



## A note from Mrs Beardsley

We hope everyone had an enjoyable half-term break. It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces back in school! The children have shown great enthusiasm for learning this week as they begin exploring their new topics and sharing what they already know.

Please look out for this term's homework and support your child in continuing to build on their knowledge at home. This is a vital part of the learning process as it reminds children about their learning in school and helps the learning to stick! We are looking forward to seeing all their fantastic achievements over the coming weeks!



Are you looking for a School or Nursery space from 2 years old for September 2026 or do you know another family who are?

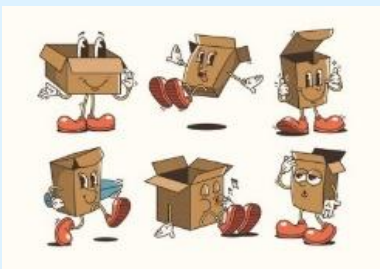
**We are holding two open days on  
Tuesday 18th November & Wednesday 26th  
November**

Please call the office to book a space  
If you are unable to make the open day, personal tours are available.

## Children in Need Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November



A reminder next Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November is Children in Need Children are welcome to come to school dressed either in spots or pyjamas for a suggested donation of £1.



## KS1 Box modelling

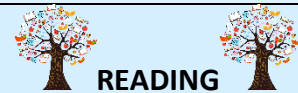
Could we please ask for any box modelling supplies that you may have in your recycling at home? Any small boxes, tubes etc. would be very much appreciated for our model making and creative work over

the year.

## Toys Past and Present

Please be aware the Toys Past and Present day for KS1 is now **Wed 12th November**.

Payments can be made via the schoolmoney app alternatively cash via the school office.



## READING

Library visits are beginning this term for all of the children to have an opportunity to visit Stapleford library. Your class teacher will give you further information about the date that your class will be going. All on the visits are on a Monday afternoon. If your child has a library card they can bring it along and they will be able to select books to bring home. If you are free, we will be asking for parent/Grandparent volunteers to accompany us. Thanks in advance!



Thank you for your support in making sure that your child attends every day and is in school ready for teaching by 8.45am. If your child is unable to attend due to an unplanned absence, please contact the Office by 9.15am. We understand that it can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school when they are unwell. Please click on the link below for up to date guidance and support from the NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



We have had a great week back with the children having lots of fun back with their friends. We will be holding more theme nights this half-term keep your eyes peeled for the flyers.





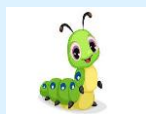
**Calendar 2025-2026**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Who?</b>
<b>Tuesday 11th Novemember</b>	<b>5 Year olds Dental Survey</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>5 Year Olds</b>
<b>Wednesday 12th November</b>	<b>Toys Past &amp; Present</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>Kingfishers Flamingos Puffins</b>
<b>Friday 14th November</b>	<b>Children in Need</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Whole school</b>
<b>Tuesday 18th November</b>	<b>Nursery &amp; Reception Open Day</b>	<b>Sessions throughout the day</b>	<b>Presepective Parents September 2026</b>
<b>Wednesday 26th November</b>	<b>Nursery &amp; Reception Open Day</b>	<b>Sessions throughout the day</b>	<b>Presepective Parents September 2026</b>
<b>Wednesday 3rd December</b>	<b>Individual School Photos</b>	<b>Throughout the day</b>	<b>Whole school</b>
<b>Friday 12th December</b>	<b>Rock Steady Concert</b>	<b>14.30</b>	

**Inset day Friday 5th December**

## Year Group News

### Early Years Foundation Stage (2 Year olds, F1 and F2)



The Brilliant Butterfly and Lovely Ladybird children have settled back in brilliantly after their half term break and have enjoyed our Autumn themed week based on the story of Leaf Man. They really enjoyed going on an Autumn walk and looking for signs of Autumn. They have also enjoyed learning all about Bonfire night and why we celebrate this at this time of year. The children have now been split into 2 different phonics groups with Mrs Young and Mrs Barker. They have enjoyed learning as a mixed group and have loved writing their sounds in their phonic books. The children also really enjoyed their first PE session and did really well getting changed independently.



Our new topic is called 'Cultural Explorers' and next week we will be starting our new text 'Rama and Sita' which explains all about the celebration of Diwali (the festival of light). This is also our Talk for Writing text so the children will be creating story mountains and class story maps over the next few weeks.

