



Curriculum Newsletter

16/10/2026 Autumn Issue 1

#shineatpriorweston

Virtual tour @ <https://bit.ly/32RoLWi>

#unitedagainstbullying

We aim high * We are resilient * We are curious learners * We value diversity * We are respectful

Dear Prior Weston families,

Welcome to the first Curriculum Newsletter of the academic year. We are delighted to share some of the wonderful learning and exciting experiences that children across Years 1 to 6 have been enjoying since the start of term. This newsletter offers a snapshot of life across the school, celebrating the achievements, creativity and enthusiasm that make our community such a special place to learn.

As part of Black History Month, children across the school have explored the achievements, experiences and contributions of Black individuals through both History and English. They have learned about significant figures who have shaped society, engaged with inspiring texts by Black authors and participated in thoughtful discussions that have deepened their understanding of diversity, equality and inclusion. This learning has encouraged children to reflect on different perspectives while developing their historical enquiry, reading and writing skills.

In this edition, we have also included some practical tips and ideas for supporting reading and maths at home. We know that the partnership between home and school plays an important role in helping children succeed, and we hope you find these suggestions helpful.

We would like to extend our thanks to all our families for your support in making the start of the new school year such a successful one. Your encouragement and partnership have helped the children settle quickly into their new classes and routines. We are incredibly excited about the year ahead and look forward to sharing the many achievements, memorable moments and learning experiences that lie ahead. Together, we know it will be a fantastic year for all our children.

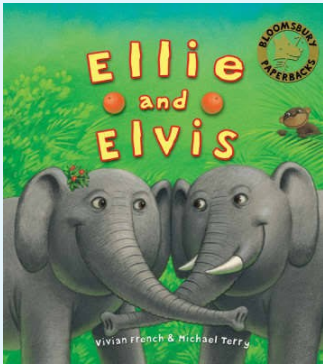
Warm wishes,

Aoife

Assistant Head

Year 1

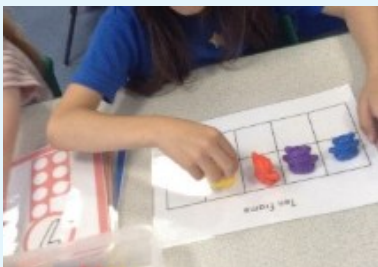
Year 1 have settled excellently into the continuous provision in their new classroom. They've had an exciting time exploring the different subjects of the National curriculum.



Children have been exploring kindness in PHSE by talking about ways to show kindness to others in their community. They made 'thank you' cards for their peers to show their friends their appreciation of being good friends in the classroom. We then

focused on the story of Ellie and Elvis, who had a disagreement about bananas and oranges going missing. The characters found out that it was the monkey family that had took it. Children were able to discuss the right way to find solutions to problems.

The children have had a great introduction to Place Value in their Maths learning. They have been showing their skills in comparing numbers and their values as well as remembering how to count backwards from 10-0. The pictures show children working together to investigate which numbers have a higher value than others. As a practical activity, children used a ten frame to show their understanding of how we can read numbers and the quantity of the number.



Year 1 have been building on their strengths of reading and writing from reception. We continue with the Read Write Inc program that the children do everyday so please make sure your child is punctual to school.

They will soon be getting the reading book from the program, so book bags would need to be in every Monday and Friday.



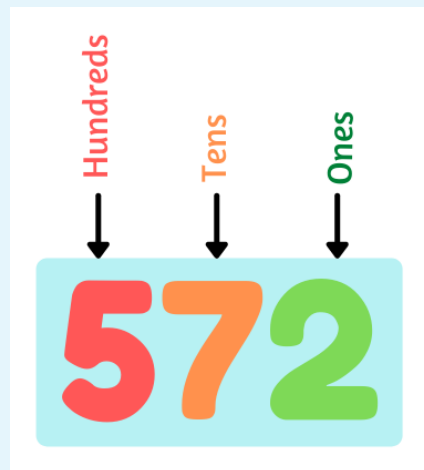
Year 2

What a fantastic start year 2 have had to the start of the year. All the children have settled in very well in their new classroom and have been extremely busy learning new things.

In English, we have been exploring the extraordinary life of Mary Seacole and have even completed a hot seating lesson where the children were able to get into character and answer some questions. We have been exploring the features of an explanation report and even wrote our own based on Mary Seacole's life. We have also been looking at using commmers, adjectives and paragraphs in our work.



