



GOODNIGHT MRS BROWN!

It is with immense sadness that I write to you all today to share the news of the passing of Mrs Brown - a much-loved and long-serving teaching assistant at our school. After a courageous battle with cancer, Mrs Brown, who dedicated 36 years of service to the children and families of Florence Melly, has passed away. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this very difficult time. Throughout her time at our school, Mrs Brown showed unwavering commitment, kindness, and care for generations of children and families. She was an adored teaching assistant, a beloved colleague, a loyal friend and a 'work mum' to so many of my team - her passing has hit us hard. Our Florence Melly family will never be the same again; we have lost one of our own. Amidst all the sadness, Mrs Brown leaves such a wonderful legacy, having touched the lives of so many. She will be remembered with great affection, love and respect. Reunited with her Kenny; goodnight Mrs Brown.

THE RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch!

This month celebrates the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch event, which is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. This week, children across our school have been getting involved with our Forest School Teacher, Miss Jen Burrow! Children have been making bird feeders and hung them around the school site to entice the birds to pay us a visit!

Pizza Making in Year 4 - What's Really in your Food?

As part of their Design Technology curriculum, this week Year 4 made pizzas, as they explored 'what's really in their food?'. The topic focuses on pupils making a fresh version of common shop-bought items; educating them about the ingredients that are often added to processed and mass-produced foods, in order to enhance their flavour or extend their shelf life. For example, white sliced bread can contain as many as 16 different ingredients, and a tin of tomato soup can contain 20g of sugar. These foods are not considered unhealthy by many people and form a major part of our diet but when combined with large quantities of junk food, this leads to an increased risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes. Up to 60% of the UK diet is now made up of ultra-processed food. In this unit, our children will learn about the benefits of making fresh alternatives and will acquire skills to enable them to do this with confidence.

This Week's Book Recommendation...

This week's book recommendation is [Finn's Epic Fails by Phil Earle](#). Finn N. O. Hope just wants to survive the chaos of school, but embarrassment seems to follow him everywhere. From unicorn horns superglued to his head by his sister to relentless wedgies from his older brother, Finn faces one epic fail after another. Luckily, his loyal friends Laszlo and Google help him turn cringe-worthy moments into laugh-out-loud triumphs. With pranks, mishaps, and a stray dog who might become the perfect sidekick, Finn's first year of secondary school is unforgettable. Phil Earle's sharp, authentic voice and perfect comic timing make Finn instantly likeable. Fans of Wimpy Kid will love the diary-style format, British humour, and quirky illustrations.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

19/01/26
Parents' Evening

23/01/26
Beautiful New Beginnings
Cookery Sessions

27/01/26
Enrichment Trip to
Parliament

30/01/26
KS2 Online Safety
Performance

30/01/26
School Closes Early for
Mrs Brown's Funeral

09/02/26
Year 3 & 4 Dodgeball
Tournament

11/02/26
Reading for Pleasure
Workshops

13/02/26
School Closes for
Half-Term

NEXT WEEK'S SCHOOL MENU

WEEK 3	WEEK 4
<p>Monday</p> <p>Spaghetti Bolognese</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>Chicken Curry</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Beef Stew</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>Pasta with Tomato Sauce</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>Chicken Nuggets</p>	<p>Monday</p> <p>Spaghetti Bolognese</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>Chicken Curry</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Beef Stew</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>Pasta with Tomato Sauce</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>Chicken Nuggets</p>

Next week, our kitchen team will be cooking the Week 3 dinner menu for the children. Click on the picture above for more details.





SPOTLIGHT ON CURRICULUM

End of the Week Update for Parents/Carers - Friday 16th January 2026

This week's spotlight takes us to Lower Key Stage 2 and their instrumental music lessons...

Music is in the air for our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils this term. They are incredibly fortunate to be taking part in weekly instrumental sessions, giving them the chance to explore and develop their musical talents. Year 3 are enjoying learning the ukulele while Year 4 are following in the footsteps of John Lennon as they begin their journey with the guitar. Through these sessions, the children will be developing listening skills, rhythm and coordination, musical vocabulary and the confidence to perform as part of a group. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to experience the joy of making music together - well done Year 3 and 4!

As part of our Cultural Capital curriculum, the children will be exploring...

- Caring and Responsibility in their RSHE lessons. This topic focuses on special people. It explores why they are special and how they care for and keep one another safe. It examines pupils' increasing responsibilities towards themselves and others as they get older, including the role they can play and the difference they can make within their communities.
- They will also participate in assemblies, around the theme of World Religion Day and use the picture book 'A World for Me and You: Where Everyone is Welcome by Uju Asika' in order to immerse them in the theme. They will also enjoy a drop down day - delving deeper into Christianity.
- Year 3 will participate in an exciting cookery lesson, delivered by our friends at Apple of my Eye, around the theme of Liverpool's Food Heritage, looking specifically at spice!

