



# WORLD BOOK DAY

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March! As always, there were some truly fantastic outfits with the children (and teachers!) dressing up as their favourite book characters. There were also lots of exciting reading-based activities, including a 'book café' in KS2 and the reading buddies class swap, in which children from older year groups visited the younger children in school to read a story to them. We also managed to raise a fantastic £241.48 for Book Aid International, which is a charity that sends brand new books to thousands of public and community libraries, refugee camps, hospitals, schools and universities.



# Headteacher's Page



To all the families of Oswald Road Primary School,

This half term has flown by!

I've looked at books a lot this half term and seen some really brilliant work going on. The enquiry based learning we have introduced in Topic is really providing opportunities for depth in learning and I have been really impressed with how the children are rising to this challenge.

TT Rockstars has remained very popular. I have enjoyed watching the children knock Mr Farrow off top spot - firstly down to third place and now down to twelfth! Seeing the children access their times tables knowledge so much quicker and with much more accuracy is really helping across the maths curriculum.

I'd like to thank our Lunchtime Team who I think are just fab! They really care and I was so impressed at a recent forum I was in with them, where they unpicked our lunchtimes and looked to solutions on how to make it work more effectively. What was apparent at every point was that they cared and want the absolute best for our children. They bring such a lot to our school.

I've loved watching our Rights Respecting Team work confidently with other schools and parents. They've worked so hard on the charters they've been developing and watching them interact with the parents at a recent event reminded me how far we have come on this. Their passion for rights and their confidence to deliver their thoughts to adults has been really impressive.

The treehouse has of course been the talk of the town this half term! The children are loving it! Of course we have too many children wanting to be on it at once, so we have timetabled it to ensure the numbers accessing it at each session are appropriate and will continue to monitor this. It was really nice for the children to see the process of it being built and of course it is bringing daily happiness to our children. Thanks again to all who made this possible.

We have had some improvements to the school building over this half term. We have had a new library area made upstairs, which provides a lovely place for the children to be and has a fantastic amount of new books for the children to access and enjoy at home. This will be fully up and running as we come back from the holidays. We have had works done on carpeting around doors and are having some works done on the stairs in the old build as part of our refurbishment project. As always, we want our school environment to be one that we all enjoy being in and ensuring we keep up to date with refurbishment forms part of that.

As always, I'd like to say a thank you to our staff. They are just a delight to work with and the care and commitment they show is second to none.

Have a good break- and I can't believe I'm saying this as I don't know where time is going- see you in summer term!

Deborah Howard  
Headteacher



# WE LOVE OUR NEW TREEHOUSE!

One of the most exciting things to happen this half term was of course the opening of the brand new treehouse! Luckily Mr Salisbury and Mr Wheeldon were on-hand to do a quick test run before any of the children went on...all in the name of health and safety checks, of course! A huge thank you to our fantastic PTA and anyone who has got involved in any PTA events over the last year, this huge project wouldn't have been possible without your hard work and generosity.





# NEW SCHOOL DINNER MENU LAUNCH



Oswald Road Catering

We were delighted to introduce our brand new school dinners menu with you this half term. We're particularly excited about this new menu as the children themselves have played a huge part in its design. Our Rights Respecting Ambassadors gathered feedback from their class about what they'd like to see on the menu and shared that with our School Cook, Jacky Ball.

Jacky then put together some new dishes based on this feedback, which the RR Ambassadors taste tested and gave final feedback on. The children have even had a say on how the menu looks, choosing the logo and graphic designs.

Jacky said, "It was a great opportunity to have the children involved with menu planning. I truly enjoyed their input-great ideas. Well done to all!"

Parents also got a chance to taste some of the new dishes at this term's Parents Evenings. Stay tuned for more information to follow on the next themed celebration lunch, as well as 'grab bag' style school packed lunches for summer!



Oswald Road Catering

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Freshly Made Margarita Pizza	Chicken Burger	Traditional Roast Dinner	Lamb Meatballs	Fish and Chips
Pasta and herby tomato sauce	Quorn Burger	Traditional Quorn Roast Dinner	Quorn Meatballs	Golden Cheese Bake
Seasonal Vegetables Sautéed potatoes	Jacket potato	Tortilla boats with various fillings	Pasta and herby tomato sauce	Tuna Mayo Wrap Cous-Cous Salad
Fruit Pots Fresh Fruit Selection Yogurts	Home-made Wedges Seasonal Vegetables	Mash and Roast Potato Seasonal Vegetables	Pasta Seasonal Vegetables	Peas Salad
	Jellies Fresh Fruit Selection Yogurts	Fruit Cookie Fresh Fruit Selection Yogurts	Chocolate Muffins Fresh Fruit Selection Yogurts	Iced Lemon Cake

Salad bar featuring seasonal salads, fruits, & bread selection. Milk and water available daily.

