

Friday 1st May 2026



Tewkesbury
C of E Primary & Pre-School

'Learn Together, Shine Forever'

Weekly Newsletter

A message from Mr Rylatt...

What a wonderful week it has been in school, made even better by the glorious weather we've all been enjoying! There's been such a lovely buzz around the classrooms and outdoors too, with children making the most of being outside in the sunshine. I also had the absolute pleasure of visiting Year 4 at Pioneer on Tuesday – it was fantastic to see them so happy, engaged and clearly loving every minute of their residential experience.

It has been a real joy to put this week's newsletter together and to see just how many amazing activities have been happening across the school. As we head into the bank holiday weekend, I hope everyone has a chance to relax and enjoy some time with family and friends.

Year 4 Residential to the Pioneer centre



Philippians 2:15 "We shine like stars in the sky."

Year 4 had an amazing time on their residential to the Pioneer Centre - it really was a trip to remember! From caving and zip lining to raft building on the lake, the children threw themselves into every activity and gave everything a go. We were so lucky with the glorious sunshine, which perfectly matched the mood all week - happy, positive and full of energy (from both children and staff!). It was fantastic to see the children supporting each other, showing real teamwork and resilience, and stepping out of their comfort zones.

They were a real credit to the school, with centre staff commenting on how polite and encouraging they were throughout. A huge thank you to all of the staff who gave up their time to make the trip possible - we couldn't have done it without you. So many brilliant memories made and definitely a highlight of the year!

Tooth Fairy Fun in Reception



Reception found a new hat in the hat box this week – it turned out to be a dentist hat, which caused lots of excitement! The children have been busy making tooth fairy pots ready for when their teeth fall out, and have really enjoyed role playing being at the dentist.

Acorns in the Garden



Acorns have been having a fantastic time exploring gardening this week, getting stuck in with planting and caring for different plants. They've really enjoyed spending time outdoors in the sunshine, learning through hands-on activities and watching their garden grow.

What Our School Governors Are Reading



What are you reading?

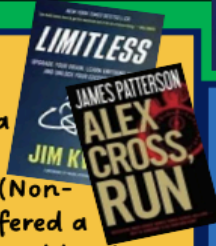
Governor: Michael Wood

Book you're currently reading:

Alex Cross, Run by James Patterson. It's a thriller now popularised as a series.

Favourite book: Limitless by Jim Kwik (Non-Fiction). It's about an American who suffered a brain injury as a child and was told he would not amount to much due to his injuries only to go on to great success. It talks through how we can often put limiting self-beliefs in our way.

Interesting fact: My favourite part about bedtime stories is putting on all the different voices when reading to my kids. Plus, I don't like reading small print!



Governor: Peter Humphries

Book you're currently reading: The

Vanishing Box by Elly Griffiths (a modern day Agatha Christie)

Favourite book: Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy. Read this book as part of my A-Level English literature course. I was drawn into the atmospheric imagery and symbolism. Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby came a close second.

Interesting fact: I only read library books (or presents from friends and family) and enjoy the librarians' suggestions and recommendations for what to read.



Governor: Oonagh Hughes

Book you're currently reading:

The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy by Douglas Adams (AGAIN!)

Favourite book: The Princess Bride by William Golding

Interesting fact: I love reading in bed, but I often fall asleep whilst holding the book above me, so it hits me in the face and wakes me up with a bump!

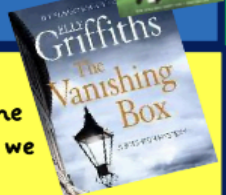


Governor: Father Nick Davies

Book you're currently reading: The Bee Bible- Tips and ideas about how we can look after this most fragile but important insects. Good reading after I recently went on a beekeeping taster day.

Favourite book: I know that I'm supposed to say the Bible and it is a great collection of 66 books but I think I will go with 'Treasure Island' which my Dad read to me when I was a child.

Interesting fact: I once won a poetry reading competition reading a lovely poem called 'The Grandeur of God' by Gerard Manley Hopkins.



Governor: Stacey Grimmett

Book you're currently reading: Picture

Imperfect by Jacqueline Wilson

Favourite book: The Story of Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson

Interesting fact: My favourite place to read now is snuggled up in bed with my children sharing their favourite stories. I love reading to them and doing all the funny voices.



