



William Byrd
PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 2026

ASPIRE



CURIOUS



RESILIENT



KIND & RESPECTFUL



COOPERATE



MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a wonderful end to the academic year.

There have been so many memories made by everyone at William Byrd. My top three special memories this term have to be;

1. The Summer Fair - even though the weather was a little damp the PTA worked their magic to create a wonderful whole school event.
2. I was lucky enough to be at the Year 5 camping residential on the field! The children were are delight to be with and they are made some brilliant memories. A huge thank you to all the staff that made the Year 3, 5 and 6 residentials possible. It takes a huge amount of their personal time and couldn't happen without them!
3. The Year 6 performance and disco. Year 6, it has been a pleasure listening to all your rehearsals and see your creativity flourish!

A huge thank you to the PTA who makes so many events across the year possible - they take an enormous amount of hard work to put together and we really appreciate it

This term we say goodbye to; Mr Mishra, Ms Coombs, Miss James and Mr Barnieh. We thank you for all your hard work and wish you the best of luck in your next roles!

We wish you all a wonderful Summer Holiday and look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 3rd September.

Warmest regards
Ms N Edwards
Head of School



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NURSERY THIS TERM

This term, our Nursery children enjoyed an exciting learning journey inspired by a range of wonderful stories. We explored *Dear Zoo*, *The Teeny Weeny Tadpole*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Handa's Surprise*, with each book providing opportunities for children to develop their language, curiosity and understanding of the world.

Through *Dear Zoo*, the children learned about a variety of zoo animals, enjoyed singing the story song and created their own animal artwork. They also wrote letters to the zoo and talked about the special pets in their own lives by sharing photographs from home, helping to develop their communication skills and confidence in speaking to others.

Our learning continued with *The Teeny Weeny Tadpole*, where the children discovered the fascinating life cycle of a frog and learned that every frog begins as a tiny egg. We then explored the incredible transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly through *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. One of the highlights of the term was observing our very own live caterpillars as they grew, formed chrysalises and eventually emerged as beautiful butterflies. Watching this process unfold in our classroom sparked endless excitement, curiosity and thoughtful discussion.

Our final story, *Handa's Surprise*, introduced the children to a wonderful variety of fruits from around the world. They enjoyed tasting different fruits, describing their flavours, textures and colours, and talking about their favourites. This hands-on experience encouraged the children to explore healthy eating while extending their vocabulary and developing their confidence in trying new foods.

Alongside our topic work, the children also made excellent progress in mathematics. They developed their understanding of numbers by comparing quantities and sets, identifying which groups had more or fewer objects, and recognising patterns. Through practical games, songs and hands-on activities, the children learned to recognise numbers and developed their subitising skills, enabling them to identify small quantities without needing to count each object individually. These early mathematical experiences have helped to build strong foundations for future learning.

Throughout the term, these engaging stories inspired imaginative play, creative activities, scientific exploration and meaningful discussions, helping our children to become curious, confident and enthusiastic learners.



NURSERY THIS TERM

Art in Nursery

Creativity has flourished in Nursery this term as the children explored a wide range of artists, techniques and materials. Their artistic journey began by learning about Gustav Klimt and creating their own beautiful Tree of Life inspired artwork, which was proudly displayed in our whole-school Summer Art Exhibition. The children also celebrated National Art Day by experimenting with a variety of exciting media and techniques, including painting, printing, collage, drawing and mixed media. Through these creative experiences, the children developed their imagination, fine motor skills and confidence in expressing their own ideas, while discovering that art can be created in many different ways.



NURSERY THIS TERM

Butterfly life cycle in Nursery

This term, our Nursery children explored the fascinating life cycle of a butterfly through the much-loved story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Inspired by the book, the children had the exciting opportunity to observe real caterpillars as they grew, formed their chrysalises and eventually emerged as beautiful butterflies. Watching this incredible transformation first-hand brought their learning to life and sparked lots of curiosity, discussion and wonder. The experience helped the children develop a deeper understanding of the natural world while encouraging them to observe, ask questions and care for living things.



NURSERY THIS TERM

Outdoors this term in Nursery

The warm weather has provided our Nursery children with wonderful opportunities to enjoy learning outdoors. They embraced every moment with enthusiasm, exploring the outdoor environment through water play, gardening, creative activities, construction, imaginative play and active games. Spending time outside encouraged the children to investigate, collaborate, solve problems and develop their physical skills while connecting with nature. It has been a joy to see their confidence, curiosity and independence flourish as they made the most of our outdoor learning spaces throughout the term.



NURSERY THIS TERM

Pyjamarama Day in Nursery

This term, our Nursery children had great fun celebrating Pyjamarama, a special day dedicated to sharing a love of reading. Dressed in their pyjamas, the children enjoyed a cosy day filled with storytelling, book-based activities and opportunities to explore their favourite stories. The biggest highlight of the day was welcoming parents into Nursery to join us for a special reading session. It was wonderful to see families sharing stories together and celebrating the joy of reading with their children. It was a memorable day that celebrated books, creativity and the importance of reading together.



NURSERY THIS TERM

Special visitors in Nursery this term

This term, our Nursery children were thrilled to welcome two very special visitors, Ridhi and Sidhi the tortoises. Meeting the tortoises up close was an exciting hands-on learning experience that captured the children's curiosity from the moment they arrived. The children learned all about how to care for tortoises, including what they like to eat, where they live, the habitats they need, and how to keep them happy, healthy and safe. They enjoyed observing the tortoises closely, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their own ideas about looking after animals. The visit helped to develop the children's understanding of the natural world, encouraged empathy and respect for living things, and inspired many wonderful conversations and learning opportunities back in the classroom.



Ridhi & Sidhi



NURSERY THIS TERM

Nursery Graduation Celebration

Our Nursery children proudly celebrated the end of a wonderful year with a very special Graduation Ceremony. They delighted everyone with their performance of "We Are Graduating", singing with confidence and big smiles as they celebrated all they have achieved this year.

Each child was presented with a graduation certificate, recognising their hard work, growth and many achievements throughout their time in Nursery. It was a proud moment for both the children and their families.

To finish the celebration, children and their families enjoyed a lovely picnic together, sharing this important milestone before the children begin their exciting journey into Reception.

We are incredibly proud of every one of our Nursery graduates and wish them all the very best as they take their next steps in their learning journey.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Reception Picnic

As part of our Sunshine and Sunflowers project, our Reception children planned and organised their very own picnic, bringing together many of the skills they have developed throughout the year.

Working collaboratively, the children decided on the perfect location for their picnic and created maps to show the route they would take. They wrote lists of games and equipment they would need, before planning a delicious picnic menu by writing shopping lists of the foods they wanted to enjoy.

To complete their project, the children prepared their own sandwiches, developing their independence and learning valuable life skills while following simple instructions and making healthy food choices.

This exciting project combined literacy, mathematics, geography and personal development in a meaningful and enjoyable way. Most importantly, it gave the children the opportunity to work together, solve problems, make decisions and celebrate their learning with a wonderful picnic shared with their friends.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

During this exciting summer term in Reception, the children continued their exploration of the natural world by learning about a variety of minibeasts found in our garden and the plants that flourish during the spring and summer seasons. They had the wonderful opportunity to observe caterpillars transforming into butterflies and learned about their life cycle, as well as the life cycle of Stick Insects. The children enjoyed planting sunflowers, pumpkins and flowers in our garden area and discovered what plants need to grow, including air, sunlight, warmth, water and nutrients from the soil. They also explored the different parts of a plant, including roots, stems, leaves, flowers and petals.

As part of our exciting Around the World project, the children learned about different countries, landmarks, cultures and traditions from around the globe. They explored holidays and travel, comparing places near and far, and developed their understanding of the wider world. We also embraced the beautiful weather by spending lots of time outdoors, constructing, playing games, gardening and enjoying stories by the pond.

In Maths, we focused on teen numbers, exploring their composition in depth and developing a secure understanding of tens and ones. In Literacy, we introduced The Write Stuff approach to writing, helping the children prepare for their transition into Year 1. Through this programme, the children have been developing their ability to write more detailed and complex sentences while ensuring their letter formation is accurate and clear for others to read.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Reception Spelling Bee

Throughout the year, our Reception children have been taking part in our Spelling Bee, where they have been learning and practising high-frequency "tricky words" as part of their phonics and early reading journey. Each week, the children were tested on their growing knowledge, building confidence and fluency in recognising and spelling these important words.

We are delighted that such a large number of children successfully secured their knowledge of the Reception tricky words and were awarded a Spelling Bee Medal in recognition of their fantastic achievement and hard work.

We are incredibly proud that our children are moving into Year 1 with such a secure understanding of these key words. This strong foundation will support them as they continue to develop their reading and writing skills, giving them the confidence to flourish in the next stage of their learning journey.

Congratulations to all of our Reception Spelling Bee champions!



