

WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

On Friday 19th May we celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity at Oswald Road. One of the best things about our school is the wide range of cultures represented in our children, parents and staff, and we wanted to show off this amazing diversity with a full day of celebrations! Each class had at least one parent volunteer in to deliver a workshop on a particular culture, and there was an amazing variety of activities on offer! From a chapati-making masterclass, to singing songs in Krio from Sierra Leone, and from stories of a World War 2 refugee from Spain, to Zambian dancing, the children were well and truly taken on a journey around the world from the comfort of their classrooms! A huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who came into class, and anyone who provided foods from around the world for the children to taste. Head to our website or Facebook page to see all of the photos!



VEGAN TEA PARTY

Year 6 had a great day on Tuesday 16th May, thanks to a visit from the Vegan Organic Network (VON). Activities were led by costumed characters, and included rickshaw rides, food demonstrations, circus skills, willow weaving, and bunting making. During the day the VON team also taught us about about veganism, growing food, healthy eating, sustainability and active lifestyles.

The children's crafty creations will be used to decorate the VON Manchester Vegan Fair, which will take place at Oswald Road on Saturday 27th May. The day will feature a host of family-friendly attractions, with something for everyone, including an outdoor stage, live music, street theatre, film shows and talks. There'll be more than 100 stalls, fabulous international vegan cuisine, ice cream, cooking demos and a beer tent. There'll also be face and body painting, rickshaw rides, circus skills and loads more!



Ivy brought some of the props and photos from the film into school (above)

IVY'S STARRING ROLE!

One of our talented Year 5 pupils, Ivy Mattingly, has landed a starring role in an independent British film, which was shown this week at the Cannes Film Festival. The production is a modern adaptation of classic ghost story 'The Turn of the Screw', and although the film has some scary parts, Ivy insists: "It wasn't scary to film at all, it so much fun!" Following her movie debut, Ivy was invited to attend this year's Cannes Film Festival with her mum. Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for photos from her exciting trip!



KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON!

Year 3 had a great time on their trip to Stockport Air Raid Shelters this term, which was part of their topic on World War 2. During the trip the children explored the various tunnels that made up the air raid shelter, and sang songs from the war, such as 'Run Rabbit Run'. They got to see the toilets, sleeping areas and where people received medical attention when they were forced to take shelter during an air raid. The children then danced the Hokey Pokey, which the World War 2 nurses did to keep their spirits up, and got to look at real life gas masks, helmets and air raid sirens.

"The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, from singing the songs and trying on the gas mask, to getting a real insight into the harsh, unpleasant conditions that people had to endure only several decades ago. The guides stayed in character throughout too which the children enjoyed."- Miss Grant

"It was so amazing to see where people had to shelter during the air raids. I didn't realise how dark and cold it would be!"

"I loved singing all the World War 2 songs and dancing the Hokey Pokey!"



YEAR 1 'PLACES OF WORSHIP' TRIPS

As part of their RE topic for this half term, Year 1 have been learning about various sacred places. Throughout the half term they have visited a range of local places of worship in order to make comparisons between them and find out why they are so special to families from our school. The series of visits started with a trip to the church of St Clements in the first week of term, where the children were given a tour of the church, looking at important features such as the font.

"It was really fun getting to go to visit a church and learn about what happens there. My favourite thing was trying on the different clothes. It was really good when we listened to the bells, and finding out that the different rings send messages to people and invite people to come to church."



Next up was a trip to the Gita Bhavan Hindu Temple, where two fantastic parent helpers spoke about the different Hindu gods and statues, and why the flowers and food were placed in front of the gods in the temple.



"It was good to get to go to the Hindu temple and learn about the different gods. My favourite statue of a god was of Ganesha, which had an elephant head on a human body."



"We saw Rama and Sita, which we did in English. I liked it when I got the bindi on my forehead."



CHICK, CHICK, CHICK, CHICK, CHICKEN!

A few lucky classes in school were visited by some feathered friends this term. Mr Hearnshaw brought in nine chicken eggs so that the children could learn about where chickens come from. The eggs' first home in their incubator was in Year 1, where the children were taught all about how to keep the eggs safe before they hatched. The eggs were then moved into 2JD, where one very exciting Thursday morning the eggs began to hatch, producing some very cute baby chicks! As the chicks grew bigger they were moved up to a Year 5 classroom, before finally being returned to their forever home to live as happy free-range chickens!



