

The Cayley Chronicle

2026–2027

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families,



As we reach the end of another busy and exciting half term at Cayley Primary, it has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into school. Classrooms are full of enthusiasm, curiosity and a real love of learning. The children have embraced new routines, built relationships and thrown themselves into the many opportunities on offer. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitudes, kindness and resilience they have shown.

It has also been a particularly proud half term for Cayley, following our recent **Ofsted inspection**. We are delighted with the outcomes across all areas, which reflect the huge progress the school has made over the last two years. This is a testament to the hard work of our staff, the commitment of our children and the continued support of our families. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

Our community spirit was also on full display last week at our bake sale, which raised an amazing **over £400!** Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, bought cakes and helped to make the event such a success. It was lovely to see so many families getting involved and supporting the school.

Learning beyond the classroom

The children have enjoyed some fantastic experiences beyond the classroom this half term, bringing their learning to life.

Year 4 visited the British Museum, deepening their understanding of ancient civilisations and history. Their learning about mummification has also been reflected in the exquisite vocabulary they have been using in class to describe the processes involved. It has been wonderful to hear such ambitious language being used with confidence!

Year 2 enjoyed a special visit linked to the 300th anniversary of Sir Christopher Wren, making meaningful connections between their learning and the world around them. They have also been exploring the Great Fire of London, developing their historical knowledge and bringing the events of 1666 to life.

Year 3 have been busy developing their sporting skills through multisport activities, returning with medals and plenty to celebrate! They also visited the Natural History Museum, where they had the opportunity to explore, discover and ask questions about the natural world.

Year 5 visited the Ragged School Museum, giving them a fascinating insight into what school life was like in the past and helping them make comparisons with their own experiences today.

A curriculum full of curiosity and creativity

There has been so much to celebrate in our classrooms this half term. Year 5 have been developing their strategic thinking through chess lessons, learning to plan ahead, solve problems and think carefully about their next move. They have also been exploring the fascinating world of the Maya, discovering more about this remarkable civilisation.

Music has been another highlight across the school, with children learning and performing songs together, including traditional sea shanties. Singing brings such energy to our school and provides wonderful opportunities for children to develop their confidence, listening skills and sense of teamwork.

Across the curriculum, we have been delighted to see children engaging so enthusiastically with their learning, asking thoughtful questions, developing their vocabulary and taking pride in their achievements.

Looking ahead

Our Year 6 pupils deserve a special mention. As they prepare for the next stage of their education, we have been impressed by the maturity, focus and seriousness with which they are approaching their learning. They are increasingly taking responsibility for their work and demonstrating the determination and independence that will serve them so well as they move on to secondary school.

As always, there is so much happening at Cayley, and we are proud of the opportunities our children have to learn, achieve and grow. Thank you to our families for your continued encouragement and support. Working together, we can ensure that every child feels valued, challenged and excited about what they can achieve.

We hope you all enjoy a restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting chapter at Cayley Primary!

Have a wonderful half term!

Calendar and Term Dates

Monday 2nd November

First day of half term

Week beginning 2nd November

Parents' evening

Friday 6th November

EYFS Diwali Workshop

Monday 9th November –

Friday 13th November

Anti-bullying week

Friday 20th November

Reception Big Read Workshop

Thursday 26th November

Nursery Big Read Workshop

Friday 18th December

Last day of term. 13.15 finish



Nursery:

What a wonderful start to the new school year! We have been incredibly impressed with how well our Nursery children have settled into their new environment, building positive relationships, growing in confidence and becoming familiar with our daily routines. It has been lovely to see their independence and curiosity blossom as they explore their new surroundings!



The children have enjoyed a fantastic term of learning! One of our literacy core texts has been *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, which inspired lots of exciting, hands-on activities. The children had great fun creating their own bear masks, exploring early mark-making in porridge oats and even tasting some delicious porridge at snack time! These playful experiences have helped develop the children's creativity, fine motor skills and storytelling language, bringing this much-loved traditional tale to life!

Reception: Autumn learning!

Reception children have been busy exploring the wonders of autumn and learning about Harvest Festival! We were delighted to welcome Sarah from St Dunstan's Church, who helped us understand the importance of harvest and being thankful for the food we have.



The children have enjoyed making autumn soup in the water tray, retelling stories through sensory experiences and painting beautiful autumn trees. These activities have sparked wonderful conversations about the seasonal changes we have noticed outdoors, particularly the leaves changing colour and falling from the trees!



