

Curriculum newsletter Summer term 2025

As we come to the end of the Summer Term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, productive, and joyful few months. The children across Ashleyhill Trust have continued to work incredibly hard and have shown great enthusiasm, resilience, and determination throughout the term. It has been wonderful to see their achievements and we are so proud of all they have accomplished.

From exciting topics to sports days, trips, and special events, the term has been filled with memorable moments. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights from this term below.

EYFS

This term, our Foundation children became 'Extraordinary Gardeners!'

They explored the fascinating world of plants by carefully dissecting a variety of specimens to identify their different parts. The children discovered which parts of plants we can eat and learned how including fruits and vegetables in our diets helps us stay healthy. As part of their learning, they practised good food hygiene and had fun creating their own colourful and nutritious fruit salads.

The young gardeners also planted a range of seeds and took great care in nurturing them, observing closely as their plants began to grow. They used their observational skills to study a selection of fruits and produced detailed drawings of what they saw.

One of the highlights of the term was a wonderful trip to Wisley Gardens, where the children had the opportunity to see a stunning array of plants and flowers up close. They explored the glasshouse, walked through vibrant gardens, and even spotted some of the plants they had been learning about in class. The visit was a fantastic way to bring their learning to life and inspire a lifelong love of nature.



After half term, the children began a new topic called 'Homes and Habitats'.

They explored different animals and the habitats they live in, comparing environments such as forests, savannahs, and oceans. The children discovered that some animals are nocturnal and used the story of *Mr. Hoot* to learn how owls hunt at night.

They studied owls in more detail, examining their features such as beaks, feathers, and claws. The children learned where owls live and what they eat.

To understand how humans can care for animals and their habitats, the children made bird houses using recyclable materials. They also discussed the impact of deforestation, thinking carefully about what might happen to an owl if its tree was cut down.



The children compared Mr. Hoot's treetop home with their own houses. They thought about the different kinds of houses that people live in such as flats, terrace and detached homes. They thought about the features that all homes have in common and features that make their home unique. The children then looked at houses through history and looked at how homes have changed over time. In addition to learning about plants, the children explored the life cycles of both caterpillars and chicks. There was much excitement when their very own chicks successfully hatched – a truly unforgettable experience!



Years 1 & 2

Year 1 and 2's topic, 'Our Wonderful World', has been a celebration of nature, creativity, exploration, and environmental awareness!

Armed with tablets and cameras, we began the topic by heading outside to become nature photographers! The children learned how to spot beauty in the everyday and captured some stunning images of plants, insects, and landscapes around our school grounds.

The children loved designing and making their very own nature-themed photo frames! They learnt how to make the frame free standing using different structures. They then used leaves, twigs, flowers, and natural textures, to finish the frames that they filled with the photos of the natural world they captured themselves.



The children continued learning about the wonder of nature by observing the amazing metamorphosis of caterpillars transforming into butterflies. They read the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and looked closely at the collage illustrations by Eric Carle. The children then worked to create their own vibrant Hungry Caterpillar-themed collages. They explored colour mixing as well as looking at texture, and shape.



After half term, years 1 and 2 learnt about the incredible achievements of Sir David Attenborough.

The children were fascinated to learn how his documentaries have helped people all over the world to understand and care for our planet. We had meaningful discussions about the environment and ways we can protect it.

They learnt about David Attenborough's visit to Madagascar and we head of on our own travel (virtually!) to Madagascar to explore the island's rich biodiversity, landscapes, and unique animals. The children were especially captivated by the incredible lemurs and the importance of conserving their habitats. A highlight of our term was our exciting trip to Beale Park, where we had the opportunity to see African animals, including the much-loved lemurs! The children enjoyed exploring, asking insightful questions, and deepening their understanding of the natural world.



Years 3 & 4

This term, our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as we've explored our fascinating topic: *Marvellous Monarchs*! The children have journeyed through history to learn all about the kings and queens of England since 1066, discovering just how powerful (or powerless!) some of these rulers were.

A highlight of our learning was a fantastic trip to Warwick Castle, where we stepped back in time to the Norman era and heard thrilling tales about Norman Warwick. From the towering battlements to the impressive Great Hall, the castle brought our history lessons to life!



Inspired by our visit, the children created stunning collage artwork of scenes from Warwick Castle—full of colour, creativity, and careful detail. These pieces now brighten our classroom and showcase how much we've learned.

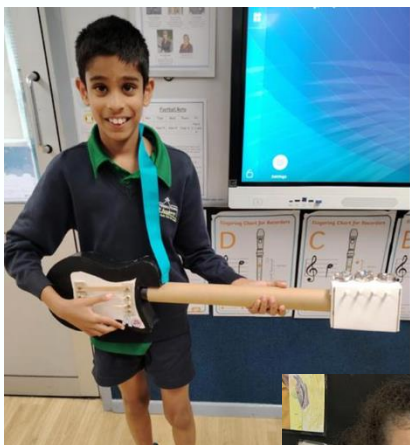
Well done to all our young historians for your enthusiasm and hard work!



