

Edna G Olds Academy  
A LEAD Academy

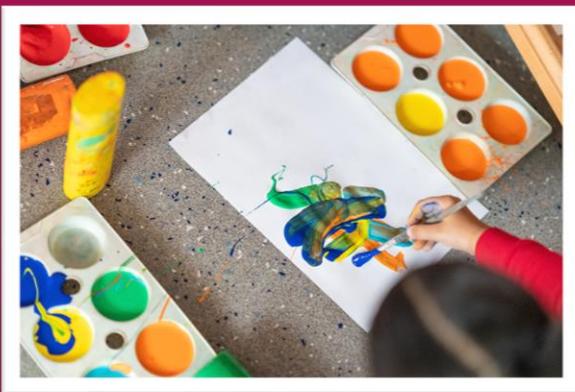
# Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Hannah Crotty  
Headteacher

We have had a fabulous half term! It has been lovely to see classrooms filled with curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm as children have embraced new challenges, deepened their understanding and shown real pride in their learning. Our children have demonstrated resilience, teamwork and a genuine love of learning. It has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence and celebrating those 'lightbulb moments' that make school such a special place.

Thank you to our whole school community for your ongoing support. We hope you have a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 24th February.



## Teaching & Learning

### Nursery

This half term we have loved exploring the topic of transformations through our outdoor play. We explored how we can turn ice back into water. We used our fine motor skills with spray and pump bottles to melt the ice with warm water. We also explored winter further through our story 'It Was a Cold, Dark Night'. We talked about hibernation and what this means.

We also enjoyed combining primary colours to make new colours! We used pipettes and pump bottles to explore colour mixing, and how combining two colours together can make new colours.



## Reception

This half term in Reception, the children have been exploring the theme of transformations. In our science activities, they observed how ice changes and transforms into water under different conditions. The children experimented by placing ice in warm water and adding salt, and they noticed how these changes affected how quickly the ice melted.

We have also been learning about light and dark transformations. Using colour wands and light boxes, the children explored how light can change what we see and investigated the difference between bright and dark environments. In art, the children have experimented with transforming colours by adding white to create lighter shades (tints), observing how colours change as they mix.

It has been wonderful to see the children's curiosity as they explore, observe and talk about the ways things can change and transform.



## Year 1

This half term we have been learning how to care for the environment, why it is important and how we can help transform our local area into a cleaner, greener space!

We have been practicing our three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and have learnt how to sort our rubbish into different recycling piles.



## Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have been busy exploring the topic of Transformations. In English, we have written detailed non-chronological reports about metamorphosis and developed our persuasive writing skills by convincing the frog not to eat the butterfly in Tadpole's Promise.

In geography we investigated the impact of pollution on land, water and air through hands-on experiments, helping us understand how we can protect our environment. We also created our own recycled plant pots and made thoughtful pledges about how we can help care for the Earth. In art we studied Cubism and used Pablo Picasso as inspiration to create our own imaginative pieces. Alongside our learning, we have been reflecting on the importance of kindness and empathy in our everyday actions.



## Year 3

Year 3's Transformations work has focused around the rock cycle. We have learnt about how rocks change under heat and pressure. As part of our learning, we experimented with different rocks and visited the Nottingham Caves. We have also been learning about what causes floods, as well as writing our own play scripts for our class book "Flood" by Alvaro F Villa. To do this, we learnt about stage directions, adverbs, brackets and colons.

We have learnt about the composition of the Earth and how tectonic plates have caused continents to move over time. We even used satsuma peels to represent tectonic plates! We have also learnt about inclusion and belonging as part of children's mental health week.



## Year 4

In Year 4, our learning was linked to the theme of Transformations. The children learned how earthquakes are created by movements of the Earth's tectonic plates beneath the surface. We studied the structure of the Earth and how plates shift at their boundaries, causing sudden shaking.

Pupils examined the impact these earthquakes had on communities, buildings, and the environment. They also investigated how engineers design buildings to withstand earthquakes, learning about shock absorbers, flexible materials, and strong foundations that help structures remain standing during seismic activity. This helped the children understand both the destructive power of natural events and the innovative ways humans respond to and prepare for them.

During design and technology, the children used the app Tinker cad to create some of their own structures that could withstand an earthquake.



