



HINGUAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Spring Term Newsletter Week 19 13th February 2026

This week our Year 1 children represented Hinguar at the palace theatre Music on Sea event. The children behaved beautifully throughout the evening and performed so well. To stand on the stage and sing, at just 5 or 6 with such confidence, was truly fabulous. The youngest performers of the night! I have received some lovely compliments on their behalf from colleagues in other schools.

I would like to highlight World Book Day on 6th March. We will be celebrating on the day after the published event so that children can dress up if they wish on the Friday as a favourite book character. We understand that dressing up is not for everyone, so this is not compulsory. If children would rather wear their pyjamas for story time or are more comfortable in their uniform, this is absolutely fine.

This week has been [Children's Mental Health Week](#) as well as [Safer Internet Day](#), both of which we have discussed in school. Click on the links for more information.

On Friday 27th February from 2.15pm, I would like to invite parents for an informal coffee afternoon before you collect your children. This is an opportunity for me to meet more of you and hear a little more about how we can all work together for the Hinguar community. For those of you that are unable to attend, I will provide a survey link after half term if you have any feedback you would like to share.

Finally, thank you for a warm welcome this half term. It has been a pleasure getting to know children and families here at Hinguar. I wish you all a good half term break, hopefully with fewer rain clouds and we will see you all on Tuesday 24th February.

Mrs Goy

Music on Sea' are requesting feedback from parents, following Year 1 Oyster Class's participation in **Southend Makes Music 2026** this week.

You can find a QR code , and the form link here:

[Southend Makes Music 2026 Feedback – Fill in form](#)





HINGUAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Children's Mental Health Week

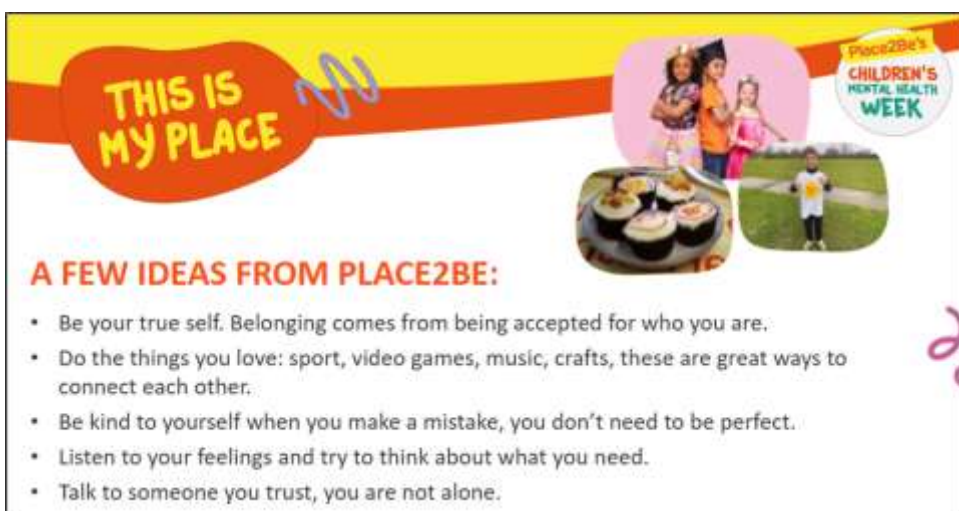


This week, we celebrated Children's Mental Health week.

During Tuesday's assembly, this year's theme of **'This is My Place'** was introduced. This is based around belonging, how we can feel a sense of belonging and how to help others feel like they belong.

We considered what 'belonging' actually means and how we can help ensure that we belong and can help others with this too.

Across the school, PSHE lessons reinforced this and explored what belonging means to each child.



THIS IS MY PLACE

A FEW IDEAS FROM PLACE2BE:

- Be your true self. Belonging comes from being accepted for who you are.
- Do the things you love: sport, video games, music, crafts, these are great ways to connect each other.
- Be kind to yourself when you make a mistake, you don't need to be perfect.
- Listen to your feelings and try to think about what you need.
- Talk to someone you trust, you are not alone.

Children had a variety of opportunities to demonstrate this through discussion, writing and also pictorially.



