



William Byrd
PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2 2024

ASPIRE



CURIOUS



RESILIENT



KIND & RESPECTFUL



COOPERATE



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear all,

What a wonderful Autumn term.

We have all been busy this term developing many aspects of the school.

We now have;

A kitchen for the children to cook in as part of their cooking and nutrition curriculum.

A huge thank you to Mr Keceli, Ms Wegrzyn, Mrs Castle-Mason and Ms Ferreria.

A Design Technology room for children to be taught woodwork

in. Heathrow contributed the benches through their Grant Scheme. We are very excited about developing this area of our curriculum. A huge thank you to Mr Keceli, Mr Wood, Ms Wegrzyn and Ms Ferreria.

A Self Regulation Space for children to access. An enormous thank you to Ms Ferreria for having such a brilliant vision for this space in our school.

We are also excited to see the development of;

- The 100 trees we planted
- The new Art Gallery
- House of Byrds (Pupil Leadership room)
- The newly created Lego room for Byrd's Builders!

As you already know we do so many brilliant things to enhance the curriculum offer. It is always really difficult to decide which are my personal highlights. This term, my top three highlights would have to be:

1. Our school Choir performing at so many events; singing at the Civic Centre during the turning on of the Christmas Lights, Christmas singing on Harlington Green and performing Christmas songs at Heathrow Airport!
2. The Year5 swimming lessons - every year it astounds me how much you learn in such a short amount of time.
3. Seeing all the parents that have spent time in school supporting their children; class assemblies, 'stay and plays' in Nursery as well as the fabulous Nativity Play in Year 2.

This term we say goodbye to Miss Cotterill, who will be hugely missed by children, staff and parents. Miss Cotterill has made an enormous contribution to William Byrd over the last 7 years. We would like to wish her the best of luck in her next role.

I would also like to thank the PTA for their contributions this term. All your hard work and commitment does not go unnoticed and I am looking forward to all the exciting things we have planned in 2025! Next term is looking just as exciting!

Warmest regards,

N. Edwards

MS N EDWARDS
Head of School



EXCITING NEW SITE DEVELOPMENT FOR 2025!

OUR NEW KITCHEN AREA



OUR NEW DESIGN TECHNOLOGY ROOM



OUR NEW SELF REGULATION SPACE



NURSERY THIS TERM

This term, nursery children were excited to start our new project: making paper. The results are amazing, and we created special Christmas cards. We have been reading "We're Going on a Bear Hunt," and the children prepared for our bear hunt with enthusiasm and lots of imagination. They have been learning the meanings of the words "under," "over," and "through."



The children have been getting to know their environments, including their homes, school, and places in the local community. They explored colours through interactions and play. Additionally, they enjoyed reading "Peace at Last," which provided an opportunity to learn about the sounds around us. The children have been looking at numbers, shapes, and different patterns.

Our last story, "The Gingerbread Man," led us into cooking. We had a lot of fun making our gingerbread men! We also created a lovely display for Remembrance Day. This term, we celebrated Diwali, Bonfire Night, and Children in Need.



NURSERY THIS TERM

A big thank you to Sally McGregor, Oral Health Promoter from Hillingdon Community Dental Service, for the amazing workshop provided for our little ones and their parents.



We ended the term celebrating Christmas with our friends and parents at our Christmas Fun Day. Thank you to everyone who attended.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

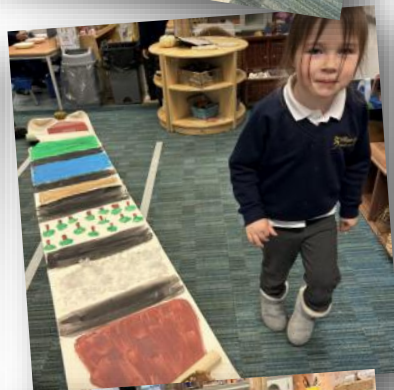
This half term in Reception has been incredibly exciting for the children. They participated in various events, with one of the highlights being the Pedestrian Training, where they learned how to safely cross the road. Additionally, the children delved into the enchanting world of Fairy Tales, gaining insights from the characters' mistakes and expanding their vocabulary. They listened to different stories, re-enacted them, created props, and developed their own plays inspired by these tales.

