



HUNTINGTOWER
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Tower Times wb 9.02.26

Welcome to Term 3's newsletter.

Included within this newsletter:

- *Organisational information including timings and attendance*
 - *Celebratory items*
-

Sporting Achievements



The sporting calendar is well underway and there have been many opportunities for the children to represent the academy. These experiences have been varied including some that are competitive, and others that have been focused upon the experience itself such as a new sport. The academy has been represented at the Indoor Sports Hall competition (Athletics), Boccia, New Age Kurling and Panathlon competitions. Mrs Duxbury-Mead and Mrs Dilloway have worked with staff to identify those pupils from Key Stage 2 who could represent our academy in these events and the children did a beautiful job. They behaved impeccably, demonstrated a great understanding of fair play and showed great courage in new and unknown situations. Our Boccia team came second out of 15 teams which was a real achievement.

For the second year, our gymnastic squad entered a regional competition. Mrs Bensley and Miss Williams were extremely proud of all pupils who took part in the two teams. For some pupils, this was the first time they had competed in gymnastics for the academy. The Under 11 Girls' team placed third and the Mixed Under 11 team placed first. As a result of their first place, a Mixed team will now compete in the National finals in May. We wish them every success.

The football season for our Mixed and Girls' team has continued. Both teams played friendly games at home against St Mary's Primary. We are delighted to say that both teams won their games.











Huntingtower Citizens



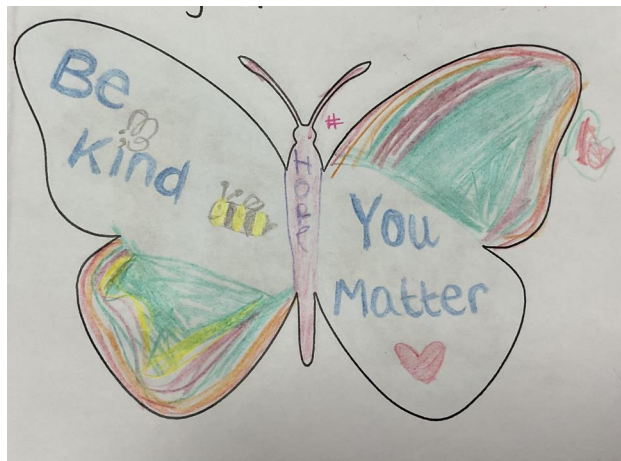
We are very proud of our pupils' enthusiasm to be citizens not just of the community in which we live but also as part of wider and larger communities. We have a weekly focus upon one of values each term and in the weeks where we celebrate Generosity, we call it Evelyn's week after one of pupils who we remember as always being kind and thinking of others. We have been proud to be part of the Evelyn's Garden of Hope installation which will be exhibited across Lincolnshire this summer. Thank you to everyone who supported their child with their design. It was incredibly difficult to decide on the two final designs and we cannot wait for our butterflies to join the others for the exhibition.

This year alone and with your help, the academy has collected donations for the Grantham Foodbank in Term 1, sold items to raise money for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal and donated money to come in non-uniform for Children in Need. Next term, our Generosity focus will be upon Comic Relief.

The Academy will be looking to raise money for **Comic Relief** which will take place on **Friday, 20th March 2026**. **Comic Relief items can be worn (purchased either from TK Maxx or from**

Amazon) or their favourite sport/leisure wear items. and donations can be made on Parent Pay or in the form of coins handed in to the class teacher.

