



Mill Hill News

Spring Term

Key dates

Dates for your diary:

Monday 13th April 2026
School Open

Monday 27th April 2026
Year 1 Halle

Monday 4th May 2026
Bank Holiday – School Closed

Monday 11th May 2026 – Thursday 14th May 2026
Year 6 SAT's Exams

Friday 15th May 2026
Celebration Assembly

Monday 18th May 2026
EYFS & LSK2 Sports Day

Tuesday 19th May 2026
KS1 & UKS2 Sports Day

Wednesday 20th May 2026
Winning House Team Treat

Thursday 21st May 2026
Census Day

Friday 22nd May 2026
End of Term Treat – Party Roo

Friday 22nd May 2026
Last day of school

Monday 1st June 2026
School open

Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations assembly themes:

- Jigsaw – Relationships
- Palm Sunday
- St Georges Day
- The London Marathon
- VE Day – Victory in Europe Day
- Florence Nightingale's birthday
- The first FA cup final



Senior Leadership

Message from the Head of Academy:

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. Although it has been a short term, it has certainly been an extremely full one. The children have continued to enjoy a wonderful range of experiences across the school, enriching their learning and creating lasting memories. Our recent Easter events have been a real highlight, and it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and creativity from the children. The Easter bonnets, decorated eggs and Easter gardens were all truly amazing—each one a testament to the time, effort and care put in at home. Thank you for helping to make these experiences so special for the children. I would also like to recognise our Year 6 children, who have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs. We are very proud of their commitment and positive attitude, and we will continue to support them as they approach this important time. I hope you all enjoy a happy and restful Easter break, spending quality time with your families.



Message from the Assistant Principal:

It has been another fabulous spring term, filled with a wealth of memorable experiences, exciting trips, and plenty of fun along the way. With it being only a short half term, the time has flown by, and I'm incredibly proud of all that has been achieved. As we look ahead, I'm hopeful that the warmer weather will soon be with us, and I can't wait to share everything the summer term has in store. There are some wonderful treats and opportunities planned, and we cannot wait to welcome you back, ready to embrace your learning with enthusiasm and positive attitudes. I hope you have a fabulous half term and see you all soon!



Message from the Assistant Principal:

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



Tea & Tots

Thank You for a Wonderful Term!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the incredible parents, grandparents, and carers for your ongoing support during another amazing term. Your time, kindness, and enthusiasm make Tea & Tots a warm, inviting, and truly special community for everyone. Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Easter break. We can't wait to see you back on Tuesday 14th April for another exciting term, filled with play, laughter, and new friendships ❤️

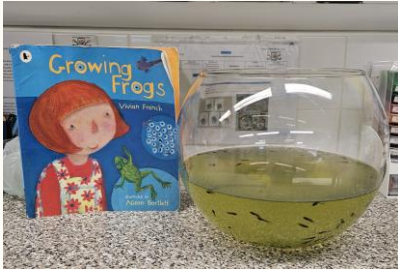


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Rising 3's



The Busy Bees really have been busy this half term learning all about the life cycle of a frog, pond life, animals and their babies. We shared lots of different stories about frogs and animals and enjoyed learning the rhyme of the 5 Little Speckled Frogs.

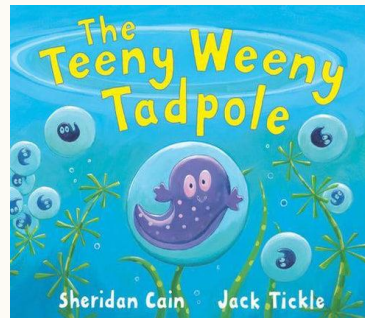


Miss Frost got some frog spawn for us. We loved checking it everyday to see if it had changed into Tadpoles.



