



William Byrd
PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2 2024

ASPIRE



CURIOUS



RESILIENT



KIND & RESPECTFUL



COOPERATE



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy Spring Term!

First and Foremost, we are delighted to announce that our Early Years has been accredited as an **Area of Excellence!**

The title of our accreditation is: **Championing child development - Achieving EYFS success within a multicultural community.**



The reviewers said that EYFS is a strength of the school because of the wide-variety of experiences the children are given and how well the children are supported and encouraged to develop fundamental skills independently. They said children's ability to communicate and explain their thinking is excellent and acknowledged that a lot of this is because of the comprehensive understanding of childhood development of the staff.

They were impressed with the learning environment; both indoor and outdoor environments. They loved the 'real' materials children were given to explore. Please click here to read the whole report!

We're so pleased that our incredibly hard-working team has received this recognition and that the visitors felt we were supporting children in this community so well!

The **PTA** have also hosted two particularly successful events this half term. We have enjoyed the Easter Fayre and the Spring Disco. Both events will hold memories for us all for years to come! I cannot thank the PTA team enough for their enormous efforts and time they give to the school to continue to develop the community spirit at William Byrd. We are planning a Summer Fayre on **Saturday 6th July**. Please put this date in your diary!

I wish everyone a wonderful Spring Holiday.

I will see you all on the first day of term **Tuesday 16th April**.

Warmest regards,

N. Edwards

MS N EDWARDS
Head of School

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CHALLENGE PARTNERS 2024

WHO ARE CHALLENGE PARTNERS?

Challenge Partners is a national education charity, established and led by practitioners with a mission to reduce educational inequality and improve the life chances of all children. In-person Quality Assurance Reviews (QARs) have always been at the heart of the Network of Excellence, providing the challenge that is in the name. Professionally-led peer reviews focus on how approaches to curriculum, pedagogy and leadership benefit all learners, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with additional needs. It identifies and celebrates exceptional practice, helping each school to identify what they need to do to improve on their previous best.



OUR LATEST REVIEW

We are delighted to announce that our **Early Years** has been accredited as an **Area of Excellence!**



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to read the full report.



NURSERY THIS TERM

During this half term, the Nursery class has been actively engaged in the topic "Ready Steady Grow". We have been reading the story of "Jack and the Beanstalk" and have planted our own magic beans. Additionally, we have been learning about the origins of fruits and vegetables, and have made a colourful salad while planting a wide range of new flowers and vegetables in our garden. We are eagerly awaiting their growth.

Our little ones have also enjoyed listening to, retelling and acting out the story of "Oliver's Vegetables" and "The Tiny Seed". Our understanding of the plant's life cycle has helped us take good care of our flowers and vegetables. We have also learned how to blend colours and enjoyed painting pictures of the delicious fruit and vegetables.

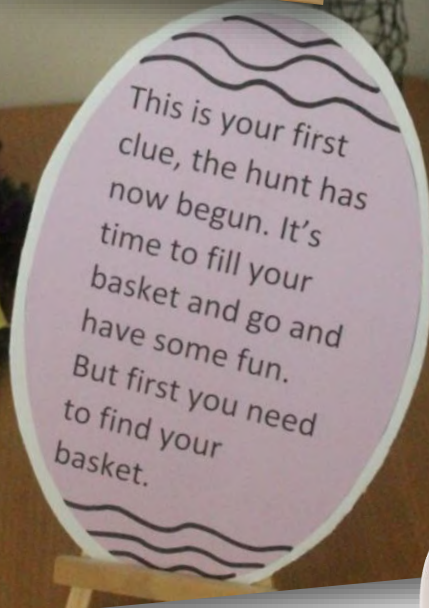
In celebration of Mother's Day, we held a Spa Day, which turned out to be an outstanding success. Our lovely exhibition of children's artworks touched all the mothers' hearts.



