

Mapesbury Newsletter Summer 2





Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly rewarding journey for our whole school community. Our first full academic year since opening has been one of tremendous growth and achievement. I am immensely proud of the way our pupils have embodied our core values. Whether through integrity, resilience, collaboration, independence, creativity or empathy, our children have consistently shown what it means to be part of the Mapesbury community. Their achievements, both inside and outside the classroom, have been a constant source of inspiration. Our school has continued to grow, welcoming new pupils and talented new staff members who have quickly become an important part of our community. With this growth has come new opportunities, fresh ideas and an even stronger sense of purpose as we work together to provide the very best education and experiences for every child.

While this year has brought many successes, it has not always been easy. Growth brings challenges, and there have been moments that have required determination, adaptability and a great deal of hard work from everyone involved. However, it is precisely these challenges that make our achievements more meaningful. Together, our staff, pupils and families have shown remarkable commitment and resilience, and I am deeply grateful for the support and dedication of our entire community.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the future. Our school is ready for its next chapter. We have strong foundations, ambitious plans and a shared commitment to continuous improvement. We will continue to grow, refine our offer and create even more opportunities for our pupils to thrive, achieve and develop into confident, compassionate and successful young people.

Thank you to our pupils for their enthusiasm, our staff for their dedication and our families for their continued support. Together, we have much to celebrate, and I look forward to all that we will achieve in the years to come.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break.

Adam De Vecchi - Headteacher

Mapesbury School

Key Stage 2

KS2 – Puffin Maths

This term, Puffin Class has had a very successful introduction to algebra. Students demonstrated strong problem-solving skills and were able to solve simple algebraic equations with confidence and accuracy.

A particular strength of the class was their curiosity about how algebra can be applied in everyday life. By exploring realistic examples and discussing real-world uses of algebra, students developed a deeper understanding of why this area of mathematics is important. These meaningful connections helped to strengthen their conceptual understanding and increased their engagement with the subject.

It has been wonderful to see the students grow in both confidence and mathematical thinking throughout the term. We are very proud of their progress and look forward to building on these foundations in the coming months.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 1P & & 1P \\
 n+3=12 & & n+3=7 \\
 \text{Then} & & \text{Then} \\
 n-3=\underline{6} & & n-6=\underline{2}
 \end{array}$$

Jo is 2 yrs older than Harry.
 Katie is twice as old as Jo.
 If 3 yrs Katie

T. Harvey
 02.06.2024
 There is an expression.
 $2a + 3 - 5a$
 Which expression below shows it written in simplest form?
 A) $3a + 3$ B) $3a + 2$ C) $3a - 2$ D) $3a - 3$
 There is a different expression.
 $3b + 4 + 2b + 1$
 Write the expression in simplest form.
 $5b + 5$
 Complete the statements below.
 When $a = 9$, $4a = 36$
 When $a = 12$, $4a = 48$
 When $a = 9$, $4a = 36$

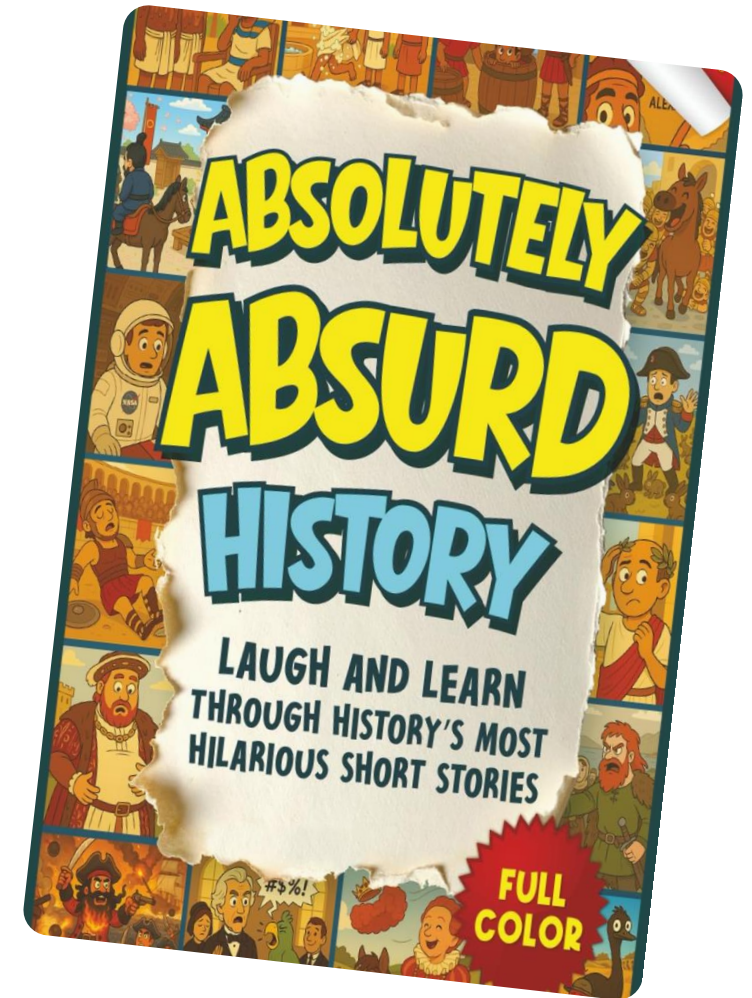
KS2 – Puffin English

This half term, Puffin Class have been enjoying a selection of short stories from *Absolutely Absurd History*. Through these entertaining and often surprising tales, the children have explored a range of unusual historical events, discovering fascinating moments from the past while developing their reading and comprehension skills.

