

28TH FEBRUARY 2025

ISSUE 20

# PRIORY SCHOOL NEWS

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## Headteacher's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely half term. As we settle into this busy period, I want to thank you for proactively logging into Arbor—your engagement has made the transition much smoother. If you need any support, please email [arborenquiries@priorschool.com](mailto:arborenquiries@priorschool.com).

Across the school, brilliant learning was observed in our recent work scrutiny, particularly in Nursery, Year 1, and Year 3, where creative teaching strategies are enhancing engagement. Next week, we are looking forward to the Year 3 & 4 Finding Nemo performances, which promise to be a fantastic showcase of talent. We are also excited to welcome some very important guests from Slough who will be attending the performances! Supporting Our Families During Ramadan

As Ramadan begins on 1st March, we want to extend our warmest wishes to all our families observing this special month. To support pupils in Year 3 and above who are fasting, we are providing:

- Dedicated prayer spaces
- Quiet areas at lunchtime for those who are fasting
- Nasheeds and discussions in assemblies to acknowledge the significance of this time

We understand that some pupils may fast intermittently, and we encourage families to communicate any specific needs with us so we can provide the best support possible.

## Exciting Events Coming Up!

A reminder that World Book Day, Science Week, and Holi are all approaching, with lots of exciting activities planned!

### Dates for Your Diary

-  7th March - World Book Day
-  7th-16th March - Science Week
-  10th March - Holi Colour Run
-  14th March - Holi Festival
-  30th or 31st March - Eid Celebrations
-  2nd April - Easter Egg Hunt
-  4th April - Priory's Got Talent
-  7th April - Easter Holiday begins

We wish all our families observing Ramadan a peaceful and blessed month, and we thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Hannah Foster

# Attendance

Weekly attendance percentages - W/C 3rd February

Whole School - 93.2%

Year 1 - 92.6%

Year 2 - 89.8%

Year 3 - 94.9%

Year 4 - 93.4%

Year 5 - 93.2%

Year 6 - 96.1%

Congratulations to Plum with 100% the highest attendance this week!

Important dates:

[Click here](#) to link to the school calendar

[Click here](#) to see term dates for 2024-2025

Leaflets and letters:

Please [click here](#) to go to our leaflets page on the website and choose external providers

Sign of the week:

Ramadan

<https://youtu.be/pGxGhrRM2xk>

# Nursery Peek at the Week

## 28th February 2025

### Our Learning

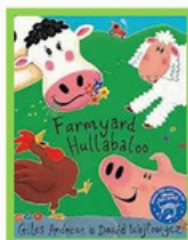
#### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This week we have been reminding our children to listen to each other and to the adults that are talking to them.



#### Communication & Language Development

This week we have been reading the story Farmyard Hullabaloo and learning all about the different animals that visited us from Basil's farm. We have been enjoying playing around with the different rhymes in the story.



#### Physical Development

We have been developing our large motor skills by using the obstacle course in the garden. We are getting so good at our balancing and jumping.

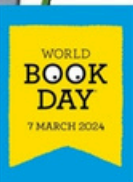


We had to use our hand-eye co-ordination to help us carefully cut around the animal shapes to make our animal puppets.



Friday 7th March  
World Book Day

Our chosen book in Nursery is 'Giraffe's can't dance'. You may like to choose this as a costume theme, or another book character, or the very comfy option of some cosy pyjamas. Please can we request no one-sies for nursery children due to the difficulty of going to the toilet in these. Thank you.



Holi Colour Run  
10th March 3:30pm-4:30pm

#### Farm visit.



★ Child of the week: **Hunter** for his amazing imagination this week and for being a kind and helpful member of our class.

Nursery rhyme of the week: Old Macdonald Had a Farm

Please encourage your child to watch and join in

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-g8UswAh\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-g8UswAh_s)



Contact us: [nursery@priorschool.com](mailto:nursery@priorschool.com)

01628 600300

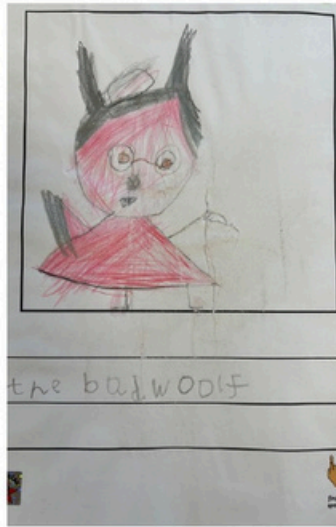


# Peek at the Week–Reception

## 28/02/25

This term our topic is "Traditional Tales" and we have started this week by reading Little Red Riding Hood. There have been lots of opportunities to re-enact the tale this week during our continuous provision– using puppets, small world scenes and with dressing up costumes!

We saw some incredible writing this week, when the children drew a picture of the big bad wolf and wrote a short caption underneath.



