



MESSAGE FROM MR SIM

As ever, we have so much to celebrate this term. In September, our pupils settled back into familiar routines. They coped admirably when some of those routines had to change later in the Autumn. I am optimistic that a key outcome of the pandemic for our children will be resilience. The evidence definitely points that way. Whether we are home-learning, bubbled-up or back to normal, our children crack on and make the best of it. That is a huge credit to them and a huge credit to you as parents.

Whatever 2022 brings, we will meet the challenges together as a community and we will prosper together. Thank you for all you do to support your children. Thank you for all you have done to support the school through these 'unprecedented' times.

I hope you get a chance to watch the Christmas live streams. Whilst it is a bitter disappointment that we cannot all celebrate together in person, nothing can detract from the joy of children singing at this time of year.

It has been great to celebrate our Stars of the Week during our virtual celebration assemblies. Congratulations to all of the children nominated this half-term:

Acorn: Sydney, Logan, Alfie, Holly, Harry, Manny, Ada

Chestnut: Durrah, Jaxx, Karis, Duchess, Hiraj, Joshua

Berry: Antalya, Ariya, Ayden, Kelly, Demi, Diyana, Eleanor

Ash: Ella, Shreyas, Harish, Aiden, Laylah, Owen, Lucy

Alder: Aaila, Ghazi, Nandipha, Asya, Kaitlyn, Romelle, Evie

Beech: Nyla-Rose, Ivy, Amelia, Ayah, Charlie, Zara, Yousaf

Hawthorn: Anas-Ahmed, Lucas, Maisie, Maral, Dennis, Ava, Magee

Elm: Leighton, Panjiri, George, Srishwan, Madeline

Hornbeam: Alex, Jonah, Leo, Emily, Aasiya, Hafizur

Holly: Aryan, Nakshatra, Maks, Kason, Nithin, Elijah

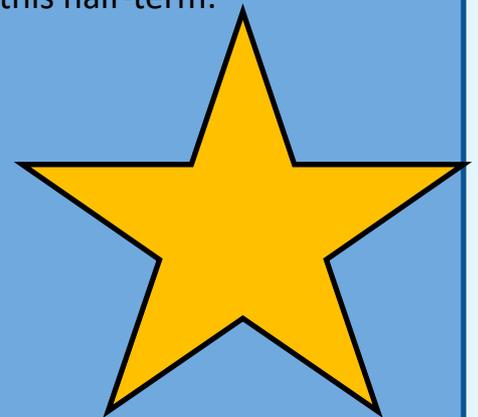
Maple: Zuhair, Hayden, Chloe, Imaad, Callum, Leo

Linden: Eloise, Dan, Oliver, Abigail, Iman, Sikaafa

Oak: Mbali, Ryan, Lilian, Frankie, Tom, Aidan

Pine: Ayesha, Angeleen, Kohil, Emily, Haruto, Mihai, Harriet

Willow: Kelsie, Inaaya, Joe, Deen, Sapphire, Zak

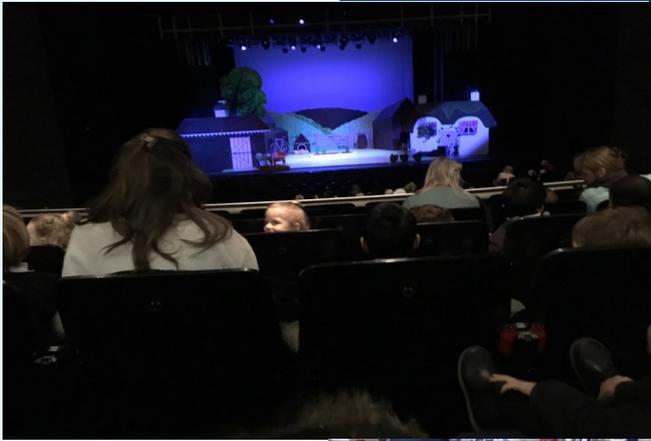


Thank you to the Homersley family for decorating our Christmas tree.



Foundation and Nursery news

Topics in Foundation this half-term have included: Bonfire night, autumn and traditional tales such as 'Three Little Pigs' and 'The Gingerbread Man'.



The Foundation classes had an amazing trip to Milton Keynes Theatre to see 'What the Ladybird Heard'. We were so pleased with how well they behaved on the coach and at the theatre. They loved the show and thought it was hilarious!



The children have been thinking about how to express their feelings.



It has been exciting to make and decorate gingerbread men!



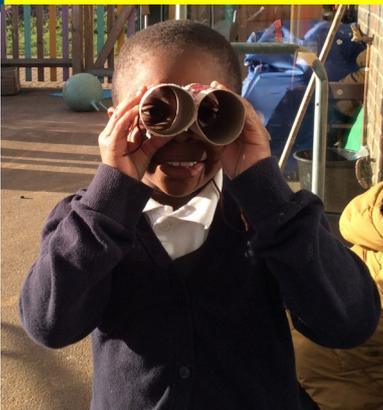
They have been learning about repeating patterns in maths.

Nursery have been looking at classic stories this half-term. The children have loved getting dressed up as the Gruffalo to act out the story. In maths, they have been learning about numbers up to 10.

The children are excited about doing PE in the hall after the holidays!



They loved making binoculars to go on the Bear Hunt!



Key Stage 1 news

Year 1's topic has been all about dinosaurs this half-term. They have become experts on brachiosaurus and triceratops!. In their DT lessons, they have been exploring different joining techniques so that they could make their own dinosaur models.



The Year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed developing their fieldwork skills on walks around our local area. Thankfully they managed to avoid the rain!

Year 1 are brilliant mathematicians. They've enjoyed using concrete resources to find out about doubling.



In science lessons, they have been investigating different materials. They loved their experiment to find out which material best protects a biscuit by dropping them from the balcony and climbing frame.