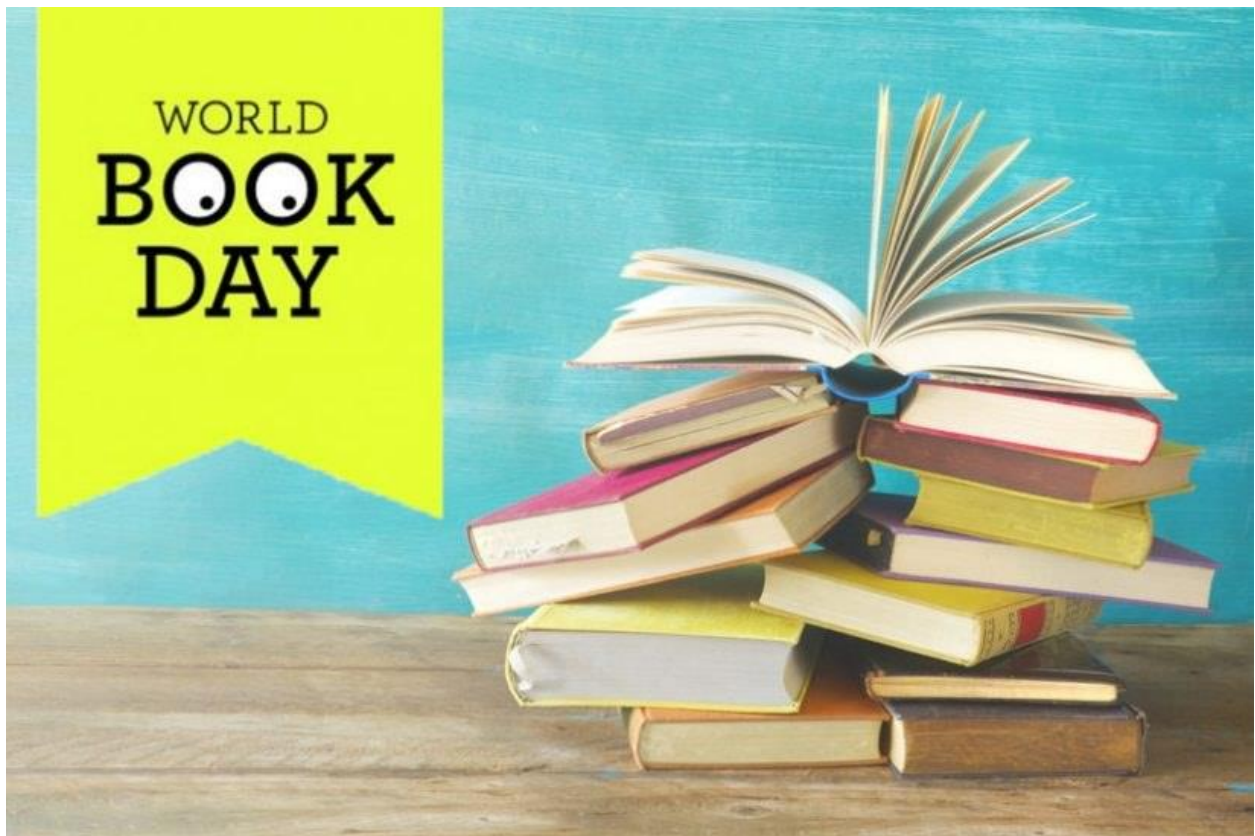
A group of pupils from Year 4 to 6, also took part in the Grantham Rotary's Swimathon at the start of February. There were four teams with the support of Mrs Bensley, Mrs Duxbury-Mead, Mrs Dilloway and Mrs Maxwell. Across the 50 minutes of swimming, the children and staff swam **475 lengths** (which was over 20 lengths more than last year). We are just waiting for all of the donations to be returned to the academy and will keep you updated as to how much money we have raised for the Grantham Rotary charity. Congratulations to all who had the courage to take part.







