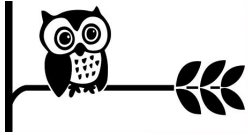


NEWSLETTER

Inspiration and Success



Oswald Dahlicious

Wow! What a week it was!

Super Learning Weeks like our Osroald Dahlicious event are my favourite weeks in school! We started off with a hook assembly to get the children excited about the week ahead and Amanda in reprographics had kindly placed Roald Dahl items around school to add an extra special 'Dahlicious' element for the children.

In the assembly, the children embarked on a treasure hunt to find the 'Golden Ticket' and, once found, not only did they unlock the Roald Dahl computer presentation, but they also found themselves meeting Mr Willy Wonka himself! Or was it Mr Beisly in disguise...?!

The children and staff then began a tremendous week of fun activities, all linked to Roald Dahl and his wonderful books. All throughout the week, the children kept coming to tell me about the activities they were doing and the fun they were having in school!

Deborah Howard, Headteacher

Here's what some of our staff thought about the week:

"The Dahlicious Week was great! There was a really fun atmosphere to the lessons and around the school in general. The topic of Roald Dahl was wide and varied; as teachers, it gave us scope for creativity in a range of subjects, not just English, but also in Maths, Art, DT and all other subjects too. It was lovely to have parents and carers come in at the end of the week so that the children could show off their work; although, I don't think many parents were fans of our tuna and gherkin snozzcumbers!"



"I loved seeing the children reading for pleasure! So many children had their heads in books in the corridors and out in the playground, and the atmosphere around school was electric! It was a 'Dahlicious' week in school that the children and staff will remember for a long time to come!"

Kathryn Whalley, Year 2 Teacher

Paul Salisbury, Year 5 Teacher



Oswald Road Dahlicious

Super Learning Week

As a class teacher, I found Dahlicious week to be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our children's creativity. By allowing the children to plan the content of the week, it opened my eyes to just how much our pupils understand their learning, their progress and their next steps.

The lessons were fun, the activities engaging and the children responded well to being 'off timetable'. There was a buzz of excitement in the air and I put this down to the fact that they had planned the week.

The pinnacle was definitely the 'Dress up Friday' and to see the effort that everyone made was just gorgeous! In fact, when I went to purchase my wig from a local fancy dress shop, the owner knew exactly which school I was from before I even opened my mouth! She told me how lovely it was that the school was doing events such as Dahlicious Week and that her customers had raved about the positive impact it has on their children.

It goes to show that Dahlicious not only positively impacted on our pupils learning, but also on the local community too.

Jen Beech, Year 6 Teacher

The Friday of the week was really special, as both children and staff enjoyed dressing up as Roald Dahl characters, and parents & carers enjoyed joining in activities in the classrooms.



*"A little nonsense now
and then, is relished
by the wisest men"*

We fully embraced this philosophy of fun in Year Two during Dahlicious Week.

Amongst our many highlights, we welcomed Roald Dahl's very own great niece into our classroom. She regaled us with personal and fascinating insights to the life of the great writer.

The children and staff alike were captivated by the tale of Roald nearly losing his nose after crashing his fighter plane in WW2. This terrifying experience changed him forever, unleashing his creativity and prompting him to release seventeen published masterpieces for children.

It was a real pleasure to see our children celebrate the author and their favourite titles in true Oswald Road fashion!



The parental feedback was really positive - thank you for taking the time to tell us what you thought of the activities and the week as a whole.

It was an amazing week all round. I'd like to say a big thank you to our wonderful staff for planning such brilliant activities for the children and for making the week so special!

Deborah Howard, Headteacher

Linzi Caradine, Year 2 TA



Oswald Road Dahlicious

Super Learning Week

The children (and grown-ups!) had a wonderful time in school; here's some of their favourite things that took place during Oswald Dahlicious Week...

We got to keep our work in a special Roald Dahl folder!

We had to find the Golden Tickets in assembly!

I liked it when Roald Dahl's niece came into school!

I liked the TV adverts that we made to show our parents!

We got dressed up!

