



Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to thank everyone in our school community for their patience and understanding whilst the roof works are being undertaken and we adjust to the reduced playground space. Despite these changes, it's wonderful to see the children really enjoying the new climbing equipment on the Key Stage 2 playground. Thank you to all those who helped make our recent International Fair such a success — your support, including PTA members, stallholders, and volunteers, was greatly appreciated. We are also very grateful to the PTA for their generous contribution towards three new table top games tables, which will be available for the children to use after half-term on the KS2 playground. Finally, a big well done to our Year 6 pupils for their impressive resilience during last week's SATs week; they coped with the additional pressure with maturity and teamwork. A huge thank you to them and their dedicated teaching team for managing the week so well. Have a relaxing half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 3 June**.



Yours sincerely

RD Howell

Robert Howell
Headteacher

Nursery News

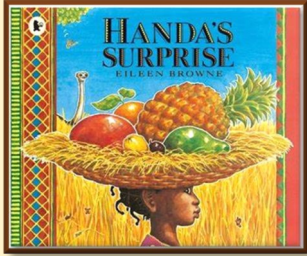


This term the children have been busy learning about farm animals and plant and animal lifecycles through our stories and rhymes. First we read *Spot Goes to the Farm* and *Oh Dear* and learned lots of farm animal and baby farm animal names. We had lots of fun making farm animal sounds with our song *Old MacDonald Had A Farm* and *If You Take A Ride Through the Countryside*. The highlight of our farm learning was having the animals from Miller's Ark come to visit. We got to get up close to them and stroked, brushed and fed them. Farmer Sam brought along donkeys, a sheep, a lamb (who was very sleepy!), snorting pigs, hungry goats (who loved being fussed and stroked!), chickens and ducks.

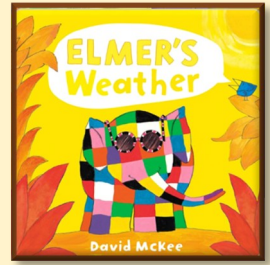
For the next two weeks we worked on the story *Jasper's Beanstalk* and learned about the lifecycle of a plant from a tiny bean to giant beanstalk. We painted magic beans, beanstalk leaves and Jasper's and we did some science experiments; looking at seeds from different fruits and planting a bean to see what happens. We were very excited to see it grows roots and leaves!

Finally we read the classic story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and learned about the lifecycle of a butterfly from tiny egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis (cocoon), to a beautiful butterfly! We did lots of pattern work, making caterpillars from different shapes and learned about symmetry by painting beautiful butterfly wings. We also learned about healthy eating and occasional treats, and played a counting game feeding the caterpillar pieces of food which matched the number on the dice. Outside we have enjoyed looking for real bugs in our log pile garden.





Wow, what a fun-packed term we have had!



This term, our core text has been *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne. We have been reading the story, focusing on the different fruits and animals in the text. The children have enjoyed learning all about different animals. Tying in with our core text, and the continent of Africa, the children have created art inspired by African textiles using primary colours.

Our complimentary texts this term have been *Touch and Feel Animals* by Eric Carle and *Elmer's Weather* by David McKee. The children have enjoyed the different sensory elements of 'Touch and feel animals. Adults have been modelling the match +1 language in the text to encourage descriptive language. *Elmer's Weather* has tied into our theme for this term - 'Weather and Seasons'. The children have enjoyed talking about the different weather in the story and linking this to the different seasons of the year.

In Maths this term, we have continued to focus on rote counting, numeral recognition and understanding quantity. We have also been exploring capacity using the key vocabulary 'full and empty'. The children have enjoyed demonstrating capacity through water play and different sized containers.

