

GLOBAL DAY



We had a fantastic Global Day on Friday 8th November with some great activities going on around school. Each year group did a different activity that reflected their awareness of global issues affecting children around the world.

The work the children did formed part of Oswald Road's 'Going for Gold' efforts, as we are currently a 'Silver' level Rights Respecting School, but we are now hoping to be accredited with the 'Gold' award. Watch this space!

Activities included a Year 2 bake sale to raise money for UNICEF and a climate change protest being planned by our eco-minded Year 6 children! Children in Early Years also got involved, with Nursery watching a video about what it is like in schools around the world. They noticed how some classrooms were outside, some inside. Some classrooms had desks, some didn't. Some children wore a uniform and others didn't. The children talked about how even though we are from different parts of the world we all have the right to an education.

Mrs Ben Halima, our Rights Respecting Lead, said: "We all really enjoyed our first ever 'Global Day'. I was so proud of the Rights Respecting ambassadors, who delivered a wonderful assembly to KS1 and KS2 to talk about UNICEF's 'outright initiative'!"



YEAR 2 GUY FAWKES WORKSHOP

Earlier this half term Guy Fawkes visited school to tell Year 2 all about the Gunpowder Plot. Some of the children dressed up as some of the plotters, such as Robert Catesby, while other children dressed up as soldiers.

"I liked it when Guy Fawkes was pretending his head was being chopped off!"

"He was funny when he pretended to be the soldier."

"It was good when he kept putting the hats on."

"The children marching around us were good."

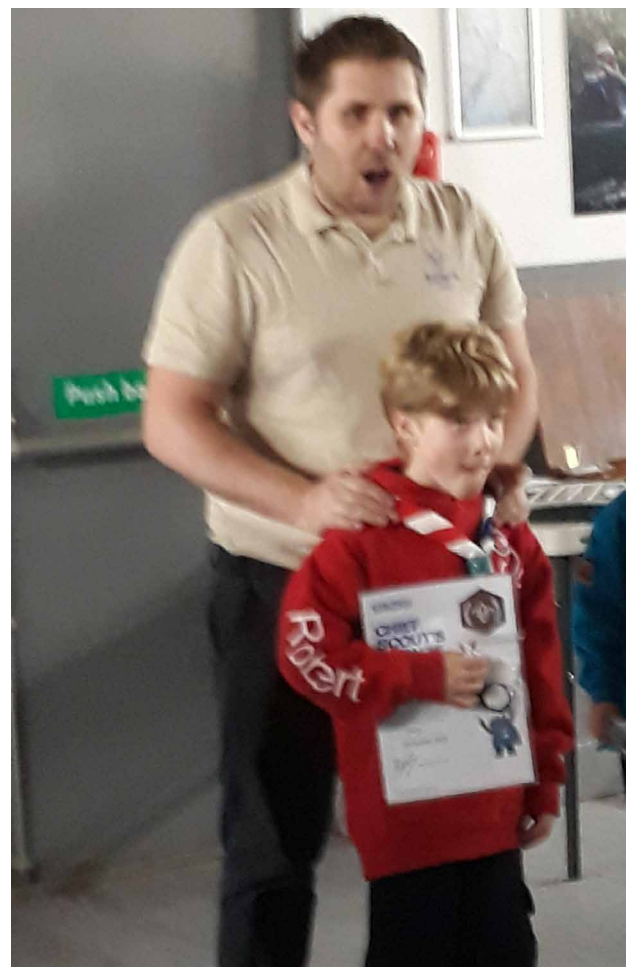
"I enjoyed marching as a soldier with my suit on because I was the leader."



CONGRATULATIONS, ROBERT!

A big well done to Robert from 3WD, who was presented with his Chief Scout's Award by the leaders at the Chorlton Scout Group. Robert has been working very hard towards this award for the last two years so his grown ups are very proud of him, and so are we!

