



# Key dates

## Dates for your diary:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Inset Day

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
School open

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Yr. 3 Multiplication parent workshop

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Yr. 6 SAT's maths parent workshop

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**  
Book Fair

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Parent's Evening & Nursery at the Halle

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Reception Phonics parent workshop

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**  
Reception maths parent workshop

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
NSPCC Day

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
House Treat – Silent Disco

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
Yr. 4 Young Voices Concert

## Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations assembly themes:

- New Year!
- Dreams & Goals
- Careers competition
- World Religion Day
- Chinese New Year
- National Storytelling week
- Children's Mental Health week

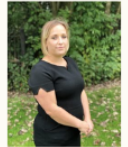


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up....

# Senior Leadership

## Message from the Head of Academy:

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2025. It has been a busy and rewarding Autumn term, with children enjoying a wide range of exciting learning experiences and enrichment activities. They have worked extremely hard in lessons and on their “magic” homework and will enjoy a well-deserved festive reward, including a Party Roo visit and a special visit from Santa. Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising events, which has enabled the PTFA to provide a gift for every child. We look forward to working with the school council to decide how remaining funds can further enhance the school. It has also been wonderful to see so many families attending our Christmas performances and events. I would also like to take this opportunity to share some staffing updates. We are pleased to confirm that Miss Madew and Mrs Donnelly will be returning in January, and we look forward to welcoming them back to the team. At the end of this term, Mrs Fagan will be joining Mrs Mills to take up an exciting opportunity as Vice Principal at Haywood Academy. Mrs Fagan has been a valued and much-loved member of the Mill Hill team, and she will be greatly missed by staff, pupils, and families alike. We would like to thank her sincerely for her dedication, hard work, and commitment to our children during her time with us, and we wish her every success in this new and exciting role.



## Message from the Vice Principal:

What an incredible and festive half term it has been at Mill Hill. The children have learnt so much and, just as importantly, have had a great deal of fun along the way. It has been wonderful to see so many families join us for the concerts and the Christmas Fair—your support truly makes these events so special. As Mrs Hulme mentioned, from January I will be moving to Haywood Academy on a secondment. It has been an absolute honour to be part of the Mill Hill team, and I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved together. The journey we have been on over the years has truly been the best one yet. I would like to wish you all a lovely break and hope you enjoy making precious memories with your families.



## Message from the Assistant Principal:

I have thoroughly enjoyed this half term—it's been such a special time filled with festive events that brought huge smiles to the children's faces. From the wonderful Christmas concerts to the excitement of the Santa Run and the creativity in our festive workshops, it's been a joy to see the children so engaged and happy. Alongside all the celebrations, the children have learned so much this half term and have shown fantastic progress in their work. I'm incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements. I hope you make some gorgeous memories over the festive period, and I look forward to seeing you all in January.



## Message from the Assistant Principal:

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





# Tea & Tots

## ❁ Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year ❁

A heartfelt thank you to all of 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 Christmas break celebrating with their families and loved ones.

We look forward to seeing you back on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, for another fun-filled term together — full of play, laughter, and new friendships. ❤️



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



# Rising 3's



**A big welcome to our new Rising 3 children starting in January 2026!**

We are very proud to introduce and welcome all the new children that will be starting in the Rising 3's in January 2026 as the Busy Bee's. They all came to visit and really enjoyed their very first 'Stay & Play' session with Mrs Hussain and Miss Frost.



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# Nursery



As we come to the end of the Autumn term, we are delighted to look back on the wonderful learning, growth, and festive fun we've shared in Nursery. The children have worked so hard this term and have embraced every new challenge with excitement and enthusiasm. We have seen so much progress made and have really got to know the children.

## Reading Magic

This term, the children have been thoroughly enjoying our *Reading Magic* sessions. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they develop a deeper understanding of stories and begin to share their ideas thoughtfully with their talk partners. Throughout the term, we have explored a wide variety of stories, sparking lots of imagination, discussion, and excitement for reading!



Here are some examples of our story maps for 'The Three Little Pigs'

## Maths

The children have made fantastic progress with their maths skills this term. We have been learning all about the numbers 1 and 2, exploring what they look like, how to represent them, and how to use them in simple activities. We have also begun learning about patterns and discovering how to create our own repeating patterns using colours, shapes, and objects. The children have really enjoyed these hands-on learning experiences.



Here are some patterns we made independently!