On Friday, we were lucky enough to attend a dress rehearsal of Year 3 and 4's performance of Finding Nemo! We had such a wonderful time, and the children particularly enjoyed the amazing singing. It was extra special for some of the children to see their older siblings performing up on the stage!

**Friday 7th March–World Book Day.** Children can dress up as their favourite character or wear pyjamas.

### Understanding the World

We had a fantastic time on Thursday when a farm visited Priory! The children loved petting, walking, brushing and feeding all the different animals. The



Shetland Pony and new-born lambs were a big hit!



### Physical Development

This term in PE, the children are exploring Yoga. Miss Miller was very impressed by their listening and turn taking during Thursday's lesson! Yoga is a wonderful way to build flexibility, balance, strength, coordination and posture. Additionally, it improves body awareness and helps children to focus their attention on the present moment and on each part of their body.

### Reception song of the week:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Nz7LUHiFNlg>



### Reception Stars of the Week:

R Rupert: Arham

R Paddington: Eliana

# Peek at the Week

## Year 1 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025



### Important Dates / Reminders

Please can all book bags be brought in on a Thursday so library books and reading books can be changed.

Please log in to Numbots.

### Homework

- Please read with your child for at least 15 minutes a day and record it in their reading diary.
- Focus core math skill: Number bonds to 20.
- Please log on to numbots



### Upcoming events

- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - World book day  
Children can dress up as their favorite book characters or wear their pyjamas.
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Travelling book Fayre
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Holi colour run

### Photos from the farm visit:



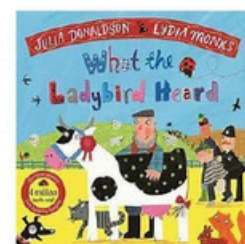
### Our Learning

#### This week:

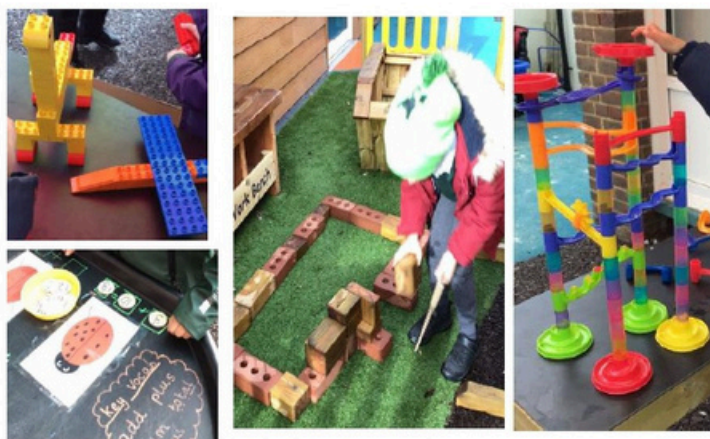
**In math this week**, we started a new unit on addition and subtraction within 20. The children used tens frames and counters to work our simple addition number sentences. They also used the tens frames to apply their knowledge of number bonds to 10 to help them more efficiently work out numbers bonds to 20. For example: using  $4 + 2$  to work out  $14 + 2$ .

**In English this week**, we started our new class text: What the ladybird heard. We read the story as a class and then spent time creating our own story maps.

**In afternoon sessions this week**, we focussed on how the children can stay healthy. The children drew the different healthy choices they could make such as eating fruit and veg or brushing their teeth!



Here are some photos of some of the busy learning we have done this week!



### Star of the week

1Donaldson: Ibrahim

1Jeffer: Sienna



Words of the Week: oh their laugh once many

Contact us: year1@priorschool.com

01628 600300







## Peek at the Week Year 3– 28th February 2025

### Important Dates / Reminders

04.03.25 Year 3/4 performance of Disney's Finding Nemo Kids 2pm

05.03.25 Year 3/4 performance of Disney's Finding Nemo Kids 10am

07.03.25 World Book Day

10.03.25 Holi Celebration

#### HOMEWORK

Please read with your child for at least 15

minutes every day and record this in their reading record. Ideas for reading at home can include reading a library book, a book from school or home, reading a bedtime story or following a recipe among other opportunities!

Books can also be read online at <https://www.collinshub.co.uk/login/>

Please practise number bonds and multiplication tables with your child. Times Tables Rockstars: <https://trockstars.com/>

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniform to school each Monday.

### Our Learning

This week, we have been busy rehearsing for our performance of Disney's Finding Nemo Kids. We are really looking forward to sharing the show with our families next week. In Maths, we have been continuing to explore measurement of length using metres, centi- metres and millimetres. In English, we have begun a unit of work inspired by a poem called the Sound Collector.

Next week, we have a busy week with our performances and World Book Day. Children are encouraged to come to school on Friday dressed as a book character or wearing pyjamas as a celebration of bedtime stories. In Maths, we will be learning how to calculate the perimeter of 2d shapes and beginning a unit of work focussing of fractions. In English, we will continue to explore how poems are constructed. In Art, we will be creating a collage drawing together what we have learnt.



