

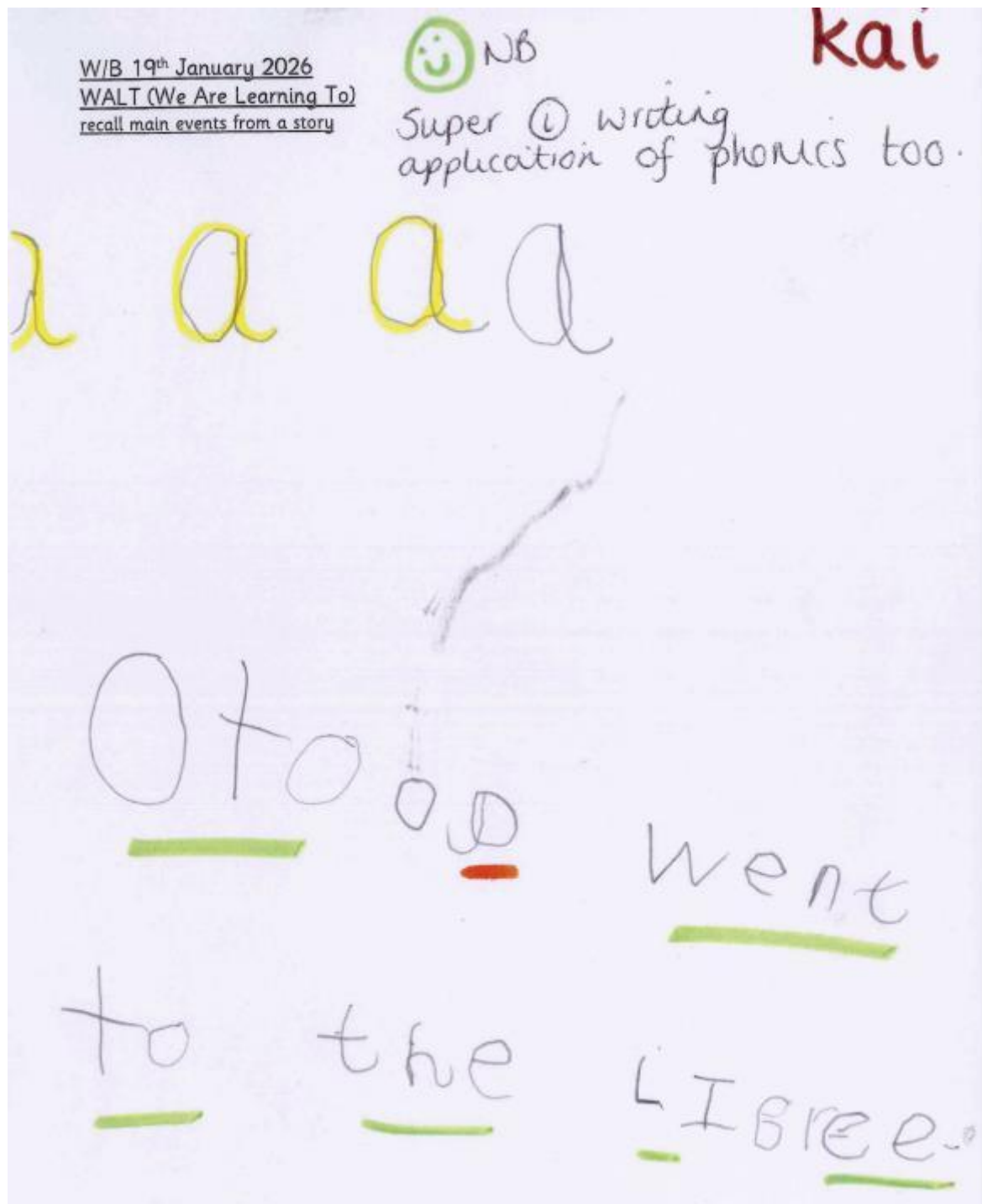


NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd January 2026

Writer of the Week

This week's **writer of the week** is Kai in Reception for using his phonic skills to write a sentence based on the key text Otto the book bear by Katie Cleminson. Well done Kai!





