



YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

RECEPTION

The children have had a great time exploring books on 'Amazing Animals'. They have found out about the homes that animals have both in this country and far away in the Antarctica. The children explored the different homes, asking many questions and ended their learning with a fantastic day out at the farm.

The children were very excited about travelling by coach and could not wait to find out which animals they would be meeting. They worked with a partner to complete an activity sheet, identifying animals, counting them and trying to hunt down the farm cats, who seemed to want to play hide and seek with us.

The children got to stroke and feed the animals, with many of them laughing at the goat's tongues tickling their fingers. The naughty goats were not happy with a small amount of food, so they stole the whole bag, leaving children 'opened mouthed' in complete shock. Then the laughter began!



RECEPTION

The Reception children have achieved so much in the past year, and all the staff are extremely proud of them. They came to school back in September very shy and reserve, they leave us with confidence and ready to face year 1. Their phonics, writing, maths and vocabulary is amazing. They have shared so many experiences with their friends, and this will continue in year 1.



The frog is on the
log. it is hard and ichee.



The treiser box is red
and brown.
The colh is good.
The neckus is shihee
The booc is blue.



We recently made salt paintings during 'Art day' and the results were amazing. The children started by designing their pictures using PVA glue, dripping and spreading it onto their paper. They then added salt and had to wait patiently for a couple of days until it was fully dry. Finally, they got to use the watercolours to bring their pictures to life.

YEAR 1

What a fantastic half term we have had in Year 1! The children have loved exploring the story *Lost in the Toy Museum*, which inspired lots of exciting learning and creativity. We started with a fun toy hunt before becoming toy designers. The children used their imaginations to create their own toys, thinking about what they would look like, how they would work and what they could do. We were so impressed with their fantastic ideas and creative writing.

In English, the children learnt all about instructional writing. They explored the features of instructions, including using *bossy verbs*, before writing their own step-by-step instructions explaining how to use and play with their invented toys. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and independence grow throughout their writing. We have also made the most of the lovely weather by taking our learning outside, exploring books in our outdoor reading area, taking part in shared reading and completing a range of fun outdoor learning activities.

The children had a fantastic time taking part in Sports Day, showing great determination, teamwork and encouragement towards one another. They have enjoyed celebrating special days together and making lots of happy memories.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this half term. They have shown creativity, enthusiasm and resilience in all that they have done, and it has been wonderful to watch them continue to grow as learners.



YEAR 1

This half term, the children have had great fun making their own healthy smoothies in Design and Technology. They began by exploring a range of different fruits and vegetables, learning about their colours, textures and how they help us to stay healthy. The children learnt about the different equipment needed to prepare food safely, including chopping boards, knives and blenders. They practiced using the equipment carefully before designing their own smoothie. They thought about which fruits and vegetables they wanted to include and why they thought the flavours would work well together.

Once their designs were complete, the children enjoyed making their smoothies by chopping, preparing and blending their chosen ingredients. They were very excited to taste their finished smoothies and used their senses to describe what they could see, smell, taste and feel. It was wonderful to see the children trying new foods and using lots of descriptive words to share their opinions.

As we come to the end of the school year, we would like to say how proud we are of all the children. They have worked incredibly hard, grown in confidence and made fantastic progress throughout the year. They will be greatly missed, but we know they are ready for the exciting challenges of Year 2.

We wish all of our Year 1 families a wonderful summer holiday filled with fun, rest and happy memories!

