

NEWSLETTER

Inspiration and Success



NAME OUR NEWSLETTER!

Send your suggestions to
a.hodges@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk

WORLD BOOK DAY FUN RAISES £200 FOR SCHOOL!



Our favourite characters from the literary world were brought to life here at school on World Book Day 2015. Staff and children donned some fabulous costumes (thank you Parents and Carers for your help!) and each donated £1, which will go towards school improvements.

“

Thank you everyone. Not only did we raise lots of money for the playground and promote reading, we also created a fun, special day that the children will remember.



Sharon Griffin
Year 3 Teacher

NEWS FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

It's been yet another happy month at Oswald Road. I particularly enjoyed the buzz across school on World Book Day with the fantastic outfits and lots of smiling faces! Thank you to everyone who helped make this an amazing day.



The Senior Leadership Team worked together with Governors this month on our SEF, the school's Self Evaluation Form. It is essential we do this regularly so we have an accurate identification of how the school is doing in different areas. It was a very productive day and was also a great celebration of the amount of work that is being done at our school, continuing our journey to 'Oswald Road Outstanding'.

As always, I've had many children come and visit me with work to share and stories to tell me about their learning. It's clear that they are enjoying their learning in school and the work they have shown me has blown my socks off! I've even had some lovely Foundation Stage children come and show me their wonderful writing, maths skills and creative artwork. I'm very lucky. There isn't a week that goes by where I don't contemplate how privileged I am to lead this fantastic school.

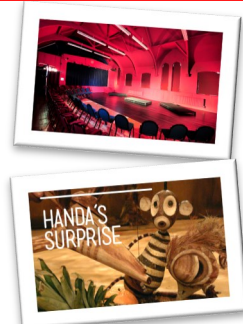
After Easter, I'm really looking forward to the work Kathryn Whalley will begin leading on UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA). This is such a positive move forward for school and I know Kathryn is buzzing with excitement to get going on this! Watch this space...



Deborah Howard
Headteacher

THE NURSERY HEADS TO THE THEATRE...

The nursery had a brilliant visit to the Edge Theatre to see Handa's Surprise, a fun production which is linked to their topic of study. The children were excellently behaved when walking to and from the theatre and loved the puppets and music in particular! We would like to say a BIG thank you to all the adults who came along to help!



A Busy Month For The Eco Team!

It's been an exciting time for our Eco Team this month! We met with landscape architect, Nick Linder, from Groundwork, to view his designs for our playground.

We thought they looked fantastic and are hoping that the work to develop the turfed area into a space for growing food, foraging and creative play will begin during the Easter holidays.

The Year One and Year Three Eco Team Representatives went to visit Hulme Garden Centre armed with a tub of money generously raised to help us pay for our plants, and returned with a variety of trees to plant at school.

Before we went, we used our maths skills to measure the grassed area and to accurately count the money we had to spend. We then chose some lovely fruit trees and bushes which were planted on Saturday 14th March.

The Year Four, Five and Six Eco Team members helped the Reception children to plant broad bean seeds into pots. The Reception children are looking forward to watering the seeds and watching them grow into small plants that can be planted in the raised beds in their playground.

Thank you to everyone who came to school to help our Eco Team with the planting!



New Faces at Oswald Road



Get to know the Oswald
Road Newbies you'll be
seeing around school...

Dear families

Hi! I'm Alex Hodges, Communications and Marketing Manager here at Oswald Road Primary School.

This is a new role within the school and I'm very excited to help share with you the successes of our students and the ongoing developments within our community. We have a lot to be proud of at Oswald Road and I can't wait to show you more of what we are doing in 2015.

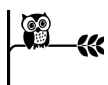
Just as importantly, I'll be here to listen to you, the members of our diverse community; your insights are vital to our team here at school and I'm working on ways to help us both listen and talk about what's important to you and your child. Next term, I'd like to hear from all the groups that make up our community and act on the feedback we receive.

At the moment, I'm opening up more ways to tell the story of our school, with a view to providing you with a better understanding of what we're up to on a daily basis. We have a fantastic new school website ready and we have just logged onto social media to help boost our communications, so we'd really appreciate it if you could come and visit us online and give us a 'like'!

It would also be great to hear your views on the school and on some ideas we have in the pipeline, so I will be writing to you again soon to invite Parents and Carers to some focus groups (the fancy name for a cup of tea and a chat!) here at the school in the coming weeks. As an Oswald Road 'newbie', I'd love the opportunity to get to know you better and share ideas on how we can work together to improve the school even more this year.

Finally, we had a fantastic time at the "We Love Oswald Road" event before the half-term break! Thank you to everyone involved, and a great BIG thanks to all the families and our PTA (FORS) whose amazing fundraising work raised a whopping **£25,000** for the school! Your hard work is very much appreciated.