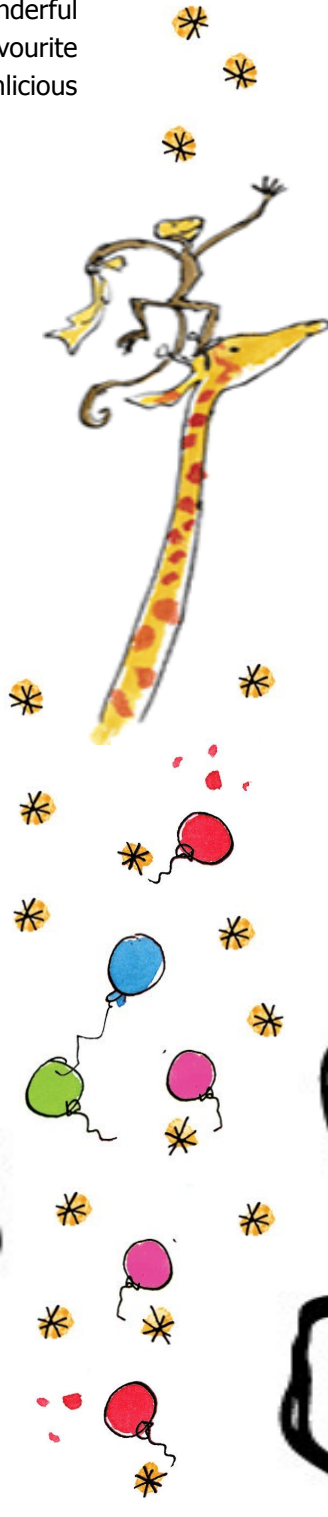
We made Marshmallow Twizzlers and got to eat them!

I liked it when we did a Roald Dahl quiz!

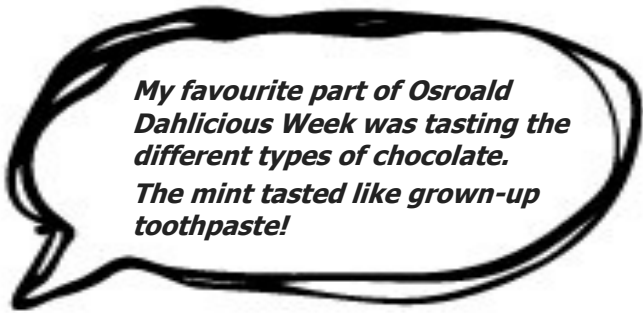
We got to use real Smarties in our Maths investigation!

I enjoyed it so much that next year I would like to do it again!

I liked making the boxes for our sweets and making nets into 3D shapes!



I love doing super learning weeks! It's great to see even very young children immerse themselves in a topic and be so keen to find out new things and share it with their friends and family. My favourite part of Dahlicious week was when the children made their own chocolate. They had worked so hard all week tasting chocolate, writing ingredients, naming their chocolate and making a lovely box for it - it was great to see it finally finished (even if they did eat it pretty quickly!) Willy Wonka would be proud of their creative ideas!



Jen Dyson, Reception Teacher





This term has been another busy one for the Eco team!

SPRING BULBS Just before and just after the Christmas holidays, a lot of classes braved the cold weather in order to plant a selection of spring bulbs around our school. Look out for bursts of colour around the playground!

LITTER PICKING Our new litter picking crew have been going out each Friday to help keep our playground free from litter. Thank you for keeping our school clean!

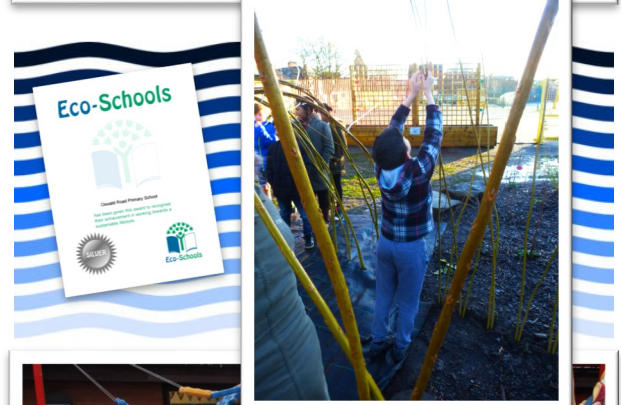
WILLOW TUNNEL In January, children from all Year 4 and 5 classes helped to construct a living willow tunnel in our school garden area. The children have enjoyed playing around the tunnel and we're really looking forward to seeing it grow in the spring!

SILVER AWARD In January, we were awarded the Eco Schools Silver award in recognition of all the hard work we have put in to recycling and to developing our playground. You can see your certificate proudly displayed on our school Eco board! All classes across the school, as well as the school office, are now recycling paper. In addition, the kitchen and the staffroom recycle glass, plastic and metal and all the food waste from the kitchen is being sent away to be made into compost.

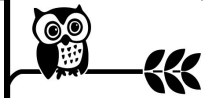
OWL GARDEN We are currently in the process of planning an outdoor classroom for the Owl Garden! The Eco team will be holding a consultation with children and parents next half term before we make any final decisions. Watch this space!

WANTED! Green fingered parents! Next half-term, all classes will be starting to sow seeds and get things growing in the planters. If you have any interest in or knowledge of growing vegetables and flowers, or if you have lots of enthusiasm and a few hours to spare, please let your child's teacher know! It would be great to have lots of hands on board!

