



William Byrd
PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1 TERM 2025

ASPIRE



CURIOUS



RESILIENT



KIND & RESPECTFUL



COOPERATE



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear all

What a wonderful start to 2025! This term has been incredibly busy once again with some many highlights it is difficult to narrow down the top three.

After much deliberation, this term, my top three highlights would have to be:

1. The video footage and pictures from the Young Voices Concert at Wembley Arena were phenomenal. A huge thank you to the team that supported the children to make memories that will last a lifetime.

2. I loved hearing all about the Year 3 trip to Stonehenge! The children loved this opportunity to bring their learning in class to life!

3. A huge thank you to Miss Culverhouse for bringing in her dog, Ace on Mental Health day. The children loved seeing him and he really made the day special for everyone!

This term we say goodbye to Miss Culverhouse, who will be hugely missed by children, staff and parents. Next term we are planning lots of exciting events such as Parent Evening, the Art Gallery and the Easter Bonnet Parade. I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a lovely half term break and I look forward to seeing you all return to school on Monday 24th February.

Warmest regards,

N. Edwards

MS N EDWARDS
Head of School



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NURSERY THIS TERM

This term, we have been exploring various fairy tales. We started with "The Three Little Pigs," followed by "Goldilocks and The Three Bears." Currently, we are focusing on "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." The children have been creating their own story maps and acting out the stories using small-world equipment, face masks, story sacks, and houses they made themselves. We have also been exploring different sizes, numbers, shapes, positions, and textures. The children have had a lot of fun building houses for the little pigs and making porridge for the three bears.

Additionally, we have launched "Stay and Play" sessions, inviting parents to join their children for playtime together. We celebrated Chinese New Year and Mental Health Week, where we explored space meditation.

We had a wonderful day celebrating our Fairy Tale topic with parents and friends. The children enjoyed dancing with their friends and concluded the day with special snacks.



NURSERY THIS TERM

We are gearing up for our very first big exhibition. We learned about the German artist Gerhard Richter and were excited to experiment with scrape painting. We can't wait to showcase our art masterpieces to the parents.



This term, we have also been working on our sensory room, a self-regulation space for children to access. A huge thank you to Mrs Ferreira and Mrs Lili for their amazing vision for this space in our classroom.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Space

Throughout this half-term, the Reception children had an exciting and engaging experience learning about Space. They built and designed their spaceships and rockets, discussed what is required in Space and what they could do there. Additionally, the children learned about the job of astronauts and explored a variety of books related to Space. In the process of learning about Space, the children also discovered why it is dark at night and learned about the people who work whilst we sleep. They talked about the significance of a good night's sleep and were introduced to nocturnal animals that stay awake at night and sleep during the day. They also explored the concept of shadows and made their own shadow projectors. Furthermore, the Reception children also participated in the 'Winter Wonderland' project, which was aimed at teaching them about the changes that occur during winter and the weather changes associated with this season. The children investigated places where snow remains all year round and the types of animals that inhabit such areas.



RECEPTION THIS TERM



The Big Garden Bird Watch

As a part of the Big Garden Bird Watch initiative the Reception children explored the ways to attract birds into our garden and created various bird feeders. Delicious seeds attracted many interesting species into our garden which we could observe and tried to recognise some of them.



Starry Night

As a part of our 'Starry Night' project, the children in Reception took a closer look at the amazing art of Vincent Van Gogh. They got inspired by his work and created 'Starry Night' pictures using different multi-medium techniques. We will proudly display our work during the exhibition in the first week of Spring 2.



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Visit to National Gallery

Our students Art Leader had a great opportunity to visit the National Gallery in London and see the world famous art currently on display. The children saw a variety of artistic styles from Renaissance to Realism, Impressionism and Cubism. The children had a great pleasure looking at the original pieces of Pablo Picasso, Paul Cezanne, Claude Monet, Peter Paul Rubens, Rembrandt, Vincent van Gogh, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Henri Rousseau and many more. Inspired by the authenticity of the art exhibition the Art Leaders took notes on how our future school exhibitions might look like and what should be included in them.

It was a great learning experience!



YEAR 1 THIS TERM

This half term, Year 1 have been very busy and have been doing lots of exciting things. In writing, we wrote a recount of our trip to Cranford Country Park and we wrote our own version of 'The Queens Hat'. In Science, we have been looking at animals including humans. We explored different types of animals and made our own amphibians. We explored the human body and its different parts, including the five senses. We explored in detail how we see, how we hear, how we smell and how we touch. In History, we have been looking at The Wright Brothers and how they made the first aeroplane. We looked into what the first ever flight was like and how it is different today. As they inspired us, we made our own aeroplanes. In Art, we looked at abstract collage art and looked at pieces designed by Kurt Schwitters. We designed our own collage art! We are excited to show our families at the art exhibition!



YEAR 2 THIS TERM

This half term has been very busy in Year 2. We have been doing lots of exciting things.

In writing we have been looking at fables and we wrote our own version of the boy who cried wolf. Then we wrote instructions on how to make a bug hotel which is linked to our learning in Science.

