

Flying Bull Academy Newsletter January  
2026

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*Dear Families,*

*It has been so wonderful to be at Flying Bull full time this term!*

*We started the term with an Inset day where all staff reflected on what makes The Flying Bull Academy such a special place to work. All staff talked about what a privilege it is to work with such resilient and respectful children and were excited for the term ahead.*

*It has been a pleasure spending time in all classes across the school and have enjoyed talking to the children about what they have been learning about. I have set myself the challenge of learning all the children's names by Easter. I am trying my best but it's proving easier said than done!*

*I am looking forward to the upcoming weeks and getting to know more families across the school. Please feel free to come for a chat when you see me around the school!*

*Best wishes*

*Mrs Brown*

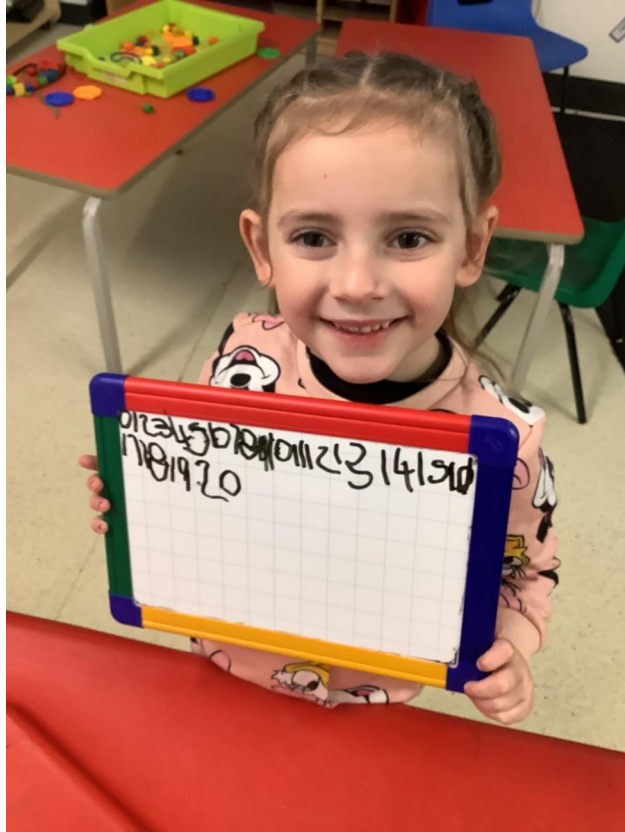
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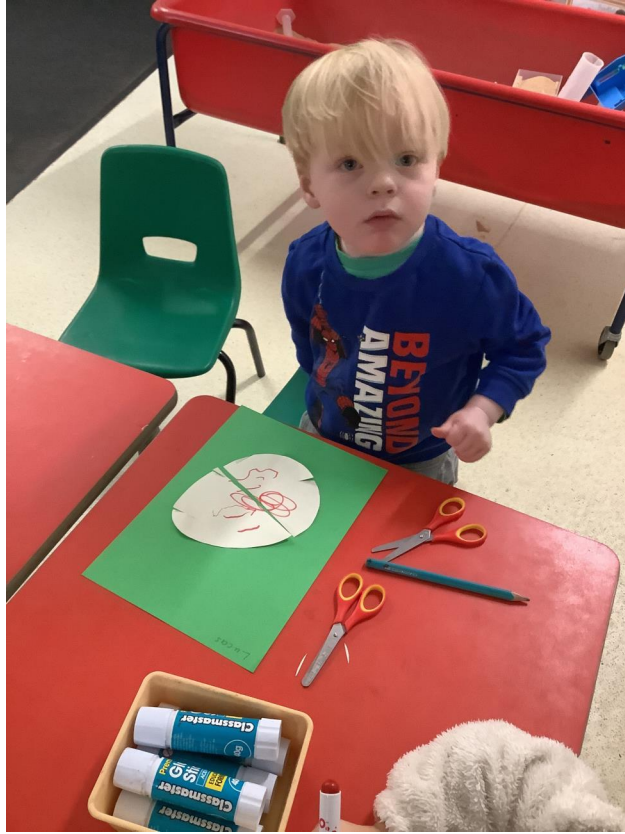
## What did we get up to in January ...

What an amazing topic: Once Upon a Time!

The **nursery** children have engaged in super learning across all areas, including mathematics, language development, the arts, physical development, and personal, social, and emotional development. This topic has enabled children to listen to Traditional Tales and learn about the different characters, events and settings relating to the stories. They have enjoyed retelling these stories using puppets and role playing the different characters in our home corner and reading area. In mathematics the children have compared and ordered bears, chairs and beds by size. They are continuing to develop their number recognition to at least 5 and then beyond and further improve their counting skills.

