



## CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

On Friday 2nd November we held our annual Cultural Diversity Celebration Day. To help us celebrate the rich cultural diversity that we are so lucky to have here at Oswald Road, we asked parents to volunteer to come in and speak to their child's class about an aspect of their culture, such as food, music, language and traditions. A HUGE thank you to all of the wonderful parents who came in to give a talk, we had an amazing variety of activities, such as a performance using handmade musical instruments from West Africa, an Indian curry making workshop, and even a lesson on Romanian culture and how this links to the myth of Dracula!



# Headteacher's Page



To all the families of Oswald Road Primary School,

I just wanted to say what a brilliant term we have had. To start with, I have been amazed by the wonderful sporting achievements of our children. They have been involved in athletic tournaments, cross country and the girls' football league. Our children really have shone! I was also really happy to introduce Hoot Camp (our sporty holiday club) and was thrilled that we had such an amazing uptake. We were delighted to have been able to introduce a great range of after school sports clubs this term, run by our Sports Coach Kieran Bentley. Bikeability for our Year 5 children has also been happening, helping our children become more confident bike riders.

The work our children did on World War 1 was very thought-provoking. From letters in role in Year 1 to the excellent installation of poppies in the hall – all around school the children really showed such an interest and such care.

Cultural Diversity Day was amazing as always. We are just so lucky to have so many parents who will come in to our school and share their culture with our children. Our children and staff gain so much from this and there was a wonderful community feeling across school.

We were also thrilled to have raised over £1,000 for Children in Need and Year 1's Dance-a-thon was particularly successful! You must have all been exhausted! We were also very lucky to have a visit to school from Pudsey Bear himself!

The children have been working hard and we have introduced our new enquiry based curriculum for topic, which is being enjoyed across school. This is allowing for real depth in learning via well thought through questioning. We continue to follow the White Rose curriculum for maths, which provides an excellent level of challenge and I have been so happy to hear a continued rise in our children relishing the thought of challenge. There is a real development in resilience across school and this has been great to see. Super Learning Week for science was very much enjoyed by our children and staff. The children worked on a large range of practical science activities and of course learnt so much from this. We also enjoyed a good old dress up day! The class assemblies really have shown what a range the children have been covering and, as always, seeing our children so confident and happy presenting this to their adults is just a joy.

*Our priorities have been focusing on handwriting, spelling, language gap and challenge. We worked last year on language gap and continue this year. Our staff have worked hard to develop strategies to support understanding of a range of vocabulary in both books and across the curriculum and this has become part of the everyday teaching in all classrooms. We invested in a handwriting programme to support swift improvement in this area and so far the books are showing our handwriting is improving across school.*

*We've had many trips, including the Kingswood residential. As always, we have had many comments from people about our children's great behaviour whilst they are out of school. The residential was a great hit as always. The children were buzzing when they returned to school, sharing stories of the many wonderful things they had done and the jokes and fun they had shared.*

*We have seen excellent improvements to our playground in the last term thanks to our wonderful PTA. The new willow garden area with woodchip flooring to replace the mud that was previously there and a climbing frame and monkey bars have all been a massive hit with the children! The Year 1 area has been transformed with astroturf, a hill with a tunnel through and toadstools – the children just love it! And the movement of the fencing between Early Years Foundation Stage and the main school has created more play space for our children. A lot has been done in such a short space of time – with more exciting development to follow. Thanks to our PTA and the events they have run, we have been able to source these improvements. The Winter Fair really was a fantastic event, with so much to do. And the Auction of Promises was a great idea and very popular. A thanks to our staff who offered a range of promises, which I saw the children really enjoying. And I know I loved having Miss Mattingly join me as Headteacher for the day. What an eye for detail!*

*The Christmas shows were lovely and again it was a delight to see how confident our children are and how they work so well as a team.*

*We are so lucky to work with such fantastic children but I also want to say how lucky I am to work with such a dedicated staff team. A staff team who support each other and share a laugh together. This makes for a wonderful working environment and one that our children thrive in.*

*I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a restful break.*

*Deborah Howard  
Headteacher*



# PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT WORK

Thank you so much to our amazing PTA for all the work they have done as part of the installation of the monkey bars, trees and climbing frame in the main playground, and for the much-needed update to the Year 1 area. Our children LOVE the new additions to their playgrounds!