NURSERY THIS TERM

EASTER EGG HUNT

We ended the term on a high note with a fantastic Easter Egg hunt. The children had a blast finding clues and solving them to get closer to their delicious treats! We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful parents and community for their generosity and support in making this event truly memorable and special.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Over the past half term, our Reception class has been learning about prehistoric creatures, including dinosaurs. We have been comparing their different diets, distinguishing between carnivores and herbivores by looking at their unique features. Our lessons have also covered the profession of a palaeontologist, and we've even had the chance to dig out some fossils and giant bones! Alongside this, we have created dinosaur habitats in our Small World area and made models of dinosaurs in our art area. We've also been exploring the history of cave paintings and have created our own using natural paints and self-made paintbrushes on slate and fabric.



WELLY WALK

We went on a welly walk around the school filed for our new project 'Puddles and Rainbows'. During the walk, children described the weather and spoke about the changes that happen during spring including showers and rainbows. Children were looking for signs of spring in the environment and collected different natural items found on the walk. We then experimented with waterproof materials, designed and made our own umbrellas.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

WOODWORKING STATION

The children in Reception are thrilled about the recent addition of a woodworking area in their garden. This new area provides them with numerous opportunities to saw, drill, cut and attach wooden pieces using real tools. Initially, the children were taught how to use the tools safely, and now that they are gaining confidence, they are beginning to create their own wooden creations.



POND IN EYFS GARDEN

An exciting addition that has been made to the EYFS garden is a pond. The staff and children have put in a lot of effort to create this interesting new space, which is sure to attract various forms of wildlife and inspire new learning experiences. The pond has proven to be an exciting theme for children in Reception, sparking imaginative role-playing games such as fishing and storytelling about frogs and ducks, and even inspiring singing activities. Please visit our pond area respectfully, mindful of the creatures.



LITERACY AND MATHS SHEDS

We are extremely thankful to our friends, the Heathrow Rangers, for generously donating 4 beautiful sheds to our Early Years Foundation Stage. These sheds are a wonderful addition to our garden and are being used as excellent storage for our literacy and maths resources. This allows the children to have an independent selection and integration of reading, writing and maths in their play. We are grateful to Heathrow Rangers for their wonderful contribution!



YEAR 1 THIS TERM

In Writing we have been writing a recount about our trip to the woods. On the 29th February Year 1 went on a trip to the woods to find the Gruffalo. We travelled through the woods and we found some moss, we walked through some squelchy mud and puddles. We saw lots of tall trees and animal's habitats. At the end we finally found the Gruffalo! It was a fantastic trip and we had a great time! Over the last 2 weeks we have then wrote up our recount of our trip to the woods.

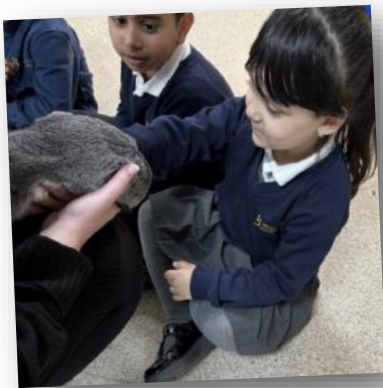


YEAR 1 THIS TERM

In Maths we have been learning all about numbers to 50. We have been counting forwards and backwards up to 50 as well as looking at 1 more and 1 less than a given number. We used number lines to place numbers up to 50 and we partitioned numbers into tens and ones. We also looked at estimating on a number line and thinking where best the numbers would fit. We used many manipulatives to represent numbers to 50 too. These included: dienes, counters, tens frames and part-whole models.

In Science we have been learning about animals including humans. We sorted animals into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We also had a chance to visit the school pets the Guinea pigs. Before visiting we wrote down some questions to ask about the Guinea pigs related to what we have been learning. We asked questions like what do they like to eat? Are they herbivores, carnivores or omnivores? Do they like to sleep in the day or at night?

We have also been looking at the different parts of the human body and labelling them with the different organs.



In DT this term we have been looking at different vehicles and identifying the wheels, chassis and axels of them. We then tested out some vehicles to see which ones travelled the furthest. Then we made our very own cars using cardboard boxes, MDF wheels and wooden dowels. We are going to be testing them to see whose car moves the best. It was a very exciting topic and we have really enjoyed learning about different vehicles and what they need to help them move.



