



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

We Model What We Value

School News
March 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful term here at school, with a huge variety of positive experiences and incentives for all of our pupils. It has also been fantastic to see the difference that opening our classrooms earlier (even by just 5 minutes) has made, helping children to be ready for the day and complete their early morning work, which focuses on addressing gaps in their maths knowledge.



This term, we have really made the most of our local community. Year 6 attended an art workshop at the cathedral, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Year 3 have been enjoying their visits to the Roman Museum, and Year 4 took part in an exciting Egyptian Day. We were also delighted to host a "Show Racism the Red Card" workshop at the start of term, which you can read more about below.

We would like to reiterate how vitally important your child's attendance at school is. Every session missed makes it harder for them to access their learning upon return. We are continuing to focus on ensuring that every minute in school is a learning minute. Please be assured that we are always here to support you and will do everything we can to help ensure children attend school regularly. While general illness and occasional absence are part of school life, regular attendance is essential. We hope you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you all on our return.

Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney Co Headteachers



We started our term with a very exciting and warm welcome from the Mayor of Canterbury (Keji Moses)! She stood at our school gate and greeted all our parents and children, welcoming them to the school on a lovely sunny day. We have never seen so many smiles on entry to the school. She then held an assembly, where she was impressed by our children's singing and spoke about how we can all support each other to feel a sense of belonging within the local community, and that every individual is able to help others to belong. Our school council then interviewed her to find out her thoughts on being the Mayor of Canterbury and the local community (a very much edited version!).

What is your proudest moment as Lord Mayor? *My proudest moment was the East Kent Mind charity that I support recruiting over 100 young wellbeing ambassadors. These young people are helping to support the wellbeing of others.*

What makes Canterbury a special place? *Canterbury is such a diverse city rich in history with the Cathedral and culture with places like the Beaney which is accessible to everyone.*

What can young people do to support in Canterbury? *You can volunteer for local charities and events such as litter picks. There are also lots of community groups such as the sea cadets, The Lord Mayor Cadets and other local community groups which you can join.*

What would you like to improve in Canterbury? *I would like to make sure that there are more youth centres and opportunities for young people.*

Is there anything that you would change about Canterbury? *The Traffic! It causes so many problems for everyone!*

We had a fabulous Show Racism The Red Card workshop for our Year 4 and 5 pupils at the start of term. Feedback from the team delivering the workshop was extremely positive about our children and how well they engaged with the topic, as well as their existing knowledge about belonging and inclusivity. We are very proud of how well the pupils engaged and what a positive experience it was for them, as we continue to ensure that our pupils are educated to understand that we will never tolerate any form of racism.



Pupil comments from the workshop!



I really enjoyed how interesting and thoughtful Jack and Paul made the workshop.

I learnt about the 4 different types of racism and how people have not been treated fairly.

I really liked the conversations we had about stereotypes and how to respect everyone.

It made me think about how I could stand up to racism if I see it and how important it is to do this in school.

It made me realise that everyone should be treated with respect.

I learnt that is important not to be a bystander.

SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD



World Maths Day!

We celebrated World Maths Day with a range of activities across the school.

We started the day with an assembly on how maths is used in the real world, including how Pixar uses it to create animations.

In our classrooms, we worked together on a challenge: how many ways can we make the number 100 in just 5 minutes. This got everyone thinking creatively. Copybara class in Year 4 wowed with 169 different ways!

Around the school, pupils took part in a maths challenge of solving riddles and questions. It was amazing seeing the children focusing on their mental maths skills.

Our focus on the day was how we are 'United by Numbers' and that Maths is a universal and global language. Well done everyone!



Thank you to Miss Williams and Mrs Browne for organising

World Book Day!

World Book Day was a wonderful success! All the children showed great enthusiasm throughout the day, especially during our author assemblies with Nazima Pathan, who kindly answered the children's brilliant questions. She was super impressed by the children's enthusiasm and behaviour throughout. During the day, they also enjoyed creating fantastic crafts, including paper plate characters which we have displayed in the library and mini books for their class jar. Happy Reading!



WE
POSITIVE
NOTICING

We celebrated a wonderful **Positive Noticing Day** a couple of weeks ago, with a focus on helping both children and staff recognise that when we actively look for the good, we will find it. Throughout the day, we celebrated individual children and whole classes by highlighting examples of positive behaviour across the school. This included a focus on behaviour in classrooms and at lunchtime, with our fantastic Wellbeing Ambassadors identifying and recognising children for a wide range of positive actions. The day encouraged everyone to reflect on and appreciate the many examples of kindness, effort, and positivity within our school community. Many of these approaches and incentives will now be reviewed and embedded more regularly moving forward.