The Scout group posted the following update on their website: "Last night we presented over 100 badges to Atlantis beaver colony for their hard work this term, amongst them was the very highest award a Beaver Scout can earn, the Chief Scout's Bronze Award which we very proudly presented to Robert in front of his entire colony and an equally proud mum and dad. BRAVO!"



WIZARD OF OZ PANTOMIME



As a special end of term treat the Reception and Year 1, the children had a visit from a touring pantomime company, who came in to school to put on a production of The Wizard of Oz. The children all got involved in the performance, shouting out 'he's behind you!' and singing along with

the songs. Some children (and Mrs Turton!) were even chosen to go up on stage to help the cast sing a Christmas song!

"I like the bit when the scarecrow was spraying the crows with the water." Charlie FS2NT

"I liked when the wicked witch was killed because then Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin-man and Lion could all get what they were looking for." Marcus 1DE

"My favourite character was the witch because she was evil." Bea 1DE

"The scarecrow was my favourite character because he told lots of funny jokes." Guy 1DE

"The scarecrow was hilarious because he told lots of good jokes." Ronia 1DE

MEETING JACQUELINE WILSON



Over the half term holiday three children from Year 5 (Eve, Emme and Christina) got to meet their literary idol, the incredible Jacqueline Wilson!

The girls were three of 22 lucky winners from across Manchester who won a competition to meet the famous author and receive a signed copy of her new book at Manchester Central Library on 26th October.

The competition winners were selected from those who entered the summer reading challenge and took out a number of Jacqueline Wilson books.



WACKY WOODY

Wacky Woody, an experienced children's entertainer, visited Nursery to perform a magical and exciting Christmas themed show! The performance included magic tricks, comedy and exciting moments where the children had to help Woody out with some problems. The children especially loved meeting Woody's cheeky little dog!

"Wacky Woody played hide and seek. He was pulling silly faces and I laughed." Harriet

"Wacky Woody had a dog and the dog ate the tissue and he smiled at us. I laughed at him." Charlie

"The show was wonderful! Wacky Woody never fails to impress and was excellent at including all the children! He made the children laugh, join in, use their thinking brains and have a lovely time!" Mrs Iqbal



GIRLS' FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Our mini lionesses have made an excellent start to the season in the girls' football league. We are currently flying high in second place in the league, with loads of wins under our belt. The girls have been fantastic playing as a team with some excellent new additions to the squad. They have faced some difficult opponents and achieved some fantastic results.

Coach Mr Salisbury said: "The Thursday girls' football club is booming! I've never had this many children in the club and I've even had to create a waiting list! These are halcyon days for girls' football at Oswald Road!"



'NO PENS DAY' WEDNESDAY

This half term Oswald Road's Nursery & Reception classes took part in an exciting one-day event, alongside schools across the country, called 'No Pens Day Wednesday'.

The aim of the day was to encourage the skills of speaking and listening, which is a part of the Early Years national curriculum. For one day, children in Nursery & Reception put down their pens and all lessons and activities had a focus on speaking and listening skills rather than writing skills. Teachers then assessed what children in their class had learnt about the lesson by listening to what they say about it.

Reading and writing are very important and valuable skills but people are often not aware of how important speaking and listening skills are too. Schools that include speaking and listening in a planned and structured way for children in their lessons see improvement in their classroom involvement. Ofsted inspectors (who check standards in all schools in the country) are noticing more and more that speaking and listening is a really important factor for good teaching and child performance in successful schools.

Laura Tracanna, Assistant Headteacher and Early Years Lead, said: "The day became a celebration of the children's thoughts and feelings as well as an opportunity to celebrate communication in general and all the skills which this requires. The quality of conversations heard around the room was so high and learning became so personalised. It highlighted how good we are at doing this as an Early Years day-in-day-out, but also inspired us to ensure that communication remains at the top of our priority list at all times."



SHARING A LOVE OF READING!

We love reading at Oswald Road so we thought it would be lovely to share with you some information on reading with your children, book recommendations, and reasons why we love to read...

