



NEWSLETTER

A message from the



PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

This half term may have been a short one, but it has been packed full of exciting events in the academy. Amongst everything, Reception have had a visit from the Pop Up Farm, Year 4 attended a Poetry Workshop with Spoz and also spent a day at the University of Wolverhampton. We were also visited by a dance company as part of our World Book Day celebrations and Year 5 have been undertaking some of their Science and Geography learning at Caldmore Gardens.

In addition to this, we added to our after school clubs, starting a gardening club, Boys Football and Cricket as well. Clubs for this half term have now

finished and new clubs will start after Easter. If you haven't booked, it is now too late to book through MCAS. Please watch out for messages from the office if we have any spaces left in clubs.

As we break up today for Easter, I would like to wish you and your family a safe, happy and enjoyable Easter holiday. I hope that we will also see some good weather over the break so that you can enjoy the outdoors. The academy re-opens for all pupils on Monday 13th April; we look forward to seeing you all again then.

Tom Garner

Principal



Monday 13th April

08:40—Academy Opens to ALL pupils

Tuesday 14th April

Maths Scrapbook Project Launch

Wednesday 22nd April

Year 4 - Visit to Frank Chapman Outdoor Education Centre

Monday 4th May

May Day - Academy closed

Wednesday 6th May

School Photographer (Groups)

Monday 11th May

Year 6 - SATs week

Friday 22nd May

Break up for Half Term



As a whole school we are finishing the half term at 95.1% which is great. There is always room for improvement, children must be in school for every day school is open. Holidays and long periods of absence should not be taken during the school time. I would like to remind all parents of the rules around time off during term time.

- In the case of an unauthorised leave of absence and failure to comply with the school's Attendance Policy, we may request that the Local Authority issue a Penalty Notice without further warning.
- The amount of the penalty is £160 per parent, per child, this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. If the penalty remains unpaid, this may lead to prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.
- Within a 3-year rolling period, if a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil, the penalty notice will be charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, you may be directed straight to Court by the Local Authority.

Admissions

If you or someone you know has a child who will be 3 years old this year. We have Nursery places available for 2026. Please come into the school office for an application form.

If you have a child who is due to start full time this school and have not applied for a Reception school place come and see the school office who will be able to help.

Currently we have spaces available in nursery PM, reception and year 2. If you need a school place for your child in any of those year groups please see the school office.





Car Seat Awareness

With the better weather approaching and many people undertaking more car journeys with their children, I thought it would be useful to re-send this information regarding the UK law on the use of car seats and child-safety in cars as a reminder. Sadly, we are still being made aware of some children arriving at school in cars without any safety restraint, including some who have been standing between the front seats of the car and this is a real concern. If children are not properly restrained in cars, the results can be catastrophic in the event of an accident.



Did you know?

*“Seat belts did not become a legal requirement for rear passengers until 1987? Even more remarkably the use of children’s car seats wasn’t made a legal requirement until 2006! Since then, all infants from birth until a certain age or height **must** be in a specially designed car seat. This is a legal requirement and failure to do so will likely result in you receiving a £500 fine but, of course, the threat of a cash fine pales into insignificance when compared to the realities and outcomes of an accident.” www.incarsafetycentre.co.uk*

Main points of the law:

- 1) Height based seats are required to used REAR FACING for a minimum of 15 months.
- 2) A suitable* child car seat **must be used** until the child reaches a height of 135cms or 12 years old, whichever is reached first.

*suitable = a seat that is intended for the child’s height, weight and the vehicle it is to be used in.

The purpose of the regulations and the law is to improve levels of safety for children in vehicles. It is our responsibility to ensure our children are protected to the best of our ability.

What are the legal requirements for rear-facing car seats?

New laws dictate that children must travel in rear-facing car seats until they are 15 months old.

Furthermore, you must never fit a rear-facing car seat in the front of your car where there is an active passenger airbag.

What are the legal requirements for forward-facing car seats?

From 15 months old onwards, it is believed that your child’s neck will be strong enough to more reasonable handle the impact of an accident and, therefore, forward-facing car seats may be used. **However, it is recommended that rear-facing seats are used for as long as possible.**

What car seat is legally required for my child?

There are two categories of seats: those that are manufactured to the latest **EU standard ECE R129**, known as i-Size and are based on a child’s height; and those manufactured under the **EU standard ECE R44-04** which are weight-based.





The type of car seat your child needs depends on their height and weight.