Year 2 have loved their Great Fire of London topic. In music lessons, they have been learning to play London's Burning on the chime bars and in DT, they have been finding out how to make bread. Look at these delicious rolls!

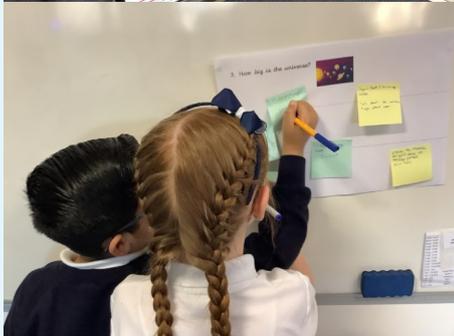


It was really exciting to have a visitor from the Hindu temple to tell Year 2 all about Hinduism and Diwali.



Year 3 had an amazing time during their Chocolate Day. They focused on the history of chocolate, particularly the Mayans and how cocoa beans are harvested. They tasted different types of chocolate and they even made their very own mini chocolates. They were delicious!

They also had a brilliant RE day, learning about Islamic art and worship.



Year 4's RE day focused on creation. They discussed some 'big' questions before exploring how different religions view creation. We were really impressed with their thoughts from the end of the day.

I think that God created the world. I also think that the big bang theory is real and I believe in Islam. I think that all religions have different beliefs and thoughts. I also did not know about Adam and Eve. And the Islam story is about Adam and Eve being the first people alive.

I think that God created the world. I also think that some of the creation stories are very interesting but still might be true. We can also be more understanding of people by respecting what they decided to believe.



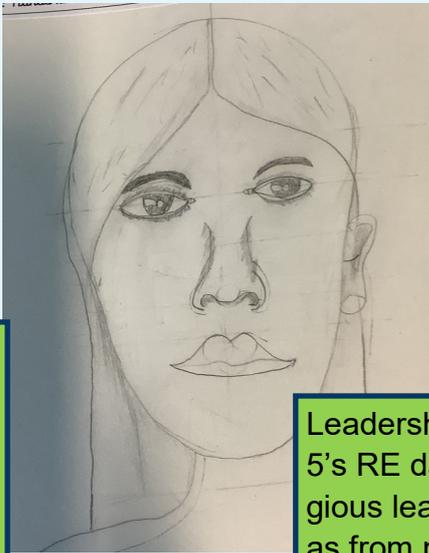
As part of their topic on Africa, Year 4 have learning how to create their own Batik fabric. They've demonstrated amazing skills and knowledge in their textiles lessons.

Their English work has been based around Elizabeth Laird's 'The Fastest Boy in the World'.



Year 5's topic has been space this half-term. In October, they had an amazing time at the mobile planetarium that visited school. In their English lessons, they have thought about the moon landing from Neil Armstrong's and Michael Collins's perspectives. They've become experts on the solar system: they really enjoyed creating their own orry.

We have been so impressed with Year 5's development as artists. This half-term, they have been learning how to draw accurate self-portraits.



Year 6 have been learning about dissolving in the science lab.

Leadership was the focus for Year 5's RE day. They compared religious leaders from holy texts as well as from more modern times. We were pleased to welcome Rev Matt from All Saints to talk about his experience as a Christian leader.

Year 6 looked at rites of passage for their RE day. They also visited the mobile planetarium.

In DT lessons they have been designing and building money boxes. Their sawing techniques are incredibly impressive!



"In topic lessons this term, we have been learning about climate change – focusing on why it is a problem and what the solutions are to it. We have learnt about greenhouse gases, which are gases such as carbon dioxide and methane that pollute the Earth. They make it warmer as they trap the heat inside the atmosphere. We also looked at different types of renewable energy which are better for the climate than using fossil fuels. We have had conversations about the natural and human factors which affect climate change and also why it is so difficult to slow it down.

We have learnt about Greta Thurnberg, who is an activist aiming to stop climate change and compared her with David Attenborough who has a significant voice in the discussion.

This has been a fun topic for us because it was interesting and we have learnt more about what is happening to the world around us. "

Sapphire and Lottie



United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On Friday 3rd December, we marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities across both sites. Some classes learnt that not all disabilities are visible and others learnt more about Paralympians.

As part of the day, all the children looked at works by the American artist, Jeremy Sicile-Kira. Jeremy has autism and he expresses his feelings through painting with different colours to represent his emotions.

All of the children were encouraged to enter our art competition, using Jeremy's works as inspiration. We were pleased to see so many amazing entries and it was hard to pick the winners. Congratulations to:

Nisha (EYFS winner)

Nova (KS1 winner)

Chloe F (LKS2 winner)

Zac (UKS2 winner)

Jeremy wrote to us:

"I'm glad my art inspired your students. Their art is beautiful. Art helps me feel better and I hope that art can help your students as well."



Year 6 developed their understanding of visual impairment.

Here are just a few examples of competition entries. The children had really thought about how to use colour to express themselves, drawing on inspiration from Jeremy Sicile-Kira.





101 Books to Read Challenge

We love to read at Oakgrove and it is always lovely to see children enjoying choosing books in the library and telling us about their favourite ones. Thanks to your generosity in donating money for books last year, the children are now thrilled to find our 101 Books to Read books at school. This term we have awarded 205 certificates worth a total of 1225 books read! We are particularly thrilled to have given out our first Bookworm badge as well.

'Who Let the Gods Out?'

"I liked learning about different gods and their powers. It was full of adventure!"

Jarri

'London Eye Mystery'

"It was adventurous and the blurb didn't spoil the mystery!" David



'Matlida'

"It was fun and you can learn a bit about being good." Lola

'My Pet Star'

"I liked it when the star fell down and he kept it." Rahim