NEWSLETTER

What's Happening Next Week

January	Friday 30 th	Year 5 - Maths workshop for parents/carers 9-10am
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Attendance Matters

Spring 1 Attendance

	<u>Wk1</u>	<u>Wk2</u>	<u>Wk3</u>	<u>Wk4</u>	<u>Wk5</u>	<u>Wk6</u>	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Year so far</u>
<u>Nursery</u>	82.7	80	80				91.0	84.7	
<u>Reception</u>	93.8	93.2	94.3				97.1	91.4	
<u>Year 1</u>	97.4	99	99				97.5	94.3	96.3
<u>Year 2</u>	94.7	91.2	90				98.7	94.7	96.3
<u>Year 3</u>	92.9	95.3	97.7				97.1	93.5	95.3
<u>Year 4</u>	95.7	96.6	96.8				99.1	95.9	97.5
<u>Year 5</u>	94.4	94.8	99.4				94.5	95.2	95.9
<u>Year 6</u>	92.5	95.7	95.9				93.6	93.1	94.3
<u>Whole school</u>	93.7	94.3	95.3				96.5	93.5	95.9

Well done **Year 5** you have the best attendance again this week.

Whole School Attendance since start of the year is currently running at 96%.

Musician of the Week

Each week in school we have a musician of the week to promote a range of music from different genres, countries and time periods. Here is this week's musician of the week

Musician of the Week

Name: Gordon Duncan

FACTS ABOUT OUR MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK!

1. Gordon Duncan (1964-2005) was a revolutionary Scottish bagpiper, composer, and innovator
2. He revolutionised bagpipe music by blending traditional Scottish piping with folk, rock, and global influences
3. He inspired countless young pipers, encouraging them to experiment and develop their own unique voices



GENRE

Scottish Traditional Music



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Sensational Singers!

The following children were chosen as our Sensational Singers for their participation and enthusiasm in singing assembly this week;

Y1 - Cayden & Eve

Y2 - Ziaf

Y3 - Gracie and Arthur

Y4 Joey & Abdullahzeem

Y5 - Zoya

Y6 – Minnie

Our class choir of the week is Year 4 ! Well done for your excellent singing!

Online Safety for Parents

Each week, we are aiming to provide you with information to help keep your children safe when online. This links to the Online Safety mind maps the children complete with their class teachers at the start of each half term.

AI Chatbots and companions

Searching “AI Chat” in the App Store shows that many AI apps are already available, with several rated 18+. It is therefore important to discuss these apps and their potential risks with children. Examples include Character.AI and Snapchat’s My AI.



What are the risks?

- **Becoming too reliant on AI companions**, which may reduce time spent building real-life friendships or encourage children to depend on them too heavily for homework and problem-solving.
- **Possible exposure to inappropriate content**, depending on the app and its settings.
- **Privacy and data concerns**, as some apps may collect or store personal information.
- **Inaccurate or biased information**, as AI responses are not always correct or balanced.

How can I protect my child?

- **Check the age ratings** of any apps or websites your child uses to make sure they are appropriate.
- **Talk openly about AI chatbots**, including any potential risks, and ask your child why they enjoy or use them.
- **Use parental controls** on devices and broadband to help manage what your child can access.
- **Keep communication open**, and make sure your child knows they can talk to you — or another trusted adult — if something ever worries or upsets them.



