

# PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

## December 2025



Dear Parents/ Grandparents/ Carers,

### Attendance League Table

Each week, the class that gets the best overall attendance is awarded the Trophy, a certificate and a prize (ice-lollies/chocolate, etc). The children love to win. Here is the league table so far...by ensuring your child is at school every day, you help your child's class to win the prize 😊.

Class	Percentage of Attendance %								
	Overall	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	
Reception	93	100	100	100	100	95	58	75	
Year 1	93	98	93	90	97	97	85	90	
Year 2	90	79	88	97	93	93	88	89	
Year 3	92	96	96	96	88	90	82	92	
Year 4	84	92	88	94	79	72	82	81	
Year 5	96	98	93	96	100	92	94	94	
Year 6	90	86	83	93	91	90	92	94	
Primary Overall	91	91	90	94	93	90	87	90	

## Reception (Mrs Clay and Miss Bell)

### Children In Need



This half term, Reception Class joined in the charity walk for Children in Need, which funds projects and organisations across the UK that support children facing challenges such as poverty, disability, or mental health issues. The walk was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn about helping others in our community while developing their own physical skills like walking, balance, and coordination.

### Maths

Reception Class Hungry Caterpillars explore 'One More and 'One Less'



We have been exploring the concepts: **one more** and **one less**! We kicked off our maths exploration by reading the beloved story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle. The children loved recounting the caterpillar's journey from eating one apple on Monday to five oranges on Friday.

The real fun began during snack time! We brought the story to life by using real fruit to practice our new concepts. Here is how we learned about "one more" and "one less":

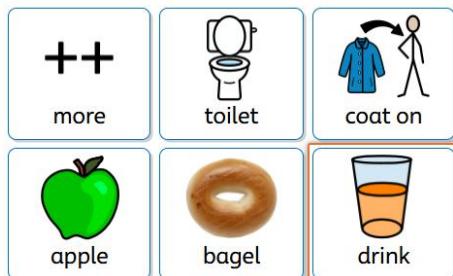
- **One More:** If a child started with three grapes, they were asked, "How many would you have if you ate one more?" They physically added a grape and counted the total (four).
- **One Less:** We reversed the process by asking, "You have five pieces of apple. If you eat one, how many are left?" They removed a piece and counted the remainder (four).

Using real, edible objects made the maths immediate and meaningful. The children were engaged, enthusiastic, and quickly grasped how numbers change when we add or take away just one item.

## The Nest – Miss Hutchison & Miss O

This half term, The Nest participated in the charity walk for Children in Need. The walk was a lovely chance for the children within the nest to join in with our community as well developing their gross motor skills. The children really enjoyed this and managed to do so many laps of the track.

The children have also been doing a lot of work with widgets, these are a communication tool that have been helping the children communicate and express their wants and needs.



We have also been working hard this half term on our topic about the Gruffalo. Where the children have loved looking at the story and using the puppets to retell their favourite parts. We also recreated the snow scenes from the Gruffalo's child and using the small animals created our own marks in the snow.

In maths we have been exploring 2D shapes, using the shapes to recreate animals from the Gruffalo story.



## Year 1 & 2 Mrs Hughes and Miss Walker

In Years One and Two, we have been enjoying our work around Paddington during reading sessions. The children have been practising their inference skills and using actions to help them remember and understand our key vocabulary.



In Maths, Year Two have been focusing on addition and subtraction. They have shown fantastic perseverance, especially when using manipulatives to support their understanding of exchanging. Year One have moved on to place value in numbers up to twenty. They are beginning to understand ten as a place holder and have worked well using practical resources to help them.



In Computing, we have been learning about algorithms. The children loved giving Mrs "Robot" Hughes step-by-step instructions on how to make a marmalade sandwich—just like Paddington!

We also completed a collaborative art project in RE, which everyone contributed to beautifully and practiced sewing as part of D&T. To celebrate all the children's hard work this term, we rounded things off with hot chocolate and biscuits as our special Friday treat.



## Year 3 & 4 with Miss Heyer and Miss McCauley

The Autumn term has been both productive and enjoyable for the Year 3 and 4 pupils, with a wide range of learning experiences across the curriculum.

