



EVERYONE COUNTS 'Our school is a welcoming, inclusive community where everyone counts'

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
2026

Our Value for this Half Term is:

Courage

& we have been

Celebrating Candlemas

Celebrating Candlemas and Trusting in God's Promises (Luke Ch2)

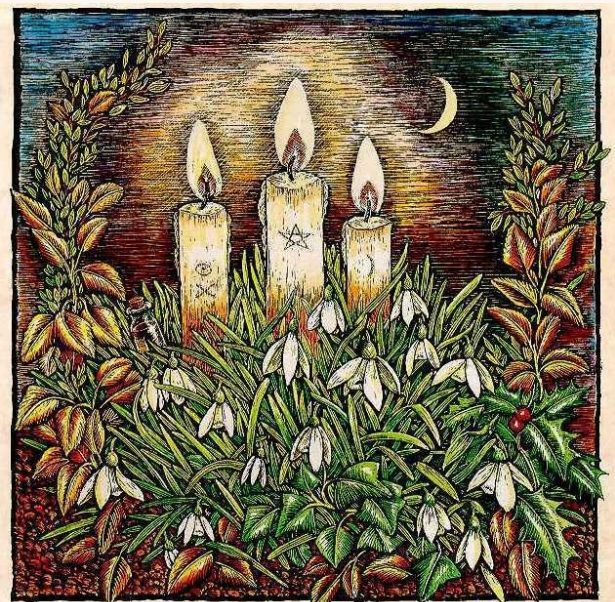
What Christians believe Candlemas is about:

- **The Bible Story (The Presentation):** It commemorates the day Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. There, an old man named Simeon held the baby and called him a "light to lighten the Gentiles".
- **The "Mass" of Candles:** It is called Candlemas because churches traditionally bless candles for the entire year on this day. These blessed candles symbolise Jesus as the "Light of the World".
- **A "Light in the Dark":** Symbolically, it marks the midpoint of winter, reminding everyone that while the days are still cold and dark, the light is returning and spring is on the horizon.

Meaning Linked to Everyday Life:

Candlemas connects spiritual, historical, and seasonal themes to daily life for children, including:

- **Hope in Dark Times,**
- **Sharing and Community (Pancakes/Crepes),**
- **Being a "Light" to Others, Following Traditions and Helping Others.**



CLASS NEWS!

Below you will find links to the website news pages for each individual class; including Forest School and Nursery. These pages will be updated regularly, to enable parents to see more of what their child/children have been doing in school; we are able to upload far more content this way, than via our newsletter. We hope that you will still enjoy seeing what the rest of the school have been doing too!



Breakfast and After School Care

We offer Breakfast Club from 7.45 to 8.45am with two different session charges - starting at 7.45am or at 8.00am.

Breakfast is served from 7.45 until 8.20am.

School pupils:

7.45-8.45am @£5.00

8.00-8.45am @£3.75

Nursery:

7.45-9.00am @ £7.25 age 3-4 / £6.65 age 2

8.00-9.00am @ £5.80 age 3-4 / £5.30 age 2

After School Childcare is available every day from 3.15pm (3pm for nursery children) to 5.30pm. There are various sessions / price blocks available and bookings should be made via ParentPay. **The cut-off for booking Afterschool Care is 10am on the day required. In an emergency, if you need to book after this time please ring school.**

Where possible, we do prefer Breakfast Club to booked in advance but **you can always just turn up if necessary** - all we ask is that you log in and make payment later that day.

If you would like to pay for Breakfast and/or afterschool care via childcare vouchers, or the Government tax-free voucher scheme, you will need to make payments in advance which can then be allocated to your child/children's accounts - please contact the school office for further details.

Important

Drop Off and Pick Up Reminders



Parents / Carers are kindly reminded that the only times they should use the Staff / Visitor Carpark are:

- **7.45-8.15am, if dropping off at Breakfast Club, and**
- **4.00-5.30pm when collecting from Afterschool Club.**

When dropping off at Breakfast Club, we ask parents not to use the marked bays but, instead, to park along the side of the path, as members of staff who park in these bays are arriving at this time.

