

NEWSLETTER

Inspiration & Success



LGBT+ RAINBOW DAY

We are pleased to announce that Oswald Road is currently working towards achieving The Rainbow Flag Award. This accreditation is a quality assurance framework for schools that gives them the tools to become more LGBT+ inclusive and in doing so, eradicate homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

To celebrate this and to promote LGBT+ awareness, we held a special fundraiser on Friday 18th January in which children were invited to come to school dressed in rainbow colours. On the day children were asked to bring in £1 to help us raise money for resources needed to assist the teaching of LGBT+ awareness education in school.



Headteacher's Page



To all the families of Oswald Road Primary School,

Thanks to everyone for another great half term. I can't believe how quickly it's gone!

The first thing I would like to say is a massive thank you to the Year 2 children I'm teaching at present. I'm enjoying it so much and they are just a delight to be around. Such a group of hard workers and it's been so lovely to be involved in the teaching in Year 2.

The PTA have continued to impact positively on the daily life of our school. We have the treehouse coming soon, which will be such an exciting addition. We have also received funding from bids written by members of the PTA for the running track and for Lego We Do Kits.

TT Rockstars is impacting really well across school. I was very pleased to see we had become the quickest school in the area at answering the questions! The children are talking about the progress they are making and as times tables forms such a basis of so much of the maths curriculum, I'm really happy to see us moving forward in this area.

Lunchtimes have been going well. Our lunchtime team, led by Wendy Gibson, are giving the children a range of activities in each zone on the playground and the children speak positively of this sustained change. The Celebration Lunch we led had a fantastic atmosphere and I loved seeing the children asking for seconds! The Rights Respecting Team have been working with our kitchen staff to develop menus and I look forward to seeing the work that has come out of this soon.

I've really enjoyed watching how the staff are transforming the curriculum across school with an enquiry based approach. It is so much more open ended and is giving opportunities for real depth. They have also been working hard trialling a range of ways to develop grasp of vocabulary and it is really interesting watching our curriculum become more and more tailored for our children. I've done a lot of pupil voice this half term, gathering children's thoughts on a range of areas of school life and it's been great to hear their positivity towards our school and their ideas on how to take us forward.

As always, I'd like to thank our dedicated staff for all they do and our wonderful children who are working so hard.

Have a great half term break!

Deborah Howard
Headteacher

TT ROCKSTARS DO RAINBOW DAY TOO!

Two children from Year 5 were so inspired by our LGBT rainbow day that they decided to extend the colourful clothing to their TT Rockstars avatars! Evan and Fergus from Miss Davis' class started the idea, which quickly spread amongst other children in their class. Now they're encouraging the whole school to join in! Why not send us a photo of your TT Rockstars avatar in rainbow clothing to show your support?



KING ZELLER
Rock Legend



MARLON ROCKEEZY
Rock Legend

YEAR 1 'CASTLES' TOPIC LAUNCH DAY

Year 1 kicked off the half term in style with a special dress-up day linked to their new 'Castles' topic. It all felt very regal indeed, with lots of crowns, armour, and even a few superhero costumes!



RECEPTION TRIP TO CHESTER ZOO

As part of Reception's 'Go Wild' topic, the children went on an exciting trip to Chester Zoo. We were lucky enough to get free entrance to the zoo for all 90 children, meaning that only the transport cost was needed for this fantastic enrichment opportunity!

"Chester Zoo was fun. I liked the elephants because they were big and had a long trunk. I liked the lunch and I liked the monkeys because they climb." **Amelia FS2FW**

"This was a really good trip especially as we got an offer of free tickets! The children loved it and the range of animals we saw was great." **Mrs Walker**



