GLC Lansdowne Primary Academy

All Different: All Equal: Together Improving Upon Our Best

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GLC Lansdowne Primary Academy

All Different: All Equal: Together Improving Upon Our Best

Friday 19th December 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of a busy and productive autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments.

"Holding the line" for Success.

At our school, we often speak about the concept of "Holding the Line" This refers to the consistent maintenance of high expectations, clear rules and steady routines, even when faced with challenges or resistance.

We hold the line because we care. If we allow standards to slip, things gradually unravel for the pupils. True compassion means refusing to accept low expectations; it means ensuring that every child - especially those from disadvantaged background - receives the disciplines, high-quality education they deserve. By staying consistent, we ensure no child is let down.

Celebrating Our Results: An upward Journey
Our commitment to these high standards is reflected in our latest school data. We are incredibly proud of the "improvement journey" our school is on. Below is a summary of our performance in combine Reading, Writing and Maths compared to the **National Average (** the average score for all schools across the country)

Year	School Result (Combined)	Comparison to National Average
2023	51%	Below National Average
2024	62%	Close to National Average
2025	73%	**11% Above National Average!**

This represents a significant year- on year upward trend. Furthermore, our 3- year average for disadvantaged pupils is now officially above the National Average.

These fantastic results are down to the great teaching taking place in our classrooms every day, combined with the brilliant support we receive from you as parents. When we work together and hold the same high standards, our pupils thrive.

Christmas Cheer and Community

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas performances! The pupils worked so hard, and it was wonderful to see so much talent and "Christmas Cheer" in our hall.
We also want to extend a huge thank you for your support throughout the year - whether through attending parent workshops or supporting your children at home. Your partnership is what makes this progress possible.

Attendance and Good habits
Our current attendance is 0.5% above the National average,which is a great achievement. However, we have noticed it has slipped slightly in recent weeks. Let's work together to build good habits for 2026 - consistent attendance is the single most important factor in your child's success.

Important Dates and Holiday Challenges

- Last day of term: Friday 19th December - school finishes early at 1.00pm.
- Staff training day - Monday 5th January (School closed to pupils)
- First day of Spring Term: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Don't let those reading skills get rusty over the break! Please encourage your child to take part in our Festive Reading Challenge on the following Padlet:

- https://padlet.com/Lansdowne/christmas-reading-challenge-2025-faduysma7uc5u38s

Wishing you all a restful, happy Christmas break and wonderful New Year.

Warm regards

Dan George

Head of School





IMPORTANT DATES

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Highlight in Green: ***Parents/Carers are invited to attend***
Highlight in Blue: ***Pupils only [Parents/Carers are not required to attend]***
Highlight in Yellow **- *Parents by invitation only***

- ***Highlighted in red*** **- *late addition to the document***
- ***Highlighted in pink*** **- *amended***

Date	Year Group	Event Information
Wednesday 7th January	Year 6	Basketball Tournament Round Three at The Gateway Academy - INVITE ONLY
Friday 9th January	Whole School	DEAR Time
Wednesday 14th January	Year 6	Basketball Training at The Gateway Academy - INVITE ONLY
Thursday 15th January	ALL	PSP meetings
Friday 16th January	Year 2	Trip to the Tower of London
Friday 16th January	Reception and Year 5	Road Safety walks and assembly
Friday 16th January	Reception	Family Learning Session
Monday 19th January	KS2	Fresh Start Parent Workshop - INVITE ONLY
Monday 19th January	Nursery	Family Learning Session
Wednesday 21st January	Year 6	Basketball Tournament Round Four at The Gateway Academy - INVITE ONLY
Thursday 22nd January	Year 4	Trip to IWM Duxford
Monday 26th January	Year 6	Year 6 SATs Meeting
Monday 26th January	Year 1	Phonics parent workshop - INVITE ONLY
Tuesday 27th January	Year 6	Year 6 London trip
Wednesday 28th January	Year 5	Family Learning Session
Wednesday 28th January	Year 6	Basketball Training at The Gateway Academy - INVITE ONLY
Friday 30th January	Year 1	Family learning session
Friday 30th January	Year 2	Family learning session
Friday 30th January	Reception and Year 5	Road Safety walks and assembly
Monday 2nd February	Year 2	Phonics parent workshop - INVITE ONLY
Tuesday 3rd February	Year 3	Family Learning Session
Thursday 5th February	Acorns	Family Learning Session
Friday 6th February	Seedlings	Family Learning Session
Friday 6th February	Year 1 and Year 2	Key Steps Gymnastics Competition - INVITE ONLY
Friday 6th February	Year 4	Family learning session
Friday 6th February	Year 3 and Year 4	Key Steps Gymnastics Competition - INVITE ONLY
Friday 6th February	Year 5 and Year 6	Key Steps Gymnastics Competition - INVITE ONLY
Monday 9th February	KS2	Herts for Learning Parent Workshop - INVITE ONLY
Wednesday 11th February	Year 6	Basketball Tournament Round Five at The Gateway Academy - INVITE ONLY
Wednesday 11th February	Year 5	Year 5 trip to London
Thursday 12th February	Year 6	Year 6 Family Learning session