In Maths, we deepened our understanding of numbers up to 5, as well as 2D shapes, weight, and capacity. We enjoyed reading "The Stickman" by Julia Donaldson and practiced writing sentences based on the story. In preparation for Christmas, the children wrote letters to Father Christmas, which we posted during our walk in the local area. Overall, it has been a busy and thrilling term in Reception. It has been an incredibly exciting half term in Reception. The children took part in various events that took place this half term. One of the highlights was the Pedestrian training where children learnt how to be safe when crossing the road. This half term the children also explored the magical topic of Fairy Tales, learning from the mistakes of characters and building new vocabulary. The children listened to the different tales, re-enacted them, created props for them and developed various plays based on fairy tales. In Maths this term, we developed deeper understanding of numbers to 5, 2D shapes, weight and capacity.

We have read "The Stickman" story by Julia Donaldson and practiced to hold and write a sentence based on this story. When preparing for Christmas we wrote a letter to Father Christmas which we posted ourselves during our walk to the local area. We have had a very busy and thrilling term in Reception.



RECEPTION THIS TERM



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Pedestrian Training

As a preparation for our first walk to local area, the Reception children have been learning how to be safe when crossing the road. The children learnt a very simple rule: "Stop, look, listen, hold hands!" that everyone should follow before crossing the road.

Thank you to the Stars Team from School Travel and Road Safety Education in Hillingdon for this wonderful training.



Shopping Experience

Our Reception children had a fantastic time going on a shopping experience at the local Co-op. The children bought sweets for their friends as a Christmas treat. For many of our children this was the very first independent shopping experience. The children had to choose something, pay for the item, receive the change and receipt. The trip was also an excellent opportunity to talk about familiar places and buildings in our local community and the importance of how to cross the road safely.

Thank you to Co-op shop in Harlington High Street for being so welcoming and accommodating our visit.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Shopping Experience



Show and Tell

The Show and Tell Fridays have been a great success in Reception this term. The children brought their favourite toys, books, photographs and used their oracy skills to describe the object, explain where it is from, what they like to do with it, and why is it special to them. These sessions help children practice their expressive language, develop vocabulary, and build confidence when speaking in front of others. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite objects and will continue to do so for another term.



YEAR 1 THIS TERM

Year 1, have had a fantastic half term developing their knowledge and skills across all areas of the curriculum. In Maths, the children have been building their strategies to add and subtract, as well as identifying and sorting 2D and 3D shapes into different categories.

Year 1 have also made excellent progress in their word decoding skills through our daily reading sessions and enriched English program. A particular favourite book has been, 'Grandad's Island' where children re-wrote the story changing the main character.

A real highlight this half term was our writing about our class elf, who surprised us with his antics overnight while we were sleeping. We used this excitement as inspiration for our writing, creating letters both to and about our mischievous but often kind elf. He even bought the class a book!

Our children also enjoyed creating their own stories, and our best stories were submitted to the BBC 500-Word Story competition. These stories were performed in front of the whole school, and it was a joy to see our students share their work with such confidence. Another memorable event was the Spelling Bee, where children competed against each other, in a friendly manner, to memorise our Year 1 common exception words.

In Science, this half term children compared man-made and natural materials, learning how they are produced, sourced, and used in everyday life. A key moment this term was our exciting trip to Cranford Country Park for a forest walk. During this visit, the children explored the natural environment, identifying and classifying various natural materials. They also observed human and physical features such as towering trees and the nearby motorway, deepening their understanding of the UK's landscape. Working together, they built shelters, combining teamwork with their learning about nature. This hands-on experience really brought their geography and science lessons to life.

In Design and Technology, we fostered the children's curiosity and practical skills by comparing fruits and vegetables, creating recipes, and making delicious smoothies. The children learned essential skills such as chopping, peeling, mashing, and blending. They then evaluated their drinks, discussing what they enjoyed and how they could improve their creations.

This half term, Year 1 also took part in a special pedestrian training session on road safety. The children learned to stop, look, listen, and think before crossing the road, reinforcing the importance of staying alert and cautious in traffic. They explored the meaning of traffic light colours and how these signals help keep everyone safe. Through interactive activities, the children practised making safe decisions in various road scenarios. This experience helped them develop essential life skills and a deeper understanding of road safety.



