

Marish Academy Trust Newsletter

Issue 75 - Feb 2025

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Dear Parents & Carers,

Just like that, another busy and successful half term passes us by. I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your continued support and commitment to our school community.

This term, we have witnessed further achievements from our students, both inside and outside the classroom. From academic progress to extra-curricular activities, their enthusiasm and hard work never cease to amaze me. I am incredibly proud of the resilience, curiosity, and kindness that they demonstrate daily.

Of course none of this would be possible without you, our parents and carers. Your engagement, whether through attending meetings, supporting school events, or encouraging your child's learning at home, plays a crucial role in the success of our school. We truly appreciate everything you do to help create a positive and thriving environment for our students.

As we break once again to recharge our batteries, please ensure you also take some time to relax and enjoy quality moments with your family. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday 24th February for the second part of our spring term. It promises to be yet another exciting chapter in our school year, including the ever-popular, annual book week! On behalf of the whole school, I wish you all a wonderful break.

Warm regards

Mr Clifford

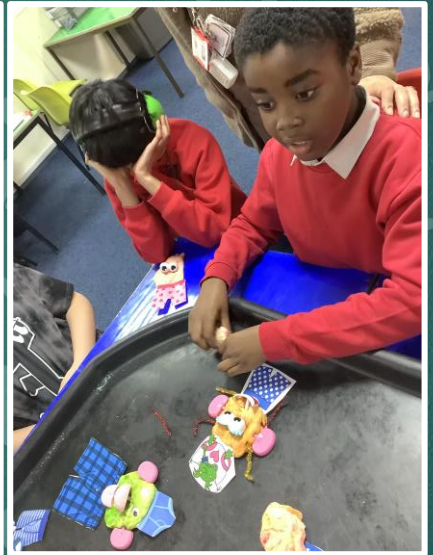
Assistant Headteacher



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SEN Unit



The children had an exciting time exploring the story **Aliens Love Underpants**, fully immersing themselves in the tale by wearing underpants, alien masks, glasses, and antennas—bringing the story to life in a fun and engaging way!



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SEN Unit



The children are discovering the exciting world of astronauts, exploring what they do in space through imaginative play with spaceships and rocks, while dressing up as astronauts to bring their learning to life!

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EYFS Activities



Nursery children have been exploring the world of jungle animals through their key text **Walking Through the Jungle**. They have been learning to recognise different animal sounds and discovering the creatures that live there. They had great fun creating their own jungle animals, practicing pencil control by writing in jungle-themed sand, and developing scissor skills by 'freeing' animals tied up in string!



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EYFS Activities



Reception children enjoyed creative art activities focussing on numbers. They had fun making number faces, creating caterpillars, and engaging in hands-on tasks to strengthen their number recognition, building confidence and a deeper understanding of numbers.

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Mosque Visit



This half-term, Year 2 explored Islam through exciting hands-on experiences. They visited a mosque to learn how Muslims pray, wrote their names in Arabic, dressed in traditional attire, and tasted all the fruits mentioned in the Holy Quran, making it a fun and immersive learning journey.

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Science



In Science, year 4 have been learning about the topic of Sound. As part of this topic, they had to experiment to find the best material to soundproof an alarm. The children chose the materials themselves, and then used these to test their predictions. It was a fun lesson and the children learnt a lot about how well sound travels through different materials.

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Art



Children from Years 2 – 6 showcased their creativity in an Art competition inspired by Frida Kahlo! Their stunning portraits celebrate her vibrant style and passion for self-expression. Well done, young artists!



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Art



This term, Year 3 students explored natural art, inspired by British artist Andy Goldsworthy. Using leaves, twigs, and stones, they created unique prints, experimenting with natural colours and textures. This hands-on experience deepened their creativity and connection to nature. We encourage families to continue this exploration at home and are proud of the beautiful artwork the children have created!

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MFL - SWEDISH

International Language of the Month – Swedish



Sweden is the largest country in Scandinavia, with a long western border that's shared with Norway. The country's east coast is bordered by the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia.



