



Trafalgar Schools' Federation



Golden Newsletter

Autumn 2, 2021-22

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, I would like to thank you and all the children, staff and governors at Trafalgar for such a warm welcome to the school. It has been a real pleasure to get to know the Trafalgar children and families and to work with a committed team of staff and governors. I am also truly grateful to the PTA who are such a committed and adaptable group of parents who have already done so much to support the children and school community.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you when we return to school on the 5th January.

Sarah Keefe – Federation Headteacher



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS, HARRY OWEN

On behalf of the Governing body, I'd like to extend a big thank you to all the teachers, TAs and support staff for their hard work this term. Whilst it's been a difficult end of year to navigate, we know the teaching staff have consistently looked to put the children first and for that we are all very grateful.

The Governing body is also very grateful for the work of our brilliant PTA, which really makes a difference. Likewise, a big thank you to Sarah Keefe, it's been great to have you join Trafalgar and settle into the school so quickly, we very much value your leadership. Finally, the Governing body would like to wish all parents and children a Happy Christmas and New Year!

Harry Owen - Chair of Governors



CHIRPY CHICKENS

Our *Chirpy chickens* charity gift is eggs-tremely popular! You can provide chickens, along with the training to help look after them, to vulnerable families, so they can produce eggs to eat or sell.



This wonderful gift has been bought on your behalf and will contribute directly to CAFOD's Animals and Farming Fund.

Merry Christmas to all the children at Trafalgar Infants and Juniors



"Things have changed for us now, as women – we have our own business."

Angela, El Salvador

Angela lives with her family in rural El Salvador. As a woman, there were very few opportunities for her to work and provide for her family. She looked after the home and her children, but Angela wanted to do more.

Thankfully, with the support of local experts funded by CAFOD, Angela and her friend Sylvia received 50 chickens – enough to provide eggs for both their families to eat and sell. Chickens are easy to look after and provide both a valuable source of nutrition and a vital income.

Angela's business is so successful she now earns enough to save a little each month. She feels proud that she can contribute to her family's income and save in case of emergencies.

Your gift will make a life-changing difference to a family in great need.

WORLD GIFTS

GIFTS THAT SHOW YOU REALLY CARE...

We hope you are delighted with your *World Gift*. Your gift has been specially selected to make a real and lasting difference to a community in a developing country.

To find out more about the fund your gift supports, visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT





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Parent Survey Update – Autumn 2021

Thank you for your responses to the Parent Survey this term which was overwhelmingly positive. It was very helpful to hear some individual comments too. (There were 103 responses from Juniors and 47 from Infants.)

The key strengths (% strongly agree/agree): Juniors/ Infants

- **100% - 90%** My child can take part in clubs and activities at the school.
- **99% - 100%** - My child feels safe at this school.
- **98% - 100%** My child is happy at the school.
- **97% - 94%** I would recommend this school to another parent.
- **95% - 100%** The school has helped my child settle back into normal routines.

Areas to improve (% disagree/ strongly disagree):

- **15% - 19%** disagree. The school lets me know how my child is doing.
- **8% - 6%** disagree. The school has high expectations for my child.
- **5% - 3%** disagree - The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.
- **5% - 9%** disagree/ strongly disagree - When I have raised concerns with the school they have dealt with properly.

Across both the Infants and Juniors, we will continue focus on areas for improvement and have set school action points around your feedback. Thank you for taking part.

Parent Surveys

Covid update

Following the fast-changing covid rules and situation in school, I would like to thank you all for your patience and for supporting us in doing our best to keep our children safe.

Covid Parent Survey

Our short survey will help us to make sure we are communicating with you effectively. From the 76 responses to our survey on the 6th December,

* **83% agree/strongly agree** that the school gives the right amount of information about covid.

* **87% agree/strongly agree** that the school puts in adequate measures to keep children safe in school.

As a result of the survey and individual feedback, we are now giving more specific class/year group information to parents.

