



Key dates

Dates for your diary:

Monday 23rd February 2026
School open to all students

Wednesday 25th February 2026
Yr 6 SATs SPAG Parent Workshop

Wednesday 25th February 2026
Yr 4 swimming starts

Thursday 26th February 2026
Yr 1 trip to Warwick Castle

Thursday 5th March 2026
World Book Day

Monday 9th March 2026
Year 4 Recorder Festival

Tuesday 10th March 2026
EYFS Mothers Day Workshop

Wednesday 11th March 2026
KS1 Mothers Day Workshop

Thursday 12th March 2026
LKS2 Mothers Day Workshop

Friday 13th March 2026
UKS2 Mothers Day Workshop

Friday 20th March 2026
Red Nose Day

Monday 23rd March 2026
Easter Egg Parade - Yr 1 9am & Yr 2 2.15pm

Tuesday 24th March 2026
Easter Bonnet Parade – Nursery 9am & Reception
2.15pm

Thursday 26th March 2026
Last day of term

Friday 27th March 2026
Inset Day

Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations assembly themes:

- **Healthy me**
- **British Science Week**
- **World Book Day**
- **Mother's Day**
- **Sign Language Week**
- **Red Nose Day**
- **Eid**
- **Easter Sunday**



Senior Leadership

Message from the Head of Academy:

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the 2026 academic year! Firstly, a huge congratulations to all our children for their continued hard work, enthusiasm and positive attitudes to learning. We have enjoyed a fantastic range of trips, visitors and hands-on experiences that have enriched our curriculum and sparked curiosity about the world around us. This term, we have continued to strengthen the children's literacy and numeracy skills through engaging lessons and daily learning opportunities. It has been wonderful to see the progress they are making and the confidence they are showing in their work. Thank you to all parents and carers who have attended our workshops and joined us for our termly celebration assemblies. It has been lovely to celebrate the children's achievements together, including our 100% attendance award winners. Your support and encouragement make a real difference. We would also like to thank you for your patience as we moved over to Arbor. We appreciate your understanding during this transition and are grateful for your continued support. Thank you for your ongoing help with home learning and reading at least four times a week. If you have any questions, please contact me via Arbor, the school office or at the school gates.



Message from the Assistant Principal:

It has been another exciting half term here at school, filled with enriching workshops, fantastic attendance treats, and a brilliant silent disco to finish off the week! Across all year groups, so much wonderful learning has taken place, and the children have shown exceptional eagerness to try their best and make great progress. We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved half term break, making special memories together, and we look forward to welcoming the children back - especially as the mornings start to become a little lighter.



Message from the Assistant Principal:

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



Tea & Tots

A Big Thank You to Everyone For Another Wonderful Term!

A heartfelt appreciation to all our amazing parents, grandparents, and carers for your continued support during another wonderful term. 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 looking forward seeing you back on **Tuesday 24th February**, for another fun-filled term together — full of play, laughter, and new friendships 🧡



Please Note:

Tea & Tots starts at
1:30pm and finishes
at 3:00pm.



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

Rising 3's



A big well done to all our Busy Bees!

We are very proud of our Busy Bees who joined us this term and have settled in really well. They are beginning to understand and follow the daily nursery routines and rules. They have made lots of new friends and are beginning to learn to share and take turns whilst having lots of fun with all the fantastic activities on offer.



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

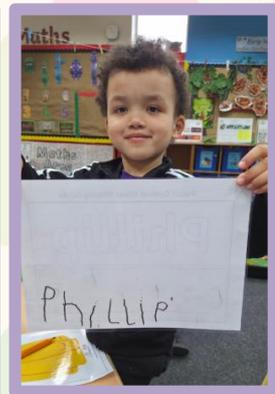
Nursery



This half term, our focus text has been 'The Three Little Pigs'. We turned our role-play area into a builders site for the children to explore building houses.

Writing

We have had a huge push on name writing this half term, resulting in lots of the children gaining their name writing awards. We have focused on the formation of letters and pencil grip. Well done to all the children who can now write their name independently!



Math's

We have immersed the children in the numbers 1–5, exploring them in depth to develop a secure understanding of their value. The children practised rote counting and counting objects, developed their subitising skills, used their fingers to represent numbers, and explored the composition of numbers in different ways.



