



Trafalgar Schools' Federation



Golden Newsletter

Spring 1, 2022



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

We have had quite a challenging half term with cases of covid rising across our Borough and within our school community and I want to thank the staff for their endurance during this time. Across the three school sites, teachers and teaching assistants have shown amazing teamwork and resilience in adapting to the disruptions while ensuring that the children have access to the full curriculum in school as well as supporting some children at home.

Sarah Keefe – Federation Headteacher

Covid Catch up and the Importance of Attendance and Punctuality

With the disruptions due to covid over the past two years, it has been a focus for teachers to catch up and plug the gaps in children's learning. Children in Y3 have not had a normal education since they were in Reception. Children in Y6 who we are preparing for secondary school have not had a full school-based education since year 3.

Some of the things we have put in place for the children to 'catch up' include:

- ☐ Purchase of curriculum resources and materials that support children to get back on track. (These include CGP books for maths and spelling and grammar and a catch-up reading programme).
- ☐ Additional interventions - (funding additional staff to develop outcomes for children who have been identified as needing 'catch up' in their learning.)
- ☐ Specialist support and staff training for accelerated progress for Writing and Maths.
- ☐ Reading initiatives – such as SPARK reading initiative, updates to the class and school library and the storytelling competition.
- ☐ Assessment materials for Reading and Maths to identify gaps in learning and to support with learning progress.

The school is aware that the extent of missed learning will mean that a rigorous long-term process needs to be in place to support the children to plug the gaps over time. This will be a paced programme rather than a 'quick fix' approach. As such, it is especially important that we maintain good levels of attendance and punctuality. Early morning work before registration supports the targeted needs of each class and some of the group interventions happen during this time. A carefully planned curriculum is in place across all classes and relies on children being in every day and on time.

While we are aware of the issues around covid and keeping children safe at school, it is apparent that there are an increasing number of absences that could be avoided such as taking additional holiday time or parents keeping children home unnecessarily because of proximity to covid. We kindly ask for your support in helping us to limit further disruption to learning.



Trafalgar Schools' Federation

Mrs Optholt Leaving

At the end of last year, Mrs Optholt made the decision to retire. However, she kindly agreed to stay on in the Infants to support with the transition of a new Federation Headteacher to the school and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her for the two terms which were agreed with our governors. Her experience of the Infants and her support has been invaluable in helping me to gain a swift understanding of the school.

I wanted to let the school community know in advance that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Optholt at the end of the Spring term. We are very appreciative of the amazing work she has done over many years and will be giving her a more formal farewell at the end of this term.

Covid Cases in Richmond

Thankfully Covid rates are beginning to drop across both boroughs but Richmond and Kingston are the top two LAs in London. Our children, young people, their parents (and teachers) are the age groups with the highest number of cases. Please take advantage of the [walk-in Covid vaccination centres](#), particularly over the half term break.

Parents Meetings

We are looking forward to seeing you in school for the parents' consultation meetings after half term. (Some Y6 will have had theirs before half term.) This will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's learning progress this year and some of the next steps at this mid-way point.

Reading is a key focus and we hope that your child's reading diary is a useful tool for you to support their reading at home.

Calling all STEM Parents

At Trafalgar, we provide children with lots of hands-on experiences to promote their love of science and confidence in working scientifically. Research shows that when parents play an active role, children achieve greater success as learners. For British Science Week 2022 (11th - 20th March, theme: Growth), we are encouraging an understanding of how science links to various jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). To help us, we would be really grateful if any parents or relatives working in STEM careers would create a short video to explain and promote their work. The video should be around 3 minutes and cover the following:

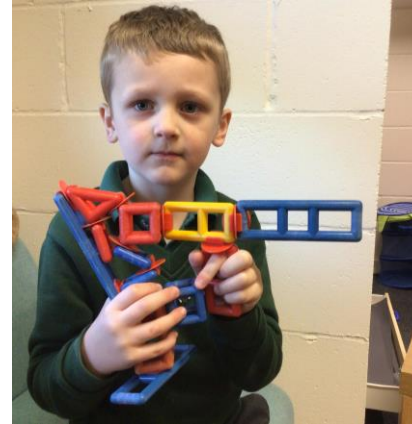
- *Who are you? What is your STEM job?*
- *Who/what influenced your decision to have a STEM career?*
- *What does your job involve? (To capture the children's interest, you may want to include a short section of your working environment and/or you working in your environment.)*
- *What type of person do you need to be to do your job? Why do you enjoy your job?*

Please upload your footage to your 'my documents folder' on j2e and then let your child's class teacher know. We look forward to receiving a range of inspiring STEM videos, by Friday 4th March, 2022, which we will share with the children in the hope we can build the children's sense that science can lead to a wide range of really fascinating careers.

