

Reaching Out

Autumn 2 edition

This half term, our essential skills were:



We also learnt about Global Goal 1 and 2:



We learnt about these Rights:



As the Autumn Term draws to a close, I would like to congratulate the children for their hard work during this first term of the school year.

It has continued to be a busy period during Autumn 2, with our annual **Skills Builder Challenge Day**, **Computer Science Week**, **Parent Reading Session**, many class trips and the wonderful festive shows! You can read more about these events below. Well done to the children for their end of term performances - the acting and singing was superb and we were all thoroughly impressed by the music at the instrumental concerts!

Staff Update

Alana, who has been teaching at the school for 10 years, will be returning to New Zealand to continue her teaching career back home. Alana has contributed in so many different ways to our school community and she will be greatly missed. We wish her the very best in her new chapter.

At the end of January, we will be saying farewell to **Debbie**, who currently works in Year 5. Debbie has been a Teaching Assistant at William Tyndale for over 25 years! She, too, will be greatly missed!

Two Week Half Term Trial

Thank you for your feedback on the two week half term break that we have been trialling over the past two years. Last year 70% of respondents felt that the longer break was positive for their child and this year we had 64% of parents agreed it was positive. From the data, we can see that there has been a positive impact on children's attendance, a reduction in sickness comparative to previous years as well as a reduction in lost learning time over the summer. The school will therefore be continuing with the two week half term next year. See more information on page 19.

The staff and I would like to thank all parents and carers for all your input this term. Your support is invaluable to your child's education.

We wish you all a very restful and safe winter break.

See you for the start of the Spring Term on Monday 5th January.

With best wishes

Sophie Gavalda

REACH for your future **Respect Enterprise Ambition Confidence Happiness**

As a GOLD Rights Respecting School we value learning ABOUT, THROUGH and FOR the rights enshrined in the UNCRC. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils.

Every month, children who arrive on time are entered into a **Punctuality Prize** draw! The winners receive a special prize and are celebrated in our whole school assembly.

Well done to the children below who were on time every day in September and who were the winners of the prize draw:

Punctuality Winners

November

Elias **Meissa Class**

Hera **Meteors Class**

Hannah **Nova Class**

Sofia **Bellatrix Class**

Auryn **Apollo Class**

Laura **Cosmos Class**

Aurelia **Satellite Class**

A reminder that school starts at **8.55am** but we give you a 5-minute grace period to account for exceptional circumstances; therefore, any child arriving at **or after 9am** will be marked late.



Year 2 Trip to the London Eye!

Year 2 went on their first trip of the year all the way to the London Eye! The children were so sensible throughout the day and we were very impressed.

We got the bus to Waterloo Bridge and walked the rest of the way to the London Eye. We then waited for our turn before jumping into our pods. We were very lucky with the weather as it was a sunny day which meant we could see so clearly from the pods! The children had an amazing time looking out for all the London landmarks we had been learning about in our Geography lessons.

We would just also like to say a big thank you to the parent volunteers for coming and helping.





Sculptures inspired by Artist *Henry Moore*



This term, Year 4 students have been studying Henry Moore.

Henry Moore created fantastic sculptures, forming them from a single ball of material. We used clay to create our sculptures and we found the process challenging but effective.

We felt so proud of our finished pieces and are very excited to share them with you in this newsletter.



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EXCLUSIVE OFFERS FOR THE WILLIAM TYNDALE COMMUNITY

Skills Builder Challenge Day

In November our Skill of the Month is **Teamwork**. To support this learning we all participate in a whole school Challenge Day. This year we all took part in *Operation Moonbase*. The children were challenged to build a new Utopian planet and consider what rules and kind of society they would like to build. As always, the teamwork and creativity shone through during the day and it was an absolute pleasure to hear all their ideas.

To support an immersive experience for the children, we also set up a special space playroom for the younger children and a 3D VR headset journey into space. This helped to develop lots more creative ideas for their Utopian society.



