

17th December 2025

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 18th December 2025

School closes for Christmas at 1.15pm

Mon 5th – Tue 6th January 2026

School closed for teacher training

Wednesday 7th January 2026

School opens for of Spring Term (1)

Friday 13th February

School closes at 3.15pm for Half Term

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February

School closed for Half Term

Monday 23rd February

School opens for of Spring Term (2)

Friday 27th March

School closes at 1.15pm for Easter

We are thrilled to share that our school attendance is currently 95.58%, even though the last couple of weeks have brought a number of absences due to high fever and vomiting. Attending school every day helps student stay engaged, build confidence, make progress and enjoy all the fun and learning experiences with their friends. Thank you for supporting your child in developing these positive habits.

A gentle reminder that children should arrive by 8.30am ready to start when class doors open at 8.35am. Arriving on time helps them setting in, take part in morning activities and get the most out of their day.

Let's keep up the great attendance together!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to you all.

Mrs Raycheva

Attendance & Admissions Officer

As we started with PATH, I would like to thank them within this forum for all of their tireless fundraising activities for our school. They are a small team, but they create so many wonderful memories, as well as much needed funding for the school. If you would like to join the PATH team in the new year, then please reach out to them by emailing path@hermitageprimary.org.uk

As previously mentioned, our Christmas Fayre has recently taken place and was a great success. In addition, the PATH team organised a highly successful 'Wrap and Chat' event in preparation for the fayre. They also arranged a 'Book at Bedtime' evening for our younger pupils and a fantastic disco for our older children. These events are integral in widening our pupils' experiences, strengthening relationships with families, and providing valuable opportunities for children to develop and enhance their social skills.

Other events that PATH have put on this term include:

- An AGM
- A new parents coffee morning
- A Halloween cake sale
- A non-uniform day

This has all happened within the space of a term. The PATH team also contributes behind the scenes volunteering within our school. For instance, Leanne Hobbs has given so much of her time ensuring that our new electronic library system will be up and running in the new year. Their fundraising this year so far has enabled the school to purchase approximately 400 new library books for all of our children to enjoy, as well as new furniture for the library and money for each classroom to purchase items from the school's wish list.

Continued...



School News

Our sports provision continues to be strong. At the end of last term, Mrs Madison and her team secured the **Gold Award** for the School Games Mark! This is in recognition of the dedication to sports and to our ethos of inclusivity across our whole offer.

Some of the sporting events that we have taken part in this term include:

- Netball matches
- Football matches
- A Hockey tournament
- Tennis taster sessions for Reception and Year 1
- A Bocca pentathlon
- Small hall athletics
- A Ten pin bowling event
- And of course, our Elms provision.

Elms offer a variety of clubs after school, as well as running different sessions at lunchtimes and some of our PE lessons within the school day.

Mrs Mahoney, our school's welfare officer, organises our clubs. At the last count we offer sixteen different clubs, including ballet, chess, cooking club, rocksteady, French and street dance! There is such a wide variety and all of our children, from Reception right the way through to Year 6 can participate. As well as this, we have visiting peripatetic music teachers who provide tuition in piano and violin. On top of these clubs, our teachers also run their own clubs. These include journalism club, computer club, dungeons and dragons and choir.

As I mentioned above, whilst we always look forwards, it is important to reflect on all the things that we have achieved throughout the term. It has flown by and your children have worked incredibly hard. It is a delight to see how they flourish in their learning, and as each week passes, their confidence grows. We are committed to providing a full and rich curriculum and we have developed a thread of enrichment throughout the year, adding to the excitement of learning, whilst also providing valuable life skills. These have included pedestrian training, swimming lessons and library visits.

Hermitage Primary School also ensures that pupils learn about British Values. Democracy is at the heart of this and Mrs Colgan works tirelessly with the school council, who help to shape the direction and ethos of the school. They recently received an invitation to visit the Mayor's office and were able to sit in the main meeting hall and find out more about local politics. Earlier on in the term, Mrs Colgan organised a parliamentary outreach assembly and last week, our local MP Danny Beales led an assembly and took part in a Q&A session with members of the school council.