In Science our topic this half term is living things. We have been recalling our learning of things that are alive, dead or never been alive. We have also looked at different habitats for animals and had a go at making our own bug hotels for animals to live in. We followed instructions to make them and then put them outside for animals to use. We had to go and collect sticks and leaves to put inside so it they are inviting for the animals. We are going to check on them to see if any animals came to stay in them. We also went to the pond in reception to look at different animals that might live in certain habitats as well as walked around the school to find minibeasts in their homes.



YEAR 2 THIS TERM

In History we are looking at different monarchs and how they ruled the country under their reign. To link to this we have visited Hampton Court to look at Henry VIII's life and how he lived and ruled. It was so much fun we helped Lady Isabella plan a party and looked at the different things he would have had at his party.



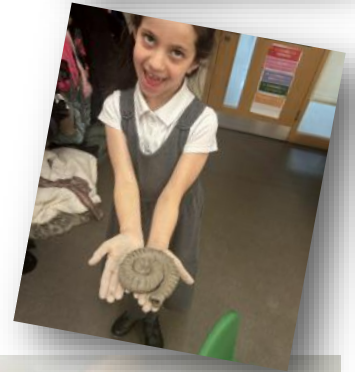
In Art we have been focusing on John Riskin and his love of watercolours and animals. We have been experimenting with watercolours and how to use them. Our end of unit art piece is going to be a watercolour painting. We are so excited to show our families at the art exhibition! Don't forget to come along!



YEAR 3 THIS TERM

This half-term has been packed with exciting learning adventures in Year 3! Our highlight was a fantastic trip to Stonehenge, where the children were amazed by the towering stones and fascinated by the mysteries surrounding them. Back in the classroom, they got hands-on with history by sculpting their own fossil models from clay, carefully shaping ammonites and trilobites like real palaeontologists!

In music, the children have been busy mastering the recorder, and it's safe to say we have some budding musicians in the making! Our history lessons have taken us back in time to explore the fascinating world of the Romans, discovering how they lived, fought, and even invented underfloor heating! In Reading, we have been broadening our horizons with a wonderful book exploring the many diverse countries of Africa, sparking curiosity and rich discussions about different cultures, landscapes, and traditions. It's been a fantastic half-term, and we're so proud of the enthusiasm and hard work the children have shown!



YEAR 4 THIS TERM

What a wonderful term we've had in Year four this term. We started off the spring term by practising our assembly. Our assembly was about valuing our differences and why it is important to learn all about other cultures. We loved having our families and friends come and watch us perform. We then got stuck into our art unit on sculpture. We were learning about Morris Norvin, who is a modern artist that loves to create sculptures using recycled materials, like scrap metal. We used paper mache to create our polar bears. We really liked the process of making our polar bears and we're excited for our loved ones to see them in the art exhibition. For Children's Mental Health week, we had a visit from Ace, a therapy dog. We got to spend some time with him in our classroom and he helped us with our lessons. It was a great way to end the term.



YEAR 5 THIS TERM

This term, Year 5 have had a fantastic time exploring new topics and gaining fresh knowledge! In Reading and Writing, we dove into the book *Explorer* which sparked lots of exciting discussions about adventure, and we also worked on writing autobiographies about the incredible David Attenborough.

In Science, we learned all about plants and their life cycles. In PSHE, we focused on digital safety, understanding how to protect ourselves online. Our Art lessons were inspired by Henri Rousseau, and we had so much fun learning to play the ukulele in Music.

Maths lessons were all about fractions, and in PE, we worked on our gymnastics skills, perfecting new moves. We also had the opportunity to attend a Road Safety workshop, where we became detectives and helped solve a road traffic accident mystery!

Additionally, we took part in a BEE workshop on resilience, learning how to stay strong when faced with

YEAR 6 THIS TERM

Year 6 has had an exciting and educational term, filled with a variety of engaging workshops and insightful learning experiences! In Writing, we focused on creating impactful speeches about children's mental health, aligning with Mental Health Week. The students crafted powerful messages to raise awareness and promote understanding of the importance of mental well-being. It was an excellent opportunity to practice both our writing and public speaking skills.

In addition, we had a hands-on road safety workshop where the children became detectives, solving different scenarios and learning vital road safety tips. This interactive session taught us how to stay safe on the roads and encouraged critical thinking when it comes to identifying potential hazards.

In RE, we delved into the theme of life after death. We compared the different beliefs surrounding this topic in Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam, and had some really insightful discussions. The year group worked together to deepen our understanding of these major world religions and reflect on the similarities and differences in their teachings.

We also took part in a very informative workshop on drugs and alcohol. This session helped give us a better understanding of the effects of these substances and why it's important to make informed decisions, particularly as we prepare for secondary school. It was an eye-opening experience that encouraged thoughtful reflection.



IN OTHER NEWS

Mental Health Week

On Friday 7th February we wore our scarves to school for Children's mental health week. This week's theme is 'Grow Yourself, Know Yourself.'

The children were very excited to have Ace the therapy dog in school on Thursday. Ace was a very well-behaved dog who got smiles everywhere he went. We had a special assembly to find out more about how Ace can help people with their well-being.

