



MARTINS WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY
21/05/2026



SAPLINGS

The children in Saplings have started working on activities linked to transition.

One we are particularly proud of is coming to the carpet when 5,4,3,2,1 is called, the children have learnt to leave the toys and come empty handed, they are all doing so well crossing their legs and placing their hands on their laps.

We have discussed why we place our hands on our laps. All children are joining in whether they are moving up to Nursery or returning to Saplings in September. They have been showing how independent they can be, by removing and replacing their shoes and coats.

They already know where to put their drinks bottles and where they can sit and take a drink.

We are super proud of their progress, they are ready for the next learning opportunity.



NURSERY

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their topic of Animal Safari, exploring different animals and looking closely at the patterns on their skin, looking to see if they have scales, fur, or feathers. They have enjoyed talking about the different colours, spots, and stripes they could see.

In Maths, the children have been learning about capacity. They have loved filling the animals with porridge and discussing whether they were full, empty, nearly full, or nearly empty. The children have shown great enthusiasm and used lots of wonderful mathematical language during their play and learning.

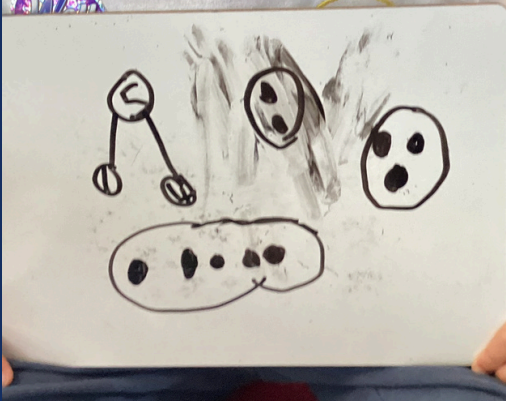


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THURSDAY
21/05/2026



YEAR 1

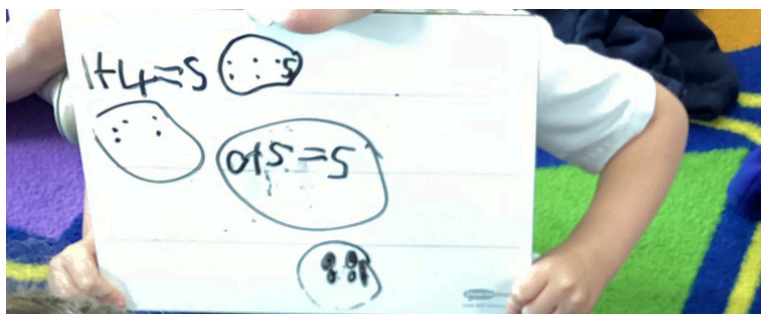
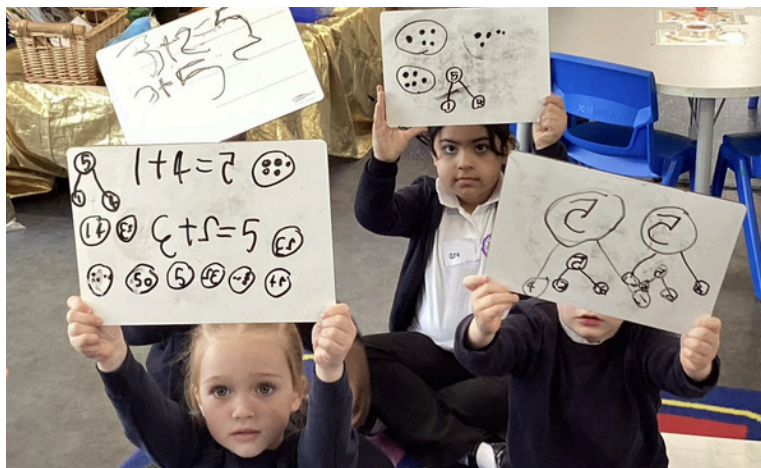
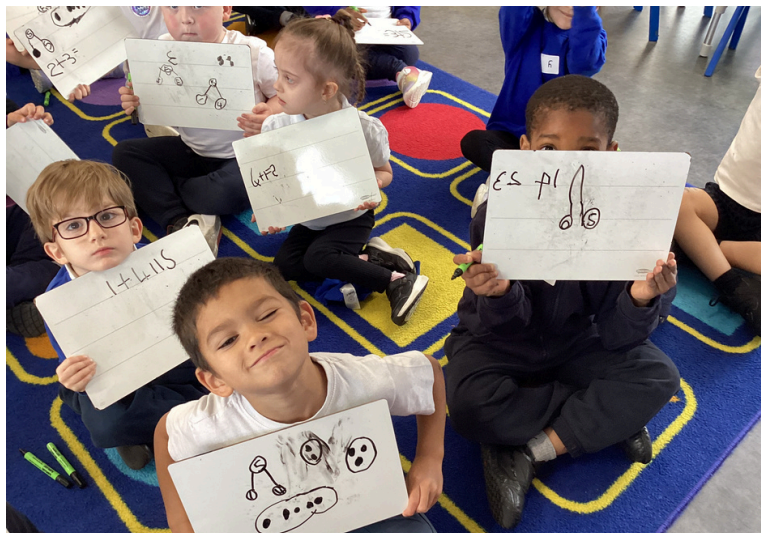
Year 1 were very lucky to welcome Jaideep from Year 6, who came to speak to the children about being a Sikh. This was a truly heartwarming and lovely experience, and the children enjoyed learning about why his religion is important to him.

