



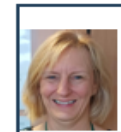
## National Thesaurus Day

### Designated Safeguarding Lead



Joanne Fennelly.  
Headteacher

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Rachel Rosevear. Deputy Headteacher



Jennifer de Board.  
Assistant Headteacher



Laura Cunningham. Inclusion Lead



Hannah Garrard.  
Family Support Worker



Natalie Richards. EYFS Lead

Northampton Safeguarding Children's Board  
(NSCB) Tel: 0300 126 1000  
Email: [nscb@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:nscb@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)





## Simon de Senlis Primary Weekly Update – 19th January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

A superb week across the whole school with our wonderful and varied curriculum- history, RE, art, music, science, maths, reading, PE, PSHE and writing. In particular, the outstanding effort and enthusiasm that is oozing from classrooms linked to The Merchant of Venice. Hard work, determination and dedication is in place as the children's final pieces of work start to come to life. Every child is so proud of their developing piece, and I am so proud of every child.

I cannot wait to share this wonderful work with you on February 2nd at our RSC Showcase; I know you will be amazed!

Our school is such a wonderful place and the buzz of learning running it is a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of.

Please enjoy the weekend, keep warm and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mrs Fennelly



# Dates for your



Date	Year group	Event
January 31st	All Year Groups	Fun night – 3.15pm-5.00pm watching the film Lightyear.
February 14th and 15th	All Year Groups	Nearly New Clothes Sale. Feb 14th –2pm-4pm    Feb 15th 9am-11am
February 2nd	All Year Groups	RSC Merchant of Venice whole school showcase. Come and see your child's final pieces of work.
February 9th	All Year Groups	Short Reports Sent Home.
13th & 15th February	All Year Groups	Parents Evenings 3:30pm-6:30pm. Booking is open.
21st March	Rowling class	Recorder performance to parents at 09:30.



# **NEARLY NEW CHILDREN'S CLOTHING SALE AT SdS**

**Please support this initiative that is being planned by the children and bring any old children's clothes into school.**

**Come along to the sale on Feb 14th and 15th and support the environment with clothes recycling**









# Booking is open to book your Appointment for Parents Evenings

**Browse to**

**<https://simondesenlisorg.schoolcloud.co.uk/>**





## Thunk of the Week

A **thunk** is an **unusual question** that makes you **think**. A beguiling question about everyday things that stops you in your tracks and helps you start to look at the world in a whole new light.

**We're all parts of  
different teams. Our  
family is one of those  
teams How many  
different teams are you  
part of?**





## **Make up and hair dye**

**Please note that we do not allow make up in school and children should not have dyed hair. These are part of the home school agreement that all parents and carers have signed.**





**This week we talked again about being part of our class and school teams. Together we can achieve so much more by supporting each other, helping and being kind.**

**Great teamwork everyone!**



## Jewellery and PE

All jewellery and watches should be removed for PE for health and safety reasons.

If your child has their ears pierced, they must remove these for PE. Adults in school will be not be able to do this for your child.



# Food Aid / Community Larders. No referral required

Day	Time	Location	Membership / costs
Monday	1:30pm – 2:15pm	Roade village Hall. Bailey Brooks Lane. NN7 2LS	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Monday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Tuesday	2pm – 3pm & 6pm - 7pm	The Nest, Woodford Halse Primary Academy, Scrivens Hill, Woodford Halse, NN11 3SU.	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Tuesday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Wednesday	11am - 1pm	Dostiyo Community Fridge. Northampton Town Centre	No Criteria
Wednesday	4:15pm – 6pm	Towcester Community Larder Riverside Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Wednesday	4:30pm – 5:15pm	Brixworth Community Larder	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w



# Food Aid / Community Larders. No referral required

Day	Time	Location	Membership / costs
Wednesday	5:30pm – 6:15pm	Moulton Community Larder	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Wednesday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Thursday	10am – 11:30am	Towcester Community Larder Riverside Centre, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU	Access to all. £10 subscription, £5 p/w
Thursday	11am - 1pm	Dostiyo Community Fridge. Northampton Town Centre	No Criteria
Thursday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Friday	4pm – 7pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Saturday	12pm - 2pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items
Sunday	12pm - 2pm	McCarthy Dixon Food Larder @ Swan & Helmet. Northampton Town Centre	No referral - Turn up £5 per 8 Items



## **PRE-LOVED CLOTHING SALE**

**FEB 14TH 2PM-4PM**  
**FEB 15TH 9AM-11AM**  
**ALL ITEMS £1 CASH**

**CLOTHES DONATED FROM JAN  
15TH TO FEB 13TH**

**PLEASE BRING DONATED CLOTHES TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER**





## Play Leader Update

During this weekly meeting, the play leaders have been discussing our School Games Values. This week the children will be rewarding pupils for showing Self Belief.