Mental Health support - The South West London Clinical

Commissioning Group have put together a helpful sheet for parents and carers. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Sy0KNNNEGIDAHXOpriWtP4-B7bkRsYTz/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117670160378945823209&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Pupil Activities in the Infant School



Pupils across the school dressed up in spotty clothes and ears in support of Children in Need.

Our **School Councillors** rattled their buckets before and after school whilst collecting donations .



Reception, Y1 and Y2 have been taking part in maths mastery challenges. We have been developing our counting across the school using our fantastic new resources called 'rekenreks'.

Our **Digital Leaders** set up a stall in the playground after school selling iPad cases, in order to raise funds for the school. The cases proved very popular.



Reception, Y1 and Y2 all had a fantastic time watching Christmas pantomimes in school.



Our school eco team, the **T.I.G.E.R.S** sold produce and products made from our school garden at London's Borough Market. Led by the charity School Food Matters we raised over £200 for The Felix Project . The Felix Project provides meals for vulnerable people and families, each one pound raised provides 6 meals.

We are very proud to have provided over 1,200 meals for people less fortunate than ourselves

Christmas at the Infant School



Well done to all of the children for their amazing Christmas productions. Gold and Silver class each performed a class nativity and Y1 and Y2 collaborated to create a version of The Christmas Jigsaw, which not only saw the children singing, dancing and acting but featured the staff singing and playing the handbells.



Wednesday's Music assembly had a very special guest in the last week of term. The children were enjoying singing a selection of their favourite Christmas songs when Father Christmas arrived to deliver special presents to each of the classes.



Christmas shopping anyone? The children thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Bazaar shopping experience. Such discerning shoppers carefully selecting their 4 gifts for family and friends and learning about the value of money at the same time.

Christmas jumper day – collecting money for Save the Children



file name: dance and orchestra 11.mp4
created by: Mrs Burton

Reception

Learning is based at our dedicated Early Years site at Meadway



In Reception we love to take our learning outside.



We have also been learning about the past and how things were different to our lives now.

We have been practising our phonics and using QR codes to explore 'time'.



Our topic this half term in Reception is 'Colour'. Children have enjoyed an array of books Including:
Elmer, Mixed, The Rainbow Fish and The Colour Monster.



These stories inspired a range of activities including colour mixing with playdough, exploring how to make secondary colours using primary colours and thinking about associating different colours with feelings.

The children also learnt about the American painter Jackson Pollock. They enjoyed painting in his unique style which involved flicking paint onto large pieces of paper.



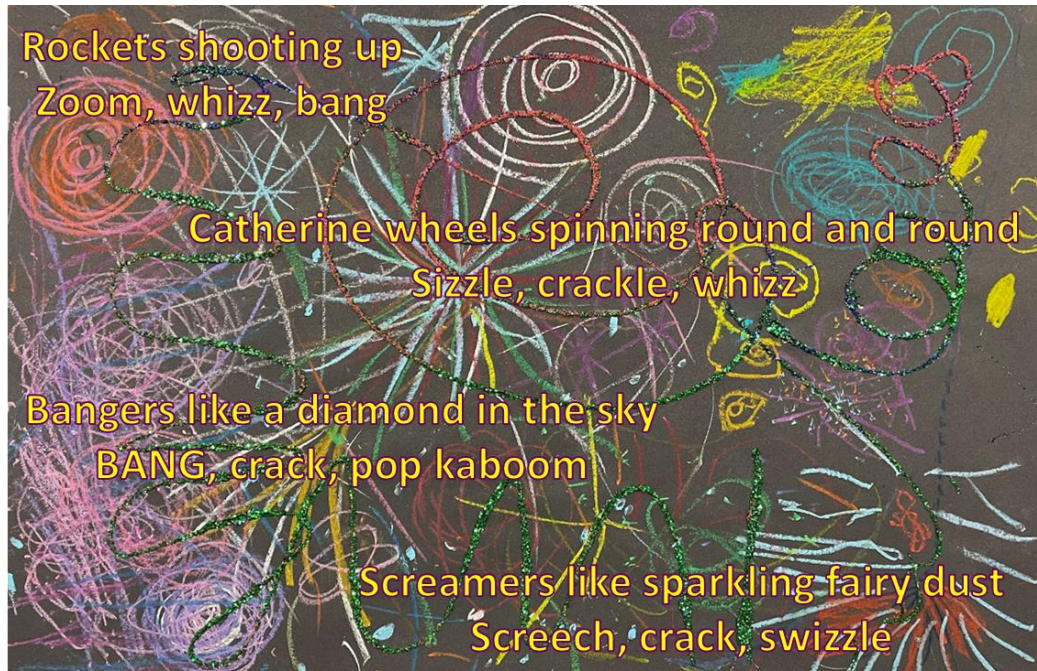
The results were impressive as was the discussion whilst the children admired each other's works of art.