Interesting facts about the Swedish language:

- The Swedish alphabet is similar to the English alphabet, but it has three extra letters: å, ä, and ö.
- Swedish is a North Germanic language that's closely related to Danish and Norwegian. It's also similar to English and German.
- Swedish is the official language of Sweden and one of the official languages of Finland. It's also an official language of the European Union and a working language for the Nordic Council.
- The longest Swedish word is "realisationsvinstbeskattning" and has 28 letters.
- There's no direct translation for "please" in Swedish, but you can convey politeness by using a respectful tone of voice and saying "tack" ("thank you").
- Before 2009, Sweden didn't have an official language.
- Swedish was spoken in parts of Estonia and Latvia until World War II.

Facts about Sweden:

Population: 10.45 million.
Capital City: Stockholm
Continent: Europe
National Day: 6th June
Religion: No longer has an official state religion although 63% of the population are Church of Sweden.

Now let's learn a few phrases:

- Hej = Hello.
- God morgon = Good morning.
- God kväll = Good evening.
- Tack = Thank you.
- Hejdå = Goodbye.
- 1 = Ett/ en.
- 2 = Två.
- 3 = Tre.
- 4 = Fyra.
- 5 = Fem.



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PE COMPETITION



A huge well done to our Year 1&2 team for finishing in an incredible 2nd place—what an achievement! The effort, skill, and enthusiasm from all the children were fantastic to see.



Well done, Willow! Both our Year 5 & 6 boys' and girls' football teams had a fantastic experience playing against Khalsa. The teams walked together to the match, supporting each other along the way, and put their skills to the test in a great display of teamwork and determination.

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British Council Award



British Council International School Award success for Marish & Willow Primary Schools. Both Schools' international work includes letters shared between Spanish and Ghanaian partner schools, a video conference with our Spanish partner school, a whole school Euros project, International Language of the Month, and studies about Van Gogh and Matisse.

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Healthy Lifestyle

Activities to keep fit at home

Exercise: Lightning McQueen's Track

Players: 2 or more

Where to play? Outdoors

How to play



1. Grab some friends and mark out a race track outside.

start **finish**

A diagram showing a horizontal line representing a race track. The word 'start' is written in red on the left and 'finish' is written in red on the right. A green arrow points from 'start' to 'finish' above the line. Another green arrow points down from the line to the text 'Get into pairs...' below.

2. Get into pairs, then choose 1 person to hold the other's legs so they can walk on their hands.



3. Say "On your marks, get set, go!" and race around the track 3 times.



4. Swap over and race again.



5. Which team can win the most races in 10 minutes? If there's only 1 team, race against the clock.



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Healthy Lifestyle

PIZZA CRUMPETS

Preparation time - 5 mins

Cooking time - 5 mins

Makes - 4 cakes

Ingredients

- 4 crumpets
- 4 tablespoons tomato purée
- 4 tomatoes, sliced
- 2 teaspoons dried mixed herbs
- 40g reduced-fat hard cheese, grated
- 1 pinch of ground black pepper



Method:

1. Preheat the grill. Toast the undersides of the crumpets until crispy – about 2 minutes.



Try using wholemeal pitta breads as a change from crumpets. Just skip grilling the underside.

2. Remove from the grill, flip the crumpets over and spread each with 1 teaspoon of tomato purée. Arrange the sliced tomatoes on top and grill for 2 minutes.
3. Sprinkle the herbs and cheese evenly over the crumpets, season with pepper to taste, and grill until the cheese melts and bubbles – another minute or so. Serve at once.



Add a little chopped cooked ham, chopped cooked chicken or extra vegetables, such as sliced peppers, courgette or mushrooms on the crumpets before sprinkling with the cheese.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/pizza-crumpets/>