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

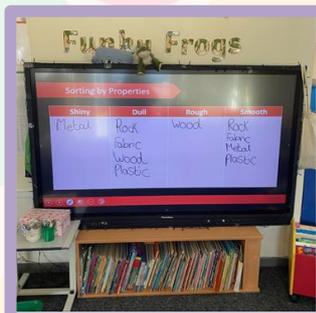
Expressive Arts and Design

We introduced the children to the colour wheel and we learnt all about primary and secondary colours. The children then explored with the primary colours to see if they could make the secondary colours. They loved the magic of colour mixing. After learning all about primary and secondary colours, we learnt all about the famous artist Piet Mondrian and we copied one of his most famous works.



Science

The children learnt about different materials. We explored different materials and talked about how they feel/look. We conducted a series of science experiments to see how we could change the properties of the materials using heat/water.



Reception

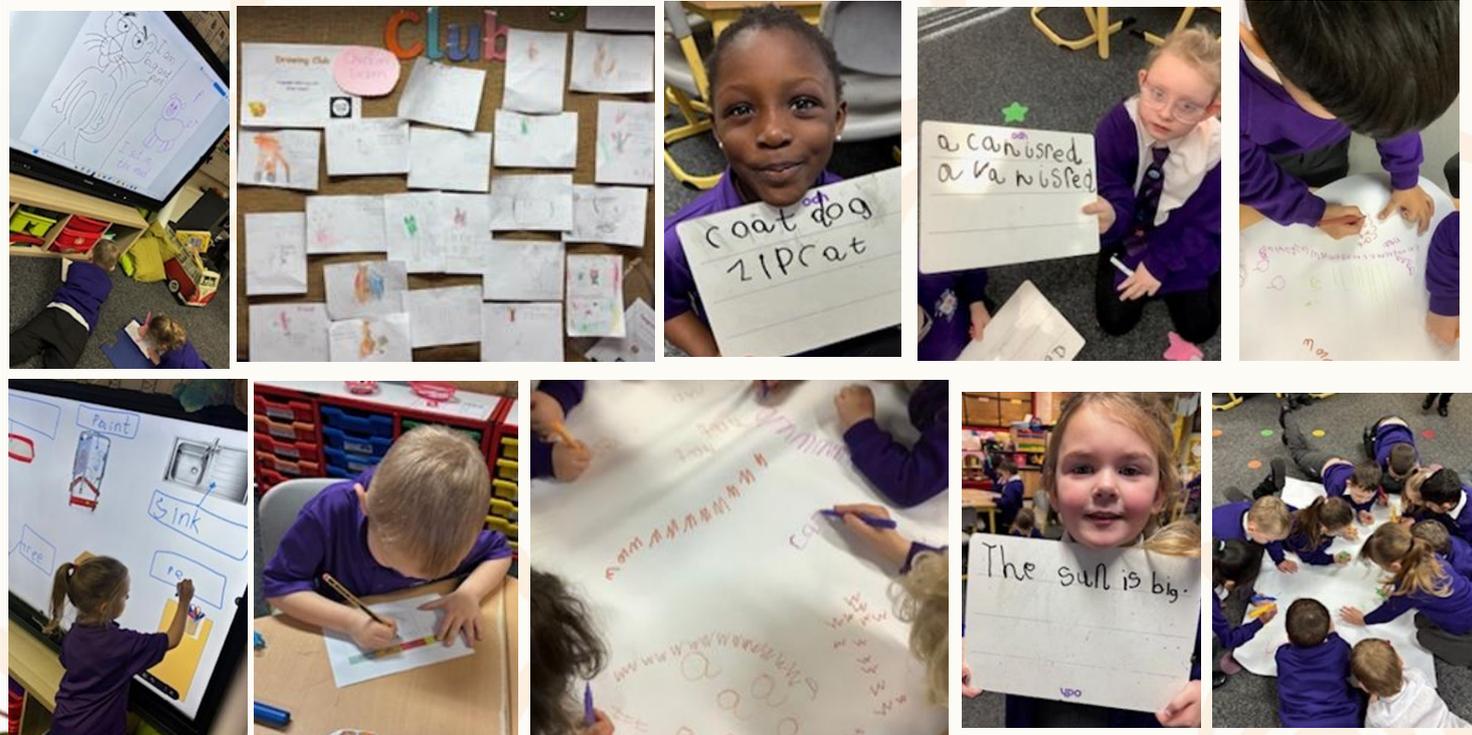


Reception have had a busy half term learning all about where we live. We started by looking at our town Tunstall. The children looked at a variety of pictures from the past and then compared them with the present day which they found fascinating! We then moved onto Stoke-on-Trent, our city. We talked about all of the things that Stoke is well-known for: Oatcakes, Wrights pies, lobby and football clubs Stoke City & Port Vale were some of the children's favourites to talk about! The children turned into local artists as well, creating their art work inspired by Clarice Cliff. We then looked further afield, exploring England and even continents! We explored our country by looking on Google maps, locating our capital city, London, and finding out what Paddington Bear enjoys doing around England! Lastly, we have learnt a song to help us remember the continents and used a big world map to locate all of these. It has been a very interesting half term of learning, looking at where we live and the children are very excited for next half term when we look what is beyond our world!



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

In Literacy, we have been labelling items using our phonics knowledge. We have also been continuing to develop our writing skills by writing CVC words and extending these into captions. The children have also enjoyed Drawing Club, looking at books such as *The Hairy Toe* and watching the animation 'The Pink Panther'. They have shown such excitement when drawing their pictures and using their phonic knowledge to write their very own secret codes.



We have looked at a variety of things in maths this half term. The children have been introduced to numbers 6, 7 and 8. They have used tens frames and part-whole models to find the parts with their partners. We have also talked about measuring length and height, using lots of mathematical vocabulary and measuring items around the classroom – even measuring ourselves! Lastly we have introduced time. Children have talked about their routines and when they complete certain tasks during their day.



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

