Samuel Pepys School

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

Message from Joanne

Dear Pupils, Families and Staff

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Spring is finally here with a hint of Summer on it's way!

This half term we've welcomed pupils and families to the new McKee Class. We've enjoyed our learning through our thematic curriculum as well as World Book Day, Red Nose Day, World Down Syndrome Day, British Science Week, Moving On events, Bikeability, Parents as Partners and lots more! The newly revised Curriculum Policy is available on our website and on pages 14-15 there is an overview of the learning themes across the key stages, please do take a look under the curriculum tab.

The Rotary Club of St Neots, St Marys have been busy adding the final touches to the Sensory Garden area, with sensory items to look at and through, spin, touch, chalk etc- a super area to enjoy throughout the year and especially when the sun shines and the blossom trees nearby are growing.

After Easter we welcome Abigail, the new Deputy Head Teacher. We are in a fortunate position where for the next half term we will have two Deputy Heads as Abigail gets to know our school community and Penny prepares to hand over. Penny will retire at May half term after 26 years at Samuel Pepys School. Penny has worked with many pupils and their families over those years and is also well known by the Therapists, Health, Social Workers and SENCos in local mainstream schools too. Details of opportunities to say thank you to Penny will be shared straight after the Easter holidays. In the meantime, we wish Penny all the very best as she plans for her retirement and Abigail all the very best as she joins our school.

Wishing you and your family a happy Spring holiday. We return to school on Monday 13th April. Please note there is a Bank Holiday on Monday 4th May (early May Bank Holiday)

Joanne

Interactive Museum Visit

Pupils in KS3 enjoyed a trip to the Oliver Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon. We learnt all about what it would be like to be a soldier in the Civil War. We got to try on the uniforms and felt how heavy the weapons were too!







PFA Students took part in a walk/wheel/cycle ride to the Ambiance Cafe at Riverside Park. Some of the students covered 4.4 miles going there and back!

Creativity







In creativity this term, students in PFA have been exploring the resonance board. This has included learning about vibration, our bodies, rhythm and sound. Students have been showing preferences, communicating for more or less and creating their own music.

Fitness Suite

Some students in PFA 3 have been using the fitness suite this term as part of their PE sessions. Students have been learning to independently follow individual fitness programmes, applying functional maths skills such as time and number.





SCIENCE EXPERIMENT TIME!

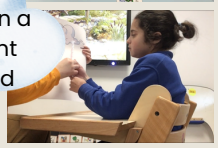




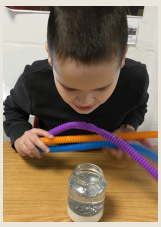








KS2 pupils have been conducting weather experiments. One of them we called 'Storm in a jar', where we labelled different types of weather and explored sensory weather.







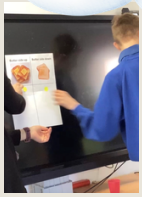
We've experimented with the tuff tray and water in class, made our own toast and tidied up afterwards and had a weather sensory story.





KS3 pupils conducted a toast experiment for Science Week; our question was: 'Does toast always land buttered side up?'





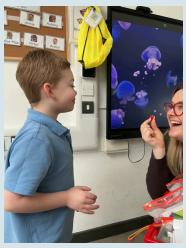




Sensology

KS1 pupils enjoyed a Sensology session where we explored different items with our senses







OUT & ABOUT



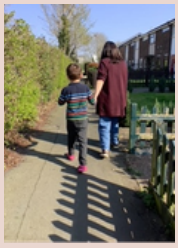


KS1 groups have been enjoying visits into the local community where we have accessed supermarkets to purchase ingredients for our cookery and touch and taste sessions. We have been learning to use a visual shopping list, place items into the basket and pay for our shopping . Some lovely positive and calm transitions along the roadside too.





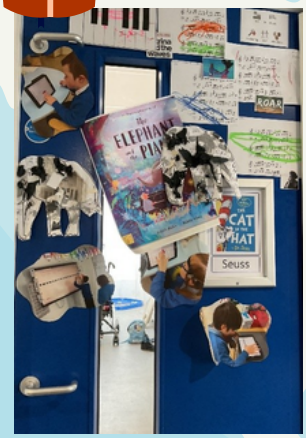


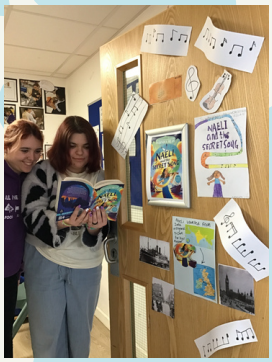






World Book Day









Every class decorated their classroom door in the style of a music-themed book that they had chosen to read during World Book Week.
We were visited by author James Campbell who read us some stories.
Some pupils have entered a competition to design next year's book token .







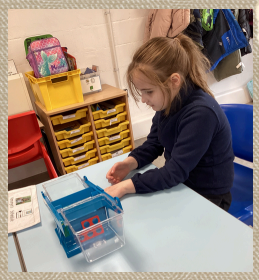






KS2 Maths





KS2 pupils have been learning the concepts of 'heavy' and 'light'. They have been comparing different objects by holding them and deciding whether they feel *heavy, light, heavier than* or *lighter than*. They used weighing scales, to predict which object would be heavier or lighter.



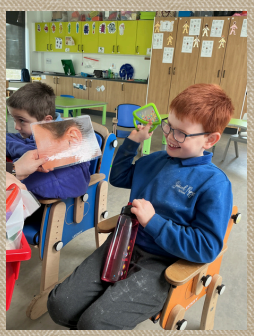
RDA



Pupils from KS1 & 2 have enjoyed some RDA sessions at the Equestrian Centre in Yelling this half-term.



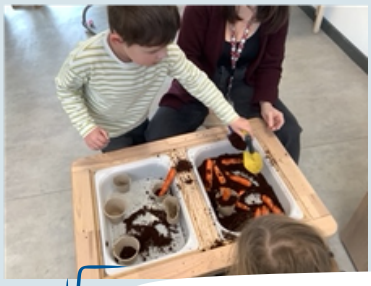
Our World



Key Stage 1 pupils have been learning about Buddhism in 'Our World'. We loved watching paper flowers open in water like a lotus flower.



Parents as Partners









KS1 enjoyed a great turn out for our Easter-themed Parents as Partners morning. We explored spring time ice sensory play, tasted hot cross buns, melted chocolate and even created our own Easter bonnets too.









BIKEABILITY

Pupils took part in the Bikeability training programme to equip them with the skills and confidence to ride more.













Pupils throughout the school have been rolling up their sleeves and digging in the dirt to get lots of different vegetables and flowers planted with Gemma. Pupils have also been preparing planters for the outside area. and have been learning about the life-cycle of plants and what they need to make them grow. We are looking forward to watching them grow as spring progresses.

Horticulture