Throughout the unit, pupils have discussed the events, characters and themes within each story, sharing their ideas and making thoughtful predictions and inferences using evidence from the text. They have enjoyed exploring the motivations behind characters' actions and taking part in class discussions and debates, building their confidence in expressing and justifying their opinions.

The class have also learnt about the history, geography and culture connected to each story, helping them to better understand the historical context of the events they have read about. Alongside this, pupils have explored new and ambitious vocabulary from the texts, developing their understanding of key words and using them to deepen their comprehension.

It has been wonderful to see the children's curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the unit. They have thoroughly enjoyed discovering that history is full of strange, surprising and sometimes unbelievable events while continuing to develop their reading and discussion skills.



KS2 – Merlin Maths

In Maths, we revisited place value, addition and subtraction to consolidate our understanding and strengthen our counting skills when solving calculations involving four-digit numbers and beyond. This term, we also introduced **Movement Maths**, where children worked actively and independently through a carousel of engaging, game-based activities, completing challenges within a set time before moving on to the next task. Merlin Class has also worked incredibly hard on their times tables and has smashed their relay challenges, confidently recalling the 3, 4, 6, 8 and 12 times tables.



KS2 – Merlin English

In English, we have been listening to, reciting and writing poetry inspired by our poetry collection, *Cloud Soup* by Kate Wakeling. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring a range of poetic forms, including clerihews, limericks, odes and list poems. They have developed their understanding of key writing features such as rhyme, similes and metaphors, using these confidently in their own writing. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have grown in confidence, reading aloud during comprehension lessons, answering questions thoughtfully and performing their poems proudly to the rest of the class.



KS2 – Merlin Enrichment

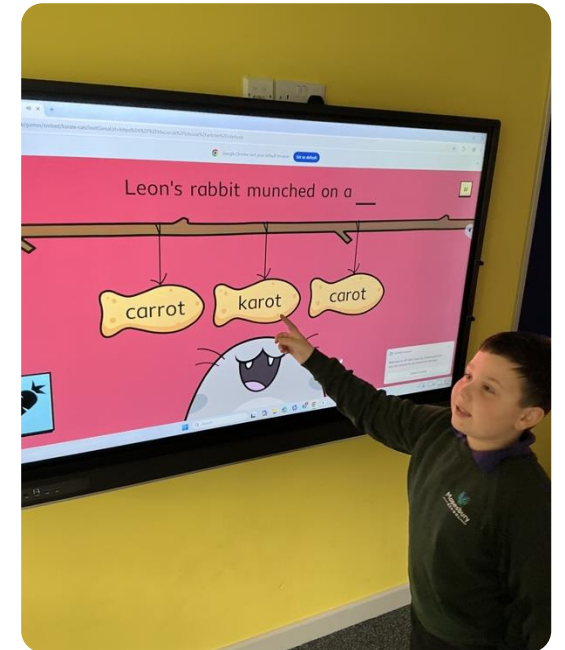
Throughout the term, the children have continued to develop our school values of **Independence, Collaboration, Integrity, Empathy, Resilience and Creativity** in everything they do. We have enjoyed keeping up to date with current affairs through *Newsround*, discussing key events from around the world and sharing our thoughts respectfully. The children showed excellent communication and debating skills while exploring topics such as proposed restrictions on children's use of social media and how to stay safe during the summer heatwaves. These discussions inspired us to think about the many enjoyable activities we can do away from screens. We have loved visiting the local park, exploring our community, playing games together and spotting local wildlife. It has been a wonderful term of learning, laughter and memorable experiences, and we are incredibly proud of everything Merlin Class has achieved! We wish you all a lovely summer break and wish you well on your learning journey.



KS2 – Kingfisher English

This term Kingfisher class has been working on becoming better at phonics and comprehension. To accomplish this task, we have used interactive online programmes that make the classes more fun and rewarding.

Our particular focus recently has been on improving spelling and word recognition. In one of our games, the challenge is to progressively increase the difficulty, so that the students feel that they are being stretched in a way that greatly improves their vocabulary and reaction times!!



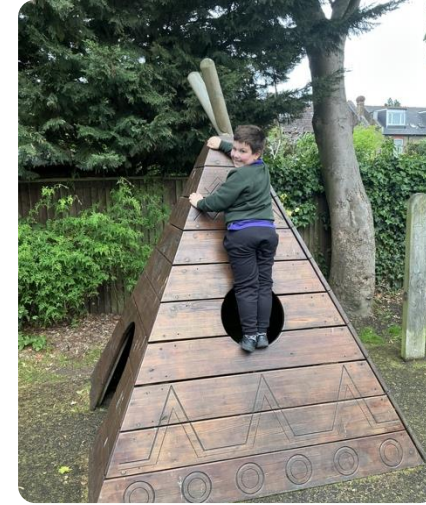
KS2 – Kingfisher Enrichment

In recent weeks Kingfisher class has started to explore Mapesbury Dell Park which has an abundance of things to do and see – plus it's close to school!!

Exploring nature is always fun, as it greatly boosts your well-being, it reduces stress and it even improves your physical health!!

It's also known to improve Cognitive Restoration and mood elevation.

So, make sure you spend more time with nature.