Please can Year 3 children wear their costumes (anything blue) into school on Tuesday 4th March and Wednesday 5th March.

Thank you!

Word of the Week: complete Follow this link to find more super daily activities:

[www.morningchallenge.co.uk/](http://www.morningchallenge.co.uk/)

Contact us: [year3@priorschool.com](mailto:year3@priorschool.com)

01628 600300



# Year 4 Peek at the Week

## Friday 28th February 2025

### Important Dates /Reminders

**Wednesdays:** wear the correct PE uniform to school. Please bring in a water bottle.

**Fridays:** Spelling test. Please remember to read at least three times a week and record it in the reading record. Your child also need to be practising their times tables as much as possible.

### Dates for the Spring Term

**Finding Nemo performance for parents**–Tuesday 4th March  
PM–time to be confirmed.

**Finding Nemo performance for parents**–Wednesday 5th  
March AM–time to be confirmed.

**Year 4 trip to Ufton Court**–  
Thursday 27th March.

If your child needs suggestions for their costume, please speak to their class teacher.

### Our Learning

**This week** we have continued to practise the final parts for our performance. The children are very excited to share their wonderful performance with you all.

**In English,** the children have been writing their stories and we have really been thinking about how to use adjectives and fronted adverbials to describe different scenes.

**In Maths,** the children have been calculating the area by working out the length of each side by counting the squares and adding them together. Some of the children found this challenging and we had to remind them to take their time and not rush.

**Next week in English,** we will be moving on to our new story 'The boy in the back of the classroom'. The children will be starting to explore the new characters and learning new vocabulary from the book.

**In Maths,** we are continuing to look at perimeter but we will be moving on from rectilinear shapes to polygons.

**In the afternoons,** we will be creating our art collages with plastics so please remember to bring in plastic bottles, lids, bubble wrap and single use carrier bags.

### Child of the week:

4 Turing: George 4 Lovelace: Mia P 4 Chamberlain: Frankie



Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths.

Contact us: [year4@priorschool.com](mailto:year4@priorschool.com) 01628 600300



# Year 5 Peek at the Week

## 28th February 2025

### Important Dates / Reminders

World Book day: 7th March

Stem week: 17th March

Science Museum Trip: Thursday 20th March

Holi Event: 10th March

Priory's Got Talent: 4th April

This week, we started our history unit on the Islamic Empire. In our first lesson, we looked at a range of artefacts and made inferences about the people who may have used them.



### Our Learning

**This week**, we began our history unit on The Islamic Empire. Initially, we explored artefacts and used our inference skills. We then used our comparison skills to compare ancient Baghdad with London.

**In maths**, we continued with our decimals unit and applied our knowledge of thousandths in fractions and decimals, whilst also ordering and comparing.

**In English**, we continued focusing on plastic pollution and persuasive pitches with an aim to writing our own pitch. We also began a Reading Skills unit in which we learn how to approach the dreaded reading paper more efficiently.

**This term in PSHRE**, we began our 'Healthy Me' topic and looked at making healthy choices as we grow older.

**Next week**, we will continue exploring the Islamic Empire before starting our RE unit in which will learn all about Islam as a religion.

**In maths**, we will learn new strategies across percentages, linking them to: fractions, decimals, rectilinear shapes .

**In English**, we will research our chosen topic and write our own persuasive pitch focusing on either walking to school, fast fashion or planting trees in public spaces.

### Child of the Week

5Dawe: **Ethan** 5Maple: **Jordan** 5Ofili: **Melaniia**

### Word of the Week: **parliament**

Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths and Doodle Maths.

Contact us: [year5@prioryschool.com](mailto:year5@prioryschool.com)

01628 600300



# Year 6 Peek at the Week

## Friday 28th February 2025

### Important Dates /Reminders

07.10..25 - World Book Day

10.03.25 – 14.03.25 – Mock SATs Week

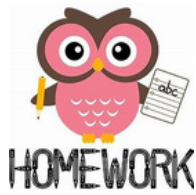
10.03.10 – Holi Colour Run

17.03.25 – Natural History Trip

**Thursdays:** Wear the correct PE uniform to school.

**Thursdays:** Spelling quiz.

Homework due.



### Our Learning

This week, in history, we started our topic on the Ancient Mayans! We learnt about where and when their civilisation was and how their society was structured. We also had the chance to taste different chocolates as it was considered a luxury in Mayan society!

In English, we used information we know about the Red-Eye virus (from The Last Wild) to write our very own newspaper report!

