

Orwell Class - Spring Term

Class Welcome

This term in Orwell, we have had a very enjoyable and productive period of learning. Pupils have particularly benefited from a range of themed days, including World Book Day, Cultural Day, and Movement and Regulation Day, all of which have enriched their educational experience. We have also participated in Crucial Crew and have been to the Cinema.

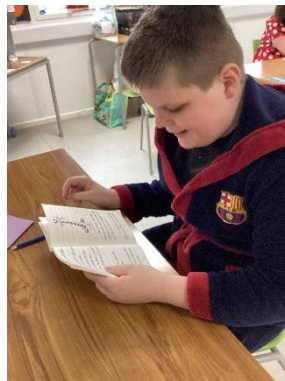
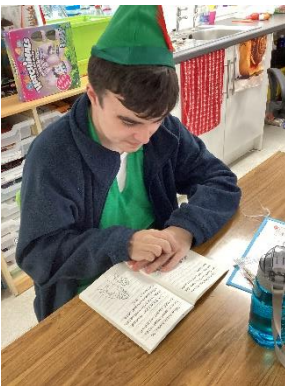


Communication and interaction

This term, we have focused on the books *Bot* and *The First Hippo on the Moon*. Through these texts, pupils have developed a range of key reading and comprehension skills. They have practised making thoughtful predictions by using clues from the text, including character descriptions and emotional responses, to anticipate what might happen next.

In addition, pupils have strengthened their inference skills by reading between the lines to understand characters' thoughts, feelings and motivations. They have also worked on sequencing events, which has supported their understanding of story structure and narrative flow. Furthermore, pupils have identified problems and solutions within the texts, helping them to think critically about plot development and cause-and-effect relationships.

These activities have supported the development of essential literacy skills, including comprehension, critical thinking, and the ability to articulate ideas clearly about what they have read.



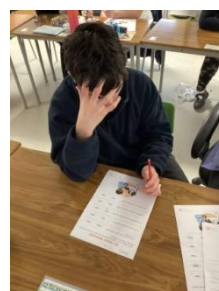
Cognition and Learning

In Maths, we have focused on time and measuring. Pupils have consolidated their understanding of the days of the week and the months of the year, further developing their awareness of how time is organised. They have practised telling the time to the hour and half hour, with some pupils progressing to reading quarter past and quarter to the hour. These activities have supported the development of key skills such as time recognition, sequencing, and the application of mathematical knowledge in everyday contexts. In addition, pupils have explored measuring using both standard and non-standard units. They have been introduced to units of mass, capacity, and length, including grams and kilograms, millilitres and litres, and centimetres and metres.

In Science, our topic this term has been animals. Pupils have explored different animal groups, including mammals, reptiles, birds, insects and amphibians. They have developed their classification skills by grouping animals based on shared characteristics, such as whether they give birth to live young or lay eggs, and whether they have feathers, scales, or fur/hair. Pupils have also considered how animals breathe and move, including those that live on land, in water, or can fly.

We then extended this learning to habitats, where pupils explored where animals live and what they need to survive. This has helped them to develop their understanding of basic needs, environments, and the relationship between living things and their surroundings, while also strengthening their observation, reasoning, and scientific enquiry skills.

In Computing, we have focused on algorithms and programming. Pupils have developed their understanding of what an algorithm is and the importance of giving clear, precise instructions for it to work effectively. They have explored how even small errors or missing steps can impact an outcome, strengthening their logical thinking and problem-solving skills. Pupils have applied this knowledge by programming Bee-Bots, ensuring that the instructions they input enable the devices to move accurately to a chosen destination. Through this, they have developed sequencing skills, spatial awareness, and an understanding of cause and effect in programming. In addition, pupils have used the Bee-Bots in interactive activities, such as playing games like Snakes and Ladders. These engaging tasks have reinforced their understanding of algorithms while promoting collaboration, turn-taking, and strategic thinking.



Independence, Social and Emotional Development

In Food Technology, we have focused on following recipes. Pupils selected dishes in January and worked collaboratively to plan the recipes they would prepare as a class.

They have developed their ability to follow instructions step by step, including measuring ingredients accurately, mixing components and preparing dishes in the correct order before cooking or chilling them as required. These activities have supported the development of practical life skills, as well as improving organisation, independence and attention to detail.

In ASDAN, we have continued our learning about healthy lifestyles. Pupils have explored key areas such as the food pyramid, balanced diets, physical exercise and the importance of sleep. Through discussions and activities, they have developed their understanding of what contributes to a healthy lifestyle and have considered how to make positive choices in their daily lives. This has encouraged awareness of wellbeing, responsibility, and the ability to make informed decisions about their health.



Physical and Sensory

This term in PE, we have focused on New Age Kurling and cricket. Pupils have learnt and practised the key skills required for both activities, including aiming, control, coordination and teamwork.

In New Age Kurling, pupils developed their ability to aim accurately and control the speed and direction of the kurling stones, applying these skills in a range of engaging activities. They also taken part in friendly, healthy competition, building confidence, resilience and sportsmanship as they worked towards hitting targets and scoring points.

In cricket, pupils focused on essential skills such as batting, bowling, and fielding. They practised hand-eye coordination, timing and accuracy when striking the ball, as well as throwing and catching techniques to support effective fielding. Pupils also developed strategic thinking, teamwork and communication skills as they worked together to play matches and follow game rules.



Special news and upcoming events

We hope you have a great Easter Break and look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 13th April 2026.

Upcoming Dates:

April:

20–30 Apr Finalise classes for 2026–27
23 Apr Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)

June:

8 Jun Publish class staffing for 2026–27 | Parent Coffee Morning (9.30am)
12 Jun Come and Learn With Me | Year 14 Leavers' Event
25 Jun Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)
26 Jun Prom
W/c 22 Jun Parent Meetings (end of year reports)
27 Jun PTA School Fete

July:

3 Jul Sports Day
9 Jul Come and Learn With Me
10 Jul Family Picnic
13 Jul Sixth Form Merit Assembly (2pm)
14 Jul Upper School Merit Assembly (2pm)
15 Jul Lower School Merit Assembly (2pm)
16 Jul PMLD Merit Assembly (2pm)
17 Jul Family Performance (Harlow Brass Band)

