

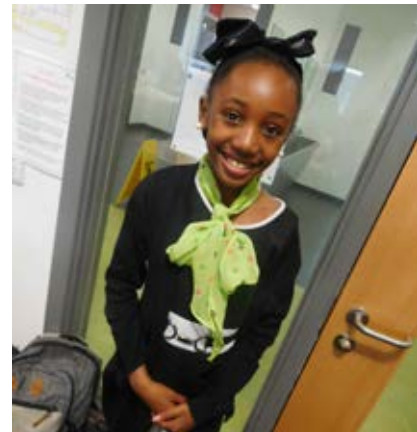
## SUPER LEARNING WEEK: “WHEN I GROW UP...”

The week beginning Monday 16th October was Super Learning Week at Oswald Road and we looked at how maths is used in everyday life and across a wide variety of professions, which might not necessarily appear at first glance to involve maths. Many thanks to all of the parents and carers that came into class to speak to the children about how they use maths in their jobs.

The theme for the the week was 'When I Grow Up', which was all about showing the children how maths will feature in their futures. The children took part in some real life challenges that required them to use their numeracy skills to do things such as managing money effectively, working to a budget and making a profit.

Throughout the week we looked at various at famous mathematicians who have shaped the study of maths throughout the ages, such as Ada Lovelace and Alan Turing. The final challenge was the 'Be the Teacher' activity. At Oswald Road we have a whole-school focus this year on developing children's reasoning and problem-solving skills. One measure of true understanding is when you can explain something to someone else.

To put these skills into practice, each class in KS1 and KS2 was required to plan and deliver a short lesson to a group in a partner class in the year below. To help them get into character the children were encouraged to dress up as teachers for the day...we've never seen so many lanyards in one building before! We even had a few mini Mrs Howards!





"My favourite thing about Super Learning Week was when we were teaching the Year 2s maths." **Nico 3KB**

"I enjoyed Super Learning Week because it was so much fun and I love maths. I also enjoyed it because we did lots of hard questions and I love hard questions." **Aoife 4LM**

"I enjoyed it when we were teaching the Reception children how to make 7." **Evan 1SE**

"My favourite part of Super Learning Week was when we picked in groups a career and learnt about tax and why the maths would help us later on in life." **Isobel 6NG**

"I liked learning about budgeting because it taught us how maths works when you're older and how to save money. I also liked when we had a visitor as they taught us how maths was involved in their job." **Manaal 6KR**

"I loved Super Learning Week because we got to be the teacher and plan our own lesson. I also loved that we got to pretend to have a job and we had to use the money from that job to work out how much we'd need to pay for a house and a car and all the costs within that." **Jake 6NG**

"I loved when we taught the Year 1s place value. I met a lot of new people." **Emme 3KG**

"I liked teaching the Year 4 children- it gave me more confidence! I also liked looking at the teachers' stationary catalogue and pretending to spend a budget for my imaginary class/classroom." **Nadia 5PS**





"Super Learning Week was absolutely amazing! Hearing all about the parents' jobs was fascinating and gave the children a real insight into how maths can be applied in real life. Also, the children were fantastic during the Be The Teacher session – I had no idea they were so aware of my teaching strategies!" **Miss Rowe**

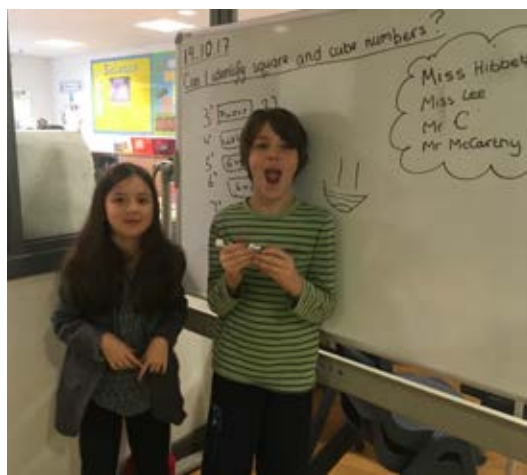
"The children thoroughly enjoyed stepping into their teacher's shoes on 'Be the Teacher Day'. It was so lovely to see so much enthusiasm around the room and to watch every child interacting fully and supporting the learning of the children in the year below them." **Miss Grant**