The paintings are now on display in the Meadway library.



Year 1

Y1 have had a busy and exciting half term. The children are Maths super stars and have enjoyed developing their understanding of addition and subtraction and taken every opportunity to practise their number skills.



In Computing we have been learning about digital 2D animation and have created our own animations to show Bob Man on the Moon travelling to the moon in his rocket. We have learnt that the onion skin is the most important part of creating an animation. You can see our animations by logging onto the e-school.



In English we have shared some fabulously engaging books and read lots of poetry, including 'My Shadow' by Robert Louis Stevenson.

We wrote our own class fireworks poems to accompany our firework art, concentrating on our use of adjectives.



Developing listening skills, being a good friend and learning how to solve problems peacefully are really important skills and this has been the focus of our PSHE sessions this term.



We also used percussion instruments to create the sounds of different fireworks in our firework song

As scientists we have investigated materials and designed our own reflective badges to keep us safe as part of Road Safety Week and used words such as opaque, transparent and translucent.

We have been researching nocturnal animals that are local to our area and finding out why and how they hunt at night.



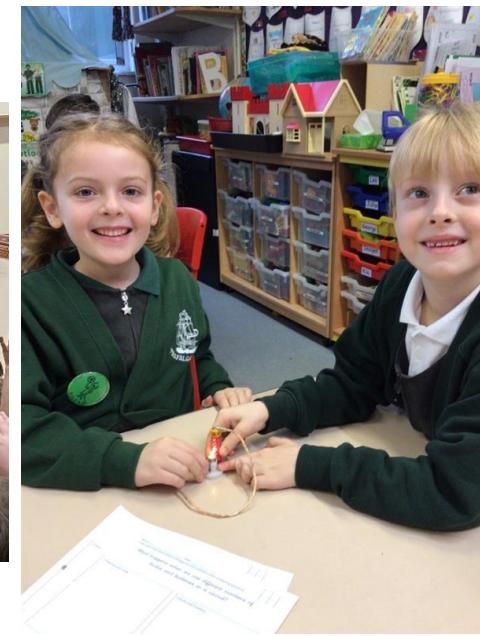
Year 2

This half term in Year 2 we have enjoyed lots of new activities during our topic of 'Materials and Electricity'.

All Y2 pupils took part in valuable scooter training. This covered pavement and road safety skills and was led by Local Authority Instructors.