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## People who help us

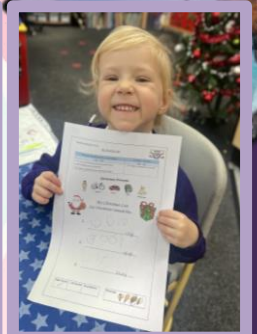
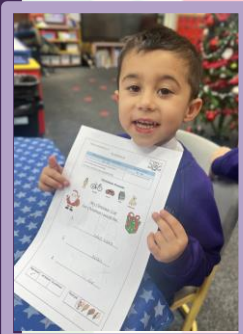
This term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about '*People who help us*', from doctors and police officers to firefighters and teachers. They have embraced the opportunity to role-play these important jobs within our continuous provision, confidently demonstrating what they have learned. We hope they have been eager to share their new knowledge and experiences with you at home!



"999 what's your emergency??"

## Festive Fun

It's always a magical time of year in Nursery, and this term has been no exception. The children shone in our Nativity performances, confidently joining in and singing the songs beautifully. We have also enjoyed a variety of Christmassy activities, which have brought plenty of excitement and festive cheer to our classroom. The children also had a magical time on our trip to Castaway play!



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Nursery Team!

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# Reception



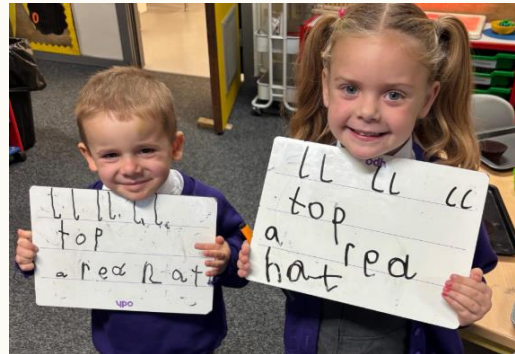
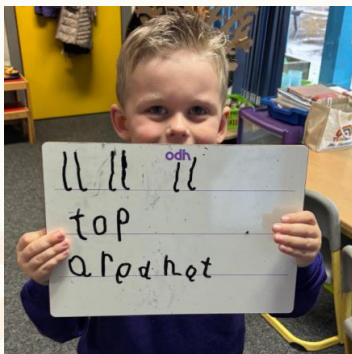
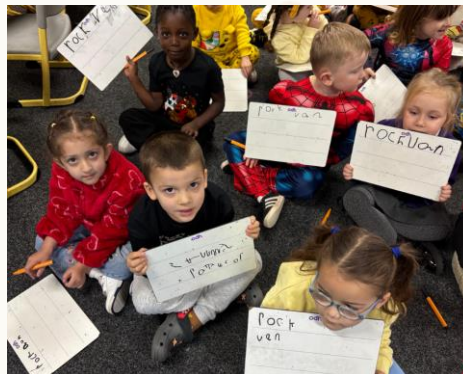
It has been a very busy half term for Reception where we have been celebrating lots of different things and learning about how people celebrate all over the world. We started our celebrations topic off with a teddy bears picnic, where we enjoyed party games, biscuits and dancing. The children talked about their own birthdays and we shared lots of pictures of them celebrating. Next, we looked at celebrations such as Bonfire night, Remembrance day and Christmas. We took part in lots of activities learning all about these celebrations and made lots of lovely creations in art. To wrap up our topic, we have been learning all about the Christmas story, the children were absolutely fantastic in their Nativity, recreating the story of Christmas.



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The children have been working really hard in Literacy this half term. We have now introduced all of the first set of sounds and children are beginning to use them in their writing. We have been listening for initial sounds and writing CVC words. The children have also been challenged to write a caption. We have had lots of fabulous writing this half term and we are very proud of the progress the children are making.



We have been incredibly busy with our maths learning this half term. Our main focus has been on numbers up to 5. We have looked at subitising our numbers and also the composition of the numbers. The children have worked really well with their partners when using tens frames and part whole models for the first time. We have also practised number formation with the children using maths whiteboards and rhymes to help them remember.



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# Year 1



This half term, we have looked at how toys have changed over the last 60 years. We had a fun afternoon playing with old fashioned toys and we brought in our favourite toys. We became 'History Detectives', researched what toys were like when our older relatives were younger, and we compared our toys with theirs.



In maths, we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. The children have enjoyed hands-on activities where they sorted shapes based off their properties such as number of sides, corners and faces. We have also been learning about common shapes such as squares, triangles and circles. We have put our artistic skills to the test by designing pictures using only shapes – there were some fantastic robots, houses and animals! We even played some fun games to spot shapes in our classroom and around school, helping us see how shapes are everywhere.