As part of their learning, some of our children have had visits to learn about life skills. These have included hairdressers, an archaeologist, and even an Olympian! Our assembly from the Olympian, Toby Harries, was as part of an invitation to open the new ALDI store in Uxbridge. The children have also learned about the importance of wearing bright clothes as part of our 'Be Bright, Be seen' assemblies, firework safety and being accepting of others. At the start of December, Mrs Colgan launched our Kindness project, which will continue into the new year.



One of our assemblies celebrated Harvest, from which as a Trust we donated more than 300kg of food - thank you again for your continued support for the most vulnerable people in our local community. An NSPCC assembly as part of PANTS week, a space week assembly, a Diwali celebration and an assembly about Black history month, which formed a large part of October's learning.

Music is of course close to our hearts in Hermitage. The year three children have just returned from the Compass theatre having seen a wonderful production of Sleeping Beauty. Our Rocksteady pupils entertained us all, as a celebration of their music making this term. Our choir sang at the Vanguard Learning Trust's Christmas Concert and they have also been to Clare's house to sing carols with the residents. Little Voices put on a mini-production to mark the end of term and we are all very much looking forward to the Year 2 and 5's Christmas show over the last few days of term.

We very much value the contribution and support from you, our parents. We have recently launched some initiatives, which we hope will continue to strengthen these relationships, whilst providing important information to you about your children's learning. We have already had our parents evenings for the autumn term, and for prospective parents, we continue with our school tours. We also have a programme of 'Look and Learn' sessions. These will be running over the course of the academic year. These sessions have included and will continue to focus on bucket time (concentration and interaction skills), phonics, reading and maths skills.

What a busy term!

Staff News

We would like to extend our congratulations to Mrs Harling, who has had a very busy 18 months studying for her National Professional Qualification for Headship. We are pleased to inform you that she has passed and is now Mrs Harling NPQH.

When we return in January, we are pleased to share with our EYFS parents that Mrs Miyamoto will be returning from maternity leave on a phased basis, initially working every Monday. We are also pleased to confirm that Mrs Varaitch will be returning in January. We very much look forward to welcoming them both back.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Khan, who has supported the classroom as a volunteer and more recently as one of our SMSAs. We wish her every success in her new role as a teaching assistant at a local school.

Our St Mary's students have also reached the end of their placements. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them every success with their studies. We look forward to welcoming new students in the new year.

I would like to politely remind parents of the need to park safely when arriving and departing from school. It has been brought to my attention that some parents are dropping their children off on the zig-zag lines of the zebra crossing. Please make every effort to be mindful of our local residents.

In addition, may I remind you that for reception to year 6, we have a soft start between 8.35 and 8.45am. The register is taken and lessons begin at 8.45 prompt. For Nursery, the children begin at 8.30am, and 12.15pm for the afternoon session.

This just leaves me to wish you a lovely break from school and for those celebrating it, a very Merry Christmas.

I am planning to spend some time with my family and catching up on some great books! I hope your break is a restful one too.

We all look forward to welcoming you back into school on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Kind regards



Mr N S Hingley
Headteacher



Community Engagement

Autumn Term 2

Clare House Visit

As part of our community engagement, ten Year 6 choir members joined Mrs Edwards and Mr Hingley on a visit to Clare House, a residential care home for the elderly.

Singing beautifully, the choir delighted residents with a selection of Christmas carols, including Ding Dong Merrily on High, O Come All Ye Faithful and O' Little Town of Bethlehem. Following their wonderful performance, the children spent time chatting with residents while enjoying cakes and drinks.

Events like this are a meaningful experience for both the pupils and the residents, helping to strengthen our connection with the community.

"I liked talking to everyone and finding out about what they did when they were younger."



"I liked singing to the old people and seeing them joining in."