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Attendance

Marish

Feb 2025

Reception: **91.24%**

Year 1: **93.62%**

Year 2: **94.92%**

Year 3: **92.98%**

Year 4: **95.36%**

Year 5: **91.54%**

Year 6: **93.54%**

Target: 96%

Willow

Feb 2025

Reception: **93.52%**

Year 1: **90.67%**

Year 2: **96.83%**

Year 3: **96.72%**

Year 4: **94.07%**

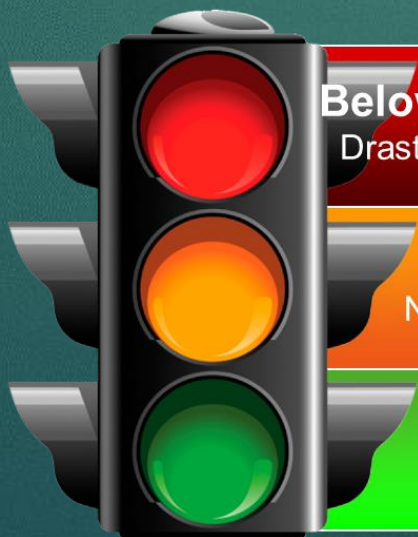
Year 5: **95.76%**

Year 6: **94.33%**

Target: 96%



Last month's 100% attendance reward was a pack of biscuits!



Below 90% Serious Concern
Drastic effect on academic success

95- 90% Cause for Concern
Negatively affecting academic success

100%- 96% WELL DONE
Achieving full potential

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Parent Workshop Menu

All workshops will take place in the school hall. Pupils are welcome to attend with their parents and there is no requirement to reserve a place, all parents are welcome.

Date	Session	Staff Lead	Venue
25/2/25 Tuesday	Reception Stay and Read session Invite only	EYFS team EYFS team	In Reception classrooms
3/3/25 Monday Book week	Reading with children	Reading team	Main Hall 2:00pm - 3:00pm
4/3/25 Tuesday Book week	Reading with children	Reading team	Main Hall 2:00pm - 3:00pm
4/3/25 Tuesday	Reception Stay and Read session Invite only	EYFS team EYFS team	In Reception classrooms
11/3/25 Tuesday	Reception Stay and Read session Invite only	EYFS team EYFS team	In Reception classrooms
12/3/25 Wednesday	E-safety coffee morning	Mr Sinclair	Willow School Hall at 8:30am
13/3/25 Thursday	E-safety coffee morning	Mr Sinclair	Marish School Hall at 8:30am

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Parent Notices

Timings of the School Day from December

Soft start is from 8:15am to 8:30am for all year groups except Nursery.

SEN Unit:	Doors open 8:15am to 8:45am and then at 3:00pm
Nursery:	8:00 – 11:00am and 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Nursery full time (Marish)	8:00am – 3:00pm
Reception:	8:30am – 3:15pm
Year 1 and Year 2:	8:30am – 3:15pm
Year 3 and Year 4:	8:30am – 3:25pm
Year 5 and Year 6:	8:30am – 3:25pm



Ensure that you drop your child off at the designated entrance. Do not leave them unsupervised on the school grounds.

Fees for Breakfast club and Meerkats

Meerkats	Before 4pm	After 4pm
	£2	£5
Breakfast Club	£1 per day	-
Late collection	£5 per 15 minutes	-

Full time only sessions, £2, parents still need to order and pay for school dinner in addition to this.

If you would like your child to attend Breakfast club or Meerkats you will need to apply for a space. For more information or an application form, enquire at the school office.

Please note, there is a different payment schedule for Pupil Premium/ Free School Meal pupils. Please contact the office before applying.

All pupils must be booked in advance otherwise they will not be allowed to attend. If your child attends Meerkats without a booking you will be charged the late fee.

Children must not attend Breakfast Club without a booking as numbers are limited. Please book a week in advance.

You are required to sign your child in to Breakfast Club and out of Meerkats each day.

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Parent Notices

School Uniform

Our Trust school uniform consists of:

- Red/Green sweatshirt or cardigan (Red for Marish and Green for Willow)
- Navy blue trousers, shorts or skirt
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Black smart shoes (no boots, high heels or platforms)
- Nursery – the above with grey or black jogging bottoms
- PE Kit – red plain round neck T-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms
- A plain black tracksuit to wear over the PE kit for outdoor lessons in cold weather.

Trainers/plimsolls will work for outside lessons

- Swimming is a part of the Year 4 curriculum and pupils are expected to have appropriate swim wear with a swimming hat



All items of clothing must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

The only jewellery allowed is one small stud in each ear, a watch and that which is a specific religious requirement. These must all be removed for PE. The child must take full responsibility for looking after these items. The school will accept no responsibility for their loss or damage.