**Stay Active - Miss Bland**



### Self-Belief

- Being brave
- Being confident
- Trying new sports or activities



## **Reading Ambassador Update**

**This week we had a look at our new reading shed. We are so excited for our new books to arrive soon so we can fill it with lots of wonderful books to read. You may have noticed our new benches which will allow the children to sit and read at break time and lunch time.**

**We also talked about World Book Day which is coming up on March 7th. Watch this space for news about a book swap and our plans for the day!**

**Well done to our Reading Ambassadors, you're making a difference!!** Miss Gedney



## **Wellbeing Leader Update**

**The children will be meeting next week and we'll update you on the actions and outcomes of their meeting.**



## **Eco Ambassador Update**

**We had a great meeting and talked about the actions we need to take to organise the clothing sale in February.**

**In addition, we have planned to clear the pond area so that it is ready for the frogs that arrive each Spring.**

**The children have agreed to remind their peers to make sure rubbish at playtimes goes into the bins and that lights in classrooms are turned off when everyone leaves the room.**

**Well done Eco Ambassadors- you're making a real difference! Mrs Fennelly**



## **School Council Update**

**This week we discussed a whole school Big Fundraiser for the summer term. Some of the ideas were a large obstacle course on the field or a football shoot out.**

**Well done School Council- you're making a real difference!** Miss Twigg



The poster features a dark purple background with a pink silhouette of a castle with multiple towers and flags. Numerous white stars of varying sizes are scattered across the sky. The title 'Sleeping Beauty' is written in large, 3D, gold-colored letters with a slight shadow. A white, jagged line resembling a lightning bolt or a crack runs diagonally from the left side of the poster.

# Sleeping Beauty

**Celebrating 30 Years**

**Friday 26th January 2024 at 7.30pm**  
**Saturday 27th January 2024 at 2pm**

**Cripps Hall Theatre, NN1 5RX | Adults £8 Concessions £6**



# POSTER COMPETITION

**WHAT: A POSTER  
COMPETITION**

**WHEN: FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEB**

**WHO: YEAR 5 AND 6**

**WHY: TO PROMOTE  
ONLINE SAFETY**

**WHERE: HAND IN TO  
CLASS TEACHERS**



Our anti-bullying ambassadors have decided to set up a poster competition to spread the message that **online bullying** is not ok following our online safety sessions with Simon Aston this week.

We are asking you to design a poster that promotes online safety. There will be a winner per class, judged by the ambassadors, and the winners will be displayed around school.



Good luck for the competition and thanks to Alice who wrote this information.



Your message could be about not talking to people you don't know online, not making nasty comments on games or it could be a code of conduct for using social media or online gaming.



# **SAVE THE DATE**

**The Friends of Simon de Senlis would like to give you advanced warning about the date of the school summer fete.**

**We are delighted to let you know that this year, the fete will be held on Saturday 29th June, 2024. We look forward to seeing you all at this amazing school community event.**

**See you there!**





# IN ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK



**Northampton Saints came to talk to our whole school about sustainability and their journey in achieving this. More information is available:**

[Sustainability \(northamptonsaintsfoundation.org\)](https://northamptonsaintsfoundation.org)





# Sports

## Looking for something active to do at Half Term?

Try out some new sporting activities at Benham Sports Arena with Northamptonshire Sport. The daily activities are themed around the multi-abilities, creating an environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging, achievement and success – regardless of ability. Skills will be taught and developed through a series of fun games and activities. Even if your child is not 'sporty' then our nurturing approach is ideal for them.

Go to the website for more details or scan the barcode. <https://www.northamptonshiresport.org/type/events/february-half-term-activity-camp/>

Stay Active.

