



INGLETON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

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Let your Light Shine – Matthew 5:16

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Monday 9th February – Sunday 15th February** – Children's Mental Health Week
- **Tuesday 10th February** – Safer Internet Day
- **Tuesday 17th February** – Y5/6 Netball Tournament
- **Thursday 19th February** – Y1/2 Multi Skills Festival
- **Friday 20th February** – Last day of Spring Term 1
- **Monday 2nd March** – Return to school for Spring Term 2
- **Thursday 5th March** – World Book Day



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CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week in school we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week (**9th – 15th February**)

This year's theme is '**This is My Place**'.

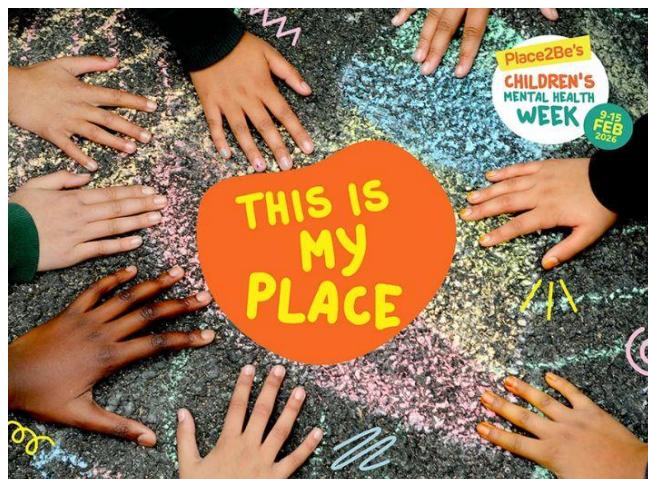
It focuses on fostering a sense of belonging and community, helping children feel seen and understood.

What is Belonging?

- Feeling that you have a place where you are always welcome and valued as either place or set of people.
- A place you belong with your family and friends.
- Feeling included, not left out.
- Belonging means feeling a connection with something, feeling like I am meant to be there with no stresses or worries. It's all about feeling safe.
- Feeling a part of something e.g. a group or society.
- People accepting you as you are.

Parents can access free, expert developed resources including activity ideas and tips to support their child's emotional wellbeing at home - just click on the link below.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/resources/#families>



SAFER INTERNET DAY

We will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on **Tuesday 10th February 2026**. This year's theme is "**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.**"

Throughout the day, children will be learning about how artificial intelligence, voice assistants and online algorithms work, and how to use technology safely, responsibly and thoughtfully. The focus is on helping children build the skills and confidence they need to navigate an increasingly digital world.

Parents and carers can find helpful guidance and conversation starters at:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

We would also like to share some additional helpful websites and resources for parents, offering clear and practical guidance on online safety, artificial intelligence and how to support your child online.

Childnet – advice for parents/carers about social media, gaming, online bullying and more.

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parents-and-carers>

Kids Online Safety (UK government campaign) – practical steps and discussion tips to help protect children online.

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>

Internet Matters – guides on parental controls, starting conversations and understanding AI in kids' digital lives.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Parentkind Online Safety Toolkit – UK-focused advice on screen time, cyberbullying, social media and digital wellbeing.

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/online-safety-toolkit>

NSPCC – Talking to children about AI – guidance on discussing artificial intelligence and keeping online interactions safe.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai/>



saferinternetday.org.uk

PARKING

This is just a friendly reminder to please take care when dropping off and collecting pupils at school. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that residents' drives and gateways are not blocked under any circumstances. While we understand that the roads around our school are public highways, we would really appreciate it if you were mindful when parking and show respect for our residents.

Also, we encourage you to turn off engines when stationary, as vehicle exhaust emissions contribute to air pollution, affecting our children and community. If you need a place to park, the Black Horse is a great option.

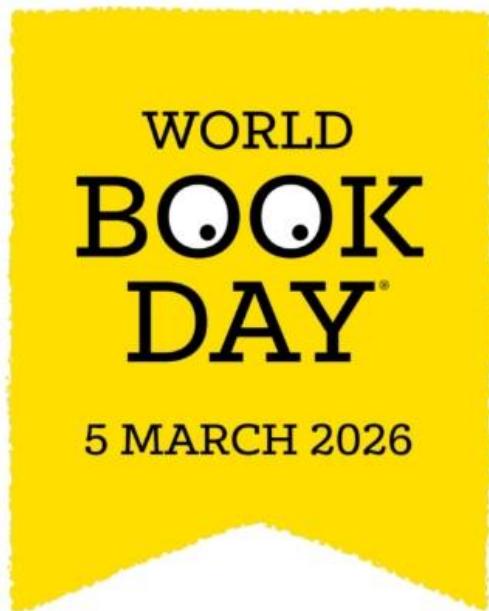
PE DAYS

- **Little Acorns (Nursery & Reception)** - Tuesday & Friday
- **Willow Class (Y1 & Y2)** – Tuesday & Thursday
- **Chestnut Class (Y3 & Y4)** – Tuesday (swimming) & Thursday
- **Oak Class (Y5 & Y6)** Monday & Thursday

