Ashdon Primary School

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Challenge · Care · Celebrate

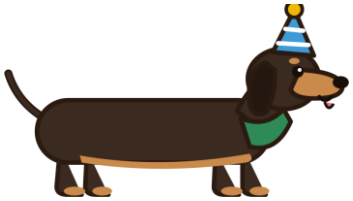
Newsletter

9th October 2026

JAFFLE'S BIRTHDAY

A Very Special Thank You

Happy 2nd Birthday, Jaffle!



Jaffle turned two on Saturday 3rd October, and we have been genuinely touched by the incredible kindness and generosity of our children and families.

To every child who made a card, drew a picture, sang to him or simply stopped to wish him a happy birthday, **thank you.**

To every parent and carer who sent in treats, presents and kind messages, **thank you.** Your thoughtfulness and generosity have meant more than we can say, and Jaffle was spoilt beyond belief!

Moments like this remind us just how special our school community is. The care our children show, not only to Jaffle but to one another, and the support our families give so freely, are what make Ashdon such a warm and happy place to be.

Since January 2025, Jaffle has listened to countless stories, celebrated our Pawsome Readers of the Week, offered comfort when it was needed and even been crowned Dog of the Year. He is so loved, and that is entirely thanks to all of you.

With heartfelt thanks and gratitude,

Mrs Reynecke-Raybould and Jaffle

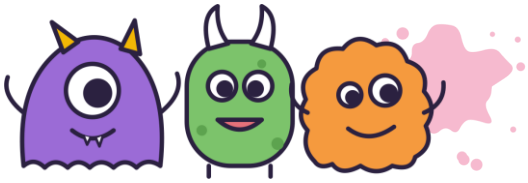




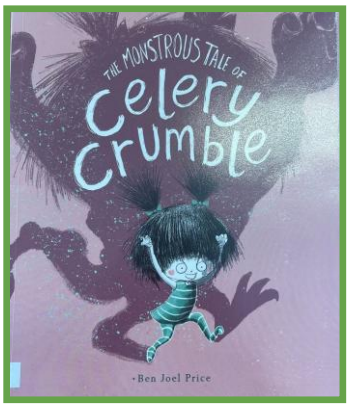


MARS CLASS · YEAR 1

Monstrous Writers!

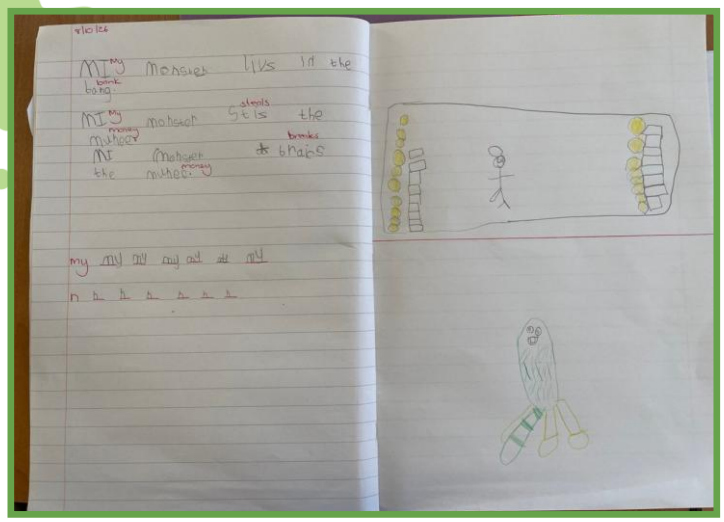


This week Mars Class have been reading ***The Monstrous Tale of Celery Crumble*** by Ben Joel Price. Celery Crumble looks like a sweet little girl, but she loves playing tricks that nobody else finds funny. Everyone warns her that if she keeps behaving like a monster, she will turn into one … and one morning she wakes up with pointy teeth, claws and a tail! The children loved this deliciously gruesome story, and it inspired some brilliant writing of their own.



Our Year 1 children invented their own monsters and wrote about where they live and what they get up to, from a monster who steals money from the bank to one who splashes water all over the bathroom! They worked hard on sounding out words, using full stops and practising tricky words such as **my** and **the**.

Mrs Allen and Mrs Reynecke-Raybould were so impressed with the amazing work the children completed. Well done, Mars Class!