Five Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious
bugs (yum yum)
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were four green
speckled frogs. (glub glub)

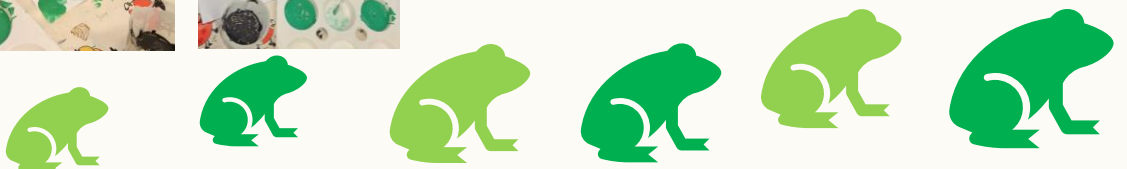


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Rising 3's



We did our own paintings of Tadpoles and Frogs.



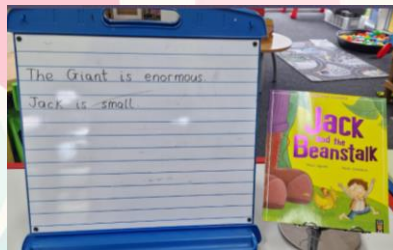
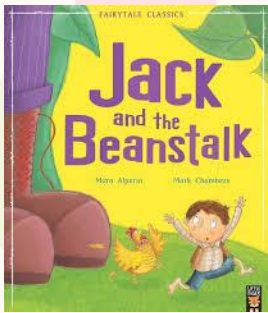
Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Nursery



This half term, our focus text has been 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have also looked at 'Jasper's Beanstalk' as part of our growing topic.


We have enjoyed reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk' with the children this half term. We have talked about the characters and setting of the story. We have sequenced and created a story map of events that happen. We have created sentences using describing words for the characters and we have also created our own alternative endings.



The children have been learning all about growing and plants. We have learnt what plants need to grow and the life cycle of a flowering plant. The children have planted their own sunflowers and watched them start to grow over time.



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



Now the children are secure with numbers 1-6, we have changed our focus this half term. We have introduced the children to height, length, mass and capacity. The children have had lots of hands on experiences to explore these new concepts.



We are artists!

To link with our science topic, we helped the children to create some pictures and paintings of sunflowers. We started with some observational drawings of sunflowers and then we moved onto using paint.



We introduced the children to the famous artist Vincent Van Gogh. We shared with them some of his most famous works and we tried to replicate his famous painting of the sunflowers.



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

Reception



We have had a very exciting half term being space explorers and venturing off into our solar system. The children had a very exciting visit from the Spacedome where we looked at the different planets in space, constellations, how our day looks when we go from day to night. The children were really excited to get going with their learning. We started by looking at astronauts – how they live in space, what they need to wear and what their job entails. The children really enjoyed seeing them on board a real space station and looking at the different jobs they do. Next we looked at space travel, past and present. We explored rocket ships and how they have changed over the years from the very first launch. Lastly we have learnt the planet names and facts about each one. The children were very good at recognising the different features of the planets and found planet Earth! The children also took part in National Science week where we completed experiments to answer our curiosity question ‘How are craters made on the moon?’



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

We have continued with our Literacy this half term – focusing on our handwriting, CVC words and captions. Some children have even been writing sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops! We have been working hard on using our segmenting skills to sound out words and write these independently and recognising tricky words to read. The children have also continued to write their codes in Drawing Club and learn lots of new vocabulary from stories, traditional tales and animations.

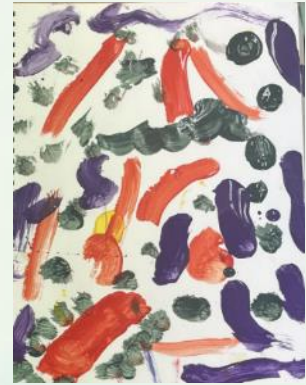


In maths this half term we have introduced all numbers up to 10 and have been diving deeper into learning all about these numbers. The children have continued to impress us with their part whole skills and composition skills when using models and tens frames. The children are becoming very confident talking about the numbers and what parts make up each one. Moving on with our learning all about numbers up to 10 we have explored numbers bonds and double numbers which the children have been amazing at! Lastly we have introduced 3D shapes, learning their names and some properties of each shape.



