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Friday 6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

World Book Day

We want to extend a massive thank you to our students, staff, and parents for making World Book Day such a vibrant success. In the National Year of Reading, 2026, it was a powerful reminder of the magic found between the pages of a book.

Highlights of the Day

- **Shared Reading Moments:** The highlight of our day was seeing the entire school pause for shared reading sessions. The classes mixed and we had opportunities of children reading to younger peers; the quiet buzz of engagement was truly special.
- **Creative Expression:** From the thoughtful costumes to the deep discussions about favourite authors, the creativity on display was second to none.
- **Building Community:** Reading is often seen as a solitary act, but today proved it is a bridge that connects us all.

The National Year of Reading doesn't end this week! We are committed to keeping this momentum going throughout 2026. Keep an eye out for our upcoming "Book Shop" events.

Thank you for helping us turn the page on a new chapter of literacy!



World Book Day 2026

Scholastic Book Club

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! You will get a £1 voucher on World Book Day which can be redeemed online with this Book Club! Go to <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-Q5CC24FS> to browse the

latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards.

Please place your order online by March 13th, 2026. See the poster at the end of the newsletter too 😊

Y1 and Y2 Maths Workshop

Thank you to parents and carers that engaged in the maths workshops in key stage one this week. The purpose of the workshops for each year group is to explain how maths is taught and the strategies and resources the children are developing confidence in, so you can support your child at home with homework tasks to consolidate important learning. Working in partnership is crucial. Please access the powerpoints of these events via Class Dojo and look out for photographs and videos of more mathematical learning. Next week we have workshops for Y3, Y3/4 and Y4. We look forward to welcoming you to these too.



Veg Power

Eat Them To Defeat Them - Veg Power!

This week we have launched a new healthy eating program, designed on promoting vegetables and encouraging our children to not only try new vegetables, but we are actively encouraging them to eat more. A sticker chart and some stickers came home with every child this week. We ask that every time your child eats or even tries vegetables, they can put a sticker on their chart.

We will be doing activities throughout the year to promote different vegetables, please keep a look out on the newsletter for more details when they appear.

In the meantime, keep eating those vegetables to defeat them! If the adults want to join in too – and make this a family event, please do!



School Meals

At times your personal circumstances may change. You may be between jobs, there may be a family separation, a family member redundancy or something that changes your personal situation. You may be entitled to support to help you and your child/ren. If you would like to apply for free school meals for your child, please come to the school office to complete a form, or please complete via the IOW Council weblink: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals/>

Please ensure that you book meals each week via the online platform, ParentPay, as this really supports the children and classrooms in the morning. If you pay for your meals please remember to clear balances each week or ahead of meals being eaten. Thank you for your support with this matter.

As we approach the end of the financial year, there will be some reminders sent if there are outstanding payments or accounts in arrears.

Attendance - The "Did You Know?" Fact Box

- **The 10% Rule:** Missing just 2 days of school in a month means a child misses 10% of the school year. This can make it significantly harder to learn to read and develop basic skills.
- **The Power of Punctuality:** Arriving just 10 minutes late every day adds up to over 30 hours of lost learning time over a school year. This is nearly 5 whole school days!
- **The Success Link:** Regular attendance is one of the predictors of whether a pupil will achieve ARE (Age Related Expectations) at the end of primary school.

Well done to Y3, who are most consistent class at attending school, on time every day, followed by Y1. Our regular meetings with the Local Authority Attendance Team take place very regularly for us to review attendance patterns within school and to offer support to families. If you would like support with attendance and we have not made contact with you, please do let us know so we can offer you an appointment too. Thank you.

Personal Achievements:



Well done to Lyla in Reception class who participated in her first ballet show. Lyla has been at ballet lessons for three years and her first show was a huge success. She performed two dances golden and pink. Lyla remembered the routine well, kept in time with the music and other dancers. Well done Lyla. 😊

Please remember to send any personal achievements to me via Dojo, so I can add them regularly to the school newsletter.

I look forward to seeing your pictures and achievements. Thank you 😊



Well done to Lizzie and Elsie in Reception class who performed in the MLD musicals dance show. Well done girls for the confidence that you demonstrated on the stage. Well done also to Florence who was also on stage dancing. Keep up the hard work and continue perfecting your skills 😊



OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

The philosophy of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is rooted in a simple but powerful idea: children need high-quality play to thrive, and nature doesn't shut down just because it's raining. Embracing all-weather play isn't just about getting fresh air; it's about transforming the school grounds into a dynamic, ever-changing environment for childhood development.

The Case for Mud: More Than Just a Mess...

Mud is perhaps the ultimate 'loose part.' It is malleable, abundant, and carries surprising biological benefits, we've added some information to the poster, further on in the newsletter. But mud can really develop the engineering mind. From the mud kitchen to a construction site, mud allows for complex imaginative play. One minute mud could be a chocolate cake, the next it could be the cement for a brick wall. Squeezing, squelching, and moulding mud develops fine motor skills and provides a grounding sensory experience that can be incredibly calming for many children. As a developing OPAL School we are trying to shift the culture from staying clean to getting engaged. With the golden rule of OPAL being that there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing. With wellies and waterproofs the playground can become an extended play classroom to the school. Please continue to send in wellies and waterproofs for your child to engage purposefully in all activities, both mud and water play (please ensure each item is named).