Also, for PE lessons, we kindly ask that children either wear trainers to school or have a pair of trainers and socks (especially if they usually wear tights) packed in their PE bags – thank you.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We're excited to celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**. Children are invited to **dress up as their favourite book character** and bring in a copy of the book if they can. During the day, we'll have a range of fun reading activities and we're looking forward to seeing everyone's costumes. If you have any old costumes that your child has grown out of and would like to donate, please feel free to send them in. FOIS also have some pre-loved costumes for sale [FOIS Costumes](#). Why not take a look.

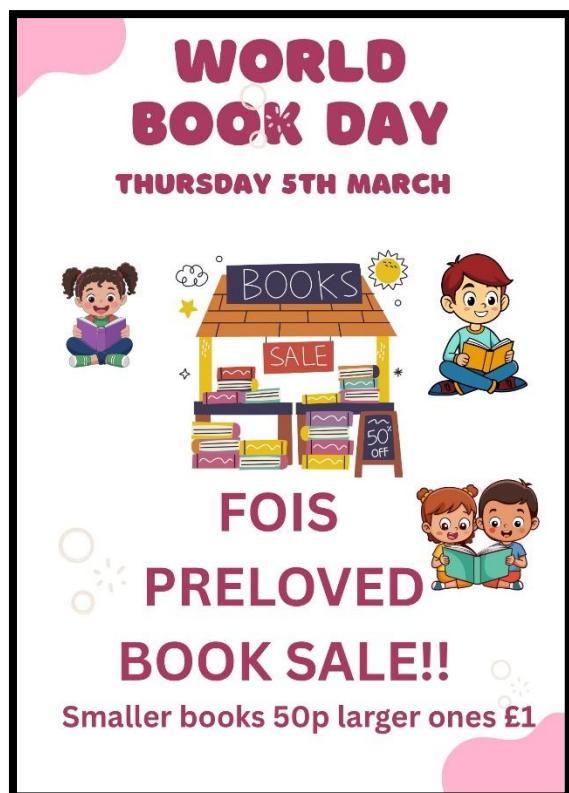


FRIENDS OF INGLETON SCHOOL

Our first event for 2026 will be the World Book Day (5th March) preloved book sale. We are looking for:

- Donations of children's books you no longer need.
- Willing volunteers to help set up and man the stall.

Please get in touch if you can help with either.



FOIS UNIFORMERLY

Have you had a look in our preloved uniform shop recently?

With over 300 items it's easy to find what you're looking for, save some money and do your bit for the planet and Friends of Ingleton School. What's not to love. 😊

[Ingleton Uniformerly](#)



Dressing up ideas



<https://www.worldbookday.com/resources/dressing-up-ideas-for-parents-and-carers/>



STARS OF THE WEEK

Willow Class (EYFS/ Y1 & Y2)

Emmett, Freddie, Hugo & Mia

Chestnut Class (Y3&Y4)

Izzy, Carenza, Redd, Liam & Arabella

Oak Class (Y5&Y6)

Harley, Jessie, Lexie, Theo & Oliver

Keep Up the Good Work!

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE POLICY

2025-2026

Just a reminder that our **Attendance and Absence Policy 2025-2026** is available on our school website.

https://www.ingletoncofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies

This has been updated in line with updated Government guidance and regulations including information linked to the new national framework on issuing penalty notices.

I would be grateful if you could ensure you read this document carefully and are fully aware of the legal requirements around attendance - thank you.

ATTENDANCE

Our minimum target is 96%

Well done to Chestnut Class who have achieved attendance in line with this target. Great work!

| Willow | Chestnut | Oak |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 94.6% | 96.2% | 95.7% |

Current Whole School Attendance is **95.5%**

While this is close, it is below the national expectation of 96% and we really want to improve!

Every school day matters - good attendance helps children build friendships, enjoy learning and make the best progress possible.

Let's work together to get our attendance up and give every child the best chance to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support!



