



Robert Ferguson Primary School

Spring Term News 2022



Our Easter celebration at St James Church was a joyful occasion, with songs, poems and readings. We were joined by Rt Rev James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle.

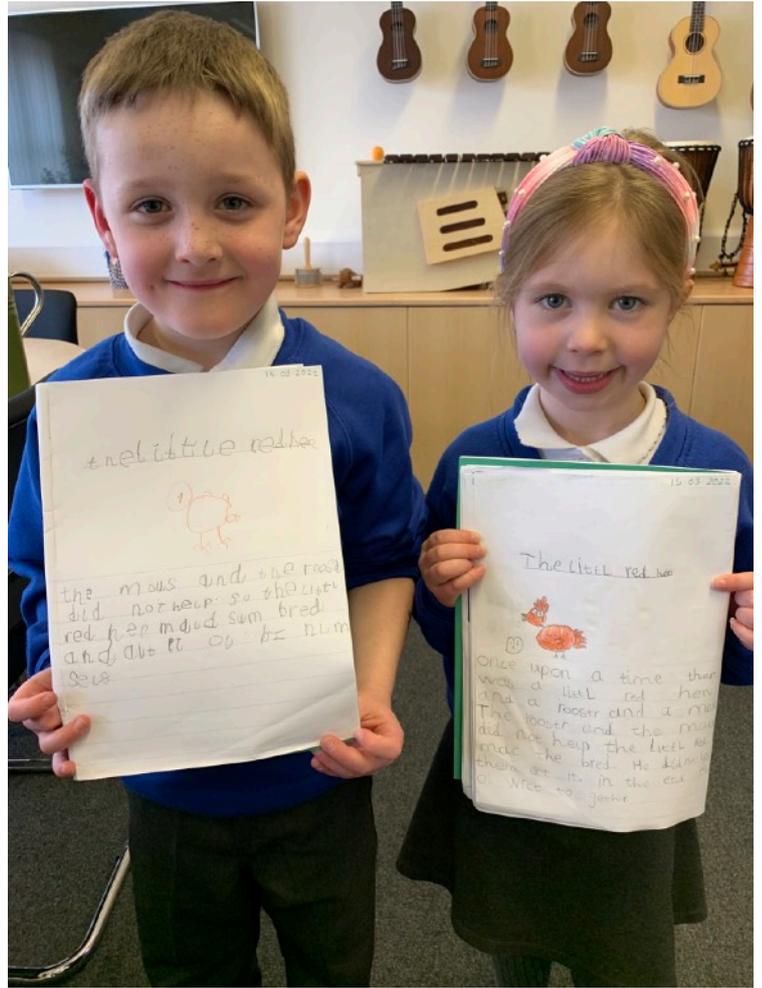
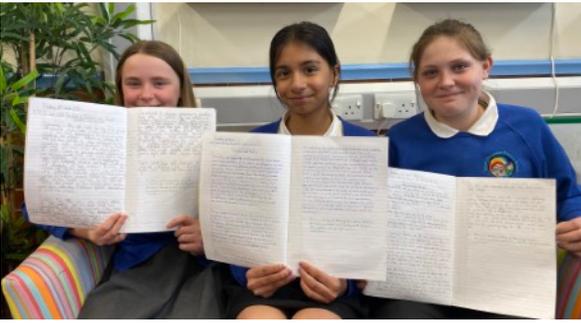
Art



We are continually looking to expand the opportunities children have to develop their art appreciation and skills. The introduction of art journaling, with higher quality art books means that the children are able to use a wider range of art mediums, including paint in them, and they are enjoying looking back at their work to see their progress.



Reading and Writing



Our own research into reading motivation found that providing children with a great choice of reading materials (not just books), frequent opportunities to browse, to read lots, and help with taking on challenging books children are

eager to try are all essential! Book ownership, and trips to the library are incredibly important, too! Increasingly, children are telling us that they love writing, and it is showing in the amazing work we are seeing them produce.

