



William Byrd  
PRIMARY ACADEMY

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 1 2024

ASPIRE



CURIOUS



RESILIENT



KIND & RESPECTFUL



COOPERATE



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents and carers,

What a short but exciting half term! An enormous thank you to all the staff that go above and beyond to ensure the children at William Byrd have such enriching experiences. To name a few, The Young Voices Choir at Wembley, a Trip to see Wicked in London and the Starry Night Exhibition by Reception.

At William Byrd one of our focuses has been developing children's oracy in lessons and presenting. This term Year 5 wrote their poems about Pride in themselves. We were so proud of so many children, their creative writing and ability to present are growing from strength to strength. I cannot wait for the next oracy project!

This term we also launched Stay and Play, Little Byrds in our Community Room. It has been a roaring success. A big thank you to the volunteers, Michelle, Chelsea, Lauren and Zoe. This team has developed such a warm and friendly environment and we cannot thank them enough!

Have a safe half term and we will see you all back at school on the Monday 19th February.

Warmest regards,

*N. Edwards*

MS N EDWARDS  
Head of School





Mums, Dads and Carers come along and join our

# Little Byrds Stay & Play

Every Friday  
8.45-11.00 & 12.30-2.30

Blue Byrds Room

Term time only

£1 weekly contribution on arrival

To book your place please visit our website  
[www.williambyrd.school/littlebyrds](http://www.williambyrd.school/littlebyrds)



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## NURSERY THIS TERM

This term we have been reading and learning Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs. We have been creating our own story maps and acting out the stories using small word equipment, face masks, and story sacks. We have been exploring different sizes, numbers, and shapes. We have had a lot of fun creating/building houses for little pigs. We have started successfully our "Stay and play" sessions, where we are inviting parents to come and stay with their children to play together. We have been learning how to look after little babies. We had an amazing dental workshop and we learned how to brush our teeth. We have all had a wonderful day celebrating our Fairy Tale topic. We danced with our friends and finished the day off by eating special snacks. What a magical half term it has been!



## RECEPTION THIS TERM

### SPACE

Throughout this half-term, the Reception children had an exciting and engaging experience learning about Space. They built and designed their spaceships and rockets, discussed what is required in Space and what they could do there. Additionally, the children learned about the job of astronauts and explored a variety of books related to Space.

In the process of learning about Space, the children also discovered why it is dark at night and learned about the people who work whilst we sleep. They talked about the significance of a good night's sleep and were introduced to nocturnal animals that stay awake at night and sleep during the day. They also explored the concept of shadows and made their own shadow projectors.

Furthermore, the Reception children also participated in the 'Winter Wonderland' project, which was aimed at teaching them about the changes that occur during winter and the weather changes associated with this season. The children investigated places where snow remains all year round and the types of animals that inhabit such areas.



## RECEPTION THIS TERM

### THE BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

Our Reception classes had a wonderful time participating in the Big Garden Bird Watch initiative. This activity inspired the children to create various bird feeders and birdhouses to attract different bird species to our school garden. During our field walk, the children observed various birds, tried to recognise some of the species, and then re-created them in pictures and paintings.

To prepare for the birdwatch, the children made their binoculars using craft roll tubes. With the help of our Reception parents, we were able to add a bird fountain to the garden and build this bird feeder. Our aim is to invite even more birds to our garden!



## RECEPTION THIS TERM

### STARRY NIGHT

As a part of our 'Starry Night' project, the children in Reception took a closer look at the amazing art of Vincent Van Gogh. They got inspired by his work and created 'Starry Night' pictures using different multi-medium techniques. We proudly exhibited all their hard work and invited parents and carers to the exhibition. It was quite an event!



## YEAR 1 THIS TERM

In Year 1 in writing, our unit is all about the Amazon Rainforest. So we came to school dressed up as an animal you might find in the Amazon as an experience day. We looked at the different landmarks that are in the Amazon and we learnt some facts about them. We then looked at exotic animals you would find in the Amazon Rainforest and we discussed some facts about each of the animals. Did you know the locals think the Pink River Dolphin has magical powers?



We also looked at some indigenous plants and we created our own lily pads. It was a fantastic day! Can you guess what animals we dressed up as? We are excited to keep learning about the Amazon Rainforest and write a Travel Journal about it.

In maths, we have been looking at numbers up to 20. We have been representing numbers in numerals, words, and using objects. We also used number lines to find numbers up to 20 and show 1 more or 1 less than a number.

In science, we have been looking at different animal groups and sorting animals into the groups they belong to. We have looked at amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds and fish. We also made animals using junk modelling and said which group they belonged to.

