



Dear parents and carers,

It certainly has been a fantastic and busy start to the new academic year, with school feeling like school once again. Our wonderful children have impressed us all with their amazing work ethic and energy, showing great resilience when approaching new learning and challenges. A warm welcome to our nursery and reception children and parents who are new to the school. Children have settled in extremely well and we are enjoying getting to know them.

It has been fantastic to see so many of our children coming into school at our earlier time of 8:20am and we would like this to continue. Our attendance target is 97% and classes who achieve this target are rewarded with an extra 15 minutes of play each week. We will continue to have a big push on attendance and would therefore like you to support us by ensuring your child attends school every day.

During autumn 1 term, pupils have been introduced to many new topics as well as catching up with key learning from last year. They have been involved in many exciting projects and workshops, which have enhanced and supported their learning and well-being. Year 1 have been on their local walk, to compare contrasting locations, whilst Year 2 have been working on a new radio show project. Class 2S and Year 6 have visited the Birmingham Hippodrome and experienced the live workings of a production. We hope to pass this opportunity onto some of our other year groups during the year.

PC Cooper has also delivered Stranger Danger, Gang Awareness and Drug Awareness workshops to our children in relevant year groups and to parents. Feedback from both pupils and parents has been very positive. Further workshops have been planned so once again please keep a look out for further information.

Furthermore, for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in September, we held a bake sale in the KS2 Playground. Thanks to all your generosity, we raised £407.13 as a site. This has been donated to Macmillan Cancer Support. More recently, our non-uniform day in support of Mental Health Awareness has helped us to raise £364.25. Our children and families have also donated items generously and these will now be used to create hampers for the residents of Herondale & Kingfisher care home.

We will break up on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We hope you enjoy the half term break with your children and look forward to seeing all pupils back in school on the Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of November. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Mr Riaz (Associate Principal)

Mr Ahmad and Mrs Ahmed (Associate Principals)



### School uniform

We are very pleased with how our children are looking smart in their school uniform. A reminder, black school shoes must be worn on all but your child's PE day.

It is also important that pupils continue wearing the correct PE kit. This is black jogging bottoms or shorts, white polo shirt and black pumps/trainers.

### Parents Evening – Face to Face Appointments

Parents' Evening will be held this week (Tuesday and Wednesday). We look forward to you coming in and seeing the great work your children have done, as well as discussing how your child has settled in and the progress they are making. Please ensure you adhere to the date and time of your appointment. To limit numbers in the building, **one adult** is to attend the meeting.

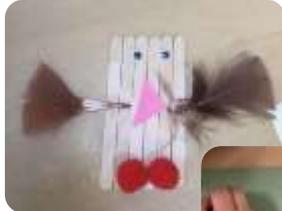
### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents Evening
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y1/2 Star Assembly Y3/4 Star Assembly Y5/6 Star Assembly
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Y3 multi skills Y4 multi skills
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Pupils break up for half term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Y4 to visit Blakesley Hall
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Y6 and Y5 Fake News Workshop
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Kingswood Residential
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Staff Well-being Day School closed to pupils and staff



### Reception explore the outdoors

We are so proud with how well children have settled into Reception this half term, well done! We have been working hard with developing our fine motor skills, name writing as well as making friends. We have started to learn to read and write some sounds using Read Write Inc - our new phonics scheme. As part of our English lessons, we have had a wonderful time learning about Autumn. We have particularly enjoyed exploring our outdoors through our Autumn walks and collecting leaves. In Maths we have had lots of fun learning to read, count, write and order numbers to 5. We are now able to represent these numbers in lots of different ways.



### Nursery are making friends

Nursery have been making new friends and having fun exploring their nursery environments together.

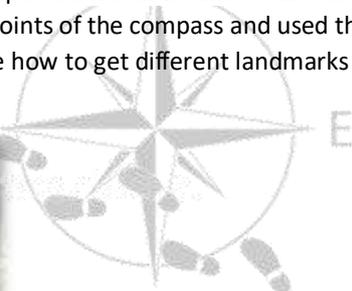
We have had the opportunity to share books and in particular the story 'Where's Spot?'. We are currently reading 'Peace at Last' and learning to join in with repeated refrains in the book. Pupils have been finding out about nocturnal animals and exploring the concept of night and day.

Pupils are well on their way in becoming independent learners as they rehearse the skill of peeling fruit and putting on their coats.



### Year One go on a walk

This half term, Year one have been learning about the local area. The children have studied maps and have even had a go at creating their own. The children have been able to go on an exciting walk where they spotted natural and man-made objects. They have learnt the points of the compass and used this positional language to describe how to get different landmarks in the locality



### Class 2S watch 'What the Ladybird Heard'

This half-term class 2S had the opportunity to watch a performance of *What the Ladybird Heard* at Birmingham's Hippodrome. For many of the children, it was their first time visiting the theatre and they were not disappointed by the experience. The show was filled with singing, dancing and audience participation, which kept everyone entertained. To round it off, the class were given delicious ice creams to enjoy during the performance. Shan, our resident radio producer, came along to record the children's reactions for our upcoming Rocket Radio show. Make sure you tune in to hear the class's reviews of an amazing trip!



