

06.02.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move through February, we would like to wish all our families preparing to observe **Ramadan** a peaceful, blessed and meaningful month. Ramadan is expected to begin soon (around the evening of **Tuesday 17 February**, with the first fast likely on **Wednesday 18 February**, subject to moon sighting). As always, we will be thoughtful and supportive of children and families who may be fasting or attending additional prayers.

A huge **thank you** to the parents who are busily organising our upcoming **cake sale** — your generosity, energy and time are truly appreciated, and the children love these community events.

We're also looking ahead to **Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday)**, which is a lovely opportunity to learn about traditions and mark the changing seasons. Children will be hearing a little about why it is celebrated, and we hope many of you enjoy some pancakes together at home too!

While the weather has been a little grey, the mornings are already feeling brighter — and so is the atmosphere in school. At playtimes, staff have been actively supporting **positive play and inclusion**, joining in with games, helping children to make good choices, and ensuring everyone has someone to play with. It has been lovely to see so many smiles, new friendships, and happy, purposeful play across the playground.

Finally, a friendly reminder about **attendance**: every school day counts. Being in school consistently supports learning, confidence and routines, and we expect all children to be in school **right up until half term**, and to return **promptly on the first day back** so we can begin the new half term strongly together. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Ms Braithwaite

Spring Lunch Menu

Click on the link to view our
lunch menu for the
Spring term.



Next week is **Week 2**.

[Accent Catering Newsletter](#)

Important Dates

Monday 9th February
3YO Nursery trip to the park

Thursday 12th February
Year 4 MTC Parents Meeting
3:40pm

Friday 13th February
Year 2 R.E. Assembly 2:40pm

**Monday 16th –
Friday 20th February**
Half term

Monday 23rd February
Year 2 trip to St Paul's Cathedral

Tuesday 24rd February
Bright Futures. Coffee Morning

Friday 27th February
Year 5 R.E. Assembly 2:40pm

Friday 27th March
Last day of term
1:30pm finish

**Monday 30th March –
Friday 10th April**
Spring Holiday

Monday 13th April
INSET day
School Closed

Tuesday 14th April
Children return to school
Nursery Closed



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

96%

Eric Carle

89%

Judith Kerr

88%

Tony Ross

97%

Greta Thunberg

97%

Harriet Tubman

90%

Florence Nightingale

96%

Marie Curie

98%

Isaac Newton

97%

Michael Faraday

94%

Maya Angelou

97%

William Shakespeare

94%

Benjamin Zephaniah

91%

Emmeline Pankhurst

92%

Martin Luther King

87%

Marcus Rashford

90%

Nelson Mandela

99%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93.2%**

Attendance and Punctuality

Our target for individual and whole school attendance is 95%.

Click [here](#) to see the attendance prizes we will be awarding for this year.

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn.

School starts at 8:50am. It is important that your child arrives on time to ensure they have a positive start to the day.

If your child is going to be absent, please call the school office on 02072725620.

The school office is open from 8am – 4:30pm.



Attendance Matters





Celebration Awards



Julia Donaldson 2YO: Isabella

For being a kind and caring member of little nursery. You are starting to show great independence in self care. Well done, Isabella.

Eric Carle 3YO: Mohamed

For becoming super independent with his self care this week. We can all see such a big improvement both here and at home. Good job Mohamed!

Tony Ross Reception: Joel

For your perseverance in our space book work. You spent a long time drawing with such detail and remembered many facts about space.

Judith Kerr Reception: Zion

For adapting brilliantly and showing dedication in trying a wide range of fine motor activities and for building your attention and focus in these adult led activities.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Divine

For your enthusiasm and kindness towards other children. You are always willing to help out and always ready for the next challenge. Keep up the great work!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Nicole

For showing enthusiasm and respect in the classroom. You have been determined to complete your work to a high standard and are constantly showing you are ready, respectful and safe. Keep it up!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Riley

For showing enthusiasm and perseverance in maths this week! We are so impressed with how you push yourself to reach all the challenges. Well done, keep up the excellent work!

Marie Curie Year 2: Paradise

Well done for working hard in English and Maths this week. You have shown perseverance through your focus. Keep it up!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Lily

For showing great resilience during the maths sessions and always trying your best, even when the work is challenging. Keep it up!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Imraan

For his perseverance in learning his times tables and his increasing independence in writing and maths. He shows a fantastic can-do attitude and has made great progress.

William Shakespeare Year 4: Noah

For his participation during the geography workshop. Noah was engaged and showed enthusiasm. The facilitator was really impressed with him. He was respectful and modelled expected behaviour! Well done.