In geography, we have been looking at the 4 countries that make up the United Kingdom. We also made flags for the United Kingdom and the 4 countries that are in the UK too. Can you name the countries flags we have made?



## YEAR 2 THIS TERM

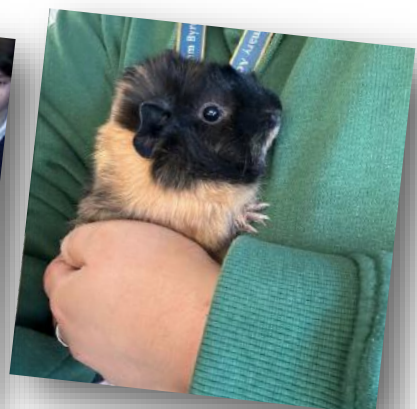
This term we have been looking at different fairytales. We have started with The Goldilocks and Year 2 have been looking at Remarkable recipes in DT, the children have been exploring different ways to prepare foods to create a dish. In this particular lesson, the children were using their slicing, chopping, and peeling skills making sure they used the utensils safely and correctly. In Year 2 we understand the importance of hygiene and how important it is that we wash our hands, tie our hair back, and roll up our sleeves. We made sure to wash everything after we had used it too!



Taste Test! In DT the children have been following recipes to create appetisers using different ingredients and preparation skills. We have been experimenting with different flavours and textures. We liked the sweet, tangy pineapple with the soft cheese best.



Year 2 got to meet the new Guineas, in Science we have been learning about animals including humans, what animals need to survive, how animals change as they grow, comparing animals and their offspring, lifecycles of different animals, and determining what different animals need to survive. During circle time we got to meet Mummy Williamina and Baby Belle, and we were able to observe and identify the differences and similarities between them. Did you know a female guinea pig is called a Sow and her offspring are called Pups?



### YEAR 3 THIS TERM

This term Year 3 have been busy dancing in PE, creating ammonite art prints and sculptures in art, and learning all about volcanos and earthquakes in geography. We have also been reading *Amazing Africa* and practicing our multiplication and division. We even performed our class assemblies!



## YEAR 4 THIS TERM

We've had a very busy but rewarding term in Year 4! In writing, we've been focussing on the science fiction text *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, where we have been learning about different vocabulary devices to hook our audience/reader into our writing. We finished the term by writing our version of *The Iron Man* but changing it to *The Iron Head Teacher* who terrified a school... In our art, we've been learning about weaving. We have created some fabulous pieces of weaving using materials we had to find in our field. We are very pleased with our final artwork. If you see us around school, make sure to ask us what the words warp, weft, and loom are. We like to explain our new vocabulary words. In science, we've been using our 5 enquiry powers to understand how and why environmental changes happen and how living things adapt to these changes. We've enjoyed using a classification key and identifying patterns in changes in the climate and how this poses risks to living this. We're looking forward to seeing what next term will bring us.



## YEAR 5 THIS TERM

This half term, Year 5 have had many exciting opportunities! During Science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats and we have been learning about the lifecycles of different species of animal. When learning about the lifecycle of a bird, we had the chance to explore the different parts of an egg by carefully peeling the shell away from the membrane. As a follow-up from our previous Science unit on space, we were able to take part in a virtual STEM event where we worked in teams to create the most aerodynamic rocket possible! We also had a fantastic road safety workshop from The Riot Act where we were taught all about how to stay safe when crossing the road. Most recently, we were able to take part in the annual MLP Poetry Slam where three brave students from each class represented our school and read their poems in front of a large crowd of students and parents! It was a wonderful experience and all of the children should be extremely proud of their confidence, expression, and enthusiasm that shone through their performances!



## YEAR 6 THIS TERM

In Year 6, we have been working very hard on revision and assessment for our SATS and have been making EXCEPTIONAL progress. In reading, we have been exploring the text, "The Boy in the Tower" by Polly Ho-Yen which has been incredibly interesting (and has allowed us to reflect on the term pandemic and what it means for us and for the characters in the book). In writing, we have been inspired by the story "Rose Blanche" which follows young German girl who supports children in a Concentration Camp - this leads in well to our next unit of History or WWII. We have also learned loads about fractions, decimals and converting metric measures! To top it all off, we had an amazing trip to the West End of London to watch the show Wicked, and we even got to do a meet-and-greet with the actors afterwards. It was a wonderful half term overall and we can't wait for the next one!

