Hannah Ball Academy

October 2026 Newsletter

What a fantastic first half term we have had at Hannah Ball! Our pupils have made strides in their learning and shown the resilience, curiosity and determination that help them move forward. We are proud of the effort they have put into their learning and the progress they are making.

There has been plenty to enjoy beyond the classroom, too. Pupils have taken part in a wide range of clubs, including cooking, book club, yoga, games, football, basketball, boccia, bricks and Lego. There have also been opportunities to build key skills through homework, times tables and handwriting clubs. It has been wonderful to see pupils trying new activities, developing their interests and spending time learning together.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for parents' evenings over the last two days of term. It was lovely to see so many of you and to share how your children are getting on. Your interest and support make a real difference, and we value the partnership between home and school.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term of learning and achievement.



This October, we marked Black History Month and explored this year's theme: "Honouring Our Communities". It was an opportunity to recognise the people whose contributions—often made through everyday acts of care, creativity, leadership and service—help shape and strengthen our communities.

Black history is an important part of Britain's story, and it is something we should learn about and celebrate throughout the year. blackhistorymonth.org.uk)
At Hannah Ball, we want every pupil to feel that they belong, that their experiences matter and that they can learn from the lives and achievements of others. This connects closely with our school values: kindness, respect, responsibility, resilience, curiosity and honesty. It also reflects the **fundamental British values** of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs.

Families can help us continue these conversations at home. You might share a story about someone who has made a difference in your community, explore a book or piece of music by a Black author or artist, or talk together about how we can show respect when people's experiences and backgrounds differ from our own. These conversations do not need to be long or complicated; listening, asking thoughtful questions and showing curiosity are a good place to start.

By learning about one another and treating everyone with kindness and respect, we help our children understand that diversity strengthens our community. Together, we inspire, aspire and achieve.

Mrs Machingauta
Principal



Monday 2nd November - **Autumn 2 Term starts**

Tuesday 3rd November **– Reception Parents Coffee Morning & Transition catch up**

Wednesday 4th November **- Open Morning**

Thursday 5th November - **Boccia Festival - Boccia Club**

Thursday 5th November - **Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court Palace**

Thursday 12th November - **The Great Fire of London & Monarchs workshop for Year 1 & 2**

Friday 13th November - Phonics Workshop for Reception & Year 1 parents

Tuesday 24th November **- Cinema Attendance Reward Trip - Y4-6**

Friday 27th November **- Cinema Attendance Reward Trip - Y1-3**

Thursday 3rd December **- Year 2 Trip to Windsor Castle**

Thursday 3rd December **- Year 6 Trip to Union Baptist Church**

W/C 7th December - **Assessment Week**

Thursday 10th December **- Reception Class trip to Union Baptist Church**

Attendance



Is my child too ill for school?

We know that winter is one of the peak times for adults and children to come down with mild illnesses.
It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell, therefore we have sourced some NHS guidance to help you make the right decision.

Coughs and colds — It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. However, if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly

Cold sores — There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis — You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

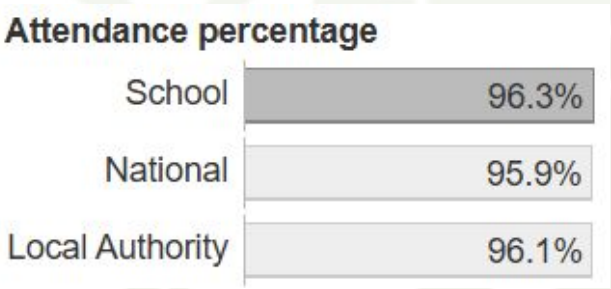
For more information and guidance on issues such as Ear infections, Hand foot and mouth,, Head lice, Impetigo, Ringworm and many more, visit: Is my child too ill for school? - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Attendance Award - Autumn 1 Term