Fillings for jackets and tortilla boats: Cheese, beans and tuna fish



(You can view the menus for Weeks 2 and 3 on our school website)



Oswald Road Primary School



@OswaldRoad



# HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES

We spotted some great examples of healthy lunchboxes this half term....from both children and teachers! We have also been holding consultation events this half term with both parents and children to see what their ideas are for encouraging healthy snacks at play time in school. Thank you to everyone that has shared their ideas!



# NURSERY'S LITTLE VISITORS!

A big thank you to Rhoda's mummy, who brought in a tortoise and some stick insects for the Nursery children to hold this half term. Miss Tracanna said, "Our children are very lucky to have such lovely parents who support us with our learning. I never realised how interesting stick insects were! I was fascinated."





# 4AW TRIP TO CENTRAL LIBRARY

4AW went on a trip to Manchester Central Library this half term to see the Forest Tribe Dance Theatre perform their show 'Alluriat', which was a mime dance performance about two friends who were separated by the sea and then re-united. As well as watching Alluriat, Mr Wheeldon took the children to see the statues in Albert Square, the cenotaph in St Peter's square and the new statue of Emmeline Pankhurst. Thank you very much to the parent helpers that came along!



# YEAR 1 VICTORIAN SCHOOL

The Year 1 corridor was very quiet one afternoon this half term, as the children were taken back in time to see what school would have been like in the Victorian era (when children were supposed to be seen and not heard!) The teachers even did a Victorian-style inspection to see who had clean hands!







## Home Charter Presentation to Parents

We have presented the Home Charter to parents. On the Home Charter everyone had a voice to discuss what rights were best for our home.

We worked with Baguley Hall and Plymouth Grove Primary Schools to create the Home Charter.

Everyone had a voice!

When we presented it to the parents, Herbie's mum asked, "Why did you choose these certain rights?"

We responded by saying, "These rights were the most important for our houses."

Everyone around the world has the same rights. Rights are things we need to keep us happy, healthy and safe.

**By Herbie & Amani 3KB**





# CO-OP BAKING HAMPERS

To celebrate the opening of their new Chorlton branch, Co-Op Food gave us some free baking hampers. The children had a great morning making their banana flapjack bites!





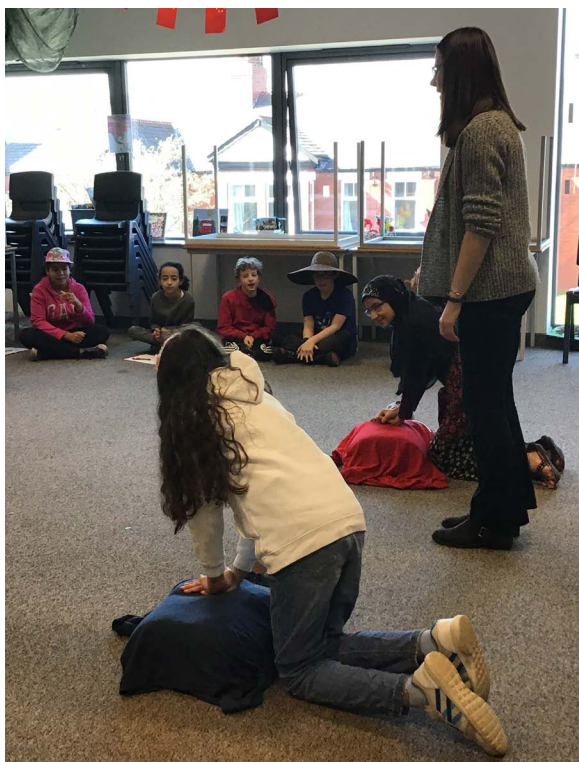
# RAINBOW FLAG TREASURE HUNT

Mrs Appleby's Year 6 art group organised an event to raise LGBT awareness in school this half term. The children made hundreds of rainbow flags and hid them around school for the children to find. The flags sparked lots of interesting conversations. Children were overheard explaining to each other what the rainbow flag stands for and why it is important for us to talk about it. Well done Isis, Lauren, Galaxie and Maia!

