



NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK!

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to a new term and a new year. I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday and were able to return refreshed and ready for the months ahead.

The start of a new year is a natural time to set New Year's resolutions. In school, this means being clear about what we want to improve and having the determination to follow through. This links directly to our school value for this month: **Wisdom**.

Wisdom is about making informed, sensible choices and understanding that progress comes from consistent effort over time. Choosing to work hard, look after our health and persevere when things feel challenging are all examples of wise decisions.

One important area where wise choices matter is health and fitness. Regular exercise and healthy eating habits are proven to improve wellbeing, focus and academic performance.

Pupils who are active and well-nourished are better able to concentrate in lessons, regulate their emotions and sustain effort in their learning. Looking after our bodies helps us get the best out of our minds.

To support this, we are re-establishing the Argyle Mile. Every Wednesday (weather permitting), pupils will jog or walk briskly for a mile. This is about building stamina, resilience and routine rather than speed or competition. Taking part regularly is a practical way for pupils to act on their New Year's intentions and make wise choices for their health.

We are also grateful to The Creative Arts Company (CAA) for funding a project to improve fitness and wellbeing across the school. As part of this initiative, each class will take part in a weekly lunchtime fitness session, providing additional opportunities for fun, structured physical activity during the school day.

By linking wise decision-making, physical health and personal determination, we aim to help pupils develop positive habits that will support both their wellbeing and their success throughout the year.

WISDOM

J. Wade
Head Teacher

RECEPTION



We were very excited to welcome the Reception children back to school for the first week of 2026! It has been a fantastic week of learning, particularly in literacy, where the children continued to practise their handwriting skills. They focused on forming letters that begin with a curved line, and it was wonderful to see how much progress they have made. All of the children were able to confidently write the letters d, s, f and e, showing clear evidence of practise at home.

Our topic story this week was The Gingerbread Man. The children worked together to create a story map and enjoyed retelling the story, as well as inventing their own versions. We also discussed what might happen if we baked gingerbread at home—would it really jump out of the oven? Opinions were delightfully divided!

In RE, we began learning about the Muslim faith and started reading My Muslim Faith by Khadijah Knight. The story follows a young girl called Tayeba and highlights the importance of caring for the world around us. Inspired by this, the children thought about how they could look after their environment and went outside to help clear fallen autumn leaves, taking pride in keeping their Reception area tidy.



YEAR 1

Shapes

This week in Year 1, the children explored 3D shapes in their maths lessons. They learned to name and recognise cubes, cuboids, pyramids, spheres, cones and cylinders, and discussed their features such as faces, edges and vertices.

Through hands-on activities, the children built models, sorted shapes and went on a classroom shape hunt. They also tested which shapes could roll, stack or slide, using mathematical language confidently and linking their learning to real-life objects.

Zaynab: "The cylinder can roll and stand up."

Izyaan: "The cuboid and the cube is nearly the same."

Marcus: "The cube is all square and the cuboid has two squares and four rectangles."

Projects

Over the Christmas break, the children proudly shared their half-term projects, showing creativity and enthusiasm for learning.

Safa: "My poster is about my body."

Daisy:

"I made Big Ben. It has four clocks."

Zakariya: "My Big Ben has a clock and fireworks for New Year."

Afsan - I used a leaf to make the door

Amaya - I made a bed for my mouse. I used a brown leaf to cover it

In the Garden Classroom, the children enjoyed seasonal outdoor learning.

They observed winter changes, including icy weather, planted flower and garlic bulbs, and created homes for wildlife, showing curiosity, teamwork and care for nature.

Muna - this instrument is small and it makes a squeaky sound.

Ahlam - I am planting a flower. Cover with soil. Pat, pat.



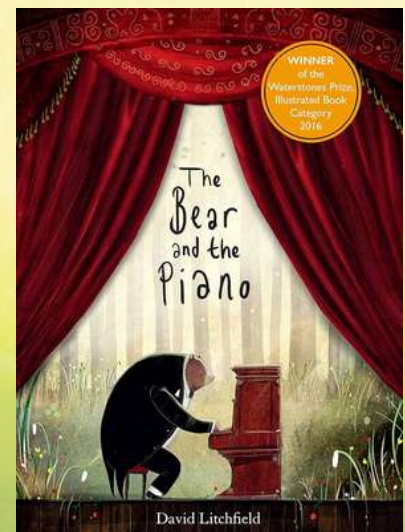
YEAR 2

Year 2 have returned this week feeling rested and ready to learn!