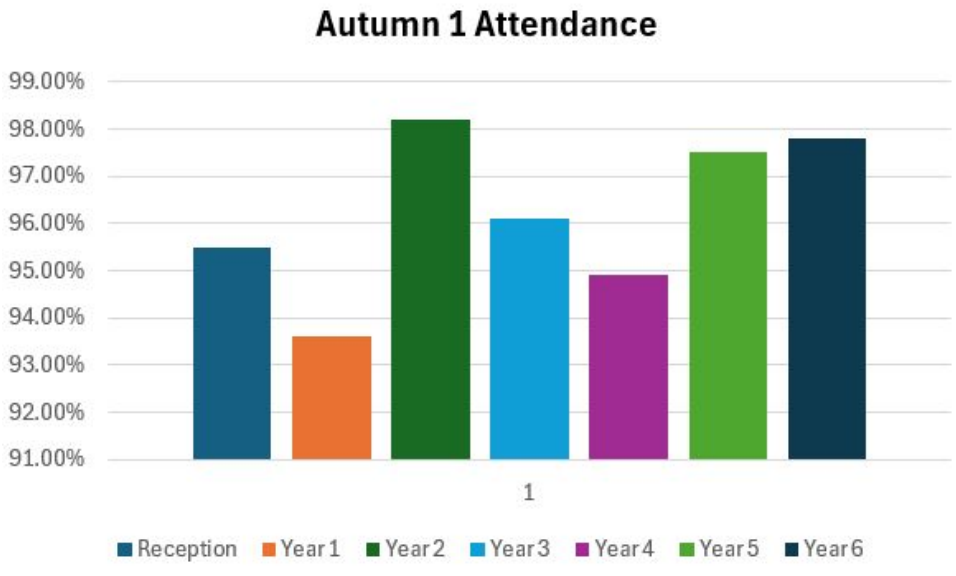


At the end of Autumn 1 term, we presented the end of term attendance certificates for 100% attendance. We awarded a total of 135 certificates. Well done to everyone who is supporting daily attendance of their children.

October Whole School Attendance



Year R	95.5%
Year 1	93.6%
Year 2	98.2%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	94.9%
Year 5	97.5%
Year 6	97.8%



Scholastic Book Fair

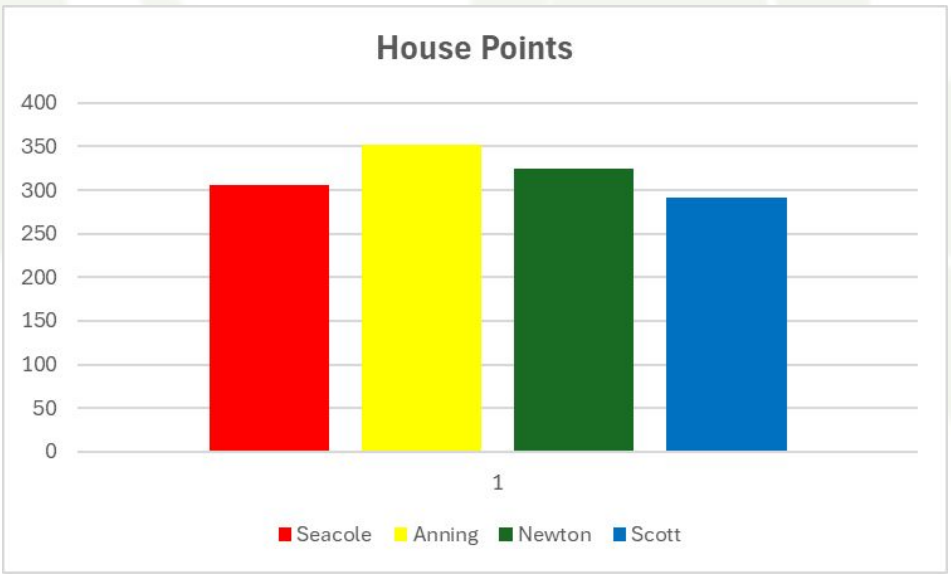


A huge thank you to all the children, parents and carers who supported our Scholastic Book Fair! Thanks to your enthusiasm, the event was a resounding success. It was wonderful to see so many vibrant, avid readers exploring new stories and leaving with books they can't wait to dive into.

Events like these are especially meaningful as we celebrate the National Year of Reading - a nationwide movement dedicated to fostering a lifelong love of books and celebrating the joy of reading for pleasure. Every book purchased helps stock our school with fantastic new reading resources while nurturing our growing community of bookworms. Thank you for helping us make reading a central part of our school spirit!

