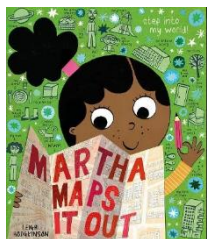


Autumn Term No 4

Wednesday 7th October 2026

What have we been learning about.....

Nursery



This week, Nursery have been setting off on some exciting adventures with Martha Maps It Out! We have been exploring the story together, looking carefully at the illustrations and talking about where Martha might be travelling. The children have enjoyed learning new words linked to maps and journeys such as map, route, journey, path, road, river, turn, around and across. We have also been using actions and gestures to explore words such as up, down, stop, go and turn.

We have been developing our early mark-making skills by creating our own maps, drawing roads, paths and rivers and using different symbols to represent places. The children have enjoyed making maps of familiar places such as home and school as well as talking about where their journeys might take them. In our reading area, we have been exploring different types of maps and enjoying books together while developing our vocabulary and communication skills.

In Maths, we have been exploring shapes and patterns, using 2D shapes to create paths, buildings and even our own rocket ships! We have also been counting landmarks and objects, comparing routes and using positional language such as under, on top, behind, beside and next to.

Our provision has taken us on lots of adventures too! We have been building Martha's Town in the construction area, creating maps in the sand, investigating floating and sinking in the water area and following a large map trail outdoors. We have also enjoyed making picnic food for Martha in the mud kitchen and using our imaginations to travel to different places.

It has been a wonderful week of exploring, creating, talking and discovering, with lots of opportunities to develop our communication, early maths, mark-making, physical development and imaginative play. We have loved seeing the children become little explorers as they follow maps, create their own journeys and share their adventures with their friends!

Reception

This week, Reception have been racing into their learning with our exciting Wacky Races theme! The children have been busy designing and creating their own wild racing vehicles, thinking carefully about how they could make them move and what special gadgets they might need. They have worked collaboratively to build challenging race tracks, adding ramps, tunnels, obstacles and different features to make their races even more exciting. Along the way, we have been exploring ideas about speed, movement, direction and problem-solving.



In Maths, we have been discovering the concept of one more, using practical activities and everyday opportunities to help us understand how quantities change. We have also been creating and continuing repeating patterns, spotting what comes next and talking about the different patterns we can see around us.

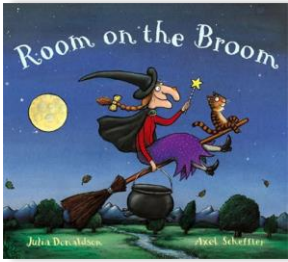
In Understanding the World, we have been celebrating what makes each of us unique and thinking about the things that make us special. We have been talking about how we have grown and changed since we were babies and sharing special memories and experiences from our lives. The children have loved comparing photographs and talking about the things they can do now that they couldn't do when they were younger.

Our Curiosity Lab has been full of autumn discoveries too! We have been investigating signs of the changing season, exploring leaves, conkers and natural materials and using our senses to notice colours, textures and patterns. We have also been getting creative with colourful patterns inspired by the artist Wassily Kandinsky, experimenting with shapes, lines and colours to create our own unique artwork.

It has been a busy and exciting week filled with creativity, curiosity, collaboration and lots of opportunities for the children to learn through play and exploration!

Year 1

We have had another fantastic week of learning in Year 1, and we have been really proud of the effort the children have been putting into their work. This week, we have had a particular focus on taking our time, presenting our work carefully and remembering all of the important things we have been learning.



In English, we started the week by focusing on writing full sentences. We practised remembering our capital letters and full stops, as well as using 'and' to join our ideas together. We then linked this learning to our new book, *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson.

We have also been working really hard on our handwriting and presentation. We have talked about how good writers need to be ready to write, so we have been practising sitting correctly at our tables and holding our pencils carefully. When we have finished our writing, we have been using a checklist to check that we have remembered our capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. It

has been lovely to see the children becoming more independent with this and beginning to spot things they can improve for themselves. We can already see a difference in the presentation of their work!