MUSEUM OF THE HOME

Year 1 were very excited to go on their first trip of the year to the brilliant Museum of the Home. The visit supported our History learning, as we have been exploring how communication has changed since our grandparents were children.

The children loved looking at rooms from different time periods and learning about how homes have changed, as well as celebrating communities from around the world. They particularly enjoyed exploring the record player, dialling the telephone and using the karaoke machine!

After exploring the museum, the children got creative by designing and making their own homes using collage. We had an amazing time and learned so much throughout the day!



Year 1's Creepy Crawly ZooLab Adventure!



Year 1 had a truly unforgettable day when we welcomed the fascinating creatures of ZooLab for a special visit!

Our classrooms were transformed into a mini-menagerie of creepy crawlies, bringing our Science topic on Animals to life. We got up close and personal with some incredible visitors, helping us to deepen our learning about animal classification.

The children were wonderfully brave, getting the chance to see and even touch some amazing animals, including a gigantic giant African snail, a sleek corn snake and even a hairy tarantula.



Assembly live and direct from Antarctica!

This half term, children in Years 1, 3 and 5 were thrilled to take part in a unique and historic live assembly streamed directly from Antarctica. During the assembly, they learned about the animals that live there, the fragile environment and the impact of climate change on our planet. The experience brought their learning to life, supporting their work in Geography and Science and deepening their understanding of the Global Goals.



Thank you for becoming
a Champion of Antarctica
and helping to protect
the last great wilderness
on Earth.



Supported by
DDZZI

Congratulations on making a piece of Antarctic history!

This certificate is proudly presented to

William Tyndale Primary School

**Thank you for attending the first ever live assembly
from Union Glacier, Antarctica on 5th December 2025.**

Hosted by **Picture News**, **2041 School**, and special guest **Robert Swan OBE**, this historic event brought together children from around the world to learn why Antarctica is special and why we all need to help protect it.

Joining the assembly was **Teddy**, the first teddy in history to visit both the North Pole and the South Pole in Rob's pocket, inspiring us all with his spirit of exploration.



"Congratulations on joining the first ever live assembly from Union Glacier, Antarctica. By becoming Champions of Antarctica, you are helping to protect one of the most magical and fragile places on Earth. Your commitment truly matters."

**Dame Joanna Lumley DBE FRGS –
The Voice of Antarctica**

"Thank you all for making a part of history and promising to protect Antarctica, a place very close to my heart. I am so proud of you all for becoming Champions of Antarctica.

Your enthusiasm, curiosity and commitment give me great hope for the future. Together, we can continue to protect this extraordinary continent for generations to come."

RCSwan

Robert Swan OBE, FRGS



Hosted by:



To view our award-winning
films on Antarctica, please visit:

www.2041School.com



Year 3 Trip to the Discover Centre



On Thursday 20th October, all of Year 3 went on a very exciting trip to the Discover Centre in Stratford to support our writing lessons.

Here is a recount of the day by Ava and Ezekiel.

First we went to find the beast in the cave where we had to find monsters too. There was also a caravan where we sold play food, a lair which we called the fox's lair and a ginormous slide - there were all sorts of adventures there.

After this part of the trip, we went to the circus tent to make our own story using the adventures we had just done.

At lunch time we had our packed lunch in a room where we got to put our heads in an old diver's helmet, write on the walls and the tap was in a bathtub. We even designed our own funfair.

After lunch, we went to play outside in the playground. There were tubes from the bottom to the top of the climbing frame where we could talk to and hear each other, there was a music area and a great climbing tree with wooden owls on its branches and a bamboo forest.

We also found a wooden house and you could go down the pole. It was amazing!



Bellatrix Class took part in an amazing workshop delivered by 3Discovery as part of our Computer Science Week. We made online comic books in small groups. The workshop included work on anti-bullying week and being an upstander.

Year 2 Trip to The Little Angel Theatre

Year 2 were also lucky enough to have a wonderful visit to the Little Angel Theatre to watch their latest performance called 'Me...'. The children listened so well and loved the story all about a Penguin, linked to our English topic on habitats.



