

Ranelagh Newsletter



March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and productive term, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all our families for your continued support. This term has been filled with wonderful learning, memorable experiences, and moments of real growth for our children. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved, both in and out of the classroom.

As we head into the holiday break, I hope you all enjoy some well-deserved rest and special time together. For those in our community who will be celebrating, we wish you a very Happy Easter—may it be a time of joy, hope, and renewal.

Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school family.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting summer term ahead.

Mrs Hopper

Teaching and Learning EYFS

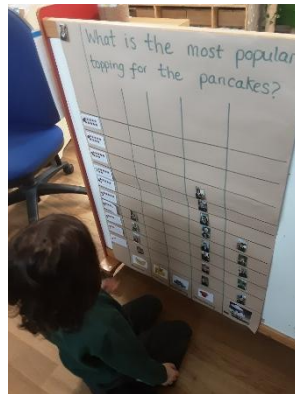
We celebrated World Book Day. Rabbit's class joined in with an online author event, listening to the story of Ten Tiny Squirrels by Kael Tudor. Kael then taught us how to draw a bear. The children listened so well firstly to the story and then to the instructions for drawing the bear. Their concentration skills have improved so much since September.



Children in Rabbits and Squirrels also enjoyed a sensory story in the woodlands. We all went on a bear hunt!



We had pancakes for snack to mark Shrove Tuesday. The children had a choice of healthy toppings and we used our subsidising skills to see which the most popular choice was.



During Children's Mental Health Week we shared stories that helped us to identify our feelings. We did lots of mindfulness activities such as listening to calming music and placing a teddy on our tummy to feel it move up and down with our breath.

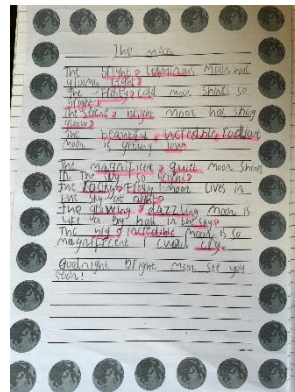
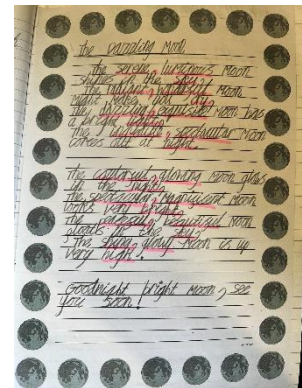
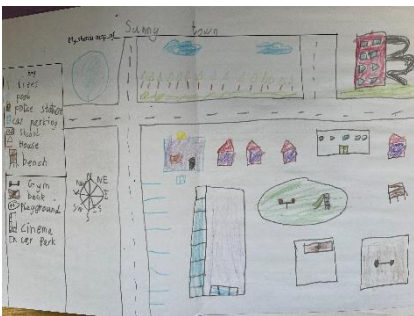


In Rabbits, our story was The Jar Full of Happiness. We thought about what makes us feel happy and drew pictures in our jars.



In Geography this half term, Year 1 and Year 2 have enjoyed exploring maps. We used atlases to locate countries around the world and examined local maps, learning how to use keys to understand different features. We then applied our knowledge by creating our own sketch maps of fictional towns. Here are a couple of our creations below.

In English, Year 2 have been working on the poem *The Moon*. We began by creating a bank of adjectives and then 'up levelled' them using thesauruses. Next, we explored different poems and identified rhyming words. Finally, we used these ideas to write our own poems about the moon, editing, publishing and performing them. Take a look at a few of our finished pieces below – we are very proud of them!



This term, Years 3 and 4 have continued to work hard while enjoying a broad and engaging curriculum. In maths, the Penguins class have been developing their skills in addition and subtraction with larger numbers, while Polar Bears have been focusing on fractions. In Dolphins, our Year 4 pupils have been deepening their understanding of place value through work with decimals.

