



# HANNAH BALL ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER



<https://www.hannahball.bucks.sch.uk>

Tel: 01494522476

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**3rd November**

Autumn 2 Term Begins

**6th November**

Boccia All Years Federation  
Tournament

**12th November**

Federation Spelling Bee Year 4  
Competition

**19th November**

Year 4 watching How To Train Your  
Dragon at Cineworld High  
Wycombe

**25th November**

Year 1 & 2 Great Fire of London  
Workshop

**25th November**

Year 3 History Trip to the Bucks  
Museum

**28th November**

MP-Emma Reynolds visiting  
Hannah Ball

**8th-12th December**

Whole School Assessment  
Week

**9th December**

EYFS & KSI Nativity  
Performance

**12th December**

EYFS & KSI Nativity  
Performance

**18th December**

End of Autumn Term

### Message from the Principal - Mrs Machingauta

As we reflect on the first half of the autumn term, we are proud of the progress our pupils have made across the school. Their hard work and determination truly embody our core values of resilience, curiosity, and responsibility. We have also enjoyed strong parental engagement, with well-attended parents' evenings providing valuable opportunities for positive dialogue about learning and growth. Together, pupils, staff, and families continue to inspire, aspire, and achieve, making our school community stronger every day.



A special congratulations goes to our Lower Key Stage 2 Basketball Team, who represented Hannah Ball with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship in the recent Federation competition.

Thank you to all children, parents and staff for their hard work during this last term. I hope you are having a good rest. The children return on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

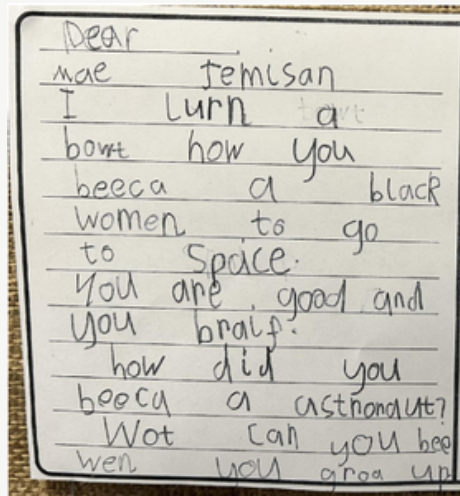
### WOW Challenge



This October, we have had 95 children achieve the next Wow Challenge badge. We are really proud of them all and this is 13 more children than in September. Well done for walking, scooting or cycling to school!

## Year 1 Highlights

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their first term in Year 1. They have settled in well and are making excellent progress across their learning. We are proud of their achievements and the enthusiasm they bring to school each day. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back, ready to continue their exciting learning journey.

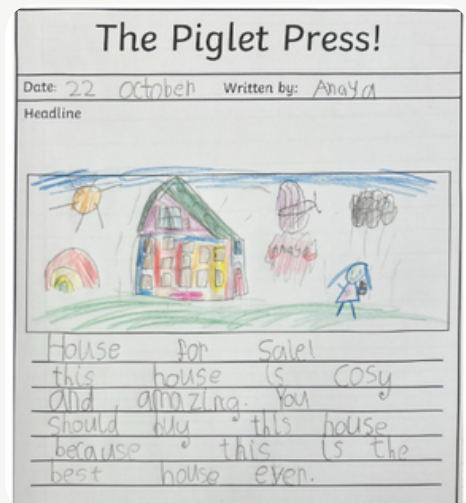


In History, the children have been learning about Mae Jemison as part of Black History Month. They explored why she is a significant figure in history and discovered key facts about her achievements as the first African American woman astronaut. To deepen their understanding and curiosity, the children enjoyed creating postcards addressed to Mae Jemison, where they posed thoughtful questions they were eager to ask her.

In Maths, we have been exploring addition and subtraction through hands-on and visual activities. The children have been discovering that numbers can join together like friends to make a whole or split apart like puzzle pieces. To support their understanding, they have been using tools such as tens frames and number lines, which help them see how numbers combine and separate. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about number sentences and have been excited to create their own, developing both their confidence and mathematical language.