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# Year 1



In Design and Technology the children have started creating their own 3D toys using recycled materials. Before starting, they carefully planned their designs, thinking about what their toy would look like and which materials would work the best. We explored how everyday items can be reused in creative ways, helping us learn about sustainability and caring for our environment. They have been developing their joining skills using masking tape and glue to attach parts securely. It has been great to see their problem-solving skills in action.



We also celebrated Children in Need with Challenge 25! The children were full of energy as we joined Joe Wicks for his exciting fitness challenges. Everyone worked hard to complete 25 different exercises. We also talked about why Children in Need is special and how our efforts help children across the UK.



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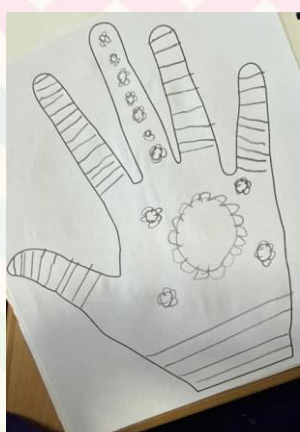




# Year 2



In Art this term, the classes have been exploring monochromatic patterns. The children learned how designers use pattern in their artwork and in celebrations around the world. They also investigated abstract and geometric shapes, experimenting with how these can be combined to create a visual impact. Bringing all of this together, the children designed and created their very own mehndi-style patterns, showcasing creativity, careful pattern work, and growing confidence in their artistic choices. We are so proud of their fantastic designs!



Year 2 had a wonderful time on their autumn walk this term, exploring the outdoors and looking for signs of the new season. The children excitedly spotted colourful falling leaves and noticed how the air felt crisp and fresh. It was a fantastic opportunity for the class to use their observation skills, enjoy nature, and bring their learning about autumn to life.



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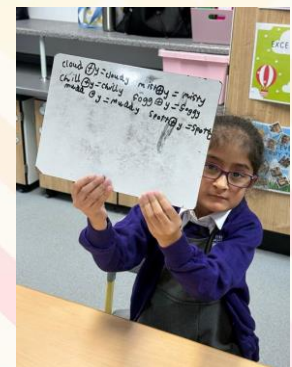
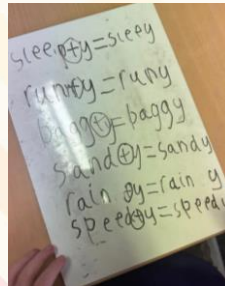
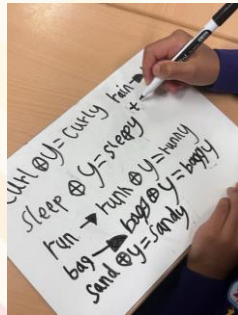
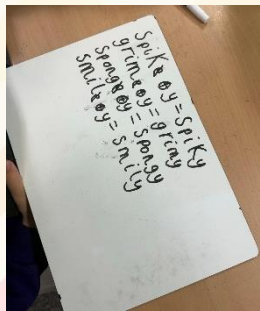




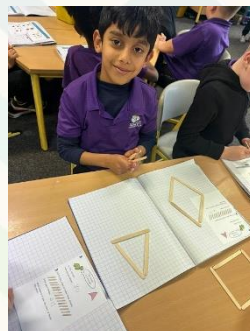
This half term, the Key Stage has been busy exploring creativity, reflection, and celebration through a range of meaningful activities. We worked together to create a collaborative piece of artwork for Remembrance Day, giving us an important opportunity to reflect on all those who lost their lives and to honour their memory. The children also created thoughtful thank-you cards, allowing them to express gratitude to the people who mean the most to them.



As part of our celebrations for 25 years of Children in Need, we held our very own Key Stage talent show. In honour of the anniversary, each act had 25 seconds to showcase their talent. The children impressed us with their confidence, creativity, and enthusiasm, making it a memorable event for everyone.



In Year 2, students have been exploring spelling rules, with a focus on the suffix '-y.' They've been learning how adding this suffix can turn root words into adjectives, such as turning 'sun' into 'sunny' or 'cloud' into 'cloudy'.