"Super Learning Week was absolutely fantastic. There was a real sense of enjoyment from 1JJ, especially when they got to be teachers for the day!" **Miss Jones**

"The children were so excited to teach the Reception class maths. They loved using lots of different resources to help their teaching. It was lovely seeing them helping each other. A fantastic day!" **Mrs Eldridge**

"Super Learning Week was so much fun for me and the children in my class. I was a bit unsure what the children in my class were going to plan for the year below but could not believe the activities they came up with and when watching them teach the class below blew me away! Having parents come in from totally different jobs, that the children didn't initially think would have anything to do with maths, was so interesting for them and showed them why maths is such an important subject." **Miss Millward**

"The children absolutely loved the whole experience of Super Learning Week! They loved solving real life 'teacher' problems like how to resource a classroom on a tight budget and how to plan a lesson suitable for everyone. They relished the opportunity of becoming teachers- planning a lesson, making resources and, of course, teaching the lesson! They honestly blew me away with their commitment, maturity and quality of the lessons they planned and delivered. A week full of little light bulb moments!" **Miss Davis**



# PARALYMPIC ATHLETE VISIT



We were very excited to welcome GB Paralympic Sprinter Michael Churm to school earlier this half term! Michael has Cerebral Palsy which affects his right side. He was inspired to take up athletics by his father who was a club runner. Throughout his career Michael was consistently ranked in the world top 10 for ten years and has gone on to win various National, European and World medals, including a silver medal at the 2000 Sydney Paralympics in the 4 x 100 relay.

During his visit to Oswald Road Michael led a sponsored fitness circuit with all of the children in KS1 and KS2, followed up with a talk and a question and answer session. The aim of the event was to inspire the children to take up sport generally, but just as importantly to encourage them to discover and then pursue their passion in life.

The sponsorship money that was raised will be used to buy sports equipment for the school, while also supporting GB athletes (including Paralympic athletes). A huge well done to Xavier Greenwood from 1HC and Elsie Ahimie-Carthy from 2SH, who each raised over £100 in sponsorship money!

# HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES

Lunchbox inspo! Look at these fantastically healthy lunchboxes. It's so great to see children enjoying their fruit and veg!



# CHARITY LITTER PICK

Aziza from 5PS came up with the fantastic idea to do a sponsored litter pick in Alexandra Park to raise money for Children in Need. Aziza inspired her classmates Nadia, Juliette and Juliette, and little brother Jai, to get involved in the fundraiser with her. On Saturday 18th November they collected three big bags of rubbish round Alexandra Park over an hour and a half period, raising over £80 for Children in Need! A huge well done, you are all amazing!



## CHILDREN IN NEED

We had a great time dressing up in our onesies and pyjamas for Children in Need this half term! Our grand total raised was a whopping £406.05. Nearly £100 of that was made up of 'round pounds', as the charity was still able to collect old pound coins. Thank you so much to everyone that donated. A special mention to Ehsan from 2JD, who brought in ALL of the coins from his piggy bank to donate to Children in Need. Another special mention goes to Shante and Macy from 5CC, who raised £35.30 by organising their own bake sale!

## CROSS COUNTRY FINALS

A big shout out to all the Oswald Road-ers that took part in the Manchester citywide cross country finals earlier this half term! It was a great accomplishment to get to this stage and all of the children finished their races. They were a credit to our school and demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship throughout the event. Owen Reekie from Year 6 came 4th out of all boys in the Manchester schools taking part, whilst Eve Campbell came 34th overall out of all the girls. Well done, everyone!



# YEAR 2 GUY FAWKES WORKSHOP

Year 2 learnt all about the Gunpowder Plot this half term in their explosive topic 'Boom!' As part of their enrichment for the topic the children had a visit from Guy Fawkes himself, who delivered an exciting and interactive workshop on the story of the Gunpowder Plot. A few of the children dressed up as some of the plotters, such as Robert Catesby, while other children dressed up as soldiers.

**"We liked it when he kept saying 'ma darlin'!"**

**"I liked dressing up as a soldier."**

**"I learnt that Guy Fawkes was born in 1570."**

**"We learnt that the plotters used 36 barrels of gunpowder."**

"The children and staff really enjoyed the workshop. The actor was extremely engaging and very informative. The children have remembered some key facts from the story of The Gunpowder Plot and used them in their work." **Miss Hickman**



# RIGHTS AMBASSADORS' MEETING



This half term our Rights Ambassadors worked with the Rights Action Team from Baguley Hall Primary School. The children had great fun meeting at each other's schools and telling each other why they enjoy being a Rights Ambassador for their school. The children worked hard thinking about which Rights are important outside of school in their communities.