Some advice from our Reading Lead, Mrs Greenway: "Reading can come easy to some of our children but because it is so easy they will often rush through texts. When asked what happened or for a summary, they can find this tricky and the details are lost. This means that comprehension is nowhere near where actual decoding ability is (reading the print).

"One simple strategy can help fix this! Retelling a story is not only a great way to see if your child understands the plot and the vocabulary but it's also a great way for them to connect what they are reading to other events, stories or ideas. You can ask your child to retell a section in a non-fiction book or a short story or a chapter in a longer book to you. This will tell you if they are listening to their reading. They should be able to tell you confidently the main facts/events in order, using some text specific vocabulary.

"This could be followed up with some questions e.g. What do you think the character will do next? What is the message or lesson of this story? Which section was the most interesting/exciting part? Can you replace a particular word in this sentence or can you find a word that means X?"

Mr Wheeldon's Recommendation

Title: A Short History of Nearly Everything

Author: Bill Bryson

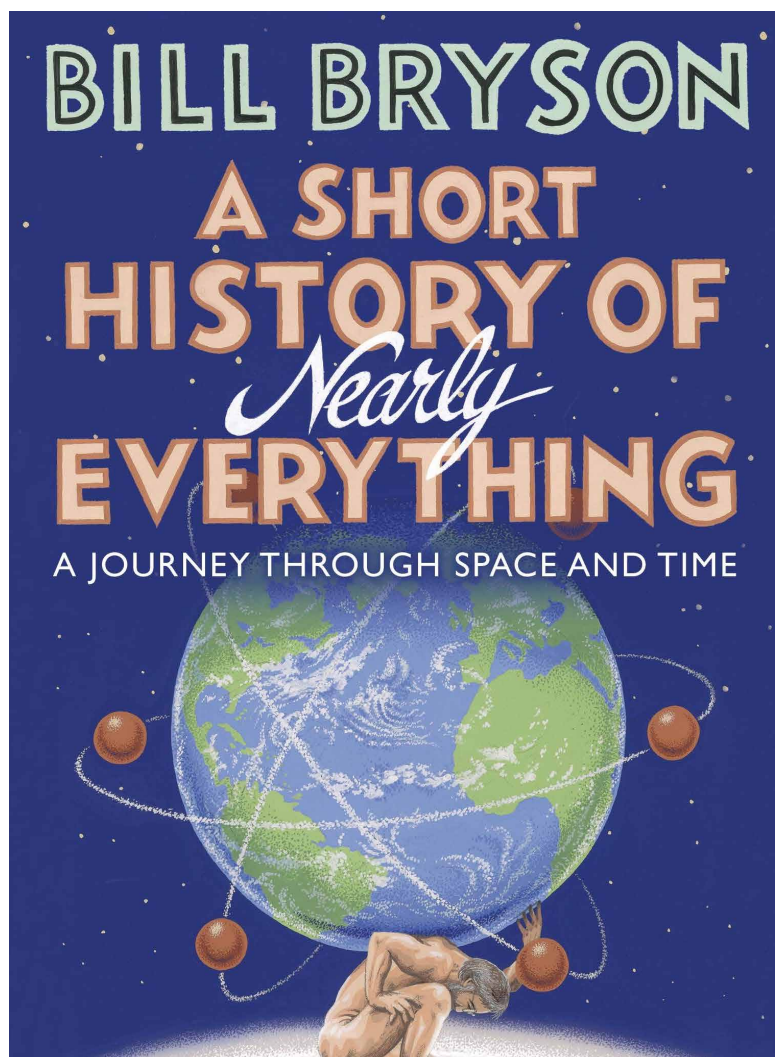
Genre: Non fiction - History of Science

A wonderful, clearly written book about the history of the Earth and general science, suitable for those with or without a scientific background. It has many biographical stories about famous scientists, including several who worked in Manchester. Educational and funny - highly recommended!