"I like the climbing frame because I can climb very high on it!" Martha 1JD

"I like the play tunnel because I like sliding down the side on my tummy and crawling through the tunnel." Ayana 1JD

"I love the climbing frame! Sometimes I can go across it without falling off at all and that makes me feel happy!" Poppy 1JD

"I like the tunnel in Year 1 because you can slide down it!" Gracie 1JD

"I like the monkey bars because I used to go on the ones at Longford Park before we moved house and I miss them so I am very happy we have some at school now!" Sofia 3CM

"I feel like the monkey bars are like my friend because I miss them when I'm not playing on them!" Matilda 3CM

"I like the climbing frame because it makes our playground more fun. We didn't really have anything to climb on before, but now we have the climbing frame and the monkey bars so it is much better!" Frida 3CM

"I like the monkey bars because I like climbing. The playground is more fun now!" Mariyam 3CM

"The climbing frame is good because you can climb on both sides so lots of people can play on it at once." Aiza 3CM



# WW1 CENTENARY

To mark the centenary of the First World War, every child in school has painted their own poppy, which they then laid out class by class in the hall to show their respect for those that lost their lives 100 years ago.



# CROSS COUNTRY

A huge well done to all of the children that qualified for the Manchester regional cross country finals on Monday 12th November. Our Oswald Road-ers did us so proud, with Toby representing the boys coming 57th out of a total of 113 runners. Out of 130 girls Eve C came 7th, Agnes came 25th, Eve G came 63rd and Rosie came 75th. Amazing!

# CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We loved seeing all your Christmas jumpers on Christmas Jumper Day, especially the ones you'd made yourselves at home- what a great way to reduce, reuse and recycle! This year we raised a fantastic £186.18 for Save the Children!



# DIWALI

Many of our families celebrated the festival of light, Diwali, last month. We asked some of our children to tell us how they celebrate Diwali with their families...

"For Diwali we have fireworks at home. We had small ones this year but last year we had big ones in London. This year I had sparklers and wrote my name." Eknor (Year 1)

"This year I went to my mum's mum's house and we had lots of nice food and big fireworks. Me and my cousins made 'Diwali 3' and next year we will make 'Diwali 4'. It is a video with me and my cousins in it." Jaya (Year 1)

"We had fireworks and sparklers at home and people came to our house for sweets." Manveer (Year 1)

"My dad does fireworks at home and we celebrate with a special prayer and sweet foods. Sometimes we celebrate just as a family and sometimes we go to parties and stay up late." Harkirtan (Year 5)

"First we celebrate by decorating our house with blue and white fairy lights and then we go to the shops to buy fireworks that my dad sets off when it is dark. We had a BBQ this year and when mummy was doing the food daddy was talking to and playing with the kids." Sahaana (Year 3)

To mark the occasion, Reception children made their own diya lanterns, which are traditionally burnt during Diwali.



# ATHLETICS

A huge well done to our Year 6 athletes, who were a credit to our school at the indoor athletics tournament at the end of November! We finished joint 2nd with 294 points (only 6 points behind the winners!) Miss Davis & Mr Mac are so proud of you all!





## Rights Ambassadors on a Roll with New Charters!

The team have completed charters for Oswald Road's playground, the Chorlton community, home/parents, and are currently working on a new nutritional lunch menu.

Hannah Price, who has worked on the community charter, quotes, "We all worked well together and we came up with loads of ideas."

Jaya Smith, JJ, thinks that the new lunch menu will need mac and cheese.

Helping with the charters was Wythenshawe school Baguley Hall. We have visited the school multiple times.

In the new year the ambassadors are going to hold a parents event and a community event to ask them to 'sign up' to our new charters. Keep your eyes peeled for dates in the new year!



Mrs Ben Halima says, "I am so proud of all the hard work the team has done this term."

By Evie Hobbs, Euan Robinson  
& Evan Horwell



# YEAR 2 GUY FAWKES WORKSHOP

Year 2 took part in an exciting Guy Fawkes workshop this half term as part of their topic on the Gunpowder Plot. During the interactive workshop the children dressed up as some of the plotters such as Robert Catesby, while other children dressed up as soldiers.

