



Mill Hill News

Autumn Term

KEY DATES THIS TERM



DATE	EVENT
05.11.2025	School photos
11.11.2025	Flu Immunisations - Reception to Y6
14.11.2025	Children in Need
21.11.2025	Non-uniform day - full bottle donations
24.11.25 - 25.11.25	City Song Birds Concerts
27.11.2025	Non-uniform day - Tombola

KEY DATES THIS TERM



DATE	EVENT
28.11.2025	INSET Day
01.12.2025	INSET Day
03.12.2025	City Voices at Christmas
04.12.2025	EY Christmas Performance - 9am
05.12.2025	EY Christmas Performance - 9am Non-uniform day - Chocolate
10.12.2025	KS1 Christmas Performance - 9am

KEY DATES THIS TERM



DATE	EVENT
11.12.2025	KS1 Christmas Performance - 9am Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch Christmas Fair - from 3pm
12.12.2025	Santa Run
16.12.2025	LKS2 Carol Concert - 9am UKS2 Carol Concert - 10am
17.12.2025	EY Christmas Workshops
18.12.2025	KS1 Christmas Workshops Choir going to the hospital House Treat
19.12.2025	B4L Treat - Party Roo Academy Closes

Senior Leadership

Message from the Head of Academy:

We've had another fantastic half term filled with exciting learning experiences! It's a joy to see the children's enthusiastic faces and hear them share their learning highlights with me.

We continue to focus on providing a wealth of enrichment activities, and I'm proud to say that nearly all students across the academy participate in at least one after-school club each week. It was also great to see lots of new faces at our new tot's group, which will continue to take place on a Tuesday after half term. A huge thank you goes to all parents, carers and children for your incredible homework contributions and support with all aspects of Mill Hill Magic Homework expectations, including reading at least four times a week. Your support really does make a difference and plays a vital role in reinforcing learning at home. Homework is an important part of helping children consolidate their knowledge and develop independence. It's also been wonderful to welcome so many parents into the academy for a range of workshops this half term. Your engagement and enthusiasm are truly appreciated, and it's fantastic to see our school community working together to support the children's learning journey. I would like to wish all the Mill Hill staff, parents, carers and children a restful half term break.



Message from the Vice Principal:

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. September seems so long ago already. It has been great

to welcome the children back to the academy into their new classes and year groups - they have settled extremely well. There has been lots of learning taking place and it is incredible to see the knowledge that the children have retained from previous years: this really helps the children build their knowledge and skills effectively. Over the past two months, there have been many enrichment activities and trips too. It's also great to see so many of the children enjoying our after-school clubs. Please ensure that you check ClassDojo regularly to see what the children are getting up to in school and for all of our upcoming events. Have a lovely half term and enjoy time with your families.



Message from the Assistant Principal:

What a fantastic start to the academic year it has been! We've already enjoyed a busy few weeks filled with exciting trips and visitors, and I've loved seeing the photographs and hearing all about the experiences our pupils have had.

Across the curriculum, lessons have truly been brought to life through hands-on activities - with children doing more, acting out scenarios, and discussing concepts which has deepened and consolidated their learning. We've shared our learning with lots of different parents too - through Y6's SATS reading workshops to Reception's phonics workshops. It's great to have your support! Our sports teams have also had an impressive start to the year, representing the school brilliantly in football and cross-country competitions. I can't wait to see what next half term brings as we head towards the festive season.



Message from the Assistant Principal:

Please see the attendance and behaviour page for a message from Mrs Salih.



Tea & Tots

🌸 Thank You from Tea & Tots 🌸

We'd like to extend a big welcome to all the new families who have joined our playgroup this term! It's wonderful to see so many new faces becoming part of our Tea & Tots community.

A heartfelt thank you to all our amazing parents, grandparents, and carers for your continued support. Your time, kindness, and enthusiasm help make Tea & Tots such a warm and successful group for everyone to enjoy.

We hope everyone has a wonderful half-term break. We're looking forward seeing you back on Tuesday 4th November, for another fun-filled term together — full of play, laughter, and new friendships ❤️



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Tea & Tots



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Nursery



As we come to the end of the first half term, it's been wonderful to see how well our Nursery children have settled into their new environment. From those first big steps into the classroom to now confidently exploring, playing, and learning, each child has made fantastic progress.

In Literacy we have been reading 'Monkey Puzzle'. The children have loved joining Monkey on his adventure to find his mum, meeting lots of different animals along the way!



The children created their own monkey paintings.

Maths

In maths this half term, we have been learning about colours, matching and sorting various objects. Through hands on activities and playful learning, they've been developing their early mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills. They've worked together to match items, group similar objects, and talk about what makes things the same or different.



The children have completed various activities to showcase their learning.

Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...



Music- Nursery Rhymes

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their music lessons. They have loved joining in with familiar tunes and learning new ones, using their voices expressively and rhythmically. We've also explored musical instruments, experimenting with different sounds and how they can be played. The children practised listening carefully and responding to instructions, especially focusing on the important musical skill of starting and stopping.