Year 6 Human Rights Debate

In PSHE, Year 6 learnt about the origins and importance of human rights. We were visited by Hannah Keever, Zach's Mum, who helped us learn about human rights by organising for us to take part in a mock court case. Some of us were lawyers for a newspaper, some were lawyers for a pop star, and others were the judges.



"Best workshop ever. Your job as a lawyer must be soo fun! I now think that the age of voting should go down because what everyone said blew my mind."

"I really enjoyed these lessons and now law is something that I want to continue learning about. I think that children should be educated about this and their rights."

Parents' Reading Morning

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the reading morning. It was such a lovely atmosphere and a real joy to see so many families sharing stories together.



Please keep enjoying books together with your child at home over the holidays; it is so important. If you would also like to join the Winter Reading Challenge please see the links below:

To join in the reading fun, follow the link wintermini.org.uk to register online or see the link below for more information on the challenge. <https://readingagency.org.uk/get-reading/our-programmes-and-campaigns/winter-mini-challenge/>

Year 6 Centre of the Cell Trip

This half term, Year 6 visited the Centre of the Cell experience at Queen Mary University as part of their learning about the circulatory system.



“I enjoyed the games, especially the one about asthma and exercise. I also enjoyed the game which taught me about digestive systems. I would recommend it to everyone!”

“When we went inside the giant cell, two students told us all about the circulatory system. We played games such as trying to deliver oxygen through the body to the cells.”

“I liked it when we went into the neuron pod. I played a game where I had to raise a child healthily and keep them safe. I also liked the challenge of trying to guess which organs were real and which were fake.”



Handwriting Competition

We would like to invite your child to participate in a handwriting competition. This will be a great opportunity for your child to practice their handwriting skills as well as learn a poem off by heart.

We will be awarding prizes for each Key Stage (1&2, 3&4, 5&6) for different categories:

Best overall presentation
Outstanding writing effort
Cursive excellence (Years 3-6)

The rules for entry are as follows:

1. Only one entry per child (one poem).
2. The poem must be fully written in your child's own handwriting. Please support them to take pride with where they are currently at in their handwriting journey.
3. The deadline for entry is **Friday 23rd January**.
4. Entries should be on A4 lined paper (except for the Year 3&4 poem *Zest*).
5. Entries can have illustrations that enhance the message of the poem.
6. All entries need to have your child's name and their class name on it.

Please hand in your entry to the class teacher. There will be prizes involved and the winners will be celebrated in a whole school assembly before the end of the Spring 1 Term. If you have any questions feel free to contact me Michelle (English Lead).

We look forward to receiving lots of entries and thank you for your continued support with your child's handwriting.

See the following pages for the poems for each year group:

Years 1 and 2

Crayon Poem

With these crayons
I could draw...

A crazy
purple dinosaur.

An orange mouse
with yellow cheese.

A big black dog
with big brown fleas.

A tall blue house,
a small green door,
four white windows.

Something more?

Silver raindrops.
Golden sun.

Then a . . . *RAINBOW*
sounds like fun!

With these crayons, I could draw
So. Much. More.



Blow a kiss,
Catch a kiss
When we are apart

Blow a kiss,
Catch a kiss
Put it in your heart

By Joseph Coelho

By James Carter



Years 3 and 4

Choose one of the following poems

Zest

Zest is made from lemon peel.

It gives a cake a zingy feel.

Zest is also energy.

It's a certain quality.

Say you have a

zest for art –

that means for art,

you have a

spark.

When you do anything with zest
you relish it and do your best!



By Colette Hiller



Poetry

poetry in motion:
elegant and smooth

poetry commotion:
noisy, loud, rude

poetry in potion:
magic in a cup

poetry promotion:
words are goin' up

poetry in ocean:
salty, cold, drippy

poetry in lotion:
dangerously slippery

poetry emotion:
pull yourself together

poetry devotion:
in our hearts forever

By Matt Goodfellow

Nothing To Do

There are dishes in the sink
And they're begging to be washed,
There's the mess to be cleaned up
From that banana you just squashed.