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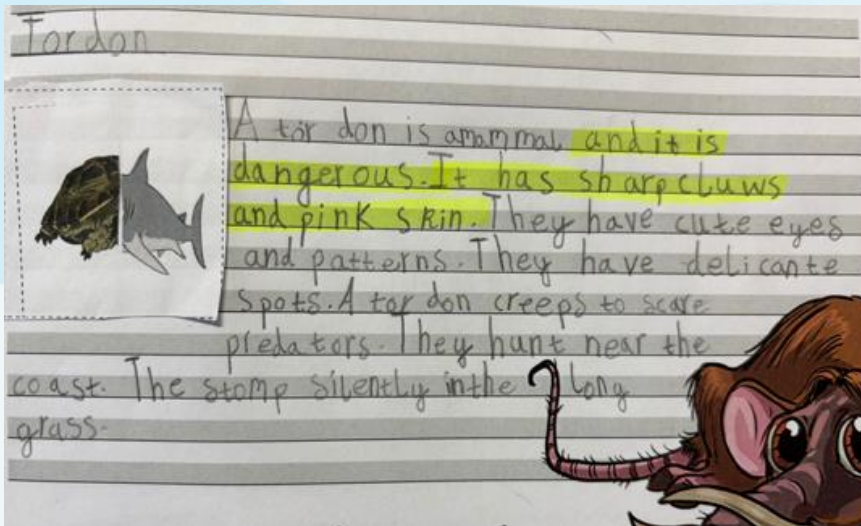


# Year 3

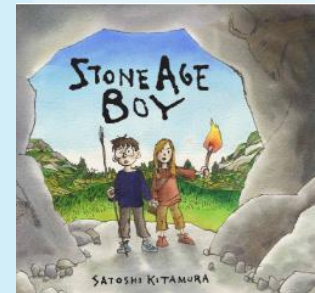


This half term has been a really busy one! We are now familiar with the expectations in Year 3 and are settled into our classes. Christmas is fast approaching and we really enjoyed sharing our Christmas performance with you!

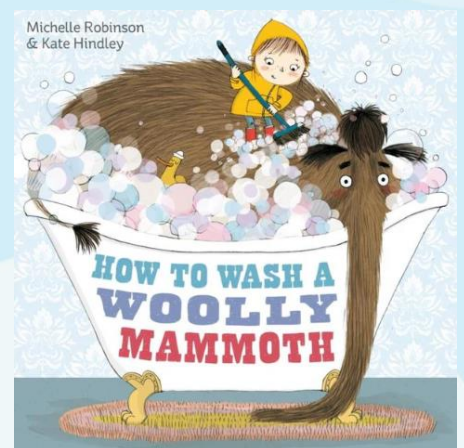
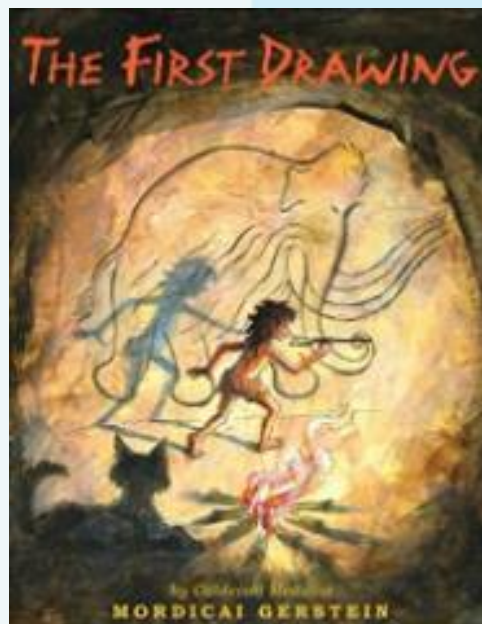
In our English lessons, we have been applying our knowledge of sentence structure to our work. We know that each sentence needs a subject and a verb. This is helping us punctuate our sentences confidently. We have created our own prehistoric creatures and written a report about them.



In writing lessons, we are also learning about the features of a letter and using a familiar story (The Stone Age Boy), to inspire our letter writing.



Linked to our history learning, here are the books we've been "Reading for Pleasure."



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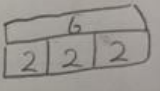
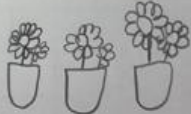


In maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division. We have learnt how to group and share. We are smashing our times tables using Times Tables Rockstars and our scores are improving every week!