Nursery Rhymes we have explored:

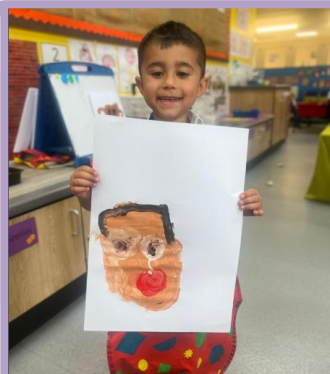
- Wind the bobbin up
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- Baa baa black sheep
- Hickory Dickory Dock
- and many many more!



Self-Portraits

The children took part in a lovely self-portrait activity this term. Using mirrors, they looked closely at their own faces and talked about what makes each of us unique.

We explored features like eye colour, hair colour, and skin tone. Encouraging the children to notice and celebrate their individuality. We are all different and that is beautiful!



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Reception



In Reception, we have kick started our topic with a focus on transport. We had a special delivery, that gave us clues about which transport we would be focusing on. The children worked out – construction vehicles, farming vehicles, public transport and aeroplanes! As part of our topic learning, we all took a ride on a double decker bus. The children were very excited to see this up close and take a ride around Stoke-on-Trent. We enjoyed looking at lots of different places as we drove around and the children enjoyed spotting familiar places. To finish off our topic, the children painted their favourite vehicle and did a fantastic job!



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

This half term we have introduced children to our phonics scheme - Little Wandle. Children have been learning and practising lots of skills such as blending, segmenting and recognising sounds. Each day, the children focus on a new sound and find words that start with their new sound. We have been reading CVC words and then practising our formation. The children have made a great start to their Literacy. We have also introduced Drawing Club – this is where children immerse themselves in texts, stories and animations and use their imagination when drawing.



We have been incredibly busy with our maths learning this half term. The children have been looking at lots of different maths elements such as size, weight and capacity. They have done lots of measuring in and around the classroom, using lots of new vocabulary. We have introduced repeating patterns where the children have created their very own and in the final weeks of the half term, we have learnt about the numbers 1, 2 and 3.

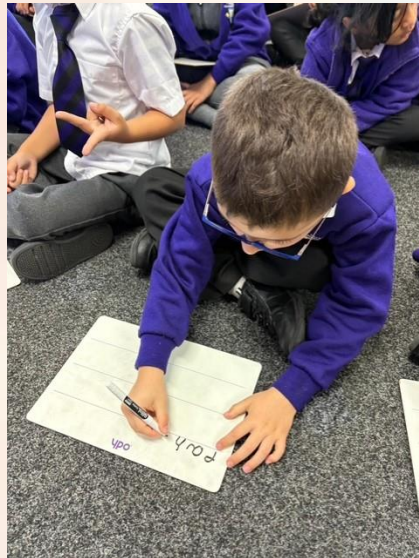


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

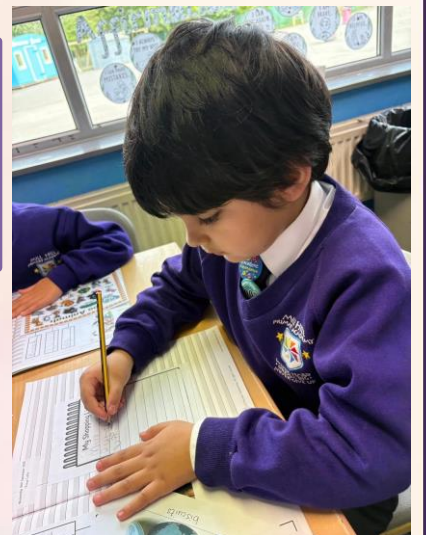
Year 1



This half term, we have looked at the local area near our school. Thinking about the human and physical features. We looked at our climate and used maps to find our location.



This half term we have been exploring Julia Donaldson books in our writing lessons. We have been writing labels, lists and captions, and expanding our rich vocabulary based on the books Tabby McTat, Room on The Broom, Tiddler, Monkey Puzzle, The Ugly Five and Supermarket Zoo.



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 1



The children have made a sculpture of a leaf with clay. We pressed the leaves into the clay and cut around them. They had fun mixing autumnal colours and painting their leaves. They looked amazing!



The children have settled in really well to Year 1 and are adjusting beautifully to the new routines. It's been lovely to see them growing in independence, both in their learning and in day-to-day tasks. We're really proud of how far they've come already and are looking forward to the exciting topics we have planned for after half term!



During PE, we have been working on our agility, teamwork and coordination skills. We have been taking part in races and using the PE equipment such as hoops, balls, cones and bean bags. We have had so much fun!



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 2



Year 2 had a very special visit from The Unconventional Menagerie.

The children met a range of amazing animals from snakes to lizards and tortoises. They all showed incredible bravery (especially Tommy-Roy who held the snake).

