

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have experienced lots of successes this year already. Most notably, our new and improved approach to pupil leadership. We have 4 wonderful head students; Mohamed, Abigail, Abdul and Samia. The Pupil Parliament have been democratically elected and other leadership roles have been established. These include;

- Sports Leaders
- Anti-bullying Ambassadors,
- Science Leaders
- · Reading Leaders
- Eco-Leaders
- Art Leaders



Each pupil leadership group have been discussing their projects and the impact on the school. We are all excited to see what they achieve this year.

There have been many opportunities for parents to come in and find out more about our school this term. I taught a Y6 Reading lesson to parents and we plan for more opportunities like these in the coming terms. In this session, many parents requested an online platform for maths homework. We are delighted to announce we have subscribed to MyMaths and will be launching the service next half term! All information will be shared after half term.



I look forward to seeing you all in the new term.

. Edwards

Warmest regards,

MS N EDWARDS

Head of School

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PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM



S.T.E.M. LEADERS











NURSERY THIS TERM

This term in Nursery, the children have been acquainting themselves with their friends, teachers, and the new environment through interactions and play. They have been learning to communicate with each other and manage their emotions during their initial days at school. They have been studying their families and identifying important individuals, as well as reflecting on themselves and discussing similarities and differences. Our children have also embraced the role of explorers this term. They embarked on a leaf hunt around our garden and field, gathering various colourful leaves. We delved into the life cycle of a leaf, categorised them by colour, and practiced counting.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

The Reception children have been actively adjusting to their new environment. They've been familiarising themselves with class routines and expectations, building relationships through daily interactions and activities, and exploring pre-writing skills through music and movement. Additionally, they've begun to learn about individuality, the value of friendship, and the support available in our school and community. This half-term, the children have also started learning Phonics, and we've had the pleasure of welcoming many Reception parents to observe reading lessons and learn how to support their children in learning to read. It's been an exciting and enjoyable half-term!



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Our Reception children went for an autumn walk, marking the beginning of their new project "Exploring Autumn". The children wore welly boots and went to look for signs of the new season. They collected colourful leaves, twigs, conkers, acorns, and seeds. Our children made different creatures using what they found. They created some fantastic artwork all inspired by our story "Leaf Man". The children enjoyed finding out about the natural changes that happen during the season of autumn, including how the weather changes, why trees lose their leaves, and how wild animals prepare for winter.



YEAR 1 THIS TERM

Year 1, have been working exceptionally hard this half term, showing great resilience and curiosity across all subjects of the curriculum. In Maths, the children have been using a variety of manipulatives to grasp new concepts and collaborating to solve questions on place value and addition.



In Reading, Year 1 has been focused during every lesson, striving to become even better readers. Our daily phonics sessions have led to significant progress, and we read and listen to stories every day to enrich our vocabulary, immerse ourselves in fantastical worlds, and become more accomplished writers. A particular favourite has been "Bold Women in Black History," where we learnt about Florence Joyner and her sprinting records.

A highlight this half term was our Grandparents' Day, where children dressed up as grandparents for our unit on Little Red Riding Hood. They had a fantastic time acting out the play and creating puppets based on the story. This creative approach not only brought the tale to life but also helped the children connect with their own family histories.



We also celebrated Poetry Day, where the children wrote poems about their favourite colours and performed them in class. It was heart-warming to see their creativity shine as they expressed their feelings through words and shared their performances with classmates.

YEAR 1 THIS TERM

In Science, the children are developing their skills in conducting experiments, recording results and sharing their findings. They have enjoyed investigating different materials and their properties, testing their suitability for tasks such as determining which materials would be best for making an umbrella.

Art has been another area of great engagement this half term, as the children learned about primary colours and the colour wheel. They created fantastic art pieces using paint, exploring techniques like rolling paint, pressing to create symmetrical designs, and even painting sunsets.

This half term, Year 1 also had a special visit to St. Mary's Vicarage, where Revd Richard Young taught us about the important parts of a Christian church. The children learned to name and describe key features, including the shape of the church, and to explain what happens inside during worship. This experience deepened their understanding of Christian beliefs and practices.