YEAR 2 THIS TERM

Year 2 has had an amazing term. We have learned and practiced many new skills. We have been writing narratives, reports, recounts, and debates. We had the opportunity to visit Hampton Court Palace where we explored King Henry VIII's chambers, bedrooms, chocolate kitchen, gardens, and even saw a Tudor toilet. We have been exploring our school grounds and gardens to find microhabitats, identify food chains and webs. We have even been able to explain what would happen if a food chain was disturbed. We read every day and update our Boom Readers online. Some of us are 3 week champions now! We are excited for the next half term and all the new things we are going to learn, explore, and experience.





YEAR 3 THIS TERM

Year 3 has had a busy half term! We have been reading an adventure story called 'Fortunately, the Milk'. In the story, a dad goes to the shop for some milk but takes a really long time. Upon his arrival home, he tells his children an elaborate tale of the journey he has been on to get the milk home!

In Maths, we have completed the fractions unit and moved onto measurement. We have focused on using cm and mm to measure different objects in our classroom.

In History, we have been learning all about Ancient Rome and what life was like during those times. This links to the diary entry we have been writing about Roman gladiators.

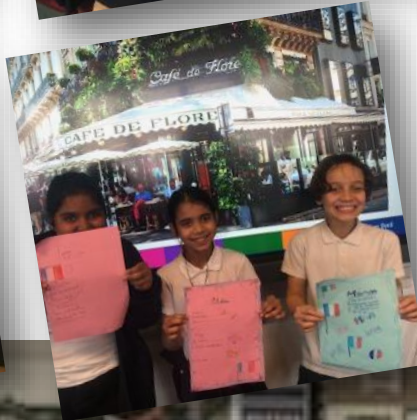
We've had great fun in PE learning a new sport - NFL flag. In DT, we have been making pneumatic monsters.

Finally, in Science, we have been learning about forces and plants. Our forces theme fit in nicely with our trip to Legoland where we learned all about the forces of rollercoasters. We even got to make our own rollercoasters out of Lego and managed to try out a few rides there too!



YEAR 4 THIS TERM

Year 4 had a busy and delightful term. We enjoyed reading two books, "Secrets of Sun King" and "Agent Zaiba Investigates". These adventure and fantasy chapter books were fun to read. "Secrets of Sun King" also helped us learn about the Ancient Egyptians in our History unit. We finished our weaving unit in DT and displayed our weavings around the classrooms; they look great! We also celebrated French Day, where we visited a French cafe in our KS2 Hall, made our own menus, and ordered in French. It was an incredible experience.



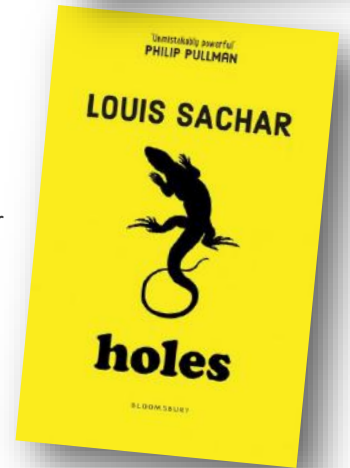
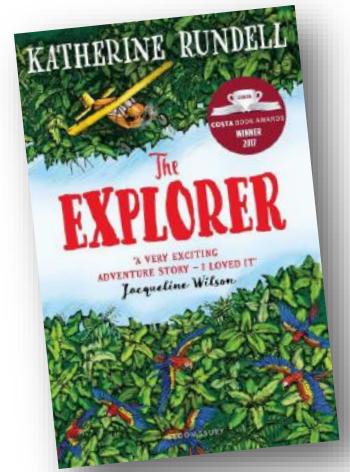
YEAR 5 THIS TERM

This half term Year 5 have enjoyed discovering about the development of a foetus in the womb as well as how we grow and develop once we are born in our Science unit 'Animals Including Humans'. We have become explorers and investigated the features, flora and fauna of different biomes in our Geography unit. We are very much looking forward to exploring this further in our trip to London Zoo after the Easter holidays! Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed our PE unit this half term which has been NFL flag where we have developed our throwing and catching, tagging, strategic discussions and teamwork.