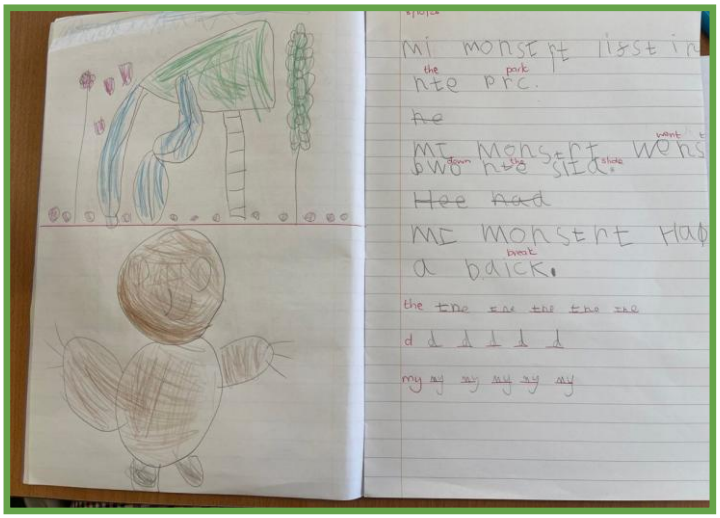
"My monster lives in the bank. My monster steals the money."



"My monster lives in its lair. My monster is making a new toy."



"My monster is bathing in my bathtub and it is spilling water all out of the bathtub!"

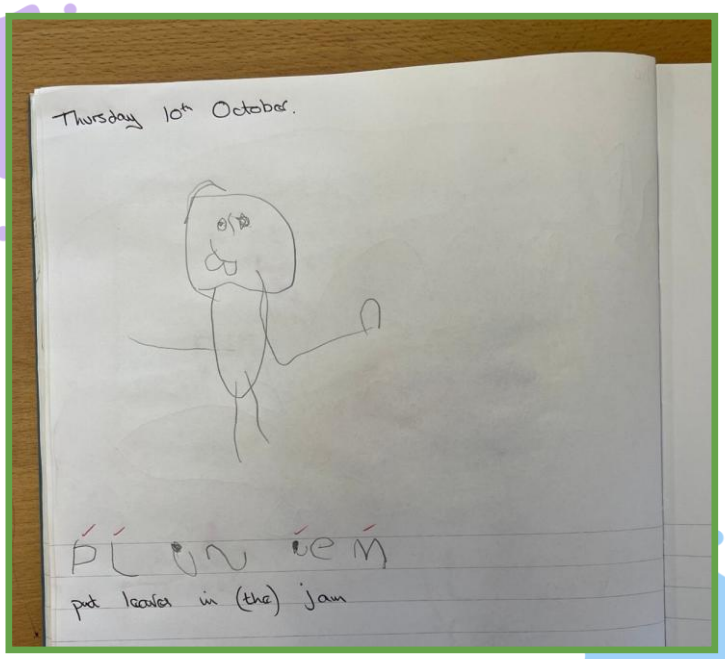


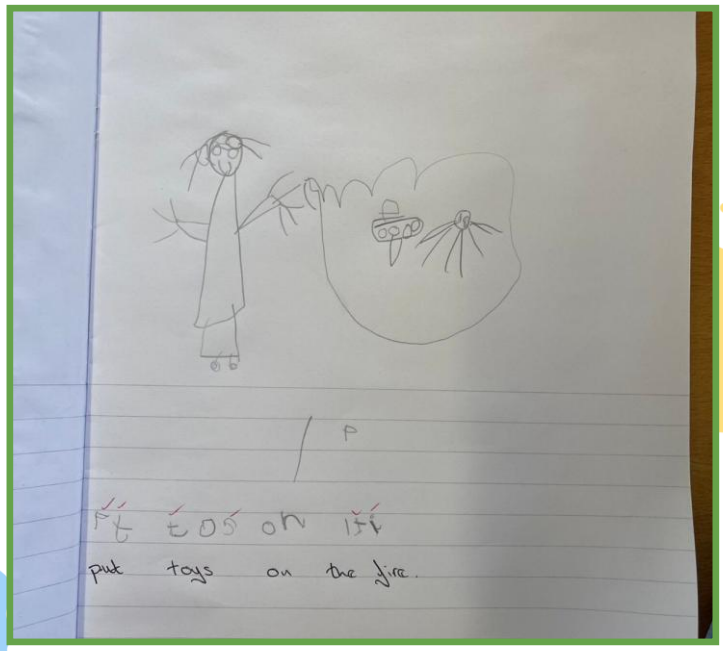
"My monster lives in the park. My monster went down the slide."

