Hargrave Park School
We Aim High

Friday 16th October

Message from Miss Baverstock

Children continue to celebrate Black History Month. See page 5 for some book recommendations and page 10 for an insight into the learning that has been happening in EYFS and Key Stage 1.

We continue to work in partnership with families. It was great to see so many families at the consultation meetings with teachers last week. It is so powerful for the children to know that their teachers and families are working together. There were many conversations about attendance; the school is here to support you to get your child to school every day. Speak with your child's class teacher or a member of staff in the playground if there is a barrier that you think we can help with. A sense of belonging fosters good attendance and of course it works the other way too – good attendance fosters that sense of belonging, becoming a positive spiral – with a positive impact on progress.

Another opportunity to work in partnership are the phonics workshops – with a chance to see a phonics lesson in action with the class teacher. The next one will be for Blue Class families - see page 8 for details including how to book.

And of course we are always looking for volunteers to support events. Please see the FOHP page to find out how to get involved. The anticipation is building for the Spooky and Sparkly disco on Thursday 22nd for children in Year 1 – Year 5…!

Upcoming events

Week beginning 19th October
Year 6 to Cardfields
Year 5 Bikeability
Tue 20th Oct **Red** and Blue Classes trip Whittington Park
Wed 21st Oct Y3/4 girls football comp
Thu 22nd Oct Spooky and Sparkly Disco

Week beginning 26th October
Half term holiday
Monday 2nd Nov – INSET Day
Tues 3rd Nov – Children return to school
Thur 5th Nov Flu vaccination catch up
Mon 9th Nov Maamulaha football
Wed 11th Nov **Red Class Assembly**

Week beginning 16th November
Violet Class Swimming
Thur 19th Nov Bright futures clinic

Week beginning 23rd November
Purple Class Swimming
Wed 25th Nov **Indigo Class Assembly**

In the Newsletter today:

P1- Message from Miss Baverstock, dates
P2, 3 – Attendance Matters
P4 - safeguarding
P5 and 6 – Messages from the library – BHM and half term special!
P7 – A message from our SENCO
P8 – Phonics workshops
P9 –Friends of Hargrave Park
P10 – Black History Month: EYFS & KS1
P11 and 12 –Under 3s
P13 - Habits of Mind: persistence

Hargrave Park School
We Aim High

Friday 16th October

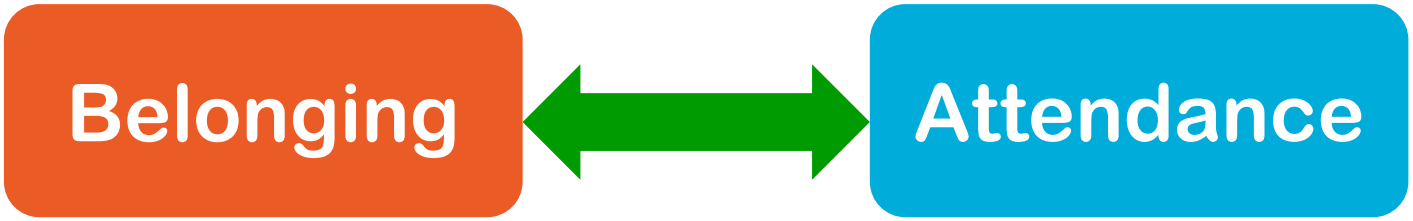
Improving school attendance

Remember…
Research shows that children who attend regularly:

- **Achieve well in school**
- **Find it easier to maintain friendships**
- **Have more opportunity for social events**