In Maths, we have continued to think carefully about how we present our work in our Maths books. We have been practising writing one number in each square and making sure our numbers are formed carefully and clearly. Our Maths learning has focused on finding one more and one less, before moving on to finding two more and two less. We have used lots of counting and number knowledge to help us, and the children are becoming much more confident at explaining how they know their answers.

We have been really proud of the children this week. They have listened carefully, responded well to reminders and shown that they want to make their work the very best it can be. These little habits make such a big difference, and it has been wonderful to see the children taking more pride in their books each day.

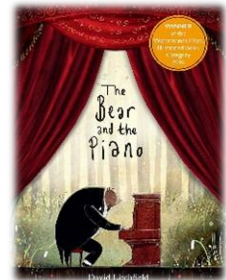
Well done, Year 1 – keep up the brilliant work!

Year 2

In English this week, we have been enjoying reading *The Bear and the Piano*. We used our drama skills to create a conscience alley to help the bear with his dilemma: should he go to the big, bright city to become a famous concert pianist, or stay in the forest with his friends? We have also used expanded noun phrases and command sentences to write letters of advice and postcards.

In Maths, we have been practising recalling our number facts to 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and using these to help us add two-digit and one-digit numbers mentally. We worked systematically to find all possible solutions and solved addition and subtraction problems using our known number facts and the strategy of bridging through 10.

In Art, we explored the shapes, lines and textures found in nature. We created leaf rubbings, line drawings and freehand drawings.



Walk to School Month 5th–23rd October

As part of our Walk to School Month campaign this year, we are asking children to take part in Dazzle's 15-Day Challenge.

Children are encouraged to tick off each day that they walk, cycle or travel by scooter for all or part of their journey to and from school.



Children who manage to travel actively for all 15 days will receive a sticker and can be entered into a prize draw at school, with two goodie bags available per key stage.

Flu Vaccinations in School

Vaccination UK, commissioned by the NHS to provide childhood immunisations in schools, will be visiting our school on **Tuesday 20 October 2026** to offer the **Flu Nasal Spray** or an **IM alternative (porcine-free flu injection)**.

Vaccination UK will contact parents and carers directly with an **e-consent link**, along with reminders and text messages regarding the vaccination programme.

Please look out for these communications and complete the e-consent form as appropriate.

Black Country Foodbank Donations

We will be collecting donations for the Black Country Foodbank from **Monday 19th October until Wednesday 21st October 2026**, to support individuals and families in need during the October half-term break.



Please click the link below to view a shopping list of suggested donation items:

<https://tinyurl.com/yhpf4pmn>

All donations must be brought into school by Wednesday 21st October 2026.

Thank you for your kindness and support!

Parent Consultations

Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October 2026



We look forward to welcoming you to the Parent Consultation Evenings on 20th and 21st October, (a further information letter was sent home with your child today). Appointments with your child's class teacher will last 10 minutes to discuss their progress and expectations for the year. Please book your appointment via Scopay from 7.00pm on 8th October. Your child will bring their books home the day before the meeting—please ensure they are returned on the appointment day.

Access will be through the school hall door. If you have any concerns before the meeting, please contact us.

Newsflash! Applications for Nursery September 2027 are welcome

Children born between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024 are due to start Nursery in September 2027. Please collect an interest form the school office to register your child's details. All new families are welcome to our Prospective Parent Open Evening on **Tuesday 13th October 2026 between 4:00pm and 5:30pm**.



School Admissions Now Open for September 2027

Applications are now open for children currently in **Nursery** and **Year 2**, starting in **September 2027**.

Please ensure applications are submitted on time:

- Primary School Applications – Deadline: 15th January 2027

All applications must be completed online please see link below.

