



Mill Hill News

Summer Term

Key dates

Dates for your diary:

Monday 1st June 2026
School open

Tuesday 11th June 2026
Yr 6 Leavers Photos

Monday 15th June 2026
Fathers Day shop opens

Tuesday 16th June 2026
EYFS Fathers Day Parent Workshop

Wednesday 17th June 2026
KS1 Fathers Day Parent Workshop

Thursday 18th June 2026
LKS2 Fathers Day Parent Workshop

Friday 19th June 2026
UKS2 Fathers Day Parent Workshop & Non-Uniform Day (Donations to Summer Fayre)

Monday 22nd June – Friday 26th June 2026
Yr 6 Trip to Stanley Head

Friday 26th June 2026
Non-Uniform (Donations to Summer Fayre)

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th June 2026
Inset Days (school closed)

Wednesday 1st – Thursday 2nd July 2026
Transition days

Friday 3rd July 2026
Non-Uniform (Donations to Summer Fayre)

Monday 6th July 2026
Nursery to trip to Cannock Chase

Tuesday 7th July 2026
Yr 6 SAT's Results & Prom

Hopes, Dreams and Aspirations assembly themes:

- Changing me
- Child Safety Week
- Dougie Mac Awareness
 - Fathers Day
 - World Music Day
- Drowning Prevention Week
 - Parliament
 - Celebration Assembly
- Disability Awareness Day



Senior Leadership

Message from the Head of Academy:



As we continue through the summer term, it has been wonderful to see the children so engaged in their learning and enjoying all the opportunities this time of year brings. What a fabulous half term it has been! We are especially proud of our Year 6 pupils, who approached their SATs with such determination, resilience, and maturity. A huge well done to all of them for their hard work and perseverance — they have been a real credit to both their families and our school. Across all year groups, there has been a wealth of exciting learning, educational trips, and visitors that have enriched the children's experiences both in and beyond the classroom. As we look ahead to the final half term, we are excited for the many activities and events still to come, including transition days where the children will have the opportunity to meet their new teachers and prepare for the next stage of their journey. We are also very much looking forward to our Summer Fair, which is always a highlight of the year. It is a fantastic opportunity for families, children, and staff to come together and celebrate everything that makes our school so special. With so many exciting events, celebrations, and opportunities ahead, it promises to be a memorable and rewarding end to the school year for all of our children.

Message from the Assistant Principal:



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 6 children on completing their SATs this half term. The progress they have made throughout the year has been fantastic to see, and they should all be very proud of themselves. Not only have we seen this positive progress in Year 6, but across all year groups too. Our end-of-half-term treat with Party Roo was a wonderful way to celebrate the children's hard work and achievements. Hopefully, next half term brings plenty of sunshine with it, as we have lots of exciting events planned - including our very first Colour Run! Enjoy your week off and see you soon.

Message from the Assistant Principal:



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

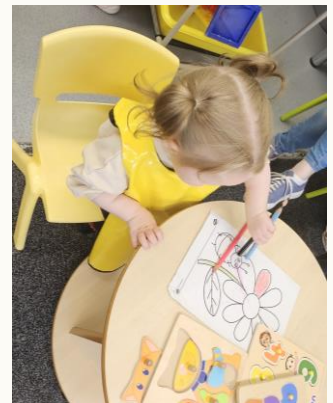
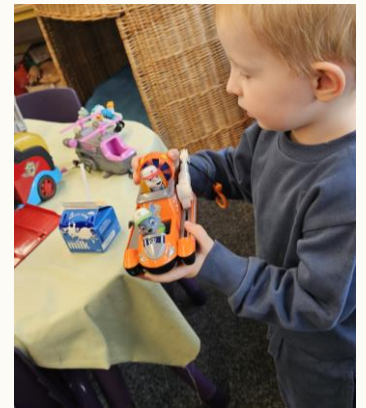
Tea & Tots

Thank You for Another Wonderful Term!

A huge thank you to all our amazing parents, grandparents, and carers for your continued support this term. Your time, kindness, and enthusiasm are what make Tea & Tots such a warm, welcoming, and special community for everyone.

Wishing you all a joyful and relaxing half-term break.