Governor: Cass Castello

Book you're currently reading: Life's Greatest Secret by Matthew Cobb, which is about how we found out that DNA is how we inherit things from our parents - like our hair colour or the shape of our face.

Favourite book: The Triumph of Seeds by Thor Hansen, which is about all the sorts of seeds there are, how they work, and all the things they affect. Did you know that a date palm has been grown from a seed that was almost 2,000 years old!

Interesting fact: I almost never read story books. I enjoy stories when I read them, but there are too many non-fiction books that I want to read instead!



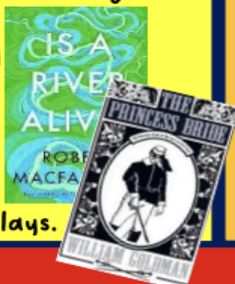
Governor: Geoff Sallis

Book you're currently reading: Is A

River Alive? by Robert Macfarlane. I have an issue with river pollution. I feel it as a personal slight and read most books that articulate that it's a living entity.

Favourite book: The Princess Bride by William Golding. I never tire of it, as I always find something new in it.

Interesting fact: I love Shakespeare and have watched nearly every play at the RST since 1992. I also read the plays.



Governor: Simon Phillips

Book you're currently reading: I have just finished re-reading The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R Tolkien. It's another favourite of mine, and I just love Tolkien's amazing imagination to create a whole other world.

Favourite book: The Bible. I read it every day. It's the best-selling book of all time, and I find that it gives me wisdom and guidance for life that is as relevant today as it has been for Christians over 2000 years.

Interesting fact: I love making up stories and would love to write a children's fantasy book one day.



Tiny Creatures



This week in Preschool, the children have been exploring a Mini Beast theme. They have loved looking closely at different creatures, talking about where they live and what makes them special. There has been lots of curiosity, outdoor exploring and creative activities as the children learned more about the tiny world around them.

Mr Martorella's visit to Year 5



On Friday the 24th of April, Mr Martorella (the father of a Year 5 pupil) came in to school to talk to Year 5 about his job and its importance.

Mr Martorella is the chair in radio frequency and space sensing at the University of Birmingham; he came in to talk to Year 5 in greater depth about his job. He conversed about how there are over 1 million pieces of space debris and how he sends out radar signals to detect whether any will collide with satellites so other people in his field can tell the satellite owner to move their satellite out of the way of the debris. He also makes sure we can predict when a meteorite might crash into the crust of the Earth so we can evacuate and prepare the area. Year 5 really enjoyed this and asked questions of great interest.

Written by Lucas Hoy (Year 5)

Collective Worship this week



On Wednesday, our school community joined the 'Open the Book' team for an inspiring Collective Worship. They shared the story of four determined friends who carried a paralysed man to see Jesus. Unable to reach him through the crowd, they climbed the roof and lowered their friend through the tiles.

Seeing their incredible faith, Jesus first told the man, "Your sins are forgiven," before saying, "Get up, take your mat and go home." Miraculously, the man stood up and walked!

This story challenges us to consider our own roles within our school. We all face "mat moments" where we feel stuck or overwhelmed. It reminds us to be a community of "mat-carriers" - friends who notice when someone is struggling and act with the determination to lift them up. By supporting one another, just as those friends did, we ensure that no one has to face their challenges alone.

Bikeability Holiday Course – May Half Term



We're pleased to share details of the upcoming Bikeability Holiday Course taking place during the May half term. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to take part and develop an important life skill. Learning to ride confidently and safely helps children build independence, stay active, and develop essential road-sense.

The course supports pupils in understanding how to navigate the road environment, make safer choices, and enjoy cycling as part of a healthy lifestyle. Families can find full information and booking details here:

<https://www.thinktravel.info/upcoming-events/bikeability-holiday-courses>

There will also be two further holiday courses running during the summer holidays and October half term, offering even more chances for pupils to get involved later in the year.

Design Sir David Attenborough a Birthday Card!

We are celebrating the incredible life of Sir David Attenborough, and we need your creativity! Your challenge is to design a birthday card to be sent to him. It can be themed around nature, planet earth, wildlife or David Attenborough himself. It is up to you! Your design must be on A4 paper and handed into Miss Cheal by Thursday 31st May. Happy 100th Birthday, David!

