

Newsletter



**February
2026
09.02.26**



We have finally made it through the longest month with more days than the rest of the year and have entered into February! It won't be long until the daffodils bloom and we can look forward to the return of the summer evenings. For the Mackenzie household, February sees the start of the Six Nations rugby, although after Scotland's performance on Saturday, we perhaps won't talk about that!

At school, we are enjoying the sporting successes that we have had this half-term. We have taken part in a range of different events and look forward to more after the half-term break. We were especially proud of our Y5 and Y6 netballers who represented our school recently. They were able to quickly pick up new skills and game rules and worked amazingly well as a team. There was fantastic team spirit, effort and encouragement from all, which led to 5 great wins and winning the competition overall. A huge well done!



News from Rowan

Rowan have been enjoying learning all about shopping in the past. We explored the different ways families shop for food today and compared this with how shopping has changed over time. As part of this topic, we have investigated how shopping bags have developed. This has linked closely to our science learning about materials and discussed how foods have changed over the years. To bring our learning to life, we transformed our classroom into our very own café! We took part in a taste-testing session of snacks from the past, discovering which shops we would have needed to visit to collect all of the ingredients. We can't wait to learn more! *Miss Davies*

Ark News

What a fun-packed half term we've had in the Ark! Due to Escape Room Challenges being so popular amongst the children, it will continue to run every Thursday afternoon, starting 19th February. We are extremely excited for our special events taking place over the next few weeks, including Pancake Breakfast (11th February), Hogwarts in the Hall (12th February), Chinese New Year Party (26th February) and The Ark's Got Talent (12^h March). It has been a pleasure to see so many new faces joining us recently, helping to create a lively and exciting atmosphere for both children and staff!
Mrs Winnington



Here are the clubs that will be running in the Ark next half-term:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Stop Motion/ Animation	Circus Skills	Time Travel-ers	Escape Room Challenges	Movie Night

Reports

As communicated at the beginning of the academic year, apart from Acorns, this term we will be sending home the annual written reports to parents/carers rather than the summer. We are hoping that by doing this, you will feel better informed as to the progress and attainment of your child, as well as how you can support them in their learning at home. Parents' Evenings will take place in the summer term; although if your child is in Acorns or if they have TLGs (Termly Learning Goals), you will receive an invitation to meet with the class teacher on Wednesday 25th March.

Justice

Over the past half term, we have been delving into the theme of justice and there are already some wonderful creations coming in to school in response to the Home School Values sheet the children brought home last Friday. Justice starts with ourselves. We must understand that if we are wanting to see justice in the world around us, it must start with each one of us living justly. We need to live in a way that is wise, compassionate to others and above all trusting of God. As the season of Christmas ends, we approach the season of Lent and look forward to Easter, each three of these significant events in the Christian calendar remind us of the theme of justice. Christmas: God understands the challenges of living a just life because he became a human just like us. Lent: God understands the challenges of temptation and gives us wisdom and supernatural help to avoid causing injustice. Easter: the ultimate act of sacrifice. We all deserved justice yet Jesus took that justice for us so we could have the opportunity to know God more. *Mr Heathcote*



PTA News

Hi everyone! I'm Scott Davidson, and I'm thrilled to be taking over as Chair of the Whitegate PTA.

The committee and I are busy putting together a fresh strategy for the coming years. While fundraising remains central to what we do, we are also putting plans in place to focus on **enrichment, community skills-sharing,** and **sustainability** within our school grounds.



A key priority for us is creating a visible **Diary of Events** to share with you all soon. We want to give you much better notice of what is coming up, so you can easily spot the dates that work for you and hopefully provide more opportunities to help out in any way you can.

We look forward to sharing our full plans at the beginning of next term. In the meantime, I hope you all have a fantastic time during half term and hopefully see you all at the **Curry and Quiz Night** in March! This takes place on Friday 6th March with doors opening at 6.30pm. Drinks and a delicious curry, or hotdogs for the children, will be served before the quiz gets underway at 7.00pm. The quiz will feature a mix of questions suitable for all ages, so everyone can get involved.

To keep our younger quizzers entertained, activity packs will be available throughout the evening. Once the quiz wraps up, you're very welcome to stay on, relax, and enjoy a few more drinks with friends until 9.00pm. There will be alcoholic and soft drinks available to buy from the bar. Tickets are priced at £6 per adult and £3 for children. Please book your tickets via Classlist.

The maximum quiz team size is 8 people. If you don't have 8 people, don't worry - you can be matched up with others on the night.

We look forward to a great evening of food, fun, and friendly competition!



Dates

Tuesday 10th February	pm	Y3/4 Netball Tournament <i>Invitation Only</i>
Thursday 12th February	3:15pm-5pm	Hogwarts in the Hall Harry Potter party at The Ark
Friday 13th February	2pm	Y6 Public Speaking Competition <i>Parents are warmly invited</i>
Friday 13th February	3:15pm	Finish for the half-term break
Monday 23rd February	8:40am	Return to school
Wednesday 25th February	am	Gymnastics event at Moss Farm <i>Invitation only</i>
Thursday 26th February	pm	Y5/6 Netball Tournament <i>Invitation Only</i>
Friday 27th February	Lunchtime	Special lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year
Wednesday 4th March	12:30pm	Senior Friends Lunch
Thursday 5th March	All Day	Elder's Educational Visit to Liverpool
Friday 6th March	6pm on-ward	PTA Quiz and Curry Night
W/B 9th March	All Week	Science Week
Friday 13th March	All Night!	PTA School Sleepover

Thank you for your continued support

C Mackenzie