Miss Bland

## February Half Term Activity Camp

northamptonshire  
**sport**

**19 – 23 February 2024**  
**9:00am – 4:00pm**

**Benham Sports Arena**  
**5 – 11 year olds**

Experienced & knowledgeable staff with enhanced DBS checks

Safe & inclusive activities designed for all ability levels

Fun & enjoyable sports & physical activities

£25 per child per day  
10% discount for siblings



**We are Northamptonshire's leading physical activity, health and wellbeing charity.**

[www.northamptonshiresport.org](https://www.northamptonshiresport.org)

UK registered charity number: 1184107





## School Mental Health Leads

### Ms Cunningham and Miss Cotterill are the Mental Health Leads at Simon de Senlis

If you have any worries or concerns about any aspect of your child's mental wellbeing please speak to your child's class teacher or contact us in school.



Laura Cunningham

Inclusion Leader  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mental Health First Aider



Hannah Garrard

Family Support Worker  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mental Health First Aider



January can be a difficult time of the year, take a look at these 10 key suggestions for happier living taken from the Action for Happiness website-

[About Us | Action for Happiness](#)



## Giving

Do kind things for others



## Relating

Connect with people



## Exercising

Take care of your body



## Awareness

Live life mindfully



## Trying Out

Keep learning new things



## Direction

Have goals to look forward to



## Resilience

Find ways to bounce back



## Emotions

Look for what's good



## Acceptance

Be comfortable with who you are



## Meaning

Be part of something bigger



# Happier January 2024

SUNDAY



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 Find three things to look forward to this year

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

7 Learn something new and share it with others

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Take a different route today and see what you notice

14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

16 Contribute positively to your local community

17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

18 Get back in contact with an old friend

19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge

21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

24 Take a small step towards an important goal

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

30 See how many people you can smile at today

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



# The DfE's 10 top tips for parents to support children to read at home.

## **1. Encourage your child to read**

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

## **2. Read aloud regularly**

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

## **3. Encourage reading choice**

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

## **4. Read together**

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

## **5. Create a comfortable environment**

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.



## **6. Make use of your local library**

Libraries in England are able to open from 4 July, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

## **7. Talk about books**

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

## **8. Bring reading to life**

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

## **9. Make reading active**

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

## **10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them**

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

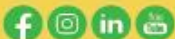




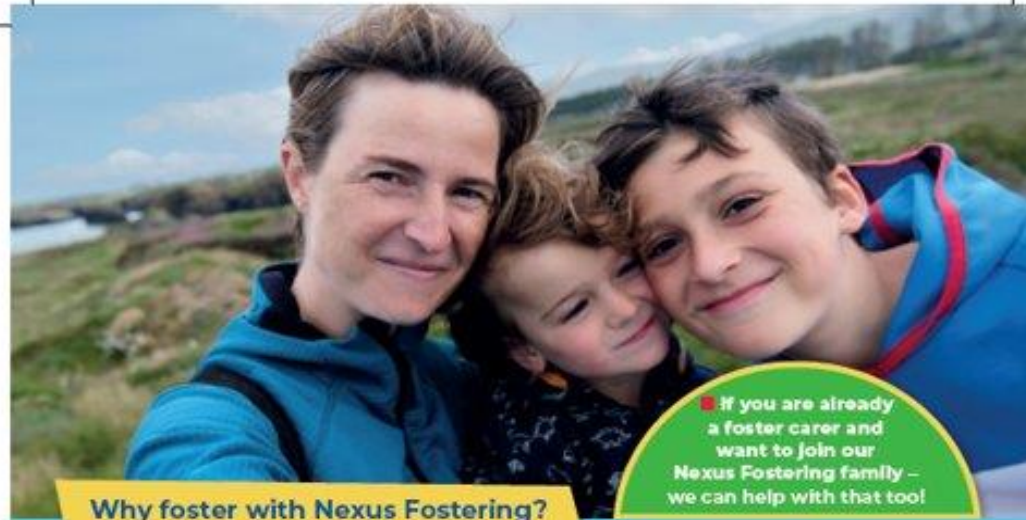
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[www.nexusfostering.co.uk/Amphill](http://www.nexusfostering.co.uk/Amphill)

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<div></div> Pupil Days	<div></div> Bank Holidays
<div></div> School Holidays	<div></div> Teacher Training Days

# NPAT Academic Calendar 24/25

Teacher Training Days  
Monday 2 September 2024  
Tuesday 3 September 2024  
Monday 4 November 2024  
Monday 24 February 2025  
Monday 2 June 2025

September 2024					
Mon		2	9	16	23
Tues		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thu		5	12	19	26
Fri	30	6	13	20	27