In phonics, the children have been developing their phonological and phonemic awareness through fun, engaging games and nursery rhymes.



















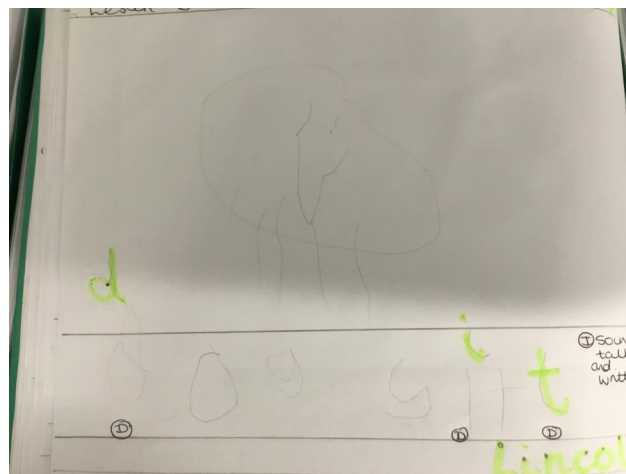
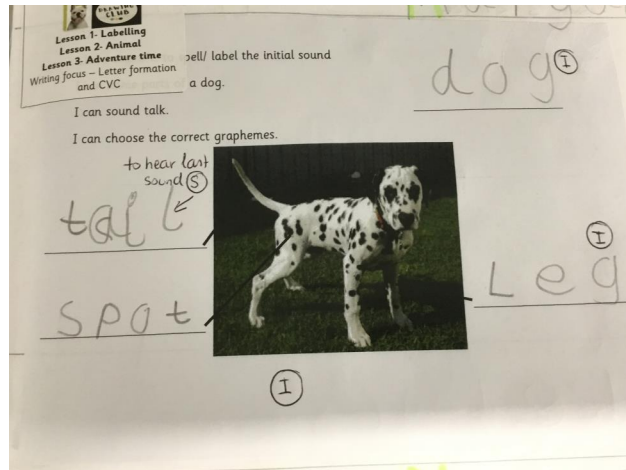
Welcome back to 2026, **Reception** have an exciting new topic this term called: **All animals, big and small**. We have started by learning about pets and the things they need to stay healthy and safe before we move on to larger animals. In mastering number, we are continuing to learn and consolidate numbers within 5. The children can talk about patterns and explain the whole and parts of a number. We will be continuing to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills by providing lots of opportunities to practice during both indoor and outdoor adventure time.

We have now moved on to phase 3 phonics, please remember to check and complete the home learning with your child.

Reminder- PE day is Tuesday, please ensure all children are in appropriate footwear.

### How to say the Phase 3 sounds

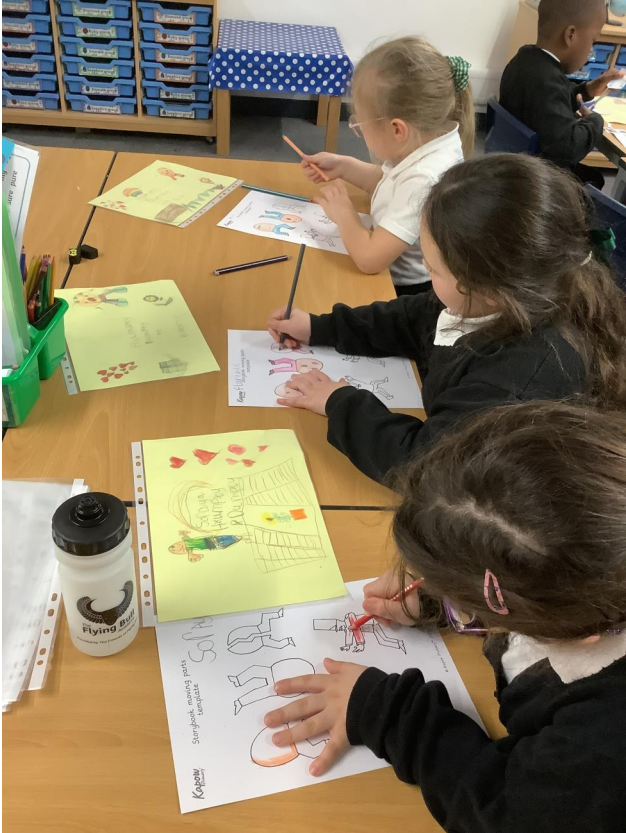
Grapheme	Catchphrase	Pronunciation phrase	Grapheme	Catchphrase	Pronunciation phrase
ai	 tail in the rain	Open your mouth wide and say <b>ai ai ai</b>	oo	 hook a book	Pucker your lips and keep them small as you say <b>oo oo oo</b>
ee	 sheep in a jeep	Smile with your lips apart and say <b>ee ee ee</b>	oo	 zoom to the moon	Open your mouth just a bit, put your hand on your tummy, pull your tummy in and say <b>oo oo oo</b>
igh	 a light in the night	Open your mouth in a relaxed way and say <b>igh igh igh</b>	ar	 march in the dark	Open your mouth wide, push your tongue down and say <b>ar ar ar</b>
oa	 soap that goat	Make an 'o' with your mouth and say <b>oa oa oa</b>	or	 born with a horn	Make an 'o' with your mouth, push your tongue down and say <b>or or or</b>