"Clare House was very welcoming and I was very pleased to be there to sing to the residents"



Welfare & Medical

Autumn Term 2

Merry Christmas!

Winter Illness & Reminders for the January Return

As we approach the winter season and the end of term, we kindly ask parents to remain vigilant about winter illnesses. Colds, flu, and seasonal viruses tend to circulate more quickly at this time of year, especially after the holiday break.

If your child is unwell in January, please ensure they are fully recovered before returning to school, helping us keep our classrooms healthy and reduce the spread of illness.

For more information about winter illness and guidance on whether your child should attend school, please [click here](#) for guidance.

Lost Property – Please Collect Before Christmas Break

We currently have a large amount of lost property waiting to be claimed. Before we break up for the Christmas holidays, we ask parents to come in and check the lost property area for any missing items. Any unclaimed items may be donated or recycled at the end of the term.

Labelling School Items for January

When pupils return in January, we would be grateful if parents could ensure that all school items are clearly labelled, including jumpers, coats, lunchboxes and water bottles. Clear labelling helps us quickly reunite children with their belongings, especially during the busy winter months.

Missed the Flu Vaccination at School?

If your child did not receive their flu vaccination during the school session this year, Vaccination UK is running local catch-up clinics. For more information, including clinic locations and times, please refer to the Vaccination UK poster.

Have a wonderful Christmas break everyone!

Kind regards



Sarah Mahoney
Medical / Welfare Officer

**Stop the flu!
Vaccinate your child!
Protect your community!**

 **Vaccination UK**
Immunisation Provider for
NHS



Scan here to book an
appointment at one of
our catch up clinics.



hillingdon@v-uk.co.uk
0208 150 1220

Want more information?
Watch our flu webinar on YouTube here





News From P.A.T.H.

Parents and Teachers at Hermitage

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of this term, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support and generosity in all of PATH's fundraising events so far this academic year. Your efforts and contributions have made a significant impact.

Let's take a moment to celebrate the success of recent events:

- **Book at Bedtime (4th Dec):** A magical evening for our Reception and Year 1 children, with stories and smiles all around.
- **Non-Uniform Day (5th Dec):** Thank you for the wonderful chocolate and toy donations that filled our tombola with super prizes!
- **Chat & Wrap Coffee Morning (9th Dec):** It was lovely to see parents come together to chat, wrap, and enjoy some festive cheer in preparation for the Christmas Fayre.
- **Christmas Fayre (9th Dec):** A fantastic community event that brought everyone together to celebrate the season while raising valuable funds for the school.

Thanks to your generosity, PATH was able to give a Christmas gift of *£100 to every class* to purchase something fun and exciting for the children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated members of the PATH team for their tireless commitment and enthusiasm in organising these events. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and it truly makes a difference to the school.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that we have many fundraising events on the calendar, kicking off with a Cake Sale on 10th February and a School Disco on 12th February!

Thank you once again for all your support, and we wish you and your families a joyful and restful festive season.

With warm regards,

Sally Clargo

Sally Clargo

on behalf of PATH



Nursery

Autumn Term 2

It has been lovely to see our families at all the 'Stay and Play' session we have had this term.



We have enjoyed having Elf 'Sparkle' join in. We have been looking for Sparkle each morning in the lead up to Christmas.



We wrote our letters to Santa – and we had a reply!



We made winter biscuits and they were yummy!



We practised our scissors skills whilst making Christmas decorations.



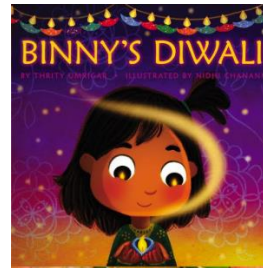
Reception

Autumn Term 2



It has been an incredibly busy and exciting term! We have enjoyed celebrating and learning about autumn, Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance and of course, Christmas, all supported by wonderful books linked to these themes.

We made delicious mango smoothies while learning about Diwali and enjoyed reading the story *Binny's Diwali*.