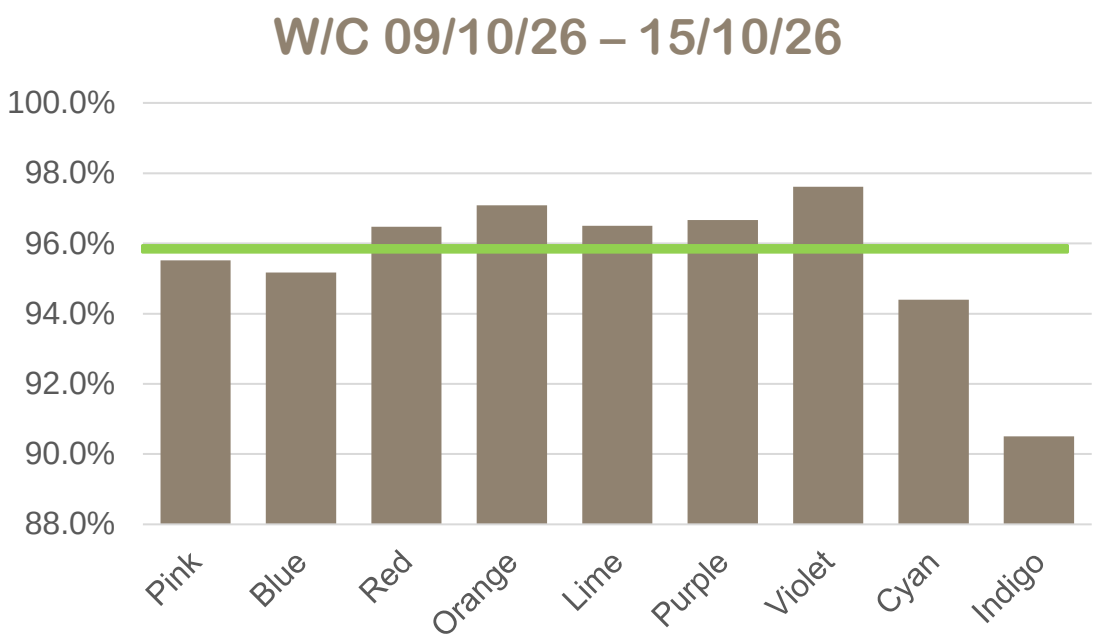
There are currently
139 pupils exceeding the 96% attendance target.
There are 92 pupils with 100% attendance.

It is also great to see five classes with over 96% attendance.
The focus on attendance is working.
Thank you children, families and teachers for working together on this.



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Attendance Matters



Best Class Attendance

Well done to Violet class.
They achieved 97.6% attendance this week

Prepare the Night Before
Lay out your clothes, pack your school bag, and put your PE kit in your bag to reduce morning tasks.

Have a Consistent Bedtime
Establish a regular bedtime to get adequate sleep and wake up feeling refreshed and ready for the day.

Set Alarms
Use an alarm clock to help wake you up at the right time and act as a reminder to keep moving through your morning routine.

Avoid Distractions
Stay focused on getting ready to leave for school and avoid getting side-tracked by screens or other distractions.

Be Ready Early
Aim to finish your morning tasks a few minutes before you need to leave

Involve the whole Family
Make being on time a family commitment and work together to establish a routine that everyone can follow.

Email your appointment letters to:
parents@hargravepark.islington.sch.uk

Hargrave Park School
We Aim High

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Friday 16th October

Keeping Our Children Safe Online: A Note for KS2 Parents

While technology offers great ways to learn and play, we are seeing more pupils using social media and group apps like WhatsApp unsupervised. When primary-aged children access these platforms, they can face risks they aren't yet emotionally ready for—including cyberbullying, exclusion from group chats, peer pressure, and exposure to inappropriate content.

Please note that platforms like WhatsApp, TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram have a legal minimum age limit of 13.

Safety tips:

- Keep devices downstairs: charge phones and tablets in a shared family room overnight.
- Check settings: ensure privacy controls are strictly set and location-sharing is turned off.
- Talk open-endedly: remind your child they can come to you if anything online makes them uncomfortable.
- Block straight away: as soon as unhealthy messaging is received

Practical support for families:

- Internet Matters: *internetmatters.org*
- NSPCC Online Safety: *nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety*
- UK Safer Internet Centre: *saferinternet.org.uk*

SWS
School Wellbeing Service

We work with the Islington School Wellbeing Service who provide early intervention, self-help support for families.

A school wellbeing practitioner work directly with parents to support a child experiencing challenges such as emotional wellbeing, anxiety and resilience.

If you would like to be considered for this 1:1, parent support, please contact a DSL at Hargrave Park.

For more information:
https://londonwaitingroom.nhs.uk/icamhs-sws

Dates for the next few months:

National awareness days and campaigns are opportunities to start conversations and raise awareness.

