



Underhill School and Children's Centre

# Newsletter



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[www.underhillschool.co.uk](http://www.underhillschool.co.uk)

**Be Curious**

**Be Caring**

**Be Confident**

**Be Cooperative**

Friday 30th January 2026

## Heads corner

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all well. It's been a rainy couple of weeks but the days are getting lighter and Spring is on the way!

On Monday 19th January, we celebrated World Religion Day. In our assemblies and in class, the children learned about the other faiths and beliefs that make up our school and local community, and the importance of respecting these different beliefs. This really links with Roots and Wings and our values of Be Caring, Be Curious, Be Confident and Be Cooperative. Lots of the children wore their traditional clothes and looked amazing! Thank you for all your support to make this a fantastic day.

Following on from this we marked Holocaust Memorial Day on Tuesday 27th January. There was a special assembly for Years 4,5 and 6, where we remembered all those who have been affected by the Holocaust or other genocides in the world since then. In classes, the children were thinking about the importance of respect and care for everyone, regardless of their culture and beliefs. The children all worked very sensibly and sensitively when talking and thinking about these important issues, just as they always do.

We are very excited to welcome the Hyde Foundation to school next week for the official opening of our new library. Following our grant application, The Hyde Foundation made a very generous donation to Underhill, and we have been able to renovate our new library space. The room has been painted and we have some beautiful new library furniture as well. It looks really wonderful and the children are loving using it. This week, they started their weekly visits to the library again and the children have been using the library at lunchtimes as well. They have been practising putting books back in the correct place and making sure that we really look after this wonderful new resource. We love reading at Underhill!

Our football, netball and basketball teams have been playing lots of matches and showing great team work and attitude in all of the games whatever the result. Our netball team are on a winning streak in their league and next week in the deciding match to see who will be the league winner and go on to the across London games. We are very proud of all our teams and the great role models they are for the younger children.

And our choir have been doing fantastic things too! On Monday 19th, they took part in Young Voices 2026 and performed at the O2 with choirs from schools across London. They were brilliant all day and we are so proud of them all. It was a fantastic experience and as one child said: I felt like Taylor Swift! Congratulations to them all!

We have a busy couple of weeks coming up with lots of different events happening. There is information on the website about them but just in case, don't forget...

5th February - PTA Friendship Disco

6th February - NSPCC Number Day

9-13th February - Music week

10th February - Safer Internet Day

Have a great weekend!

Jennie Reed and Nicola Hayles





# Attendance

## Absence

Please remember any absences need to be reported daily to

[attendance@underhillbarnetmail.net](mailto:attendance@underhillbarnetmail.net)

Or via the school website

<https://underhillschool.co.uk/attendance-1>

Absences before and after a school holiday may be liable to a fixed penalty notice from Barnet Education welfare team unless medical evidence is provided

Please complete an Absence request form

<https://forms.gle/JK1N3J7hzv2FR1fJ6> for any planned absences of more than 1 day

## Attendance

95-100% Target for all pupils

90-95% Monitored by school, meeting arranged with teacher

85-90% Invited in for meeting with Heads and attendance

Referral Education Welfare Officer may come at any stage and will depend on individual circumstances/case

If you would like a meeting to discuss your child's attendance please call the school office

## House Attendance

House	Last Week	This Week
Air	97.29%	95.59%
Earth	94.16%	93.35%
Fire	94.35%	93.27%
Water	92.07%	88.73%

Class Attendance	Last week	This week
Beech	90%	88.89%
1 Oak	95.5%	86.87%
1 Willow	94.4%	93.58%
2 Chestnut	95.3%	91.11%
3 Cedar	98.4%	97.33%
3 Yew	94.8%	96%
4 Cherry	90.4%	95.12%
4 Larch	96.8%	92.34%
4 Sycamore	93.5%	91.88%
5 Holly	92.6%	96.67%
5 Laurel	90.6%	87.92%
6 Elm	99.1%	97.57%
6 Hawthorn	98.4%	97.22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.46%</b>	<b>92.54%</b>



## APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

To help us keep all students safe and minimise classroom disruptions, we kindly ask parents and carers to notify the school office in advance by emailing ([attendance@underhill.barnetmail.net](mailto:attendance@underhill.barnetmail.net)) if their child needs to leave early for an appointment. Advance notice allows us to have students ready at the correct time and ensures a smooth sign-out process. Thank you for your cooperation.



## Underhill are Basketball Borough Champions!

An incredible display of skill, resilience, and shot-making across the tournament. We won every game, with a nail-biting final that saw us go 2-0 down early—before holding it together and fighting back to finish 8-4.