Free Parent Webinar: Sensory Needs & Behaviours

Monday 6th May 2024
1:00pm – 2:00pm
Online



Move More are offering a free webinar for parents and carers on understanding children's sensory needs and how these can influence behaviour, emotions and learning.

The session will cover:

- What sensory needs are and how they affect children
- Signs of sensory overload
- Practical strategies families can use at home straight away

How to join

To register, please use the link below:

<https://www.move-more.org/events/parent-webinar-sensory-needs-and-behaviours/>

Once registered, you will receive the access details directly from Move More. This session is suitable for all families and may be especially helpful if your child sometimes struggles with busy environments, changes, or certain sensory experiences.



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2025/26 Calendar

Summer Term 1

4th May - Bank Holiday

8th May - David Attenborough's 100th birthday celebration - more to follow

w/b 11th May - Year 6 SATs Week

22nd May - EYFS Hat Party

w/b 25th May - Half Term

Summer Term 2

1st June - Year 3 Trip to Cadbury World

5th June - Fieldwork Friday - tbc

w/b 8th June - Year 1 Phonics Screening checks

10th June - Year 2 trip to Nature in Art

12th June - Cheltenham & District athletics competition

w/b 15th June - Year 6 Residential to Oaker Wood

17th June - Year 1 trip to Weston Supermare

24th June - Meet your new teacher morning

24th & 25th June - Tewkesbury Academy Move up day

w/b 29th June - Arts Week

1st July - Sports Day + OPAL Stay and Play

8th July - Sports Day + OPAL Stay and Play Reserve Date

9th July - Tewkesbury School's Rounders competition

10th July - Medieval Festival

15th July - Rec - Year 2 Celebration Assembly - 2pm

16th July - Year 3 - 5 Celebration Assembly - 2pm

17th July - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 1:45pm

17th July - Last day of Summer Term

20th July - Inset Day

School diary week beginning 4th May 2026

Day	The School Day	After school	Summer Lunch Menu Week 1
Mon	Bank Holiday		
Tues	Outdoor learning session For selected children	Trinkets & Treasures Club 3.10-4.15pm	BBQ Chicken Pasta Bake Quorn Pasta Bake
Wed	Morning Run Club 8.00-8.30am		Roast Beef, Roast Potatoes & Yorkshire Pudding Cauliflower Cheese Bake, Roast Potatoes & Yorkshire Pudding
Thurs	Bead Craft Club 12.45-1.15pm Reading & Ready Club 12.30-1.00pm	Drama Club 3.10-4.15pm French Club 3.10-4.00pm	Chicken Tikka Masala & Rice Quorn Masala & Rice
Fri	David Attenborough 100th Birthday Celebration		Fish Fingers & Chips Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings



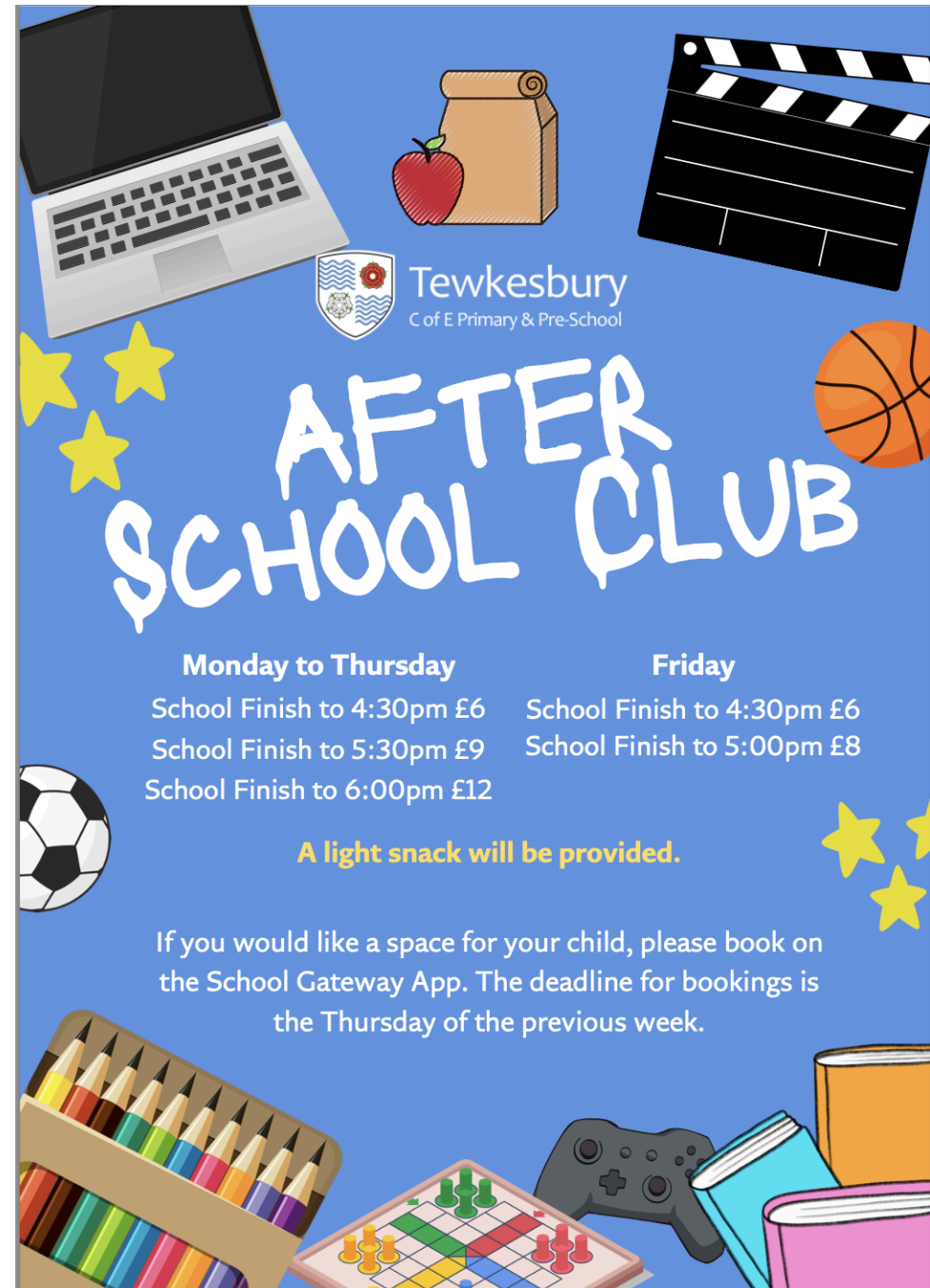
 **Tewkesbury**
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BREAKFAST CLUB

Monday to Friday
7:45am - School Start

£4.25 per child

A variety of breakfast options for your child to choose from.



 **Tewkesbury**
C of E Primary & Pre-School

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Monday to Thursday	Friday
School Finish to 4:30pm £6	School Finish to 4:30pm £6
School Finish to 5:30pm £9	School Finish to 5:00pm £8
School Finish to 6:00pm £12	

A light snack will be provided.

If you would like a space for your child, please book on the School Gateway App. The deadline for bookings is the Thursday of the previous week.



Programme Front Cover Competition

Ages 4-11

**Design the front cover for this year's
This is Tewkesbury event programme.**

**Email your design to thisistewkesbury@gmail.com
with the subject 'Programme Front Cover Competition' and the
designer's full name and age by 15th May.**

Designs should be portrait A4.

**This is Tewkesbury is a new annual event celebrating
everything our local community has to offer,
such as singing, dancing, art and sports.
So, show us what makes Tewkesbury special.**

**The winning design will feature on the front cover of this year's
event programme on Saturday 13th June 2026 at the Abbey and
its grounds, and the winner will receive an arty prize.**



ACTING UP!

SUMMER DRAMA ACADEMY

28th - 30th July, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Tewkesbury Baptist Church

Acting! Singing! Dancing! Games!

Musical Theatre! Arts & Crafts!

**Showcase performance
on the final afternoon!**

Suitable for children and young people aged 6 - 18 years!

£10 off all bookings taken before May 1st 2026.

For more information, or to reserve your place, please

contact emily@actinguptheatre.co.uk

www.actinguptheatre.co.uk

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