THE FLITCH GREEN
ACADEMY
Learning for Life



Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

From the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

You children have been a real credit to you this week. Read on to find out more!

Roots to food

On Tuesday, pupils in years 4 to 6 participated in 'Roots to Food' day organised and paid for Peacocks Catering. They all participated in a cooking workshop, making paella in Spanish.The pupils were excited and enthusiastic and the Spanish theme was a great success. A huge thank you to Peacock Schools Catering for kindly funding the workshops and arranging the food. Please see below the recipe so that your children are able to recreate it for you at home.

Fire Drill

We had a planned fire drill today and all pupils exited the building and lined up on the MUGA without fussing. Reception were amazing, considering this was the first time they had ever practised it!

SAT trustees

On Monday and Tuesday, I showed round three governors from Saffron Academy Trust. They were impressed by the happy feel of the school, the curriculum and the buzz for learning.

Football

We came second in our 3.4 football tournament held at Dunmow St Mary's, coming top of our group and playing in the final where we lost out to penalties. The children behaved really showing sportsmanship and had a lovely afternoon.





Tesco tokens

Also, Tesco have informed us that the blue token vote has been extended to 10 January 2027 so please remember to vote for us when you are shopping!

Parking

Sadly, I have to end with a complaint. I was contacted again today by a local resident regarding ongoing parking issues during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Unfortunately, some cars are still being parked across private areas and in residents' private spaces, leaving them unable to park at their own homes.

Because we keep the school gates open for a generous window at both ends of the day, there is no need to rush. Please put our neighbours first and avoid blocking or using private parking. If you need to drive, please use the Village car park, or consider a "park and stride" approach from a little further away.

Thank you for your support.

Have a lovely weekend,

S-J Pyne

Paella

Paella is a rice dish from Valencia, Spain



4 Chicken Breast or skinned and bone free Chicken Thigh Meat (dice)
1 x 200g Diced Vegan Quorn (if not using chicken)
100g Sliced Chorizo (Optional)
1 Red Pepper (small dice)
1 Yellow Pepper (small dice)
1 Onion (small dice)
1 Clove Fresh Garlic (peeled)
1 x 400g Tinned Chopped Tomatoes
2 Sticks Celery (sliced)
4 Spring Onion (sliced)
2 tsp Cajun Spice
1 tsp Turmeric
1 tsp Smoked Paprika
250g Easy Cook Long Grain Rice
1 Chicken Stock Cubes

1 Vegetable Stock Cubes (if not using chicken)
1 Lemon cut into 4 wedges

Method

1. In a large bowl mix the diced chicken with the Cajun spice, turmeric and smoked paprika. This mix is best left to marinade for 1 hour.

2. Meanwhile in a wok or large saucepan heat the water with the garlic clove and wait for the water to steam. Now place the chicken and sliced chorizo in the pan and seal.Place 1 tablespoon of water in the pan, cover with a lid and steam. Keep lifting the lid to check the chicken is kept moist, add more water if necessary. Now gently tip the onions, celery, spring onion, red and yellow peppers into the chicken with thevstock cube and stir. Add the chopped tinned tomatoes and bring to a simmer andvadd the rice. Keep simmering gently until the rice is cooked. Add a little water if necessary to keep the Jambalaya moist to prevent from sticking to the pan.

3. Take out the garlic clove before serving

4. Serve with a fresh lemon wedge.

Diary Dates

November 2026	December 2026	January 2027
24 Nov — FFG Wreath Making Event — evening 27 Nov - Pyjama Day for Rainbow Hamper	02 Dec Xmas Discos Reception: 4.30pm to 5.30pm Years 3 and 4: 6pm to 7pm 03 Dec Xmas discos Years 1 and 2: 4.30pm to 5.30pm Years 5 and 6: 6pm to 7pm 03 Dec — Panto, 09:00–11:30 in school 10-11 Dec — Nativity performances 08 Dec — Parents' Evening 9 Dec — Parents' Evening CONFIRMED 16 Dec — Christmas Concerts ● 9.30 LKS2: Holy Cross Church, Felsted ● 10.30 UKS2: Holy Cross Church, Felsted ● 1.30 KS1: Flitch School hall 17 Dec- Xmas dinner day 18 Dec - Winning house non-uniform day 18 Dec— Last Day of term	04 Jan-return to school after Christmas holiday 11 Jan 12.45-14.45 Future Champs sponsored Fitness Challenge (whole school) 19 Jan O2 Young Voices (choir only) 28 Jan Poplar Class assembly