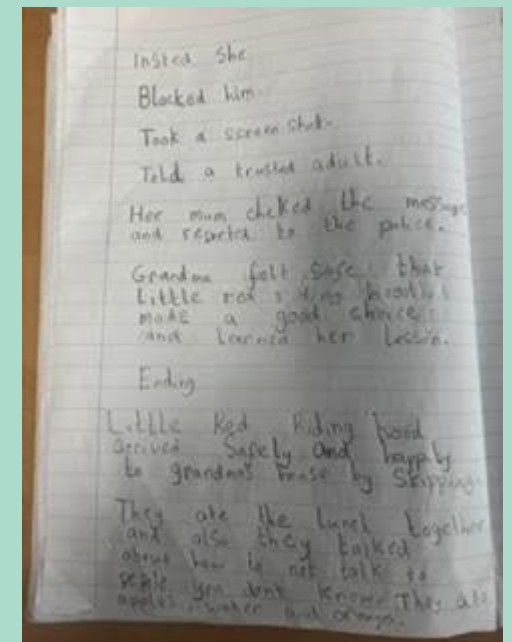
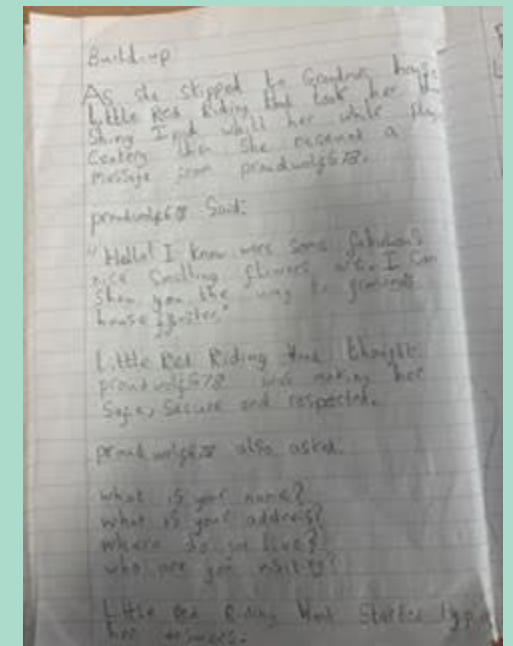


YEAR 2

This half term, Year 2 have been exploring the traditional tale *Little Red Riding Hood* and using their creativity to give it a modern twist. The children rewrote the story, imagining what might happen if Little Red Riding Hood used the internet and digital devices on her journey.

Through their writing, pupils learned about the importance of **online safety**, including keeping personal information private, being careful when talking to people online, and knowing what to do if something doesn't feel right. They thought carefully about how the wolf might use the internet to trick others and how Little Red Riding Hood could make safe choices and seek help from trusted adults.

The children thoroughly enjoyed creating their own versions of the story, using exciting vocabulary, dialogue and imaginative ideas. We are very proud of how they combined their storytelling skills with important lessons about staying safe online

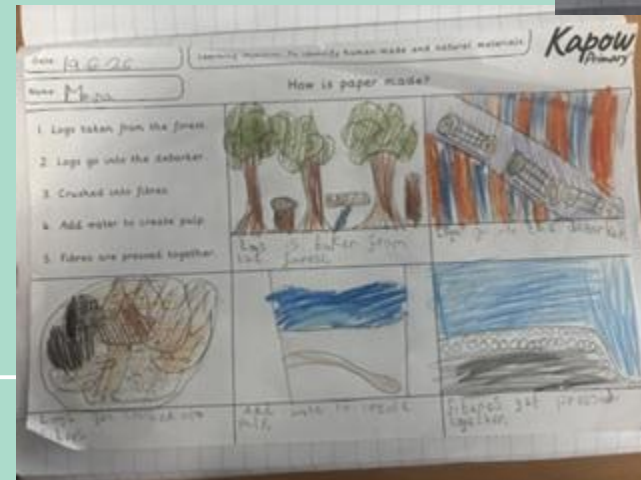
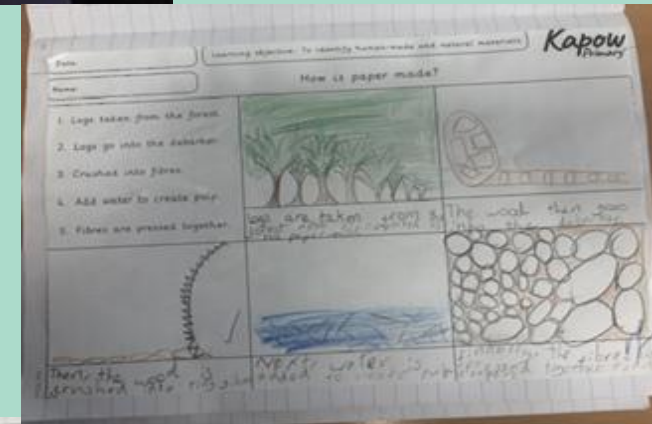
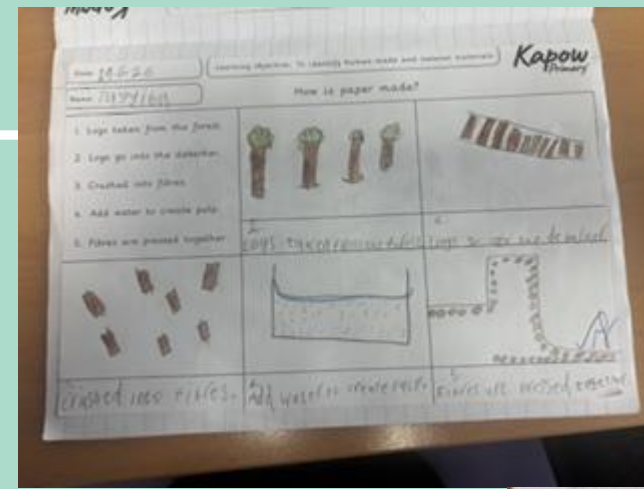