We've regained our title and will now represent Barnet in the England NBA Playoffs, taking on the other London borough champions this summer. Bring it on 🏋️🏆





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February	Thursday 5th	PTA Friendship Disco
	Friday 6th	NSPCC Number Day
	Monday 9th - Friday 13th	Music and Assessment week
	Monday 9th - Friday 13th	Scholastic Book fair
	Tuesday 10th	Safer Internet Day
	Wednesday 11th	Y1-6 Parents' Evening 3:30-7pm
	Thursday 12th	Y1-6 Parents Evening 3:30-5pm
	Monday 16th- Friday 20th	Half term
	23rd-27th	Design and Technology Week
	Friday 27th	Year 2 Bake Sale
	Friday 27th	3 Cedar Class Assembly
March	Thursday 5th	World Book Day
	Friday 6th	PTA Sing-A-Long Movie Night KS2
	Friday 13th	PTA Own Clothes Day and bring an Easter Egg
	Friday 13th	3 Yew Class Assembly
	Monday 9th- Friday 13th March	British Science Week
	Monday 16th - Friday 20th	Neurodiversity week
	Friday 20th	Year 1 Bake Sale
	Saturday 21st	PTA Easter Fair
	Thursday 26th	House Easter Egg Hunt
	Friday 27th	Break up 1:30pm

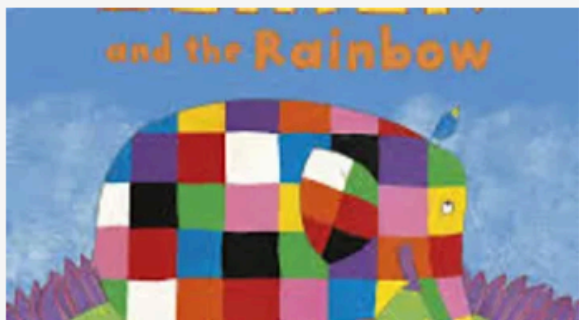
## What's been happening at Underhill this fortnight ?

### 23.1.26 Telling the time in Blossom!



The children in Blossom have been having fun thinking about what they do each day and then learning to sequence these activities. They have also been learning to tell the time.

### 23.1.26 Colourful creations in Nursery



This week Conker class have been reading the story 'Elmer and the Rainbow.' The children enjoyed making their own patchwork elephants and used lots of different colours. Some children cut out small pieces of tissue paper and others used paint; carefully ensuring they did not mix the colours and make everything brown! During a session with the older children, we asked the question 'is patchwork Elmer the same or different from the other elephants?' The children really enjoyed the discussion and came to the conclusion that all the elephants were the same but were wearing different clothes.

### 23.1.26 Reception Rockets!

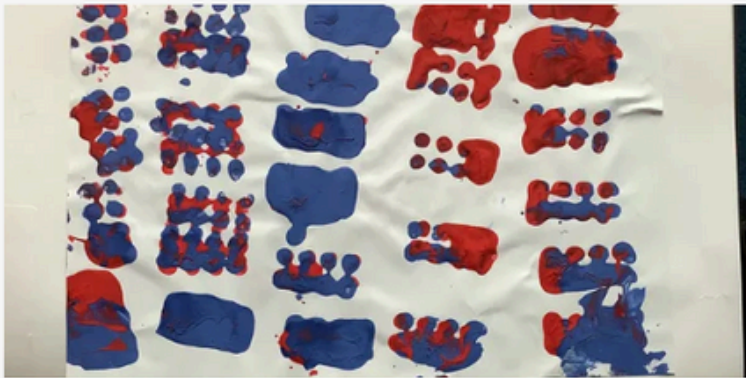


In Reception we have been learning about travel and journeys. Last week we were learning about space travel and the children were given a mission to design and make their own space rockets as part of their home learning. This photo is just a sample of some of the amazing rockets and space ships that were made! We are just waiting to hear from NASA about when we can launch them into space...



## What's been happening at Underhill this fortnight?

### 30.1.26 Printing patterns in Year 1!



This week in English, we have been learning about the features of a letter. We talked about what makes a good letter and practised writing our own.

In Maths, we have been exploring capacity and volume. The children compared different objects and containers to see how much they can hold.

In Art, we have been learning about colours and we used LEGO bricks to create fun printed patterns.

Well done, Year 1, for another great week of learning!

### 23.1.26 A busy week in Year 2!



We have been reading 'The Bog Baby' written by Jeanne Willis. The children created their own bog baby and have started to write their own narrative in the same style. They are great!

In Maths, we have been learning all about money. We have been using plastic money to make different amounts and pretending to buy items in order to calculate how much their purchases will cost and how much change they will receive.

Our topic this half term is Animals and Human Life cycles. We have been learning about life cycles and created our own life cycle wheels of a hen, a frog and a butterfly.

In Art, we have continued with colour mixing and have also been exploring how to create texture using cotton buds, sponges, plastic forks, tin foil and lollipop sticks.