Linked to our current topic, Naam Karan, the children asked thoughtful questions, which Jaideep answered beautifully. He also came back to share significant stories from his faith, helping the children deepen their understanding of Sikhism.

As a school, we are incredibly proud of Jaideep for sharing his faith, experiences and knowledge with such confidence, maturity and kindness. He was a wonderful role model for the younger children. Thank you, Jaideep!

RECEPTION

Reception have been consolidating our learning on number bonds to five, making five with two parts. We have challenged ourselves to record our math knowledge; this is a new skill for us. Some of us made dot patterns, some wrote numerals, some drew part-part-whole models and some of us even tried to write number sentences! We are really proud of our recording.





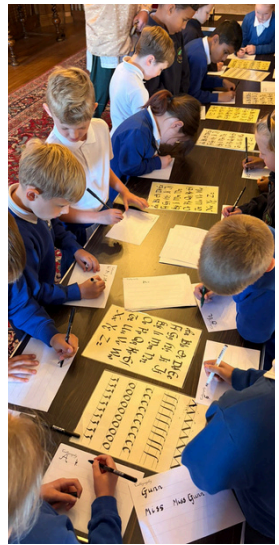
THURSDAY
21/05/2026



YEAR 2

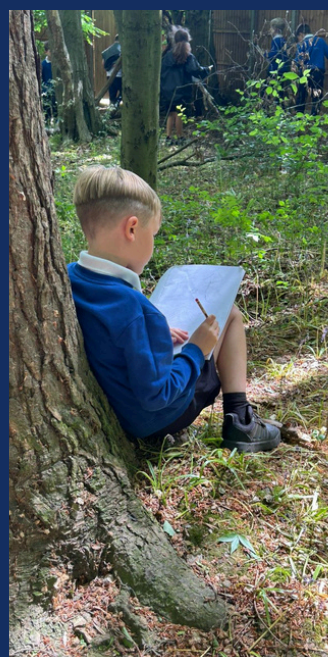
This week Year 2 have been following up on their fantastic trip to Knebworth House last week by writing a personal recount in English lessons and drawing royal self-portraits in Art.

At Knebworth House the children had an action-packed day of activities where they danced and played instruments in the Banquet Hall, learned calligraphy in the library with secret doors and dressed as Tudors in Queen Elizabeth I's bedroom. They also got to explore the magnificent gardens and complete royal quests to prepare a feast fit for a King. An amazing day was had by all!



YEAR 3

Year 3 went on a woodland walk to finish their Art unit of 'Beautiful Botanicals'. We observed carefully, ensuring our sketches were accurate and lifelike.

