

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### February

9<sup>th</sup> - Y5 Parents in class at 2:30

9<sup>th</sup> - School

Photographer in for individual photos

12<sup>th</sup> - Open Door at 14:30

12<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Maths

Workshop 14:30

13<sup>th</sup> PTSA Bookmark Sale

15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> - Half Term

23<sup>rd</sup> - Non Pupil Day

### March

13<sup>th</sup> - Y5 Bocking Arts

Centre Trip - details to follow

17<sup>th</sup> - TLC's - 15:30 - 19:00

19<sup>th</sup> - TLC's 15:30 - 19:00

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year is a special one nationally: 2026 is the National Year of Reading, a UK-wide initiative led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust to inspire more people to rediscover the joy of reading. The campaign, known as Go All In, encourages us to connect reading with the things we already love—music, sport, films, food, family time—so that reading becomes part of everyday life rather than something we have to “make time for”. National data shows that reading for pleasure has reached its lowest level in 20 years, with only around one in three young people saying they enjoy reading in their free time. The National Year of Reading aims to change this by bringing books, stories, and reading experiences closer to the things children already care about.

We Are Going All In at Bocking

As a school, we are embracing this year-long celebration wholeheartedly. Throughout 2026, children will experience:

- Reading-for-pleasure events linked to culture, music, sport, and film.
- Enriched reading environments across school, from book swaps to author-inspired activities.
- Links with our local library and reading volunteers to keep reading at the heart of school life.

National Storytelling Week

This week is also National Storytelling Week, running from 2-8 February. Created by the Society for Storytelling, this annual celebration highlights the power of stories to help us learn, empathise, and imagine.

The 2026 theme, “Soundtrack Your Story,” invites children to explore storytelling through music, lyrics, rhythm, and sound—an approach shown to help re-engage young people with reading and writing for pleasure.

Across our Talk for Writing curriculum, we plan for classes to explore storytelling in different forms—spoken, written, performed, and shared. We hope children come home excited to retell the stories they’ve heard and created through the year.

How to Support Reading at Home

Here are a few simple ways to build reading enjoyment at home:

- Share 20 minutes of reading a day – A national recommendation that builds confidence, language, and connection.
- Use stories found in everyday life – Song lyrics, films, family anecdotes, magazines, recipes, comics... it all counts.
- Talk about stories – Ask about characters, predictions, and favourite parts.
- Visit the library together – Choice is one of the strongest motivators for reading.
- Model reading – Let children see you reading anything you enjoy.
- Tell your own stories – Storytelling doesn’t need a book; passing on memories is powerful too.

We are proud to be part of this national celebration of reading and grateful for your ongoing support. Together, we can help every child discover that if they’re into it... they can read into it.

Wishing you a wonderful, story-filled weekend.

Mrs Cagney

## BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Fri - IRock

## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon - CHOIR

Wed - SCS

Thu - SCS



## STAR OF THE WEEK

**EYFS - Archie H**

**Year 1 - Izzie**

**Year 2 - Treasure**

**Year 3 - Whole Class**

**Year 4 - Ryan**

**Year 5 - Reggie**

**Year 6 - Aimee**

## AR READERS

**Year 3 - Alfie, Aniamina**

**Now the weather has changed, please ensure you child has a water proof jacket.**

**All items of clothing should be named.**

**Water only in bottles please.**

Polite Reminder:  
The school toilets are closed for cleaning from 3:20.

## CLASSROOM NEWS...

### YEAR EYFS

This week in EYFS, we were delighted to welcome two very special visitors as part of our 'A Superhero Like Me!' topic. At the beginning of the week, Mrs Ogan joined us to talk about her role as a burns nurse working in a hospital, showing us some of the equipment she uses, while the children enjoyed bandaging teddy and trying on the operating scrubs. Later in the week, PC Draper visited to teach us all about his job as a police officer, how the police help us and the equipment they carry. We listened very carefully to the police radio and heard an officer being dispatched using a number rather than a name. One of the children was surprised by how heavy PC Draper's police vest was when they tried it on! We have really enjoyed learning about people who help us and are looking forward to linking these roles to how they are the real-life heroes of our community.



### YEAR 1

This week in English we have been writing about Bocking Windmill. We have used adjectives and 'and' in our sentences to create descriptions. In maths we have started our addition and subtraction unit and are looking at numbers to 20. So far this week we have looked at number bonds to 20. In phonics we have continued to learn a new grapheme and red word. In PE we have been learning how our heart beat changes during exercise and also how our bodies change when we exercise. In art we have been practicing drawing straight lines with a ruler and then got to use paint to practice keeping inside the lines and shapes we drew.

### YEAR 2

This week in Year 2 has been full of curiosity, creativity and hands-on learning. In English, the children worked together on their shared-write inspired by Sir Thomas Bloodworth, the Lord Mayor during the Great Fire of London, exploring the tough decisions he faced as the city burned. In maths, they strengthened their multiplication and division skills, focusing on the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. Our history lessons saw the class sequencing the key events of the Great Fire, helping them build a clear timeline of how the disaster unfolded. In science, the children planned their own plant experiments, thinking carefully about variables and how to set up a fair test.



## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

**96% - EYFS**  
**94% - Year 1**  
**92% - Year 2**  
**97% - Year 3**  
**92% - Year 4**  
**93% - Year 5**  
**92% - Year 6**  
 Attendance target 95%

Please be aware that the gates open at 8:35, and your child is marked late, affecting their attendance from 8:50am. Punctuality is a valuable lifelong skill. Late arrival affects not only the pupil who is late but disrupts the whole class. Where a pupil arrives after the registers close, with no justifiable reason, a U code will be entered into the register. The U code amounts to an unauthorised absence for the whole session. We must warn you, a penalty notice may be issued where there have been at least ten sessions of unauthorised absence during a rolling 10 school week period.

## ONLINE SAFETY..

*For Parents - Lemon8 App*

*Lemon8 is an app which seems to be growing in popularity. Calling itself a 'lifestyle community' app the terms and conditions, as per most social media, is 13+. The company which owns Lemon8 is ByteDance, who also own TikTok and it's essentially a mix between Instagram and TikTok. Reviews generally seem to be quite positive but one of the big downfalls is that parental features are a little lacking.*

*It's worth checking if your child is using Lemon8 and if so have a look at this [in-depth Lemon8 review](#).*

*For Parents - New Parental Control Videos*

*A couple of days ago Internet Matters uploaded 3 new short videos onto YouTube, each focussing on parental controls for YouTube, Roblox and TikTok, the links are:*

*[YouTube parental controls top features](#).*

*[The top 3 parental controls to use on Roblox](#).*

*[The top 3 parental controls to use on TikTok](#).*

## Attendance

