



News from Great Aine Primary School



Responsible, Respectful, Ready

“ From tiny acorns, mighty oaks do grow...”

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all our staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2026. It has certainly been a rather snowy start to the term, and what a joy it has been to see the children embracing the wintry weather. They have thoroughly enjoyed snow play at school, making the most of every frosty moment and filling the playground with fun.

We began the week by talking together about the snowdrop and its special meaning. The children learned how it represents hope, purity and new beginnings, which felt a perfect way to start a new year. They loved sharing their own hopes and aspirations for the year ahead, and their thoughts were both thoughtful and inspiring.

For those of you who follow our school Facebook page, you will have seen the photos and updates capturing these moments and many more. If you do not already follow us, please do check it out and give us a like or two – it is a lovely window into daily life at school.

Acorns have had an incredibly busy week with Mrs Bradley. They have been gardening, spending time in Forest School, enjoying their PE lesson, and creating the most beautiful paintings. They have also been busy completing jigsaws in Wrap Around Care, which I now have the pleasure of running. I can hardly keep up with all of their adventures.

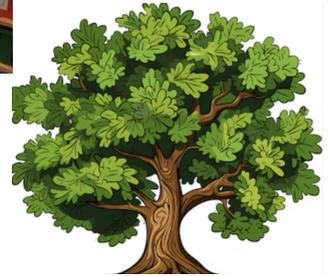
Meanwhile, Oaks have made a great start with their new class text and enjoyed a truly amazing Science lesson, where they were introduced to the digestive system. The children were fascinated and asked some wonderful questions.

The dates for the term were sent out via Dojo earlier this week, so please do refer to these as we move through the term together.

I wish you all a restful and cosy weekend. Stay warm, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning.



Warmest wishes *Miss L. Williams*



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for '**HELP**' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to '**KEEP STILL**' and offer reassurance.

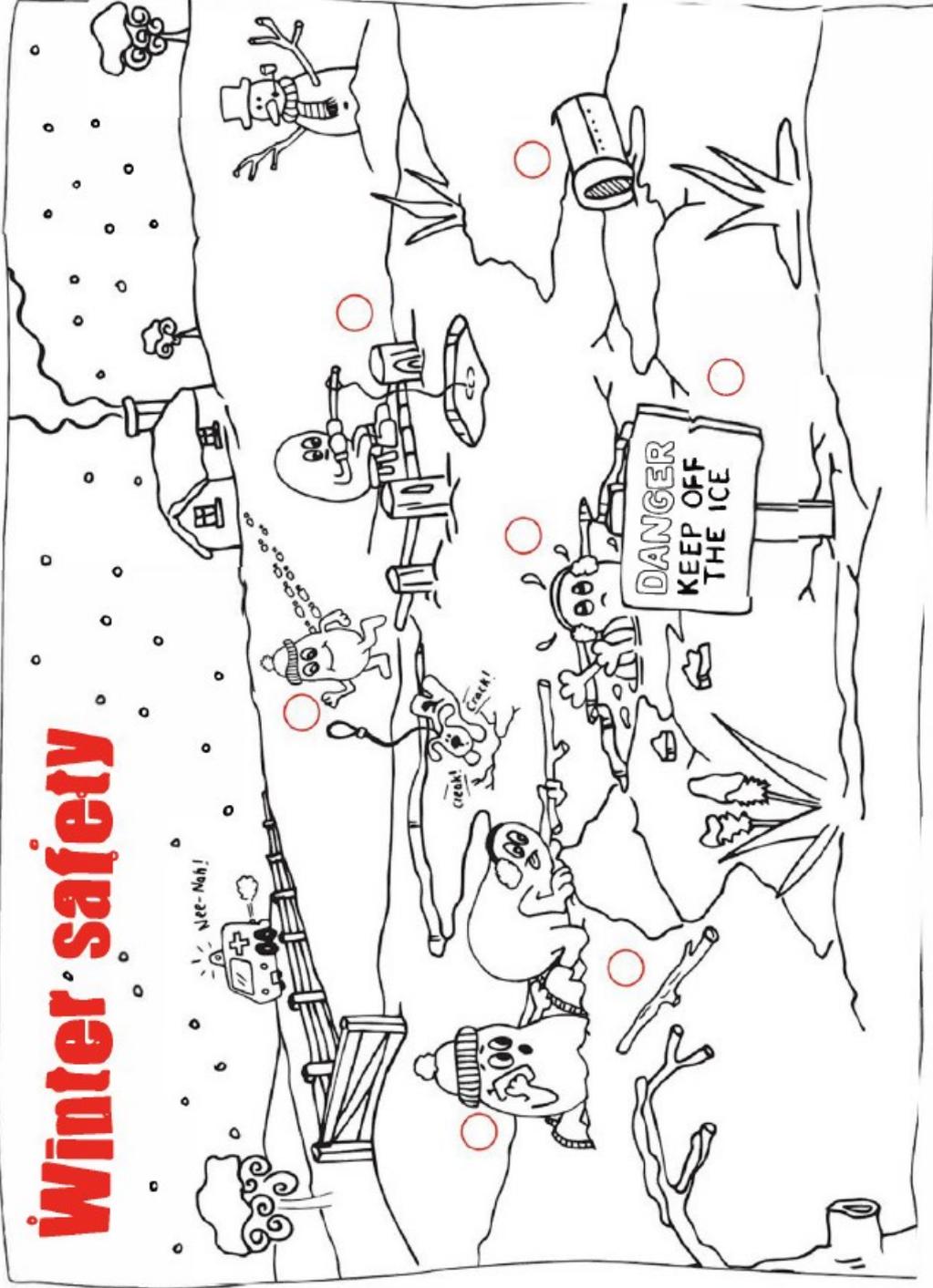
If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.



Winter safety



DANGERS

Can you number the following dangers on the picture?

- 1 Call for help as soon as possible
- 2 Always use a safe rescue, never go on the ice
- 3 Never follow animals on the ice
- 4 Lie on your back and use something that floats to stay on the water's surface
- 5 Obey warning signs
- 6 Ice is thin around drainpipes, trees and plants
- 7 Ice is always thin around man-made structures and at the edge of river banks

Spot
spot the dangers

ADVICE
follow safety signs and advice

FRIEND
always go with friends or family

Emergency
shout for help and call 999

Keep your family **SAFE**, learn the codes:





Great Alne School Diary Dates – 2025-2026

Autumn term 2025

Monday 1st September 2025 **Teacher Training Day**

Tuesday 2nd September 2025 **Teacher Training Day**

Wednesday 3rd September – Children return for autumn term

Half term: Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025

Ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring term 2026

Monday 5th January 2026 **Teacher Training Day**

Tuesday 6th January – Children return for spring term

Half term: Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026

Ends: Thursday 26th March 2026

Friday 27th March 2026 **Teacher Training Day**

Spring (Easter) holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

Summer term 2026

Starts: Monday 13th April 2026 – Children return for summer term

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday

Half term: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Ends: Monday 20th July 2026 **Teacher Training Day**