KS2 – Food Tech

This term in KS2 Food Technology, pupils have been exploring simple snacks and meals that can be prepared using a microwave and air fryer, including pizzas, banana splits, pizza pockets and toasties with a variety of fillings. Through these activities, they have been developing important life skills by learning to follow recipes step by step, use kitchen equipment safely and understand the importance of health and safety in the kitchen. These skills are essential for building independence, confidence and preparing pupils for everyday life. Pupils have also been learning the importance of keeping their cooking area clean and tidy, washing up after themselves, and taking responsibility for maintaining a safe workspace. In Life Skills lessons, some classes have been developing their transition skills by learning how to read maps and travel to different places, helping them build confidence and independence within their local community.



KS2 – PSHE

This term in PSHE, pupils in Merlin and Kingfisher classes have been learning about jobs and careers. In Kingfisher, pupils explored a range of different jobs through role play and digital learning activities. They also used colourful semantics to help them build and structure sentences when talking and writing about different occupations. In Merlin, pupils explored the different pathways people take into careers and discussed how careers can change over time. They also reflected on their own interests and strengths, considering how these might help shape the types of jobs they may enjoy in the future. Pupils in Puffin have continued their learning about change, both now and in the future. This term they have focused particularly on their upcoming transition from KS2 to KS3, exploring how they feel about the move and learning strategies to help manage any worries or emotions they may experience.



KS2 – Science

Our KS2 pupils have had a fantastic time this term exploring Science through lots of exciting hands-on activities. They launched balloon rockets to learn about air pressure, created colourful Skittles rainbows and walking water experiments to discover diffusion, and made their own erupting volcanoes using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. They also worked together to build spaghetti and marshmallow towers, became mini scientists by making slime, enjoyed making delicious ice cream while learning about changes of state. They finished the term by building water guns to investigate water pressure. It has been wonderful to see the children asking thoughtful questions, making predictions and learning from their investigations. We have been especially proud of the way they have shown our school value of Independence, taking responsibility for their learning, making sensible choices and growing in confidence with every practical challenge.



KS2 – Physical Education

Over the past six weeks, our KS2 pupils have taken part in an exciting basketball programme where they have developed a range of new skills both on and off the court.

Throughout the sessions, pupils learned the fundamentals of basketball, including shooting, passing, dribbling and understanding the basic rules of the game. It was wonderful to see their confidence and ability grow each week as they practised and improved their skills.

As well as developing their sporting abilities, pupils also strengthened important values such as fair play, respect, teamwork, and encouragement towards others. They learned how to celebrate success together and support one another through challenges.

One of the key messages from our basketball programme was that sport is not only about winning. Our pupils explored how physical activity can play an important role in their future lives by promoting resilience, cooperation and positive wellbeing.

Most importantly, the children gained a greater understanding of how regular exercise contributes to a healthy lifestyle and supports both physical and mental health. We hope these lessons and experiences will encourage them to stay active and enjoy sport for many years to come.

Well done to all of our KS2 basketball players for their enthusiasm, effort and fantastic progress throughout the programme!



KS2 – Social Skills (Play)

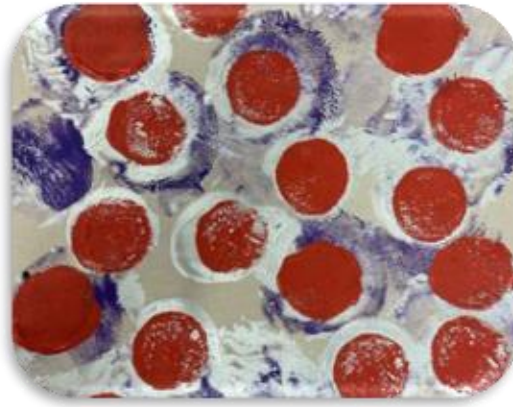
This half-term, the social skills curriculum has embodied engaging and naturalistic teaching moments that occur through play. During these lessons pupils have shown collaboration, compromise, self-awareness and emotional regulation.

In addition, these lessons have been preparing the pupils for topics they will encounter later when they reach Key Stage 3. They have been demonstrating curiosity with other students, learning more about the job/property market, as well as the typical price of grocery shop items.



KS2 – Art

This term, KS2 pupils have been exploring a wide range of exciting artistic techniques and cultural influences. Students experimented with creating textures and vibrant dot paintings inspired by the work of Yayoi Kusama, developing their understanding of pattern, repetition and colour. They also modelled traditional African houses inspired by the Ndebele people of South Africa, learning about architecture and cultural identity through hands-on sculpture work. In addition, pupils designed eye-catching Pop Art posters influenced by the bold colours and dynamic style of Anime, combining contemporary visual culture with classic Pop Art techniques. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and confidence grow throughout these projects.