YEAR 2 THIS TERM

This term in Year 2 we have been preparing for our wonderful Christmas Production called The Boogie Woogie Nativity. It tells the story of Christmas with lots of catchy songs. We had boogie woogie angels, an animal band and much more! We invited parents to come and watch and it was a fantastic turn out.

Writing this term we have been looking at poetry and we are also looking at a diary. We have looked at the different concepts needed for a diary as well as the layout and compared it to a story to see the difference.

In maths, we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We used the knowledge we already know and built on it. We have been looking at faces, vertices and polygons. We have also been grouping shapes and working on our reasoning skills to explain our answers.

In science, we have been looking at animals and learning their names as well as their babies names comparing different types of animal babies. We have also looked at the lifecycle of a ladybird and ordering it on a diagram.

In RE this term we have been learning all about holy books in different religions. To link to this learning we went to visit the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Southall. This visit gave us the opportunity to delve deeper into Sikhism and find out about their holy book the Guru Granth Sahib. We went on a tour and were able to experience how Sikh's worship their holy book and what is written inside, including listening to a verse from the book. It was such a wonderful experience for our children and we gained some great knowledge from it.



YEAR 3 THIS TERM

It's been another busy and exciting term in Year 3! Here's a quick overview of what your child has been learning:

English: The children have been diving into the world of narratives, using the story of Stone Age Boy as inspiration. They've been developing their writing skills, creating their own prehistoric adventures while focusing on story structure, character development, and using descriptive language to bring their stories to life.

Reading: We have been reading *Stig of the Dump*. The children have loved finding out about the adventures Barney has got into with Stig and answering questions all about it.

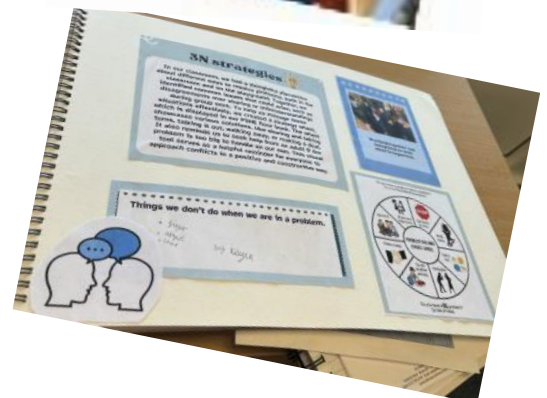
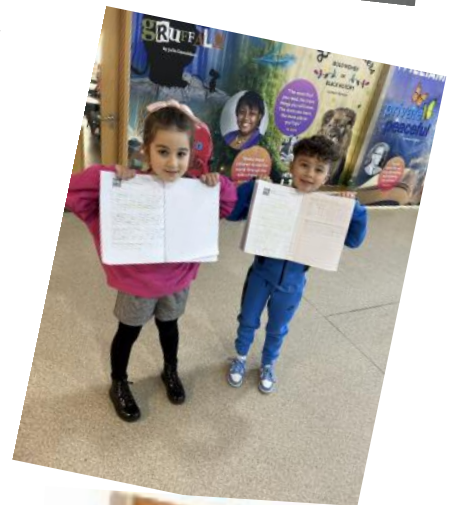
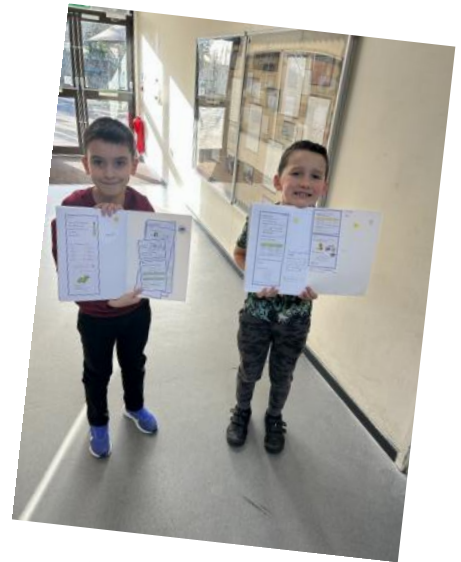
Maths: In Maths, we've been building our skills in addition and subtraction. The children have been working with both mental and written methods to solve a range of problems, including using number lines and word problems. They've also been exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction to strengthen their understanding.

Art: Our creative streak continued in Art as the children explored prehistoric times by making their very own Stone Age pots. We also collected nature from the local area to inspire patterns for our pots.