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Parent Notices

Dear Parents/Carers,

We will be running a club during the February half term for any children aged 5 and over. The Holiday Club will be open from **Monday 17th February until Friday 21st February from 8:30am – 3:45pm.**

This club will run at **Marish School.**

The costs are:

£25.00 per day per child

£35.00 per day for 2 children

£45.00 per day for 3 children

£55.00 per day for 4 children

Please provide your child with a packed lunch.

The numbers will be limited so please return the slip as soon as possible. It is important that the slip is returned with the days requested as we need to make sure that we have the correct staff to children ratio.

Full payment must be paid on ParentPay by Monday 10th February and is non-refundable.

The children will have lots of activities that they can participate in including cooking, art & craft, dance and fun sports.

If you have any questions, please ring the office number and ask for Mrs Beard.

Yours sincerely

S Beard

Sharon Beard

Holiday Club Manager

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.

2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.

3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.

4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.

5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.

6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.

7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.

8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.

9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



WakeUp
Wednesday®

The
National
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E-Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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Some Useful Information



FEBRUARY 2025

FIND OUT WHAT'S ON THIS HALF TERM

THE ULTIMATE WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FIND THINGS TO DO IN THE LOCAL AREA

www.sloughrocks.co.uk



FIND HALF TERM FUN

Half-term fun made easy! The Slough Rocks website is packed with family-friendly activities, from exciting parks and scenic walks to our holiday club guide. And to make things even simpler, we've added a handy button to help you find it all in a flash!

-  **HALF TERM FUN**
-  **PARKS & WALKS**
-  **HOLIDAY CLUBS**

OUR FAVOURITE HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

[My Pet Pals Workshop](#) - at Pets at Home

[Family Workshops](#) - with Antz Kidz

[Jump In](#) - trampoline park



www.sloughrocks.co.uk



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Some Useful Information

HALF-TERM BASKETBALL CAMP

FULL COURT CONNECTIONS

SCAN To Book!



BOYS & GIRLS ALL ABILITIES
9am-12pm Ages 7-12
12pm-3pm Ages 13-17
DAILY CAMPER £20 FULL CAMP £70

**DOUAY MARTYRS SECONDARY SCHOOL
EDINBURGH DRIVE, ICKENHAM UB10 8QY**

To book please call Lorien on 07703 056303
or email admin@fullcourtconnections.co.uk



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Some Useful Information



Virtual Coffee Morning
Friday 21st February and
28th March
10am to 11.15am

**25 spaces
available!**

Join our virtual coffee morning for an open discussion, providing parents and carers with the opportunity to meet and chat freely with others who understand and relate to their experiences.

Celebrate your success with other parents/carers, share your experience and gain support during our coffee morning



Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342

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Some Useful Information



Half Term Day Camps

Wednesday 19th and Friday 21st February

Wild Discovery Day Camps at Windsor Great
Park Environmental Centre

Our day camps are wildlife themed days for 8-12 year olds. The day is packed full of fun games and activities to help children connect with the fantastic natural world that surrounds them.

Find out more or book at:
windsorgreatpark.co.uk/bbowt



BBOWT Registered charity no. 204330

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
working in partnership with



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Some Useful Information

Family Fun Day

Family Crafts, Storytelling, Dressing up & treasure hunt.

Pug Yard Learning Centre, Windsor Castle, St Albans Street, Windsor.

Tuesday, 18th February 2025

10:00 - 14:00

Booking is necessary via exclusive link below. Note: no entry to The Castle (closed)

<https://tickets.rct.uk/product/11/6034>

We extend an invitation to all families to join us this February half-term for our free Family Fun Day.

Children can enjoy some creative crafting at the Castle's Learning Centre and even make a memento to take away.

We will also have costume handling workshops during the day for the children to dress up as historical characters. They can discover the important black people in the castle's history by taking part in a code-breaking treasure hunt in the Pug Yard.

Upstairs children can enjoy Caribbean stories in our Interactive storytelling sessions. There's so much to do!

Why not bring a picnic to enjoy and make a day of it?