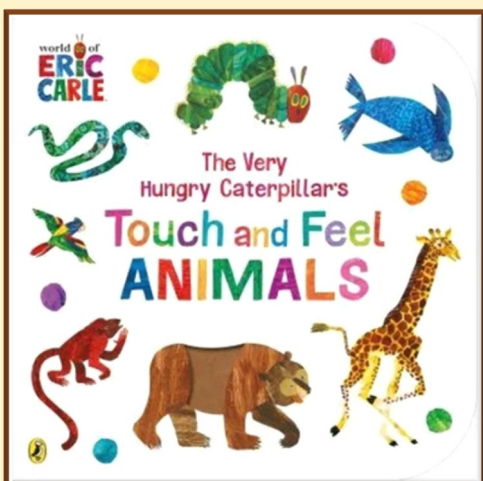
This term we have continued to provide daily 'Attention Autism - bucket game' interventions to promote focus and attention. The children have demonstrated excellent understanding of expectations and routine during these sessions. We have also continued to work on our sentence formation using colourful semantics. We have been practising our fine motor skills daily to improve our pencil grip and letter formation.

This term we enjoyed a visit from Millers Ark Animals. The children got to see and pet various farm animals such as miniature donkeys, goats, sheep, chickens and ducks. The children demonstrated excellent listening skills during the visit and remembered to pet the animals very gently and to wash their hands afterwards.

Our Reception aged children enjoyed a trip to Bucklebury Farm this term. During this trip they got another opportunity to interact with various farm animals. The children also enjoyed the outside and indoor play areas - especially the giant bounce pillow! Staff and children had an amazing time.

Some of our other children went on a school trip to Wellington Country Park with Year 1. They enjoyed going on a train ride, exploring the dinosaur trail, visiting the petting farm and playing in the splash-pad. It was such a fun day.

We cannot believe that this academic year is almost over, time flies when you're having fun! We hope you have a fantastic half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back for Summer 2!



Reception News

What a busy term we have had!

This term our class texts have been: *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *My first book of Minibeasts*.

The children have enjoyed sequencing, acting out and writing the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Reception has worked hard to add capital letters, finger spaces and full stops to their sentences. The children learnt the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts and had so much fun writing Minibeast fact files and sculpting Minibeasts from clay.

In Math's we have been learning about numbers beyond 10 and "adding more" and "taking away". We now know that numbers 11-19 are composed of 10 + another number.

The children have been showing adding and takeaway in lots of contexts. We are getting good at saying:

"First there was ____,
then we added/ took away ____
and now there are ____"

The highlight of the term was the school trip to Bucklebury Farm. It has been so much fun to learn about different farm animals.

We were extremely fortunate to have beautiful weather during our trip to Bucklebury farm! The children enjoyed a tractor ride to feed the deer, the opportunity to pet the farm animals and a beautiful nature walk.

We can't believe how quickly our Reception Year is flying by! We look forward to our exciting transition events next term as the children prepare for Year 1!

Have a lovely break,



Year 1 News



Year 1 have had another wonderful term of learning.

The highlight of the term for Year 1 was definitely our trip to Wellington Country Park where we enjoyed a ride on the park train and walked around the farm looking at all the animals; we saw goats, ponies, pigs, sheep and many others. A particular highlight was looking at the dinosaur statues and reading all of the interesting facts! Throughout the day, the children had opportunities to play in the Fairy Garden Play Area and the Pirate Ship climbing frame. We all had a fantastic time!

In history, we have been learning all about 'The Great Fire of London' and have enjoyed comparing London in the past to London in the present day. Leading on from this the children have also made 3D models of buildings from 1666. They have learnt all about the key events of the Great Fire and have discussed how we know about these events using historical sources, including Samuel Pepys diary. We have compared the resources used by firefighters in the past and present and are already looking forward to continuing this topic after half term.

In geography we have been learning about the topic of 'Weather and Seasons.' So far, we have learnt about the different seasons and when these fall in the year and have also discussed the differences between the seasons. The children have enjoyed this topic so far.

In science, we have started our topic about 'Plants'. We have learnt about the different parts of a plant and their purpose and have looked at garden and wild plants and compared them, discussing their similarities and differences. In the next lesson we will be learning about the different types of trees. We will then be planting sunflowers of our own so that we can carry out observations of how they change over time.

In art we have been learning about Katsushika Hokusai and his artwork; the main focus has been on Hokusai's *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*. The children have enjoyed recreating the great wave using printing skills. They used resources such as sponges, straws, glue, lids and glue spreaders to paint their own versions of this excellent piece of artwork where they have been so focussed enjoying this activity.