Attendance

✓ OUR ATTENDANCE FOCUS

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance helps children build routines, maintain friendships and make steady progress in their learning.

Measure	This week	This term	Target
Whole-school attendance	94.8%	94.7%	96%+
Persistent absence	-	16.2%	0%

Being in school regularly helps children stay on track with their learning, connect with friends, and take part in class activities and clubs. Even a few missed days can add up quickly.

Class News

A quick round-up of learning, experiences and memorable moments from across the Academy.

Apple and Beech



Last week, we also spent time learning about Remembrance Day, linked to our story *Where the Poppies Grow*. We talked about why we remember and created some lovely poppy-inspired activities to help us mark this special occasion.

This week in Apple and Beech, we have been learning all about Diwali, the Festival of Light!



We have loved creating our own Rangoli patterns using pasta and rice, working together as a team to make some beautiful designs. We have also been busy making Diya lamps from paper plates and creating our very own Diwali cards.

During our writing lesson, we enjoyed thinking about whether a sweet gift for Diwali would be a trick or a treat! We used our phonics to help us write who we would give our sweet treat to and what it would be. We were so proud of our fantastic writing!

In Maths, we have loved making our own stampolines, printing groups of 4 and noticing how we can arrange them in different ways. We discovered that there might be two at the top and two at the bottom – 2 and 2 make 4!

Nativity preparations have been in full swing! We are doing really well learning all our songs and are getting very excited to start practising our lines and putting our performance together.



In Computing, we used an app called *Puppet Pals* to retell the story of Rama and Sita. We had lots of fun bringing the story to life using our own puppet characters!

What a busy and exciting couple of weeks we have had! We hope you all have a lovely week.

Cherry

We have had another fantastic week full of fun and exciting learning! In DT, we especially enjoyed preparing for our smoothie making by learning how to safely cut and juice different fruits. In English, we have been exploring rhyming words and having fun finding words that sound the same. PE has been lots of fun as we have been learning new team games, developing our teamwork skills and practising games that we can enjoy with our friends during break and lunchtimes.

In RE, we have been comparing and contrasting the Christmas story as told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. In Science, we have been learning all about the weather, becoming weather watchers by observing and identifying the weather each day. In Music, we have continued practising our Christmas songs, and the children are becoming more confident each week. What a wonderful week of learning!