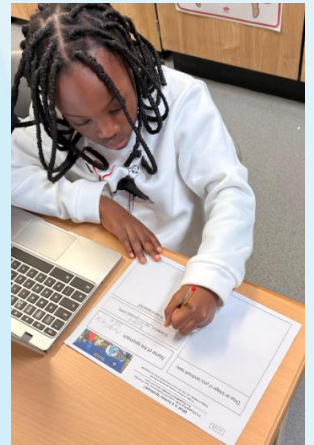
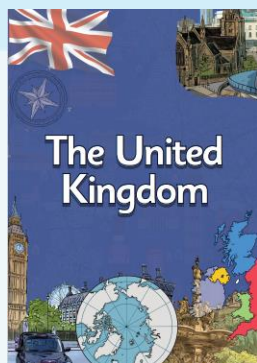
In PE, we have been learning how to do an African dance. It was great fun!



<b>Number story</b> Whitney plants 3 pots of flowers with 2 flowers in each pot. She plants 6 flowers altogether.	<b>Bar model</b> 
<b>Addition sentence</b> $2+2+2=6$	<b>Draw it</b> 

$3 \times 2 = 6$

In Geography, we have been learning about the human and physical features of the UK. We have learnt how the UK consists of 4 different countries and within these, there are different regions and counties. We know that there are different kinds of settlements like villages, towns and cities.



In Design and Technology, we have continued our Stone Age theme, by designing and making Stone Age pouches! We have learnt how to do an over stitch to ensure that the pouch is secure.



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# Year 4



It has been another busy half term in Year 4 and we're not done yet. We have loved practising for all the Christmas festivities and concerts as well as cramming in as much learning as possible. We even managed to fit in a trip to Cadbury's World for our topic on Chocolate.

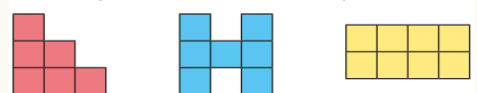
As we come to the end of this half term and we prepare for the Christmas holidays, the Year 4 team would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Season's greetings to you all. If you don't celebrate Christmas, then we hope that you enjoy the two-week holiday and have a wonderful time spending it with your family.

The Year 4 Team 😊

Our main focus in maths this half term has been multiplication & division and measuring area by counting squares. There has been a big focus on the times tables and how to confidently apply the knowledge to problem solving and reasoning situations. We have taught them some tricks and tips to help them recall key multiplication and division facts for each times table so why not ask them to show you. Next half term, we continue with multiplication & division, but we will be learning how to use formal written methods for calculations.



Count the squares to find the area of each shape.



Writing has focused on producing non-chronological reports about fictional extinct animals. There has been a heavy focus on ensuring that the children can write grammatically correct sentences which have a subject and a verb. The children really surprised us with how imaginative and creative they could be with their animal. For the remainder of the term, we have looked at diaries and their features. The children have written diary entries as if they were one of the children who visited Willy Wonka's chocolate factory as one of the chosen 5. Again, we are focusing on making their sentences grammatically correct and interesting for the reader to read.

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4P had the opportunity to attend Port Vale Carol Concert to sing to the local community. We were one of 7 schools that were invited to perform. The children sung beautifully and were a credit to Mill Hill. After the concert, the children had the chance to meet some of the players and get some autographs. There were a lot of very excited children.

Linking in with our study of Charlie & The Chocolate Factory in English, the children had the chance to become chocolatiers in Design & Technology lessons. They designed their own chocolate bark, chose ingredients for texture and taste and then designed the packaging to present their chocolate. The children made some weird, yet strangely delicious, combinations and thoroughly enjoyed the process and the tasting! We also went to Cadbury World in Birmingham to see a real working chocolate factory. The children had a chance to temper chocolate, doodle with melted chocolate and of course taste some of that yummy sweet deliciousness!



We continue to rehearse and learn the songs for the upcoming Young Voices concert in Manchester in February. We have had Miss Smith come in to school to help us learn the dances to the songs. The children can certainly move and have wowed us with their inner rock legend and their air guitar skills! It is shaping up to be a truly memorable experience for the children.

### Topics for Next Term:

- Ancient Greek Myths (English)
- Written Multiplication & Division, Length & Perimeter (maths)
- Ancient Greeks (History)
- The Digestive System (Science)
- Dreams & Goals (PSHE)
- Buddhism (RE)
- Gym Sequence (PE)



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# Year 5



## Science

Year 5 explored living things and their habitats. We learned about the seven life processes: movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion, and nutrition. We investigated how mammals and plants reproduce. Mammals give birth to live young, while plants grow from seeds.

Finally, we studied life cycles, seeing how living things change from birth to adulthood. It's been an exciting journey into the wonders of life!

We were lucky to have stick insects in our classroom, giving us a hands-on way to explore how living things thrive in their natural habitats.



