

30.01.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, several classes enjoyed visits to the local library. These trips support our children's love of reading and help them become confident library users. The pupils were engaged and enthusiastic throughout their visits. We would also like to encourage families to visit the library at weekends. It is a fantastic free resource and a great place to spend time together, especially during the colder winter months.

This week we also marked **Safer Internet Day**. Children took part in a whole-school assembly followed by workshops delivered by *Three*, which helped them to understand how to stay safe online. We kindly remind parents and carers to regularly check their children's devices and online activity to ensure technology is being used safely and appropriately.

Our girls' football team played a match this week, and we were extremely impressed by the resilience, teamwork, and enthusiasm they displayed throughout the game. Well done to all involved.

Finally, thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring children attend school wearing the correct school uniform.

Katija Ali

Head of School

Spring Lunch Menu

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



Next week is Week 1.



Important Dates

Tuesday 3rd February
P.E. Coffee Morning

Wednesday 4th February
TR class Archway library trip

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

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

67%

Eric Carle

88%

Judith Kerr

80%

Tony Ross

85%

Greta Thunberg

94%

Harriet Tubman

93%

Florence Nightingale

91%

Marie Curie

86%

Isaac Newton

96%

Michael Faraday

96%

Maya Angelou

95%

William Shakespeare

97%

Benjamin Zephaniah

90%

Emmeline Pankhurst

95%

Martin Luther King

94%

Marcus Rashford

95%

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: Inaaya

For settling into nursery really well. Her confidence is growing each day. Well done.

Eric Carle 3YO: Mattias

Mattias has been amazing at remembering all the types of transport we have been learning about! He can tell you all our new learnt facts about trains.

Tony Ross Reception: Adam U

For his wonderful improvements in his writing, you are so much more confident now with a pencil and are writing short sentences, well done.

Judith Kerr Reception: Ameer

For your growing confidence and care and attention when writing. You are confidently forming letters without the support of the sound mat and your segmentation of the sounds in words has improved with practice.

Greta Thunberg Year 1: Manal

For your continuous effort in Maths this week. Well done for always trying so hard even though you find subtraction tricky. Your determination is a true example to the class! Keep up the great work!

Harriet Tubman Year 1: Ellington

For showing enthusiasm and respect all week. You are working so well independently and are enthusiastic to complete your activities so you can challenge yourself. Keep it up!

Florence Nightingale Year 2: Yusuf

For showing enthusiasm and perseverance in his learning this week. Yusuf has blown us all away with his quick thinking in maths. Keep up the excellent work!

Marie Curie Year 2: Layla-Mai

Well done for working so hard this week in all subjects. You have also shown perseverance in your at home learning. Keep it up!

Isaac Newton Year 3: Maria

For working so hard during the maths lessons and for showing excellent perseverance, even when tasks are challenging. A huge well done to Maria. Keep it up!

Michael Faraday Year 3: Ibrahim

For his excellent effort and progress in maths, writing and reading. He always works hard and to the best of his ability. He has become more independent and always tries to help those around him.

William Shakespeare Year 4: Lianne

For showing a positive attitude towards her learning. She tries her best and has worked very hard this week with enthusiasm to produce a fantastic diary entry. Well done!

Maya Angelou Year 4: Suhayma

She is someone who tries her best in every lesson. In maths, she has been persevering at the formal methods of multiplication and division and it's great to see her confidence and enthusiasm growing. Keep up this great attitude to learning Suhayma!

Benjamin Zephaniah Year 5: Omer

Well done for always being focused and hard-working in all your lessons. You volunteer interesting ideas and think carefully about the work you are completing. Keep up the great behaviour and learning.

Martin Luther King Year 5: Mukhtar

Well done for your hard work all week, especially in English. I can see that you are trying your best and putting real effort into your learning. You are showing great progress and should be proud of yourself. Keep it up!

Emmeline Pankhurst Year 5: Naeemah

Well done, Naeemah, for always being ready to learn and give your best. You are hardworking, focused, and eager to improve every day. Your positive attitude and dedication make you stand out.

Marcus Rashford Year 6: Minha

Minha, I have been so proud of you this week! You have taken ownership of your own learning and have pushed yourself to be more confident in contributing during lessons and also in asking for help. You have shown real engagement with everything we have been learning, and have shared this with the rest of the class. Well done, Minha. Keep it up!

Nelson Mandela Year 6: Isabella

For showing an 'I can do it attitude'. You always work hard and show enthusiasm for learning. You are also always a kind, respectful member of the class. Keep it up!

Fantastic Work and Learning at Duncombe this week:

Year 6

This week, pupils in Year 6 time learning about internet safety in the age of AI. Pupils attended a workshop with Three Discovery to learn all about how AI blurs fact with fiction, and how using AI for homework can be more unhelpful than helpful. Pupils then worked in groups to produce professional short films using green screens to help people stay safe online!