Year 1



Our science lessons have consisted of us learning about a variety of everyday materials. We looked at different qualities of materials and how objects can be made from more than one material. We researched why different materials are more suitable for some objects more than others based off their functions.

Our lesson sequence ended with an experiment to decide which material would be most suitable to make an umbrella from. This allowed the children to understand the meaning of 'waterproof' and they conducted mini experiments to see which ones were waterproof or not. Our findings saw that plastic and rubber were the most waterproof.



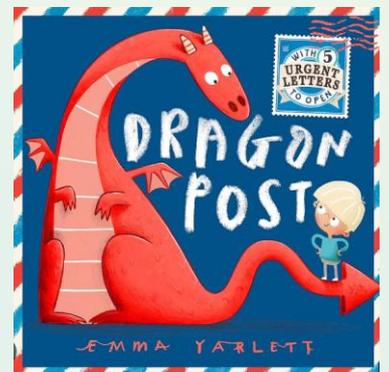
This half term, we have become history detectives, exploring the fascinating world of kings, queens and castles. The children have developed their chronology skills by ordering key events from the life of Queen Elizabeth II, while also learning about important castle features such as moats, battlements and towers. They have discovered how castles were designed to protect reigning monarchs and defend against attackers. We are excited to end our learning journey with a special Kings and Queens Day on the final day of term – a wonderful opportunity for the children to bring their learning to life.



Year 1



In writing, we have been building and developing sentences inspired by the book *Dragon Post* by Emma Yarlett. The children have been learning to identify the subject, verb and leftover in each sentence, while correctly punctuating their work using capital letters and full stops. This learning was built up step-by-step to create their own postcards, using imaginative ideas about their very own dragons. We have also explored how to join two sentences using the connective 'and', helping to make our writing more detailed and interesting for the reader.



We were delighted to welcome Matt, who led a fantastic PE session for us this half term. During the lesson, the children explored movement through a range of animal poses, encouraging them to move in expressive and imaginative ways. They also worked in small relay teams to develop their balance and coordination, carefully carrying beanbags on their heads. The children thoroughly enjoyed their active afternoon with Matt.



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

Year 2



This half term, Year 2 have been busy becoming real-life explorers in Geography. We have been learning about the continents and the oceans surrounding them, using atlases and maps to help us locate different parts of the world. The children have compared Tunstall, our local area, with Tulum in Mexico, investigating the weather, homes, landmarks, and lifestyles in both places. They enjoyed discovering what makes each location special and how life can be similar or different around the world. We are very proud of how confidently the children now use geographical vocabulary!