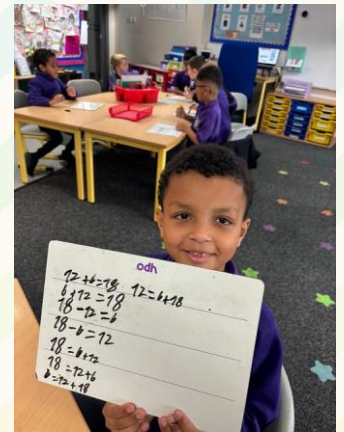
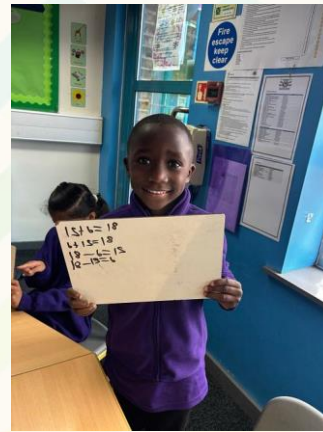
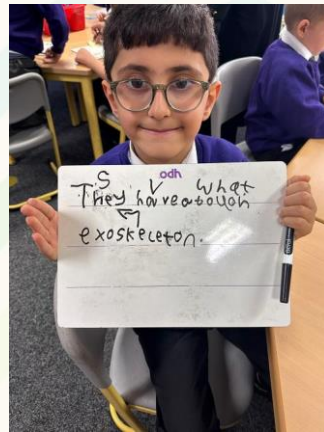
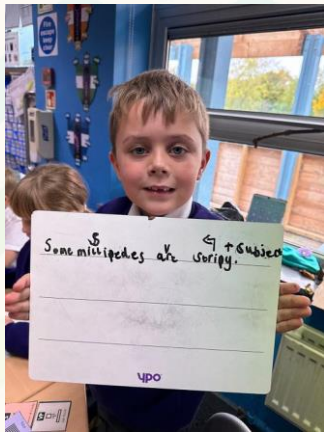
They learned so many fun science facts about habitats, food chains, and how different animals adapt to their environments. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience that brought our science topic to life.



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

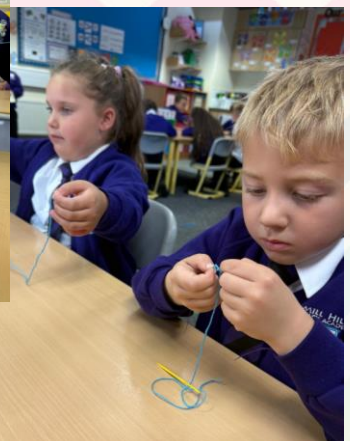


This term in Science, we've been learning all about animals and the different habitats they live in. We began our unit with an exciting minibeast hunt, where we discovered tiny creatures in their natural environments. From there, we explored a variety of larger habitats and learned about the animals that live in each one. To finish off the topic, the children created their own fantastic habitat plates, showing what they had learned in a fun and creative way.



In Maths, we have been focusing on place value and exploring fact families. The children have worked really hard and shown great understanding. In English, we have been learning about single-clause sentences. We now know that every sentence needs a subject and a verb.

We have been busy in D&T too! We have been learning how to create a running stitch and cross stitch.



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 3

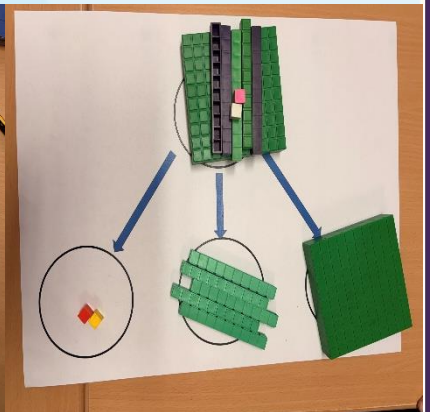
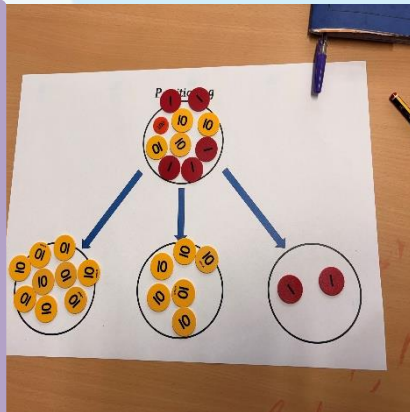


This half term has been all about settling into key stage 2! We have adjusted to being in a different area of the school and using different playgrounds for our breaks and lunchtimes.

Earlier in the term, we had a fantastic trip to The Stone Age Company where we experienced an amazing day, consolidating all of our classroom learning. We handled Stone Age artefacts, dressed up in Stone Age clothing, built Stone Age huts and even made Stone Age tools from stone!



In maths, we have been learning all about place value using ones, tens and hundreds. We have now started to learn about addition and subtraction and how to use the column method to support our learning. We are learning our times tables using Times Tables Rockstars because we need our times tables for all kinds of maths work!