Children also took part in yoga during PE lessons and in class they participated in mood busters videos. These calming activities help pupils to reduce anxiety, improve emotional regulation, increase focus, and improve balance and flexibility. They also support pupils to recognise when they need to slow down, or take some time to relax. It's important to listen to what our bodies are telling us through how we are feeling.

Year 6 pupils attended a KoothKlass webinar. They explored the Kooth service and learnt more about general mental wellbeing. Kooth.com is a free, anonymous, online counselling and emotional wellbeing service most commonly commissioned via Local Authorities or the NHS for young people age 10+. Further information can be found here: [Home - Kooth](#).

Here are some useful charities that offer support for children's mental health:

Chi YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMindsIdline | Childline
Children's mental health - Every Mind Matters - NHS

If you feel that your child might need some support with their well-being, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Houston elsa@williambyrd.school



RISE & SHINE
WITH OUR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AT

Early Byrds

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

7:30 - 8:40

DOORS CLOSED AT 8:25

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**





William Byrd
PRIMARY SCHOOL

ART EXHIBITION

*Showcasing art inspired by different
artists across all year groups*

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY | NURSERY & RECEPTION

Gerhard Richter and Van Gogh

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY | YEAR 1

Kurt Schwitters

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY | YEAR 2

John Ruskin

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY | YEAR 3

Hamish Mackie

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY | YEAR 4 & YEAR 5

Morris Norvin & Henri Rousseau

TICKETS ONLY

50p

Available from
the school office

KS2 HALL AT 3:20PM



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RA Royal
Academy
of Arts

Young Artists' Summer Show

ART COMPETITION 2025

What you need to do:

1. Create a unique piece of art of your choice using any technique or media
2. Write a short statement about your art
3. Bring your art to school ready for submission by Friday 28 February

Selected artwork will be displayed online
and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts!





LEGO DONATIONS

Do you have any Lego pieces at home that you no longer use?

If yes, we are looking for donations of unwanted Lego for our new Lego room

All donations would be greatly appreciated!

Please bring in your donations to your child's class teacher or a member of the SLT

Thanks!



Shop at
ASDA
and they will donate
£££'s to our school!

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**



1

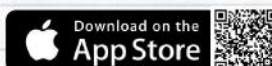
Download and sign up to the Asda Rewards app
Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select William Byrd Primary Academy.

2

Shop in store across Asda and George or online at Asda.com
Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to our school each time you shop and scan.

3

Asda will do the rest
The money raised will be donated through Parentkind to our school so we can spend money on what we need the most. This won't affect your own Cashpot earn.



KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Nursery Art Exhibition	Monday 24 February 3.20pm
Year 1 Art Exhibition	Tuesday 25 February 3.20pm
Year 2 Art Exhibition	Wednesday 26 February 3.20pm
Football William Byrd v Guru Nanak (selected children)	Wednesday 26 February
Year 3 Art Exhibition	Thursday 27 February 3.20pm
Talk Pants Workshop for Parents/Carers	Thursday 27 February 3pm
Year 4 & 5 Art Exhibition	Friday 28 February 3.20pm
Year 6 Bikeability Training	Monday 3 March - Thursday 6 March
Year 3 Pedestrian Training	Tuesday 4 March
Football William Byrd v Dr Triplett's (selected children)	Wednesday 5 March
World Book Day (non-uniform day)	Thursday 6 March
Year 2 Trip to Hampton Court	Thursday 6 March
Year 6 Cake Sale	Tuesday 11 March
Young Carers Action Day	Wednesday 12 March
Triple P Seminar for Parents/Carers	Wednesday 12 March 10am
Rec-Year 6 Parent/Carer Evening - School closes at 1pm	Thursday 13 March 1.45pm-6.45pm
Comic Relief (non-uniform day)	Friday 14 March
Year 6 Mock SAT's Week	Monday 17 March - Thursday 20 March
2A Class Assembly	Monday 17 March
2S Class Assembly	Tuesday 18 March
Reception Build a Dinosaur	Tuesday 18 March
KS1 Music Showcase	Wednesday 19 March
2J Class Assembly	Thursday 20 March
Year 6 Junior Citizens Event at Brunel University	Friday 21 March
Year 2 Great Fire of London	Tuesday 25 March
PTA Easter Fair	Wednesday 26 March 3.30pm
Clubs Finish	Friday 28 March
Eid Celebration Day (non uniform day)	Friday 28 March
Spelling Bee	Friday 28 March
Poetry Slam	Monday 31 March
Easter Bonnet Day	Tuesday 1 April
Year 2 Great Fire of London	Tuesday 1 April
Year 6 Trip to Lion King	Wednesday 2 April
Class Parties	Thursday 3 April
Spring Disco (details to follow)	Thursday 3 April
Nursery PM Last Day of Term	Thursday 3 April
Last Day of Term - School closes at 1pm	Friday 4 April

WILLIAM BYRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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MIDDLESEX LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

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enquiries@mlp.org.uk | 020 8839 0600 | www.mlp.org.uk



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