

NEWSLETTER



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we move towards the end of January – a month often associated with New Year's resolutions – it is a timely reminder that setting goals is only the first step. What truly makes the difference is the sustained effort we put in over time to achieve them. This applies just as much to our school community as it does to individuals, and I would like to thank everyone for the continued commitment shown so far this year.

One key area where consistency really matters is attendance. It is vital that pupils arrive at school on time every day, ready to learn. During the winter months, when mornings are cold and dark, it can be tempting to slow our routines or allow the weather to deter us. However, every minute in school counts. As educational research often reminds us, "Missing just 10 minutes of learning each day adds up to nearly an hour a week and almost a whole week of learning across the school year." Being in school, and on time, gives children the very best chance to succeed.

This week has also been an exciting one for our school. We were delighted to welcome school leadership teams from across the country who visited to observe our teaching of reading and experience our strong reading culture. As a Little Wandle Champion School, accredited as a model of excellent practice in the teaching of the Little Wandle systematic synthetic phonics programme, we are proud to share our expertise with schools across the county.

Our visitors were extremely impressed, not only by the high-quality teaching they observed, but also by our children themselves. They commented particularly on pupils' excellent behaviour, enthusiasm for learning, and confidence as readers – a real credit to our whole school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

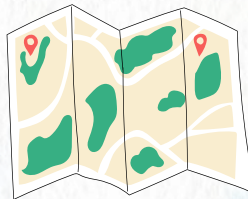
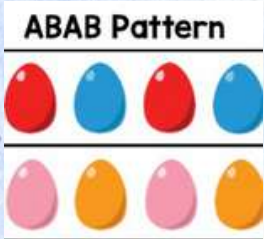
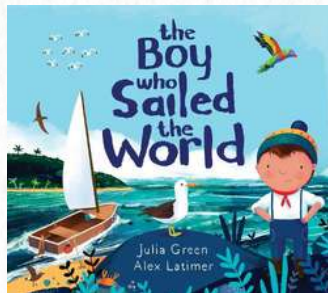
J. Wade
Head Teacher

NURSERY

This week in Nursery, we continued learning about water travel by focusing on sailing boats and enjoyed reading ***The Boy Who Sailed the World*** by Julia Green.

The children learnt about the job of a sailor and the important tools they use, such as maps and compasses, to help them travel across the ocean. They discovered how sailing boats move by catching the wind in their sails and enjoyed making their own boats, pretending to be the wind to make them move.

We also explored floating and sinking through simple experiments, learning that some objects float while others sink, and that materials and shape are important for floating.



In Maths, the children created ABAB patterns using nursery resources and learnt about the number 3, including recognising the numeral and counting three objects.

Linking to our story work, the children used their shape knowledge to draw maps of the nursery, and parents joined in during Stay and Play to create maps together.

In Phonics, we learnt the 'o' sound, focusing on the words orange, octopus, ostrich and on/off.



RECEPTION



This week in Reception, we continued our exciting learning about dinosaurs.

The children learnt that dinosaurs became extinct around 66 million years ago after a giant asteroid (a whopping 9 miles wide!) struck Earth.

We talked about how we know about dinosaurs today by studying fossils, which are remains preserved in the ground, and learnt about one of the first people to discover dinosaur fossils:

the palaeontologist Mary Anning, who lived in the 1800s.

The children had great fun engaging in dinosaur play and drawing their own fossils.



The children have also done some fantastic storytelling this week.

In Maths, we focused on partitioning the number 4 using part whole models and enjoyed creating number stories. Elaura confidently shared a brilliant story with the class about four ice creams that melted in the hot sun, leaving zero behind! We then represented this on a part-whole model to show that 4 can be split into 4 and 0.



In Literacy, we continued learning about upper and lower case letters, focusing on H/h and I/i. The children practised spelling the phrases "High hill" and "Ill hill" and created imaginative stories to match. Fatimah suggested that the "High hill" might have become an "Ill hill" because a climber wearing spiky boots hurt his head, great creative thinking!