<https://admissions.walsall.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en>

To support families through the process, our School Admissions Team is hosting a series of drop-in sessions this term. These sessions are a great opportunity to get help with your application or ask any questions. (Please see attached the Newsletter Supplement for further Information)

Gold Star Assembly Award Winners

In recognition of your learning, progress, attitude, effort and upholding the school learning habits and values. Congratulations!

Class 3 – Jasmine N	Class 6 – Pari D	Class 9 – Sammy H
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A big well done to Dhriti!

Dhriti has done something very kind and special by donating an amazing 16 inches of her hair to **The Little Princess Trust!** Her beautiful hair will help make a wig for a child who has lost their hair due to illness. What a wonderful and thoughtful thing to do to help someone else feel happy and confident. We are so proud of you, Dhriti!



Who are our SUPERSTARS Celebrating the achievements of our children out of school. Lots of children have been busy reading and completing the Summer Reading Challenge. They have also been busy achieving in swimming, dancing, footballing and gymnastics.



Achievements		
Class 2	Afiyah E	Swimming 5 Metre Award & Stanley 1 Award
Class 2	Arjan M	Kickboxing Award
Class 3	Eesa A	Swimming – Stanley 1 Award
Class 6	Milana J-A	Swimming – 5 Metre Award
Class 8	Loveleen R	Bhangra Class Medal
Class 8	Avani P	Swimming – 75 Metre Award

Whole School Attendance



Week commencing Monday 21st September 2026 – 97.7%

Highest Attendance Class 3&9 - 100%

Week commencing Monday 28th September 2026 – 97.8%

Highest Attendance Class 1 – 99.7%

Well done Class 3, 9 & 1!



Attendance Target 96%

Class	% Attendance w/c 21/09/26	Class	% Attendance w/c 21/09/26		Class	% Attendance w/c 28/09/26	Class	% Attendance w/c 28/09/26
Nur	94.1	5	98		Nur	96	5	98.3
1	98.7	6	98.7		1	99.7	6	97.7
2	97.6	7	92.4		2	96.3	7	99.2
3	100	8	98.5		3	99	8	98.5
4	99.3	9	100		4	97.6	9	96.9

**High focus on attendance. Please ensure your children are attending daily and on time.
Don't miss the phonics learning at 9.00am!**

Please Keep an eye out for our termly Attendance Newsletter, packed with helpful attendance updates and information.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 8th October 2026 - Sibling Photograph Day – Class 9 children to come in full school uniform

Friday 9th October 2026 – Hello Yellow Day (children to wear a yellow accessory to say hello as we celebrate standing out and starting conversations so no young person feels alone with their mental health)

Tuesday 13th October 2026 – Prospective Parents Evening for 2027 Nursery and Reception Intake - 4:00pm-5:30pm

W/C Monday 19th October – Harvest- Food Bank Donations

Tuesday 20th October 2026 - Flu Vaccinations for Infants (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) 1:00-3:00pm- Further information from the NHS to follow

Tuesday 29th September – Year 1 Parent Workshop (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Wednesday 30th September – Reception Parent Workshop (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Thursday 1st October – Year 2 Parent Workshop (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Tuesday 20th October – Parents Evening 4:00pm-6:30pm

Wednesday 21st October – Parents Evening 4:00pm-6:30pm

Friday 23rd October – Last Day of Term

Monday 2nd November – 1st day of term

Monday 2nd November – Class 1 Parent Minimash Workshop 9:30-10:15am

Monday 2nd November – Class 2 Parent Minimash Workshop 2:30-3:15

Tuesday 3rd November - Class 3 Parent Minimash Workshop – 2:30- 3:15



Inset Days

Friday 13th November 2026

Friday 18th June 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

SAVE THE DATE

Monday 14th December - Class 6 Cup of Cheer

Tuesday 15th December - Class 4 Cup of Cheer

Wednesday 16th December – Class 5 Cup of Cheer

Doors open at 2:15pm

Term Dates

Please click on the link below for the current academic term dates.

<https://www.parkhall-inf.walsall.sch.uk/term-and-holiday-dates/>