Mapesbury School

Key Stage 3

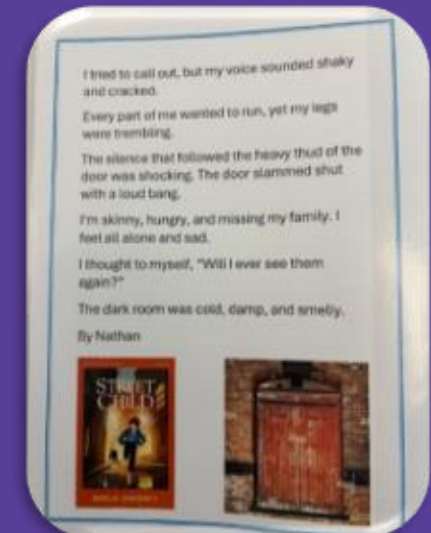
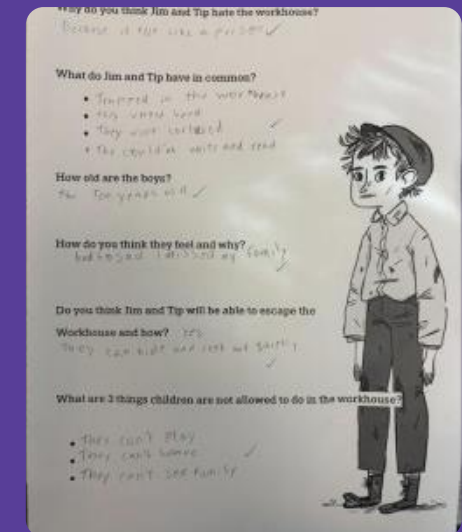
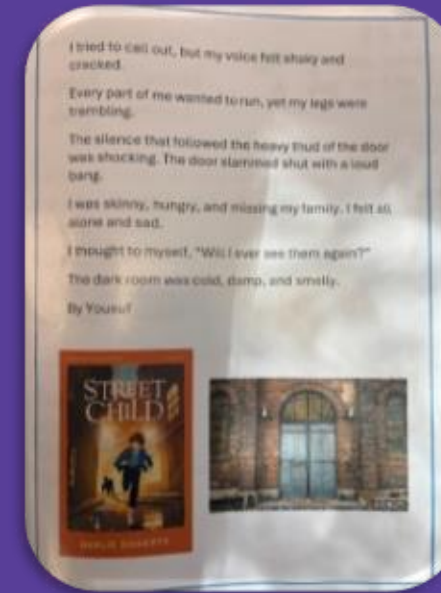
KS3 – Toucan English

This half term, we have been reading the captivating novel *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty. The story has encouraged thoughtful discussions about life in Victorian England, helping pupils to develop their understanding of history while exploring the experiences and emotions of the characters.

As part of our learning, the children have explored the characters in depth, making inferences about their thoughts, feelings and motivations using evidence from the text. We have discussed what life was like in Victorian England, including the purpose of workhouses and the harsh living conditions many children faced. These conversations have helped pupils to build empathy and appreciate how different life was during this period.

The class have also been developing their vocabulary by exploring key words and phrases from the novel and discussing their meanings in context. To deepen their understanding of the story, pupils have written from the perspective of one of the characters, allowing them to consider events through someone else's eyes and develop their ability to write with empathy and imagination.

It has been wonderful to see the thoughtful discussions, growing confidence and excellent writing produced throughout the unit. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, compassion and enthusiasm the children have shown while exploring this powerful story.

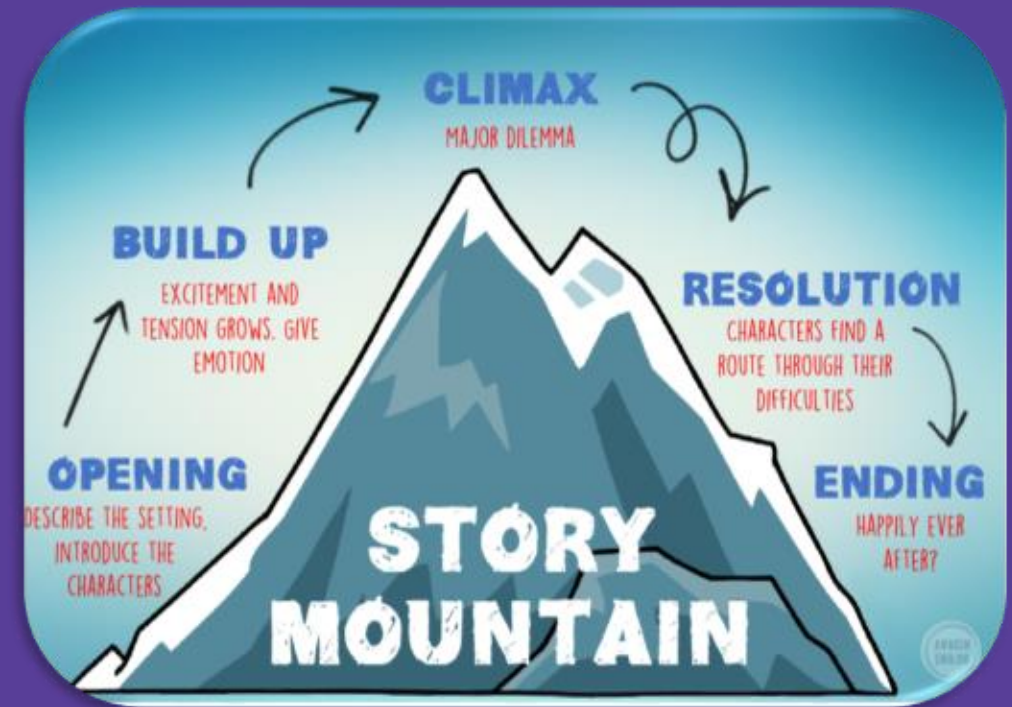


KS3 – Pelican English

This half term, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the world of creative writing through our Beyond English unit. We have been learning what makes a great story, from writing exciting openings that capture the reader's attention to creating believable characters, vivid settings and satisfying endings.