It has been a busy term for all the children in Year 1; the team have yet again been blown away by their effort.



Year 2 News

Year 2 have been enjoying the sunshine this term! We have been outside collecting leaves for our prints in Art. Our artwork has been inspired by an artist called Andy Goldsworthy. We started off by studying his work and creating our own outdoor artwork using nature



In science we have been looking at the effects of sunlight, water and temperature on the growth of plants. We set up multiple experiments and recorded the outcomes. We found that most plants need sunlight, enough water and need to be kept in a warm place to grow healthily.



Natural light



Artificial light



Somewhere dark

We have been enjoying a story called *The girl who planted trees*

‘The girl is so brave and caring. She took such good care of the trees!’ – Anisia

‘My favourite part was the end when everyone in the village was happy with the green mountain!’ – Trevor

Year 3 News



An artefact at the Ure Museum



Children take part in a workshop at the Ure Museum

Some of the children's Ancient Greek project work



Despite it being only a five week term, the Year 3 children have achieved a huge amount! The term started with class trips to the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology at Reading University's Whiteknights campus, where the children were made very welcome. They enjoyed exploring the museum space as well as taking part in drama and art activities led by the museum's learning coordinator to find out more about life long ago. They were especially thrilled to become archaeologists for the morning, handling real 2000-year-old artefacts from Ancient Greece (as well as trying to spot one Victorian 'fake!') Staff were impressed with the children's enthusiasm and participation.

The museum trip sparked off the children's learning about 'Ancient Greece' as our history topic this term. The year group have been finding out more about life then and looking for similarities and differences with life now. Children have also been carrying out their own research and creative projects to share with their classmates so we are looking forward to these. In English, children have been reading Greek myths as inspiration for creative writing.

The children have been continuing to work hard on their maths, including gaining increasing fluency with their times tables and written calculation methods. In science, they have been thinking about light and considering what shadows can show us.

The children have also applied their creative skills this term in making moving toys using cams in DT.

After waiting patiently for their turn, Hedgehog class are now taking part in their swimming lessons.

Well done to all the Year 3 children for their hard work this term and thank you to the parents and carers for your support with the children's learning at home.

One of the DT toys that uses a shaped cam with a follower to make the rabbit hop up and down.



Year 4 News

As we approach the half-term break, we would like to share some of the fantastic learning and achievements taking place in Year 4 this term. The children have shown great dedication and enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum

Multiplication Tables Check – June 2025



A major focus this term has been on times tables in preparation for the national Multiplication Tables Check, which all Year 4 pupils across England will take in June. We are incredibly proud of the commitment our pupils have shown, and it is clear that their hard work is paying off.

Over the Easter holidays, we launched a Times Tables Rock Stars competition. Congratulations to Jayyad, Abdulaziz, and Alea, who emerged as the top scorers in their maths groups! We will be running another competition over the upcoming half-term and encourage all pupils to participate.

Your child should now have brought home their latest mock test results. There has been significant progress across the year group, and we would like to celebrate these improvements. A special mention goes to Mrs Gurr's maths group, where many children increased their scores by 7 or 8 marks, and a particular well done to Marko, who improved by an impressive 16 marks!

