



Sarah Keefe, Headteacher



Trafalgar Schools' Federation



Sophie Riley, Chair of Governors

# Golden Newsletter

Spring 2, 2023-24

## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we approach the final summer term, it is good to reflect on our achievements and successes this year so far. With 2 good OFSTED in the bag, we are continuing to focus on our aims for the year.

A lot of work has gone into supporting reading. With the help of the PTA in providing reading resources and library books, we have made great progress. The phonics scheme has supported our early readers with developing their decoding skills and as they progress through school, the resources are in place to support with reading fluency and comprehension skills.

Our children have also been working hard to develop their handwriting and spelling skills to support their writing across the curriculum. You will have seen evidence of their progress in the books which were available at the parents' meetings this term.

Inspiring curriculum learning has been evident across all subjects and there have been many enrichment opportunities including Great Fire of London workshops, topic-based assemblies, school visits to a local Church, the Apiary visit etc. This term we have had whole school events such as International Week, World Book Day, Red Nose Day and International Women's Day. We have had chicks hatching in Year 5 as well as a cluster of tadpoles in the KS2 pond!

And the pace will continue to pick up as we approach the Summer term. Please look out in our newsletters and the PTA round-ups for all the upcoming events such as: Earth Day, trips and visits, class assemblies, choir concerts and sports events, to name but a few.

We wish you a very HAPPY EASTER and hope you have a good restful break with family and friends. Remember to take the time to read with, and to your children. We rediscovered the joy of reading during our World Book Day this term!

*Sarah Keefe* – Federation Headteacher

## GOVERNORS' MESSAGE

The recent Ofsted reviews have provided good assurance to the Governing Board that all the hard work from staff is translating into tangible impacts across the Federation, and that the right plans are in place to help us to continue to enhance and evolve.

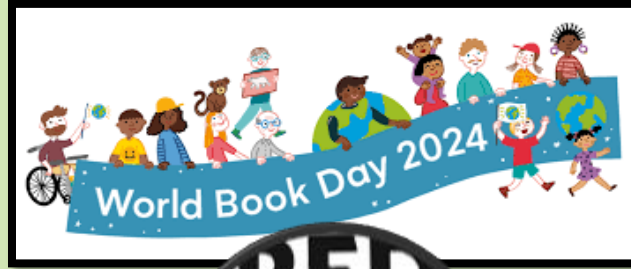
This term, governors have been back to business as usual, carrying out visits with a particular focus on Maths, Writing, Computing and Early Years.

We have some changes to the board membership with Richard Castle departing at the end of his term of office. Richard has been a fantastic chair of our Pupil, Parents & Community committee, and we would like to thank him for the enormous contribution he has made to the school over the last 4 years.

We are also pleased to welcome 2 new co-opted governors, Emma Taylor and Jun Xue Lee.

We would like to wish pupils, families and staff a well-deserved break over Easter.

# SPECIAL DAYS...

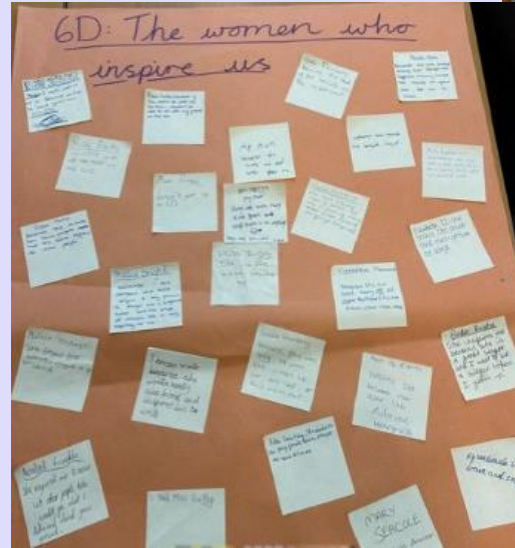


# International Women's Day



We celebrated International Women's Day on Friday 8th March!

We discussed the importance of the day in assembly and each class wrote about a woman that inspires them.



In lessons we learnt about the history of International Women's Day and how it came to be. We looked at how society and equality has changed throughout the years, we researched and heard the stories of women who changed the world, and we even learnt the colours that represent International Women's Day – purple, green and white.



