



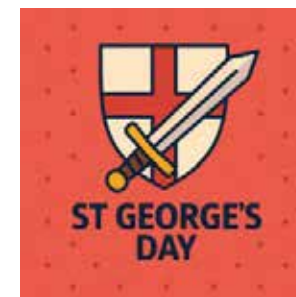
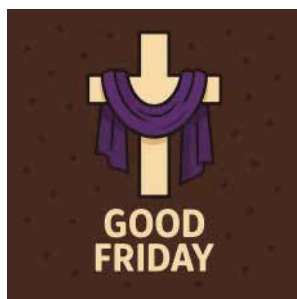
# March 2026 Newsletter

## The Forum School

# Upcoming Events

## April

- 1<sup>st</sup> – April Fools Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Autism Awareness Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Easter Monday
- 7<sup>th</sup> – World Health Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> – King's Wedding Anniversary
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – St Georges Day



# TFS Events

2026

CALENDAR YEAR

MARCH

CALENDAR MONTH

MONDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Nature's Nursery



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23	24	25	26	27	28	01
				Women's History Month	St. David's Day Zero Discrimination Day Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
World Wildlife Day	Shrove Tuesday Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	Ash Wednesday	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	Employee Appreciation Day TFS Cinema - Theatre	International Women's Day Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Commonwealth Day	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	Holi TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	Treehouse 15:30 - 17:30 Disabled access day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Saint Patrick's Day	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	International Read to Me Day	International Day of Happiness Start of Spring Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	Red Nose Day International Day of Forests TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		World Theatre Day Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	Mother's Day British Summer Time Begins

Go shorty it's ya birthday, we're gonna party like it's ya birthday!



Cake anyone?





## Flippin' Awesome!





## Flippin' Awesome!





A well earned meal, after all that bouncing!





## World Book Day





# World Book Day





## World Book Day

We chose Harry Potter and the scene where they explore the Forbidden Forest, and meet a thestral.





## Dragonfly Class

Dragonfly class have been enjoying their music sessions with Emma!



Dragonfly class have been learning about living in the wider world and how to look after our environment. Dragonfly class went litter picking around the school site.



K has been practicing his ICT skills during maths lessons as extension activities.



## Swift Class





# Badger Class

Building bird nests in DT...

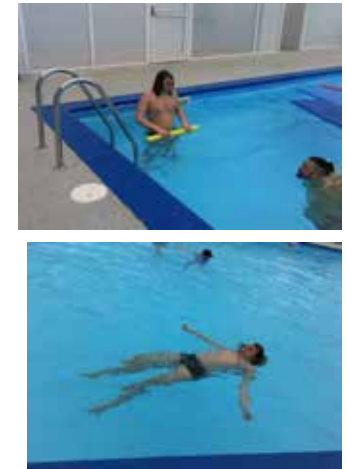


From found twigs and cotton wool.



Working hard in Health and wellbeing.

We have our Young people enjoying the swimming pool...



In College, Badgers have been enjoying the change in weather. We have been joining in the new cycle club on Tuesdays where WT really enjoyed cycling around the track.



And lots of cooking!



And dressing up for world book day. Including staff..

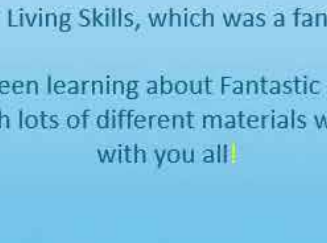
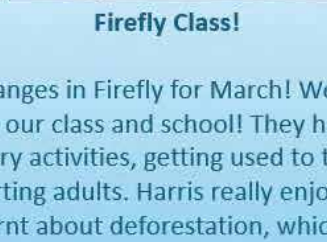
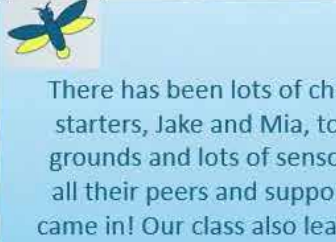


Busy making Mothers days cards..





## Firefly Class



### Firefly Class!



There has been lots of changes in Firefly for March! We have welcomed two new starters, Jake and Mia, to our class and school! They have enjoyed exploring the grounds and lots of sensory activities, getting used to their routines and meeting all their peers and supporting adults. Harris really enjoyed the Dance studio that came in! Our class also learnt about deforestation, which Jake especially loved! We also made pizzas in Living Skills, which was a fantastic achievement!

In English, we have have been learning about Fantastic Mr Fox, and made our own multimedia art work with lots of different materials which we wanted to share with you all!

