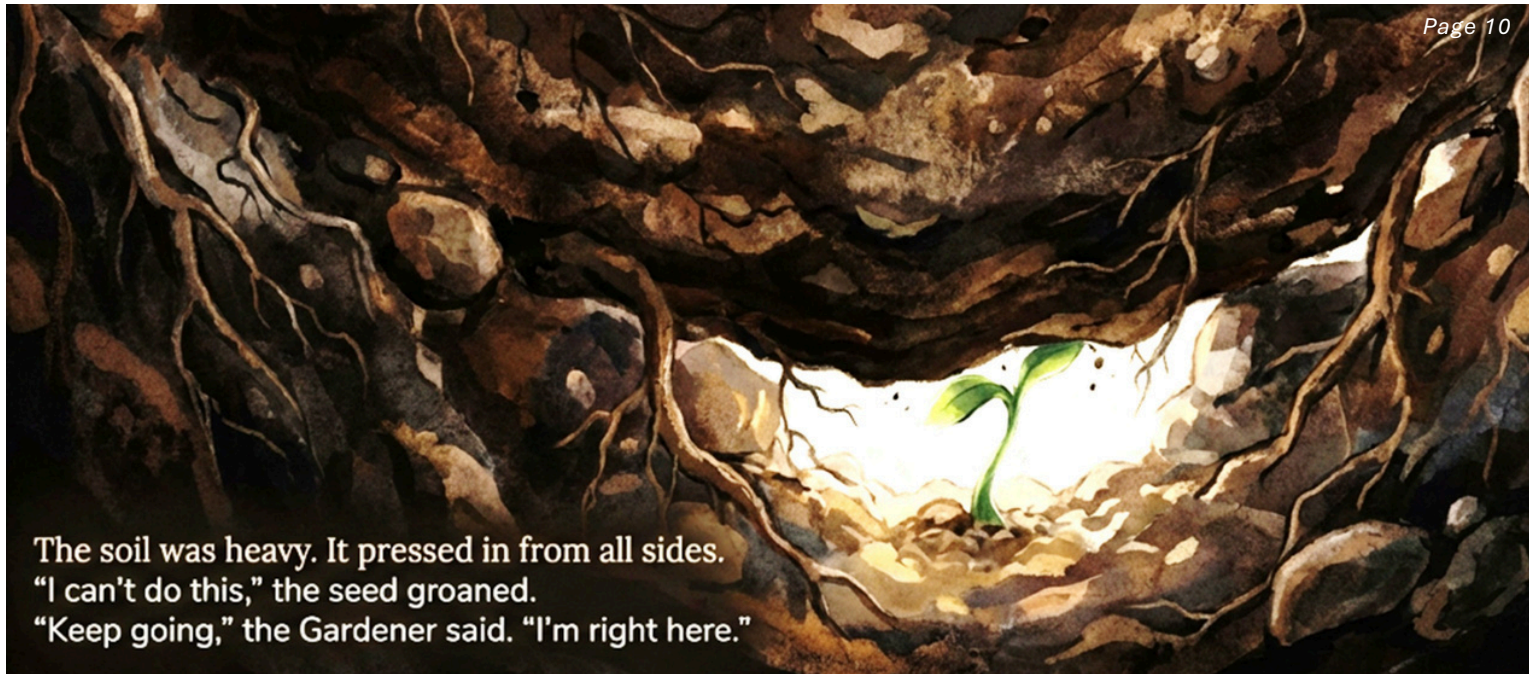


Collective Worship

This term, our collective worship focus is 'New Beginnings.' We are exploring how we can use this new start to build positive relationships, show resilience when tasks are tough, and embrace new learning. Children are reflecting on the theme of 'a clean page' remembering that every day offers a new start, a chance to try again, and a new opportunity for a new beginning.

We shared a story, where a little seed was tucked deep into the dark, cold earth. It was lonely and scared. However, the seed did not give up, despite being afraid and the soil being heavy. Finally, it popped through the surface, saw the sun again, and grew into a strong, beautiful plant.





The soil was heavy. It pressed in from all sides.
“I can’t do this,” the seed groaned.
“Keep going,” the Gardener said. “I’m right here.”



And then—pop!
The seed broke through the surface.
Light flooded in.
“Wow,” it whispered.