Along the way, the children have discovered how different character types help shape a story, how authors structure their writing for effect and how carefully chosen language can bring ideas to life. They have also practised developing simple ideas into imaginative and detailed stories by adding description, dialogue and thoughtful vocabulary.

To celebrate everything they have learned, each student planned and wrote their own original story, bringing together all of the skills they have developed throughout the unit. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and confidence grow, with every pupil producing a unique piece of writing to be proud of. We have loved reading their stories and are incredibly proud of the effort, imagination and resilience they have shown throughout the writing process.



KS3 – Flamingo Maths

Flamingo Class has certainly made the most of the school grounds whenever possible. We have had great fun learning through practical activities, including using a trundle wheel to measure the perimeter of the school football pitch and a tape measure to measure outdoor furniture, such as the garden table.

The class are now experts at identifying and naming a wide range of 2D shapes. We even discovered a shape that was new to all of us – a rhombicosidodecahedron! Not only did we learn about this fascinating shape but, with plenty of practice, we eventually managed to pronounce its name too.



KS3 – Flamingo Enrichment

We have had a wonderful year of learning academically, creatively and practically, and Flamingo pupils have grown tremendously through their experiences.

Some of the highlights of the year included our trips to Mapesbury Dell, which were quickly rivalled by the discovery of Claremont Park. This has become a whole-school favourite, providing a fantastic outdoor learning environment. Enrichment lessons have given pupils valuable opportunities to explore their local surroundings, socialise with one another and develop their learning through outdoor activities and games.

Despite the variable weather, which sometimes limited consistent access to outdoor spaces, pupils embraced every opportunity to learn new concepts and make the most of their time outside.



KS3 – Flamingo Food Tech

Food technology lessons have been fruit fun!!!!

Pupils have been making desserts using fruits, though a lot of discussion was had around healthy choices, Flamingo pupils went for taste.

They had to plan (think), create (do), design (presentation), taste (sample) and rate (judgement) all of their recipes. Here are some of the wonderful results.



KS3 – Pelican Enrichment

Pelican students had an amazing time at the Science Museum, especially exploring the exciting Power UP section! From retro arcade classics to modern gaming favourites, students travelled through the history of video games and loved discovering games from different generations – even enjoying some favourites from their own childhoods!

Power UP was more than just fun and games. The experience highlighted how gaming has evolved over the years and showcased the importance of creativity, technology, problem-solving, teamwork and digital innovation in today's world. Students were able to see how video games connect generations, inspire imagination and influence careers in science, coding, and design.

The journey on the tube was challenging during rush hour, but our students coped incredibly well, showing patience, resilience and excellent teamwork throughout the busy travel experience.

A fantastic day full of learning, laughter and unforgettable memories!



KS3 – Physical Education

This term, students have worked hard on developing their balance and athletics skills. Throughout a range of activities, they focused on improving their hand-eye and foot-eye coordination, as well as understanding how to position their bodies effectively when running.

A key achievement this term has been the students' determination and perseverance. They learned the importance of not giving up when faced with challenges and showed great resilience as they practised and refined their skills each week.

It has been particularly impressive to see the progress students have made in athletics. Many students consistently improved their personal best times, breaking their own records week after week. Their commitment, enthusiasm and positive attitude towards learning have resulted in remarkable growth and achievement throughout the term.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing their confidence and skills continue to develop.



KS3 – Food Tech

Pupils have been developing a range of more advanced cooking skills and techniques, including binding, crisping, aeration, marination and caramelisation. They have applied these skills while preparing a variety of recipes such as shortbread, flapjacks, chicken chow Mein and Indian chicken keema, exploring flavours and ingredients from around the world while building their technical understanding of cooking processes. Pupils have shown great pride in presenting their dishes and have continued to refine their practical cooking skills with increasing confidence and independence. They have established strong health and safety practices in the kitchen, consistently wearing aprons, maintaining a clean and tidy workspace and understanding the importance of good hygiene. Pupils have also been learning about cross-contamination when handling raw meat and vegetables, helping them develop safe food preparation habits that are essential both in school and everyday life.



KS3 – Art



Pupils have enjoyed a creative and varied term of artistic exploration.

Year 9 students have been designing and producing their own zines, using their hobbies and personal interests as inspiration for unique and expressive publications. Students also created abstract cityscapes inspired by Paul Klee, experimenting with shape, colour and composition to develop imaginative urban landscapes.

