



# HB newsletter: Spring 2021



Harper Bell  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Primary School

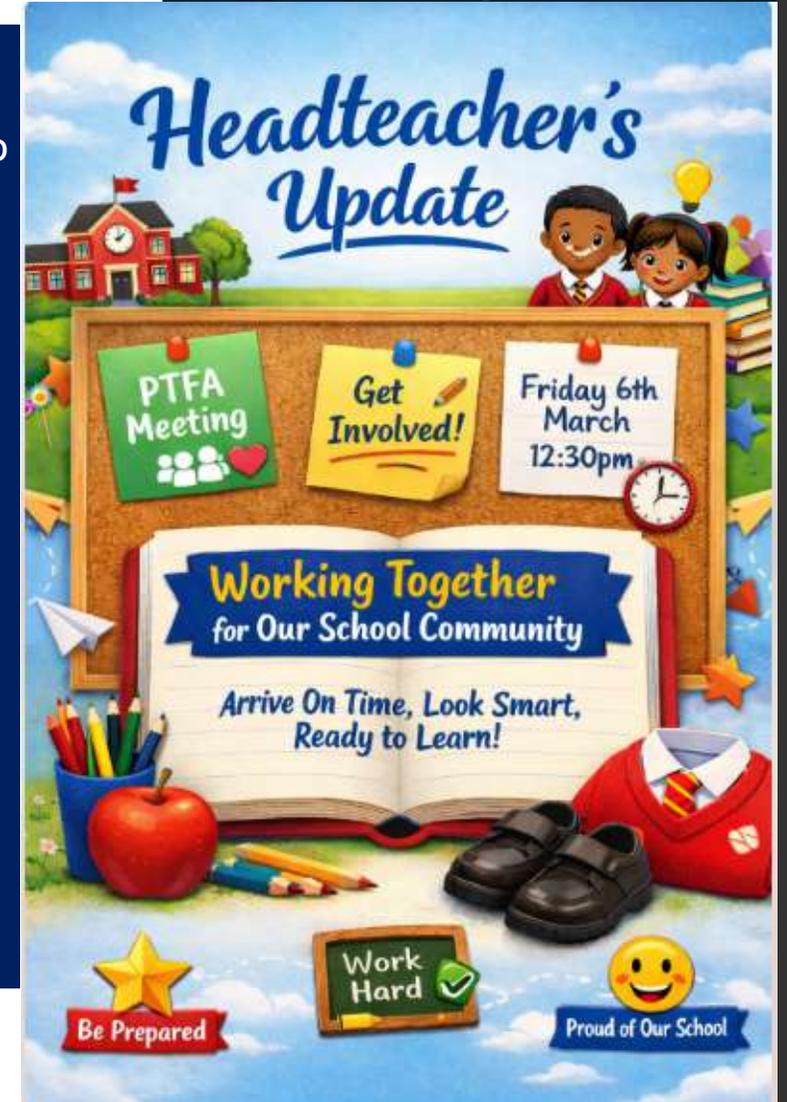
Dear Parents and Carers,

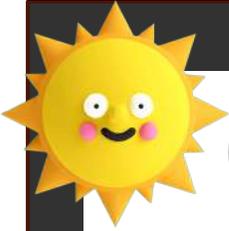
As we continue to strengthen our school community, we are looking to further develop our PTFA to support events, enrichment opportunities and wider school improvement. A strong partnership between school and families is vital in ensuring the best experiences for our children.

We are inviting parents and carers who may be interested in supporting the school through a parent focus group or by contributing to PTFA initiatives to get involved. Your ideas, skills and perspectives are incredibly valuable and will help shape future opportunities for our pupils. Our first session will take place on Friday 6 March at 12:30pm. Please contact the school office to register your attendance or to find out further information.

Thank you to families for your continued support in ensuring children arrive at school on time and in full school uniform each day. Being punctual and dressed smartly helps pupils feel ready to learn, promotes pride in our school and supports a calm and purposeful start to lessons. Your partnership in maintaining high standards makes a real difference to children's learning and attitudes.