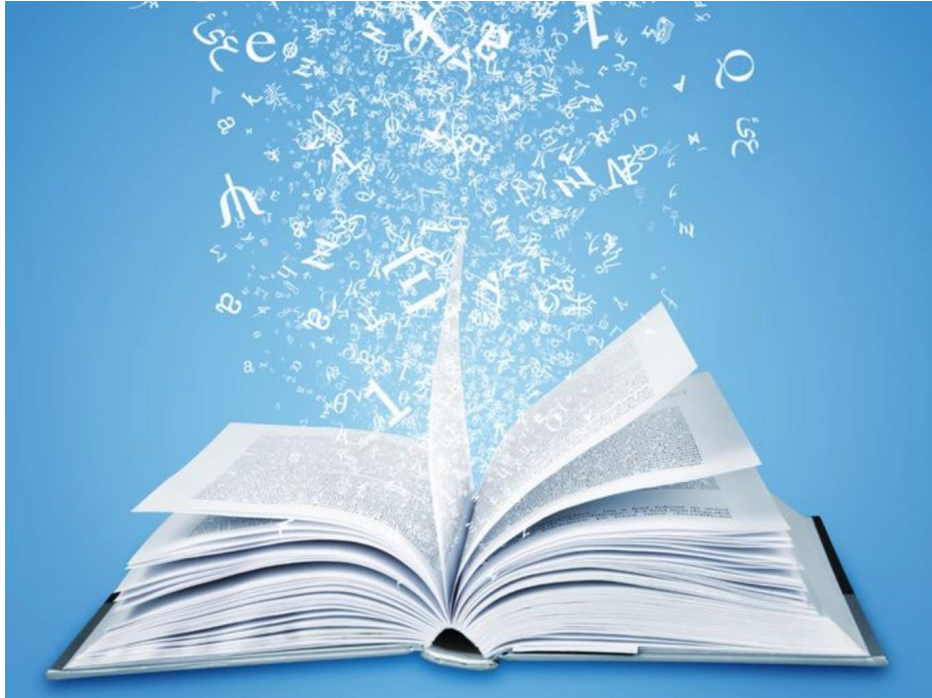
World Book Day

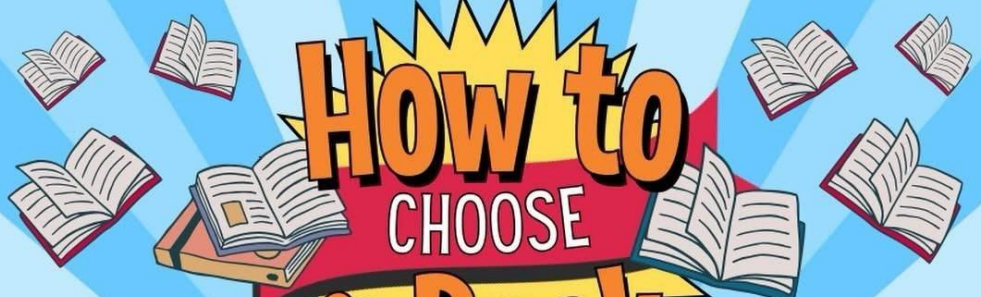


World Book Day will take place on **Thursday, 5th March 2026** and again this year, we have decided to have **World Book Month as 2026 is the Year of Reading** . We have many activities and challenges to highlight the importance of reading and to celebrate books. This year, our focus is on Reading for Pleasure and thought it would wonderful if children came as dressed as their **favourite story character**.

Mrs Dewhurst and the Reading Ambassadors are planning a series of events and experiences for the children. This will include competitions for individual and class prizes.

We will be letting you know more about our plans for World Book Week through Parent Hub and ClassDojo in the first week of Term 4. Reading is simply the best and we cannot wait to celebrate with the children and you.





How to CHOOSE a Book

A guide to finding
your next great read!

BLURB CHECK

Read the blurb to see what the book is about and whether it sounds exciting.

QUICK FLIP TEST

Flick through to see if the pages look too tricky, too easy, or just right.

FIRST LINE HOOK

Read the first sentence to see if it grabs your attention straight away.

TITLE TASTER

Start with the title and see if it makes you curious to find out what the book is about.

COVER CLUES

Look at the cover picture to spot clues about the story, where it's set and how it might feel.

FAMILIAR FINDS

Look for authors, series, or characters you have enjoyed before.

FIRST PAGE PULL

Read the first page and see if it makes you want to turn the next one.

TOPIC MAGNET

Choose a topic you already love, because interest makes reading easier.

FIVE-FINGER FIT

Read one page and raise a finger for each tricky word. Five fingers means it's too hard for now.

FRIEND REVIEW

Ask someone who has already read it whether they'd recommend it and why.

LENGTH CHECK

Pick a shorter book for a quick win, or a longer one if you want a bigger challenge.

Silly School Education

Daily Routines

Please remember that:

- Classroom doors open **at 8.50am** in Early Years and Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2, staff will collect their classes from the playground. **The registers open at 8.50am. Please arrive at the academy from 8.40am to ensure your child is ready to enter the academy at 8.50am.**
- **Doors and gates and the registers close at 9.00am.** Any children who arrive **after 9.00am and before 9.10am through main entrance**, will be recorded as late. Any children arriving after this time will be recorded as unauthorised. The academy requires that with any pupil arriving at these times, that the adult who drops them off to complete a slip. The administration office is extremely busy at this time and this allows the staff to ensure that the correct information is communicated with the class teachers as well as updating the lunch register.
- For more information, please read our academy attendance policy [here](#).
- Guidance specific to our academy can be found [here](#) on our website.
- Any Year 5 or 6 pupil who have permission to walk to or from the academy and have a mobile phone should turn it off before they enter the academy grounds and switch it back on once they are on the pavements beyond the academy property.

Please make sure that all meals have been order by Tuesday, 17th February 2026 for the first week of term (beginning Monday, 23rd February 2026)

We return to school on Monday, 23rd February 2026.

