Hunters Hall Primary School Snippets

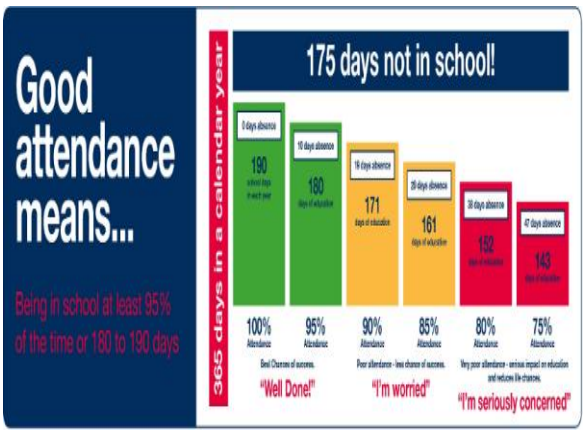
Issue: 18
January 2025

Dates for the Diary

Spring Term

Tuesday 28th January – Year 2 Explorer Visit
Wednesday 29th January – Arc Theatre Session Year's 5&6
Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February – Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings (Nursery to Year 5)

Monday 17th to Sunday 23rd – February Half-term
Wednesday 26th February – Year 6 Parent/Carer 1:2:1 appointments
Friday 4th April – Last day of term.



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to the classes in green 96%+:

Class	Attendance % Present
4LG	98.5
4DR	98.2
6JN	98.0
RGM	97.9
1DL	97.7
6AD	97.3
6AM	97.3
RIM	97.1
1VR	97.0
3OZ	96.4
5MK	95.2
3ST	94.5
3MA	94.4
2CH	94.3
2MR	94.0
5TH	93.9
REL	92.5
4GR	89.4
5VE	88.6
1GS	88.3
2FK	88.0

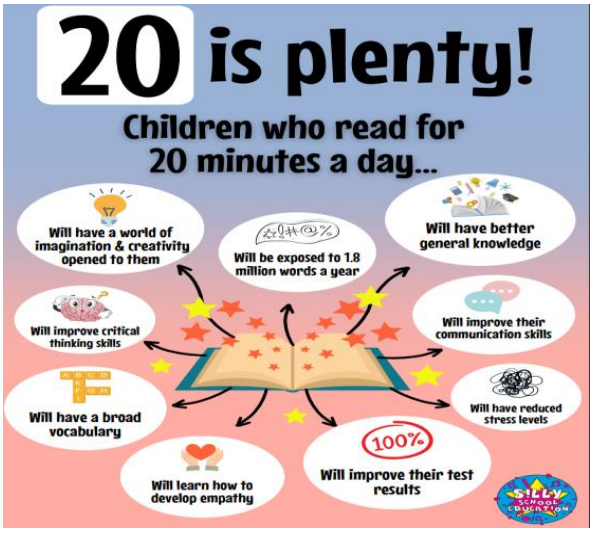
ATTENDANCE MATTERS every school day counts.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Tomorrow is going to be a special day in the science world. On 25.1.25 all seven of the other planets in our solar system are about to become visible at once in a great planetary alignment or planetary parade. If the sky is clear, see if you can witness any of this celestial spectacular. Those of you who have a telescope will be in for a treat.

Whilst on the theme of light and dark, if you are looking for something free to do this weekend, why not head to Canary Wharf and marvel at the Winter Lights https://canarywharf.com/whats-on/winter-lights-2025/ There's a copy of the map in this edition of Snippets. I'll look out for anyone who might be there on Saturday evening.

The importance of reading cannot be understated. If we want our children to have the very best vocabulary that they can have alongside excellent comprehension and a love of reading, we need to provide an environment where reading is celebrated and encouraged. When you see some of the research – it makes perfect sense.



Today, I have the honour of accompanying our Choir to Young Voices at the O2. Look out for highlights and updates on X (Twitter) and ParentHub.

Michael Kaitell, Headteacher

Team Points

TEAM POINTS		
	Tigers	688
	Bears	617
	Wolves	523
	Sharks	697
	Komodo Dragon	539

Uniform Shop Dates

School uniform can be purchased from 3:00-4:00pm in the dining hall on the following dates:

SCHOOL UNIFORM DIRECT

Wednesday 5th February
Wednesday 26th February
Wednesday 12th March
Wednesday 26th March

Gold Award Debit Card Recipients

Each week we publish any recipients of the new Gold Award Debit Card.

Gold Award Recipients

Name	Class	Name	Class
Alexandru Pralea	1VR	Isadora Miftari	1DL
Denis Chistol	1VR	Yuvaan Maskey	1DL
Dalya Solovastru	1VR	Dominic Baranauskas	1DL
Ingrid Ciolca	1VR	Herkus Seilius	1DL
Sofia Patrut	1VR	Mila Jurkstaite	1DL
Fabian Budai-Mocanu	1GS	Monica Cojocaru	1DL
John Hassan	1GS	Amelia Chetrari	1DL
Nikita Petliuk	1GS	Darius Cazac	1GS
Joanna Raphael	1GS	Nicholas Catana	4DR

Parent/Carer Handbook

Scan the QR code or visit https://sway.cloud.microsoft/BeyF4UlXJ7lWwliv?ref=Link

School Uniform

School uniform can be purchased from 3:00-4:00pm in the dining hall. The dates vary throughout the year.

In a hope to reduce the cost of school uniform, from September, you will have the option to purchase iron-on badges for plain white polo shirts and plain red jumpers. Badges will cost £1.20 and should make uniform more affordable.

Uniform can also be purchased online: www.schooluniformdirect.org.uk/schools/product-category/schools-and-clubs/hunters-hall-primary/

Or Telephone: 01992 763679 / Email: info@schooluniformdirect.org.uk

Parent Hub

We would like all parents/carers to join us on Parent Hub.

Parent Hub is a FREE app that helps keep you up to date with what's going on at school. You'll receive messages, pictures, documents and newsletters, all in one handy place.

1. Download the Parent Hub app from your app store (iPhone or Android).
2. Create yourself an account.
3. Choose "Add a School" and enter:

@HuntersHallPS

How to translate messages in the Parent Hub app (guidance for schools)

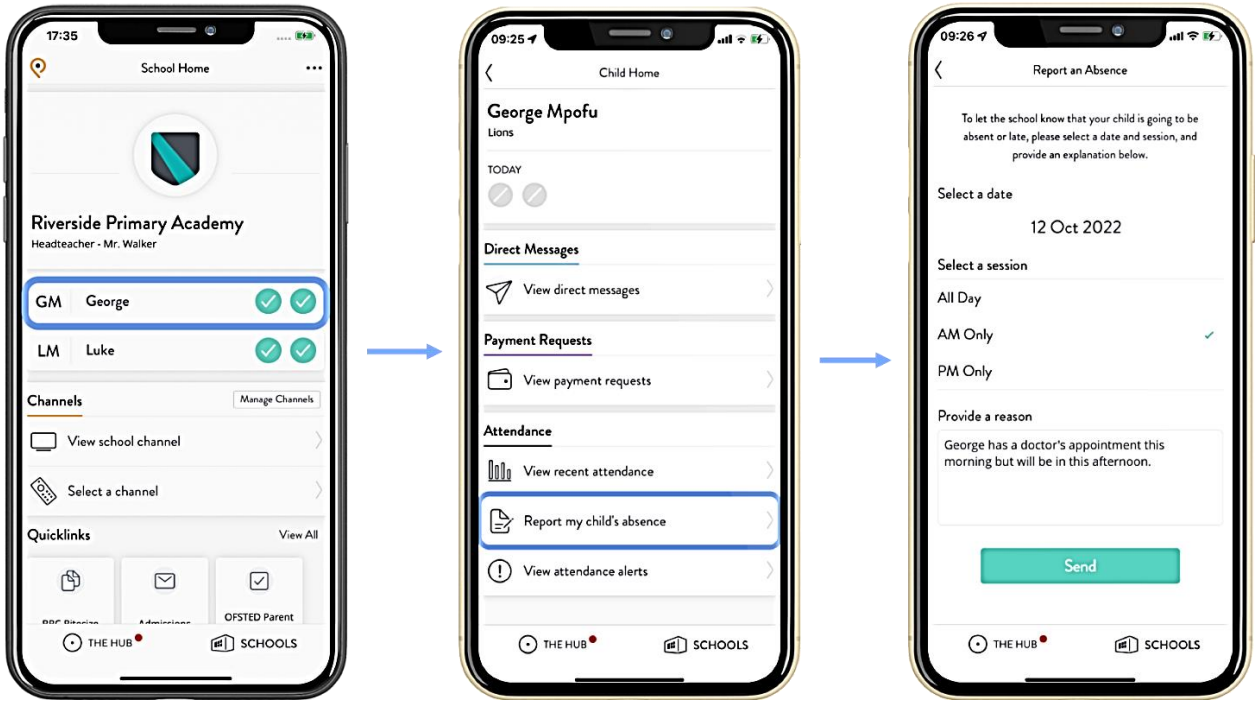
In the app, parents just tap the 'translate' button in the bottom right of a message.

This applies to old messages, as well as new ones.

To find out more, click the link below for a useful guide.

https://support.parenthub.co.uk/hc/en-us/articles/6172951020689-How-to-translate-messages-in-the-Parent-Hub-app

Reporting absence



Uniform Reminder & PE Days 2024-2025

During the course of this academic year, we are phasing out some of our school uniform in an effort to make it more affordable for our parent body.

Our school uniform provider now sells school badges for £1.20 so that you are able to purchase plain white polo shirts/ plain red jumpers/cardigans and iron on the badge. (Our current provider will continue to sell their stock of red and grey uniform items and staff has been informed that it is a gradual phase out)

We have reduced the number of days that children require their school uniform by allowing them to wear their PE kit on two days of the week. (You will be notified if there is a special day such as school photographs so that you can ensure that children are dressed appropriately.)

School Uniform (only 2 branded clothing items necessary & 1 branded book bag)

White Polo Shirt (with logo/ iron-on badge)

Red jumper/ Cardigan (with logo/ iron-on badge)

Grey school trousers/ skirt/ shorts

Summer Dress

Plain black shoes/ trainers

PE Kit

Plain white t-shirt

Red shorts

Red/ Grey jogging bottoms

Red fleece

Black plimsolls

PE Days

Year Group	PE Day 1	PE Day 2
Reception	Thursday	
Year 1	Monday	Tuesday
Year 2	Monday	Wednesday
Year 3	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday	Friday
Year 6	Tuesday	Thursday

Swimming is part of the national curriculum. Children in Year 4 and 6 are offered swimming lessons. From time to time, other selected pupils are given the opportunity.

Children must have a suitable swimming costume, a towel and a swimming hat.

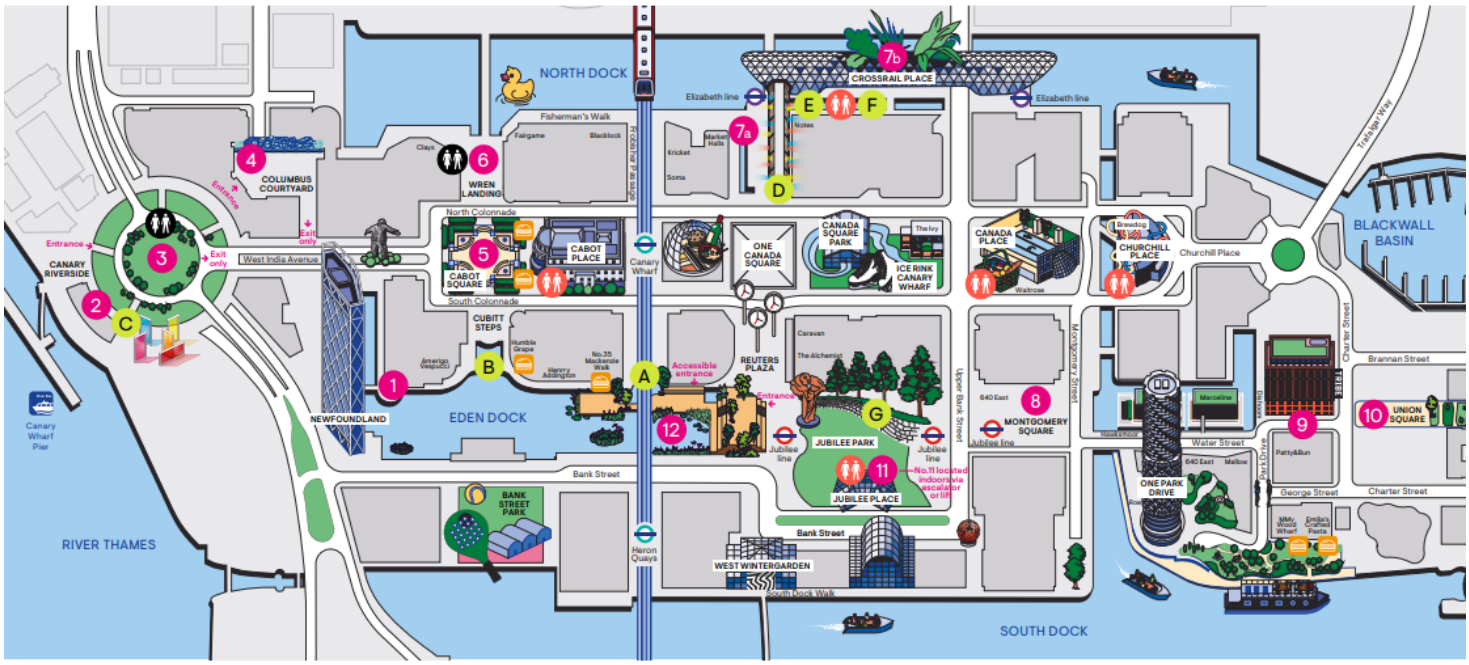
This year, we will be operating a mobile swimming pool on the school site during June and July.

Winter Lights

WINTER LIGHTS

Spectacular light installations and immersive art
Tues 21 January – Sat 1 February 2025

Throughout Canary Wharf
5–10pm
Free



1. **Aj Vana Be** — Mackenzie Walk
2. **Circa** — Riverside
3. **Error** — Westferry Circus
4. **Wave** — Columbus Courtyard
5. **Evanescent Droplets** — Cabot Square
6. **Stitching Light** — Wren Landing
7a. **Artificial Humans** — Adams Plaza
7b. **Artificial Humans** — Crossrail Place Roof Garden
8. **Mirage** — Montgomery Square
9. **Bird Passing By** — Water Street
10. **Portal** — Union Square
11. **Positive Spin** — Jubilee Place, Level -1 (indoors)
12. **Illusion Hole** — Eden Dock
A. **bit.fall** — Chancellor Passage
B. **The Clew** — Cubitt Bridge
C. **Shine Your Colours** — Riverside
D. **Captivated by Colour** — Adams Plaza Bridge
E. **Elantica 'The Boulder'** — Crossrail Place, L -1 Quayside
F. **We Could Meet** — Crossrail Place, L -1 Quayside
G. **Lightbenches 'Classic'** — Jubilee Park

WINTER LIGHTS INSTALLATION
PERMANENT COLLECTION INSTALLATION
FOOD & DRINK POP-UP
TOILET
JUBILEE LINE
TOILET IN SHOPPING MALL
ELIZABETH LINE
DLR
UBER BOAT

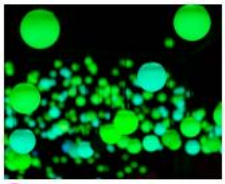
Winter Lights installation

Permanent collection installation

1 **Aj Vana Be**
by Benedikt Tolar
Mackenzie Walk

2 **Circa**
by Limbic Cinema
Riverside

3 **Error**
by Vendel & de Wolf
Westferry Circus


4 **Wave**
by Squidsoup
Columbus Courtyard

5 **Evanescent Droplets**
by Atelier Sisu
Cabot Square

6 **Stitching Light**
by Emergency Exit Arts with Ruhul Abdin & Oitij-jo
Wren Landing

7a **Artificial Humans**
by Atelier Haute Cuisine
Adams Plaza

7b **Artificial Humans**
by Atelier Haute Cuisine
Crossrail Place Roof Garden

8 **Mirage**
by Atelier Sisu
Montgomery Square

9 **Bird Passing By**
by Luminariste with Benjamin Nesme & Marc Sicard
Water Street

10 **Portal**
by Lucid Creates
Union Square

11 **Positive Spin**
by Liz Harry & Kazimier Productions
Jubilee Place, L -1 (indoors)

12 **Illusion Hole**
by UxU Studio
Eden Dock

A **bit.fall**
by Julius Popp
Chancellor Passage

B **The Clew**
by Ottotto
Cubitt Bridge

C **Shine Your Colours**
by Tine Bech
Riverside

D **Captivated by Colour**
by Camille Walala
Adams Plaza Bridge

E **Elantica 'The Boulder'**
by Tom & Lien Dekyvere
Crossrail Place, L -1 Quayside

F **We Could Meet**
by Martin Richman
Crossrail Place, L -1 Quayside

G **Lightbenches 'Classic'**
by Lichtbank
Jubilee Park

Canary Wharf is home to the UK's largest free to visit outdoor Public Art collection. Scan to find out more.

All areas are accessible, speak to one of our stewards for more information. All toilets are fully accessible. Baby change found only in indoor facilities. Please ask a member of staff for assistance if required. Please be aware that some installations have flashing lights. In adverse weather conditions we may close installations for safety reasons. All details correct at time of print. The most up to date advice and event details can be found at canarywharf.com

canarywharf.com
canarywharflondon
#winterlights2025

Neurodiversity

Mrs Trimmer shared this video with staff last week and I thought that it would be useful for all parents and carers to watch.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5hg5XwcPcI

Neurodiversity is like biodiversity, but instead of being about trees and plants, it's about human brains.

Biodiversity means that there are lots of different types of plants and animals. If we focus on flowers as one type, we know that although we usually imagine flowers to look and act in a particular way, there are lots of different groups of flowers. If you had to draw a picture of a flower, some groups of flowers would look and act how you have drawn your flower. Other groups of flowers might look and act very differently. Each individual flower on planet Earth is unique. There is no other flower quite like it yet. Every individual flower fits into a different flower group, each of which is different from other flower groups. But all those groups are classified as flowers.

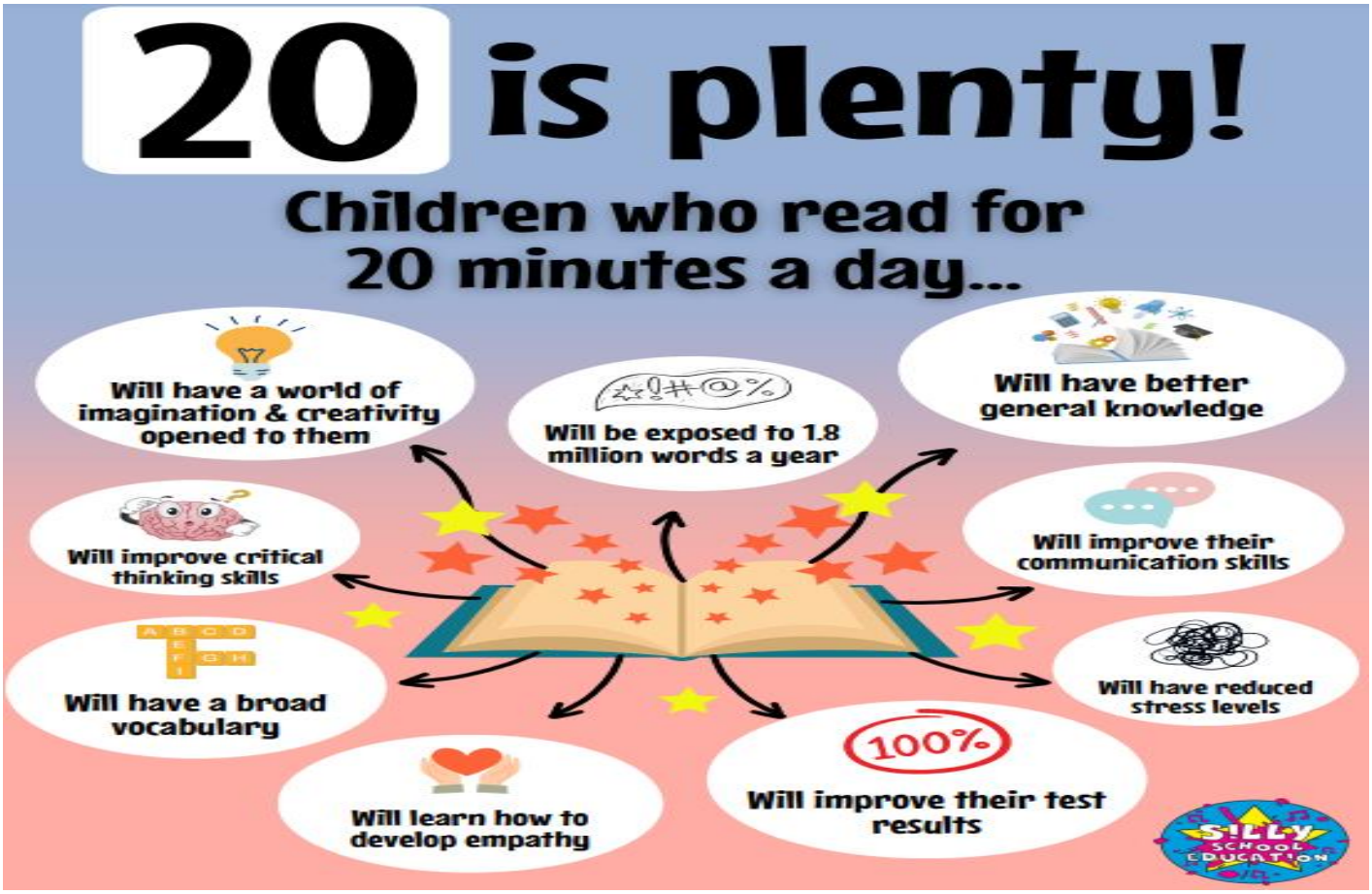
Instead of being about flowers or dogs or trees or fish, neurodiversity focuses on human brains. Neurodiversity includes all human beings. There are over 8 billion human beings on planet Earth. Nobody exactly like you has ever existed or ever will exist! You are completely unique in your personality and how your brain works. Your brain might, though, work very similarly to some humans, but also very differently to others in very specific ways. When this happens, your group is identified as neurodivergent and might have a label like autism or ADHD, or one of many more labels. When your brain works similarly to the majority of people, we call that being neurotypical. Sometimes people are aware when they are different, but not know why. Some people can think they are neurotypical when they aren't, and sometimes it takes someone else to recognise that you are neurodivergent. There is nothing right or wrong about being neurotypical or neurodivergent. It just means that brains work in a unique way. You might concentrate differently, behave or act a little differently, even communicate and think differently, needing more support around. This is OK because unfortunately the world we live in is very focused on meeting the needs of neurotypical people because it's more common to be neurotypical. This isn't a problem with neurodivergent people as people. This is a problem that society needs to fix, because neurodivergent people are as an important and natural part of the world as neurotypical people are.

Too often the neurotypical world forgets or isn't really aware that people can and do exist differently and have different needs. So it assumes that we must have bodies that work in the same way, have brains that work in the same way, do things in exactly the same way, think the same way, communicate the same way, act the same way, must respond to things the same way. When people don't meet those standards, they are often seen by doctors and professionals who give them labels that tell them the ways that they don't work properly. They're told they have a disorder. They have conditions. They're not fully functioning human beings. We accept that every single type of creature and plant on the planet has members that look and act very differently, but we don't accept that for humans. All humans are expected to be the same. We need more people to recognise and understand their diversity because the way neurodivergent people are treated can be very negative and there are a lot of myths.

In our school, we are extremely fortunate to have people who are neurodivergent. Sometimes you will know, sometimes you won't. The labels you are most likely to have come across are things like autism, ADHD, blindness, Dyspraxia, dyslexia, deafness, dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Down syndrome, learning, or intellectual disabilities. It's really important to remember that these labels don't mean that someone is badly behaved or ill in some way. It means that what they need might be a little or very different to what you need. Sometimes you will meet people who have different needs, who don't know that one or more of those labels might apply to them. One or more of those labels might even apply to you, your friends, parents, or our teaching staff. And you or they might not know.

The best way to recognise someone who is neurodivergent is when someone a little or a lot might communicate differently to most people. Might process information differently to most people. Might behave differently to most people. Might move differently to most people. Might need to use their attention differently to most people. Might react to sensory information differently to most people. Might play and socialise differently. To most people, these differences are part of who that person is and what makes them unique, and it is so important that you or anyone does not try to change how someone else needs to exist.

Daily Reading for 20 Minutes



Who's Who? Mrs White

Why do you work at Hunters Hall?

I work here because I love supporting children who need some extra help to enable them to thrive and reach their full potential. It is also such a wonderful supportive team to work in. I love the Thrive ethos of the school.

What's your role?

I am a 1-1 Support Assistant for children with SEN.

Favourite things...

I absolutely love reading and have hundreds of books. I also love reading my Bible, studying it and going to church. I am passionate about learning, especially if it will help me improve how I do my job, and helping the children to learn.

Hopes and Dreams

For my children who are 16 and 19 to find their way in the world in a way that fulfils them.
To do my Masters Degree.

How long have you been at Hunters Hall?

At the end of March, it will be 3 years.

Achievements to date (in order)

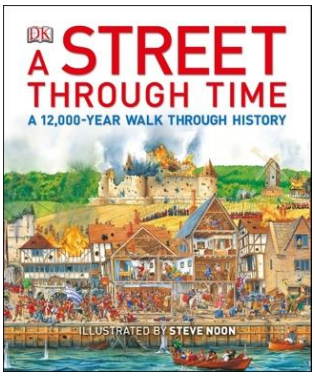
Having my two beautiful children.
Achieving a first with honours in my Psychology degree.
Celebrating 25 years of marriage to my husband.

Year 1 – Fairy Tales

In Year One our topic is Fairy Tales. We dressed up as a fairy tale character and spoke about what book we were from.

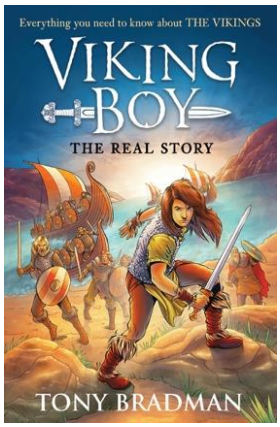
Reading for Pleasure Matters at Hunters Hall

Welcome to 2025! This Spring term promises to ensure that all children are accessing a broad and balanced curriculum based on our carefully considered topics. In every year group, pupils have the opportunity to be historians, geographers, artists, philosophers, empathisers and critical thinkers. Each week we will showcase a different year group, suggesting books that will support and extend current learning. This week we are focusing on Year 6!



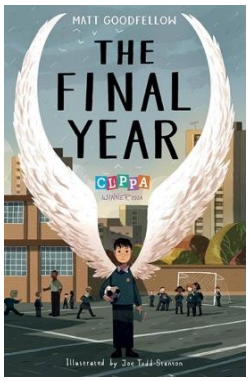
History/Geography:

This term we are looking at the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings with regards to settlement, invasions and their impact on Britain over time.
A Street Through Time by DK will take pupils on a time-travelling journey that they won't forget. Highly detailed illustrations bring 15 key periods in time to life, including Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Pupils will see magnificent buildings go up and come down, new churches built on the site of ancient temples, wooden bridges destroyed and then remade in stone, and statues demolished then unearthed many years later.



Literacy:

To support our literacy lessons, Year 6 are currently reading *Viking Boy* by Tony Bradman, which is an action-packed blend of historical adventure and fantasy for readers – a blast of uncensored Viking adventure.
If you enjoyed reading about blood, fire and vengeance, you might like one of Tony Bradman's other books: Viking Boy – The Real Story. Pupils can take a real-life tour of the everyday world of Gunnar, a teenage Viking boy: They will find out how the Vikings lived, what they believed, how they travelled and fought, and gained their legendary reputation as warriors!

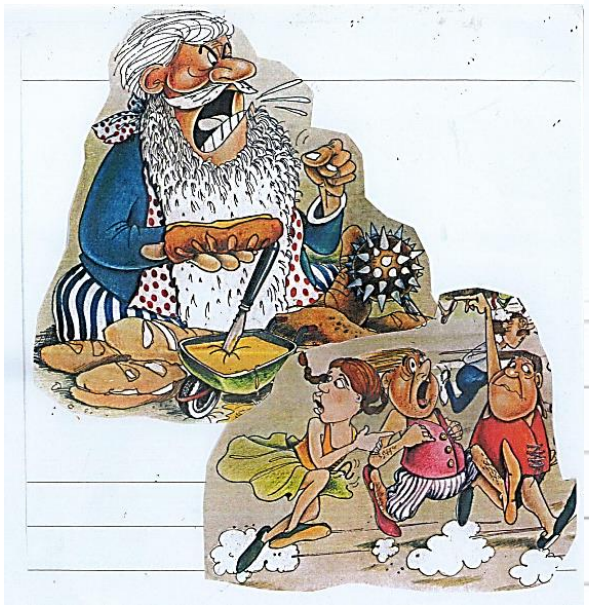


PSHE and Transition:

As we move through the academic year, pupils begin to reflect on their time in Primary school before preparing for a new adventure in Secondary!
The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow is a powerful and lyrical story following Nate, a Year 6 child tackling his final year at Primary school while worrying about tests to take, bullies, friendships and his family. Winner of the 2024 CLPE Children's Poetry award, *The Final Year* showcases the journey to finding your place in the world and appreciating the people that matter within it.

Year 1 Writing

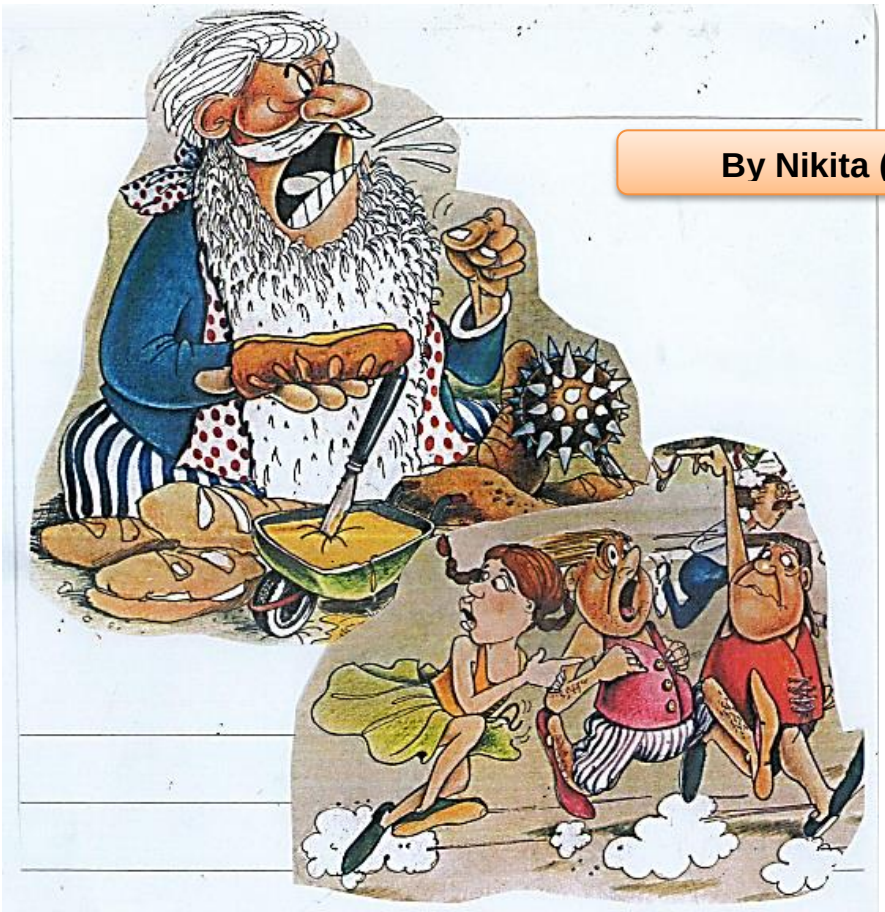
By Timofiy (1GS)



I want some honey
said the giant get
me some honey
or I will hit you
with my bonny
knocker.

so the people
ran and ran
and looked for
the honey.

By Nikita (1GS)



I want some honey said the giant
get me some honey or I will
hit you with my bone knoner
so the people ran and ran and
and look for honey.

Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King

Who is Martin Luther King?

Martin Luther King was a man who was brown. One day he decided to stand up for brown people and for them not to get judged.
Martin said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character. I have a dream today," Dr King said.
He got tired of people judging brown people so he had a mission to end racism.

When was Martin Luther King born?

He was on 15th January 1929, he was named after his father, Michael King. But six years later, King's father visited Germany and learned about Martin Luther, the leader of the Protestant reformation.

When did Martin Luther King die where is he buried?

Martin Luther King, was assassinated on 4 April 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was trying to help the striking garbage workers. The funeral was held on 9 April 1968 at Eberezer Baptist church in Atlanta.

When was Martin Luther King married, and did he have any children?

He married Coretta Scott on June 18, 1953. They had four children: Yolanda Denise (born 1955), Martin Luther III (born 1957), Dexter Scott (born 1961) and Bernice Albertine (born 1963).

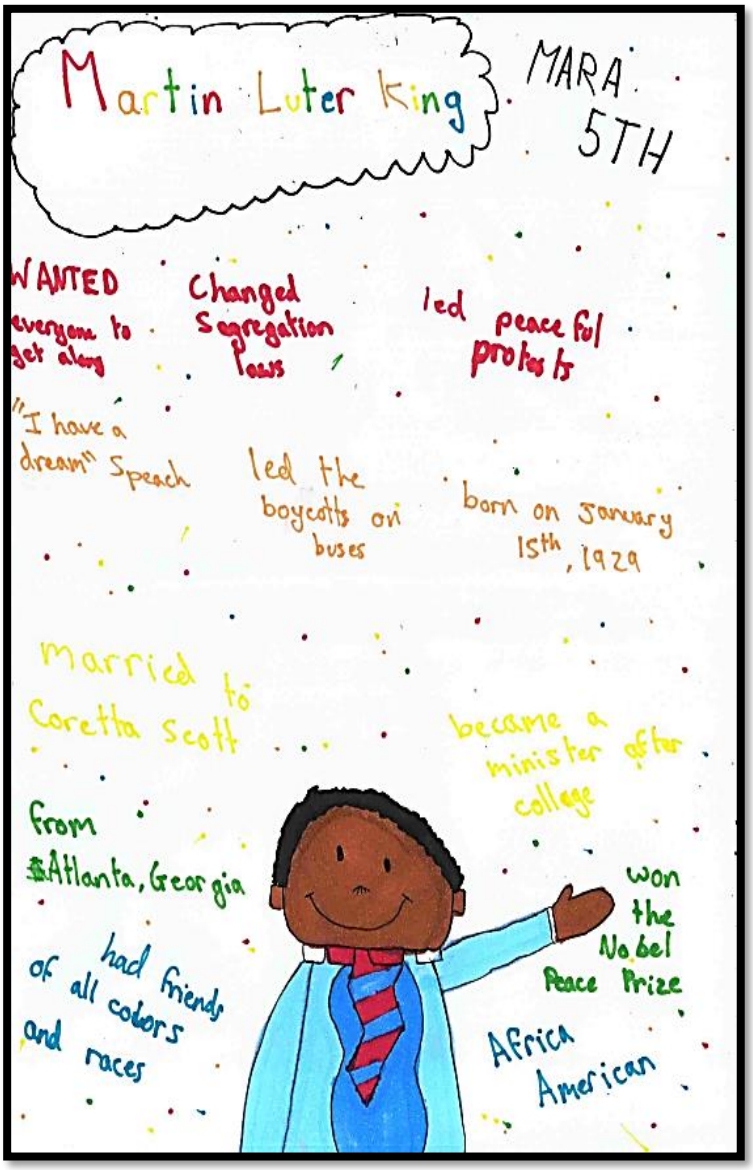
FUN FACTS!

- Martin wrote five books
- He was arrested more than 25 times
- He survived previous assassination attempts

What were his dreams?

Martins dreams were that all people would someday be sisters and brothers in a world governed by equality, justice and peace.

By Anastasia (5TH)



By Mara (5TH)

CREATIVE
BARKING AND DAGENHAM
Get a £20 Love2Shop Voucher
Reflection Sessions
for the
Winter Light Parades
19, 20, 21 & 24 November 2024
Valence Library: 28th January, 4–6pm
Mark's Gate Community Hub:
30th January, 11–1pm
The Rivergate Centre: 30th January, 4–6pm
To book a FREE ticket visit:
www.creativebd.org.uk
Have your say!
LOTTERY FUNDED
Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
GLOBAL STREETS

New After School Club from September 3pm-6pm

https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/4077/?location=dagenham&distance=1.0&distance=1.0&type%5b%5d=WAC

Flu Catch-Up Community Clinics

FLU CATCH-UP COMMUNITY CLINICS

Vaccination UK
Immunisation Provider for NHS

Winter season is upon us, and with cold weather keeping us indoors and in close contact, it's easier than ever for the flu to spread. Protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community by getting your flu jab today.

The flu vaccine is your best defense against severe illness, hospitalisation, and missed work or school. Let's work together to keep everyone well this winter.

Stay Well: Avoid the misery of flu this winter.

Stop the Spread: Help prevent flu outbreaks in your community.

Protect Others: Especially children, the elderly, and those more vulnerable.

You can book your child an appointment for their flu vaccination at one of our community clinics.

For our clinic locations and contact details for the Vaccination UK team please follow one of these links:

https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

February Half Term Holiday Camps

Premier Camps Near You

February Half Term Multi Activity Camps

17th - 21st February 2025

Manor Junior School - Barking 9am - 3pm

Hallsville Primary School - Newham 9am - 3.30pm

Sacred Heart of Marys School - Upminster 9am - 4pm

- **Rose Lane Primary School - Romford 9am - 3pm**

Mix it up this half-term with our multi-activity holiday camps!

These camps are a perfect blend of activities for all ages, combining different sports with a variety of team games.

Everyday is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from gymnastics to fencing, lacrosse to archery.

PLEASE BRING
Pack lunch
Plenty of water
Suitable clothing
Loads of energy!

Book now for a half term full of fun!

Scan here for more information

Trustpilot
Based on over 20,000 reviews

Mental Health Support Team

Who are we?

We are four Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP), offering early intervention for young people with mild to moderate difficulties.
Our team work closely with young people, parents, and school staff to think together about ways to improve mental wellbeing within your school environment

Who do we work with?

Parents or Carers of pupils from reception to year 6 with mild-moderate levels of:

- Anxiety (e.g. fears, phobias, feeling panicky)
- Challenging behaviour (e.g. struggling to follow rules, temper tantrums, difficulty following requests)

Whole classes or year groups (delivering assembles and workshops)

Aims of our Team

- Provide early psychological support
- Support the school's whole-school approach to wellbeing
- Signposting to specialist service

For more information please speak to your mental health lead or get in touch MHST.BD@nelft.nhs.uk

Barking and Dagenham Primary school Staff

Breakfast Club

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our breakfast club is open term time only Monday to Friday, 7:45 to 8:30am.

No booking is required, you can turn up on the day and pay.

The charge is **£3** per day, you are required to accompany your child into our breakfast club and stay with them until they have been marked in on our daily register.

You are required to have the correct money for payment.

Please note that payments in advance are non-refundable and non-transferable therefore if you choose to pay in advance and your child does not attend you lose that money.

Donations Wanted

WANTED

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

DONATIONS NEEDED

A big thank you to everyone who has previously donated. We always need more good quality pre-loved uniform items. Has your child grown out of theirs? Please donate to the school and come along to one of our sales for bargain replacements!

Winter coats and shoes also welcome.

Please bring any donations in a bag to the school office.

Thank you

DHP Scheme

Are you struggling to afford your rent payments?

Do you have rent arrears?

Do you need help with a deposit?

Help is available through the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) scheme

Visit https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/discretionary-hardship-support/discretionary-housing-payments-dhp

To find out more and apply online

You must be in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit housing costs to qualify for a DHP

Barking & Dagenham

Household Support Fund

Are you struggling with the rising cost of living?

Do you have utility debts?

Help is available to support the rising cost of living for energy & utility costs, food and other emergency need through the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Hardship schemes

Visit https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/discretionary-hardship-support/hardship-payment-schemes/household-support-fund to find out more and apply online

Barking & Dagenham

RockSteady

MINI ROCKERS

FOR RECEPTION TO YEAR 2

Fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons, for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. No experience or instrument required.

ROCK HEROES

FOR YEARS 3 AND 4

Fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons, for Years 3 and 4. No experience or instrument required.

ROCK ICONS

FOR YEARS 5 AND 6

Fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band lessons, for Years 5 and 6. No experience or instrument required.

https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/info-for-parents

Learn to play in a band

Learning an instrument should be fun. Your child can choose from the electric guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals and enjoy playing in a happy, supportive environment with their friends.

Lead by real musicians

Your child's music teacher should also be their role model. Which is why all Rocksteady Band Leaders are carefully chosen, extensively trained musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of playing music.

In school time

Lessons are 30 minutes long and take place in school time with all instruments provided, making it hassle-free for parents.

From first notes to favourite songs

The Rocksteady Programme is for all children aged 4-11 and is proven to progress musicianship, confidence and teamwork skills with no prior experience necessary.

With regular live performances

Playing on stage is a huge confidence booster. With termly concerts at school assemblies, your child will be able to show off their progress to friends, teachers and parents with the rest of their band.

And happily affordable

Rocksteady is one of the most hassle-free ways to learn an instrument on a rolling subscription that you can cancel at any time. It's risk free too – cancel in the first month and you'll get a full refund.

Call 0330 113 0330