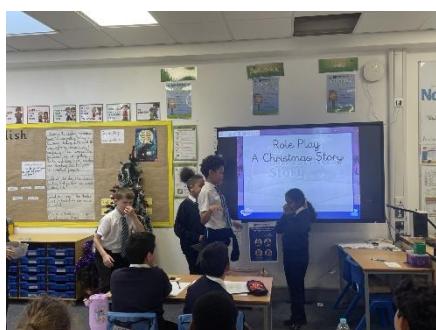
In English, pupils focused on the genre of adventure stories. They explored a variety of texts before planning and writing their own original stories. This unit supported the development of creative writing skills, including the use of descriptive language, structured narratives and engaging characters.

In Science, pupils studied states of matter. They carried out practical experiments to investigate solids, liquids and gases, developing their scientific enquiry skills by making observations, predictions and conclusions.

During Reading, pupils read *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*. They engaged in thoughtful discussions about the text, following the story of Chaya and her adventure, including her theft of the Queen's jewels. This text helped to develop comprehension skills and deepen pupils' understanding of characters and themes.

In December, pupils enjoyed taking part in festive activities. They worked collaboratively to decorate the classroom and, in Design and Technology, designed and created their own Christmas cards, demonstrating creativity and careful craftsmanship.

Overall, the pupils have shown excellent effort and enthusiasm throughout the term. We are very proud of their achievements and wish all families a happy and restful Christmas.



## Year 5 with Mrs Saleh and Miss Hussain

Year 5 have had a fantastic term and should be extremely proud of everything they have achieved. They have shown excellent attitudes to learning, supported one another in class, and approached new challenges with confidence and enthusiasm. Their hard work and positive behaviour have helped to create a happy and focused learning environment throughout the term.

In writing the children produced amazing stories about culture, showing creativity, empathy and a real understanding of Egypt tradition. Their writing was rich in detail and emotion, using a range of vocabulary. It was wonderful to see how confidently they expressed their ideas.

In reading the children have been reading The Explorer and have engaged enthusiastically with the story. They were captivated by the book and adventurous characters, which sparked discussions and curiosity in lesson. The children developed their knowledge and skills within making predictions, inference and retrieval.

Year 5's assembly was another highlight of the term. The children spoke clearly and confidently, sharing their learning with pride. The Christmas concert was a wonderful success and a joy to watch. Their singing and teamwork truly brought the festive spirit to life and filled the air with Christmas cheer. The children took part in Child in Need walk and showed teamwork as they walked together to support an important cause. The children understood why they were taking part and were proud to help raise money.

Overall, the children have had a fantastic term and should be very proud of their learning. They have worked hard across all subjects, showing enthusiasm in lessons and making great progress. Year 5 should be very proud of what they have achieved. Well done!



## Y6 with Mr Newton and Mrs Longley

Reading: Year 6 were very excited when they received their early Christmas presents. Each present had a book inside. Thank you to Mr Walpole who organised this.



## Power Up Championships

Y5 and 6 came second in the Power Up Championships, which is a magnificent achievement. They all represented the school and themselves exceptionally. We also won a trophy for the school!



## Year 5/6 Multi skills Festival

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, I took a group of 8 Y5 and 6 children to a Y5/6 Multi skills Festival at Hillcrest School. It was a great occasion, and the children really enjoyed themselves.



# Primary Dates for Your Diary

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### Dates for Primary 2025-2026

Date	Event	Where
Fri 19th Dec 25	Christmas Jumper Day	
Mon 22nd Dec 25 - Fri 2nd Jan 26	Christmas Holiday	
Mon 5th Jan 26	Inset Day - Closed to students	
Thur 5th Feb 26	Year 3/4 Assembly 9.00am	
Mon 16th - Fri 20th Feb 26	Spring half term	
Wed 25th - Fri 27th Feb 26	Year 6 Residential	
Wed 11th & Thurs 12th Feb 26	Parents Evening (3.00pm-5.30pm)	
Thur 5th Mar 26	BCM Assembly - 8.45am	
Thur 5th Mar 26	World Book Day - Non Uniform day, dress up as your favourite book character - £1.00 donation	
Fri 13th Mar 26	Inset Day - Closed to students	
Thur 19th Mar 26	Year 1/2 Assembly - 9.00am	PPC
Mon 30th Mar - Fri 10th April 26	Easter Holiday	
	Inset Days	
	Holidays and bank holidays	
	Assemblies	
	Parents evening & Reports to parents	