As their teachers, we are incredibly proud of all their achievements and look forward to celebrating even more successes as the year progresses. Well done, Year 1!



YEAR 2 THIS TERM

We are off to a great start in Year 2 with lots of enthusiasm and curiosity about the curriculum. We have been exploring the story "Grandad's Secret Giant" and have written our own narratives, changing characters and using similes to describe their size. Currently, we are delving into a non-fiction text about Mary Seacole, which ties in with our History topic for the term.

In Maths, we have covered place value and are now focusing on addition and subtraction with numbers up to 100, using number bonds to help us.

Our Science lessons have involved studying materials and their properties, including waterproofness and absorbency. We've conducted experiments to test different materials and were surprised by our findings.

In History, we've been learning about the history of nursing, including the impact of the NHS and the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We compared their contributions and wrote a comparison as an end-of-unit assignment.

On Poetry Day, we wrote poems about the five senses, focusing on pineapples. In Music, we've been learning to play the Djembe, exploring different hits and volumes. The children have been enjoying these activities and look forward to them each week.



YEAR 3 THIS TERM

The Year 3 children at William Byrd have enjoyed a fantastic start to life in Key Stage 2. They successfully presented their class assemblies and shared their learning with families and peers. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Stone Age in history - this formed the basis of their class assembly. We also visited The Great barn in Harmondsworth - the children learnt all about how farming has changed through the ages and looked at the local history of the area. To finish the half term on a high, the children got to see an actual piece of the moon in science. The piece was rented and obtained by astronauts in the 1970s. Safe to say the children were over the moon to see it!







YEAR 4 THIS TERM

It has been an exciting term in Year 4. We started the term by reading our new text, "Who Let the Gods Out" by Maz Evans. This book is about a boy named Elliot who meets a constellation god called Virgo. We have really enjoyed reading this text in class and are excited to continue reading it next term.

Additionally, we have had a lot of fun learning about pitch, pulse, and beat in music through our new music curriculum. We particularly enjoyed learning about these concepts through the ABBA song "Mamma Mia!" In art, we focused on the Welsh artist Gwendolyn John. We learned that she uses different mediums in her portraits, so we have been experimenting with charcoal, pencil, and pastels in our sketches.



YEAR 5 THIS TERM

This half term has been packed with excitement and new learning opportunities for Year 5! We kicked things off with a fantastic fire safety workshop, where we learned essential tips on keeping ourselves and our families safe from fires at home. For two weeks, we also took part in swimming lessons, helping us to build confidence in the water and improve our swimming skills.

Music lovers in Year 5 were thrilled to take part in the Rock Steady Music Workshop, where we got hands-on experience with instruments and learned to work together as a band. A group of us were lucky enough to visit Thorpe Park as part of a special STEM leader trip, exploring the science behind rollercoasters and theme park rides—what an adventure! And, as if that wasn't enough, we even had the chance to see a piece of the moon, brought to us by NASA, which left us all in awe.

In the classroom, our learning has been just as exciting. We've been diving into space-themed lessons, writing texts such as *One Small Step* and *Mars Transmission* while also enjoying the thought -provoking story, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. It's been an amazing half term, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us!







YEAR 6 THIS TERM

We've had an incredible start to Year 6, packed with learning and exciting activities! In Reading, we've been diving into the novel *All the Things That Could Go Wrong* by Stewart Foster. While exploring the story, we've been sharpening our skills in understanding words in context, retrieving key details, and making inferences about what's happening beneath the surface of the text.

In Writing, we've been letting our imaginations run wild. First, we crafted some spine-chilling ghost stories inspired by the eerie novel *Thornhill*. The students have done an amazing job weaving suspense into their stories. Then, we took on a 500-word challenge, where we had the freedom to write about any topic of our choice, encouraging creativity and unique storytelling.

Our Science lessons have been fascinating! We've been learning how to classify different organisms and discovering what conditions are most favorable for bacteria to grow and thrive. These lessons have sparked curiosity, and we've had some fantastic discussions about the living world around us.