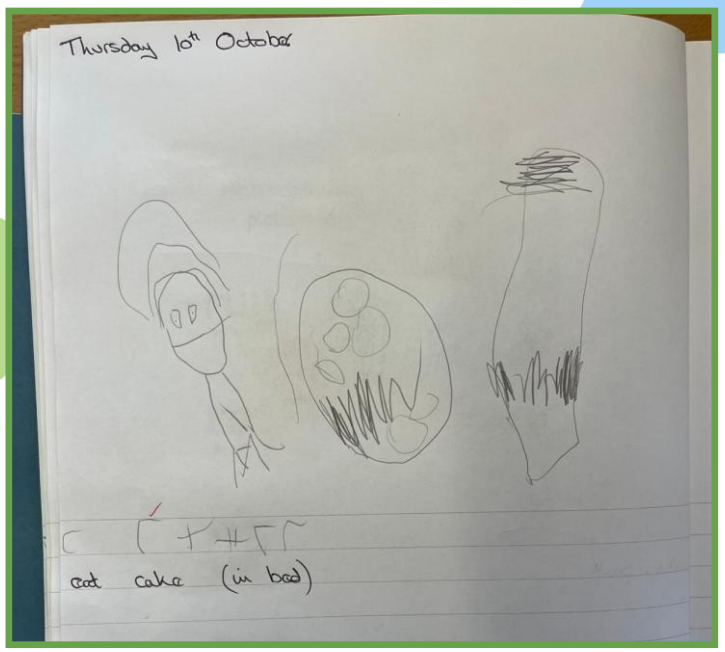
MARS CLASS · RECEPTION

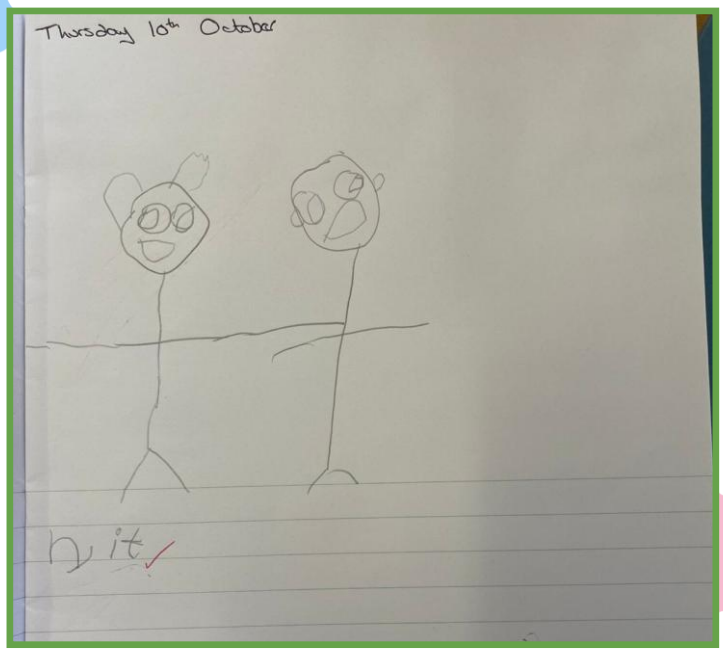
Our Reception Writers

Our Reception children thought about all the naughty tricks Celery Crumble might get up to. They drew their pictures and then had a go at writing their ideas, using their phonics to sound out the words — from putting leaves in the jam and toys on the fire to eating cake in bed! Writing their own words so early in the year is a huge achievement, and we are so proud of them.









★ Fantastic work, Mars Class — amazing writers! ★

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SATURN CLASS

Objects of Mystery!

Saturn Class have been stepping back in time to the Stone Age, the very long period of history when people made their tools from stone, bone and wood, hunted and gathered their food and, later on, began to farm.

The children became Stone Age makers themselves! Each child sculpted their own clay 'object of mystery', pressing in holes, patterns and knobbly shapes, just like real objects that archaeologists have dug up. Now comes the tricky part: the children are investigating what Stone Age people might have used them for. Could they be weights, tools for printing patterns, pieces for a game or treasured possessions?