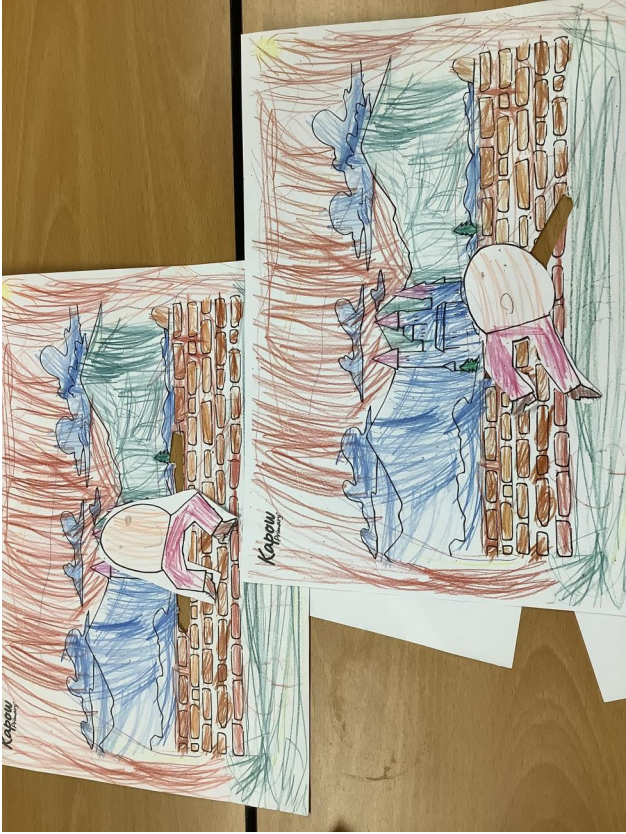


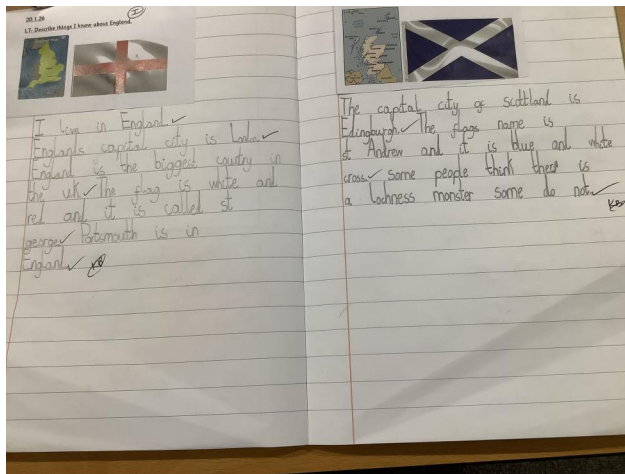
The **Year 1** children have started the new year with great enthusiasm!

In English we have read the story of Paddington and then made a text map ready for when we write our own version. We have also been learning more about verbs. In maths we have been practicing number problems and how to work them out. We've extended our exploration of numbers to twenty and the place value of two-digit numbers.

In geography we are learning about the United Kingdom, the four countries that are part of it and some key facts about each one. The children are really enjoying this and taking a keen interest in our country. They have also been finishing off making a Book about Humpty Dumpty for the Reception children, using sliders to make it interactive!







