

13th February 2026

# Our Weekly Update



## Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

It really has been a jam-packed week at Somersham this week! There has been so much learning taking place, and a number of personal development opportunities to enrich the children's experiences.

Children may have mentioned that they have completed assessments at school over the last couple of weeks. This is standard practice, which enables the teaching staff to see what children have learnt and remembered over the last term. Teachers will be able to share more information about these assessments at Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings at the beginning of March. Please keep a lookout for a letter about these meetings straight after half term.

Children have worked hard on these assessments, but also enjoyed everything else that has taken place! Children in Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 looked fantastic in their Ancient Egyptian and Ancient Greek costumes, and had great days learning more

about these important historical periods. There was some wonderful art and DT learning and it was great to see the children so engaged in practical tasks. The same can be said for children in Years 1 and 2, who enjoyed a DT day on Tuesday, during which they sewed their very own puppets! The children were so keen to share these, and their fine eye for detail when sewing was very impressive!

Please read on below for reports of our Year 5 and 6 children representing the school in a range of competitions. They did the school proud with their attitudes and approaches.

Have a lovely half term. However you are spending the week, I hope the children are able to rest and take a break. We are looking forward to returning on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, bright and early, with the promise of lighter and warmer days ahead.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



# Key Dates – updates in blue



Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Open Classrooms
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Sport Relief
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March (09:20)	Year 3 and 4 production to parents/carers
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5/6 Art Gallery for parents/carers
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of the spring term
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter break
Week beginning Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May (09:20)	Reception production to parents/carers
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day: KS2 AM and Reception/KS1 PM (timings tbc)

# Year 5/6 Ancient Greeks



On Thursday, the Year 5/6 classes had an informative talk and virtual visit to the cast gallery of the Museum of Classic Archaeology. Children were able to use their historical knowledge to make predictions about the different statues. The children were all really engaged and asked some excellent questions about the statues.



The children have then had a wonderful Greek Day today. They have taken part in a theatre production, completed a mini Olympics and a created a Greek shield. They have also written their name using the Greek alphabet and tasted Greek food.

A great day was had by all!

# Year 6 English Challenge



Well done to four of our Year 6 children who represented the school in the county English Challenge on Monday. They enjoyed being challenged in a range of English-related quizzes, and demonstrated great teamwork and focus with some tricky questions!

Well done all!

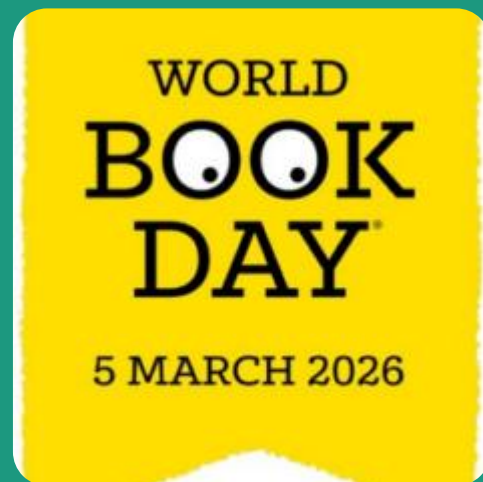


Reception	Community	This week we thought about all the people in our community and we discussed how there are differences between us. This led us to think about different languages and different upcoming special times such as Lunar New Year and Ramadan. Do you know anyone who speaks a different language?
Year 1/2	Joins	In DT, we practised different joins throughout the day in preparation for making our puppet. Discuss with your child which joining techniques we used and which join they used when creating their puppet.
Year 3/4	Terrain	In English, we have been exploring the genre Science Fiction, where two space rovers have landed on an unknown planet. We discussed the type of terrain they are investigating. What different types of terrain can you think of or find out about?
Year 5/6	Evidence	We have used evidence to answer our big question in history: How did the Ancient Greeks shape the Western World? We looked at our learning from across our history unit and gathered evidence to inform our answers.
French	<p>Year 3/4: Practise your spelling with this game: <a href="#">Hangman</a></p> <p>Year 5/6: Practise your pronunciation with the BBC game, Dash and Blink: <a href="#">Dash And Blink: Forgotten French</a></p>	

# World Book Day – Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March

[Get Ready to "Go All In" for World Book Day 2026!](#)

We are thrilled to announce that our World Book Day celebrations are just around the corner! This week, your child will bring home their official £1 voucher. These vouchers become valid at participating retailers starting 12th February, making the upcoming half-term the perfect time to visit a bookshop together and discover a new favourite story for free!