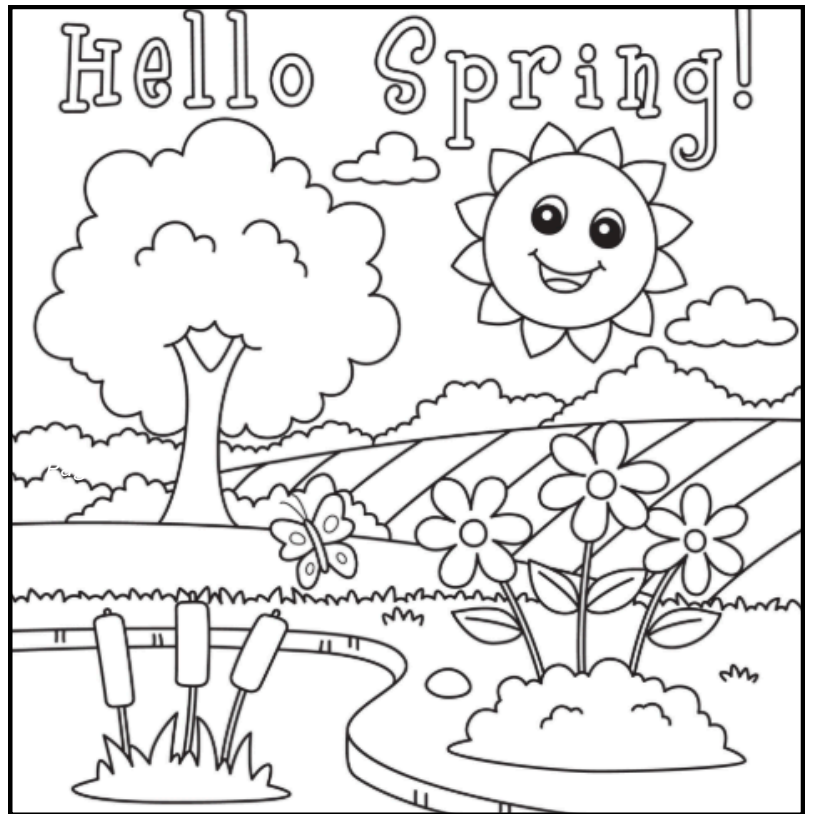
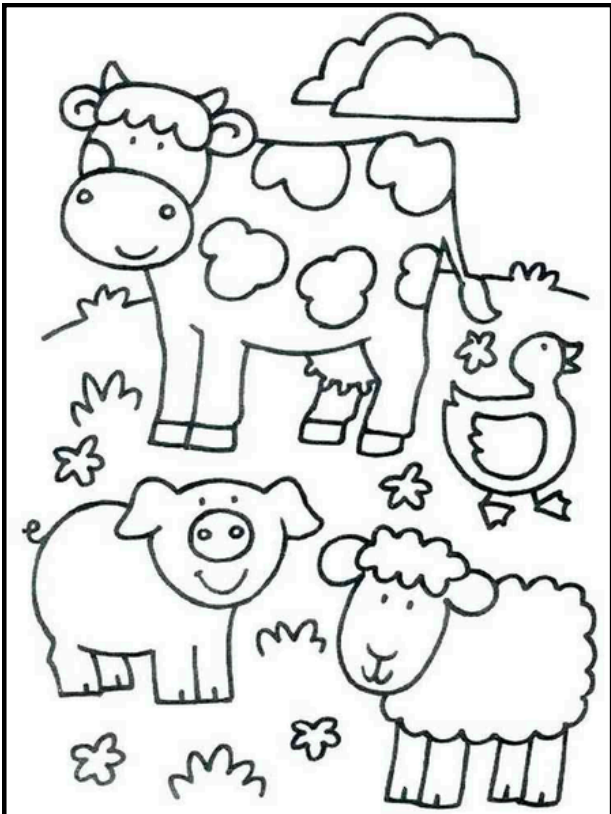
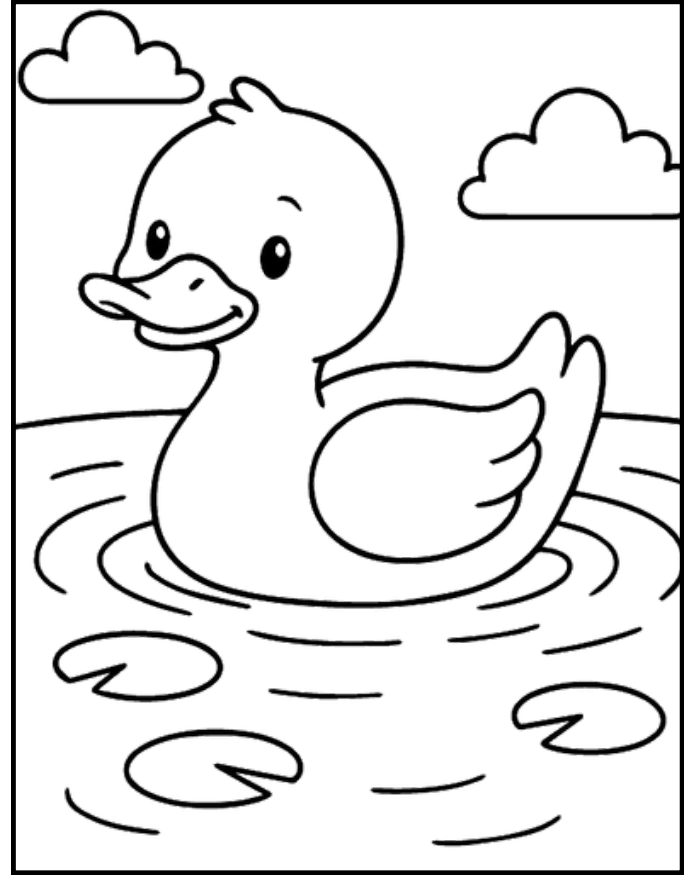
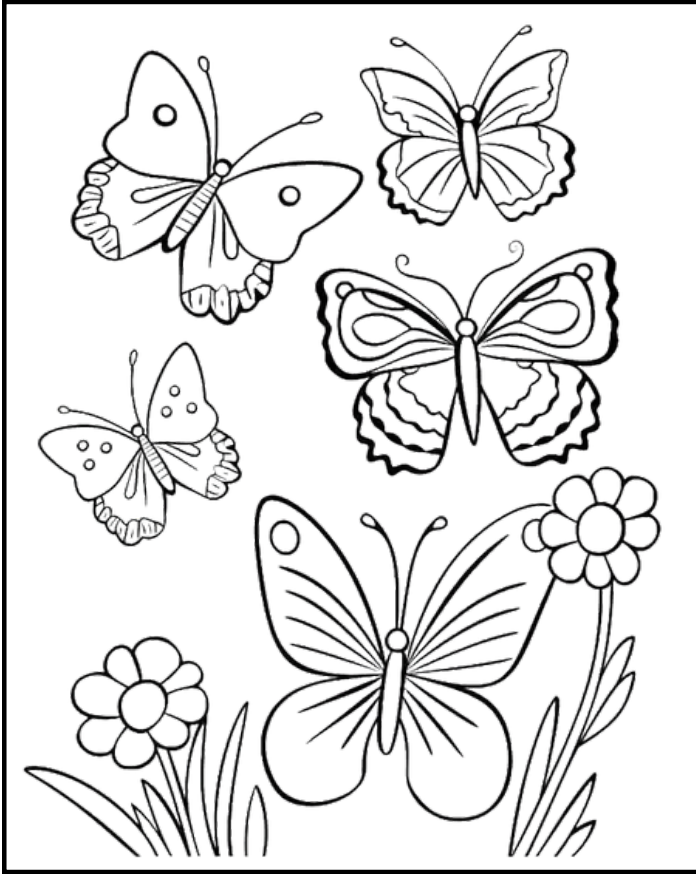
LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days.No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

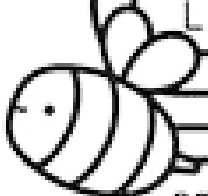
Colouring



SPRING

WORD SEARCH

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F	R	M	J	U	C	D	T	M	H	F	E	E	A	J	O	U	H
C	A	T	A	F	R	U	L	L	I	T	M	S	O	W	Z	J	U
X	I	T	D	J	O	X	F	T	S	H	X	P	G	O	M	I	M
X	N	N	X	R	E	O	O	E	L	X	Z	D	P	R	X	K	A
W	V	I	P	Q	B	U	N	N	Y	J	C	Y	X	M	R	O	W
S	X	S	D	E	G	G	S	O	D	B	L	G	Q	P	S	F	X
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L	A	D	Y	B	U	G	Q	U	B	P	D	G	A	L	H	E	K



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|---------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|
| BEE | BUTTERFLY | GRASS | LILY | SEEDS |
| BLOSSOM | CHICK | KITE | NEST | SPROUT |
| BUD | EGGS | LADYBUG | PUDDLE | TULIP |
| BUNNY | FLOWER | LAMB | RAIN | WORM |