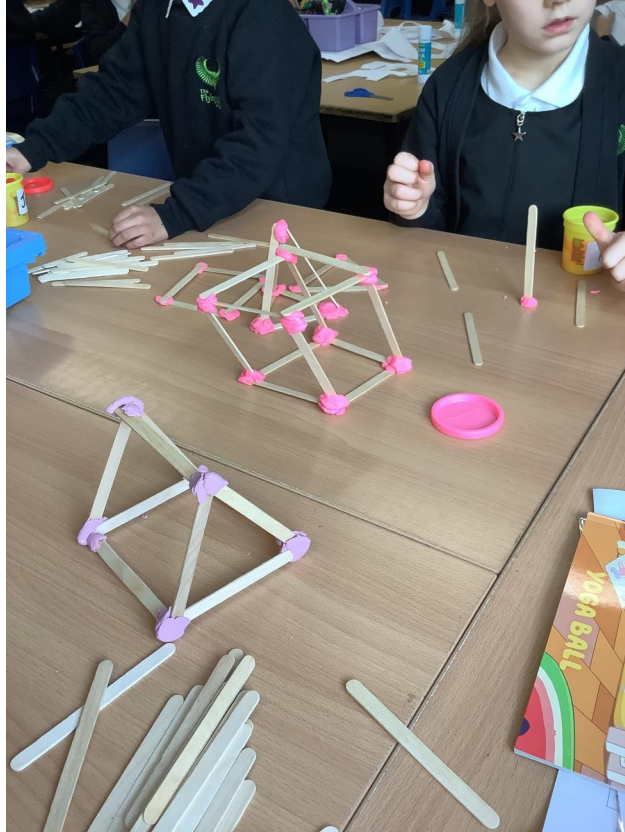
We have been delighted with the enthusiasm **Year 2** have shown throughout January. The children have engaged brilliantly with our new topic, Into the Woods, exploring creative twists on traditional tales such as Little Red Riding Hood.

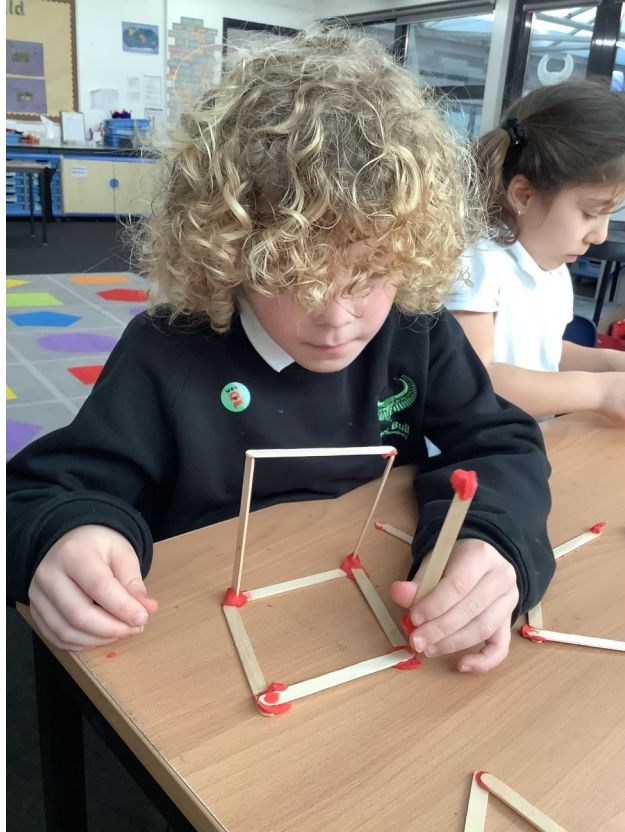
In English, the children used their knowledge of the story to write persuasive letters to Little Red Riding Hood, encouraging her to stay on the path and avoid talking to strangers. We have been extremely impressed with the quality of their work.

In Geography, the children have enjoyed learning about climates and the equator, which has supported their science learning about animal habitats.

What a busy and productive few weeks it has been!