Miss Rice's Recommendation

I've been doing the 52 book challenge in 2019 (1 book a week) and I finished it last week...ahead of schedule!

I reread the entire Harry Potter series as part of the challenge... I haven't read them since I was at school myself. I still have my original Chamber of Secrets from when I was in Year 4!



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

Miss Rowe's Recommendations

Title: The Book of Dust Volume Two: The Secret Commonwealth

Author: Philip Pullman

Genre: Fantasy

This is the follow-up to the children's series, His Dark Materials, but is aimed at adults who read these books when they were younger. Lyra is now 20 years old. This story tracks her journey across Europe and into Asia, in search of a city haunted by demons.

Title: The Testaments

Author: Margaret Atwood

Genre: Fantasy/Dystopia

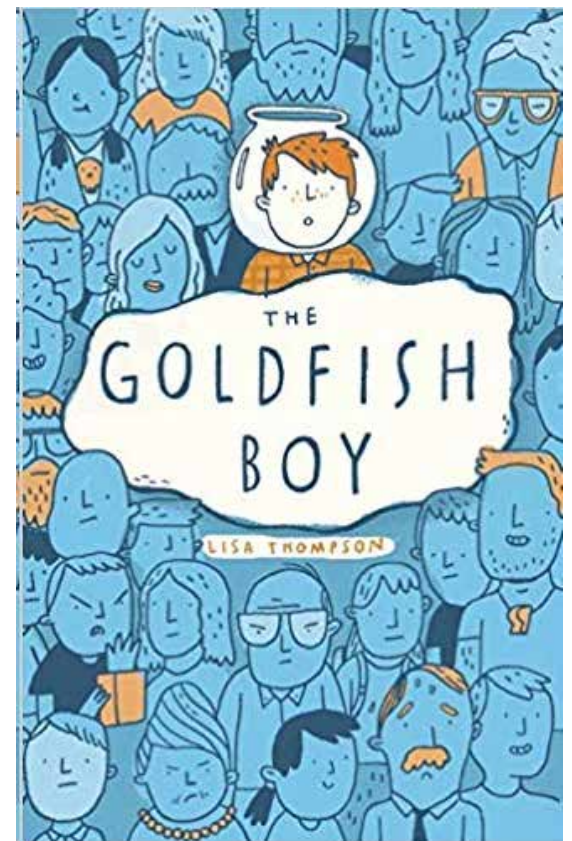
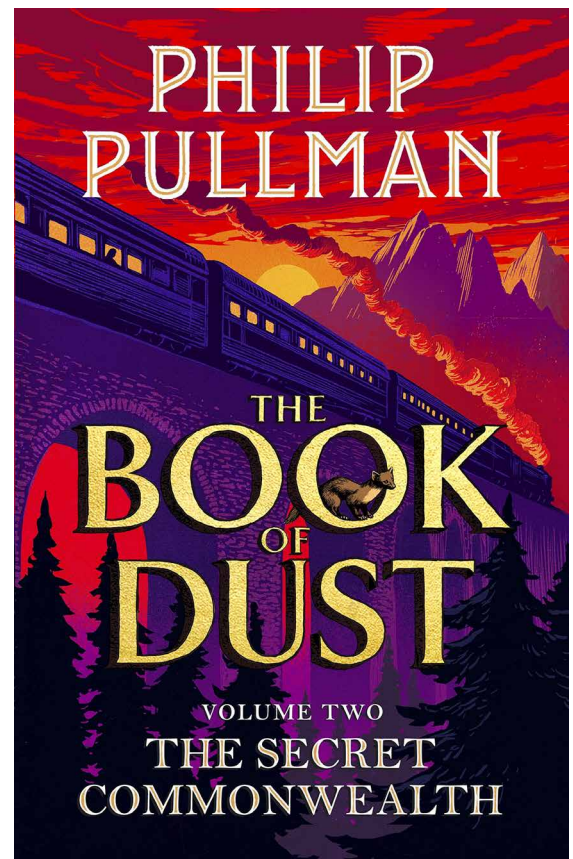
This is the sequel to The Handmaid's Tale so would appeal to anyone who has read that and wants to know what became of Offred and Gilead. The sequel is set 15 years later and includes three testaments from female narrators who lived in Gilead.