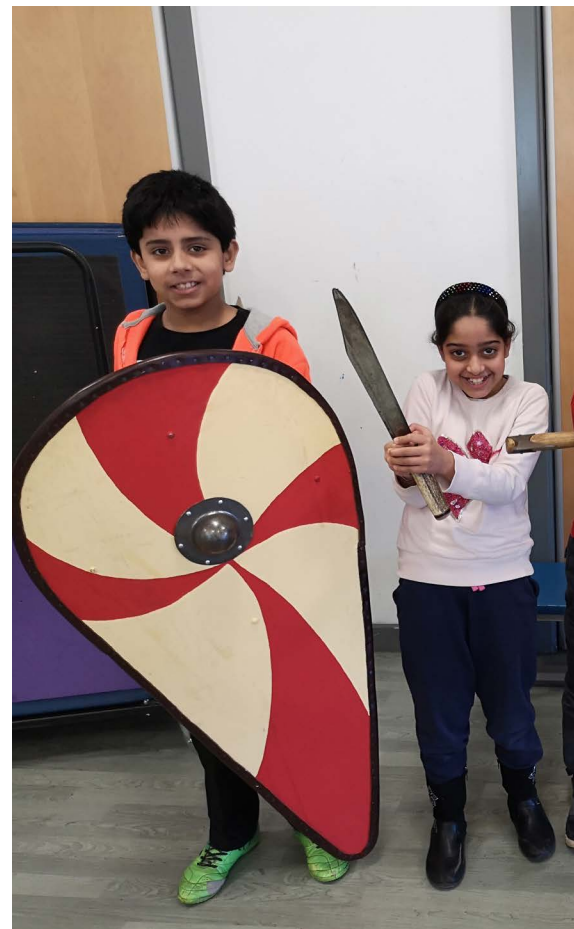
YEAR 4 ANGLO-SAXON WORKSHOP

To enrich their learning as part of their Anglo-Saxons topic this half term, the Year 4s took part in an exciting Portals to the Past workshop. During the visit the children were taken on a walkthrough of the history of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain, as well as a dramatisation of the story of Beowulf, which they've been studying in class. There was also a demonstration of authentic Anglo-Saxon weapons, and a javelin throwing competition. The children put their English skills to the test by trying to solve Anglo-Saxon riddles using their new-found knowledge about the development of the English language.

"I liked the riddles because we got to guess what they were about. It was a fun game." **Medi 4PS**

"I liked when we played the javelin game because everyone was trying and doing their best. I hit the Vikings at the back." **Muhammed 4PS**

"An excellent workshop with loads of activities to keep the children engaged. The leader was very knowledgeable and was able to communicate well with the children. The children had a great opportunity to see and hold Anglo-Saxon weapons and artefacts that they wouldn't normally get." **Mr Salisbury**



1J D TRIP TO CROMA

Miss Dyson's class were very excited when they were announced as the winners of the raffle ticket draw this half term! Their prize was a cheque for £75, which they could spend as a class on whatever they wanted. The children decided they'd like to have a pizza party, so Croma very kindly hosted the whole class for a lunch on Friday 8th February. As if all that wasn't enough fun for one day, the children then came back to school for a movie and ice cream in their classroom. What a treat!





Improved School Dinners on the Rise!

By Nadia Olijar & Juliette Garrabet-Thomas

Most of the parents of our school know that Oswald Road provide hot dinners. The Rights Respecting Team have been working with their classes to negotiate a new aspect for the dinners. Many desserts have been converted to fruit-based or new ones have been added, such as healthy fruit smoothies and raisin flapjacks.

The school cooks are aiming to increase the amount of children on school dinners. **A**nother aim is to increase the nutritional value in their meals. This will benefit your child's everyday school life. This Friday a few children will be trying the new menu in a taster session.

Interview with Head School Cook, Jacky

Do you think the new menu will differ on a large scale?

Yes. We will have many new items, such as chicken burgers and smoothies.

How do you think the parents will like the menu?

We will be doing a taster event at parents evening, so we will see then!

Has the company for developing the food changed?

Yes, we're taking charge of the menu from now on.

Do you think the amount of school dinners going to waste will decline?

We hope so.

Is there anything you want to change about the menu apart from the food?



BASKETBALL SUCCESS!

Our fabulous basketball team came 4th in the Central Basketball League at Whalley Range High School this half term! Well done to all involved, we were so impressed with your teamwork, communication and determination!



GOODBYE, MISS JONES!

One of the parents from last year's 1JJ cohort arranged a bowling trip to say goodbye to Miss Jones before she leaves Oswald Road at the end of this half term. Everyone had so much fun and a great morning. Some brothers and sisters joined too! A massive thank you to Daniel's mum for organising it!



DO YOU WANNA BUILD A SNOWMAN?

The children (and teachers!) were all very excited to come into school to a snow covered playground earlier on this half term! We used it as a great opportunity to show off our snowman building skills!



MRS WALKER'S TIME TO SHINE!

We were all very excited to see our very own Mrs Walker featured on ITV's 'This Time Next Year' with Davina McCall! The episode, which aired on Tuesday 5th February at 8:00pm, showed Mrs Walker's weight loss journey over the last year, which has resulted in her achieving her ultimate goal of becoming pregnant with her first child. We were all very proud and excited to watch the story of her fantastic journey towards becoming a mum-to-be!



RR AMBASSADORS' NEW MENU MEETING

Our Rights Respecting Ambassadors had a meeting with Jacky, the school cook, this half term to share ideas from their class of what they'd like to see on the new school dinner menu.