Year 1: Teddy Bear Hospital

Year 1 enjoyed a visit from the Teddy Bear Hospital, bringing their teddies along for a check-up with the teddy doctors and dentists! The children learned valuable skills including how to respond in an emergency, the importance of good dental hygiene and how X-rays work. A fun, hands-on experience that brought healthcare to life!



Year 2: The Great Fire of London

Year 2 visited Temple bar where the children explored Artifacts related to the Great Fire of London (GFL). They had an opportunity to draw with quills and ink. They then worked collaboratively in small groups to design a building using building blocks.



They visited St Martin Ludgate church where the children dressed up as people of different ranks during the GFL. They later walked to St Paul's Cathedral designed by Christopher Wren and learned that it took 35 years to build. The children played a game which involved making three rows and passing the bucket along as they would have done during the GFL to stop the spread of fire. It was a great for the children to enhance their knowledge with hands on experience.



Year 3: Natural History Museum

What a fantastic time Year 3 had at the Natural History Museum! The children were incredibly excited to explore the collections and see the amazing fossils up close. They confidently recognised the famous fossils discovered by Mary Anning, including the ichthyosaur and plesiosaur, linking their learning in English and History to real-life discoveries. They were amazed by the enormous size of prehistoric animals and had a wonderful time bringing their learning to life!



Year 4: British Museum

Year 4 enjoyed an exciting trip to the British Museum as part of their learning about Ancient Egypt. The children took part in a fascinating talk about Egyptian mummies, discovering how and why the Ancient Egyptians preserved bodies and prepared them for the afterlife. They also explored the Egyptian galleries, where they had the opportunity to see real mummies and ancient artefacts. It was a wonderful opportunity to deepen their understanding of this remarkable civilisation!





Year 5

Year 5 had a wonderful time visiting the Ragged School Museum, where they stepped back in time to discover what school life was like in Victorian England. The children experienced a taste of a Victorian lesson and learned about the strict rules, traditional teaching methods, and very different classroom environment of the past. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their history learning to life, and the children thoroughly enjoyed discovering just how much school has changed over the years!



Year 6: Visit to Shadwell Fire Station

Year 6 had an informative and engaging afternoon at Shadwell Fire Station, taking part in the Junior Citizenship Scheme. The children participated in interactive workshops delivered by a range of organisations. The sessions covered important topics such as travel and fire safety, basic first aid, personal safety and knife crime awareness, discrimination and respect, and health and wellbeing, including the risks associated with vaping, smoking and harmful substances.



The afternoon provided a valuable opportunity for the children to develop essential life skills, deepen their understanding of citizenship and learn how to keep themselves and others safe as they prepare for greater independence.



Music at Cayley

This half term Year 3 have been learning songs with Pentatonic scales and exploring different pitches in music. Ash class did a fantastic job in showcasing their songs they have learnt this half term to Year 1. They performed two songs, 'I've been to Harlem' and 'Tongo'm' which the Year 1 classes enjoyed, WELL DONE ASH CLASS!





Oracy at home – Let's Talk About...Gratitude

Big Question: What makes us truly happy – the things we have or the people and experiences in our lives?

Stimulus – A Family Challenge

During half-term, take a moment as a family to think about three things you are grateful for. These could be people, experiences, opportunities or even the little things that make you smile. Can everyone choose just one thing they are most grateful for and explain why?

Talking Points

- What does it mean to be grateful?
- Do we sometimes forget to appreciate the little things in life?
- Can you be happy without having lots of money or expensive possessions?
- Why might two people feel differently about the same experience?
- How can we show appreciation to the people around us



Thinking About Gratitude

Caring Talking: How can we show someone that we appreciate them without spending money?

Collaborative Talking: What could we do as a family to make someone else's day better?

Creative Talking: If you could invent a special day to celebrate gratitude, what would happen on that day?

Critical Talking: Do you agree or disagree that experiences and memories are more valuable than possessions? Why?

Quote to Discuss

"The more grateful I am, the more beauty I see." (Mary Davis- American author)

Do you agree with this quote? Can you explain your reasoning?
Let's Talk Together!

Use these sentence stems to encourage your child to speak confidently, listen carefully and develop their oracy skills.

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Use these sentence stems to encourage your child to speak confidently, listen carefully and develop their oracy skills.

Agreeing / Building on Ideas

- I agree with you because...
- Building on what you said...
- I would also like to add...

Challenging / Disagreeing

- I see your point, but I think...
- I respectfully disagree because...

Clarifying / Questioning

- Can you explain why you think that?
- Could you give me an example?

Explaining / Justifying

- I believe this because...
- One reason for my opinion is...

