

What a wonderful term we have all had. There have been so many memories made by everyone at William Byrd.

My top three special memories this term have to be;

1. The Christmas Fair - I don't think I have ever seen the hall so busy! There were so many wonderful things to purchase and games to play which was topped off by hearing our wonderful choir sing! A huge thank you to the PTA who makes these events possible - they take an enormous amount of hard work to put together and we really appreciate it!



2. Christmas on the Green! I love walking to the village green and showing the local community how special the children at William Byrd are. Thank you to everyone that joined us!

Our Nursery - I have spent quite a lot of time in Nursery this term and I cannot believe how much the children have developed their independence in our wonderful environment. A huge thank you to the team of adults that have supported them!

This term we say goodbye to 2 very special teachers: Ms Beggs and Mr Collins. Your contribution to William Byrd has been insurmountable. We thank you for all your hard work and wish you the best of luck in your next roles!

In January, we will have 4 teachers joining the team;

- Ms Shah in Nursery
- Mr Mishra in Year 1 as the Class teacher and Year Group Leader
- Ms Ali in Year 2
- Ms Yamac in Year 4 (who has been working in Nursery this term)

We wish you all a Happy Holiday and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 7th January!

Warmest regards
Ms N Edwards
Head of School

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS

Click on the icons below or scan the QR codes.





@wbpacademy

Nursery's Autumn Trees Inspired by Ashvin Harrison

Our Nursery children proudly presented their beautiful autumn tree artworks at the whole-school art exhibition. Inspired by the contemporary artist Ashvin Harrison, the children explored how movement and colour can bring nature to life. Using a combination of paint flicking and careful brushwork, they created vibrant trees bursting with the warm shades of autumn. The results were truly stunning — full of energy, creativity, and the unique imagination of our youngest artists. Their work added a joyful splash of colour to the exhibition and reminded everyone that great art can begin with even the smallest hands.

















This term, the Nursery children have been fully engaged in a wide range of exciting learning experiences. They were especially enthusiastic about starting our new project on making paper, where they explored different textures and materials. The results were wonderful, and the children took great pride in using their handmade paper to create special Christmas cards, developing both their creativity and fine motor skills.

We have enjoyed sharing a variety of stories this term. While reading We're Going on a Bear Hunt, the children used their imagination and enthusiasm to prepare for their own bear hunt. This story supported their understanding of positional language, as they learned the meanings of the words "under," "over," and "through." It also encouraged teamwork, communication, and physical development.

The children have been learning about their environment, gaining a better understanding of their homes, the school, and places within the local community. Through play-based activities, they explored colours and how they can be mixed and used in different ways.

Reading Peace at Last provided a valuable opportunity for the children to listen carefully and talk about the different sounds they hear in their everyday lives, supporting their listening skills and awareness of the world around them.

In Mathematics, the children explored numbers, shapes, and patterns through practical, hands-on activities, helping them to build early problem-solving skills and confidence.

Our final story of the term, The Gingerbread Man, led us into cooking activities. The children had great fun making their own gingerbread men, developing independence, turn-taking, and an understanding of simple processes. We also worked together to create a lovely display for Remembrance Day, encouraging reflection and creativity.

Throughout the term, we celebrated a range of important events including Diwali, Bonfire Night, and Children in Need. These celebrations helped the children to learn about different traditions, express themselves creatively, and develop a sense of belonging within our school community.

Overall, it has been a busy and joyful term, and we are very proud of the children's enthusiasm, curiosity, and progress.

Christmas Fun Day

Our Nursery Christmas Fun Day was a wonderful celebration filled with festive cheer and excitement. The children had a fantastic time taking part in a range of Christmas-themed activities, and it was lovely to see their enthusiasm and smiles throughout the day.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to join in and support the children. Your involvement helped make the day extra special and created a warm, joyful atmosphere for everyone. We really appreciate your time and continued support.

It was a truly memorable day and a lovely way to celebrate the festive season together.

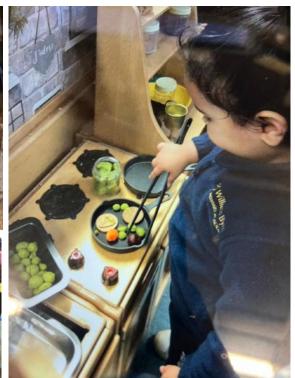
























































































Reception's Picasso-Inspired Self-Portraits

Our Reception children delighted everyone at the whole-school art exhibition with their colourful self-portraits inspired by Pablo Picasso. After learning about Picasso's unique cubist style, the children explored how shapes, lines, and bold colours can be used to show feelings and personality in creative new ways. Their imaginative portraits were full of character and confidence, capturing the individuality of each young artist. The display was a wonderful celebration of creativity and self-expression, showing that

even our youngest learners can be inspired by the masters of art.























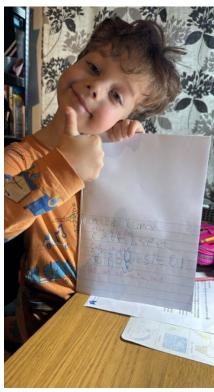
Celebrating Our Reception Writers!

Each week, our Reception children take part in their writing dictations — and we are incredibly proud of the progress they are making. These sessions give pupils the chance to apply their phonics, practise accurate letter formation, and develop confidence as emerging writers.

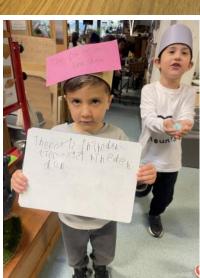
What has been most impressive is the children's growing independence and pride in their work. They are listening carefully, segmenting words with increasing accuracy, and producing writing that shows real determination and joy. Every small step forward — from correctly spelling a new sound to writing a full sentence — is worth celebrating.

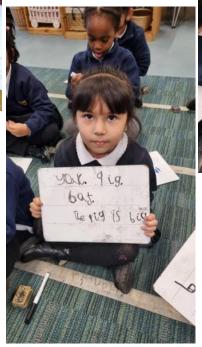
We would also like to say a big well done and thank you to our parents, whose support at home makes such a difference. Your commitment to reading, practising sounds and encouraging writing is helping the children make fantastic progress.