Ali Atkins and Rafina Iqbal, Science Subject Leaders for Trafalgar Federation

Reception

This half term Reception children have been learning all about robots, transport and space as part of our topic 'How Things Work'. The children enjoyed taking part in a DT project designing and creating their own machine using recycled materials. There were many creative inventions including a robot who tidied the house and brought its inventor a cold drink!



Chinese New Year was recently celebrated in Reception and children made lanterns and dancing Chinese dragons as well as learning a Chinese New Year celebration song in music.

Gold class and Silver class also had great fun learning how to program a bee bot and explored different ways of making the machines move. Since this computing skill was taught, lots of children have relished opportunities to develop and refine their programming knowledge during free learning.



The children enjoyed the story of the Naughty Bus and wrote amazing sentences about where the Naughty Bus travelled to.

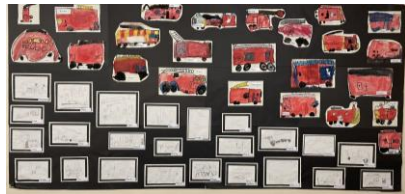


Year 1

What a busy half term we have had! Through our topic of Machines we have learnt so much.

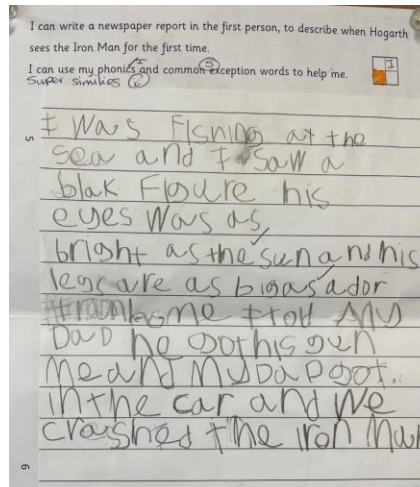
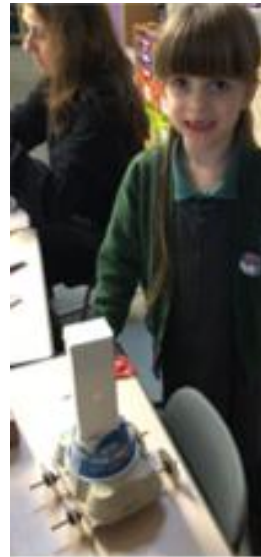


In English we have read the story of the 'Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We have drawn the Iron Man using different media, we have described the Iron man using adjectives and similes and we have even been newspaper reporters writing in the first person to retell part of the story.

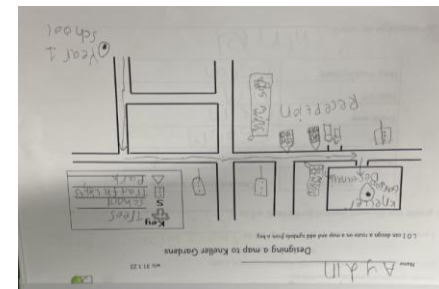


In Art we have studied the sculptor Anthony Gormley focusing on 'The Angel of the North'.

We designed and made our own vehicles, learning how to attach axels to the chassis.



We have made and been using maps to follow the route to Kneller gardens to observe the changes in our local area from Autumn to Winter.



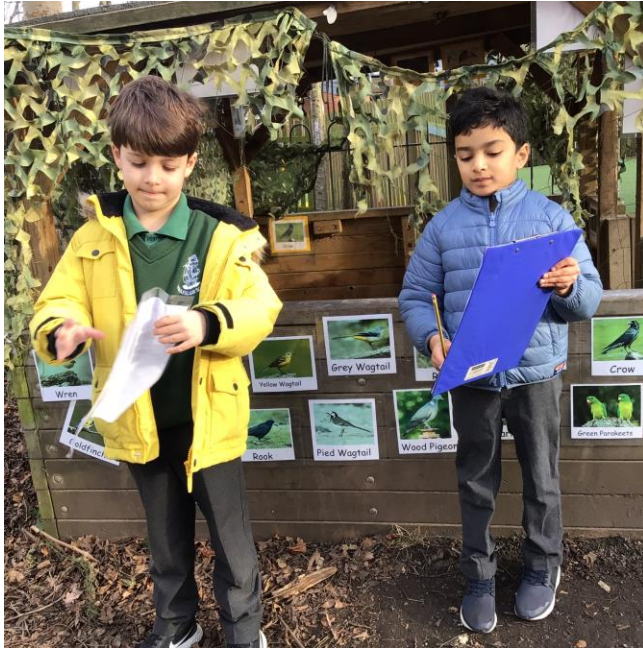
The half term has ended with Freshwater Theatre's Seasons workshop. As well as consolidating our knowledge of the seasons and the weather the children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the compass directions North, East, South and West and the climates found in different parts of the world.