## Year 5

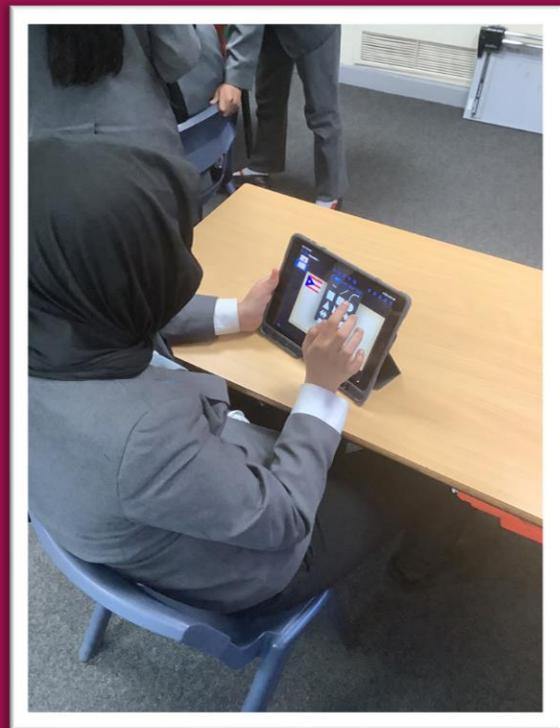
This term Year 5 have been learning about Volcanoes and how they can transform the land. They learnt how volcanoes and mountains are formed, used VR to explore the different parts of a volcano, researched the positive and negative effects of living near a volcano and the different human responses to eruptions , using Pompeii and Iceland as case studies to compare.

In Science, the children have learnt about transformation of different animals during their life cycles. We have compared the life cycle of animals, learnt how animals produce their offspring and their gestation periods.



## Year 6

As part of our transformation learning, Year 6 have been researching how climate change is affecting Puerto Rico. Using this information, Year 6 created a campaign to raise awareness to encourage positive action. Year 6 have also taken time to learn all about biomes this half term, discovering the unique climates, plants, and animals that make each one special. From the Arctic tundra to the tropical rainforests, pupils explored how living things adapt to survive in their environments. The children really enjoyed comparing the different biomes and discussing how changes to the planet can affect these fragile ecosystems. We were impressed by their curiosity and thoughtful questions throughout the topic.



## Chinese New Year

This week, our children had a wonderful opportunity to deepen their understanding of Chinese New Year and explore the traditions, stories and symbols linked to this vibrant festival. Classes enjoyed learning about the significance of the zodiac animals, the meaning behind red decorations and the importance of family and good fortune in the celebrations. Pupils took part in creative activities from lantern making to calligraphy. The children showed great curiosity as they compared Chinese New Year customs with celebrations in other cultures and took great pride in sharing their learning with all year groups on Thursday afternoon.

In Year 6 we explored how Lunar New Year shows cultural identity and brings people together around the world. We created a collage using mixed media, newspapers and personal drawings, to represent both tradition and modern life. By combining different materials, we showed how Lunar New Year continues to unite people across countries while adapting to the modern world.



A special highlight of the day was our delicious Chinese New Year lunch, thoughtfully prepared and served by our fantastic kitchen team.



## Children's Mental Health Week

This week, our children have been learning about the theme of *'This Is My Place'*, which focuses on helping every child feel a strong sense of belonging in their school, friendships and wider community. The children explored what it means to feel valued, accepted and connected and they took part in activities designed to help them recognise the places and people that make them feel safe and supported. Through discussions, creative tasks, and reflective circle times, pupils thought about how they can help others feel that same sense of belonging too. Today it was lovely to see children wearing a scarf to act as a visual reminder of how important it is to look after our mental health and wellbeing.

The theme highlights how important belonging is for children's mental health and wellbeing, and it has been wonderful to see our pupils engaging thoughtfully and showing kindness, empathy, and respect for one another throughout the week



## Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February we took part in a range of activities to mark Safer Internet Day 2026, which focused on the national theme 'Smart tech, safe choices- Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

Across the school, pupils explored how smart technology such as apps, voice assistants and AI tools can be helpful in everyday life, whilst also learning why it is important to make thoughtful and responsible choices online. Through discussions, role-play, digital tasks and age-appropriate scenarios, children learned how to recognise reliable information, protect their personal details and ask for help if something online doesn't feel right. They also enjoyed talking about how to use technology creatively and safely, developing their confidence as responsible digital citizens.

Children reflected on the importance of thinking critically when using AI and understanding how technology 'learns', linking these ideas to what they already know about staying safe, being kind, and making good decisions online. This year's theme encouraged pupils to see themselves not just as users of technology, but as smart, informed decision-makers who can navigate an AI-powered world safely and positively.