Mrs Susan Sidhu





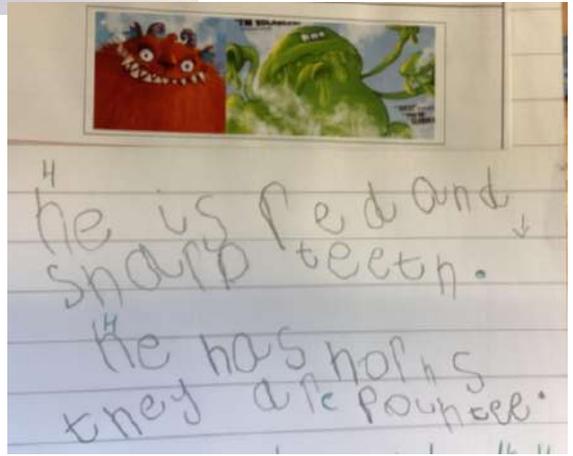
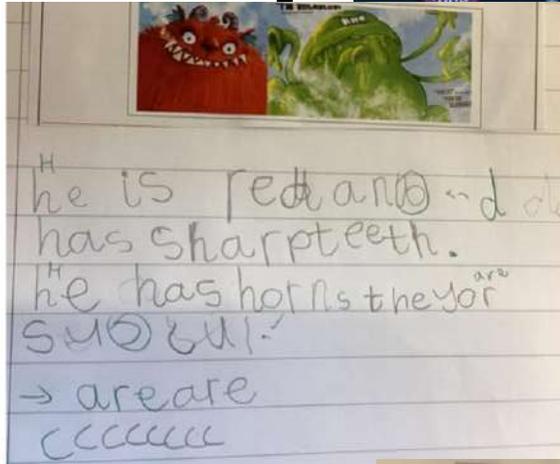
# Curriculum in action: Reception

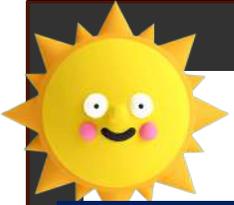


Reception have had a busy week, as they have started their new Topic Emergency Services. We learnt about how the Police help us and support us in the community.

We also learnt about the Chinese New year celebrations and took part in some stimulating activities to learn about these celebrations, as well Chinese culture. We looked at China on the world map and learnt what languages are spoken there.

We have started learning our new story in Literacy Called Monstersaurus by Claire Freedman and have described some monsters! Great work children.





# Curriculum in action: Year 1



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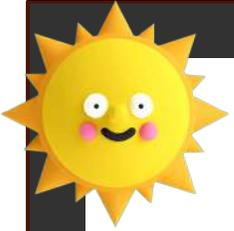
Year one have had a great start back and have continued to learn new digraphs in phonics as well as tricky words. In number, we are counting in tens and using manipulatives to help us, such as the 10 base and numicon.

In Science, they are comparing animals and learning about animal groups, such as mammals, reptiles, fish, birds and amphibians. They are looking at the features of animals and classifying what group they are in.

In History, we are looking closely at how toys have changed over time. We then discussed and drew pictures of what we enjoyed playing with when we were younger compared to what we enjoy now.

Tricky words learnt this week: Laugh once  
Alternative sounds/digraphs/trigraphs  
ur/ or word /oo/ u oul awful could /air/ are share /or/ au  
aur oor al author dinosaur floor walk