Group	0+	0+ and 1	1	1,2	1,4,5	2,3
Weight	Newborn to 13kg	Rear facing newborn to 13kg Front facing 9kg to 18kg	Front facing 9kg to 18kg Rear facing group 1 seat available	Rear facing 9kg to 25kg Mostly rear facing but some front facing	Front facing 9kg to 18kg with harness 15kg to 36kg with seat belt	Front facing 15kg to 36kg with seat belt
Height	Top of head level with top of seat	Eyes level with top of seat (front facing)	Eyes level with top of seat	Eyes level with top of seat	Until max weight or harness starts to dip below shoulders. Use with seat belt until 12 years or 135cm tall	Until 12 years or height of 135cm

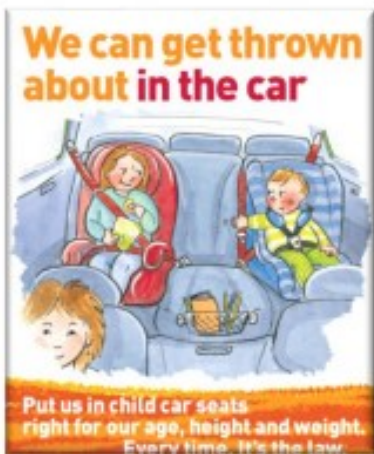
When can a child legally travel without a car seat?

In the UK, children **must** be restrained in a car seat until they are 12 years old or at least 135cm tall. From that point onwards, they must use a seat belt like all adults.

There are a few exceptions to this:

- A child can travel in a taxi or mini-cab without a car seat if the driver doesn't provide one however, they **must** wear a seat belt.
- The same rule applies for coaches and minibuses – children **must** travel in rear seats and use seat belts.
- If you have to make a short, unexpected journey as an emergency, it is legally acceptable to restrain your child with just a seatbelt instead of a car seat providing your child is 3 years or older.
- Children with special or additional needs or medical conditions will have bespoke requirements outside of normal laws. Usually, they are required to be restrained by means designed for their needs.

While these exceptions exist, it is advisable not to take any unnecessary risks. Accidents happen in buses and taxis too.



Further, really important safety note:

Of course, not all children like wearing their safety harnesses and seat belts and we know this can be a tricky area. Children do wriggle and attempt to get themselves out of these restrictive straps. However, if you become aware that your child has slipped off their shoulder straps, please take a few moments out of your journey, stop the car and re-position them as, if they are not properly restrained in the event of an accident, this can make a huge difference to the outcome of that accident.

Competition Winner

A big well done to Magda in 3J who attended the Town Hall on Friday to receive a prize from the Rotary Club.

Earlier this term, Magda entered the annual Rotary Club Creative Writing competition, which was open to all pupils in school. On Friday she attended a ceremony with 35 other children from across the borough of Walsall who won awards for photography, art and creative writing.

Magda then had the opportunity to attend a reception in the Mayor's Parlour!

Well done for Magda for being such a fantastic representative for our academy.



Attendance Rewards

When we return to school after Easter we will be running another one of our start of term attendance prize draws.

All children have a chance to win, but the number of actual chances depends on attendance. Each day, children collect a stamp for being on time, a stamp for being present for the morning session and a stamp for being present for the afternoon session. The competition runs for two weeks, meaning children can collect a total of 30 stamps. The better their attendance, the more chances they have of winning the prize draw.

The prize draw will take place on Monday 27th April in Celebration Assembly. There will be one prize for each phase of the school.

Please help your child to increase their chances of winning by being in school **EVERY** day and **ON TIME**.

Attendance Rewards

NAME	w/c 13.04.26		w/c 20.04.26		
	Morning	On time?	Morning	On time?	Afternoon
Mon					
Tues					
Weds					
Thurs					
Fri					

One entry into the prize draw for EVERY stamp received.

Nursery

This half term our topic this half term has been 'Once upon a time'. Together we have shared lots of traditional tales and enjoyed activities all to do with these stories.

During this half term we also celebrated Mother's Day, where our lovely families join us for some wonderful crafts. Eid, Easter and Chinese new year.



Reception

This Half term we have been learning about farm animals and looking at where our food comes from.

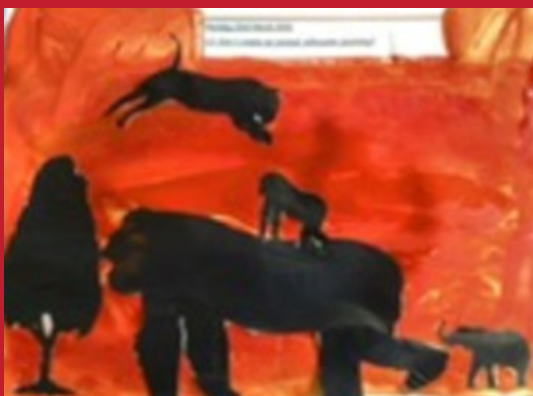
We had a visit from the Farm on wheels. We got to meet, a donkey, some lambs, a chicken with her chicks, some ducks and a guinea pig.