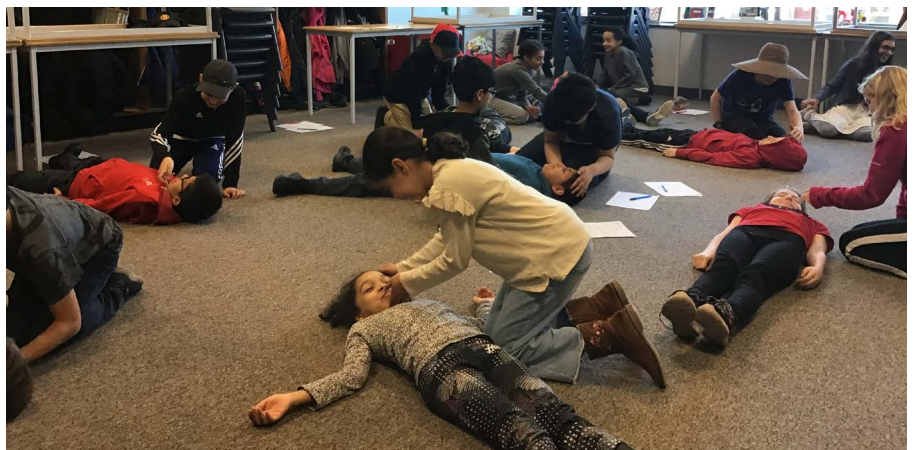


# YEAR 6 FIRST AID WORKSHOP

As part of their 'Extreme Earth' topic, Year 6 looked at the different types of extreme weather and natural disasters that occur around the world and the risks and devastation that these events can cause. To equip them for future life should they be caught in a life-threatening situation, the children took part in a first aid workshop delivered by the Red Cross.



During the workshop the children learnt essential first aid skills, including how to help someone who is unresponsive, bleeding heavily or burnt. They were also taught how to assess and manage risks to make informed choices when helping others, and given training to build their confidence and willingness to help in a first aid emergency.





# YEAR 3 ROMAN CATAPULTS

Year 3 have been making Roman catapults in science this half term as part of their topic, 'What did the Romans do for us?' The children took their finished catapults into the playground to test how effective they were, using a ruler to measure their results.



# RED NOSE DAY

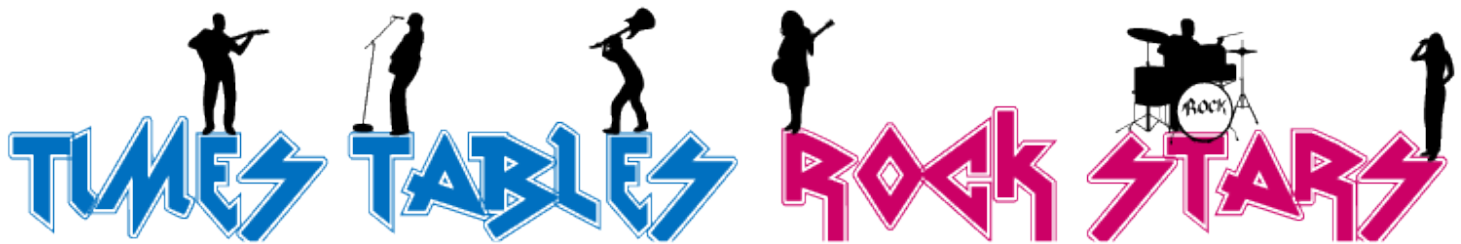
To raise money for Comic Relief we held a pyjama day and asked children to bring in £1 for the charity. We raised a fantastic £404.26, plus £143.70 from the after school bake sale, which is absolutely fantastic! This year we suggested that children could think of plastic-free ways to wear a red nose, to help reduce the pollution caused by single-use plastics. We were very pleased to see lots of painted on noses this year!





# YEAR 5 RAINFOREST WORKSHOP

As part their topic for this half term on Brazil, Year 5 took part in a rainforest workshop. During the workshop the children learnt about the animals of the rainforests and examined tribal artefacts from the Amazon and beyond. They also did a study on indigenous people and the rainforest ecosystem, looking at some of the products from the rainforest and considering some of the problems and our own impact. The workshop also gave the children the opportunity to get hands-on with some of the creepy crawly creatures found in the rainforest, such as tarantulas and millipedes!