## English

In English, the children have been exploring the story of The Three Little Pigs. They have focused on identifying and using persuasive language and have applied their learning by creating their own newspaper advertisements to sell the house made of bricks.



In Geography, the children have been exploring different types of maps. They have used directional language and located features on an aerial map. The children particularly enjoyed creating their own maps of the classroom using cubes and 3D blocks.



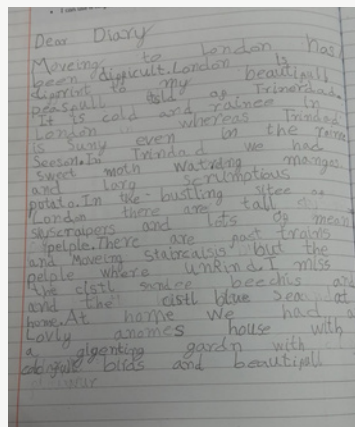
# Year 2 Highlights

## Year 2 Writing Adventures: Exploring Floella Benjamin's Coming to England

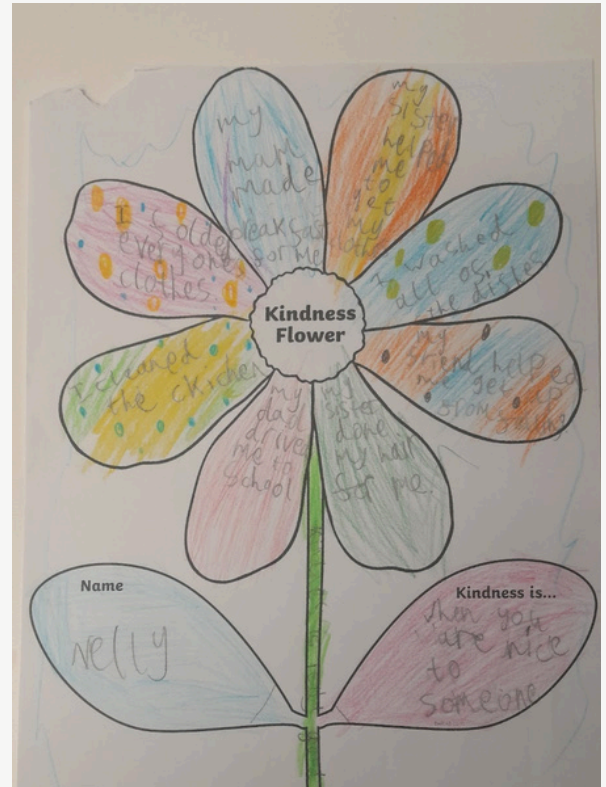
Year 2 has been fully engaged in their writing lessons this term, inspired by Floella Benjamin's powerful story *Coming to England*. The pupils have produced some wonderful diary entries, skillfully using a range of exciting and descriptive adjectives to bring their writing to life.

We have been focusing on developing neat, consistent handwriting, encouraging pupils to form letters correctly and begin joining them as their skills improve. Our phonics knowledge has been a key tool in supporting spelling, with children segmenting spoken words into phonemes and representing these with graphemes to spell many words accurately. They are also learning to apply spelling rules, including common exception words and suffixes, as outlined in the Year 2 curriculum.

It is encouraging to see the children confidently having a go, sharing their imaginative ideas, and making thoughtful additions and corrections to their writing. This approach not only builds their writing stamina but also develops their ability to plan, draft, and proofread their work effectively. We look forward to continuing this journey, helping every pupil to refine their writing skills and express themselves with growing confidence.



## RE



This half term, our focus in Religious Education has been on kindness, inspired by the teachings of Jesus about how Christians show kindness to others. It has been wonderful to hear from so many pupils who are practising kindness at home by helping their families with household tasks. This reflects our school value of kindness in action and highlights how our pupils are growing into thoughtful, responsible individuals.

We are proud to see our children living out these values both in school and at home, embodying the spirit of kindness that we strive to nurture in our community.