In maths we will be focusing recognising and ordering the numbers 1-5 using a range of resources, and in our topic work we will be learning about the customs and traditions of the Hindu celebration of Diwali.

#### Mrs Young's phonic group

The children in Mrs Young's phonic group will be bringing home a blending book to read, they already are really good at using 'Fred Talk' read the word. This is when they say each sound as they point to it and then read the whole word.

#### Mrs Barker's phonics group.

The children in Mrs Barker's phonic group will be coming home with a QR code that will allow them access to lots of directed 'Fred talk' games and sounds.

**Busy Bees** We are really impressed with how well the children have settled back into nursery after the half term holiday. They have remembered all of our rules and routines. This week we have started our new topic on 'Celebrations' by looking at Bonfire Night and talking about our holidays. We created fireworks with chalk and lots of glitter. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at different celebrations and talking about how they celebrate at home with their families.

Next week we will be talking about 'Autumn' and how the environment has changed. We will be reading the book 'We're Going on a Leaf Hunt' and going on our own leaf hunts. The children will be creating lots of autumnal pictures and animals. Please don't forget that we do go outside every day, so children will need warm coats and wellies. We would really like to hear back from you about parents evenings so if you have a letter, we'd love to have it returned.



#### **Creative Caterpillars.**

We have been looking at the connecting schema this week. Our song this week has been ring a ring a roses. It has been brilliant to hear our words of the term being used in lots of different contexts. What a super start to the half term and we look forward to starting lots of festive crafts.

### Key Stage One (Year 1 and 2)

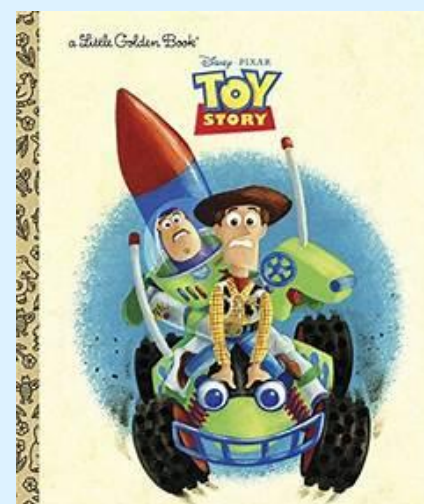


It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the half-term holiday. We have all been really pleased with how well the children have settled back into class. This week we have launched our new topic, 'Surprise Surprise'.

As part of our topic, we will be visited by 'Tommy Top Hat' on Wednesday, as we look at toys from the past. All of the children will also get an opportunity to make a toy. Children are allowed to bring in a toy as part of this special day, no electronics or expensive toys, please. Also during topic lessons next week the children will continue to learn about the properties of materials.

In Maths, the Year 1 children will be looking at the composition of numbers, finding missing numbers, and solving problems involving missing numbers. The Year 2 children will continue to learn about multiplication and division.

The children will continue to use talk for writing to retell 'Toy Story.' We will be creating our own versions of the story. There will be a focus on grammar, including the use of conjunctions and adjectives.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

### ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING



Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

### QUICK BUT ABSORBING



Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

### PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE



A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

### ENDLESS PACK LOOPS



New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

### COST OF BOOSTER PACKS



Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

### COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY



Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR SPENDING HABITS



Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

### PLAY TOGETHER



Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

### SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

### TEACH FAIRNESS



Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



# NEW event for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Event

**Where: Chilwell Family Hub**

**When: Thursday 13 November 2025**

**Time: From 1pm to 3pm**

**Come and join a community support event designed to make our SEND information and resources more accessible.**

Drop in at any time! Stay as long as you like, enjoy refreshing cold soft drinks and delicious cake.

This is an opportunity for families to come together, connect and chat with SEND professionals to find out about the support available in Nottinghamshire.

Chilwell Family Hub  
Great Hoggett Drive  
Chilwell  
Nottinghamshire  
NG9 4HQ

*On-street parking is available close to the venue.*

06P 9160

 Nottinghamshire  
County Council

 Parent  
Carer  
Championing the voice

 NHS  
Nottingham and  
Nottinghamshire

 SEND  
partnership  
Right support, right place,  
right time