To launch our new History topic, the children dressed up as explorers, which created lots of excitement and curiosity about the past. We had a wonderful day tasting food, dancing, and exploring cultural traditions. Their enthusiasm helped bring history to life and set the stage for our learning journey this term.

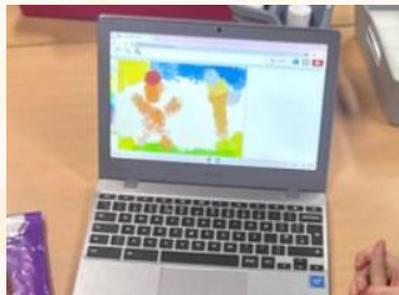
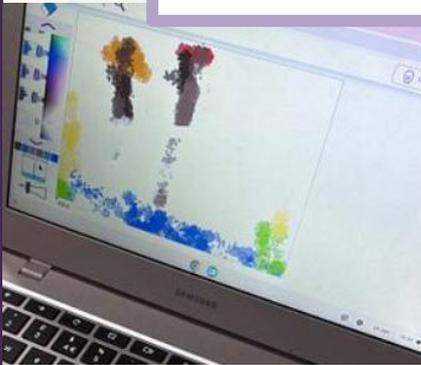


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

In English, we have linked our writing to our topic of explorers. We learned about Charles Darwin and his remarkable journey to the Galápagos Islands, discovering how his observations helped scientists better understand animals and nature. The children used this knowledge to write their own diary entries from Darwin's point of view, imagining what he might have seen and felt as he explored the islands. They used descriptive language, time connectives, and expanded noun phrases to bring his adventure to life.



We have also been learning how to write a clear and effective set of instructions for explorers. The children chose their own type of exploration and the location of their adventure. We now have a wonderful mix of space explorers, underwater explorers, and desert explorers, each with their own creative ideas about equipment, survival tips, and important steps to follow. The children enjoyed thinking carefully about imperative verbs, sequencing words, and how to give clear guidance so their explorer could complete their mission safely.



In Computing, we have been learning how to create our own pieces of digital artwork using the tool 2Paint. The children have explored a wide range of brushes, textures, patterns, and special effects to design imaginative pictures and creative scenes. They learned how to change brush sizes, select colours, add backgrounds, and layer their work to make their designs more detailed.

We also talked about how digital artists use technology to plan and create their work, just like traditional artists do with pencils and paints. The children have enjoyed experimenting with colour combinations, trying out different tools, and using technology to express their artistic ideas in new and exciting ways. Their growing confidence with clicking, dragging, selecting, and saving their work has shown brilliant progress in their digital skills.



Year 3

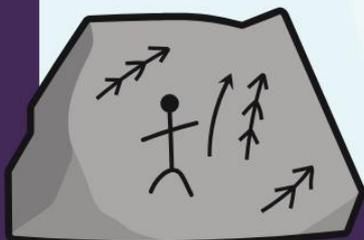


Now that we have settled into Key Stage 2, this half term has been all about challenging ourselves and learning lots of new things. We have been really busy with lots of learning, including different foundation subjects such as D&T and geography.

We were lucky to be joined Matt for a special PE session. He spoke to us about the importance of health and fitness and how we can build them into our day to day lives. We completed lots of teamwork tasks and the children did amazingly well at the 'duck walk' whilst balancing a bean bag on the head, as well as learning strategy and judgement in the Robin Hood game.



In our D&T lessons, we have been learning how to make different joins using a range of different techniques. All of these different joins helped us when we came to building our pyramids, so that we could strengthen and join our model together carefully. Some of these techniques were quite tricky to get the hang of, yet we worked well together as a team to ensure that we completed each one.



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

Following on from our work in D&T, we were able to use our joining skills to help us when building our own mysterious pyramids. We had lots of fun doing this, even if working with thick cardboard was a challenge! We also had the opportunity to make links to maths, by using a pyramid nets to help build our main shape. Take a look at some of our creations.



As part of National story telling week, we had a visitor from a secret reader. The children loved listening to Mrs Moreton and were reminded of the joy of listening to stories.



We had a very special assembly from Rock Steady music school. The children loved rocking out and some of the children even had the opportunity of joining in with the band.