Miss Powell
Vice Principal

Autumn 1 House Points



Wow Badges



A massive congratulations to all 141 children who earned their WOW travel badge for October! We are so proud of your dedication to making healthy, active choices every morning and keeping our school community safe and green. Keep up the fantastic effort as we move into November - let's see how many more badges we can unlock!





Insight on the Prevent Duty

As part of our continuous commitment to keeping our children safe, we want to share some information with you about the **Prevent duty** and what it means for our school community. The Prevent duty is a government requirement placed on all schools and childcare providers under the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015*. Its purpose is to protect children and young people from being drawn into extremism or radicalisation.

Crucially, **Prevent is a safeguarding duty.** It is approached in the exact same way as protecting children.

At Hannah Ball, the Prevent duty is **not** about formal lessons on terrorism. Instead, it is about:

- **Promoting British Values:** Teaching children values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs.
- **Building Resilience:** Helping children develop critical thinking skills, a positive self-identity, and the confidence to share their views in a safe environment.
- **Creating a Safe Space:** Encouraging open, age-appropriate discussions where children can explore big questions and learn to respect others.
- **Online Safety:** Ensuring our school computers and tablets use appropriate filtering and monitoring to block harmful or extremist content.
- **Early Support:** Just like any other safeguarding concern, if we notice a child is vulnerable or showing worrying changes in behaviour, our priority is to offer early, supportive help.

For independent, parent-friendly guidance and resources, you can also explore these trusted national organisations:

- **NSPCC**: Offers a broad range of advice on keeping children safe, including guidance on how to have difficult conversations with your child. Parents can also contact the free, anonymous NSPCC Helpline on **0808 800 5000** if they need advice or have safeguarding concerns.



Be Bright, Be Seen: Stay Safe as the Darker Days Set In

Buckinghamshire Council is reminding pupils to 'Be Bright, Be Seen' as the darker mornings and evenings return.

With reduced daylight and the likelihood of foggy or misty weather, visibility on the roads can be significantly affected. The council is encouraging everyone, whether walking, wheeling, cycling or driving, to take simple steps to help keep themselves and others safe.

Wearing bright, fluorescent clothing during the day and reflective materials at night can make a big difference. Fluorescent fabrics are most effective in daylight and at dusk, while reflective materials are essential after dark, helping road users become visible in vehicle headlights. Adding reflective tape to bags, coats, wheelchairs, mobility aids or pushchairs is a quick and easy way to improve safety.

Pupils are encouraged to wear bright or reflective clothing when travelling to and from school, particularly during the darker mornings and evenings. Parents and carers can help by ensuring children can be seen easily by other road users.

Cyclists are reminded to check that their lights are clean and working correctly. It is a legal requirement to use a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector when cycling at night.

Drivers also play a vital role in keeping roads safe. Slowing down in poor visibility, being alert to pedestrians and cyclists, and ensuring vehicle lights are functioning correctly are all important ways to help prevent collisions.

For more information, including the 'Be Bright, Be Seen' online game for children and young people, visit the Think! website.

Hannah Ball Academy
Inspire • Aspire • Achieve

Pupil WELLBEING

UNDERSTANDING PARENTAL CONFLICT & FINDING SUPPORT

A Guide for Families

WHAT IS PARENTAL CONFLICT?



- Frequent, intense disagreements
- Unresolved issues
- All parents argue (living together, separated, or divorced)

IMPACT ON CHILDREN



- Upsetting and difficult for everyone
- May feel responsible
- Serious negative impact

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

MANAGING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

2-Part Workshop



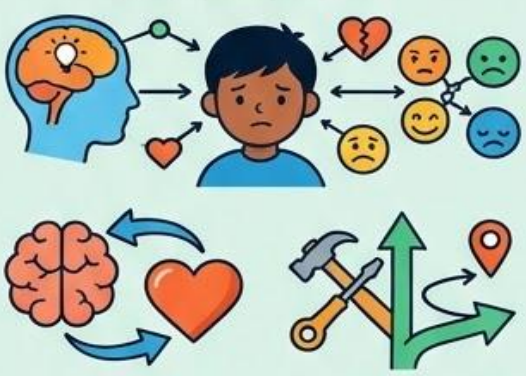
IDENTIFY START OF ARGUMENTS

EXPLORE HEALTHY WAYS TO MANAGE

KEEPING YOUR CHILD IN MIND

4 weeks

4-Week Course
(Developed by Experts)