We then looked food from the farm and made our own bread and butter.



Year 1

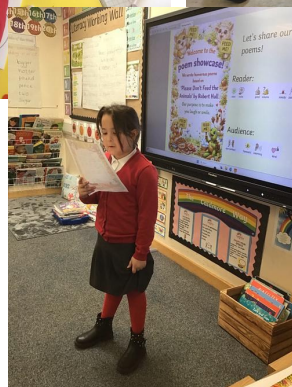
Year 1 have had lots of fun this half term continuing our learning of Paws, Claws and Whiskers. We have focused on Art and Design and Technology. We looked at different food packaging for dogs and used what we found out to design our own tiger food labels. In Art we have been exploring the marks we can make with different types of pens and pencils. Then, we used them to draw animals. We finished with painting a sunset with a silhouette.



We also enjoyed celebrating world book day with a special visit from a dancer who helped us to perform a story through dance.

Year 2

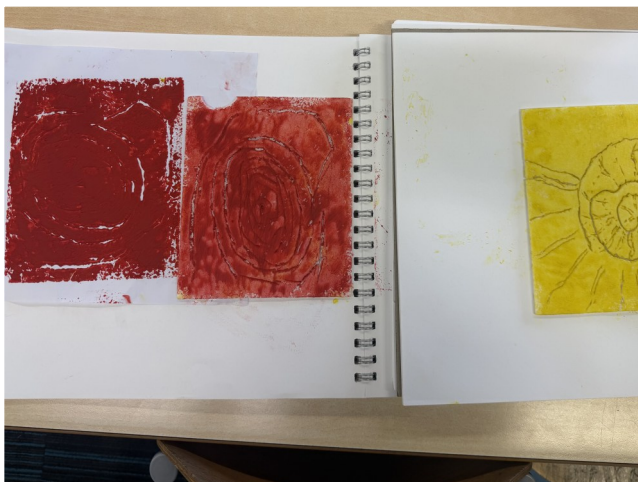
Year 2 have had a busy and exciting half term full of learning. In Maths, the children have been learning about fractions and can now confidently find halves, quarters and thirds. In English, they wrote humorous poems and proudly shared them with Year 4 during our poem showcase. The children also enjoyed a fantastic theatre workshop where they helped bring the story of *Pinocchio* to life. PE has been lots of fun, exploring net and wall games. In our wider learning, we have been inspired by activists and the positive changes they made in the world. In Science, the children have been developing their knowledge of plants and carried out an investigation to explore what affects plant growth. We also had great fun celebrating National Science Week with a parachute experiment. We are very proud of the children's enthusiasm and progress this half term and look forward to another half term full of learning and fun. Remember to encourage your child to go on DoodleMaths and Fonetti each day at home.



Year 3

This half term Year 3 have had lots of fun with our 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles' topic. We have created some Cams mechanisms for our DT project which we shared and evaluated. We then did some printing in art which was messy but very fun!

We finished the half term with a lovely Eid party and food.



Year 4

We had a wonderful day at Wolverhampton University where we worked alongside trainee teachers and completed lots of engaging Computing and Design and Technology activities. We also had a graduation ceremony at the end!

In our topic work, we learnt about mountains and rivers and created amazing models using Modroc.



Year 5

Year 5 have had great fun this half term learning all about farming and plants worldwide as part of our topic Sow, Grow, Farm. We have studied climate zones and seasonal crops and the famous Jersey Royal Potatoes and investigated the amount of food miles it takes to import the food we eat. We also had a great time with Anna at Caldmore Community Garden creating soil art and planning our own allotments.



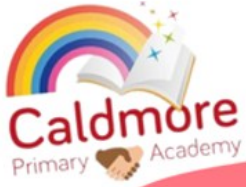
Year 6

In Year 6 this term, we have been working extra hard in preparation for our SATs. We have enjoyed our geography topic of Frozen Kingdoms. Alongside this we enjoyed using our curious minds in our lesson for British Science Week. For World Book Day we took part in a dance workshop that led to a joint performance based on Pinocchio with other classes throughout the school. We also enjoyed taking part in the big 'footy and booky' quiz!



Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct items of uniform each and every day.



Uniform

Smart black shoes



White polo shirt



Grey trousers, skirt, shorts or pinafore



Plain red, white or black headscarf

NO hoop earrings, big hair accessories or extreme haircuts



Red jumper or cardigan



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