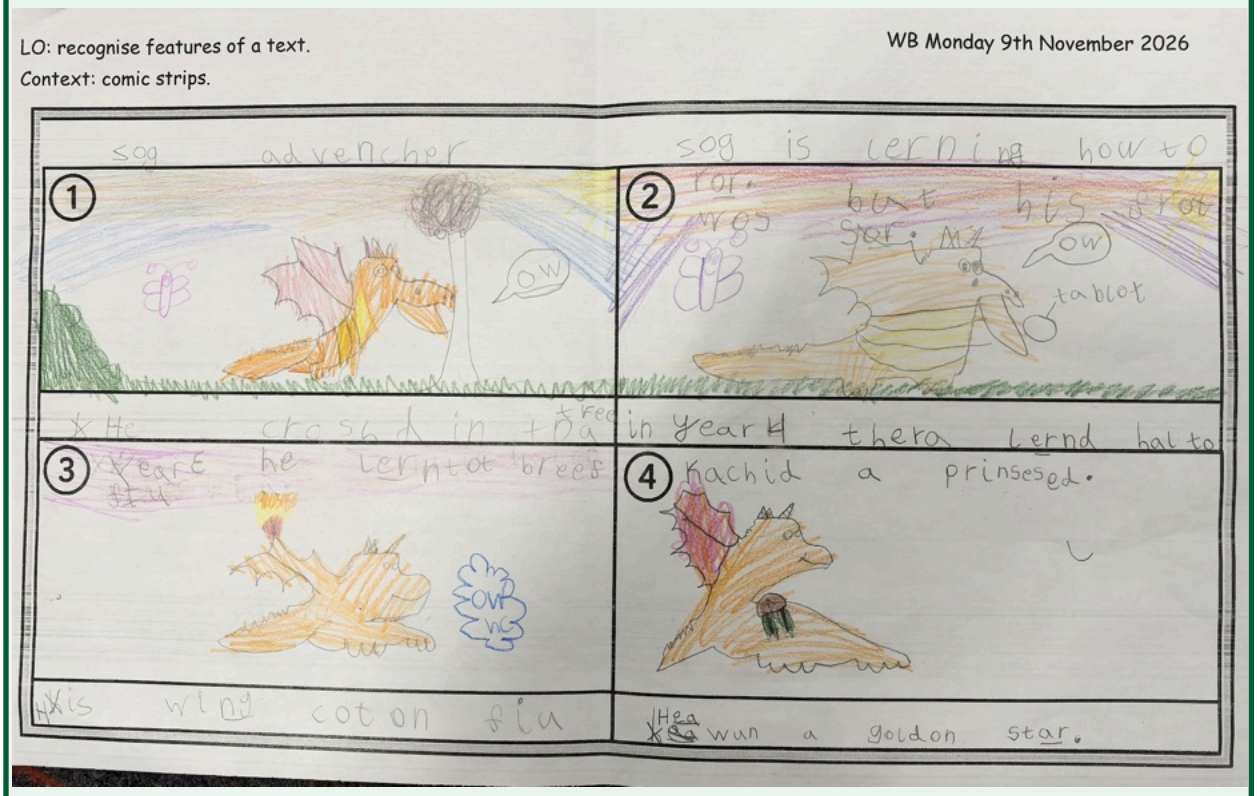






Elm

We have had a great couple of weeks. The children have been working really hard in their writing, they have finished their own comic strips based on the story of ‘Zog’ and we are now reading the story ‘Stick Man’ where they will be writing their own narrative on what happens in the story. Within this week's English lessons we have also been looking at what a verb is (a doing word) and they have been finding examples in a text. In Maths, we have been learning out number bonds to 100 (tens) linking out number bonds 10 that we already know. We have also been looking at finding 10 more and 10 less than a number, using dienes to help us. The children have been very excited about our topic in DT, where eventually they will be making their own smoothies!!! This week we have been cutting different fruits and next week they will be tasting different fruits (some they may never have tried before). They have also been very knowledgeable with their learning in our Computing lessons, understanding what IT is and different ways in which we can use a computer.



Hazel

Another brilliant couple of weeks it has been in Hazel Class. We have had great fun carrying out a variety of experiments in different subjects. In Geography, we learned why you should only flush toilet paper in a fun experiment involving wet wipes and water bottles! In Science, we have continued to explore materials, thinking about which would be the best for a pair of dungarees and a tea bag. In DT, we have thought about which 3D shapes are the strongest in preparation for creating our own chairs. A final highlight of the week was learning some playground games in PE, which we can take to our lunchtimes for even more fun!





Maple

This week, we have been working hard on our reading comprehension and Maths assessments. We have also introduced a new style of learning called a carousel, where the children complete five different activities, spending 10 minutes on each. This has been a huge hit, and everyone has really enjoyed it! In Reading, we have continued exploring our book *I Was There: Tutankhamun's Tomb*. In History, we got creative by building our very own shadufs using sticks and playdough. In Science, we continued investigating sound by filling plastic bottles and measuring the noise levels they produced. In Computing, we have started learning the exciting skills needed to record our very own podcasts!