# OLIVER'S VEGETABLES

After reading 'Oliver's Vegetables' last half term, the children in Reception wanted to make their own soup. The children went on a little trip to the greengrocers to buy the vegetables to make their soup!



# RECEPTION GRUFFALO TRIP

Reception went on a very exciting trip at the end of this half term to MediaCity. As part of their topic 'We Love Manchester', the children visited one of the city's most famous landmarks, The Lowry, where they watched a stage production of The Gruffalo. The children also spent some time exploring MediaCity and learning about the history of Salford Quays.



# COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

This half term's Community Hero Award was presented to the Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service. The team from Moss Side came in to speak to us about the importance of staying safe around fireworks and bonfires. They even let Mrs Gibson dress up in their uniform!

Here's why we think the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service is so deserving of our Community Hero Award...

"They save lives by putting out fires. They save buildings people live in, which is so important." **Isobel 6NG**

"They are really brave because they go into fire to save people from dying. They do well for their country." **Jake 6NG**

"They keep trying and trying again, they'd never leave someone in a burning building. They are selfless because they risk their own lives." **Amelia 6NG**



# NETWORK CHOIR AT RNCM

On Friday 1st December the network choir performed at the ROOF St. Petersburg Annual Charity Concert at the Royal Northern College of Music. The annual concert is the fruit of the College's ongoing project with musicians and teachers from Manchester's twin city, St. Petersburg. The choir from Oswald Road are invited along every year to perform alongside the Kalinka Balalaika Orchestra, which a number of Oswald Road children are also part of. The concert is put on each year in aid of disadvantaged children in St. Petersburg.

"The choir really rocked it at the Royal Northern. We were so proud of their behaviour and they sang like angels and rockstars. Thank you so much to all the parents for their continued support." **Mrs Murray**





# YEAR 5 VIKINGS WORKSHOP

This half term Year 5 got a hands-on learning experience as part of their Vikings topic, with a visit from Portals to the Past. During the workshop the children were given a talk on the story and history of the Vikings, which addressed their prior knowledge and any misconceptions they had about the Vikings.

They then took part in a session on Viking artefacts, looking at replicas of everyday Viking items. The children also learnt about the weaponry, armour and warfare tactics that were used by the Vikings. Finally, their Viking skills were put to the test with a series of spear-wrestling strength games. Even the teachers had a go!



"I thought it was an amazing day and I would do it again." **Aziza 5PS**

"I enjoyed the workshop as we got first-hand experience. For example, we got to hold real/replicas of artefacts. I would totally recommend it to other schools/people." **Nadia 5PS**

"We've had Portals to the Past in school before and they are always fantastic! The children find the sessions fun and engaging and they do so much throughout the day! It's great!" **Mr Salisbury**

"Such an interactive and hands-on approach to learning, it amazes me how much the children retain!" **Miss Davis**



# MEMORIES OF PARTITION



Five Year 6 children from Oswald Road were given the opportunity to take part in an exciting project at Manchester Museum this half term called 'Memories of Partition'. The children started their day by discussing what they already knew about Partition and how they thought people who had experienced it at the time might have felt. They then wrote down any questions they had about Partition and explored the exhibition to see if they could find the answers to their questions.

The children then looked at artist Reena Kallat's work, which explores borders and separation of countries, people and animals, and discussed how they think this links to what they had found out about Partition. After lunch the children got to speak to Dr Gandhi, who experienced Partition first-hand when his family moved from Lahore in 1947 after the border was created between India and Pakistan.

Finally, they took inspiration from the stories told by Dr Gandhi to write their own poem (see next page) about Partition, along with children from The Willows Primary School.

