

MOSSY LEA MESSENGER

Monday, 12th January 2025 XII.I. MMXXVI

🌸 Highlights from a Wonderful Week Mighty Mossy 🌸

We began the new year in the most magical way, starting the week with a visit to St George's to watch the pantomime Cinderella. Laughter, music, and plenty of audience participation set a joyful tone for the days ahead and gave everyone a memorable welcome back.

It's been wonderful to return for our first week of 2026. There's something special about these early January days — familiar routines resettling, classrooms once again full of energy, and a gentle sense of beginning again with purpose rather than haste. It's truly good to be back together.

Acorn Class have settled beautifully into learning:

📖 English: Acorns were greeted with fairytale clues and a mysterious gift as a hook lesson, launching their new unit on traditional tales with a twist — curiosity was high from the very start!

💻 Computing: The children began coding, developing their problem-solving and logical thinking skills.

🔬 Science: We explored how to identify things that are alive, not alive, and have never been alive, with lots of thoughtful discussion and examples.

Oak Class were welcomed back with a spectacular hook lesson:

🎆 English: Fireworks, Chinese lanterns, and multicoloured twinkly lights filled the classroom to introduce the new text *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman. The atmosphere was magical and set the tone perfectly for the unit ahead.

🏺 History: The children became archaeologists, digging for artefacts from the Shang Dynasty and using their discoveries to learn how people lived in the past.

📊 Science: Oaks measured their heartbeats, recorded results in graphs, and explored how heart rates can differ — did you know that girls' hearts beat faster than boys'?

🌲 Forest Friday: Using RSPB resources, the children went bird spotting and identified pigeons, sparrows, and even a blackbird, sharpening their observation skills and enjoying time outdoors.

As we wrap up the week, something to ponder as the year finds its rhythm again:

Progress rarely comes from grand gestures. More often, it grows from small, faithful habits — turning up, paying attention, giving time, and choosing kindness when it would be easier to rush past. Those quiet choices shape children more than we sometimes realise.

Have a wonderful week ahead 🌟



Spelling help!

Spelling plays a vital role in children's reading, writing and overall confidence, and as a school we are continuing to boost its profile. We would like to remind parents about Spelling Shed, which is an excellent online tool to support spelling practice at home. Each week, class teachers upload the children's spellings to Spelling Shed, where pupils can practise them through fun, game-based activities. We recommend that children complete at least three games each week. To celebrate effort and success, the top children on Spelling Shed will receive a certificate in assembly each week. Please encourage your child to make regular use of this valuable resource.

Alongside Spelling Shed, we also use 'sticky word' strategies to help children remember spelling rules and conventions. These strategies are taught regularly in school and should be familiar to the children. They are also very effective for home practice.

- Sticky Note Spelling
- Colourful Words
- Triangle Words
- Read, Turn, Write, Check

Please find below a more detailed explanation of how each strategy works.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop strong spelling skills.

1. Read, turn, write, check

- 👁️ **Read** the word carefully
 - 👤 **Turn** the word over or cover it
 - ✍️ **Write** it from memory
 - ✅ **Check** – did you get it right?
- ★ If not, don't worry... try again!

2. Sticky note spelling

1. Fold a large sticky note or small piece of paper into four quadrants.
2. Top left quadrant - adult writes a focus word which the child traces over.
3. Top right quadrant – the child copies the word written by the adult.
4. Fold the top two quadrants underneath the bottom two.
5. Bottom left quadrant - the child writes the word from memory.
6. Bottom right quadrant - the child writes the focus word with their eyes closed.



3. Colourful words

Using two coloured pens/pencils, this strategy allows children to focus on the 'tricky' part of a word. Children write out the word, changing their pen/pencil when they come to the section or letter string causing difficulty. E.g.

b a d g e

f u d g e

4. Triangle words

Children write a word repeatedly over several lines. Each time, they add the next letter in the sequence until they have written out the full word. E.g.

F

Fr

Fri

Frie

Frien

Friend

Attendance Update

Your overall attendance

95.5%

You are in decile 4, the top
30-40% of schools

Weekly Awards



**DRAMA
*KIDS***

Formerly Helen O'Grady
Drama Academy.
New name, new logo,
same GREAT programme.



**BOOK
YOUR TRIAL
TODAY!**

**NOW
ENROLLING**

From childhood upwards, we all need to have self-confidence and emotional intelligence to convey our thoughts and feelings, express our opinions politely and confidently, to have a voice in the classroom or workplace, and know how to establish positive relationships with other people. These life skills give us the freedom to develop to our full potential and have self-confidence in our own abilities.

In 1979, Helen O'Grady, a trained teacher and actress, recognised the benefits of drama and role-play in building self-confidence, developing communication skills and encouraging social interaction. 44 years later, the international Drama Kids academy is still delivering this vision around the globe through an expertly structured and professionally written drama curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to be a variety of characters in our whole class improvisations and other diverse roles will be played out in our mini-scripts and devised improvisations.

Bring your child along to a FREE trial class to see how the programme works!

Our specially written curriculum ensures our students have a fun-filled drama lesson every week whilst we aim to:

- * Develop skills in verbal communication and social interaction
- * Build ongoing confidence and self-esteem
- * Encourage enthusiasm, energy and a positive approach to life

Classes are aimed at children age 4 to 10 Years (Primary) and 11 to 17 Years (Youth Theatre)

CONTACT US

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Fees: £31.00 per month