

RECTORY FRIDAY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

It has been lovely to see the children back in school and ready to learn. I have been really impressed with how smart they look coming into school. If you need any support with uniform, please do not hesitate to get in contact with our Family Support Worker, Sam Llewellyn.

As it is a new half term, we have new clubs on offer. Please speak to the office if you have any questions about those. See the clubs in the picture to the right, or in our office door:

Thank you to all our parents for the support and we look forward to working with you in 2025. Everyone at Rectory Farm Primary would like to wish the Rectory Farm Community a Happy New Year!

Clubs at Rectory Farm Primary School in Spring 1



Monday

Lunchtime: KS2 Touch Rugby w/Mr Hemmings

After school: Hockey (yrs 4, 5&6)

Tuesday

Lunchtime: Homework Club (yr 6 with Miss Thompson)

After school: Hockey (yrs 1, 2&3)

After school: Tennis club (years 4, 5&6)

Wednesday

Lunchtime: Homework Club w/Digital Leaders (yrs 1&2)

Lunchtime: Art Club with Miss Pear (years 4, 5 and 6)

Thursday

Before school: Hotshots Basketball

Lunchtime: Homework Club (yrs 3, 4 and 5 with Miss Bick)

After school: Film club (yrs 1, 2, 3&4)

William Shakespeare Unit

After every Christmas, the whole school studies the same text by William Shakespeare, and this year it will be Henry V. The week kicked off with a fantastic assembly from Mrs Shields about heroes, and what a hero would be like. The children shared some lovely ideas, and we talked about real heroes in our own lives. The assembly finished off with a reading from the text by Mr Hemmings, who portrayed Henry himself! The children were clearly inspired, and we can't wait to see the work that the children produce over the next few weeks.



Curriculum

Year 6 — As part of their work with Henry V, year 6 did a 'Story Whoosh'. This is an interactive storytelling drama technique in which participants instantly become characters and objects in a story as it is told. The narrators were really clear, and the children picked up the story really quickly!

Year 1 — Year 1 loved exploring what winter looks and feels like and we went on a small walk around the playground to observe the seasonal changes.



Online Home Learning!

Spelling Shed 

1st:
Sycamore

2nd: **Rowan**

T'Melia – Year 4

Enessa – Year 3

Enessa – Year 6


NUMBOTS 

1st: **Sycamore**

2nd: **Maple**

Enessan (6) – Super Star Collector

Everson (2) – Most coins

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS 

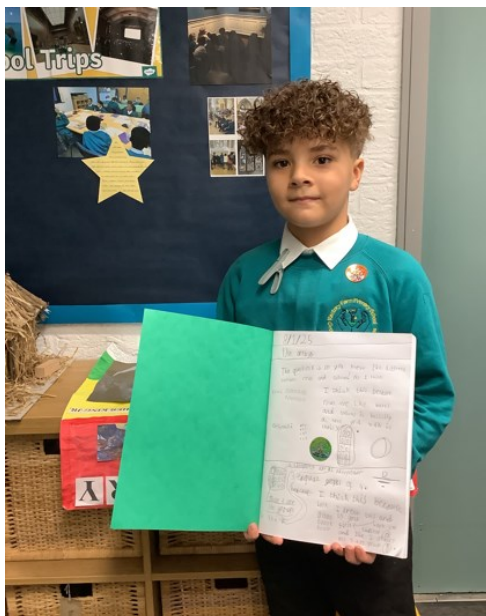
1st: **Maple**

2nd: **Sycamore**

Michal (6) – Most minutes

Sophia (5) – Most coins

Jeffrey (4) – Most correct answers



Year 3 have been looking at arrays for multiplication and Zion did a great job of explaining how they work and representing them in his book.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
15th January	Year 6	Visit from University of Northampton
16th January	Year 5	Royal Shakespeare Company Artist in Residence visiting for the day

Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)



Happy New Year everyone. Please see the latest 'Stay Connected' newsletter from West Northants. It shares workshops, events and support available for free. This covers support for Autism, support for bereaved children, behaviour management and more.

West Northamptonshire Stay Connected January 2025

If you wish to book a private meeting with me to discuss any worries, please do via the school office or catch me on the playground daily from 8.30am. Thanks, Sam.

Please check our website and Dojo for uniform expectation. Please remember not to send children into school in trainers but in black shoes.



Miss Walker-Collins —Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher

Friday 10th January 2025

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine a week before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education easier possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during their transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College