October 2024					
Mon	30	7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	

November 2024					
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29

December 2024					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tues	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	

|  | | | | | |

January 2025					
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tues		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31

February 2025					
Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tues	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	

March 2025					
Mon		3	10	17	24 31
Tues		4	11	18	25
Wed		5	12	19	26
Thu		6	13	20	27
Fri		7	14	21	28

April 2025					
Mon		7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	

|  | | | | | |

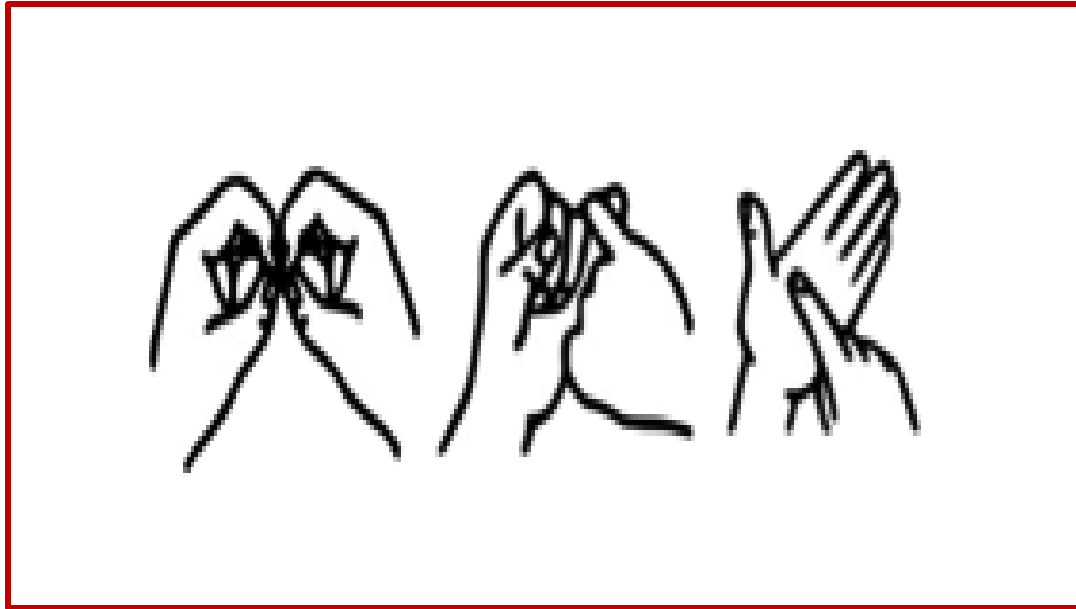
May 2025					
Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30

June 2025					
Mon		2	9	16	23
Tues		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thu		5	12	19	26
Fri		6	13	20	27

July 2025					
Mon	30	7	14	21	28
Tues	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	

August 2025					
Mon			4	11	18 25
Tues			5	12	19 26
Wed			6	13	20 27
Thu			7	14	21 28
Fri		1	8	15	22 29





**News For  
your  
Children**



# What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

15th - 21st January 2024





**Is an e-reader  
better than a  
book?**





## Let's look at this week's story



A study from the University of Valencia, in Spain, found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading, for example, on an e-reader or tablet. The study, published in the Review of Educational Research, also found that while there is a negative relationship between digital reading and comprehension for primary school pupils, the relationship turns positive for secondary school-aged pupils.



# This week's story looks at events related to ...





## 100-hour painting marathon

**Pictured:** Nigerian art student, Chancellor Ahaghotu, breaking the longest painting marathon world record. **Source:** Guinness World Records @GWR X page.



Guinness World Records has declared that Nigerian art student, Chancellor Ahaghotu, has broken a decade-old record for the longest painting marathon. Chancellor, who is studying at Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, completed a massive 100 hours of continuous painting. The previous record of 60 hours of painting was set in 2013 by Roland Palmaerts. During the four-day art marathon, Chancellor created 106 separate pieces, including paintings of celebrities, food, plants, and animals. There are strict rules to be followed, which state the painting or paintings completed during the record-breaking attempt must be of recognisable images (abstract art is not

permitted for this world record) and that no longer than a five-minute rest break can be taken for each hour of painting. The artist said, 'I came to the United States to pursue my dreams and build up my career as a recognised artist. Breaking the record will boost my recognition as an artist both in my school and the world at large.' He went on to discuss his artwork, saying, 'One thing I love about the paintings I created is that they were representing my different moods and how I was feeling when I created them.' Finally, he added, 'There was joy and celebration when I completed the 100 hours.'