Music: In Music, the children have been introduced to rhythm and beats through R&B music. They've been exploring different patterns and rhythms, learning about the instruments commonly used in this genre, and even experimenting musical activities. We learnt a song on *Charanga* and practiced singing it as a class.

Geography: In Geography, we've been learning about settlements, focusing on how people lived in the past and how settlements have evolved over time. The children have been exploring different types of settlements and their features, from ancient villages to modern cities.

PSHE: We have been thinking carefully all about 'valuing difference'. We have learnt about respect and communities.



YEAR 4 THIS TERM

What a fabulous and busy term we've had in Year Four! We started off the term with our new reading unit based on the book *The Lion Above the Door* by Onjali Q. Raúf. We thoroughly enjoyed reading this historical fiction text and learning more about the Royal Air Force (RAF). This seamlessly led into our understanding of Remembrance Day this term and why many countries around the world honour this significant day.

We also celebrated No Pens Day, where we didn't write at all. Instead, we focused on our oracy skills. We pretended to be evening news anchors and reported on the mammals found in our oceans. Following that, we created paper boats for our writing unit based on the book *Float* by Daniel Miyares. This story is about a boy who makes a paper boat, but a terrible storm comes and ruins it—an experience that mirrored our own as we imagined ourselves as the character in the story.

In art, we completed our unit focused on the Welsh artist Gwen John. Our final pieces were created using new sketching techniques and blending colours with oil pastels. Next, we moved into our favourite learning of the term: Design and Technology, where we created our own tartlets. We had a lot of fun learning about eating a balanced diet, developing our very own flavour profiles, crafting recipes, and then making the pastry and filling. It was a whole lot of fun—and delicious, too!

We finished the term with a trip to the Compass Theatre to watch a pantomime based on *Snow White*. It was a delightful experience and a wonderful way to wrap up the term.



YEAR 5 THIS TERM

On the last day of Autumn 1, Year 5 went to Legoland to do a workshop about gravity and friction - then we tested our new knowledge by going on some of the amazing rides. In Reading and Writing, we studied the book Cosmic (which helped us consolidate some of our knowledge on space). In DT, we created Automaton and worked in the new woodshop. We also had the opportunity to go to St. Peter and Paul's Church to see how Christians celebrate Christmas. We have loved all of the exciting things we have done (including learning the words to the Fresh Prince of Bel Air in Music). We're looking forward to next term!



YEAR 6 THIS TERM

Year 6 Christmas Market

The Year 6 students participated in the second annual Christmas Market. They spent a day brainstorming and creating products to sell at the market. One group baked various treats, including chocolate pinecones and cake pops, while another group made Christmas cards and ornaments. All the goods were sold at the Christmas Market on December 16th, and the proceeds will go towards end-of-year activities for the Year 6 pupils.



YEAR 6 THIS TERM

Our William Byrd Christmas Choir has had a busy season! The choir, consisting of 32 dedicated pupils selected from a larger group, rehearsed tirelessly for several events:

Hillingdon Civic Centre Lights On

On November 15th, our choir joined three others at the Uxbridge Civic Centre to perform alongside a brass band. The mayor presented the event, and the children even met actors from the Beck Theatre pantomime!



Christmas on the Green

On December 13th, our choir sang with a brass band at the first-ever Christmas event on Harlington Green.



Carols at Heathrow

On December 17th, our choir was invited to perform at Heathrow Terminal 2 for a carol concert. It was an incredible opportunity to showcase our talents.

KS2 Music Showcase

On December 18th, our choir performed alongside other musicians to display their talents to the entire KS2 audience!

YEAR 6 THIS TERM

Woodwork with Year 6

Our year 6 children had an opportunity to make their first woodworking project as they prepared for their debut as entrepreneurs.

The pupils learnt about benefits of wooden products, their qualities and durability, popularity in the market, high demands, and high profits of such businesses before they started working with wood in our new DT room.

The children learnt various skills including: cutting, sanding, drilling, screwing, whilst creating table risers for their Christmas Market.



IN OTHER NEWS

500 Word Festival

On the 5th of December, the finalists from our 500 word story competition performed their stories in front of the school and their parents/carers. The stories ranged from hilarious comedies, gripping dramas and heart-felt diaries. The children rehearsed and worked on their projection, intonation, actions and voice. All of their stories were also submitted to the official BBC competition.