# Curriculum in action: Year 2

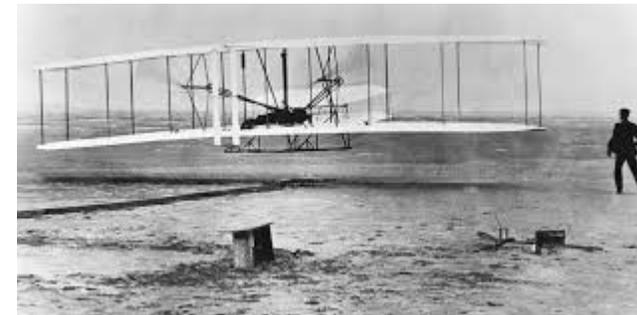
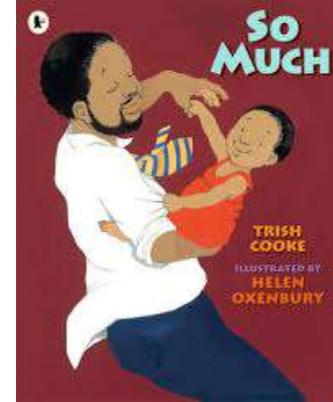


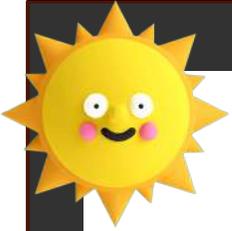
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Year 2 have settled back in wonderfully this week! It has been lovely to see them all eager to attend and learn. We also had the wonderful reading workshop where children read with parents and Year 6s.

In class we have started our new topics  
English- So Much  
Science- Microhabitats  
History- How we learnt to fly (the creation of planes)  
DT- Creating a healthy meal  
RE- Christianity and salvation

The children have also just finished their multiplication and division topic in Mathematics and despite this being a harder part of the curriculum, the children did FANTASTIC in their end of unit test- well done year 2!





# Curriculum in action: Year 3



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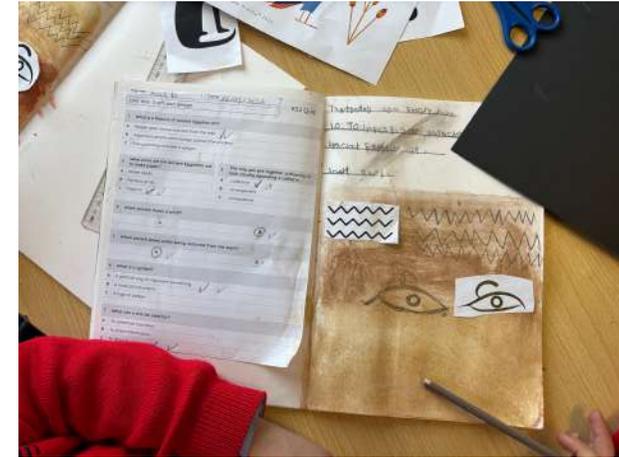
Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the new half term! They have settled straight back into their learning and are showing great focus and engagement.

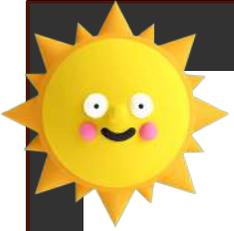
In English, we have been learning about the features of a news report, including the use of past tense, third person and direct speech. The children are now ready to start drafting their own exciting reports about a missing Egyptian princess.

In Maths, we have continued our work on length and perimeter. Across the curriculum, we have also begun some exciting new topics: Christianity (*Sacrifice*) in RE, Ancient Egypt in History, and Light and Shadows in Science.

In Art, the children enjoyed creating their own 'papyrus'-style paper using watercolours, inspired by Egyptian scrolls.

Well done Year 3 – a brilliant start to the new half term!





# Curriculum in action: Year 4



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Year 4 have settled in wonderfully this week and have been eager to get straight back into learning.

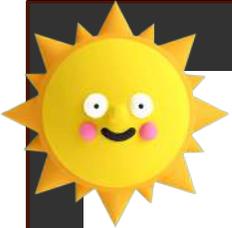
We have started our new topics of:

- Writing: Letter writing
- Maths: Fractions
- History: How children's lives have changed
- Science: Sound and vibrations
- Art: Adapting a biscuit recipe

During our maths lessons, we have been exploring the whole, and identifying how many equal parts can make a whole. The children have been very focused and using perseverance to try different ways of making a whole.

Well done, Year 4!