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Reception Class Assemblies – Whoever You Are

This term, our Reception children proudly performed their very first class assembly on the school stage. Inspired by the beautiful story *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox, the children shared a powerful message about diversity, kindness, respect and celebrating what makes each of us unique.

With great confidence, they spoke, sang and performed in front of their families and other year groups, demonstrating how much they have grown throughout the year. Their enthusiasm and team-work shone through, making it a memorable and heart-warming celebration of inclusion and belonging.

We are incredibly proud of every child for their courage, confidence and fantastic performance.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Spring Walk

At the beginning of Summer 1, our Reception children enjoyed a spring walk around the local area, looking for the many signs that the new season had arrived.

As they explored, the children observed the changes taking place in nature, spotting blossoming trees, colourful flowers, fresh green leaves and a variety of insects and birds. They also noticed how the weather had changed, discussing the warmer temperatures, longer days and brighter sunshine that spring brings.

The walk encouraged the children to look closely at the world around them, ask questions and develop their understanding of the changing seasons. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, develop their observation skills and appreciate the beauty of our local environment.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

In the Reception Garden

This term, the children spent lots of time learning and playing outdoors, making the most of our wonderful environment and observing the changing seasons around them. They explored how nature changes throughout the year, noticing new growth, seasonal weather patterns and the variety of plants and wildlife in our outdoor areas.

Through a wide range of hands-on experiences, the children worked collaboratively to build, create and solve problems together. Whether constructing large-scale models, designing obstacle courses, gardening or creating imaginative play spaces, they developed important teamwork, communication and cooperation skills.

The children had many opportunities to strengthen their physical development. They enjoyed climbing, balancing, lifting, digging, carrying and building, helping to develop their core strength, coordination, balance and gross motor skills.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Art this Term

Reception children explored the work of Vincent van Gogh and learned about his famous Sunflowers paintings. Inspired by his use of colour, texture and brushstrokes, the children created their own sunflower artwork using a variety of media and techniques.

The children were incredibly proud to display their creations as part of our whole-school Summer Art Exhibition, where families and visitors were able to admire their hard work and creativity. We were delighted that the artwork was also sold, making the experience even more special and helping the children see themselves as real artists.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Young Artist Competition – Nature Explorers

This term, our Reception children proudly took part in the Young Artist Competition, where this year's inspiring theme was Nature Explorers.

Drawing on their learning about the natural world, the children carefully observed and created beautiful artwork inspired by the creatures that live in our gardens. From butterflies and bees to ladybirds, snails and birds, they used their creativity and imagination to capture the wonderful wildlife that surrounds us.

The competition provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to combine their artistic skills with their growing knowledge of nature, encouraging them to look more closely at the environment and appreciate the rich variety of living things found right on our doorstep.

We are incredibly proud of all our young artists for their creativity, enthusiasm and the wonderful effort they put into their entries. We are especially excited that their artwork will be published in a book, and we can't wait to see the finished publication and celebrate this fantastic achievement with our children!



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Visit to Ruislip Lido

To celebrate the end of a fantastic year in Reception, the children enjoyed a wonderful trip to Ruislip Lido and its beautiful woodlands. They took part in an engaging woodland workshop, where they learned about different tree species, discovered how to estimate the age of a tree by looking at its trunk and rings, and explored the many treasures nature has to offer.

Using natural materials collected from the woodland floor, the children worked creatively to make their own nature pictures, developing their observation skills and appreciation of the natural environment.

The children also had a fantastic time playing on the beach, building in the sand, and enjoying a picnic together in the sunshine. It was a wonderful opportunity to relax, have fun with friends and make the most of the beautiful surroundings.

It was a memorable way to celebrate the children's achievements this year and create lasting memories before they begin their exciting journey into Year 1.



RECEPTION THIS TERM



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Reception Spelling Bee

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Congratulations to all of our Reception Spelling Bee champions!



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Congratulations to Nilaah from Rosen Class, who won 3rd Prize in the Smile Month Competition organised by Whittington Health NHS Trust!

Nilaah impressed the judges with her fantastic toothbrushing chart, promoting the importance of brushing our teeth every day and developing healthy habits.

We were delighted to welcome Sally, Dental Nurse along with Sharon, Dentist from Whittington Health NHS team who visited William Byrd to present Nilaah with her prize and congratulate her on this wonderful achievement.

Well done, Nilaah – we are so proud of you!



YEAR 1 THIS TERM

This term, Year 1 has been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Geography, we explored the seven continents and learnt about the different places that make up our world. In science, we investigated plants, discovering what they need to grow and identifying the different parts of a plant and planted our own sunflower. Our English lessons were inspired by the wonderful stories *Oliver Twist* and *Fluff the Farting Fish*, which helped us develop our reading, writing, and storytelling skills. In Maths, we built confidence working with money, explored the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, and strengthened our understanding of numbers from 50 to 100.

We are incredibly proud of all the children's hard work, enthusiasm and progress this term. We wish everyone a happy, restful summer break and look forward to another exciting year of learning.



Victorian Museum Trip and Victorian Assembly

Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful educational visit to a Victorian museum as part of their history topic. The children were able to step back in time and experience what life was like during the Victorian era through engaging, hands-on exhibits and authentic artefacts. They explored Victorian homes, schools, and everyday objects, deepening their understanding of how life has changed over time. The visit brought their classroom learning to life and sparked lots of thoughtful questions and discussion. It was a memorable and enriching experience that helped consolidate their knowledge of the Victorians in a fun and meaningful manner. The children applied this knowledge to undertake their own Victorian assembly.



YEAR 1 THIS TERM

This term, our Year 1 children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring healthy smoothies in DT. They learnt about a variety of fruits and ingredients, discussing where they come from and how they can be combined to create delicious and nutritious drinks.

A highlight of the term was our visit to the local shops, where the children carefully selected and purchased the ingredients they needed. Back in the classroom, they worked brilliantly to prepare and make their own smoothies, practicing important skills such as chopping safely, mixing ingredients, and following instructions. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, teamwork, and creativity as they tasted and evaluated their finished creations. We are incredibly proud of how confidently the children applied their learning and embraced this hands-on experience.



YEAR 1 THIS TERM

Year 1 have been exploring the beauty of flowers as part of their art learning this term. The children observed a variety of blooms and discussed their shape, colours, and textures before creating their own vibrant interpretations. Using paint and plasticine, they carefully designed and built imaginative flower gardens, experimenting with colour mixing, pattern and form. The classroom was filled with creativity as the children developed their fine motor skills and artistic confidence, resulting in stunning display of colourful, textured gardens that celebrate nature in full bloom. The children also made their own lead sculpture using clay.



YEAR 2 THIS TERM

The final term of year 2 has been wonderful.

We completed our final art project of the year, which was based on flowers inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe. We spent the half term looking at different flowers she had painted and then used pastels to draw our own Georgia O'Keeffe style flowers. Once we did this, we then used clay to make bowls inspired by the flowers. First, we had a go at handling clay and building our skills with how to shape it. We created flowers using the clay. Then the following week we used bowls to shape our bowls and then decorate them with the features of a flower. We showcased these at the art exhibition and it was a great success.

In Science we have been looking at plants and talking about what they need to survive. We also looked at the germination of seeds and why different seeds take longer than others to germinate. This created a great discussion in class and the children were really intrigued to understand why different seeds took different amounts of time. We have also been conducting experiments in class and looking at an onion bulb with water and without to see which one would germinate first.

On the Tuesday 30th June, we had the opportunity to go and visit Northala Fields, which linked, to our science unit about plants, living things and their habitats. The aim of this trip was to learn about different animals and their habitats, different plants that grow and their environment. We then had the opportunity to climb the hills and take in the wonderful view. It was a great day, and the children had so much fun.



YEAR 2 THIS TERM



On Monday 1st June we had our pedestrian training where we got to practice crossing a road safely and learnt about what dangers we need to look out for when walking outside. We talked about the green cross code which is: stop, look, listen, and think. We also talked about when cars are around us, we need to look out for 3 things: no driver, no lights, and no engine; if all 3 aren't there it is safe for us to walk. It was a great day, and the children learnt a lot about keeping safe on the road and in the car too. We also learnt about the best places to cross on a road too which is very important!



In History we have been looking at the Great Fire of London. We are learning about how the fire started, how it spread and how it affected the way houses are built now. We also sequenced the events of the Great Fire of London and talked about how Christopher Wren made changes to architecture because of the Great Fire of London. We have really enjoyed learning about this and how it changed the way we live now.

In DT this term, Year 2 have been learning about different types of vehicles and exploring what makes them move. We investigated the key parts of a vehicle, including the chassis, axle holders, axles and wheels, before designing our own models. Using our plans, we carefully measured, marked and cut wood using saws, always following important safety rules. We then assembled our vehicles with glue, making sure all the components worked together. Finally, we painted our finished models and added creative details such as windows, doors and other features to bring our designs to life. We are incredibly proud of the children's fantastic teamwork, creativity and growing practical skills throughout the project.