# International Week in KS1



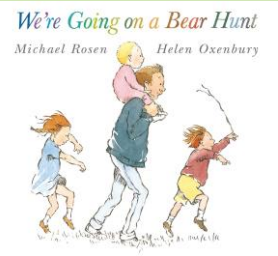
# International Week in KS2



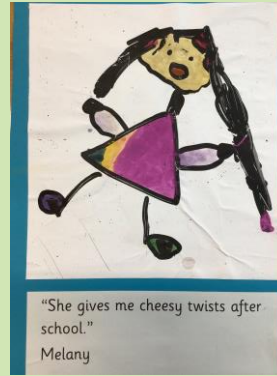
# Reception

Our topic this half term has been 'All Around Us.'  
Our role play areas were turned into 'Weather Stations', where we could become weather reporters.

We read 'We're going on a bear hunt' and then went on a bear hunt in our wild wood.



We drew pictures of our Mummies for Mother's Day.



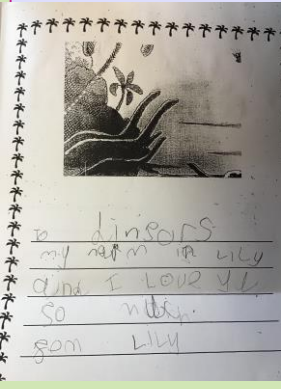
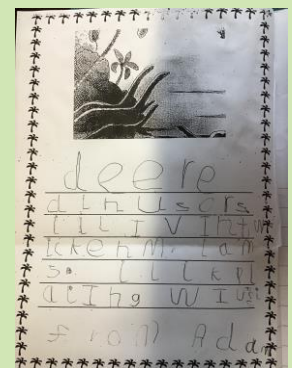
We received a letter from some dinosaurs and wrote back to them, telling them information about ourselves and where we live.

During International Week, we turned our classroom into a Parisien Café and tasted croissants. We also dressed in the colours of the Latvian and French flags.

We painted pictures of blossom in the style of Georges Seurat.

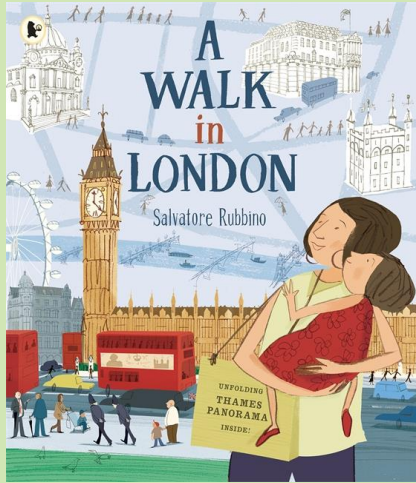


World Book Day was so much fun. We dressed up and shared our favourite stories.



# Year 1

In Science and Geography, we have travelled near and far looking at the River Thames in London and comparing it to the River Nile in Egypt.



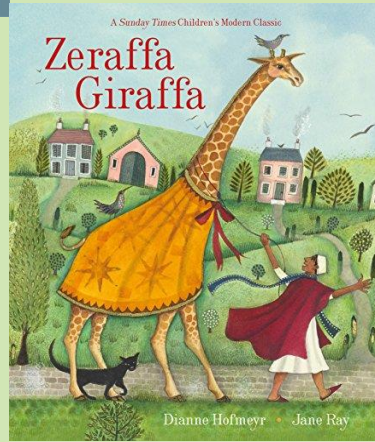
What a great end to the spring term! Year 1 have loved learning all about houses and homes.

In English we focused on the books 'A Walk in London' and 'Zeraffa Giraffa'. We spent lots of time working on our brochures that have information on all the best London Landmarks.

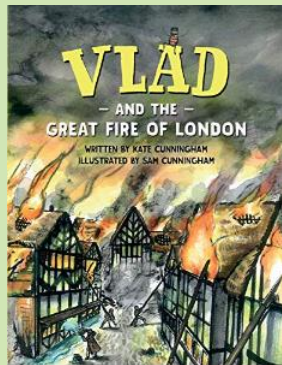
We have also been very creative this half term. In D & T we made our very own pop-up cards based on London Landmarks. In Art we made an amazing multimedia piece inspired by the book 'Zeraffa Giraffa'. We used coffee, paint, ink and pastels to make our artwork and have learnt lots of new skills.



In Maths we have started exploring numbers up to 50. We have also been working hard on our number bonds to 20.