Ernest was 10 they all moved to Sydenham, London searching for a better job for his father.

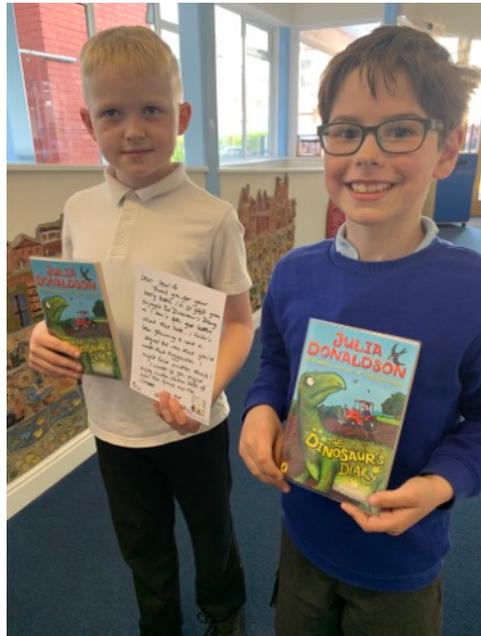
Ernest was schooled by a governess until he was 7. His school he went to was Fir Lodge preparatory school in Dulwich. Soon by the age of 13 he was keen at reading - he liked reading fictional adventures. Although he was a genius, he thought school was boring moreover he wanted to experience everything for himself.

Mary Anning

One day Mary Anning went to the beach with her father. He taught her to find fossils in the rocks. She didn't know what they was but ^{thought} fossils that they was magical. Over 100 years they die so they get to the bottom of the sea and ^{become} mud and become a fossil of a plesiosaur. Mary started to get the shells and fossils to get more money for her family so they can buy more things. And when she got older she found a man who had a fossil rock and what was in it like the rock had in it the rock was a magical fossil that was

Top left: Year 6 writing inspired by "The Girl and the Fox"
 Top right: Reception writing about "The Little Red Hen".
 Left: Year 6 writing about Explorer, Ernest Shackleton.
 Above: Year 1 writing about palaeontologist, Mary Anning.

In January, we encouraged the children to think about writing letters to authors of books they enjoy. Lots of children took up the challenge and have already received wonderful letters back from authors Rob Biddulph and Julia Donaldson!



Music

Year 5 and 6 are making great strides in learning the guitar, Year 4 the clarinet, and Years 2 and 3 have enjoyed djembe drumming with Zozo.

New for the summer term, we have created a music room so the children can enjoy small group music sessions in which they can take it really soft and slow, hitting high notes and low, or playing fast and loud!



PE



In our continuing mission to provide the children with a very broad range of sporting opportunities, Spring Term featured wheel-chair basketball for years 1 to 6 and squash for years 3 and 5.



Food Focus: Try Something Green!



We are focusing on healthy eating in a big way this year. There is plenty of scientific evidence linking good health to a varied diet including plenty of different fruit and vegetables. Therefore, we will continually encourage the children to try new foods, including those we grow in our own school garden, and in the summer term we will be encouraging the children to “try something green” as part of their lunches. If children have repeated opportunities to try something new, they do grow to like more foods in time, and this is great for their health and immunity!



Super Soups and Smoothies

Making fruit smoothies and vegetable soups are both great ways to get lots of nutrients into our diets. In the summer term we are offering family learning workshops to introduce you and your child to the fun and benefits of either smoothie or soup making, and participants will be given a free smoothie maker or stick blender so they can carry on the fun at home! If you are interested in joining one of these sessions, look out for the invitation which will come home shortly!

Above: school grown veg being grown, harvested and prepared for tasting or for inclusion in school meals.

Top right: Chair of Governors, Esther Blake and Mr Frost treating the staff to pancakes in our recently re-equipped kitchen.