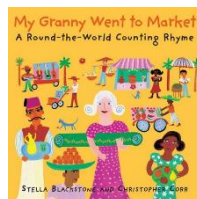
We planned our first trip of the year to Uxbridge Library, and the children were thrilled to go! For many, it was their very first visit to a library, making it a particularly special and memorable experience.



Our lovely parents came into talk about how they celebrated Diwali too...



The children also enjoyed a week of learning based on *My Granny Went to Market*, a counting story that takes readers on a journey around the world. To enrich this topic, we welcomed wonderful parent volunteers who came in to share about their home countries and the customs they are connected to.



The children have been busy practising their Nativity, which for some was their first experience of performing in front of an audience. They performed at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael Catholic Church.



Year 1

Autumn Term 2

As we reach the end of our first term, we would like to take a moment to say how proud we are of all the progress the children have made! Their hard work, curiosity and growing confidence have shone through every day. Well done to all of them – and thank you for your continued support.

Here's a look back at our year so far!

1 Simmonds



1 Picasso



Maths

Both Miss Ashraf and I have worked hard to create fun, active, and learning-based maths lessons. We have tried to ensure that all our lessons include play, as we have found that through the power of play, key concepts are learned and retained more effectively!

English

English has been an enjoyable and creative half term. The children wrote letters inspired by *Dear Zoo*, explored imagination through *10 Black Dots*, and learned to recognise and discuss emotions using *The Colour Monster*. We ended the term with *The Tooth Fairy's Christmas*, where the children created imaginative and humorous job adverts and responsibilities for a new tooth fairy.

Phonics

In phonics we have been identifying our sounds and working hard on blending.

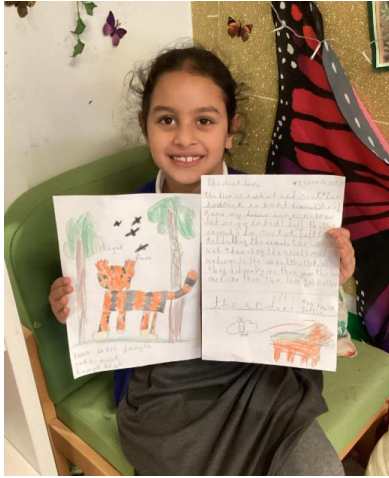
Science

Science has been super fun this half term! We have looked at the human body and labelled the main parts, then used this skill to name the parts of animals. We also had Space Week, where we explored what life in space is like.



Year 2

Autumn Term 2



We have loved learning about fables for our Super Curriculum Topic.



PATH School Disco was great fun.



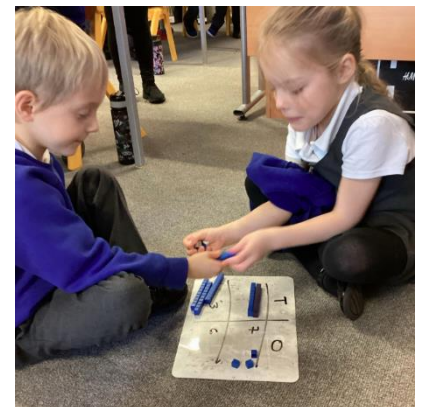
Standing up to bullies in our PHSE topic was very insightful.



Thank you to PATH for donating £100 to buy us presents.



It's all about balancing on beams!



We've finally mastered using tens and ones!



We have loved learning about healthy eating!



Giving direction to the Beebots has been so fun!



We had so much fun walking to Uxbridge and exploring our local area.

Merry Christmas everyone!



Year 3 - Gandhi

Autumn Term 2



In Science, we did a mini experience to use our skeletons (straws to stabilise our bodies (paper).