We look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 2nd June** for our final term before the summer holidays—filled with play, laughter, and new friendships ❤️



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

Rising 3's

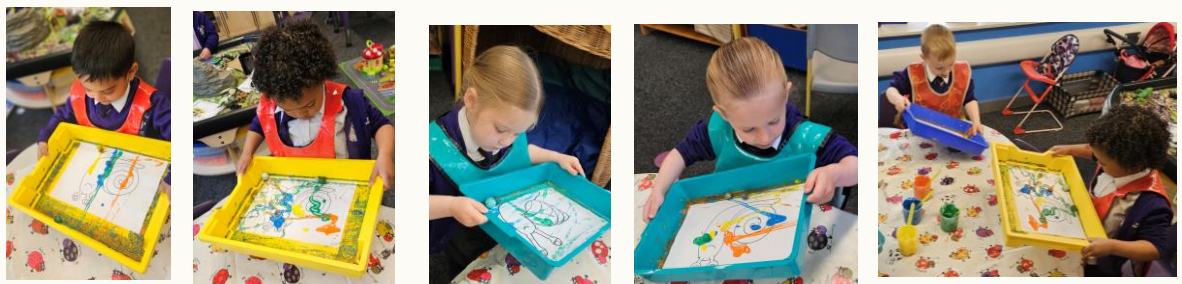
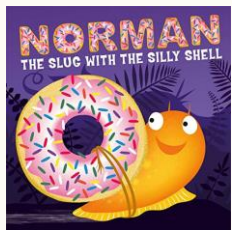
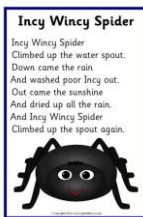
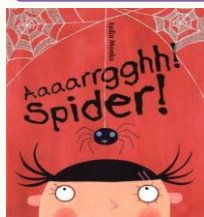


This half term, the Busy Bees have been learning all about minibeasts. The children have had lots of opportunities to investigate and explore different minibeasts across all areas of the nursery, sparking their curiosity and enthusiasm for the natural world.

We have shared a range of engaging stories, including *Aaaahh Spider!*, *Superworm*, *Twist & Hop Minibeast Bop*, and *What the Ladybird Heard*. Through these stories, the children learned fascinating facts about minibeasts, including where they live and what they eat.

The children have been developing their understanding of habitats and diets, gaining a deeper awareness of the world around them through hands-on exploration and discussion. In our arts and crafts area, the children enjoyed making different-sized worms using playdough, as well as taking part in cutting and sticking activities. They created spider paintings and explored a fun marble rolling activity to design colourful snail shells after reading *Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell*.

We have also been singing songs and rhymes such as *Incy Wincy Spider* and *There's a Worm at the Bottom of the Garden*, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.



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

Rising 3's



A big warm welcome to our new Rising 3's who joined the Busy Bees in April. They have settled in really well, made lots of new friends and most importantly are having lots of fun!



The children love exploring the wide range of exciting and engaging activities available in all areas of the nursery.



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

Nursery



This half term, our topic has been “The Hungry Caterpillar”, where the children have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, as well as exploring healthy eating and ways to keep our bodies healthy.

Maths

The children have been developing their understanding of sequencing, positional language, and more or less through our half-term topic. We have ordered the different stages of the butterfly life cycle and sequenced events from “The Hungry Caterpillar.” We also sequenced our mornings. The children have also used positional language such as under, over, next to, behind, in front of and between during practical activities and play.



Science

The children have been learning about growth, change and living things through our topic of “The Hungry Caterpillar.” We have had real caterpillars in the classroom, which the children have been observing closely. They have watched the caterpillars grow and change, and they are now in their cocoons. This has helped the children see the life cycle happening in real life and talk about the changes they notice over time. We also linked our learning to healthy eating and keeping healthy by looking at the different foods in the story.



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



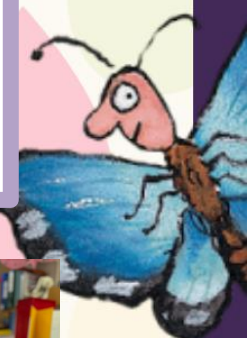
Expressive Arts and design

For Expressive Arts and Design, the children have linked their creative work to our science topic by making butterflies and caterpillars. They have explored different painting techniques, including using paintbrushes, printing sponges and their fingers. The children have also painted symmetrical butterflies, helping them to notice patterns, shapes and colours on both sides of a butterfly's wings.