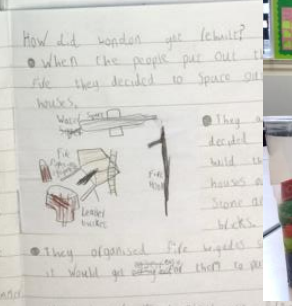
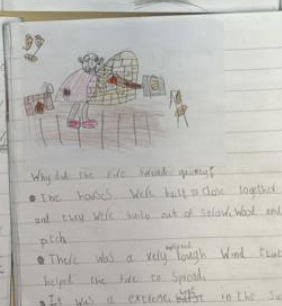
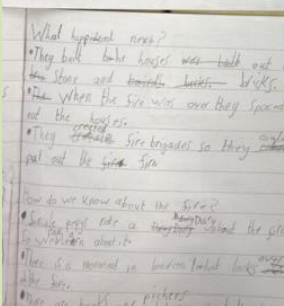
# Year 2



In English and History, we have been learning about the Great Fire of London. We enjoyed attending the drama workshop to help us understand the events and it provided us with an immersive experience. The children created detailed non-chronological reports that demonstrated their understanding of the events in 1666. We then used this knowledge in writing diary entries from Vlad the flea's perspective.



In RE, our topic question has been, 'Does art teach us about religion?' We have really enjoyed exploring different art forms across a range of religions and we have had lots of opportunities to create some of our own art based on what we have learnt.



In science we have been finding out and learning to describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy. We carried out an investigation to find out if beans would grow in any other medium besides soil. The results were fascinating!

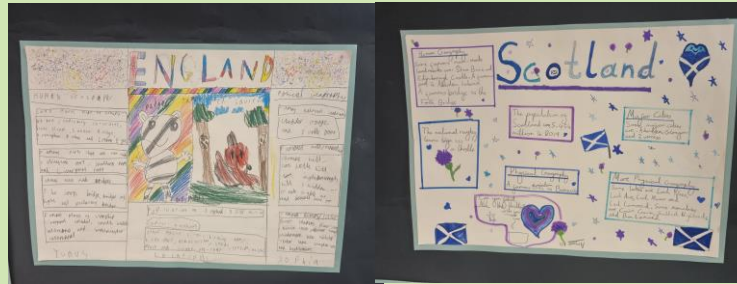


# Year 3

The children have enjoyed an action-packed half-term and we are all so proud of them. We are seeing such great progress in all subject areas, due to the hard work of all involved. Wishing you all a well-deserved break and we look forward to all the fun that the summer terms will bring!



In our Geography lessons, we have enjoyed learning about the human and physical geographical features of the United Kingdom. We made wonderful posters about each of the U.K.'s four countries.



Just one example of the amazing projects completed this term.



In Science, we have been learning all about plants, starting with identifying and describing the functions of different parts of the plant, exploring the requirements of different plants, in different conditions. We have really enjoyed the practical experiments and are looking forward to our trip to Kew Gardens next half term!

In Maths, we have been learning all about numerators, denominators and equivalent fractions. We learnt that the bigger the denominator the smaller the fraction. As a mental reminder we've been thinking about chocolate, cakes and pizza! We decided half a bar of chocolate was better than an eighth!



We've also been looking at measuring mass, and capacity and understanding equivalent measurements, this meant we had to think about divisions all the way up to 1000.

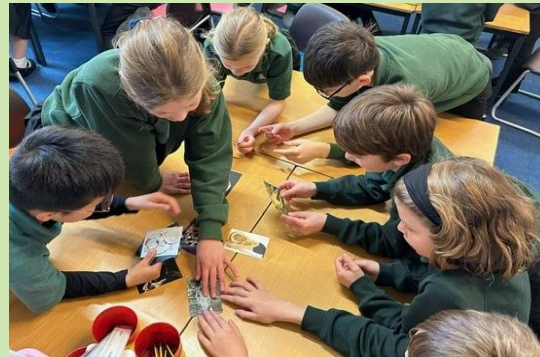
# Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic half term! We have learnt about different topics across all our curriculum. Here's a snippet of our Spring 2 half term's learning:

In Geography we have been exploring and researching South America. We have looked at the physical and human features of Brazil, compared the temperature and precipitation of Manaus and London and we have used Oddizzi to help develop our enquiry skills.