## Year 4 Highlights

We have reached the end of the first half-term in which year 4 have worked extremely hard in learning their new routines and grasping new learning.

### English



This term in English, Year 4 pupils have been exploring the lives and legacies of influential Black figures such as Mary Seacole and Martin Luther King Jr. Through their studies, the children have gained a deeper understanding of the significant impact these individuals made on the world. Pupils then applied their learning creatively by writing their own biographies, with some wonderful pieces about Barack Obama, Usain Bolt, Serena Williams, and Rosa Parks. This topic has provided a meaningful opportunity for pupils to engage thoughtfully with the struggles faced by Black people in their fight for equal rights and success. Our English work has been closely linked to our PSHE lessons, where we have been exploring what it means to live in a democratic society and the importance of equal rights for all. We are proud to see our pupils developing empathy, respect, and a strong sense of social justice—values that are central to our school ethos.



We are seeing improvements in year 4 weekly MTC results – please keep this up! As well as TTRS, please encourage your children to use the following website for regular practice on their timetables:

- MathsFrame
- Timestables.co.uk

### Science: States of Matter



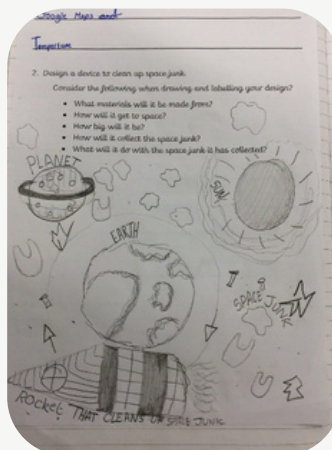
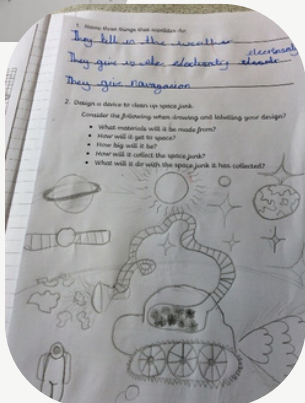
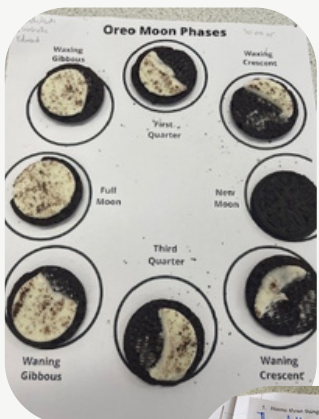
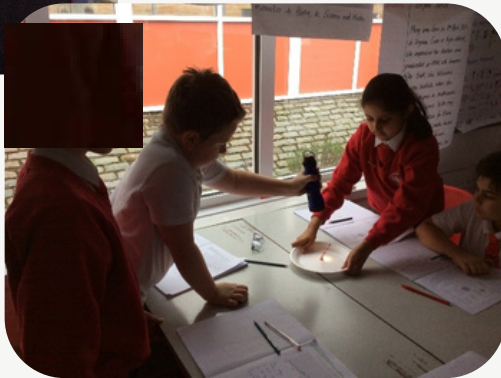
We've continued our study on the states of matter and have looked at its connection to the water cycle. We also explored how climate change is impacting the water cycle today. The children had great discussions on how global warming, melting ice caps, and increased deforestation are contributing to significant global issues like floods and droughts we are increasingly seeing today.