- October: Black History Month
- November 13th: Children in Need
- November 16th: Anti-Bullying Week
- February 1st: Children's Mental Health Week
- March 15th: Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- February: LGBT History Month

These dates offer excellent opportunities to spark conversations, reduce stigma and celebrate diversity!

Hargrave Park School
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Friday 16th October 2026

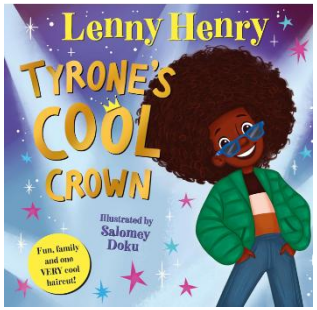
B:M2026

Celebrating black history month, we have many aspirational books to explore in our library, free to borrow and take home.

Recommended for Reception and KS1

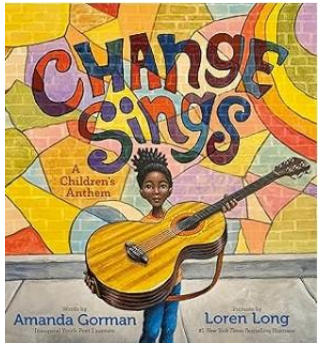
Ari finds that when you look around, life is full of celebrations, each moment bursting with colour and joy - just like a handful of confetti.



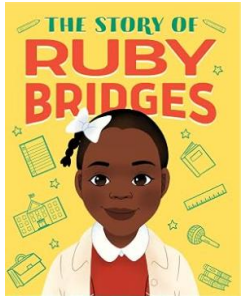


Tyrone and Grandad Cleveland are off on a new adventure, this time to the barbershop.

This lyrical picture book has an empowering and joyful message



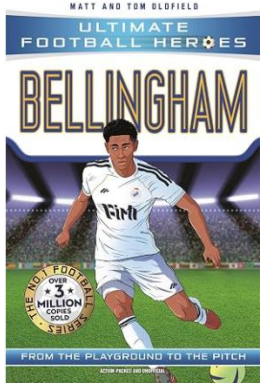
Recommended for LKS2

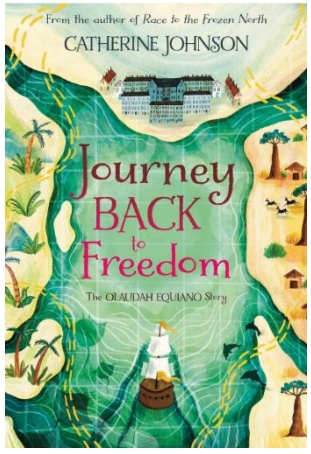


Ruby Bridges was the first Black student to attend an all-white public school in America.

Recommended for UKS2

Discover the story of how Jude Bellingham became Real Madrid's superstar midfielder and one of England's biggest hopes for the 2026 World Cup.





An incredible true story of Olaudah's life from a slave to a free man, by the same author of 'Race to the frozen north'.

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Friday 16th October 2026

Monday 26 October, 2-3.30pm
N4 Library
Make a colourful African necklace from paper plates.

Tuesday 27 October, 2.15-3.30pm
Mildmay Library
Create silhouettes based on inspirational people.

Wednesday 28 October, 2.30-4pm
Lewis Carroll Library
Trace your hands to create a Unity handprint wreath.

Wednesday 28 October, 2-3.30pm
South Library
Make a paper quilt inspired by African-American Gee's quilters.

Thursday 29 October, 2.30-4pm
Cat and Mouse Library
Create paper dolls with batik-inspired bright paper costumes based on artwork by Yinka Shonibare.

Libraries
ReadLearnConnect

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

CHILDREN'S HALF TERM EVENTS IN LIBRARIES



All events are free of charge and are suitable for families with children of all ages.
Places may be limited.

ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

Thursday 29 October, 2.30-4pm
Central Library
Join in the fun making a handprint collage.

Thursday 29 October, 2.30-4pm
North Library
Create a painting inspired by the work of famous Black artists from around the world.

Thursday 29 October, 2.30-4pm
West Library
Create and decorate a crown inspired by the artwork of Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Friday 30 October, 2.30-4pm
Archway Library
Have fun making an African bead and shell mirror.