YEAR 6 WELLBEING DAY

After a busy week of SATs, Year 6 were treated to wellbeing day on Thursday 18th May. Activities included gardening with Mr McManus, art therapy with Mrs Carter, biscuit decorating with Miss Cameron and a game of cricket on the Field of Os with Mr Beisly. There was also a session on mindfulness with Mrs Wealleans and Mrs Turner, where the children learnt relaxation techniques for reducing stress, such as back massages.

"I loved the massage. It was tickly but calming at the same time!"- Ruby 6NG

"The gardening was really fun because we got to talk to our friends whilst doing something relaxing."- Sylvie 6NG

"I like the fact that we get to do fun things like this after SATs. The cricket was definitely the best bit, it was really fun!"- Uzair 6CK

"The good thing about wellbeing day is that there are loads of different activities, so if you don't really enjoy one that much then you can always look forward to the next thing...like biscuit making!"- Katie 6CK



How did we take care of your wellbeing during the SATs?

"The SATs breakfast club made us feel chilled out, and all the teachers were very comforting. They told us that however we did in the tests the most important thing was that we had tried our best."

Nancy 6CK



"After every test we did something calming, like colouring or watching a film." Jessica 6CK

"Our teachers would give us last minute tips just before the tests so that helped us to prepare."

Elijah 6CK

"Our teachers kept telling us that the SATs would be over really quickly and that we would all be fine. They reassured us and told us not to worry."

Amal 6KR



"The breakfast club helped to give me more energy and it gave us a chance to relax and talk to our friends before we started the tests." Yusuf 6CK



"We got lots of treats during SATs week to keep us motivated, like extra long playtimes!" Luna 6CK

RUN, MISS DAVIS, RUN!

Our super sporty teacher Miss Davis will be running the Great North Run in September in aid of NSPCC. If you would like to sponsor her, please go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Channi-Davis. Miss Davis is also planning on holding a special sporty fundraising event in school to raise even more money for the children's charity. Details to follow... watch this space!



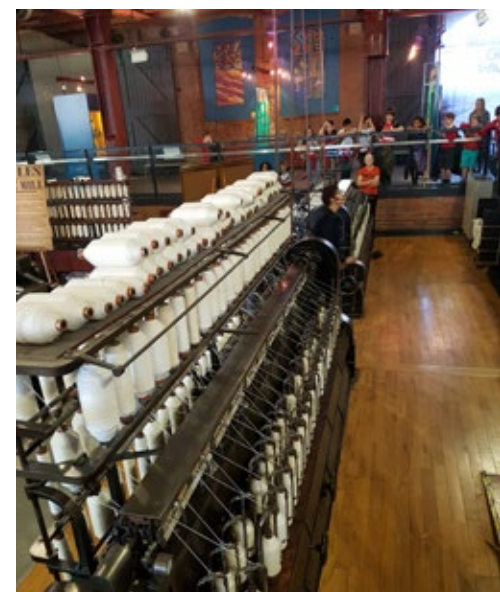
YEAR 5 MOSI TRIP

Earlier this term Year 5 went on an exciting trip to the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), where they watched a show linked to their science topic on changes of state.

After the show the children spent time touring the museum, including the 'explore' section, and paid a visit to the textiles gallery, which linked to their 'Cottonpolis' topic all about the history of the textile industry in Manchester.

Mrs McArdle said: "The pupils loved the explosions as part of the science show. The other shows we watched about Manchester's history were really interesting, and made our children very thankful not to be working as a mill help in the 19th century!"

"I really enjoyed the trip because we got to take photos and I learnt a lot. My favourite part was the explosions because there was a lot of fire and loud noise." - Keir 5WM



OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM...

Nursery had a fantastic time on their trip to Smithills Farm last week! During the action-packed day the children enjoyed donkey rides, feeding the animals and a tractor ride. They then spent time in the reptile area learning all about snakes and lizards, and got to stroke lots of animals in the pets corner, including lamas, chicks, rabbits, guinea pigs and owls. There was also a demonstration on how cows are milked using a special machine- we liked learning where the milk we drink in the morning comes from!