Turtle and Starfish Class

This week in Turtles class we have been reading the classic Dear Zoo and linked this with the Chinese New Year. The children explored cooked noodles in the tuff tray filling and emptying and talking about what they like to eat. In the other tuff tray they had a zoo with a range of animals. We expanded our vocabulary by learning new animal names, tapir, peacock, goat, cheetah etc. We played a phonic listening game on the white board with animal sounds and pretended to be animals. In math's we learnt and about long and short and compared animals' tails. On the playdough table we made long and short tails and we tried to make the very longest tail we could. As part of our learning about Chinese New Year we all had a lucky red envelope with a gold coin and a special sticker to take home. We watched dragon and lion dances on the screen and had a go ourselves. Next week is half term and we return on the 24th Feb when we will be singing 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive.

Mrs Cochrane, Mrs Loe and Mrs Burgess.



In Starfish class this week our story focus has been 'The great race'. The story tells of a race between the different animals to decide which order they appear in the Chinese zodiac. This year it is the year of the horse. We have explored different customs and how Chinese lunar new year is celebrated. We have learnt that red is a lucky colour and people give cards and lucky red envelopes with coins inside. We watched a lion dance and then wore the lion costume to perform our own. We learnt that drums are used to create



loud noises to drive away bad luck. We developed our listening skills by listening to a rhythm and then tried to copy it using the large drum. In maths we have been counting the twelve animals and have learnt about ordinal numbers, discussing in which order the animals finished the race. In literacy we have been listening to and identifying initial sounds in words and identifying words that begin with h.

After half term our story focus will be 'The Rainbow fish' and our sound of the week will be 'g'.

Well done Starfish class, we hope you have a lovely half term break!

Mrs Brant, Mrs Attard, Mrs Bowser, Ms Burgess and Mrs Merton



Seahorse

This week in Seahorse Class, we have explored the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. As we read the story, we discussed key vocabulary that represented the lifecycle of a butterfly. We discovered the words cocoon, pupa and chrysalis could all be used to describe the home a caterpillar makes around itself before changing into a butterfly. We learnt the word metamorphosis, the process of when a baby animal transforms into the adult version of itself. We have also looked at the lifecycles of frogs, birds, plants, and humans.

We have looked at the differences between moths and butterflies. The children listened to the story *Moth and Butterfly*. We have sung and performed the actions to 'There's a Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf.' The children have also learnt the Makaton signs to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

In Literacy, the children ordered pictures of a butterfly's lifecycle, before writing the corresponding labels.

In maths, we have looked at the days of the week. We have ordered the days through song, before ordering labels of the day's names, using *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* book to support us. We have also discussed the words, yesterday, tomorrow, weekdays and the weekend.

Throughout the week, the children have created butterflies and caterpillars on the mark-making table, found caterpillars in the builder's tray, built with magnetic shapes and duplo, created marble runs and gone on a word hunt.

On page 17 of your child's reading record is their Silver Times Table challenge. Please practise over the half term.

Have a lovely half term. We look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 24th February.

Mrs Newman, Mrs Bowser, and Mrs Penny



Oyster Class

What a busy week it has been for Year 1 this week!

On Tuesday evening the class performed at the Palace Theatre as part of Southend Makes Music. The children took to the stage to perform three songs with a movement theme. They were the youngest performers of the night and made us extremely proud of them. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout and they were praised by staff from the theatre, staff from other schools and members of the public. Whilst on stage it was clear to see how much the children enjoyed the whole experience.

Also on Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day. We spent some time discussing what the internet is and the different ways it can be used. We realised that the internet can be a very useful tool, which we use every day, however it can also be dangerous at times.

We discussed the dangers of talking to others on the internet and why it is important not to share personal information. We also talked about why many websites have a minimum age and how that keeps us safe. Finally, we talked about what we should do if we feel uncomfortable about something we see or hear online.



S **Safe:** You wouldn't give a stranger on the street personal information, so don't do it online. Stay safe by not posting or sharing information (name, address, password, etc.).

M **Meeting:** It is dangerous to meet someone that you have talked to online but never met. Never go without telling someone and always ask your parents or carers to come with you!