The main event takes place on Thursday, 5th March, and we have an action-packed day planned:

- Dress Up: We invite all children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.
- Author Workshop: We are incredibly lucky to welcome award-winning poet and author Mark Grist! Our KS1 and KS2 children will participate in an interactive workshop focusing on character creation—exploring personality, motivation, and voice to bring their own original ideas to life.

We can't wait to see the school filled with characters and creativity!

## Sporting Updates

Our Year 5 and 6 children have represented the school well in the second round of local football competitions in the last couple of weeks.

Last week, Year 6 played the second round of the Dickenson Cup away to Hemingford Grey Primary. The team played really well, but on the day lost out 2-0. Well done for your efforts, everyone.

This week, Year 5 hosted Bushmead Primary in the second round of the Walters Cup. They came up against strong opposition, and while they weren't successful, they stayed committed to the end, and tried their hardest in wet and muddy conditions. As one of the team said optimistically at the end, 'There's always next year!'

A big 'well done' to a group of Year 3 and 4 children who participated in a panathlon event at Hinchbrooke School this week. They tried various different sporting events and ran out as winners! It was lovely to see them so engaged.

# What are they interested in?

## If they're interested in world issues...

Here are some books for older children in KS2 that explore what it really means to flee your home and have to start your life over.

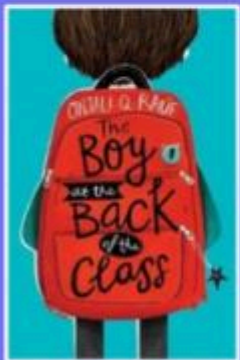
Visit [BookTrust](#) or [SchoolReadingList](#) for more inspiration



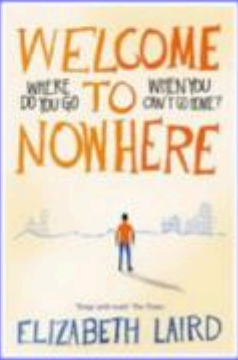
### Why does reading matter?

Across the UK, young people are reading less than they used to & stories aren't getting the same space they once did - it's happening across all age groups, from toddlers to teenagers.

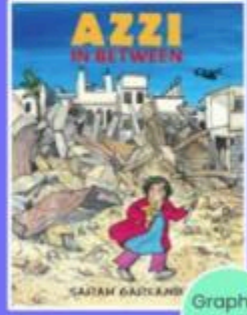
When reading drops, confidence, imagination & learning take a hit as well. Reading helps children focus, express themselves, & develop their curiosity.



The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf



Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird

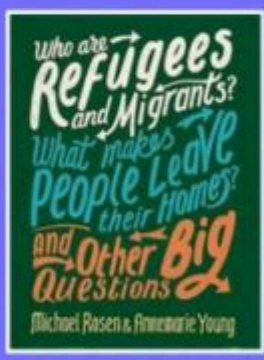


Graphic novel

Azzi in Between by Sarah Garland



Boy, Everywhere by A.M. Dassu



Who are refugees and migrants? What makes people leave their homes? and Other Big Questions by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young



# SOMERSHAM TOWN YOUTH FC

## COACHES & PLAYERS WANTED

**Brand New U7 Team – 2026/27 Season**

U7 football will see some exciting changes next season, all with the aim to maximise children's experience of the game. The more they play, the more it means.

We're looking for **TWO NEW COACHES** who:

- ✓ Love football 🏆
- ✓ Want to help children grow in confidence
- ✓ Want to create a fun and supportive environment

**No experience needed**

Full support and FA Coaching Qualifications fully funded by the Club

### **NEW PLAYERS WANTED**

We are also looking for children ready to start their football journey.

