

13.02.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a lovely week. Please see below for our latest school news and reminders.

School Uniform

We are continuing our big push on correct school uniform and would really appreciate your support with this. Wearing the correct uniform helps create a sense of pride and belonging across our school community. If you need any support, we are able to provide second-hand uniform free of charge.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week we have been taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. Lessons have focused on helping children think about their mental health, understand their emotions, and feel confident talking about how they are feeling. We have encouraged pupils to support one another and to know that it is always okay to ask for help.

MLK Class Trip

MLK class enjoyed a wonderful trip to Union Chapel, where they watched a music performance. The children were beautifully behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the experience—it was a fantastic opportunity for them to increase their knowledge of music.

Spelling Bee – Round 1

Spelling Bee Round 1 will take place next half term. Please support your child over the half-term break by helping them practise the correct spellings for their year group. We also encourage regular use of DoodleSpell to build confidence and accuracy.

Homework and Reading

Regular homework and daily reading are essential to ensure your children continue the progress they have been making in school this half term. Please don't stop over the half term. Reading together, discussing books, and asking questions about what your child has read all make a big difference to their confidence and learning!

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a restful and enjoyable half term.

Kind regards,

Katija Ali

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 24rd February

Bright Futures. Coffee Morning



Important Dates

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

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

Friday 27th February
Year 5 R.E. Assembly **9:15am**

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

Spring Lunch Menu

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



Next week is Week 3.

Accent Catering Newsletter



School Attendance



Julia Donaldson

80%

Eric Carle

86%

Judith Kerr

85%

Tony Ross

94%

Greta Thunberg

93%

Harriet Tubman

92%

Florence Nightingale

97%

Marie Curie

98%

Isaac Newton

95%

Michael Faraday

95%

Maya Angelou

98%

William Shakespeare

94%

Benjamin Zephaniah

93%

Emmeline Pankhurst

92%

Martin Luther King

89%

Marcus Rashford

96%

Nelson Mandela

97%

The whole school's attendance for this week is **93.3%**

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: Ayman

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

Eric Carle 3YO: Aylin

We are so impressed with Aylin and her progress in her self care! Amazing work Aylin, keep it up

Tony Ross Reception: Amine

For your amazing writing work, you are really persevering and have made great progress this half term - well done!

Judith Kerr Reception: Uzair

We have been so impressed by your confident start to joining JK class. We have especially appreciated your willingness to share your thoughts and ideas and you have quickly learnt school expectations. Well done!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Azra

For showing enthusiasm and determination in English this week. Well done for trying hard to Fred talk your sentence and showing great ambition each day! Keep it up!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Juweriyah

Every day you come to school with an amazing, positive and respectful attitude. You are constantly showing that you are ready, respectful and safe and complete your work with enthusiasm. Keep it up!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Shyla

For persevering with her writing. Shyla always contributes to the lesson and shares her wonderful ideas. Well done Shyla, keep it up.

Marie Curie Year 2: Seyyid

For the perseverance you have shown in music this week. You have shown independence and enthusiasm through answering questions and your focus during practice. Keep up the hard work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Naveed

For great effort and hard work during English sessions. Your focus, determination, and positive attitude make us very proud. Keep up the good work!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Noah

For his fantastic effort and resilience in learning. He has begun to actively join the class and engage more in his learning. He is completing his work more consistently, showing growing independence in managing tasks with support, and demonstrating a much calmer approach to challenges throughout the day.

