

23.01.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week began with “Blue Monday”, but any January gloom was quickly chased away by the determined attitude we’ve seen across school. Although the rain has stopped play at times, it certainly hasn’t stopped learning — our pupils have been firing on all cylinders, showing real focus and resilience throughout the week.

A particular well done to our Year 6 pupils, who have worked incredibly hard during their mock SATs week. They have approached each paper with maturity and positivity, and we are proud of the effort they have put in. Thank you to families for the support at home too — it really does make a difference.

In assemblies, we have been thinking about courage and self-confidence, and how these qualities affect each and every one of us — in our learning, our friendships, and the choices we make every day. We’ve talked about the importance of believing in ourselves, having a go even when something feels tricky, and remembering that confidence grows through practise.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope you have a restful weekend, and we look forward to another positive week ahead.

Ms Braithwaite

Executive Head

Spring Lunch Menu

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



Next week is Week 4.



Important Dates

Monday 26th January

Fluoride Varnish application for
Nursery - Year 2

Tuesday 27th January

EYFS coffee morning –
boundaries and routines

Wednesday 28th January

JK class Archway library trip

Tuesday 3rd February

P.E. Coffee Morning

Wednesday 4th February

TR class Archway library trip

Friday 13th February

Year 2 R.E. Assembly 2:40pm

Monday 16th –

Friday 20th February

Half term

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

72%

Eric Carle

79%

Judith Kerr

78%

Tony Ross

92%

Greta Thunberg

87%

Harriet Tubman

91%

Florence Nightingale

99%

Marie Curie

92%

Isaac Newton

96%

Michael Faraday

96%

Maya Angelou

89%

William Shakespeare

90%

Benjamin Zephaniah

93%

Emmeline Pankhurst

93%

Martin Luther King

97%

Marcus Rashford

92%

Nelson Mandela

95%

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: Muhamed

For settling into little nursery so well. You always have a smile and are so keen to learn and explore. We can't wait to get to know you more. Well done.

Eric Carle 3YO: Yahya

Well done Yahya for being so grownup when coming into school! He has been coming straight in without crying or asking for daddy. Yay!

Tony Ross Reception: Muddasir

For your amazing phonics skills - you are reading CVC words so confidently now. Well done, such determination.

Judith Kerr Reception: Jannah

For your enthusiasm for stories and for a fabulous retelling of Whatever Next!

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Noah

For showing kindness and respect this week. You are always willing to hold the door for others and play with a friend who is alone. Thank you for being a role model this week. Keep it up!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Taylor

For showing enthusiasm and respect all week. You are working so well independently, especially in maths and are trying your best in your writing too. Keep up the great work!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Maliyah-Rose

For having a great start at Duncombe! You have shown that you are ready, respectful and safe and we are so happy to have you back!

Marie Curie Year 2: Hasan

You have shown perseverance in our history lesson, cutting out your house template with precision. Keep up the hard work!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Luul

For working so hard during English lessons, using her phonics knowledge to support her writing, and carefully checking her work to make sure it is intended to make sense. Well done!
Keep it up!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Olivia

For her perseverance and independence in both writing and maths. She has shown growing confidence in her learning and is working more independently. Her improved self-confidence and positive attitude have led to progress. Well done and keep it up!

William Shakespeare Year 4: Radina

For her consistent effort during class activities. She always follows the Duncombe values and sets a great example for others. Radina is caring and always willing to help her peers.

Maya Angelou Year 4: Manal

She is very helpful in class and always completes jobs with care. She supports others, shows kindness, and treats everyone with respect. She truly demonstrates our school value of respect. Keep it up Manal!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Cephas

For a great improvement in writing, staying focused and trying to include all our new features in his writing. He has been a good role model, showing positive learning behaviours in all lessons and working hard to make progress. Well done!

Martin Luther King Year 5: Mila

Mila has really impressed me this week through her positive attitude and the consistent effort she has put into her learning. She has been focused, willing to try her best and has shown great determination when completing her work. Well done Mila for all the wonderful effort you have shown this week.

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Jesse

Well done, Jesse. He has shown great enthusiasm in English lessons and has been using his speaking thumbs to contribute more. He has included ambitious vocabulary in his writing and produced a fantastic piece of work. Good job!

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Imran

I have been really impressed with the perseverance you have shown during assessment week. You have shown the focus and seriousness expected of a Year 6 pupil. Furthermore, your enthusiasm during our history lesson this week turned a lesson about key Victorian events into a fascinating discussion about all things Victorian!
Keep it up!