# Year 5 Highlights

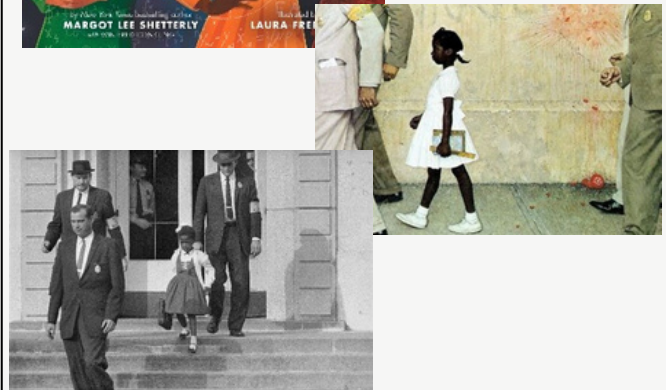
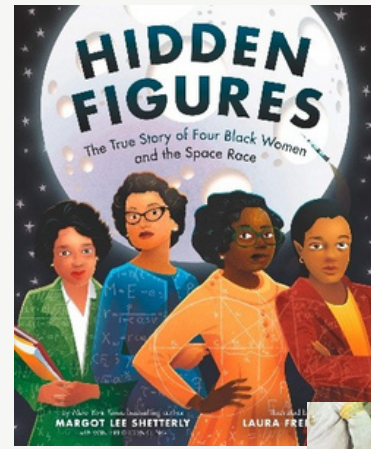
## Earth & Space

Our journey into Space has continued as we used globes and balls to show what causes day and night, had fun making the different phases of the moon with chocolate biscuits and created our own sundials to explore the Sun's apparent movement across the Earth.

Our lessons culminated with us exploring how we could create a machine to clear up all the massive amount of space junk currently orbiting Earth.



## Black History Month: Amazing Women of the Civil Rights Movement



It's been an inspiration month learning in English and History about the bravery and courage of outstanding Black American women who lived during the Civil Rights Movement. In English, we wrote biographies of three Black women who broke barriers in the space race through their work at NASA.

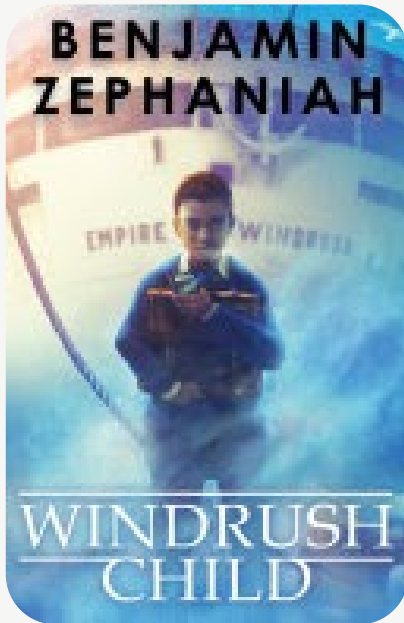
In History, we learnt about figures like Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks who were instrumental in ending segregation. We then were introduced to Ruby Bridges, the first Black child to attend an all-white school in New Orleans. We were shocked to think that schools could be segregated and were awed at her bravery in enduring threats and violence just by trying to go to school.

## Year 6 Highlights

### Black History Month & Literacy

Our learning this month was centered on the vital topic of the Windrush Generation and the injustices of the Windrush Scandal. This supported a fantastic writing unit where we channeled our historical knowledge into powerful newspaper reports on the modern issue of small boats crossing the English Channel in search of refuge.

We immersed ourselves in the story of Leonard in *Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah, and critically listened to real-life recounts from members of the Windrush Generation, using their quotes as first-hand historical sources. This was a truly impactful way to connect with the past.



**Teacher's Note:** Thank You, Year 6!

I've noticed a significant improvement in the children's arithmetic fluency, which is a direct result of the continued times table practice at home—well done, Year 6!

I would also like to thank all parents for attending our parent-teacher evening. It was a pleasure sharing your children's progress and acknowledging their wonderful resilience and efforts in adapting so well to Year 6. We're proud of how they've started the year!

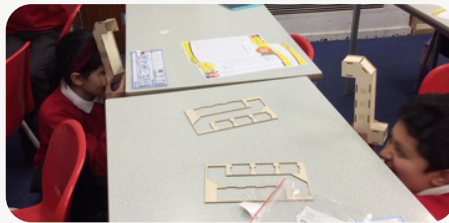
## Science

We became light experts through a series of hands-on experiments:

We confirmed that light travels in a straight line from the source to the eye by building our own periscopes.

We demonstrated the principle of light blockage using shadow puppets, observing how the shadow takes the shape of the object.