Thank you to everyone who is doing this! 😊

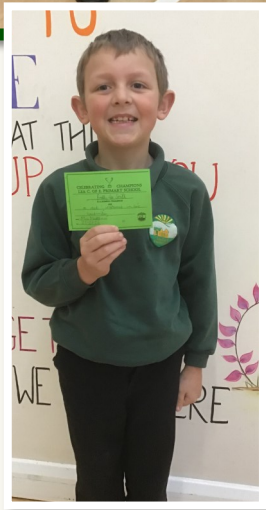
When dropping-off at the start of the school day, or collecting at the end, parents must please park in the Village Hall Car Park. **This includes mornings when you are late arriving at school.** If the school gate has been locked, please leave your car in the Village Hall Carpark and use the pathway to walk your child around to reception, and sign them in.

Parking in the staff carpark is extremely limited and mornings are particularly busy with staff arriving and the addition of delivery vehicles - we simply do not have the capacity for parents to use this carpark at these times.

Thank you for your support in this matter and the safety of everyone.



Celebrating our recent *Champions*



Well done!



This week we have been thinking about two important area for all children; Children's Mental Health and Internet Safety.

Children's Mental Health Week and further support for families

As part of Mental Health Week, we have been focusing on how important it is for children to be aware of their own mental health and to be considerate of the wellbeing of others.

The children took part in a thoughtful assembly led by Mrs Brevet, where they reflected on looking after themselves and one another, and the importance of feeling that we **belong** - to our class; to our school community; to our village; to our families/carers, and the teams and groups we are part of. In class, children have continued these discussions through a range of activities, and we also use the **Place2Be** website to support our work, alongside other helpful resources. If possible, we encourage you to take some time to talk about mental wellbeing at home with your child. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

[Place2Be](#) offers specialized mental health support for parents and carers, focusing on improving relationships with primary-aged children through school-based services; a free [Parenting Smart online course](#) and expert-led advice on topics like meltdowns / 'Big Feelings', anxiety, and screen time.

The table below shows you just some of the mini videos / 5 minute reads available on the website, to support parents.



Helping my child feel they belong

5 min read

Read now

My child might be neurodivergent

10 min read

Read now

My child struggles with changes and endings

7 min read

Read now

Understanding sibling rivalry

2 min video
6 min read

Read now

Problem solving with children

2 min video
5 min read

Read now

De-escalation techniques with children

2 min video
10 min read

Read now

My child wants a mobile phone

5 min read

Read now

My child pushes my buttons

2 min video
6 min read

Read now

The power of parental self-awareness

8 min read

Read now



Safer Internet Day

This week we marked **Safer Internet Day**, highlighting how important it is for children to understand how to use the internet and devices safely and to keep themselves and others safe online. The children took part in an assembly led by Mr Eaton and have continued this learning through class-based activities, supported by resources from the **UK Safer Internet Centre**. We ask parents and carers to support this work at home, by taking the following **key actions**:

- Talk regularly with your child about staying safe online and what to do if something worries them.
- Set up and regularly check **parental controls** on all devices, apps, and games.
- Limit and monitor **screen time**, with clear routines and boundaries in place. Try to have good habits.
- Closely supervise and monitor the **websites, apps, and games** your child is accessing.
- Ensure children do **not use social media platforms**, including WhatsApp, as these are not suitable for primary-aged children.

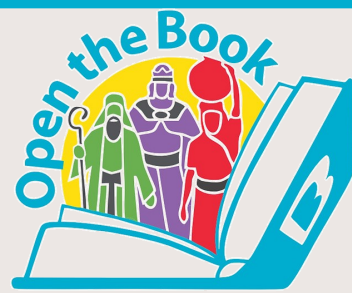
Key online risks for children include exposure to inappropriate or unfiltered content (especially on platforms such as TikTok), online contact with strangers, cyberbullying, sharing personal information, and excessive screen time. Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our children safe online.