### Year 3 are Swimmers!

Year 3 pupils started swimming lessons, for many of whom it was their first experience in a pool. For some, this was a scary challenge to face but all the Year 3 staff are super proud by the courage, dedication and independence shown by the children. To begin with, pupils built their confidence in water by playing games which aimed to get them used to splashes and the feeling of floating. We then moved onto learning how to travel across the pool in different ways. Some of our more advanced swimmers, even learnt how to do a glide-start and kick their legs on their front and backs. If you have the opportunity over the half term holidays, it would be extremely beneficial to take your child to the local swimming pool so that they can become even more confident in the water.

### Groovy Greeks

Year 3 have also travelled back in time to learn about the groovy Greeks. We started the term by learning about the city states of Athens and Sparta and decided that we'd all definitely prefer the artistic, creative and fun Athenian way of life compared to the brutal hardship of living in Sparta! 3S didn't like the sound of fighting all day, not looking after each other and having no time for art, music or festivals. 3Y learnt about how Greece was run as a democracy, and studied how Alexander the Great got his name.

*Hassan: "My favourite part was exploring and holding Greek artefacts."*

*Rayan: "I made the Parthenon out of card"*



### Year 2 Rock Rocket Radio

During Rocket Radio this half term, Year 2 have been working on retelling the events of the Great Fire of London. This has included re-enactments through role-play activities and news report features. The show will also feature their **Song Choice of London's Burning and Great Fire of London**

The show will be available to listen in the final week of this half term.



### Birmingham Hippodrome projects

We are continuing to work with the Birmingham Hippodrome to offer our pupils a range of exciting opportunities linked to music, drama and the arts. This year we have a new practitioner working with our site and her name is Cheryl Mok. As well as supporting pupils with performing arts lessons, she will also be running an after-school club for selected year groups.

Here is a little bit from Cheryl:

*I am a Performing Arts Facilitator. Prior to my role at Birmingham Hippodrome, I worked as a Performing Arts Facilitator in different primary schools in Coventry after completing my MA degree in Drama and Theatre Education at University of Warwick.*

Her specialisms include: Physical Theatre, Dance & Movement, Drama & Theatre, Musical Theatre and Children's. Cheryl also enjoys singing, creating & directing performances as well as filming and editing.

### Year 6 learn about WW2

Year 6 have been exploring the topic of WW2 from the perspective of children living during this world-changing event. They have looked at various themes including children's games, the blitz, air raid shelters, and evacuation. These themes have been incorporated into a physical theatre performance directed by Cheryl from the Hippodrome Education Network. Year 6 have worked hard rehearsing the piece and have shown enthusiasm throughout the sessions.



### Year 2 After-school club

The Year 2 after-school group have explored themes such as Nature, Ocean, and Travel in their sessions, experiencing different continents and cultures through fun activities and games. Egypt, Japan, and the Caribbean are just some of the places Year 2 have been using the magic of acting and imagination!

### Year 4 String Instruments

Year 4 have started to practise with string instruments as part of their music lessons. The children will learn to play the violin or cello over the course of Year 4. We know they will have lots of fun whilst learning to play and hopefully we can prepare a performance for you, the parents. Pupils are really enjoying their music lessons, learning a lot from their fabulous teachers and becoming experts with their instruments!

Well done Year 4, we can't wait to hear you play!



### Year 6 learn about Marcus Garvey

As part of Black History Month, Year 6 across all three sites had the fantastic opportunity to visit Birmingham Hippodrome and watch the debut performance of Marcus which was based on the Marcus Garvey. He was a Jamaican civil rights activist who dedicated his life fighting for equality and justice for black people in America and across the world.

The theatrical performance was set in modern times so the children were able to relate to their own experiences to Marcus Garvey, by following the experiences of Jermaine, a young descendant of Garvey, who was guided by his ancestors' morals and legacy. This was a brilliant opportunity for the children as it allowed them to celebrate a notable figure in Black History as well as recognise his values of determination, perseverance, ambition and respect.



### Year 5 Explore Space

During our Science lessons, Year 5 have had an amazing time learning many fascinating facts about Earth and Space. We were able to build on our knowledge of the planets to explore theories dating all the way back to the Greeks! For example, did you know the days of the weeks were named after some of the planets? Using chalk and black card we created wonderful diagrams representing the different phases of the moon! We were able to use a globe and torch to help us understand how day and night occur. We have learnt so many wonderful facts that have inspired a few of us to even become astronauts in the future!



### Year 5 travel the Nile

For our Geography lessons, we have been learning all about Rivers. We were able to identify the different parts of a river and used this to explore famous rivers not only in the UK but all around the world! How many famous rivers can you name?

We were able to recycle old cardboard that we collected from around the school and used this to create 3D models of a river. To complete our unit, we were able to research the River Thames and discuss how it had many uses over the year, including for trade and transportation! We then made comparisons between the River Thames and the River Nile. Did you know that the River Nile was extremely important to the Egyptians? As a means of survival, they used the rich soil to grow crops, which they then sold as a way of trade!

### Harvest Gift Programme

Following the success of last year's Festive Winter Gift Programme, this term we will be creating personalised hampers for Herondale and Kingfisher care home to celebrate harvest time. A stop press was sent out asking for donations for the hamper and once again your support has been amazing!

Our school council have had an important role to play in helping to raise awareness for this great cause, so we would also like to give them a huge thank you.

Once the Hampers have been compiled, the school council will go out and deliver these to their allocated resident person. We know it will mean a lot to them but it will also build a sense of community and understanding for our pupils.