Thinking like this helps children understand that historians and archaeologists use evidence, ask questions and make careful guesses about the past, and that sometimes there is more than one answer!





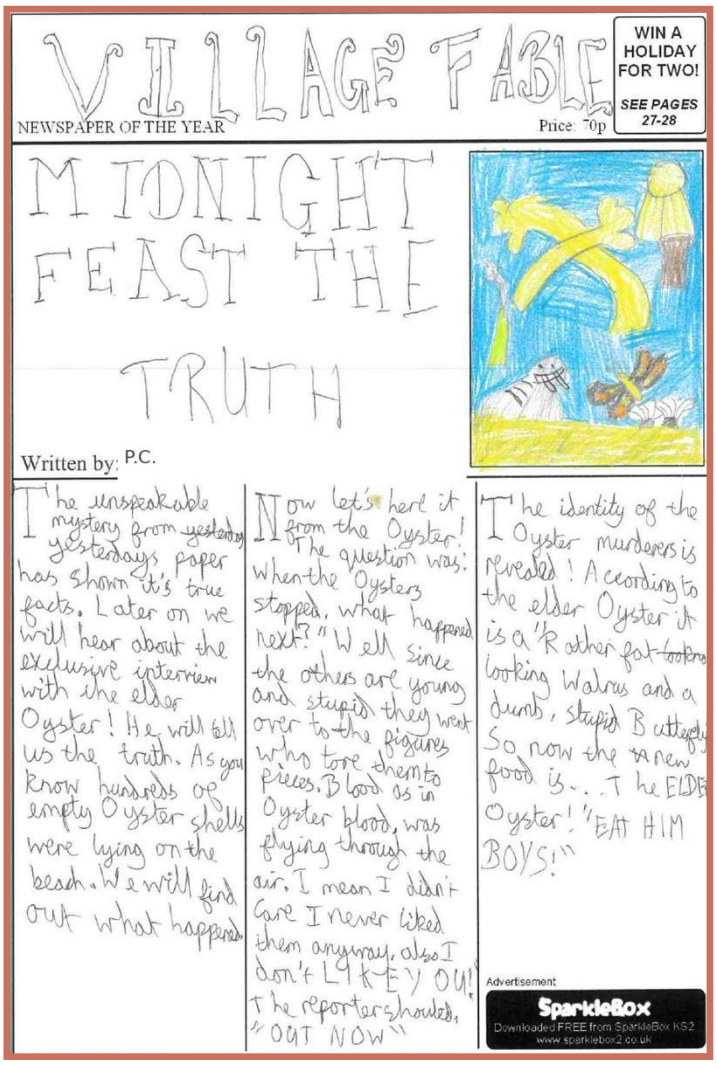
A real-life Stone Age mystery!

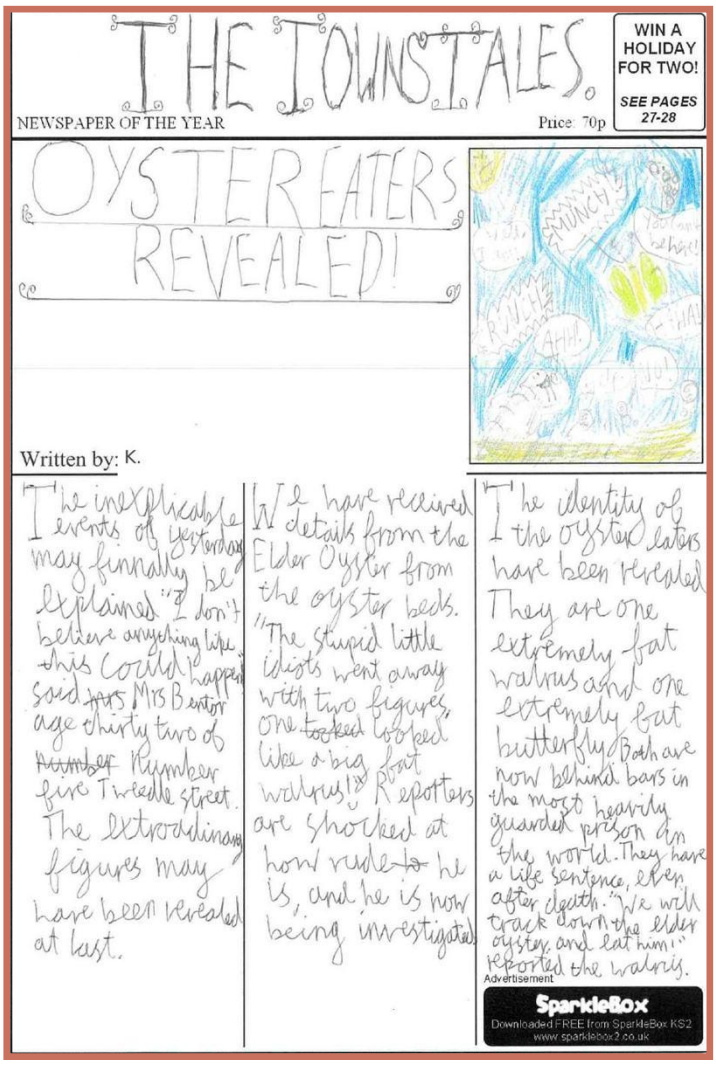
More than 500 carved stone balls, around 5,000 years old, have been found, mostly in Aberdeenshire in Scotland. Most fit in the palm of your hand and are covered in knobs and carvings. Archaeologists still do not know what they were for. Weights? Weapons? Memory aids? A sign of someone important? **What do you think?**