CORE VALUE SUPERSTARS

LOVE / KINDNESS / HONESTY & RESPECT

Willow Class (EYFS/ Y1 & Y2)

Rosie, Mia, Wade & Emmett

Chestnut Class (Y3&Y4)

Georgia, Mhairi, Ollie, Kaylah, Carenza, Izzy & Katherine



Oak Class (Y5&Y6)

Ben, Theo, Hugh & Noah

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Just a reminder that the law states that a Head Teacher is unable to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

We ask that parents complete a leave of absence form which is available on our school website or from the school office at least two weeks before the start of the leave.

Please be aware that unauthorised absences on your child's attendance records could result in you receiving a penalty notice from the local authority.

5 days / 10 sessions unauthorised absence in a 10 week rolling period must now be referred for enforcement action.

Within a 3-year period:

The first penalty notice is **£160** if paid within 28 days, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days.

A second penalty notice is **£160** to be paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued. **Legal action** may result (for example, prosecution).

Fines are issued per parent / per child, not per family.

Further information, including our **school holiday dates**, can be found on our website:

https://www.ingletoncofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_holidays/

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2208/Holidays-in-term-time>



OAK CLASS NETBALL COMPETITION

Pupils from Oak Class will be participating in a Y5/Y6 Netball Competition at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on **Tuesday 17th February (9.00am-11.30am)**. Our staff will accompany the pupils and parents do not need to attend. This is for your information only.

The bus will leave promptly at 9.00am. Please ensure that pupils come to school in their school PE kits, have a water bottle and wear a warm coat – thank you!



YEAR 1 & 2 MULTI-SKILLS

Year 1 & 2 pupils will be taking part in a multi-skills festival at Staindrop Academy on **Thursday 19th February (9.30am-11.30am)**.

Our staff will accompany the pupils and parents do not need to attend. This is for your information only.



SAFEGUARDING

At Ingleton C of E Primary School, we are passionate about and committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and visitors to share this commitment.

Any concerns about children are passed through the members of staff who are trained as Designated Child Protection Leads. In our school, these are myself (Mrs Whitaker) and Mrs Street-Poulsen. We also have two link Safeguarding Academy Councillors - Mr Deakin and Mrs Hawlor.



Mrs Whitaker



Mrs Street-Poulsen



Mr Deakin



Mrs Hawlor

We have robust policies in place to ensure the well-being of our children. These policies underpin our practice and values shared by every single member of staff in our school. Copies are available from the school office or via our website www.ingletoncofeprimary.co.uk/web/safeguarding & [https://www.ingletoncofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies](http://www.ingletoncofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies)

Please note that if you are ever worried or concerned about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

EARLY REMINDER STANDARDISED TESTS

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/primary-assessments-future-dates#academic-year-2025-to-2026>

If you have a child in either Year 1 / Year 2 / Year 4 or Year 6 please click on the following links below for further information:

- [Key Stage 1 SATS Parents Guide](#)
- [Key Stage 2 SATS Parents Guide](#)
- [Assessment Results at the end of key stage 2: information for parents](#)
- [Year 4 Multiplication Check Information for Parents Guide](#)
- [Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Parents Guide](#)

KEY DATES

| STANDARDISED TEST | WEEK COMMENCING |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Year 6 SATs | Monday 11th May 2026 – Thursday 14th May 2026. |
| Year 2 SATs (optional) | It is recommended that the optional key stage 1 tests are administered during May 2026 . |
| Year 4 Multiplication Check | Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 1st June 2026 . |
| Year 1 Phonic Screening Check | Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 8th June 2026 . |

TERM DATES 2025-2026

| Holiday | Closing date | Date re-opens |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Spring half-term 2026 | Friday 20 th February 2026 | Monday 2 nd March 2026 |
| Easter 2026 | Thursday 2 nd April 2026 | Monday 20 th April 2026 |
| May Day 2026 | Friday 1 st May 2026 | Tuesday 5 th May 2026 |
| Summer half-term 2026 | Thursday 21 st May 2026 | Monday 1 st June 2026 |
| Summer 2026 | Friday 17 th July 2026 | TBC |

Teacher Training Days

2025-2026

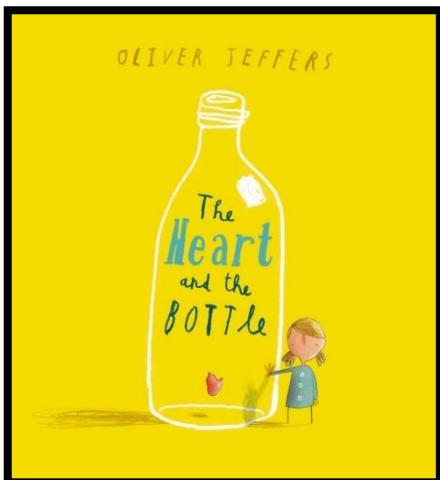
- ~~Monday 1st September 2025~~
- ~~Tuesday 2nd September 2025~~
- Friday 22nd May 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026



Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Whitaker & The Ingleton Team x

Recommended Reads

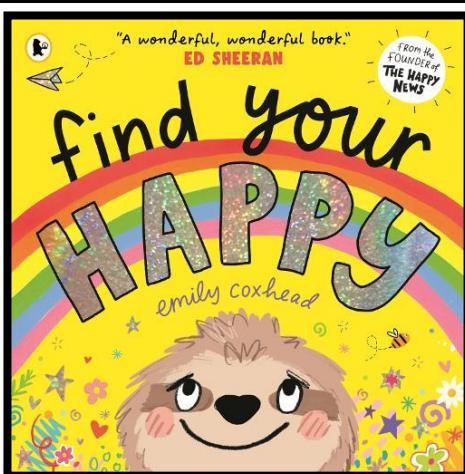


[The Heart and the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers](#)

Award-winning picture book star Oliver Jeffers explores themes of love and loss in this life-affirming and uplifting tale.

Once there was a girl whose life was filled with wonder at the world around her...

Then one day something happened that made the girl take her heart and put it in a safe place. However, after that it seemed that the world was emptier than before. But would she know how to get her heart back? In this deeply moving story, Oliver Jeffers deals with the weighty themes of love and loss with an extraordinary lightness of touch and shows us, ultimately, that there is always hope.

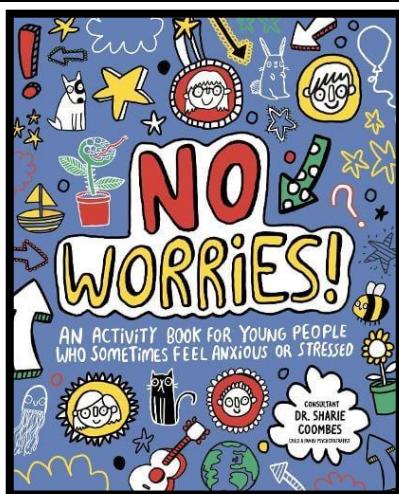


[Find Your Happy - My Happy Feelings by Emily Coxhead](#)

A joyful exploration of our emotions to help children feel calm by Emily Coxhead, the much-loved creator of *The Happy News*

Feeling happy is a wonderful thing! But do you ever feel sad or angry, frightened or shy? Everyone does sometimes, but with a little help from Sloth and the people you love, there is always a way to FIND YOUR HAPPY!

Full of vibrant illustrations and practical ideas, this is an accessible, friendly, reassuring and uplifting book of feelings, from the much-loved creator of *The Happy News*.

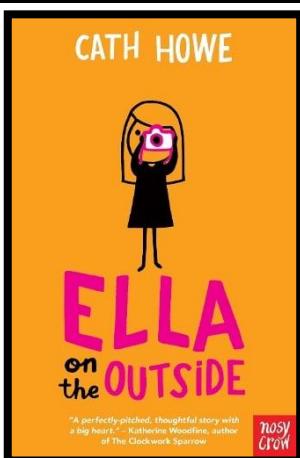


[No Worries! Mindful Kids: An activity book for children who sometimes feel anxious or stressed - Mindful Kids](#)

No Worries! is an interactive self-care activity book for children aged 7+ to colour and doodle their way to happiness, calm and confidence.

The encouraging and simple activities and exercises tackle anxiety, sadness and stress; children will enjoy using their creativity to combat negative feelings, work out why they feel worried and how to put stress back in its place through writing, colouring, doodling and drawing.

Featuring the charming and quirky illustrations of Katie Abey, a UK-based illustrator. Her quirky pictures will keep the reader entertained and focused as they work through the book or simply dip into the pages for ten minutes of calm colouring.



[Ella on the Outside by Cath Howe](#)

Ella is the new girl at school. She doesn't know anyone and she doesn't have any friends. And she has a terrible secret. Ella can't believe her luck when Lydia, the most popular girl in school, decides to be her new best friend - but what does Lydia really want? And what does it all have to do with Molly, the quiet, shy girl who won't talk to anyone?

Her time at this new school is a gripping story filled with secrets, lies and friendship...