**Do you enjoy painting? How long do you think you could paint for?**

## Crisp Comeback

10-year-old Grace, from Edinburgh, missed her favourite flavour of crisps so much when they could only be purchased during certain seasons, that she wrote a letter asking for them to be available all year round. Grace decided something must be done and she was going to take action! She wasn't the only one missing the haggis and black pepper-flavoured snack made by Taylors Snacks. The company said they heard from lots of customers who were disappointed when they could no longer find this niche flavour on the shop shelves. Grace's letter was addressed to the managing director of the crisp company, James Taylor, and was written on mermaid paper, decorated with stickers. In it she asked for the haggis crisps to be made available in all seasons. She signed off by writing, 'If you can thanks, if not I will be sad 😞.' The snack company responded by announcing the crisps would now be available at all times of the year, sent Grace a taxi full of haggis crisps and a ticket for a VIP tour of their factory! Mr Taylor commented, 'When Grace's letter landed on my desk I was blown away by her enthusiasm and initiative. The Taylors team put our heads together to see how we could celebrate our biggest haggis and black pepper crisp fan and

can't wait to show her and her family around our factory here in Errol.' Grace's mum, Becky, said, 'It's fantastic that the team at Taylors took the time and effort to respond and it really made all of our days. It also helps Grace see the power of communicating with creativity and care. Grace was the one who had the idea to write to James and to get such a wonderful response really validates and empowers her.'

**Have you ever written a letter asking for change? Do you believe that we should campaign for what we want? Have you ever tried haggis-flavoured crisps? Do you think you would like to?**



**Pictured:** Grace campaigned to have her favourite flavour of crisps brought back, here she is with her taxi full of prizes. **Source:** Taylors Snacks Facebook page.



# British Sign Language GCSE



**Pictured:** British Sign Language on Elm St Graffiti Alley, Roath, Cardiff. **Source:** Jeremy Segrott on Flickr.



**Pictured:** Using British Sign Language. **Source:** British Sign Language @BritishSignBSL X page.

The government has announced that British Sign Language (BSL) will be introduced as a GCSE in England from September 2025. This new qualification will be open to all students and will teach how to use signs and the history of BSL. In 2022, after the British Sign Language Act was passed, BSL was officially recognised as a language in the UK. A twelve-week public consultation with input from parents, teachers and organisations from the deaf and hearing communities, has helped to finalise the curriculum. This will now be reviewed and accredited by exams regulator Ofqual, before the syllabus can be taught in schools and colleges. 17-year-old Daniel Jillings, who is profoundly deaf and a full British Sign Language user, has been passionately campaigning for BSL to be taught as a GCSE for five years, stating that it was unfair he couldn't take a GCSE

in his own language. He commented on the recent announcement saying, 'This is a significant moment in the history of the British deaf community, as it is a powerful step to equality. It will also allow hearing students to learn BSL so they can improve their awareness of the deaf community.' He added that he hopes the new GCSE will help 'deaf students to feel less isolated in school'. Discussing the GCSE, Daniel said, 'It's all about learning a new language. It's a new skill, you'll be meeting the deaf community and it's going to provide some amazing opportunities. BSL is a beautiful language, it's a visual language and it's got its own culture and history which will be taught as part of the GCSE'.

***Do you know how to sign? Could you teach someone else what you know? Would you like to learn?***

Last week's topic:

**Are decorations an important part of celebrations?**



I love to see decorations. They make me feel warm inside!

**Greg**

Decorations can make people feel happy!

**Jasper**

Not essential, but a nice extra.

**Fran**

I don't think you need them, but people like to have them around.

**Jane**

**Let us know what you think about this week's news?**



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# Reflection



Books can open new worlds of possibilities for us, both real and imagined - however we choose to read them.





# TAKEHOME

15-21 Jan



## In the news this week

A study from the University of Valencia, in Spain, found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading, for example, on an e-reader or tablet. The study, published in the Review of Educational Research, also found that while there is a negative relationship between digital reading and comprehension for primary school pupils, the relationship turns positive for secondary school-aged pupils.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you enjoy reading? If so, what type of books?
- > Talk to someone at home about the types of books they like to read.
- > Do you think you would prefer to read printed books, or books on an e-reader?
- > Do you think that one day, e-readers will replace books?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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