## D and T – Moonlight Magic

In D&T this term, Year 5 designed and made 'Moonlight Magic' wall hangings. We explored how colours, textures, and themes create atmosphere, then planned our designs and learned stitching techniques for spooky details. After assembling our pieces, we evaluated what worked well and what could improve. The results were magical and full of creativity!



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# We journeyed

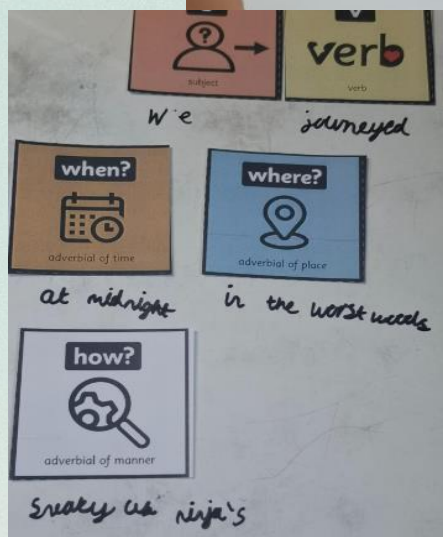


Focus: Expanded noun phrases

As fast as lightning, we journeyed into the crooked forest with bloodthirsty lions and red eyes under the blood, blood moon night. As we approached the crooked forest, I made sure we were prepared. My followers were spooked, but we will never <sup>take</sup> what how many times it will never give up and never will be.

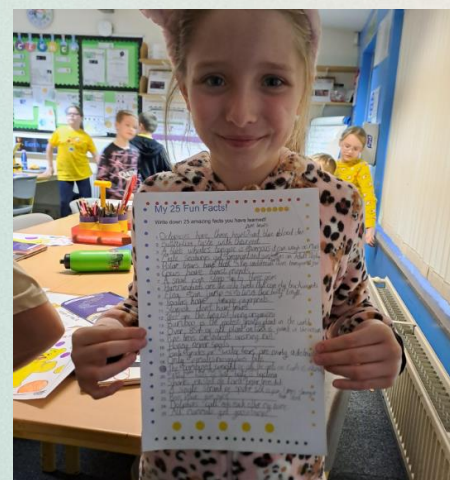
## Recount letter

In writing, Year 5 learned to create engaging recount letters. They focused on layout, personal tone, and practised using conjunctions and adverbials for detail. Sentence pattern cards helped them build varied, well-structured sentences.



## Children in need

We had a fantastic time supporting Children in Need with fun activities! From line dancing and creating colourful postcards for Pudsey to science fact challenges and maths puzzles. The day was full of energy and learning.



## Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, Year 5 took time to reflect and learn about the importance of remembering those who served. We watched a live BBC Teach lesson, which helped us understand the significance of the day and the stories behind it.



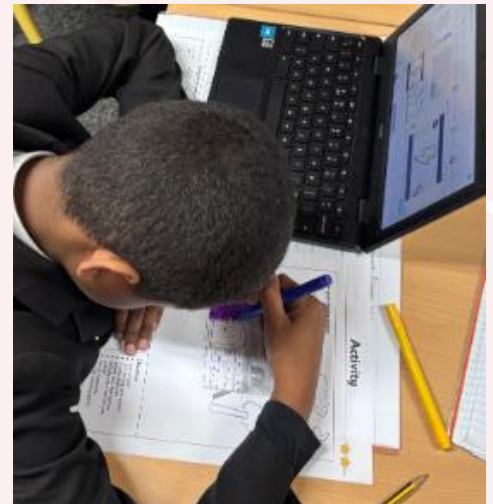
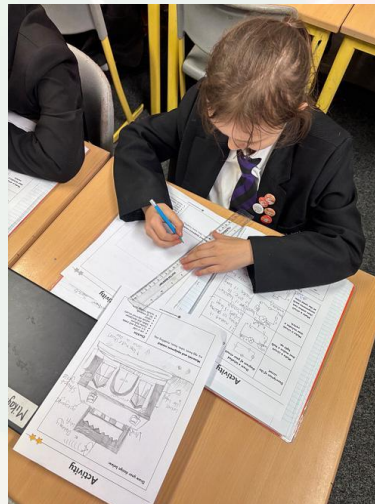
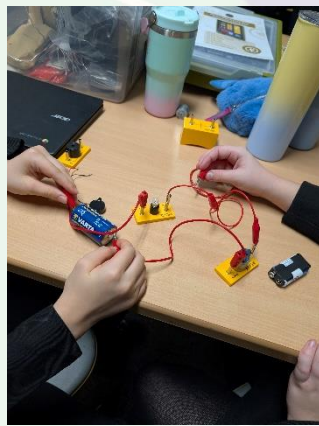
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# Year 6



This half term, year 6 have been learning all about Bram Stoker's Dracula. In writing, we wrote a letter from Jonathon to Mina about our plans to escape Castle Dracula. In Science, we learnt all about electrical circuits and in DT, we constructed gothic, haunted houses and used our new science knowledge to create special effects within them.