In Maths, we have completed our topic on place value where we used a place value grid to identify tens and ones. We have now moved onto addition and subtraction. We have recently been using counters to add by making 10.



In History, we have been exploring the life of Mary Seacole and how she is remembered for her dedication to helping those during the Crimean War. We have looked at timelines and thought about questions we would like to ask Mary Seacole using the 5Ws.



In Science, we have been exploring Animals and their Habitats. First, we looked at living and non-living things. We then learnt that not all habitats look the same but they all provide animals with what they need. We have looked at the different types of habitats and what different animals live in there. We are very excited to be going to see many different animals at London Zoo on Wednesday 21st October.



Year 3

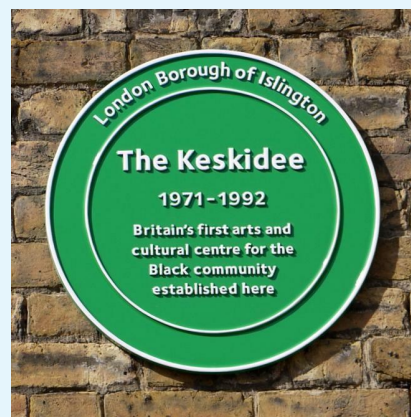
In English, we have been exploring themes of identity, self-esteem and belonging through the inspiring book *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o. The children have developed their understanding of characters' emotions and

feelings, discussing how experiences can affect the way people see themselves and others. They have

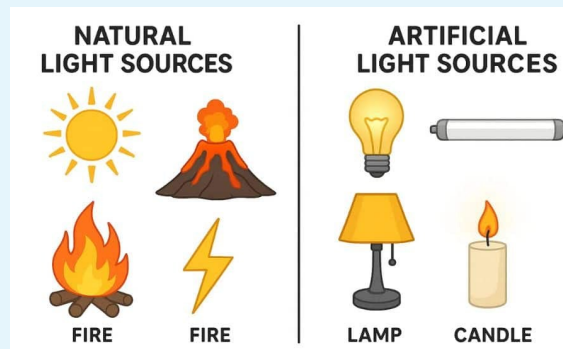
applied these ideas in their own writing by creating persuasive posters and thoughtful diary entries, using ambitious vocabulary to express emotions and viewpoints effectively.

In Mathematics, our focus has been on place value and addition and subtraction. Through a range of practical, hands-on activities, the children have deepened their understanding of number, using concrete resources and pictorial representations to explain their thinking. They have developed confidence in recognising the value of digits, partitioning numbers and applying efficient written and mental calculation strategies.

In History, we have been learning about Black History Month, with a particular focus on the significance of the Keskidee Centre in Islington and the arrival of the Windrush Generation. The children have explored the contributions of Caribbean communities to British society and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of celebrating diversity, culture and local history.



In Science, our topic has been Light. The children have investigated how light travels, identified different light sources and explored how shadows are formed. Through exciting scientific enquiries, they have made predictions, carried out observations and recorded their findings, developing their skills as young scientists.



In Art, we have been fortunate to work in partnership with the Freelands Foundation, a local arts organisation. Through a series of creative workshops both in school and, on some occasions, at their studio in Errol Street, the children have been encouraged to experiment with different artistic techniques and materials. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities for self-expression, creativity and the development of confidence in their artistic abilities.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity that Year 3 have shown this half term and look forward to sharing even more exciting learning experiences with them in the coming weeks.

Year 4

Year 4 has had a very busy and exciting start to the term, with lots of wonderful learning taking place across the curriculum!

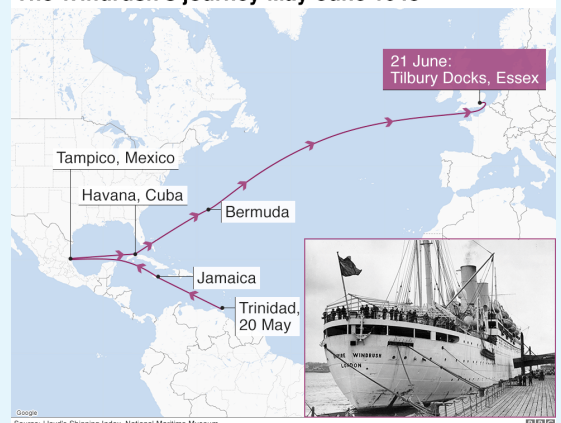
In English and Reading, we have been exploring *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin. The children have developed their reading skills through prediction, inference and retrieval activities, thinking carefully about characters' feelings, experiences and motivations throughout the story.



