

NEWSLETTER

Inspiration and Success



CULTURALLY SPEAKING

Our hallways and classrooms were filled with an international atmosphere on Culturally Speaking Day, this month.

The celebration provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience food, language, crafts and much more from different cultures around the world.

The children enjoyed a wonderfully diverse day of international culture, with parents and carers helping to teach Arabic, French, Dutch, Spanish and Creole/Patois.



Thank you so much to the parents and carers who shared their language skills and supported us in school on the day.



For more information, look out for the Culturally Speaking Day display on the stairwell near the leadership room.

SUMMER MODERATION

The summer term is always busy and, like all other schools up and down the country, we have been looking at where our children are up to in their learning, carrying out assessments and submitting our data to the Department for Education.

We were really lucky to have been selected for moderation in EYFS and Year 2, as this gave us the opportunity to share all of our fantastic work with the moderation team. We felt that it was important to have the same recognition for Year 6 and so we requested additional moderation visits to cover SATs and Year 6 writing. Having this external verification is great professional development for the staff involved, it makes our procedures transparent and, most importantly, recognises the amazing dedication of our whole school community to delivering engaging, high quality learning opportunities for our fabulous children.

We are delighted to share with you the very positive outcomes of all of our moderation visits.

In EYFS, the moderator highlighted the class teachers' understanding and awareness of all the children in our setting as being a key strength. They commended the way in which the staff supplied a detailed picture of individual children's attainment and thoroughly enjoyed looking at the evidence of learning provided. *(Continued overleaf...)*



THE GREAT OSWALD ROAD BAKE OFF!

Let's take a look at the Y5 & Y6 entries that put Mary Berry to shame! *(More inside...)*



SUMMER MODERATION (*continued*)

In Year 2, the moderator spent the day with the class teachers and looked at a large sample of work, including books, teacher assessments and recorded evidence on iPads. He agreed with the judgements made by our teachers and was very pleased with the standard of work that he saw. Our teachers were again able to discuss the attainment of individual children in great detail.

In Year 6, we were visited twice, as requested. The first visit was during SATs week and this looked at the practice employed by the school to deliver the national assessments under fair conditions. We were able to demonstrate that all assessments were being kept securely and in line with statutory guidance and that the delivery of the assessments met the standards required. Our children coped brilliantly with having a special visitor calling in unannounced and it didn't put them off at all! Our second moderation involved looking at the standard of writing across Year 6 and we are pleased to say that the moderator commended the "significant amount of quality writing" that he was able to look at.

It has been absolutely brilliant to have external verification of the wonderful practice that we know occurs here on a daily basis. Our staff and children work extremely hard every day and we couldn't be more proud. What a fantastic end to a fantastic year in our new school!

Deborah Howard and Laura Flynn

WHAT A CLANGER!

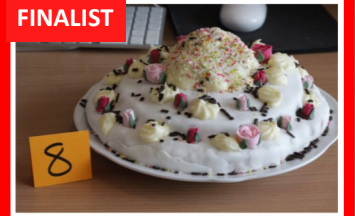
On Sunday 14th June, Oswald Road took part in the Manchester Day Parade, only one of two primary schools to do so.

There were hundreds of people taking part and literally thousands watching - the atmosphere was amazing!

The theme was "Game On" and we worked with two community artists, Jo and Fi, to create "debris" from games that had floated off to the Clangers' planet. We were helping the Clangers tidy up pieces of Minecraft and Connect 4 with huge nets!

We were rather upstaged though by two huge inflatable Clangers, but a fantastic day was had by all!





Well done to all the Year 5 & 6 teams that entered!



**The Mystery of Cake 23
Possible Theories:**

- A) Was not photographed!
- B) Never existed...
- C) Was SO good that it was eaten immediately!



SUMMER FAIR

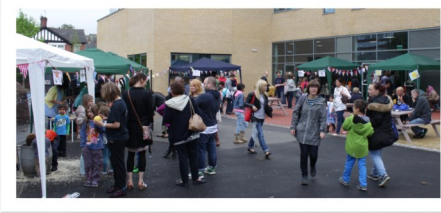
THANK YOU EVERYONE!

This year's Summer Fair might not have been the sunniest we've ever seen, but it was the school's most successful fair to date in terms of fun had and money raised for Oswald Road!

Thanks to everyone's hard work and all of you who came to show your support, we raised a total of £2982.41, which will all go towards the continuing development of the school playground.

This year alone, our wonderful PTA (FORS) has raised over £12,000!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped organise the event and to those who came along (in the drizzling rain!) to support the fair and our school.



NETWORK CHOIR HAVE FACES FOR RADIO!