The children also explored the animals that would live in these countries and how they have adapted to live in different conditions. The position of the equator was discussed and how this has an impact on the climate.

Year 2

This half term in Year 2 we have explored a range of activities during our Fairytale topic. We have enjoyed listening to numerous traditional fairytales and even wrote a twist in the tale of our own. In Design and Technology, we designed and made our own fairytale puppets. We then took photographs of our puppets for our Computing lesson and used them to create an e-book.



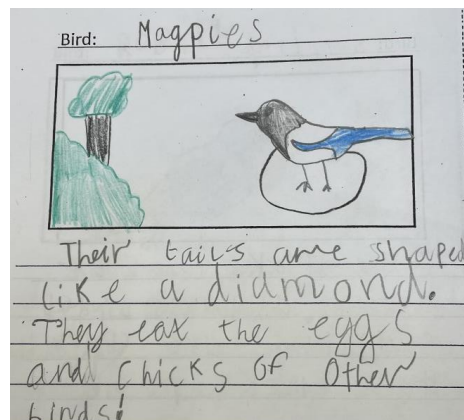
In Music we have been composing our own pieces of Programme Music to describe the story of Jack and The Beanstalk. We are still working on these, and they will be ready to share in our next Golden Newsletter.



We used the data that we collected on our bird walk to create a bar graph in Maths.



We have also been learning all about different British birds. We went on an exciting local bird walk to see what we could spot. We saw a huge selection of birds and were even lucky enough to spot a Red Kite!



In our Science lessons we created a non-fiction book all about British birds and their features.



Another very busy half term in Year 2!

Safer Internet Day - Infants



The theme of this year's Safer Internet Day was Respect



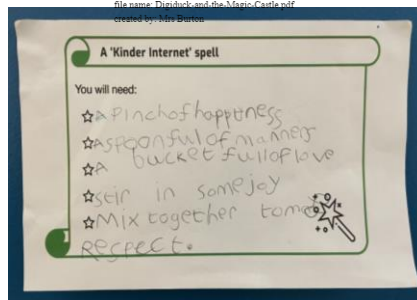
Gold and Silver Class also took part and created a class spell to make the internet a kinder place. Our Digital Leaders visited the classes to speak to the children and also to present them with their class certificate.



Our Digital Leaders led a special assembly which looked at how to keep our personal details safe and the importance of being respectful online. We also read the story 'Digiduck and the Magic Castle'. The children then worked on a 'spell' to help make the internet a kinder, more respectful place.



file name: Digiduck and the Magic Castle.pdf
created by: Mrs Burton





Wellbeing

THIS CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Infants

On Friday we all
'Dressed to
Express'

Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Good to Go Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Anxious Excited	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Out of Control I Need Time and Space

We had a special assembly and Mrs Kavanagh reminded us about the Zones of Regulation' and the different strategies we have to help us to be in the 'Green Zone'.



We also used drama to explore how the different zones might look.

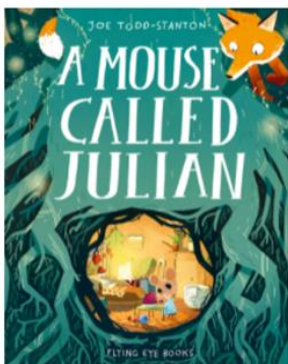


file name: star fish breathing
created by: Mrs Burton

Orange Class showed us how 'star fish breathing' can help us to move back to the 'Green Zone'. Scan the QR code to see how this technique works.