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

Year 4



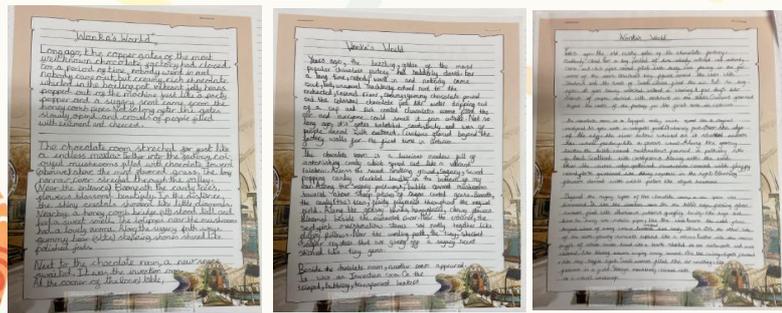
It's been a busy and exciting start to the Spring term in Year 4, and we've jumped straight back into our learning with great enthusiasm! From engaging lessons in the classroom to creative projects across the curriculum, the children have been working incredibly hard and showing a fantastic attitude to their learning. There's lots to celebrate this half term, and we're looking forward to sharing some of the highlights with you below!

This half term, we've continued our focus on multiplication and division. We have looked at efficient methods of multiplying and dividing both mentally and in written form. The last two weeks of the term has focused on length and perimeter of shapes. Times tables continue to be a high priority, along with applying them to problem-solving and reasoning. The progress of the children in their times table knowledge has been astounding and we are so proud of their achievements so far.



This half term, our writing has focused on creating imaginative setting descriptions inspired by the magical world of **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**. The children described the Chocolate Room and the Inventing Room, using rich vocabulary and sensory details to bring these exciting spaces to life. We have also worked hard on writing clear, accurate sentences. We are very proud of the children's creativity — their writing truly captures the wonder of Wonka's factory!

Linking with our history learning about **Ancient Greece**, the children also wrote an exciting set of instructions explaining how to defeat the Minotaur and escape the labyrinth to avoid being sacrificed. They enjoyed using clear, step-by-step language and precise verbs to guide the reader, showing just how much their confidence and skills in writing have grown this term.



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



Our key question in history lessons tis half term has been 'What were the greatest achievements of Ancient Greece?' We have explored ancient Greek civilisations and how advanced they were for the time. The children have explored Greek artefacts and pose questions about what these items tell us about life in Ancient Greece. We have also learnt about what the Greeks have given to the modern world such as theatre, democracy and the Olympics!

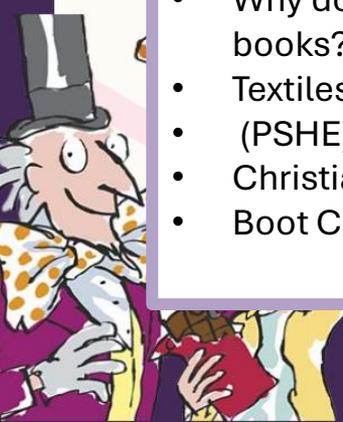


We've been rocking out as we rehearse for the Young Voices concert in Manchester! With Miss Smith teaching us the moves, the children unleashed their inner rock stars—complete with epic air guitar skills! It was an unforgettable performance, and the children lived their true rockstar life performing at the concert. Have a look at the photographs from the event



Topics for Next Term:

- Explanation text all about the digestive system (English)
- Fractions & Decimals (Maths)
- The Digestive System (Science)
- Why do artists keep sketch books? (Art)
- Textiles – Book Bags - (D&T)
- (PSHE)
- Christianity - Easter (RE)
- Boot Camp Fitness (PE)



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

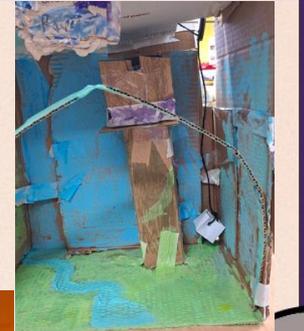
Year 5



Design and Technology

This term, in Design and Technology, Year 5 have been learning about mechanisms, focusing on pulleys, levers and linkages. As part of their *Fairy Tale Engineering* topic, the children designed and created miniature theatres to solve a problem for a fairy tale character.