Come with me for a minute,
Let me show you to your room,
It is gasping for a visit
From the dustpan and the broom.

It appears that all your bedclothes
Have been fighting with your bed,
And that plate of old spaghetti
I am sure has long been dead.

There's a curtain of old cobwebs
Stretched across your bedroom wall,
And muddy wellies do not add
To the decor in the hall.

Did you say that you've gone out
And got yourself a maid?
Then who is going to clear up
That spilt cake and orangeade?

Come along, I'll introduce you
To someone you ought to meet,
This is Lady Vacuum Cleaner,
She makes homes tidy and neat.

By Valerie Bloom

Years 5 and 6

Talking To Tomorrow

I called out to Tomorrow
To ask about her plan.
She said, "You'll have to wait and see;
Time takes time, you understand?"

So, I'm sitting in this secret,
Fizzing with anticipation;
I hope the day is a sentence
With a mark of exclamation!

The day before a holiday
Or the date on an invitation,
I start to feel like I'm floating,
I start to feel elation.

Tomorrow, I do not know
Exactly what you'll be,
But my mind and heart are racing
From the possibilities.

By Ruth Awolola

So you've finished all your homework
And packed your school bag, I
suppose?

There are a million things to do
Right underneath your nose.

*I wonder why Mum
Has to get in such a stew
When I tell her that I'm bored
And there's nothing here to do.*

Two Week Autumn Half Term Survey

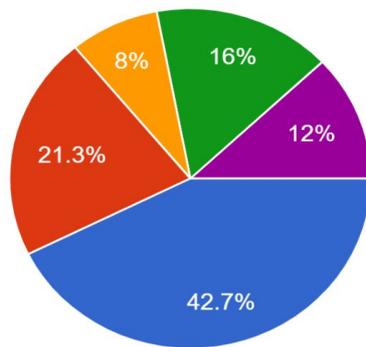
Thank you to the 91 people who responded to the survey about a two week half term. Please see the responses below:

64% of parents and 68% of staff who responded felt that it was a positive change. **The school will therefore be continuing with the two week half term next year.** We will continue to review the impact of the break next year and ensure that the two weeks are aligned with the other schools who structure their terms in this way. Term dates for next academic year will be communicated on the school website in January.

Parent responses:

How do you feel about the change to a 2 week half term this autumn?

75 responses

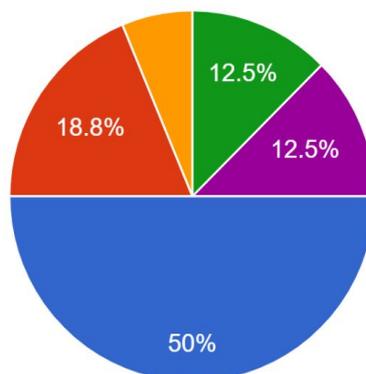


- Very positive - I think it was a good change
- Positive - I generally liked it
- Neutral - I don't have strong feelings either way
- Negative - I didn't like the change
- Very negative - I strongly disliked the change

Staff responses:

How do you feel about the change to a 2 week half term this autumn?

16 responses



- Very positive - I think it was a good change
- Positive - I generally liked it
- Neutral - I don't have strong feelings either way
- Negative - I didn't like the change
- Very negative - I strongly disliked the change

Examples of responses:

- It was a positive change. Less illness, kids less tired, we were able to enjoy the museums and activities without endless queues and high prices. Very happy.
- Totally understand the thinking behind this but I feel for our children and our family that a longer summer holiday creates more opportunities for them and is easier for us to manage. Time off from work in October is harder than in the summer too. Thank you.

PUNCTUALITY and ATTENDANCE

Punctuality

Children are happier when they arrive punctually at school and their learning gets off to a fine start. We have many incentives to encourage children to arrive punctually, including certificates and medals.