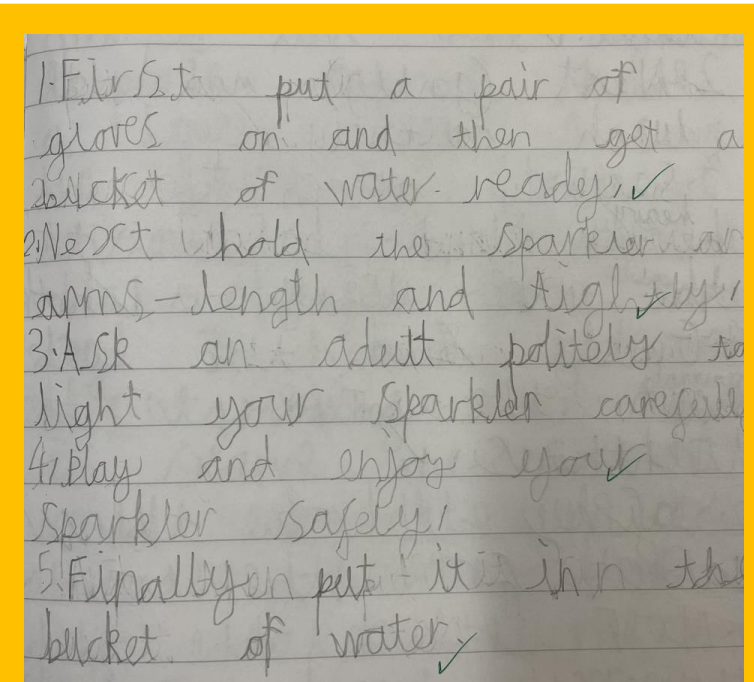


Our Musical Maestros taught us how to sign our Golden Rules song.



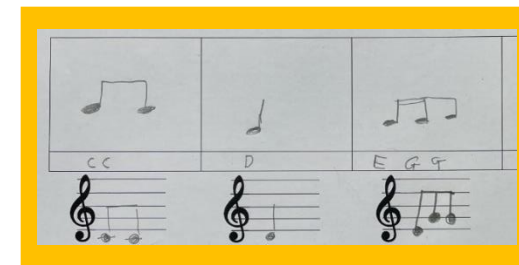
We have loved learning about lighthouses using the text 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. We built simple electrical circuits and investigated a range of different materials. We even created an animation showing a flashing lighthouse and crashing waves.

Over the past few weeks, we have focussed on safety. We gathered in the playground to watch our teachers light a sparkler and later wrote clear instructions on how to do this safely.



As a year group we loved discussing managing risk and how to tell the difference between a positive and a negative risk.

In Music we loved learning about different musical styles from around the world and discussing what musical characteristics they each have. We learnt about Gamelan music, Samba, Tango and Mambo and composed our own Gamelan composition using the pentatonic scale. We also practised our note writing skills by writing up our work onto a stave.



file name: gamelan audio.wav
created by: Mrs Burton

Reading in the Infants



Coming soon!
Reading Zone
Look out for this new area
on the e-school.

Storytime is a really important part of the school day in the Infant school and the children love having the opportunity to listen to stories as well as sharing books from home.

We had been hoping to have '**open story times**' this term with grownups being invited into class take part in this special time. Fingers crossed that this can start next term.



The children have enjoyed being able to visit the **library** this term and choosing their own books. Thank you to all of the parent helpers who have given their time to enable this to happen



We are looking forward to taking part in the SPARK book awards in 2022



E.R.I.C time is back!

E.R.I.C time is when **everyone** is reading in class. The children have been able to bring in books from home to share with their friends throughout the day.

Year 3

This half-term Year 3 have been working really hard-both academically and creatively!

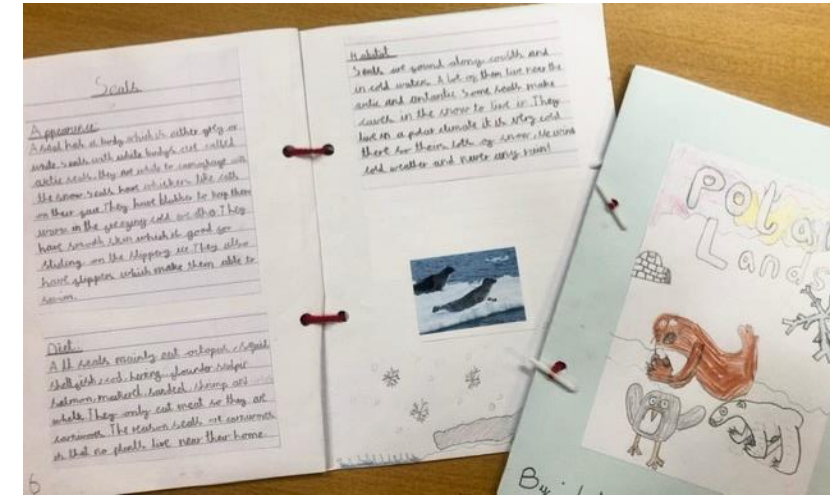
They have been using their past learning about healthy diets and healthy eating in Science to help them plan, prepare and make their very own stuffed vegetable in DT which included carbohydrates, seasonal herbs and dairy. The children used the skills of chopping, grating and stirring to create some truly delicious (and healthy) treats!