"I liked the farm! I liked holding the chicks. The tractor ride was fun." – Aisha Rauf

"The trip was brilliant! There was lots to see and do. It was very well organised by the Smithills farm staff. They guided us through every part of the trip, explaining what was going to happen next. The pets corner was my favourite part!" – Mrs Iqbal

INDIAN DRUMMING

A big thank you to Marvi's dad, who came into Nursery and Reception as part of our World Day for Cultural Diversity celebrations to give us an Indian drumming performance. We loved dancing along to the music!



My Story as an International New Arrival

by Adwita Govindarajan



When did you join Oswald Road Primary School?

I joined this school in February 2017. I remember because it was very cold!

Where did you live before you came to the UK?

I lived in a big city called Chennai in the South of India. The weather was very, very hot – sometimes it was too hot and we had to use lots of fans to keep cool! I was born in Chennai and some of my family still live there.



What language do you speak at home?

At home, we speak Tamil and sometimes we also speak Hindi. When we watch cartoons at home we watch them in English. My little brother loves to watch Peppa Pig it really helps him to understand English! When all the family watches a movie, we watch it in Tamil on the laptop. My dad likes to watch Bollywood movies in Hindi too.

Could you speak or understand English before you came to Manchester?

I could speak some English but my English is much better now since I started at Oswald Road school. When I was in school in India we would often do our lessons in English and if I didn't understand something then the teachers would explain it in Tamil.

How did you feel on your first day at Oswald Road Primary School?

I felt quite excited but also quite nervous. If I'm honest, I was a little scared. I remember that we did PE on the first day and that was fun. I made friends on my first day here and the children were very friendly. They said "Can I help you?" and "I can teach you some dance if you would like!" this made me feel happy and nice.

What was the hardest thing about starting a new school in a new country?

It was pretty scary to start because it was very different to my school in India. Oswald Road is much bigger than the school that I went to and I was worried about getting lost!

What was the first word that you learnt in English?

I remember learning the word 'demonstrated' when I started this school – it was nice to learn a new word!

How different is the UK to your home country?

It's really not that different, apart from the weather! It rains a lot more in Manchester and it isn't as warm. I saw snow for the first time this year and that was really fun. I had only seen snow on TV before I came to live in the UK.



What is your favourite thing about living in the UK?



It's not too hot! I like English chocolate, my favourites are Bounty and Galaxy. I love the parks in Manchester, they are much bigger than the ones in India and there are no mosquitos here.

I enjoy going to the swimming pools in Manchester but my favourite thing is travelling on a double decker bus!

What do you miss most about the country that you came from?

My friends – I still speak to them on the phone but I miss them.

I also miss my family and my Uncle's younger brother (he is really cute and dances whenever you play rock music).

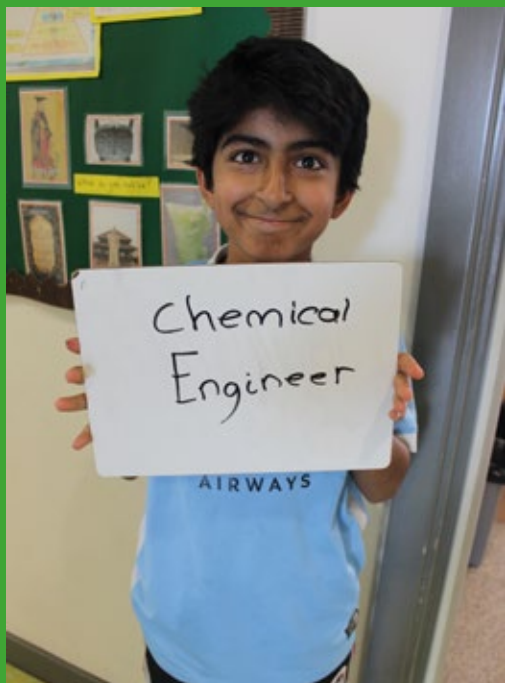
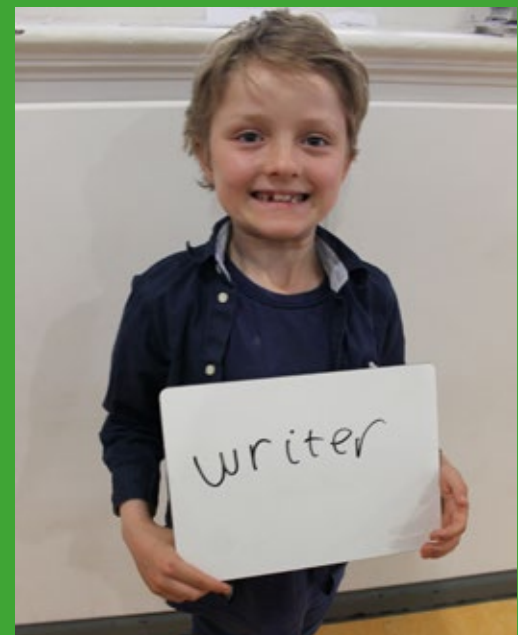
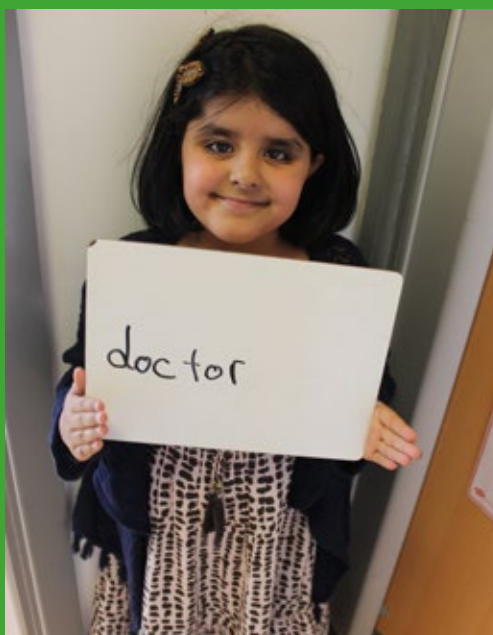
I also miss my house but my naughty little brother would sometimes scribble on the wall!