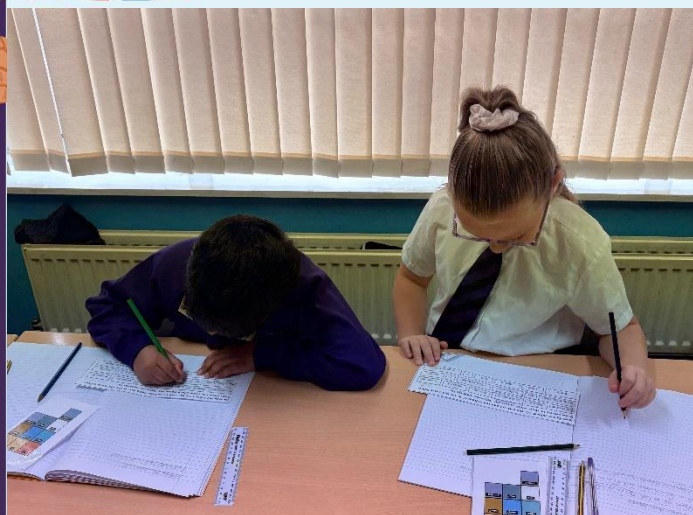
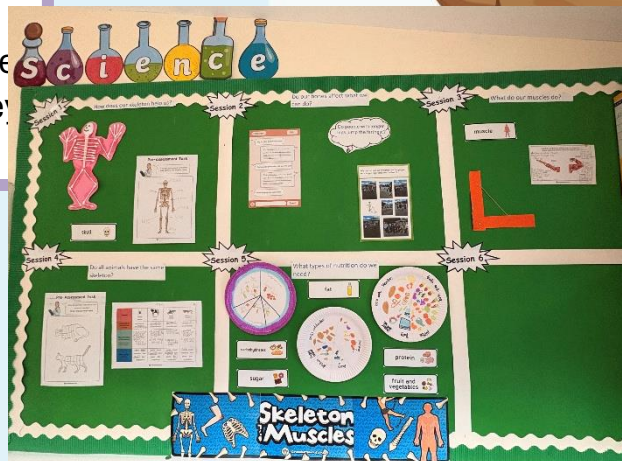


In reading, we have been using Reading Plus every day and are becoming quite competitive to see who has read the most words! We also have separate reading lessons, where we read texts linked to learning in other areas of the curriculum. This supports us in knowing and remembering more so we don't forget things we've learnt previously!



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

In science, we have learnt about the human skeleton and its 3 main functions of support, movement and protection. We have learnt some of the key bone names and the way in which they protect vital organs in our body.

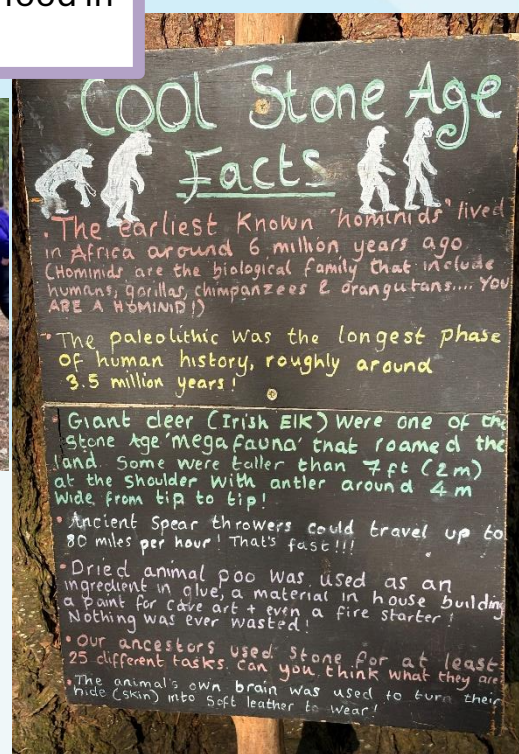


In writing, we have been focusing on the key elements of a sentence. We know that every sentence needs a subject and a verb and can identify these to help us punctuate our sentences correctly!

In PE, we have been learning multi skills. As the weather has been quite kind so far, we have been able to take our learning outside. We have learnt how to throw and catch successfully and also how to control a ball with our feet.



In history, we have really enjoyed learning all about the Stone Age. We have learnt about homes, clothing, weapons and how to hunt for food in order to survive!



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 4



Wow! How is it the end of the first half term already? The weeks have flown by, and before we know it, we'll be preparing for the festive season. The Year 4 team has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each child this term and we're excited for the rest of the year ahead.

We have been so impressed with the children's positive attitude, effort, and enthusiasm for learning. In this newsletter, you'll find a snapshot of what we've been doing so far, as well as a preview of what's coming up next half term.

Thank you for your continued support – we really value the strong partnership between home and school.

