

Tudor Court Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026



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Inspire - Challenge - Succeed

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Message from the Deputy Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy half term and what a wonderful way to finish - celebrating **Children's Mental Health Week** with the theme "*This is My Place.*" Throughout the week, children have been exploring the important enquiry question: "*Why does belonging matter for mental health?*" It has been fantastic to see them expressing themselves so creatively through their costumes while raising money for the children's charity Place2Be. The conversations around belonging, feeling valued and being part of a community have been thoughtful and inspiring.

This special week also coincided with our much-anticipated **Tudor Week**, where the school stepped back in time! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the fascinating Tudor period, immersing themselves in history and bringing the era to life through their learning activities. I would like to congratulate our staff, children and parents for their dedication and hard work this half term. Your continued support and enthusiasm make such a difference to school life.

This half term also marked the end of our Geography focus cycle. It has been a pleasure to hear children confidently discussing their learning and answering enquiry questions such as "*What does local mean to me?*", "*Why do people live in places with earthquakes and volcanoes?*" and "*Why are rainforests important?*" Trips and workshops have taken place to deepen understanding, and it has been clear how engaged and curious the children have been.

In Design and Technology, our focus has been on nutrition and healthy choices. Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to work alongside a professional chef to prepare and cook their own Cantonese sweet and sour chicken dish. We hope you will encourage them to recreate the recipe at home - we are sure they will be keen to show off their new culinary skills!

Our Year 3 children also enjoyed a food technology session where they tasted a variety of vegetables and made their own healthy wraps. They even brought their creations home to share. We hope this has inspired some positive conversations about making healthy choices, particularly when preparing lunches.

A reminder regarding health and safety: from the beginning of next half term, the school premises will be a **scooter-free zone**. We continue to encourage children to walk or ride scooters to school; however, scooters must be left near the school gates in the designated areas. Children should not ride scooters on the school grounds, even if accompanied by parents. Bicycles may continue to be brought onto site and stored in the bike racks as usual.

We will share this message again at the beginning of next half term, along with images of the designated scooter areas to make this clear for everyone. We kindly ask parents to speak to their children about this change and thank you in advance for your support in helping us keep all members of our community safe.

Thank you once again for your continued support this half term. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for more exciting learning.

Debra Nemhara

Deputy Head teacher



Tudor Court – British Science Week

Dates: 9th–13th March



This Year's Theme: **Curiosity – What's Your Question?**

We are excited to celebrate British Science Week at Tudor Court! This national event encourages children to explore, ask questions, and discover the world around them through science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). In school, children will be encouraged to ask questions, investigate ideas, and think about how they can find answers whilst taking part in a number of practical investigations.

Getting involved at home: Each house has a science question inspired by the historical figure it is named after. Children may explore their house question through discussion, drawing, research, simple experiments, or model-making.

Tudor House

Inspired by Elizabeth Tudor (Elizabeth I), who was interested in alchemy and early chemistry.

How do scientists change materials — and why can't we really turn things into gold?

- Mix safe household materials (baking soda and vinegar) and watch changes.
- Discuss differences between magic and science.

Shakespeare House

Inspired by William Shakespeare – a playwright, poet and keen observer of human nature and the natural world.

How does observing the natural world help us tell stories or explain ideas?

- Observe clouds, shadows, or insects and describe them.
- Write a short poem or scene inspired by nature.

Francis House

Inspired by Jacques Francis, a skilled Tudor diver who worked on underwater salvage projects.

How can humans explore underwater and stay safe?

- Consider challenges like breathing, pressure, and visibility underwater.
- Design a submarine or diving equipment.

Blanke House

Inspired by John Blanke, a royal trumpeter in the Tudor court, showing the importance of sound and music.

How is sound made and how does it travel?

- Make simple instruments using bottles, containers, or rubber bands.
- Explore how changing size, shape, or tension affects sound.

Please make sure to take photographs of your child's learning and share them with us via email so we can celebrate them in school: science@tudorcourtprimary.com

Children may also bring photos, drawings, notes or models to share their thinking in class. We'll be hosting a Science exhibition in school on Friday 15th March with prizes and certificates for the best young scientists.

Thank you, Mr. Raymond, Science lead

What's been going on in school this half term?



Nursery

Nursery children returned after Christmas and settled back in so well. The children have enjoyed reading lots of stories and have made puppets and characters inspired by the stories they have heard. They particularly loved *Penguin and Pinecone* and still talk about how big the tree grew!

The children have started learning a weekly nursery rhyme and are becoming more confident sharing it with adults and their friends. The rainy weather has provided plenty of opportunities to explore big puddles outside, which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

This week, we read the story *Mr Wolf's Pancakes*, and best of all, we enjoyed trying pancakes together with our friends.

