



Newsletter No. 3



Jesus said 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

Our Value this Half Term is Resilience

January



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your incredibly warm welcome to Forty Hill School. It has been such a pleasure to become part of this wonderful school community, and I feel truly privileged to serve as your Executive Head.

Over recent weeks, it has been wonderful to get to know the staff, parents, children and governors. Learning about the school and being part of the wonderful learning that is taking place daily – both inside and outside the classroom – has been truly inspiring. The dedication and commitment I see every day from everyone in our community is remarkable. It has also been such a pleasure to lead the school in worship and to officially be part of my first church service, which was expertly led by Year 1. The children's enthusiasm and reverence during worship is a testament to the strong values that underpin our school.

The support I have received has been all-encompassing, and I must not only thank the community as a whole but give a special thanks to the Friends of Forty Hill. From our first meeting, it has been clear that they have the children at the heart of everything they do. They are dedicated to ensuring that their fundraising efforts, supported by you, impact on the pupils' day-to-day learning experiences, providing them with the resources they so deserve – particularly important given the increasingly limited budgets, especially for small schools. One example of this generous support is that we have just purchased 12 laptops and docking stations at a cost of approximately £10,000, which will be set up over half term. This means each teaching space and classroom will have access to one. This amount of money is not easily raised, so please continue to support the Friends in their upcoming events as we look to raise further funds for a larger-scale climbing frame on the field in due course. We are so grateful for yours and their generosity not only financially but also their gift of time.

Linking to the community's generosity as a whole, through the wonderful partnership between the school and the church, much-needed funds were jointly raised at the Christingle service at Christmas for the Children's Society – an amazing £951.15! Our relationship with the church continues to go from strength to strength, and I look forward to future opportunities to work together.

In closing, as I continue to reflect on this term's focus of 'hope' from our vision, I am filled with hope for the rest of the year. I look forward to seeing how we continue to grow and thrive together, welcoming new members to our school in the form of a new Head of School, and of course, new pupils, whom I have already had the joy of welcoming.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

God Bless
Mrs Sheehan

Nursery – Miss Bissett and Mrs Golebiowska

This month in Nursery, we have been settling back into our familiar routines and welcoming our new friends. We have focused on developing language skills and exploring our Zones of Regulation, helping the children to recognise and talk about their feelings. This has been closely linked to our learning throughout the month, supporting the children to communicate their needs, share ideas, and build positive relationships.

Our topic this month has been Toys: Old and New. We explored a variety of toys and the different materials they can be made from, investigating how toys have changed over time. A real highlight was our mystery toy treasure chest, where we hid a secret toy and encouraged the children to ask specific questions, such as, “Is it plastic?” or “Is the toy old?” This was a fantastic way to support questioning, reasoning, and vocabulary. The children also drew pictures of their favourite toys, made their own cup-and-ball toys inspired by past designs, and created imaginative junk-model toys using recyclable materials.

One of our focus stories, Billy’s Bucket, inspired us to create our own buckets and explore what might be hiding inside. The children’s imaginations were brilliant—some chose dinosaurs, while others discovered superheroes and princesses! We also explored winter, discussing the season and the colours we associate with it. The brief spell of snow was a magical experience, sparking lots of excitement and conversation.

It has been a busy, creative, and joyful start to the year, and we are so proud of all the children’s curiosity and enthusiasm.



Reception – Mrs Munt, Mrs Toumazou, Mrs Sofroniou and Ms Darby

The children returned to the classroom after Christmas looking very grown up, and this has been reflected in their attitude towards learning. In particular, they are enjoying their reading sessions with their group leader three times a week. The children have been exploring our new text *The Runaway Wok* and enthusiastically join in with the magical wok's refrain, "Skippety Hoppity Ho!". They have also incorporated ideas from the story into their play, creating feasts using toy food and recreating them with playdough. Communication and Language has been our main-focus, supporting the children to answer questions and join ideas using *and* and *because* (not "cos"!). The children have also been able to apply their phonic knowledge to write decodable words relating to the text. In Expressive Arts and Design the children have created fans using printing techniques. They chose colours which reflected their understanding of the significance of certain colours within Chinese culture. We will explore this further as we begin to learn about China through a non-fiction text, comparing differences between our environment and theirs. In Maths, the children have revisited familiar concepts and demonstrated their understanding in a variety of ways. This week we introduced a new concept—odd and even numbers—which the children have explored practically through sorting and building. This supports being able to show what they know as well as explain why. In RE, we are learning about the different ways the Bible reveals why Jesus is special. The children particularly enjoy learning new vocabulary and acting out stories. What a busy, productive, and happy half term it has been.



Year 1 – Miss Piccone and Ms Bowery

What a wonderful start to the New Year Yr 1 have had! We have been busy learning, exploring, and having lots of fun together.