Friday 30 October, 2-3.30pm
Finsbury Library
Make a collage inspired by the artwork of Lubaina Himid.

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Friday 16th October 2026

A message from our SENDCO: Miss D'Orsi

Information for Families

Is your child on the waiting list for assessment for Autism or ADHD? While you wait, Islington invites you to have a look at their online 'waiting room' which provides families with useful resources and information: https://londonwaitingroom.nhs.uk/islington-neurodivergent-families

Have a look at their 'Parent's Corner' - here you will find further resources, information and a live calendar of events, workshops and groups in which Islington parents can take part: https://londonwaitingroom.nhs.uk/islington-parentcarers-corner

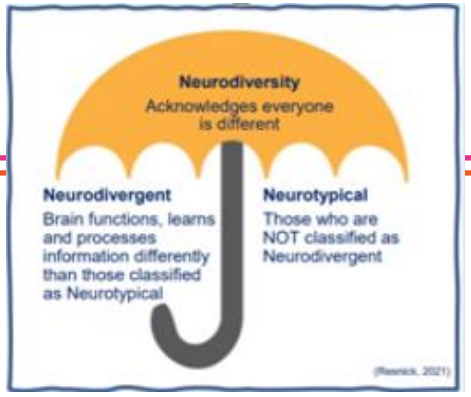
INFORMATION VIDEOS FOR FAMILIES

The Islington CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Team have created video workshops for parents and carers to watch online to learn more about Neurodiversity. The videos include understanding characteristics associated with ADHD, Autism, Sensory Processing, Learning Disability, and Communication. There is also a video about Parenting and Neurodiversity. Have a look at the videos the team have created to learn more about various conditions: https://londonwaitingroom.nhs.uk/icamhs-ndt/workshops

Centre 404

Centre 404 helps parents, carers and families by providing information, advice, guidance and support. The organisation promotes inclusion, and embraces equality and diversity and offer online, telephone and face-to-face advice and support: https://centre404.org.uk/family-carers-and-parents/support-and-information/

CENTRE 404









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Phonic workshops for families

Phonics is a key part of our reading curriculum. Children in Reception and Year One are taught phonic skills to teach them how to read. At Hargrave Park we use a phonic scheme called Little Wandle to do this. We are inviting families of children in Reception and Year One into school this term to learn how we use phonics so you can best support your child at home.

Thank you to the families who joined us yesterday for our workshop for Reception families. We had six families attend. I wonder if we can beat that next week for our Year One workshop….

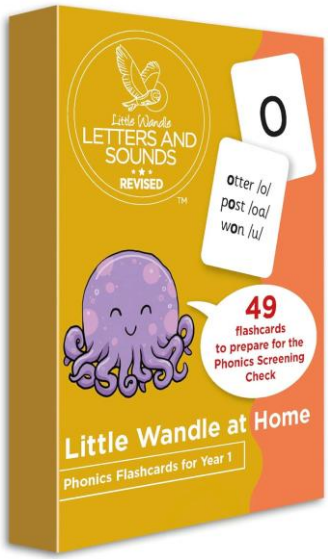
Year One workshop – Thursday 22nd October

This workshop will start at 9am and be 30 minutes with time for questions afterwards.

This session will provide an introduction to phonics here at Hargrave Park with Miss Jones and then a chance to observe a small group take part in a phonics session.

To book a place on a workshop please email parents@hargravepark.Islington.sch.uk with your name.

Families who attend will be given a pack of Little Wandle at home flash cards to take home!



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Our Parent and Staff Association

Friends of Hargrave Park School

Want to get in touch? Email us at: friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com or find us on Instagram

Shopping online can raise free donations for our school

easyfundraising is a hassle-free way to raise money for our school. Just shop online with all your favourite brands as normal, and the they will donate to Friends of Hargrave Park School.

Visit **easyfundraising.org.uk** and search for Friends of Hargrave Park or scan the QR code below.

Once signed up there's nothing to remember. Simply shop online, or via their mobile app.