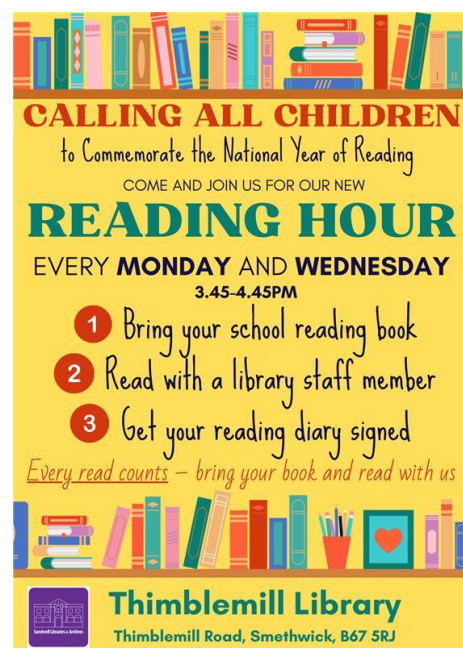
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Reading Hour at the Library

After February half term, we will be offering dedicated reading sessions for school children at the library. During these sessions, children are invited to bring along their school reading books. Members of our library staff will listen to the children read and sign their reading diaries, helping to reinforce the fantastic work already taking place in school.

These sessions are designed to encourage a love of reading, build confidence, and provide additional positive reading experiences in a relaxed and supportive environment.

We strongly value the importance of positive links between the library and local schools, and we believe that by working together we can continue to promote strong literacy skills and a lifelong enjoyment of reading.



Dates for your Diary – 2025 – 2026

(don't forget you can download our calendar by following this line- [new things added today are highlighted in green](#))

Month	Date	Event
January	Friday 30 th	Year 5 - Maths workshop for parents/carers 9-10am
February	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th	Half term holiday – school closed
	Monday 23 rd	school reopens to pupils
	Tuesday 24 th	Parent consultation day 8am – 6.30pm (N, 1, 3 & 5)
	Wednesday 25 th	Parent consultation day 8am – 6.30pm (R, 2, 4 & 6)
March	Monday 2 nd	St Davids Day
	Wednesday 4 th	Year 2 trip to St Hildas
	Thursday 5 th	World Book Day – children to dress up as their favourite book character
	Thursday 12 th	Rev Jenni – Lent assembly
	Tuesday 17 th	St Patricks Day
	Wednesday 18 th	Year 4 trip to St Hildas
	Friday 20 th	Red Nose Day
	Friday 27 th	Pupils break up for the Easter Holidays



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	Monday 30 th – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils
April	Thursday 16 th	Rev Jenni from St Hildas supporting in year 6 RE lesson
	Thursday 23 rd	St Georges Day
	Friday 24 th	Reception trip to St Hildas
May	Monday 4 th	MAYDAY Bank Holiday – school closed
	Monday 11 th	Year 6 SATS paper SPAG
	Tuesday 12 th	Year 6 SATS paper Reading
	Wednesday 13 th	Year 6 SATS paper 1 & 2 maths
	Thursday 14 th	Year 6 SATS paper 3 maths
	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th	Half Term Holiday
June	Monday 1 st	Training Day – school closed to pupils
	Tuesday 2 nd – Friday 5 th	Year 4 Multiplication test to be administered this week
	Friday 5 th	Class Photos
	Monday 8 th – Friday 2 nd	Year 1 phonic screening test to be administered this week
July	Monday 6 th	Sports Day – times to be announced
		School Health Nurse – safe sun at Sports Day
	Friday 10 th	School reports sent home today
	Monday 13 th	Year 6 Prom 6pm – 8pm @ Thimblemill Recreation Club – tickets £15.00 per pupil
	Wednesday 15 th	Class swap – pupils will meet their new teacher
	Monday 20 th	Training Day – school closed to pupils



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PE days for the coming year

PE						
	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer term	
	1pm – 2pm	2pm – 3pm	1pm – 2pm	2pm – 3pm	1pm – 2pm	2pm – 3pm
Monday	Y3	Y1	Y4	Y1	Y4	Y1
Tuesday	Y3	Y2	Y4	Y2	Y3	Y4
Wednesday	Y1	Y5	Y1	Y5	Y1	Y2
Thursday	Y6	Y2	Y6	Y2	Y6	Y2
Friday	Y6	Y5	Y6	Y5	Y6	Y3