We are artists!

We have linked our science learning about healthy eating and food to the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, who created famous portraits using seasonal fruits and vegetables. The children explored different types of food and used fruit and vegetables to create their own faces and portraits. As you can see, their artwork looks fabulous!



Reception



Our last topic for the Summer term is 'All creatures great and small'. We started our learning by having our visitor, Carolyn, talk all about her role in the RSPCA. She also talked about how to carefully look after pets. The children pretended to be vets, looking after and treating different animals. The next day, we had another visitor – Lola the dog! Mrs Salih brought her pet dog in to meet the children. They had lots of questions to ask and had a stroke and cuddle with her. Throughout this half term, we have looked at animals and their habitats, focusing on jungle, rainforest and polar habitats. The children explored what animals live where and the different facts about what makes their homes suitable for them. Lastly, we have enjoyed going on a minibeast hunt and pond dipping at Whitfield Valley where we explored minibeasts real habitats and caught lots of bugs!

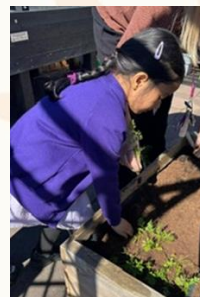


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

The children have been incredibly busy in maths this half term. We have started to look at addition and subtraction. The children have picked this up really quickly – even writing their own number sentences! We have also explored sharing and grouping and we are now experts on being able to recognise when groups are equal. In Literacy, we continue to focus on our writing by ensuring letters are formed correctly and we are using our phonics to sound words out. Children are beginning to become very confident with reading and writing independently.



It is that time of year where we have started preparing our Early Years garden. We have all worked together to look at the different things that we had to plant and looked at what they looked like before they were planted. The children listened very carefully to instructions on how to plant each item from rainbow carrots and potatoes, to strawberries and sweet peas. Everyone is very excited to look after the garden and watch it grow over the next half term!

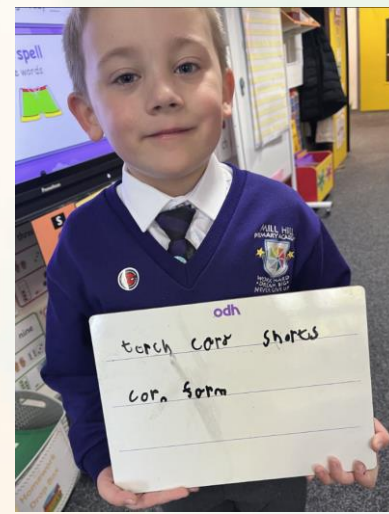
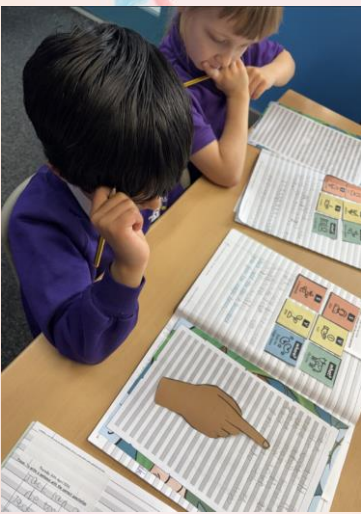


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 1



As part of our current writing topic, the children have been working hard to create detailed stories based on the book Jack and the Beanstalk. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made. They have become more confident and independent when forming their own sentences with the correct punctuation, and they have been using more interesting vocabulary to make their writing more imaginative. We have also used role-play to act out parts of the story – the children thoroughly enjoyed acting out the cutting down of the beanstalk!



In our science topic, we have looked at plants that are situated in our local area. We have worked in teams to conduct our own investigation looking at wild plants (such as daisies, buttercups, nettles and dandelions) that are based on our school grounds. We also compared leaves that come from different trees and focussed on understanding the features of leaves that come from evergreen and deciduous trees. In line with our writing topic, Jack and the Beanstalk, we have planted our own bean seeds, carefully discussing the steps and equipment needed to plant them.

