

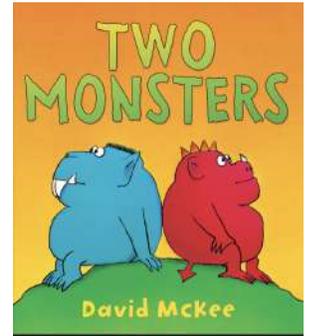


Whole School Newsletter

Friday 5th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

In my experience, children find David McKee's book 'Two Monsters' highly entertaining. As is the case with most great stories, it also has a more serious message to offer us. Two monsters live on either side of a mountain. They can speak to each other through a small hole but cannot see each other. They have different opinions on something which results in a heated argument - insults are exchanged, boulders are hurled and the mountain is ruined! At the end of the story, it turns out that both monsters are right; they just have a different perspective. Even the youngest children in assembly were able to proffer constructive suggestions as to how the two monsters could have better sorted out their differences - go around the mountain and talk to each other face to face, debate the matter and listen to each other, hold a vote. And so began UK Parliament Week at Meridian.



Why is it important for schools to support UK Parliament Week? We only need to tune into the news briefly to be reminded of the many differing opinions on significant local, national and world issues affecting our children's futures right now. I believe that the job of grown-ups is to both listen to children in the here and now and give them the knowledge and

tools to be well equipped to make a difference to their world in the future. Do have a look below at the learning which took place in classes this week and follow this link if you'd like to know more: [UK Parliament Week: Home](#)

We will be listening to our School Council representatives next week when their first job will be to plan Children in Need day at Meridian. Due to the pandemic, our reps from last year have been kept in office. They are joined by new reps from Y1. We look forward to hearing their ideas.

In other news, for the first time in a long time, children embarked on a school trip outside of Greenwich this week - Year 3 visited the Royal Festival Hall to participate in a concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. In the build up to this event, the children learnt two songs. Jane was keen to sing one particular refrain to me on a regular basis, and I also heard a recording of Nelly singing it! The highlight, however, was when a child came to read her love story to me yesterday: she had embedded the refrain, "Harriet, I love you!" within her narrative and, when reading the story aloud, sang it beautifully. You can read it yourself below. Singing has always been a big part of Meridian life, and I very much look forward to the return of singing assemblies next week...



Next Friday, we will be sad to say goodbye to Tina who is leaving Meridian's school office to take up an opportunity within the NHS. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her many contributions to Meridian. We will miss her and look forward to hearing about the next chapter in her life.

Happy Diwali to families and staff celebrating this week!
Best wishes, Jo - Jo Graham, Headteacher

What have our children been learning about during UK Parliament Week?

Foundation Stage children were excited to hear that the power was in their hands this week as they had the opportunity to vote at their own pop up voting stations! After hearing the blurbs of two different books, each child voted for which one they'd like to hear at story time. **Nursery** did this by placing a cube on the book they would like. Once everyone had cast their vote, children compared the two cube towers to see which one was the biggest. **Reception** took turns at placing a mark against their preferred book and then carefully counted the tallies to see which book had won.



That book has more cubes.
Nimaah, Nursery

The book I like didn't win because it's just 9.
Irtaza, Reception

The Gigantic Turnip wins because 20 is more than 9.
Emi, Reception

Year 1 put democracy into action this week in their class by having their first ever School Council election. They began by finding out a bit about the role of the School Council and sharing their ideas for what makes a good representative.



I believe a good candidate should be kind and good at listening.
Erica

I think I would be good on the School Council because I have lots of ideas.
Blaise

Nine children decided that they were suitably qualified for the role and bravely put themselves forward as candidates. Every child in the class then voted by anonymous ballot. The results concluded that Tilly and Zayden will be representing Year 1 on the School Council this year!



Year 2 have been learning about what parliament is and why it is so important. They learnt that the House of Commons is a place where laws are agreed upon and different topics are debated and discussed. Children were excited to then find out the story behind the Gunpowder Plot - the reason why we celebrate Bonfire Night today, the 5th November! - which they wrote about and illustrated.

The Houses of Parliament is a really important place - they decide on really important issues which change the way we live.
Logan



Elsie S

Many people didn't like the way the government was run when King James ruled - that is why Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament.
Shanzay





Year 3 have been reflecting on the important role leadership plays in democracy. Through their discussions, children considered and

then shared the qualities they think a person needs to make a good Prime Minister. It was interesting to observe the overlap between these characteristics and our Meridian Learning Muscles!