UNDERSTAND CONFLICT IMPACT

FIND BETTER WAYS TO MANAGE DISAGREEMENTS

HOW TO BOOK & ACCESS SUPPORT



These programmes run all year round

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHILDREN CENTRE OR FLYING START CENTRE TO BOOK

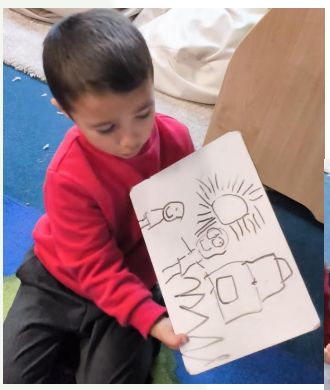


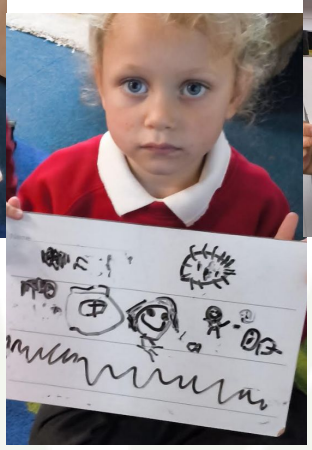
Reception Highlights

As the month of October comes to an end, we are so proud of the progress the children have made with settling into new routines and building new relationships with adults. They are all happy at school and have had some fantastic learning moments this month.

Writing

We have been practising our pre-writing shapes in handwriting lessons. The children are applying these to drawing their own pictures and adding meaning to their drawings. We will continue to practise building the muscles in our hands ready for writing letters and words.





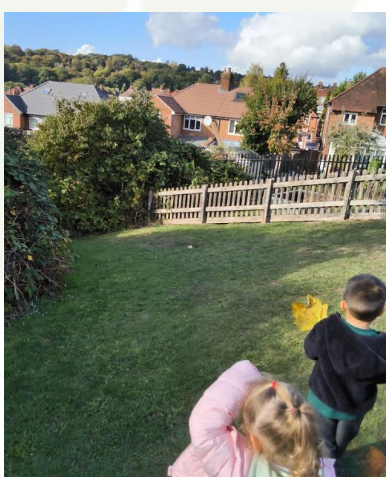


PSHE

We have been learning about our school value of 'responsibility'. The children planted cress seeds and have been tasked to look after them over the holidays.









Understanding the World

We have been learning about Autumn. We went on an Autumn walk around our school site. The children loved collecting leaves and talking about all the colours they could see.

Our walk inspired some beautiful pieces of artwork.







Year 1 Highlights

We have had so much to celebrate throughout October! Our class was filled with colour as students wore yellow to support World Mental Health Day and green for One Tree Day. We were treated to an energetic performance from a one-man rock band, where some very lucky children had a turn at being in their own band. We celebrated kindness throughout the school and during our Kindness Day Assembly, we worked together to craft a beautiful kindness paperchain. Alongside these exciting events, October has been a powerful time of learning as we celebrate Black History Month across the school.



ENGLISH : Mae Jemison

Celebrating Black History Month in Year 1!
To wrap up our Autumn term, we have been proudly celebrating Black History Month through our English lessons.
Year 1 took an exciting leap into the stars as we learned all about Mae Jemison—the remarkable scientist and former NASA astronaut who became the first Black woman to travel into space!
Our young explorers had a fantastic time diving into Mae's inspiring biography. They showed off their creativity by crafting vibrant space artwork, collaborating on a colossal rocket ship colouring project, and writing down all the fascinating facts they learned about her journey.
What an inspiring way to end the term!



