

Our Big Question for this term is:  
**“Why follow when you can lead?”**

### Houses of Parliament trip

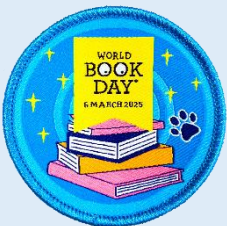
Following our trip to the Houses of Parliament, Polly Billington took our ideas and discussed them in the Chamber. You can watch a clip of these here:

<https://www.instagram.com/pollybillington/reel/DE9ml8wMHlj/>

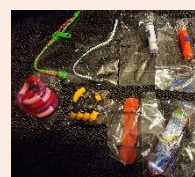


### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March! Lots of exciting plans are being made to ensure the day is fun and enjoyable for all the children. We'd love for the children to come dressed as their favourite book character, or wear their pyjamas to highlight the importance of bedtime reading.



Sophia, a Year 6 pupil, is fundraising for the Thanet Wanderers SEN rugby team, where she proudly serves as captain. On the 12th, 13th, and 14th of February, she will be selling items to raise money for the team – pocket hugs, snap bands, fidget toys etc. Sophia is the captain of the Thanet Wanderers SEN team, called the Lions, who will be heading to Coventry on 30th May 2025. Items will be price 50p or £1 so please send your child in with some money if they would like to support Sophia in her fundraising.



### Maths news

# NSPCC

We are excited to support the NSPCC by taking part in the Number Day fundraising event, next Friday 7th February.

It will be a fun-filled day with a whole school focus on maths and lots of exciting activities planned! On this day, we're encouraging the children to dress up in something related to numbers. This could be anything from a dice face, a Numberblocks character, or even a football kit!

We kindly ask for a £1 donation, or whatever you can contribute, to support this great cause. Please send your child in with their donation on the day.

## OPAL update

As part of our ongoing work with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), we are constantly looking for ways to improve the play opportunities we offer. This week, our entire play team took part in training to help make our playtimes even better. Each teaching assistant who attended the training worked in groups to plan new activities for their specific play zones. We are committed to providing amazing play every day, for every child.

OPAL is an award-winning, mentor-supported school improvement programme that helps schools improve the quality of their play opportunities in a sustainable way. It's the only programme of its kind in the UK that has been independently proven to make a lasting impact on play in primary schools.

The success of OPAL comes from a series of actions supported by an expert mentor. This approach integrates play into the school's policies and practices, ensuring lasting improvements and clear strategies for making playtimes even more enjoyable and beneficial for all our children.

We need lots of resources to use now and to rotate throughout the term. Your donations would be greatly appreciated! Whilst we will thoroughly check all items to ensure their safety, it would be appreciated if you could check that the items are safe enough to play with i.e. pockets, bags should all be cleared out, cables cut-off.

*We're looking for a variety of items, such as:*

- Toys, games, sheets/blankets
- Small world toys e.g. cars, dinosaurs, farm animals or other small figures
- Astro turf offcuts, carpet squares/samples
- Old cabinet doors, panels, logs
- Bread, milk, bottle, and food crates
- Buggies, pushchairs, briefcases, suitcases
- Keys (any shape and size)
- Cuddly toys, fabrics (especially parachute-type materials and colourful ones)
- Foam pipe covers, noodles, guttering (any size and shape)
- Hoses and pipe, pegs (preferably garden-type, larger pegs or wooden clothes pegs)
- Metal pots, pans, trays, saucepans
- Old clothes, jackets, hats, bags
- Old household appliances (hoovers, keyboards, microwaves, etc.)
- Piping (gas, water, drainage), planks (decking, scaffolders)
- Plastic chairs (with or without legs), plastic road barriers
- Ropes, string, wool, ties, buckets and watering cans
- Small children's bike wheels and tyres, scooters, small wheelie bins
- Traffic cones, tubes of all kinds, tyres (no car tyres, please)
- Tools (saws, hammers, pliers, drills, screwdrivers – any tools still in good condition)
- Gardening equipment, wellies – all sizes!



If you have any of these items at home and no longer need them, please consider donating them to support our play sessions. Thank you for helping us create amazing play opportunities!