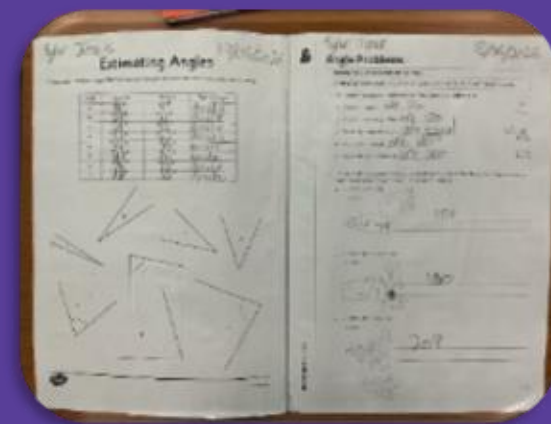
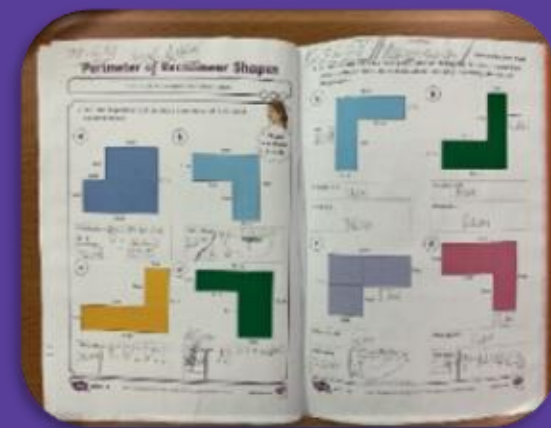
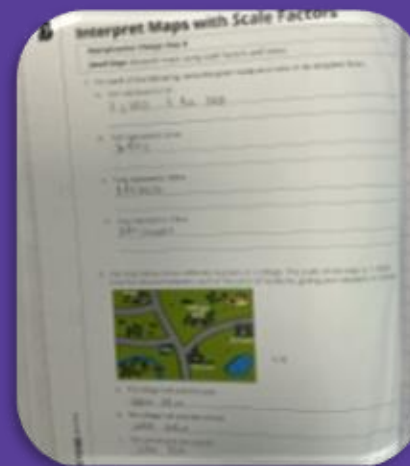


In addition, pupils explored light, space and atmosphere through light installations inspired by contemporary artist Won Ju Lim, creating innovative works that transformed their environments. These projects have encouraged students to think creatively, develop technical skills and express their individual ideas through art.



KS3 – Maths

This half term, our KS3 Maths students have been developing their mathematical skills through a range of practical and engaging activities linked to ratio and proportion, geometry and measure and statistics and probability. Alongside learning key maths concepts, we have been promoting our school core value of **Independence** by encouraging students to make decisions, solve real-life problems and take ownership of their learning. From designing scale drawings and planning room layouts to carrying out their own surveys and presenting data, students have been building confidence in applying maths to everyday situations. We are proud of the resilience, creativity and growing independence they have shown, and it has been wonderful to see them becoming more confident learners each week.



KS3 – Science

This term, our KS3 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of engaging practical Science activities that brought their learning to life. They explored **physical changes** by making recycled paper, investigated **solar energy** by designing and building solar ovens and discovered how **acids, alkalis and bases** are used in everyday life through soap making. They also explored the fascinating world of **light** by creating pinhole cameras, investigated **changes of state** by making their own ice cream, and learned about **air resistance and thrust** by designing and testing rubber band helicopters. It has been fantastic to watch pupils develop their scientific thinking by asking questions, testing ideas and working together to solve problems. We are especially proud of how they have embraced our core value of **Independence**, showing resilience, confidence and enthusiasm as they took increasing ownership of their learning throughout the term.



KS3 – PSHE

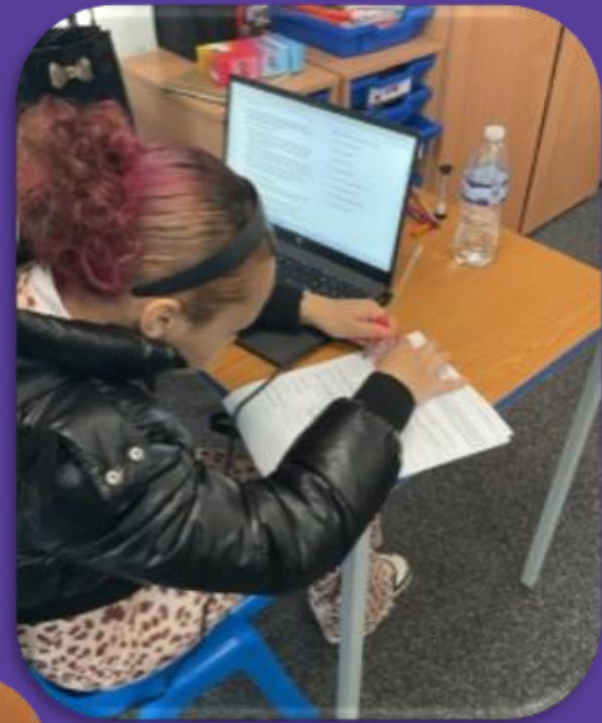
This term, all three KS3 classes have focused on personal safety in PSHE. In Flamingo and Toucan classes, pupils explored the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs, learning why they can be dangerous to both the mind and body. They also discussed ways to keep themselves safe when faced with outside influences, such as the media and peer pressure.

In Pelican class, pupils focused on making safe and healthy choices in relationships. They approached these discussions with maturity and thoughtfulness, showing a level of reflection that was wonderful to see. Across all three KS3 classes, pupils also learned about the importance of basic first aid and the role of the emergency services, helping them understand how to keep themselves and others safe within the community.



KS3 – Careers

In Careers, all students met with Emily, our independent careers advisor, for their final session of the year. During these sessions, students explored their employability skills and reflected on how their strengths, interests and personal qualities can be linked to different career pathways. They also completed activities to identify their career personality "animals" based on their preferences, helping them to better understand their working styles and the types of environments and roles that may suit them in the future. In Pelican and Toucan classes, students investigated a range of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers, analysing the impact these professions have on everyday life. In Flamingo class, students have been focusing on expressing their likes, dislikes, interests and preferences. This is an important aspect of careers education, as understanding personal interests helps students make informed choices about future learning opportunities, work experiences and potential career pathways that match their strengths and aspirations



KS3 – Life Skills

This half-term has revolved around going out to eat for our Key Stage 3 students. We have gone on lots of local trips to a wide variety of cafés, restaurants and fast-food chains. These trips have been a great practice for our students to talk to new people, show good public manners, road safety and try new foods!