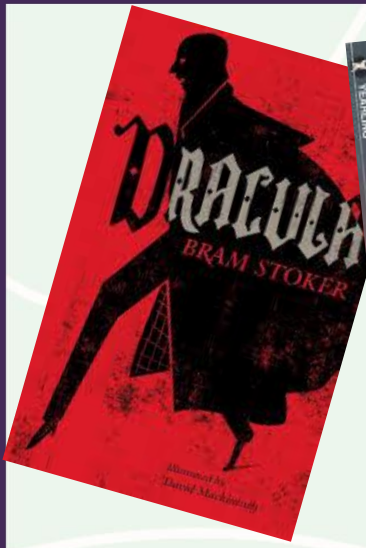


In our Comprehension Crusher lessons, we have read a variety of different texts: poems about Diwali and Bonfire Night, reports about famous gothic characters and an extract from Charles Dickens' classic – A Christmas Carol.



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





We have had two DEAR time texts this half term which have supported our learning around Dracula: the original Dracula story by Bram Stoker and Room 13 by Robert Swindells. We loved Room 13. It is a modern twist on the classic story that tells the story of four children on a school trip to Whitby, where Dracula lived in the Abbey...

In PE, we've been doing dance this half term. Linked to our wider learning, the children have been choreographing the dance of Michael Jackson's Thriller. If you haven't already seen this, it was posted on the class story on Class Dojo. The children were amazing.



On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, we held our Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas Fair. A number of the Year 6 students designed and ran their own stalls to help raise money as part of our Year 6 fundraising effort. The children held raffles, games and more, sourcing their own prizes, creating their own signs and running their own stalls!



The children have also spent lots of time brushing up on their singing and acting skills ahead of the Upper Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert. They've blown us away with their resilience and effort, perfecting their roles, songs and lines.



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



# Behaviour & Attendance

Well  
done!

We are delighted to share that we have had an amazing half term with regard to school attendance. Thanks to your continued support, our attendance has continued to improve, and we are pleased to be ending the year with an overall attendance figure of **95.1%**.

We kindly remind parents and carers to contact the school office **each day** that your child is absent. Please be aware that, in line with our safeguarding procedures, we carry out **home visits when a child has been absent for three days or more**. A reminder that the **school gates open at 8:30am and will close promptly at 8:40am**. Please ensure your child arrives on time, so they can make the best start to their school day.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support in helping us maintain high attendance and ensure the wellbeing of all our pupils.

## Behaviour for Learning Celebration

We have had a really positive half term, with our children working extremely hard to achieve their **Behaviour for Learning** treat. Their commitment, positive attitudes, and excellent behaviour have been a pleasure to see across the school.

To celebrate their success, the children will enjoy their disco with **Party Roo**, filled with lots of fun activities, dancing and singing. It will be wonderful to see everyone celebrating their achievements together.

Thank you for your ongoing support in reinforcing our high expectations and helping the children to succeed.



I would like to wish you all a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**.



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



# Curriculum

Nursery	Traditional Tales – The Three Little Pigs
Reception	The World and Beyond
Year 1	<b>Science</b> – Why do we use different materials for different things? <b>History</b> – Where did Kings and Queens live through time?
Year 2	<b>History</b> – Where have humans explored? <b>Geography</b> – What are the similarities and differences between my town and Tulum, Mexico?
Year 3	<b>Science</b> – How do magnets work? <b>Design &amp; Technology</b> – How can we use magnets to make a model mysteriously?
Year 4	<b>History</b> – What were the greatest achievements of the Ancient Greeks? <b>Science</b> – What happens to the food that we eat?
Year 5	<b>Science</b> – Are there different types of forces? <b>Design &amp; Technology</b> – How can we use pulleys and levers to solve a problem?
Year 6	<b>History</b> – What role did Britain play in World War II, and how did this impact the outcome of the War?