We used tennis balls to explore reflection, experimenting with changing the angle of incidence to mimic how light travels in a straight line when bouncing off an object.



### Geography: Data Detectives

We completed our geographical enquiry this month. Our successful data collection trip to Rye Park and the High Street allowed us to investigate our question on local litter patterns. Back in the classroom, we analysed the collected data and used it to create bar charts. This led to some excellent discussions and the creation of a suggestion for changes that the local council could make to improve our community—great work applying your learning to a real-world issue!

Letter and bin survey data collection sheet

Enquiry Question: How does the litter change from The Park to the High Street and why?

1. Litter Tally (what and how much?)

In each location that we stop, count the pieces of litter you can see.

Type of Litter	Tally (The Rye)	Tally (The High Street)	Total Number
Plastics (bottles, wrappers, bags)			10
Paper/Card (fast food, newspapers)			10
Metal (drinks cans)			10
Glass (bottles, broken glass)			10
Cigarette butts (be very careful not to touch!)			10
Other (specify in the notes)			10
Total litter count:	150	144	294

*selection*

notice that as we moved from our school to the High Street amount of litter increased. There was more litter toward the park than towards the High Street - it's because according to what I saw, there was very few bins available at school and towards the Rye Park. When we got to the park we noticed many available bins for the locals to throw away their rubbish responsibly.

*suggestions:*

to improve our local environment, the council should add more available bins for people to use and add signs to remind people to throw away their litter.



# Hannah Ball Academy

Autumn 1 2025  
Holiday Art Competition



Our Art Champion Team would love to offer you all an opportunity to design an Autumn or Halloween themed creative piece during half term break.

## Here are some Ideas

There will be four categories that you can choose from:

- Photography
- Craft
- Mixed Media
- Halloween Pumpkin Creation

You can be as creative as you would like!



You can bring in your work at the beginning of next term or you can take a photograph and upload it onto the:

[Art Club Autumn Competition on your Google Classroom](#)



### The Rules:

1. You may enter no more than 2 pieces of work.
2. Two children from each year group per category will be chosen and announced at our Celebration Assembly on the 14th November 2025
3. The judges decision is final.



### Important information:

Don't forget to put your name and year group on your piece of work if you bring it into school next term.

Closing date is - Friday 7th November 2025





# HANNAH BALL ACADEMY

## ECO CODE

**H**elp nature thrive

**A**im to walk to school

**N**ever drop litter

**N**o more single-use plastic

**A**lways recycle

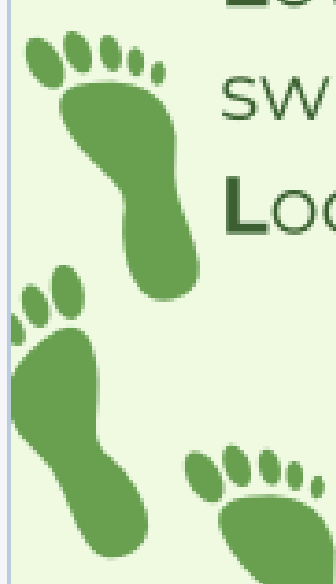
**H**elp reduce waste

**B**e a role model

**A**lert others to green ideas

**L**ower our energy by  
switching off

**L**ook after the environment





**Emirates** FIRST  
**FA CUP** ROUND

**WYCOMBE WANDERERS**  
VERSUS

**PLYMOUTH**  
**ARGYLE**

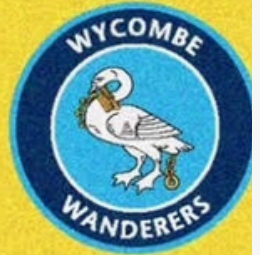
**SAT 1st NOV 2025**

**KICK OFF 3.00pm**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE**

**FROM THE ADAMS PARK OFFICE  
& TICKET WEBSITE**

<b>Adult</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Concession</b>	<b>Child</b>
<b>£15</b>	<b>£12</b>	<b>£8</b>	<b>£1</b>



Principal Club Sponsor

**origin**  
DOORS AND WINDOWS

**TICKET  
HOTLINE**

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