GREEN DAY! The Eco team will be holding a 'Green Day' on **Wednesday 18th May** to raise money for our playground and to raise awareness of environmental issues. We'll be in touch with more details nearer the time.



House Captains



We've recently introduced a House system here in school and it's been very well received by both the children our parents and carers.

Let's hear from our very first House Captains and their deputies!



Barn Owl House

My name is Cosmo Preston Symonds and I am House Captain for **Barn Owls House**. I am in 6JB and being a House Captain is really good and makes me feel great. I am excited to help kids and lead my House. I always keep an extra eye out for sad or lonely kids to help. If anybody is upset, then come and look for me – you can tell if it is me if you see a blue badge! Go Barn Owls!

Hi, my name is Hanya. I am one of the **Barn Owl** House Captains and I am in 6JB. I am really looking forward to sports day and starting to do more House Captain things! I feel really happy to be a house captain. If you need me just find me and I will be here to help. Go Barn Owls!



Tawny Owl House

Hi, my name is Katie Bell, I'm in 6JB and I am the House Captain for **Tawny Owls**. I feel extremely excited with the role and I look forward to leading Tawny House to victory at Sports Day and other events. I'm always happy to cheer up other children and help them with their problems, no matter what house they are in.

Hi I'm Robin Allsop from 6JB and I am one of the Deputy House Captains for **Tawny Owls**. Go Tawny!



Snowy Owl House

Hello, my name is Alfie, I am the house captain for **Snowy House**. I am in 6JB (Miss Beech's class). I really enjoy the role of House Captain and feel honoured to have been chosen to fill the role. I really look forward to being able to organise fun events and lead my house, for example, at Sports Day. I can usually see the funny side of things, so if you need cheering up, then try to find me in the playground. It's not all about the winning, but the taking part. Go Snowy! P.S. the Snowy House Captains and Deputies have yellow badges.

Hi, I am Ned Silvey and I am Deputy for **Snowy Owls**. I am also in 6JB. Go Snowy!!!!!!



Spotted Owl House

I am Edwin Martin George Slater and I am the Deputy House Captain for **Spotted Owls!!!!** I am in 6JB a.k.a Miss Beech's Class!

Hi, I'm Enas and I'm also in 6JB. I'm the deputy for Spotted Owls! Go **Spotted Owls!**



Healthy School Celebrations

We have had a very positive response to the Healthy School Celebrations letter we sent out in November 2015. Parents and carers have been very creative in providing alternative options in making children's birthdays special and helping us to maintain a healthier classroom.

As a result, we would appreciate your support in maintaining a healthy school by continuing to refrain from sending sweets into school. Thank you!



School Communications

As some of you may know, I am (sadly!) leaving my post as Communications Manager at Oswald Road, so please bear with us if there are any small, temporary changes to school communications over the coming weeks.

It's been a pleasure to have worked with such a professional and friendly team of people here at school, and to have met you, our lovely community of parents, carers, and children.

I wish the very best to you all and look forward to seeing Oswald Road and its pupils stride confidently into a bright and successful future!

Best wishes,

Alex Hodges, Communications Manager



Portals to the Past

Year 3 had a fantastic Stone Age day with 'Portals to the Past'. It was an action-packed day, with some interesting artifacts to examine and even some chariot racing!

The children also made some fantastic cave art and then tested their knowledge in a quiz.