In geography, the children have been learning all about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. We explored the unique landscapes, traditions, and cultures of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. A key focus has been on the importance of national parks, learning how they protect our natural beauty and offer a place for people to enjoy and connect with nature.



As part of our RE learning about Hinduism, the children visited the breathtaking Neasden Hindu Temple. The children were amazed by the beautiful architecture and had the chance to explore the *Understanding Hinduism* exhibition, deepening their knowledge of this rich and ancient religion. A particularly memorable moment was watching a Hindu prayer ceremony, which brought our classroom learning to life in a powerful and respectful way.



After half-term, the children learnt to make music using junk and body percussion. Inspired by the high-energy performance group STOMP, the children discovered how everyday objects can become exciting musical instruments! They explored rhythm and percussion, creating their own STOMP-style performances using junk materials. We looked at how sounds are made and combined to create musical effects, linking beautifully with our science and music learning.



In Design & Technology, the children took their musical creativity further by designing and making their very own junk model guitars and drums. They investigated materials, experimented with sound, and applied their measuring, cutting, and assembling skills to create working instruments. The results were both inventive and musical!

Years 5 & 6

Year 5 & 6 have enjoyed a thought-provoking and action-packed summer term under the theme '**Global Warming**'

Throughout the term, our young environmentalists have explored the causes and wide-reaching impacts of global warming. From rising temperatures and extreme weather to melting polar ice and rising sea levels, the children have been engaged in deep discussions about the current state of our planet.

A key focus has been flooding in Bangladesh—a country particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Pupils investigated the challenges faced by communities living in flood-prone areas and were inspired to think critically about possible solutions. This led into a fantastic Design and Technology project, where children designed and built their own floating gardens—an innovative and sustainable way to grow crops in flooded areas. The creativity and problem-solving skills they demonstrated were truly inspiring!

We also explored the role of individuals and global leaders in tackling climate change. The children learned about King Charles III and his lifelong commitment to protecting the natural world. His Terra Carta initiative—aimed at placing sustainability at the heart of the private sector—sparked meaningful conversations about leadership, responsibility, and the importance of collective action.

In addition to our classroom learning, we had the wonderful opportunity to visit Bushy Park for a climate change workshop led by the Field Studies Council. Pupils took part in hands-on activities that brought their learning to life, deepening their understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity, and the importance of conservation.

Finally, we discussed the UN Sustainable Development Goals, encouraging pupils to think about how they can make a difference—at school, at home, and in their communities. From reducing plastic waste to planting trees and conserving energy, the children left the term feeling empowered and full of ideas for a more sustainable future.



One of the highlights of the term was our fascinating visit to the *BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir*. The trip offered the children a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Hindu faith. They were captivated by the stunning architecture, the intricate carvings, and the peaceful atmosphere within the Mandir. Children learned about the history of the building, the importance of prayer and worship in Hinduism, and the role the temple plays in the local Hindu community. They asked thoughtful questions and showed great respect and curiosity throughout the visit — a truly memorable experience that brought their Religious Education learning to life.

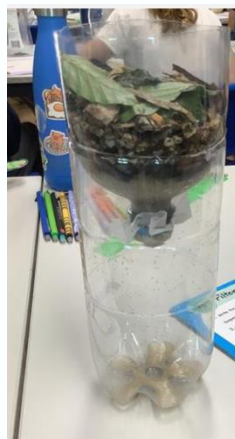


In art this term, the children have been exploring mood and contrast through their work on forests. They created two stunning collages: one showing a bright and joyful forest by day, bursting with colour and life, and another representing a forest at night, capturing an eerie, mysterious mood with darker tones and textures.

This project gave children the chance to experiment with colour, layering, and composition while expressing emotion and mood through visual art.



In science this term, Years 5 & 6 have been learning about materials. The children explored how some materials dissolve in liquids to form solutions. The children planned and carried out fair tests to investigate which substances dissolve in water and which do not. They also learnt about the processes of filtering, sieving, and evaporating to separate mixtures and made their own filtration systems. They learnt about reversible and irreversible changes and the differences between these.



Lion King production – A roaring success!

We were absolutely delighted to present our school productions of *The Lion King*! This vibrant and joyful event brought our whole school communities together in a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork, and talent.

Our Year 6 pupils truly shone in their acting roles, delivering powerful performances that brought the savannah to life. Drawing upon their earlier visit to the theatre and their participation in a professional drama workshop, they demonstrated maturity, confidence, and a real flair for storytelling. Their ability to convey emotion, character, and humour captivated the audience and was a testament to their hard work and dedication.

Adding to the spectacle, pupils from across the school showcased lively and energetic dance performances that filled the stage with colour and rhythm. From the smallest ladybirds to the mighty wildebeest, every child played a vital role in making the show a magical experience.



Behind the scenes, the children contributed to the creation of stunning masks and animal puppets. These carefully crafted designs helped transport the audience to the heart of Africa, creating the illusion of real-life animals roaming the plains. The attention to detail and creativity involved were truly impressive and added a unique, immersive dimension to the performance.

It was great to see families, friends, and staff come together to support and cheer on our pupils. Thank you to all who helped make *The Lion King* a roaring triumph!