We also enjoyed a lovely garden classroom session this week, where the children made bird feeders and bay leaf necklaces.



Finally, we were lucky enough to attend a special assembly all about children's author Tola Okogwu, during which the children listened to the story Hope's Braids. We are delighted to share that every Reception child has been given their own copy of the book to take home and keep 😊

YEAR 1

Role Play Sink Adventure

In English this week, the children explored Traction Man and the 'sink adventure' through role play and imaginative storytelling. They acted out the story using expression and movement, then planned and created their own comic strips. The children used speech bubbles, thought bubbles and onomatopoeia (such as splash, crash and whoosh) to make their writing exciting and dramatic. This helped develop their understanding of story structure and character voice, and they were very proud of their creative work. You could support this at home by reading comics together or encouraging your child to draw and label their own comic adventures.



Maths Games

In Maths the children enjoyed playing dice games to practise addition and subtraction. By rolling dice, they developed skills in counting accurately, adding within 10 and 20, subtracting by counting back, and recognising number patterns. The games encouraged them to take turns, solve problems and explain their thinking, helping to build confidence and a positive attitude towards Maths. You can continue this learning at home by playing simple dice or board games together.



YEAR 2

This week, Year 2 began a new Maths unit focusing on multiplication and division.

The children started by recognising equal groups and identifying how many are in each group. For example, they are learning to say, "There are 3 groups of 2."

In English, the children proudly published their innovated stories based on the story book ***The Bear and the Piano*** and have now moved on to identifying the key features of a fact file.

To support their History learning about Thomas Coram, the children visited the Foundling Hospital. They explored the museum, searching for Hogarth's famous painting of Coram. Myrah cleverly remembered, ***"Thomas Coram was a sailor. That's why the painting says Captain Thomas Coram."*** The children also enjoyed relaxing on an armchair in the gallery with built-in speakers, listening to a short extract from Handel's Messiah. Tejhaun leaned in and said, ***"Miss, I can hear it! It's so calm."***



In Computing, the children continued exploring Chrome Music Lab and enjoyed composing their own short pieces of music by drawing shapes.

Well done to Year 2 for their hard work and enthusiasm this week!

Flying Families



On Thursday after school, some families took part in Flying Families, an 8 week programme featuring aerial cocoon, yoga inspired movement and fun games. Flying Families gives families the chance to relax and enjoy quality time together while building stronger family bonds in an open, fun and stress free environment. Participants learn new skills, socialise with other families, and build confidence while supporting their health and wellbeing. Parents and children had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

YEAR 5

5 Amethyst had an extremely busy week. We began with literacy and maths assessments, which the children approached with focus and determination. Alongside this, they worked hard rehearsing for our class assembly, which they proudly performed on Thursday. Everyone was on top form, speaking loudly and clearly throughout—we are so proud of the effort and commitment they showed.



Following the assembly, the class enjoyed the first of three sessions with visiting physics experts, who taught the children how to use force to fly through the air. Everyone was incredibly brave and exceptionally well behaved, which meant they were able to try out some exciting tricks. A fantastic week all round!



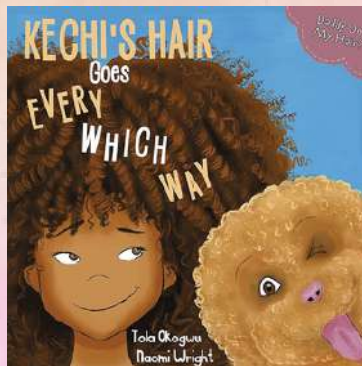
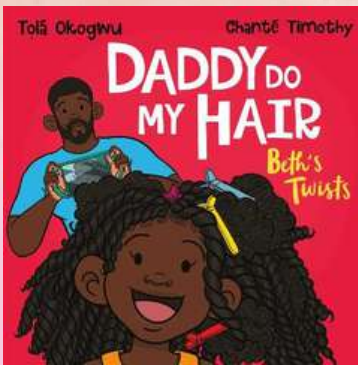


Bookmark
Reading Charity

BOOK DONATION



Children in Reception and KS1 will be coming home today with a book generously donated by the wonderful author Tola Okogwu, kindly supported by Bookmark Charity. We are incredibly grateful for this generous gift, which helps inspire a love of reading and storytelling in our youngest learners. We hope you and your children enjoy sharing these special books together and making many happy reading memories at home.