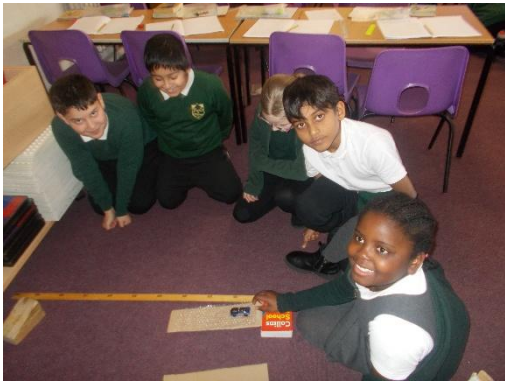
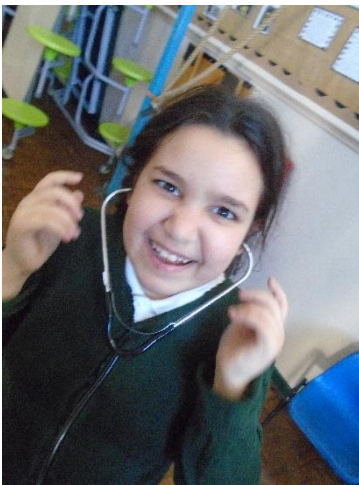
Across English lessons, all classes have shown great effort in improving their writing. The Penguins have been retelling *The Three Little Pigs*, while both Polar Bears and Dolphins have been crafting detailed setting descriptions inspired by their class texts.

In Design Technology, the children were proud to complete their Viking long ships and test them against the success criteria. Each boat needed to carry five passengers, be watertight to float, and include a working sail—an exciting and rewarding challenge for all.

In Science this half-term, pupils explored friction and how surfaces affect movement. They designed ramps using materials such as bubble wrap, foil and cardboard, then tested and compared how far a toy car travelled on each surface.

The three classes also enjoyed a special visit from a team from Ipswich Hospital. They shared their new book, *Who Will You Be?* And introduced the children to the 14 Allied Health Professions,

explaining their important roles within the hospital. The pupils took part in a range of fun, hands-on activities and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



UKS2

Ipswich Trail Makers and Ranelagh Primary School

On Friday 27th February, Wolsey 550, the Ipswich Society and Sizewell Creative visited UKS2 pupils at Ranelagh Primary School to introduce them to the stories of individuals commemorated with a Blue Plaque.

Using archive materials and guided enquiry, pupils investigated their chosen historical figure before scripting and producing a digital character to represent them. Created entirely by the students, these characters will form part of a new public heritage trail launching in early September.

As part of the programme, pupils also learned about the Blue Plaque nomination process, considering who in their own community might deserve recognition in the future.

The pupils showed particular interest in George Henry Alexander Clowes, a pioneer in the development of insulin whose work has directly impacted some of their families, and Elizabeth Cobbold, recognised for her commitment to kindness and advocacy.

The project will culminate during Heritage Open Days in September, with the launch of a town trail featuring eight characters and eight Trail Maker plaques positioned close to the original Blue Plaque locations.



Some of our Year 5/6 pupils have been working closely with Ipswich Town Football club this term, taking part in a programme called Divert. This helps support our young people in areas such as aspiration and self-esteem. Two of our pupils, Shiloh and Lorenzo, impressed the coaches so much that they have the honour of 'Flying the Flag' at the upcoming Ipswich V Millwall game. Give them a wave if you are going to the game.



World Book Day Celebration

This year, for **World Book Day**, we had a cosy and fun celebration by encouraging all students and staff to come to school dressed comfortably in their **pyjamas**. It was wonderful to see everyone embracing the spirit of the day while enjoying reading and storytelling activities throughout the school.

We were especially delighted to welcome parents who volunteered to come in and read to classes in their **first language**, including **Polish, Romanian, and Portuguese**. Their contributions made the day even more special and highlighted the rich diversity of our school community.



SPORTS

This half term, Ranelagh took part in an exciting dance workshop called *Groove and Grow*. *Groove and Grow: Dance Education for All* is an inclusive, school-based dance outreach programme developed and delivered by the Ipswich School of Dancing, with funding support from the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing. All children from Nursery to Year 6 participated in the workshop and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. 

This half term, Miss Smith-Gratton also took eight girls from Years 2 and 3 to a football festival. This was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to develop their football skills in a fun and practical environment. The children played six games in total, winning two, drawing one and losing three. The girls showed fantastic sportsmanship throughout the event, playing with smiles on their faces despite the outcome of some of the matches. Fantastic work, girls!





ESafety

On 26th February, Ranelagh celebrated Safer Internet Day. Our fantastic E-Safety Ambassadors visited classrooms to teach younger pupils about both the positive and negative aspects of AI. Dom, Emma, Denise and Elijah all did an excellent job engaging the children. Dom said he was “shocked at the amazing writing in the Robins class,” while Elijah shared that he was “pleased with how well they listened.” Emma returned to the Lions class eager to do it all again, and Denise commented that she was “very pleased with how well the younger pupils listened.”

