

Newsletter date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The damp and dismal weather has not affected the enthusiasm for learning that the children demonstrate on a daily basis.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6 parents to join us at for workshops to support their children with their upcoming National Assessments. If you were not able to attend, please let the class teachers know so that a further meeting can be arranged

Year 5 children will attend Ongar Primary Academy on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, this visit is an important part of your child's transition to secondary school. During the morning, pupils will have the opportunity to experience two lessons at the academy, providing them with a valuable insight into life at a secondary setting. We believe this will be an inspiring and helpful experience for the children as they begin to think about their next steps in education. If you haven't already done so, please complete the form to confirm your child's attendance: <https://forms.gle/XfdQMWnwKbtQvrt28>

Our termly theme is courage, and this week, we have been exploring 'facing a challenge'. Reflecting on flourishing spiritually, the children have been exploring how obstacles can be seen as opportunities for growth rather than punishment.

### Upcoming dates

26<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 6 After School Boosters commence (Mon/Tues/Thurs)  
28<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 5 Transition Day to Ongar Primary (parents to drop to Ongar Primary ONLY)

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Hafise Nazif (Executive Head Teacher)  
Mrs Jenny Dean (Head of School)

#### OUR THEME: COURAGE

**This week we have been looking at: FACING A CHALLENGE**

Home school values – explore the value at home. Click the link [here](#)

Lord,  
I declare I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Give me courage, Lord, for I will not be dismayed or discouraged. I will be strong and courageous because You are with me. Help me trust Your plan,  
Amen

*“Though your beginning was small,  
your future will flourish indeed.” Job 8:7*

### TERM DATES:

#### Upcoming Dates and Events

26<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 6 After School Boosters commence  
WC 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Children's Mental Health Week  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fairy Tale Day - EYFS (info to follow)  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Parent Consultation Evening (info to follow)  
13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Ancient Greek Day – Maple Class

13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Break up for half term

**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – INSET DAY – School Closed for Children**

24<sup>th</sup> Feb - Children return to school

27<sup>th</sup> Mar – End of Term

13<sup>th</sup> Apr - Children return to school

22<sup>nd</sup> May – Break up for half term

1<sup>st</sup> June - Children return to school

**Monday 20th July: End of academic year – 1:00pm finish (after registration)**





“Though your beginning was small,  
 your future will flourish indeed.” Job 8:7

National: 95% Our School Target: 96%							
	WC 05.01	WC 12.01	WC 19.01	WC 26.01	WC 02.02	WC 09.02	
Willow	92%	92%	92%				
Sycamore	91%	91%	91%				
Maple	90%	91%	92%				
Whole School	92%	92%	92%				

The effect of of absence on progress					
A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 178 days. That leaves 187 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.					
No absence	9 days absence	11 days absence	18 days absence	27 days absence	36 days absence
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80%
Very Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.		Less chance of success. Makes it harder for your child to make progress.		Your child will find it very difficult to make progress	

Fostering spiritual awareness in children can be a deeply personal and meaningful journey. Here are ten ideas to help parents guide their children in developing spiritual awareness:

- 1. Be a Role Model:** Your own spiritual practices and beliefs can influence your children, so model the behaviours and values you want them to embrace.
- 2. Open Dialogue:** Encourage open and non-judgmental conversations about spirituality, allowing your children to ask questions and express their thoughts and feelings.
- 3. Explore Different Beliefs:** Introduce your children to a variety of spiritual and religious traditions, helping them understand the diversity of human beliefs and values.
- 4. Nature and Mindfulness:** Spend time in nature with your children, teaching them to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Practice mindfulness together to develop a sense of presence and inner calm.
- 5. Read Spiritual and Moral Stories:** Share age-appropriate books and stories that convey moral lessons, values, and spiritual themes.
- 6. Family Rituals:** Establish family rituals that connect to your spiritual or cultural traditions, such as prayers, blessings, or ceremonies. Make these rituals meaningful and participatory for your children.
- 7. Encourage Self-Reflection:** Help your children develop the habit of self-reflection and journaling. Encourage them to think about their values, beliefs, and the meaning of life.
- 8. Acts of Kindness:** Teach your children about the importance of compassion and kindness by engaging in acts of service, such as volunteering together or helping those in need.
- 9. Encourage Questions:** Welcome and explore your children's questions about spirituality. Help them seek answers and develop their own understanding.
- 10. Mind-Body Practices:** Introduce practices like yoga, meditation, or tai chi to help your children connect with their inner selves and develop a sense of inner peace and balance.

Remember that spirituality is a personal and evolving journey.