Summarising / Concluding

- After listening to everyone, I think...
- Our family agreed that...

Half-Term Family Challenge

Create a Gratitude Jar!

Throughout half-term, encourage everyone in your family to write or draw something they are grateful for.

At the end of the week, open the jar and discuss your choices together.

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. The important thing is to listen, share your ideas and explain your thinking!



Online Safety – Half Term Reminder

Dear families,

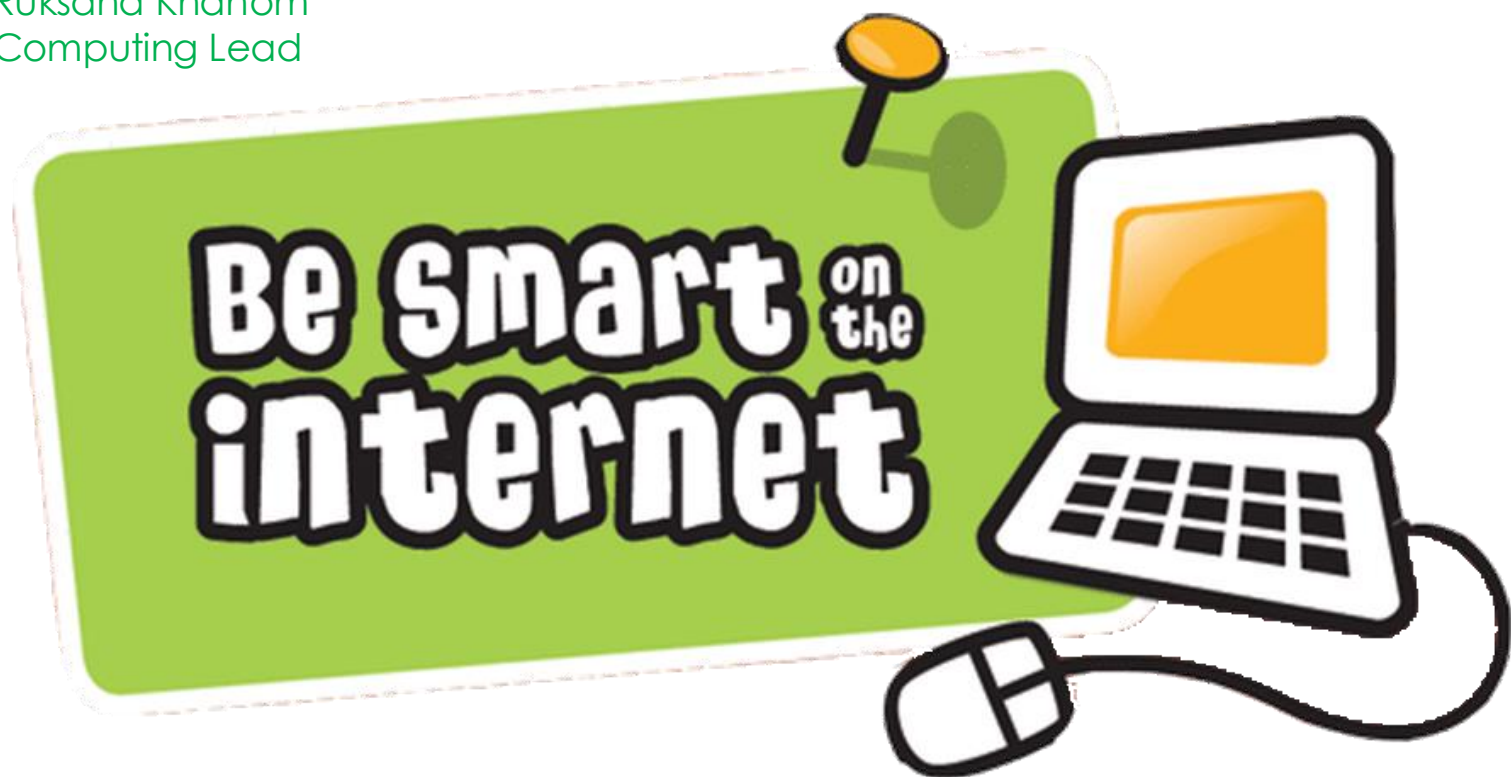
As we approach the half-term break, we would like to remind you of the importance of keeping children safe online. With children likely to spend more time using devices, playing online games and watching videos, it is important to remain aware of what they are accessing and who they may be communicating with.