"It's great to get the children involved with the school menu and they have given some great ideas. Thank you to you all!" Jacky

We'll be offering out tasters of the new menu at next half term's Parents Evenings!



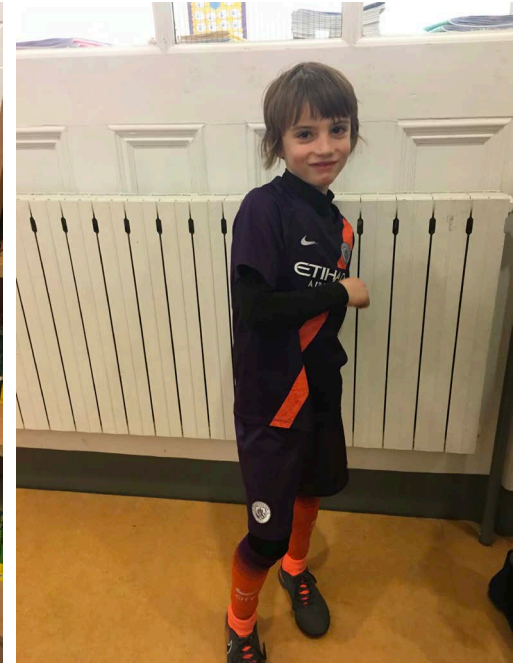
CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT CHORLTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Earlier this half term our wonderful choir paid a visit to Chorlton Good Neighbours to perform a few songs at their weekly coffee morning.



OUTDOOR PE KITS

Here are some great examples of outdoor PE kits we have spotted in school this half term! With the weather turning very cold in the last few weeks, can we remind parents of the importance of making sure their child comes to school with an appropriate PE kit. Given that having warm enough clothes is a matter of health safety, children may not be allowed to take part in their outdoor PE lessons if they are not dressed appropriately.



BRITISH STREET PARTY CELEBRATION LUNCH

This half term, to celebrate the fact that we have brought our school catering in-house this academic year, we held a special 'British Street Party' themed celebration lunch. We are very pleased to announce that this celebration lunch will now be a termly event in the Oswald Road calendar, as a showcase of the fantastic catering we offer in-house. We're already looking forward to future themed celebration lunches, such as a 'drive-in movie meal' and 'seaside picnic'.

"It was so lovely to see the children enjoying their special school dinner and get feed back from them."
Jacky, School Cook

"Best school dinner we've ever had!" Raphi 5CC



STICK 'N' STEP FUNDRAISER



One of our Reception parents is training to run a 10k next month to raise money for a charity that has a huge impact on her family. Dawn is fundraising for Stick n Step, which her son Oscar has been attending on a weekly basis since he was 18-months-old. Stick 'n' Step works with children and young people with cerebral palsy, and their families, from all across North West England and North Wales.

"The benefits we have seen are amazing and have really helped Oscar develop the skills we all take for granted, such as standing, sitting and walking. This has also helped with his confidence levels, and if any of you have met Oscar you will know he always has something to say or a story to tell!"

Stick 'n' Step was formed in 2002 by a group of parents of children and young people who have cerebral palsy. The charity is completely independent and receives all of its funding from the generosity of local people, communities, businesses and grant making trusts. They work with over 90 children and families on a weekly basis during term time and it costs in the region of £4,500 per child per year to offer their services.

If you'd like to sponsor Dawn and contribute towards this fantastic charity, [please click here](#).

PTA UPDATE



It's been another amazing term for fundraising, so a huge thank you as always to our fantastic PTA. We were very excited to find out that we had won the Aviva award of £1,000 towards our running track project, so a massive thank you everyone for your 2,500 votes! We were bowled away to be told that our neighbours at Everest Pharmacy had donated a whopping £1,350 towards our Rocket Fund bid,

which we'll be putting towards purchasing enough Lego WeDo Kits for an entire class. This will have a hugely positive impact on the way we teach coding in school, so thank you to everyone that helped with this particular project. Finally, please remember to keep voting with your blue tokens in the Tesco Bags of Help campaign. Voting closes on 28th February and if we win we'll get £4k to put towards our new sensory garden!



YEAR 2 TRIP TO TATTON PARK

As part of Year 2's 'Trash to Treasure' topic for this half term, the children have been looking at the Victorians. To bring the topic to life they went on an exciting trip to Tatton Park, where the children were taken back in time to 1887.

The Year 2s dressed up as servants from the Victorian times and spent the day carrying out chores with Ma'am to get the house ready for the arrival of Lord Egerton and The Prince of Wales. Their chores included baking, scrubbing the floor, lighting the fire and making the beds. They also learnt that in the Victorian days servants weren't allowed to talk whilst doing their chores as they were supposed to be seen not heard- and the children gave this a good try!