- **If your child is unwell, please let as know before the start of the academic day.** A message can be left on our absence answer machine, a message can be sent via text or email (to our enquiries email address) or you can wait to speak to one of the administrators who man the office from 8.00am. We appreciate that the phone lines and the office can be very busy first thing in the mornings, but it is important to let us know. If we are unable to ascertain why your child is absent, we will have to register them as having an unauthorised absence. **Please do not communicate absence through ClassDojo as all absence needs to be recorded through the main administration office.**

In addition, can we remind you that:

- Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle (plastic only) in the classroom for them to access during the day. This should only be water and not squash.

- Children should come in their PE kits (including their coloured PE top) on the days that they have PE. **They should still wear their school jumpers or cardigans and not hooded tops or tracksuit jackets.** Tracksuit bottoms and leggings should be black, dark grey (not light grey) or navy without motifs or visible labels.
- **Earrings should be removed for PE days.**



1 - Please remember that children are required to wear a plain coloured T-Shirt for PE in their Tower Team colour.

Clubs, Events and Everyday Learning



It has been another busy term with clubs. These have included choir, dance, construction and games with TT Rockstars as well as many sporting clubs after school.

In addition, the Reading Ambassadors continued to meet weekly with Mrs Dewhurst as well as run the library, the Tower Captains have been giving their time to younger pupils during lunchtimes and Miss Harkins's Y5 11+ club and Mrs Bensley's Gymnastics Competition Club continued to take place.

Our Junior Online Safety Officers help to present our Internet Safety day assembly and shared a great message about using AI. They told us to Stop, Think and Ask. The children listened carefully to them and we were proud of their achievements.

Gazelles Class will be swimming at the Mere's after half term.

Many of our Year 5 pupils attained their Bikeability qualifications. This is such an important life skill and we are proud of how their approach this new challenge.

Our KS1 and Early Years pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visiting Pantomime. Specially designed for pupils in these year groups, the Nottingham Playhouse brought their production of the Little Mermaid to our academy. This has become a much anticipated event for the children as they gain so much from the experience.

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Lincoln Castle and the Victorian Prison. They made the most of the experiences available despite Storm Chandra and demonstrated great curiosity and passion for the historical knowledge. They would thoroughly recommend the castle as a place to visit and were given an opportunity to see the Magna Carta.

Year 5 also continued their work with the PSCO and their Mini Police. They had a police vehicle visit as well as one of Lincolnshire's dog handlers. The children were fascinated and asked some very interesting and thought provoking questions.

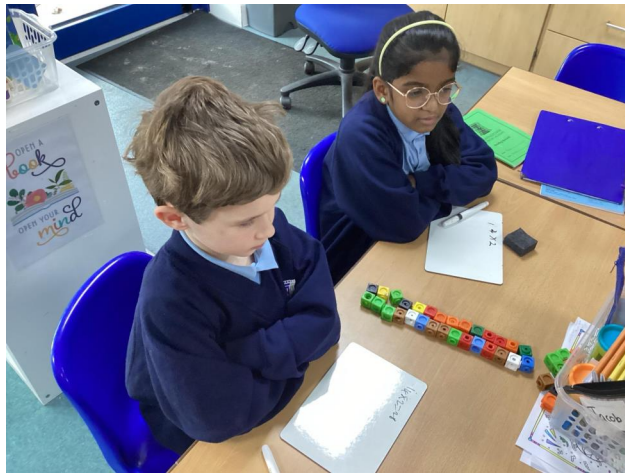
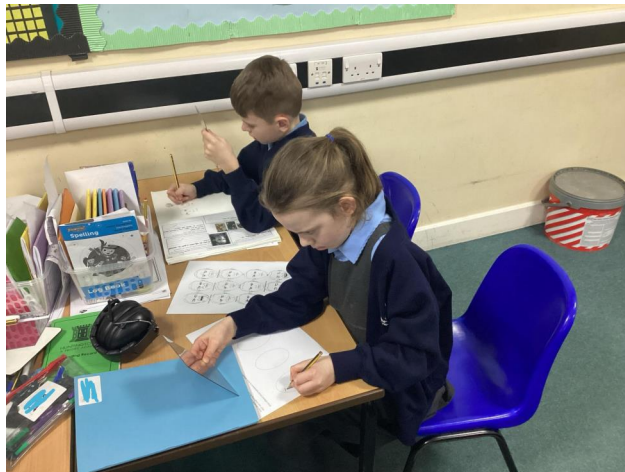
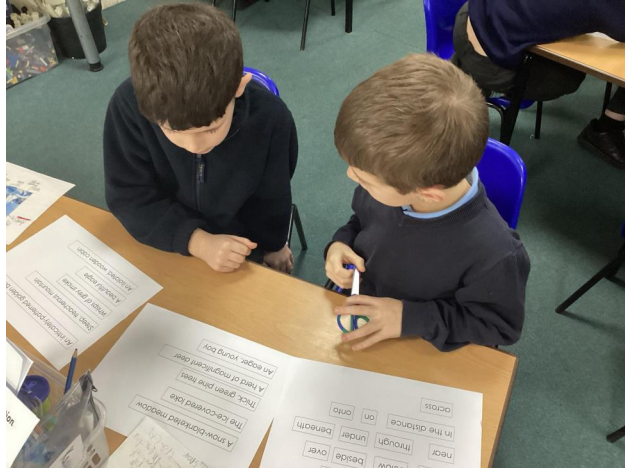
The academy's attendance for the year to date is **95.7%**. This is a great level of attendance and the academy would like to thank you for your continued support. For the term, the attendance was also 95.7%. If you are unsure whether or not your child should be in school, please check the [NHS website](#) for further guidance.