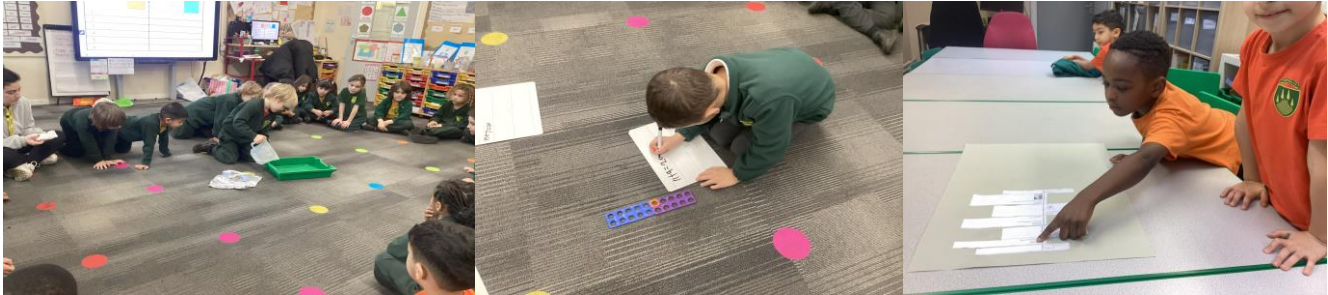
We began the new term with our Epiphany service, which Year 1 led brilliantly. The children reflected on the meaning of the Three Kings' journey, and it was a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community. We were incredibly proud of the children and the confidence they showed.

In History and Literacy, we have been learning about the inspiring Mary Anning, the pioneering palaeontologist. The children have absolutely loved reading about her incredible discoveries through our class text *Stone Girl, Bone Girl* by Laurence Anholt. They have fully immersed themselves in Mary Anning's world by creating and performing their own story maps, as well as writing some wonderful diary entries from Mary's perspective when she discovered the ichthyosaur. It has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and engagement in learning.

In Maths, we have been focusing on doubling, helping the children develop a secure understanding of how numbers increase by twos. Through a range of practical, hands-on activities using both numbers

and objects, the children have really enjoyed making their learning fun and meaningful.

In RE this term, the children have been exploring our big question: *What is it like to live as a Jewish person?* Through the use of artefacts, activities, and discussion, the children have gained a deeper understanding of Jewish traditions and practices, and have shown great curiosity, respect, and appreciation for different cultures.



Year 2 – Miss Wisbey, Mr Lyster and Mr Theodosi



What a great start to 2026 it has been for Year 2! The children settled well back into their routines and have put a great deal of effort into their learning. As mathematicians, the children have been learning all about the value of money. They have had lots of hands-on exploration of differing coins and notes and have been learning the difference between pound and pence. A highlight for Year 2 this half term has been the setting up of their own class shop. The children loved being customers and shop keepers – they all used mathematical vocabulary well and

some even took up the challenge to work out change to give. Within Literacy the children have been writing their own space narratives. They have loved learning our class story map and adapting it to their own plots and characters. See if they can retell the story map to you at home!

Within RE this term, Year 2 are learning about the faith of Judaism. They are exploring the big question



“How are Jewish festivals celebrated and remembered?” One of their most memorable lessons was the lesson of Rosh Hashanah where the children got to taste apples and honey, thinking why a Jewish person would do this to celebrate a Sweet New Year.

In their Friday PE lessons, the class have been practicing their gymnastics skills. They have loved practicing how they finish certain jumps and how to sequence different moves together.

Well done Year 2 for a wonderful half term of learning – The Year 2 team are very proud of all you have achieved.

Year 3 – Mrs Ates, Mrs Watson and Ms Darby

We have had a lovely start to the term! There were many brilliant highlights of this term with acting, drama, team building and creativity! Children loved our literacy book ‘Gilgamesh the King’ so our literacy and reading sessions have been an absolute joy to teach and learn! They learnt the story through acting and story maps. Children then went on to independent writing where the children have been writing alternative endings. It is truly amazing to see the children actively using classroom resources and recalling previous learning to support writing at great length and including various writing tools to further extend their ideas. In Topic, the children are currently learning about Ancient Sumer, and they have really submerged themselves in the unit as they show great interest in their way of life as well as how we benefit from some of their inventions. The children are also currently learning

about another world faith - Judaism, and It's wonderful to see the children enjoying learning about this religion which holds rich traditions with so much history, culture, and wisdom to explore through stories from the Torah, celebrating Jewish holidays, and learning about the values of kindness and community. And finally, children thoroughly enjoyed predicting, experimenting and observing changes to plants and celery. We are all really proud of all their achievements and attitude towards learning. Keep it going Year 3, you are making such an amazing progress!



Year 4 – Mr Kansara and Mrs Bishop



What an amazing start to 2026 it has been here in Year 4! It has been a jam-packed month since returning in the new year, with one of our biggest highlights being our confident performance in the collective worship for the whole school and our parents. We thoroughly enjoyed preparing and especially loved being able to include our own work within the act of worship. Maths has become more challenging as division has really tested our knowledge of times tables; however, completing a whole times-table grid every morning has been a huge help, with the children getting quicker and quicker at recalling them, showing the progress made since the start of the academic year.