Bottom right: A Year 2 food technology lesson.

Football - RFPs Stars Ascending



Our girls' and boys' football teams are totally deserving of a two-page spread in our newsletter. Both teams played superbly last month to progress to the county finals. Their success, confidence and great team skills are a fantastic endorsement of our considerable investment in coaching over the past few years as a school, but also their own dedication to the sport, with many of them playing in local teams outside school hours!



Some Reminders:

No Nuts

We are a nut-free school - please make sure that nothing containing nuts or traces of nuts is sent to school.

Snacks

If sending snacks to school, these must be fruit or vegetables, only.

Drinks

Reminder - please send only water in refillable bottles, which should be taken home to clean and refill; please do not send juice drinks.

Sun Protection

Sending children with sunscreen for them to apply themselves, and sun hats are advisable on sunny days.

Behaviour

Our high expectations for behaviour on the school site apply to all - children and adults alike.

Some Thanks:

Attendance

The vast majority of you give us the strong impression that you value your child's education, by sending your child to school at every opportunity. Thank you!

Punctuality

The vast majority of you recognise that if your child were to miss the start of a lesson by arriving late they would be at a disadvantage themselves, but also would potentially interrupt the learning of other children. Thank you!

Kindness to school staff

The vast majority of you treat our dedicated staff team with respect and kindness, even when you have a worry or a complaint. Thank you!

Other News:

Scaffolding and High Level Maintenance

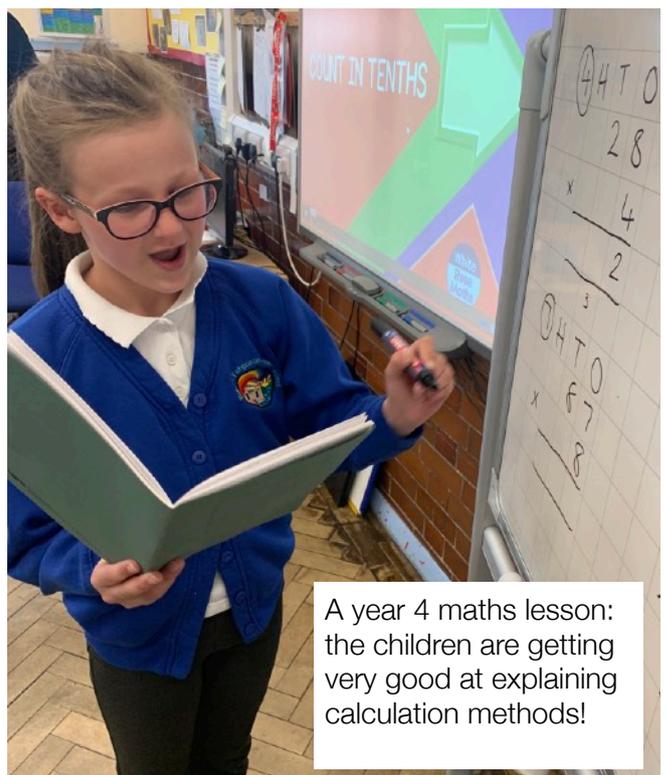
Thank you for bearing with us while the high level maintenance is being carried out. The essential work had to be completed prior to the arrival of migratory birds (house martins) which nest on the building from late spring, hence why it has been during term time. All being well, the work will be complete by late May.

Covid19

The virus hasn't gone away, but we appear to be heading into the "learning to live with it" phase. This does not mean we have abandoned all caution, and will continue to monitor the situation, but it does mean that we have shifted our focus to the general and mental wellbeing of our pupils. If you have any questions or concerns about this, or anything else, please do get in touch.

Tours of School

If you missed out on having a tour of the school building prior to your child starting in nursery or reception, whether this school year, or a previous one, but would still like to do so, please contact the school office and we will be delighted to book you an appointment.



A year 4 maths lesson: the children are getting very good at explaining calculation methods!