Recently, we had a special visit from Heathrow, who came to talk to us about what to expect when transitioning to secondary school. It was a mix of excitement and nerves, but overall, we learned a lot about what the future holds as we move on to the next stage of our education.

Looking ahead, we can hardly wait for our upcoming trip to the Tate Modern in November! It's sure to be a memorable experience, and we're all excited to see some incredible art and get inspired for our future



PTA NEWS

Next Term

Next term will see the Year 6 Christmas Fair and it'll be here before you can say Jingle Bells! This gives the Year 6's a chance to be innovative and raise funds towards their end of school prom and/or Leavers Sweatshirts. It's also a chance for the PTA to put on a good time for parents and carers. If you joined in the festivities last year, you'll know that it was a huge hit and cannot be missed. If you or anyone you know has something they can donate towards the raffle, tombola, game prizes, or are interested in holding a stall, please do let us know or email us at PTA@williambyrd.school

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who sent food items in for the Harvest Festival. Thanks to you, we were able to top up our local foodbanks for those who need it a little more.

Marketing Boards

As a you may have seen previously, Oakwood Estates very kindly market our school fairs. It's a great way to spread the word and let the community know to come and join in. If you are interested in a board being placed outside your home, please let the PTA know and we will add you to the list. Boards are usually installed a week or so before the event.

Davina's Walk

Our very own Davina took part in a 10 mile walk with her work colleagues, to raise money for the Kids Cancer Charity. Davina mentioned she 'isn't much of a walker so this was big for me!'. Well done Davina! If you would like to donate towards the charity, please visit www.justgiving.com/team/medequipmoonwalkers

Asda Cash Pot

Do you or anyone you know shop at Asda? Did you know, if you download the Rewards app, you can help our school every time you scan?! Just like a Tesco Clubcard, when scanning the barcode from the app, you are contributing to the William Byrd School fund. Follow the instructions or speak to the PTA to help you set this up.



PTA NEWS

Halloween Disco

Calling all Spooky Scary Skeletons!!!! Thank you for partying with us yesterday. It was a thriller!!!! What amazing discos we had and what impressive costumes!!! You guys did amazingly!!! The children enjoyed several rounds of musical statues and musical bumps and it was terribly terribly difficult for the adults to tap anyone out - the kids did so well! Congratulations to all the winners!



And finally, we'd like to thank all of you, from the parents and carers to the school staff, and all our wonderful students. Thank you for your continuous efforts and support. The possibilities truly are endless when you have a common interest. We all love our school, and teamwork makes the dream work. Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy half-term. We'll see you all back here on Monday 4th November.



In loving memory of



Raye Page

14 November 1961~5 October 2024

Our Lovely Ms Page

As some of you may or may not know, our lovely Ms Page who worked at William Byrd from 1992 to 2022, sadly passed on away on Saturday 5th October. Ms Page was a huge part of our school and worked as a Learning Support Assistant. Ms Page loved working with children, was a much loved staff member and big part of our wider community.

Ms Page we will miss you dearly.

Our thoughts are with her loved ones at this time.

IN OTHER NEWS

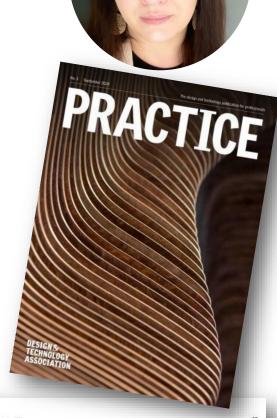
Woodwork at William Byrd

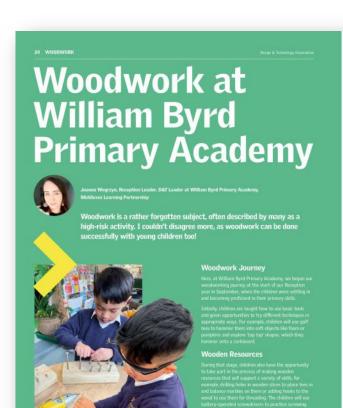
Mrs Wegrzyn, our Reception Leader, was recently featured in September's Practice magazine, discussing the topic of woodwork at William Byrd. We are incredibly fortunate to have her at our school and are immensely proud of the valuable contributions she has made to both the school and the early years program.