Next week, the ambassadors will be helping to deliver an assembly focused on encouraging pupils to limit their screen time over the Easter break. For further guidance on supporting children with this at home, please see the following resource:

<https://www.premier-education.com/news/a-guide-to-limiting-screen-time-for-kids/>





Road Safety

In Road Safety news, the JSRO's are very excited to announce the winner of the poster competition - Miraya from Lions! Her poster design will be printed and placed next to the staff car park at the end of Paul's Road to make sure that pedestrians are being safe when crossing the gates.

The 16th - 27th March is the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel competition. Over these two weeks, please try to cycle, scoot or walk to school where possible. Remember, you can park at Buzz Bingo on Ranelagh Road and walk over. There will be prizes for the most active class.



Thank you!!

We would also like to give a special shout out to **Miniclip** for their incredibly generous donation of **£2,000** to Ranelagh. Their support will help us continue to provide enriching opportunities and resources for our pupils, and we are very grateful for their contribution to our school community.



Our Leavers

We would like to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to the three members of staff who will be leaving Ranelagh at the end of this term. Each of them has contributed so much to our school community, bringing dedication, kindness and commitment to the children and to our team.

We are incredibly grateful for everything they have done during their time with us, and for the positive impact they have had on our school. They will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and families alike.

We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours and hope that the next chapter brings them continued success and happiness. Thank you for being such valued members of our Ranelagh family.



Miss S Cloud



Miss C Flack



Mrs N Murdoch

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Hyam** back to Ranelagh following her maternity leave. It is wonderful to have her return to the team, and we know the children are very excited to see her again. We look forward to the enthusiasm, expertise and positivity she always brings to the classroom.

Please join us in giving her a very warm welcome back!



Attendance Update

A friendly reminder to all parents and carers that our weekly attendance newsletters are now available on the school website. These updates share important information about attendance across the school and celebrate the excellent commitment many of our pupils show in coming to school every day.

We encourage families to take a moment to read the newsletter each week to stay informed and to help support our continued focus on strong attendance for all pupils. Please reach out to our Deputy Head teacher (Mrs Hearn) if there is anything we can do to help.

Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Benefits of Good Attendance

- Pupils with good attendance generally achieve higher grades.
- Pupils with good attendance generally enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Good school attendance helps to develop other responsible patterns of behaviour.



Some Risks of Poor Attendance

- Pupils are likely to miss learning activities that their classmates have taken part in, which could mean they fall behind.
- They miss out on social interaction with friends/classmates. This can have a negative effect on the wellbeing and self-esteem.
- Low attendance is associated with anti-social behaviour and poor learning behaviours.

THE LAW AND YOU

The Law states (Education Act 1996, Section 7) that all children of compulsory school age must receive an appropriate full-time education. As a parent/carer, you are legally responsible for making sure your child receives an effective education. Failure to ensure your child attends school regularly could lead to intervention from the Missing Education & Child Employment Service which has the power to implement:

Fixed Penalty Notices	Prosecution	An Education Supervision Order
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CAN I GET SUPPORT?

Absolutely! We appreciate the unavoidable events that affect our pupils and their families. We believe that the most effective way to ensure your child remains on track is to work together to maximise support in their/your time of need.

Our caring and dedicated staff are committed to making sure your child is happy and getting the best out of their time at Ranelagh.

Please make contact with the school if you require support.

 01473 251608

Please remember that we have a tooth friendly policy. We respectfully ask that you do not send sweets in for children's birthdays or food based party bags.

Instead, if you would like to, you can buy a book for your child's class and wrap it up for your child to open in front of their friends. You are welcome to write in the book, e.g. 'To Wrens class from James.'

Teachers will be able to give you ideas of the books that would be suitable for each class. This will help us as a school to update our book stocks in classrooms too and the children will all benefit from this much more than a few sweets.

Key Dates

End of spring term	30 th March – 10 th April
Summer term begins	Monday 13 th April

Want to be the first to know what's happening? To keep up to date with school news and events, please make sure you have signed up for emails and do visit the school website <http://www.ranelaghprimary.co.uk/>

Follow our Twitter page [@RanelaghPrimary](#) Ranelagh Primary School, Paul's Road, IP2 0AN 01473 251608/ admin@ranelagh.suffolk.sch.uk
Chair of Governors: Mr Gary Morgan