We encourage you to regularly talk to your children about their online experiences, remind them not to share personal information and ensure that the games, apps and websites they use are age-appropriate. Setting sensible screen-time limits, checking privacy settings and encouraging regular breaks can also help children develop healthy digital habits.

Most importantly, remind your child that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsafe, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children stay safe, happy and responsible online. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable half-term break!

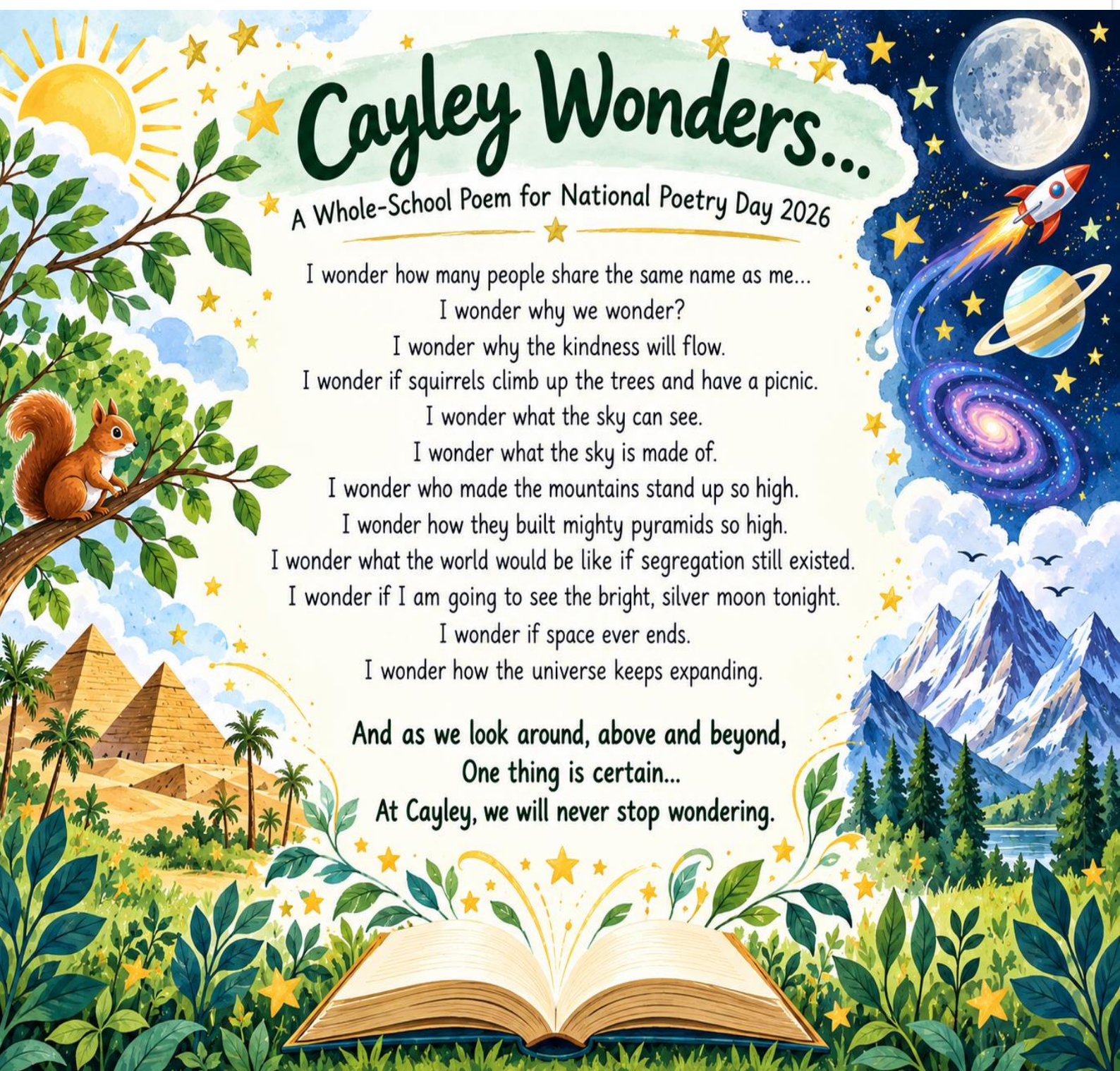
Ruksana Khanom
Computing Lead





National Poetry Day 2026

To celebrate National Poetry Day, the school came created a collaborative poem entitled 'Cayley Wonders...' Each class was challenged to complete the sentence "I wonder...", using their curiosity and imagination to explore the world around them. Their contributions were brought together to create one very special whole-school poem, reminding us that at Cayley, we will never stop wondering!



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