In Literacy, we have begun exploring a new story, **The Bear and the Piano**. The children have been learning the model text and taking part in short bursts of writing, focusing on using conjunctions and expanded noun phrases in their sentences.

In Maths, the children have started their new unit on money. They have been revisiting how to identify the value of coins and notes. During a class discussion, when asked why three £2 coins did not equal £3, Noura confidently reminded everyone to count in 2s, explaining that the total would be £6. To support your child at home, please give them opportunities to practise counting money. It would also be very beneficial for them to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

In History, the children have begun their new topic on Famous Historical Heroes. They chose a hero and wrote thoughtful questions they would like to find the answers to. Inaaya wondered, "**What did Isambard Kingdom Brunel do to be famous?**" We are looking forward to discovering more about these inspiring individuals together.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy and exciting week, beginning several new topics across the curriculum.

On Tuesday, in preparation for their writing inspired by the sci-fi fantasy adventure Phoenix by S.F. Said, the children imagined a journey through space. Using pastels, they created vivid artwork featuring hazy nebulae, fiery comets and swirling spiral galaxies.

On Wednesday, the class investigated forces using a balloon rocket experiment. They identified the different forces at work, including the forward push of air escaping the balloon, gravity pulling it down, air resistance slowing it, and friction between the straw and string.

Later that day, Year 5 began their new History topic on the Victorians.

They placed the period (1837–1901) on a timeline alongside other historical eras they have studied, first creating a human timeline before working independently.

On Thursday, the children were visited by poet Keith Jarrett, one of two poets who will be working with the class this term. He entertained everyone with a poem about the origin of his name before leading poetry workshops. The children explored how words convey emotions and worked in groups to discuss the power of language, with some deciding that the word 'feelings' itself was especially powerful.

The session ended with a wonderfully imaginative poem, digging beneath Argyle Primary School to uncover beetles hunting in the dark, the smell of discarded chip wrappers, ancient bones, electric wires along railway lines, and finally, molten rock at the Earth's core.



Year 6

On Thursday, Year 6 visited the British Library to attend an inspiring talk by award-winning author Katherine Rundell, which was also live streamed to schools across the UK and abroad.

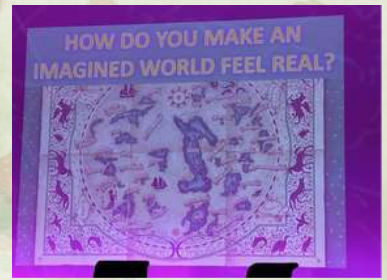
The children were already familiar with her work, having read *The Explorer* in Year 5 and currently reading *Impossible Creatures* as their class book.

The talk was linked to the Library's Secret Maps exhibition, and Katherine spoke about her love of maps, explaining how she began *Impossible Creatures* by first creating a map of its world.

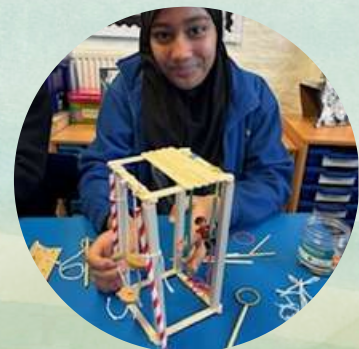
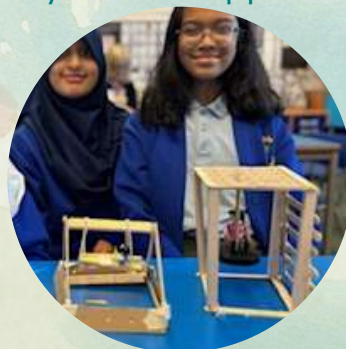
She also shared favourite childhood books with maps, including *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Hobbit*.

Katherine gave the children insight into her writing process, encouraging them to ask imaginative "What if?" questions and explaining the importance of editing.

After the talk, the class explored the Secret Maps exhibition, viewing historic and World War Two maps. It was an inspiring visit that sparked the children's enthusiasm for reading and writing.