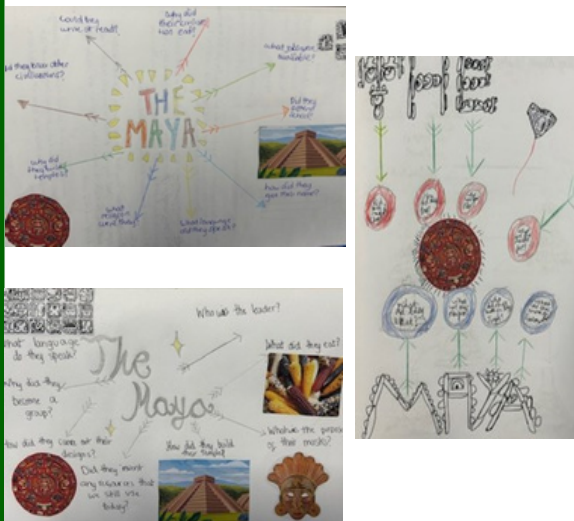
In maths, we completed our topic on percentages. Next, we explored the area and perimeter of rectilinear shapes.

After half term, in history, we will learn more about the Mayan Gods and their importance in Mayan society. In computing, we will use the software 'scratch' and use 'coding' to make our spirits move!

In English, we will be exploring more of the story through drama and conscience alleys. We will make informed decisions and put ourselves in the role of the character.

In maths, we will focus on calculating the area of triangles and a parallelogram.

### History -The Mayans



**PSHRE Focus:** Healthy Me. In PSHRE this term, we will learn how to take responsibility for our wellbeing. We will know about different types of drugs and how they affect the human body – particularly the liver and the heart. I will understand that some people can be exploited and made to do things that are against the law. I will know why some people join gangs and the risks this involves. I understand what it means to be emotionally well and can explore people's attitudes towards mental health/illness.



### Child of the week:

6 Attenborough: Areeb 6 Anning: Tobi 6 Darwin: Kensi

**Word of the Week:** lightning

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: [www.morningchallenge.co.uk/](http://www.morningchallenge.co.uk/)

Contact us: [year6@priorschool.com](mailto:year6@priorschool.com) 01628 600300



# Peek of the Week

The Orchard

Week commencing- 24.02.2025

## Important Dates/ information

**Monday-** Community Visit

**Wednesday-** Cherries trip to TVAP

**Thursday-** Apples Swimming

**Friday- World Book Day!**

Swimming- Please send children with towel, swim wear and swim nappies.

P.E- Please send children to school wearing their uniform and pack their P.E in their bags . This is to support the children in learning to independently dress themselves.

Makaton sign of the week:

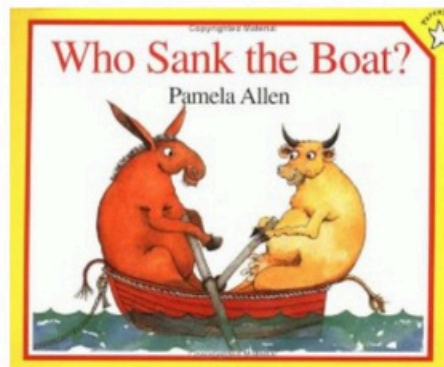
**Mini Beasts**

## Peek of the Week from the Orchard

This week:

In English, this week we introduced our new topic 'Mini Beast'. Exploring different insects and their habitats. Practicing the Makaton signs for each insect and acting out their movements, wiggling like a worm!

In Maths, the children listen to the story 'Who sank the boat'. Introducing them to our new topic ' Mass & volume'. The children made their own boats and followed out their own experiments finding out how many farm animals it will take to sink the boat.



## Stars of the week

Plums: Ardsher for becoming more independent

Cherries: Lalit for settling into his new school and class

Apples : Shayaan for being helpful in class

Pears: Adam Y for engaging in English and becoming more confident in PE



# YEAR 1 AND EYFS FARM VISIT!

The children in Year 1, Reception, and Nursery had a wonderful time during the visit from the mobile farm on Thursday. They loved spending time with the different animals and had the opportunity to hold, stroke, and feed some of them. The children were particularly fond of the tortoise and the 8-day-old lambs. The experience sparked curiosity and excitement, with many children asking fantastic questions about the animals and their care.



## Low-Cost World Book Day Pack

Like Priory, the team behind World Book Day recognise the negative impact of the cost of living on our community and would like to continue to provide opportunities to celebrate books and stories but on a realistic budget. For this reason, they have created a Low-Cost Dressing Up Pack which provides 'low or no cost' costume ideas as well as print out badges, masks etc. which can be added to clothes that the children already own.

The pack can be found here:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/World-Book-Day-2025-low-cost-dressing-up-pack.pdf>

The costumes are largely themed around characters that can be found in this year's £1 books that the children are able to purchase in exchange for their vouchers.

Remember, that as well as costumes, the children have the option of wearing pyjamas to school on Friday 7th March to celebrate bedtime stories.

World Book Day is one of our favourite days in the school calendar and we look forward to celebrating as a community next week.