Geography: Aerial Photographs and Positional Language

In Geography this last half term we have been looking at the "What is it like here?" topic building upon essential map skills using aerial photographs and developing our positional and directional language. We have been identifying human features on an aerial map such as our school, classroom and grounds as well as our local area of roads and houses. We have also been identifying the physical features of all the green areas around our school. We had a fun afternoon outside using our positional and directional language identifying the key features of our playground.



Thank you for your continued support with our events throughout October. It was amazing to see so many of you at Parents Evening. Have a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Year 2 Highlights

As part of Black history month, we have been celebrating the life and work of Floella Benjamin. We have read her story 'Coming to England' and enjoyed learning about her journey from Trinidad to England. As part of our Literacy we have been building up to write a diary entry from the perspective of Floella using first person, time adverbials and exclamations. I was impressed with the facts and sentences written about her for homework!











Just one tree

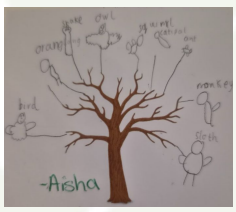
I enjoyed seeing all of the amazing green we were wearing as part of our focus for 'just one tree'. We learned about the importance of trees, not just for ourselves, but also for animals. We thought about all the animals that live in trees and how their habitats are affected when trees are cut down. I was also very impressed by some of our leaf animals for homework!









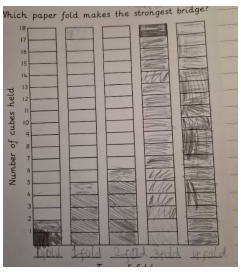




Rock steady workshop

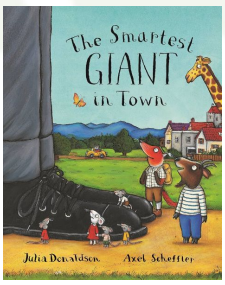
We especially enjoyed our rock steady workshop! We loved learning about different musical instruments used in a band. Some of us were lucky enough to have a go at some of them too.





Science

This October, we have continued to explore the suitability of different materials. After reading 'The smartest giant in town' we tried to explore a suitable material for the dog trying to cross the bog. We investigated which would be the stretchiest material and which would be the strongest material.









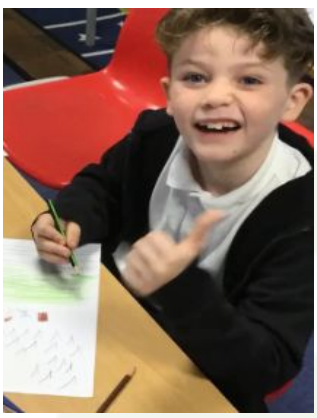


Year 3 Highlights



To celebrate Black History Month, Year 3 have been learning all about the incredible life of Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The children were deeply inspired by her story and loved finding out how she started the Green Belt Movement, helping communities work together to plant millions of trees across Africa. We had some brilliant discussions about how one person's ideas can make a huge difference to the world and the children really enjoyed creating their own work based on her legacy.

Kindness Workshop

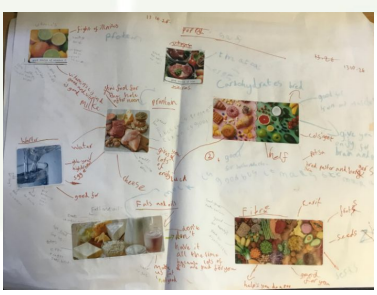


Year 3 took part in a brilliant Kindness Workshop focused on empathy and understanding how others feel. We talked about how small, everyday actions can make a massive difference to someone else's day and how being kind helps build a happy classroom. After our chat, the children got hands-on and creative, making lots of different artwork and crafts to show what kindness looks like to them. Their creations are now proudly on display to remind us all to look out for one another!

Science



In Science, we have now wrapped up our topic on *Animals; movement and nutrition.* To finish off the unit, we took a close look at the main food groups and learned why our bodies need a good balance of nutrients to stay fit, healthy and full of energy. The children enjoyed sorting different types of foods, talking about what goes into a balanced meal, and discovering how the right food fuels our brains and muscles for learning and play.