Top Children's Websites and Resources for Support (2026):

- **UK Safer Internet Centre ([SaferInternet.org.uk](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk)):** The central hub for 2026, offering tailored resources, quizzes, and top tips for young people on using AI responsibly.
- **Child net International:** Provides specific, age-appropriate resources on gaming, social media, and AI, including interactive content to help children navigate digital challenges.
- **[Better Internet for Kids \(BIK\) - Children's Corner](#):** Features a dedicated "Children's Corner" updated for 2026 with interactive materials to boost digital skills and safety.
- **BBC Newsround & Teach:** Offers a "Live Lesson" on 10 Feb 2026 and articles explaining AI and online safety in simple, engaging terms.
- **[Computing at School \(SID 2026\)](#):** Focuses on 7–11 year olds, helping them understand AI, identify generated images, and make safe choices.

These sites offer interactive tools, videos, and guides to empower children to use new technologies confidently and safely.

OPEN THE BOOK: Leading our Worship



Our amazing Open-the-Book team have been busy, once again, bringing Bible stories to life for us, over this half term. Their last visit tied in very nicely with our current value of **Courage**, which is also one of our key whole-school values.

With the children's help, they told the story of **Daniel in the Lion's Den**, with great acting skills from all.



Well done children for helping to lead our Worship and also thank you again, to our Open-the-Book team, who give up their time to come into school every other week.



Sporting Activities



It has been a busy end to the half term with lots of exciting activities taking place.

Over the last 6 weeks, we have had Abbi, from Herefordshire Cricket, working with all of the children each week, to work on their cricket and ball skills. All of the children have participated with great enthusiasm and Abbi has been very complementary on their attention and effort – even our youngest children in Willow class Well done children!

We have this week, also had a coach from Gloucestershire Cricket come in for the day, again spending time with each class, including our older Nursery children too.



Continuing then sporting theme, on Wednesday, this week, Mrs Vines took a group of children to a local Netball tournament in Ross. We played 6 matches; We lost one, drew two and won three! The girls were amazing, polite, resilient and did everything with a smile on their face. Well done girls you were a pleasure to take out on a sporting event.



Nursery

We have had a very busy week at nursery with lots of fun activities.



We had great fun on our nature scavenger hunt, searching for all the things on our sheet. We even managed to avoid the rain!



We were lucky enough to join in with the whole school cricket event and all really enjoyed it.



On Tuesday, we celebrated pancake day a week early!

We discussed what ingredients we use to make pancakes and the children were able to choose their own toppings, then eating them at snack time.

Year 5 Children visiting JKHS.

This week our Year 5 children visited John Kyrle High School, to give them a taste of what Secondary School is like. We were warmly welcomed and had a full tour of the school, including seeing some amazing art work of some of the older students, in the Art department.

We went along side Year 5 children from GGS, and it was great to catch up and spend time with them; many will meet up again later in the year when they go on their Residential to Whitemoor Lakes.

During the morning, the children participated in an English and Maths lesson too. Once again, the children were brilliant and asked some great questions, including asking about the school's 'No Phone' policy and how it works in practice.

Dates for your Diary 2026!

Date	Day	Time	Event
February			
25 th	Weds	am	Year 4,5 and 6 singing group to St Mary's School Hereford for a cluster singing event.
March			
3 rd	Tues		Rowan Class Viking event in School
4 th	Weds	4pm	JKHS Y6 transition event at JKHS All Y6 parents welcome
5 th	Thurs		World Book Day. Further details to follow
6 th	Fri		Y3 Y4 Girls Football Hereford TBC
10 th	Tues		Parent's / Carer's Meetings
12 th	Thurs		Parent's / Carer's Meetings
13 th	Fri		PTFA Non School Uniform Day – Chocolate donations for EASTER BINGO fundraising
16 th	Mon		Oak Class – Experience Easter St Mary's Church Ross on Wye
23 rd	Mon		Y5 Y6 Football Tournament. TBC
24 th	Tues		Willow Class Visit to Perrygrove Railway
25 th	Weds	9.30am	Easter Service at Church. All welcome
25 th	Weds	3.30-5.00pm	PTFA Easter Bingo fundraising event in school
27 th	Fri	2pm	Early Finish for Easter. No After School Care today