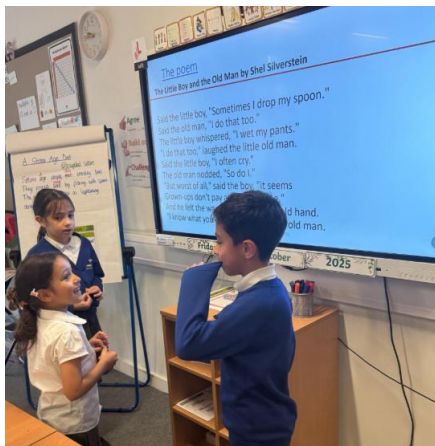


We all enjoyed our Cricket England lessons.

Learning how to compose and send emails in Computing.



In Art, the children used watercolours to re-create cave art.



Let's Think English!
Children developed a deeper understanding of poetry by analysing poems, performing selected pieces, and composing their own poems in the same style.

- Active Maths -
To end our topic, we did active addition and subtraction.



We went to the theatre to see Sleeping Beauty!



In English, the children identified dialogue from the book 'Funnybones' and used it to act our scenes.



Year 3 - Pankhurst

Autumn Term 2



History
Investigating a mysterious source



Our scouts on Remembrance Day



The children are recreating Cave Paintings in Art



A Look and Learn reading sessions



Harvest Festival celebration at the Church



Funnybones prosody session in English



We all enjoyed a theatre trip to see Sleeping Beauty



Year 4

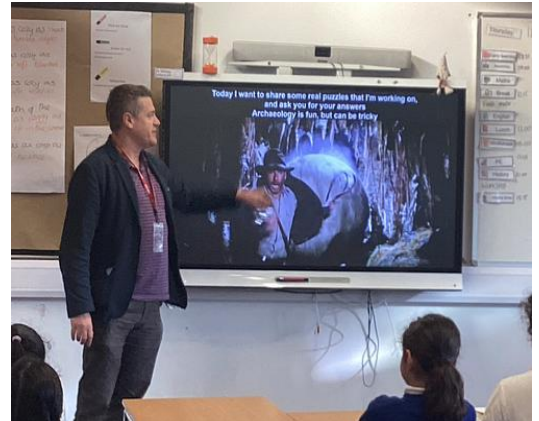
Autumn Term 2



In Science, the children have been looking at different states of matter. They have carried out various experiments and were trying to answer the following questions:

1. How do you prove that air is matter?
2. Can you put a tissue in a bowl of water without getting it wet?
3. How can you get water out if a jar without pouring it out?

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a wonderful Harvest celebration at St Margaret's Church. The children sang the harvest songs beautifully and read their lines clearly.



Year 4 were treated to amazing performances from our budding rock stars!

Well done to everyone who performed.

Year 4 were lucky enough to be visited by Dr Peter Bray and Dr Roya Haghighat-Khah from the School of Archaeology at Reading University. They talked to us about the job of an archaeologist, how they use modern techniques such as X-ray and plasma flames to discover the age and origin of artefacts.



Year 5 - Franklin

Autumn Term 2

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR...

Year 5 have been preparing for a busy festive period, with our focus on making our products for the PATH Christmas Fayre and a performance highlighting how Christmas is at Hermitage and around the world.



In Franklin class, the children created hand-made Christmas ornaments using a salt dough mixture that could be hung on their Christmas trees. Whilst Brunel Class made delicious hot chocolate reindeers that will be a wonderful, winter warmer during the cold evenings, this year.

The children have been practising hard to create a special Christmas performance alongside the children in Year 2.



Franklin Class performed their own version of "T'was the Night Before Christmas"; as well as an acoustic version of John Lennon's "Happy Xmas (War is Over!)".

Brunel Class highlighted how Christmas is celebrated around the world, alongside a Makaton version of "Feliz Navidad"



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



Year 5 - Brunel
Autumn Term 2

This term, 5B has enjoyed a wide range of learning experiences, engaging enthusiastically with the curriculum. We began by exploring the world of Ancient Greece, where the class explored mythology and culture. The children applied their design skills to construct model Parthenons, bringing their historical learning to life.

The class also really enjoyed our inclusion project, where they made miniature posters about what inclusion means to them which was then made into a 'patchwork quilt'.