To help you with this we are currently applying for grant funding opportunities to develop a bank of wellies and waterproofs for use in school. If you have any spares at home that may be preloved or your child has outgrown, please consider donating to our swap shop. Thank you.



Well done to Emily who won the Golden Welly Award this week 😊 Emily was awarded this for being so enthusiastic in creative play. Emily has encouraged others and helped to tidy and clean away so well every day. What an excellent role model for play. Emily has the golden welly boot in the classroom as a reminder of being a golden welly winner as well as an individual golden welly boot to take home and keep. This is a new weekly award.

I wonder who will be the Golden Welly winner next week?

Dates coming up:

Date	Event	Year Group	Details / Special Arrangements
Week 3			
Mon 9.3.26	Maths Workshop	Y3	Maths workshop in class. Knowledge of calculations and multiplication tables – 8:45am
Wed 11.3.26	Young carers Workshops	Young Carers in school	Young Carers Action Day is today – so our young carers will be engaged in workshops during the day. We will keep you updated on the tasks and action.
Thur 12.3.26	Maths Workshop	Y3/4	Maths workshop in class. Knowledge of calculations and multiplication tables – 8:45am
Thur 12.3.26	Educational Visit	KS1 Greenhaven	Visit to Naturezones
Fri 13.3.26	Maths Workshop	Y4	Maths workshop in class. Knowledge of calculations and multiplication tables – 8:45am
Fri 13.3.2026	Engagement Event	Y5	Y5 Visit to Lift Ryde, to see what Lift Ryde offer at Secondary school. Whole day event. Please see the letter sent home.
Week 4			
NfER Assessments in school for children in Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5 in Reading, Maths and GPS.			
Mon 16.3.26	Maths Workshop	Y5 – Mrs Pontin's class	Maths workshop in class. Knowledge of calculations 8:45am
Thur 19.3.26	Maths Workshop	Y5 – Mrs Jenkin's class	Maths workshop in class. Knowledge of calculations 8:45am
Thur 19.3.26	Cricket	Y1 – Y6	Cricket engagement day – PE kits to be worn to school today please.
Fri 20.3.26	Coffee, Cake and PTA chat	Everyone ☺	8:30am – please sign in at the office, to see if we have enough volunteers to help run events at Greenmount.
Week 5			
Mon 23.3.26	Maths Workshop	Y6 – Mr Yates class	Maths workshop in class. Knowledge of calculations and arithmetic 8:45am
Thur 26.3.26	Maths Workshop	Y6 – Mrs Rana's class	Maths workshop in class. Knowledge of calculations and arithmetic
Fri 27.3.26	PTA Event	All children, all classes	Break the rules day – Break the rules such as wear nail varnish, wear mufti clothes, wear face paint, wear a hat, etc... 50p per rule broken – money raised will go towards OPAL play equipment that the PTA are supporting. * See news item about 'broken rules' in the newsletter *
Fri 27.3.26	Last day of half term	All children, all classes	Today is the final day of the half term – enjoy your Easter break everyone. ☺
EASTER BREAK			

More dates will follow soon... please keep checking the list regularly for any additions. Thank you ☺



Why play in mud?

THERE ARE SO MANY BENEFITS TO CHILDREN IN PLAYING OUTDOORS WITH MUD AND NATURE, WITH PROVEN BENEFITS INCLUDING IMPROVED CONCENTRATION AND MENTAL HEALTH AND A BETTER-DEVELOPED IMMUNE SYSTEM.

STUDIES HAVE FOUND THAT SOIL CONTAINS THE BACTERIA MYCOBACTERIUM VACCAE AND WHEN CHILDREN PLAY WITH IT AND SMELL IT, IT CAN RELEASE SEROTONIN IN THE BRAIN MAKING THE CHILD HAPPIER.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN STUDIES FINDING THAT THE GERMS FOUND IN MUD CAN ACTUALLY HELP STRENGTHEN YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNE SYSTEM.



Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Acorns and conkers 	Baking pans 	Cake moulds 	Measuring spoons 	Strainers
Baskets 	Cable spools 	Cones 	Containers 	Corrugated pipes
Dress up items 	Fabric 	Funnels 	Cars 	tarpaulin
Pool noodles 	PVC pipes 	Dinosaurs 	Shovels and spades 	Sinks and tubs
Tyres and wheels - big, small and weird 	Pots 	Colanders 	Lego 	Watering cans

Don't forget OPAL Bingo is still in play... keep collecting and donating to support the development of OPAL play at Greenmount. Thank you 😊

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026

APRIL

EASTER HALF TERM

Hop into Easter at Butterfly World. Enjoy the Easter half term with some eggcellent activities!

MAY

MAY HALF TERM

Buzz into Pollinator week! Enjoy a week full of themed activities whilst discovering more about our butterflies.

JUL/AUG/SEP

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Enjoy some summer sun with our bi-weekly activities and more!

OCT

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Join us for some spooktacular halloween fun. Two weeks filled with halloween activities, held day and night!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

WWW.BUTTERFLYWORLDIOW.COM

How to Find Us!

Where?



The southern Vectis route 9 (Staplers) stops right outside

Butterfly World
Staplers Road, Wootton Bridge,
Isle of Wight, PO33 4RW



Butterfly World
Isle of Wight

Contact us!

Tel: 01983 883430
Email: info@butterflyworldiow.com



Opening times

Mid March - End of October
Mon-Sat- 9-5
Sun: 10-4
(last admission is 30 mins before closing time)