### 23.1.26 Culinary delights in Year 3!



Year 3 have been making delicious veggie tarts using seasonal vegetables. They had a choice of: leeks, bell peppers, carrots, baby spinach leaves and cherry tomatoes. Before the Christmas holidays, in DT, they had to taste test these 5 vegetables and give them a score out of 5 based on their taste and texture. From this, they were allowed to choose their 3 favourites to use for their toppings. The children impressed us with their amazing chopping skills and they tasted amazing!

### 30.1.26 Year 4 visit the Young V&A!



Year 4 had a fantastic time on their trip to the Young V&A on Tuesday. They enjoyed looking at all the old toys and exploring the different galleries designed for children. They loved playing old video games and dressing up in the theatre. They have also had a good week of learning in class and have learnt all about evaporation and condensation in Science. In English, we have looking at Viking mythical creatures and the children enjoyed researching to find out about them.



## What's been happening at Underhill this fortnight?

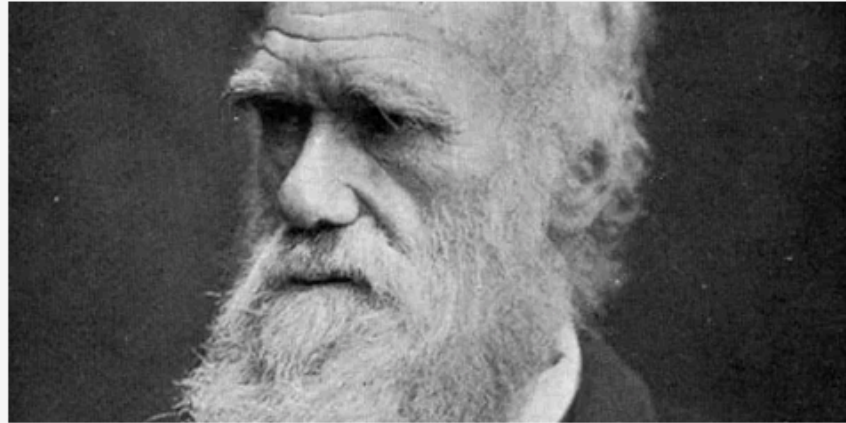
### 23.1.26 Year 5 visit the Tower of London



Year 5 had a fantastic trip to the Tower of London. We took part in a workshop called The Queens Behind Henry where we learnt more about Henry VIII's wives rather than just the "divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived" rhyme.

For example, did you know that Catherine of Aragon was actually the first ever female ambassador and Anne Boleyn could read and write in five languages? Some of us also had the chance to role play as historical figures. We also enjoyed learning about other aspects of the Tower of London, including seeing the Crown Jewels and the Royal Menagerie: polar bears, lions and elephants used to live at the Tower until they were rehomed to London Zoo in the 1830s.

### 23.1.26 Learning about evolution in Year 6!



Year 6 have been learning about Charles Darwin and his Theory of Evolution. In English, we have been reading a book called On the Origin of Species by Sabina Radeva. It is all about how Charles Darwin put together the theory that all living things have adapted to better suit their environments. We wrote a discovery narrative about Darwin exploring Uruguay and observing iguanas. We think he might have thought they looked like little dragons! After this, we are going to write an explanation text about Galapagos Tortoises and how they have adapted to their specific environments. In Science we have been looking at how and why adaptations are made. This week we experimented with being Cocos Finches and tried to "peck" rice grains with different beaks (fingers, pegs and tweezers). After this, we can definitely see the advantage of a specially adapted beak! It was really hard to "peck" the rice up! Next week we are looking forward to how woolly mammoths (originally a tropical mammal like the elephant) evolved to survive the ice age...



# Underhill

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Underhill School and Children's Centre

Spring Term Timetable 2026  
05.01.26 – 27.03.26  
Inset Days  
Underhill & BEYA 05.01.26