The Year 4 Team ☺



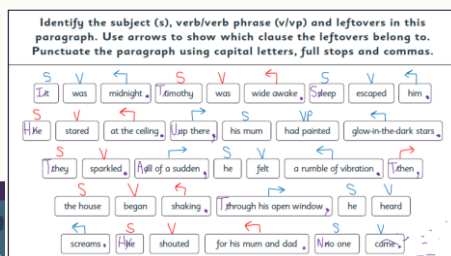
Our main focus in maths this half term has been place value of numbers, addition & subtraction. We have explored the many different way of representing numbers, from place value grids, part-whole models, place value counters to base 10 equipment and bar models! The children have rounded, compared, ordered and manipulated numbers up to 10,000!



Our writing lessons have focused on the Place Value of Punctuation & Grammar this half term. The children have been learning how to structure and punctuate interesting sentences so that they can write effectively and clearly. They have explored subjects, verbs, leftovers, conjunctions and compounds!

Thank you so much for the wonderful turn out at our Times Table Workshop. We really appreciate your ongoing support with times tables and encourage you to support the children with this as much as possible at home to ensure rapid progress is made.

We have just completed our first check for the Multiplication and Times Table check and can already see great progress!



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

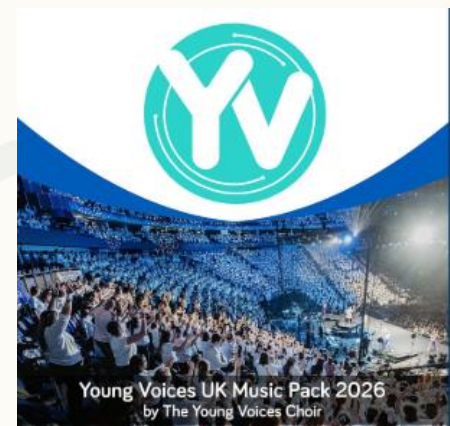


In science, we have covered two units of work so far: Animals and their habitats and Changes in State – Solids, Liquids & Gases. The children have enjoyed the practical aspects of the units, whether it was searching for and identifying creepy crawly minibeasts or testing to see how fast different liquids move.



Art lessons have had us explore the key question: What can pottery tell us about the past? We have linked it to the children's previous learning about Ancient Egyptians. The children explored ancient Egyptian pottery and the pictures and symbols on each to see what it told us about life in Ancient Egypt. We then made our very own canopic jars using the coil method and pinch pots before decorating them with symbols and meaningful colours. Have a look at some of our magnificent creations.

Year 4 have been given the amazing opportunity to take part in Young Voices 2026 which will see us perform alongside up to 10,000 other children from schools right across the North West and Midlands. This will take place in Manchester at the CO-OP arena in February 2026. Singing along to a live band and conductor, the children will perform a host of songs for the audience which will be made up of thousands of proud parents.



Topics for Next Term:

- Charlie & the Chocolate Factory (English)
- Measurement, Multiplication & Division (maths)
 - Making Chocolate (D&T)
- Italy & The UK (Geography)
- Celebrating Difference (PSHE)
 - The Christmas Story (RE)
 - Dance (PE)



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 5



Maths

In Maths this term, we've explored place value and how digits build numbers. We've also practised addition and subtraction using different strategies.

Towards the end of the half term, the children were diving into multiplication and division. It's been brilliant to see growing confidence and enthusiasm in every lesson!



Writing

This term in writing, our learners have been diving into the building blocks of great sentences! We've explored nouns and verbs, learned how to connect ideas using co-ordinating conjunctions, and investigated how subjects and verbs work together in clauses. It's been wonderful to see the children applying their knowledge to create more confident and expressive writing.



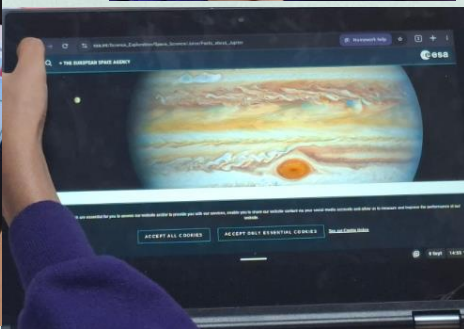
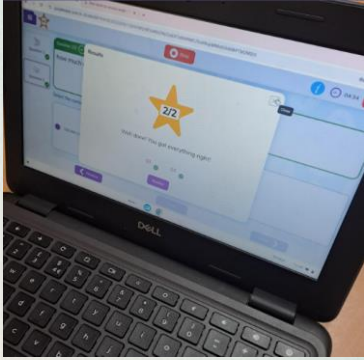
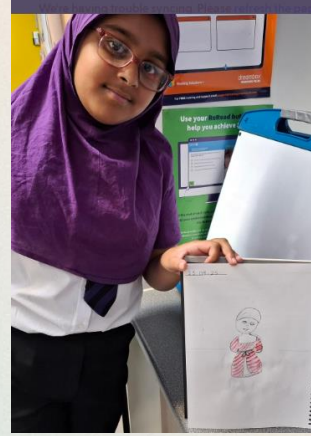
Geography

In Geography, we've been learning about rivers and how they change along their course. On our field trip to Dovedale, we measured the river's depth, width, and speed. It was fascinating to see how these features vary in different locations. The children really enjoyed being geographers for the day!

Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Art

In Art, we've been exploring monochromatic techniques to create striking visual effects. The children have started applying their artistic skills while learning about portraits. We've also looked at the styles of different artists throughout history such as Noor Bahjat for inspiration. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and confidence grow!



Computing and Science

In science this term, we've been exploring the fascinating topic of Earth and space—learning about planets, the solar system, and how day and night happen. Meanwhile, in computing, the children have been busy designing their own interactive quizzes, using logic and creativity to test their classmates' knowledge. It's been a brilliant term full of curiosity and innovation!



A trip to the fire station

This term, we visited Sandyford Fire Station for a Safe and Sound session. The children learned about fire safety, emergency procedures, and staying safe at home. They explored the station and even got to see the fire engines up close! It was a fun and informative trip that everyone enjoyed.



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 6



In maths, the children have been learning about place value and the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. These are the fundamental building blocks of maths, and mastering them is key to success in Y6.

We encourage regular practice at home to help reinforce these skills and build confidence in using them everyday.



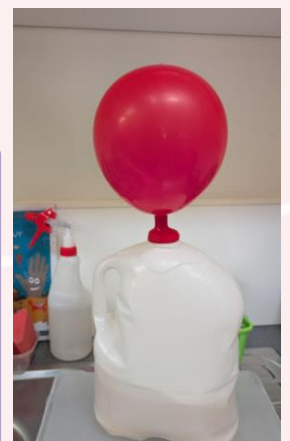
In geography, we've been learning about plastic and its impact on our planet. As part of our local study, the children investigated the types and amounts of litter found in different areas near our school. This helped them understand how waste affects the environment close to home. To make a positive difference, we finished the topic with a community litter pick — a great way to put our learning into action and help tidy up our local area!



Take a look at our Halloween doors - we absolutely loved making them!



In Science, we've been investigating the topic 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. The children explored how living things are classified into groups based on their characteristics, learned about micro-organisms, and carried out an investigation to determine whether yeast is a living organism.



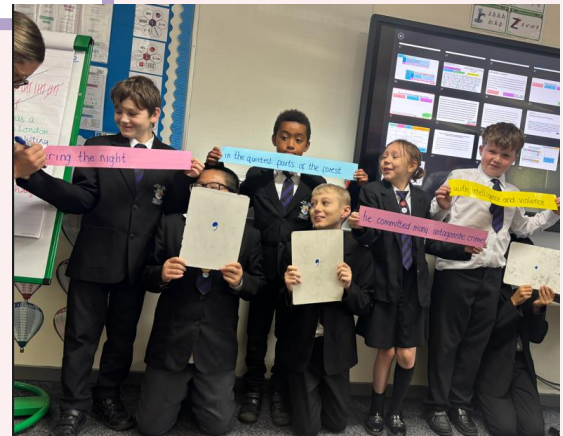
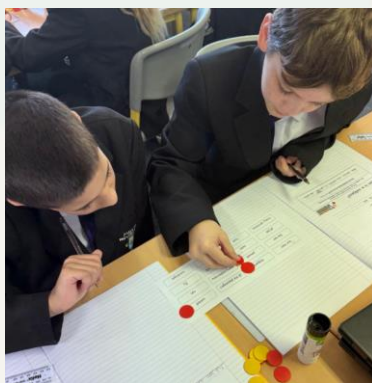
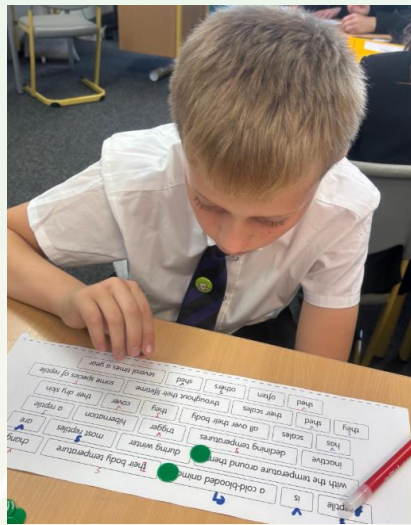
Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...



In history, we've been exploring how crime and punishment have changed over time. To bring our learning to life, we've transformed our classroom into courtrooms where we acted out trials, recreated Victorian prisons in the school yard to understand conditions of the past, and even recorded podcasts to debate whether different punishments were fair or not. These activities have helped us think critically about justice and how society's views on crime and punishment have evolved.



Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for the SATS Reading Workshop!



In writing, we've been focusing on the importance of punctuation and grammar, particularly how to punctuate sentences accurately by identifying the subject and verb. This has helped us build a strong foundation for clear and effective writing. We've now begun our first writing unit, where the children will be creating non-chronological reports about British outlaws from the past. This exciting topic allows them to apply their grammar skills while exploring fascinating historical figures.



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Behaviour & Attendance

Well
done!