Get ready for our Sparkly & Spooky Disco

Thursday 22 October, 5.00-6.30pm

We are getting ready to bring some sparkle to the Middle Hall and put the boo into boogie at this year's school disco. Here's what you need to know:

- Please drop off your child to the school office at 5.00pm. You can pay their £3 entry either by cash or scanning the QR Code on the desk.
- To collect your child at 6.30pm, please enter playground via the gate on Bredgar Road, just up from the school office.
- If your child will be joining the disco straight from afterschool club, you can pay their £3 entry at the office, any day next week. Children can change into their costumes before joining the disco.
- There will be prizes for the best fancy dress costumes and the best moves on the dance floor.
- Each £3 entry includes a bag of crisps, fruit, squash, a craft table activity and a rocking playlist.

Please note: the disco will be for years 1 - 5. Nursery and Pink class will have a disco in their classrooms and year 6 will have their disco at Cardfields.

Upcoming Event Dates for your Diary



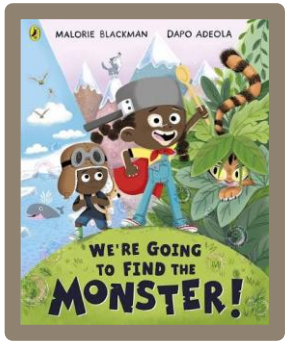
Friends of Hargrave Park School

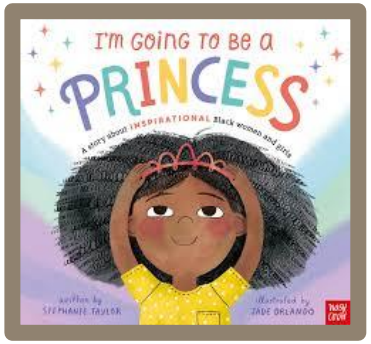
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This Black History Month, EYFS and KS1 have been celebrating the creativity and stories of Black authors and illustrators.

We have explored books written by Black authors and illustrated by Black illustrators, using their work to inspire our learning and help children explore positive role models through stories.





In EYFS, we have been using *We're Going to Find a Monster!* to support our learning.

Inspired by the story, the children created their own monster maps. We also experimented with bubble painting, taking inspiration from the vibrant and expressive illustrations of Dapo Adeola. These activities gave the children an opportunity to explore different artistic techniques while celebrating the creativity of Black illustrators and authors.





In KS1, we have been inspired by the story *I Am Going to Be a Princess*. The children were captivated by Maya's confident and bold personality. Inspired by the book's front cover, we looked closely at the illustrations and created our own "I Can Be Anything!" self portraits. The children used watercolours, taking inspiration from illustrator Jade Orlando. Next, the children will be thinking about what makes them special, writing positive words around their art to describe themselves, just as Maya does in the story.

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Under 3's Friday 16th October

Getting ready for nursery: potty training

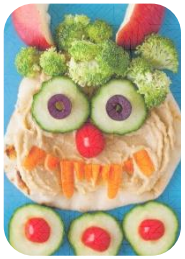
As your child gets ready to move into nursery class, we encourage parents to start thinking about potty training.

We expect children to be fully potty trained after their third birthday, so starting early and taking things at your child's pace can help make the transition easier and more positive.



Every child develops at their own pace, so patience, encouragement and praise are important along the way.
If you have any questions or would like support, please speak to your child's key person, who will be happy to help.

Half-term cooking at home: Hummus Monster



Make a spooky Halloween hummus monster using hummus cucumber, carrot, cherry tomatoes and wholemeal crackers or pitta.

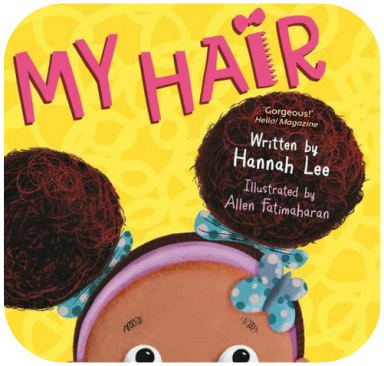
Let children create the monster's face, then pretend to be Halloween chefs and serve their creations at a Spooky café!



Toddler's pizza parlour activity

Toddlers can have fun exploring "All About Me" by looking in the mirror, making funny faces and using pizza toppings to create their own face

It's a fun way to talk about our faces, recognise different features and get creative with food!