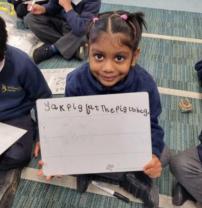
Well done to all our Reception writers — and to the families supporting them on this journey!













Fairy Tales

This half term in Reception has been incredibly exciting and full of rich learning experiences. The children took part in a number of memorable events, including Pedestrian Training, where they learned how to cross the road safely and responsibly.

Our topic this term was the magical world of Fairy Tales. The children explored a range of stories, learned from the characters' choices, and developed new vocabulary through discussion and role play. They enjoyed listening to different tales, re-enacting key scenes, creating props, and even developing their own imaginative plays inspired by the stories.

In Maths, we deepened our understanding of numbers to 5 and explored 2D shapes, weight, and capacity through lots of practical, hands-on activities. The children showed excellent curiosity and enthusiasm throughout.

A highlight in English was our focus on The Princess and the pea by Rachel Isodora. The children practised writing simple sentences based on the story and proudly shared their ideas with one another. As part of our Christmas preparations, they wrote letters to Father Christmas and posted them during a walk in the local area—an exciting moment for everyone!

It has been a wonderfully busy and joyful half term in Reception, and we are incredibly proud of all the children's hard work, enthusiasm, and achievements.



Story Time With Hillingdon Libraries

We had a truly magical morning at school as T. Muhammad from Hillingdon Libraries joined our Reception and Year 1 children for a special Story Time session. The children arrived with their favourite toys, ready to snuggle up and enjoy a wonderful selection of stories.

Throughout the session, they listened attentively, used their imaginations, and even performed their own fairy tales—showcasing fantastic creativity and confidence.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to T. Muhammad for inspiring our young readers and helping to make the morning such an enjoyable experience for everyone.



Building Oracy Skills in Nursery and Reception

This half term, our Nursery and Reception children have been developing their oracy skills through our daily Word of the Day activities. Each day, the children learn a new word, explore its meaning, and practise using it confidently in sentences.

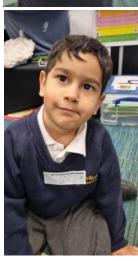
At the end of the week, the children choose their favourite word, write it on a sticker, and proudly share it with anyone who asks. This simple routine encourages them to speak clearly, expand their vocabulary, and develop confidence when talking to others.

Why not ask your child: "What was your favourite word this week?" You might be surprised by what they

can explain!





















Pedestrian Training

As preparation for our first walk to the local area, the Reception children have been learning how to stay safe when crossing the road. They learned a very simple but important rule: "Stop, look, listen, hold hands!"—a routine that everyone should follow before crossing.

A big thank you to the Stars Team from School Travel and Road Safety Education in Hillingdon for delivering this wonderful and informative training.























Shopping Experience

Our Reception children had a fantastic time on a shopping trip to the local Colop on Harlington High Street. The children bought sweets for their friends as a Christmas treat, and for many of them this was their very first independent shopping experience.

They practised choosing an item, paying for it, receiving the correct change, and getting a receipt—real world skills that build confidence and independence. The trip also provided a great opportunity to talk about familiar places and buildings in our local community, as well as to reinforce the importance of crossing the road safely.

A big thank you to the Co-op store on Harlington High Street for being so welcoming and accommodating of our visit.



Building Skills and Confidence in Reception!

This term, our Reception children have been developing exciting new woodwork skills, and we are so proud of their growing confidence and independence. The children learned how to use a hammer safely and with control, practising how to join pieces of wood together through simple, hands-on construction tasks.

Woodwork has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop fine motor strength, perseverance, problem-solving and creativity. They concentrated beautifully, listened carefully to safety guidance, and showed great pride in their achievements as their structures began to take shape. It has been inspiring to watch our young learners take on real tools responsibly and discover what they can create with them. Well done to all our Reception carpenters in the making — your resilience and

focus have shone this term!















Year 1's Frida Kahlo-Inspired Self-Portraits

Year 1 children proudly presented their vibrant self-portraits inspired by the iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo at the whole-school art exhibition. After learning about Kahlo's bold use of colour, pattern, and symbolism, the children explored how art can express identity, emotion, and personal stories. Their striking portraits featured thoughtful details and imaginative backgrounds that reflected their unique personalities and creativity. The display was a true celebration of individuality and confidence, showing how our young artists are learning to see themselves — and the world — through the eyes of an artist.





















This half term, the children have been continuing to follow the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme, which helps them develop strong reading and spelling skills. They are learning to recognise sounds (known as 'speed sounds'), blend them together to read words, and segment words to spell them accurately. The children are reading storybooks that closely match the sounds they have learned, allowing them to build confidence and fluency. They also take part in daily practice with red and green words, helping them read both phonically regular words and common tricky words. Through repetition, partner work, and lots of fun reading activities, the children are becoming more confident, independent readers. The children particularly enjoyed our phonics day where they were able to create their own sound and word cards and become the teacher for the day!

In Maths, the children in Year 1 have been exploring addition and subtraction through lots of practical, hands-on activities. They have been learning to add by counting on, using objects and pictures to help them, and beginning to remember important number bonds to 10 and 20. In subtraction, they have been practising taking away using objects, pictures, and number lines, as well as counting back from a number. The children have also been solving simple word problems and explaining their thinking, helping them to build confidence and develop a strong understanding of how addition and subtraction are connected.

In Writing, the children have been exploring the beautiful story The Proudest Blue and using it as inspiration to write their own diary entries. They have been learning to write in the first person, using words like "I" and "my" to show the character's thoughts and feelings. The children have discussed the emotions in the story, especially the pride and courage shown by the main character and have used this to help them describe events in detail. They have also been practising using capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces to make their writing clear.

In Science, the children have been learning about materials through a mixture of structured lessons, play projects, and continuous provision. This approach allows them to explore scientific ideas in a practical, hands-on way. During play projects, the children investigate different materials such as wood, plastic, metal, and fabric by touching, sorting, building, and testing them in purposeful activities. In continuous provision, they have access to carefully planned areas where they can experiment independently—for example, testing which materials are waterproof, sorting objects by their properties, or exploring which materials are best for building. This child-led exploration helps the children develop curiosity, language skills, and a deeper understanding of how materials behave and what they are used for in the world













This term, our Year 1 children took part in pedestrian training, completing a refresher session building on the learning they began last year. The training focused on helping children develop safe and responsible habits when walking near roads and in the local environment.