# Priory School (Foundation)

Orchard Avenue, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 6HE  
www.prioryschool.com  
Head teacher: Mrs H Foster

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

RE: World Book Day 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

World Book Day 2025 is approaching and, as I am sure you are all aware, at Priory, we like to mark this in a big way. It is one of our best events for coming together as a community and celebrating the power of reading and books.

This year's theme will be **Courage, Determination and Kindness in Children's Literature**. We will be recognising and celebrating the different ways that authors, characters, stories and real people demonstrate our school behaviours.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, children will be able to come into school in fancy dress to help them fully immerse themselves in the world of children's literature. We look forward to seeing the amazing and creative costumes they wear. We are also more than happy for pupils to come to school in pyjamas this year rather than costumes to celebrate bedtime stories. We would not want any of our families to feel that there is pressure to purchase a costume during this cost of living crisis.

As usual, every child will receive a £1 book voucher, which can go towards the cost of any book or in exchange for a £1 book between 13<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Your children's class teacher distributed these on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Priory will also be playing host to the Travelling Book Fair from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Your children will be given timetabled slots to visit during the school day and the fair will be open after school each night that week. This is the perfect opportunity for the children to spend their vouchers and buy some brilliant books for their home libraries.

Reading and high-quality texts are at the heart of everything we do at Priory and we would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that every one of our pupils loves and has access to books.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr Philpott.  
English Leader

Contact: Telephone: 01628 600300  
office@prioryschool.com



PLEASE JOIN US TO  
CELEBRATE

# Holi!

FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

**MONDAY MARCH 10TH**

**3.30 PM**

**PRIORY SCHOOL FIELD**

NON-UNIFORM DAY

CHILDREN AND STAFF CAN WEAR THEIR  
BRIGHTEST COLOURS FOR A £1.00 CONTRIBUTION.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AFTER SCHOOL!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE COLOUR RUN AT 3.30PM  
£1.00 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON (EXCLUDING PRIORY SCHOOL  
CHILDREN)  
CASH ONLY

PLEASE SEE LETTER THAT WAS EMAILED OUT FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.

A COPY IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL  
WEBSITE

# UPCOMING EVENTS

20  
25

FEB  
27

FARM VISIT EY &  
YEAR 1

YEAR 3 & 4 DISNEY'S  
FINDING NEMO KIDS  
2 PM

MAR  
04

MAR  
05

YEAR 3 & 4 DISNEY'S  
FINDING NEMO KIDS  
10 AM

TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR  
WEEK  
3.15 - 4.00PM

MAR  
03 - 07

MAR  
07

WORLD BOOK  
DAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE  
UNDERLINED EVENT

# UPCOMING EVENTS

20  
25

MAR  
10

HOLI COLOUR RUN  
3.15PM

YEAR 2 WINDSOR  
CASTLE TRIP

MAR  
13

MAR  
17

YEAR 6 NATURAL  
HISTORY TRIP

YEAR 5 SCIENCE  
MUSEUM TRIP

MAR  
20

MAR  
27

YEAR 4 ANGLO  
SAXON TRIP TO  
UFTON COURT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE  
UNDERLINED EVENT

# UPCOMING EVENTS

20  
25

MAR  
27

YEAR 2 SHARING  
ASSEMBLY  
THE KING'S HAT

SCHOOL EASTER EGG  
HUNT (IN SCHOOL EVENT)

APR  
02

APR  
03

NURSERY ONLY  
LAST DAY OF TERM

PRIORY'S GOT TALENT  
(IN SCHOOL EVENT)

APR  
04

APR  
04

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL  
SCHOOL FINISH TIME  
1.30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE  
INDIVIDUAL EVENT



L'Appel – The Register

| French         | English           |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Bonjour        | Hello or good day |
| Madame         | Madam             |
| Monsieur       | Sir               |
| Bon après-midi | Good afternoon    |

Bonjour, monsieur.

Bonjour, madame.

Bon après-midi, monsieur.

Bon après-midi, madame.



## Les couleurs – Colours



bleu



rouge



jaune



vert



orange

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZR66TjJrDc>

## Le déjeuner – Lunch

Quelle couleur?



| French          | English       |
|-----------------|---------------|
| s'il vous plaît | please        |
| merci           | thank you     |
| Quelle couleur? | Which colour? |

Orange  
s'il vous  
plaît.Vert s'il  
vous plaît.Jaune  
s'il vous  
plaît.Bleu s'il  
vous plaîtRouge s'il  
vous plaît.