The TT Rockstars competition ended this week with a victory for 3EW! They win the trophy and pizza party. Well done, rock champions!

Over the course of the competition we estimate that Oswald Road children have answered over 3.8 million questions. That works out at an average of about 9,000 questions per child! The TT Rockstars competition relaunches for the summer term in the first week back, with the addition of Year 2.

In further news, Oswald Road is now the fastest school in the local area at an average speed of 2.25 seconds per question per child. This tops Chorlton Park Primary (4.05 seconds) and St John's (4.83 seconds). Rock on!





# NURSERY EASTER BONNET PARADE

Nursery's Stay & Play for this half term had an Easter craft theme. The children worked very hard to create some beautiful Easter bonnets (with a bit of help from their grown-ups!) before heading over to the hall in big school to proudly display their creations in the annual Easter bonnet parade.





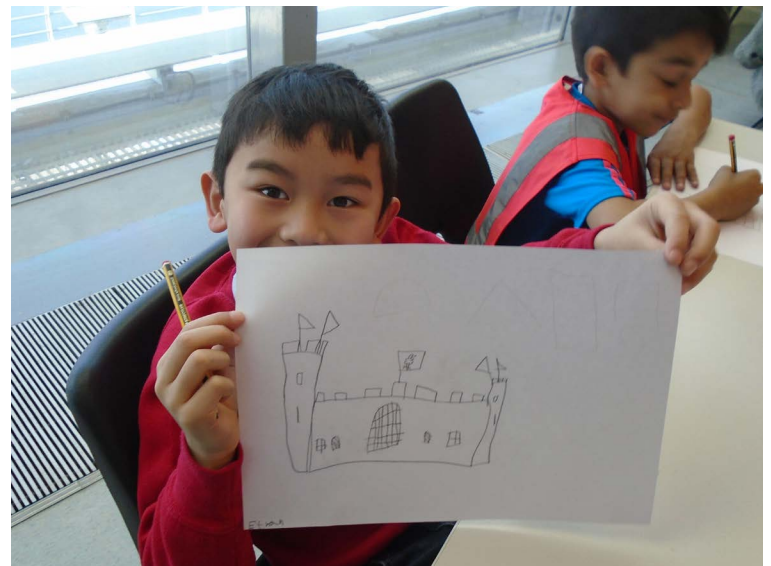
# YEAR 1 TRIP TO THE LOWRY

As part of their history and art topics for this half term, Year 1 went on an exciting trip to The Lowry. Whilst they were there the children took part in a workshop exploring Lowry's landscape pictures to get a feel for the history behind the paintings. The children got to have a go at creating their own masterpieces, using paint and pastels to make certain objects stand out in their pictures, in the style of LS Lowry.

"I had so much fun drawing and painting!"

"I liked going on the Metrolink."

"We had a picnic outside because it was so sunny!"





# YEAR 3 ROMANS TRIP TO CHESTER

As part of their topic on the Romans Year 3 visited the Dewa Roman Experience within the fortress walls of Chester. Whilst on the trip the children experienced the sights, sounds and smells of Roman Britain, including a fully-guided tour of the reconstructions, excavations, museum and the award-winning hands-on room. They also got the opportunity to dress up as part of the soldier patrol activity and create a 'Testudo'- a tortoise shell-shaped shield wall formation.

"It was quite disgusting how the Roman doctors had to drink the wee!" Hanna 3KB

"My favourite part was when we made the Testudo." Elliot 3KB

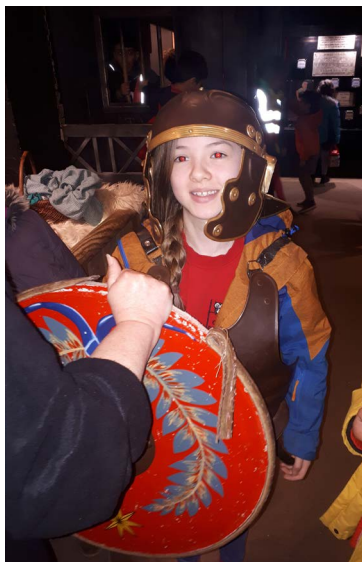
"I liked firing the small catapults." Tilly 3KB