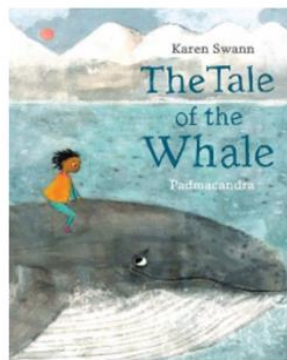
Reading in the Infants



A Mouse Called Julian by Joe Todd-Stanton



The Pirate Mums by Jodie Lancet-Grant and Lydia Corry



The Tale of the Whale by Karen Swann and Padmacandra



Tilda Tries Again by Tom Percival



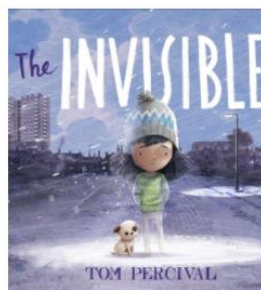
We are really excited to be taking part in the Spark! Book Awards this year and like most other participating schools, we are excitedly waiting for our Spark! books to arrive. In the meantime, Spark! have launched a poetry competition based around the books.

The aim of the competition is for pupils to write a poem based on the cover or title of one of the books we will be reading. The covers of these books can be seen below and more information on the books can be found [here](#).

If you and your child would like to take part and write a poem based on one of the covers or titles over half term, please bring it into school and hand in to the office or to Mrs Burton by Wednesday 23rd February and we will choose a selection of entries to send off to Spark!

There are prizes for the winning entries as chosen by the Spark! judging team and all entries will be shared and displayed at school.

A big thank you to our many parent helpers who come in to hear readers and deliver class library sessions.



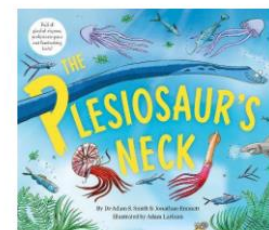
The Invisible by Tom Percival



Leo and the Gorgon's Curse by Joe Todd-Stanton



My Beautiful Voice by Joseph Coelho and Allison Calpoys



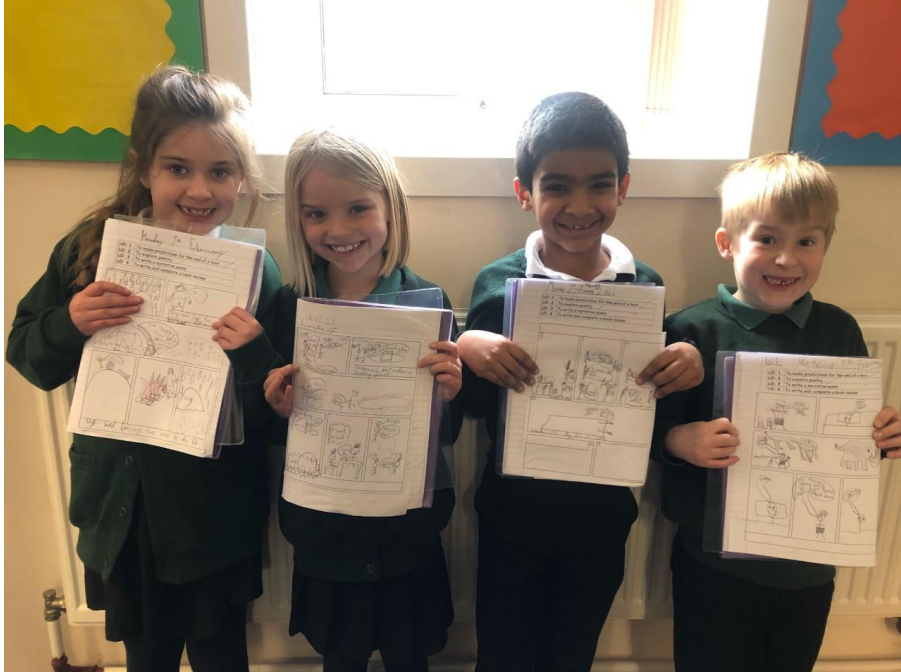
The Plesiosaur's Neck by Adam Smith, Jonathan Emmett and Adam Larkum

Year 3

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to 2022!

