



# Spring 1 - Newsletter - 08/01/2026

## Message from Mrs Sherwood

Happy New Year everyone. As always, it is lovely to see the children back in school and they are already getting on with their learning.

As you will see from our 'learning this term' section of this letter, it is going to be a busy term. In 2026 our school will be 60! So we will be celebrating this milestone birthday in the summer term!

Now a plea to our neighbours, over the Christmas break we have had people on the school site, while the school was closed. Equipment has been damaged in both our nursery and reception gardens. I would be so grateful if families who live near our school would watch over our site when our school is closed and if you should see or hear anything going on, please contact the police.

The Children's Commissioner has published a guide for parents which may be of interest to you, please do visit the following link:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Learning for Spring term

In nursery, we will be starting our learning about 'The World Around Me'. We will be turning our role play area into a seaside and using our large construction area outside to build our own aeroplanes. We start our new topic looking at the story of 'The Gingerbread Man'; making our own biscuits and turning our outside role play area into a bakery. The Gingerbread Man will then lead the children on a journey around the world, starting in London, where the children will be finding out about the King and investigating which construction resources make the best bridges. We will then travel to China allowing the children to learn about Chinese New Year and make some paper lanterns. When we return after half term, the nursery children will continue on their journey around the world by visiting Italy, where the children will use their creative skills to make their own gondolas and use their investigation skills when experimenting with floating and sinking. The final destination on their journey will be Greece, finding out about old and new buildings. As we come to the end of the term, the nursery will start to learn about the festival of Easter and have a visit from the local vicar as well as making their own Easter nests and going on a Spring hunt around the nursery gardens.

In reception, the children will be finding out about 'People Who Help' for the first half term. We will learn about the roles of various workers such as doctors, police officers, firefighters and people in the community such as refuse collectors. We will explore each job through fun practical activities, such as investigating recycling, role playing road safety and discussing how they can help others in our community. After half term, we will focus on 'Animals of the World'. We will be looking at animal life cycles, different habitats and will be listening to a range of exciting animal stories.

For the first half of the term, year 1 children will be focussing on 'Superheroes'. We will make our own superhero vehicle and write a superhero comic story, using speech bubbles. After half term, we will look at plants; naming the parts of plants and seeing where different plants can be found in the world. We will also read the story Stanley's Stick and use this story within different areas of their learning. The children will begin by discovering their own sticks, using these as imaginary objects before then writing an entry for a class book about their stick. The children will connect with the main character by writing a thought bubble and a postcard in role, before then going on to plan and write their own adapted version of the story.

Over the Spring term, the year 2 children will be looking at famous people such as Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong, to see why they are famous and to investigate what they achieved. After half term, we will be learning about castles and writing stories about life in a castle. Over the term, we will be learning about what humans and other animals need to survive and stay healthy. We will also learn about the safe use of medicines.

Year 3 will begin the term thinking about food groups and healthy eating. We will design and make healthy sandwiches. We will also be studying about the human body and seeing how muscles and skeletons work. In the second half of the term, we will then move on to a geographical focus; looking at Italy and Canada and comparing the climate and terrain.

Year 4 will learn about the Vikings, where they came from and how they travelled. There will have a Viking day, where the children will dress up and make Viking style food and artefacts. During science lessons, we will learn about teeth and digestion. We are also looking forward to going on our residential trip to Grafham Water.

If you require more detailed information, please look at the curriculum area of the school website.

## PTA News

### Happy New Year everyone!

We have a very exciting year ahead. Did you know that our school turns **60 years old** this year? What a fantastic milestone, and a great opportunity to get involved and support one of our many fundraising events throughout the year.

We would love as much help as possible, whether it's volunteering at events, helping with set-up, or supporting donations. Every little bit really does make a difference.

### ***Upcoming Fundraising Events are as follows:***

#### **March**

- **Mother's Day Sort Out** – 6th March, 7:00pm

- **Mother's Day Sale** – 11th March (set up from 1:00pm)
- **School Disco** – 13th March, 4:15–5:15pm and 5:45–6:45pm (Set up from 3:00pm)

## June

- **Non-Uniform Day (Bottle Tombola Donation)** – 12th June
- **Bottle Sort Out & Father's Day Sort** – 12th June, 7:00pm
- **60th Anniversary Festival** – 13th June, 12:00–6:00pm (Set up from 10am)
- **Father's Day Sale** – 17th June (set up from 1:00pm)

## October

- **School Disco** – 9th October, 4:15–5:15pm and 5:45–6:45pm (Set up from 3:00pm)

## November

- **Fireworks** – Date TBC

## December

- **Non-Uniform Day for Rainbow Hampers** – 4th December
- **Rainbow Hamper Sort Out** – 4th December, 7:00pm

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to celebrating our **60th anniversary year** together and hope to see many of you at our events.

## NURSERY ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Our admissions process opened on 1st October for children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023. Please visit our website and view the admissions page for further information, link below:

<https://icknielwalk.herts.sch.uk/about-us/admissions/>

## RECEPTION & MIDDLE SCHOOL PLACE ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Parents of year 4 children should visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) to apply for their child's place at King James Academy Royston or alternative education settings for September 2026.