Maya Angelou Year 4: Havin

For showing a lot of perseverance in maths this week! She has kept going through tricky maths methods and shown ambition in wanting to learn the methods. She tries her best in every lesson! Keep going Havin!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Sezay

For showing impressive focus and progress in her maths. Sezay has been working so hard to become more confident with her maths skills and has learned all the steps in our formal methods. Keep up the fabulous work!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Safwan

You have worked incredibly hard this week and you should be very proud of the effort you've shown. You've stayed focused, tried your best and shown a really positive attitude to your learning. Well done!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Bayyinah

She has made great progress this week. She produced a brilliant playscript in English and used interesting vocabulary in her writing. Keep up the amazing work!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Munir

Munir has shown a focussed attitude to learning this week, particularly in reading where he has listened to feedback and worked hard to apply test technique. Keep up the super attitude to learning Munir!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Nihan

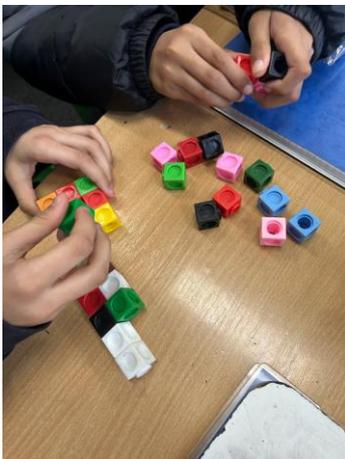
Nihan, I have been really impressed with your attitude and work this week. You have worked well with your table partner and table and have contributed more in discussions. I have also really enjoyed reading your writing, and the ambition you have shown in the choices you have made as an author. Keep it up!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

Times Tables Competition

On Wednesday, we held the grand final of our Duncombe Primary **Winter Warmer Times Table Competition**. The top competitors from each class in Years 2–6 came together for an exciting and closely fought final as we crowned our first 2026 times table champions.

Our winners were Bilal for Upper KS2 and Mohamed for Lower KS2 – a fantastic achievement for both pupils. We are incredibly proud of all our class winners, who worked extremely hard to learn and improve their times tables. Medals were also awarded to pupils who were nominated as most improved, recognising their dedication and progress. Every child performed exceptionally well, and it has been wonderful to see the standard of times table knowledge continue to improve across the school. We are already looking forward to the summer competition!



Year 6

Year 6 studied shape this week. By using their knowledge of the formula of a 2d shape's area, pupils worked out the formula for the volume of a 3d shape.

Year 5

Year 5 have been working with Lena on YUstudio, exploring a range of music genres including jazz, hip hop and reggae. The children have been experimenting with rhythm, beats and sound, learning how different styles of music are created and performed. They have enjoyed creating and producing their own original sounds, showing great creativity, confidence and enthusiasm throughout the sessions.



Year 4

Year 4 had a Geography workshop to enhance their knowledge about imports and exports. They looked at different methods of importing and exporting, the least cost effective and most environmentally friendly routes of getting to and from the UK, as well as how important the River Thames is for trading.



Year 3

In science, Year 3 recognise that light from the Sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes. They have learned that they should never look directly at the Sun and that wearing a hat or staying in the shade can help protect their eyes. The children discussed how the Sun helps us in many ways but can also be harmful if we are not careful.

Did you know?

The Sun is so bright that it can damage your eyes even on a cloudy day.

Challenge

Can you think of three ways to protect your eyes when you are outside on a sunny day?



Year 2

As part of our History learning, we created silhouettes linking to the Great Fire of London. The children painted the backgrounds first and then cut the houses to create the silhouette. We were all so impressed!



Day	Group work	
	independent	Peer supported/discussed
	Morning	Afternoon
Wednesday (yesterday)	cold	Warm
Thursday (Today)	Cold and rainy	Cold and rainy
Friday (Tomorrow)	Cold and rainy	
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		

Year 1

In science, year 1 have been looking at the changing weather and identifying what winter in the UK is like. We have noticed how each day can be different and we are observing and recording the changes with a weather diary.

Reception

Reception have loved starting their new core book 'The Three Little Pigs' and have already been immersing themselves in house building role play and repeating key lines from the story.

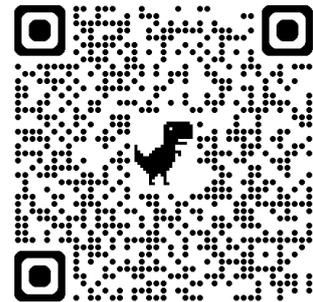


3YO Nursery

This week Nursery have been exploring colours, we have been mixing new colours everyday and seeing if we can make our favourite colours with blue, yellow, red. That might be the reason they have been coming home with blue stained hands this week - sorry! We have also been getting experimental with our mark making, here is a picture of our afternoon drawing time which is great for a little relaxation and calm down.

2YO Nursery

Just wanted to say a massive **THANK YOU** to all that come to the 'Stay and Play' on Wednesday morning. We had a great turn out and it was nice to see some new families. Please sign up to the Bright Start Islington Team, as they will help, support and advise you and your families (0-5 year olds).



Parents of EYFS pupils

Click on the flyer for a great resource to boost Nursery communication. It is available in many languages on the Literacy Trust website free to download.

Chat, Play, Read

Fun and simple activities to support babies' and toddlers' communication and language development

National
Literacy
Trust
Change your story

In partnership with

BEST
START
IN LIFE