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# Important Updates



We would like to make families aware that City Learning Trust is currently in the process of moving student records to Arbor. If you have a child at another school that already uses Arbor, you may notice that your child who is on roll with us appears in the Arbor app; however, no information will be visible at this stage. There is no action required from parents at present. Further details will be shared in due course, and we will provide full instructions on how to access and use the Arbor Parent App when it is ready to launch in the New Year.



## Homework

As we move into the next half term, we will continue to closely monitor homework completion. The end-of-half-term treat will now be influenced by the effort and consistency shown in completing homework tasks.

We really appreciate your support in ensuring homework is completed, as this greatly benefits the children's learning and helps them make excellent progress. We want to celebrate those who consistently put in the effort, and your encouragement at home makes a big difference.

Thank you for working with us to help every child succeed!

## Rising 3's

We are delighted to welcome our Rising 3's who will be joining us in January! This is such an exciting time as your child begins their journey with us, and we can't wait to see them grow, learn, and thrive in our setting.

Over the coming weeks, we will be helping the children settle in, build friendships, and explore lots of fun and engaging activities. Our aim is to make this transition as smooth and enjoyable as possible for both you and your child.



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



# Book of the Half Term

I would recommend 'Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator' by Roald Dahl, because I really enjoyed it when I read it a few years ago.

**Umar – Senior Prefect**



Meet some of our Year 6 Prefects (and their book recommendations)...

My book is called 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl, because it's an interesting story with lots of funny characters in it!

**Teegan – Senior Prefect**



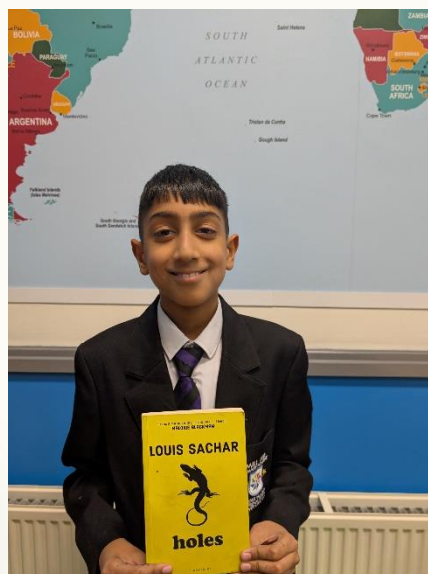
I would recommend Room 13. We read it as our DEAR text and it's a great book. It's a horror about Dracula, but it's really enjoyable to read and you can identify with the characters because they're a similar age to us.

**Molly – Senior Prefect**



I would recommend 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, because there is a lot of action and adventure in it. We read it at the start of Year 6 and I really enjoyed it!

**Ismaeel - Prefect**



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



# Christmas at Mill Hill



Christmas workshops  
with parents!



Christmas Dinner Day!



The student leadership  
team visited St  
Michael's Church to  
decorate a tree for the  
Christmas Tree  
Festival!



Christmas Jumper  
Day!



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





# Christmas at Mill Hill



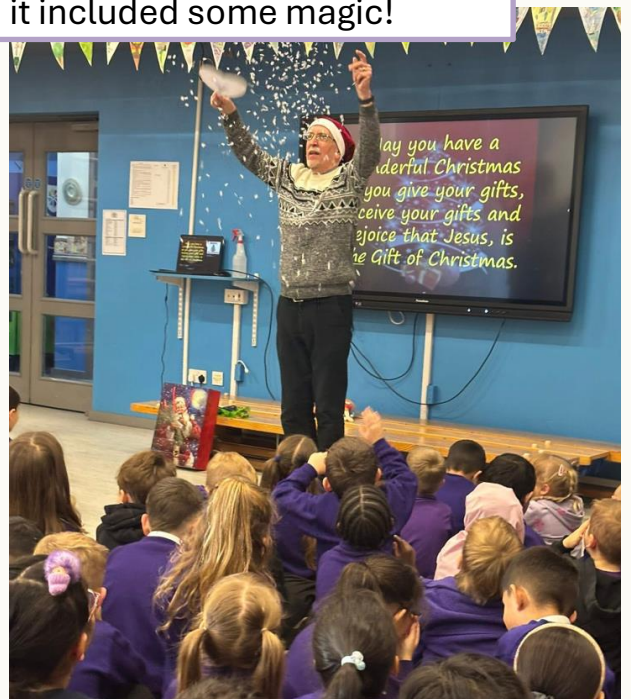
The Christmas performances were magical!



Rev Chris came in to share the true meaning of Christmas and of course it included some magic!



The student leaders went to Clement Court Care home to make Christmas cards with the residents.



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