"Woodwork is a rather forgotten subject, often described by many as a high-risk activity. I couldn't disagree more, as woodwork can be done successfully with young children too! Woodwork Journey Here, at William Byrd Primary Academy, we began our woodworking journey at the start of our Reception year in September, when the children were settling in and becoming proficient in their primary skills. Initially, children are taught how to use basic tools and given opportunities to try different techniques in appropriate ways. For example, children will use golf tees to hammer them into soft objects like foam or pumpkins and explore 'tap tap' shapes, which they hammer onto a corkboard."

Practice Magazine - September 2024

Please <u>click here</u> to access the full article.







As they gain more understanding of woodwork, the children are exposed to another set of sharp tools. This is, when we work on bigger projects that involve cutting and joining wood. All this stage, the children's level of engagement in woodwork will deepen as they build their class Christmass trees or birdfreders.

Giving the children opportunities to witness and engage in projects that have so much purpose boods their pride and self-esteem. Naturally, children are drawn to the idea of "Let's make it!" rather than looking for something to substitute a resource or toy.

The Workshop

When we observed the prominent level of engagement in woodwork, we decided to create a specie that would encourage independent exploration. This is how "The Workshopf came to life in our outdoor area. In this workshop, children have access to real tools and materials they have been learning to use safely throughout the first term. Of cozers, the saring progresses at each child's individual pace; therefore, the space continues the use of different tools. The role of an adult to to make a skilled judgement and support individual children in using different tools and materials.

Our Workshop space was created using simple furniture found on free-cycling websites; the wood was either purchased or brought in by parents, and the tools the children are using are from our DAT resources.

The workshop has simple peg board made on a pallet with wheels which allows easy access and clear storage. The workbench has come from a builder's van and makes a perfect worktop for children to use.

Recycled Materials

In this area, children have access to recyclable materials like cork lids, buttons, pins, wood slices from a Christmas Tree, etc and are encouraged to make unique creations. This area was introduced to the children gradually with an emphasis on safety, followed by supervised exploration.

The children will be creating and problem-solving here while

We are observing how woodwork encourages independence and a high level of engagement. The children spend considerably longer in this area than with other activities. The children are more spendence of the control of the children are more grown since we started encodownizing. We have also witnessed a change in children's regioness to an erem as they are more keep to by something again either than giving up, making them more resolinet and applications.

brought so much joy to our setting.

rould like to thank Lol Conway, Curriculum Consultant from the if Association for the inspiring D&T training I had the immense asure to be part of.

Links



the wonders of woodwork Creativity in education – the wonders of woodwork - RSA (therst.org)

IN OTHER NEWS

Music Mark

We are proud to have been accredited as a Music Mark school 2024. We have been awarded this status in celebration of our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum which values music and supports access to music for all children.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 27 September we held our annual coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who supported with cake or cash donations.

A fantastic £76.15 was raised for the wonderful charity.



It is getting cold...

We are fast approaching winter, clocks are due to go back within the week and the daylight hours are becoming shorter. Children may find themselves travelling to and from school in the hours of darkness over the coming months. Children and their parents/carers are reminded that in order to maximise their safety on their journeys to and from school we would recommend:

- Where possible, children walk/travel in pairs or groups to and from school
- Walk down main roads/routes that are well lit. Avoid going through parks, alleys or other unlit or poorly lit areas
- Ensure they are alert to the environment around them, avoid wearing headphones or being distracted by mobile phones and other devices
- Children should have a set route to and from school that is discuss with their parents/carers
- Parents/carers have a personal safety conversation with their children
- If they are concerned about their safety, please call the Police straight away on 999

IN OTHER NEWS

World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October, we celebrated World Mental Health Day. This year Young Minds theme was 'wear it loud, wear it proud'.

Lots of us have days when we struggle with our feelings and when this happens it's tough, and can be different to know how to cope. It's important that young people know that there are people around them who can help and they're not the only ones going through this.