Hinduism has been a topic that has truly engaged the children, as they have found it fascinating learning about a new religion and have done an amazing job making links between different religions and identifying similarities. Following our tremendous persuasive letters, our trip to the British Museum has been accepted, which will be a fantastic way to round off all the extensive learning we have done about the Ancient Egyptians. Year 4 are also looking forward to their art day and their first school trip of the academic year, and we have so much to look forward to as the children continue their hard work throughout the rest of the Spring term.

Year 5 – Miss Garcia and Mrs Buller

This term, Year 5 have been working incredibly hard across a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. In Math's, we have been developing our understanding of **fractions**, learning how to recognise them, represent them in different ways, and explain our reasoning using accurate mathematical vocabulary. Year 5 have shown great perseverance, especially when tackling more challenging fraction problems — impressive work all round!

In English, we've been unleashing our creativity through our learning on **mythical creatures**. Year 5 have enjoyed developing their skills in writing detailed **character descriptions**, focusing on

ambitious vocabulary, figurative language, and carefully chosen details to bring their creatures to life. Their imagination has been outstanding, and we've had some wonderfully weird (and slightly terrifying!) creatures created in class.



We have also begun our exciting **Forest School** sessions, giving Year 5 the opportunity to learn outdoors through exploration and hands-on experiences. It has been fantastic to see them building confidence, independence, teamwork and resilience while engaging with the natural world.

Alongside this, we have started our topic on **Ancient Greece**, learning about Greek life, culture and mythology, and the lasting impact Ancient Greek civilisation has had on the world today. This learning was brought to life during our recent visit to the **British Museum**, where Year 5 explored the **Ancient Greece exhibits** and



had the opportunity to see a range of fascinating artefacts firsthand. The trip was a brilliant experience for Year 5 and a memorable way to deepen their understanding of the topic.

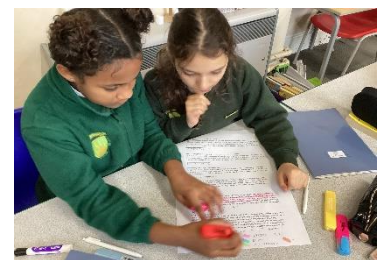


Congratulations to Year 5 for all the hard work they've done this month!

Year 6 – Miss Dale and Mrs Brewer



Year 6 have had a great start to 2026 and have really enjoyed their learning about the Ancient Maya. Not only have they written a great non-chronological report on the Mayan game of Pok-ta-pok but they have also had a chance to play a modern-day version of the game! This was fast-paced and frantic but



lots of fun. The children have also enjoyed taking ownership of their own learning by carrying out research into areas that interest them the most, including the Maya number system and Gods and sacrifice! We began our unit by visiting a Maya 'exhibition' in the hall, where the children had to study certain artefacts and make predictions using their existing knowledge of ancient civilisations.



They are really looking forward to their trip to the British Museum to enrich all they've learned in the next couple of weeks! In RE, the children have begun learning about what it means to be a Buddhist, finding out about the core principles and beliefs behind this fascinating faith. In maths they have been



challenged during lessons focusing on ratio and algebra which they have handled with confidence and success! Well-done on a great month year 6 and I'm sure there's much more to come.

Ways you can support the Friends of Forty Hill

Reminder please sign up to the Easyfundraising app and select the Friends of Forty Hill as your chosen charity. This means when you shop with a wide range of shops or businesses online, they will give to your chosen charity

every time you spend. It is really easy to set up and can bring in regular and impactful income to the school. If you sign up using this link below, the Friends will get a bonus of £5 for every new signup once you have also raised £5!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=290529&invite=awqpnj&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=GPT-143&utm_source=easyfundraising-app&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=copy-link

The Friends have also set up Asda Rewards “cashpot for schools”. Every time the app is downloaded and our school is selected by a new user, Asda will pay us £1.00.



Information

Whilst we will continue to email lots of information, don't forget that our calendar and curriculum information can all be found on website, www.fortyhill.com. The information from the meet the teacher meetings, as well as spelling lists and extra information as it comes available can all be found here.

Curriculum Booklets (Nursery- Year 6) can be found in the Class News section of the website. These include a variety of different learning activities for your child to complete over the half term.



Forest School Sessions	
Year 1	Autumn 1
Year 2	Autumn 2
Year 3	Spring 2
Year 4	Summer 1
Year 5	Spring 1
Year 6	Summer 2

Forthcoming Dates
w/c 9 th February Mental Health and Wellbeing Week
9 th February – Police Assemblies – Year 1 – 6
10 th February – Year 4 British Museum Trip
12 th February – Year 6 British Museum Trip
13 th – February – Break the Rules Day/Year 4 Cake sale – See attached flyer
16th – 20th February Half Term
5 th March – World Book Day
12 th March – Year 5 Science Museum Trip
13 th March – Arts Trophy Finalists Chosen
19 th – 25 th March Scholastics Book Fair
24th and 25th March – Parent Consultations – (on 24th School closes at 2pm)
27 th March – Easter Service 12:30 Jesus Church – all welcome