I want my Prime Minister to be persistent so he or she won't give up on making good laws for us all!
Reuben

This week, **Year 4** learned about the system of democracy we have in the UK, how this works and who represents us in parliament. They learned about the people that make up the House of Commons and the House of Lords before taking a virtual tour of the Houses of Parliament. Children enjoyed 'standing' behind the despatch box and imagining what it would be like to face the opposition at question time!

The House of Lords looks a lot fancier than the House of Commons. The seats look comfier and there is lots of art on the walls! I wonder why?
Ariel

I would be very nervous looking out at all the faces on the green benches and wondering if they were going to disagree with what I had to say!
Izaak

The House of Commons is made up of the MPs that people vote for, but the people in the House of Lords are chosen for being experts in different areas like science and sport.
Ava



Year 5 have been keeping up with current affairs this week by focussing their learning on COP26 - what it is, what the people there will be discussing and how this will affect our lives in the future. They found out that the main purpose of COP26 is to allow countries to agree on actions in different areas that will tackle climate change and benefit the entire planet. After looking at some of the problems within these areas, children came up with a number of solutions that could help tackle the climate crisis. They then chose an area to focus on and wrote an email to Matthew Pennycook, the MP for Greenwich, highlighting the problem and possible solutions.

One of the areas COP26 will be discussing is how to protect our oceans. We thought that a possible solution for plastic pollution is to provide better recycling services and reuse more of our materials.
Urte

The beginning of Jayden's email



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Dear Mr Pennycook,

I am sure that you are aware that COP26 is currently taking place in Glasgow. I wish to inform you that the people's health and happiness are getting ruined by climate change. As the world is getting hotter, food is not able to grow and houses are getting destroyed by extreme weather. There is also lots of air pollution which makes people ill.

To tie in with their History topic for this term, **Year 6** have been researching the origin of democracy. They found out that the first form of democracy was created in Athens in Ancient Greece; the system was trialled for a year and, as it was successful in allowing citizens to come to agreements, the Ancient Greeks continued to debate and create laws in this way.



Did you know the word democracy comes from the Ancient Greek language? Demos means people and kratia means rule or power. Therefore, demokratia meant people rule!
Henry

Inspired by this, the class created their own Ancient Greek democracy in the classroom where children had to become either members of the Council, part of the Assembly or - unfortunately - women, children or slaves who were not allowed to vote! They then debated issues including whether children should have mobile phones and whether footballer's salaries should be capped.

We debated whether primary school children should have mobile phones. I was on the Council and decided that the law should be passed that children can have phones if they walk home alone. We put the law to the Assembly and had a majority vote so the law was passed.
Raiden

Bright Sparks at the Royal Festival Hall



During their recent Music lessons in school, Year 3 have been listening to Hector Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique* and learning about the semi-autobiographical story that is told through the music. Using various instruments, they have enjoyed having a go at playing Harriet's tune, a melody which appears in every movement of the symphony.

Hector Berlioz fell in love with an actress called Harriet when he saw her performing on stage. He asked her to marry him for five years, but she said no! So he wrote a symphony for her - and she said yes!
Paris

I've been learning the guitar for about three months. It was hard to play Harriet's tune on the guitar - I could only do the chords slowly. I think it was easier to play on the xylophone!
Robbie

On Wednesday, children were thrilled to have the opportunity to listen to *Symphonie Fantastique* played live by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. Along with children from other schools, they joined in with singing a rousing rendition of *Dans Le Métro*, a song in English and French, and had great fun dancing along in their seats to the traditional Can Can!



After thoroughly enjoying the concert, children were inspired to write a setting description, inspired by the story of Hector and Harriet, which included precise adjectives to describe the sounds of different orchestral instruments.

I really enjoyed joining in with the actions, especially during the witches' part! My favourite instrument to listen to was the drums.
Amelia

I just loved everything about the concert. The music was amazing. I especially liked listening to the clarinet because I play the clarinet. I'd like to be part of an orchestra one day!
Evelyn

My favourite part was the singing - it was really fun when everyone all joined in together singing while the orchestra played the music. I liked learning the song *Dans Le Métro* at school before we went because it taught me some new French words: *un tas de plaisir* means 'loads of fun' and *souterrain* means 'underground'.
Deborah

My favourite instrument to listen to was probably the trombone. I really enjoyed the singing, and I especially enjoyed it at the end when we danced in our seats while the orchestra played the 'Can Can' - I'd heard that music before.
Aurélien

I really liked listening to the flute - it reminded me of the sea. I was happy when I recognised the instruments playing Harriet's tune because I learnt how to play it in school.
Eisa

Thursday 4th November 2021 Evelyn

How can I create a setting inspired by <i>Symphonie Fantastique</i> ?	
I can use precise adjectives to describe the sounds different instruments make.	
I can begin sentences in different ways.	
I can include some direct speech and accurately punctuate this.	