"I think that this trip was very important because it taught me how people who were moving to a different country might have felt, and also when they had to leave most of their belongings behind." Ammaarah

"At the exhibition I learnt that Partition was very important and it split into three countries, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh." Ishaan

"I liked going as I learnt what Partition was and how important it was. I loved speaking to Dr Gandhi. I loved my day." Manaal

"On this trip I learn that Pakistan and India were one country but then separated and there was bombing and murdering." Emaan

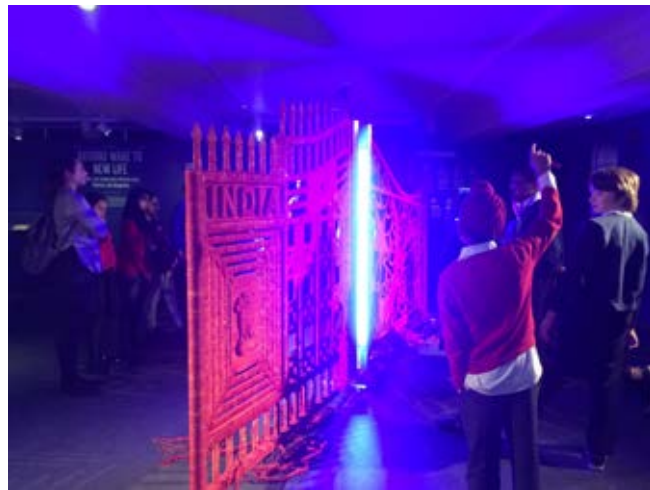
"Today was a pleasure! I learned that if you were partitioned into another city, and lived in barracks, then there was only one tap and one bathroom to share between 6 groups of 7! I loved today!" Riya



# PARTITION POEM

**Written by children from Oswald Road Primary School and The Willows Primary School**

I came from a city full of rumours.  
 I came from Lahore but had to move and choose where to live.  
 I came from a special, promising family with 2 sisters and 4 brothers, and my father worked at a huge, important university.  
 I came from two countries that struggled to get on.  
 I came from Lahore in Pakistan and lived in a house with a bathroom and a kitchen.  
 I came from being a citizen to a refugee and settling as a citizen again.  
 I went through a dangerous journey in blinds and blazing sun.  
 I went through the hardship, sorrow and terror of watching acts of brutality.  
 I went through the physical pain of enduring a long and arduous journey.  
 I went through many cities, many places, many streets.  
 I went through the overwhelming experience of witnessing cold-blooded murder.  
 I came to a place I had never been before.  
 I came to Shimla, a place of beauty.  
 I look outside- to my right I see something beautiful and very bright.  
 I came to a place where people spoke a different language.  
 Then I came to my house, a shed covered in bandages.  
 Now I feel that all the agonizing pain caused by moving was worth it as now two nations have been created and rule themselves.  
 Now I feel that time has healed the horror of watching people being brutally beaten to death.  
 Now that I feel it's not a big deal except how my city was given to India.  
 Now I feel that despite all the unbearable situations I went through, I still stand strong at the head of my family.  
 Now I know that some people care, and caring is just beyond compare.



# YEAR 1 VICTORIAN TOY WORKSHOP

Year 1 stepped back in time and got creative last week by taking part in an exciting Victorian toy workshop. The whole year group came together to look at a range of toys throughout history and explore the forces used to operate them and the materials they are made from. Each child then got to assemble their own toy under one-to-one supervision.

"The Victorian Workshop was absolutely fabulous. All children engaged with the workshop and thoroughly enjoyed it. It gave them a great opportunity to use materials they haven't before and have real life experience with different tools." **Miss Jones**

"I really loved making my Victorian toy, they're very different to ours." **Gaia**

"I enjoyed using the hand drill!" **Elliott**



# CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We all really enjoyed our Christmas lunch last week. Thank you to the kitchen team and lunchtime staff for making us feel so Christmassy!



# OSWALD RD MUSICIANS SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY!

Some of Oswald Road's most talented musicians spent the morning spreading Christmas cheer around Chorlton last Thursday. The Year 6 strings and trumpet players ventured over to Barbakan to play Christmas carols on the decking, whilst the choir headed over to St Ninnian's to perform for the Chorlton Good Neighbours.



# PTA WINTER FAIR

A huge thank you and well done to our fabulous PTA committee for putting on a fantastic Winter Fair earlier this month. This year's fair was bigger and better than ever, and although we have not got an exact total yet, we managed to raise approximately £3,700, which is incredible and will make such a difference to the school. Thank you so much to all the volunteers that helped out on the day and to anyone that came along to the fair or donated something for us to sell.



# CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

The total amount raised for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day was £165.29. Thank you very much to everyone that donated!



# CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

All of the children at Oswald Road absolutely rocked their Christmas performances this year! Thank you to all the parents for their continued support, especially in providing such a wide range of costumes!



# LUNCHTIME FOCUS

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We caught up with Rachel Cohen-Jackson to find out what's new with lunchtimes at Oswald Road...

## **What is your role?**

I am the Strategic Lunchtime Organiser, which means that I oversee the lunchtime team. I also work closely with the Senior Leadership Team.

## **How long have you worked at Oswald Road for?**

I started working here 3 years ago, and became the Strategic Lunchtime Organiser about a year and a half ago. I am also a parent at the school- I have Immi in Year 3 and my son Noah left for high school in the summer.

## **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I like working with the children and the lunchtime team. I love my job the most when

the lunchtime runs smoothly and all the children are happy! One of the lunchtime team's favourite activities is joining in with the children in the dance zone. We love watching their amazing dance-offs!

## **How have lunchtimes been improved this term?**

One of the best things we've done this term has been a big push on manners. Our lunchtime team are checking to see that everyone is minding their p's and q's! We've introduced 'Good Manners' certificates, which get handed out in highlight assemblies to those children that have shown outstanding manners at lunchtime. All of the lunchtime staff are making sure to be just as polite as we expect the children to be.

## **Have you got any plans to make further improvements to lunchtimes?**

Yes, of course! We are currently looking to rezone the playground to ensure we have clearly defined areas for different activities. For example, we'll make sure there are separate areas for chilling out, playing traditional games and playing ball games.

We're also planning to use some of the PTA funding to purchase new resources, such as art supplies, new seating, hula hoops etc.



# My Story as an International New Arrival

by Sabastian Klis 4LM



When did you join Oswald Road Primary School?

I joined this school in September 2016 – I came to England a couple of months before I started school.



Where did you live before you came to the UK?

I lived in the countryside, next to a forest in a place called Kety. I had never been to school in Poland, not even nursery, because you have to be about 7 years old before you go to school!

What language do you speak at home?

We speak Polish but sometimes we speak a little bit of English too. We don't have a TV so I sometimes I watch programmes on the tablet.

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

No! I didn't know anything at all and it was hard because I wanted to say things but I couldn't because I didn't know the words. There are quite a few children at Oswald Road who speak Polish and when I first started they helped me. I have four best friends in my class now and none of them speak Polish.

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

I felt sad. I felt sad because I had never been to school, I had never been to England and I could not understand anything. Miss Coombes would hug me a lot if I looked sad. I also felt nervous and I remember the kids in my class stood close to me and smiled a lot and some said 'hello' and others just waved at me.

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

It was the first time I had ever been at a school so I was a bit scared.

What was the first word that you learnt in English?

I think it was probably 'yes' and 'no'.

How different is the UK to your home country?

They speak a different language. The schools are better here than in Poland. In Poland the teachers shout a lot and the school day is 8 hours long. The food is also different. I like both English and Polish food.

What is your favourite thing about living in the UK?

When I first moved here I liked it because everything was new. Now I think the best thing is going to the park. There are more parks here than in Poland.

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

I miss my grandma and the food that she makes. She makes nice cakes. I like these small cakes she makes with jelly and strawberry. She also makes nice dumplings called pierogi. There's a shop near my house in Manchester that sells them and the man that works there speaks Polish.



# You said | We did

The Autumn Showcase being only 30 minutes long made it very difficult for parents with more than one child in school to visit each child's classroom.

Next year's Spring and Summer Showcase events will take place on separate days for each phase, making it easier for parents to visit more than one child's class throughout the week.

You wanted more notice of the dates for parents evenings.

We have already decided on the dates for the March 2018 parents evenings. These have been communicated out in the Weekly Update (on 7th December) and added to the school calendar.

You wanted the option to receive paperless communications from school.

We are trialing a system in one class, giving parents the choice to opt out of receiving paper letters from school. If the trial goes well we will roll this out across the whole school.

You wanted a quicker way to report your child's absence or let us know about an appointment.

We have set up a dedicated text number specifically for you to let us know if your child is off school or needs to attend a medical/dentist appointment. The number is **07537 436 359**. Please note that this should not be used to communicate any messages that do not relate to attendance.