Rocksteady Music Workshop

We were super excited to welcome Rocksteady Music into school this month! The children had an absolute blast watching a live music demonstration, trying out different band instruments and learning how songs are built together. The hall was full of energy, big smiles and lots of noise as everyone got involved. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that has definitely sparked a lot of musical excitement across the whole year group!



I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the parents and carers of the children. They have settled in well and it is amazing seeing their capabilities. Please continue supporting your child with their homework and please read daily too! Miss Mehmood

Year 4 Highlights

Black History Month

This half term, Year 4 celebrated Black History Month by exploring two remarkable leaders: Martin Luther King Jr. and Barack Obama. The children learned about Martin Luther King Jr.'s inspiring dream of equality and fairness for all, alongside Barack Obama's historic journey as the first Black President of the United States. Through discussions and writing tasks, pupils reflected on how both figures shaped history, used peaceful voice to inspire change, and demonstrated resilience and leadership.





PSHE: Kindness Workshop

Our class took part in a fantastic PSHE Kindness Workshop designed to build empathy and foster teamwork. Interactive activities allowed the children to explore what kindness looks like in everyday life and how small gestures can make a big difference in our school community. They discussed practical ways to support each other, build strong friendships, and resolve differences, leaving the workshop feeling energised, thoughtful, and ready to spread kindness across the whole year group!



Music: Rocksteady Workshop

Year 4 turned into rockstars during an exhilarating Rocksteady music workshop! The children experienced the excitement of forming a band alongside children in other year groups, experimenting with electric guitars, keyboards, drums, and vocals. They learned how different instruments work together to create a rhythm and produce a unified sound. It was wonderful to see every pupil jump into the musical experience, gain confidence in performing, and discover the joy of making music together as a team.

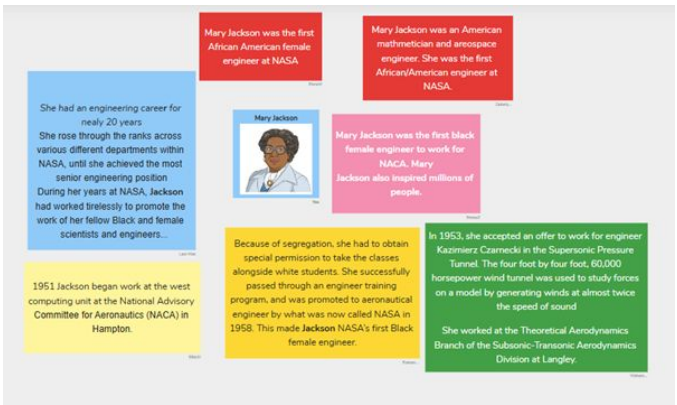


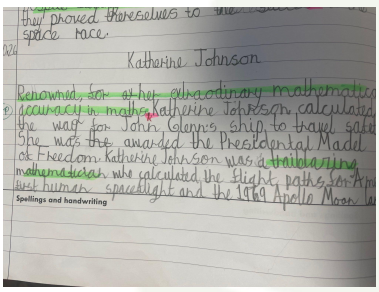
Looking Back & Reminders

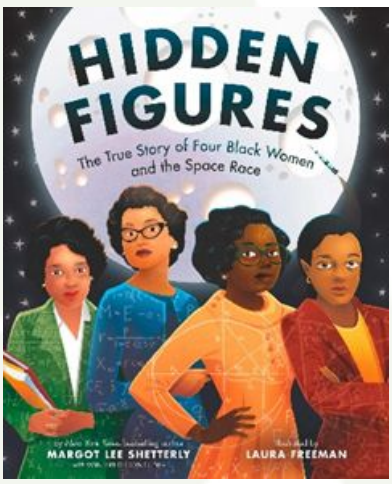
It has been a wonderfully busy half term! The children have loved diving into the origins and structures of human settlements in Geography, exploring solids, liquids, and gases in Science during our States of Matter topic, and learning about the spiritual significance of pilgrimage in Islam during RE. As we keep up this momentum, please remember that consistent daily reading and regular practice on Times Tables Rock Stars make a huge difference to your child's progress. Thank you for your continued support!