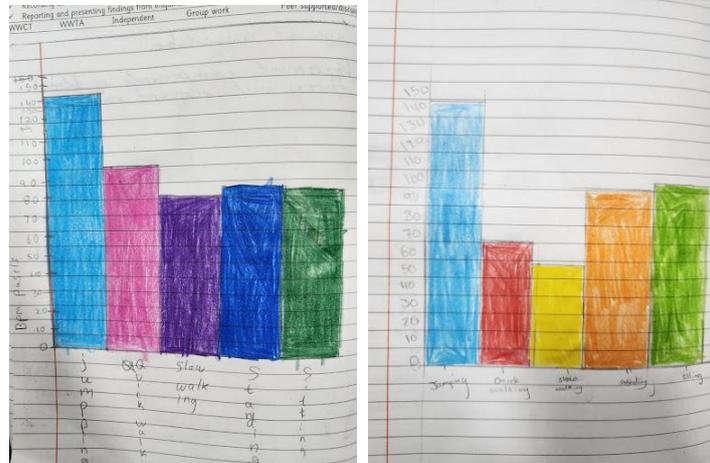
Nelson Mandela Year 6: Bilal

For a fantastic attitude in our assessment week. You have shown super focus, thoughtfully answered questions and shown great attention to detail, especially in maths. Well done, Bilal!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

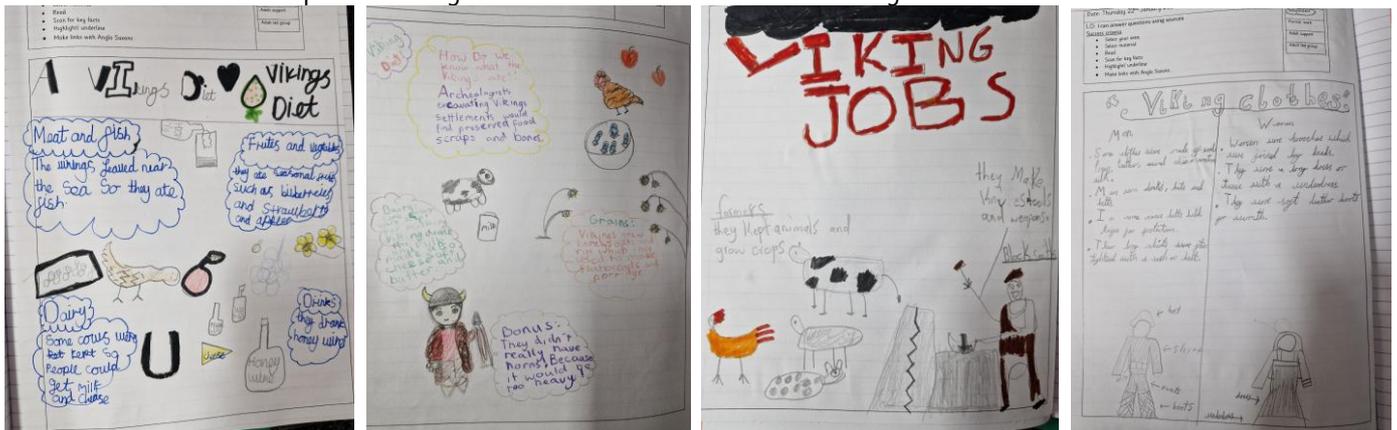
Year 6

Year 6 combined maths and science to investigate factors that can affect pulse. Covering several factors, we looked into whether elephants or rats have a faster resting heart rate (and realised our initial assumptions were wrong!). Then we conducted our own investigation into how different forms of exercise can change our heart rate and transformed our results into bar graphs to help communicate our findings.



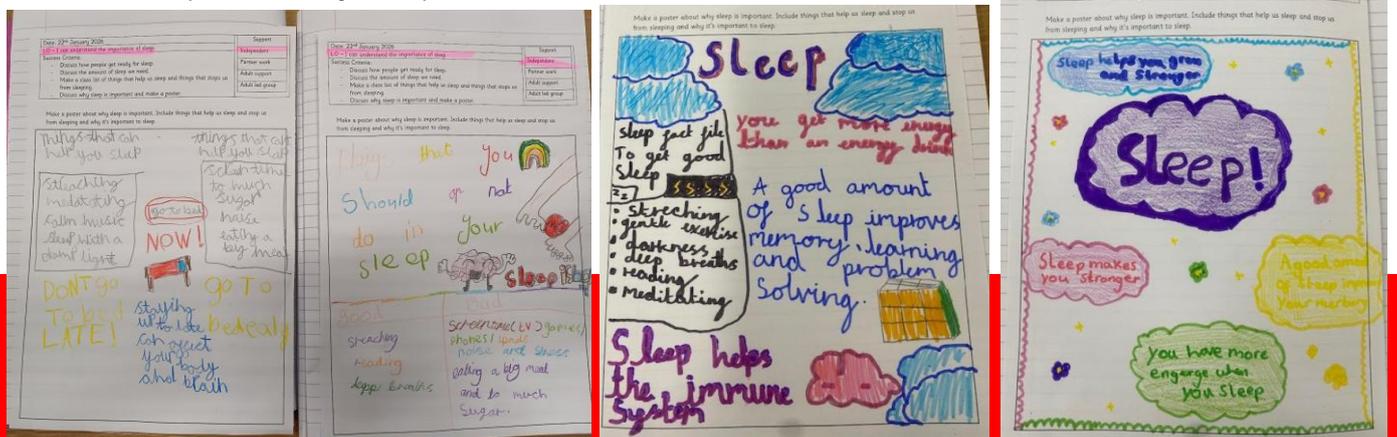
Year 5

Year 5 used various sources to research information about the lives of Viking people and then organised that information into illustrated posters. They will then be able to share what they have learnt with the other children.