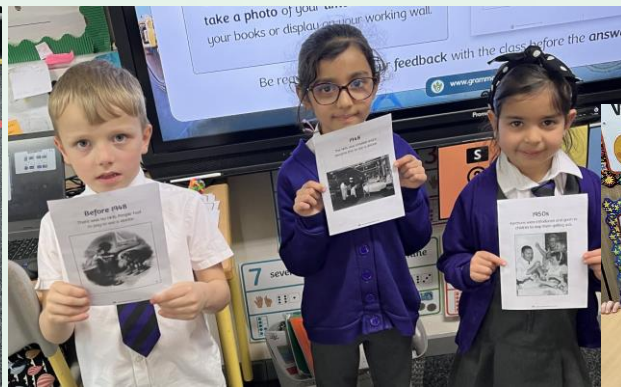


Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 1



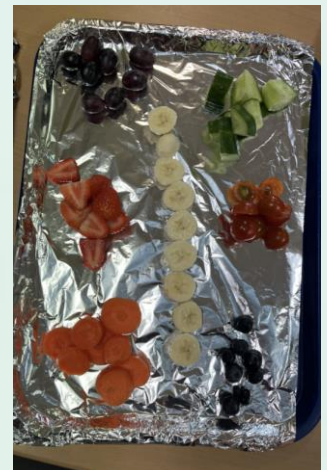
In History, we have learned about health care and medical science. Looking at pioneering women such as Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale – who all helped to shape what our healthcare looks like today. We worked on our chronology skills by ordering key events in healthcare and compared hospitals from the past and the present to understand how much they have changed. We have also celebrated Florence Nightingale's birthday in one of our assemblies and in her honour we drew our own nurses, doctors and hospitals.



We have begun our exciting new Design and Technology unit, where we are learning how plants can be used to create healthy snacks. Throughout this topic, we will focus on three important steps: *think, plan and make*.

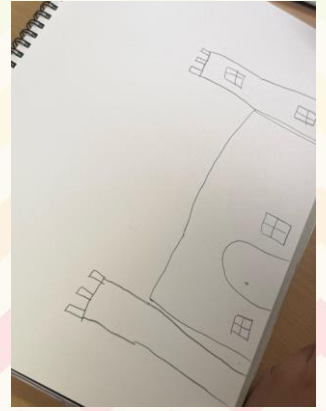
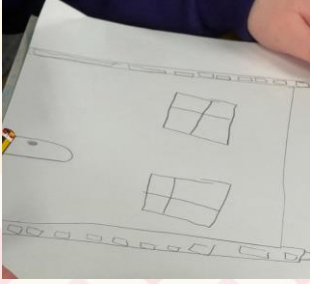
To start, we explored a variety of fruits and vegetables by tasting and comparing them, helping us decide which ones we enjoy and which we do not. Next, we will use our ideas to plan and create our own healthy snacks, including fruit kebabs and bean paste.

We are looking forward to using our problem-solving skills and creativity to design snacks that are both healthy and delicious!



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

Year 2



In Design and Technology, we explored sculptures and how we can use clay to create our own designs. Linking to our learning from Year 1, we designed and made our very own castle sculptures. The children showed great creativity and care in shaping and adding details to their models. How fabulous do they look!



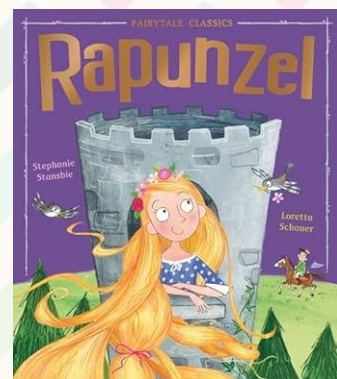
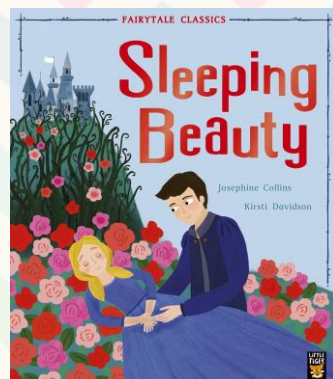
Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...



In Science this term, Year 2 have been learning about what humans need to survive and stay healthy. We explored the basic needs of all humans, including water, air, food and shelter, and discussed why each of these is important for our bodies. We then moved on to thinking about how we can keep ourselves healthy, such as eating a balanced diet and taking part in regular exercise. As part of our learning, we carried out an exciting experiment where we took part in different exercises and measured the impact on our pulse. We discovered that our pulse gets faster when we are active, helping us understand how exercise affects our bodies.