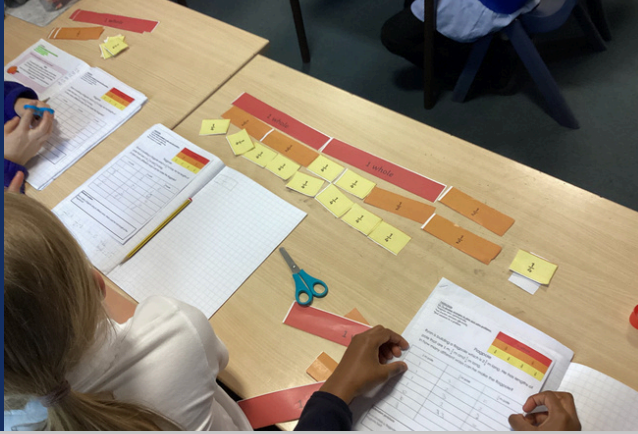


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THURSDAY
21/05/2026



YEAR 5

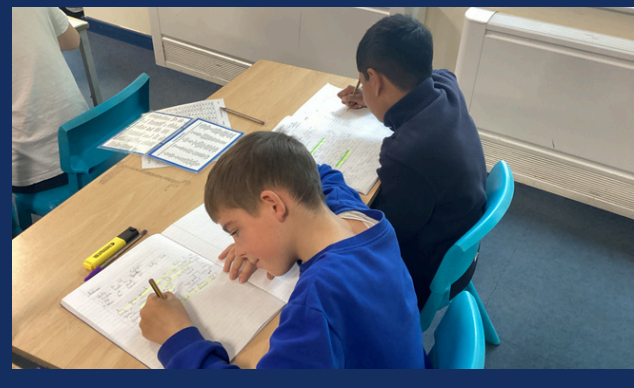
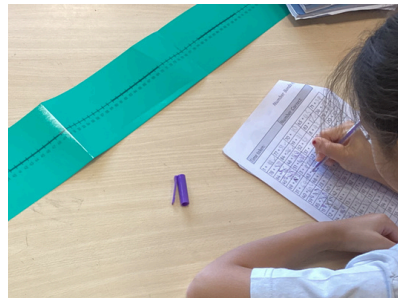
This week in English, Year 5 have been completing their first-person myths and legends narratives. They have been describing characters' emotions through the use of reporting clauses and adding extra detail and information to nouns through relative clauses. The children have worked hard to make their stories engaging and descriptive.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have been using manipulatives in Maths to solve fraction problems. They had to explore different ways of making two and a half using whole, half and quarter strips. By laying them out in different combinations, the children were able to find multiple ways of solving the problem.

During this half term, Ms Edwards has been working with some children on their number bonds. They have been learning extremely well and are using resources available to them to calculate these efficiently. Great learning in Year 4!



YEAR 6

This week, some children in Year 6 signed up to take part in Bikeability. Day 1 began practising skills in the playground before heading out onto the roads on Day 2. These are such important skills for children to learn as they make their transition to secondary school and become more independent.



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PLAYGROUND REMINDER

We would like to remind all parents and carers that children must be supervised by a responsible adult while on the playground each morning until they enter the school building and go into their class. The school is unable to take responsibility for pupils until they have entered the building.

Please also ensure that children do not climb on fences and do not use the Early Years equipment before the start of the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for all pupils.

**THURSDAY
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INTERACTIVE PARENTS WORKSHOP

We recently held a fun and interactive workshop exploring education in the 21st century: the good, the bad and the ugly. The session focused on developing core skills for employability and preparing children for the future. We also discussed the role of technology in learning, reflecting on the idea that the concern is not technology itself, but what a child is not doing while they are on a screen.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

22nd May - Inset Day

25th - 29th May - Half Term

1st June - Inset Day

5th June - Year 4 - Adventures Into, school camping experience

8th June - Year 6 - Crucial Crew

9th June - Reception - Shepreth Wildlife Park

10th June - Y3 Portals to the Past Romans visit to school

16th June - Saplings & Nursery - Animal Edge Farm visit to school

24th June - Class Photos

25th June - Sports Day: Y1 & Y2 - 9:15am - 11:15am

Y3 & Y4 - 1:30pm - 3pm

26th June - Sports Day: Nursery - 9:10am - 10:10am

Reception - 10:30am - 12pm

Y5 & Y6 - 1:30pm - 3pm

30th June - Year 1 British School Museum Trip

9th July - Transition Day (Yr 6 visit to secondary schools)

13th July - Year 6 Performance 2-3pm

14th July - Year 6 Performance 6-7pm

23rd July - End of Term - 2pm



This week's average attendance is 91.2%. Our average whole school attendance is currently at 89.8%
Remember - to achieve 100% attendance your child needs to be in school, every day, on time.

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WATER SAFETY AWARENESS

Help Keep Our Communities Safe This Summer

Learning to Swim Saves Lives

Our Learn to Swim programme teaches 180,000 children and adults every week. Water safety skills are a key part of every lesson and help people stay safe in and around water.

Most Incidents Happen in Open Water

Many drowning incidents happen in rivers, lakes, quarries, reservoirs and at beaches — not in swimming pools. Knowing the risks in these environments is vital.

Know the Signs

Understand beach flags, water safety signs, and local hazards before entering water.

If You Get Into Difficulty - FLOAT

- F - Fight your instinct to panic
- L - Lean back and float
- O - Open your arms and legs
- A - Allow your body to relax
- T - Take slow, steady breaths

Help Spread the Message

Please share water safety information with schools, community groups, youth organisations and families. The more people who understand water safety, the more lives we can help protect.

Prevention is the best safety strategy.

Stevenage Borough Council