YEAR 2 THIS TERM



In Geography this term, Year 2 have been learning all about coastlines. We have explored what a coastline is and discovered the different physical features that can be found there, including beaches, cliffs, caves, and rock pools as well as human features too. The children have compared different coastal environments and learnt how the sea shapes the land over time and the effects of erosion. They have enjoyed using maps, photographs, and diagrams to identify coastal features, and have developed their geographical vocabulary through a range of engaging activities. We are very proud of the children's curiosity and enthusiasm as they have become young geographers!

YEAR 3 THIS TERM

We have had a wonderful summer term in Year 3, filled with enthusiasm, creativity, and memorable experiences. The children have continued to approach their learning with curiosity and determination, making excellent progress across the curriculum and embracing every opportunity to challenge themselves.

In Reading and Writing, we have been exploring *Rumaysa*, an inspiring and captivating text that has encouraged thoughtful discussion and imaginative responses. The children thoroughly enjoyed writing their own fairy tale narratives inspired by the story, using rich vocabulary and descriptive language to bring their ideas to life. They have also developed their journalistic skills by creating newspaper articles, learning how to report events clearly and engage their readers.

In Maths, we have focused on shape, time, and statistics. The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, practised telling and calculating with time, and learned how to interpret and present data confidently.

Our Geography learning has centred around climate and the water cycle. The children explored the processes of evaporation and condensation and learned how these contribute to the continuous movement of water around our planet. They showed great interest in understanding how climate affects different environments and the people who live within them.

In Science, we have been building our knowledge of data collection and presentation by learning about different types of graphs and when to use them. The children enjoyed drawing and interpreting a range of graphs and using them to analyse information and identify patterns.

In RE, we have been learning about rites of passage, exploring important ceremonies and traditions from different faiths and cultures. This encouraged thoughtful discussions about the significance of these milestones and the ways they mark important stages in people's lives.

Design and Technology has been another highlight this term, with the children constructing their own photo frames. They demonstrated excellent creativity and practical skills, taking great pride in designing, building, and decorating their finished products.

One of the most exciting events of the term was our Year 3 sleepover! The children had an amazing time taking part in the activities, spending time with friends, and creating lasting memories together. It was a fantastic way to celebrate all they have achieved this year.

Year 3 have shown tremendous resilience, kindness, and a real love of learning throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and will miss them greatly. We wish them every success and happiness as they move on to Year 4!



YEAR 3 THIS TERM



YEAR 4 THIS TERM

We have had a wonderful and busy term, filled with exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum.

In Geography, we explored the fascinating topic of rivers and enjoyed a fantastic trip to Henley-on-Thames, where we consolidated our classroom learning through real-life experiences. In History, we learnt about migration, a topic that sparked thoughtful discussions and kept everyone fully engaged.

Our English lessons were centred around the inspiring text *The Lion Above the Door*, which provided rich opportunities for both reading and writing. In Maths, we developed our understanding of shape, graphs, and data, building confidence in applying these skills.

In Science, the children impressed us with their curiosity as they planned their own investigations, developing their enquiry skills by asking thoughtful questions and designing fair tests.

One of the highlights of the term was our BEE Workshop, where children worked collaboratively in small groups to design and plan a sweet product that they could sell. It was wonderful to see their creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial thinking in action.

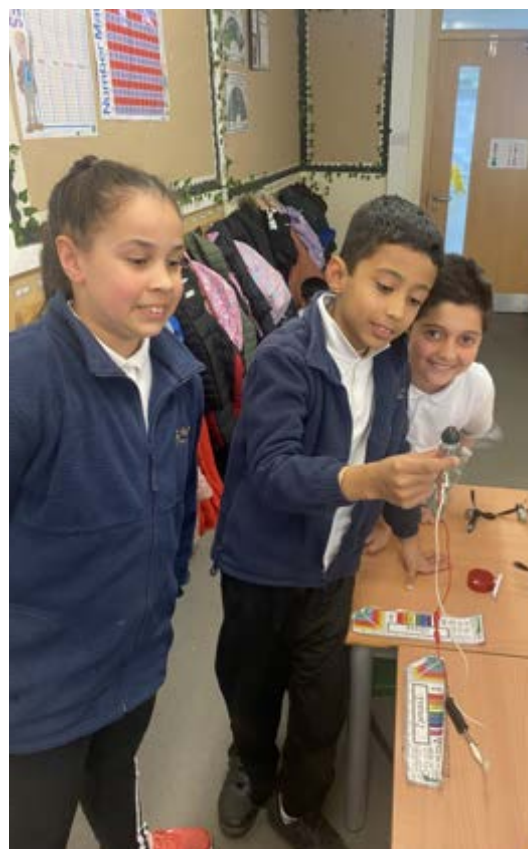
In Design and Technology, we have been making light boxes, and the children particularly enjoyed constructing them by carefully fixing the wooden panels together. It was fantastic to see their perseverance and practical skills develop throughout the project.

To round off the term, we had an amazing time taking part in Sports Day. It was wonderful to see everyone showing determination, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship while cheering each other on.

It has been a fantastic term, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved.



YEAR 4 THIS TERM



YEAR 5 THIS TERM

What a fantastic and busy final term it has been in Year 5! We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved and the enthusiasm they have shown across all areas of the curriculum. In History, we explored the fascinating history of protests, learning about the courageous Suffragettes, the impact of the Miners' Strike and how these important events have helped shape modern-day protests. The children enjoyed discussing how people have used their voices throughout history to bring about change.

Our Art lessons were full of creativity as we learnt about Ancient Greek vases. We discovered that these beautiful pieces were made from clay and are a type of pottery. The children loved designing and moulding their own clay vases before carefully carving intricate Greek-inspired patterns into them. We were so impressed with their artistic skills and perseverance.

In Geography, we learnt about population and the economy. We investigated population patterns within our local community, our city and across the UK, before comparing these with populations in other countries around the world. The children asked thoughtful questions and enjoyed exploring how and why populations differ.

To round off an unforgettable year, we headed off on our much anticipated Year 5 camping trip! We spent two wonderful days outdoors, taking part in exciting activities such as den building, fire making and outdoor cooking. Those who stayed for the full two nights had the chance to pitch their own tents, toast marshmallows to make delicious s'mores, cook their own dinner and even enjoy a fantastic water fight! We returned on Saturday morning feeling very tired but with huge smiles on our faces and memories that will last a lifetime.

As we come to the end of Year 5, we would like to thank all of our families for their continued support throughout the year. We wish everyone a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing the children return in September, ready for the exciting memories and opportunities that Year 6 will bring!



YEAR 5 THIS TERM



YEAR 6 THIS TERM

The children have had an exciting and memorable Summer term, filled with opportunities to challenge themselves, develop new skills and celebrate their achievements as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

The term began with huge focus on SATs, where the children demonstrated the results of months of hard work and perseverance. They completed assessments in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS), Reading and Mathematics, including the Arithmetic and two Reasoning papers. Throughout the week, they showed resilience, determination and a positive attitude, learning the importance of staying calm under pressure, managing their time effectively and believing in their own abilities. We are incredibly proud of the effort every child put into the assessments.

A week after SATs, the children enjoyed a well-deserved trip to the theatre to watch Disney's Hercules. Seeing a professional production gave them a greater appreciation of live theatre and the many elements involved in bringing a story to life, including acting, music, choreography, costumes, lighting and stage design. The performance also deepened their understanding of Greek mythology and inspired them as they began preparing for their own performance later in the term.

In Writing, the children demonstrated both their creativity and research skills through a range of writing opportunities. They planned and wrote their own short stories, focusing on creating engaging characters, settings and plots, while applying the grammar and writing techniques they have developed throughout Year 6. They also researched and produced biographies about a person of their choice, learning how to select relevant information from reliable sources and present it in a clear, organised and engaging way.

The children also visited the local Youth Centre, where they explored the facilities available within their community and learned about opportunities they can access as they become more independent. They enjoyed playing pool, table games and video games, while also taking part in an interactive activity where they generated enough energy by cycling to power a blender and make a smoothie. This hands-on experience helped them understand how energy can be transferred and transformed, while promoting healthy lifestyles and teamwork.

In Design and Technology, the children designed and created their own pencil cases. They learned a range of sewing techniques, including measuring, cutting, pinning and stitching fabric accurately, before evaluating and refining their finished products. Drawing inspiration from the work of William Morris, they explored repeated patterns and used printing techniques to decorate their fabric, combining creativity with practical design skills.

As part of their preparation for secondary school, the children took part in a series of online workshops focusing on transition, wellbeing and an inspiring author visit. The transition workshop helped them understand what to expect in September and provided practical strategies for managing change with confidence. During the wellbeing session, they explored ways to look after their mental health, build resilience and know where to seek support. The author workshop offered an insight into the writing process, encouraging pupils to use their imagination and experiences to develop their own ideas.