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

Year 1



In art we have been exploring chromatics ad how colour and shape can be used to express our feelings. The children have investigated how different colours can influence mood and have looked at the work of Hilma af Clint to see how these ideas appear in professional artwork. We have also learned about the differences between abstract and real-life art, with a particular focus on abstract techniques to inspire our own creative experiments and paintings.

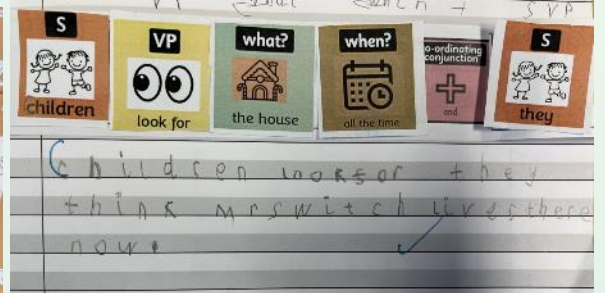
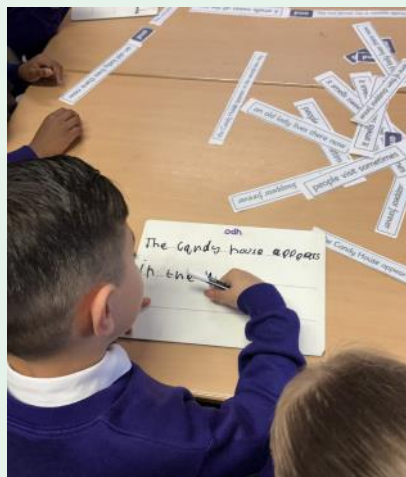
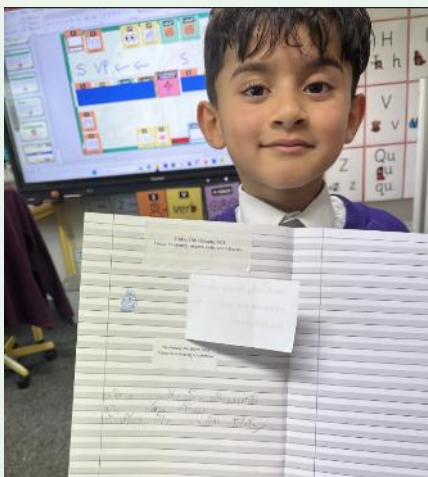


Year 1 had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day! The classroom was filled with excitement as the children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters. From classic storybook heroes to imaginative fairytale figures, the costumes added an extra layer of magic to the day. The children took part in a range of activities that celebrated the joy of reading. They shared their favourite stories and enjoyed listening to new books during story time. We designed our own book covers and book marks, invented new characters and took part in a 'Guess the Book' quiz.

Year 1



As part of our current writing topic, the children have been working hard to create detailed setting descriptions of the Candy House from the story Hansel and Gretel. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made. They have been expanding their vocabulary, choosing adventurous adjectives and paying close attention to using accurate punctuation in their sentences. To support their ideas, they used sentence pattern cards to help plan and structure their writing. This allowed them to build descriptive sentences that captures the imaginative details of the Candy House.



This term in Geography, our pupils have been busy carrying out a fieldwork investigation focused on Tunstall Park. They explored different ways of travelling to the park, identified its key features, and learned how to collect and present geographical data. As part of the investigation, we took part in a local walk where we observed important landmarks and considered how the park helps to support the local community. The children showed fantastic engagement throughout and showed real enthusiasm when sharing their findings through sketches pictograms and discussions.