"I liked baking the scones, they were yummy!" **Aryan 2SH**

"I liked polishing the plates." **Iqra 2SH**

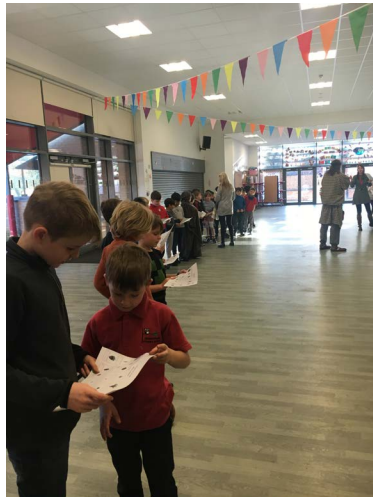
"I really liked that the Prince of Wales was coming!" **Celyn 2SH**

"Tatton Park was a great trip that was led by a team of wonderful staff who were in character as servants and the lady of the house- ma'am. The staff were very convincing and even had the teachers wondering if we had gone back in time to the Victorian days! The children loved the excitement of this and it was lovely to see them so engaged." **Mrs Hickman**



YEAR 3 STONE AGE WORKSHOP

As part of their topic on the Stone Age, Year 3 took part in an exciting workshop with Portals to the Past. During the workshop the children learnt to cave paint, how to aim a spear and got a hands-on experience of ancient technology and skills from the Paleolithic period of the Stone Age right through to the Iron Age.



 ParentPay
Pay Online Now



Don't forget to activate your Parent Pay account if you've not yet done so. If you've lost the letter with your child's activation code, please contact the school office or email messages@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk.



Oswald Road Primary School



@OswaldRoad

'TRASH TO TREASURE' FASHION SHOW

As part of their 'Trash to Treasure' topic for this half term, Year 2 learnt all about how different materials can be recycled. The children then designed and made their own fashion creations out of recycled items such as old scraps of fabric, plastic bags and pieces of card. They came up with some amazing carnival-themed clothing, which they showed off to their grown ups on the catwalk at the annual Year 2 fashion show!



GRACE & LAUREN MEET HELEN PANKHURST

On Wednesday 6th February we went to a talk about suffragettes and Emmeline Pankhurst. Emmeline's great granddaughter, Helen Pankhurst, was leading the talk and we got the chance to interview her privately.

One of the questions Lauren asked was, 'If a girl these days wants to get noticed and has a problem with the way people are treated, what's the best way to get it changed?'

Helen then answered, "If you want to have something changed, be brave and strong. Never give up and keep trying."

Grace asked, "What are your hopes and dreams for the future?"

Helen replied, "I wish for everyone to be equal. At the moment 73,000 fewer women are employed than men in Greater Manchester and I think that should change."

Helen talked about the gender pay gap and the fact that men are paid 14.7% more than women. She said that was despicable.

Even though the Prime Minister and the Deputy Mayor are women, only two councils are led by women! Hopefully, by 2028 that will change and we will all be equal.

Overall we thought it was a great experience!

Article written by Lauren & Grace (6KR)



My favourite thing about my teacher is...

We asked some of our children what they like most about their teacher. Here's what they had to say:

"She teaches us so we learn. She can do everything! We always listen to her, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday."

"She is smiley and she has nice handwriting! She's very kind because she helps me with my work, even when everyone else needs her help too. If someone hurts themselves she will help them."

"When we're stuck she lets us come and sit at her table to get ideas when she's marking other children's work, so you can see how to do it. She is also kind."

"He understands us when we need help and he believes in us. He's kind because he explains things again if we don't understand, rather than getting angry."

"I like the fact that she always gives us something easy to start, then something more challenging after that. She's also really caring."

"She's very joyful and if people are stuck she makes a little group at the table so we can all get help together."

"He's very funny and humorous. One day a mum asked him the best way to get children to do their homework and he said either use humour or tempt them with biscuits and that's what he does with us in class!"

"He's really funny and nice. Once in English, out of nowhere, he said 'giggledebumps!' and we all laughed."

"When he reads us stories he does really good voices for all the characters. He's really good at picking books the whole class likes, like Darren Shan. He reads a class book to us when we have our afternoon relax time or when we have some spare time like just before lunch."

"She pushes me to be my best and she's very nice. I can always count on her to be great and funny. She never gets angry."

"She's really helpful, calm and just a delight to be around."

"I like how she gives us hints but doesn't help too much. This gives us independence, which is good because I like being able to do things by myself."