In English, we have been focusing on the traditional stories of *Rapunzel* and *Sleeping Beauty*. The children wrote fantastic setting descriptions, using exciting vocabulary to bring their ideas to life. They then used these skills to create their very own story introductions, showing great creativity and imagination in their writing.



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

Year 3



This half term has been full of exciting learning opportunities, and the children have continued to make excellent progress across the curriculum. They have shown enthusiasm, resilience and independence in their work, taking pride in their achievements and always trying their best. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence, developing their skills and supporting one another during lessons and group activities.

In Design and Technology, we enjoyed our Summer Roll project where we explored a variety of root vegetables and learnt more about healthy eating. The children developed important food preparation skills including chopping, peeling and grating safely and carefully. They then used these skills to create their own delicious summer rolls.



As part of our Stepping Out pedestrian training, the children learnt valuable road safety skills to help them stay safe near roads and traffic. They practised important techniques such as choosing safe places to cross, stopping and checking carefully, and staying aware of their surroundings. The children then successfully completed their assessed walk, demonstrating confidence and responsibility as young pedestrians.



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

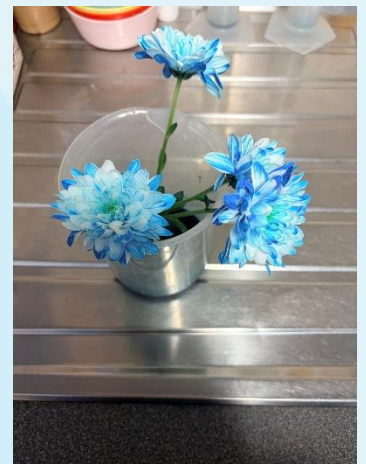


In Science, we have been learning all about plants and what they need to grow and stay healthy. The children explored the different functions of plant parts including roots, stems, leaves and flowers, and discovered how plants reproduce through pollination. Through a range of exciting investigations and observations, the children developed their scientific enquiry skills and deepened their understanding of how plants work.



We looked at what plants need to survive and completed a fair test to establish whether plants need soil to grow. Whilst both plants survived, the one planted in cotton wool, began to decline and was not as healthy without the nutrients from the soil.

We investigated the function of the roots and stem of a plant and how water travels from the roots and through the stem. Our visual representation really helped us to see what was going on inside the plant.



We also completed a careful dissection of a plant so that we could identify and classify the different parts of a plant. We used scientific equipment such as magnifying glasses to help us see in more detail.



We have now started our light topic, whereby we are learning that light travels in straight lines and can be reflected using different materials.

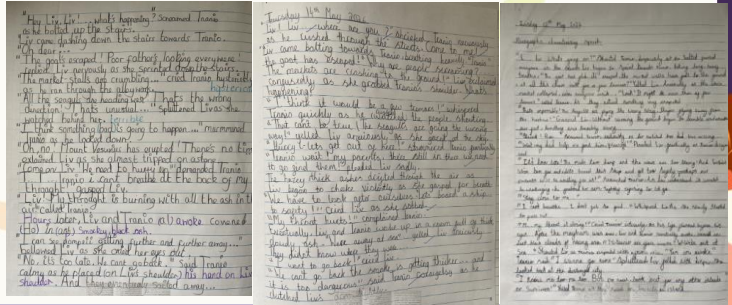
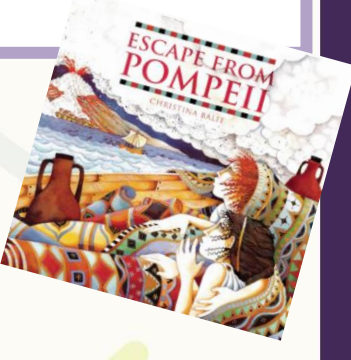
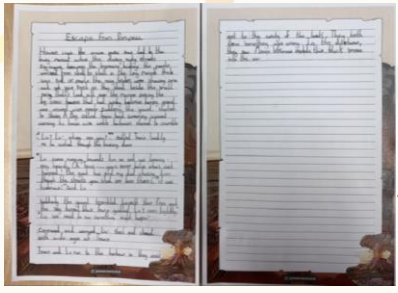