Mrs Savage's Recommendations

I have just finished reading The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson with my son. It is about a boy who has OCD. He doesn't like germs and washes his hands incessantly. While he is stuck in his bedroom, he watches the neighbours in his close as they go about their everyday business. One day Mr Charles' grandson Teddy goes missing so Matthew has to turn detective and piece together things he has seen. It was a really gripping story coupled together with a carefully scripted narrative about one little boy's struggle to overcome things that had happened in the past in order to start fixing the present. We loved it.

Mrs Howard "I love sharing books with my little girl every day. It's so lovely to cuddle up together and share the stories and pictures and talk about what we've read. We enjoy taking ideas from stories and developing our own role play games, which is good fun and has also been a good way of helping develop her language."

Mrs Hickman loves to read whenever she has any spare time! "I love how reading can take you to a whole new place, and allows you to escape the everyday madness!"



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

Mrs Greenway's Recommendation

Title: Rooftoppers

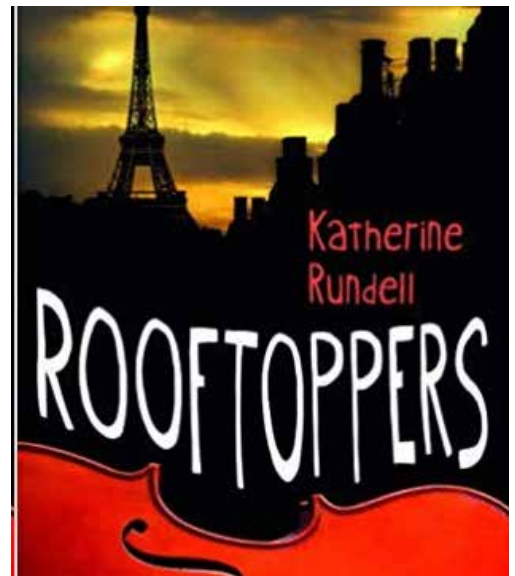
Author: Katherine Rundell

Genre: Adventure

Suggested age: 9+

Review: This is a quirky, beautifully written story about love, hope and courage. There are some interesting points for discussion. I loved this book and would definitely read it again!

Interesting fact: Katherine Rundell, the author, starts each day with a cartwheel and believes that reading is almost exactly the same as cartwheeling- it turns the world upside down...



Miss Cawley's Recommendations

I second Miss Greenway's recommendation; Year 5 have been studying Rooftoppers in Guided Reading this half term – we're hooked. I also recommend 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' and 'The Nowhere Emporium'