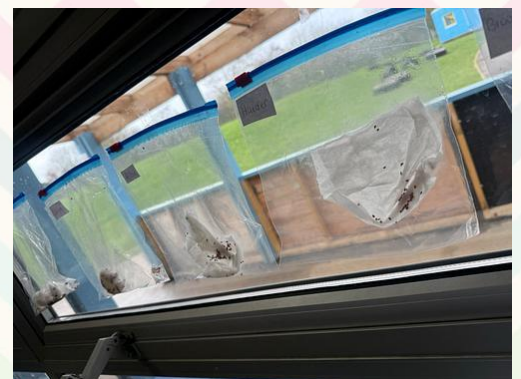
Year 2



This half term, we have been learning all about colour in Art. The children explored how to mix primary colours to create secondary colours and learned the difference between warm and cool colours. We also studied the artist Ted Harrison and created our own artwork inspired by his colourful, layered style. The children worked brilliantly and produced some beautiful pieces!



In Science, we have been exploring the question: “How do seeds and bulbs grow into healthy plants?” The children investigated onions—even though they made our eyes water!—and learned about what plants need to grow well. We then planted our own seeds and kept a diary to observe how they changed over time. The children loved watching their plants begin to grow!



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



This half term, we have been celebrating all of the wonderful mothers and mother figures in our lives. It was absolutely lovely to see the children spending special time with their loved ones during our workshop. The classroom was filled with smiles, laughter, and precious moments as the children proudly shared activities and created memories together.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the event so meaningful. The children were delighted to have you there, and it was a beautiful reminder of how important these relationships are.



We had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day this half term. The children arrived in fantastic costumes and loved sharing their favourite stories. We were also delighted to welcome a local author, who inspired the children with her storytelling and writing ideas. It was a joyful day filled with books, imagination, and creativity!



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

Year 3



Year 3 have had a fantastic half term, full of exciting learning opportunities and enjoyable experiences. The children have shown great enthusiasm in all areas of the curriculum, developing new skills and knowledge while having lots of fun along the way. We are very proud of their hard work and positive attitudes. Here are just a few of the things we've been up to.

This term, Year 3 had a fantastic visit from Mr Egypt, who brought history to life with an engaging and interactive workshop. The children learned all about the Ancient Egyptians, including their daily lives, beliefs, and fascinating traditions. They especially enjoyed the hands-on activities, where they had the opportunity to explore artefacts and experience what life might have been like thousands of years ago.



We were also delighted to welcome parents and carers to our Mother's Day workshop. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to spend quality time together with their families. Everyone took part in planting sunflower seeds, and the children are excited to watch them grow over the coming weeks. Thank you to all who attended and made the event so special.



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

In Art, Year 3 have recently begun their chromatic art lessons, where they are exploring the use of watercolour paints. The children are learning how to mix colours, create different tones, and experiment with a range of techniques. It has been wonderful to see their creativity flourish as they develop confidence in using this new medium.



We also had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Victoria Hall to watch the Hallé Orchestra perform. The children were captivated by the live music and enjoyed experiencing the range of instruments and sounds of a full orchestra. It was an inspiring trip that helped deepen their understanding of music and performance, and many were excited to recognise instruments we have discussed in class.



As part of our Adopt a Player programme, Year 3 have been working closely with a talented musician from the Hallé Orchestra. The children have been developing their musical skills and confidence through regular sessions, learning new pieces and techniques. This has led to a special performance at Haywood Academy, where the children will proudly showcase what they have learned. It has been a fantastic experience, and we are very proud of their dedication and enthusiasm.



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

Year 4



Wow! What a quick half term. It doesn't seem like 2 minutes since we returned from February half term and now we are at the Easter holidays. It has been another busy term of learning and experiences for Year 4 and the children have worked super hard. Read on below to find out what we have been up to this term.

Our English writing this term has focused on writing instructions on how to slay a minotaur to finish off our Greek topic. We have written an explanation on how the digestive system works. Look at some of our amazing writing.



Science has been all about the digestive system! There's been lots of giggles and squeamish groans as we've explored the journey of our food from the mouth, all the way to the other end! We've learnt about the functions of teeth, the importance of keeping them healthy and clean, the job that each section of the digestive system plays in keeping us healthy and strong and how energy transfers from one living thing to another in a food chain.