Representatives from the children's secondary schools also visited them at our school to answer questions and help ease any worries about the move. This was followed by Transition Day, when the children spent time at their new schools, met teachers and future classmates, explored their new surroundings and began to build confidence for the exciting journey ahead.

During Careers Week, the children explored the wide variety of careers available to them in the future. They took part in a workshop led by Heathrow Explorers, where they discovered the many different roles that keep one of the world's busiest airports running, from engineering and aviation to customer service, logistics and security. They also participated in an online engineering workshop, learning how engineers use creativity, innovation and problem-solving to overcome real-world challenges. Visitors from Uxbridge College introduced the children to future education pathways and career opportunities, encouraging them to think about their own ambitions and the skills they will continue to develop throughout their education. They also had an assembly with their local MP, John McDonnell and had the opportunity to raise concerns they face in their daily lives.

YEAR 6 THIS TERM

Towards the end of term, all of the children's hard work culminated in their own production of Hercules for parents and families. Inspired by the professional performance they had watched earlier in the term, they worked tirelessly to learn lines, rehearse songs and perfect their acting. Through the production, they developed confidence, teamwork, communication and performance skills, while learning the importance of commitment and supporting one another. Their enthusiasm, talent and dedication shone throughout the performance, making it a wonderful celebration of everything they have achieved during their time at primary school.

To round off their time at primary school, the children celebrated together at the Year 6 Leavers' Disco. It was a fantastic evening filled with music, dancing and laughter, giving everyone the chance to celebrate their friendships and reflect on the many memories they have made together over the years.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved throughout their time at our school. They leave us as confident, resilient and caring young people, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We wish each and every one of them every success and happiness as they begin the next exciting chapter of their education. Good luck, Year 6, you will be greatly missed!



YEAR 6 THIS TERM



Good bye
and
Good luck

TAJIRI

This half term, Tajiri have enjoyed exploring the stories *Who's at the Beach?* By Julia Donaldson and *Someone Swallowed Stanley* by Sarah Roberts. We loved listening to the stories and joining in with repeated phrases, signs, and songs linked to our seaside theme.

Through our topic work, we learnt about different sea creatures and seaside environments. In art, we created our own sea creatures using a variety of materials and designed colourful seaside collages. We also developed our fine motor skills by building our own sandcastles from playdough and a range of sensory seaside activities.

Inspired by *Someone Swallowed Stanley*, we discussed the importance of looking after our oceans and identified items that do not belong in the sea. We also enjoyed creating our own edible beaches, using different foods to represent the sand, sea and seaside features.

We continued to develop our independence skills, including putting on our coats, tidying away resources, and following simple classroom routines. We also worked on our social communication skills and turn-taking through a range of ocean-themed games and imaginative play in our seaside ice cream shop.



TAJIRI

As part of our Careers Week, the children in Tajiri class were delighted to welcome a team of nurses into school. The children enjoyed a hands-on workshop where they explored real medical equipment, practised brushing a model's teeth, and learned how to use a blood pressure monitor. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the important role nurses play in caring for others while inspiring our children to think about future careers in healthcare.



WE LOVE

LEARNING
— ★ ★ ★ —



THUNBERG

This half term, Thunberg have enjoyed exploring the stories 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. We loved joining in with the repeated phrases from both stories and using props, actions, signs and songs to bring the characters and events to life.

Through 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', we explored different environments and sensory experiences, including swishy grass, squelchy mud and a snowstorm. We developed our communication skills by sequencing parts of the story and joining in with familiar language. We also enjoyed going on our own bear hunts around the classroom and outdoor area. We practiced recognising and naming emotions by discussing how the characters might have felt throughout the story.

Using 'The Gruffalo' we focused on identifying key characters and describing their features. We developed our fine motor skills through a range of activities, including making animal masks and exploring sensory trays linked to the story. We have enjoyed creating artwork inspired by our stories including, woodland collages, apple trees and woodland habitats.

In maths, we focused on sharing and grouping objects through practical, hands-on activities. We practised sorting items into groups, sharing resources equally and using mathematical language such as "same" "group" and "altogether". We also continued to focus on our numbers to 10.

We continued to develop our independence skills, including closing pots and containers, zipping up our lunch boxes and taking our bowls to the sink after snacks and lunchtime so they can be washed.



HEALTHY SCHOOL

Healthy Schools London Gold Award

We are incredibly proud to announce that William Byrd Primary School has achieved the Healthy Schools London Gold Award!



This prestigious award recognises our commitment to creating a health-promoting environment and supporting the health and wellbeing of our children, families and staff. It celebrates our whole-school approach to promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity, emotional wellbeing and positive life choices.

Even more excitingly, we are proud to be one of only three schools in the London Borough of Hillingdon to hold this prestigious Gold Award. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the dedication, passion and hard work of our entire school community.

A huge thank you to our staff, pupils and families for embracing and supporting our healthy living initiatives. Together, we continue to create an environment where every child can thrive, grow and develop healthy habits for life.

A New Family-Style Dining Experience

This term, we introduced Family-Style Dining at lunchtime, creating a calmer, warmer and more welcoming dining experience for our children.

Children now sit together in a relaxed environment, sharing conversations as they enjoy their meals. This approach encourages good table manners, independence, communication and a sense of community, helping lunchtime become an important part of the school day rather than simply a time to eat.

Our children have embraced the new approach so enthusiastically that many now refer to lunchtime as their "restaurant experience." They have loved the thoughtful touches that make the dining halls feel warm and inviting. Some of their comments included:

"It looks like a restaurant!"

"I like the questions on the table – I can ask my friends."

"I like the flower pots."

By creating a positive and nurturing atmosphere in our dining halls, we are supporting children's social development, strengthening relationships and encouraging healthy eating habits. We are delighted with the positive impact this new lunchtime experience has already had on our school community.



CAREERS WEEK

Careers education at William Byrd has transformed over the past two years. What started as a careers week project as part of the PfAEY (Preparing for Adulthood from the Early Years) project has grown into an incredibly extensive and rich offer into careers education for children from Reception – Year 6.

Currently, the William Byrd offer includes:

- ◇ Half-termly careers lessons using the MyPath platform
- ◇ Reflections of trips and visits which include direct connections to careers
- ◇ Weekly career connections to different areas of the foundation assessment
- ◇ A week long careers week in Summer 2 which exposes pupils to a wide variety of career opportunities

We are also proud to be apart of three of the Greater London Authority Exploratory Primary Careers Pilots which include careers week, MyPath and the EDT Inspiring Careers Primary Award. We even had Rebecca from the GLA come and observe our amazing provision!

This year we had loads of amazing visitors including: MP John McDonnell, the London Fire Brigade, Reverend Richard, a London Bus Driver, a Senior Communications Officer for the Cabinet, an EasyJet Pilot, Jake from the Navy, a former Civil Servant, a Cruise Director, Uxbridge College, Oakwood Secondary, School Nurses, Supporting Education Group and more!

Check our Instagram page for our yearly videos on what the children want to be when they grow up!



WORLD ART DAY

Every year, on World Art Day, the group work together to create a large collaborative canvas. These beautiful artworks will be displayed around the school and serve as a lasting reminder of the children's creativity and teamwork.



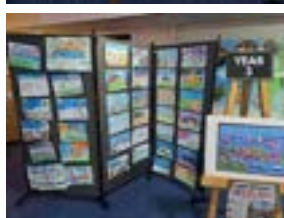
YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Our Reception children participated in this year's Young Artist Competition, titled 'Nature Explorers!'. They explored and learned about the world around them, creating lovely drawings inspired by nature. It was wonderful to see their imagination and curiosity shine through in their artwork.



ART EXHIBITION

This term has been full of creativity and artistic achievement across the school. Our talented children proudly showcased their wonderful artwork in our Art Exhibition, with every piece created by the pupils themselves. A special thank you goes to our dedicated Art Leaders, who worked hard to organise and set up the exhibition, showing fantastic teamwork and leadership skills.



NATIONAL PLAY DAY CELEBRATION—MONDAY 8TH JUNE

On Monday 8th June, we celebrated National Play Day by welcoming parents and carers to join us for a special OPAL lunchtime experience.

Families had the opportunity to spend time playing alongside their children and experience first-hand the exciting opportunities that OPAL brings to our playground every day. From building, creating and exploring to imaginative play and games, it was wonderful to see children proudly sharing their favourite play spaces and activities with their loved ones.

The event gave parents a real insight into how play supports children's creativity, problem-solving, communication, resilience and wellbeing. It was fantastic to see so many families joining in, making memories together and experiencing the joy of child-led play.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and to those who took the time to complete our feedback questionnaire. We were delighted to receive such overwhelmingly positive feedback. One of the most common comments was how much parents valued the opportunity to join their children at play, with many asking us to organise more events like this in the future because they loved being able to share this special time with their children.

Thank you for helping to make our National Play Day celebration such a memorable and successful event. We look forward to welcoming families back for many more OPAL experiences in the future.