Throughout the day the children took part in various activities such as drawing a 'comfort creature'. This is a creature that has all the features that you find comforting in a person or a thing when you are having tough or big feelings.

Some classes watched a video of Doodle Boy and drew whatever makes them happy. Doodling can help us to express how we feel and remember all the positive things in our lives and about the people in their lives who might help them if they have big or tough feelings.

Every class used positive affirmation cards. Affirmations are a simple way for children to build their confidence. Each card has an inspiring message to nurture positive self-talk and internal reflection. By using these cards regularly, children will learn how to have positive feelings about themselves rather than negative self-talk.

A really important part about mental health is knowing what makes us who we are and being proud of these things.

In addition to these activities we had an assembly all about how to support our mental health. No young person should feel alone with their mental health. If you are concerned about your child's mental health or would like some advice to support your child, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Houston elsa@williambyrd.school





OPEN MORNINGS

Wednesday 9 October | Monday 18 November | 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



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!

> **NO BOOKING REQUIRED** £3.50 **PER CHILD**

PER DAY

RISE & SHINE

WITH OUR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AT

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



BOOK ALL SESSIONS ONLINE



www.williambyrd.school/bluebyrds

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.





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 8th November 8:45am-11am and will finish for Christmas break on Friday 20th December.

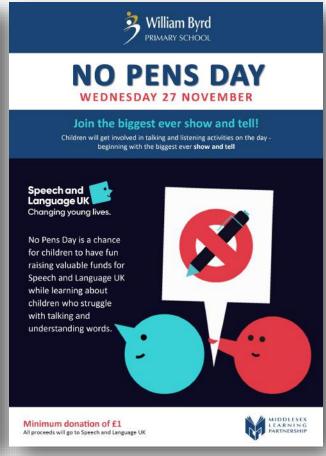


Scan the QR code to book your session online or visit our website www.williambyrd.school/littlebyrds













KEY DATES

Reception Year 6 Flu Vaccination Hillingdon Participation Officer Meeting with Refugee Families	Monday 4 November
Hillingdon Participation Officer Meeting with Refugee Families	
	Tuesday 5 November - 2.30pm
Hillingdon SENDCo Workshop	Wednesday 6 November - 4pm & 5.30pm
Year 1 Trip to the Gruffalo Trail	Thursday 7 November
EYFS Speech and Language & Communication Workshop	Thursday 7 November - 9am
Diwali Celebration Day	Friday 8 November
Remembrance Day	Monday 11 November
Year 2 Trip to Gurdwara	Monday 11 November
Odd Socks Day	Tuesday 12 November
Parent/Carer Evening - School closes at 1.15pm	Thursday 11 November
Children in Need	Friday 15 November
Choir at Hillingdon Christmas Lights	Friday 15 November- 3.30pm-6.45pm
Tree Planting Event	Saturday 16 November - 10am - 12pm
Open Morning	Monday 18 November - 9am KS2 Hall
Year 5 Pedestrian Training	Tuesday 19 November
Spelling Bee	Thursday 21 November
Year 5 Reading Lesson for Parents/Carers	Friday 22 November - 9am
Book Fair	Tuesday 26 November - Monday 2 December
Year 6 Trip to Tate Modern	Tuesday 26 November
Coffee Afternoon with Young Carers	Tuesday 26 November - 2.30pm
No Pens Day	Wednesday 27 November
Year 6 Gangs Workshop for Children	Thursday 28 November
Reception Pedestrian Training	Thursday 28 November
INSET Day (no school for children)	Friday 29 November
Grief Awareness Week	Monday 2 December
Year 1 Pedestrian Training	Tuesday 3 December
Storytelling Festival	Thursday 5 December
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 13 December
Clubs Finish	Friday 13 December
Year 6 and PTA Christmas Fair	Monday 16 December - 2.30pm-4.30pm
Class Parties	Tuesday 17 December
Christmas Lunch for Children	Wednesday 18 December
Nursery PM Last Day of Term	Thursday 19 December
Last Day of Term	Friday 20 December - School closes at 1pm

WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY ACADEMY

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

MIDDLESEX LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

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