We are proud of how thoughtfully our pupils engaged with these important conversations and look forward to continuing to build their digital resilience throughout the year.



## Visit from Lilian Greenwood

This week, we were delighted to welcome Lilian Greenwood, Labour MP for Nottingham South, to school. During her visit, she spent time with our pupils learning about the work they have been doing on government, democracy and the local community.

The children had the chance to take part in a question-and-answer session, where they asked thoughtful questions about how Parliament works, what an MP does and how decisions are made that affect people in Nottingham. They also explored issues in the local area that matter to them, sharing their own ideas about how to make our community even better.

It was a valuable opportunity for pupils to see how their voices can make a difference and to understand the importance of active citizenship.

We are very proud of all the children who took part and represented the school so brilliantly.



## Writing Competition Winners

Rahaf Year 6, and Aimar Year 3 have proudly won our writing competition with their imaginative ideas, powerful vocabulary and beautifully structured stories. A huge well done to every pupil who took part - the stories were fantastic!



## Capital One- Thank you!

Year 6 would like to say a huge thank you to Capital One for kindly sending us the Nottingham version of the Monopoly board. We are very grateful for your generosity and are excited to use it in our classroom. It will be a fantastic way for us to learn more about money, budgeting and decision-making while having lots of fun exploring familiar Nottingham locations. Thank you again for your thoughtful gift!



## Parliament Assembly

This week, children in KS2 took part in an exciting assembly led by a visitor from the UK Parliament Education Team. The children learnt how Parliament works, why laws are made and the different roles involved in representing the public. They asked thoughtful questions and enjoyed discovering how their own voices and ideas can help shape the future. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning about democracy to life.



## Cross Country

Our pupils proudly represented the school at the cross-country event held at the beautiful grounds of Wollaton Hall today. Despite the rain, the children showed fantastic determination as they tackled the challenging course, cheering one another on every step of the way. We were incredibly impressed by their teamwork, resilience and positive attitudes throughout the event. Well done to everyone who took part!



## Road Safety Assembly

This week, our pupils enjoyed a visit from our local PCSO, Lucy Oram, who led an engaging road safety assembly. The children learnt important tips about staying safe when walking cycling and crossing the road and they took part in discussions about making sensible choices near traffic. We were proud of how sensibly the pupils listened and how confidently they shared their ideas.



## Pupil News

We wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you to Lawren ,in Year 4, who has been volunteering once a week to weigh out items and pack the bags for food parcels at the Lenton Centre ready to share with the local community.



There are food parcels available from the Lenton Centre over the next few weeks for families in receipt of free school meals.

**The Lenton Centre**  
6th - 6

Over the next 10 weeks, if your family is in receipt of free school meal vouchers, you can collect a free food package from The Lenton Centre. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us!

**THE LENTON CENTRE**

We are pleased to let you know that free food packages are available over the next 10 weeks for families who are currently in receipt of Free School Meal vouchers!

If you would like to collect, you will need to leave your **family name, number in your household and postcode.**

Collection details:  
**Location:** The Lenton Centre  
**Available from:** Today Onwards  
**Allocation:** First come, first served

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us:  
**Email:** [admin@thelentoncentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@thelentoncentre.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 01159412422



# Core Values Achievers



Nursery	Inayah-Rae	For showing personal responsibility and treating our classroom with respect at tidy up time.
	Ibrahim	For always thinking of others and trying his best to share and take turns.
Rec	Adrian	For demonstrating great knowledge and motivation in Spanish.
	Maria	For demonstrating fantastic effort and motivation in her reading and writing.
Year 1	Marwan	For demonstrating excellent attention to detail in his writing.
	Maryam	For her wonderful enthusiasm and engagement in Yoga.
Year 2	Kiana	For applying her learning each day and working really hard.
	Joshua	For being resilient with his learning this week.
Year 3	Prabhjeet	For his increasing vocabulary.
	Tiarla-Nae	For consistently taking personal responsibility for her homework.
Year 4	Zion	For his super resilience and showing his capabilities in all areas of the curriculum.
	Mila	For her creativity and thinking outside of the box.
Year 5	Joseph	For consistently taking personal responsibility for his learning
	Marwa	For resilience and creativity in her fantastic self portrait.
Year 6	Ari	For consistently working hard to improve his reading and writing.
	Baraa	For her consistent effort and motivation in all her learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Hannah Crotty  
Headteacher