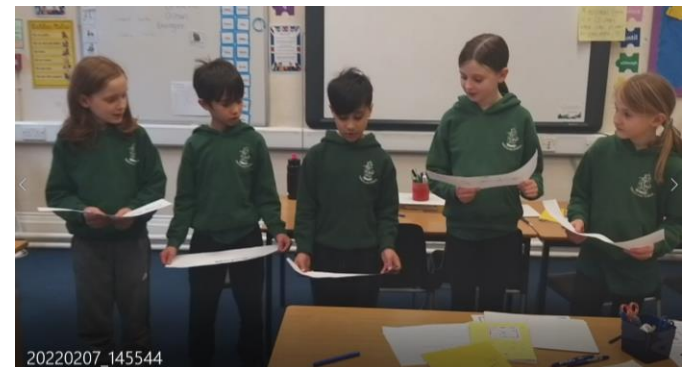
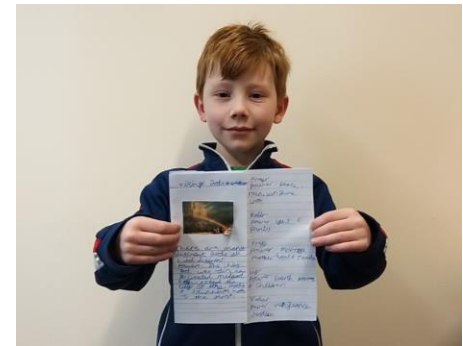
We have been covering our new text in English called *Ug* by Raymond Briggs which has linked in with our science unit on Rock and Soils and our history unit on the Stone Age. In English we have been able to predict and create our own new pages for the book using the same cartoon strip style as the author which was great fun!

We have also been getting creative and colourful in our Creative Craft unit during our Art lessons, as we have been making our own decoupage boxes. We have also looked at the different uses of paper and impact it can have, and we even had a go at paper weaving!



Year 4

The children in Year 4 have enjoyed making collages of People of Faith (such as Malala and the Dalia Lama below) in their Religion and World Views and Art lessons. They also enjoyed writing their own poems based on *Nobody Knows* by Rachel Rooney, and collaborative poems based on *Seven Pebbles* and then performing them to the class. In P.E they have been fine-tuning their netball skills, such as pivoting and passing. In History the children have written information leaflets about Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, and in Computing they have made stop-motion animations which have been uploaded to J2e! What a busy, creative half-term!

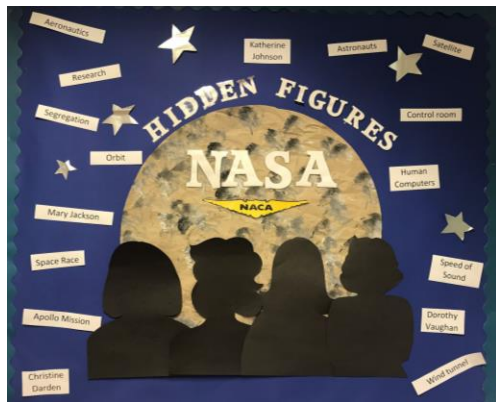


Year 5

What an out of this world start Year 5 have had to 2022! Our English book, Hidden Figures, explored the lives and achievements of 4 amazing woman involved in NACA/NASA. This culminated in the children researching and writing a biography on their chosen "Hidden Figure". We have been learning about Space in Science, and this was brought to life by a visit from the mobile Planetarium (5J will be enjoying this experience after half term.) We also created some wonderful Space inspired art. In Religion and World Views, we have explored Peace in different religions and created a wonderful hall display to show what peace means to us.



Peace art representing what peace means to us



Our Class Text- 'Hidden Figures'



Space art based on the work of Peter Thorpe



The Learning Dome
Planetarium

Year 6

Year 6 have kicked off 2022 in great style. We have covered some serious issues within our history unit on WW2 and in our controversial text, 'The Island', in English; debated justice and freedom in our Religion and World Views unit, culminating in some powerful protest posters... watch out Westminster, a positive, new generation is coming!

We are also proud of our children, passing their 'Bikeability' training; tackling algebra in maths and being brilliant biologists when studying 'evolution and inheritance'.



Trafalgar Schools' Federation
Believe, Inspire, Achieve

Bikeability



6P at the National Archives,
investigating propaganda



6S and 6D at the
Imperial War Museum



Protest Poster based on the
work of Emory Douglas

Children's Mental Health Week - Juniors



**GROWING
TOGETHER**

The theme of Children's Mental Health week this year is "Growing Together" and the children have been thinking about ways that we grow emotionally, especially when we try new things and find something a challenge.



Some children discussed that, in order to grow emotionally, we benefit from people around us; to encourage us to keep going when things are hard or suggesting we try new things. We created "Support Balloons" to show who helps us grow.



Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Good to Go Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Anxious Excited	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Out of Control I Need Time and Space

In assembly on Monday, we refreshed our memories on the Zones of Regulation and have been talking about how all feelings are valid feelings and that it is okay to feel them. We have discussed the effect that different feelings have on our body and mind and have been creating a tool kit of strategies, that work for us, to help us move back to the 'Green Zone' as that's when we are 'Good to Go'.

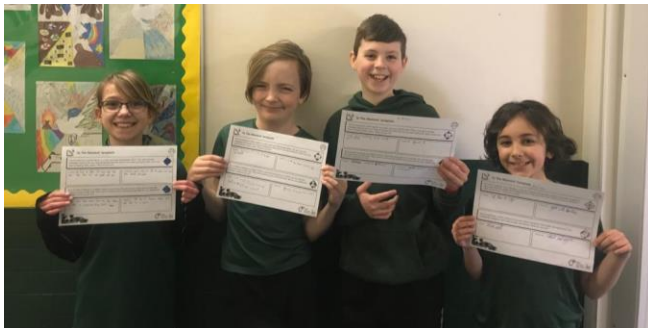


Safer Internet Day Juniors

We spend a lot of time discussing how to stay safe online and what to do in different situations that make us feel uneasy or uncomfortable.

Safer Internet Day's focus this year is 'All fun and games' so we have been looking at staying safe while playing online games. We discovered that many of us play online games so, we have been focusing on how we can stay respectful online and discussing how our words can affect others. We spoke about, that even if you type words on a game or in a chat message, it is the same as you saying these words, and they can still hurt people's feelings. We have also been looking at what we can do if we see something that upsets us, or if someone isn't respectful towards us, when we are online. The children have had some great ideas and responses to this- so ask your children what they would do!

We have been looking at how to stay respectful when playing games online.



Do you know how to stay safe online? Scan the QR code to go to the Safer Internet Day Quiz



#PlayYourPart in creating a better internet by...

- Being a kind and respectful friend online
- Staying alert to possible dangers
- Respecting other people's boundaries
- Supporting others to use safety tools
- Speaking up

Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Good to Go Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Anxious Excited	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Out of Control I Need Time and Space

We have been using the 'Zones of Regulation' when thinking about how online actions can make us feel. We have been working hard on finding ways to help ourselves get back to the 'Green Zone' when we are in difficult online situations.

You are in a group chat with lots of friends. Someone forwards a photo of another person in your class that you really don't think is funny. They are not in the chat and you're worried it might upset them. What do you do?

I would... tell the person who uploaded the image to take it down because the person who's in the photo might not like it.

I would not... laugh at the photo and say something rude about that person

You're watching a video online and some of the comments have really annoyed you! You completely disagree with what people are saying. What do you do?

I would... tell them to take it back and it's not right.

I would not... just go along with it and agree just to look cool

Safer Internet Day 2022

Reading in the Juniors

Reading Volunteers

Thank you to our new team of parent reading volunteers who will be starting after the half-term break. They will be reading 1:1 with some of our target children, helping ensure that all our children develop into confident readers with a love of books!

Reading Ambassadors & the Library

Thank you to our newly appointed Y6 reading ambassadors who have been really helpful in our lunchtime library slots this half-term. We have some plans to make the library even more user-friendly and attractive, so watch this space!

Storytelling Festival

Thank you to all the children who auditioned for the forthcoming Trafalgar Storytelling Festival over the last week. Approximately 50 stories were heard over seven sessions and we were wowed by the creativity and confidence of the children. In assembly today we revealed the shortlisted twelve stories. They will practice over half-term and then we will choose the two stories who will go into the evening event on March 17th.

Spark Award

The books finally arrived just before home-time today so we will be ready to get reading and get voting on our favourite books as soon as the new half-term starts!

Fast Track Phonics (Y3&4) & Fresh Start (Y5&6)

For some children, learning to read fluently can be a bit more of a challenge than for most, and so we were really pleased to have had a very positive Development Day for our phonics programme in the Juniors this half-term. This helped us fine tune the good practice that has gone on since introducing this in September.



Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize



A few lucky year 6 children have had the wonderful opportunity to be part of the judging panel to review and nominate the best new science book of the year for the Royal Society. They have loved getting together and sharing their thoughts on each of the books in this year's shortlist. It has been really inspirational, and all the children have said they have enjoyed the opportunity to read books which they may not have ordinarily chosen themselves. We are waiting with bated breath to see which book is announced the nation's final overall winner later this month!