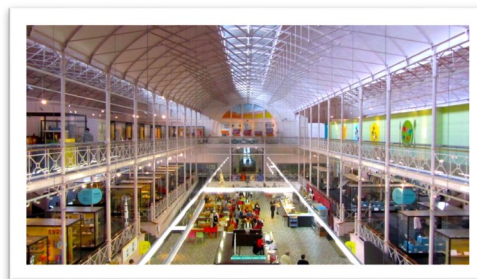
The Manchester Network Choir, which includes children from Oswald Road, were recently headhunted by award-winning folk artists to record a song for BBC Radio 2.

The choir sang an old hymn, "Whither, Pilgrim, Are You Going?" that migrant children would sing as they left their home country in hope of a better life. Sadly, the reality was somewhat a different story.

The song will be played on BBC Radio 2 some time in October and also at the V and A museum of Childhood, in Bethnal Green, at an exhibition on child migration.

It was a real honour for us to be asked and an great experience to take part in a professional recording. The recording artists said they were the best children's choir they had ever heard!

**BBC
RADIO**



FRED BOWLS OVER LANCASHIRE!

Congratulations to one of our young and talented Year 5's, Fred Ashby, who has been snapped up by Lancashire County Cricket Club! Fred's love of cricket, along with his natural talent for the sport, has seen him most recently play against Cheshire, taking three catches (one of which sent the son of former England captain, Michael Vaughan, back to the clubhouse!).

We wish Fred the very best of luck in his next match against Warwickshire!



THANKS MR GIBB!

Thank you to former pupil and Bee Gee, Barry Gibb, for our wonderful steel pans!

The children have really enjoyed perfecting their musical skills due to Mr Gibb's recent donation to the school.

KATIE FUNDRAISES OVER £1000!

We're very proud of Katie Pool, one of our Year 1 students, who has been doing some fabulous fundraising for charity!

Katie raised a whopping £900 through the Junior Manchester Run in May, along with another £135 from her sponsored read.

Well done Katie!



RECEPTION'S SUMMER SPORTS DAY

Our Reception children enjoyed a sports day to remember as the sun shone down on the Field of Oz, the green space just over the road from our school.

Our athletes ran, jumped and bounced around each activity station, which included an egg and spoon race as well as a dress-up relay!

Thank you to everyone who came to show their support!



We ended the afternoon with a graduation ceremony, which saw the children, complete with their very own graduation caps, perform a celebratory song and tell the proud crowd of parents and carers what they had achieved during their time in Reception. Here's to a wonderful summer and best of luck to all our students in their first year of primary school!



YEAR 6's LAKE DISTRICT ADVENTURE WEEKEND

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a thrilling weekend in the Lakes, staying for three nights at Ghyll Head, an activity centre on the edge of Lake Windermere.

Arriving on a Friday afternoon, they began with some orienteering and, over the course of the weekend, took part in a wide range of activities, including: zip-wiring, underground caving, canoeing, hiking and scrambling.

It was a fantastic way for the children to learn new skills and experience the great outdoors to their fullest. Thank you to the children for being so well-behaved and to our teachers for helping make this a such memorable trip for our Year 6's!



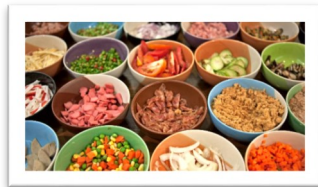
MELA EVENT - WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER

In the autumn, we'll be having a Multicultural Mela (gathering) to celebrate the cultural diversity in our school. We would love to hear from parents, relatives and their friends in the community who might have any ideas or skills to offer at this event.

Can you play a musical instrument? Perhaps you could show us your brilliant cooking skills? It could be anything, from Mendhi hand-painting to doing an arts and crafts activity with the children. Please contact us to get involved!

The World Café has been very popular in the past; for this, we will need contributions from different cultures, so please start having a think about what kinds of delicious treats you might be able to provide. Thank you!

The Parental Links Team (contact: s.greenway@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk)

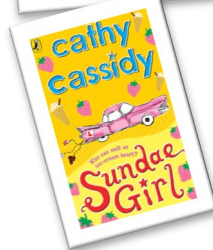
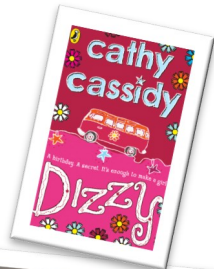


CATHY CASSIDY VISITS YEAR 5 & 6

British children's author, Cathy Cassidy, paid our Year 5 and 6 children a visit to give an inspirational talk about her life, books and the ways that children can use their imagination to create stories of their own.

Children from St John's RC Primary School also joined us for the talk.

Cathy's books have been sold worldwide and she regularly travels to talk with her audience about how daydreaming can be a useful tool for the creative mind. For more information about the author and her collection of books, visit www.cathycassidy.com



MOBILE FARM VISIT!