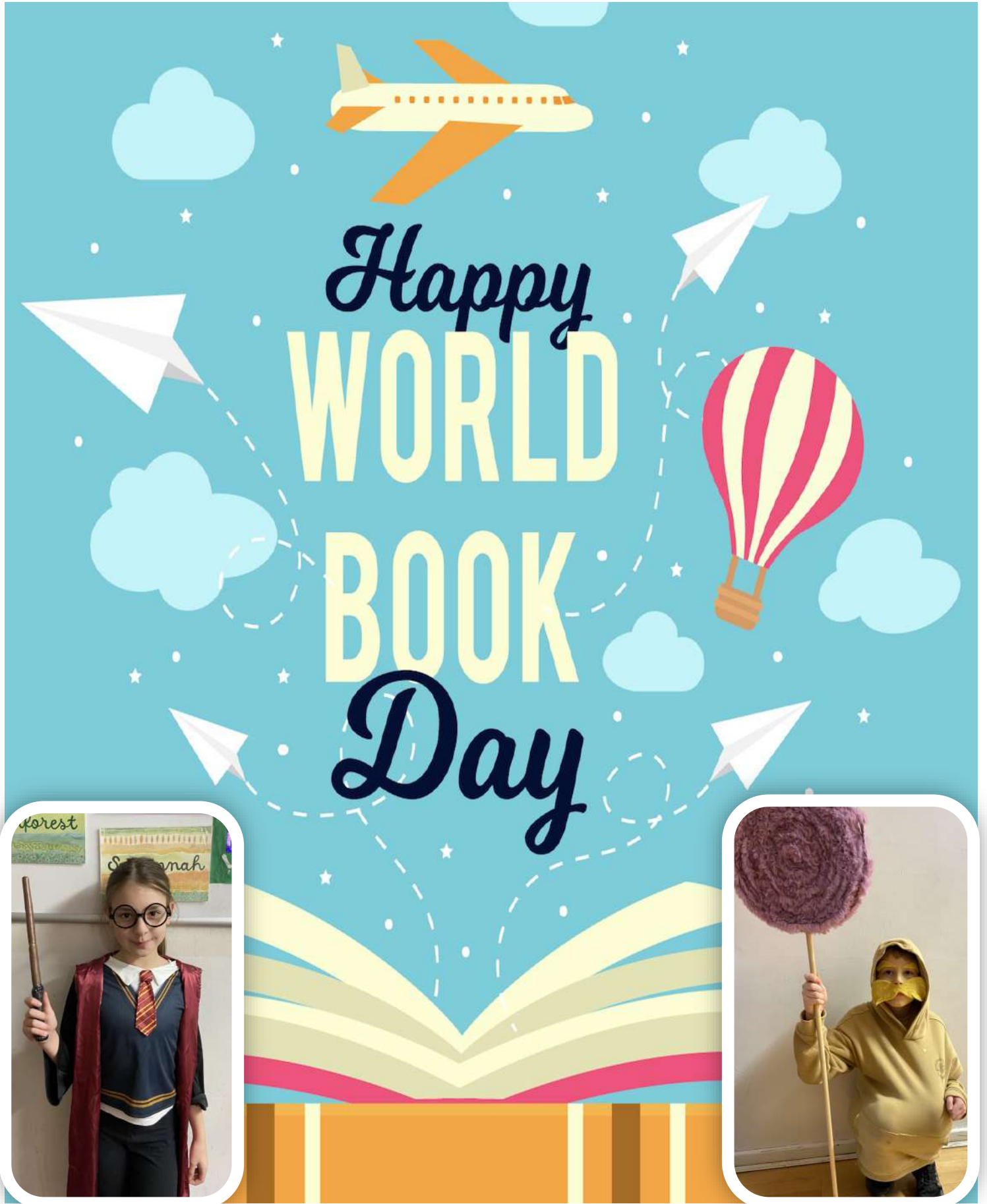
We would like to say goodbye and good luck to our much valued colleagues Mrs Edwards, Mrs Collis and Miss Carey who are all leaving SSJS – you will be missed!

Year 3



Year 3 went for a very exciting and hands on trip to Canterbury Cathedral.





Year 5



Kookaburra class created layered card art inspired by Maya stelae