YEAR 2

This half term, Year 2 have been learning all about how paper is made and the different processes involved in turning trees into the paper we use every day. The children explored the journey of paper, from harvesting wood and making pulp to pressing, drying and rolling the finished paper.

As part of their learning, the children investigated the materials used to make paper and discovered why recycling is so important. They enjoyed sequencing the stages of paper production and discussing how we can help protect the environment by reducing waste and reusing materials.

The pupils were fascinated to learn about the machines and processes used in paper mills and showed great curiosity through their questions and discussions. This topic helped to develop their understanding of materials, sustainability and the importance of caring for our planet.



YEAR 3



Sports Day

Pupils had a fantastic sports day on the field. They showed great sportsmanship, strength and competitiveness. Well done to all the winners especially 3 Green for winning the overall trophy for 2026

In **English** children have been reading Ice Palace and wrote exciting and imaginative stories about a boy on a quest. Children build their skills in using reported speech to show character's thoughts, feelings and personality. Children were excited to write about a winter setting, deep dark caves and evil characters using similes and vivid descriptive language. Well done Year 3 for your fantastic achievements this year. Remember reading helps writing – so please get involved with '**Read to the Beat**'- Summer Reading Challenge. Tell us all about it in September.



In **Design and Technology** we learnt about pneumatics to make a fun, entertaining toy for younger children. This means using a mechanism that has an opening and a closing using wind. We did this by using a balloon and a pump tube. Children had a great time designing their toys, problem solving when the mechanism didn't work and reviewing their design. This was great resilience Year 3!

YEAR 3

For **History, Ancient Egyptians Day**, pupils dressed as Pharaoh kings and queens. Children learnt about an ancient artifact called the Rosetta Stone and used hieroglyphics to write their own names. Pupils enjoyed the challenge of solving the cryptic message on the Rosetta Stone replica which read our school values. The best part was learning about the mummification process using apples and tomatoes wrapped in salt and tissue paper bandages.



In **Science**, pupils learnt about all the different ways plants can germinate and grow healthily. The experiments taught children that darkness helps speed up germination. Lack of water causes leaves to brown, wilt and eventually fall off. But the best conditions to grow a plant were good amount of light, nutrients, air and water. Try to plant some cress, basil or spring onions at home. Home grown is BEST!

In **Art**, children had the experience of making papyrus paper of their own, in the style of the ancient craftsmen. Pupils loved working collaboratively to create their own scrolls with symbols that represented Egyptian beliefs.