Hector entered the concert as he caught a glimpse of ^{the} crush Harriet, he felt free as a lion, he felt like he's got a chance to marry her. She was as wonderful as an angel.

As the orchestra started to play Hector could ~~only~~ imagine himself dancing in the ball with Harriet, there was the beautiful, calming sound of the violin charging his soul. The heavy, booming, deep timpani echoing in his ears, the dreamy, calm flute meditating his brain, the tinkling melody of the golden harp warming his heart.

He couldn't hold it in that's why he exploded managing to ~~say~~ sing "Harriet I love you! I love you! I love you!"

National Child Measurement Programme for Children in Reception and Year 6

A letter went home on 24th September to both classes with details about this annual programme where children in Reception and Year 6 have their weight and height measured. Young Greenwich (Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust) will be visiting on **Tuesday 23rd November** to complete this.

Unless you have opted out from the programme and notified the Young Greenwich Oxleas team within two weeks of the original letter being sent out (email: oxl-tr.NCMP@nhs.net), your child's height and weight measurements will be taken on 23rd November.

Primary School Applications

If your child was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, they will start school in September 2022. You need to apply for a primary school place via the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2022**.

As part of the application process for the Reception Class intake for September 2022, we are hosting a number of tours for prospective parents. This is a chance to see the school in action, meet our Headteacher, Jo, and ask any questions you might have about the admissions process.

All tours start at 9.30am and will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 9th November - *FULL*

Thursday 11th November - *1 space remaining*

Tuesday 16th November - *1 space remaining*

Thursday 18th November

Tuesday 30th November

Wednesday 1st December

Wednesday 8th December

Thursday 6th January 2022

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Please note that numbers will be limited on each tour. Please contact the office if you would like to book a place on one of these tours.

More details about applying for a primary school place can be found here:

[Primary school admission guide](#) | [Apply for a primary school place](#)

Help with applications

If parents and carers require any help or advice in relation to their applications, please talk to Jo. Alternatively, you can attend [an online session with the Royal Borough of Greenwich](#):

- **RBG Primary Admissions online session:** Monday 10 January - Friday 14 January 2021 10am - 12pm

To book a 30 minute online slot, please contact the Families Information Service helpline on 020 8921 6921 or email fis@royalgreenwich.gov.uk. You will be sent joining details once booked on. (If you are unable to attend, it is really important to cancel your booking as this will enable them to offer it to another family.)

For further details, contact the [Families Information Service](#).



Poppy Appeal 2021

Thank you for supporting this year's Poppy Appeal. As well as stick on poppies, there are a number of poppy themed items available with suggested donation prices alongside the images. If you would like to purchase one of these items for your child, please send the money to school and at a suitable time during the school day, they will be brought to the office by a member of staff to choose their poppy product. Poppies for your lapel will be available to buy in the playground at the start and end of the school day up to Friday 12th November.

On Thursday 11th November, KS2 children will take part in a Remembrance Day assembly where they will observe a one minute silence.



Zip Pull

SUGGESTED DONATION: 50p



Reflector

SUGGESTED DONATION: 50p



Silicon Wristband

SUGGESTED DONATION: £1



Snap Band

SUGGESTED DONATION: £1.50

**TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN
IN RECEPTION TO YEAR 11**

It is not too late for your child to receive the flu vaccination

If your child did not receive the nasal flu vaccination at your school session and you would now like them to receive this, or you would like the alternative injectable flu vaccine which does not contain porcine gelatine clinics will be available on the following dates:

Saturday 6th November at Lee Fire Station SE12 8ES

from 10.00am to 2.00pm

Saturday 27th November at Bostall House, Goldie Hill, Lodge Hill

Abbey wood SE2 0AS

from 10.00am to 2.00pm

If you are interested and would like more information or would like to book an appointment, please call the immunisation team on

0208 320 5741/42/21.

Protecting your child can stop flu spreading and infecting those around them who maybe more vulnerable.

Oxleas NHS Immunisation Team can be contacted by email at

oxl-tr.immunisations@nhs.net

For more information on the flu vaccination programme please go to

www.oxleas.nhs.uk/immunisation also www.nhs.uk/child-flu