I'm really looking forward to meeting some of you around school and I'm always available for a chat. You can find me in the Leadership Team office on the ground floor, so feel free to pop in and say hello!



Alex Hodges

Communications and Marketing Manager

Our newsletters will be sent by email and
uploaded onto our website from now on!



Find us on Facebook and follow us
on Twitter!



Just search "Oswald Road Primary
School" to find our pages and get
regular updates and news.

New Faces at Oswald Road



A warm welcome
to Mr Tennant
& Mr McManus!



Hi there, I'm Adam Tennant, the new Year 1 teacher here at Oswald Road.

I have always wanted to be a teacher and, having finally achieved that goal, I could not be happier! I studied History at Manchester Metropolitan University, before going back home to Lancaster to complete my teaching course.

Other than my interest in History, I love cooking, reading and the most simple things in life! During the holidays, I often like to travel to different parts of Europe when possible, but I would love to explore further across our world.

My aim here at Oswald Road Primary is to provide a good education for the Year 1 children, and to work as part of an already strong team of staff to achieve this goal. If you see me around the school, please don't hesitate to stop me and say hello!



Hello, my name is Bryan McManus and I'm the new Year 1 Teaching Assistant in Class 1AT (formerly 1GM).

I have been living in Chorlton for the past eight years and as such am delighted to be working within my local community. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, carers and staff who have given me such a warm welcome at Oswald Road, as you have helped me to settle in record time!

Please feel free to come and say hello if you see me around school!



ONE OF NATURE'S MOST SPECATULAR EVENTS COMES TO OSWALD ROAD!

Thank you to all the volunteers who stayed at school to ensure everyone had a safe viewing of the partial solar eclipse. There were some excellent viewing tools being used around the playground!

We hope to see you all at the next UK total solar eclipse on **September 23rd 2090 (!!!)**, but, if you just can't wait...head to Indonesia on 9th March 2016 to bathe in four minutes of darkness!



CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS!

A team of 3 girls took part in The Trafford Schools cross-country competition organised by one of our parent governors, Simon Bentall. Ella Greenway (4LM), Nadia Bishop-Broadhurst (5JB) and Cleo Bentall came third in the Year 5 and under race. Here they are with their bronze medals! Tom Bentall won the Year 6 schools race. Well done to Tom and everyone who took part!



A DESIGNER IN THE MAKING . . .

Congratulations to Isis (2SS) whose postcard design caught the judges' eyes in the Manchester Central Library Postcard Competition. The judges selected Isis as a runner up in the 4-7 age category for her "lovely and thoughtful design" which stood out among the many entries they received.

Isis' design has been displayed in a special exhibition at Central Library running until the end of March.



CREATIVE WRITING FROM DOM (Y6)

"Jack travelled swiftly in a westerly direction, towards the creepy, rumbling volcano. Although Jack's body trembled with fear, he also felt quite excited about what might happen next. His heart pounded as adrenaline rushed through his body.

Boom! Thick, orange lava oozed out of the deep, powerful crater. Despite the heat coming from the volcano, Jack persevered because his instinct told him that the doors were inside the volcano...

Ascending the volcano, Jack moved like a cat on a hot tin roof. Sweat poured from his forehead as his vision got blurry. Nevertheless, Jack continued.

Finally, Jack entered the crater and he knew his instinct was right. As his vision cleared, his eyes were drawn to four doors. Gold, silver, bronze and platinum.

Which should he choose?"



**THIS MONTH, WE RECEIVED A
BRITISH COUNCIL AWARD FOR
ACHIEVING FOUNDATION LEVEL:
INTRODUCING INTERNATIONALISM!**



Y5 LOOK TO SPAIN FOR INSPIRATION

Our topic this term is 'Spain' and Year 5 have been looking at a mixture of traditional and fictional stories set in this fascinating and vibrant country.

This past week, we have been learning about the famous, traditional character of Don Quixote. We have delved into his absurd and funny adventures with his best friend Sancho and his trusty steed Rocinante.

The children have been writing character descriptions of Don Quixote. Year 5 were encouraged to think about their sentence skills and to anticipate how the reader should feel about the character. The following piece demonstrates a varied amount of Alan Peat sentences, effective work choices and super grammar!



ROWAN (Y5) ON MIGUEL DE CERVANTES' CLASSIC...