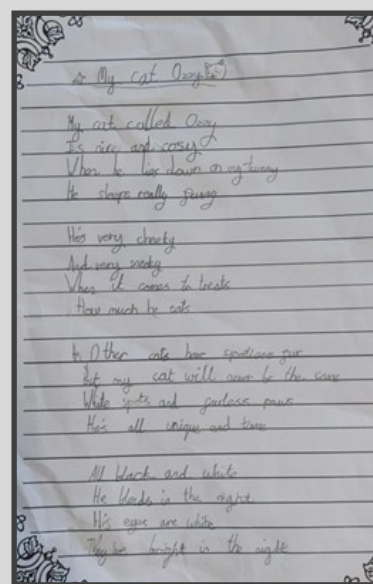
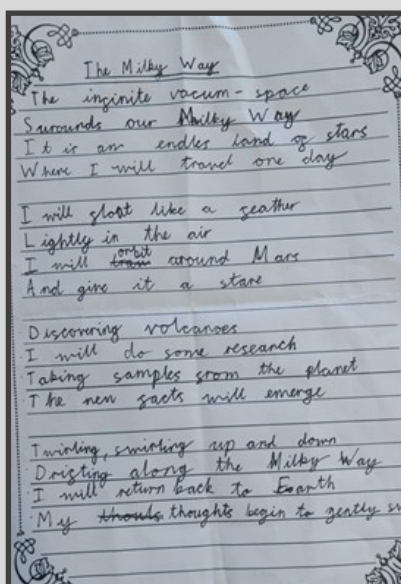
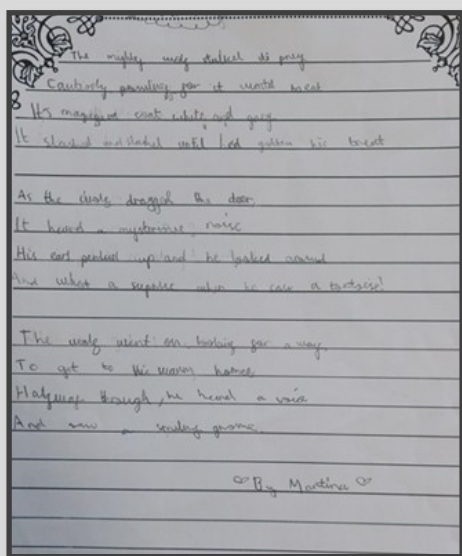
The official window for completing the Multiplication Tables Check is from **Monday 2 June to Friday 13 June**. Once we have confirmed our test date, we will notify you via Weduc.

Science – All About Sound

In science, we have been exploring the topic of Sound. Pupils have learnt how sounds are produced, how we hear them, and how volume and pitch can be altered. They have also conducted practical investigations, including building and testing string telephones. These activities have sparked lots of curiosity, and we encourage you to ask your child to explain the science behind what they've learned!

English – Poetry Inspired by Sound

Linking to our science learning, we have focused on poetry in English, studying *The Sound Collector* by Roger McGough. Pupils explored how poetic devices like rhyme and onomatopoeia are used to describe everyday sounds and reflect on a world without them. They then wrote their own imaginative versions of the poem, imagining a visit from the Sound Collector to Alfred Sutton. Look out below for some brilliant examples of their work!



Design & Technology – Money Box Project

In Design and Technology, pupils have been designing and constructing their own money boxes. They have researched different features, developed their own ideas, and created prototypes to test their designs. After the half-term break, we will be completing and decorating the final products.

Year 5 News

Blink and the term is almost over. It's amazing how the weeks fly by. Doubtless as we are a busy, industrious year! The Year 5 children have continued to show themselves to be hard-working, respectful and aspirational individuals.

We have just enjoyed a wonderful 'International Day' at school. Many children attending wore fantastic national dress. Many pupils also attended the International Fair which is always one of the highlights of the summer term.

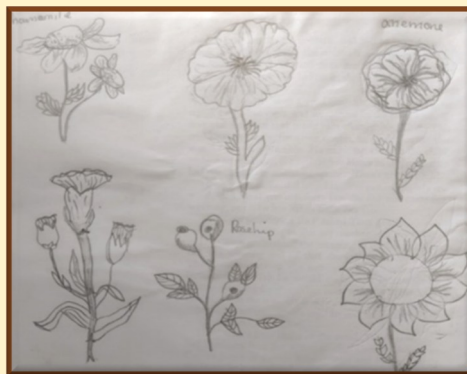
The pupils were also lucky enough to be invited to watch a performance of *Matilda* put on by our neighbouring school, Maiden Erleigh. This was enjoyed by one and all.

Swimming lessons have continued for Year 5, with Buzzard taking on the challenge this term. They have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are well on their journey to becoming confident swimmers.

In geography, we have been enjoying learning about the latent power of earth in terms of earthquakes and volcanos.

The topic in science this term was Forces. As part of the children's learning they looked at air resistance and designed and constructed different types of parachute to investigate which would most exploit air resistance to give the parachute the slowest and safest descent. They also investigated water resistance this time with the aim of finding the most streamlined shape. Using the same volume of material, they moulded it into different shapes and compared their rates of sinking in a large measuring beaker.