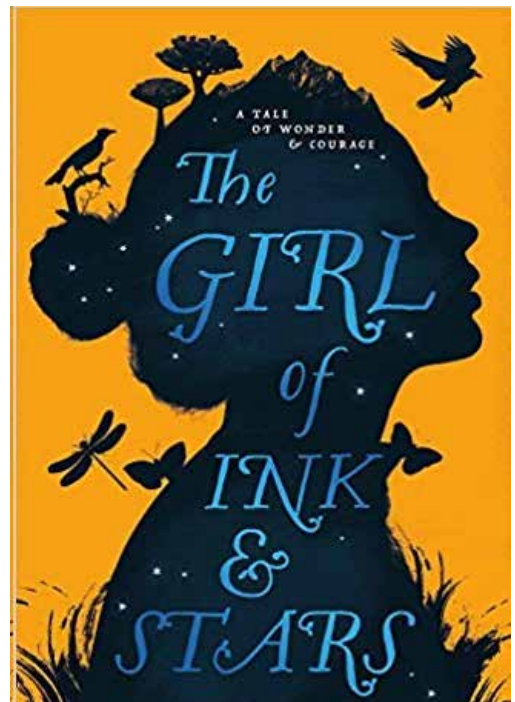
Title: The Girl of Ink and Stars

Author: Kiran Millwood Hargraves

Genre: Fantasy

Suggested age: 9+

Review: This is a cleverly written book with a charismatic main character. It is a modern story which incorporates myth, magic and even a dash of politics into a fantasy world. This is a story about friendship, courage and the importance of finding your way! If you love Alice in Wonderland or escaping to fantasy worlds through fiction this one's for you!



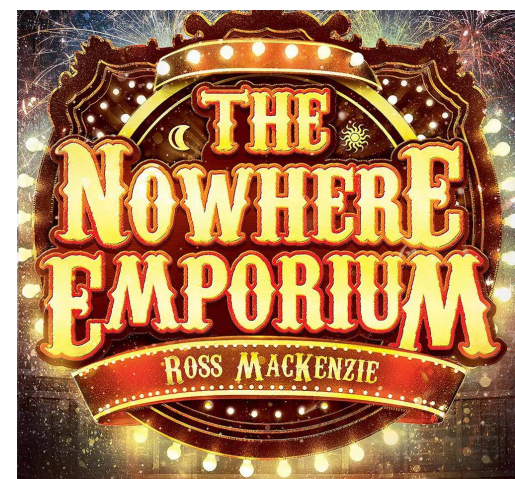
Title: The Nowhere Emporium

Author: Ross Mackenzie

Genre: Fantasy & Adventure

Suggested age: 9+

Review: 'The Nowhere Emporium' gripped me from the start and hooked me right through to the end. The main character is an orphan who discovers a whole new magical world with wonders beyond his imagination – this is a great book to read with an adult!



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

Mr Salisbury's Recommendation

I recommend the Harry Potter series! I used to struggle with writing and couldn't think of any ideas, however, once I read Harry Potter, I started to magpie vocabulary and suddenly everyone was telling me I was a great writer! I even then went on to do a creative writing degree! I genuinely wouldn't have become a teacher if it wasn't for Harry Potter!

Charlie- Year 1

Charlie loves to read Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator by Roald Dahl, with his mum. He likes the weird animals and the elevator that's really cool! Charlie thinks Roald Dahl is one of the best writers in the world!

Jack- Year 1

Jack really enjoys reading Bertie the Bat with his mum. He says the pictures look funny and cute!

Yusuf- Year 2

Yusuf likes reading Cirque Du Freak with his mum, dad or brother because it really makes him laugh! It is about a boy who goes to the theatre where there's a vampire who asks him to be his sidekick!

The Nursery children have recently really enjoyed reading The Biggest Snowball Ever by John Rogan. It was all about the seasons and the children loved spotting the kinds of clothes they need to start wearing in the cold winter months!

Lloyd- Year 5

I love so many books but Percy Jackson is my favourite! It is based on Greek mythology so it gives you some historical facts, which I love, but it is also easier to understand and he goes on exciting adventures!

Eve- Year 5

I love all Jacqueline Wilson books. They're relatable and she writes in a way that is easy to follow – I can never put them down.

Nayan- Year 5

'The Boy at the Back of the Class' is my recent favourite! It is about children who want to help a refugee that joins their class. It was sad at times but had a really good message and I would like to think it's something my class would do.

Mia- Year 6

'The School For Good and Evil!' – It's so exciting, I couldn't wait to turn each page. You won't be able to put it down.

Raphie- Year 6

'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo is my recommendation. It's an adventure story and I think everyone will love it!



PTA PAGE

Have you seen the new trees in and around the playground? Our plans to clean up and green the school grounds (and air) are starting to pick up pace and there is more to come over the next couple of months thanks to a PTA green team – working alongside the school. If you would like to be more involved with the more practical side of the PTA efforts then please e-mail us.