Children revisited and practised the key: "Stop, Look, Listen, and Hold Hands" rule, learning why each step is important for keeping themselves and others safe. Through practical, real-life scenarios, they were encouraged to stop at the kerb, look carefully in all directions, listen for traffic, and always hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.

The refresher training helped reinforce children's understanding of road safety, increased their confidence, and supported them in applying these skills in everyday situations. The children engaged enthusiastically, demonstrated sensible behaviour, and showed a growing awareness of how to stay safe as pedestrians.









Woodwork in Year 1

As part of their Design and Technology project on Robots, our Year 1 children have been developing their practical skills by working with wood. The children learned how to use tools safely and effectively, including drilling holes, hammering nails, and attaching different wooden components to create their own robot designs. They explored how to join materials securely and thought carefully about how different parts could move or be fixed in place. This hands-on experience helped them develop fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and an understanding of how materials can be manipulated to create a finished product.

In addition to their DT project, the children also worked with wood when creating Christmas decorations for the school Christmas fayre. They carefully designed and assembled their decorations, using tools and joining techniques they had practised during their DT lessons. This allowed them to apply their learning in a real-life context and take pride in producing items that could be shared with the wider school community.

Throughout both projects, the children showed great focus, creativity, and resilience, working safely and cooperatively while gaining confidence in using tools and materials.

Look how incredible they look! All of the children's work has been showcased in our DT exhibition.























Trip to St Peter and St Paul's Church in Harlington

At the end of the term, our Year 1 children visited St Peter and St Paul's Church in Harlington to deepen their understanding of Christianity and explore how Christmas is celebrated within the Christian faith. During the visit, the children learned about key Christian traditions associated with Christmas, including the Nativity story, the meaning of Advent, and how churches prepare for and celebrate this special time of year.

The children also had the opportunity to explore the history of the church, learning about its role in the local community and discovering how it has changed over time. They were fascinated by the building itself, from the beautiful stained-glass windows to the important features inside the church, and they asked thoughtful and curious questions throughout the visit.

This trip provided a valuable real-life context for the children's learning in RE and helped to bring their classroom discussions to life. The children were respectful, engaged, and enthusiastic learners, making the visit a truly positive experience.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Reverend Richard for being such a warm, welcoming, and knowledgeable host. His time, patience, and enthusiasm helped make the visit memorable and

meaningful for the children.



























Year 2's Still Life Canvases Inspired by Paul Cézanne

Year 2 children impressed visitors at the whole-school art exhibition with their beautiful still life canvases inspired by the work of French artist Paul Cézanne. After studying Cézanne's distinctive style and use of shape, light, and colour, the children experimented with arranging everyday objects to create balanced and thoughtful compositions. Using careful brushwork and vibrant tones, they brought their still life scenes to life on canvas. The finished artworks showed great observation, patience, and creativity — a wonderful reflection of the children's growing artistic

skills and appreciation for one of art's great masters.

















We have been preparing for our wonderful Christmas Production, The Boogie Woogie Nativity. It tells the story of Christmas through lots of catchy songs, with boogie-woogie angels, an animal band and much more! We invited parents and carers to come and watch, and we were delighted with the fantastic turnout.

In Writing this term, we have been exploring The Ghanaian Goldilocks. As part of our unit, we learned how to write a recipe. To support this, we made some Ghanaian-inspired food in class. We followed a recipe to cook plantain with honey and cinnamon. Many of us tried this dish for the first time—it was very tasty, and some even rated it 5/5!

In DT, we have been learning all about pop-up cards and exploring different mechanisms. We investigated sliders, levers and pop-up features, then practised making each mechanism. After experimenting, we chose one to include in our own pop-up card. We have thoroughly enjoyed this unit and can't wait to share our creations with our parents and carers.

In Science, we have been learning about animals, their names and the names of their babies. We compared different types of animal offspring and looked at life cycles, including ordering the life cycle of a ladybird. After Christmas, we are hoping to get some chicks in order to see their lifecycle in real time.

In RE, we have been learning about holy books in different religions. To support our learning, we visited the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Southall. This visit allowed us to deepen our understanding of Sikhism and learn about the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book. We were given a tour and experienced how Sikhs show respect and worship their holy scripture. We were even able to listen to a verse being read. It was a wonderful experience for the children, and we gained lots of valuable knowledge.

























Year 3's Clay Pots Inspired by Michael Cardew

Year 3 children showcased their impressive clay pots inspired by British studio potter Michael Cardew at the whole-school art exhibition. After exploring Cardew's craftsmanship and the beauty of handmade pottery, the children experimented with creating their own unique designs. They used a range of natural and found objects — such as pinecones, sticks, and leaves — to press patterns and textures into the clay, giving each pot its own distinctive character. The finished pieces displayed wonderful creativity, skill, and attention to detail, celebrating both artistic tradition and the children's connection to the natural world.





















We have had a fantastic start to the half term in Year 3, full of enthusiasm, teamwork, and a real love of learning across the curriculum. The children have settled brilliantly into their routines and have especially enjoyed beginning the half term by sharing their learning with families during our class assemblies. In Reading and Writing, we have been exploring The Great Food Bank Heist, an engaging and thought-provoking text that has inspired lots of discussion. The children have developed their comprehension skills and used the story as a stimulus for their own writing, focusing on character motivations, sequencing events, and creating clear, engaging narratives.

In Maths, we have been building strong foundations in addition, subtraction, and multiplication. The children have been using a range of practical resources and visual representations to support their understanding, helping them to explain their thinking and grow in confidence when solving problems. Our Science learning has focused on Rocks, Fossils, and Soil. The children have enjoyed investigating different types of rocks, learning how fossils are formed, and exploring the properties of soil. They have asked thoughtful questions and enjoyed hands-on activities that brought this topic to life. In Geography, we have been learning about settlements, exploring why people choose to live where they do. This has included developing our map-reading skills, using symbols and keys, and comparing different types of settlements.

Design and Technology has been a real highlight, with the children designing and making their own tacos. They learned about food preparation, tasted different ingredients, and evaluated their finished products with great enthusiasm! In Music, we have been learning Three Little Birds, developing our singing skills and confidence while exploring rhythm and melody together.