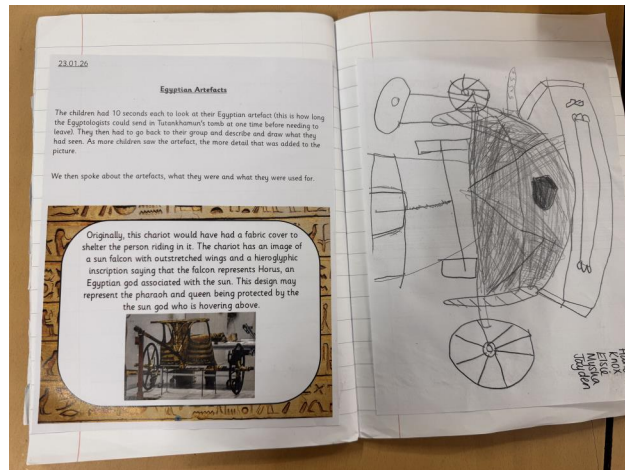






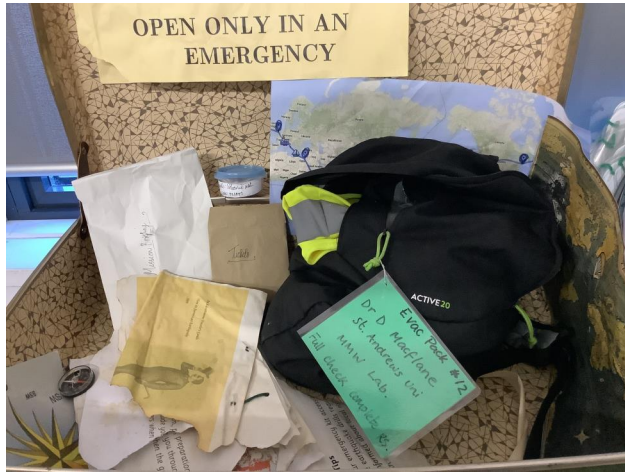
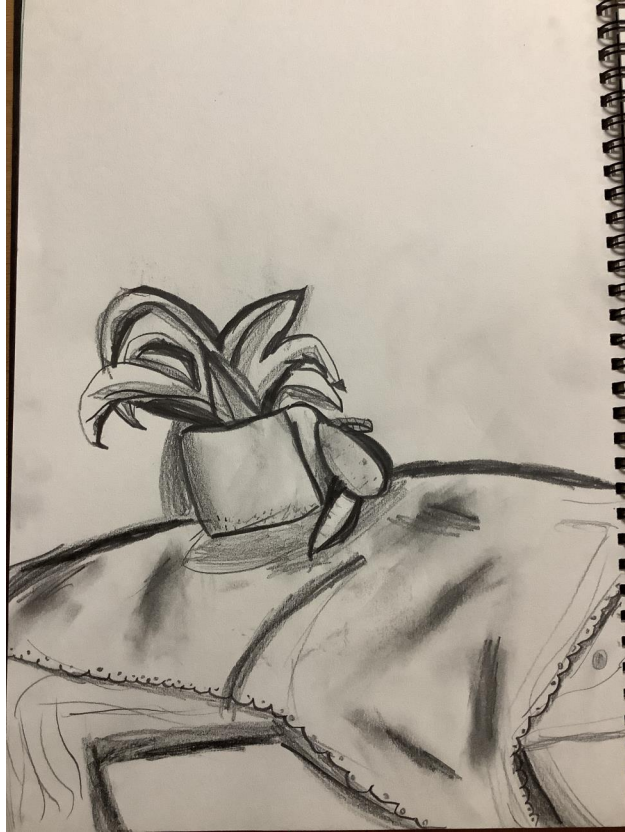
In **Year 3**, we have been very excited to explore and learn about Ancient Egyptian artefacts. We worked as a table and took turns to carefully look at the artefact for 10 seconds and then we had to verbally communicate what we had seen whilst drawing what we remembered. We found out that the reason we only had 10 seconds to look is because this is how long the Egyptologists had when they had first discovered Tutankhamun's tomb because of how toxic the air was! We loved seeing how accurate we all were compared to the picture and appreciated how difficult it was to only have 10 seconds to look.

In English we have been learning how to use a thesaurus to write interesting character descriptions based on the characters written by Roald Dahl. The Grandma from George's Marvellous Medicine was an interesting one to look at! We then used these skills to independently start writing about Mr Twit's appearance ... including the disgusting food items that are caught in his beard!



In **Year 4**, we were very excited to receive an old suitcase filled with survival guides, volcanic ash, maps, ticket stubs, mission briefings and a diary extract. Everything was burnt and damaged, so the children have been using their Extreme Earth knowledge to rewrite and rebuild the lost information. Reading Survivors and fact books have helped the children become experts.

In maths, we have been working on multiplication and addition and subtraction up to four digits, including exchanging. And in art, the children are mastering skills for their still-life pieces — and the work so far is amazing. In other news, we have started swimming and in music we are learning to play the ukulele!