They used moving mechanisms to bring characters to life and change scenes, developing their creativity, problem-solving and crafting skills. The children showed great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the project and produced some fantastic outcomes.



Art

In Art, pupils focused on sculpture and colour. They began by carefully planning their clay flower designs, thinking about shape, texture and the colours they wanted to use.

The children then sculpted their flowers using clay, developing their modelling skills and learning how to add detail and structure. Once the sculptures had dried, pupils used acrylic paints to bring their work to life, blending primary colours to create a range of complementary shades. This process helped children develop their understanding of colour mixing, as well as encouraging patience, creativity and attention to detail as they painted their final pieces.

Maths: Multiplying fractions focus

This term in Maths, Year 5 have continued their learning on fractions, with a particular focus on multiplying fractions. The children explored mixed numbers and practised partitioning fractions to support their understanding. They applied these skills when solving both one-step and two-step multiplication problems, developing their confidence and accuracy. Pupils were encouraged to explain their thinking and use different strategies, helping to deepen their understanding of fractions and how they are used in calculations.





Writing – Setting description

In English, Year 5 have been focusing on setting descriptions, giving their imaginations full freedom to create vivid and engaging scenes. The children explored key writing techniques, including relative clauses and participial phrases, and learned how to use them to add detail and sophistication to their work. They combined all of these skills in a final write-up, showcasing their creativity, strong writing ability, and flair for storytelling. It was wonderful to see the children bring their ideas to life with such imagination and skill.



Pe – Groovy gymnastics

This term in PE, Year 5 have been exploring Groovy Gymnastics, showcasing their agility, balance and coordination. The children focused on experimenting with different body shapes and stances and then applied these skills to create grouped sequences. This topic helped pupils develop their fundamental PE skills while also encouraging teamwork and communication, as they worked together to design and perform well-constructed sequences. It has been fantastic to see the children demonstrating creativity, collaboration, and confidence in their gymnastics performances.



Number day

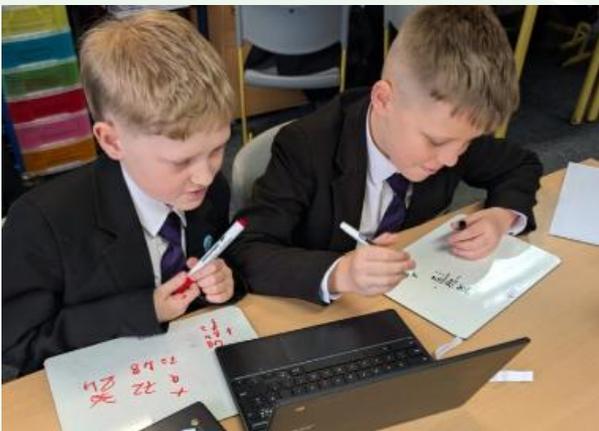
Year 5 took part in a special day to celebrate maths and showcase their amazing mathematical skills. The children got creative with fun and funky number-themed clothing and spent the day completing a variety of maths challenges. They also explored how maths links to other areas of the curriculum, including art and computing, making the day both fun and educational. It was fantastic to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic about using their maths knowledge in different ways.



Year 6



The first spring term is already done which means we're edging closer and closer to SATS in May. We have launched SATS Boot Camp in the last few weeks and with this the expectations around homework is changing slightly: 4 reads per week, 400 correct answers on TT Rockstars and an arithmetic paper completed on SATS Boot Camp. As always, thanks for your support with this – it really does help the children to improve.

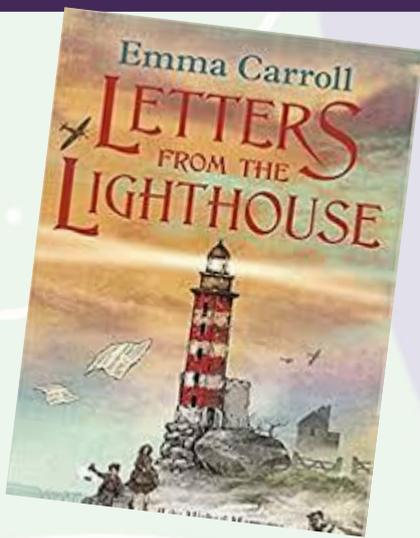


This half term, year 6 have been learning all about WW2. In writing, we focused on characterising speech from a narrative based on *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. In History, we looked at how Hitler came to power, how the war started and what Britain was like during the war for the Home Front. We also did Art where, in our monochrome unit, we focused on individual elements of a self-portrait before completing our own.

