



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this term and look forward to the Easter holidays, we want to take a moment to reflect on all that this term has brought. Easter offers us a special opportunity to pause, to celebrate hope, and to welcome the new beginnings that spring brings. It reminds us of the light that follows darkness and the importance of compassion and forgiveness in our lives.

The Easter story itself reflects this message of renewal and hope. As the Bible reminds us, "He is not here: for he is risen." (Matthew 28:6). This promise of new life encourages us to look ahead with faith, kindness, and optimism.

Toys from home

We have seen a growing number of pupils in KS1 bringing in toys from home. We kindly ask that children do not bring toys from home into school. Unfortunately, personal items can easily become lost or damaged, and they can sometimes cause distractions in the classroom. To avoid any upset, we would be grateful if toys could be kept at home unless they are specifically requested for a school activity as we cannot guarantee they will not get lost or damaged.

Thank you very much for your support and understanding.

Clubs next term

Monday - Design Technology with Mrs Cornwell

Wednesday - Dodgeball with Elite

Thursday - Maths Club with Mrs Smith

Friday - Multisports with Elite

All clubs run straight from school until 4.20pm. Please sign up on MCAS, they will be available to book from Friday 3rd April. There are 20 spaces available for each club. You should get a notification on MCAS when these are available to book.

Mrs Links will run year 6 Quiz club in preparation for SATS on 30th April and 7th May. Please note there is no SATS club on 23rd April.

World Book Day organised by Ms Croft

On Thursday 5th March 2026, our school celebrated World Book Day in true story-filled style, with a whole day dedicated to reading for pleasure and exploring vocabulary.

The atmosphere was full of excitement from the moment the children arrived, especially as pupils and staff came dressed as Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary words. From creative homemade costumes to clever word-inspired outfits, the effort and imagination on display was fantastic. A huge thank you to Friends of the School, who kindly donated prizes for the best dressed word in each year group.

The day began with a special World Book Day assembly, where we introduced the theme and reminded everyone that for the day, every child would become a reading buddy. We also revealed our exciting Reading Challenge, before staff treated pupils to a joyful read-aloud from a "pure pleasure" book to set the tone for the day.

The Big Reading Challenge

The first session focused on our Reading Buddy Pair-Up, where older and younger pupils teamed up for the day. Each pair received a Reading Passport and worked together to complete activities designed to celebrate shared

enjoyment of books. Children earned points for tasks such as reading together, talking about favourite books, drawing a favourite scene, creating something inspired by a story and recommending books to each other.

It was wonderful to see children supporting one another, sharing stories, and building confidence through reading.

Reading Stations Carousel

After playtime, buddy pairs took part in a carousel of engaging reading stations throughout the school. Each station offered a different experience to inspire imagination and enjoyment:

Book in a Bag (Ash): Children used mystery objects to create their own stories.

Story Listening Station (Elm): Audiobooks and staff recordings, including our exciting "Masked Reader" competition.



Cosy Reading Den (Maple): A calm space with cushions, fairy lights, and soft music for relaxed choice reading.

Book Art (Oak): Pupils designed bookmarks and created brand new book covers for their buddies.

The children thoroughly enjoyed moving between activities, and it was lovely to see so many meaningful conversations about books happening all day long.

Sharing Our Favourite Reads

In the afternoon, pupils returned to their classes to contribute to a special school display for the library. Each child wrote down a book title and a one-sentence reason why they loved it. This will form part of a wonderful display celebrating the books that inspire our readers.

Stay and Read with Parents

To end the day, we were delighted to welcome parents into school for our Stay & Read session. Children proudly shared their Reading Passports and enjoyed reading together in cosy corners around the classrooms. It was a warm and joyful finish to a day that truly celebrated the magic of books.

A Day to Remember

World Book Day 2026 was a huge success and a brilliant reminder of how powerful reading can be when it is shared, enjoyed, and celebrated. The children were engaged, enthusiastic, and inspired throughout the day, and we are so proud of the effort they put into making it such a special event.

Thank you to all staff, pupils, and families for helping make World Book Day a memorable celebration of reading across the whole school!

Swimming

Swimming for Maple Class and Oak Class has now finished for the year.

Ash Class Trip

On Monday 17th March, our Reception children had a wonderful day at Lincolnshire Wildlife Park. They were full of excitement as they explored the park and spotted animals such as tigers, meerkats, parrots, birds, and even a lion.

The children enjoyed a guided tour before taking part in a special workshop, where they created enrichment toys for the meerkats. They loved watching the meerkats play with the toys they had made. A highlight of the day was visiting the bird aviary, where birds flew around and landed close by—an unforgettable experience!

Throughout the visit, the children behaved beautifully and showed all of our school values. It was a fantastic day of learning and adventure. Well done, Reception!



Chicks visiting Ash Class

Ash Class really enjoyed watching their chicks hatch, we had 2 boys and 7 girls. They all gave them a different selection of names and really enjoyed holding them and watching them change in a relatively short period of change.



Maple Class Trip

Maple Class visited Sleaford Art Hub where we took part in a print workshop. We learnt how to print using recycled materials, exploring how different shapes could be used to create different designs. Afterwards, we looked at images of beetles. We were taught how to create our own drawing of a beetle and then we used our drawings to create a tile to use to print. Once we had our tiles, we created our own printed beetle pictures.

After lunch we visited the gallery upstairs where we used our 'gallery eyes' to explore the pieces of art in detail as well as getting to hold some pieces that the artists had created.

Here are some photos of the workshop.



Upcoming Trips

Elm Class will be enjoying their school trip during the Summer Term as part of their Castles topic. Further information will be shared with families closer to the time. The visit is planned for Tuesday 30th June, when the children will be travelling to Tattershall Castle.

Oak Class will be visiting Burghley House on Friday 12th June. During the trip, pupils will take part in a historical walk of the building, create natural portraits, try their hand at wire sculpting, and complete science classification activities linked to their current class learning.

SATS Week

11th-14th May is SATS week for Year 6. They will be able to come in for breakfast. Please make sure you do not book any holidays this week. If a year 6 child is not in school on the day to do the test, they have to remain isolated from the rest of the class until they have sat the test themselves.

Friends of Cowbit

Friends of Cowbit are currently running a £20.26 challenge where they have asked pupils to challenge themselves and see if they raise the sum of £20.26 each which will go towards trips. Due to not many people taking part, we have extended the deadline for this until the end of May. Please send in your forms and monies if you have completed this challenge.

They are also busy organising a Colour Run to take place after Sports Day and open to other members of our community. More information to follow but we would be grateful for your support and if anyone would like to help please let us know.

On behalf of all pupils and staff at Cowbit St Mary's, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Friends of Cowbit for their hard work and dedication in organising events outside of the school day. Their efforts have supported donut sales with Year 6 to help fund their end-of-year leavers' celebrations, coordinated the Easter egg hunt and raffle, prepared Mother's Day gifts, and they are already busy planning the upcoming summer fair.

As always, these wonderful events would not be possible without the support of volunteers. Friends of Cowbit are in great need of new members to ensure these opportunities for our children can continue.

If you are interested in getting involved or offering support in any way, please let us know—we would be delighted to hear from you.

Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies within school. There is a caretaker role and a SEN TA role. If you would like to apply or know anyone who would be interested, please use the following links to apply.

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/152049/EDV-2026-CSMCEA-39911>

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/152049/EDV-2026-CSMCEA-97353>

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open every day at 7.30am. A charge of £3.50 is made which includes breakfast and entertainment. There is a variety of activities each week including arts and crafts, Lego, games and TT Rockstars. **Breakfast Club now needs to be booked and paid for in advance.** There is a discount if you attend all week as the price will be reduced to £15 for the full week. There is also a sibling discount, where if two or more children from the same family attend, the cost will be reduced to £2.50 per child.

Class Dojo and MCAS

Every family has been invited to Class Dojo and MCAS. Please join if you haven't already. Class Dojo is our message system to parents and on it you will find reminders and things happening in school. It is also a quick way for you to contact us if you ever have a question or concern. MCAS is where you will need to pay for trips and book into clubs and parents' evenings, please make sure you checked that your permissions and details are up to date, especially the permissions which relate to Trust wide publications. We have started using MCAS more now for communications as well to make sure everyone is receiving information from us.

Attendance

Late Arrival at School

The school gates open at 8.40am and lessons start at 8.50am. If your child is arriving after 8.50am they are missing learning time. If you arrive after 9.20am you will get an unauthorised mark which goes down as a half day absence. These unauthorised late marks count as 1 absence towards the 10 unauthorised absences in 10 weeks so you could end up getting a fine for unauthorised absence just for being late on a regular basis.

Appointments

A lot of school is being missed due to appointments. Please try and make appointments out of school time. If this is unavoidable, if you can bring your child into school for registration in the morning or take them after lunch in the afternoon, this will not affect their attendance as registers will have been taken. As this is happening a lot, we now need to see proof of appointment in order to authorise medical, dental or opticians' appointments, if we don't it will go down as an unauthorised absence.

Minor Illnesses

If we think your child is too ill to be in school, we will ring you and ask you to either bring some medicine for them or ask you to pick them up. Too many children are staying off school with a cold, or a sore throat or other minor reasons when they could be in school learning. Quite often when the children return to school, we are told they were fine by lunchtime. Once distracted they usually feel better! Missed school means missed learning opportunities.

First Day Calling

In order to comply with safeguarding procedures and follow our attendance policy, we will continue to operate a 'first day call' when children are absent. If your child is absent from school, we would appreciate if you could

telephone and let us know before 9.30am. If your child continues to be off, please call **every day** or expect a call from us.

Home Visits

If any child is absent for a period of **3 days or longer**, we will complete an unannounced welfare check where we conduct a home visit to check everybody is safe and well. If there is no answer, a calling card will be left asking you to contact school as soon as possible. We will still complete a home visit if you have called, in line with new expectations.

Attendance Penalty Notice

The current Government guidelines now make it clear that **Headteachers are instructed that they may not grant any leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances**. As a result. Any holiday requests will be unauthorised unless exceptional circumstances can be evidenced. If a pupil has 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days - 10 sessions) accumulated within a 10 week period, a Penalty Notice may be issued. The Penalty Notice comes directly from Lincolnshire County Council, and the offence is £160 per child, per parent but if paid within 21 days this will reduce to £80 per parent per child for the first offence. Everyone has been given a formal warning letter which is valid for 2 years. It is a legal requirement for us to make sure everyone receives a letter and is aware of the rules.

Please note this is for unauthorised absence. If your child is ill, please call in as usual and let us know. We understand that everyone gets ill, the above guidelines are for absences such as holidays or days off school that are not for medical reasons. If you need to get a dentist or doctor's appointment for your child, please try and make these out of school time but if it can't please let us know, you may be asked for proof of appointment if these are happening regularly.

Attendance Raffle

As part of our action plan to improve school attendance, if your child has been in school every day of the week, they will receive a raffle ticket to enter our termly draw. The more raffle tickets they have, the higher their chances of winning our attendance prize. We have a prize for a child in Key Stage One and a prize for a child in Key Stage Two. This term's winners were Delilah Green and Sophia Smith.

Dates for Your Diary

- 21st April- School reopens after Easter
- 4th May- Bank Holiday Monday- School will be closed
- 11th-14th May - SATS Week - Year 6
- 21st May - Non uniform in exchange for prize for the colour tombola - more information to follow.
- 22nd May- End of Term 5
- 3rd June - Sports Day (Weather permitting)
- 8th June - Phonics Testing Week
- 1st-12th June - Multiplication check for year 4
- 12th June- Oak Class Trip to Burghley House
- 30th June- Elm Class Trip to Tattershall Castle
- 11th July - Summer Fair
- 22nd July- Last day of term

On behalf of everyone at Cowbit St Mary's Church of England Academy, thank you for your continued support.

We wish you and your families a peaceful, joyful and blessed Easter break.