Year 5 Highlights

Black History Month: Hidden Figures





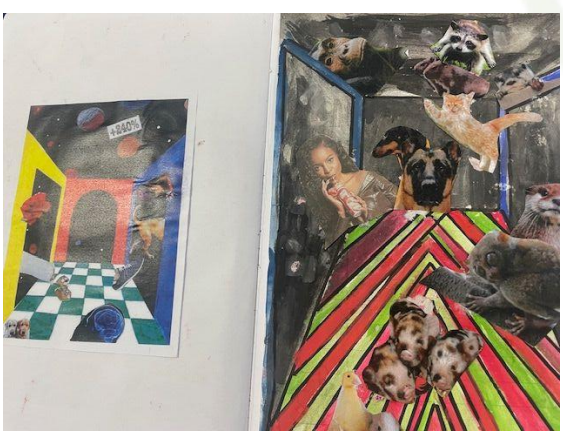


It's been an inspirational month learning about pioneering Black British engineers and courageous African American scientists. The children have been writing non-chronological reports about four African American mathematicians (known as 'human computers') who broke gender and racial barriers in the space race through their work at NASA and are portrayed in books and a film called *'Hidden Figures'.*

Art - Colour and Perspective

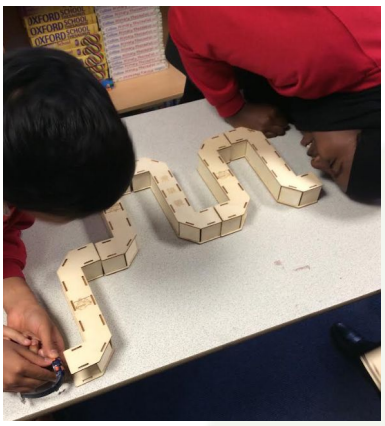


This term, Year 5 have been thinking about how to portray emotion through line and colour. They looked at the artist Mark Rothko and how he used colour to express feelings. They have also been using perspective and depth to help their pieces of work feel like some things are closer and some things are further away with a focal point in the centre.