Congratulations to **Gazelles and Koalas classes** who won the termly attendance award with their attendance of **97.5% and 99%** respectively. They will now decide what they would like as a reward with their teacher.

Please see a range of photos from the ClassDojo Class Stories.

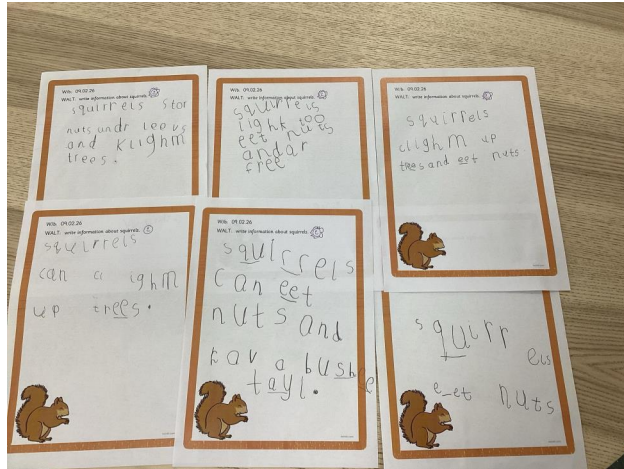


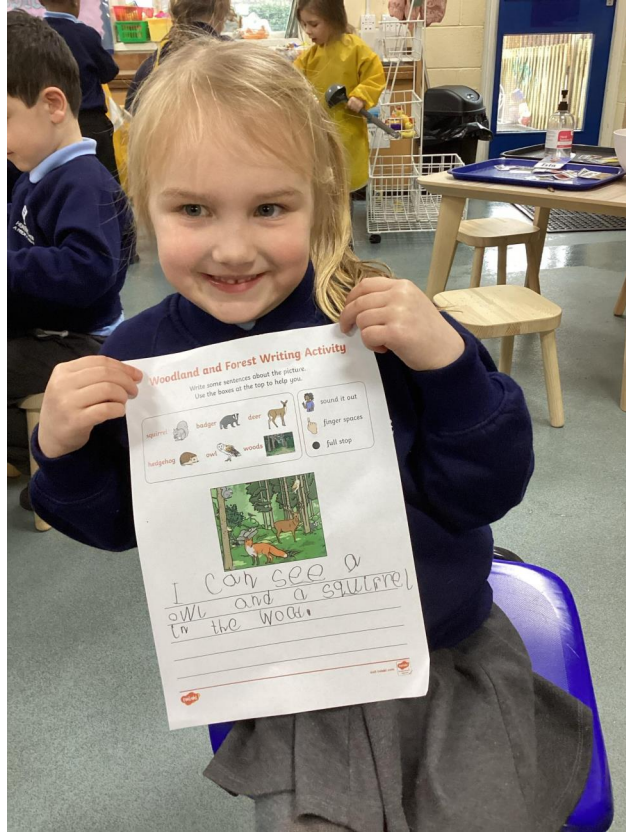






















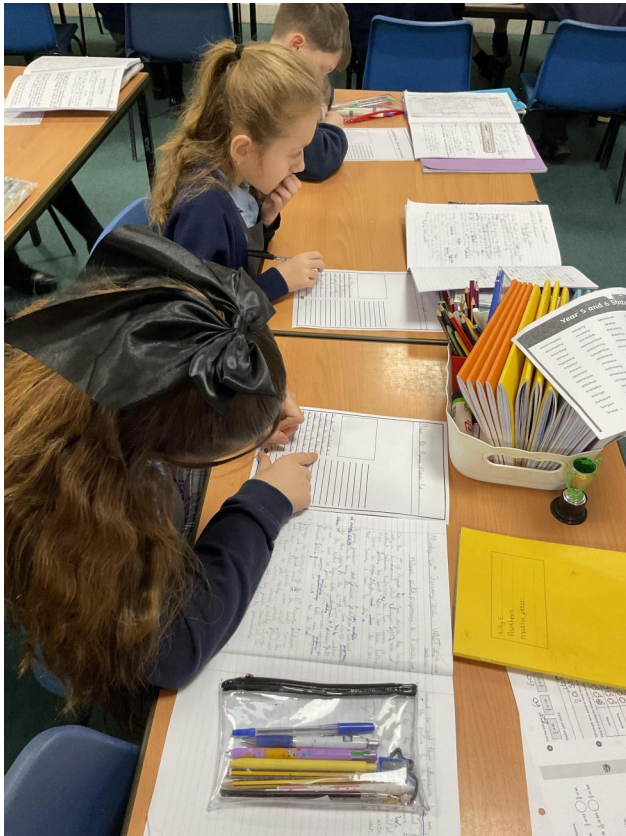
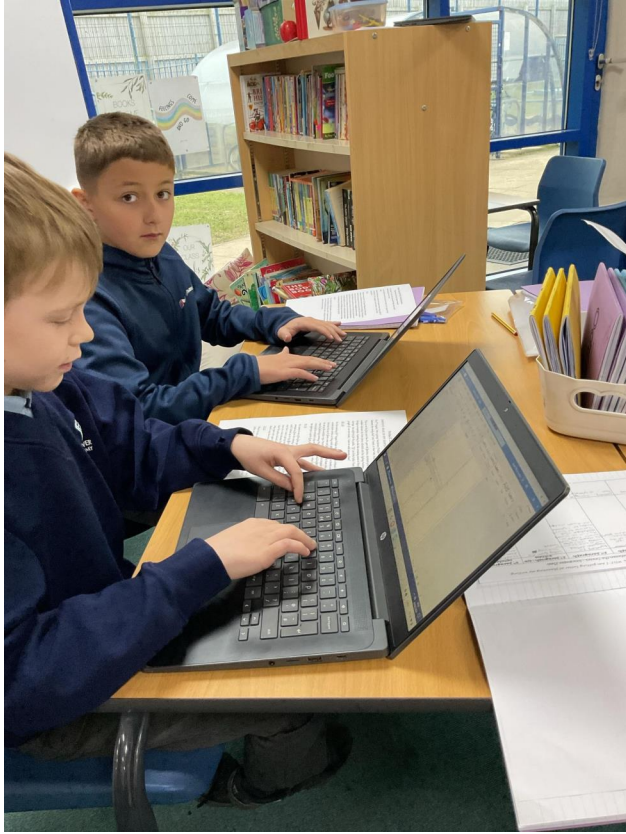




















WALT: Communicate Geographically. WLF: I am beginning to describe some of the effects of climate change. 03.02.26

How Can Climate Change Affect Animals?

Polar bears

Polar bears rely on sea ice to hunt and house or hibernate the ice is melting and the polar bears can't find their cubs.

Turtles

Due to pollution and plastic turtles are dying out and the sea level is rising and turtle eggs are being washed away.

bees & sea birds

bees are losing their homes and bees are not getting enough food.

sea birds' food (krill) are moving away due to climate change so the sea birds are starving.

OUR HOME!

WALT: Communicate Geographically. WLF: I am beginning to describe some of the effects of climate change. 03.02.26

How Can Climate Change Affect Animals?

Polar bears

Polar bears are struggling to hunt due to ice melting they normally hunt on ice so their prey can't see them.

Imso HUNGRY!!

Turtles

green sea turtles are REALLY finding it hard to reproduce as green turtles are rising and most eggs are perishing.

female male

bees

As our weather and seasons becomes more extreme, bees are finding it hard to feed and nest.

pinnaaly