On Thursday afternoon, Years 1 and 2 enjoyed listening to Miss Merali read *'Hope's Braids'* by Tola Okogwu. Together, we talked about how everyone is different and how those differences make us all special.

Year 2 children then chose and cut out a hairstyle to place onto a face, carefully drawing in their own features. Underneath, they wrote a list of things they liked about themselves, celebrating what makes them unique. We especially loved Yusra's beautiful reflections: **"I have a pure heart"** and **"I am glowing like a star."**

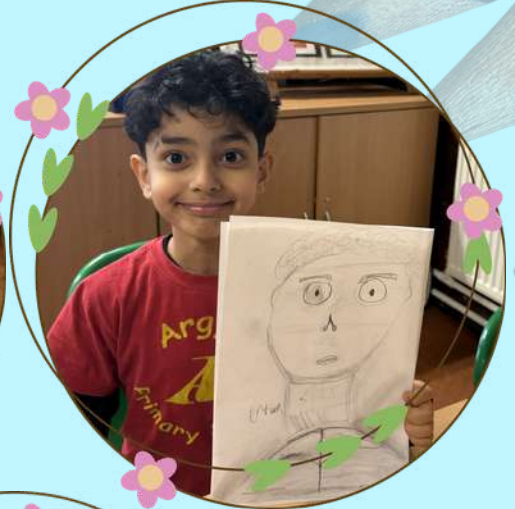
Such a thoughtful and confidence-boosting afternoon for everyone!



The Year 1 children reflected on their own special qualities, writing and illustrating them inside heart shapes, creating a beautiful reminder that everyone has something special to share.

ART CLUB

This week in Art Club, the children explored self-portraits drawn from memory, encouraging them to think carefully about their own facial features. Using 4B pencils, they experimented with line, tone and shading, applying techniques learned in previous lessons such as blending and controlling pencil pressure. The session helped to build confidence and creativity, and the finished portraits showed great focus, individuality and progress in drawing skills.



Reading for Pleasure

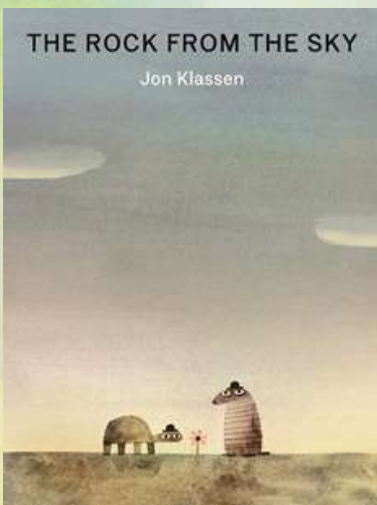
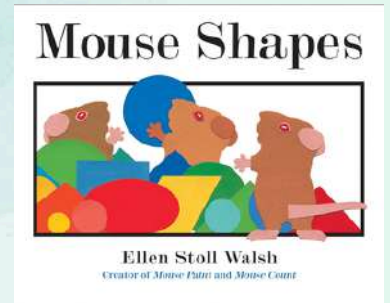
Teacher Book Recommendations



Jo

Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stoll Walsh (2001) is a much loved Early Years maths book and a core text in our setting. Part of a series about some cheeky, clever mice, this story introduces children to shapes in a fun and meaningful way.

As the mice hide from a cat, they use shapes to create pictures such as a house, the sun and even the cat's face. The story gives real life context to shapes, encourages mathematical language and helps children explore the properties of shapes through play. Mouse Shapes also inspires children to make their own shape pictures and tell their own shape stories, showing that maths and storytelling can go hand in hand. We hope you enjoy sharing this book with your child.