Year 3 have shown fantastic curiosity, cooperation, and resilience this half term. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to all the exciting learning still to come!

















Year 4's Cat Drawings Inspired by J. Gwen

Year 4 children proudly presented their expressive cat drawings inspired by the artist J. Gwen at the whole-school art exhibition. After studying Gwen's distinctive style and attention to detail, the children explored how to capture character and movement through line, tone, and shading. Each drawing reflected a unique interpretation — from playful kittens to calm, curious cats — showcasing the children's growing confidence in observation and drawing techniques. Their artwork demonstrated both creativity and skill, bringing a delightful touch of personality and charm to the exhibition.



















The Autumn 2 term has been a wonderful and engaging learning journey! We have all settled into Year 4 well, and everyone has shown great enthusiasm and enjoyment in their lessons.

In maths, we began with multiplication and division, concentrating on our times tables. We then moved on to area and perimeter—an excellent topic that gives children practical skills they can use in everyday life. In reading and writing, we have been exploring the book Anglo-Saxon Boy. The children have produced a character description, a biography, and a short narrative with dialogue, and they have all made fantastic progress. Our class text also links closely to our history unit on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, and the children now have a clearer understanding of who they were and what life was like during that period.

In PSHE, we have been learning about valuing differences. Our lessons have focused on stereotypes, recognising how we may differ from others, exploring different types of friendships, and learning how to negotiate and compromise. In science, we have been studying sound, and this term we used a new tool called a Micro:bit to investigate how distance affects the volume of a sound source.

We have also enjoyed DT learning about healthy eating, balanced diets and how to be safe in the kitchen. Our end goal was to design a tart and then make it!

PE has been great fun as we learned all about gymnastics. We explored different body shapes, teamwork skills, and how to use various pieces of equipment safely. A highlight of the term was our trip to the Compass Theatre to watch the Sleeping Beauty pantomime, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

We are excited to see what next term has in store!



















Year 5's Multimedia Space Art Inspired by Peter Thorpe

Year 5 children amazed visitors at the whole-school art exhibition with their striking multimedia artworks inspired by contemporary artist Peter Thorpe. Drawing inspiration from Thorpe's bold, abstract space-themed designs, the children combined painting, collage, and 3D elements to create dynamic compositions bursting with colour and energy. Their work demonstrated excellent artistic skill, imagination, and attention to detail — from carefully constructed rockets and planets to textured backgrounds that gave a real sense of depth and movement. The finished pieces were a testament to the children's creativity and their ability to think beyond the canvas, bringing a vibrant and modern edge to

the exhibition.



















YEAR 5—SOCIAL MEDIA

In November, Year 5 had a fantastic session about the impact of social media.

Before the session the children were asked a series of questions - here are their answers:

How many of you think having a high number of friends on your Social Media is a good thing?

7

Who trusts people of similar age to you, whom you meet online?

5

Who knows what settings that can be used to keep themselves safe online?

28

Who believes you can hurt someone online by sending them a message or tagging them in a picture?

68

During the session it materialised that from our Year 5 children:

Forty-five students stated that they were gaming online with unknown persons.

Fifty-six students felt that they spent too much time gaming online.

Seven students identified as having previously been bullied online (although zero said they are currently experiencing bullying).

Twelve student stated that they had lied to access online gaming sites.

Ten students identified as having over two hundred followers online.

After the session the initial questions were repeated and here are the answer following the session:

Now, how many of you think having a high number of unknown friends on your Social Media is a good thing?

0

Now, who trusts unknown people of similar age to you, whom you meet online?

1

Now, who knows what settings that can be used to keep themselves safe online?

70

Now, who believes you can hurt someone online by sending them a message or tagging them in a picture? 73

The facilitator stated that the whole year group were a pleasure to work with.

What an exciting and productive term it has been for Year 5! The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm for learning and have impressed us with their creativity, teamwork, and growing independence. They have thrown themselves into each subject with curiosity and confidence, making this a truly memorable term.

In our reading and writing lessons, we have been enjoying the thrilling book Black Hole Cinema Club. The story has sparked brilliant discussions and inspired some outstanding writing. The children produced fabulous play scripts, bringing scenes to life with dramatic dialogue and stage directions, and they also wrote detailed film reviews filled with thoughtful opinions and excellent vocabulary.

In Geography, we have been exploring the world's biomes, from rainforests to tundra'a and everything in between. The children learned how climate, flora and fauna make each biome unique, and we spent time examining the impact of human activity on these delicate environments. Their empathy, awareness, and thoughtful suggestions for protecting our planet made for some powerful class discussions.

Science this term has been all about forces! Year 5 have investigated gravity, friction, air resistance, and the effects of different forces on movement. Through hands-on experiments and careful observations, they have developed a strong understanding of how forces impact the world around us.

In maths, we wrapped up our multiplication unit before moving confidently into fractions. The children have tackled adding fractions with different denominators, showing excellent reasoning skills and resilience as they worked through increasingly challenging problems.

A real highlight of the term was the Winter Fair! As a year group, we designed festive winter cups, chopped up fruit, and sold delicious fruit cups to families and friends. The children worked brilliantly as a team from preparing ingredients to managing the stall and their hard work paid off as we made a fantastic profit. It was a joyful event filled with laughter, creativity and community spirit.

We are incredibly proud of the children and everything they have achieved this term. Their enthusiasm and effort have made Year 5 a delight, and we look forward to even more exciting learning ahead!











Year 6's King Henry VIII Portraits Inspired by Yinka Shonibare

Year 6 children impressed the whole school community with their bold and imaginative portraits of King Henry VIII, inspired by contemporary British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare. After learning about Shonibare's exploration of identity, history, and pattern, the children created their own regal interpretations of the Tudor king. Each portrait combined detailed drawing with vibrant, patterned designs reminiscent of Shonibare's signature fabrics. The results were striking — a creative blend of historical imagery and modern artistic expression that showcased the children's skill, originality, and

thoughtful attention to detail.

