We have raised over **£7,500** this term! We couldn't have done any of it without your help. So, whether you volunteered an hour of your time at the Fair, baked and/or bought cake, bid on an item in the Auction of Promises, guessed how many sweets were in the jar, bought a raffle ticket or a pre-loved book or ordered a Christmas card, THANK YOU! Here's a guide as to how the funds were raised:

Auction of Promises: £3,258; Winter Fair: ~£3,780; Christmas Cards: ~£500; Halloween Bake Sale £54; easyfundraising: ~£50.

There is plenty to come next term – on Thursday 13th February we will have our inaugural Family Quiz Evening, before the return of the Annual Quiz Night (for grown-ups only) in March. We hope to see you there for what promises to be two evenings full of fun and games. We also hope to hold a women's-only food and pamper evening before Easter and look out for Krispy Kreme doughnuts after school.

We aim to keep you updated regularly (at least weekly) via social media, Parent Mail, the Weekly Update and our own e-mail. Please check for news but also get in touch with us at any time with your ideas and feedback – and if you want adding to the mailing list. You don't need to come to meetings to be involved – give us a shout as we are always open to new suggestions.

Finally, enjoy your school holiday time with family and friends – and good TV ;)

See you in the New Year.

Michelle, Ernst, Jodie & Christina et al (PTA Committee)

NB: Don't forget to start saving your 5p coins as the Bottle Challenge will start when we get back in January. One class will win a movie and popcorn afternoon – and there will be a small prize for one child in each class for guessing how much their class will collect. Did you know you can fit over £100 of 5p coins in a 2 litre bottle?!

KEEP IN TOUCH



 Email	oswaldptachair@gmail.com
 Facebook	facebook.com/friendsofoswaldroad
 Twitter	twitter.com/oswaldrdpta
 Instagram	@OswaldRdPTA
 www	oswaldroad.co.uk/community/fors
 Pinterest	pinterest.co.uk/oswaldptachair

CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT RNCM

The choir performed at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) on Friday 6th December as part of a concert to raise money for Russian orphans.

Music Lead Mrs Murray said: "We are asked to participate every year- it's always an amazing event and such an occasion for the children to sing at the RNCM in front of a big audience!"

As well as the choir, our wonderful balalaika players also performed as part of the concert. And they weren't the only ones performing at the RNCM that evening.... Yahya and Amani performed on the same night as part of a piano concert. What fantastic musicians we have at Oswald Road!



AUCTION OF PROMISES PRIZES

This year's PTA Auction of Promises was another huge success, and thanks to some staff-donated promises the buzz around the event has been continuing around school well after the end of the auction! Katie from Year 6 stepped into Mrs Linton's shoes for the day and took over the school's social media accounts- check out our Facebook and Twitter pages to see what she got up to! We've also had various class prizes, including a movie night with Mrs Howard and Mrs Linton, which was won by 3WD, and a pirates and mermaids party with the Year 2 teachers, which was won by Mr Farrow's class and Miss Tracanna's class. Many thanks to all of the parents who bid and everyone that donated a 'promise' to the auction!



YEAR 6 PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM TRIP

As part of their topic 'What Can We Learn From The Suffragette Struggle?', Year 6 visited the People's History Museum, where they attended a 'Living History' workshop about the life story of a suffragette named Hannah Mitchell. During the workshop the children created arguments to debate different types of protests. They then looked around the galleries to bring their learning to life.

"It was an interesting visit. My favourite part was when Hannah was acting out parts of her life."

"The banners were very colourful. I liked pretending to be a shopkeeper in the 1940s. I loved wearing realistic clothes from the time."

Mrs Gibson said: "The visit enabled the children to learn details about the suffragettes and the fight for the vote. It was interesting to learn that banners were not allowed and that women had to go in disguise to protest for suffrage. Excellent acting and an interesting workshop for the children!"