Year 4



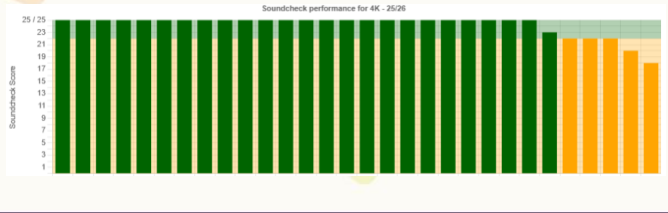
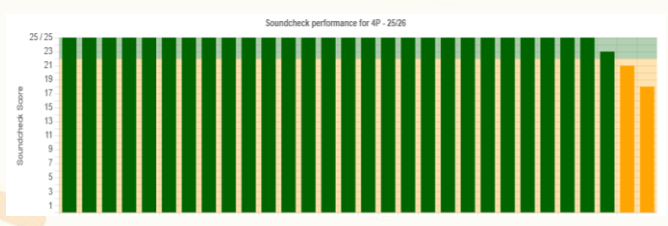
We can hardly believe we are already at the end of Summer Term 1! It has been a busy and exciting half term in Year 4, with lots of learning, creativity and memorable experiences along the way. The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of all they have achieved. We hope you enjoy looking through some of the highlights from another fantastic half term in Year 4!

This half term, our writing has been based on *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit. The children have focused on using speech to bring characters to life by punctuating dialogue correctly, starting a new line for a new speaker and adding actions and descriptions to show emotions and character traits. We are incredibly proud of the effort and creativity shown throughout this unit and have seen some fantastic progress in both confidence and the quality of writing produced.



This half term, 4P have really enjoyed their swimming lessons and we have been so impressed with their confidence, effort and behaviour each week. The swimming teacher has praised the class highly, and after only 5 weeks, most children are already expected to achieve their Level 1 swimming award — a fantastic achievement! We are also excited for 4K to begin their lessons on June 3rd and hope they enjoy them just as much as 4P have.

We are so incredibly proud of the progress that the children have made in their times table knowledge. The official Multiplication Check takes place beginning June 1st and the children are so ready for it. The green on these charts shows the children who are scoring 24 or above in the check.



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



It has been a highly creative half term in Year 4, with the children enjoying lots of opportunities to explore, design and create across both Art and Design Technology.

In Art, the children explored how artists use sketchbooks to develop ideas before creating their final mixed media collage pieces. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and confidence grow throughout the unit.



In Design and Technology, the children designed and created their own tote bags, exploring sustainability and practicality. Although sewing was challenging at first, the children showed great perseverance and produced some brilliant finished bags.

Romans

This half term, the children have started learning about the Romans and how they changed Britain. They have explored life in Ancient Rome, the Roman army, the invasion of Britain and important figures such as Boudicca. The children have really enjoyed discovering how Roman ideas still influence our lives today.



Road Safety

The children recently took part in Stepping Out road safety lessons led by Staffordshire Council, where they learnt how to cross roads safely before completing a supervised solo walk around the Mill Hill estate. We were incredibly proud of how sensible and responsible they were throughout.



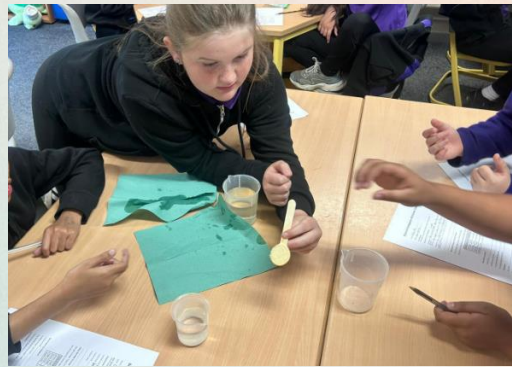
Work Hard, Dream Big and Never Give Up...

Year 5



Science

Year 5 began an exciting enquiry into states of matter and how materials can dissolve to form a solution. We carried out a scientific investigation exploring different types of sugar and tested how quickly they dissolved in cold and warm water. The children carefully observed, recorded their results, and used their findings to answer our scientific enquiry questions while developing their investigative and observational skills.