Oak

What an unforgettable two weeks we've had in Oak Class! The undisputed highlight was our amazing trip to the London Transport Museum, where there was so much to look at and interact with, and every single child showed fantastic behaviour. Back in the classroom, the festive spirit has officially arrived as we began practising our Christmas concert songs. We have also been hard at work writing our *Oliver Twist* narratives in English and sharpening our times-tables skills in Maths. Over in Science, we continued our exciting investigations into how sound works!





Poplar

What an excellent two weeks we have had in Poplar class! The highlight was probably our trip to the London Transport Museum! The children were very well behaved and had a fantastic time exploring the museum, asking questions and trying out a range of carriages and buses. Back in class, the children have started learning how to record their voice using Garageband in preparation for recording a podcast. This week, on Tuesday, we also had a great time cooking up a storm with 'Roots to Food'! The children really impressed me with their knowledge of nutrition and food preparation. They loved tasting their paella as well!





Redwood

Over the last two weeks, pupils have engaged in a range of practical, creative and academic learning activities across the curriculum.

Roots to Food came into school, and the class worked together to create delicious paellas. This provided an opportunity for pupils to apply teamwork and practical skills while developing their understanding of food preparation. In English, we've been planning and writing our non-chronological reports about our Indonesian animals. Pupils have been organising information, selecting appropriate vocabulary and structuring their writing for an informative purpose. This week, we have been completing our autumn term assessments in maths, GPS and reading. These assessments will help to identify pupils' progress and inform future teaching and learning.In computing, children have been learning to use Crumble kits, developing their understanding of programming and practical problem-solving. In music, we have been learning our Christmas song, building confidence in singing and performing as a class.



Spruce

We have had a very enriching and exciting week in Spruce Class! One of the highlights was our Roots for Food workshop, where the children learnt how to make paella. They did a fantastic job chopping, preparing and seasoning the ingredients, and thoroughly enjoyed tasting their finished dish! This was excellent practice ahead of our DT cooking session in a few weeks, when the children will be making their own spaghetti bolognese. In English, we have been focusing on developing our grammar skills, exploring how we can use a range of sentence structures and punctuation to enhance our narrative retelling of War Horse. In Maths, we have continued our learning on fractions. The children are becoming increasingly confident with converting fractions, as well as adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they tackle more challenging questions!





Willow

A very busy few weeks in Willow class! Last week, you will have seen our excellent class assembly! Although we were very nervous, we did an amazing job at remembering our lines and speaking so confidently. It was also lovely to be able to share some of our fantastic writing that we have been working so hard on over the last half term. Moving on, we have been conducted our first round of practice SAT's papers. These scores and information will be shared at parents evening in a few weeks time. In Science, we have been exploring light and this week we investigated how light travelled around objects and creates shadows. In our writing lessons, we have been exploring the concept of a consequence story where something happens to the characters in a story and there is a consequence for what happens. We will begin writing our own stories next week. This week, we were lucky to be invited to a Roots to Food workshop where we learnt how to cook a healthy meal Paella - many of us are keen to cook it at home so put your feet up parents and let the children cook dinner for change!





Learning for Life Awards

Class	Pupil
Apple	Tallulah
Beech	Tommy
Cherry	Albie
Elm	Tommy
Hazel	Cece
Maple	Luna
Oak	Anna
Poplar	Penelope
Redwood	Myla
Spruce	Tilly
Willow	Emilia

House points earned this week

	228
	171
	156
	185

Smarties Challenge winners

Hazel was the winning class, raising £81.25 (apologies for previously reporting Apple) but all pupils who took part in the challenge need to be thanked for raising over £400! Thank you to FFG for putting on the event.

Apple	£66.55
Beech	£41.40
Cherry	£65.07
Elm	£52.87
Hazel	£81.25
Maple	£25.20
Oak	£33.80
Poplar	£39.90
Redwood	£4.60
Spruce	£21.20
Willow	£9.74
	£441.58