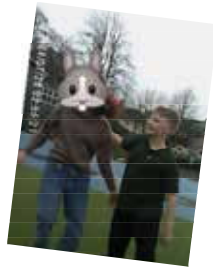
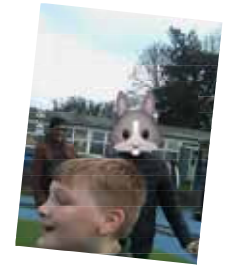




## Kite Class



# Friday Funday!





## Red Nose Day



Of all the activities at The Forum School to raise money for charity, one of the most ambitious must be that formulated by Kestrel Class member, R. Over the spring term, R has become hooked on off road biking and has assembled her bike from the box of parts in which it was shipped. Her pride at building up a bike for her use has been overshadowed by the progress she has made in building up her fitness and endurance through regular trips out of school and along the old trailway running past the village. Running from Sturminster Newton at one end and Blandford Forum at the other, it stretches almost 15 km from end to end with TFS sitting 10km from the Blandford end.

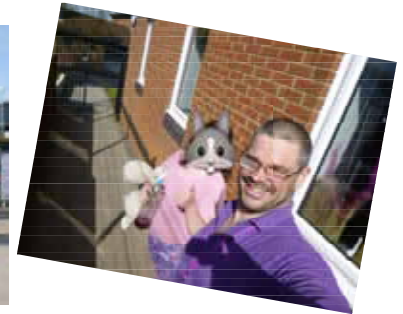
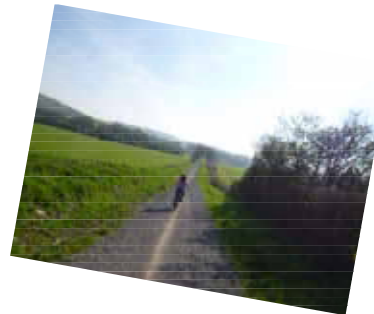
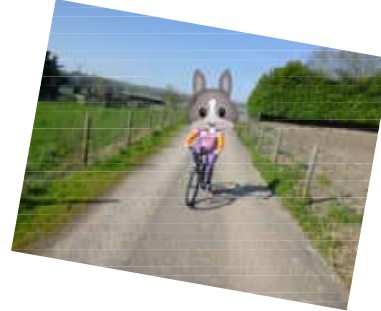
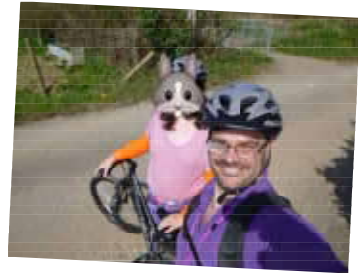
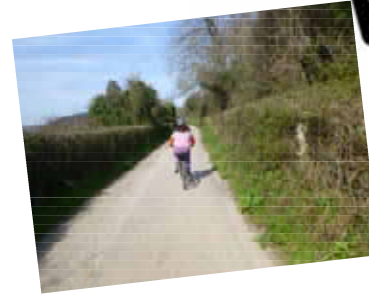
R was interested in trying to raise money for RND and suggested that a sponsored ride to Blandford and back would be a great way to do so. She has been steadily increasing her distances over the previous weeks but this was way further than she had ever been before so the challenge was set. R spent a busy morning with her supporting adult making sponsorship posters and planning the route and what was needed. She then serviced her bike fully to make sure it was fully prepared for the big day.

Friday dawned hot and bright with R and her class teacher Will, wearing a fetching orange tutu chosen by R, setting off as soon as possible to make the best time and try to avoid the hottest weather. It started wonderfully with a sun dappled ride through the trees towards Stourpaine and then onwards towards Blandford. R began to notice a persistent crunching sound from the rear cassette. Pulling over, we checked the bike over and found that the retaining nut had come loose and was about to fall apart. Clearly, someone at the factory had missed a step in initial assembly. We had a basic tool kit so managed to tighten the bolt up fully and were back on track in just a few minutes. The weather continued to warm as the sun rode higher and by the time we pulled into the Blandford Skatepark as our halfway point we were getting rather hot! We had a quick break and a few minutes doing jumps up and over the skate park ramps which gave us a laugh and a boost to our spirits before turning for home.