# Curriculum in action: Year 5

We have built significantly on existing skills and successfully developed a range of new skills in year 5. We have continued to explore fractions in maths and worked out fractions of amounts, while exploring how a bar model can be used to solve problems. In reading, we have practised our inference skills in increasingly challenging ways: we have practised asking and answering questions that deepen our understanding of a text; additionally, we have drawn our own independent inferences based on poetry. In writing, we have continued to explore a range of grammatical devices and sentence structures to contribute to a non-fiction report.

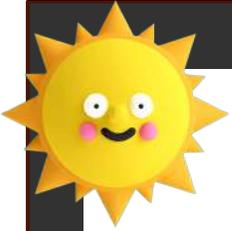
Great progress year 5- let's keep building!

The Capital City *is landlocked*

Moonlight drifts across the floor, soft as a whisper. → *It is nighttime*  
Varjak curls, still and quiet, tail wrapped tightly, breathing even and slow. → *Varjak is feeling calm*  
A shadow moves beside him – tall, bright, and silent. It is Jalal, eyes like stars, voice like wind through the city streets.  
"Feel the world beneath your paws," Jalal murmurs. Varjak stretches, claws brushing shadows, thoughts dancing over invisible walls. → *Really blue - no white - singular*  
"Move like water, strike like lightning," the old cat says. Varjak leaps from shadow to shadow, soft as a ghost. → *The cat is jumping and pulling*  
eyes unblinking. → *Emerald*  
yet every movement precise. → *more is purple*  
"See with more than your eyes. Hear with more than your ears," Jalal instructs. Varjak swirls, pounces, feeling the city hum beneath his paws, wind in whiskers, stone under toes. → *Jalal is a light*

complete the bar models.

$1/6$  of  $7 = 16$  ✓  
 $1/2$  of  $7 = 9$  ✓  
a bar model  
 $1/8$  of  $32 = 4$  ✓  
 $1/8$  of  $32 = 16$  ✓  
 $2/8$  of  $32 = 8$  ✓  
 $5/8$  of  $32 = 20$  ✓  
 $3/8$  of  $32 = 12$  ✓  
 $6/8$  of  $32 = 24$  ✓



# Curriculum in action: Year 6



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Year 6 has had a brilliant first week back. In maths, we have been learning about measure, with a focus on the metric system. We will explore the imperial system next week and will be learning to convert between the metric and imperial systems.

In English, we have been learning about traditional tales. We explored the short story 'The Little Match Girl' by Hans Christian Anderson and wrote our own descriptions of the story. The children have been learning to extend their writing using fronted adverbials, noun phrases and relative clauses. In Science, we learned about Carl Linnaeus and his way of classifying living things.

Homework will be uploaded to class dojo. Have a great weekend!

Mrs Yates

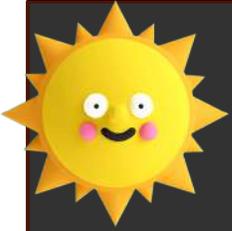
Measurement conversions

### Weight

1 tonne = 1000 kilograms  
1 kilogram = 1000 grams  
1 gram = 1000 milligrams



t
kg
g
mg



# Spiritual thought for the week...



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This week, our theme has been *Self-Check* — taking time to pause, think, and improve.

Self-check means asking ourselves:

- Am I making good choices?
- Am I being kind and respectful?
- Am I trying my best?

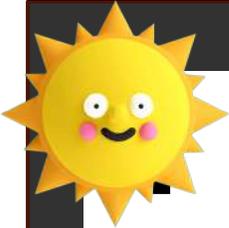
It also means checking our **schoolwork** carefully. When we finish our work, we should read it again to look for mistakes, correct our spelling, fix our numbers, and make improvements.

Checking our work helps us learn from our mistakes and do even better next time!

When we take time to reflect and make corrections, we grow stronger in both our learning and our character.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me.” – Psalm 139:23





# Home Learning for Spr 1 W



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Reception Recap tricky words and digraphs, describe monsters.