**For children currently in Year 1  
(Starting Year 2 in September)**

### **TRAINING & MATCHES**

- ✓ **Training:** Wednesday evenings
- ✓ **Location:** Millennium Park, Somersham
- ✓ **Matches:** Saturday mornings
- ✓ **League:** Hunts Youth League (Aug - May)

**DEVELOP SKILLS • MEET NEW FRIENDS • HAVE FUN**

For more information contact our Club Registration Secretary

**Lynne Thomas – [STYFC.regs@gmail.com](mailto:STYFC.regs@gmail.com)**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

### ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

### CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

### REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

### EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

### PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.



### ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.



### MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.



### PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.



## 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, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.

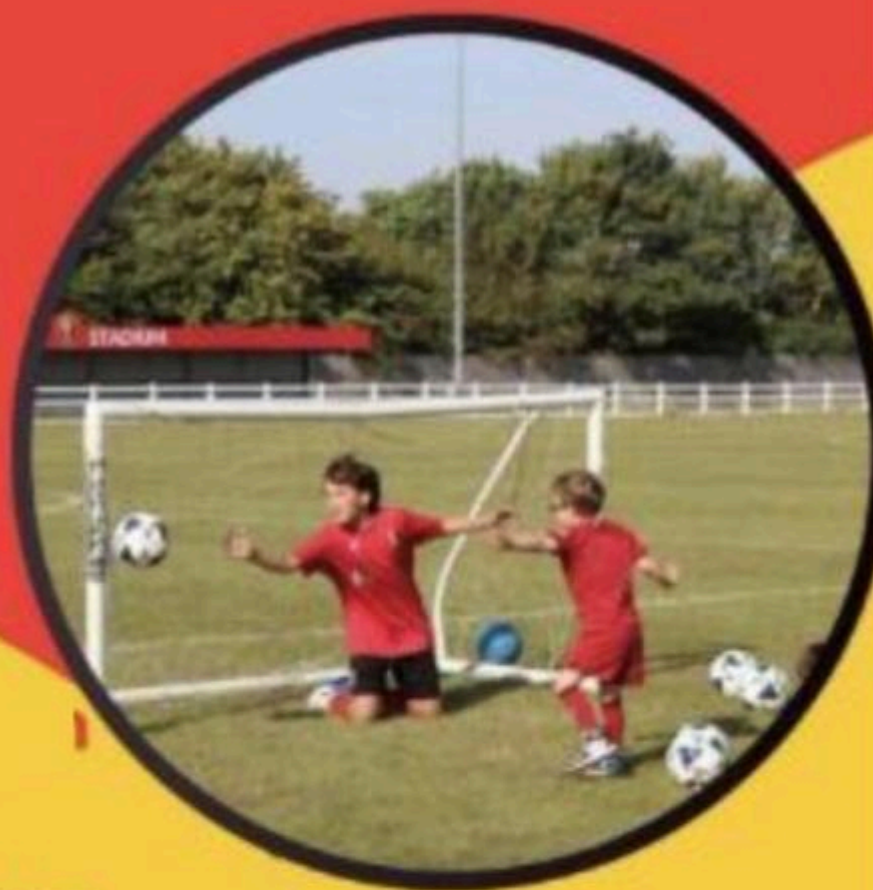


The National College®



# PAN DISABILITY FOOTBALL

Free football  
sessions for  
children aged  
5 - 11 years



9.30 – 10.30am  
Every Sunday

At Huntingdon Town  
FC, Huntingdon,  
PE28 2NR

For more information or to register email -  
[tim.nasta@huntingdowntownfc.com](mailto:tim.nasta@huntingdowntownfc.com)



# Messy Church



**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**10AM - 11:30AM**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOMERSHAM**

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR  
PANCAKE FUN, CRAFT, STORY  
AND SONG, FOLLOWED BY FOOD  
AND DRINK.**

**ALL AGES WELCOME,  
CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CONTACT SOPHIE: 07707 387969**