Please remember:

- **The school gates open at 8.45am** and children are able to go straight to their classes.
- **School starts at 8.55am** but we give you a 5-minute grace period to account for exceptional circumstances; therefore, any child arriving at **or after 9am will be marked late.**

Timings for the end of the day will be as follows:

Nursery door will open at 2.50pm. (Children not collected by 3pm will incur a charge.) **Reception** and **Year 1** doors will open at 3.25pm.

- **Year 2** line up outside the Reception play area at 3.30pm, flanking the fence in front of the hand washing trough, by the office as you come down the lane from Upper Street.
- **Years 3 – 6** will be brought down to the playground at 3.30pm. Please could parents wait near to where their child's class lines up, avoiding bottlenecking by the extension of the Morris Building. Children will not be dismissed as they come out and down the stairs – only from their line.
- **Any children not collected on time will be taken to Kids' Club where a charge will apply from 3.40pm.**

It is really important to a child's feeling of security that they are brought in regularly and that parents arrive and depart promptly once they are settled. Children who arrive late can become distressed and find it hard to settle to their activities. Again, at home time, please collect your child promptly as they can become very anxious if you are late.

Please find further information in the [Parent and Carer Handbook](#) on the school website.

Attendance

The school and Educational Welfare officers monitor attendance on a regular basis. We expect children to have **at least 95% attendance. If your child's attendance falls below 95% then the Educational Welfare Officer will contact you. A child is considered a persistent absentee once their attendance falls to 90%.**

Please let us know of any changes in your child's home life, routines or health that may affect their attendance or punctuality at school, so we can support you accordingly. If you would like any more details about punctuality and attendance, please see Penny in the school office.



What do I do if my child is sick?

1. If your child is sick please inform the school office on the first day of absence.
2. On your child's return to school please bring a note to the school office explaining why your child was absent. If your child is absent directly before or after a holiday you will need to bring in medical proof to support the absence.

We award children medals and badges for 100% attendance and punctuality over a term and for over the whole year. Well done and thank you to everyone who continue to help reduce our absences, cooperating with procedures required by the Department for Education (DfE).

What about medical appointments?

Please try to avoid making dental or medical appointments for your child during the school day; if an appointment is absolutely necessary please show your appointment card (preferably in advance) to the school office as evidence for this absence.

What if I need to apply for leave during term time?

Any leave of absence has to be applied for, four weeks in advance, using the appropriate forms from the school office; each case is reviewed individually but please be aware that absence will be authorised in only the most exceptional of circumstances. **Holidays during term time will never be authorised.**

Any unauthorised absence may result in an immediate penalty notice of £80 per parent per child from Islington's Educational Welfare Department.

Support Services

Corinne, Pastoral Lead, has collated some useful services available to parents. This is not an exhaustive list and do continue to contact the school if you require support.

Islington Bright Futures, Early Help 5-19 (school-age to 19 years)

<https://directory.islington.gov.uk/kb5/islington/directory/service.page?id=txWgdPi-Gz0>

Islington

Bright Start Family Support Service

Parents-to-be and parents and carers of children under 5 years

[Find Your Islington | Bright Start Family Support Service](#)



Islington

Benefits and Financial Support

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support>

Islington Parenting Programmes

[Parenting Programmes in Islington](#)

Support Numbers

Emergency Services

999

Islington Children's Social Care

020 7527 7400

Domestic Violence National Helpline

0808 200 247

NSPCC 0800 800 500

Childli

ne 0800 1111



“ERIC is the national charity dedicated to improving children’s bowel and bladder health.

Our mission is to reduce the impact of continence problems on children and their families.”

The website has lots of information about toileting issues such as toilet anxiety, potty training, bowel and bladder problems. It offers lots of practical advice around how to support your child, webinars and a HELPLINE.

www.eric.org.uk



Free helpline: 0808 801 0343 Mon to Thur, 10am - 2pm