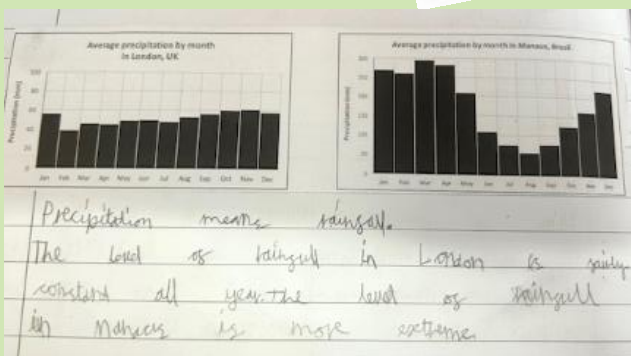
In Science we have been learning all about teeth and digestion. We had a nurse visit to discuss oral hygiene, compared the teeth of different animals and discussed why they might be different dependent on whether they were a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore. We even got hands-on recreating the journey of food through the human digestive system.



We also got a chance to show our amazing creative projects to our classes - it was so much fun to see everyone present their own!



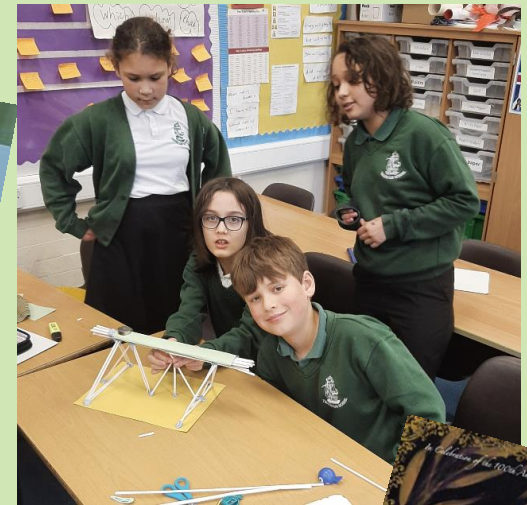
In D&T we have been adapting our own biscuit recipes. We experimented with flavours and textures by adding & substituting ingredients. All to impress the taste testers who judged our final products.



# Year 5

It's been a super exciting half term in Year 5, that has seen ducklings hatch, a class assembly from 5AJ, a look at Irish culture and heritage, a trip to St Michael's Church to learn about the Easter story and experimenting with Cams in DT! We'll all need our Easter break to catch our breath!

In Design and technology, Year 5 have been researching cam mechanisms, ready to make their moving toys when they come back. They created cardboard models to show a variety of different cams. Working in groups, the children were given the challenge of creating a structure to support 50g weights. They discovered that triangles and firm foundations were good for construction.



In English, it's been all about description; we've written descriptive poems about the moon and a fairytale based on The Firebird.

In Religion and Worldviews, we've been learning about Creation stories from different faiths. Year 5 also made a trip to St Michael's Church, where they watched a dramatic retelling of the Easter story.



Poppy and Luca were awarded certificates for the 'Questions of the Day.'



In geography, we have been learning about Europe, including mapping skills, tourism and migration.



## Year 5 – part 2!

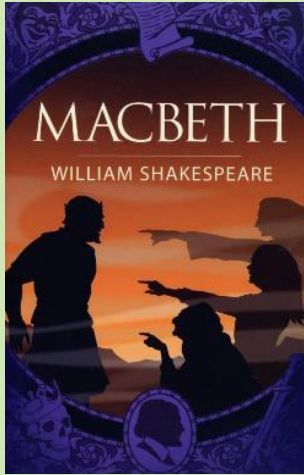


It's been a very exciting half term in Year 5. To help us with our learning of life cycles in science, our half term began with the arrival of 5 duck eggs in an incubator. This year, the ducklings hatched very quickly-all five eggs hatched the first day they arrived. The ducklings had lots of attention in both classes and they became very used to the noise and excitement in the classroom-we also became used to their high-pitched quacking! We were all very sad to see them go but loved having them for 8 days.



# Year 6

Our English text this half-term has been Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The children have explored the rich language, analysed the characters and written letters in role.