JUPITER CLASS · YEARS 4, 5 AND 6

Hot off the Press!

Extra! Extra! Jupiter Class have become investigative reporters, writing front-page stories about a gobsmacking mystery: who ate all the oysters? Using the features of a real newspaper (catchy headlines, eyewitness quotes, interviews and reported speech), they uncovered the shocking truth: a rather large walrus and a very greedy butterfly! Here are some of their brilliant front pages, starting with P.C.'s and K.'s.

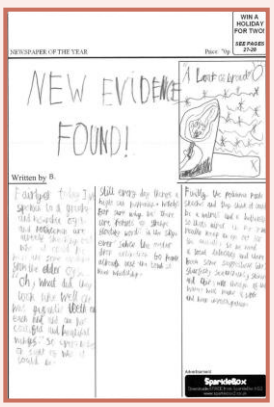




Our reporters also uncovered...



"Midnight Feast in Broad Daylight Explained!"
by T.

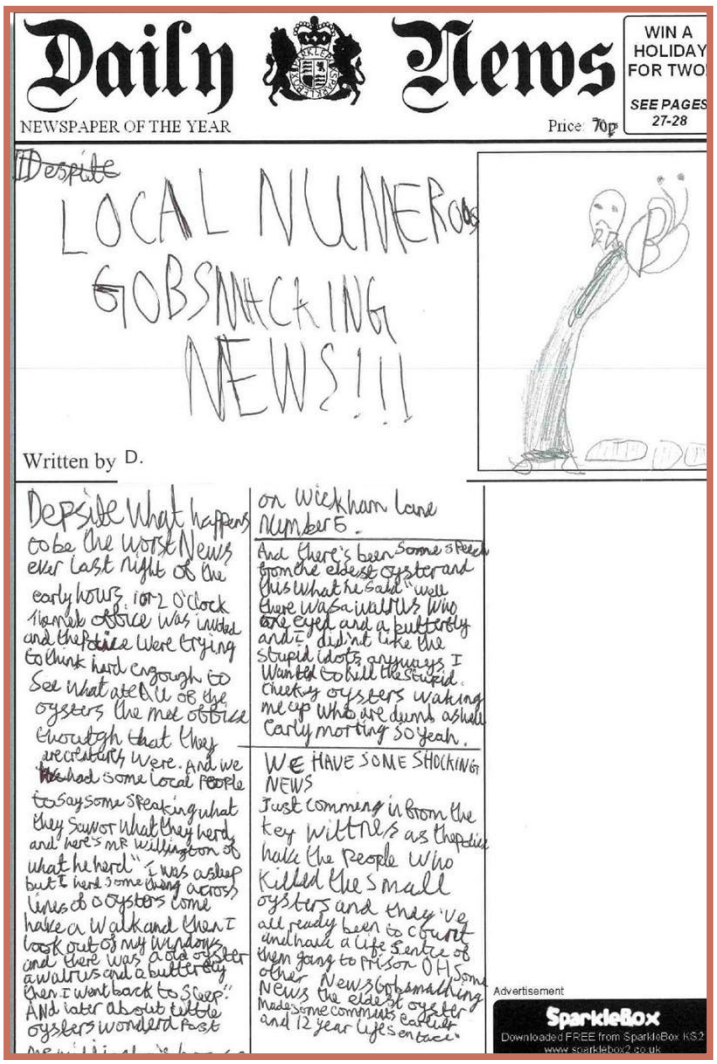


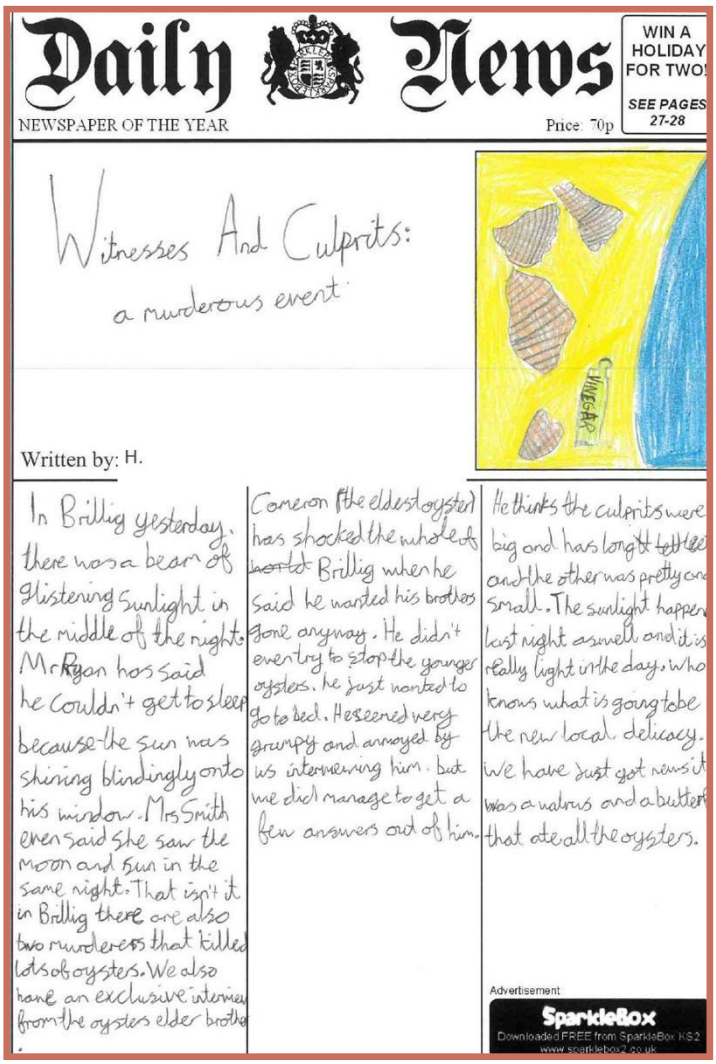
"New Evidence Found!"
by B.

JUPITER CLASS · YEARS 4, 5 AND 6

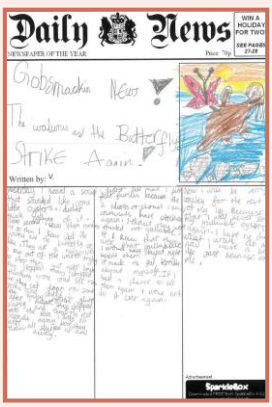
Read All About It!

We loved reading every single newspaper, and the headlines alone had us gripped! Here are two more fantastic front pages from D. and H. Well done to all our Jupiter journalists for such imaginative, entertaining writing. **Keep up the fantastic work!**

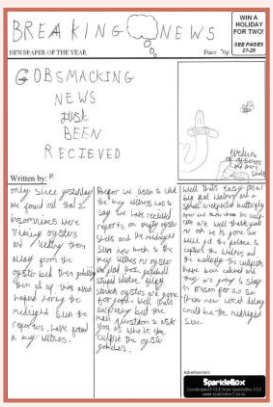




More gobsmacking headlines...



"The Walrus and the Butterfly Strike Again!"
by V.



"Gobsmacking News Has Just Been Received"
by P.