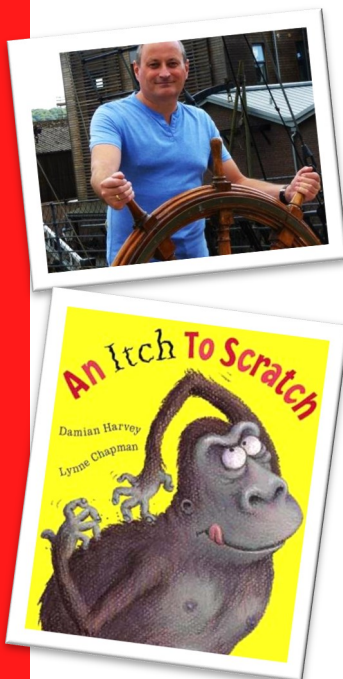
"Don Quixote is an admirable, benevolent man with an open, warm heart. Everyone who meets him automatically likes him. The more he gets old, the more his youthful spirit grows. At the age of fifty, he decides to not be a farmer anymore, but a trustworthy, fearless knight! He was exuberant, as exuberant as a greyhound chasing after a bull. Excited and contented, audacious and virtuous, Don Quixote claimed to tackle the monstrous 'beast' of a windmill."



Rowan Rutherford, Year 5



YEAR 1 ENJOY A WRITING WORKSHOP WITH A CHILDREN'S AUTHOR!



Last half term, we had an inspirational visit from Damian Harvey, author of 'Robo-Runners' and 'The Mudcrusts'. You may have even read some of his books with your child, as he writes for Project X, a selection of books we also have here in school.

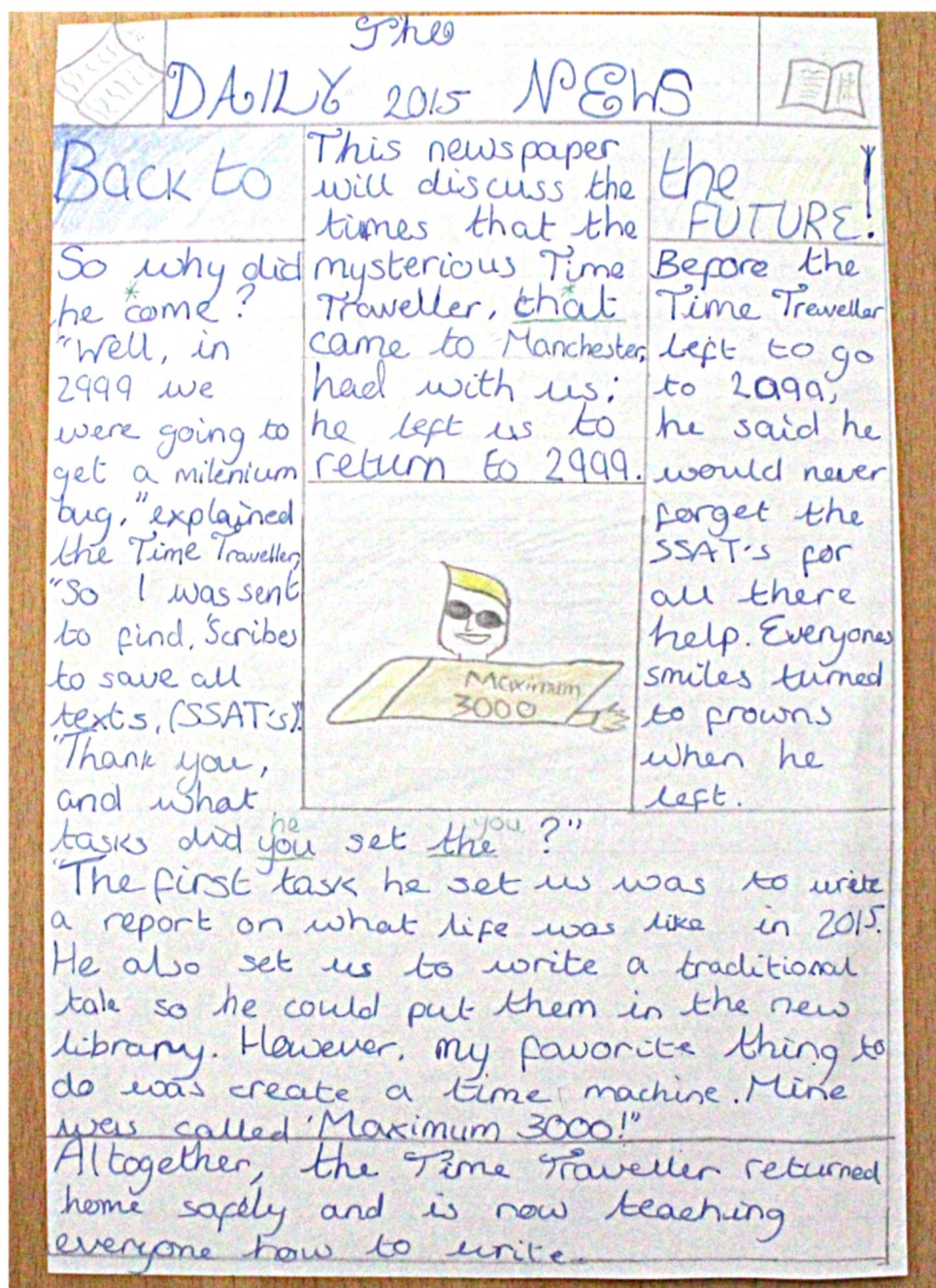
Damian started with some of his own poems and stories which gave us plenty to giggle about! He talked to us about what he does as a writer, showed us how a book is made and answered lots of questions from the children.

