



Yox Valley Newsletter

Spring Term I - February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

January and February have certainly felt bleak and dreary, and I'm sure many of us are looking forward to the brighter days of Spring. Even so, the half term has passed in its usual flash, and we are now preparing to enjoy a well-earned break at the halfway point of the academic year.

Just before half term, we were delighted to welcome Ms Georgia Tillson to the Yoxford team as a Teaching Assistant. We look forward to working with her and know she will be a wonderful addition to our school.

Parent Consultations for the Spring Term will take place during the week beginning 23rd March. Appointment slots will be available to book after half term.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find a guide outlining how we teach handwriting at Yox Valley. We hope you find it helpful in supporting your child at home.

There is much to look forward to as we move into the second part of the Spring Term, and the Summer Term will be here before we know it.

Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable half term break,

Katy Last



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Academic Calendar 2026/27

Half Term 16th February - 20th February

Back to school - 23rd February

Last Day of term - 27th March

Middleton

- 2ND March - Spruce trip to Gressenhall Museum
- 5th March - World Book day
- 13th March - Celebration Assembly 8:45 am
- 16th March - PTA Meeting 3:15 pm
- 19th March- KSI trip to Easton Farm

Southwold

- 26th February - Apollo Class @ the VHC Southwold
- 5th March - World Book day
- 9th March - Commonwealth Day
- 19th March- KSI trip to Easton Farm
- 20th March - Celebration Assembly 8:45 am
- 26th March - Apollo class trip to

Yoxford & Peasenhall

- 2ND March - Silver Birch trip to Gressenhall Museum
- 5th March - World Book day
- 19th March- KSI trip to Easton Farm
- 20th March - Elm class trip to Ipswich transport museum
- 27th March - Celebration Assembly 8:45 am

Christchurch Mansion

September 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

October 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

PD Days							
1/9/2025 - Statutory Training							
2/9/2025 - School Directed							
5/1/2026 - School Directed							
22/5/2026 - School Directed							
20/7/2026 - School Directed Wellbeing							



Middleton Primary School News

ASH

Ash Class have had a wonderful half term. In Gymnastics, they have been learning how to point their toes and keep their legs straight to look elegant. In Literacy, the children have been writing an explanation text about how to ride a bicycle. In Science, they have been exploring the properties of materials, including testing which materials are absorbent and which are waterproof.



SPRUCE

The children in Spruce have enjoyed a range of exciting learning experiences this half term. In Science, they built simple electrical circuits and investigated what happened when different components were added, developing their understanding through practical exploration and teamwork.

In PE, the focus has been on gymnastics, with the children exploring rolls, balances and jumps, and working on control, coordination and confidence.

In English, inspired by Wallace and Gromit, the children wrote clear explanation texts before designing their own "cracking contraptions". They proudly presented their ideas to the class, showing great creativity and communication skills.

We are very proud of all that the children have achieved, and their attitude to learning.



OAK

Oak class have been busy since returning after Christmas, learning about finding tales and using The Story Machine to write their own version of a person who finds something. In Maths, we have been becoming more secure at understanding tens and ones whilst looking at place value and how to add two digit numbers together when using Base 10 resources. During Science, Oak class have been recognising different materials and their properties, before testing a variety of items out to check if they are bendy, or rigid, transparent or opaque, soft or rough, to name but a few.

In RSHE, we have been understanding how to deal with emotions, how to help themselves and others in upsetting or difficult situations and who to ask for help.



Oak class have loved using the Beebots during ICT lessons, learning about algorithms, making predications and programming.

ELM

This half term the reception children have been learning the sounds j, v, w, x, y and z. They have been reading and writing simple words and captions using these and other previously learnt sounds.

The nursery children have been listening to different types of sounds in games and on walks around the school.



In Talk for Writing, we have had fun learning and changing the story of Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See? We changed the animals and described them by their patterns. The children then went on to make their own individual stories.

In Maths, the reception children have been exploring the numbers 6 - 10. They have been finding different ways to make each number in a range of different ways. In the photo below we made 6 towers of 6 cubes and played a game of skittles to see how many fell over and how many stayed up.

The nursery children have been learning about the numbers 1 - 3 and have been singing counting rhymes.

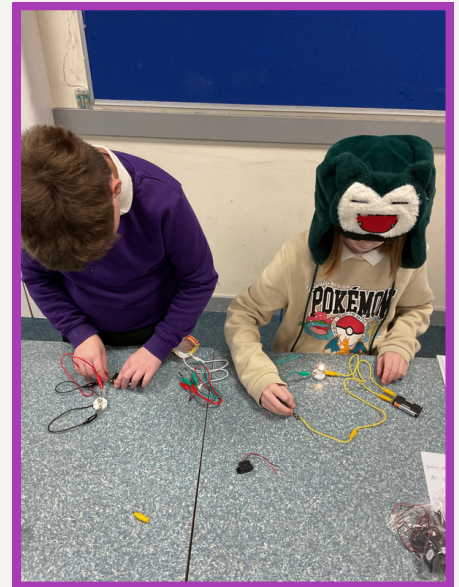
In Squirrels, the children have been having fun doing different experiments. They have explored magnets and seen what happens when raisins are poured into a bottle of lemonade.