Parents of Nursery children should apply for their child's reception place by visiting [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions).

Please ensure that you have applied by **15th January**, which is the deadline.

## What's on

- **8th January 2026**

3.15-4.15pm - Lab Tots in Dove class

- **9th January 2026**

Year 4 Eagle class start swimming

3.15-4.15pm - Kings & Queens Chess Club in the literacy room

3.30-4.30pm - It's Your Cue Drama Club for Year 4s in Eagle class

- **12th January 2026**

3.15-4.15pm - RTFC Gymnastics Club in the school hall

- **13th January 2026**

3.15-4.15pm - RTFC Multi sports skills club

- **14th January 2026**

Guitar & Piano lessons

3.15-4.15pm - Outdoor Project club

- **15th January 2026**

Deadline for applying for Reception school places and middle school places for September 2026

3.15-4.15pm - Lab Tots in Dove class

- **16th January 2026**

Eagle class swimming

3.15-4.15pm - Kings & Queens Chess Club in the literacy room

3.30-4.30pm - It's Your Cue Drama Club

<https://icknielwalk.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/calendar/>

## Vacancy - Cleaner

We have a vacancy for a cleaner to join our dedicated and friendly team as soon as possible.

We need a cleaner (early morning or afternoon or early evening) during term time for two hours and fifteen minutes each day, some additional holiday cleaning will also be required.

The rate of pay is £12.65 per hour.

At Ickniel Walk First School we take the safety of our children very seriously and all applicants will be thoroughly vetted and will be subject to DBS checks, internet searches, health checks and references. You will be asked questions about safeguarding children in your interview, and you will receive regular safeguarding training while you are working with us.

Previous cleaning experience would be an advantage but not essential.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 23rd January 2026.


We reserve the right to interview and appoint before the closing date should the right candidate apply. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

For more details, please contact the school office on 01763 243392 or email [admin@icknielwalk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@icknielwalk.herts.sch.uk).

## Events in and around Royston and other useful information

CADS presents  
**Royston Panto 2026**

# Dick Whittington



11:30 am 25 Jan  
2 pm 24 / 31 Jan  
7:30 pm 24 / 30 / 31 Jan

Tickets £15 / £10  
KJAR (senior site)

CADSroyston.org.uk 07856 599039

### Parent & Carer Support Spring Term 2026

FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire



#### TALKING TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **7-19**, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



**Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
5<sup>th</sup> Jan to 9<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Online Course: ID 804**

**Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
4<sup>th</sup> Feb to 18<sup>th</sup> Mar  
**F2F Course: ID 802**  
St Albans, AL1 2LE

**Thursdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb to 19<sup>th</sup> Mar  
**Online Course: ID 803**

#### TALKING ANGER in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **11-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why children & adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger.
- Reduce conflict and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour.



**Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.30pm**  
6<sup>th</sup> Jan to 10<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Online Course: ID 805**

#### TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children **2-19**, with any additional need. Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.



**Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm**  
6<sup>th</sup> Jan to 10<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Online Course ID 797**

**Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Feb to 17<sup>th</sup> Mar  
**Online Course ID 796**

### TALKING FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-12** sharing tips on:

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self-esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.



**Thursdays 8.00 - 9.30pm**  
8<sup>th</sup> Jan to 12<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Online Course ID 799**

**Thursdays 9.45 - 11.15am**  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb to 19<sup>th</sup> Mar  
**Online Course ID 798**

**Thursdays 8.00 - 9.30pm**  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb to 19<sup>th</sup> Mar  
**Online Course ID 800**

### TALKING ANXIETY in FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children **3-12**, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour.



**Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.30am**  
4<sup>th</sup> Feb to 18<sup>th</sup> Mar  
**Online Course ID 801**

### TALKING DADS

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of children **0-19**, sharing information on:

- Improved listening and communication skills.
- A healthy dad-child relationship now and for the future.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad, you want to be.



**Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
7<sup>th</sup> Jan to 14<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Online Course: ID 806**

**Mondays 7.45 - 9.15pm**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Feb to 16<sup>th</sup> Mar  
**Online Course: ID 807**

#### Booking essential. Please Quote the Course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on: **07512 709556** or [bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund. Information taken on booking will be used to process your booking, check your eligibility, identify any access needs and will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy which is available on request



# CHILD & ADOLESCENTS THERAPIST Q&A EVENING: FOR PARENTS

For parents around anxiety with CYP - which will cover EBSA but will give a wider scope of conversation and offering support at the same time.  
For parents to have the opportunity to ask questions. Answered by myself, including other parents as a support network.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Location: Outside of the Box CIC, 3b, The Lanterns, 16 Melbourn St, Royston, SG8 7BX

Part of the Lanterns Project, for which Outside of the Box CIC was awarded a grant by NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and the Assura Community Fund.