In Reading and Writing, we are studying The Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah. This powerful text follows the journey of a boy called Leonard and explores the challenges he faces when leaving his home in Jamaica to begin a new life in England. Through this story, pupils are developing their understanding of historical context, themes of migration and identity, the impact of the Windrush generation on British society and its links to our History unit of work, Maafa. In Writing, the children have created detailed character descriptions, focusing on vocabulary, figurative language and emotional depth. We will soon be moving on to writing a historical recount, allowing pupils to apply their understanding of the Windrush era and migration, while developing their skills in structuring non-fiction writing and using appropriate historical language.

In Design and Technology, our unit of work has focused on 'Enterprise'. The children worked in groups to design and create a product, considering both the item itself and the packaging it would be sold in. They experimented with adding different flavourings to create no-sugar cookies, thinking carefully about taste, presentation and target audience. As part of this project, the children also learned about teamwork, budgeting and marketing, and proudly sold their finished products at the Christmas Fayre.

After several weeks of learning Samba drumming, this unit has now come to a close. The children showcased their skills and confidence by performing at the school music showcase, demonstrating their understanding of rhythm, timing and ensemble performance.

Linked to our previous learning in Art, we visited the National Portrait Gallery and took part in a workshop titled Significant Black Figures in British History. During the session, pupils learned about the achievements, contributions and lasting impact of significant Black figures on British culture and society through discussion and creative activities. The children then had the opportunity to explore the gallery, observing a range of portraits and making connections to their classroom learning.

We also welcomed the BEE workshop from Heathrow, which focused on being 'ready for secondary school'. The children discussed any worries they may have about the transition and worked together to develop strategies for overcoming different challenges. They also learned about staying safe when travelling on public transport, helping to build independence and confidence. In addition, Years 5 and 6 visited the local church to take part in a Christmas service, reflecting on the season and enjoying the













TAJIRI

This half term, Tajiri have been focusing on the topic Superheroes. They have really enjoyed reading the books Supertato by Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet, Pete the Cat: Super Pete by James Dean and Kimberly Dean and Superworm by Julia Donaldson. They have been embedding their knowledge of the numbers 1-5 using song and interactive games. There have been lots of creative opportunities such as creating their own superhero masks and cuffs that could be used for creative roleplay. They have engaged in construction play by building towers for their superhero towns. There have been excellent fine motor development opportunities such as using tweezers to help save their favourite character Evil Pea from

inside ice!





























THUNBERG

This half term, Thunberg have really enjoyed their transport topic. They have used car wheels to create paintings, used collage to create traffic lights that were embedded into imaginative play and sponge painting to create plane images.

In science, they have experimented with steepness of ramps and how this impacts speed as well as different materials and the changes in friction impacting speed. They have learnt about floating and sinking and tested different materials and weights to see if they will float or sink.

In history, they have explored how transport has changed over time and in Geography h have looked at what transport is needed in different parts of the world.

They have used a range of resources to focus on their fine motor development and drawing their prewriting shapes and ladder letters. They have also been working on their life skills such as dressing with buttons and zips, brushing their teeth and edible and inedible foods.

In maths, they have focused on the numbers 1-3 and embedding their understanding of these numbers as well as counting. They have also learnt about different 2D and 3D shapes and identifying the odd one out.





























PHONICS DAY CELEBRATION—NURSERY, RECEPTION & YEAR 1

Our Phonics Day was a fantastic success across Nursery, Reception and Year 1! The children arrived bursting with excitement, proudly dressed as their favourite sounds—from superheroes representing sh and ch to sparkling letters and imaginative sound-inspired costumes.

Throughout the day, the children explored phonics in a wide variety of engaging and meaningful ways. They played interactive phonics games, completed fun quizzes, and took part in hands-on challenges designed to help them recognise, blend, and segment sounds. Many children even created their very own phonics cards, demonstrating not only their knowledge but also their creativity and growing confidence as early readers.

Most importantly, the day was filled with joy, curiosity, and a genuine love for reading. It was wonderful to see children enthusiastically sharing books, spotting familiar sounds, and applying their phonics skills with pride. The atmosphere across all three year groups was vibrant and full of energy—a true celebration of early literacy.

Phonics Day highlighted the incredible progress our children are making and reinforced just how much fun learning to read can be!







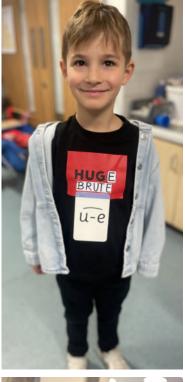




























CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY/CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY ON WEDNESDAY 17 DEC

The children and staff enjoyed a fun-filled lunch on Wednesday for Christmas Dinner Day. They had the option of turkey or puff pastry vegetable cracker! The children loved receiving a Christmas hat and sticker, whilst listening to Christmas songs!

The children also enjoyed wearing their Christmas Jumpers on the day to raise money for Save the Children. Thank you to everyone who contributed.





















FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT ON THURSDAY 18 DEC

Look who came to visit us on Thursday! The children were so excited to see Father Christmas and his

Elves!











DT SHOWCASE

This term, we were proud to host our first-ever Design and Technology (DT) Showcase, celebrating the creativity, problem-solving, and practical skills of our pupils. Children from Year 1, Year 2, and Year 5 had the opportunity to proudly present their DT projects, showcasing the exciting work they have been developing in class.

Year 1 pupils displayed their robots, demonstrating their understanding of simple mechanisms, joining techniques, and design choices. Year 2 children showcased their handmade cards, explaining how they designed, made, and evaluated their products to suit a purpose and an audience. Year 5 pupils impressed visitors with their automatrons, carefully constructed using cams and followers to create moving parts, highlighting their growing technical knowledge and precision.

The showcase gave pupils the chance to talk confidently about their ideas, the challenges they faced, and how they improved their designs. It was wonderful to see the full design process on display — from planning and making to testing and evaluating.

The DT Showcase was a fantastic celebration of pupils' hard work and creativity and marked an exciting milestone for DT at our school. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to give

children opportunities to share and celebrate their learning.



























GAMES AFTERNOON

Games Afternoon – End of Term Celebration

To celebrate the end of a fantastic term, we enjoyed a fun-filled Games Afternoon where children across the school took part in a range of exciting activities, board and card games. The afternoon was all about teamwork, laughter, and celebrating the hard work and achievements of our pupils throughout this term. Children rotated around different games and challenges, working together, encouraging one another, and showing great sportsmanship. There was plenty of energy, smiles, and enthusiasm, making it a wonderful opportunity for pupils to relax, have fun, and create lasting memories with their friends.