William Shakespeare Year 4: Ahmet

For his effort this week and positive attitude towards his learning. Ahmet has shown willingness to persevere and believe in himself. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Harry

He has shown wonderful enthusiasm for art and creativity, always sharing imaginative ideas and brightening our classroom with his talent. He also has such a fantastic sense of humour and ability to make everyone laugh, brightening up the classroom. Keep shining Harry!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Iman

For working extremely hard in all her learning. She is so focused and determined and it has shone through in all her work. She has even been preparing her writing at home before lessons to help with her ideas and structure of sentences. We are so impressed!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Yasmin

I have been very impressed with your attitude towards learning this week, especially when you have been sharing such thoughtful ideas while writing the email for 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom'. Well done for all your hard work and effort this week. Keep it up!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Adam M

Well done, Adam Musa. You have shown great enthusiasm in Maths and a real willingness to challenge yourself. Your hard work and positive attitude towards learning are helping you make excellent progress.

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Francis

Francis has shown independence this week by developing his own ideas in writing. He thoughtfully crafted a fantastic report about workhouses in the Victorian Era. Well done for consistently working hard!

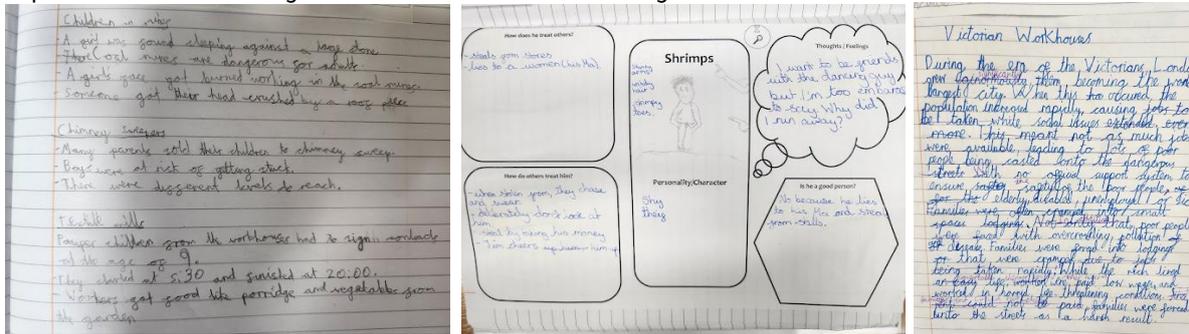
Marcus Rashford Year 6: Mohamed

Mohamed, you should be proud of the effort you put into your work this week—this shows perseverance! You have been working especially hard in maths and writing, taking extra care to make sure you do not make mistakes. You also showed ambition by researching Charles Dickens outside of school. Perseverance and ambition are great skills for Year 6 and for life. Keep it up, Mohamed!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

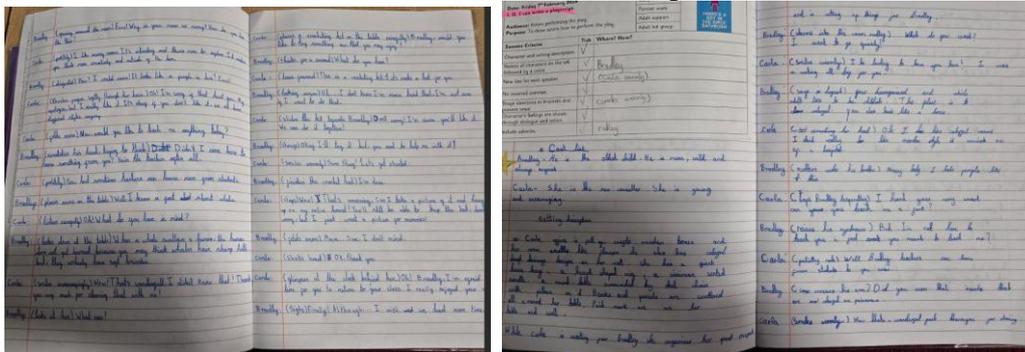
Year 6

Year 6 have continued their journey towards becoming experts in the Victorian era. In history, we explored the different kinds of jobs that adults and children (as young as 4) might have to do. In reading, we followed the gruelling tale of a Victorian boy, Jim Jarvis, who goes from his home to a workhouse to the streets. Finally, we tied this all together in a report about the initially well-intentioned but ultimately inhumane workhouses of the Victorian era.