Throughout these trips we have seen our students become more confident talking to new people and work within a set budget. These skills will carry through as they become more independent in the community!



Mapesbury School *Specialists*

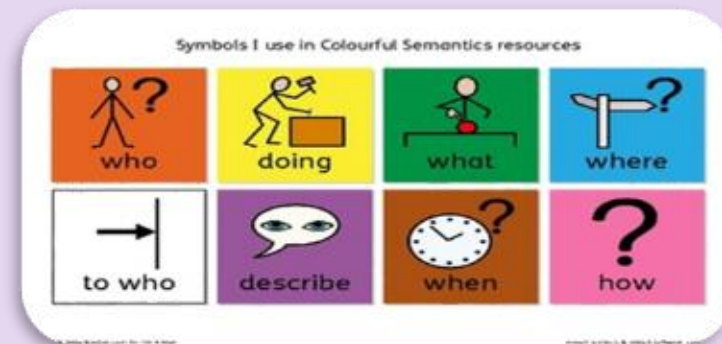
Speech & Language Therapy

We're working together, 1:1, in pairs and in small groups, to assess and develop language skills, modelling therapy ideas with staff and with parents as appropriate

Alongside developing social thinking and communication, one of our main areas of focus at the moment is narrative comprehension, beginning with understanding wh-questions, and being able to respond to them clearly, and later, moving on to being able to use a story plan, in order to help students to gather, analyse and use the most relevant information from narratives of any kind, across subjects, in a more planned, organised and systematic way.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer holiday ahead!

Siobhain (Mapesbury School SaLT Department)



Imaginative Narrative Paragraph Writing- Flow Map

Name: _____ Date: _____

Opening Sentence (Who? Did What? When? Include the problem.):

Transition Word: First attempt to solve the problem:

Transition Word: Second attempt to solve the problem:

Transition Word: Final attempt to solve the problem:

Closing Sentence (What did the character think, feel, and do?):

Occupational Therapy

1:1 Shoe-Lacing Programme

Some pupils took part in individual shoe-lacing sessions to develop their independence with dressing skills. Through fun, step-by-step activities, pupils practised finger strength, hand coordination, sequencing, and problem-solving, building confidence as they learned to tie their own shoelaces.

Fun with Food

We also completed our final Fun with Food group of the year. These sessions encourage pupils to explore a variety of foods in a relaxed and supportive environment while developing important life skills such as food preparation, trying new foods, following instructions, fine motor skills, and social communication. It has been wonderful to see pupils grow in confidence, curiosity, and willingness to engage with different foods throughout the programme.

Thera putty Programme

Following the success of our daily Thera putty programme in Toucan Class, the initiative has now been rolled out to Kingfisher and Flamingo classes. The programme provides pupils with a short daily hand-strengthening routine to develop fine motor skills, hand strength and finger dexterity, supporting skills needed for handwriting, cutting, dressing and other classroom activities. It has been fantastic to see pupils engaging so positively with the programme, and staff have reported increased confidence in delivering the exercises as part of their daily classroom routine.



Mapesbury School

Whole School Events

MILE DAY

A Stellar Start!

Our pupils recently embarked on an exciting adventure as we celebrated the very first MILE Day – the Mapesbury Immersive Learning Experience.

This inaugural MILE Day embraced a Space and Science Fiction theme, with atmospheric lighting, sound effects and references to much-loved classics including Star Trek and Star Wars. As members of the Mapesbury Space Fleet, pupils worked together to complete a special mission, demonstrating teamwork, resilience and problem-solving skills along the way.

Both staff and pupils enthusiastically embraced the occasion, dressing in themed outfits and helping to bring the experience to life. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of engaging activities led by our teaching team, with each challenge contributing to the wider mission and rewarding curiosity, cooperation and positive participation.

The day concluded with a celebratory finale, where we recognised the achievements of each Space Fleet crew and marked the successful completion of their mission.

Our first MILE Day was a tremendous success and has already established itself as a much-loved new tradition at Mapesbury School. We look forward to many more opportunities to ignite imagination, build confidence and create memorable learning experiences for our pupils.



Summer Fair

Our school community stepped into a time machine and travelled straight back to the 1980s for this year's Summer Fair – and what a colourful, neon-soaked success it was!

Students and staff fully embraced the theme, arriving in bright retro outfits and bringing fantastic energy to the day. The crowd sang their hearts out to karaoke classics and showed off their moves on the Just Dance floor, creating a lively and unforgettable atmosphere.

A special shout-out goes to Sharnae, who truly saved the day by keeping everyone refreshed with delicious slushies and freshly made candy floss. Our amazing students also took the lead in running successful bake sales, transforming visitors at the face-painting and hair-decorating stations, and hosting popular stalls such as Tin Can Alley and Guess the Number of Squishies. One of the most anticipated highlights of the day was the water games, where everyone had great fun cooling off while demonstrating excellent teamwork and respect for the rules. The excitement continued during our grand raffle, which sparked plenty of friendly competition. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to local businesses Little Red Pepper, Energie Fitness, and The Beaten Docket for their generous prize donations and support.