Playday

SPORTS DAY

Our annual Sports Days were a wonderful celebration of teamwork, determination and school spirit. Throughout the week, children across the school took part in a range of exciting races and activities, demonstrating fantastic enthusiasm, resilience and encouragement for one another.

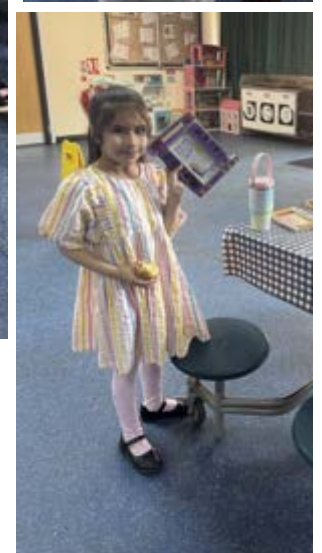
It was especially lovely to welcome so many parents, carers and family members who came along to cheer on the children. Your support created a brilliant atmosphere and made the events even more special. From sprint races and obstacle courses to relay events, every child had the opportunity to take part, challenge themselves and celebrate their achievements.

A huge thank you to all of our staff, volunteers and families for helping to make this year's Sports Days such a memorable success. We are incredibly proud of every child for showing courage, perseverance and excellent sportsmanship throughout the events.



DT SHOWCASE

Our DT Exhibition was a wonderful opportunity for parents to visit the school and view the fantastic work created by their children. Pupils proudly showcased a range of projects, including light boxes, photo frames, pencil cases, and vehicles, demonstrating the creativity, design skills, and craftsmanship they have developed throughout the year. It was lovely to see families celebrating the pupils' hard work and achievements together. Thank you to all the parents and families who came along to support our pupils.



GAMES AFTERNOON

What a fantastic way to celebrate the end of another successful school year! Our children had an amazing time during our Games Afternoon, enjoying a variety of fun activities with their friends.

There was lots of laughter, teamwork and friendly competition as the children played together, creating happy memories to end the year on a high. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces celebrating all they have achieved throughout the year.

A perfect way to mark the end of a fantastic school year before the summer holidays!



OPAL UPDATE—OUTDOOR PLAY & LEARNING

A Busy and Exciting Term of Play

It has been another incredibly busy term as we have continued to develop our OPAL play environment, creating even more exciting opportunities for our children. New play spaces have been added beneath our shelters, alongside game tables and a range of outdoor and garden games, providing children with even more choice during lunchtime.

When the heatwave arrived, the safety of our children remained our highest priority. To ensure everyone could continue to enjoy their lunch break safely, we transformed one of our dining halls into an exciting Indoor Games Centre, filled with a variety of games and activities. This allowed children to stay cool while still having fun and spending quality time with their friends.

Throughout the term, it has been wonderful to see children making the most of their lunchtime by exploring, building, creating, collaborating and solving problems together. Every day has been filled with imagination, teamwork, laughter and friendship as children have embraced the freedom to play, take risks, develop new skills and enjoy the outdoors.

We are incredibly proud of how our OPAL journey continues to grow, creating richer play experiences that support children's wellbeing, creativity and social development every single day.



ROCKSTEADY

Each week, pupils join their bands to learn bass, guitar, drums, keyboard or singing. They work together, are taught chord and note progression based on their skill level and rehearse a song to perform! All of the children have made exceptional progress, and Rock Steady teacher Phil spoke about the incredible chord and note progression that everyone had made throughout the year.

Our Bands:

Cyan Lions
The Fearsome Lions
Don't Burger Godzilla
Golden Diamond Tigers
The Golden Lagoon

In this Concert, we heard:

Thunder
Counting Stars
Stargazing
Firework
Break my heart



Does your child want to join a band? Click on the link below for more info:

[Rocksteady Book Form](#)



PUPIL PARLIAMENT

Our Pupil Parliament have worked incredibly hard this term to represent the voices of their classmates. During our Talk to Us Tuesday sessions, they listened carefully to children's ideas and concerns, discussing them as a team and thinking about how they could make a positive difference to our school.

One of the key suggestions was to have more OPAL play equipment at lunchtime. The Pupil Parliament worked together to brainstorm fundraising ideas and decided to organise a sponsored read to help raise money for new equipment. They have been enthusiastic ambassadors for the event, encouraging children across the school to take part and do their best. We are incredibly proud of their leadership, teamwork and commitment to making our school an even better place for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our sponsored read. We raised an amazing **£236.50!**

Our top 3 fundraisers were: Cristian (Jeffers), Adam (Jeffers) and Ashlee (Donaldson). Thank you for helping us to provide more opal equipment for our children.



ART LEADERS

This term, our Art Leaders have shown great dedication and responsibility in helping to organise and set up our Art Exhibition. They carefully displayed the children's artwork, helped prepare the exhibition space, and ensured that everyone's creations were beautifully presented. The Art Leaders have been fantastic role models, demonstrating teamwork.

This term, our Art Leaders have also been busy helping to display the wonderful artwork created during National Art Day, transforming one of our corridors into a bright and welcoming gallery. The display celebrates our children's creativity and artistic journey, showcasing their talents while making our school an even more inspiring place to learn. We are incredibly proud of our Art Leaders for taking such care and pride in creating this beautiful space.



ECO LEADERS

William Byrd Wins the Breathe London School Award!

We are incredibly proud to announce that William Byrd Primary Academy has been awarded the Breathe London School Award, recognising our commitment to improving air quality, promoting sustainability and inspiring our pupils to care for the environment.

Throughout the year, our children have taken part in a wide range of exciting projects through our Eco Byrds team and whole-school sustainability programme. Pupils have explored local air quality using our air quality monitor, learned about the impact of air pollution on their health, taken part in Earth Day activities, promoted active travel to school, encouraged recycling and energy saving, and worked together to keep our school environment clean through litter-picking initiatives. Sustainability has also been embedded across our curriculum, helping pupils understand how everyday choices can make a positive difference to both their local community and the wider world.

These experiences have empowered our children to become enthusiastic environmental ambassadors, sharing their knowledge with friends and family while developing the confidence and skills to make more sustainable choices.

We are especially delighted that William Byrd Primary School was named the overall winner of the Breathe London School Award, with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council announced as the runners-up. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the enthusiasm, creativity and dedication of our pupils, staff and families throughout the year.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our sustainability journey. This award is something our whole school community can be incredibly proud of. We look forward to continuing our work next year, inspiring our pupils to care for the environment and helping to create a cleaner, greener and healthier future for everyone.



ECO LEADERS UPDATE

It has been another exciting and productive term for our Eco Leaders as they have continued to promote sustainability across our school and local community.

One of the highlights of the term was our visit to Cranford Country Park. During the trip, the Eco Leaders explored the beautiful natural environment, learning about the different plants, trees and animals that live within the park. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop their understanding of local biodiversity and the importance of protecting natural habitats.

To celebrate Earth Day, pupils across the school took part in a range of environmental activities. These included litter picking around the school grounds, creating dead hedges to provide habitats for wildlife, and producing beautiful nature-inspired artwork using natural materials. It was wonderful to see so many children getting involved and showing their commitment to caring for our environment.

Our Eco Leaders have also continued their important role in helping the school reduce its energy use. They regularly monitor classrooms to check that lights and interactive whiteboards are switched off when they are no longer needed. Their efforts are encouraging everyone to develop good energy-saving habits and reduce our school's environmental impact.

We are incredibly proud of our Eco Leaders for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work throughout the term. Their actions are helping to make our school a greener and more sustainable place for everyone.



ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have continued to make a positive difference across the school this term. They have supported children in the stay and play playground during lunchtimes. In the opal playground, they have been encouraging kind friendships, offering advice, and helping children to resolve friendship issues respectfully.

Our ambassadors have also provided 1:1 support for children who have found social situations or friendships challenging. They have warmly welcomed new pupils by showing them around the school to help settle them in.

This term, the ambassadors also carried out a pupil voice survey to gather children's thoughts and experiences during lunchtime. This has helped identify ways to make lunchtimes more enjoyable for everyone.

We are incredibly proud of their kindness, responsibility, and commitment to making our school a happy, safe and inclusive place for everyone.



READING LEADERS

This term has been a busy and exciting one for our Reading Leaders! We began by meeting together as a team to share ideas, plan upcoming events, and discuss ways to encourage a love of reading across the school. One of our biggest focuses was preparing for our Half Term Reading Challenge, which proved to be a fantastic success. It was wonderful to see so many children taking part, and our lucky winners were rewarded with a delicious morning tea to celebrate their fantastic reading efforts.

Our Reading Leaders also put their confidence and creativity on display by delivering a fun and entertaining assembly to promote the Book Fair. Their enthusiasm certainly paid off, as the Book Fair was a huge success! We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the event by purchasing books. Your support helps us continue to promote reading throughout the school, and we hope everyone is enjoying their fantastic new books.