Recap tricky words and digraphs. Includes a grid of words and a drawing of a monster.

he	you	was	are	prince	at	ee	igh	oo	oo	ee	at
hat	than	by	She	Sure	or	ur	ow	ai	ear	air	er
his	all	my	me	into							
her	are	you	see								

Year 1: Describe features of animal groups and counting in tens and ones.

Year 1 Animal groups worksheet. Includes a table of animal characteristics and a bar chart.

Amphibians	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fish
• Frog	• They fly	• Cold blooded	• Cold blooded	• Gills
• Can't fly	• They lay eggs	• They lay eggs	• They lay eggs	• They lay eggs
• They can't breathe	• They have feathers	• They have scales	• They have scales	• They have scales
• They can't breathe	• They have scales	• They have scales	• They have scales	• They have scales

Year 2

Spellings: knee, know, knock, gnat, gnaw, knit, gnome, knot, known.

Maths: Comparing lengths worksheet.

Year 2 Maths: Comparing lengths worksheet. Includes multiple choice questions and a comparison activity.

1. Tick the statements that are correct.

A. 30 cm is shorter than 35 cm.

B. 4 m is longer than 6 m.

C. 10 cm is taller than 20 cm.

D. 12 m is shorter than 13 m.

2. Use the number cards to make the comparison statements correct.

A. 22 cm <  cm

B.  cm = 15 cm

C. 18 m >  m

3. Connect the measurements and symbols to make comparison statements. You can only use each symbol once.

15 cm   <   45 cm

45 cm   >   43 cm

56 cm   =   12 cm

Year 3

Paper copies of Maths, Writing and Spellings. TTRS practise Collinshub book World book day writing (due 02.03)

Year 4

TTRS Studio Paper Times table practice Paper reading comprehension Collinshub book Spellings World book day writing (due 02.03)

Year 5:

Paper copies sent home: -Maths: Fractions -Reading comprehension -Spelling

Year 6:

Homework will be uploaded to class dojo: - Mathsbot - Spellings - SPaG - TTRS - World book day writing (due 02.03)





# A special shout out!

★ Special Shout Out! ★

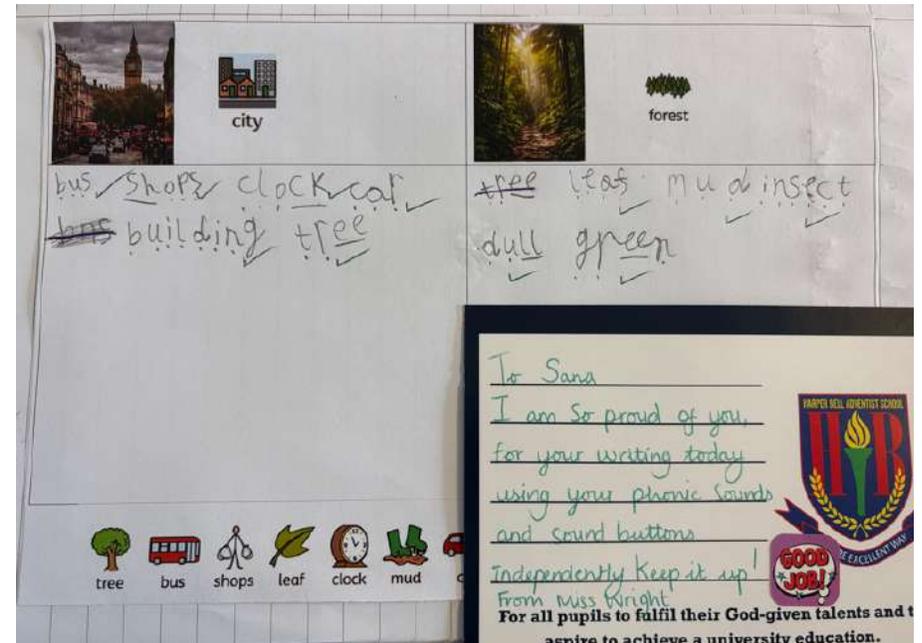
I would like to give a very special shout out to Sana in Year 3 for her outstanding achievement this week.

