



# NEWSLETTER

9TH FEBRUARY 2026

Well I can't believe we are at the end of this half term already... but here we are and it has been a jam packed fortnight!

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Hampton Court Palace and were very pleased to consolidate their knowledge of King Henry VIII whilst exploring the palace grounds and engaging in a Tudor Workshop. The whole school have celebrated National Storytelling Week which adopted a strong musical theme of "Soundtrack your story". The children took part in national workshops relevant to their age group and continued the learning with their own class activities. KS1 based their storytelling around the book "I am Nerfiti" by Annemarie Anang and EYFS around the book "The First Book of Bugs" by Simon Mole".

The whole school also took part in the Indian Dance Workshop on Tuesday. ALL children took part and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the finished dance routines were very impressive!

Finally, our House Maths competition took place and the winning house were Venus (Green) House earning 4 points for the House Leader Board!

Tuesday 10th February is Safer Internet Day which is where the children will continue their online safety learning with the focus of "Smart Tech, Safe Choices". The teachers have planned a range of fun activities to engage them in this important topic.

| Looking ahead                                 |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> February                     | Safer Internet Day                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February                     | Y1 Fieldwork - walk of local area |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> February | Learning Review Meetings          |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> February   | Half Term                         |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> February                     | Y1 Great Fire of London Workshop  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> March                         | Reception Presentation to Parents |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March                         | World Book Day                    |



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## **SAFEGUARDING AT SHPA**

Keeping your child safe is of paramount importance to all of us at Sires Hill Primary Academy. There are stringent procedures that we follow when recruiting any member of staff. These include:

- Checking the employment history of potential applicants and questioning gaps.
- Requesting two professional references - one which must be from the headteacher of the last school that the applicant worked at.
- These references are checked with a phone call to the referee, calling the school number (not a personal mobile).
- There are safeguarding questions within the interview itself.
- Social media is checked for all applicants.
- Every member of staff has to have an enhanced disclosure and barring service check. These are repeated at regular intervals once employed.

When we have supply teachers and college or university students their credentials, identity and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service Check) are also checked and retained and they also have to undergo our safeguarding training and follow the school policies.

All staff receive regular training on Safeguarding throughout the academic year. This is led by Mrs Vickers and Miss Taylor. Staff are trained to report any concern - this includes concerns about other members of staff.

If there are allegations against staff, the procedure is to contact the Local Authority Designated Officer who will then investigate or provide advice.

Children are taught about appropriate relationships through our PSHE programme, Jigsaw. This allows them to form an understanding of what is right and what is not and they are encouraged to speak out to a trusted adult to discuss their concerns and questions.

If you have any questions or queries about our safeguarding procedures, please do make an appointment to speak to Miss Taylor or Mrs Ashcroft.

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### **PLAYGROUND USE**

This is a polite reminder that no playground equipment including the trim trail is to be used at pick ups or drop offs. It is not designed for all ages and use at these times could cause damage to equipment or result in injury.

### **TYPO!**

The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed an unfortunate typo in the last newsletter in which I can only apologise for!

### **LEARNING REVIEWS: 9TH & 11TH FEBRUARY**

A reminder that learning reviews will be taking place on Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th February. You will have received information about how to book a meeting with your child's teacher from the school office. It is vitally important to book a meeting so that you are kept well informed about the progress your child is making against national expectations.

**2025/26 Spring Term**  
**Dates and events are subject to changes. Correct at time of writing.**

|  |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> February                    | Whole School          | Safer Internet Day                             |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February                    | Year 1                | Geography Fieldwork - walk of local area       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> February  | Pre-School-<br>Year 2 | Learning Reviews                               |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> February | Whole School          | Half Term                                      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> February                    | Year 1                | Great Fire of London Workshop                  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> March                        | Reception             | Presentation to Parents                        |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> February                    | Year 1                | Great Fire of London Workshop                  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> March                        | Reception             | Presentation to Parents                        |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March                        | Whole School          | World Book Day                                 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March                        | Yr 1 & 2              | Didcot Library visit school                    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Year 2                | Presentation to Parents                        |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Year 1                | Presentation to Parents                        |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Year 2                | Elizabeth I workshop @DPA                      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Whole School          | Roving Bookshop in school                      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Whole School          | Comic Relief - Break the Rules Day - PTA event |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Rocksteady performers | Rocksteady concert 9.30am                      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Reception             | Height and Weight Measuring                    |

|                        |                     |   |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> March | Reception           | Vision Test                                   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March | Whole School        | Spring Bake Sale - PTA event                  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March | Pre-school & Owlets | Last Day of Term for Owlets & Pre-school      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March | Reception - Year 2  | End of term at 12 noon. Gates open at 11:50am |

| <b>2025/26 Summer Term</b><br><b>Dates and events are subject to changes. Correct at time of writing.</b> |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| <b>When</b>   | <b>Who</b>          | <b>What...</b>                                |
| 13th April  | Whole School        | Summer Term starts at 8:40am                  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> April  | Pre-school          | Trip to Sutton Courtenay Environmental Centre |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May  | Reception           | Trip to Beale Park                            |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> May  | Year 1              | School Days Workshop                          |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> - 22nd May   | Whole School        | Virtual Duck Race - PTA event                 |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May  | Whole School        | School photos                                 |
| Date TBC  | Pre-school & Owlets | Mini Sports Morning                           |
| Date TBC  | Reception - Year 2  | Sports Afternoon                              |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> May   | Whole School        | Half Term                                     |

**Please note dates will be added throughout the year as we continue to update the school calendar.**

|                       |                           |  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 12th June             | Whole School              | Inset Day  |
| 30th June             | Year 2                    | Beach Trip to Hengistbury Head   |
| TBC                   | Whole School              | Summer Fete - PTA event  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> July | 2 year olds and Preschool | Last Day   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> July | Reception-Y2              | Last Day. No 2 year old/Preschool session. Gates open at 11.50am and shut at 12pm. |

**Term dates this academic year:**

|                 |  |   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| <b>Spring 1</b> | <b>5th January 2026-13<sup>th</sup> February</b>   |   |
| <b>Spring 2</b> | <b>23rd February - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March (the school will shut at 12 noon on 27<sup>th</sup> March)</b> | <b>Pre-school and 2 year olds - there will be no session on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>  |
| <b>Summer 1</b> | <b>13th April-22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>  |   |
| <b>Summer 2</b> | <b>1st June- 17<sup>th</sup> July (the school will shut at 12 noon on 17<sup>th</sup> July)</b>                | <b>Inset Day 12<sup>th</sup> June (the school will be closed to children). Pre-school and 2 year olds - there will be no session on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b> |