

## Frogwell Primary School Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### OPAL launch

I have been absolutely delighted to see the physical launch of our OPAL (outdoor Play and Learning) project this week. The children have zones in areas across the playground where a range of play activities take place. This week we have had Music playing, hoops, pom poms, large boxes and chalks.

Some quotes from children and teachers can be seen below:

“When I walked through the playground all the children were playing purposefully.”

“None of my children want to stay inside anymore.”

“Children are busy and visibly happier – they love the music and the pom poms.”

“It’s like night and day, it’s been wonderful.”

“I walked through on a sunny day, the children were all engaged and their play was purposeful.”

“Is it a party? It feels like a party!”

“Look how beautiful it is out here!”

“Lunchtimes are really fun now!”

### Frogwell Farm



We are preparing to begin welcoming our menagerie of animals to Frogwell. This will include rabbits (arriving at Easter), Fish, African land snails and, we hope, guinea pigs — a very exciting development for the school and a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about animal care and responsibility.

To help us get everything ready, we are seeking the following donations and support from our school community:

- A local farmer who may be able to donate hay and straw (ideally in bales) to feed and bed down our rabbits and guinea pigs
- A wheelbarrow
- 5–10 pairs of children’s gardening gloves
- A large rabbit hutch (over 6ft)
- A large rabbit water bottle
- 2 rabbit bowls
- Rabbit feed (large 10kg bag)
- Rabbit bedding – sawdust (large baled bag)

If you are able to donate any of the above items, or can help us source them, we would be extremely grateful. Thank you in advance for supporting Frogwell Farm as we bring this exciting new venture to life.

## World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March (and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> for Year 5)

World Book Day/s went extremely well with so many children dressing up. Mrs Snowden our English leader was so pleased to see so many children not only dress up but be able to talk about the books they loved! We continue to prioritise reading through our award scheme. I am delighted to say that over 40 children have received the '25 bookmark award' 5 children have received their 50 bookmark award!

## Parent Pond Pre-loved Book Sale



A big thank you to Parent Pond for organising our World Book Day pre-loved book sale, and to all the parents, carers and children who came along to support it. It was wonderful to see so many families browsing the books and sharing their love of reading. Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, an incredible £100 was raised!

We hope to hold more pre-loved book sales throughout the year, helping to recycle great stories while raising funds for the school. If you missed this one, please do pop along to the next.

## Parent Pond Family Bingo Night – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Back by popular demand, our Family Easter Bingo Night is back for another evening of classic bingo fun! Join us in the Main Hall on Friday 20th March — doors open at 6:00pm, with eyes down at 6:30pm.

Seats were £1 per person to book and the event has now sold out — thank you for the amazing response!

On the night, you'll be able to purchase bingo cards, along with snacks, drinks, bingo dabbers, and raffle tickets for your chance to win a bumper Easter hamper. Cash and card payments will both be accepted.

We aim to finish by 8:00pm, although if the raffle runs over we'll have a hard close at 8:30pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone there for a fun family evening!

## Free School Vouchers update:

You will have received a copy of a letter from Wiltshire County Council last week, regarding free school meals vouchers. As a reminder I have copied this below with subheadings for clarity.

### **Funding ending**

*'As a recipient of Free Schools Meals in term time, you have also received vouchers for food in school holidays. This was funded by the UK Government's Household Support Fund, but the government has now confirmed that this fund is ending on the 31 March 2026. This means that the holiday food vouchers that you have received will end after this date. However, you are eligible for a £5 voucher, per child, to cover the two days of the Easter holiday still covered by this fund.'*

### **Support is still available if you need help**

*Wiltshire Council is working with the Wiltshire Citizens Advice team to help families who may be struggling. If this change is going to cause you hardship during the holidays you can contact them by completing the online form: [www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/contact-us) and a member of the team will contact you to discuss your situation.*

### **New Support- Crisis and Resilience Fund**

*This new support is being funded by the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which starts on 1 April 2026, and is also government funded. But this new fund does not include a provision for automatic free school meals in the holidays.*

***Holiday Activity and Food (FUEL) programme***

*Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are also eligible to attend our Holiday Activity and Food programme called Food, Unity, Energy and Laughter (FUEL) during school holidays which offers free activities and meals. Easter holiday booking requests are open until 15 March 2026, and can be made via this link*

*<https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuelprogramme>. For more information about FUEL please visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure/fuel-programme](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure/fuel-programme).*

***Children's Toothbrushing Guide (attached)***

*Please find attached the new Children's Toothbrushing Guide created with the early years sector, including the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry and the Oral Health Foundation. The Guide helps with support for children's oral health from the earliest years.*

Have a wonderful and restful weekend.

Miss Woods

## Diary Dates

Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Pond – Family Bingo Night
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Spring Parents’ and Carers’ Evening
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Parents’ and Carers’ Evening
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Half Term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 & Year 4 Residential to Grittleton House
w/c Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	SATS Week
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Parent Pond - Spring Disco
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	TD Day – School closed to children
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	School Reports
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Non-Uniform Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Parent Pond – Fun Run
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent Pond – Summer Party
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers’ Party
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	TD Day – School closed to children
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July – Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Summer Holidays