# RW Completes a Red Nose Day Sponsored Bike Ride





## Red Nose Day



The return trip felt quicker having already done the first half and we were in good form and making good time toward the school. Another brief moment was spent tightening a crank nut on Will's bike reminded us both of the wonders of Loctite and the need for it when we got back. R continued to push hard and we were in a race between the remaining distance and out energy levels. Drinks and pancakes kept us going though as we made the final climb up from the trailway towards the school gates. Pulling into the entrance, we were greeted by the entire school gathered and waving banners and posters celebrating R's achievements and efforts. R had spent the last of her energy getting up and, after a brief lie down, stacked her bike back in her classroom and made her way to the dining hall for the best tasting plate of chips I think she has ever had.

Congratulations to R for an exceptional effort and pushing herself further than she ever could do before. This represents the biggest fund-raising sum that has ever been done at TFS at over £300 pledged with our principal, Mel McCarthy, working to get Cambian to match the staff donations as well.

Alongside R raising this money we have also raised funds from the bake sale and the sell of Red Noses

Giving us a grand total of **£476.82!**

A huge **THANK YOU** to R who made it all happen and to all who donated.





## Swift Class



J explored weather language through a hands-on sensory play activity inspired by a 'snow storm'. Using shredded paper, J sprinkled the pieces in front of a fan to create a swirling snow effect. J showed great curiosity as he watched how the paper moved through the air and enjoyed experimenting with different ways of making the snowstorm stronger or softer. This activity supported J's understanding of weather vocabulary, encouraged problem-solving, and offered an exciting sensory experience. Lovely work, J!



L explored where small animals live by investigating the soil tray with great curiosity. She squeezed and crumbled the soil in her hands, noticing its texture, and used the magnifying glass to look more closely at the pictures of insects beside her. L showed fantastic engagement with the activity, using the tools purposefully and demonstrating early scientific thinking. This hands-on experience supported her understanding of habitats and encouraged careful observation. Well done, L!



J worked really well on matching objects to number symbols today. J counted the bottle tops carefully and placed them with the correct numerals, showing growing confidence in early number recognition and one-to-one counting. This activity helps build J understanding of quantity and supports early maths skills in a practical, hands-on way.



O engaged brilliantly with the exploratory side of the activity. Using a spoon, O searched through the soil tray to look for small creatures and showed great interest as he uncovered different items. He also used the magnifying glass purposefully to help him look more closely for worms and stones. This hands-on experience supported O's early science skills by encouraging careful observation, curiosity, and the use of simple investigative tools. Great work, O!



M explored messy textures through a hands-on sensory tray filled with wet sand and small world creatures. M engaged really positively, using the figures to act out simple scenes and exploring how the sand felt and moved. This activity supported M's descriptive language, imaginative play, and early science skills by encouraging curiosity about different textures and how materials change when they are wet. A wonderful effort from M.



# Stable news



Wow, lots going on down the stables in springtime. The students have finished their outdoor learning project with a visit from Blandford Animal Sanctuary, we have 5 students who have achieved their next levels on their Horse Riding curriculum, and lots of eggs, chicks, chickens and life cycle work completed. Well done to our awesome young people, you have smashed it !





Stable News



Stage 4 Horse Riding

Stage 3 Horse Riding





Stable News



Stage 5 Horse Riding

Stage 5 Horse Riding





Stable News

### Stage 4 Horse Riding





# Pom Pom chicks, and eggs galore !!





# Blandford Animal Sanctuary Visit





## Blandford Animal Sanctuary visits The Forum School

I can't thank you all enough for today's outcome for the **Blandford Animal Sanctuary**.  
You are all incredible and have given our students some amazing memories today. ALL students, education staff, maintenance staff, chef, principal, care staff who visited were absolutely wonderful and from all the staff on the yard we want to say a huge thank you!





Blandford Animal Sanctuary visits  
The Forum School





# Principal Stars



**KAM**

We have been so impressed with how engaged you have been on working on your emotions. The book you have put together to help yourself is truly amazing and you should be very proud.

Well done 😊

**KT**

We have been so proud of you working through the desensitisation programme during your weekly check ups with the GP. You were very brave and allowed the GP to take your blood. Well done 😊

**WT**

after a few visits and working through the desensitisation programme during weekly check up with the GP. You have had your blood pressure taken. This is a really big achievement. Well done 😊

**LMT**

you have been so brave on your return to school and allowing adults to help you with your new medicine. Well done 😊

**DJ, JC, AT, MJP, WT**

I am impressed to see your amazing nests that you built and displayed in the reception. They are amazing and really shows off your artistic building skills. Well done 😊

**SSU**

You did amazing listening during both living skills sessions and has been practicing good safety in the kitchen skills.

This week, you have been focused and have shown good improvement in reading. Well done 😊

**OH**

You stayed in class for the entirety of a signing club session (30 mins). This is a wonderful achievement! You engaged very well.