Also, this half-term Year 3 have been creating their very own non-fiction Polar Land booklets on Polar animals. They were able to conduct their own research and presented their information beautifully into paragraphs using subheadings and diagrams to help the reader learn factual information. Year 3 had great fun ensuring that they had included many non-fiction features and completed a small self-evaluation to go alongside it in their English books.



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You have worked amazingly hard this term Year 3 and your teachers are incredibly proud of you! Have a lovely Christmas and well done!

Year 4

This half-term Year 4 have been working extremely hard. Two highlights were the online illustrator visit with Jane Ray. She shared her earliest to most current book illustrations, her inspirations and interests. Year 4 asked some very thoughtful and interesting questions and followed up the session making beautiful paper birds.



As part of our Design Technology we recalled our circuit making skills from Science and created torches, nightlights and lighthouses with a switch. The resilience to keep on re-modelling and trialing ideas was really impressive! As you can see in the photos results were fantastic and something to be proud of!



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Year 5

This half term, Y5 have been immersed in the subject of soup. We started off by researching a range of different soups from around the world; their origins, ingredients and whether they should be served hot or cold. We worked in groups to record our findings before reporting back to the class.

Our next lesson saw us taste-testing a mixture of soups; describing them in terms of taste, texture and aroma. We then went on to rank them - broccoli and stilton soup was universally disliked, and the Thai Green Chicken Soup was a firm favourite. This informed our decisions on which soups to make. Other lessons included learning about seasonality and the impact of importing food on the environment.



After working in our design teams to choose our recipes and plan our soup-making steps, it was time to create our masterpieces. With the help of parents and other adults in school, each group brought their recipes to life. From Thai Green Chicken Noodle Soup to Cauliflower Cheese Soup, the individual design teams created some delicious outcomes.

Finally, we evaluated our products, and the process, and created adverts to celebrate our soups and our achievements.

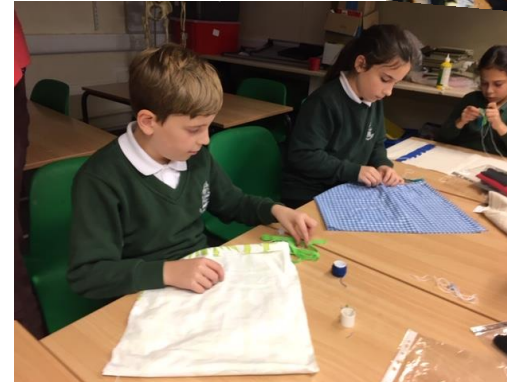


Year 6

Year 6 have continued to work incredibly hard this half-term. There has been a big focus on fractions in Maths, using all four operations. They were enchanted by our core text *Hugo Cabret* in English, writing some beautiful narratives (bringing some of their teachers to tears!) and also becoming experts in the history of cinema.

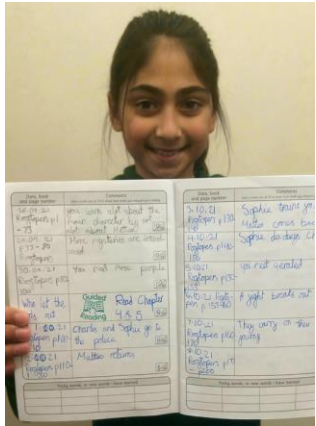
In Geography they developed their knowledge and research skills when learning about rivers, culminating in some fun chatterboxes and also some fabulous homework projects. And not forgetting their PE (football, tag rugby or hockey); Religion (Hinduism); Computing (creating a game for their Y3 buddy) and DT (designing and making a drawstring bag).

Yes - we are all exhausted, but deservedly proud of everything that has been achieved! Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and well-earned rest!