For the rest of the day, he worked with each of the three classes to come up with a story idea that they started together and then continued with on our special We Love Oswald Road Day. Come to the display boards outside 1HC to see how our fabulous budding authors got on!

If you and your child wish to find out more about Damian, visit his website at www.damianharvey.co.uk

Excellent creative writing from Gemma Whittick (6KR)

FIRE ENGINE FUN ON MATHLETES DAY!



LUCA'S MUSIC RAISES MONEY FOR CHARITY

Thank you to the very musical Luca Tait who raised **£92** selling his CDs at our We Love Oswald Road Day and around school!

He plans to donate the money to the charity SCOPE.



STRICTLY COME CHORLTON!

This half term, children from 2SS performed at a dance festival at St John's Primary School, alongside other schools from the Manchester area. The children really enjoyed this event and have written some lovely diary entries to share their exciting experience.

Wednesday 4th March 2015

Dear Diary,

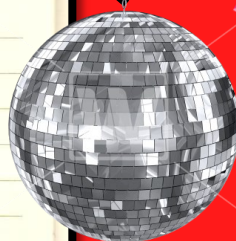
Today I had a smashing time! I went dancing at St John's School!

First it was St John's big school and they were dancing to Shake It and it was sort of gymnastic and very good.

Next it was the little people in St John's and they were dancing to Uptown Funk and it was quite good.

Then it was 3 more songs and finally it was our turn. We did our Bollywood dance. When we had finished, it was time to go and I thought it was the best day ever!

By **Lauren Paddon**



Wednesday 4th March 2015

Dear Diary,

Today was full of tremendous fun! In the afternoon we went to St John's dance routine. When we got there it was full of classes.

Each class had a different dance. First it was sparklers and they were cheer leaders. They were good!

One hour later it was our turn. I was very nervous! I thought that other people would feel that too. So, up onto the stage I went. My class looked a little bit shy but we got over it! Three minutes later our performance was finished and we got off the stage. A couple more classes went and it was over.

We left St John's and the grownups were waiting for us and then I had the best day ever!

By **Isis Borrison**



You said | We did

As part of our commitment to improving communication with our families, each newsletter will feature a 'You Said, We Did' section, so you can see how your suggestions have been put into practice...

You wanted to be more involved in Special Days so you can be in the classroom and be involved in learning...

We organised the **We Love Oswald Road** and **Mathelete Marathon Days**.

You had concerns about the potential environmental risk of the balloon release for our We Love Oswald Road Day...

The **Rights and Responsibilities Team** researched the links sent to them and changed plans to a balloon presentation.

You wanted to learn more about the Computing curriculum...

Mr Keeley has been running **computing sessions for our grown-ups**.

You wanted to know more about School Improvement...

We held a **School Improvement Plan evening** so you could speak to lead members of staff in each area & discuss their plans.

You wanted more feedback about what happens in school...

We set up Oswald Road's **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages for extra communication.

You wanted more choice about when forums and workshops took place...

We sent out a **questionnaire** for your responses and are collating the data.

PTA (FORS) SPRING EVENTS



There will be a 6km run from St Clement's Church down to the nature reserve, along the River Mersey and back. There will also be a 1.5km route suitable for buggies and wheelchairs.

The entry fee for adults is £7 and £5 for children on the day, or enter before 20th April to get the early-bird rate.

All money goes to St Clement's Church to keep it maintained but you can raise money for our school playground by being sponsored. Pick up a sponsor form from the office or set up a "Just Giving" page.



SPRING SOCIAL: 9TH MAY

Come along to our Spring Social PTA (FORS) event, Auction of Promises, on Saturday 9th May, for a chance to bid on a range of items!

We will be auctioning promises, which so far includes a lovely weekend cottage break in Anglesey.

Past promises have included an evening's baby-sitting, a fresh batch of cakes each week for a month, gardening services and more.

The doors and bar open from 7.30pm and bidding begins at 8.00pm.

Do you have anything you could 'promise' for our
Auction of Promises Spring Social?

Please email promises to oswaldptachair@gmail.com