It's been wonderful to see the children return with such positivity, enthusiasm, and a genuine eagerness to learn. Their energy has filled the school with excitement, and we're already off to a fantastic start. We've been incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes and routines. Their respectful behaviour, focus in lessons, and kindness towards one another have truly set the tone for a successful year ahead.

To celebrate their brilliant **behaviour for learning**, we surprised them with a special treat: **Glow in the Dark Sports!** The hall was transformed into a glowing arena of fun, filled with neon lights, music, and high-energy games. From illuminated relay races to glowing dodgeball, the children had an absolute blast! It was a joy to see them laughing, working together, and cheering each other on.

These kinds of experiences not only reward positive behaviour but also help build teamwork, resilience, and a strong sense of community. We're committed to creating a school environment where every child feels valued, motivated, and excited to learn.

Looking ahead, we have lots of exciting opportunities planned throughout the school year. We'll continue to keep you informed through regular updates on Our class dojo page.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Behaviour & Attendance

Well Done!

A warm welcome back to our new school year! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It's been fantastic to see the children return with such positivity and enthusiasm, and we're already off to a great start.

We'd like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a positive and productive school environment. Currently, our whole-school attendance stands at **94.8%**, and while this is a good start, our target is **96% and above**. With your help, we're confident we can reach it!

Reporting Absences If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ensure you **call the school each day** they are off. If you have any **medical evidence**, such as a doctor's note or appointment confirmation, please send it via **Dojo** to **Mrs Salih** or **Mrs Lyons**.

Punctuality Reminder We understand that mornings can sometimes be unpredictable—whether it's traffic, a late start, or unexpected delays. However, we've noticed a **high number of children arriving late** recently. Please remember:

•School starts promptly at 8.40am.

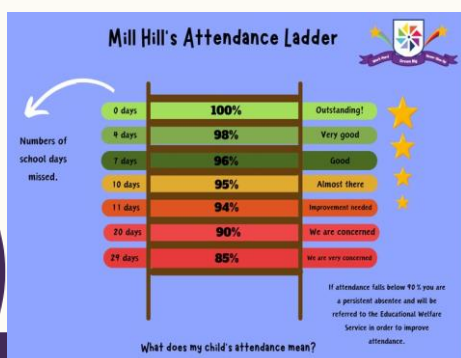
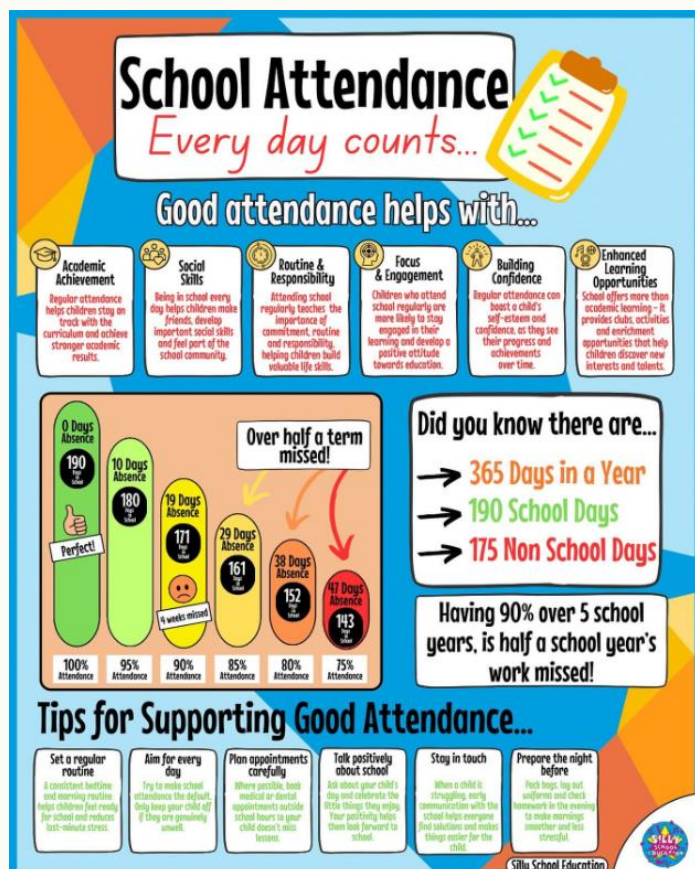
•If a pupil arrives after 9.30am, a "U" code will be recorded in the register (unless attending a medical appointment with appropriate evidence).

•This code indicates an unauthorised absence and means your child will be marked as absent for the entire morning session.

Arriving on time supports consistent attendance and helps your child settle into their learning with confidence and focus.

Celebrating Great Attendance On the positive side, we're excited to introduce **half-termly attendance treats** for each class that achieves **96% or higher!** The children are actively involved in tracking their attendance in class, with **Mrs Lyons** visiting to share their weekly figures. Even better, the children get to **choose their own reward** for great attendance. This half term, the winning classes voted for a **non school uniform day**—a fun and relaxed way to celebrate their achievement. So a **massive well done** to **1C, 3M, 3W, and 5D** for reaching the target! We're incredibly proud of their commitment and teamwork.