"We liked it when Guy Fawkes kept saying 'ma darlin'."

"I liked dressing up as a plotter, I especially liked hiding the gunpowder barrel in my cloak."

"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." Mr Farrow



# HEALTHY PACKED LUNCHES

We spotted some fantastic examples of healthy packed lunches this half term. We LOVE seeing children enjoying their fruit and vegetables!



# CHILDREN IN NEED

We managed to raise a whopping £1,209.22 this year for Children in Need, thanks to a whole school 'bad hair day'. There were some truly terrifying hair dos! Year 1 also held a sponsored dance-a-thon, raising over £800! To say thank you for raising such an amazing amount for charity, Pudsey came in to assembly to surprise the children. They were all very excited when he popped out from behind the screen in the hall!



# NURSERY FIRE BRIGADE VISIT

Nursery children had a great time when the fire brigade came to visit them this half term...they even got to sit in the fire engine! The visit linked to the work the children have been doing on exploring different people who work in our local community and how they can help us.



# YEAR 6 TRIP TO THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 6 really enjoyed their trip to the People's History Museum this half term! The children looked around the galleries (focusing on exhibits relating to their topic on the Suffragette movement) and then made their own protest banners linked to subjects they felt strongly about.



## CHOIR AT RNCM

Our amazing choir did Oswald Road proud in their performance at the Royal Northern earlier this month. Every year we are invited to take part in this very special concert at the Royal Northern College of Music to raise money for Russian orphans in our twin city of St Petersburg. It's always an amazing event and such an occasion for the children to sing at the RNCM in front of a big audience! A massive well done to all of the children involved, and a special thanks to Mrs Murray for conducting and Mr Welsh for playing the piano!



## YEAR 5 VIKING WORKSHOP



This half term's topic in Year 5 was on the Vikings, so to bring their learning to life the children had a visit from Portals to the Past for an exciting viking workshop.

During the workshop the children were talked through the story and history of the Vikings. There was also an exciting session on Viking artefacts and replicas of everyday Viking items, which the children got to touch and examine in detail. This session also covered viking weaponry, armour and warfare tactics.

To put their knowledge to the test, the children had to complete a viking quiz and logic game. Finally, the children took part in Viking strength games, such as spear wrestling. Congratulations to Hugh and Chisomo from 5CC for earning the strongest man and woman titles!

"I thought it was a good day and I would love to do it again – I learned a lot." Sufiyaan 5CD

"My favourite was the wrestling, obviously, because I won!" Hugh 5CC

"Ian [the actor] is such an inspiration to the children – he really brings the topic to life!" Mr Mac

"I learn so much each time Ian comes! The children love his approach and it really enriches our classroom learning!" Miss Cawley

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



# YEAR 3 LANTERN MAKING & PARADE

This half term the team from We Are Adventurers came into school to do some lantern-making workshops with the children in Year 3. The children then used the lanterns they had made to take part in the annual Beech Road Community Lantern Parade on the evening of Thursday 29th November.



## WINTER FAIR

What an amazing event this was- possibly our biggest and best Winter Fair to date!? A huge thank you to our amazing PTA Chair Gaynor Armstrong, who led a team of 60 volunteers to pull off this huge event, which raised over £4,000! This was Gaynor's last event as PTA Chair, so we'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to her on behalf of everyone at Oswald Road. Thanks as well to all of the parent and staff volunteers and to anyone that came along to the fair to help us achieve our fundraising target so that we can make even more fantastic changes to the playground!



# YEAR 3 TRIP TO PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 3 really enjoyed their trip to the People's History Museum last week, where they took part in an exciting 'Living History' workshop. Whilst in the museum the children did drama activities all about people that had moved to Manchester from the Caribbean.

They also ventured outdoors to do some drawing of local landmarks, including John Ryland's Library, the Albert Bridge, Manchester Crown Court, the pump house and the River Irwell.

"I enjoyed drawing the most because it was really fun. Most of the buildings were hard to draw, but I got the hang of it!"