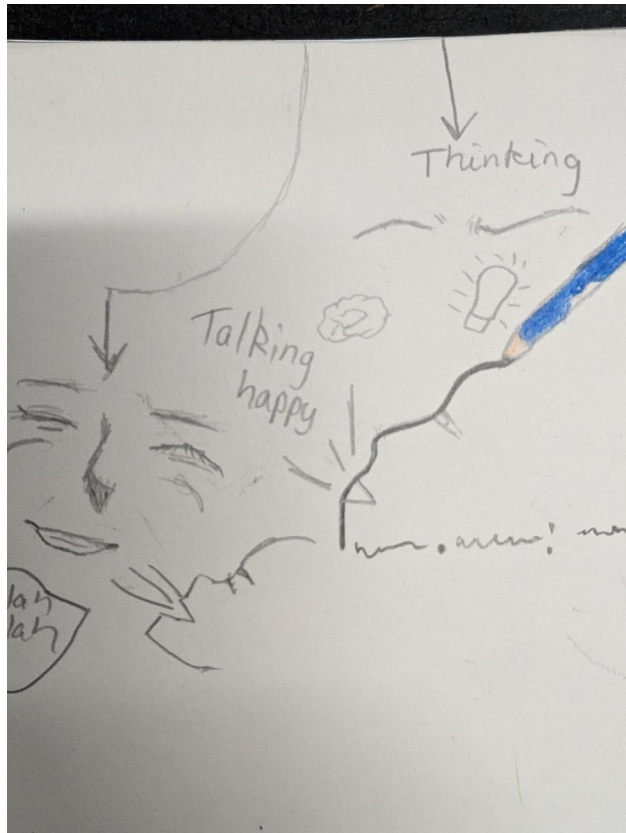
**Year 5** have settled back brilliantly after the Christmas break and jumped straight into their learning. In English, they have been writing engaging narrative pieces inspired by last term's class novel *Gangsta Granny*, using the story to develop their own characters and plot ideas. In maths, the focus has been on fractions, with pupils confidently exploring equivalence and problem-solving. Meanwhile, in science, they have begun a new topic on materials, investigating their properties and how they can be used in everyday life. A busy and productive start to the term!