# WICKED



## IN OTHER NEWS

### YOUNG VOICES CHOIR

On Thursday 1 February, we took 46 children to the OVO Wembley Area to perform in one of the world's largest choir. Thousands of students from schools across England joined in song. We have been preparing since September and sang songs including 'The Moment' and 'Matilda Medley'. We were one of few schools who learned all of the Makaton (sign language) to go along with the songs and were even complimented on it by other schools and teachers. It was exciting to see 48 members of our parent community come out the arena to watch and take part in such a special night. We sang, we danced and we made life long memories. We can't wait to do it again next year with an even bigger choir! A special thank you to all of the staff members who made this possible.



## IN OTHER NEWS

### MLP POETRY SLAM

On Wednesday 7 February, Year 5 students from William Byrd and Belmore, and Year 7 students from Barnhill came together for the annual MLP poetry slam. All of the children in Year 5 were supported in writing a poem based on the theme, 'Proud to be Me'. We heard poems about pride in our religions, race, bodies, appearance, personality and more. It was so beautiful to celebrate our differences through this art form. The event was hosted by Miss Naulls and we were joined by special judges Mr. B Spinks (MLP Chief Executive) and Ms R Taunt (Barnhill Head Teacher). Children won exciting prizes including Waterstones gift cards, and the grand prize was an Amazon Kindle. A huge congratulations to all of Year 5 for participating, and a special congratulations to our finalists.

THE FINALISTS	
NAME	CLASS
Mohamed M	5C
Halima	5C
Samia	5C
Abdul B	5J
Shaniya	5J
Kamaljot	5J
Abigail	5H
Ammar	5H
Abdul S	5H

THE WINNERS	
NAME	CLASS
1ST PRIZE - Samia	5C
2ND PRIZE - Ammar	5H
3RD PRIZE - Abdul B	5J



## NSPCC NUMBER DAY

We also participated in NSPCC Rocks on Times Tables Rockstars.

William Byrd placed 227<sup>th</sup> out of 3,793 schools . And we would like to congratulate Barnhill Community High for coming 1st! Well done!



## IN OTHER NEWS

### SPELLING BEE

We are thrilled to share that the Spring Spelling Bee at William Byrd was a great success this year. Students from Year 1 to Year 6 put in a lot of effort every day to practice their spellings, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work. The Year 6 students were particularly impressive, as they were given Year 10 spelling words as a challenge. However, they were resilient and inspired their peers with their determination.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all our friends and families who came along to support us. We hope that you all enjoyed the event as much as we did. Our children have already started preparing for the Summer Spelling Bee, and we look forward to seeing you all again soon!



## IN OTHER NEWS

### CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: MY VOICE MATTERS!

This week we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'. My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. We want all children and young people, whoever they are, to be able to say – and believe - “My Voice Matters.”

When we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference, have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This week, the children listened to an assembly about my voice matters and had opportunities in class to express their voices through various activities such as writing stories, poems, and speech bubbles. At the end of each lunchtime, every child took part in self-regulation activities to relax their minds and bodies ready to learn. We ended the week by wearing our scarves to school.

In school, we have lots of mental health support available to children and their parents. We have recently joined The NHS Hillingdon Mental Health Support Team Programme. Education Mental Health Practitioners are clinical psychologists who deliver a programme to support parents with children who are experiencing anxiety and behavioural difficulties. They aim to give the parents strategies and tools to help them support their child and feel more confident in responding to their child's behaviour. Despite being a particular focus this week children's mental health is always a priority for us so we will continue to keep you updated throughout the year.



## KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE
PTA Meeting	Monday 19 February
Year 4,5 Compass Theatre Ickenham	Tuesday 20 February
Mufti Day	Friday 23 February
5H Class Assembly	Tuesday 27 February
Year 2 Hampton Court Trip	Wednesday 28 February
Year 1 Trip to the Gruffalo Trial	Thursday 29 February
Year 2 Hampton Court Trip	Thursday 29 February
Mufti Day	Friday 1 March
5J Class Assembly	Tuesday 5 March
PSHRE Parent/Carer Group Meeting	Wednesday 6 March
World Book Day	Thursday 7 March
Nursery Mother's Day	Friday 8 March
Reception Health Check	Monday 11 March
5C Class Assembly	Thursday 14 March
Comic Relief	Friday 15 March
PTA Meeting	Monday 18 March
Year 6 Trip to Brunel University	Tuesday 19 March
Easter Fair	Wednesday 20 March
Multiplications Masters Competition	Friday 22 March
Year 3 Trip to Legoland	Tuesday 26 March
Spring Disco (Details to follow)	Wednesday 27 March
Clubs Finish	Wednesday 27 March
Nursery PM Last Day	Wednesday 27 March
Nursery Easter Egg Hunt	Wednesday 27 March
End of Term	Thursday 28 March

**WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY ACADEMY**

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