It has been a busy term for Year 4, including learning all about the Ancient Maya and playing Pok ta Tok. Embracing our Stunning Start and enjoying our visitors to the school. Many of our year 4 pupils have been involved in sports events and won awards – Well done everyone!

Design and Technology afternoons were enjoyed by all, including buggy making and working out how to make different types of vehicles move – balloons at the ready! We measured how far down the corridor our buggies would go!

YEAR 4

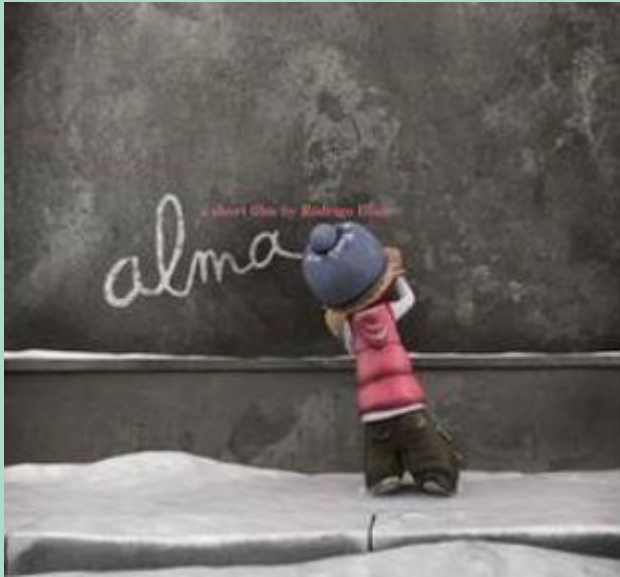


We embarked on Shackleton's journey, onboard 'The Endeavour'. Learning about how crew were chosen, how they survived, how Shackleton kept morale high and his crew alive. The extreme weather conditions, had both positive and negative effects on the journey- months spent waiting for the ice to melt and allow The Endeavour to pass through! A difficult, treacherous and challenging journey. The later part of our final term in year 4 has been filled with lots of different topic and art work, to making 3D sculptures of Rivers and learning about Romauld Hazoume and transforming old milk cartons to 3d Sculptures, using material, googly eyes, pipe cleaners and our amazing imaginations.

YEAR 4



YEAR 5



Year 5 have been on the edge of their seats watching the eerie short animation *Alma*! We used this spooky tale as the ultimate inspiration to plan and write our very own spine-chilling suspense narratives. The pupils are doing a fantastic job building tension and choosing powerful vocabulary to grip their readers!

Sports Day

The Year 5 pupils had a fantastic sports day on the field this year. Every student showed great sportsmanship, strength, and competitiveness during the events. Well done to all the individual winners, and a huge congratulations to 5R for winning the overall trophy for 2026!



Year 5 had an incredible time exploring Maths World this week! Our pupils truly put their problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork skills to the test as they tackled a variety of fun, hands-on challenges.

From cracking complex puzzles to collaborating on giant logic games, it was fantastic to see every student engaging with numbers and shapes in such a creative, enthusiastic way. They proved that maths isn't just about formulas—it is an exciting adventure! We are so proud of how well everyone supported each other and stretched their mathematical brains.

YEAR 5

Year 5 went on a virtual expedition to North America this week as we explored the fascinating landscape of the Mojave Desert! In our Geography lesson, the pupils investigated how plants, animals, and humans adapt to survive in one of the driest environments on Earth.

From studying the unique Joshua trees to learning about extreme desert temperatures, the children showed incredible curiosity and asked some brilliant questions. It was fantastic to see them applying their mapping skills and geographical vocabulary to discover how different environments shape our world!



Year 5 were lucky enough to visit Valentines High School for a spectacular performance of *Annie*! It was a truly fabulous showcase of singing and acting that gave our pupils a real-life West End experience right on our doorstep.

The children were completely captivated by the talent on stage, and the excitement didn't stop there—we were also incredibly proud to spot some familiar faces among the cast, including several talented ex-Cranbrook students! It was wonderful for Year 5 to see where their own hard work and creativity can take them in the future.