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

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Reception	Dre Emilia Matylda	Sonny Reina Theron	Elisha Malani Romani
Year 1	Mustopha Mahdi	Jayden R Ruby-Mae B Chester P-W	
Year 2	Aaliyah Aleksandra	Frankie Birthyah	Cameron Nancie leyton
Year 3	Maggie A Ela Miara	Eli M Tyler G Olivia	Kane Micael
Year 4	Zahra S Harrison Affan	Primrose P Mollie Maryam	Mikel Justin Rinaz
Year 5	Albie-Lew Renesmae Kenny Naeem Mehnaz Reyan Skye	Oliver T Victoria O Aylan T Damian. C Jamal B Kayleigh M	Fraser Jack Olivia Millie Peirdario Neimantas Emilia
Year 6	Charlie Teja	Macie Tyreece	Aayan Malachi
Acorns	Oliver	Jesse	Davud
Seedlings	Ronnie	Aurora	Aaron

SCHOOL CONTACTS

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Office Staff

Miss K Luckin – Support Service Manager

Miss K Hetherington – PA to Head of School and Senior Leadership

Mrs J Meurs – Admin Assistant

Mrs K Gopsill – Data Manager

Mrs L Davey – Attendance Officer

admin.lansdowne@theglc.org.uk or support4u-lpa@theglc.org.uk

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:

Mrs S Curtis - TRUST SENCO

Mrs S Worrow - SENCO

Mrs J Phillips - SENCO Assistant

support4u-lpa@theglc.org.uk

Inclusion team

Miss Sparrow - Inclusion manager

Miss Bass - Inclusion advocate: Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2

Mrs Austin - Inclusion advocate: Year 3 and 4

Miss Bevan - Inclusion advocate: Year 5 and 5

support4u-lpa@theglc.org.uk

STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY

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DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

NAME: Mr Daniel Burnett

CONTACT: 01375 487200

EMAIL: dan.burnett@theglc.org.uk

DEPUTY SAFEGUARDING LEAD

NAME: Anna Sparrow

CONTACT: 01375 487200

EMAIL: anna.sparrow@theglc.org.uk

me, you, us
safeguarding is everyone's responsibility



KEY CONTACTS WITHIN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Thurrock Multi-Agency Support Hub [MASH] is available for advice on any Child Protection matter and can be contacted on 01375 652802 [Out of hours 01375 - 372468]

Health strategy for Autumn 2:

100 calorie snack - 2 a day max!





STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY

PARKING PLEDGE

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GLC Lansdowne Primary Academy

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At Lansdowne, we operate a "**Parking Pledge**" with the main aim of keeping our children **safe**.

We ask that all parents/carers:

- think if their journey could be made in an alternative way to reduce pollution first, such as walking or cycling.