Wake Up Wednesday - What Parents Need to Know about Digital Devices & Wellbeing

Digital devices are woven into everyday life for children and young people, but balancing the benefits with potential risks can feel challenging. This guide explores how screen use can influence sleep, emotional regulation, physical health and online experiences, offering clear context around why concerns about wellbeing are growing. Written with schools and families in mind, the guide shares practical, realistic advice for setting boundaries, encouraging open conversations and building digital literacy. With insights from an experienced mental health professional, it supports adults to help children develop healthier, more mindful relationships with technology: <https://florencecelly.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/digital-devices-wellbeing.pdf>.

Class Dojo Update - Disabled Comments

We would like to let parents and carers know that comments on whole-school story posts on Class Dojo have now been turned off. Class Dojo is an important tool we use for sharing information, celebrating learning and keeping families updated. However, it is not the appropriate forum for raising concerns or issues, particularly as these may involve individual pupils or sensitive matters. To ensure concerns are dealt with promptly, fairly and confidentially, we kindly ask that any questions or worries are raised privately with the class teacher, via the private message function on Class Dojo, or the school office, who will be happy to help or direct you to the appropriate member of staff. We value open communication and working in partnership with families, and this change will help us ensure that all conversations are handled respectfully and in the best interests of our children. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and for working in partnership with us.

School Closure for Mrs Brown's Funeral - Friday 30th January 2026

It is with deep sadness that we write to inform you that the school will be closed for the afternoon of Friday 30th January 2026. This closure is not a decision that I have taken lightly and one that I have spoken to our Governing Body and the Local Authority about. Closing the school for the afternoon will allow my staff team the opportunity to pay their respects to our much-loved colleague, Mrs Brown, following her recent death. Mrs Brown was a valued and dedicated member of our school community, and her loss has been felt deeply by pupils, staff and families alike. It is really important that our team get the chance to say goodbye to their friend and colleague. The school will be open as normal in the morning, and I ask that you collect your child at 1:00pm from their usual exit point. The children will receive their lunch in school and this will not affect their attendance. Sadly, this means that our after-school wraparound will also be closed on Friday 30th January 2026.

Dates for your diary!

- Monday 19th January - Parents' evening.
- Friday 30th January - School is closed in the afternoon for Mrs Brown's funeral.
- Friday 13th February - School closes for the half-term holidays.

Have an amazing weekend and see you all bright and early on Monday morning.

Mr Leach
Headteacher



FLORENCE MELLY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE NEWSLETTER

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT!



IN SCHOOL, ON TIME, EVERY DAY!

This week's key attendance message...

Did you know that missing just one day of school every fortnight adds up to nearly 20 days a year? That's four weeks of learning missed. Research shows that children with attendance below 90% are less likely to reach expected levels in reading, writing and maths. Regular attendance isn't just about academic learning. Being at school every day helps children build friendships and social skills, develop confidence and emotional resilience and establish positive routines and a sense of belonging. When children miss school often, they can feel disconnected from their peers, find it harder to keep up with learning, and may feel anxious or unsettled returning to class. We understand that illness and family circumstances sometimes mean children must be absent; however, wherever possible, ensuring your child attends school every day helps set them up for success – academically, socially and emotionally. Every day really does count!

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



WEEKLY PRIZE WINNERS!



Each week we announce five attendance prize winners in our celebration assembly.

CLASS ATTENDANCE TROPHY WINNERS!



97.2%

Every week, the class with the best weekly attendance wins the famous 'Flo Melly Attendance Trophy'.

DREAM TEAM DAILY WINNERS!



Every day, we see which DREAM team had the best attendance. The winning team receives 10 tokens!

WHOLE-SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
SO FAR THIS YEAR

92.8%

WHOLE-SCHOOL PERSISTENT
ABSENTEEISM

23.3%

NUMBER OF 100% ATTENDEES
THIS WEEK

350

NUMBER OF 100% ATTENDEES
THIS YEAR

71

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE!

At the end of every week we celebrate those classes who finish in gold, silver and bronze place. These classes receive a certificate to hang proudly in their classrooms! The winning class also get to keep the famous Flo Melly trophy in their classroom for the week!



Well done to 1B and 2M, who were the only two classes to beat our 97% target this week. Let's see if we can beat that next week!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS LOST DAYS = LOST LEARNING!

Think 90% attendance is good? Think again! This is what lost days really looks like! Now do you think 90% attendance is good?

IN SCHOOL, ON TIME, EVERY DAY!

	Days missed	Lessons missed	School weeks missed
95%	10 days missed	40 lessons missed	2 weeks missed
90%	19 days missed	76 lessons missed	3 weeks and 4 days missed
85%	28 days missed	112 lessons missed	5 weeks and 3 days missed
80%	37 days missed	148 lessons missed	7 weeks and 2 days missed