A **Accepting:** There are loads of ways to download information on the Internet. Accepting emails, internet messages, text or pictures from a source you don't know may contain viruses or inappropriate information.

R **Reliability:** Just because it's on the Internet does not mean it's true. Anyone can add or edit information, or lie about who they are! Stick to websites you trust for information and only talk to friends and family.

T **Tell:** If anything happens that makes you feel worried or uncomfortable when using the Internet, you need to tell someone. The best people to talk to are trusted adults - parents, carers, teachers, etc.

Where Is Your Place?

Take some time now to think about yourself!

- Where do you feel comfortable?
- Who helps you to feel comfortable?



That is OK.

Please remember to be respectful and be prepared that your answers may be different to each other's.



This week has also marked Children's Mental Health Week. We have spent some time reflecting on the different ways we can give our bodies and brains a chance to rest and recharge. We took part in an online Yoga session and tried some simple meditation. The theme for Mental Health Week this year is belonging. We spent some time considering all the different places where we belong and feel safe.

Oyster Class



Seagull Class

This week in Year 2 we returned to our cress plants from last week. We discussed the changes we could see and which plants we thought had grown the healthiest.

As part of Safer Internet Day, the children were presented with some scenarios based on traditional tales. They wrote advice to the fairy tale characters to help them stay safe online and thought carefully about how to make good choices on the internet.

In English, we have been completing our independent writing about plants. The children gathered lots of interesting facts during their research lesson and worked hard to include these in their writing.

In gymnastics, we got the apparatus out and the children experimented with travelling and dismounting in different ways. They showed great confidence and creativity.

As always, I have been utterly blown away by the children's enthusiasm and creativity across the term.

Well done everyone, have a fabulous break!

Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs Mota and Miss Calvy



Heron Class

We have had a very busy week, this week!

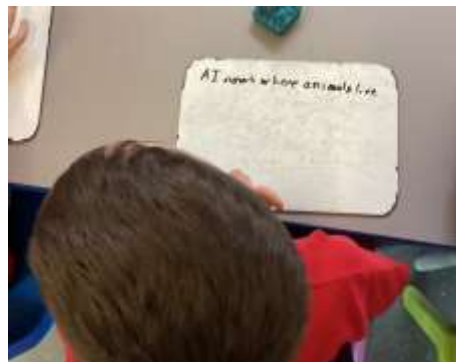
On Tuesday this week, we looked at the use of AI as part of Safer Internet Day. Heron class watched a live lesson, which highlighted the use of AI and its possible dangers. We found out lots of interesting information about AI, which was followed by a class discussion. As well as discussing AI, we also spoke about staying safe on the internet i.e. not giving out any personal information online (including on video games) and using trustworthy websites to source information.

We also began our rehearsals for our production! Everybody who had auditioned for a speaking part has got a speaking role in our production. We had a read through the script, as well as practising our songs.



In P.E this week, we concluded our dance unit. This week, Heron class worked in groups to create a dance piece for going on a trip to the beach, mountains, forest or space. These destinations were chosen randomly by each group. Each group did a fantastic job at working collaboratively to create their final dance piece.

In French this week, we learnt about colours. In science this week, we concluded our unit on skeletons. In R.E. this week, we completed our final lesson for the unit, which focussed on the importance of Ramadan and Eid.



Have a wonderful and restful half term.

Miss Venables and Mrs Merton

Curlew Class



Wooooo hooooooo, we're halfway through the year! Congratulations fabulous foursies for such a successful first half of year 4.



Tuesday was Safer Internet day. The children took part in an online 'live' lesson and created posters to demonstrate their understanding of the possible dangers of AI.

In PSHE, the class reinforced the message from Tuesday's assembly, to identify positive attributes about themselves and to identify safe places where they feel they belong.

We concluded our dance unit in PE and the children performed their routines to the rest of the class. Well done everyone for fantastic partner work.



Everyone was extremely excited on Wednesday afternoon, as the various parts in our upcoming show were announced. Each child who requested a speaking part has been given one and has the relevant parts of the script. Please can all children practise their lines over half term. We will only have a month to rehearse when we return to school, so it would be incredibly helpful if everyone knew their lines. Please note that information regarding costumes will be shared with parents after half term.