Contact  
tina.messyminds@outlook.com  
esme.messyminds@outlook.com (admin)  
**BOOK NOW: TICKETS £20**  
ootb.pembee.app



## UNDERSTANDING EBSA WORKSHOP

WHEN SCHOOL FEELS TOO MUCH: PARENT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 3:00PM - 5:00PM

LOCATION : OUTSIDE OF THE BOX  
3B, THE LANTERNS, 16 MELBOURN ST, ROYSTON, SG8 7BX

### THE PURPOSE

- Understanding Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
- Emotional Regulation at Home
- Working with Schools
- Rebuilding Confidence & Attendance

### INFO

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

TICKETS: £20

TO BOOK: ootb.pembee.app

Led by Tina at Messy Minds in collaboration with Outside of the Box CIC.

A space for parents whose children are struggling with EBSA to be able to discuss with likeminded people and gain support if needed, in a friendly non-pressure environment.

**E** motionally  
**B** ased  
**S** chool  
**A** voidance

### ABOUT US

Part of the Lanterns Project, for which Outside of the Box CIC was awarded a grant by NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and the Assura Community Fund.



Contact

tina.messyminds@outlook.com

esme.messyminds@outlook.com (admin)

# Supporting Families with Protective Behaviours

For Mums, Dads & Carers

Online courses  
starting  
February 2026



**Are you looking for strategies and new ideas to help improve family life?**

**This fully funded 8-week term time course can help you to:**

Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour

Understand how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link together

Respond to a range of feelings e.g. anger, frustration, anxiety, stress and worry

Improve communication to build better relationships

Build on your own and your child's strengths

Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe

**For eligibility and to book your fully funded place please use this link or the QR code:**

**<https://forms.office.com/e/AhqfPJUW6T>**

**or email: [enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk)**



Please like us on Facebook for further updates @familiesfeelingsafe

**Wednesday  
mornings**  
4 Feb—25 March  
9.30am—11.30am

Or

**Wednesday  
evenings**  
4 Feb—25 March  
7.00pm—9.00pm



Funded by  
Hertfordshire  
County Council



Families Feeling Safe Protective Behaviours Services has been funded through HCC to provide Families Feeling Safe programmes across Hertfordshire. We deliver Protective Behaviours training for professionals and provide programmes and workshops to children and their families. [www.familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](http://www.familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk) E-mail: [enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk)

# Supporting Dads with Protective Behaviours

For Dads & Male Carers

Online course  
starting  
February 2026



Thursday evenings

5 Feb—26 March  
7.00pm—9.00pm  
(excluding half term)

**Are you looking for strategies and new ideas to help improve family life?**

**This fully funded 7-week term time course can help you to:**

Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour

Understand how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link together

Respond to a range of feelings e.g. anger, frustration, anxiety, stress and worry

Improve communication to build better relationships

**For eligibility and to book your fully funded place please use this link or the QR code**

**<https://forms.office.com/e/AhqfPJUW6T>**

**or email: [enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk)**



Please like us on Facebook for further updates @familiesfeelingsafe

Funded by  
Hertfordshire  
County Council



Families Feeling Safe Protective Behaviours Services has been funded through HCC to provide Families Feeling Safe programmes across Hertfordshire. We deliver Protective Behaviours training for professionals and provide programmes and workshops to children and their families. [www.familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](http://www.familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk) E-mail: [enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk)

## Found - Glasses



The above pair of glasses were handed into the school office on Tuesday.

Please claim from the school office.

## Easy Fundraising - help us while you shop

**Raise funds for us for FREE**

with easyfundraising

Join as our supporter today at:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)  
Just search for:  
Icknield Walk First School PTA

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them

Start at the easyfundraising website or app → Click out to where you'd like to shop → Checkout: prices are exactly the same! → The retailer sends a % of your spend to easyfundraising → They pass it on to us :)

Plus, you'll get...

Exclusive retailer offers      Competitions      A warm feeling inside!

Over **£60m** raised for UK good causes      **£0** extra cost to anyone

Please remember to use [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising) when you do any of your online shopping.

Over 8,000 retailers including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Icknield Walk First School PTA for FREE when you use [easyfundraising](#) to shop with them.

Want to know more, [see this handy intro](#)

These donations really help us and all you have to do is use [easyfundraising](#) when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway.

## Weblinks that can help you

[NSPCC](#) - Online safety.

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

[Angels Support \(ASD & ADHD\)](#)

Herts CC [Relationship advice](#)

[Families Feeling Safe](#)

[NESSIE - Positive Mental Health](#) - Lots of talks and courses to help you and your child with their mental health.

[Supporting Family Links](#) - Promoting Strong Family Relationships with children up to the age of 12, lots of online courses to help.

Herts CC Cost of living resources - [cost-of-living-flashcard \(thegrid.org.uk\)](#)

North Herts Family Support Services - [www.hertsfamilycentres.org](#)

[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](#) - Workshops/training courses for parents/carers of children (up to age 25).

BeeZee Bodies - [www.beezeebodies.com](#)

[North Herts Special Provision updates - look here for SEN and Behaviour support](#)

[Free School Meals](#)

[Neurodiversity Support Hub](#)

Lumi Nova - Fun digital therapy for childhood anxiety - <https://luminova.app/>

Mind Hertfordshire Network - <https://www.withyouth.org/>