Please be reminded that you can now pay for trips and school visits via SIMS Agora. A link to the payment system can be found on the homepage of our website. It is quick and easy to use, so no need to dig out loose change from your wallet at the reception desk!



What do you want to be when you grow up?



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Mrs Howard- Headteacher

Monday 15th May

Well, it's my first day back at Oswald Road and I am a mixture of excited, nervous and sad to leave my baba! I stayed at my mum's house overnight to make the first morning that little bit easier...

5:50am - Dad brings me a brew (much better treatment than I get at home!)

7:00am - Arrive in school. Lovely to see everyone and as always, our staff are so welcoming and caring.

7:30am - Not too sure where to start, so decide to begin by looking at the results from our recent Parental Survey, which our Communications Manager Ellie Linton has provided me with. Read over and highlighted the key points ready to discuss with Ellie in our weekly meeting tomorrow.

8:00am - Have a look at emails and answer what's needed. See staff who pop in with any questions.

8:20am - Look at 'inbox@' emails. These are read each morning by Sarah Nicholls (our School Business Manager) and sent to me. Act as appropriate on emails received.

8:45am - Met with a parent, then met with children.

9:30am - Met with Sarah Nicholls. This is our weekly meeting where we discuss budget, health and safety, policies and general information. These are usually an hour but this week it lasted longer as I had lots to catch up on! During the meeting I wanted to know more about and discuss in more detail our current position of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium monies. At 11am we had a break and planned to meet again at midday.

11:00am - Much needed coffee! I catch up on emails. This included offering a tea party for the PTA's Auction of Promises. Was thrilled to see so many staff then offer their services for parties. Pop round school to see children.

11:45am - Meeting with a member of staff.

12:00pm - Met with Sarah Nicholls again and discussed in detail Pupil Premium and Sports Premium.

1:30pm - Catch up on emails and any issues needing attention.

2:00pm - Met with Sarah Turner and Jon Beisly to organise how our roles will be shared up to summer.

3:00pm - Pop round school to see children and get feeling of school.

3:30pm - Out on the playground to see children and parents.

4:00pm - Final catch up on any things that need dealing with and putting into place for rest of day. Meeting with a member of staff.

4:30pm - Leave school. I'd forgotten how awful the traffic is getting back to Stockport!

At home: After enjoying feeding my little one her tea, giving her a bath and her bottle, I set off to try and get on top of work. Head obviously buzzing with lots I want to do!

I work on things that have cropped up over the day, such as items that were in my head that I wanted to ask about or set the ball rolling with. I ensure my emails are up to date (answered and actioned).

Feels like I've never been away! :)