# Language of the month



Good morning  
**Bonjour**

Thank you  
**Merci**

Yes  
**Oui**

Hello  
**Bonjour**

Sorry  
**Désolée**

Well done  
**Bien joué**

Please  
**S'il vous plait**

Good afternoon  
**Bon après-midi**

No  
**Non**

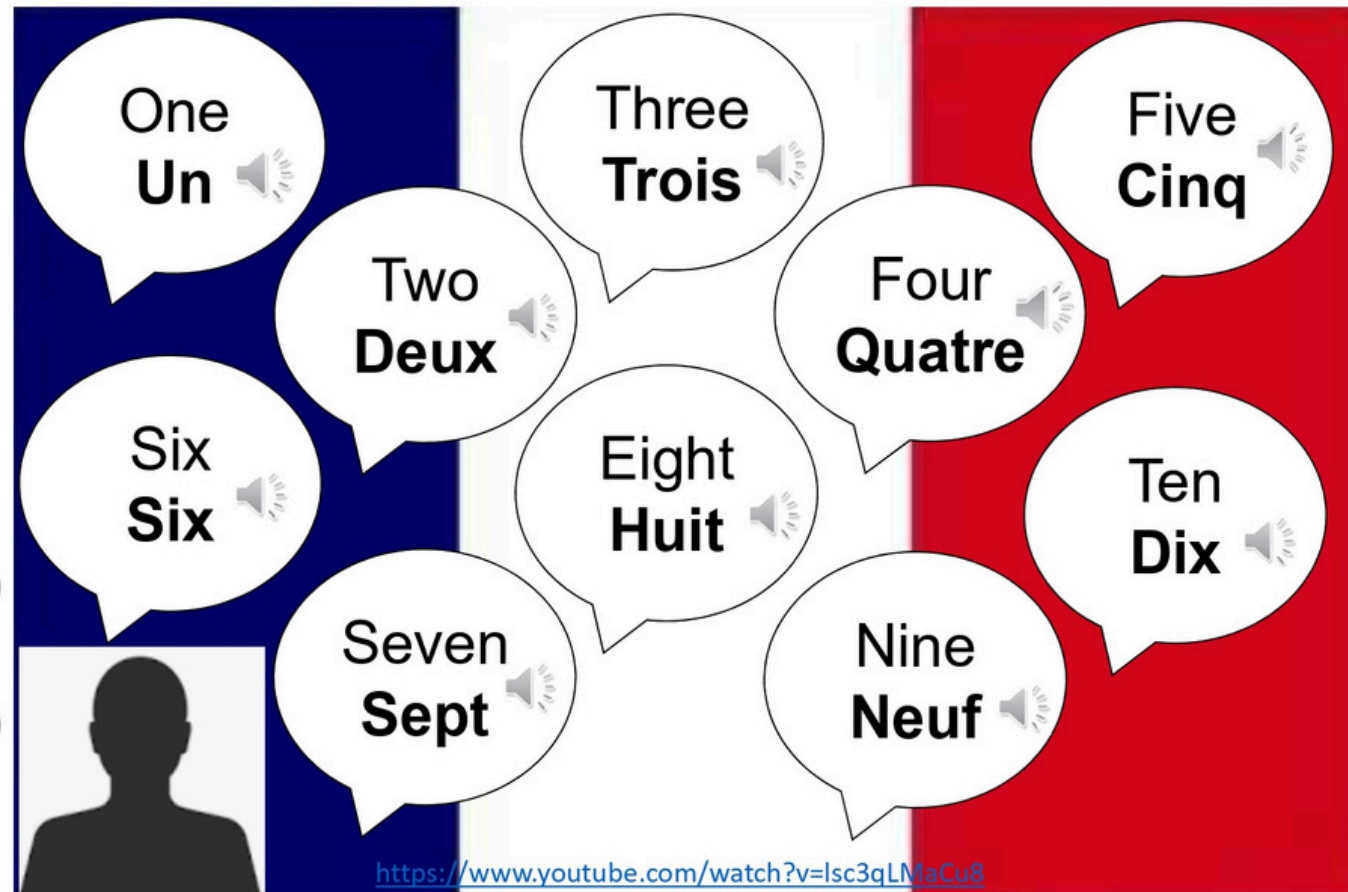
Goodbye  
**Au revoir**


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOdAzzZIS2U>


February - French





# Language of the month





One  
**Un** 


Two  
**Deux** 


Three  
**Trois** 


Four  
**Quatre** 


Five  
**Cinq** 


Six  
**Six** 

Seven  
**Sept** 

Eight  
**Huit** 

Nine  
**Neuf** 

Ten  
**Dix** 



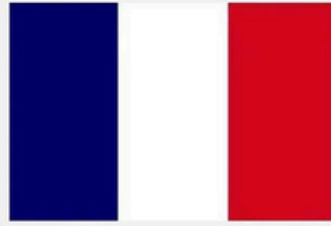
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsc3qLMaCu8>

February - French





**Useful websites:**



**Facts**

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/france>

**French national anthem**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIQSEq6tEVs>

**Frère Jacques**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrPiWFxmY24>

Contacting the SEND Team | Thank you Liz! | Our SEND Conference January 2025 | Feedback for our Inclusion Team  
Introducing our Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) | Slough Local Area Partnership Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection | SEND Team Update /Phase Transfer  
Upcoming careers event hosted by Together as One and Slough & Langley College | Staffing update | Newsletter feedback