In our Comprehension Crusher lessons, we have read a variety of different texts: a poem from the perspective of a soldier and two reports: one about Reginald Mitchell and another about the Imports and Exports of the United Kingdom. We've been using these very different texts so we have read lots of different types and formats of reading.



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



The DEAR text that we have been reading is 'Letters from a Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. The book following a brother and sister who have been sent to live in Budmouth Point – in a lighthouse. We haven't got very far through it yet; however, we're enjoying learning a bit about what it was like for inner-city children who were evacuated to the countryside.

In PE, we've spent a lot of time in the hall due to the early-year weather. We have been focussing on our gymnastics skills, looking at rolls, balances, transitions and counter-balances. We have particularly enjoyed throwing ourselves around on the floor using teddy bear and forward rolls...



The children have done lots of coding in Computing during their time at Mill Hill. However, in the last few weeks, they have been introduced to text-based coding in Python. They've been looking at how to code simple programs and use functions to make a countdown timer; do calculations and print text onto a screen.

In RE, the children have been continued in their work around Christianity and battling the question: 'Is anything ever eternal?' In this unit, they look at belief systems around Heaven and Hell. In PSHE, they have been discussing their dreams and goals, in Year 6 and beyond!



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

Behaviour & Attendance

Well Done!

Attendance

We are delighted to share that our 95% attendance continues to move in the right direction, thanks to the ongoing support of all our parents and carers. We are currently above the national figure of 94.8%, which is a fantastic achievement for our school community.

We love celebrating positive attendance across the school and recognising the children's commitment. Each half term, classes that achieve 96% attendance or above are rewarded with a class treat of their choice. This half term, 2A, 5D and 6W all achieved 96% or above – a massive well done to them!

We also celebrated children who achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn Term with a special afternoon cake and hot drink treat. It was wonderful to see so many children reach this milestone. An amazing 119 children achieved 100% attendance – a fantastic accomplishment. In addition, children who achieved 97% attendance were rewarded with a certificate and a pencil to recognise their excellent effort. Thank you for your continued support. Please remember to contact the school on each day your child is absent. School gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:40am. We kindly ask that you do your utmost to ensure your child arrives during this time, as children arriving after 8:40am will receive a late mark. If a child arrives after 9:30am, they will receive a U mark, which will affect their overall attendance. Please note that we may also carry out a home visit from day three onwards.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, and we hope you all have a lovely half term.

Behaviour

We are delighted to share that this half term we celebrated our Behaviour for Learning treat with a fantastic silent disco and a range of fun class activities. The children absolutely loved it! It has been wonderful to hear them singing along and enjoying themselves – such a joyful atmosphere across the school. We are always proud to celebrate our children's positive behaviour, their commitment to learning and their efforts in completing home learning. These special treats are a lovely way to recognise the consistent hard work and positive attitudes we see every day. Thank you all for your continuing support in reinforcing our high expectations and helping your children to be ready to learn. Working together makes such a difference.



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

Curriculum

Nursery	<p>Rising 3's – 5 Speckled Little Frogs</p> <p>Nursery – Jack & the Beanstalk (Growing)</p>
Reception	<p>The World & Beyond</p> <p>Class Text – “Whatever Next”</p>
Year 1	<p>History – Which pioneering women have shaped healthcare and medical science</p> <p>Art – Does abstract art mean anything?</p>
Year 2	<p>Science – How do seeds and bulbs grow into healthy plants?</p> <p>Art – How can artists use colour?</p>
Year 3	<p>History – What were the greatest achievements of Ancient Egypt?</p> <p>Art – What is illustration?</p>
Year 4	<p>Geography – How can I use map skills to learn about my locality?</p> <p>Art – Why do artists keep sketchbooks?</p>
Year 5	<p>History – How did England change during the settlement of the Anglo-Saxons?</p> <p>Art – How can flowers inspire artists?</p>
Year 6	<p>Science – How do an animals living system work together to maintain a healthy body?</p> <p>Geography – What is the economic activity of the UK?</p>



Sports



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

Book of the Half Term



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