Games Afternoon was a lovely way to bring our school community together and end the year on a positive and joyful note. A big thank you to all the staff who helped make the afternoon such a success.



















OPAL UPDATE—OUTDOOR PLAY & LEARNING

Our OPAL journey continues to go from strength to strength! The children have been exploring the outdoors with great positivity, enthusiasm and creativity—building, imagining, collaborating, and making the most of every play opportunity. It has been wonderful to see how confidently they use our outdoor spaces and how their ideas develop through active, joyful play.

We are also excited to introduce our newly selected OPAL Team: Afia, Aviya, Akal, Norberto, Favour and Dennis. These children are proudly representing their peers and play a key role in supporting and enhancing playtime across the school. As OPAL leaders, they help set up resources, model positive play, support younger children, share new ideas, and encourage everyone to join in with inclusive, creative play. They have already shown great responsibility and enthusiasm in their new roles.

Our OPALS group met to create our new Writing Play Charter, agreeing on the expectations that will help everyone enjoying the playtime safely. They have introduced the charter in assembly, where every child added their fingerprint underneath it as a symbol of their commitment to joyful and safe Outdoor play and learning.

Another highlight this term has been the arrival of our newest outdoor feature—the boat! This fantastic addition has quickly become a favourite spot for imaginative adventures, teamwork and role play. A huge thank you to Mr Vacarescu (Liam and Aron's dad) and to Mrs Heja's family for helping us transport the boat one Sunday evening. Their time, generosity, and willingness to support our OPAL vision have truly made a difference.

Watch this space! The boat will be renovated over the coming weeks as part of a joint restoration project led by our art team and OPAL leaders. We can't wait to see the transformation unfold.

With new resources, dedicated OPAL leaders, and children who embrace outdoor learning so wholeheartedly, our play provision continues to flourish. We look forward to seeing even more creativity and collaboration unfold in the weeks ahead!











OPAL PLAY CHARTER























ART AMBASSADORS

Our newly appointed Art Ambassadors recently completed their very first creative task — designing and creating a stunning poppy display to mark Remembrance Day. The group worked collaboratively to plan, paint, and assemble a moving tribute that encouraged the whole school community to pause and reflect on the significance of remembrance. Their thoughtful approach and artistic skill shone through in every detail, from the choice of materials to the meaningful symbolism in their design.

In addition to their Remembrance Day project, the Art Ambassadors have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for our whole-school art exhibition. They have taken on responsibilities such as curating artwork, setting up displays, and helping to promote the event to staff, students, and families. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and dedication have set a fantastic example for others, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts in making art an important and inspiring part of our school life.















Remembrance Day Poppy Display Unveiled

Our school community came together for a special Remembrance Day assembly, where we unveiled our beautiful poppy display created to honour those who have served. The display, designed by pupils across the school, featured a range of thoughtful poppy-inspired artwork and crafts — from paintings and collages to 3D creations — all symbolising remembrance and gratitude.

During the event, members of our Pupil Parliament led the commemoration by reading the poignant poem "In Flanders Fields", helping everyone to reflect on the meaning and importance of the day. The atmosphere was one of respect and unity, as pupils and staff joined together to remember the bravery and sacrifice of others. The poppy display now stands proudly in our school as a lasting reminder of

remembrance and hope.



































ECO LEADERS

This term, our newly appointed Eco Leaders Fabiha, Dhrupad, Benjamin, Hadi, Ayaan, Jujhar, Ibrahim, Pratyasksh, Akshaija, Maeve, Diya, Eshani, and Elissa have made a fantastic start in their roles. They have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork and responsibility as they worked together to make William Byrd a greener, more sustainable school. The children have taken their leadership seriously, meeting regularly to discuss environmental issues, share ideas and plan actions that will make a real difference across our school community.

Throughout the Autumn Term, the Eco Leaders carried out whole-school litter-picks, monitored recycling in classrooms, and helped launch our new Eco Byrds initiative. They have encouraged their peers to reduce waste, switch off lights, and look after our outdoor spaces. A highlight of the term was attending a tree-planting workshop in our local park led by Trees for Cities, where the children learned about biodiversity, how trees support the environment, and even had the chance to plant saplings themselves. The team has also begun planning exciting future projects, including energy-saving campaigns, a uniform recycling station, and opportunities for pupils across the school to take part in hands-on environmental learning. We are incredibly proud of their commitment, leadership, and passion for protecting our planet. We look forward to seeing everything they achieve in the Spring Term!



PUPIL PARLIAMENT

Pupil Parliament has taken this term to settle into their new roles! Every Tuesday, they rotate spending their lunch in the House of Byrds leading 'Talk to us Tuesday' - an initiative that allows pupils to speak to their representatives about ideas, issues and next steps. Our MPs log these issues, and we discuss them together at our meetings. We have a few bills in the works that will be proposed to Ms Edwards in the Spring term.

Each MP has also worked on a school improvement proposal which we will be presenting, voting on and proposing to Ms Malcolm-Naulls and Ms Edwards in the Spring term.

Our MPs have also been thinking about Rights Respecting Schools and how we can show pupils how important their rights are. They have proposed a poster contest which will be launched in the near future. For now, they are working as advocates of the rights and ensuring pupils know how to find their rights and how to use them!

We have loads in store for the Spring term and are excited for our trip to the Houses of Parliament in February!









ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

Congratulations to Maryan, Shiroy, Jelza, Ragina and Mary for being appointed as the new Year 5 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

This has been a busy term for the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. During Anti-Bullying week they held an assembly to highlight what bullying is and who children can talk to if they have concerns. This year's theme was 'The Power Of Good' which encouraged children to think about ways they can combat bullying behaviours so every child feels happy and safe in school. The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors also had a lunch time drop-in session where children could come to talk with an Anti-Bullying Ambassador and take part in various activities.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors held a worry box competition. The class with the best worry box won a book for their book corner. The winners were Rosen class and 5J.

When new children join the school, our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors give them a tour, making sure they introduce them to key adults who can help them. They have continued to do their duties in the playground, where children can come and speak to them if they need support with friendships or anything else. They have also been supporting specific children who find breaks and lunchtimes a challenge and need a bit more support to form friendships.