In Geography, we have been learning about different types of transport and discussing why people use them. We explored the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of transport in our local city of London. We also made links to our class text, learning how Floella Benjamin and her family travelled to England aboard the Empire Windrush many years ago.

Our Geography learning has linked closely with our History topic on Migration. We have explored what migration means and the reasons why people move from one country to another. The children discovered how people from the Caribbean and other parts of the world were invited to come to Britain after World War II to help rebuild the country. We learned about the important contributions made by nurses, factory workers and railway workers, and discussed how this links to Black History Month and helps make Britain the diverse and vibrant country it is today.

The Windrush's journey May-June 1948



In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value by exploring the value of digits within numbers. We have also been learning about Roman numerals, comparing and ordering numbers, and practising addition and subtraction skills.



In Science, we have begun our topic on Sound. The children enjoyed taking their learning outside, listening carefully to the different sounds they could hear around the playground and comparing them with the sounds heard in the classroom. Working collaboratively in small groups, they investigated how musical instruments produce sound through shaking, tapping, vibrating and striking.

We were also fortunate to welcome a visitor who delivered an engaging recycling workshop. The children learned why recycling is so important for protecting our environment, reducing waste and conserving natural resources. They explored simple ways they can make a difference, such as recycling correctly, reusing items where possible and reducing the amount of rubbish they throw away. The workshop inspired the children to think about how their everyday actions can help care for our planet and they had the chance to make recycling posters.

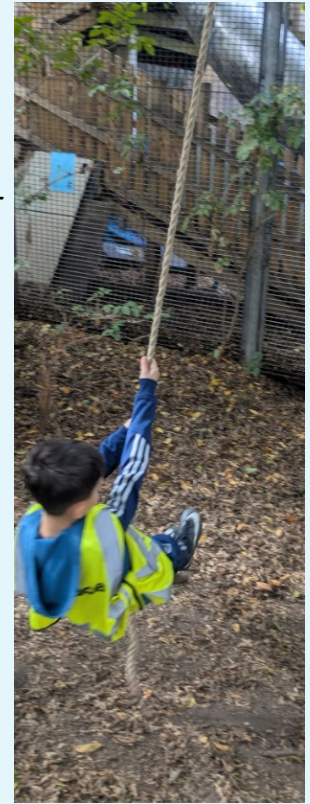


It has been a fantastic half-term of learning, and Year 4 have shown great enthusiasm, curiosity and teamwork in all areas of the curriculum. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and look forward to sharing more of our learning journey with you next half-term!

Year 5

It has been a lovely getting to know Parliament Class this half-term. Each pupil's confidence is developing and their unique personalities are beginning to shine through.

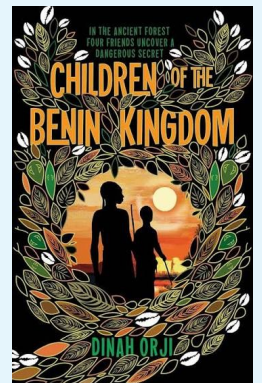
Every Monday, the class looks forward to their time at Forest School. These sessions provide fantastic opportunities for outdoor learning, teamwork and problem-solving. The children have embraced new challenges with enthusiasm, showing resilience, creativity and cooperation as they explore the natural environment. It has been lovely to see them developing independence and confidence whilst learning outside the classroom.





In History, Parliament Class has been learning about the fascinating Benin Kingdom. The children have explored what life was like in this powerful West African kingdom and have engaged thoughtfully with discussions about its achievements, culture and importance in world history. They have learnt about the Ogo and Oba rulers and used this knowledge for further writing inspiration as well. They have Impressed us with the mature links they have made between historical events, asking insightful questions and sharing thoughtful reflections.

Our History learning has been closely linked to our English work through our class text, *The Children of the Benin Kingdom*. The children have thoroughly enjoyed following Ada's journey and discussing the characters, events and themes within the story. These rich discussions have supported their understanding of both the historical context and the characters' experiences.



Inspired by the book, the children stepped into Ada's shoes to write a diary entry from her perspective. They worked hard to capture her thoughts, feelings and experiences, demonstrating empathy and a growing understanding of characterisation. Building on this, they have begun creating their own historical narratives set in the Benin Kingdom. We have been particularly impressed by the way pupils are using historical details from their learning to make their stories authentic and engaging.