If a car journey is unavoidable we ask that parents/carers:

- avoid parking on Alexandra Road or Dunlop Road - Park a little further away and walk the last few minutes to help our community.
- slow down around our school - 20 mph is safer for all our children.
- park legally and safely away from our entrance gates, zig zag markings, railings and dropped curves.
- keep off the pavements as these are for pedestrians only.
- do not obstruct our neighbours driveways or park in disabled bays.
- keep junctions and crossing points clear.
- behave in a polite and courteous manner with our staff, other parents and the parking patrol officers.

Thank you for your continous support.

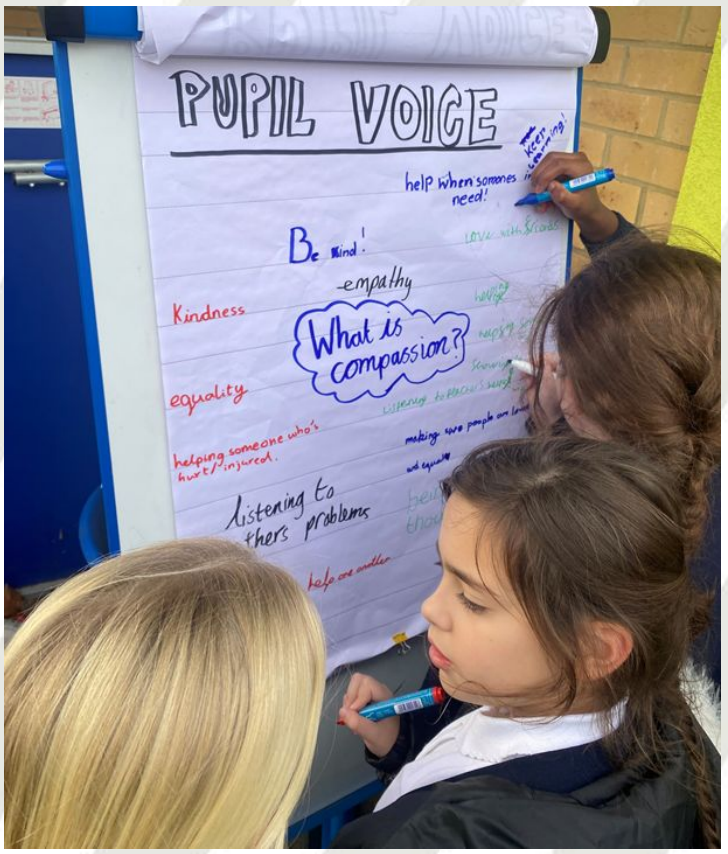


PUPIL LEADERSHIP

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Arts council





The Arts Council applied for a £500 grant from the Ormiston Trust and were successful in obtaining the grant. They've decided to use this funding to create an outdoor art gallery that will showcase the fantastic, high quality artwork produced by our students.

The project is officially underway! The funds have been received and the displays are on order. The Arts Council has chosen several prime locations around the school for the artwork.

Arts Council representatives will work closely with class teachers to select the best pieces for display. A reminder email has already been sent to all teachers. Once the gallery is up and running, the Arts Council will also be responsible for updating the artwork every term. Exciting times ahead for our young artists!

Future plans:
The Arts Council is currently in the planning and implementation of a Cultural Day, scheduled to occur during the summer term. This event will involve Food, Dance, Clothing, Reading Nook focusing on the different cultures represented at LPA. The entire school community, parents and the broader community in Tilbury will be involved. The planning process is underway, with discussions focused on the day's activities and overall structure. Further details regarding the event will be communicated in due course.

Family Hub Information

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SEND – Sensory Room
5 to 8 years
Every Monday
4pm-4:30pm

Start for Life – Just for Dads
Messy Play
30 December
1:30-2:30pm

New Year Special
31 December
10:30am-12pm

One Community Steps to Success
Job Club Opportunity
Every Wednesday
12:15pm-2pm

Family Hub Information Session
23 December
1pm-3pm

Scan here for timetable

Scan here to register

Address: Anchor Field, London Rd, Tilbury RM18 8EY

Phone: 01375 858243

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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Keeping the Magic of Reading Alive This Christmas

As we head into the festive break, we are excited to launch our Christmas Reading Challenge! Research consistently shows that maintaining a reading routine over the holidays is vital for preventing the "holiday slide," where children can lose some of the academic progress they've made during the term. Beyond just academic success, reading together is a wonderful way to relax, build vocabulary and spark your child's imagination during the winter nights.