On the 18th of November, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were very excited to attend the Princess Diana Training Programme. The training equips students and staff with the tools needed to tackle bullying behaviour head on, transforming schools' approaches to anti-bullying and creating a safer, kinder school community.

The children learnt what bullying behaviour is and how to identify it, the role of an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, and how to support students who are experiencing bullying behaviour. We also got to play some really fun games.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are looking forward to earning Social Action Badges by running exciting anti-bullying projects in school.









READING LEADERS

Our Reading Leaders have had a brilliant and productive term! They have worked together with enthusiasm, dedication, and a shared passion for promoting reading across the school. Meeting as a team, they discussed upcoming events, shared ideas, and planned ways to encourage a love of books in every classroom.

One of their biggest highlights this term was helping to prepare for the much-anticipated Book Fair. After careful planning, the Reading Leaders delivered an entertaining and engaging assembly to the whole school. Their confident presentation helped build excitement, enticing both children and adults to visit the fair and discover new stories. Thanks to their hard work and the wonderful support from families and staff the Book Fair was a fantastic success. We are grateful to everyone who came along, and we hope you're all enjoying your new books!

Another important task the Reading Leaders carried out was surveying the classroom reading corners. They looked at the range of books in each class, assessed what was missing, and made thoughtful suggestions about what new titles could make the reading areas even more appealing. Their recommendations will help us continue to grow vibrant, inviting spaces where every child can find a book they love. We are incredibly proud of our Reading Leaders and the positive impact they have made this term. Their enthusiasm for reading is contagious, and we can't wait to see the exciting ideas they bring to life next term!



















TRAVEL AMBASSADORS

This term we spent much of our meetings deciding on our priorities for the year and what we want to support this year. We decided our priorities are:

Priority 1: promote active travel to and from school

Priority 2: Keeping our pupils safe on the roads around school

Priority 3: Supporting opal play and funding bikes for KS2 pupils

To begin the term, we have run a 'design your dream bike' competition to support our active travel initiative. This was a great success, and we plan to now run a bling your bike competition so the amazing designs can be brought to life!

We have also worked towards supporting our second priority by researching and learning about night road safety. Watch this space as we will be sharing our knowledge with you soon!





William Byrd Travel Ambassadors Design Your Dream Bike Art Competition! Let your imagination ride freel From wings, rockets, fairy dust rainbows! Anything goes! How to enter 1. Draw your dream bike. No bigger than As paper. Use pencils, pens, crafts, paint etc. No digital art or models. 2. Give to your class teacher by Friday 25th November 2018 3. The results will be presented in assembly by the travel ambassadors! What will you win? There will be 2 winners. One from KS1 (3-7) and one from KS2 (8-11) Their class will receive a special treat! Your picture and certificate will go on our travel ambassador board for everyone to see! Good lucks

PTA NEWS

The PTA would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the Parents and Carers this term! We have had one of our most festive terms yet and we would not be able to run our events without the support from you. A massive thank you for everyone who donated toys, bottles and food for our Tombola and Raffle at the Christmas Fair!

Thank you to everyone who took their time to fil in our PTA Survey during Parents' Evening. We are looking into each one of the responses to help us move forward in the future.

This term we held our Christmas Fair, where each year group planned and ran their very own stall! Thank you to all the teachers and children who helped with this, we hope you had just as much fun as we did.

Another big thank you to everyone who attended this event. We loved having the Choir on stage singing, it was truly amazing to hear you all. We hope you all had a fun time and cannot wait to see you at the next one!

This December we also ran our very first PTA Santa's Grotto, where we had the big man himself "Father Christmas" come and visit some of our children. This event sold out within 1 day and we honestly cannot thank you enough for your support with this event. While at the Grotto, children received their passport and worked their way around our Christmas Stalls. This included decorating gingerbread men, writing their letter to Santa, making reindeer food and lots of creative work on our crafts tables. All while they waited to Meet Santa! Once they had met Santa and got to see if they were on his nice list, they were then able to get a hot drink and some food. We loved seeing so many families stay around, chat with us and have a lovely memorable time with their children.

We are so grateful for the school for allowing us to provide this amazing opportunity for children and we hope to continue this again next year!

From all of the PTA we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and A Happy New Year!

We cannot wait to get back in January to start planning new and exciting events!













PTA NEWS

























PTA UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE/TIME
SPRING TERM	
Mufti Day (donation of toys)	Friday 23rd January
SEN Spring Disco	Thursday 12th February (2:30pm-3:15pm)
Spring Disco (Reception—Year 2)	Thursday 12th February (3:30pm-4:45pm)
Spring Disco (Year 3—Year 6)	Thursday 12th February (4:45pm-6pm)
Mufti Day (donation of bottles, tins etc.)	Friday 27th February
Mufti Day (donation of savoury items)	Friday 6th March
Easter Fair "Save the Date"	Thursday 26th March - Timings TBC
SUMMER TERM	
Mufti Day (donation of toys)	Friday 8th May
Mufti Day (donation of savoury items)	Friday 15th May
Mufti Day (donation of bottles, tins etc.)	Friday 22nd May
Summer Fair "Save the Date"	Saturday 6th June - 11am-3pm
SEN Summer Disco	Thursday 25th June (2:30pm-3:15pm)
Summer Disco	Thursday 25th June (3:30pm-4:45pm)
Summer Disco	Thursday 25th June (4:45pm-6pm)

HEATHROW VISIT

Thank you to Heathrow for donating two Christmas Trees again this year. Our Year 6 and Thunberg children enjoyed decorating the trees!











ATTENDANCE

These are our class attendance figures from 4th September to 12th December 2025!

Group	% Attend
Campbell AM	82.8
Campbell PM	77.5
Campbell AD	84.2
R Rosen	94.3
R Donaldson	92.6
R Jeffers	94.1
1 Hepworth	91.9
1 Kahlo	94.3
1 Monet	94.6
2 Anning	93.9
2 Seacole	93.8
2 Johnson	94.9
3 Brunel	95.0
3 Newton	95.7
3 Faraday	95.4
4 Tendulkar	96.2
4 Simmonds	98.5
4 Farah	95.2
5 Curie	97.3
5 Jemison	96.9
5 Hamilton	97.3
6 Angelou	96.3
6 Shakespeare	96.0
6 Morpurgo	96.4
Totals	94.5

Well done to:

2Johnson & 4Simmonds for getting the highest attendance this term!