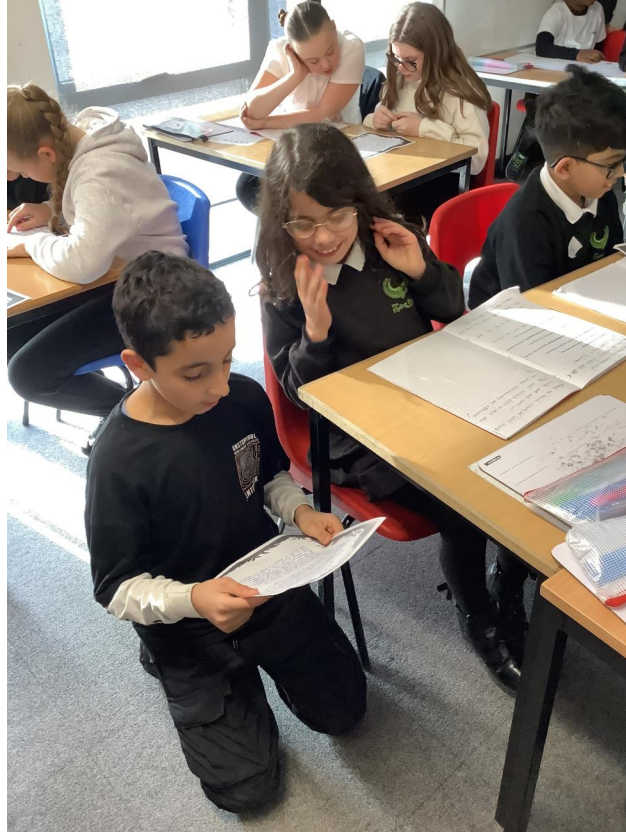


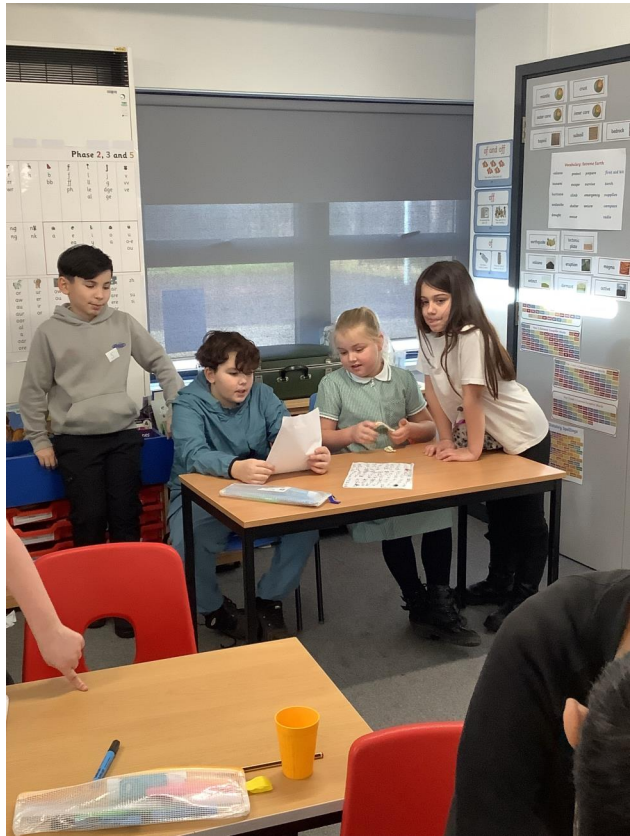
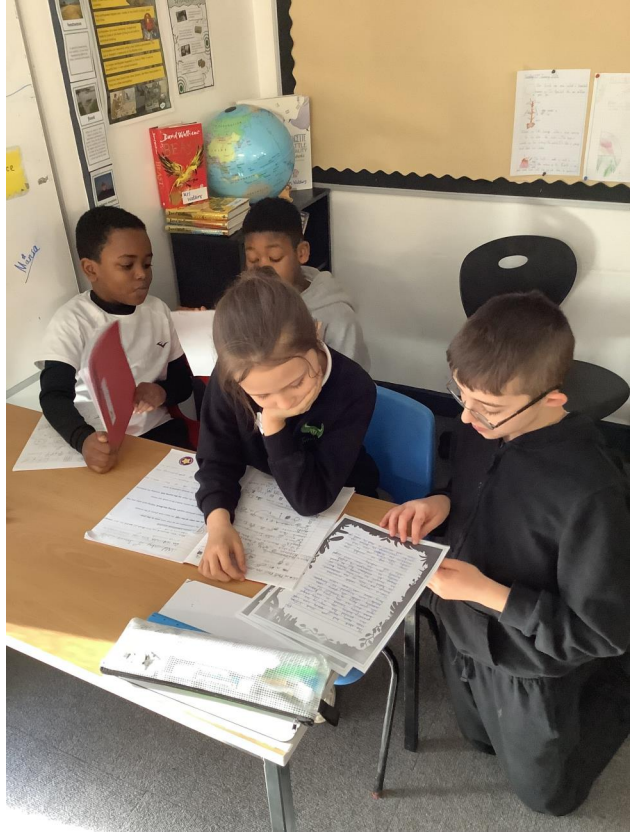


**Year 6** have been immersing themselves in creativity this term, taking inspiration from the work of Lubaina Himid, a celebrated British artist known for her bold use of colour, powerful storytelling and exploration of history, identity and culture. Alongside this, we have also been busy crafting *fabulous suspense stories*, using rich, descriptive vocabulary to build tension and atmosphere. Their writing is gripping, imaginative and truly engaging, keeping readers on the edge of their seats from start to finish. We then shared these with Year 4, who were gripped! Well done Year 6!











## Above and Beyond Celebrations

Our Above and Beyond celebrations got off to a great start this year with our first round of awards. Just a reminder of how it works: our teachers nominate two children from their class each half term who go above and beyond in showing one or more of our school values of respect, aspiration, cooperation or resilience. These are values we expect all our children and adults to show in our school but we also want to recognise those children who really do excel in this. Well done to all our winners!

Our next above and beyond celebration will be held on Thursday 5th February 2025. We look forward to celebrating with the children and their families.



## Parent Governor vacancy

Would you like to help make our school the best it can be? We are looking for a new parent governor! As a parent governor, you would join a team that works together to make sure the school is developing in the right direction and is providing the best possible education for your children. We meet six times a year from 4-6pm, usually on a Tuesday or Thursday. I've included a short video here which tells you a little more about the role (it is from Brighton and Hove, but should be helpful for you) If you are interested, please contact the school. We would love to have you on board!



**Could you be a School Governor?**

University of Chichester Academy Trust

Want to make a difference **in your community** and develop your own professional skills?

Schools in your area are looking for governors with enthusiasm, time and flexibility to contribute effectively to the role. You do not need to be an expert in education - we would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Is interested in children's education
- Has energy for the role
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

Contact us to find out more!


