



Coaley Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Miss Jen Thomas

As a family, we flourish.

Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12)

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,

What a wonderfully busy few weeks we have had in school. There has been such a positive energy around the classrooms, and it has been lovely to see the children throwing themselves into new challenges and opportunities.

A huge thank you to all the children who took part in the Cotswold Homes 'Design a Bedroom' **competition**. The creativity and imagination shown in the designs were outstanding—I am genuinely relieved that someone else has the difficult task of judging first, second and third place! All entries have now been sent to colleagues at Cotswold Homes, and we will update families as soon as we have a confirmed date for their visit to school to announce the winners.

Several weeks ago, we launched this term's **House Public Speaking Competition**. As in previous years, children are invited to speak for two minutes about an age-appropriate area of personal interest—anything from a favourite hobby to an inspiring person or a fascinating fact. This remains an invitational opportunity, with absolutely no expectation that every child must take part. However, it continues to be one of those experiences that beautifully strengthens oracy skills and often reveals a wonderful spark of confidence in pupils who may not always feel self-assured. To give children plenty of time to prepare, we have amended the timeframes, and children will have the opportunity to present to their house on Friday 27th February 2026. Three pupils with the highest votes from each house will then compete against one another on Friday 6th March during our Celebration Worship which will start at the earlier time of 2.30pm. Parents/ carers and family members in the audience will then be asked to vote for the overall winner.

Earlier this week, we also shared communication about the forthcoming **First Aid workshops**, taking place on **Friday 6th February**. Developing pupils' life skills—especially those that have the potential to save a life—is something I am deeply passionate about. Please do take a moment to read the original letter and let school know of anything that may impact your child's participation on the day.

Best wishes,

Miss Thomas

Dates for the Diary

Spring 1

6.2.26- First Aid Workshops
9.2.26, 3.30-6.00- Parents' Evening
10.2.26, 3.30-6.00- Parents' Evening
12.2.26- Owls' visit to Edward Jenner Museum
13.2.26- End of Term 3

Spring 2

23.2.26- INSET
24.2.26- Term 4 begins
5.3.26- World Book Day Celebrations
26.3.26- 9.00am- Easter Worship delivered by Robins in Church
27.3.26, 1.30pm - End of Term 4

Eco-Council

This week, Eco-Council located the perfect spot for their new bug hotel. Can you spot it on your way into school? It is under the wooden gazebo between school and playgroup.





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COALEYFEST '26

Many thanks to those of you who filled in the Coaleyfest survey and those who have stepped forward to fill the various roles that are needed to make it happen!

There's only one role that hasn't been filled; sponsorship and raffle prizes.

If this is something you think you could help with (individually or with others), please let us know. We're underway with planning - it's going to be a good one!!

We have a meeting planned for 8.45am next Friday 6th Feb at Victoria Cottage, Victoria Street (narrow lane opposite the church) to discuss ongoing updates.

You're very welcome to come along if you want to get involved in some way - but there's absolutely no pressure if you just want to see what's going on!

Cross- Country

We are incredibly proud of Sasha and Tess who participated in the most recent cross-country race. Sasha and Tess were in the senior race and represented the school superbly with their efforts and perseverance.

Sasha: I was really nervous at the starting line but once I was off I gained confidence. This run was easier than the last one and it was sunny so that helped a lot!

Tess: I set off fast, kept my pace and came 6th out of 72 so I'm really happy with that!





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Spotlight on...

History

Robins

In history, children in Robins' Class have been using historical sources, such as paintings to find out about the Great Fire of London. The children were then artists from 1666 and had to paint a picture to show people in the future what the fire was like.

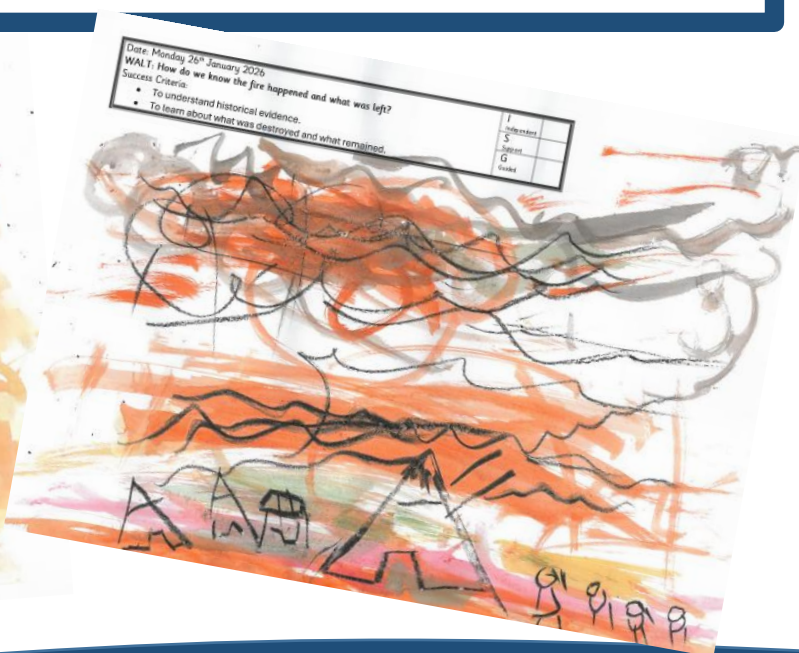
Marlowe: It started in 1666 and also it started in a bakers shop.