Year 4 were lucky to be invited to Stoke on Trent Music Service's Recorder Festival which was held in a big top at Trentham Gardens. 30 children attended and represented our school brilliantly. Mrs Hughes and Miss McCue accompanied the children and said that it was a wonderful morning and that the children's playing sounded amazing!

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



We had the pleasure of welcoming all the lovely mums and carers in to school for mother's day activities to show how much we love our mums. We planted seeds and decorated the planters with messages of thanks and love. It was a lovely afternoon and we were so grateful to everyone that turned up. We hope you all had a lovely time and got spoilt on Mothering Sunday.



We had yet another successful World Book Day at Mill Hill and Year 4 did not disappoint with their costumes. They looked amazing. We took part in competitions, designed book tokens, made paper plate book characters and just enjoyed having a love of reading. Thank you to all the parents for the super effort you put in to making the day special for your child.



As part of our Easter celebrations, the children were asked to design and make an Easter Garden. Well done to the winners, I'm sure you'll agree that they look stunning and a lot of work has gone into them.



Topics for Next Term:

- Characterising Speech (English)
- Decimals, Money & Time(Maths)
- Electricity (Science)
- Chromatics – Why do artists keep sketch books?(Art)
- Relationships (PSHE)
- Islam – What is the best way for a Muslim to lead a good life?
- Swimming and Striking & Fielding (PE)



Year 5




This term, we travelled back in time to explore the era of the Vikings. We learned about the fall of Rome and were introduced to the Anglo-Saxons, Jutes, and Vikings. The children investigated why these groups raided Britain and how they were able to succeed despite their small numbers. We also explored how England changed during this period, including the formation of the seven kingdoms, key rulers, and the transition to Christianity.



This term, we took part in Science Week, exploring the theme of curiosity by asking scientific questions to solve problems. We investigated how boats float and carried out an experiment to test how many marbles different-sized boats could hold. We also explored whether taller people can jump further, considering how size and muscle strength may affect distance.

This term, we focused on fractions, decimals and percentages. Building on their understanding of fractions, the children learned how to convert between fractions, decimals and percentages, recognising that percentages represent parts out of 100. Using this knowledge, they developed confidence in comparing values and solving a range of problems involving fractions, decimals and percentages.





This term, we focused on characterising speech. The children developed and showcased their drama skills by acting out segments of dialogue, helping them understand the use of inverted commas, as well as how to convey emotion and action in speech. At the end of the unit, they produced excellent pieces of writing, demonstrating their understanding through engaging dialogues between characters.

This term in PE, the children began their Bootcamp unit, focusing on the importance of staying healthy which linked to our PSHE topic, *Healthy Me*. They explored the benefits of exercise and the positive effects it has on the body, as well as learning about the functions of the heart and lungs and why we sweat. Year 5 have also worked hard on their swimming and continue to make excellent progress in developing their skills.



This term, we celebrated all the wonderful mothers during our Mother's Day workshop. The children had the opportunity to plant strawberries and flowers, create scratch art, and design their own bracelets and cards, making thoughtful gifts to show their appreciation.



Year 6



Another term done and we're edging closer and closer to SATS in May! It's only four teaching weeks away! This half term we've completed our Mock Sats and the children have done incredibly well. These are really important in preparing our children and showing them it's not as bad as they expect! Thanks for your support too with homework: 4 reads per week, 400 correct answers on TT Rockstars and SATS Boot Camp. It's having a great impact on their learning.

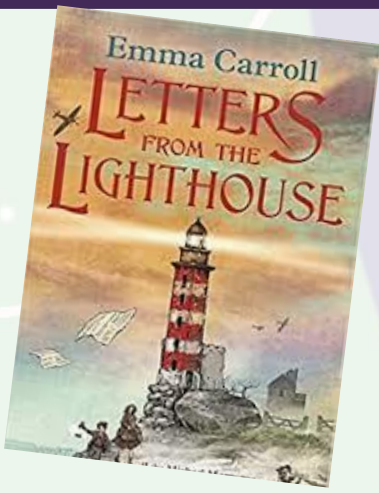


Although we finished our WW2 topic a few weeks ago, we were recently visited by an ARP warden from WW2.