In Writing we have been incredibly busy, writing an adventure narrative based on the book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, a biography about the life and achievements of Sir David Attenborough and more recently we have written a persuasive letter to the stationery (who have been on strike due to their terrible treatment this term!)

In Reading we have been gripped by the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and have used this text to develop our retrieval and inference skills as well as our reading speed and expression.

Our recent maths unit has been on fractions, decimals and percentages and we have been able to make comparisons between the three. The children have worked incredibly hard in their assessments this half term in Reading and Maths and should be very proud of their achievements so far this year!



YEAR 6 THIS TERM

We have had an amazing term in Year 6! We have continued on with our exciting learning and are making loads of progress. In Maths, we have worked through equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages; perimeter, area and volume; and shape and angles. We have been doing lots of extra arithmetic practice each day to help us prepare for our SATS and we are really seeing lots of improvement. We have finished our book **The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen** and are focusing on different types of texts in reading including poems, newspaper reports and non-chronological reports. In writing, we are focusing on our grammar skills and are applying them when writing different texts including letters, poems and narratives. In Science, we are learning about electricity and learning to build circuits; we have explored what happens when you change the number of bulbs on a circuit and what happens if you change the voltage in a circuit. In History, we have begun learning about WWII. We had a very exciting opportunity where a resident of the White Plains Care Home visited our Year 6s to talk about her experiences growing up during the war - it was truly an experience that we will never forget. We also visited the local church (St. Peter and Paul's) to embed some of our RE learning about different religious institutions and we met some wonderful women from the community who answered our questions and showed us around!



YEAR 6 THIS TERM

JUNIOR CITIZENS

On Tuesday, 19th March the Year 6 pupils took the bus to Brunel University to attend the Junior Citizenship programme. It was hosted by the London Fire Brigade and is an opportunity for the children to learn life skills that will help them transition to secondary school. Each group rotated through 8 exciting workshops, all surrounding important skills that will keep them safe and informed. The workshops were:

- Fire Safety
- Water Safety
- NHS: Harmful and safe substances
- Met Police: Knife Crime
- TFL: How to safely use busses and trains
- Bike Safety
- Online Safety
- Road Safety

We gained valuable skills and really enjoyed being on the Brunel University campus. Many of the presenters commented on how William Byrd students are the most well-behaved and engaged they have ever encountered.



IN OTHER NEWS

FRENCH DAY

This term we had a whole school French day to help us learn not just the French language but also French culture as well. In Year 1 and 2 we learned how to say hello (Bonjour), my name is (Je m'appelle), goodbye (au revoir), and the numbers 0-10 in French.

In Year 3 and 4 we practiced how we would order food at a cafe and then had a French-style cafe in the school where we were served crepes, croissants, and pain au chocolates.

In Year 5 and 6 we learned about la fete des rois, a French festival! We made a traditional French cake Le galette des rois.



IN OTHER NEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

We celebrate World Book Day every year, where our children and teachers come together to commemorate the joy of reading. On this day, children dress up as their favorite book characters and participate in various activities that encourage and inspire them to pick up a book and delve into the magical world of literature. Each year, our school engages in different reading-related activities, but the highlight of the day is when children and teachers share their favourite stories, fostering a love of reading among all.



IN OTHER NEWS

MULTIPLICATION MASTERS COMPETITION

We had a great afternoon on Friday 22nd March showcasing multiplication knowledge in the KS2 Multiplication Masters competition! Well done to all of the finalists and congratulations to our winners: Azaan, Joshberg, Aadhya and Purva (and Miss Naulls)!



IN OTHER NEWS

YOUNG CARER ACTION DAY

On Thursday 14th March, we celebrated young carer action day with our young carer children. This year's theme is **fair futures for young carers**.