My recommendation for this week is The Rock from the Sky by Jon Klassen.

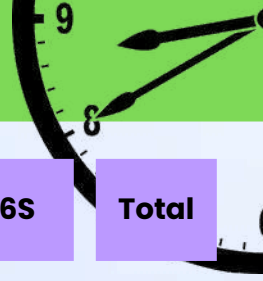
Like all of his books, this one is deceptively simple. But, within the simple language, themes of friendship, fate and the future are shown throughout. This is a quick, funny read for any age. Every time I read it, I notice something new!



Ms
Newland



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%
Week 2	93%	94%	94%	94%	94%	92%	95%	95%	94%	96%
Week 3	93%	95%	94%	94%	94%	92%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Week 4	93%	95%	94%	95%	94%	92%	95%	95%	95%	93%

Unfortunately no classes achieved 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 be 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

FEBRUARY

<p>MONDAY 2nd</p>	<p>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)</p>
<p>TUESDAY 3rd</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 4th</p>	<p>ESOL class in FLC 9:30 to 11:30am Year 5 Action Tuition - 3.15pm to 4.30pm TRIP: Year 6 to Capital City College - 1pm to 3.10pm Football Club, years 1, 2 & 3 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm Selected year 5 & 6 children to a handball competition @ Talacre - 3pm to 6.15pm</p>
<p>THURSDAY 5th</p>	<p>Year 4 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</p>
<p>FRIDAY 6th</p>	<p>TRIP: Year 3 to The Natural History Museum - 9am to 2pm Football Club, years 4, 5 & 6 - 3.15pm to 4.15pm</p>

JANUARY

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10

2026 FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

2026 MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13

Learn English fast and for free at Argyle Primary School



ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES
ESOL

LEARN ENGLISH AT ARGYLE

Free classes every Monday and Wednesday 9:30AM - 11:30AM



This class is open to all adult students of all levels. You will learn English fast with other students. Pre-school children are welcome but it is the responsibility of the parent to care for them so they do not interrupt class. We will go on trips to local sites and learn everyday vocabulary. We will work on:

- Spoken English
- Reading
- English pronunciation
- Writing

We will study what you want to learn!

Visit Belinda in the Family Learning Centre (FLC) to register. Belinda Drake is an ESOL Lecturer at Capital City College.

Capital City College You can also get in touch via e-mail: belinda.drake@capitalccg.ac.uk
ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL Tombridge Street, London WC1H 9EG

THE LONDON BOOKSHOP CRAWL
#LondonBookshopCrawl
FRIDAY SUNDAY
13TH UNTIL 15TH
FEBRUARY
Programme, Self Guided Bookshop Crawl Kit and downloadable route maps at www.bookshopcrawl.co.uk

Group Bookshop Crawls, Author Signings, Big Bookish Quiz, Book Swap & more!

Scan here to find out more

ADD TO YOUR PILES OF POSSIBILITY

Camden Family Learning
FREE Story Sacks for Children Aged 3 Years Plus

Half Term Story Telling Sessions On
Tuesday 17th February
Pancras Square Library, N1C 4AG
10:30am-12noon
Queens Crescent Library, NW5 4HH
1:30pm-3:00pm

Wednesday 18th February
Kentish Town Library, NW5 2AA
10:30am-12noon
Highgate Library, N19 5DH
1:30pm-3:00pm

Call Alison on 07876 651950 to book your place
You must book to join in (due to health & safety rules)

A fun arts and crafts resource making session to bring the story to life.

Make a prop to join in with the adventure.

Every family will be gifted with a copy of the book

A Best Friend for Bear
PETER HORACEK

Camden Libraries

Girls Get Moving Monday

When: Every Monday of the school holidays except on bank holidays.
Location: Talacre Community Sports Centre, NW5 3AF
Time: 4pm - 6pm
Price: FREE

Scan QR Code to visit website and register:

For more information visit: camden.gov.uk/holidayactivities

Camden Active Communities
Photo: Karishma Puri

Community Notices