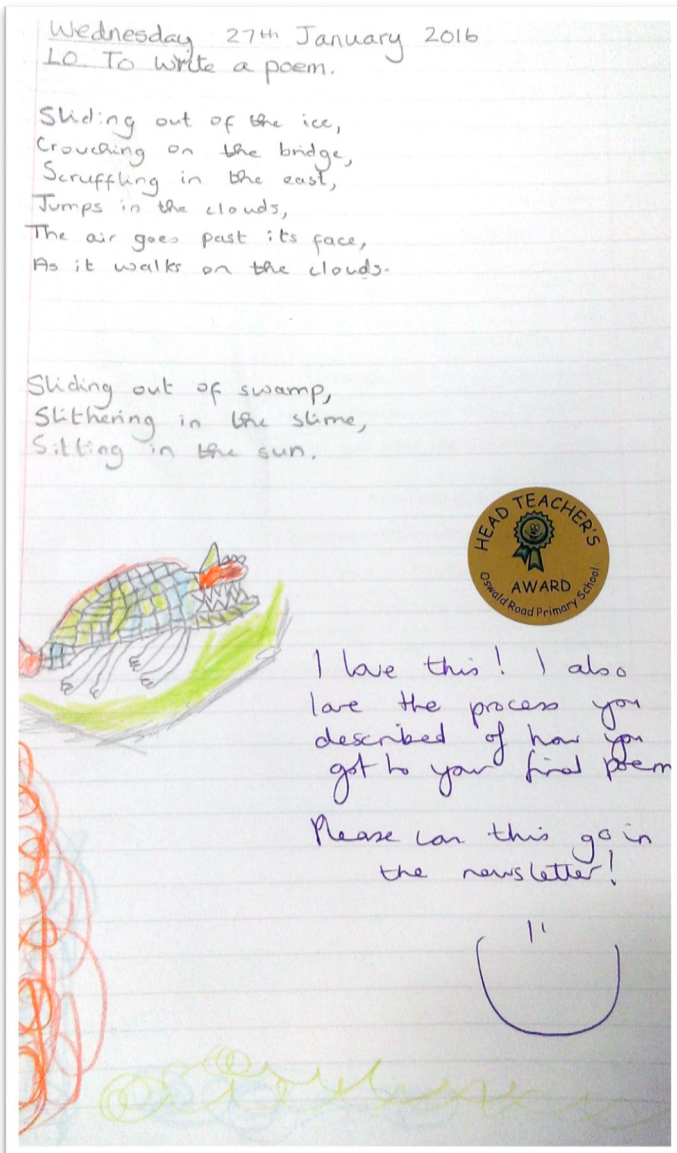
Text Santa Christmas Fundraising

Thank you for your donations for Text Santa Christmas Jumper day which took place back in December!

**TOTAL
RAISED:**

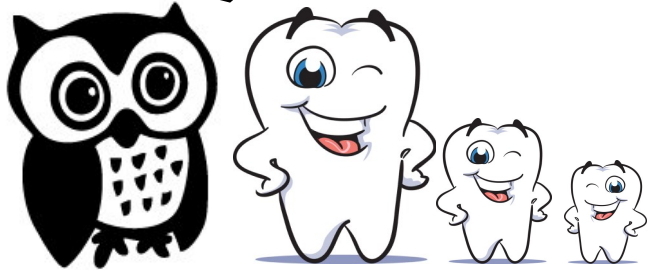
£349.56

Enjoy this excellent poem (below) by Arthur Macer in 4KR, written for Dahlicious Week!



Please may we remind parents and carers that general check-ups at the dentist etc. should be made outside of school hours.

When possible, appointments where a child requires dental work should also be made outside school hours.



GB Gymnast in school!



We're very excited to be welcoming GB Gymnast Hannah Whelan into school on Friday 4th March!

Hannah will be leading some energetic fitness circuits with the children and hosting an assembly with a Q&A session to help inspire the children into more sport and exercise.

We're asking the school community to help by sponsoring the children to complete the fitness circuits in order to raise money for more sports equipment at Oswald Road Primary School.

There are two easy ways to sponsor the children: using the paper sponsorship form that your child will have brought home (copies are available from the school office), or simply by taking a few minutes to create an online fundraising page for your child at www.sportsforschools.org/event/M223

The children are already excited; we hope you'll be feeling the buzz as well!



Be a Chorister for a Day

Saturday 13 February 2016
 Saturday 23 April 2016
 2.15pm - 5.30pm
 at Manchester Cathedral
 Meet at Chetham's School of Music
 Long Millgate, Manchester, M3 1SB

For Boys and Girls aged 7+

Free of charge.
 All music will be provided.
 Each child attending needs a responsible adult to be present throughout the event.
 Explore the Cathedral, try on chorister robes and have a go at brass-rubbing.
 Refreshments are available for purchase throughout the event.
 Places are limited and must be booked in advance by the previous Wednesday.
 Contact Chorister Recruitment Officer: 01 61 833 2220 (ext. 244) or charlie.corkin@manchestercathedral.org

Follow us at:

Manchester Cathedral,
 Victoria Street, M3 1SX
www.manchestercathedral.org

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 a chance to talk about community values.

We held two listening events on this topic.

You said you wanted further use of social media to share childrens work and activities.

We developed this use and work has been displayed on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

You said you wanted us to improve the sporting opportunities for your children.

We started by sourcing three sports pitches in the main playground.

You said you wanted activity and event dates provided more in advance.

We shared the school's calendar with you with dates of events for the year .

You said you wanted the school not to hand out sweets for birthdays.

We stopped this and a letter went out to all parents and carers advising on healthier options.

You said you wanted to further listen to parent views on all areas of the school.

We carried out a large-scale survey and an action plan has been put in place.

You said you wanted to a drop in style 'surgery' with the headteacher and/or deputy headteacher.

We held the first one of these and future surgeries will be held half-termly