During art, pupils have been studying the artwork of Miriam Shulman, and have been experimenting mimicking her contemporary style by drawing flowers. Here are a couple examples of preliminary sketches which will be followed up by final water colours. We hope you agree that the pupils have drawn extremely realistic representations of flowers.



Year 5 were lucky enough to be chosen to participate in a local netball tournament hosted by Leighton Park School. Having previously taken part in a similar hockey tournament and coming second it was fantastic that this time the netball team did one better and came first and thereby winning the trophy. Our awesome netball team consisted of Harshnoor, Sally, Satvik, Hiyara, Gabriel and Sofia. Here is a photo of the triumphant team.



Finally, after such a busy and full term, we hope you and your families have a relaxing holiday. Though we hope the children will still find the time to read regularly and continue to learn their times tables.

Best wishes from the Year 5 Team.

Year 6 News (in the words of Year 6)

Introduction

As I write this during our first lesson since our exams, I look around at my classmates. Everything has changed in the seven years I have been at this school; and yet nothing has, at the same time. Seven years, 20 teachers, one class. I have helped on every newsletter in my time in Year 6, although the writing team shrinks each time. Now it is only made of me, and one other (you will see his work soon). We have written a special double issue, with the first half based around our personal SATs experiences for you to enjoy. However, please do understand there will be exams discussed in this newsletter. Good luck!

Day 1

When my classmates entered the room, I could see the worry on their faces. Today was the day where we were not only tested on grammar and punctuation, but absolute precision. There were many things to remember going into a grammar test, like remembering certain ways of answering certain questions. However, we soon found out that this was a much simpler task than any of us could have imagined. Soon after, we battled the spelling test, where we memorised the patterns of certain words and jotted them down. Throughout this examination I could hear heavy breathing: I soon realized the nerves had set in. Finally, as the end bell rang, smiles began to form on the faces of my classmates; we had done it! The first leg of the SATs was over!

Day 2

On this particular day, we were tested on Reading (the subject most pupils found most difficult). All year, we were just talking about the dreaded Reading Examination. A complex subject, due to all the different types of questions and that it was the longest SATs examination. In this test we encountered long 3-mark questions and tricky impression questions, which would be difficult if not for the sheer amount of hard work we put into practising them. 3 different texts full of retrieval and inference for an hour does sound intimidating. However, we went into this exam with extreme preparation. To sum it all up, day two of our SATs week was a tremendous success.

Day 3

After our first two days, expectations were high. We had breezed through our first 3 exams, and had high hopes for our maths tests. These were more 'Big Ones', testing key skills on two different maths exams. Arithmetic, and Reasoning. However, this was only our first Reasoning, as another awaited us the next day.

Arithmetic was our first test of the day. We were tested on simpler questions, using the four operations (+, -, x, ÷) and carrying these out in systematic order, with BODMAS questions appearing as well. We overall found this test quite simple, as top marks were the main concern.

Reasoning was the final test of the day. The first of two reasoning exams, it had simpler and less mind-boggling questions (to prepare us for what was to come, probably) with algebraic and formulative multistep problems. There were one or two arithmetic questions thrown in, but only to break it up from the ratio questions, charts and mean (average) questions.

Day 4

After months of working towards the SATs, we had almost completed them! The final day had arrived! While everyone began the first test with nothing but positive energy, as we were familiar with the examinations after sitting five in that crucial week. When the timer started, it felt as if celebrations had started. Although, we first had to complete our largest mathematical task: Reasoning Paper 2! *gasp* Arguably one of the most difficult papers the SATs had to offer.

In this particular test especially, we were tested on word problems, angles and ratio, which required further in-depth knowledge of maths skills, if you wanted the mark. After completing the paper, I could feel that intense feeling in the room as pupils were extensively checking their answers, only wanting to achieve the highest scores possible. After all of this, I vividly remember the moment when I could see my classmates beaming at the timer, counting down the seconds: 3... 2... 1...

Day 5

We finished on Day 5 with a positive mindset. We had conquered the SATs!