The children took part in lots of different workshops: removing unexploded bombs; putting out fires using stirrup pumps and delivering first aid to casualties.



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



We're still continuing with our reading of Letters from the Lighthouse and the children have started to pen their own narratives based on the book. We've started writing our 'consequence stories', where the children's evacuee characters need rescuing from a form of seaside peril!

In PE, we've begun our 'bootcamp' circuits unit. The children are familiar with this as it was very similar last year! The children are learning about the benefits of circuit training as a means of staying fit and healthy: completing exercises such as dips, step-ups, squats and agility work.



In our afternoons, we've been learning all about Britain's economy in Geography. We've learned all about our industries and sectors; our waste and water waste; our use of green energies and our use of Rare Earth Elements (used in most of our of technological devices). Here the children were delicately mining the elements out of a cookie!



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

Behaviour & Attendance

Well Done!

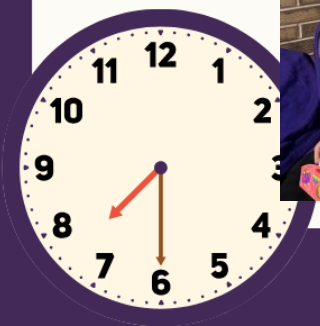
Attendance

We are really pleased to share that our school attendance continues to move in the right direction thanks to the continued support of all our parents and carers. Our attendance to date is 95%, which means we are currently above the national average of 94.8% – a fantastic achievement for our school community! We love celebrating good attendance across the school with the children and each half term classes that achieve 96% attendance or above receive a class treat of their choice. This half term a massive well done goes to RF, 1C, 3W, 3M, 4P, 5D and 6W who all achieved 96% or above – fantastic work!

Thank you for your continued support and please remember to contact the school each day your child is absent. School gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:40am, so please do your utmost to ensure your child arrives during this time as children arriving after 8:40am will receive a late mark, and arrivals after 9:30am will receive a U mark, which affects your child's attendance. Please also be aware that the school may carry out a home visit from day 3 onwards if a child is absent and we have not had appropriate contact. Thank you again for your support and we hope you all have a lovely Easter break!

Behaviour

We were delighted to celebrate this half term's Behaviour for Learning treat with a fun day of inflatables in the hall and class activities, which the children absolutely loved! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and to watch the children enjoying their reward with friends. These celebrations are a great way for us to recognise the fantastic effort pupils put into showing positive behaviour, working hard in lessons and completing their home learning. We are incredibly proud of the children for the way they demonstrate our school values each day and for the positive attitudes they bring to school life. Moments like these are a lovely opportunity to celebrate their achievements and reinforce the importance of making good choices. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in helping us encourage and maintain such positive behaviour across the school.



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

Curriculum

Nursery	<p>Rising 3's – Understanding our World – Minibeasts</p> <p>Nursery – The Hungry Caterpillar (Life Cycle)</p>
Reception	<p>All Creatures Great & Small</p> <p>Class Text – “Dear Zoo”</p>
Year 1	<p>Science – How can we identify different plants and trees?</p> <p>Design & Technology – Food & Nutrition</p>
Year 2	<p>Art – How have artists been inspired by castles?</p> <p>History – The Potteries</p>
Year 3	<p>Science – What is light?</p> <p>Design & Technology – Food & Nutrition</p>
Year 4	<p>History – How did the Roman Empire impact Britain?</p> <p>Science – What is electricity?</p>
Year 5	<p>Geography – The United States</p> <p>Science – How do materials change?</p>
Year 6	<p>Art – Can art help to save the planet?</p> <p>Science – What is evolution?</p>