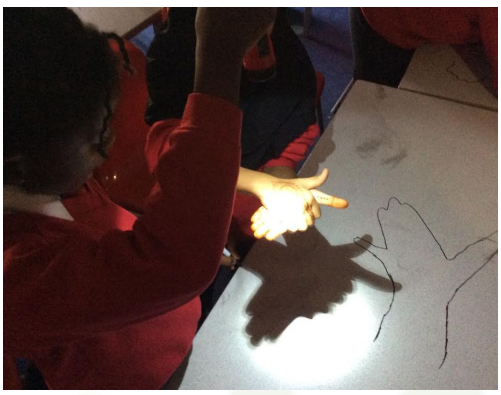


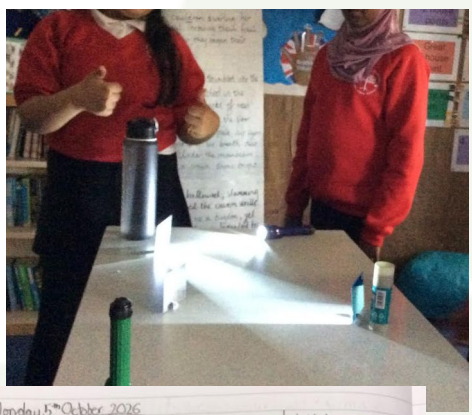


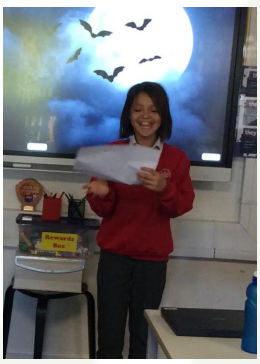
Year 6 Highlights

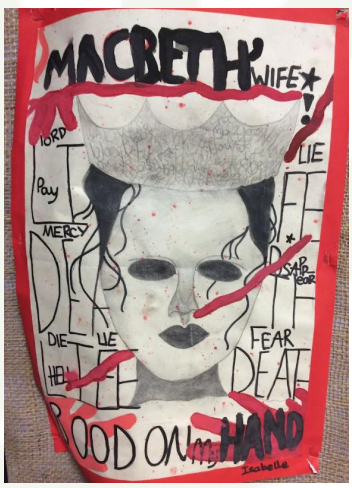


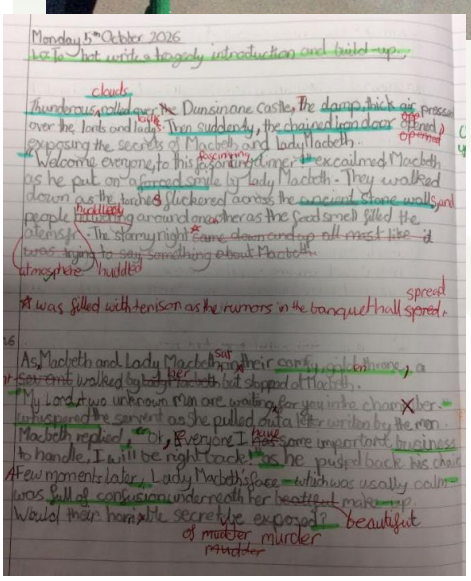




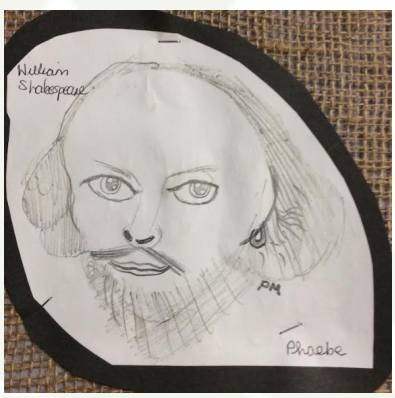












It is hard to believe we are already at the end of our first half term! October has been a brilliant month full of hands-on learning, creative projects, and important discussions around well-being. Here is a highlight of what Year 6 has been up to:

In Computing this half term, the children have been mastering Google Spreadsheets. They have been learning how to organise data, navigate cells, and use some really helpful functions and formulas to calculate results automatically. Be sure to ask your child what they've learned - you might be surprised by how quickly they can teach you a new shortcut or trick.

We have continued our fascinating work on light this month with a series of interactive experiments. The children investigated how shadows take the exact shape of the object blocking the light source and experimented with changing shadow sizes. We also delved into human biology, learning all about the different parts of the human eye and how they work together to process the light around us.

Looking after our minds is just as important as looking after our bodies. This month, we took time out for practical activities focused on keeping ourselves mentally healthy. We explored strategies for managing stress, practicing mindfulness, and understanding the importance of open conversations about our feelings.

LIVING STREETS

LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH

Autumn Street Safari



There are lots of interesting things to see and do as you walk, wheel or scoot to school. How many of these activities can you tick off on your Autumn Street Safari?

Find a pretty feather ☐	Spot a bird and draw it ☐	Make art using fallen leaves ☐	Hug a big tree ☐
Look under a rock - who lives there? ☐	Find a red leaf ☐	Make up a scary story ☐	Juggle with pinecones ☐
Jump over a puddle ☐	Pretend to be a squirrel asleep for the winter ☐	Learn why leaves change colour ☐	Spot a zebra crossing ☐
Say hello to a neighbour ☐	Dance around a mushroom ☐	Close your eyes and listen - what do you hear? ☐	Stamp on a pile of leaves ☐

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

LIVING STREETS

LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL

AUTUMN FAMILY WALKING ACTIVITIES

Going for a walk is a great way to explore your local area and have fun with your friends and family. Notice what you can smell, feel, hear and see as you walk in a local park or green space - it might surprise you!

Did you discover a sticky mushroom or make an autumn mandala? We'd love to see your autumn finds! Your parents or carers can share your photos and videos on social media using the hashtag #AutumnStreetSafari

WHY NOT TRY...



Write a poem or story about a raindrop's journey down the street.



Use the items you collect on your walks to create an autumn nature mandala.



Make a hedgehog house from an upturned plastic box filled with dry leaves.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR VISITING LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK/AUTUMN



Living Streets is the UK charity for everyday walking and the people behind the Walk to School campaign.

LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK