

Curriculum Newsletter Summer 2026

As we get ready for a well-earned summer break, we are absolutely delighted to share this term's curriculum newsletter, celebrating the fantastic learning that has taken place across our trust school communities! Our dedicated teachers and enthusiastic pupils have worked together to bring our subjects to life, fostering curiosity, resilience, and a hands-on love of learning.

Mathematics

In maths, our classrooms have been buzzing with problem-solving, active exploration, and collaborative building!

Our youngest learners in Foundation have made wonderful progress counting and representing numbers up to 20 and beyond! They loved exploring 2D and 3D shapes to build imaginative scenes, practicing how to give clear instructions to their friends to replicate their structures. They have also been introduced to the concepts of sharing, grouping, and doubling.

Year 1 children mastered counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s, explored halves and quarters, and tackled place value up to 100. Year 2 pupils expanded their understanding of fractions (including unit and non-unit fractions like $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$), learned to tell the time to five-minute intervals, and interpreted data using tally charts and pictograms.

Our Year 3 students learned to add and subtract fractions, tell the time to the nearest minute, and draw angles using protractors. Meanwhile, Year 4 took on partitioning decimals, solving complex money problems, and learning to read and draw line graphs.

Year 5 children explored angles up to 180° , plotted coordinates, and tackled negative numbers. Year 6 pupils consolidated their entire primary math journey, mastering vertically opposite angles, translating shapes across four quadrants, and examining the nets of 3D shapes.

Literacy

We have explored fantastic stories, rich poetry, and informative non-fiction, inspiring our students to become confident communicators, readers, and writers.

Our Foundation children developed their phonics skills through *Read, Write, Inc.*. Inspired by books like *The Extraordinary Gardener* and *Saving Mr Hoot*, they practiced forming lower-case letters, sounding out words, and writing short sentences.

Inspired by their immersive workshop, years 1 and two wrote about the historical figure Florence Nightingale. They also wrote an information book about protecting hedgehogs, inspired by our activities during sustainability week.

In years 3 & 4, the children read the stunning book *Rhythm of the Rain* to write narratives and explanation texts. They did a wonderful job punctuating direct speech with inverted commas and developing complex sentences using conjunctions, prepositions, and adverbs.

Our year 5 and 6 classes were truly Immersed in the book *Rain Player*, our oldest pupils crafted sophisticated narratives and explanation texts. They pushed their writing boundaries by using advanced punctuation like dashes, brackets, and commas for parenthesis. Across KS2, children also loved their "Writing for Pleasure" sessions, where they wrote stories based entirely on their own interests!



Science

Hands-on investigation has been at the heart of our science curriculum this term!

Foundation classes loved learning all about plants during their 'Glorious Gardens' topic. They enjoyed growing their own plants and learning how to care for them. The children also learnt about habitats and named different animals that live in local habitats.

In KS1, children learned to name and label the parts of the human body and map them to our five senses. They explored how we are unique and learned about the vital importance of exercise, a balanced diet, and hygiene.

Linking beautifully with their geography learning, year 3 and 4 students investigated the States of Matter. They explored the properties of solids, liquids, and gases, observing how materials change state through the water cycle.

This term, years 5 and 6 became physicists! They built electrical circuits to test how changing the number of batteries, bulbs, or wire length affected brightness. They also investigated light, demonstrating how light travels in straight lines to explain how shadows are cast.



Humanities

Our topic work this term has taken us from our local high streets all the way to ancient civilizations and tropical rainforests!

Our youngest pupils in Foundation and KS1 explored the local area through fieldwork and map-making, learning about local jobs and how a community is formed. EYFS children also loved finding out about the environmental passion of King Charles III. In history, Year 1 and 2 compared the lives and legacies of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, discovering how they revolutionized nursing.

Meanwhile, years 3 and 4 dived deep into the Amazon Rainforest, using geographical vocabulary to understand the water cycle and the differences between tropical and temperate rainforests. In history, they explored the history of the native Yanomami Tribe, learning about the gold rush and the inspiring campaigns of David Kopenawa.

Years 5 and 6 journeyed back to the Ancient Mayan Civilization, learning about their beliefs, lifestyles, and the exciting game of Pok-a-tok. In geography, they traced the global cocoa trade. They explored how cocoa is grown in South America, how it is supplied to our supermarkets, and the impact of fair trade on farming communities.



Creative and Performing Arts

Design, art, and music have filled our corridors with beautiful sights and sounds this term!

Our foundation children created stunning flower collages inspired by Eric Carle, while Year 1 and 2 crafted "Stick People" inspired by artist Chris Kenny. LKS2 used viewfinders to create detailed, textured drawings of Amazonian birds, which they turned into 3D models to add to creative rainforest scenes. UKS2 children learned about composition and scale to design and build mini-theatrical sets themed around the summer production of *Oliver Twist*!

In Design and Technology, our KS1 Children built local community structures, learning how to make materials stronger and stiffer. Children in years 3 and 4 successfully built moving, pneumatic rainforest animals using syringes, tubing, and balloons!

Inspired by the Ancient Maya and their visit to Cadbury World, our UKS2 children became chocolatiers. They conducted market research to design, brand, and make original packaging for their very own chocolate bars!

Music has been wonderfully interactive, with Year 1 through Year 6 learning to play the recorder! Children learned the notes, listened to traditional melodies, and even composed their own songs (including pieces inspired by the Mayan melody *Xtoles* in Years 5 & 6). EYFS also practiced singing and performing ahead of our school's production of *Oliver Twist*.



Computing and STEM

We continue to build key technical skills to prepare our children for a digital world.

Children in KS1 took their first steps in programming, coding floor robots, writing algorithms, and debugging their programs.

Year 3 and 4 children successfully coded micro:bits to measure and record real-time data on temperature and light, which they then analysed in Microsoft Excel to create graphs. They used this data to conclude where in the school had the best conditions for plants to grow!

Years 5 and 6 used Scratch software to program a complex lighting and audio simulation themed around our *Oliver Twist* production, predicting and debugging their algorithms as they worked.

Personal, Physical, & Social Development

Nurturing the whole child is at the core of our school values: *"Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*.

Religious Education

Foundation children explored the Christian faith through the *Puddles* book series whilst KS1 enjoyed studying Judaism. Their learning was brought to life by a visit from Mr and Mrs Brookman to learn about Shabbat and the Synagogue.

KS2 students learned about Islam, with Years 3 & 4 studying the significance of the Qur'an and Years 5 & 6 visiting the Maidenhead Mosque to explore the concept of *Ummah*.

Physical Education (PE): All years practiced their athletic skills—running, jumping, and throwing—to prepare for Sports Day – they all did so well! Alongside this, our KS2 children made good use of our brand-new Orienteering maps and markers to navigate the school grounds.

Victorians used to view Red Kites as scary and dangerous to their farms but now we want to protect them and we let them breed.

Lizzie Year 5



Solitary Bees are all on their own so they could live in the bee bricks to stay safe.

Barnaby Year 1

Bees and butterflies help pollinate the flowers and help them to grow.

Year 1

Highlights from Sustainability Week: "Our Garden: Making Space for Friends"

Our recent Sustainability Week was an absolute triumph across the Ashley Hill Multi-Academy Trust! This special week empowered our pupils to transition from "eco-anxiety" to "eco-agency," showing them that local, practical actions can have an immediate, positive impact on our ecosystem.

Our students even designed their own Eco-Superheroes and wrote stories about their adventures saving the planet[cite: 2]. The week's incredible learning has been immortalized on a vibrant display board in our shared corridor, featuring collaborative artwork, ecosystem data, and hedgehog maps.

To help garden creatures like hedgehogs, you should leave them alone. Give them lots of food. I will build them a hotel somewhere quiet and away from children.

Year 2



We have a lot of variety of flowers and insects on our field. There are different food sources for the hedgehog like insects.

Zac Year 6

Humans put up new fences and the hedgehogs can't get through.

Year 2

Hedgehog highways allow the hedgehogs to come into the garden to get food and then leave again.

Daisy Year 6



We want to say a massive thank you to all our wonderful parents for your continued support, and to our pupils for bringing such energy and determination to school every single day. Have a restful and wonderful break!