CLASS	TWO WINNERS
1K	Felson Benjamin
1H	Wynter Juba
1M	Arfa Favour
2A	Abdulrahman Aderlyn
2S	Neel Chiara
2J	Isha Monisha
3B	Khushi Conor
3N	Ikram Azheer
3F	Rodrigo
4T	Rylen Everleigh
4S	Vajeeha Maeve
4F	Alaa Ravneet
5C	Joshberg Victoria
5H	Omar Prayag
5J	Hanan Abis
6A	Ammar Harvey
6S	Dylan Yaryna
6M	Samia Tyler

IN OTHER NEWS

Father Christmas & Elves Classroom Visit

Father Christmas and his naughty elves visited our classrooms this week. The children loved seeing them and received beautiful gifts. Thank you to Father Christmas & his Elves!!!



Children in Need

With your amazing help, this year we raised **£433.35** for Children in Need. Thank you for your donations!

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all the children who took part in our Christmas Jumper Day. We raised **£46!**



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Click on the icons below or scan the QR codes.



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@wbpacademy



Follow us on
X



@WBPAcademy

PTA NEWS

The PTA would like to wish all the families and friends of William Byrd Primary, a very Merry Christmas and an amazing new year! We hope you have a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing you all back at school on 8th January! We want to thank all the parents and carers for their ongoing support of the PTA and the school. Whether it is wearing a Christmas jumper or bringing in a box of cereal, we want you to know that it is very much appreciated and your support goes a long way.

The Year 6/PTA Christmas Fair

Thank you to all those who attended the Christmas Fair on Monday 16th December. It was very warming to see so many of you join us in support of our Year 6 children. They did a fantastic job on their stalls and there was some great emerging talent: Christmas cards, artwork, baubles, snow globes, bracelets, and loads more. We all stuffed our faces with the yummy samosas, pizzas, and doughnuts and we hope you enjoyed it! The henna, face painting and glitter tattoos topped it all off. Did anyone spot the Grinch?!

Naughty Elves

The children had a visit from Father Christmas and 2 of his elves on Tuesday 17th December! How well behaved they all were! They showed Father Christmas some beautiful singing and good listening. Father Christmas was treated to several Christmas carols and even stopped to hear a few present requests. Father Christmas also confirmed that there were NO William Byrd children on his naughty list. Well done!

Father Christmas then had to return to the North Pole to continue his good work, but his 2 elves had something else up their sleeves! They were spotted being very naughty and disrupting all the classes.....



Can we remind all our supporters to follow William Byrd on Instagram at [wbacademy](https://www.instagram.com/wbacademy), where you'll be able to keep up to date on everything we do.

Again, thank you for always being so generous and an important part of our community. We wish you a wonderful festive season.





William Byrd
PRIMARY ACADEMY



Follow us on
Instagram



- Design technology classroom
- Kitchen classroom
- Self regulation room
- Specialist music teacher
- Specialist PE teacher
- Large outdoor area
- Impressive learning environment



Do you have a child who will be starting nursery or reception in September 2025?
WE HAVE PLACES AVAILABLE!
Come and see our wonderful school in action.

OPEN MORNINGS

FRIDAY 17 JANUARY

From 9:15am no booking required.



We also have limited places in other year groups, please contact the school office for more information.

For information on how to apply, scan the QR code or visit our website

www.williambyrd.school/admissions

WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY ACADEMY
Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex UB3 5EW
enquiries@williambyrd.school
www.williambyrd.school
01895 462 394



**MIDDLESEX
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**

You asked - we answered!

Many parents have requested that we extend wrap around care to include nursery aged children. We think it is a great idea and welcome nursery aged children to Early Byrds and Blue Byrds.