Geography

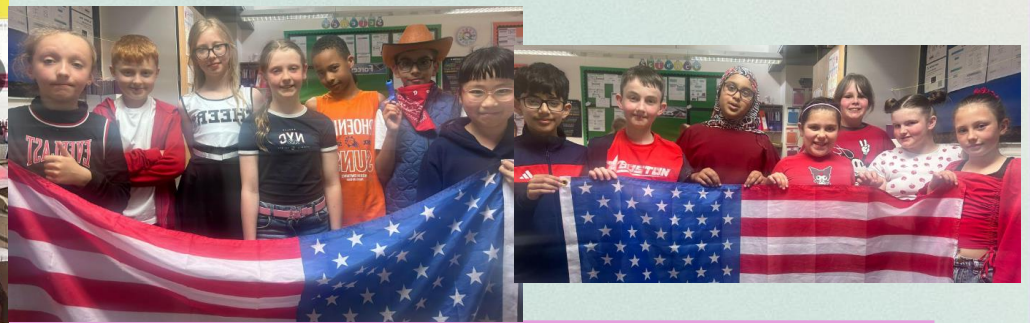
In Geography, Year 5 began an exciting journey exploring Western America and comparing it with regions of the United Kingdom. We investigated the different biomes, climates, and economies of both countries, discussing how landscapes and lifestyles can vary across the world.

Using atlases and digital maps, we explored famous landmarks and natural wonders, while also comparing population, size, and scale. Through in-depth discussions and research activities, the children developed their geographical understanding and comparison skills.

Music

In Music, Year 5 began their exciting introduction to learning the ukulele. The children have been working hard to develop their instrumental skills, including rhythm, chord playing, and performance techniques. We have been preparing for the upcoming Victoria Hall concert, where some of the Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to showcase both their ukulele playing and singing talents. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow throughout the term.





Writing

In Writing, Year 5 have been showcasing their fantastic writing skills through both instructional and recount writing. The children used their knowledge from our recent History topic to create a set of instructions explaining how to raid an Anglo-Saxon village, demonstrating both their historical understanding and their ability to apply this knowledge creatively in their writing. They have also begun drafting a recount based on a Science experiment investigating how sugar dissolves, using accurate scientific vocabulary and clear chronological structure to explain their findings.

PE – Athletics

In PE, Year 5 have been put through their paces during Athletics in preparation for both Sports Day and the upcoming Northwood competition. The children have been developing the key techniques needed for a range of athletic events, including improving their running skills, balance, and coordination when hurdling, as well as accuracy and strength in shot put and javelin throwing. It has been fantastic to see their determination, teamwork, and resilience as they continue to build their confidence and sporting abilities.

America Day

To kick-start our Geography topic, Year 5 took part in a fantastic America Day to celebrate cultural differences and immerse ourselves in American culture. The children dressed up for the occasion and explored the similarities and differences between the United Kingdom and America, including comparisons of schools, healthcare, and government systems. Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed taking part in an American-themed trivia quiz, tasting classic American foods, and carrying out research and debates about which country would be the best place to live. It was a fun and engaging way to begin our new topic while developing discussion, research, and comparison skills.



Year 6



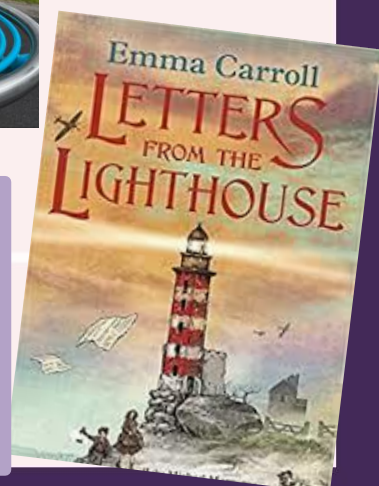
SATS ARE COMPLETE!



The children all worked so hard this half term in preparation for their SATS last week. They all have done incredibly well in their attitude, resilience and application and we look forward to receiving their results on Tuesday 7th July and sharing in their achievements. All of the staff are so proud! Well done Year 6!



Having not read much of our class text recently, due to our focus on SATS prep, we have once again picked up *Letters from the Lighthouse*. We will be using the next few chapters to help construct our own consequence story in Writing.



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



We recommend this book 'Letters from the Lighthouse' for a Year 5 or 6 pupil. It's great because it's exciting and gives you a detailed look at what life may have been like for WW2 evacuees. The characters are really interesting too – We're hooked!

VE day was celebrated this half term (on the 8th May) and Y6 held a special assembly to share their WW2 knowledge with the rest of the school and to discuss the importance of the day to celebrate and remember the sacrifice made during the war.