Well done fabulous foursies for yet another wonderful week.



Have a fantastic half term and come back to school on Tuesday 24th all ready to hit the ground running with our rehearsals.

Miss Eakins, Miss Brailsford and Mrs Allen

Sanderling Class

This week Year 5 have been doing lots and lots and lots of tests. They have been fantastic and both Mrs Mistry and myself are extremely proud of them. They have also been using the computers to create fact files about different planets in the solar system; finished their gymnastic unit in PE; joined in a BBC Live Lesson about internet safety; created some brilliant orreries of the solar system and created some beautiful maps of the places they belong as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

We hope you all have a relaxing half term and we'll see you all again after the break,

Mrs Emmings and Mrs Mistry



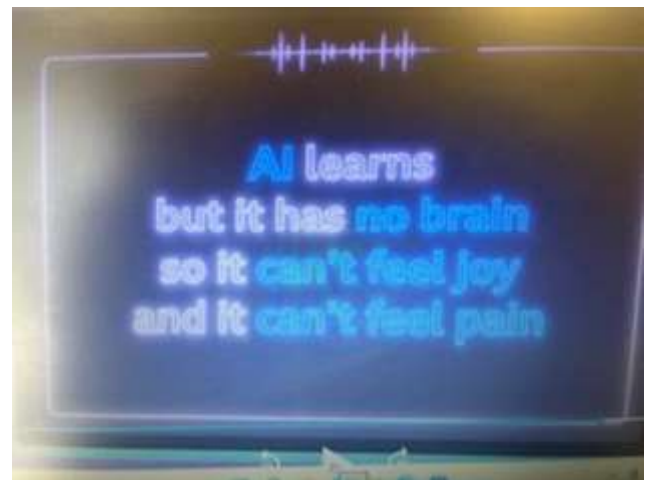
Avocet Class

On Tuesday it was National Internet Safety Day, Year 6 took part in a national online lesson linked to the use of AI. The lesson discussed the importance of using AI sensibly and the dangers associated with it. This linked really well with our PSHE unit which is learning about how to stay safe online. During the online lesson children were given several tasks to complete to reinforce their understanding of key parts. Hopefully they have all taken away some important lessons.

In PE, we completed our gymnastics unit which involved us putting together all the skills we have been working on this half term and creating a sequence using the apparatus. The key components required for all sequences were; a balance, variety of ways of travelling and a jump. Each sequence should also begin with a clear starting position and end with a finishing position.

We hope you all have a lovely, restful half term and a huge well done to all of Year 6 for working so hard this half term.

Mrs Calvy, Ms Hardy and Miss Brailsford



Awards and Notices

Catch Me! Awards

This is a system that rewards the children for doing the right thing all the time, whether it be being polite, helpful, ready to learn etc and any adult in the school can award the Catch Me! signatures to the children.



Congratulations to Brooke in Sanderling Class and Darci-Mae Lily and Oscar in Avocet Class on achieving their Bronze Catch Me! Award.

Congratulations to Charlie W in Seahorse Class, Avery, Theodore, Olivia C, Dolly and Astrid in Oyster Class, Albie in Heron Class, Ariana and Charlotte in Curlew Class, Felicity in Sanderling Class and Daisy in Avocet Class on achieving their Silver Catch Me! Award.

Congratulations to Willow in Curlew Class on achieving her Gold Catch Me! Award .

Children who have achieved their Gold Catch Me! Award will be treated to afternoon tea with Mrs Goy at the end of term.



Congratulations to Nova, Neo, Matilda, Florence, Wyatt and Willow in Curlew Class on achieving their Bronze Times Tables Certificate.

Congratulations to Jude and Harry in Seagull Class, Oliver G in Heron Class and George, Anatasia and Ava P in Curlew Class on achieving their Silver Times Tables Certificate .

Congratulations to Alisha, Ayva D, Lily, Nicky and Charlotte in Curlew Class on achieving their Gold Times Tables Certificate .

Congratulations to Alfie in Seagull Class on achieving his Platinum Times Tables Certificate .

Reading Champions

Well done to Poppy in Heron Class who is this week's Reading Champion.