Young carers face a huge array of challenges as a result of their caring role. The Carers Trust annual young carer survey repeatedly shows many young carers are disadvantaged across multiple aspects of their lives, including mental and physical health, finances, and education. Young Carers Action Day provides an opportunity for everyone to call for better support for young carers, and to bring about change.

The children made posters to highlight and raise awareness of their responsibilities in their role as young carers. To celebrate how amazing they are we rewarded them with a trip to Heathrow bowl. A fantastic time was had by all.



If you think your child might be a young carer, please speak to Mrs Houston.



Lots of pupils look after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, or has a mental health problem or an addiction.

They may help by:

- Shopping, cooking, cleaning
- Managing medicines or money
- Providing personal care
- Helping get people out the house
- Keeping an eye on someone
- Providing emotional support

You might be a young carer or young adult carer and there's support available for you.

Whether you are looking for advice, support, or just someone to talk to, get in touch with the Young Carers School Operational Lead:

Mrs Houston



“We spend most of our time at home or school, so it's vital that schools recognise and understand our needs, wants and aspirations”

A pupil who looks after someone at home

“Having time with other Young Carers is good because they know how I feel.”

A pupil who looks after someone at home

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[William Byrd Primary Academy - Young Carers](#)

[Young Carer Services - Carers Trust Hillingdon](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

PTA SUCCESS

The PTA have also hosted two particularly successful events this half term. We have enjoyed the Easter Fayre and the Spring Disco. Both events will hold memories for us all for years to come! I cannot thank the PTA team enough for their enormous efforts and time they give to the school to continue to develop the community spirit at William Byrd. We are planning a Summer Fayre on **Saturday 6th July**. Please put this date in your diary!





SEND AT WILLIAM BYRD

WHAT DO HILLINGDON COUNCIL SAY ABOUT SEND AT WILLIAM BYRD?

William Byrd was the focus of the 'celebrating good practice' section of the SEND Advisory Service newsletter which is shared with all schools in the borough! This is the second time this academic year that William Byrd have been chosen as the focus school for good practice!



Celebrating Good Practice

William Byrd showed excellent practice through supporting a young pupil who was struggling to get into school in the mornings. They created a safe space for the young pupil to have a soft start at the beginning of the day, using the pupils interests.



WHAT DO CHALLENGE PARTNERS SAY ABOUT SEND AT WILLIAM BYRD?

Below are a selection of quotes celebrating the practice for children with SEND at William Byrd following our review this month. The full report can be found by scanning the QR code.

“Staff receive training to improve overall teaching and then develop the skills to identify pupils with SEND correctly. As a result, pupils are benefitting from correctly tailored and bespoke teaching so that they can learn alongside others.”

“Teachers celebrate pupils’ work by displaying it in corridors and in classrooms. There is always work on display by pupils with SEND alongside that of others in their class.”

“Pupils do not get support at the expense of learning they enjoy, nor in the core curriculum.”



COFFEE AND CONNECT

Our Spring 1 Coffee and Connect focused on emotional regulation and how to support your child to manage their emotions at home.

Our Spring 2 Coffee and Connect was led by Hayley Smith, our school link Speech and Language Therapist. She shared with parents how to support speech sound development at home and answered specific questions related to any concerns parents had about their child's speech and language development.

These run each half term so please look out for the posters which include information on the half termly focus and we look forward to welcoming you all then!

SPEECH SOUNDS



ZONES OF REGULATION



TRAINING FOR SEND OUR STAFF HAVE RECEIVED THIS TERM:

- Autism and Communication run by Hillingdon’s SEND Advisory Service as part of the Inclusion Commitment
- Autism and sensory needs run by Hillingdon’s SEND Advisory Service as part of the Inclusion Commitment
- Learning Plans and provision mapping training run by SENDCo
- How to support SEND in your subject area leadership training for middle leaders run by a specialist advisor
- Autism in Early Years run by Hillingdon’s SEND Advisory Service
- Speech, Language and Communication run by Hillingdon’s SEND Advisory Service

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SEND AT WILLIAM BYRD?