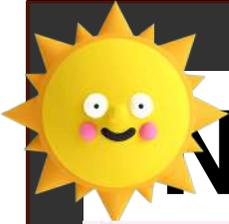
Sana joined us at Harper Bell with no English, and she has independently sorted and categorised words into their correct settings, using her sound buttons to decode and read each word without any support. I was extremely impressed with her focus and determination.

She has made remarkable progress – going from having no English to now being able to read and write independently. This is a significant accomplishment!

Sana has worked exceptionally hard in her phonics intervention group with Miss Wright, and her commitment is clearly paying off. I am so proud of you, Sana, and the whole staff team is too. Keep up the excellent work! ★

Miss Nisar





# National Science week

## Why Healthy Snacks Matter

- Too many sugary or salty snacks can make us feel tired or poorly over time.
- Healthy snacks help us concentrate, grow strong and feel good.
- We should eat at least 5 portions of fruit or vegetables each day.  
*What fruit or vegetables make good snacks?*



<https://www.britishscienceweek.org/the-british-science-week-2026-activity-packs-are-out-now/>



## Snack swaps!

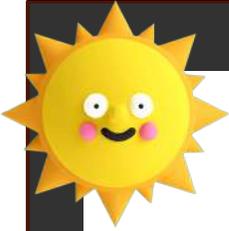
<i>Instead of...</i>	<i>Try...</i>
Crisps	Air-popped popcorn or veggie sticks
Chocolate bar	Fruit skewers or yoghurt
Sugary drink	Water or milk



*Can you try a healthy new snack this week?*

*What else can you do to make healthier food choices this week?*





# Don't forget about this....!



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**The Day I Became Prime Minister**

Imagine waking up to find YOU are in charge of the country. We want to read your story!

Stories must be in by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March!

**SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION**  
Prizes for winners!!

**Happy writing!**

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

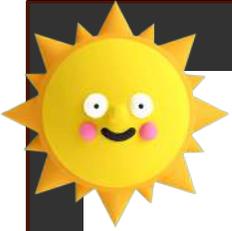
Celebrating  
**World Book Day 2026**

THURSDAY  
5TH  
MARCH

YAY!

COME TO SCHOOL  
DRESSED AS YOUR  
FAVOURITE BOOK  
CHARACTER

at Harper Bell School



# Don't forget about this....!



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Approachable Parenting

JOIN US ON  
**Tuesday 24th March**  
10am-1pm @ The Moseley Community Hub

*Let's Celebrate  
Eid Together*

**LADIES ONLY**

FOOD ENTERTAINMENT BABY STALLS

BABY MASSAGE PLAY AREA PHOTOSHOOT

£5 EACH  
under 5's free

BOOK NOW

A CELEBRATION YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

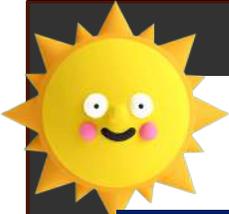
BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP Green Square Accord Hall Green Families Sally Oak Families FamilyHubs BEST START IN LIFE

## Ramadan and Eid Mubarak

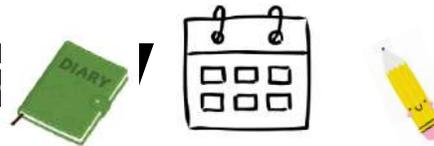
We would like to wish all of our families who are observing Ramadan a peaceful and blessed month. Ramadan is a special time for Muslims around the world, focused on prayer, kindness, reflection and helping others. Many Muslims fast during daylight hours as a way of developing self-discipline, gratitude and compassion for those in need.

At the end of Ramadan, families celebrate Eid al-Fitr, a joyful festival marked by prayer, sharing meals and spending time with family and friends. It is also a time for generosity, giving to charity and showing kindness within the community.

We wish all families celebrating a happy and joyful Eid when it arrives.