Throughout the term, our Reading Leaders have also helped to deliver a number of reading assemblies for both KS1 and KS2. They were wonderful role models, speaking confidently in front of their peers and sharing their passion for reading. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, teamwork, and leadership they have shown.

As always, we have continued to look for new ways to encourage reading beyond the classroom. We have been promoting regular home reading through BoomReader and our home reading records, helping children develop positive reading habits and a lifelong love of books. We are incredibly proud of everything our Reading Leaders have achieved this term and look forward to even more exciting reading opportunities next year!



PYJAMA-RAMA DAY

Our Pyjama-Rama Day was a wonderful celebration of reading and storytelling. Children came to school dressed in their pyjamas, bringing along their favourite books to share with their classmates. Throughout the day, they enjoyed talking about the stories they love, recommending books to one another, and taking part in a range of fun reading activities. To end this special day, we welcomed parents into school to read with their children, creating a calm and enjoyable atmosphere that celebrated the joy of sharing books together. It was a truly memorable experience that strengthened our love of reading and highlighted the importance of reading for pleasure at home and at school.



PYJAMA-RAMA DAY



TRAVEL AMBASSADORS

This term our amazing Travel Ambassadors went to the Battle of Britain Bunker to pitch their 2026 travel project — and they absolutely spoke-tacularly smashed it!

They presented their idea for new bikes so pupils can learn to ride during break and lunch and they delivered it with confidence, charm, and enthusiasm. The Hillingdon Dragons loved every second — so much that they awarded us an incredible £430 in funding! Huge congratulations to our brilliant ambassadors you've really taken this project up a gear!

Later in the term we also took part in walk to school week where we shared the importance of sustainable travel to school. It was a fantastic week where each class took part in a class tracking activity and completed activity booklets promoting safe travel to school. We ended the week with our walk to school badges which will hopefully remind others to continue to walk to school!



Our Multiplication Masters competition has been a huge success, and we are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and determination. They have impressed us with their speed and accuracy when answering their multiplication questions, showing just how much their confidence has grown. It has been wonderful to see the effort every child is putting into practising their times tables. They have shown fantastic resilience, perseverance and a positive attitude, taking the competition seriously while encouraging one another along the way. We look forward to seeing their skills continue to develop as the competition progresses! Congratulations to our Summer term winners!



BEE WORKSHOP

Please see below letter from BEE Heathrow regarding one of our recent Entrepreneur Workshops with Year 4:

I wanted to share how lovely it was to return and facilitate our “BEE a Sweet Entrepreneur” event again with your Year 4 students. It was such an enjoyable and rewarding morning.

From the outset, Year 4 threw themselves into the challenge, working in teams alongside the Heathrow Volunteers. It was fantastic to see how quickly they began generating ideas and shaping them into business concepts. Taking on roles such as Operations Manager, Finance Director and Marketing Director, they showed great maturity and enthusiasm as they worked through each stage of the process. From budgeting and decision-making, to selecting products and packaging, designing logos and building their prototypes, they approached everything with real focus and creativity. Their final pitches were a brilliant reflection of all their hard work.

The feedback is really positive. 92% of the students rated the programme as ‘Excellent or Good’. The overriding themes that they mentioned were improved team-work; confidence; how to understand costs and presenting.

The Heathrow volunteers played a vital role throughout the session, offering support and encouragement as the students worked against the clock to turn their ideas into ‘real’ business plans by lunchtime. There was a real buzz in the room, with students and volunteers feeding off each other’s enthusiasm and drive, leading to some incredibly imaginative outcomes.

100% agreed that the event improved the students’ enterprise skills and understanding of the world of work.

The presentations at the end of the session were a real highlight, showcasing the students’ hard work, confidence and creativity. There was a genuine sense of pride in what they had achieved and the atmosphere throughout the morning was full of positivity and enjoyment, it was very hard to tell who gained more from the experience, the students or the volunteers!

Thank you to Ms Cotterill, Ms McCracken and the Year 4 team for all their support on the day. Their help made everything run smoothly and it was a pleasure working alongside them.

We very much look forward to coming back and working with you again next academic year.

Karen O’Connor

Director

Business Education Events CIC (BEE)



PTA NEWS

What an incredible year we have shared! The PTA has worked extremely hard this school year to bring you some brand new events. As well as our very popular School Fairs and Discos. We all wanted to say a massive THANK YOU to each and every one of you, who have attended and supported these events. We cannot wait to see what the next school year will bring!

We had one of our biggest events this term, our Summer Fair. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side and we had to bring the event inside. However, everyone still had such an amazing time with friends and family. We had a big inflatable slide, face painting, cakes, a tombola and lots and lots of games. We want to thank all the stallholders who also attended our event and hope that you all had a fun time too!

We want to thank all the Parents/Carers who donated towards our Mufti Days, all the items you donated help raise money for our tombola stalls. This is one of our most popular games and without all the donations you give us, the children would not be able to have this game at our events.

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets from our Summer Fair, all winners were contacted individually. We had some amazing prizes up for grabs, from fun family days out to amazing hampers. We want to thank all those who kindly donated to our raffle! Without you, this event would not be able to run.

We are all truly grateful to every family and staff member who came to our Summer Fair this year. We say this so often but honestly, these events would not be as successful without the amazing support from Parents and Carers.

We wish all of the Year 6 children a huge success and strength as they go onto their next chapter.

See you all in September! We cannot wait for you all to see what we have planned for the next school year!



PTA (YEAR 6 LEAVERS DISCO)

What a wonderful evening the Year 6 Leavers Disco was. It was so lovely to see all the children having fun, dancing and singing the night away.

A big thank you to parents, carers and friends who helped make the whole thing possible.

All the children looked fantastic too!

A big thank you and shout out to Posh Partez for the wonderful balloon and back-drop set up. Also Darby's delights for the beautiful pens as gifts and Shell's Little People for purchasing the cool sunglasses.

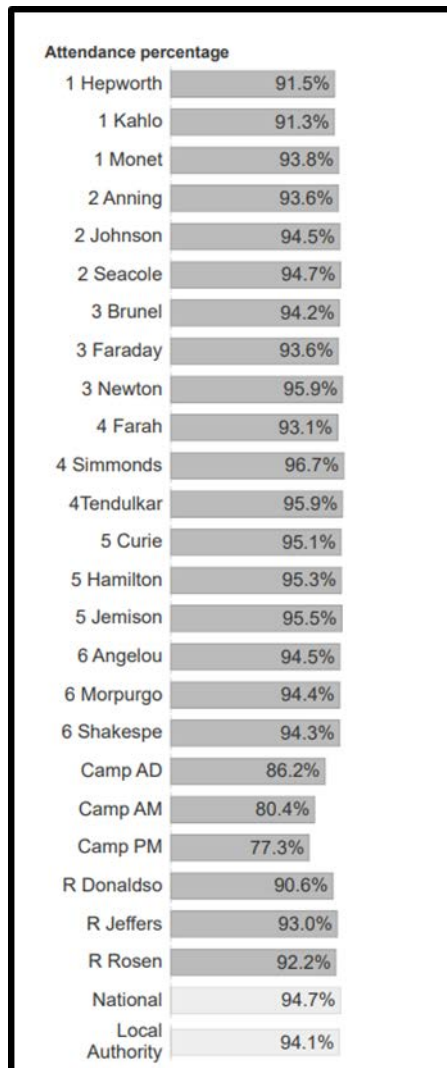
Wishing all the Year 6 children the best of luck in their new school!



ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is the foundation of academic success. Every lesson builds on the last, so missing even a few days can create gaps in understanding that are hard to fill. Being in school every day also supports social skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging—helping children thrive both in learning and in life. Think of school like a story—you don't want to miss a chapter. Each day adds something important to the plot, whether it's a new skill, a fun project, or a moment that sparks your curiosity. Showing up every day means you get the whole story, and you're ready for whatever comes next.

School begins for the Autumn term on **Thursday 3rd September**. Attending from the start of the academic year is crucial for your child's academic and social development. Please note, any extended holidays will be counted as unauthorised and absences over 5 days will likely result in a referral for a holiday penalty fine.



ATTENDANCE AT WILLIAM BYRD

EVERY DAY COUNTS.

WE ATTEND. WE BELONG. WE THRIVE.

MAKE THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WORK FOR YOU

Please take your children on holiday or on family visits during the 13 allocated weeks off term time a year:

- October half term: 1 week
- Christmas holidays: 2 weeks
- February half term: 1 week
- Easter holidays: 2 weeks
- May half term: 1 week
- Summer holidays: 6 weeks

TERM TIME ABSENCES/HOLIDAYS

All term time absences are unauthorised except in extreme circumstances, where a meeting will be held with Parents/Carers and the Head of School.

If you are planning to take a term time absence, you must submit a letter or request form in writing to the Head Teacher (which can be left at the front office).

YOUR CHILD BELONGS AT SCHOOL

When your child misses term time, they are also missing out on:

- Hours of learning
- Making academic progress
- Exams and assessments
- Building strong friendships
- Making core memories
- An amazing offer of trips, visits and workshops

If your child's attendance is...	They would have lost...	And missed...
90% 9 days of school	10 lessons	
80% 18 days of school	20 lessons	
70% 27 days of school	30 lessons	
60% 36 days of school	40 lessons	
50% 45 days of school	50 lessons	

What you can do to improve your child's attendance:

- Check your child's attendance regularly.
- Make sure your child is always ready for school.
- Encourage your child to be punctual.
- Discuss any issues with the school.

Well done to 3Newton, 4Simmonds, 4Tendulkar, 5 Curie, 5Hamilton and 5 Jemison for your great attendance this year!

Even a seemingly high percentage of attendance can result in missing a great deal of learning over time.

Attendance %	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
100%	0 days missed	0 days missed
96%	8 days missed	¼ year learning lost
90%	19 days missed	½ year learning lost
85%	28 days missed	¾ year learning lost
80%	38 days missed	1 year learning lost
75%	47 days missed	1 ¼ years learning lost

IMPORTANCE INFORMATION REGARDING FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR 2026/2027

Changes to free school meals from the 2026 to 2027 academic year

We are writing to let you know about changes to free school meals (FSM) from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year.

What is changing?

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From the start of academic year 2026 to 2027, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Going forward, there will be two types of eligibility:

- Targeted FSM: for households in receipt of universal credit earning £7,400 or less (includes free meals and additional support such as pupil premium). Other educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food program (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance will also continue to be based on targeted FSM.
- Expanded FSM: for households in receipt of universal credit earning above £7,400 (free meals only)

Families with no recourse to public funds may also be eligible for Targeted FSM subject to meeting separate criteria.

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will also continue to be entitled to free school meals under the universal infant free school meals policy regardless of family circumstances.

End of transitional protections

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals, even if their family circumstances changed during the rollout of Universal Credit. This is referred to as transitional protections.

Now that entitlement is being expanded to all families on Universal Credit, these protections will end at the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

This means:

- Some children may no longer be eligible from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year if their family does not receive Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit
- Eligibility will now be based on current benefit status

What you need to do

If your child currently receives free school meals:

- In most cases, you do not need to reapply
- Your child's school or the local authority will check your eligibility automatically using the details already held and inform you of any changes to your FSM eligibility
- In some cases, your child's school or the local authority may contact you to confirm your details
- If your child is starting a new school in September, they will be in touch to confirm whether you need to confirm your details or reapply
- If you are unsure, please contact your school or local authority for further advice

If your child does not currently receive free school meals:

- You may now be eligible under the expanded criteria
- You will need to apply through your local authority / school

Please come to the school office to collect a form to complete.

Not sure?

If you are unsure whether you need to apply or if your circumstances have changed, please contact:

- Your local authority, or
- Your child's school

EARLY BYRDS ANNOUNCEMENT—NURSERY & RECEPTION

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

Please see below our new posters for September 2026!



NEW

**William Byrd
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**EARLY BYRDS-
EYFS
BREAKFAST
CLUB**

Charges:
Nursery 7:15am - 8:30am £4.00
*booking required via ParentPay
Reception 7:15am - 8:10am £2.50
*pay via ParentPay
*£1 for Children Eligible for Pupil Premium
Reception 8:10am - 8:40am FREE
*no booking required

**From
September
2026!**

Our Breakfast Club takes place in our welcoming EYFS setting, providing a calm, safe and nurturing environment where children can enjoy a healthy breakfast, play with friends and make a positive start to their day. The club is led by our experienced, familiar, EYFS-trained staff, ensuring every child feels happy, settled, supported and ready to learn.

Start the Day the William Byrd Way!



NEW

**William Byrd
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**EARLY
BYRDS
BREAKFAST
CLUB**

From
September
2026!

Charges:
Y1-Y6 7:15am - 8:10am £2.50
*pay via ParentPay
*£1 for Children Eligible for Pupil Premium

Y1-Y6 8:10am - 8:40am FREE
*no booking required

Enjoy a healthy breakfast and a range of exciting activities including active games, creative play, construction, arts and crafts, board games, puzzles and much more!

VIB'S AFTER SCHOOL CARE



NEW

VERY IMPORTANT BYRDS

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Monday to Friday
15:20 - 18:00

PART TIME SESSION | 15:20 - 16:20
£5 per child

PART TIME SESSION | 16:15 - 18:00
(For children who attend an after school or P10 sports club)
£5 per child

FULL SESSION | 15:20 - 18:00
£10 per child

SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED IN ALL SESSIONS.

If you would like to register your child for after school care sign up online at:
www.williambyrd.school/VIB

All bookings are made online, on our website, and payment is taken through ParentPay.

Organised or free-choice play activities and support with homework if required.

For working families, including the self-employed you may be eligible for tax-free childcare. Please scan the QR code to find out more.



NEW WEEKLY EXCITING KS2 THEMES

- Robotics
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Lego challenges
- and much more!

NEW EXTENDED TIMINGS

RUN BY WILLIAM BYRD STAFF

OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS

We also offer
After School
Care “VIB’s”
everyday from
3:20pm-6pm
for all children!

Are you eligible
for Pupil
Premium?!

Visit our school
to find out
more
information!



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ELIGIBLE FOR PUPIL PREMIUM? GET 50% OFF VIB AFTER SCHOOL CARE!

Monday to Friday
15:20 - 18:00

PART TIME SESSION | 15:20 - 16:20
~~£5 per child~~ **£2.50 per child**

PART TIME SESSION | 16:15 - 18:00
(For children who attend an after school or P10 sports club)
~~£5 per child~~ **£2.50 per child**

FULL SESSION | 15:20 - 18:00
~~£10 per child~~ **£5 per child**

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NEW WEEKLY EXCITING THEMES

- Robotics
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Lego challenges
- and much more!

RUN BY WILLIAM BYRD STAFF

OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS

EASY ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM
Scan the QR code to make bookings and make payment through ParentPay



PARENT AND CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP SURVEY

The Parenting and Home Learning Team is seeking feedback from parents and carers to help shape their future online workshop offer. Their workshops focus on supporting parents and carers of children aged 0–8 years.

Please scan the QR code to complete the survey:



Scan the QR code to complete the survey.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

Small, Structured STEM Classes
Safe, Fun, Social, Active and Educational
For All Boys & Girls Aged 5-11 Yrs
The No.1 Holiday Camp - as Voted by You

SUMMER CAMP

July-August 2026 | 8 Weeks Available | Monday-Friday

Four Out-of-this-World Science-Week Topics to Choose from:

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Registered
Childcare Vouchers Accepted

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mnature.co.uk

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LIMITED EARLY-BIRD -£150 OFF (£295pw)

Excellent
★★★★★
★ Trustpilot

WINNER BEST HOLIDAY CAMPS HOOP AWARDS

EACH CHILD RECEIVES A TROPHY

SUMMER TERM CAMPS

Venue
Swakeleys High School, Clifton Gardens, Uxbridge, Ub10 0ej

Dates	Prices
W1: Monday 27 th July – Friday 31 st July	£100 For The Week.
W2: Monday 3 rd August- Friday 7 th August	£60 Additional Siblings
W3: Monday 10 th August- Friday 14 th August	£25 For Day Rates
W4: Monday 17 th August – Friday 21 st August	

Time
9am-3pm

Age
4-13 Years

Day Schedule
Dribbling, Shooting, Passing, Ball Mastery and Matches In A Fun Safe Environment.

Competitions To Earn Extra Awards
Penalty Shootout, American Shootout And Fa Cup

BOOK NOW

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All Our Coaches Have A DBS, First Aid Training And A FA Coaching Qualification.

BOOK THE FULL WEEK AND SAVE 10%

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT


FUNWEEKS
Summer
ACTIVE CAMP

WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY ACADEMY
FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 1 - 7 | 9AM - 3PM

info@thepsdgroup.org.uk
0203 397 7409

SCAN TO BOOK





WHAT TO EXPECT:
MULTI SPORTS
INFLATABLES
ARTS & CRAFTS
GAMES
PRIZES

BOOK NOW: WWW.THEPSDGROUP.ORG.UK/PSD-FUNWEEKS

EARLYBIRD PRICING:

BOOK BEFORE MIDDAY ON 19TH JULY	BOOK AFTER MIDDAY ON 19TH JULY
£18.00 PER DAY	£20.00 PER DAY

DATES:

MON 27TH - FRI 31ST JULY
MON 10TH - FRI 14TH AUGUST



HACS Together in Summer

Suitable for young people who are able to take part in group settings, follow task-focused activities, and demonstrate some independence.