Our Nursery children were treated to a visit from a mobile farm, giving them a chance to see some of their favourite farmyard animals up close!



A YEAR AT OSWALD ROAD

The end of this school term is the perfect time to look back and reflect; here's what some of our teachers had to say about their first year at Oswald Road.

ADAM TENNANT (YEAR 1 TEACHER)

I have been teaching Year 1 since February and it's been a brilliant few months. I have learnt a lot about being a good teacher, but I have also learnt about being a part of such a strong team.

Oswald Road's staff have been very supportive in my first few months of being a teacher and I will happily take advice and newly found skills to my new teaching job in Kendal!

It is clear at Oswald Road that all of it's staff are there for the children and everyone works hard to encourage the best from them. I have really enjoyed teaching 1AT (formerly 1GM), and I will miss them all; it has been lovely to see the progress that the children have made.

I would just like to say thank you to all of the staff, children and parents for accepting me as part of this brilliant school and community, and I hope that one day in the future I will see you all again.

All the best.

Mr Tennant.

NATALIE GLENDON (RECEPTION TEACHER)

The past couple of weeks, my class have been reflecting on their time in Reception. They have thought about what they have enjoyed most, what they are proud of and what they are looking forward to next year. I thought it was only fair that I do the same!

There have been lots of things I have enjoyed this year at Oswald Road. We Love Oswald Road Day was a lovely opportunity to celebrate how far our school has come and show off the school we all love. The buzz in the school on this particular day was something that has stuck with me; a happy, friendly and supportive place to be.

As a whole, the Reception Team are extremely proud of how hard our children have worked this year. We have tried to make learning as exciting and enjoyable as we possibly could, with Superhero Week standing out to be the favourite for most!

It is lovely to work with different year groups to widen my experience and professional development, so I am very excited to be working in the Nursery next year with Miss Tracanna. We worked together to allocate the class list and it has been fantastic to be able to meet our new children already in their own homes. Also, as I am part of the PE team, I would love to be involved with an after school club (watch this space!).

As lead of EYFS, Mrs Woolf has been brilliant this year. The continuous support and encouragement she has given me has been greatly appreciated and I just wanted to say a special THANK YOU to her.

Finally, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everybody for making me feel so welcome at your school. I look forward to meeting even more new faces next year!



A YEAR AT OSWALD ROAD (continued...)

The end of this school term is the perfect time to look back and reflect; here's what some of our teachers had to say about their year at Oswald Road.

PAUL SALISBURY (YEAR 4 TEACHER)

Wow, this year has flown by!

I've had a fantastic first year at Oswald Road (the first of many, hopefully). The staff have really made this school a funny and enjoyable place to work, and I feel that I've made some genuine friends (even if Mr Mac beats me at pool!).

The level of support I've received throughout the school has been incredible – from Mrs Howard and the other members of SLT, my fellow teachers and TAs, to the lovely supportive comments from parents. It really makes this job easier to know you have that support.

Also, this year has been so much fun! Manchester Day Parade! Girls' football club! Ghyll Head! Christmas Disco DJing! Human fruit machine at the Summer and Christmas fairs! Love it!! But my year has definitely been made by my wonderful class!

They've been superstars, every one of them! No matter how grumpy Mr Salisbury may be, there isn't a day when I don't want to be in that classroom.

LUKE MCDONACH (YEAR 4 TEACHER)

What a year this has been!

Not only has this been my first year at Oswald Road, but it has been my very first year as a teacher. I can't believe that a whole year has passed in which I have been a full class teacher!

It's been a whirlwind at times but I have loved working with this class and feel incredibly fortunate to have had them as my very first. I have learnt so much about what it takes to be a teacher and it has been a delight to be able to teach them.

Without the invaluable support given to me by my colleagues, I don't think I would have managed without some form of minor breakdown!

Particular credit must go to all my Year 4 colleagues who have made this year a fantastic experience.

Oswald Road has been a terrific place to begin my teaching career and I am looking forward to the challenge of next year!



You said | We did

As part of our commitment to improving communication with our families, each newsletter will feature a 'You Said, We Did' section, so you can see how your suggestions have been put into practice...

You said you wanted more notice of school events and activities...

From September, we will have a 'Shared Calendar' of dates for the year to provide you with as much notice as possible.

You said you wanted an opportunity to meet new teachers before September...

We organised a transition afternoon for parents & carers to spend the afternoon in class with their child and new teacher.

You said you wanted school photographs which better fit into photo albums...

We asked the photographer for the same style photos, but in the traditional size for albums.

You said you wanted wider access to forest school type activities...

We have organised the 'Forest Crew' in Year 3 for next year.

You wanted a more exciting layout and ease of reading for governor communications...

We arranged a new layout designed for governor updates which we hope make them easier to read.