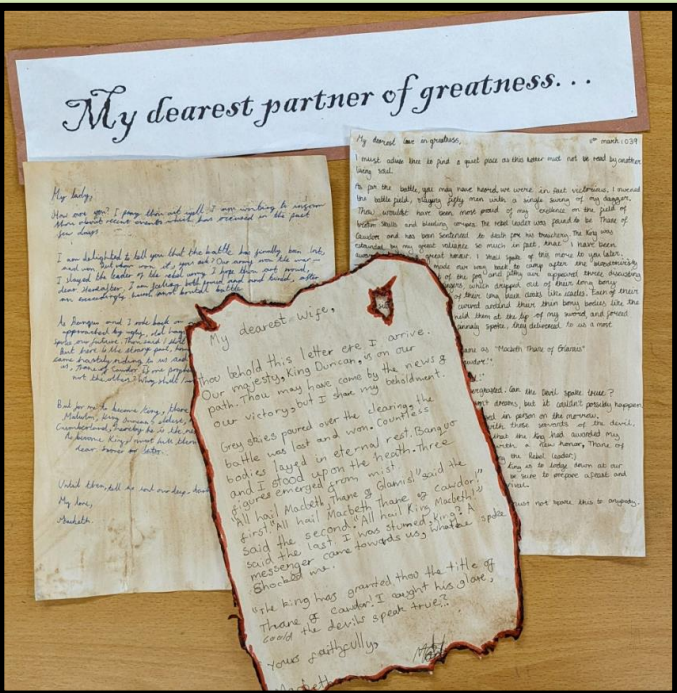
In Design and Technology, the children have worked in groups to create themed wire-loop games, complete with micro-bits. We are hoping some will feature at the Summer Fair!









Year 6 also experienced... being evacuated for the day when a theatre group came in and ran an immersive workshop for them. This was the conclusion to our WW2 History topic.



Y6 also had a visit from an ex-pupil who was canvassing for their vote in the Youth Council election. They can vote here with their unique code which they were all given.



# KS2 HOUSE POINTS!

Green	White	Yellow	Brown	Red	Blue
WOODPECKER	SWAN	GOLDFINCH	OWL	ROBIN	KINGFISHER
					



Here are the **Goldfinches** enjoying their prize (zumba class from Mrs B and treats) which they won at the end of Spring 1. This half-term was won by... drum roll please... **OWLS!** Two-thirds of the way through the academic year and the overall points tally remains very close, so it is very much all still to play for!

# MUSIC



In Music this ½ term Y1 have been learning about African Music. We have performed poly rhythmic drum patterns and learnt about call and response. Y2 have been focusing on rhythm. During International week we learnt about the different rhythms used in Samba music and performed a Samba using; drums, claves, shakers, cow bells and agogo bells.



# MUSIC – INSTRUMENT ASSEMBLIES

We have been so proud of all the instrumentalists and vocalists that have performed for us this term in our special year group assemblies. It's been wonderful to see a wide range of instruments being played and to share in the children's musical journey. To see such confidence and courage from the children during their performances was inspiring. The children across the school was so enthusiastic about the music they heard. Thank you so much to all those children who volunteered to take part!





# Music Curriculum

This half term **Year 3 and Year 4** have been musically travelling to **Africa and Brazil**. Year 3 have had lots of fun learning Djembe Drumming patterns and singing traditional African songs. Year 4 have been in the carnival spirit playing Samba rhythms.



Year 3 arranging Djembe rhythms



**Year 5 and 6** have been inspired by the music of **India and Cuba** this term. They have danced Bhangra and Salsa – great cardio workouts!

Using a variety of percussion specific to the genre of music, Year 5 have looked at Indian time cycles – Tala. Year 6 have enjoyed arranging their own Salsa rhythms and playing a fun accompaniment to a song 'Latin Dance' on the ukuleles!



Bhangra Dance



Year 6 arranging Ukeleles!!

## Spring 2 Sports Round-Up

It's been another busy and successful half-term of sports for the Junior School! We had four 'last 16' knock-out games for our Y5&6 Richmond League teams which included a win for both our Girls Football Team and our Tag Rugby team (top left). They both now move onto the quarter-finals after the Easter break. As well as our four knock-out fixtures, we also had no less than five friendlies in Boys Football (bottom right), Girls Football (middle left) and Netball.



As well as our weekly fixtures, we also had lots of tournaments and festivals this half-term. Our Netball team (middle right) went to the Richmond Borough Netball Championships and put in some brilliant performances, including a 6-1 victory over St John the Baptist, in which Matilda East put in an inspired performance scoring 4 of our 6 goals!

We were also invited to the Brentford FC Primary Stars Tournament (top right) as one of the best three Girls Football teams in Richmond to play for the chance to represent Brentford FC at a Premier League ground. The tournament was filled with incredibly talented teams and really bought out the best in our team which missed out on the Semi-Finals by just 1 point.

Finally, some lucky Year 4s got the chance to attend the Year 4 Golfway competition at Strawberry Hill GC. Brilliant teamwork and enthusiasm saw Trafalgar crowned the champions! (bottom left). This meant the team went on to the London Youth Games to represent the entire Borough of Richmond against schools from every other London Borough