Please email Sarah Speller, Trust Governance and Compliance Manager:

[unicat@chi.ac.uk](mailto:unicat@chi.ac.uk)

or visit:

[www.chimat.uk/become-a-local-governor](http://www.chimat.uk/become-a-local-governor)

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## School uniform

At the end of last year, we conducted our parent/carer survey. You said you wanted a more consistent and robust approach to children wearing school uniform. Many of you shared that this would make things easier at home and help foster a sense of pride in the children's appearance. We agree, and staff have also noted that when children wear their school uniform, they engage better in their learning and there are fewer behaviour-related issues.

We would like to thank all parents and carers who have worked hard to ensure their children are coming to school in the correct uniform. Your support is greatly appreciated.

To help everyone stay on the same page, here is a reminder of our school uniform expectations:

### School uniform

White T-Shirt

Black jumper or cardigan

Black trousers, shorts or skirt

Plain socks or tights

Black shoes or trainers

Green gingham dresses can be worn in the summer months.

**PE kit**

White T-Shirt

Black PE shorts, cycling shorts or joggers

Black jumper

Plain socks

Trainers or plimsoles

If your child arrives at school not wearing the correct uniform, we will take the following steps to address the issue:

- The class teacher will remind you of the correct uniform at drop-off/pick-up.
- A member of the LAPS team may phone you if you are not available at drop off/pick up or if your child is consistently not in uniform.
- If needed, a spare jumper or T-shirt will be available in class, and your child will be expected to wear it for the day.

If you need help with school uniform, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact a member of the LAPS team, who will be happy to help.

We offer a range of uniform items for sale. Please contact the office for more information.

Children are not permitted to wear smartwatches during the day; they will be kept safely in a locked cupboard in the classroom.





## Attendance



Ensuring that your child is in school, on time, every day is the most important commitment we ask of all parents and carers. As a school we are aiming for at least 96% attendance and as of this week our total for this current year is **93%**. Thank you to everyone working hard to get to school on time every day.

### **Current Attendance**

**Year R** 96%

**Year 1** 94%

**Year 2** 94%

**Year 3** 92%

**Year 4** 90%

**Year 5** 95%

**Year 6** 94%

### **Children arriving late**

Just a reminder to parents if your child has arrived late for school, we ask parents/carers to form a queue and register late arrivals with **Mrs. Beauchamp**, who will be positioned at the back of the reception area. Mrs. Beauchamp will also be happy to assist with any concerns you may have about your child's punctuality. This system will be in place until **9:10 am** each morning. After this time, any child arriving will receive an unauthorised late mark, which, under the new penalty system, will count as one unauthorised session. Please be aware that 10 unauthorised sessions in a ten-week period could result in a fine.

### **Absences**

Please be mindful when your child is absent from school during term time that this will be classed as unauthorised. Absences cannot be authorised during term time without exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences are automatically reported to the local authority and you could be considered for a fixed penalty notice.

### **We are here to help**

If you need support with persistent absence or lateness, please contact Amanda Beauchamp (Attendance Officer) in the school office.

## Respect to all staff



Our staff work incredibly hard to support the children and families of Flying Bull. When you are interacting or speaking with staff members, please remember to use kindness and respect.

Don't miss out- check us out...

Follow us on Facebook for updates and information about news and events, by searching The Flying Bull Academy. Don't forget, you can also keep up to date with our school website <https://www.fbacademy.co.uk/>



Dates for your diary...



- **Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February** - Half Term
- **Monday 23rd February** - Return to school

The Community Notice Board



## VILLE TOTS FOOTBALL

Villie Tots provides an introduction to football for children aged under 5 years old, with sessions made up of a mix of coaching, fundamental movement games and mini matches.

- £5 per child
- Qualified coaches

Villie Tots aims to develop a child's footballing ability, balance, coordination and social skills while getting their first taste of structured football.

**7 FEB 2026**  
10:00am-10.45am - Cowplain School Sports Hall, PO8 8RY

Contact Adam Gough Tel: 07958102488  
Saturday 7th February 2026



## JOIN OUR TEAM CALLING ALL YOUNG FOOTBALLERS!



**WE WANT YOU!**



## TOTS TO UNDER 16s

UEFA QUALIFIED COACHES!  
**JOIN THE VILLE!**

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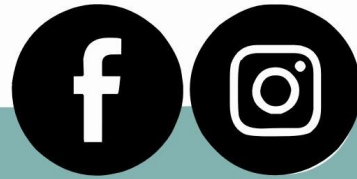
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Inspire Imagination & Nurture Creativity

Craft Workshops In & Around Hampshire



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February

10am & 11.15am

The Greenhouse, Victoria Park

Portsmouth

Suitable for age 4+

£6.75 per child

ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES -  
and a little participation...



For more information and to book visit

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