## Children's Centres

East-Central Locality

	<b>BEYA</b> A Sure Start Children's Centre	<b>Coppetts Wood</b> A Sure Start Children's Centre	<b>Newstead</b> A Sure Start Children's Centre	<b>Underhill</b> A Sure Start Children's Centre
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Stay and Play</b> 9.30-10.45am 0-5 years (including Childminders) Queenswell Infant School N20 ONQ <b>Stay and Play</b> 3.45-5pm 0-5 years St Margaret's Nursery School EN4 9NT	<b>Stay and Play</b> 9.15-10.30am 0-5 years <b>Parent and Toddler Yoga</b> 10.30-11am Walkers-3 years <b>Baby Stay and Play</b> 1.15-2.15pm Non-walkers	<b>Baby Stay and Play</b> 1.30-2.30pm Non-walkers	<b>Childminders</b> 9.30-11.30am Registered OFSTED Childminders Only <b>Boogie Mites</b> 1.30-2.15pm 0-5 years
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Baby Massage</b> 12.15-1pm 8 Weeks-Non-rollers St Margaret's Nursery School EN4 9NT <b>Baby Stay and Play</b> 1-2pm Non-walkers St Margaret's Nursery School EN4 9NT	<b>Stay and Play</b> 9.45-11.15am 0-5 years Northside Primary School N12 8PJ	<b>Childminders</b> 9.30-11am <b>Baby Rhyme Time</b> 1-1.45pm Non-walkers Finchley Youth Theatre N2 9ED	<b>Stay and Play</b> 10.30-12pm 0-5 years <b>Baby Massage</b> 12-1pm 8 weeks-4 mths <b>Booking required</b> <b>Rhyme Time</b> 1-1.45pm 0-5 years
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Stay and Play SEND Support Group</b> 9.30-11am 0-5 years (contact Gill 020 8449 5466) Hampden Way Nursery N14 5DJ <b>Baby Stay and Play</b> 10-11.30am Non-walkers All Saints N20 9EZ <b>Childminders Outdoor Stay and Play</b> 1-2.30pm 0-5 years Hampden Way Nursery N14 5DJ	<b>Stay and Play</b> 9.15-10.30am 0-5 years <b>Shake, Rattle and Roll</b> 10.30-11am 0-5 years	<b>Early Words Together at Two</b> 1.30-2.30pm 2-3 years <b>Starts: 14.01 – 11.02 Booking Required</b> <b>Outdoor Stay and Play</b> 10-11am Walkers Only Barnwood N2 Starts: 25.02.26	<b>Baby Makaton Sing and Sign</b> 12.45-1.30pm 6 mths-1 year <b>Booking required</b> <b>Baby Stay and Play</b> 1.30-3pm Non-walkers <b>Fun Toddler Circuit</b> 12-1pm 18 mths-3 years
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Outdoor Adventure</b> 9.45-11.15am 0-5 years Hampden Way Nursery School N14 5DJ <b>Sing and Dance</b> 2-2.45pm Under 3's Hampden Way Nursery N14 5DJ	<b>Stay and Play</b> 9.15-10.30am 0-5 years <b>Dance and Movement</b> 10.30-11.15am Walkers-3 years	<b>Stay and Play</b> 10-11am 0-5 years	<b>Stay and Play</b> 9.15-10.45am 0-5 years <b>Rhyme Time</b> 1.15-2pm 0-5 years Hope Corner Community Centre ENS 2DY
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Stay and Play</b> 9.30-11am 0-5 years St Margaret's Nursery School EN4 8SD	<b>Baby Stay and Play</b> 9.30-10.30am Non-walkers <b>Baby Massage</b> 10.45-11.30am 8 Weeks-Non-rollers <b>Booking required</b>	<b>No Sessions</b>	<b>Boogie Mites</b> 9.15-10am 0-5 years <b>Infant Feeding Support Group</b> 12.30-2pm Under 1's

Caring for people, our places and the planet

Activities offered weekly unless otherwise stated



## Barnet Parent Champions

### Stay & Play

#### Fathers and Male Carers (Children Aged 0 – 11 Years)

Saturday 24 January 10am – 12pm  
Saturday 28 February 10am – 12pm  
Saturday 28 March 10am – 12pm

**FREE  
Monthly  
Session**



- FREE Tea & Toast
- Fun activities
- Opportunity to meet other dads
- Support and advice available
- Find out more about becoming a Parent Champion



Greentop Centre, Lanacre Avenue, Quakers Course, Grahame Park  
NW9 5WR



VRU |



I Can



You Can



We Can



# External Adverts

Underhill School and Children's Centre

**AWARD WINNING!**  
**EST 2004**

**BARNET LONDON BOROUGH BACE**

**SMART PLAY**

**KIDS**

**AGES 4-12**

**FROM 8AM-5PM**

**FANTASTIC FEBRUARY**

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**20TH FEBRUARY**

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**UNDERHILL SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE**  
**MAYS LANE, BARNET,**  
**TO BOOK CALL:**  
**07746 039 369**

**info@smart-play.co.uk** **Smart Play** **officialsmartplay**

## PETER PHILLIPS CRICKET

HOLIDAY COACHING COURSES FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5 - 16



## FEBRUARY HALF TERM CRICKET COURSE

**MONDAY 16TH – FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY**  
With fantastic indoor and outdoor facilities it's ...  
**NON STOP CRICKET WHATEVER THE WEATHER!**  
Absolute beginners to established club players ...

**Everyone is welcome!**

Our courses take place at:

The Totteridge Academy - Barnet Lane, London, N20 8AZ

For all the information you need & to book visit: [www.peterphillipscricket.co.uk](http://www.peterphillipscricket.co.uk)

Or call Peter anytime on 07930 44 55 66