I remember my classmates' faces, smiles (and some frowns... for some reason unknown to me) on our first day of normal lessons after our exams (the time of writing of the introduction) and our first writing lesson in months. Finally, it was back to normal. No more revision, No more tests, No more SATs. It was done.

Other Subjects:

However, we did not only do our exams this term. We have been enjoying a plethora of lessons, (a well-earned break) which break up the revision into more manageable sections. Among our creative lessons (DT, Art, Science) we have been learning about light in Science, sewing techniques in DT, and depth in Art. Enjoy!

DT

Sewing for me was quite a simple subject. We were tasked with picking a computer game or well-known cartoon character to cut out of felt and sew onto a pencil case we made ourselves. We have only reached the planning stage (and some of us the cutting) but I have enjoyed it so far. It was very interesting to see each other's tastes and personal enjoyments.

Art

In Art, we have been experimenting with depth and using different materials to create a single art piece. We have created an artwork of a forest, inspired by this David Hockney painting:



Science

We are still experimenting with light from last term, however, we have now moved on to the absence of it. We are learning about shadows, and the length and width of objects' shadows, and light sources. We, in our small groups, conducted experiments by building block towers and seeing how the height variable affects the shadow.

PE

We are now coming close to our school Sports Day. Our lessons have focused on athletics this term to prepare us to do our best on the day. Our athletics training boils down to three subjects: Running, jumping and throwing.

Conclusion

We are now on to our final part of the year. We are looking forward to all of our trips and cake and ice cream sales before the year is done. I hope you enjoyed the penultimate newsletter for Year 6. One more left before the baton is handed to the next generation of children. Goodbye!

Key Stage 2 Playground

Hopefully everyone's children have had a play on the new key stage 2 playground. It has been very gratifying to see and hear the children enjoying it. This was by far the largest amount that the PTA has spent for a long time and reflects several years' worth of fund-raising activities. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated their time, money, uniform, bric-a-brac, tombola prizes, "splatted a rat" or have taken part in our raffles – every time you walk past the playground, know that you helped make this happen.



We have also agreed to part fund 3 new picnic benches with in-built games such as chess and ludo next to the play equipment for those children who prefer a more relaxing lunch break. Look out for these coming soon!



International Fair

Thank you to everyone that came along to the International Fair, it was amazing to see so many people celebrate Alfred Sutton's diverse community. A particular thank you to the wonderful stallholders who put so much time and effort into showcasing their heritage.



Outdoor Learning Area

The school is looking to create an amazing Outdoor Learning Area. This will be a fun and inspiring space for the whole school to use. Outdoor learning spaces are well known to help with children's mental health and wellbeing and improving their relationship with nature just from spending more time outside and closer to the environment.

The plans are still in development, and we are hoping to have something to share soon. Expect lots of fund-raising activities to support this initiative as the sooner we can get it built, the sooner our kids get the benefit of it!

Upcoming Events

Summer Fair – On Thursday 26 June after school there will be rats that need splatting, tombola's that need winning and a whole host of other fun activities.

Whiteknights Studio Trail – On Sat 7 June ASPS will be a stop on this well-respected arts trail when we will be hosting a local artist and providing refreshments. See <https://studiotrail.co.uk/> for more information.

Sports Days – We are hoping to be serving refreshments at the school

A plea for help!

The PTA relies on help from parents to raise funds and run the events and, at the moment, we are really struggling to get that help. You don't have to join the PTA to help; we are always looking for help to run a stall at a fair, wash donated uniform or help serve refreshments at our cafe, ...

If you think you might like to help and would like to see what we are going to need help with, please join our [volunteers WhatsApp group](#). We will be using this group to post requests for help; joining the group doesn't put you at any obligation to accept and requests, but if you see one that you fancy helping with, then we would be very grateful of any time you could give!



Stay in touch

Keep up to date with what the PTA is doing follow us on [Facebook](#), join our [WhatsApp](#) announcements community or email us at PTA@AlfredSutton.Reading.sch.uk

Celebrating Success

Yana Abylkhatova (Bear class) went to Orlando, Florida at the end of April to compete in the cheer-leading Nfinity Finals alongside her Legacy Allstars Cheerleading team. Representing England in their division, Yana's team got the 2nd place, which we are very proud of.