**NOW OPEN TO
NURSERY!**

RISE & SHINE
WITH OUR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AT

Early Byrds

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY
7:30 - 8:40**

DOORS CLOSED AT 8:10

NURSERY - YEAR 6

**COME ALONG, HAVE A
HEALTHY FILLING BREAKFAST**
AND PLAY WITH YOUR
FRIENDS BEFORE SCHOOL**

TABLE TENNIS
ART
CHESS
DRESSING UP
COLOURING/PAINTING
GAMES
CARDS
LEGO/DUPLO
PUZZLES
ORIGAMI
OUTSIDE PLAY
AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

**ALL FOR JUST £3.50
PER CHILD PER DAY
NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

**Typical foods include: A variety of cereals,
toast, bagels, fresh fruits, fruit loaf & juice



**NO BOOKING
REQUIRED**

£3.50

**PER CHILD
PER DAY**

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Blue Byrds

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

15:20 - 17:00

NURSERY - YEAR 6

FULL SESSION | 15:20-17:00

£10 PER CHILD

PART-TIME SESSION | 15:20-16:00

£5.00 PER CHILD

PART-TIME SESSION | 16:00-17:00

(FOR CHILDREN WHO ATTEND AN AFTER SCHOOL CLUB)

£5.00 PER CHILD

If you would like to register your child for after school care, please collect a registration form from the school office or sign up online at:

www.williambyrd.school/bluebyrds

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

The cost includes a snack and a drink, organised or free-choice play activities and support with homework if required.



**BOOK ALL
SESSIONS
ONLINE**



www.williambyrd.school/bluebyrds

LITTLE BYRDS IS BACK!

We would like to welcome our community, children under 3, to our Stay & Play session every Friday which are being held in our Blue Byrds (Community Room).

The session involves parents/carers staying with their child/children and there will be lots of activities for you to enjoy with your child and other families.

There will also be a snack and song time and opportunities to play outside in the warmer weather. All this for a contribution of £1 per session.

If you have any questions, please email littlebyrds@williambyrd.school

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Little Byrds will re open on **Friday 10 January 2025** (dates to follow on the school website).

William Byrd
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mums, Dads and Carers come along and join our

Little Byrds
Stay & Play
Every Friday
8.45-11.00
Blue Byrds Room

Term time only
£1 weekly contribution on arrival

To book your place please visit our website
www.williambyrd.school/littlebyrds

Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex UB3 5EW
01895 462 394
littlebyrds@williambyrd.school
www.williambyrd.school

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Scan the QR code to book your session online or visit our website

www.williambyrd.school/littlebyrds

KEY DATES FOR 2025

EVENT	DATE/TIME
INSET Day (no children in school)	06/01/25
INSET Day (no children in school)	07/01/25
Children return to School (normal time)	08/01/25
Reception Height & Weight Checks	09/01/25
Clubs Start for Spring Term	W/c 13/01/25
2S Parent/Carer Evening	16/01/25
Open Morning at 9am	17/01/25
2:45pm 4T Class Assembly	20/01/25
2:45pm 4S Class Assembly	21/01/25
2:45pm 4F Class Assembly	23/01/25
Chinese New Year Celebration Day	31/01/25
Children's Mental Health Week	W/c 03/02/25
9am & 2:15pm School Improvement Presentation to Parents	04/02/25
Wear a Scarf to School Day	07/02/25
Young Voices Club finishes	10/02/25
Young Voices Trip	11/02/25
2:45pm Computing Support Workshop for Parents	13/02/25
Mufti Day (donation of toys)	14/02/25
Multiplication Masters	14/02/25
February Half Term	17/02/25—21/02/25
Talk Pants Workshop for Parents	27/02/25
Year 6 Bikeability	03/03/25—06/03/25
Year 3 Pedestrian Training	04/03/25
World Book Day	06/03/25
10am Triple P Seminar for Parents	12/03/25
Parent/Carer Evening— School closes at 1pm	13/03/25
Comic Relief Day	14/03/25
2:45pm 2A Class Assembly	17/03/25
2:45pm 2S Class Assembly	18/03/25
2pm KS1 Music Showcase	19/03/25
2:45pm 2J Class Assembly	20/03/25
Year 6 Junior Citizens Event at Brunel Uni	21/03/25
Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop for children	25/03/25
Easter Fair—Details to follow	26/03/25

KEY DATES FOR 2025

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Clubs Finish for Spring Term	28/03/25
Mufti Day (money donation)	28/03/25
Eid Celebration Day	28/03/25
Spelling Bee Competition	28/03/25
Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop for children	01/04/25
Year 6 Trip to see Lion King	02/04/25
Nursery PM last day	03/04/25
Class Parties	03/04/25
Spring Disco—Details to follow	03/04/25
End of Term—School finishes at 1pm	04/04/25

WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

MIDDLESEX LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

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



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PARTNERSHIP**