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MARS CLASS

A Visit to the Library Bus

On Thursday, Mars Class put on their high-vis vests and walked through the village to visit the mobile library bus. The children climbed aboard, explored the shelves and chose new books to borrow, then settled down outside to share them with their friends. From sharks to dinosaurs, there was something for everyone!

Why reading matters: Reading together every day is one of the best things we can do for children. It grows their vocabulary and imagination, supports their phonics and writing, helps them understand how other people feel and sparks a lifelong love of stories. Even a few minutes of sharing a book at bedtime makes a real difference.

Did you know? The Essex mobile library visits villages like ours every three weeks, and joining is free. You can sign up at any stop, borrow books and use e-books and audiobooks online. Why not pop along as a family?







SPORTS AMBASSADORS

Ambassador Training

On Thursday, our new Sports Ambassadors went to St Thomas More Primary School for their training, learning how to lead games, encourage everyone to join in and make playtimes active and fun. **A huge thank you to Kristi Thacker** for kindly taking them to the session!



SPORTING CELEBRATION

Well done, Lyla!

On Saturday, Lyla played in a cup match for the **Linton Aztecs Under 9s** and they won! Even better, Lyla scored her first goal of the season. Wow! We are so proud of you, Lyla!

CUP WIN

5 – 2



House Points

Elm	Oak (WINNERS)	Ash
252	280	200

Well done to Oak, this week's winners!

★ Stars of the Week ★

Our three values — Challenge, Care and Celebrate — sit behind everything we do, alongside our Golden Rules: Ready, Respectful, Responsible, Resilient. This week's Stars of the Week have shown exactly that and were celebrated in Friday's assembly. Well done to all of you — we are very proud. Do use this language at home too; hearing it in both places is what really makes it stick.



Pawsome Readers of the Week



Well done to our Pawsome Reader this week! I am so proud of your reading. Keep going!

Lots of love from Jaffle



Ashdon Primary School

Newsletter

Attendance Winners!

Every Day Counts!

At Ashdon Primary, we know that being in school every day makes a real difference. Good attendance helps children keep up with their learning, build strong friendships and feel happy and settled in class. Missed days add up quickly: a child with 90% attendance misses around half a day every week, which is almost four weeks of school across the year.

As a school, we always aim for whole-school attendance of 97% and above, and we can only achieve this with your support.

To celebrate great attendance, the class with the highest attendance each week wins an extra 10 minutes of playtime on Friday! The winners are announced in our Friday Celebration Assembly and shared in the newsletter.

Thank you for helping your child to be in school, on time, every day.

WINNERS Mars Class	98.24%
RUNNERS-UP Saturn Class	96.50%
THIRD PLACE Jupiter Class	93.91%
OUR TARGET 97% and above	

Important Dates, Events and Reminders

All of October	Black History Month. Saturn and Jupiter will be set a half-term history project to share at the first Celebration Assembly after half term.
Every Thursday	Piano lessons for KS2 children (in the hall)
Fri 9 Oct	Celebration Assembly
Mon 12 Oct	Governor visit: English, with Mrs Hartley (Chair of Governors)
Tue 13 Oct, 13:00–15:00	KS2 Cross Country event at Herbert's Farm, Saffron Walden
Tue 13 Oct, afternoon	Governor visit: Science, with Mrs Retief
Wed 14 Oct	Saturn Class: Portals to the Past Stone Age day
Now – Fri 16 Oct	Harvest collection
Fri 16 Oct, 09:15	Harvest Festival Assembly
Tue 20 & Wed 21 Oct	Parent Consultations, 15:40–18:00 (book through Arbor)
Fri 23 Oct	Last day of Autumn Term 1

Consultations: please book now!

A few families have not yet booked their consultation for Tuesday 20th or Wednesday 21st October. These meetings are **incredibly important**, so please book your slot on Arbor as soon as possible.

Parking: please read

Please do not park in front of the cottages when dropping off or collecting your child. We have received numerous complaints from our neighbours, so please park considerately and respect residents' homes and driveways. Thank you.

Arbor

Please check your Arbor account regularly for updates and notifications and turn on push notifications in the app so you never miss a message.

Through the Arbor app or website you can now:

- Pay for trips and clubs — all payment information is on Arbor
- Pay for school lunches
- View your child's attendance record at any time
- Book parent consultations for 20th and 21st October