If you would like to be awarded a Reading Champion badge, you must read a selection of challenging books from a variety of genres and then write a short review of ONE book that you have read. We have plenty more badges waiting to be handed out so let's see who will be next! We thank all families for their continued support in enabling our children to be Reading Champions and in fostering a love of reading.

'Together We Achieve.'





Awards and Notices

Ashley Banjo



Mo Farah



Ellie Simmonds



Jamie Oliver



Dress for Success

In the lead so far this half term are
EYFS/KS1 Seahorse Class having an attendance of 95.25%
and in KS2 Sanderling Class with 93.77%

100% Attendance and Punctuality Prize

Each week, during our Celebration assembly,
we congratulate good attendance as a whole
class.

This week in KS1, Alice the Bunny was
awarded to Oyster Class with an
attendance of 96.12% and in KS2,
the attendance cup was awarded to
Heron Class with 97.17%.

The classes will be rewarded with an extra
turn on the play equipment.





Term Dates for Your Diary

Spring Term Diary Dates

Young Voices O2	Tuesday 24th February
Conductive Music Workshop yrs 2-5	Friday 27th February (All Day)
Parent Coffee afternoon with Mrs Goy	Friday 27th February 2.15pm
Starlight Planetarium Workshop Yr 5	Monday 2nd March (All Day)
World Book Day	Friday 6th March
Seesma Infant Music Festival	Friday 13th March (year 2) 10.00am—11.30am
EYFS Mother's Day Pamper	Friday 13th March 2.00pm—3.00pm
Parent Consultation Evenings	Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March 3.30pm —6.30p
Year 3 & 4 Performance (Spring Chicken the Musical)	Wednesday 25th March 6.30pm
Year 3 & 4 Performance (Spring Chicken the Musical)	Thursday 26th March 9.30am
Pupil Advocate Meeting	Friday 27th March 1.30pm—2.15pm
End of term	Friday 27th March—school closes at normal time
Book Fair (All Week)	Week commencing Monday 23rd March C

Term and Holiday dates for SECAT Schools 2025-26

Spring Term: 5 January 2026—27 March 2026

Half Term 16 February— 20 February

Summer Term: 13 April 2026—23 July 2026

Half Term 25—29 May

INSET DAYS— Monday 23rd February 2026





Term Dates for Your Diary

Summer Term Diary Dates

Year 5 Swimming

Y6 Bikeability
 Dance Festival (pupils only)
 Final Year 6 Residential Meeting
 Y6 SATs Week

Y6 Residential

Pupil Advocate Meeting

Every Tuesday from 14th April—19th May

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th April
 Thursday 30th April 12.15pm—3.00 pm
 Thursday 30th April 3.30pm
 w/b Monday 11th May—Thursday 14th May
 w/b Monday 18th—Friday 22nd May
 Friday 22nd May 1.30pm—2.15pm

Year 6 Swimming

EYFS FUDGE

Class Photos

Sports Day

Transition Day

Reserve Sports Day

Pupil Advocate Meeting

Open Evening

Nursery Leavers' Assembly

Hinguar's Got Talent

Volunteer Afternoon Tea

Y6 Graduation

Y6 Leavers' Disco

End of Term (non-uniform day)

Every Tuesday from 2nd June - 14th July

Friday 19th June 2.00pm—3.00pm

Monday 22nd June

Thursday 2nd July

Friday 3rd July

Thursday 9th July

Friday 10th July 1.30pm—2.15pm

Thursday 16th July 3.30pm—4.30pm

Friday 17th July 3.30pm—4.30pm

Monday 20th July - am

Tuesday 21st July 2.15pm

Wednesday 22nd July 2.00pm

Wednesday 22nd July 6.00pm—7.30pm

Thursday 23rd July—school closes at 1.00pm

SECAT Term and Holiday Dates 2026-27

Autumn Term : 1 September—18 December 2026

Half Term 19-30 October 2026

Spring Term: 4 January—25 March 2027

Half Term 15 - 19 February 2027

Summer Term: 12 April—23 July 2027

Half Term 31 May—4 June 2027

INSET DAYS: 1st and 2nd September 2026