Well done, Nursery children

Reception

This half term, we enjoyed a lovely winter walk around the school grounds. We discovered frost on the ground, explored ice, and investigated how we could make it melt. We were even lucky enough to see snow!

We have started Drawing Club, which the children are thoroughly enjoying. They are using their drawing skills and imagination to create characters and settings, and applying their phonics knowledge to write codes. Through the stories we read, the children have been introduced to exciting new vocabulary such as *capture, misty, splatter, and ignore*.

The children are also developing their computing skills by taking photographs and using the mark-up tool on the iPads. In phonics, they continue to build their reading and writing skills by reading simple words, and we are developing our handwriting by learning to form letters correctly to support writing.

The rainy weather has provided plenty of opportunities to splash in puddles and think about why it rains. We have also been learning about different celebrations, including Chinese New Year. The children even wrote their names using the Chinese alphabet.

Well done, Reception children – you have had a fantastic half term!

Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have continued to work hard and have demonstrated great engagement in our learning. Our Geography focused second cycle 'What does local mean?' came to an end with the children producing a wonderful poster to inform others why they should move to Chafford Hundred. We became geographers to explore and learn about places within our school, where our school is situated as what kind of a place our local area is.

In DT, our focus has been Free Standing Structures. We investigated playground structures, how they are used and the need for them to be stable. The children designed and created their own piece of free standing playground equipment with the resilience, enthusiasm and focus they demonstrated being commendable!

In writing, inspired by the story 'Little Red Riding Hood', the children became authors to write their own story. It was a joy to see the children's creativity and application of skills they have learnt in their narratives.

Year 1 have finished this half term with Tudor Week. We learnt about the War of the Roses and found out what is significant about our school emblem, the Tudor Rose. We also discovered who Henry VIII was and looked at significant events in his life. We listened to a speech given by Queen Elizabeth I, Henry's daughter, at Tilbury and learnt how due to this link to local history, our school was named 'Tudor Court' when it opened in 1992.

The children have continued to make us proud and we look forward to continuing our learning journey next half term. Please keep supporting their learning at home through regular reading and practising their Common Exception Words.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a restful half term break.

Year 2

We have had a busy and exciting term! The children have enjoyed a range of hands-on learning experiences, including building a den, making bird feeders, and creating their own smoothies as part of their instruction writing in English.

The children have been busy learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables, and this is really helping our little learners develop quick recall of multiplication and division facts.

Regular practice at home makes a big difference, so please continue to encourage your child to practise counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10, recalling related division facts, and spotting patterns in numbers. This will build confidence and support their learning across maths next term.

In Science, the children have been learning about the five food groups and discussing what makes a healthy packed lunch. In Geography, they explored the usefulness of maps, globes and atlases, and thoroughly enjoyed using playdough to mould the continents to develop their understanding of the world.

We are very proud of all their hard work. Please have a restful half term, and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Year 3

In January, Year 3 had a river workshop run by the Thames Explore Trust. This was a wonderful opportunity for children to extend their knowledge of rivers around the world. They were surprised to learn that creatures such as seahorses and seals are residents of the River Thames and that whales and dolphins have also been spotted in the river water too. As part of their DT topic, the children have been learning about healthy food options and this week had a food technology session where they had the chance to taste a variety of vegetables and make a healthy wrap.

After half term, we will begin on their next learning cycle about ancient civilisations, especially focusing on Ancient Egypt – maybe as a family you might want to visit the British Museum to see some artefacts or try out the VR experience at Westfield called Rameses and the Pharaohs Gold. During the first week of May, you will be invited to join us for a workshop creating papyrus and trying to write hieroglyphs.

To further support your child's learning, please encourage them to use spelling frame and ensure they are reading at least 3 times a week, even over the half term break.
Have a lovely half term holiday.



Year 4

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed the first half of the spring term, returning after the New Year with great enthusiasm and already immersing themselves in a wide range of exciting learning opportunities.

The children took part in a day as a geographer, where they enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities. They became architects, designing and building earthquake-proof houses using spaghetti and marshmallows, before turning into scientists to investigate lava flow through exciting Diet Coke and Mentos experiments.

Our trip to the Pompeii experience was a real highlight of the half term. The children explored the ancient city through a range of immersive VR experiences, helping them to step back in time and deepen their understanding of the effects of living near a volcano.

To conclude their Geography learning, the children became business executives from Lava Landscapes, delivering persuasive presentations to try to sell houses at the base of Mount Etna to prospective buyers. This was a fantastic way for them to showcase their knowledge and speaking skills...

Year 4 also took part in NSPCC Number Day, enjoying a range of fun maths activities while raising money for a very worthwhile cause. They also competed in a nationwide Times Tables Rock Stars competition, showing great determination and teamwork.

The half term ended with an exciting Tudor Week, where the children learned all about Tudor crime and punishment. Some pupils produced outstanding showcases of their learning, demonstrating both creativity and excellent historical understanding.

