



15th May 2026

Our Weekly Update



Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Our Year 6 children have done themselves and the school very proud this week. They have approached their SATs assessment with focus and measure, demonstrating commitment throughout. There were some tricky questions to contend with, but this didn't put the children off, and they displayed resilience and determination as they applied the knowledge they have learnt throughout Key Stage Two.

Today, the children have enjoyed a much deserved day off and have engaged in some fun activities after their week of hard work. They will, of course, be back to normal teaching and learning on Monday as they complete the rest of the Year 6 curriculum and prepare for their imminent transition to secondary school. A big 'thank you' to the PFA for funding the SATs breakfasts that made sure the children got off to a good start in the morning.

The weeks are flying past as always and next week we go into the final week before May half term. Our Reception classes are busily

preparing for their production of 'The Gingerbread Man', and we look forward to being wowed by their singing and dancing next week. The children's first school play is always a big moment and we are sure there will be lots of proud parents, carers and family members!

As you will see from the dates list below, there is lots going on in the second half of the summer term. Sports Day, Healthy Week, school trips, the PSHE Life Bus, secondary school transition, new classes and statutory assessments all take place in a very busy seven weeks! Please do keep referring to newsletters and keep an eye out for emails from the school office. If you think that you have missed something (or that we have missed something!) please do ask the office or your child's class teacher.

With best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



Key Dates – updates in blue



Tuesday 19 th and Wednesday 20 th May (09:20)	Reception production to parents/carers
Week beginning Monday 25 th May	Half term
Week beginning Monday 1 st June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Week beginning Monday 8 th June	Healthy Week
Week beginning Monday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Friday 12 th June	Sports Day: KS2 AM (09:15 – 11:45) and Reception/KS1 PM (13:15 – 15:15)
Thursday 18 th June @ 16:00	PFA Make a Difference Evening
Friday 19 th June	INSET day – school closed to children
Thursday 25 th and Friday 26 th June	Abbey College transition
Thursday 25 th June	KS1 trip to Hunstanton – details to follow
Week beginning Monday 29 th June	PSHE Life Bus visiting Somersham – more details to follow
Wednesday 1 st , Tuesday 7 th and Thursday 9 th July	Cromwell Community College transition
Thursday 9 th and Friday 10 th July	St Ivo School transition
Friday 10 th July	PFA Colour Run
Tuesday 14 th and Wednesday 15 th July (14:00)	Year 5/6 production to parents/carers



Reception	Rehearsal	A rehearsal is a practice session, usually for a group, to prepare for a show. It is a way to "go over" the show lots of times to make sure everyone is ready for the real thing. We have been doing lots of rehearsing for our production this week. Can your child share some of what they have been rehearsing in school?
Year 1/2	Manipulate	In our art lesson we manipulated different everyday objects around the classroom to create a flower. Ask your child if they can tell you about which objects they manipulated and adapted for the different parts of the flower.
Year 3/4	Opaque	In Science, we have been looking at what makes materials translucent, transparent or opaque. Can you find an object which is opaque at home?
Year 5/6	Pride and determination	We are really proud of the way that the Year 5s and 6s have demonstrated our values during the very busy SATs week. The Year 6s have approached each of the assessments with a mature and determined attitude: we hope that they are as proud of themselves as we are of them. We are also really proud of the way that the Year 5s have supported their peers and how they have adapted to the change of routine.
	French	Years 3 & 4: Watch this story. Can you repeat the sentences on each page? Je m'habille et je te croque Years 5 & 6: Listen to this song composed by a Senegalese musician for a film: Kirikou

Thank you!

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you to thank you all for donating in order to raise money for our school in the recent Easter competition.

We are proud to announce we have raised £222.79.

Thank you for your contributions and helping us to raise money for wet play.

We hope you enjoy your weekend!

The School Council
(Eldon, Lottie, Orla, Adaline, Toby, Matilda, Lily, Dulcie and Arthur)

National Numeracy Day

Next Wednesday, May 20th is National Numeracy Day.

We will be marking this in school with a special investigation lesson which all classes in Meridian Trust primary schools will be taking part in.

In addition to this, there is a week-long 'Top of the Rocks' competition on Times Table Rockstars for all children from Y2 to Y6 to take part in which will run from Monday 18th until Friday 22nd May. Please encourage your child to take part – it would be great to see Somersham at the top of the leaderboard!

Happy maths-ing!
Mr Course



**National
Numeracy
Day**

What To Read Next?

If your child enjoyed *Percy Jackson* by Rick Riordan, what else might they get into?...

Fans of Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson* adventure series are hooked by its fast pace, monsters and mythological gods, from Zeus to Poseidon. If your child's stormed through the set, which other books might they now want to read?

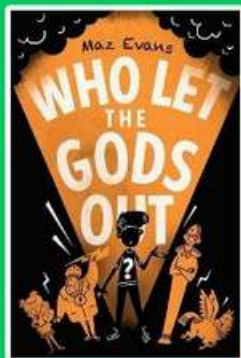
Visit [BookTrust](#) for more What to Read Next recommendations



In this comic fantasy novel, 12 year old Percy Jackson discovers that the Gods of Olympus are alive & living in modern-day New York, & that his true father is Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. Percy learns that his fate is to undertake a dangerous quest to retrieve Zeus' stolen lightning bolt and avert a War of the Gods...



Series



[Who Let the Gods Out?](#) by Maz Evans



[The Soul Hunters](#) by Chris Bradford





[Shadow Magic](#) by Joshua Khan



[Ash Mistry and the Savage Fortress](#) by Sarwat Chadda



[Avatar: The Rise of Kyoshi](#) by F.C. Yee

 Mindfulness for children 

[Gentle Mindfulness Sessions for Children](#)

Helping children to feel calmer, more confident, and better able to handle big emotions.

If you would be interested in coming along, please email us and let us know the age of your child(ren).

mindfulness.somershamtimebank@gmail.com

When we know how much interest there is, we will get in contact about days, timings, age groups etc...



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

TOP OF THE ROCKS



MERIDIAN SUMMER COMPETITION

DATE:

18.05.2026 - 22.05.2026

TIME:

07:30 - 20:00

* ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE *
PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE * THE WINNING CLASS
WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT
ANSWERS PER PUPIL * ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR
FULL DETAILS AND RULES *




Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team

Transition to Primary School

Workshops

The EIFA team would like to present our Transition to Primary School online workshops for May.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.







Transition to Primary School	Thursday, 7 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Transition to Primary School	Monday, 18 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Transition to Primary School	Wednesday, 20 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Transition to Secondary School Workshops

The EIFA team would like to present our Transition to Secondary School online workshops for April to June.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Transition to Secondary School -Part 1	Thursday, 30 April 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Transition to Secondary School -Part 2	Tuesday, 5 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Transition to Secondary School -Part 1	Tuesday, 12 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Transition to Secondary School -Part 2	Thursday, 14 May 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Transition to Secondary School -Part 1	Tuesday, 9 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Transition to Secondary School -Part 2	Thursday, 11 June 2026, 12:00-14:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

PFA COLOUR RUN

FRIDAY 10TH JULY -
WATCH THIS SPACE



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