Well done 😊

**KT**


You did amazing oral blending in phonics this week. You're growing in confidence each session and you're strengthening your ability to sound and blend unknown words.

Well done 😊

**AG**

You've shown wonderful self-regulation this week. You have identified and managed your emotions well in the classroom and has chosen a sensory activity to support you back to baseline rather than escalating.

Well done 😊





# Principal Stars



**RW**

We have been so impressed with your bike building and riding skills.  
Well done 😊

**LMT**

Well done. This week you have been building confidence, independence and growing scientific vocabulary. Well done 😊

**LB**

You have been amazing today. You have taken pictures, taken a tray of cakes around for any young people who were struggling to transition.  
And taken a couple of plates to different places for us.  
Well done 😊

**MRL**

You have taken part in outdoor number work, practising your number formation and showing growing independence. Well done 😊

**RW**

We have been so impressed with how well engaged you have been with bike ability. We are all behind you in your sponsored bike ride for red nose day  
Well done 😊

**JCV**


Explored the idea of “full” and “empty” through water play, carefully pouring and filling containers. You also did excellent counting work, matching quantities to number symbols with growing accuracy. Your sensory story engagement has been a delight, particularly when recreating scenes using materials linked to the book. Well done 😊

**OL**

You have really enjoyed exploring shape names, using large foam shapes outdoors, and taking part in our sensory snowstorm linked to the story. You have also shown great engagement in food-preparation tasks, helping to mix ingredients and observing how textures change. In addition, you explored the soil tray with real curiosity, using tools to investigate where small animals might live.  
Your growing independence and enthusiasm have been lovely to see.  
Well done 😊

**LB**

You have had a great week helping with medical kit audits, risk assessments, surveys, and helping organise and tidy up different areas of the school. All skills that are helping you develop and build your CV and independent living skills. Well done 😊





## Principal Stars



AG

You completed excellent handwriting activities this week and are making great progress. Well done 😊

KT

This week you went on a trip to the park with his whole class. Well done 😊

SSU


You have engaged really well with your peers and enjoyed the trip into the community.  
Well done 😊

OH

Your academic engagement has been wonderful this week.  
Well done 😊

JV

You have worked brilliantly on shape recognition, exploring different textures in the sand and investigating how materials change when water is added. You also engaged so positively in our weather-themed activity, watching carefully as the “snowstorm” effect was created and joining in with real enthusiasm. Well done 😊



# Trowel & Error Gardening Club

Week 2



# Trowel & Error Gardening Club

## Week 2 - Continued

We were delighted that the sun joined us for Garden Club this week! Our young people had a wonderful morning developing the garden space together through meaningful, hands-on activities that support regulation, communication, motor skills, and shared enjoyment.

The students helped paint a bench and several raised beds. These will soon be decorated with bright flowers and vine designs, creating a coordinated, colourful, and welcoming outdoor area for everyone to enjoy.

We also planted Calendula seeds, which are ideal for our group as they are large enough for most students to see clearly and handle independently. A special thank-you to Sophie, who helped us restock our compost using the trolley to transport both the compost bag and our water container. Great problem-solving and teamwork!

A highlight of the session was painting the wooden surfaces we have prepared. Several students stayed for the entire activity and were fully engaged—an absolute joy to see. Jemma and I are thrilled to report that our wildflower seedlings have already reached about two inches high. If all continues to go well, we expect the wildflower garden to begin flowering in June, and we can't wait to see it come to life.

Over the next two months, we will continue developing a coordinated seating area surrounded by flowers and edible plants. So far, we have planted broad beans, peas, sunflowers, and poppies, with even more exciting planting planned for next week.

Thank you to all the students for their enthusiasm and brilliant teamwork. We look forward to sharing more garden updates with you soon!



# Gallop into New Year

Spring 1



Students will be celebrating the Chinese New Year, which marks the Year of the Horse this year. They will explore various craft ideas and materials to create horseshoes, horse collages, and other horse-themed items.



# Seed To Sun

Summer 1



Students will unleash their creativity by decorating planters to grow their own sunflowers and will later craft stunning suncatchers to display around the school grounds.



# Have a cracking Easter

Spring 2

Students will celebrate Easter by making paper Mache Easter eggs and crafting baby farm animal collages with various materials.

## Easter



# Tractors and Trailers

Summer 2

Time for our competition! Using all of their craft skills, the classes will build a tractor; if they want to, they can add trailers or other farming equipment. When completed, our fabulous Head Teacher, Jane will judge them.