1. Our SEN Information Report (which is available in the SEND area of our website) explains what you can expect for your child with SEND.
2. The SEND area of our school website has lots of information about what is available for your child and has links to many external services which you can access for further support.
3. The Local Authority publish the SEND local offer which has an extensive list of support services available in Hillingdon and upcoming SEND events. This is linked in the SEND area of our website.
4. Attend one of our parent coffee afternoons to talk to Ms Mulligan, meet external specialists from a range of services and learn more about strategies you can use at home.
5. On the door of the SENDCo office are posters for upcoming SEND events in the area and links to sign up to training for parents which is being run by Hillingdon SEND team.

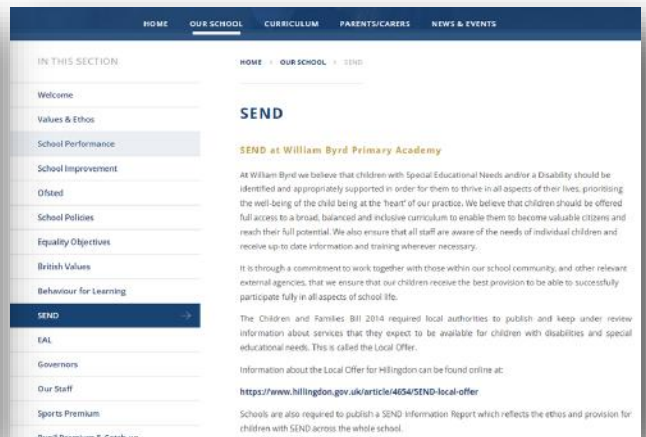
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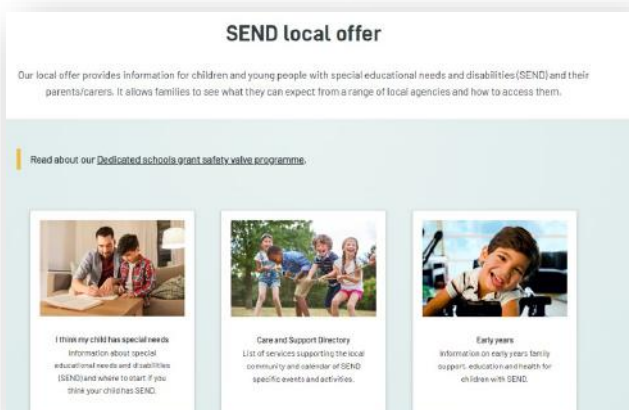
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HILLINGDON
LONDON

Hillingdon Children's Centres

For children under 5

Stay & Play

Starting from Wednesday 17 April

Every Wednesday

10am-12pm

Term time only

At

William Byrd Primary Academy

Victoria Lane, Harlington, Hayes UB3 5EW



To book your place please call
Pinkwell Children's Centre on

01895 250 533

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE
Start of Summer Term 1	Tuesday 16 April
Year 5 Trip to London Zoo	Monday 22 April
2A Class Assembly	Tuesday 23 April
Reception Health Checks	Thursday 25 April
2S Class Assembly	Thursday 25 April
Summer Clubs Begin	Monday 29 March
2J Class Assembly	Tuesday 30 April
Year 3 Pedestrian Training	Tuesday 30 April
Year 5 Pedestrian Training	Wednesday 1 May
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May
Reception Health Checks	Wednesday 8 May
Year 1 Trip to Kew Gardens	Thursday 9 May
Year 6 SATs Week	Monday 13 May - Thursday 16 May
1M Class Assembly	Monday 13 May
1H Class Assembly	Thursday 16 May
Year 1 Victorian Day	Thursday 16 May
Spelling Bee	Friday 17 May
Book Fair	Tuesday 14 May - Monday 20 May
National Number Day	Wednesday 22 May
1K Class Assembly	Thursday 23 May
Half Term	Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May

WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY ACADEMY

William Byrd Primary Academy, 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