100% - 97%

97% - 95%

YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

WE'RE WE'RE

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCEBEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS

IMPRESSED

WE'RE CONCERNED

POOR ATTENDANCE

95% OR BELOW

IF YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE
FALLS BELOW 95% A LETTER
WILL BE SENT HOME BY OUR
ATTENDANCE OFFICER
INFORMING YOU THAT YOUR
CHILD'S ATTENDANCE NEEDS
TO IMPROVE OTHERWISE A
REFERRAL TO THE LOCAL
AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION
TEAM MAY BE MADE

WE'RE WORRIED

VERY POOR ATTENDANCE COULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT YOUR SUCCESS

	100%	OUTSTANDING
School days record in an academic pear	98%	© VERY COCO
Notice of Association of the Control	96%	9 axxe
•	95%	⊕ наментник
In their days retired to an programme in it days seek earth)	90%	⊗ SEROVEMENT ST.
School days missed in an scademic year	85%	⊗ CONCERNED
Colonel days relicated in an application of a colonical colo	80%	⊗ VERY CONCERNED

EARLY BYRDS

Do not forget we offer Early Byrds Breakfast Club everyday from 7:15am-8:40am for all children!







We also offer
After School
Club "VIB's"
everyday from
3:20pm-6pm
for all children!

Are you eligible for Pupil Premium?!
Visit our school to find out more information!





Thurs 18th Dec 6.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

Followed by mulled wine

Followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Christmas Eve 4pm Christingle & Crib Service

Receive a Christingle orange, a symbol of Christmas. A great way for all ages to start the Christmas celebrations

Christmas Eve I I pm Midnight Mass

Sun 28th Dec 9.30am Sunday Communion



St Peter & St Paul's Church

High St Harlington UB3 5AB 020 8897 4498 www.stpeterandstpaul-harlington.org.uk



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our Harvest Festival back in October. All your donations got sent to Yiewsley & West Drayton Foodbank!



Thank you!



William Byrd Primary School

Thank you for supporting Yiewsley & West Drayton Foodbank.

Your Harvest Festival donations during October 2025 came to 317.4kg which will make a BIG difference to local people in crisis.

Julia Bennett

Admin Assistant - Volunteer

Registered charity number 1171141. Registered in England and Wales.

WINTER HAF CAMPS

Bookings Now Open for Hillingdon's Winter HAF Programme

We're delighted to announce that bookings are now open for Hillingdon's Winter 2025/26 Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme.

This funded programme is available to school-aged children from Reception to Year 11 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Discretionary places may also be available for vulnerable children who do not meet the Free School Meal criteria. Professionals can request these places by completing our online form:

Discretionary Place Request Form

Children and young people can enjoy:

- · Healthy meals every day
- · Fun, creative, and physical activities
- · Food, cooking, and nutrition activities
- · Opportunities to learn new skills and make friends

This winter's activities include:

- · Sports sessions
- · Creative arts programmes
- · Multi-activity camps
- · STEM workshops
- · SEND-friendly activity camps

...and much more!

Full details, including how to book and provider contact information, can be found at: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/haf-programme

If you need help or have any questions, you can contact us via:

Email: hafprogramme@hillingdon.gov.uk

Phone: 01895 277881

PSD WINTER HAF CAMPS





EXTERNAL EVENTS









KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22nd Dec—Tuesday 6th Jan
Children return to School	Wednesday 7th January
Clubs Start for Spring Term	Monday 12th January
Open Morning	Tuesday 13th January
Year 2 Fire Workshop	Wednesday 14th January
Year 5 Fire Workshop	Thursday 15th January
Year 6 Junior Citizens Trip	Monday 19th January
Mufti Day (Donation of toys)	Friday 23rd January
Young Voices Club finishes	Monday 2nd February
Children's Mental Health Week	Tuesday 3rd—Monday 9th February
Young Voices Concert	Tuesday 3rd February
Year 5 Road Safety for Children	Thursday 5th February
Wear a Scarf to School Day	Friday 6th February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10th February
Year 5 BEE Workshop for Children	Wednesday 11th February
Spring Disco (More details to follow)	Thursday 12th February
Chinese New Year	Friday 13th February
February Half Term	Monday 16th Feb—Friday 20th Feb
4F Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Monday 23rd February at 2:45pm
4T Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Tuesday 24th February at 2:45pm
4S Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Thursday 26th February at 2:45pm
Mufti Day (Donation of bottles, tins etc.)	Friday 27th February
6A Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Monday 2nd March at 2:45pm
6S Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Tuesday 3rd March at 2:45pm
Holi Festival	Wednesday 4th March
Pupil Parliament Trip to Houses of Parliament	Wednesday 4th March
World Book Day	Thursday 5th March
Mufti Day (Donation of healthy savoury items	Friday 6th March
6M Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Friday 6th March at 2:45pm

KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Year 2 Scooter Training	Tuesday 10th March
Parent/Carer Evening (More details to follow)	Thursday 12th March
School Finishes Early	Thursday 12th March at 1pm
Comic Relief Day	Friday 13th March
Science Week	Monday 16th March
Young Carers Action Day	Monday 16th March
2A Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Monday 16th March at 2:45pm
2J Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Tuesday 17th March at 2:45pm
2S Class Assembly (KS2 Hall)	Thursday 19th March at 2:45pm
Eid Celebration Day	Friday 20th March
Easter Concert (More details to follow)	Wednesday 25th March
Clubs Finish for Spring Term	Wednesday 25th March
Easter Fair (More details to follow)	Thursday 26th March
End of Term	Friday 27th March at 1pm
Easter Half Term	Monday 30th Mar—Monday 13th Apr
Children return to School	Tuesday 14th April

WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

William Byrd Primary School, Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW enquiries@williambyrd.school | 01895 462 394 | www.williambyrd.school

MIDDLESEX LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Middlesex Learning Partnership, Yeading Lane, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 9LE enquiries@mlp.org.uk | 020 8839 0600 | www.mlp.org.uk