To help keep the momentum going, we have sent home a Reading Calendar for the children to complete daily.

- **KS1:** Please help your child write the title of the book they have enjoyed each day.
- **KS2:** Students should record the page numbers they have read to track their progress through longer chapters.

Every child who returns their completed calendar to school in the new year will be entered into an exciting prize draw! We would also love to see the creative places your children find to read—whether it's under the tree or snuggled in a blanket. Please upload photos of your child completing the challenge to our school Padlet, ensuring you include their name and class in the post. Happy reading! https://padlet.com/Lansdowne/christmas-reading-challenge-2025-faduysma7uc5u38s



National Autistic Society

Preparing for Christmas: autism resources

The Christmas period can be a very exciting but often stressful time of the year for many autistic people. It can be a time with lots of change, social interaction and expectations. We have put together a brief list of resources that may prove helpful in making this festive period as special and stress free as possible for autistic people.

Here are a variety of resources that give guidance, advice and ideas for the festive season:

Preparing for Christmas - National Autistic Society. Our website features a range of advice on preparing for Christmas, including some real-life stories and tips from autistic people and their families.

Preparing for the festive period – Scottish Autism. This article includes some advice on preparing for Christmas, as well as some information on how to approach the period after Christmas and the New Year.

3 tips for an autism-friendly Christmas - Jamie Knight. Jamie, an autistic adult, explains how he prepares for Christmas, including the need for quiet spaces and sensory considerations.

Coping with anxiety at Christmas - Emma Louise Bridge. In this blog, author Emma Louise Bridge, offers advice on how best to cope with anxiety at Christmas.

An autistic person's guide to an autism-friendly Christmas – AutisticNotWeird. Chris Bonnello recommends not conforming to other people's expectations of what should happen at Christmas. Chris also has advice on handling the sensory overload and changes in routine that may occur during the festive period.

Autism Christmas tips and tricks – Purple Ella. In this video Purple Ella gives some advice to autistic people and their relatives on how to manage some of the challenges of Christmas including gifts, food and socialising.

Christmas Sensory Survival Kit - Sensory Integration Education. Sensory Integration Education (SIE) have put together a useful guide for preparing for and experiencing Christmas. It has been created using advice and experiences from autistic individuals, parents and carers and professionals.

Autism Tips for the Festive Season – Becoming Autism. Savannah from Becoming Autism shares her four tips on coping with the festive period as an autistic adult during Covid-19. Savannah also discusses how to communicate what you need to others.

INCLUSION

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Giving a gift at Christmas



This Christmas we have been blessed with donations of gifts and toys for our pupils and families.

With the cost of living crisis impacting upon our community, this is very much appreciated. Pupils have been selected at random to receive an extra gift this year.

A huge thank you to our Parent Champions for helping wrap our book gifts for pupils.

ATTENDANCE

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Our school attendance target is 96% and we are working hard to ensure that we reach that target, giving pupils the best chance at academic success, social development, and future opportunities. Anything lower (especially below 95%) significantly increases learning loss, knowledge gaps, and difficulties with peers and future employment. Every missed day, even small ones, adds up, hindering a pupil's ability to keep up with lessons and routines, build confidence, and achieve their potential. Thank you to all those families working with us to prioritise their child's learning. We appreciate you working with us to achieve the best outcomes.

Current Whole School Attendance 95.4%

Autumn Term 2 Golden Ticket Winners

Year 1 and Year 6 who have achieved 3 Golden Tickets who each receive a £25 prize.

Well done to Class 3P who have the highest attendance this term at 97.6%!

What is persistent absence?

If your child takes too much time off school they will become categorised as PA or persistently absent.
(ATTENDANCE BELOW 90% = persistent absence)
This table shows how many days missed each half term will make your child a PA student:

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Autumn Term 1	3 ½ days off school from September until October half-term holiday will make your child a PA student.
Autumn Term 2	7 days off school from September until the Christmas holiday will make your child a PA student.
Spring Term 1	10 days of absence from September until February half-term will make your child a PA student
Spring Term 2	12 ½ days of absence from September until the Easter holidays will make your child a PA student.
Summer Term 1	15 ½ days of absence from September until May half-term will make your child a PA student.
Summer Term 2	19 days of absence for the full academic year (September to end of summer term in July) will make your child a PA student.

PE AND SCHOOL SPORTS

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These 4 pupils recently participated in boccia and kurling and returned to school with great success. Finishing 4th in kurling but then finishing unbeaten in boccia coming 1st overall was filled with huge amounts of excitement for these pupils.

Due to their success above we have now been invited to compete in the boccia county finals in January. This is the first time in at least 10 years our school have made it to a county finals where we hope to continue our success. A huge achievement for these 4 students to represent our school.



Carrying on our success this half term, we also competed in the pentathlon. Once again we saw medals shining around our pupils necks coming 3rd overall. Some of these students were competing in an event for the very first time and conducted themselves in the LPA way representing our school superbly.

NURSERY

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Nursery have been having lots of fun over the last couple of weeks. We had our friend Elfie come join us in the classroom and we helped him with his maths learning, sorting ribbons into long and short, creating paper chains for the classroom, making reindeer food and sorting presents into big and small. We also had our Christmas performance where the children did a fantastic job singing their songs and then having some Christmas craft fun, making calendars and having fun in the photo booth.













RECEPTION

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This half term, reception delighted their families with a wonderful Christmas production. The children have worked exceptionally hard, focusing on orally rehearsing their lines, participating with enthusiasm, and learning how to be respectful and attentive audience members. It takes real courage and skill to perform in front of a wider audience, and the children should be commended for their dedication and confidence throughout the process. Well done, Reception!





RAINBOW STREET

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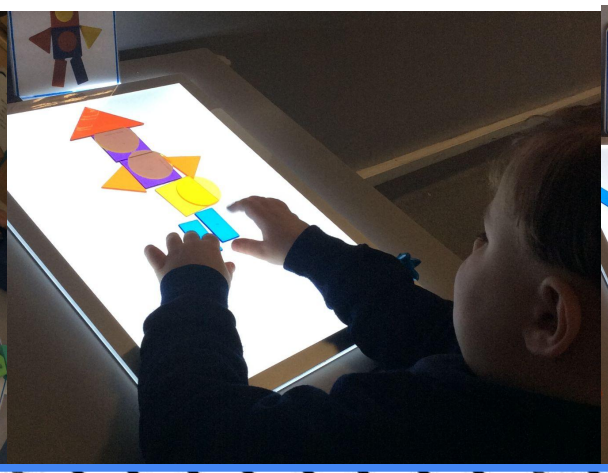


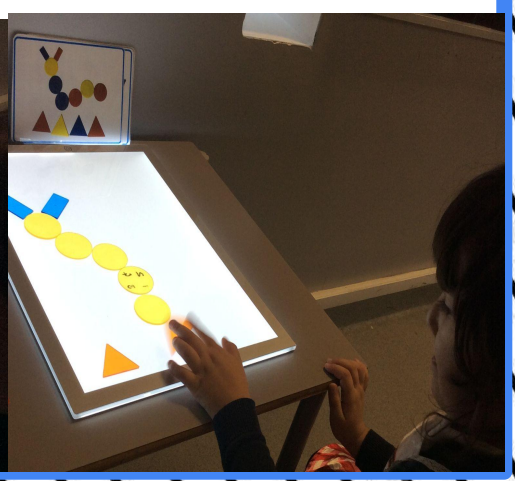




In Rainbow Street the class have been learning about the meaning of christmas. We have learnt about the nativity and the story of Jesus. The class have been getting creative designing wreaths, ornaments and christmas cards for their families. We had a special visit from Cooper the therapy dog, the children enjoyed feeding Cooper treats and stroking his soft fur. For maths the class have been exploring and identifying properties of 2d shapes and using the light box in their exploration.



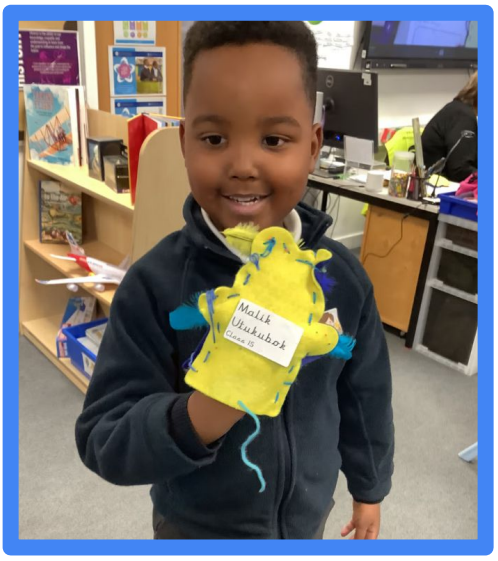




YEAR 1

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What a wonderful half term the year 1 pupils have had! They loved researching, designing and making their very own hand puppets as part of the design and technology. They used their puppets to tell a fabulous story. The pupils were able to evaluate their puppet and think about what they would do differently next time to improve their design.









The pupils have loved learning about the Christmas story as part of their religious education work. They enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and enjoyed their delicious Christmas dinner. Their Christmas concert production was amazing!









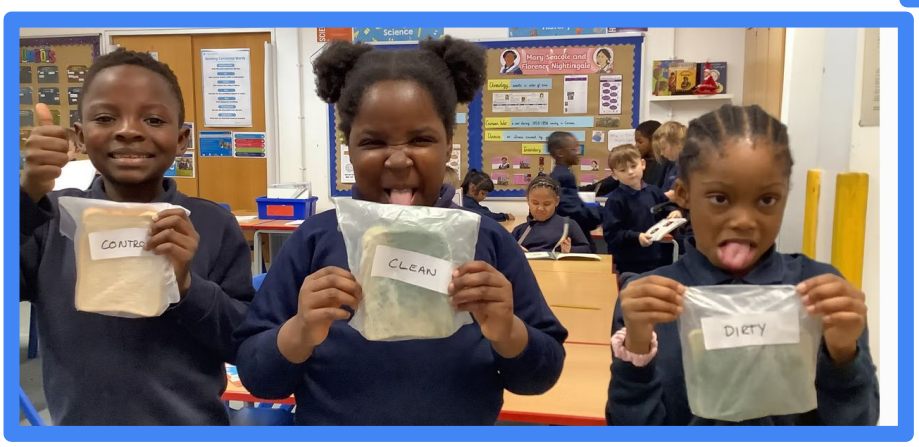
YEAR 2

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This half the year 2 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed lots of memorable learning experiences. In art, they have used dying fabrics to recreate their own version of Vincent van Gogh's 'Starry Night'. The pupils were amazed at how their fabrics looked. They loved conducting an investigation into germs. This helped them learn about the importance of handwashing and hygiene.









The pupils enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and enjoyed their delicious Christmas dinner. Their Christmas concert production was amazing! What lovely singing and great acting.





YEAR 3

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This half term, Year 3 were fortunate enough to receive an invitation to perform their Christmas Carols at both Lakeside shopping centre and at Tilbury Lights.
The children have worked exceptionally hard this half term rehearsing and learning their lyrics and actions and it was an absolute delight to have them perform under such special circumstances. It took a lot of bravery to stand in front of so many people, both friends and strangers and sing, and the children should be praised for all their courage and determination during the whole event. We're incredibly proud of how hard they've all worked and the performances were outstanding.

Well done, Year 3!









YEAR 4

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It has been an exceptionally busy and enriching half term for Year 4, filled with hands-on learning and memorable experiences. One of the highlights was our drumming performance, where the children proudly showcased their developing Samba skills to families and loved ones. Their progress is the result of dedicated teaching from Thurrock Music Services, led by Mrs Thompson and Miss Brown throughout the Autumn term. The children will continue building on this musical foundation during Spring 1, with another performance planned for the new year so families can enjoy their growing confidence and talent.

In Art, the children have been applying their newly acquired techniques to create striking portraits of Queen Victoria I. They explored how artists historically used imagery as propaganda, focusing on portraying her as strong, powerful and wealthy. The results were impressive and showed real attention to detail.






Science this term has been equally practical and engaging. Our unit on the digestive system offered countless opportunities for hands-on investigations, helping the children understand the fascinating journey food takes through the body. To demonstrate their learning, the children produced brilliant comic strips illustrating each stage of the digestive process, all of which showcased both creativity and scientific understanding.

This term, the children have shown tremendous dedication to their times tables as we prepare for the national MTC test in June 2026. We've seen excellent progress, growing confidence, and some fantastic engagement on TTRS, with many pupils challenging themselves and taking real pride in their achievements.

A huge well done to all the children in Year 4 for their enthusiasm, effort and achievements this half term, and a heartfelt thank you to the staff for their continued hard work and dedication.

YEAR 5

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It has been an out-of-this-world term for Year 5! We have continued our immersive journey through our Space topic and the enthusiasm from the children has been incredible. Last week, we moved our focus from the broad solar system to our closest celestial neighbor: the Moon.

A "Tasty" Look at Lunar Cycles

One of the highlights was undoubtedly our hands-on (and delicious!) investigation into the phases of the Moon. To help the children visualise why the Moon appears to change shape in the sky, we used Oreo cookies to represent the varying degrees of sunlight reflected off the lunar surface.

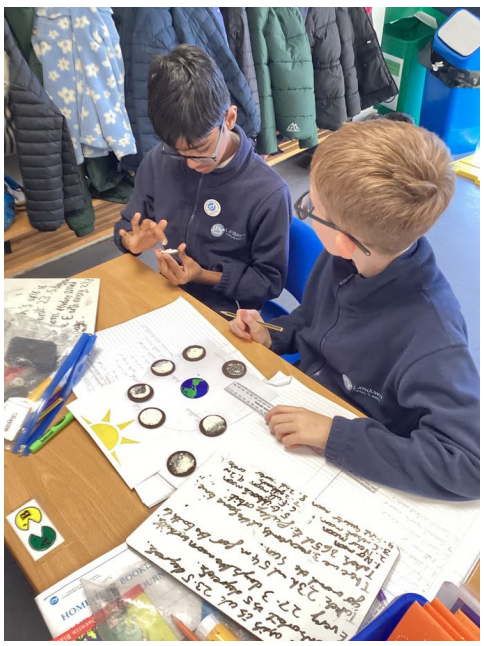
By carefully scraping away the cream filling, the children recreated everything from the thin sliver of the Waxing Crescent to the brightness of the Full Moon, ending with the darkness of the New Moon. This activity helped them understand that the Moon doesn't actually change shape; rather, our perspective of it changes as it orbits the Earth.