Black History Month

This Black History Month, our Under 3s team will be exploring the lovely book *My Hair* as part of our **"All About Me"** theme.

Through stories, pictures and fun activities, we will help children build confidence, develop their identity and celebrate what makes them unique.

The children will explore different hair types and styles through role-play using a hairdresser kit, including brushes, combs and a hairdryer. They will also learn new words such as curly, straight, long, short and braid, supporting their communication and language development.

Through all these experiences, we will celebrate diversity, encourage children to appreciate differences and help them feel proud of who they are.

Hargrave Park School
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Under 3's Friday 16th October

Bright Start ISLINGTON



Extra Boost (SEND)

For Islington Parents with children under 5 with additional needs

Extra boost is a specialist group activity for under 5's with additional needs and who benefit from a quieter space where their individual needs can be met.

Sessions will help your child to:

- Feel comfortable playing and exploring in a small group
- Build attention during play
- Experience taking turns when playing

Sessions will help you to:

- Learn more about how your child communicates and further support your child's communication development
- Share any concerns and experiences with the practitioners and other parents
- Interact with your child in a calm environment

Mondays

10-11.30am

Family Hub North at Hornsey Road Children's Centre, N7 7EN

For more information email:
brightstart@islington.gov.uk

What's on for families this month in Islington

Information, Advice & Guidance Surgery
Family Support Surgeries provide families with advice and support from a Family Engagement Worker on a range of issues, including parenting, money worries, employment or training, children's behaviour, emotional wellbeing, housing, and other family challenges.
Mondays 10:00am-11:30am Archway Children's Centre



Under 1's Breath, Stretch & Flow
Take part in gentle stretching, core-strengthening, and cardiovascular
exercises to boost energy, improve wellbeing, and restore muscle strength and fitness.
Wednesdays, 11:15am–12:15pm at Andover Community Centre

0-5's Reggae Aerobics
Move to the beat, build confidence, develop motor skills,
and enjoy quality family time through fun reggae-inspired movement, simple aerobic exercises, music, and a welcoming environment for all abilities.
Wednesday from 9:45–10:45am at Andover Community Centre

Child Health Clinic
For Islington Families with children under 5
Do you have questions about: Health, Growth, Development, or just want to weigh your baby?
Drop In at a clinic :
Tuesdays Archway Children's Centre 1.30-3.30pm

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Friday 16th October

At Hargrave Park, we encourage children to keep trying, even when things are challenging. **Persistence** helps children develop resilience and find ways to overcome difficulties. It encourages children to learn from mistakes, try different strategies and keep going when things do not work the first time. By developing persistence, children become confident in their ability to face challenges, solve problems and achieve their goals.

Habits of Mind



Persistence

When might we use this habit?

We might show this habit when we are...

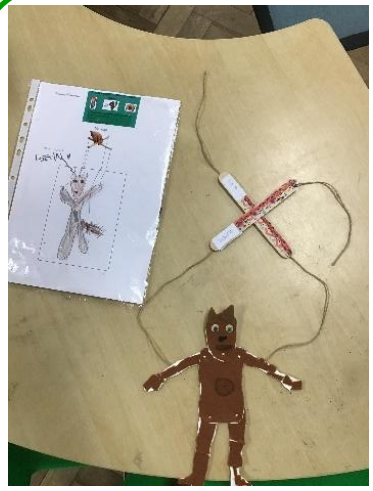
- practising a new skill that we find tricky at first
- trying different ways to complete a challenge
- completing a puzzle and we cannot find the answer straight away
- working on something that is not going to plan
- trying again after making a mistake
- finishing a task that is taking longer than we expected

What does this Habit of Mind mean?



Persistence means...

- keeping going when something feels difficult
- trying again when things do not work the first time
- staying focused on what we are trying to achieve
- finding different ways to overcome challenges
- learning from mistakes and using them to improve
- being patient and not giving up



Habit in action!



This week, Lara in Blue Class demonstrated **Persistence** and resilience while creating her traditional tale character puppet.

There were times where it did not go to plan, but she persevered through the challenges of cutting felt, gluing the pieces together and carefully attaching all the body parts.