Year 6

Welcome to our first curriculum update! It has been an incredibly busy, engaging, and inspiring term in Year 6. Here is a snapshot of what our pupils have been learning across the curriculum.

Life on the Farm

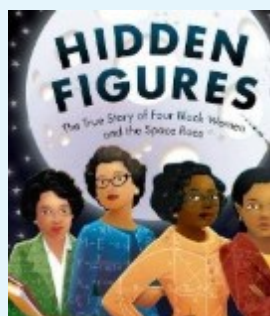
Our residential trip to Nethercott Farm was an unforgettable experience. The children threw themselves into farm life, taking on daily chores, caring for animals, and learning where our food comes from. It was wonderful to watch their teamwork, resilience, and independence grow throughout the week.

Black History Month & History

Inspired by Black History Month, our history lessons have explored the American Civil Rights Movement and the realities of segregation. We wrote mini fact files on key figures Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. We examined how these events crossed the Atlantic and directly inspired the landmark 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott, helping pupils understand how civil rights movements shaped society closer to home.

English & Reading

In reading and English, we have been studying Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly. The children have been captivated by the extraordinary stories of pioneering Black women at NASA. Building on this text, pupils are currently gathering facts to write their own biographical accounts celebrating the life of pioneering NASA mathematician Mary Jackson.



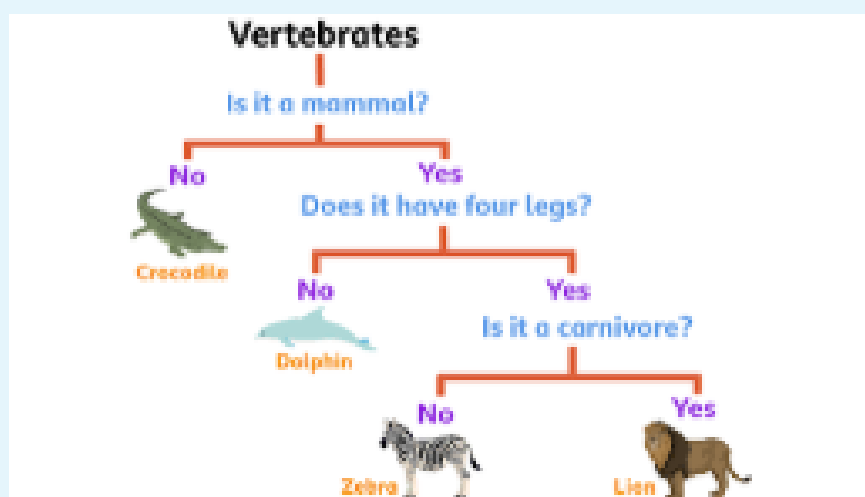
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, Year 6 took part in an inspiring online workshop centered on David Blackwell, a renowned Black mathematician. The children explored his ground-breaking work on probability and how to make educated mathematical guesses. To consolidate their learning, they created detailed comic book strips depicting key moments from his life and put his theories to the test through interactive games.



Science: Classification

In Science, our young scientists have been focusing on living things and their habitats. We have been investigating how to classify animals based on shared physical characteristics, specifically distinguishing between vertebrates (animals with backbones) and invertebrates (animals without).



Reading at home:

10 Reasons Why Reading to Children is Important

@TheDaycareTeacher



Builds Bonding Time



**Encourages a
Love for Books**



Boosts Imagination



Improves Vocabulary



**Creates Happy
Memories**



Teaches Life Lessons



Calms Their Mind



Fuels Curiosity



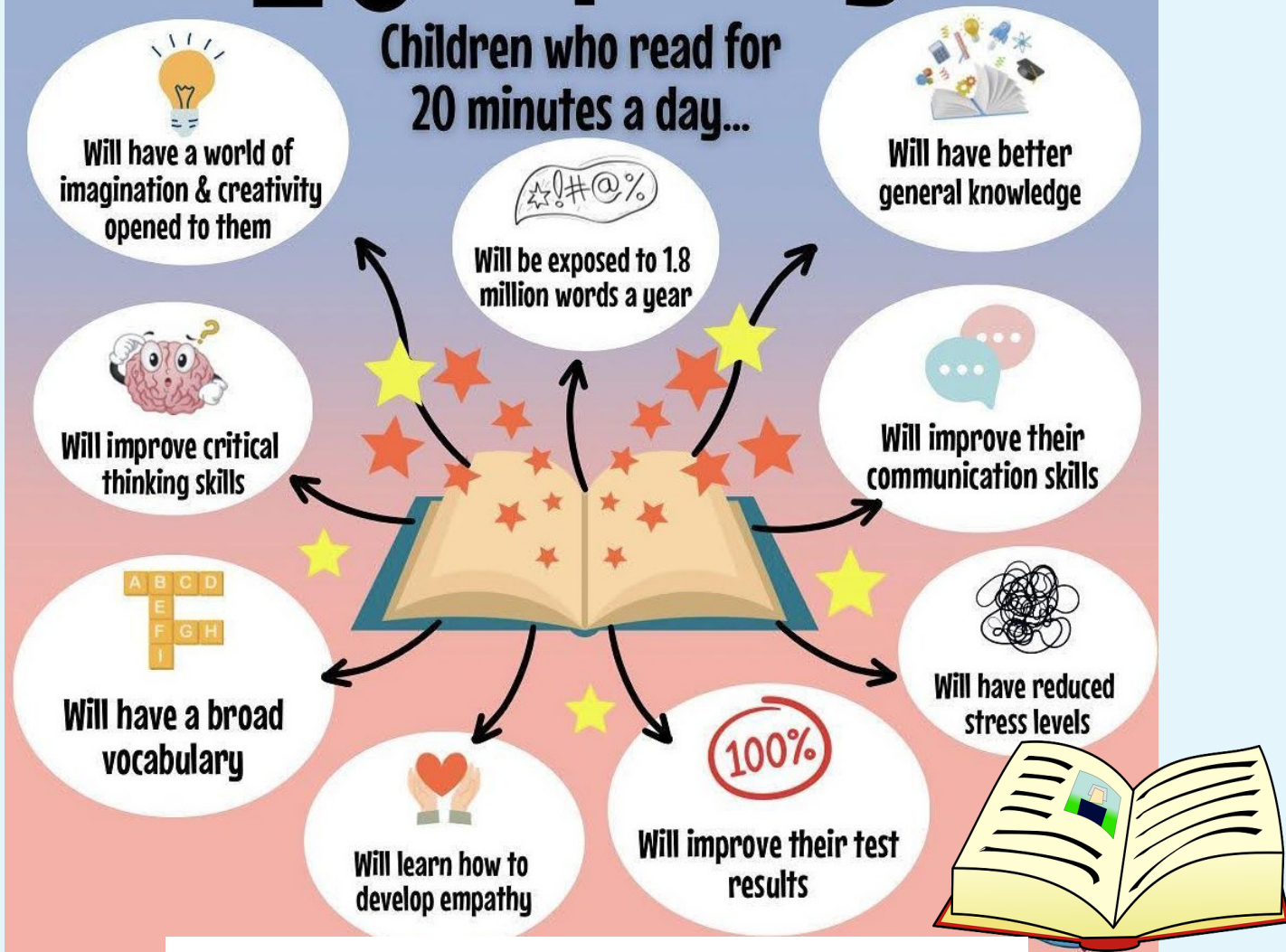
Builds Confidence



**Develops
Listening Skills**

20 is plenty!

Children who read for
20 minutes a day...



Why read for 20 minutes a day?

CHILD A	CHILD B	CHILD C
reads 20 minutes per day	reads 5 minutes per day	reads 1 minute per day
hears 1,800,000 words per year	hears 282,000 words per year	hears 8,000 words per year
scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests

Supporting Maths at Home

Year 1

- Connect numbers to real life and imaginary stories
- Find numbers in your local area
- Make clapping patterns when counting

Year 2

- Learn different ways to make 10
- Double and halve numbers to 20
- Solve addition and subtraction problems

Year 3

- Use groups of 10 that add to 100
- Tell the time as 'half past and quarter to'
- Do a shape and number search

Year 4

- See patterns and numbers in multiplication
- Weigh fruits at the grocery store
- Tell the time to the minute

Year 5

- Read and play around with large numbers (beyond 10,000)
- Create a secret code using numbers
- Explore 24-hour time format

Year 6

- Count forwards and backwards using fractions
- Talk about graphs and tables
- Practise multiplication tables

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