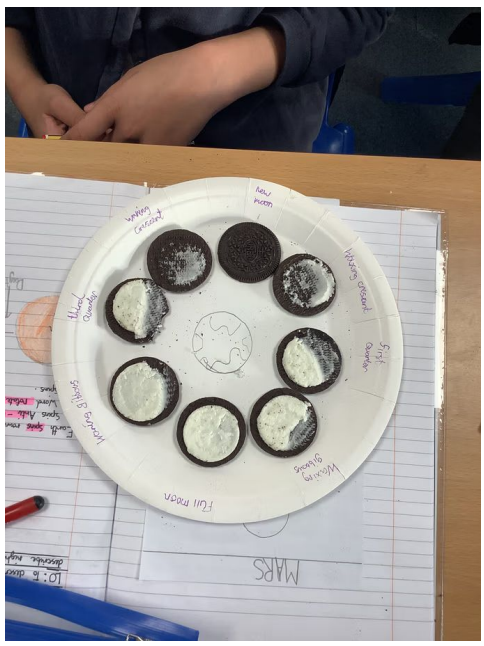
From Apollo to the Future

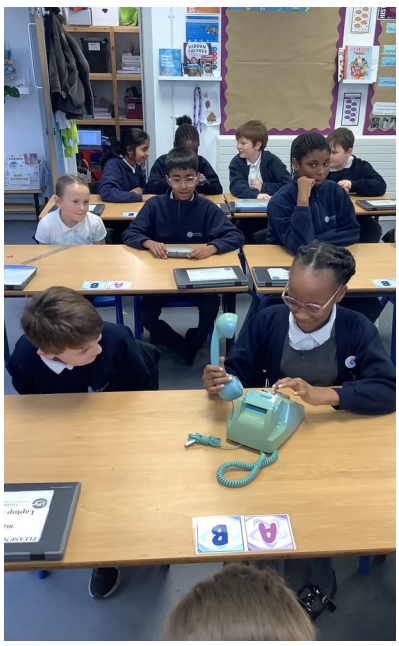
Beyond the science of orbits, we have been exploring the incredible history of space travel. We took a trip back in time to 1969 to discuss the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, but we didn't stop there. The children have been busy comparing those early "giant leaps" with the rapid advancements of modern space exploration.

We discussed how much has changed over the last 50 years, including:

- Reusable Technology: Unlike the single-use rockets of the 60s, companies like SpaceX now land rockets vertically so they can be flown again.
- Life in Orbit: We explored how the International Space Station (ISS) has allowed humans to live and work in space continuously for over two decades.
- Robotic Pioneers: We looked at the Mars Rovers and how sophisticated AI is now helping us explore planets where humans cannot yet go.







YEAR 6

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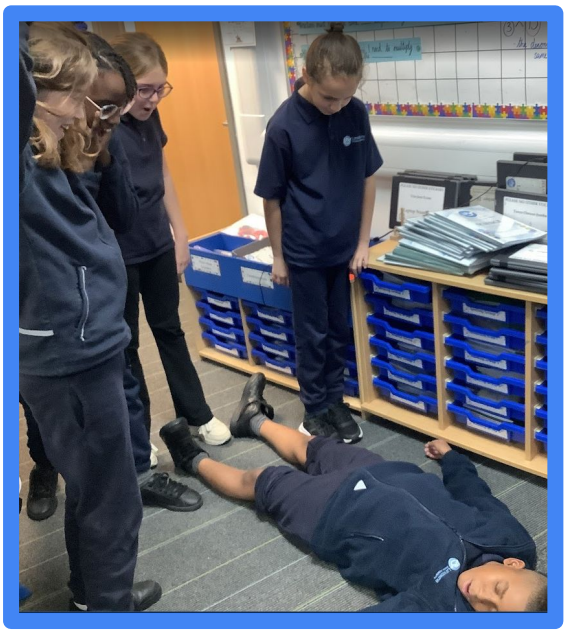




The children worked hard during rehearsals for their Christmas performance (which was sadly cancelled due to the weather). They learnt sign language to go alongside their rendition of Feliz Navidad.







ln English, the children have been studying the narrative poem,'The Lady of Shalott.' Part of their work involved them acting out the scene where residents of Camelot found her in her rowing boat. They were then interviewed for a newspaper report.



Mr Burnett ran a quiz for children with attendance of over 96%. The children enjoyed answering Christmas themed questions and munching on crisps!

ACORNS

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It has been a busy end to the half term in Acorns, with the children making snowman decorations for the Christmas Market and learning how to make shortbread. On Monday we had a visit from Cooper, a therapy dog and on Thursday the children had an end of term treat when the soft play bus came to visit. The children have also been working hard learning Signalong signs linked to Christmas and the actions for *Jingle Bells* to share with their parents for our Christmas performance.













SEEDLINGS

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The last three weeks have been full of Christmas cheer! The children have been busy making cards, baking and decorating gingerbread cookies for our Christmas Market. There has been lots of giggles, excitement, and curiosity as they explored, created, and shared ideas. It's been wonderful to see everyone having fun and getting into the festive spirit! 🎄🍪✨