**As we move forward into the warmer weather (hopefully!) this edition highlights key updates, upcoming events, and important developments in our work. From recent successes to future plans, we're excited to share the latest with you. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.**

## Thank you Liz!

**Liz Flaherty is the special needs adviser commissioned by the Department for Education to work with Slough Borough Council.**

Liz's role is to both challenge and support us in all our work relating to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Liz regularly meets with stakeholders and senior officers across the Special Educational Needs agenda, to help us to continually strive to improve the lived experience and outcomes for children and young people within the borough, who have a special educational need, and their families.

Liz has been working with Slough for nearly five years and has a deep understanding of the journey we have been on, striving to make, and continue to make improvements in our SEND related services.

After teaching in the secondary school sector for nearly thirty years, always with a particular focus on



children with SEND, Liz began working in a large shire SEND service, including as Head of Service for SEND. She was an OFSTED inspector for the SEND local area inspections before taking up her current role as a professional SEND adviser.

Liz, thank you for all the support you are giving to Slough.

## Contacting the SEND Team

There are two dedicated email addresses to help you contact us, and to help us effectively respond to you, we would ask that you please use the correct email address depending on the nature of your contact with us:

**[SEND\\_ECHNArequest@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SEND_ECHNArequest@slough.gov.uk)**

This email is the address to send all your ECH Needs Assessment requests.

**[SENDteam@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDteam@slough.gov.uk)**

This email is for all other enquiries.

Or call us on **01753 787676**.

**Join our mailing list, so you don't miss out on future updates on the service!**

Anyone can join our SEND newsletter mailing list, so please encourage your fellow SEND parents and carers and fellow professionals to subscribe for direct updates and information. They can email us directly at [SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

We are changing the way that we do things, and we want you, and our children and young people to be at the heart of everything that we do!



# Our SEND Conference January 2025

**In January we held our Annual SEND Conference for SEND partnership professionals.**

This was the second SEND conference, guided by Slough's SEND & Inclusion Strategy with a focus on strengthening partnership working.

Partner agencies played a key role in delivering workshops, including Berkshire Healthcare's NHS Speech and Language Therapy team,

Angela Mumford - Head Teacher at Littledown School, Jovi Armotrading from Together as One, and Slough's Early Years and Inclusion Team.

The gathering of partners from various organisations that support and work with children and young people was a positive experience. It fostered new connections, and improved our collective understanding of how we can create a meaningful impact for all

children and young people with SEND.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, offered their support, and gave us some constructive feedback. Please see a snapshot of the event below.

If you have any comments or suggestions for next year, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email:

[samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk)



## Feedback for our Inclusion Team

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"Thank you for the training yesterday - I'm new so lots to learn! Could you send the slides? I might use the one about Slough statistics in a staff meeting!"

"We sent two staff members on the previous training, back in the summer, and have booked for another to attend on 25th, however, because of the excellent feedback from the first two staff members, we'd love to send the rest of our staff. Can I add another eight to the one I've booked for 25th please?"

"Thank you for the resources. It was a fantastic training day. It really got everyone thinking about the needs of the children and we have something concrete to support them moving forward. The second part of the day we focused on what we need to put in place to support children's sensory processing needs, but in a more inclusive way so all children will benefit. We are now better informed about sensory circuits and can plan and ensure we incorporated all 3-stages and reflected on the active movement start we do with all children too.

"Thank you so much for delivering an engaging and very informative day and the resources will be used to move us closer to our goal."

# Introducing our Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO)



Let me introduce myself, I'm Stephen Mason, Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO), you may hear the role referred to as the "disco," so you can imagine the jokes I get!

I was delighted to join Slough at the beginning of February and play a role in developing the DSCO role as part of the children's services improvement journey. I'm still getting to know Slough, so do feel free to contact me and introduce yourself.

[stephen.mason@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk](mailto:stephen.mason@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk)

## So, what does a DSCO do?

Primarily it's to have a passion and commitment to promoting and developing quality services that promote inclusion and positive outcomes, for our Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND).

## Social care and SEND

The DSCO is the single point of contact for information in and out of social care, ensuring social care meets its statutory responsibilities, by providing quality advice for Education Health & Care Assessments, joining up our plans and interventions with Education and Health. Also, ensuring social care contributions to annual reviews. When plans and meetings join up it is easier for parent carers, and children and young people, and makes the best use of our resources.

## Listening and learning

An important part of the role is listening to the experiences of parent carers, and children and young people, understanding what works well, and what we can do better. This supports co-production, working together to make positive changes including in our systems and processes.