For DT pupils explored a range of structures, carefully testing the strength and stability of their designs to ensure they were safe and robust. Using creative ideas and strong problem-solving skills, the pupils designed and built exciting playground equipment that is not only fun and appealing but also sturdy and built to last.



Reading for Pleasure

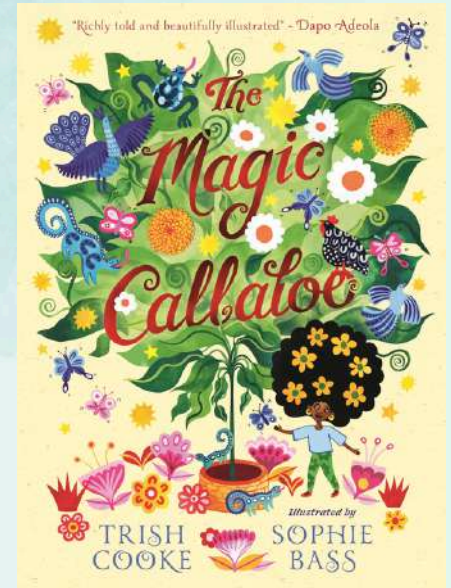
Teacher Book Recommendations



Ms Plumb

My recommendation is *The Magic Callaloo* by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Sophie Bass.

I absolutely love this book! The story echoes Rapunzel and is influenced by the Brothers Grimm version as well as the author's African ancestry. The illustrations are colourful and completely captivating. When I read this to children, we love to look at all the wonderful details within the drawings. My favourite part is when Lou is reunited with her parents, it is such a joyous ending.




The book I recommend for KS2 is **City of Dragons - the awakening storm**. I recently met the author and had a fantastic time speaking to her about it. At the beginning of the story, Grace's father dies of cancer, but her memory of the stories he told, of dragons, emperors, and betrayal, stay with her. Three years after that, Grace moves to Hong Kong with her mum and stepdad. Her new school is one of the most exclusive in the world and she finds some great friends. It takes Grace a week to find herself at the start of an adventure!! It is a fanstastic story for older kids. I loved reading it!



Ms Courtsley



Attendance & Punctuality



| Class | 1J | 2A | 2O | 3P | 4E | 4O | 5A | 5Q | 6S | Total |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Week 1 | 93% | 96% | 92% | 91% | 92% | 90% | 92% | 92% | 98% | 91% |

Congratulations to for achieving the target of 96% attendance this week.

Reporting Absences



Parents should report any absences to the school office by calling 02078374590 before 9.30am.

Please do not leave messages on the answering machine. A member of staff may call you again to discuss the absence. Please do not send emails to the admin inbox.

Exceptional Leave



Parents are reminded not to book holidays during school term time.

If there is an emergency and you need exceptional leave, please complete a form from the school office before booking your tickets.

We would like to remind parents that taking holidays less than 5 days can still be referred for a penalty notice. You may not issued a Penalty Notice but you will be invited to a Legal Authority Meeting with Camden's Attendance and Children Out of School Team in Camden offices.

Every School Day Counts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| MONDAY 12TH | ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am Year 6 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Catch up Booster - selected children from years 1 to 4 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (year 1 finish @ 4pm) |
| TUESDAY 13TH | Year 4 swimming - 11am to 12pm Year 5 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Cooking Club, years 1, 2 & 3 Group 1 - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Art Club, years 4, 5 & 6 - 3 15pm to 4 15pm Selected children from Yrs 5&6 to a football tournament at Somers Town - 3pm to 5.30pm |
| WEDNESDAY 14TH | ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am Year 5 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Football Club, years 1, 2 & 3 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm Selected children from Yrs 3&4 to dodgeball competition at Talacre - 3pm to 6.20pm |
| THURSDAY 15TH | Maths Open Classroom - from 9am Year 4O to Holborn Library for DT workshop - 9.30am to 12pm Year 6 Richard Reeves Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Art Club, years 1, 2 & 3 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm Cooking Club, years 4, 5 & 6 group 1 - 3.13pm to 4.30pm |
| FRIDAY 16TH | Football Club, years 4, 5 & 6 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm |
| MONDAY 19TH | ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am Year 6 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm Catch up Booster - selected children from years 1 to 4 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm (year 1 finish @ 4pm) |