# Flower Power



Summer 3

**Let's check  
out the sunflowers' current size.  
After observing how well their  
sunflowers have grown, the students  
will use flowers found throughout the  
school grounds as inspiration to make  
some lovely bouquets.**




# Speech & Language

1

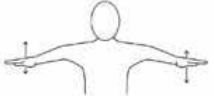
   
Signs of the week

OT signs

**Relax**




**Balance**




Finish with arms level

**Breathing**





Palm flat on chest moves gently away and back

**Stretching**




Mime stretching appropriate limb

1


   
Signs of the week

**Flower**




Mime smelling perfume

**Spring**




Spring

**Animal(s)**



TWO MIDDLE FINGERS CLOSE ONTO THUMB

**Outside**



# Speech & Language

I

Signs of the week

Time

Tap twice

Change

Lighter

Different

Index fingers move apart with upward head

Signs of the week

Easter

Easter egg

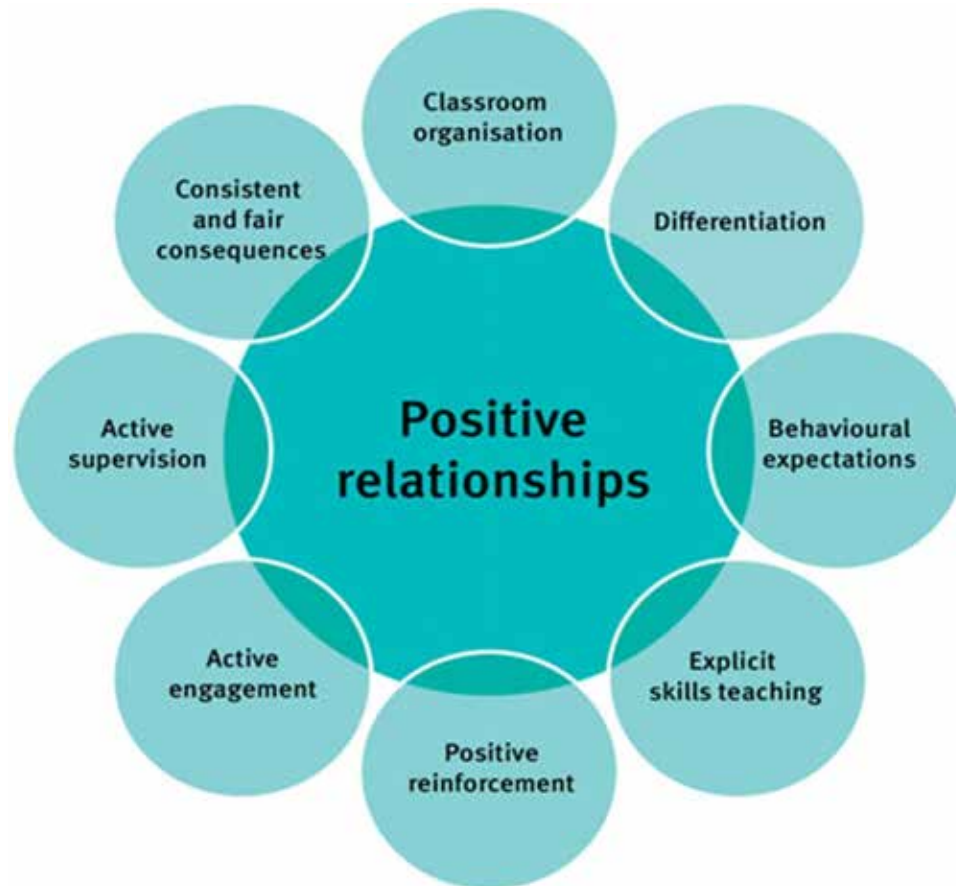
Chocolate

Church

"C" finger makes small anti-clockwise movement on chin

Mime pulling bell rope

The Positive Behaviour Support  
focus of the month



## A message from Tracey

I hope you all enjoy this month's newsletter, which is filled with activity and achievements!

Our young people have enjoyed the brighter weather and have been making the most of our beautiful grounds by taking their learning outside.

There have been some fantastic high lights this month, including World Book Day, Red Nose Day and a spectacular visit from Blandford Animal Sanctuary.

A special mention must go to those who raised money for Red Nose Day by undertaking a sponsored bike ride and to everyone who supported this through their generous donations.

We are so proud of each and every one of our wonderful community for their enthusiasm and participation and we wish everyone; staff and young people a restful Easter holiday!

*Thank You!*