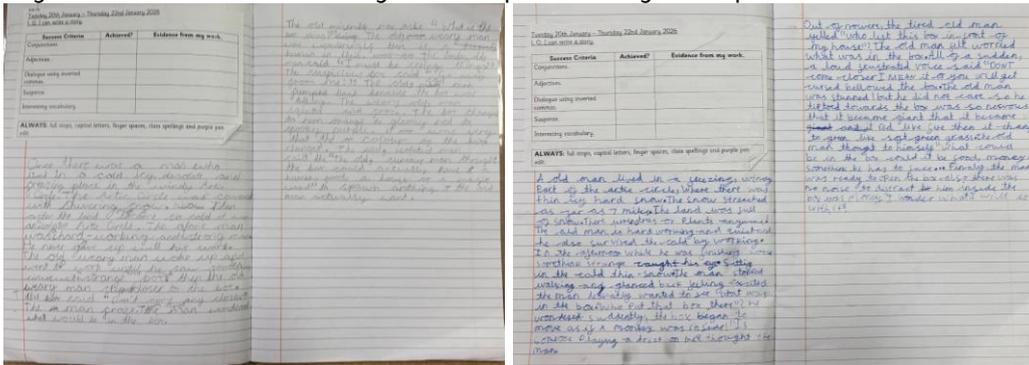
Year 4

The children in year 4 have been learning about the importance of sleep. They created posters to explain why sleep is important. They took part in a class discussion to share their ideas on how to sleep better.



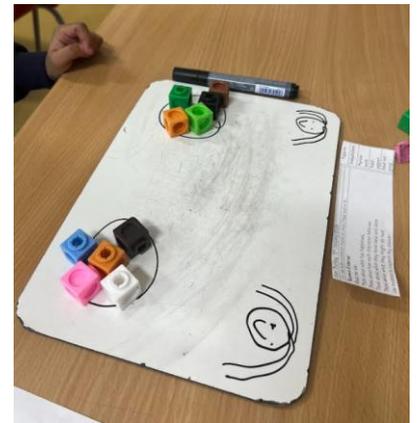
Year 3

In Year 3, children developed their story-writing skills by creating a narrative inspired by an animation about a man living in the Arctic Circle, focusing on description, dialogue, suspense, and rich vocabulary.



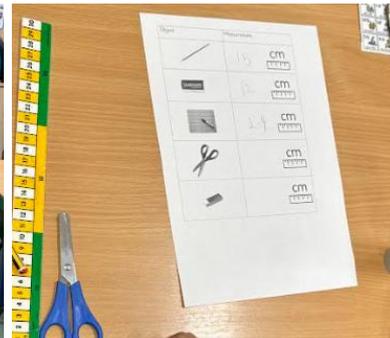
Year 2

In Year 2 we have been learning to divide. We started off by sharing between groups and understanding that each group must be equal.



Year 1

In Year 1 we have been learning all about length and height this week. We have compared different lengths and heights and begun accurately measuring around our classroom. We have started to use a ruler and learned how to measure cm.



Reception

The children have loved learning about Space through their text 'Whatever Next' the last two weeks. There is a great space exhibition on at the Natural History Museum at the moment or take your child to the Science Museum for free fun activities linking to their current favourite topic of SPACE!





3YO Nursery

Nursery have been welcoming our new friends this week. They did such a great job at showing their new friends our classroom routines and modelling our class room rules. We even took them on an adventure outside and tried spotting animals and insects in our garden. We found where our spiders like to live in the garden and counted how many we could see - we found four!

2YO Nursery

We have welcomed some new friends this week. It has been lovely to see how keen they are to explore. The other children have been amazing and so helpful. We are still exploring people who help us and have been having loads of fun with the doctor's kit.



We invite you and your child to come along to our

Stay and Play Session

Date: Wednesday 4th February 2026

Time: 9am – 10am.

Location – JD – 2-Year-old room.

All welcome!



We will be having Yusef from Bright Start attending.

He will be able to support and guide families with...

- Toilet training
- Dummies
- Food
- Sleep
- And anything else you may need support with.

This is a chance for you to come and see what the children are getting up to, have a little play with your child, have a tour of the setting and to talk to staff.

We can't wait to see you!!!

If you know someone who is not yet enrolled or maybe interested and would like to come along, please get them to book a place with the school office.



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