## Preparing for adulthood

Working with colleagues in adult social care by ensuring we understand the support a young person may need beyond the age of 18. Effective preparation for adulthood and 'transition' ensures an effective handover to adult services, encouraging and supporting independence, inclusion, and a purposeful adult life.

## Quality matters

This involves quality assuring colleagues' work, through auditing advice and files, so we can identify and share best practice and keep learning.

## Inclusion, independence and success

And finally, it's about championing the needs and the inclusion of our children and young people with additional needs, by having a good understanding and appreciation of the challenges faced, having high aspirations and expectations, and looking for ways to encourage skills and independence, across all our services and local communities.

So, I don't think I'll have any time to be bored. There is much to be celebrated and built upon in the work within social care and the SEND partnership, but clearly there is a more to do. I welcome the challenge and look forward to working in partnership with everyone, so we can proudly say and evidence that our children and young people with SEND are **Happy, Safe & Loved, Thriving**.

## Slough Local Area Partnership Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection

Agencies in the Slough Local Area SEND partnership are expecting an imminent phone call from Ofsted and CQC to announce a Local Area Partnership SEND inspection.

Most parents and carers are familiar with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED). This organisation inspects all our education settings and social care services. Some parents and carers are less familiar with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They inspect our Health Services and General Practitioner Services. Together these agencies will inspect the quality of the Special Educational Needs and Disability services across Slough (SEND) focusing on the experiences of children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 who need extra support to learn and grow.

Area SEND inspections also include looking at services for children and young people who live in the local area, but go to school or are cared for in other areas.

The inspection process aims to find out about the positive and not so positive experiences, of parents and carers, and children and young people, who receive services. This includes education services e.g. schools, early years settings and colleges; health services including CAMHS and therapies such as Speech and Language Therapy; care services such as Early Help and support from the Children with Disabilities Team and the offer of short breaks. Inspectors will also talk to Special Voices (our Parent Carer Forum) and other parent groups.

Crucially inspectors want to know how well local services work in partnership to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND.

# SEND Team Update/Phased Transfer

It's been an incredibly busy few weeks in the SEND team as all school aged children with EHCPs who are moving from Nursery to Reception, and Year 6 to Year 7, go through what is called 'Phased Transfer'.

This means that the SEND Team have been working under pressure with parents and schools to name the children's schools for September 2025. Our performance has

improved this year and next year it will be even smoother.

Taking on board feedback from schools and parents, SEND team managers are carrying out briefing sessions on improvements to Phased Transfers for the next cycle. We will be consulting with schools and parents to arrange these sessions post Easter, so please look out for announcements.

## Upcoming careers event hosted by Together as One and Slough & Langley College

This March, we are thrilled to partner with Slough & Langley College to host our inaugural careers event specifically designed for young people (16+) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The full event will take place on **Wednesday 5 March, 9.20am-2pm**, at the college, offering an enriching day for these young individuals to:

- meet with employers
- connect with people who have SEND and are thriving in the workplace
- learn new skills through interactive workshops.

The aim of the day is to spark an interest in different careers, and for students to find out about different work opportunities that will inspire them. While the structure of the day will feel familiar to many of you, we've tailored it to better meet the needs of the attendees. For instance, we will closely manage the

number of participants at any given time to avoid overwhelming those affected by sensory overload.

The day will consist of three sessions:

- stallholders to showcase opportunities and inspire attendees from 9.20am-12.40pm
- individuals within your organisation who have SEND and are willing to share their journeys will do so from 10am-1.20pm
- skills workshop leaders from 10.40am-2pm.

We look forward to hosting what promises to be an impactful and inspiring event.

### For further information contact:

Jovi Armotrading  
SEND Engagement and Participation Officer  
Telephone: 07709 525687  
Email: [jovi@togetherasone.org.uk](mailto:jovi@togetherasone.org.uk)  
Website: [SEND - Together As One](http://SEND - Together As One)

# Staffing update

**Three Business Support Officers (BSOs) have started work to quality assure the data we hold for all children.**

They are also assisting in streamlining annual reviews so that we can bring those up to date. The "Data Task Force" will be in post for up to three months and their work is already having positive results. Welcome to Charlie Randell, Kerry Gibson and Dupe (Mo) Jacobs.

Two of our interim SEND case officer colleagues are transitioning to new roles. Interviews will be held next week to fill their positions.

Plans are in place for recruitment of permanent staff in March. We look forward to providing you with an update you next month.

If you have further comments, suggestions or would even like to work for the SEND team, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Head of SEND via email at [paul.crulley@slough.gov.uk](mailto:paul.crulley@slough.gov.uk)



### Newsletter feedback:

this is your newsletter!  
If you would like to suggest any changes to this newsletter, see additional information, be added to the mailing list, and/or give feedback, please email [sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk](mailto:sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us.  
If you would like to make any article contributions, in future editions, get in touch [SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk](mailto:SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk). We would love to hear from you!