Finally, a huge round of applause and heartfelt thanks goes to Maria Locorriere for organising and gifting us such a wonderful day. Her hard work and dedication helped create lasting memories for our entire school community.



Art Exhibition at Mapesbury

On 9th July, Mapesbury hosted a wonderful Art Exhibition showcasing the outstanding creativity and talent of its students. Led by the talented Art Teacher, Brian McGinnis, the exhibition featured artwork created throughout the academic year. The impressive range of pieces reflected the students' hard work, imagination and artistic growth. Parents and staff were delighted by the exceptional quality of the work on display, and the exhibition was a proud celebration of the achievements of our young artists.



Sports Day

Mapesbury Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, resilience and fun, bringing together pupils, families and staff. Five exciting activity stations were created where classes competed against one another while enjoying the spirit of teamwork, resilience and fun. To make the day even more special, we also introduced challenges for parents and staff, giving everyone the opportunity to get involved and celebrate Sports Day together as one Mapesbury family. The events included Tug of War, Basketball Skills Challenge, Penalty Shootout, Marathon, Egg and Spoon Race and a Skills Circuit. These activities gave our pupils the chance to demonstrate the coordination, confidence and physical skills they have developed throughout the year, while embracing healthy competition in a supportive environment.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts, pupils and adults were presented with medals and trophies linked to our core values: Independence, Empathy, Collaboration, Integrity and Creativity. These awards celebrated not only sporting achievement but also the character and values our students demonstrate every day.

It was a fantastic day filled with energy, teamwork, laughter and school spirit – a true celebration of everything Sports Day should be. A special thank you to our PE teacher, Bulent Sagiroglu, who organised the event, and to all staff members who helped make the day such a success.



Smoking Addiction Workshop



Mapesbury was delighted to welcome Jimel and Hanifah yesterday from Elev8 Via Youth Services in Brent for an engaging and informative workshop on the dangers of vaping and smoking. During the session, students learned about the serious impact that smoking and vaping can have on both physical health and mental wellbeing. One of the most eye-opening moments was when the presenters revealed some of the harmful substances found in cigarettes. Many students were shocked to discover that tar, a sticky substance often associated with roads and street surfaces, is also a component of cigarette smoke and can accumulate in the lungs over time. Jimel and Hanifah also discussed the importance of making positive choices and resisting peer pressure. They shared practical strategies for avoiding smoking and vaping, protecting themselves from second-hand smoke, and finding healthy ways to cope with challenges. Students were encouraged to pursue their interests, hobbies and passions as positive outlets that can help prevent addiction and support overall wellbeing.



Transition Week

First day of Transition Week at Mapesbury

It's all move and it's all go!

Many classes moved to a new classroom this week. Students took part in boxing up their possessions, wheeling trolleys and unpacking.

It was happy chaos on Monday morning: some classes settled very quickly on the first morning. Others took the whole day to move, in a more relaxed way. But everyone had to work hard! The whole process was much easier as we all employed the Mapesbury values of Collaboration, Independence and Resilience!



Reading at Mapesbury

We have introduced a Reading Strategy which was “Reading to Pupils” based on an evidence-based study where pupils are read to daily.

Our findings were that, of the 20 pupils with both an Autumn 2 and Summer 2 Reading Age, they made an average Reading Age gain of 18 months across the academic year, with 75% of pupils improving their Reading Age. The strongest progress was seen in Merlin, Puffin and Toucan classes, with several pupils making accelerated gains of between three and eight years. This was during a single school year – equivalent to almost double the rate of expected progress!

Some have made even stronger progress as you can see on the table below.

This is amazing news and we’re very proud of everyone!

Well done and let’s keep up reading!



Class	Average gain
Merlin	+40.7 months
Puffin	+33.5 months
Toucan	+27.0 months
Flamingo	+11.3 months
Pelican	+4.8 months
Kingfisher	+1.0 months

Annual Staff Summer Quiz (OK, only second but we're working to make it a tradition)

This week's Annual Summer Quiz was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, laughter and friendly competition. Events like these remind us that, beyond our daily responsibilities, we are part of a vibrant and supportive community that truly enjoys spending time together.

What made the event so special was the wonderful balance between competition and camaraderie.

It was lovely to see colleagues from across the staff come together, supporting one another and enjoying the opportunity to connect outside the usual school day

While there could only be one winning team, the real winners were all of us. The laughter shared, the memories created and the sense of togetherness we experienced made this year's Summer Quiz very special.



Important Dates

2026-27

Parents Meet and Greet Teachers –
11th September @ 9:00am

Jeans for Genes day – 18th
September

Parents Evening – 07th October

Autumn Term

INSET days for staff (school closed for pupils)

Tuesday 1st – Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Term Starts for pupils

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Half term holiday (school closed)

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October 2026

Last day of term

Friday 18th December 2026 (1pm finish for pupils)

Spring Term

INSET day for staff (school closed for pupils)

Monday 4th January 2027

Term starts for pupils

Tuesday 5th January 2027

Half term holiday (School closed for pupils)

Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027

Last day of term

Thursday 25th March 2027 (1pm finish for pupils)

Summer Term

INSET day for staff (school closed for pupils)

Monday 12th – Tuesday 13th April 2027

Term starts for pupils

Wednesday 14th April 2027

Bank holiday (school closed)

Monday 3rd May

Half term holiday (school closed)

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027

Last day of term

Wednesday 21st July (1pm finish for pupils)