Martha: It's really interesting when the fire spread.

Ruben: Old houses, black and white

Arthur: The houses were made out of wood.

Sam: There was a big fire and it burnt the buildings down



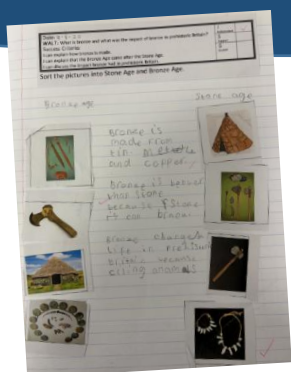


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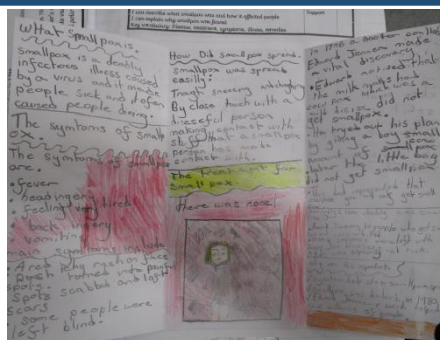
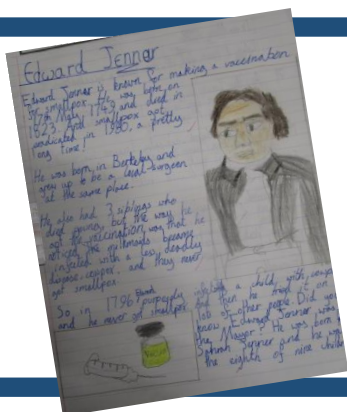
Starlings

This term in History our topic is The Bronze Age to the Iron Age. We recapped our prior learning on the Stone Age and discussed how things changed as we went into the Bronze Age. We learnt how bronze was made and watched a video of a bronze sword being crafted.

"They melted tin and copper to make bronze" - Poppy.

We discovered that tin was rare so "they traded things with other countries to get tin" - Reggie.

We then decided that the Bronze Age was better than the Stone Age because "the Bronze Age used stronger tools" - Louie. We are now beginning to explore life in the Iron Age.



Owls

In history, Owl's class are learning about Edward Jenner and his discovery of the smallpox vaccine. We are studying who Jenner was through a short biography and exploring how his experiment helped protect people from smallpox, as well as his lasting legacy in modern medicine. As part of our learning, we have created an information leaflet about smallpox and wrote a diary entry imagining we were Edward Jenner on the day he vaccinated James Phipps.

"What I found interesting was how people tried to find cures for smallpox and how they used to treat illnesses in the past." Albert.



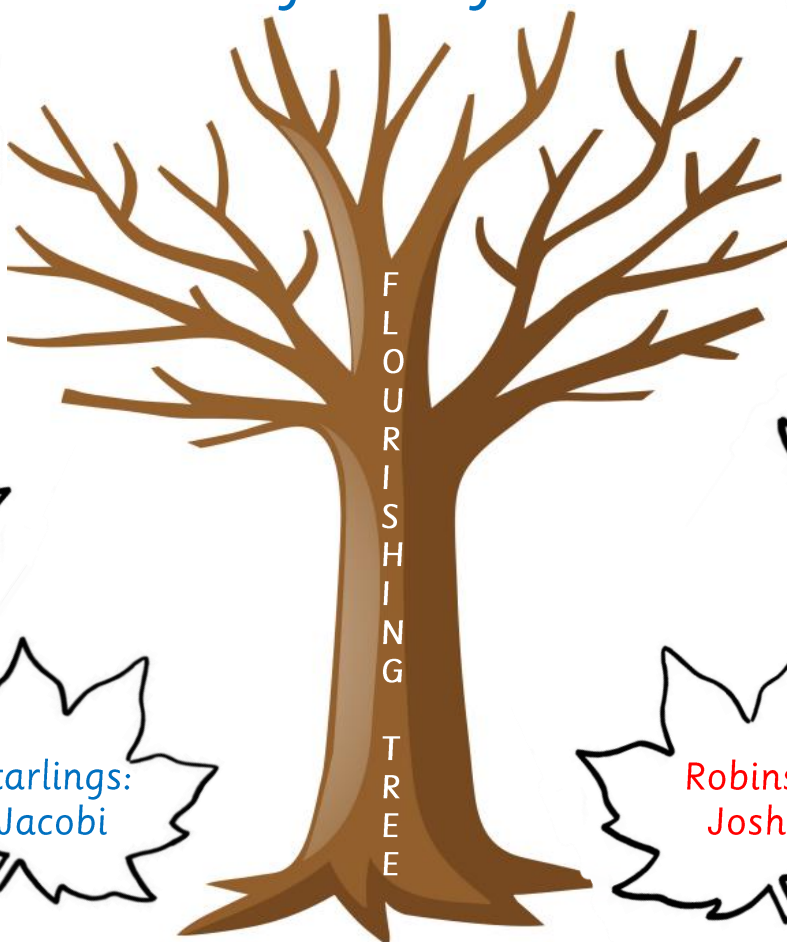
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Leaf Certificate

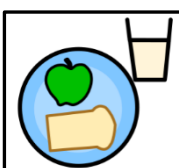


Values Certificate



Robins	Isabelle	Martha
Starlings	Leo	Jacob
Owls	Alfie	Sydney

Lunchtime Certificate



Savannah