In English, the focus shifted to writing about the fictional character Francis Brandywine. The children put themselves in Francis's shoes and wrote a diary entry. Acting as detectives, the children then used critical thinking to write about the mystery of her disappearance. This unit produced some excellent police reports, with the children demonstrating a clear understanding of how to write for a specific purpose.

Mathematically, the class has worked hard to consolidate their understanding of number. We have covered key areas including place value and the four operations, and the students showed resilience when tackling more challenging work on fractions.



Science lessons have been equally busy, with a focus on Materials and Space. During Space Week, the children combined scientific knowledge with creativity to design their own International Space Stations. They also made circuits to test the conductivity of materials!

The term culminated in a collaborative Christmas production with Year 2. 5B successfully took on the challenge of singing in Spanish and signing in Makaton, and celebrated traditions from around the world.

Alongside their academic progress, the children have developed their confidence and teamwork skills throughout the term. It is safe to say the class is ready for a well-earned Christmas break, and we wish all families a restful, enjoyable holiday.



Year 6 - DaVinci

Autumn Term 2

This term, 6D has enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning experiences. We have explored the past by becoming historians and visiting the Battle of Britain Bunker, where we learned about an important moment in history and deepened our understanding of World War II. This tied well with the learning we did in English and DT, where we studied the heart-breaking book "When the sky falls," and where pupils made their own WWII shelters.



We have also been scientists, discovering the joys and practical uses of electricity. Through hands-on activities and experiments, we learned how electricity works and why it is so important in our everyday lives. We were impressed with just how much they already knew. The lessons in Year 6 build on their Year 4 science knowledge and we were constantly looking for ways to stretch and challenge them.

In October, the class led a whole school assembly based on British Black History. The children worked so hard to deliver this powerful message to the school and it was a joy to later hear that younger children has chosen books based on the historical figures that the class introduced them to.

Alongside our academic learning, we have experienced a great deal of personal growth. We have developed confidence, teamwork, and resilience, and we are proud of how much we have learned and grown together this term. It is safe to say we are all looking forward to a well-earned Christmas break!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
FROM YEAR 6



Year 6 – Seacole

Autumn Term 2

September – Building Our Class Community

In September, 6 Seacole worked collaboratively to design and agree on their class rules. This helped establish a positive learning environment and gave pupils a strong sense of ownership and responsibility. Through discussion and teamwork, the children developed confidence in sharing their ideas and understanding the importance of respect, fairness, and cooperation within the classroom.



Design & Technology – Strong Structures

As part of their Design and Technology learning, pupils investigated strong structures linked to World War II, particularly bunkers and shelters. They applied this knowledge by designing and building their own models, testing stability and strength. This project encouraged problem-solving, creativity, and effective teamwork.



The children can be seen testing the strength of their designs using 'When the Sky Falls', the book they read in English. This book was the perfect choice for cross curricular learning as it was set in WWII and was about a young boy facing

October – Battle of Britain Bunker Visit

In October, the class visited the Battle of Britain Bunker, bringing their history learning to life. Pupils explored how decisions were made during wartime and gained a deeper understanding of Britain's role in World War II. The visit sparked curiosity, thoughtful questioning, and meaningful discussions back in class.



November – Environmental Class Assembly



In November, 6 Seacole presented a thoughtful class assembly focused on the environment. Pupils shared messages about caring for the planet, sustainability, and personal responsibility. The assembly showcased their growing confidence, teamwork, and ability to communicate important ideas clearly to an audience. They received wonderful positive feedback from the entire school regarding their strong voices and the important message they were delivering.

December – Electrical Circuits & Looking Ahead

This month, pupils have been learning about electrical circuits, exploring how components work together to create complete circuits. Alongside their academic learning, the class has continued to grow in confidence, resilience, and collaboration. As the term draws to a close, 6 Seacole are proud of their achievements and are now looking forward to a well-earned rest and the excitement of Christmas.