"I think the trip to People's History Museum was really amazing because it had fun activities and a drama/dance element."

"The Year 3 children loved their trip. We got to explore all over Manchester and take the tram." Ms Cronvall



# CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

What a fantastic year of Christmas performances! Every year we are so impressed by the children's confidence in being able to sing, dance and talk in front of so many grown ups!



# RECEPTION 'LEARNING STREET' WORKSHOP

Reception's topic question for this half term was 'Who Lives in Chorlton?' and the children have been looking at who lives in our community and what they do to help us. As enrichment for this topic, the children took part in 'Learning Street', a role play activity that gives children a chance to explore lots of different professions and the environments that they work in.

The school hall was transformed for the day, allowing the children to explore a child-sized 'street', which included a building site, a hospital, a vet's surgery and a police station. The children had lots of different activities to complete in each area of the Learning Street, as well as lots of different outfits to wear and pieces of equipment to use in their role play!

"I loved Learning Street, my favourite part was putting Miss Roberts in jail!"

"I liked the vets the best because I could look after the animals and make them better."

"I liked the hospital- I was poorly and my friends all had to fix me."



# AUCTION OF PROMISES

Every two years our fantastic PTA holds an Auction of Promises and this year, instead of an event, they decided to host the auction online. This change, coupled with some fantastic prizes, meant that we had our best year yet, raising an OUTSTANDING £3,687! Prizes up for grabs this year included a chance to be the Headteacher for the day, a social media kid takeover, various teacher-led parties and movie nights, a trip to the cinema with Miss Jones, and even a pizza date at Croma with Mrs Barrett!



Oswald Road Primary @OswaldRoad · Nov 15

Hi, my name is Katie, I am in 5LM and I won the auction of promises prize for the social media kid takeover! I will be posting photos and videos all day on the school's Facebook and Twitter pages, showing what life is like at Oswald Road!



# RECEPTION & YEAR 1 PANTOMIME

Touring pantomime company 'Panto in a Day' came in to do a performance of Cinderella for our Reception & Year 1 classes.

"The pantomime was so much fun!"  
Ava 1SM

"It was very funny." Sam 1SM



# MISSION CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Thank you so so much to everyone that donated a present as part of our Mission Christmas charity collection, we have been so overwhelmed by your generosity! The collection was launched by Hits Radio, who collect Christmas gifts every year to distribute to disadvantaged children across Greater Manchester. Special thanks as well to our Christmas charity elves Mrs Iqbal and Ms Tracanna for dropping off all of the presents at the collection point!



# You said | We did

My daughter says that the children are being rushed at lunchtime to eat their food and make their way out of the dinner hall.

Our Lunchtime Lead, Wendy Gibson, will now be working through lunch every Monday to observe lunchtimes to see where changes need to be made.

My child says that the dinner hall is very dirty and often children are purposefully throwing food on the floor.

Our new Business Manager, Craig Taylor, is currently looking to see if it would be possible for us to get a floor cleaning machine for the hall, which means that the entire floor can be cleaned in under 10 minutes. Our Lunchtime Lead, Wendy Gibson, will be looking into the claim that children are purposefully throwing food on the floor and tackling this issue as necessary.

Is healthy eating at lunchtime promoted enough?

We are currently working on promoting healthy eating both at breaktime and at lunchtime and are looking to introduce a new policy to discourage children having unhealthy snacks in the new year. We'll also be sharing ideas for healthy snacks and photos of healthy lunchboxes that we spot- from both children and teachers!

Parking around school (eg. on double yellow lines) is still a major issue, despite all of the work the school has done to discourage parents from doing so.

We have arranged for a team of local PSCOs to come in and deliver an assembly, linked to our Rights Respecting work (in particular to Article 19- 'We all have the right to a safe environment'). The aim is that the children will feel empowered to challenge their parents if they are parking or stopping in the wrong place.

I want to register for EasyFundraising, but I don't know where to find the link for it.

Our Communications Manager, Ellie Linton, has added the link to EasyFundraising to the homepage of the school website and to the bottom of the Weekly Update, along with instructions on how parents can use it to donate money to the PTA for free, simply by shopping online at selected retailers.