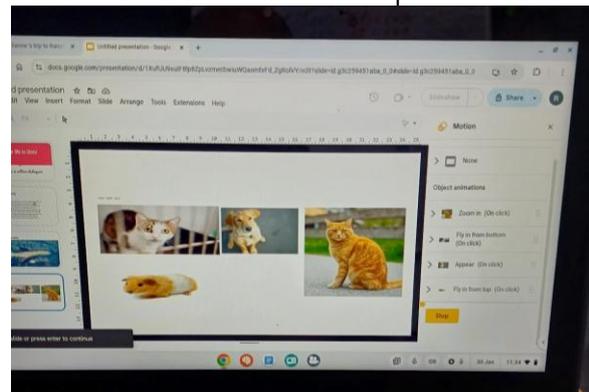
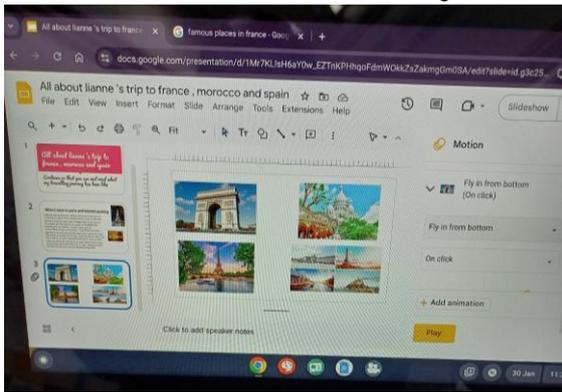


Year 5

After an informative workshop about how we should be careful with AI and how to use movie making software, Year 5 really enjoyed planning and producing short films about how to stay safe while using AI.

Year 4

Year 4 have been learning how to use Google Slides. They have been creating their own presentations, learning how to insert and edit text, images and do animations. Here are a few examples:



Year 3

This week, Year 3 children have learned about the Stone Age and why stone tools were important for survival. They explored different Stone Age tools and talked about how they were used for hunting, preparing food, and building shelters. The children shared ideas, worked well with partners, and wrote short descriptions imagining life in the Stone Age. They showed great enthusiasm, curiosity, and effort in their learning. Well done, Year 3!



Year 2

In Year 2, we reenacted The Great Fire of London to see how the fire spread so quickly. We first made the houses and made sure they were very close together (like old London) and watched the fire spread house to house.



Year 1

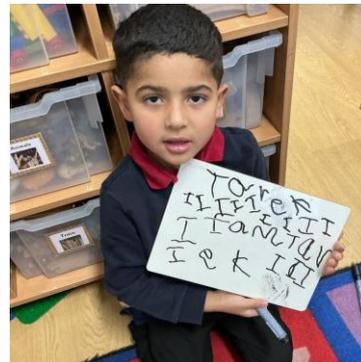
In science, year 1 went on a seasonal walk around the school to identify what we noticed about the current season. We then compared winter to the 3 other seasons and thought about how we can tell if the seasons are changing.

I.O. I can observe the changes across the four seasons.				Date: 29.01.26
To be successful:				Self Peer Adult
<input type="checkbox"/> Look carefully				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Record what I have found				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Think about the differences.				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Working like a scientist, I will:		Working Scientifically		
<input type="checkbox"/> Observe the outside world		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
WWCT	WWTA	Independent	Group work	
Peer supported/observed				
What did you find on your seasonal walk?				
Which season is it? Circle it.				
spring	summer	autumn	winter	
Sort the seasonal changes to the seasons				
Spring	flowers grow			
	sun and rain			
Summer	very hot and dry	plants grow		
Autumn	leaves turn orange and brown	leaves fall		
Winter	very cold	no leaves on trees	leaves on the ground	



Reception

In Reception, we are starting to write short sentences. Children are encouraged in the mornings to practice handwriting and some children are writing independent sentences such as 'I am...' with their name and age. Wow, well done Reception!



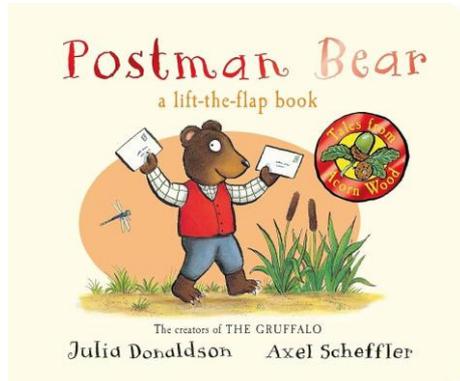
3YO Nursery

Nursery have been loving their 'transport' topic. We have been talking about the transport we take to get to school and also our favourite type of transport. I think monster trucks and rockets have been a special class favourite. Here are some examples of Nursery's great work: we have Mikel's lighthouse, Hanna's train ticket and Arisha's rocket! I'm so impressed!



2YO Nursery

We have been really enjoying our book 'Postman Bear'. Some of us are able to retell some of the story in their own words and what the story is about with some key phases. The staff have been super proud. Well done.



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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