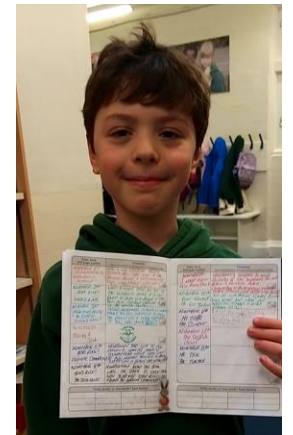


Reading in the Juniors

Reading is arguably the most important part of our curriculum as it is the gateway to so much other learning. This was the term we introduced new Reading Records (see below), audited our book corners and filled the gaps (see Bailey, right, delivering new books!) We also introduced a new phonics scheme to support those children who still find reading tricky and asked our families to donate good quality used books (see over).




We have been really impressed by some of the **Reading Records** we have seen this term. These booklets were introduced in September with the aim of creating a real buzz around reading and making 'readers for life!' out of our children. Please continue to read with your child and to let them explore books independently. Read a range of texts – comics, novels, poetry, news, non-fiction – and write a short comment each time in the Reading Record. We are looking for five entries per week and these can be made by the child or by an adult at home.



We are looking forward to taking part in the **Spark Awards** again next year. This is a book awards event where children are the judges. During this last half-term, I have been reading lots of picture books aimed at 6-11 year-olds. Follow them on twitter @sparkbookaward and if you would like to, you can donate via their [JustGiving Fund](#), which enables them to provide free books to disadvantaged pupils. Not just any books but the newly released Spark! titles so disadvantaged children have access to new books to.

THE GIFT OF READING

The children recently audited their book corners and decided what type of books they would like to have more of in their classrooms. If you have any good quality used books at home that you are happy to donate, we would be very grateful if you could bring them to school in the new year, matching the donation to the class's needs and wants. Thank you!

| 3B | 3M | 4JC | 4R | 4W |  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Poetry | Non-fiction | Comics | Billy Bonkers | Comics | |
| Animals (incl. dinosaurs) | Funny books | Picture books | Horrible Histories | Comedy | |
| Space books | Short fiction | Biographies | Roald Dahl | Gaming | |
| Dork Diaries | Animal books | History | David Walliams | Football | |
| David Walliams | Picture books | General fiction | Joke books | Fairy Tales | |
| 5AB | 5J | 5S | 6D | 6P | 6S |
| Football books | Adventure books | Sports | Skullduggery Pleasant (3 onwards) | Dinosaurs | Robin Stevens |
| Comics / Anime | Tom Gates | Rick Riordan | Tom Gates | Mystery | Science Fiction |
| Graphic novels | Comics | Tom McLaughlin | Graphic Novels | Football | Mystery |
| Fantasy | Mystery books | Mystery | Thrillers | Comedy / funny | Robin Stevens |
| Comedy / funny | Comedy books (jokes/ funny fiction) | Fantasy | David Walliams | Narnia titles | Douglas Adams |
| Non-fiction (nature) | | | | | |

Trafalgar Sports Teams



Our sports teams have represented Trafalgar Junior School brilliantly this term at a variety of sporting events, including tag rugby, football and cross country.



There have been some incredible achievements, such as Trafalgar finishing in 6th position overall out of 45 schools in the Richmond Cross Country Championships. Another highlight was our Girls' football team making it to the quarter-finals of the Richmond Girls Football Championships.





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MERRY christmas

We were so pleased to be able to finish with a festive week – Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, the two outdoor performance and the fair (see over for more pictures).



Please use the following link to contribute your £2 (or more!) voluntary donation [here](#).



JUNIOR FUN DAY

(the Christmas fair 're-imagined'!)



Thank you, PTA!





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Excellence Awards Merit Winners



Peace Prize

Every term we award special certificates to children for **Excellence** (consistently positive attitude to learning), for earning the highest number of **merits** and for helping create a happy, **peaceful** place to be! (This last one is voted for by the children.)



Wishing you a very Happy Christmas.

With best wishes from all of us at Trafalgar.



Trafalgar Schools' Federation

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