AUTUMN TERM QUALITY ASSURANCE VISIT- GOVERNING BODY UPDATE

At Oswald Road we regularly ask for an external audit of the teaching and learning across the school. This term the governors were delighted to read the feedback from the external Quality Assurance professional, Adrian Guy. His focus this term was the curriculum.

He was very pleased with what he saw: "There is much about the curriculum and classroom practice that is strong." He also reflected on the "high ambition and drive" the staff have for the school. While the curriculum was recognised as strong in the most recent Ofsted inspection (September 2018), the inspection framework has since changed.

The school has made a good start to mapping progression in various subjects and this will continue through the year. We will welcome Adrian's return later on in the school year to see how we are getting on!



YEAR 4 TRIP TO 'THE BEATLES STORY'

As part of their topic on the 1960's, Year 4 went on a trip to Liverpool to visit 'The Beatles Story' – a museum and exhibition all about the Fab Four and their history. During their visit the children visited the exhibition wearing audio commentary sets and learned all about the history of the Beatles. On the way through they visited the Cavern Club, boarded an airliner to the USA, and even walked through the Yellow Submarine! They were then entertained in the Discovery Area by dressing up in 1960's outfits, playing a giant piano, preparing a piece of pop art and learning about famous events of the 1960's. After this, they ate lunch in the café and then walked down to the River Mersey to look at the ships before boarding the coach home, singing Beatles songs all the way!

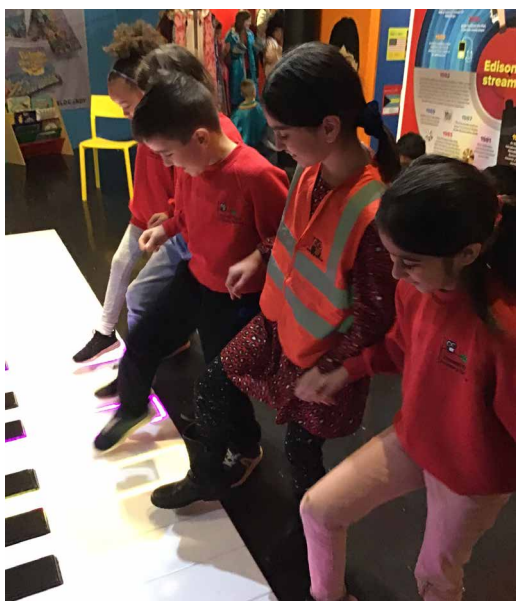


"I thought it was really good and it was really fun. The giant piano was my favourite bit!" Luca 4AW



"Fantastic! When we were doing the tour I really liked the songs and the pictures." Alex 4BC

"I thought it was really fun and I liked doing the exhibition and the design activity." Martha 4LM



YEAR 3 ROMANS TRIP TO CHESTER

As part of their topic for this half term on the Romans, Year 3 went on a trip to the Dewa Roman Experience in Chester. Whilst they were there the children visited the museum and learnt all about the Roman invasion of Britain. This focused on Roman life in Britain, including what they ate, what they did for entertainment and how they organised their legions.

The children then went on a march around Chester wearing Roman armour whilst being ordered around by a Legionary! They practiced battle formations and learnt all about the life of a Roman army soldier.

"This was the best trip ever!" Dexter 3JB

"I learnt all about the Romans – did you know that the Romans invented socks!?" Hannah 3JB



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We've just finished another fantastic season of Christmas shows here at Oswald Road! The Nursery production celebrated the fun of snow in winter, Reception's told us a tale all about a very bossy king, whilst KS1's play was about Penguin Pete, who is just sick of getting fish for Christmas! Meanwhile, the classes in Years 3-6 performed a hilarious series of sketches (written by our very talented Mr Salisbury!) all about the inevitable stresses of the Christmas season (including scenes about present shopping at the Trafford Centre and buying the perfect Christmas tree!) All of the children performed and sang with such confidence and enthusiasm, they could have even put Ebenezer Scrooge in a Christmassy mood!