As part of our art topic, we explored Valentines Mansion and carefully studied its architecture, looking at the details, shapes, and styles that make the building unique.



Maes y Lade Residential Trip

YEAR 6

Some lucky Year 6 pupils had an unforgettable end-of-year residential visit to the Maes y Lade Centre in Wales during the Summer 2 term. As their final adventure together before moving on to Year 7, the trip provided the perfect opportunity to create lasting memories while developing valuable life skills. Throughout the week, the children embraced a wide range of exciting outdoor activities, including orienteering, caving, canoeing and scenic walks. One of the highlights was the adventure day, where pupils challenged themselves by zip lining, exploring an abandoned train tunnel and swimming beneath a beautiful waterfall. Every child approached each activity with enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude, supporting and encouraging one another throughout. Life at the centre also helped the children grow in independence and resilience. They took responsibility for daily chores, such as laying the tables for breakfast and dinner, as well as helping to keep the site tidy by vacuuming shared areas. Although there were a few later nights than usual, everyone rose to the occasion and made the most of every moment! The residential was a fantastic way to celebrate the end of primary school. We are incredibly proud of the children's behaviour, teamwork and willingness to step outside their comfort zones, and we know they will carry these experiences with them into Year 7.



Stubbers One-day Residential Trip

YEAR 6

More Year 6 children enjoyed an action-packed day at Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster, making the most of a wide variety of outdoor challenges and experiences. The visit was a fantastic opportunity for the children to put their teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills into practice while having plenty of fun with their classmates.

During the day, pupils tested their aim in archery, learnt practical outdoor skills during bushcraft, challenged themselves on the climbing tower and took to the water for paddleboarding. Many children pushed themselves beyond what they thought they could achieve, showing courage and determination as they tackled each activity. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another, celebrating successes and supporting friends whenever they faced a challenge.

The trip was about much more than the activities themselves. It gave the children the chance to grow in confidence, become more resilient and demonstrate the maturity they have developed throughout their final year of primary school. Their enthusiasm, positive attitudes and willingness to try something new were evident from start to finish.

We were extremely proud of how Year 6 represented the school during the visit. Their excellent behaviour and eagerness to embrace every opportunity made the day a great success and a memorable way to celebrate the final weeks before their move to secondary school.



Water fight

With the temperatures soaring, there was only one way to cool down – a Year 6 water fight! Armed with water pistols, buckets and plenty of enthusiasm, the children took great delight in soaking their teachers, who put up a valiant (but ultimately unsuccessful) defence. There was lots of laughter, smiles and a few very soggy adults by the end of the afternoon. We may have also discovered who the children's favourite teachers were... some seemed to get drenched far more than others!

End of year performance

Our Year 6 End of Year Performance was a wonderful celebration of the incredible talents within our class. From fantastic singers and energetic dancers to impressive gymnastic routines, magic acts and skillful football tricks - there was something to entertain everyone. The audience also enjoyed poems, quizzes, acting performances and fun challenges, all confidently presented by the children. It was a joy to see every child take to the stage, whether performing or cheering on their classmates. There were plenty of laughs, lots of applause and maybe even a few future stars discovered!

Final Words from the Year 6 Team

As we come to the end of another memorable school year, we would like to congratulate every member of Year 6 on everything they have achieved. It has been amazing to watch the children grow, not only academically but also as kind, confident and resilient young people. Throughout the year, they have embraced every opportunity, challenged themselves, supported one another and created memories that will hopefully stay with them for years to come. From classroom successes to residential trips, performances, sporting events and celebrations, the children have represented the school with enthusiasm, determination and pride.

To our Year 6 parents and carers, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Working together has helped make this such a successful and enjoyable final year of primary school for the children.

As our pupils move on to Year 7, we wish each and every one of them the very best of luck. We hope they continue to work hard, believe in themselves, embrace new opportunities and always remember the friendships and memories they have made here. We look forward to hearing about all of their future successes!

Good luck, Year 6 Class of 2025-26!