The programme is open to children who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM) Hillingdon Council+1. Benefits-related FSM are available to pupils whose parents receive qualifying benefits, verified by their school or local authority. There are limited places for non-Haf children at the rate of £45 per day

Activities will include:

-  Gardening & nature
-  Creative arts & crafts
-  Group games & outdoor activities
-  Puzzles & problem-solving

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	ELIGIBILITY
27 th July 2026–20 th August Mon–Tue Good for girls Wed–Thur Better for boys	HACS Resource Centre Dudley Place, Off Pinkwell Lane Hayes, UB3 1PB	Children aged 8–17 years. Hillingdon resident Assessments will be completed to ensure suitability.

For more information, please contact


0208 606 6780


0790 378 3872


natalie@hacs.org.uk

EXTERNAL EVENTS



Discover Bucks Museum
A Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

The Great DRAGON Adventure



22 JULY - 1 SEPT 2026

Track the dragon.
Complete the quest.
Reclaim the treasure.

A fun-filled summer of exploring, discovering and adventure

Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury HP20 2QP
For opening times and ticket prices visit:
discoverbucksmuseum.org







The Great DRAGON Adventure

Set off on a thrilling Dragon Quest this summer at Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury and turn your museum visit into an unforgettable family adventure.

Can you brave the dragon quest and discover the treasure?



Discover, play and explore all day long!

22 JULY - 1 SEPT 2026
All included in your Roald Dahl Children's Gallery ticket

- ★ **The Great Dragon Adventure** - Children will love tracking the dragon, having fun with the hands-on challenges and exploring the Museum
- ★ **Roald Dahl Children's Gallery** - hands-on discovery and amazing science inspired by Roald Dahl's stories
- ★ **The SAXONS** - an immersive exhibition
- ★ **Museum Galleries** - discover 200 million years of Bucks history in our family-friendly museum galleries
- ★ **Sensory Room**
- ★ **Outdoor toys and games** in the museum garden
- ★ **Gift Shop and Garden Café** with kid's lunchboxes available or bring a picnic

For more details, changes and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org



Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury HP20 2QP
(0296 331441) | discoverbucksmuseum.org

Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust is a company registered in England and Wales with charity number 1052945 and VAT registered no. 962205257



EXTERNAL EVENTS

Tots Go Wild

Join us for a morning of exploration and messy play in Black Park! There are lots of fun activities for your tot to go wild, including the mud kitchen, digging pit, bug hunting, weaving, balancing, crafts and more.

Friday Mornings



Most Fridays during term time in Black Pines Camp.
 £10.00 + booking fee per child or block book the whole term!
 Email countryparks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk for more information or book online at
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/a/buckinghamshire-country-parks-1706295366>
 or scan the QR code.
 Advance booking is essential.

 Buckinghamshire Country Parks  @Bucks_Country_Parks

 Buckinghamshire Council www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

FOREST PLAY

Play your way through nature at Black Park!

Join us at Black Pines Camp for Forest Play! Children can play and explore through activities like the mud kitchen, games, sand pit, bug hunting, water play, balancing and more. Outdoor play is proven to support physical health, confidence, social skills, and early learning—giving little ones space to grow in nature.

Friday Afternoons 1-2pm

Most Fridays during term time. £10.00 + booking fee per child or block book the whole term!

Event website: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/a/buckinghamshire-country-parks-1706295366> or scan the QR code. Advance booking is essential.



 SCAN ME!

 Buckinghamshire Council buckinghamshire.gov.uk   @BucksCouncil

FAMILIES GO WILD!

Join us in Black Pines Camp for some fun in the woods! We have a variety of activities for your child to go wild and many Forest School skills to learn about. This includes crafts, tools, campfire skills (seasonal), bug hunting, games stations, the digging pit, water play and more! A session for all: Tots, Families, Homeschoolers and children with special educational needs. This is a mixed aged group session suitable for 1-10 year olds.



Thursday Mornings

Most Thursdays during term time. £10.00 + booking fee per child or block book the whole term!
 Email countryparks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk for more information or book online at
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/a/buckinghamshire-country-parks-1706295366>
 or scan the QR code. Advance booking is essential.

 Buckinghamshire Country Parks  @Bucks_Country_Parks

 Buckinghamshire Council buckinghamshire.gov.uk   @BucksCouncil

EXTERNAL EVENTS

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTRY PARKS

WHAT'S ON?

23rd & 29th July	- Pirate Camp - Black Park Country Park	Star Wars Film Walk	8th August
26th July	- The Jungle Book - Outdoor Theatre - Black Park Country Park	Dino Camp	12th & 14th August
30th July & 20th August	- Forest Play - Black Park Country Park	Craft in the Park	13th & 24th August
1st & 26th August	- Big Black Park Film Walk - Black Park Country Park	Kids Go Wild	19th August
3rd & 21st August	- Craft in the Park - Denham Country Park	Marvel Film Walk	26th August
5th August	- Play Day - Black Park Country Park	Wildlife Detectives	27th August
6th August	- Kids Go Wild - Black Park Country Park	Tots Go Wild Summer Special	28th August

Scan the QR code for more information or to book online. Email queries to countryparks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Advance booking for all events is essential.

Buckinghamshire Country Parks
 @bucks_country_parks

Buckinghamshire Council
 www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

FREE GIRLS BMX SESSION

DATE: SUN 26th July 2026
1.00-2.00PM

Bike and equipment will be provided and 12 participants can be accommodated, so places are limited. We ask to run these sessions monthly.

Participants need to be able to ride an existing bike and stand up and pedal.

Participants also need to wear long trousers, ideally jeans. **NO LOGGING.**

- Female only session
- BMX exercises
- Skills & BMX techniques
- Fun games & mini laps

Registration via email hello@hawksbm.co.uk

The Free Session will be run by a Female Coach
Harriet Alexander

Hayes Hawks BMX Track
Lake Farm Country Park, Dorney Road, Hayes, UB3 1EJ

RIDE. LEARN. HAVE FUN!

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME
INSET Days (No School for Children)	Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September
Children back to School	Thursday 3rd September—Normal Time
Year 6 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Classrooms)	Monday 7th September—3:20pm
Year 5 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Classrooms)	Tuesday 8th September—3:20pm
Year 4 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Classrooms)	Wednesday 9th September—3:20pm
Year 3 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Classrooms)	Thursday 10th September—3:20pm
Year 2 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Classrooms)	Friday 11th September—3:20pm
Year 1 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Classrooms)	Monday 14th September—3:20pm
Year 5 Camping	Thursday 17th—Saturday 19th September
Autumn Term Clubs Start	W/c 28th September
Year 5 Pedestrian Training	Monday 5th October
Year 4 Pedestrian Training	Wednesday 7th October
Year 5 Moon Landing Coding Adventure Afternoon	Thursday 8th October
World Mental Health Day (Wear Yellow)	Friday 9th October
Year 6 Bikiability Training	Monday 12th—Thursday 15th October
Year 2 Fire Workshop	Wednesday 14th October
Year 5 Chessington Trip	Friday 16th October
Reception—Year 6 Flu Vaccinations	Monday 19th October
Year 2/5/6 NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Workshop	Tuesday 20th October
PTA Halloween Disco	Thursday 23rd October (Further details to follow)
PTA Mufti Non-Uniform Day (£1 Donation)	Friday 24th October
October Half Term	Monday 26th October—Monday 2nd November
Individual/Sibling Photos	Wednesday 4th November
Diwali Celebration Day	Friday 6th November
Odd Socks Day	Monday 9th November
Remembrance Day	Wednesday 11th November
PTA Mufti Non-Uniform Day (Donation of Toys)	Friday 13th November
Anti-Bullying Week	Monday 16th—Friday 20th November
3N Class Assembly	Monday 16th November—2:45pm

KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME
3B Class Assembly	Tuesday 17th November—2:45pm
Year 5 Fire Workshop	Wednesday 18th November
Year 6 BEE Workshop	Thursday 19th November
3F Class Assembly	Thursday 19th November—2:45pm
Children in Need Day (Wear Spots—£1 Donation)	Friday 20th November
Book Fair (KS1 Hall)	Wednesday 25th—Monday 30th November
Reception-Year 6—Parent/Carer Evening (KS1 & KS2 Hall)	Thursday 26th November
School Finishes at 1:15pm for Reception—Year 6	Thursday 26th November
INSET Day (No School for Children)	Friday 27th November
PTA Santa's Grotto Event	Thursday 3rd December (Further details to follow)
PTA Mufti Non-Uniform Day (Food/Drink Donations)	Friday 4th December
Reception—Year 6 Catch-Up Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 9th December
PTA Christmas Fair	Thursday 10th December—3:20pm-5pm
Autumn Term Clubs Finish	Friday 11th December
Hanukkah Celebration Day	Friday 11th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Lunch for Children (Please order via SchoolGrid)	Wednesday 16th December
End of Term	Friday 18th December—1pm
Christmas Holidays	Monday 21st December—Wednesday 6th January
INSET Days (No School for Children)	Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th January
Children back to School	Wednesday 6th January—Normal Time



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



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