Year 5

Year 5 completed their playscripts between two characters from their class text - The Boy in the Girls' Bathroom - this week. They really enjoyed thinking about the dialogue as well as adding specific stage directions and using playscript features within their writing.



Christ's Hospital Maths Challenge

We are very proud of our four Year 5 children who represented the school at the Christ's Hospital Maths Challenge last Friday. They showed great enthusiasm and teamwork, and competing in the impressive Guildhall was a fantastic achievement. They were excellent ambassadors for our school, well done to them all!



MLK at Union Chapel

As part of their music production and composition learning, MLK attended a live performance of Making Trouble at Union Chapel this week with Lena, their music teacher. The experience showcased original music created by young people and inspired pupils' own creative work back in school.

Music Production Lunchtime Club runs Fridays in BZ (Year 5 & Year 6).

Year 4

The children in Year 4 have been learning all about electrical safety in Science. They explored how to stay safe when using electrical equipment and made posters to show what they have learnt. Here are some excellent examples:



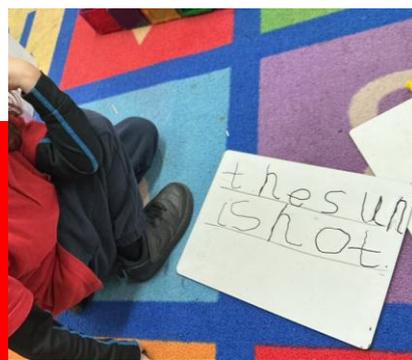
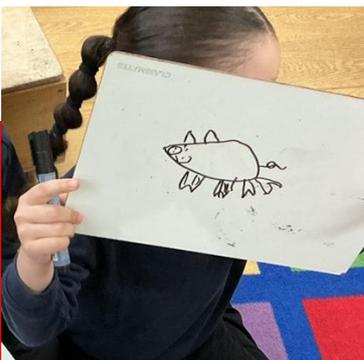
Year 3

This week in Year 3, children explored money through practical activities. Using real coins and notes, they worked in pairs and small groups to make equal amounts and show different combinations. Pupils placed coins on whiteboards, counted carefully and checked their totals together. The hands-on approach supported discussion, collaboration and a secure understanding of coin values and how different amounts can be made.



Year 1

In maths, year 1 have been measuring volume and capacity. We have compared how much different sized containers can hold as well as using vocabulary like 'full' 'nearly full' 'nearly empty' and 'empty'.



Reception

In reception we have been practicing our fine motor skills and can follow steps to make lovely drawings and form letters well to make whole sentences using finger spaces. immersing themselves in house building role play and repeating key lines from the story.

3YO Nursery

Nursery have been making use of our renovated reading corner this week. We explored all the new books that were added to the reading corner and did a group reading session! We loved discussing the pictures and doing book swaps with our partners, we will be doing more of this in the weeks to come.



2YO Nursery

We have had a very messy week. We have been enjoying exploring paint using different tools and getting messy with the cornflour. Please remember to upload photos and videos to your child's tapestry for us to see. Have a lovely break everyone.

New parents are often in the dark about what stages of development their baby goes through and what will best support them. On the NHS Togetherness website you can find great information to support you understanding your child, whether they are developing typically or you have some concerns.

Click on the image to access this resource:

6 months to 19+ years



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

13 Stages

English | Voiceover | Certificate available



Understanding your child with additional needs

14 Stages

English | Voiceover | Certificate available

the ACCESS to SPORTS project

FEBRUARY HALF TERM SPORTS **16-19 FEBRUARY**

FREE-OF-CHARGE

The Access to Sports Project are offering a range of Sports Activities for young people aged 5 - 19

Activities include:

- Multi sports camps
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- Events & competitions

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- Elthorne Park
- Rosebowl
- Harvist Estate
- Rosemary Gardens

For more information and Book Online: www.accesstosports.org.uk/bookings

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