# Dates for your diary



**4/3/2026:** Inset day

**5/3/2026:** World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book character

**6/3/2026:** National Careers week

**9/3/2026:** British Science Week

**10.3.26** Big Cats work shop for Phonics/Little Wandle

**18/3/2026:** Meet the author - Chante Timothy Y3 and 4

**19/3/26:** Inclusion Coffee Morning

**26.3.26:** Reception and Year 1 Number and Math's wow event and parent workshop.

**23/3/2026:** Phonic assessments

**22/4/2026:** Earth day

**21.4.26 to the 28.4.26:** Scholastic Book Fair in school.

Whole school reading Café workshops coming soon for parents and children – more details to be provided soon

## PE Year 3 and 4:

This half term, Year 3 and 4 will have the wonderful opportunity to be taught cricket by professional coaches from Edgbaston Stadium. Session will replace their normal PE lessons so please ensure they are sent in wearing proper PE kit to be included.

All participants will receive a personalised t-shirt and gain fantastic, universal sporting skills!

## Year 5 - extra PE curriculum offer

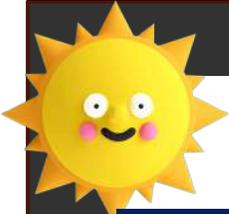
Swimming lessons taking place between 16-27 March at Ladypool Primary - more details to be provided to Year 5 parents

## **What is Dynamos Cricket?**

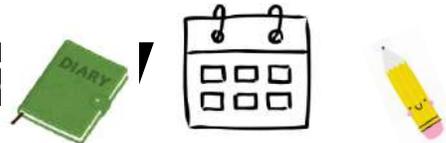
Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport!

Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental skills required to play cricket.

We know how important it is to look like the heroes of the game, so every child who registers will receive their very own Dynamos Cricket t-shirt, personalised with their name and number.



# Dates for your diary



- 4/3/2026:** Inset day
  - 5/3/2026:** World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book character
  - 6/3/2026:** National Careers week begins.  
Parent focus group session 12:30pm
  - 9/3/2026:** British Science Week
  - 10.3.26** Big Cats work shop for Phonics/Little Wandle
  - 18/3/2026:** Meet the author - Chante Timothy Y3 and 4
  - 19/3/26:** Inclusion Coffee Morning
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  - 22/4/2026:** Earth day
  - 21.4.26 to the 28.4.26:** Scholastic Book Fair in school.
- Whole school reading Café workshops coming soon for parents and children – more details to be provided soon

To all parents,

**WE INVITE YOU TO OUR**

**LITTLE WANDLE**

**BIG CATS**

**EBOOK LIBRARY**

**WORKSHOP**

on Tuesday the 10th of March at 3pm.

Refreshments will be available. We hope to see you there to support with your child's reading development.

2 5 8

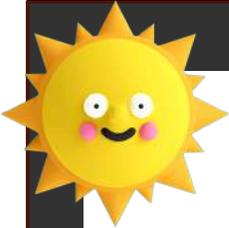
**NUMBER FUN**

AND ENRICHMENT AFTERNOON

3pm to 4pm  
for all KS1 children  
on Thursday 26th of March.

We will have fun Easter activities and a bouncy castle!

£2 per child to help raise school funds for further enrichment activities.



# Attendance Paç



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## LOVE, LEARNING AND LAUGHTER ATTEND!

Good attendance means...

...being in school for at least 97% of the time – between 185 to 190 days!

**REMEMBER**  
You've got to be in, to win!

365 days in a calendar year	0 days absent	5 days absent	10 days absent	15 days absent	20 days absent	25 days absent
	In school for 180 days each year.	In school for 185 days each year.	In school for 175 days each year.	In school for 170 days each year.	In school for 170 days each year.	In school for 165 days each year.
	100% Attendance!	97% Attendance!	94% Attendance!	89% Attendance!	88% Attendance!	86% Attendance!

Good attendance = best chance of success! "Well done!"

Poor attendance = less chance of success! "I'm worried!"

Persistently poor attendance = damages education "I'm seriously concerned!"



This week: 93.54%