Year 4 have worked extremely hard this half term, and we hope they all enjoy a well-earned and restful half-term break.



Year 5

It has been another busy and successful half term in Year 5. The children have engaged enthusiastically with our geography topic, “Where does food come from?” particularly enjoying learning about the journey of chocolate from farm to table.

In English, pupils explored the characters in our class text Hugo Cabret, producing thoughtful and imaginative diary entries from different characters’ perspectives. They also showed great enthusiasm during our non-fiction unit, “Is screen use making children lazy?”, which inspired many interesting discussions and lively debates. To further develop their story-writing skills, the children took part in an interactive workshop with virtual author Catherine Bruton, where they learned how to create engaging animal stories.

A real highlight of the half term has been our D&T unit, during which the children had the exciting opportunity to work alongside a professional chef to prepare and cook their own Cantonese Sweet and Sour Chicken dish. We wish you all a restful half term break and thank you for your continued support.
Year 5 team.



Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and successful half term. We have now concluded our Geography learning for this cycle, where the children wrote thoughtful and well-reasoned letters about the importance of rainforests, both locally and globally. They carefully considered the views of a wide range of stakeholders, including plantation owners, indigenous groups, tourists and scientists, showing great maturity and understanding of complex issues.

In writing, the children demonstrated fantastic creativity through a scary narrative about a girl called Alma who is mysteriously turned into a doll by a strange shop, followed by a newspaper report about a missing girl. Alongside this, Year 6 have worked incredibly hard on their mock SATs and should be very proud of their effort and resilience.

We are really looking forward to seeing the children's creativity continue with their rainforest diorama homework, which is due in after half term. This week also marked the start of Tudor Week, which began with lots of fun as the children dressed up as their favourite Tudors or wore their house colours.

School News

Houses

As part of Tudor Week, we held our second ever House assemblies. This was an opportunity for our wonderful House Captains and House Leaders to revisit the lives of the person that their house is named after and to celebrate the successes so far this year.

Our currently termly and yearly totals are:

| This term's running total | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|-------|
| Blanke | Francis | Shakespeare | Tudor |
| 16 | 8 | 17 | 9 |

So far this year our wonderful children have earned **38,648** house points! They are working hard to ensure their house is the winner and receives the Spring Term reward.

Sports

A massive Congratulations again to all those who took part in the Chelmsford Cross Country league this half term with some children competing in their first ever race and lots smashing their previous best. A special well done to Reggie and Daisey for being the highest placed boy and girl finishers for Tudor court!

Also a congratulations to the boys footballers picking up points in their recent game scoring 3 goals in their last 2 games!

We look forward to more sports next half term, have a great half term everyone!

End of Term Attendance Winners

| Year | Class | Teacher | Number of wins this term |
|------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| R | 4 | Ms Green | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | Mrs Waller | 14 |
| 2 | 11 | Mrs Payne | 8 |
| 3 | 14 | Mrs Goldsmith | 11 |
| 4 | 16 & 17 | Mrs Field & Mrs Mehmud | 7 |
| 5 | 20 | Mrs Freese | 10 |
| 6 | 23 | Mr Kais | 11 |

Mental Health Week

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our 'COME AS YOURSELF' Mental Health Fundraising day. Thanks to your generosity and support, we were able to raise over **£390** for the wonderful charity **Place2Be**.

Your contributions will help support the systems around children and young people, enabling them to feel a strong sense of belonging and ensuring they have access to the emotional support they need.

We truly appreciate your kindness and commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our children and families.



NSPCC

On Friday 6th February, the school celebrated **NSPCC Number Day** in style. The school was bursting with colour as children and staff took part in "Dress up for Digits," wearing fantastic number-themed outfits. There were some incredibly creative costumes – and staff certainly joined in the fun too! Throughout the day, children enjoyed a range of engaging Number Day activities during their maths lessons, combining learning with creativity and generosity. We are delighted to share that as a school we raised **£370.07** for the NSPCC. Thank you for your continued kindness and support.



TUDOR TREASURES BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL CLUB RECEPTION TO YEAR 6

SIBLING DISCOUNTS OFFERED
PAY AS YOU GO – JUST BOOK BY 6PM THE DAY BEFORE

**Breakfast Club – Start the day
with a smile**

7.30am – 8.40am
£6.00 per session

- Healthy breakfast in a friendly, sociable setting
- Daily choices include cereal, toast, fruit & juice
- “Treat Fridays” – crumpets, croissants & more!
- Fun activities and time to play with friends

**Afterschool Club – A fun, safe place
after school**

3.00pm – 6.00pm
From £5.00 per session

- Wide range of indoor and outdoor activities
- Opportunity to socialise with friends afterschool
- Light meal served daily
- Fruit squash with food

Contact Us:

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website