We were also visited by artists from Cascade Art. They worked alongside our children last year during the Stoke 100 Celebration. They are busy creating a new audio story around Burslem. The children had to come up with characters that could bring the story to life and some even recorded their characters voices!



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

Behaviour & Attendance

Well Done!

Our school attendance has seen a slight drop this half term to **94.9%**, but we are pleased to report that we are still broadly in line with the national average of **94.8%**. We would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support and ask that you keep working with us to ensure your child attends school every day, as every day in school counts. 📅 Since September, **136 children have achieved 100% attendance**, and we were delighted to celebrate this fantastic achievement by inviting them and their families into school for a special **Big Breakfast treat**. 🍷 🍰 🍷 We love recognising good attendance across the school, 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 **1C and 6W**, who both achieved 96% or above – fantastic work! ★ Please remember to contact the school on each day your child is absent. School gates open at **8:30am** and close at **8:40am**, and children arriving after this time will receive a late mark. Any child arriving after **9:30am** will receive a **U mark**, which will affect their attendance. Please also be aware that the school may carry out a home visit from **day 3 onwards** if your child is absent. If you are planning a holiday during term time, it is important that you complete a holiday request form, available from the school office; home visits may also take place in these circumstances. Thank you again for your continued support.

We were delighted to celebrate this half term's Behaviour for Learning reward with a special visit from **Party Roo**. 🎉 The children had a fantastic time taking part in the exciting activities and dancing to their favourite music, thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to celebrate their hard work and positive choices. These rewards are a wonderful way to recognise pupils who consistently demonstrate excellent behaviour for learning and complete their home learning to a high standard. We are extremely proud of the positive attitudes the children show each day and the way they continue to live out our school values. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in helping us encourage such excellent behaviour and a strong commitment to learning. ★ We hope you all have a lovely half term! 😊



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

Curriculum



Nursery	Rising 3's – Understanding our World – Under to Sea Nursery – Understanding our World – Elmer the Elephant (Text)
Reception	All Creatures Great and Small Class Text - Encyclopedia
Year 1	Local History – The Circus Art – Monochromatic – What is drawing?
Year 2	History – How did the Great Fire change London Geography Fieldwork – Weather & Climate
Year 3	Science – How can we classify rocks? Art – How do artists draw faces?
Year 4	Science – What is sound? Geography Fieldwork – How can we record & measure different weather phenomena?
Year 5	Design & Technology – Food & Nutrition Science – How do we change as we grow older?
Year 6	Art – How can food inspire artists? Science – How does light help us understand the world around us?



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

Sports

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

Early Years and Reception have been working hard to develop their fundamental movement skills, including agility, balance, and coordination, through a range of fun and engaging games. In KS1, children have been practising their athletics skills alongside KS2 in preparation for Sports Day, showing great enthusiasm and determination throughout their sessions.

We have also offered a wide variety of extra-curricular sports clubs to encourage children to stay active and enjoy taking part in physical activity. Clubs have included athletics, rugby, and multi-sports for KS1, where children enjoyed activities such as football, basketball, tag games, and many other exciting team challenges. In athletics club, children developed their skills in long jump, hurdles, long-distance running, and archery, showing excellent teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.



Our pupils have taken part in a range of competitive sporting events and have made the school extremely proud. Both the girls' and boys' football teams showed excellent determination and teamwork, with the girls winning their tournament and the boys narrowly missing out in the semi-final after a last-minute goal. Our Year 3 and 4 cross-country runners also showed fantastic resilience, completing their races brilliantly on an extremely hot day. In addition, we hosted a friendly match against The Willows Primary School, where our Year 4 boys and girls impressed with their teamwork and sportsmanship in front of a large crowd. A special mention goes to our Sports Leaders, who volunteered as referees and showed great maturity, responsibility, and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the events.



A huge well done to Mill Hill Primary Academy for taking part in the staff charity netball tournament last Friday! A special shout out to Mr Owen, Mrs Lindop, Mrs Brookes, Mrs Flannigan and Mr Wallace from Mill Hill Primary Academy and Mrs Currie from Smallthorne Primary Academy for their incredible team spirit, enthusiasm, and support for St Mary's much-loved colleague, Dani Thomas. Your energy and kindness truly made a difference—what a fantastic team effort!



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