We have been learning about maps and how to read them. We have made some of our own treasure maps too!

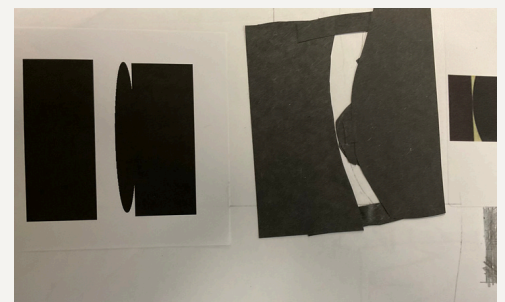
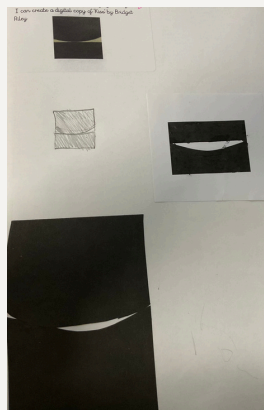
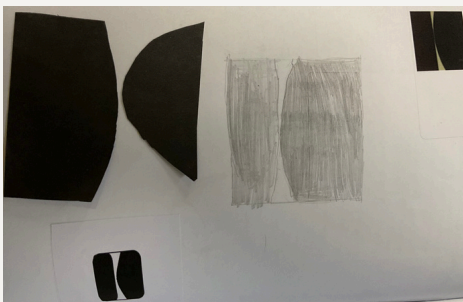
SILVER BIRCH

This term in science, Silver Birch have been exploring how to create series circuits using cells, wires, bulbs, buzzers and switches. We have been drawing our circuits using the correct symbols and discovering what happens when components are changed.



WILLOW

Willow Class have been working on control, balance and participation in gymnastics. The children have tried moving in different ways and directions and on different levels. We also practiced different types of balance with partners (mirroring and counter balancing) and in small groups. In Art we have been looking at geometric and Islamic art, with an initial focus on Bridget Riley.





Southwold Primary School News

APOLLO

This half term, Apollo Class have really loved their English learning. We have been working on explanation texts with a little bit of help from 'Wallace and Gromit'. We were very successful writers explaining how the 'Bully Proof Vest', 'Tellescope' and 'Snoozatron' works.

In maths we are continuing to work on multiplication and division. We are learning how to multiply 2- and 3-digit numbers by 1 digit. Our work learning times tables at home and school is ongoing - practice makes perfect!

Our curriculum is enriched by our excellent links with St. Felix School. This half term children have been learning netball and are loving the weekly sporting opportunity.

Digital art is our focus before Easter with the big question 'Would symmetry make the perfect selfie?' Children are incredibly proud of their artwork and are loving the artists and themes. This includes the beautiful photos of Frida Kahlo.





Southwold Primary School News

ASTRONAUTS

This term, Astronauts have been learning about different artists, with a special focus on Andy Warhol and Pop Art. We used a step-by-step approach to experiment with lots of vibrant colours, painting around our hands to create bold and exciting artwork.



MERCURY

Mercury Class have been very busy across all areas of their learning. In English, the children have been learning to write explanation texts, including how to make bubbles, build sandcastles and ride scooters. They thoroughly enjoyed using the equipment first, which helped them to talk about and understand what they were writing. In Maths, the children enjoyed learning about addition and subtraction, using pictorial representations and Base Ten resources to support their understanding.

In Art, the children explored the work of a range of artists, including Orla Kiely, Victor Vasarely and Marimekko. They then created their own artwork inspired by these artists, showing creativity and enthusiasm throughout.





School Scouting Sessions at Yoxford & Peasonhall Primary School

Beavers have been enjoying working towards their Experiment badge.

During the cold weather, they enjoyed making coloured ice pucks to play ice hockey.



The children experimented with colour, making color spinners with repeating patterns. They worked collaboratively to get them to work.



They experimented with magnets looking at push and pull. Then designed fish for magnet fishing fun.



The Beavers have also enjoyed experimenting with colour dyeing flowers and observing daily the change. They used skittles for an experiment and enjoyed seeing the rainbow it formed.



Cubs have been working towards their Personal Safety badge. They have been learning about the importance of emergency numbers like 999, 112 and the tracking app What Three Words to help emergency services locate them in an emergency. They have also looked at ways to keep themselves safe near railways as well as how to be active





School Scouting Sessions at Middleton Primary School

Our busy Beavers in Ash class have been working towards their Experiment badge this half term. They've had fun carrying out a range of Science experiments including making stunning earth suncatchers, fascinating flowers using flowers and food colouring, magic magnetic fishing, growing cress heads, fizzy fruits and volcanic eruptions and bubble fun!

These activities have linked to our Learning Pi demonstrating imaginative and creative skills and showing curiosity.



Our Cubs in Spruce have been working towards their Personal Safety Badge. Cubs have been learning about how to keep themselves safe when out and about having adventures, including the dangers of playing on or near different places. Cubs have been exploring safety codes and creating their own, making safety posters/ presentations, creating a dangerous sculpture in groups, learning how to keep safe online and what they can do to help when someone is not ok. These activities have linked to our Learning Pi demonstrating being a risk taker, respectful active citizen, responsibility and collaborative working.