Let's keep working together to make every school day count. Your support makes a real difference.



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Curriculum



Nursery	Our Hero's – People who help us
Reception	Planes, Trains and Automobiles
Year 1	Science – What are the seasons? History – How have toys have changed over the last 60 years?
Year 2	Science – How are materials chosen in design? Art – How can pattern be used in art?
Year 3	Art – How can where you live impact you as a artist? Geography – What are the key geographical features of the UK and my region?
Year 4	Geography – What are the similarities and differences between my region and Campania, Italy? Design & Technology – Food & nutrition
Year 5	Art – How can we find our own style of drawing? Science – How do living things reproduce and why is it important in a life cycle?
Year 6	Science – Electricity – How can circuits vary? Art – What mistakes can artists make when drawing faces?



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Sports

PE & Sports Update – End of Term Newsletter

This half term has been jam-packed with sporting fun across the school!

In Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1, children have been developing their foundational movement skills — balance, coordination and agility (our ABCs) — through a variety of multi-sports activities. They've enjoyed games such as football, tennis, tagging games and parachute games, all designed to build confidence and teamwork while keeping active.

Across Lower and Upper Key Stage 2, pupils have been putting those foundational skills into action through multi-sports, football and netball, showing great progress, determination and team spirit in every session. Our after-school clubs have also got off to a cracking start this term and continue to be well attended across the school. KS2 Football Club, Girls' Football, and Cross Country have been training hard in preparation for upcoming competitions — their enthusiasm and commitment have been fantastic to see!



🏆 Competitions This Term

This term, our pupils proudly represented the school in both Cross Country and Football competitions.

It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic runners taking part in the cross-country events — every child gave their all, and both the boys' and girls' teams finished an incredible second place overall! What an achievement!

Our Boys' Football Team also had a fantastic run, winning every game in the group stages and showcasing brilliant teamwork and sportsmanship. They faced tough competition in the quarter finals, which brought their campaign to an end, but they showed true grit, determination and unity throughout.

Meanwhile, our Girls' Football Team absolutely smashed their competition, winning almost every game and conceding just one goal in the entire tournament. Their focus, determination and positive attitude shone through, and after a nail-biting final against a strong opponent, they emerged as tournament champions — a phenomenal achievement! 🏆



A special mention goes to our newly elected Year 6 Sports Leaders, who have already been making a brilliant contribution to school life. They've been supporting KS1 after-school clubs, refereeing games at break times, and helping to set up and oversee the scooter and skating area on the bottom yard.

It's been a wonderful half term of sport, teamwork and fun — well done to all our pupils for their fantastic effort and enthusiasm! 🙌

Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...



Clubs

Sign Language Club



Arts & Craft Club



Multi-Sports Club



Wrap Around with WISH



Drama Club

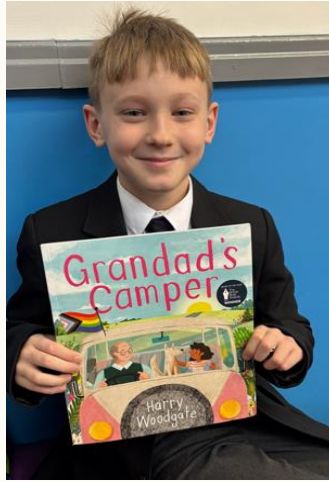


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Book of the Half Term

I would recommend 'Grandad's Camper' because when I read it to the year 2 children they started giggling and they really enjoyed the book.

Dylan – Y6 Reading Ambassador



Meet some of our Year 6 Reading Ambassadors...

My book is called 'The Best Snowman' and I would recommend this because it makes you ask lots of questions and it's a good book to read to make you happy.

Mumtaz - Y6 Reading Ambassador



This is called 'Don't Call Me Sweet' and I would recommend this because when I read this to the younger children they were intrigued and started to ask lots of questions.

Aleeza – Y6 Reading Ambassador



I would recommend 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' because when I was younger my mum used to always read it to me at bedtime and I really enjoyed it.

Cade - Y6 Reading Ambassador



Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...



UPCOMING NON-UNIFORM DAYS

During November and December, we will be having a number of non-uniform days. These will be to fundraise for Children in Need and to ensure that we can have a successful Christmas Fayre.

Friday 14th
November
2025

Fundraising to
support Children in
Need



Friday 21st
November
2025

Full bottle
donations



Thursday 27th
November
2025

Tombola item
donations



Friday 5th
December
2025

Chocolate
donations



As always, donations (no matter how small) are greatly appreciated.

Children in Need

Dress Up & Donate!

On Friday 14th of November 2025, we will be fundraising to support Children in Need.

THIS YEAR'S THEME: CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO 25!



Year 1
-
Year 6

Children can dress like Pudsey – wearing as much yellow as possible or dress in spotty clothing.

Nursery
&
Reception

Children can dress up as their favourite superhero or dress like Pudsey – wearing as much yellow as possible or dress in spotty clothing. They can also bring in their favourite teddy bear.

Any donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.