"I liked it when we had to row to the beat of the drum." Zayd 3KB

"Goat poo was used to heal wounds, YUCK!" Mrs Ben Halima

"Marching around the town as a Roman legion was a lot of fun." Mr Welsh

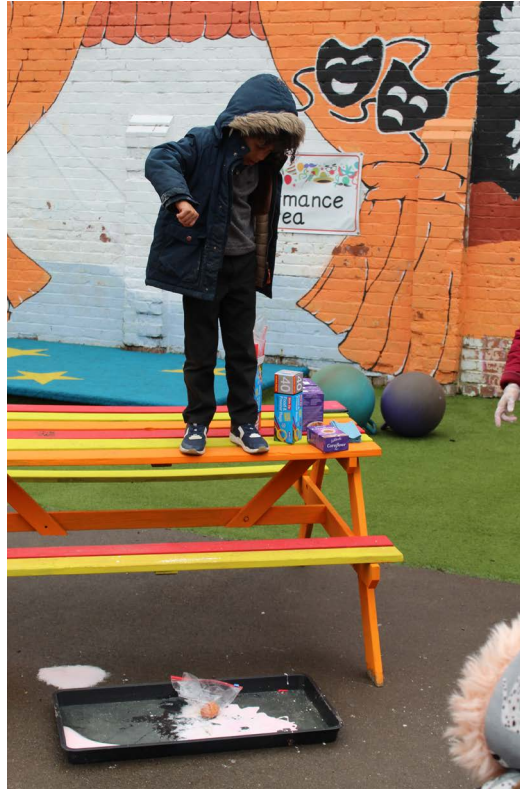
"I liked how the children made a Testudo." Miss Cronvall





# RECEPTION SCIENCE DAY

To celebrate the end of their 'Mad Science' topic, Reception held a jam-packed day full of science experiments. The children worked in small groups to carry out a number of different experiments, including making their own lava lamps, planting sunflower seeds and making a bottle of lemonade erupt like a volcano using Mentos!





# NETWORK CHOIR

This year's Network Choir concluded all their hard work over the last few months with an outstanding two days of performances. The Manchester Schools Network Choir is made up of a network of schools and is led by the fantastic Jules Gibb, an experienced and talented musician.

This year's young musicians have been working on a performance written especially for Network Choir by Jules with the theme of the Peterloo Massacre, as this year is the bicentenary of the event.

Every Friday afternoon the Year 4 singers have been out at various locations, including the People's History Museum and the Whitworth Art Gallery, to rehearse their Peterloo performance with the choirs from the partner schools.

The children then took their performance on tour, firstly to all of the venues they have been rehearsing at, followed by a day performing at each of the partner schools, including here at Oswald Road.

"I don't have enough praise for the work that is done with Network Choir. It's such a fantastic way for them to learn about their own heritage, the history of this city and its cultural assets whilst singing, performing and meeting kids from other schools... the quality of the writing and kids' performances moved me to tears and I know that they will retain the knowledge of Peterloo because of the creative way this has been taught to them. It makes me very proud to be a parent of a school that promotes creativity in this way." Year 4 Parent

"It was really special to see the choir perform in those beautiful settings, we thoroughly enjoyed watching them all singing their hearts out. Jools has done an amazing job with the choirs and the material was really moving, I'm so pleased that my daughter had the opportunity to learn about such an important part of our city's and country's political history in such a creative way." Year 4 Parent





# You said | We did

Having Parents Evening meetings in the corridors or in the classroom with one or two other teachers made it difficult to have confidential conversations.

We held all Parents Evening appointments in the hall this term, and feedback from both staff and parents showed that this made it easier to discuss private matters due to the noise level of other conversations.

Having the TT Rockstars semi-final finish time at 10:00am gave some classes an unfair advantage as they were able to access the ICT suite in the hour leading up to the competition close.

For the TT Rockstars final this week we changed the closing time to before the start of the school day (8:00am) to make it fairer for all involved.

The guttering is broken in Nursery, meaning water floods out of it whenever it rains, blocking the pathway to the building.

This has been reported to the Caretaker and the issue has been repaired this half term.

The 'Hoot Camp' holiday club is great! Can school provide dinners for children attending?

Yes! From the Easter holidays onwards you will be able to order a lunch for your child when they attend Hoot Camp.

It seems a bit dangerous for younger siblings at drop-off time when there are children playing football on the pitch where line-up is.

As of this week we have banned football playing in the playground before school starts, as there have been occasions in which children have brought in their own footballs from home to play with in the playground before school, which have subsequently caused injury to other children. We have a policy of only using soft foam balls in school to prevent these sorts of injuries happening during the school day.