



Whole School Newsletter

Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Lead Teacher of the Deaf, Jane Whipps, asked me if she could lead an assembly. I was happy to oblige. Her enthusiasm stemmed from her excitement at being able to share some significant firsts: (1) the first deaf contestant to take part in BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*, Rose Ayling-Ellis, (2) the creation of the first deaf Marvel superhero, Makkari, and (3) the first deaf actor, Lauren Ridloff, to play a superhero in a Marvel film! What great role models for all our children.



Rose is profoundly deaf and during her assembly Jane shared a clip from the BBC about what it is like for her to dance on the show and the ways in which she is able to access this. You can watch this here: [Strictly star on dancing when you can't hear - BBC News](#)

Lauren stars as the deaf superhero Makkari in the film *Eternals*. In a short video, which Jane shared with the children, Lauren talked about the lack of deaf role models in her own life when she was growing up. She said, "We need to see other people like ourselves to define who we are." You can listen to Lauren here: [Lauren Ridloff - Collective Speakers](#)

We are delighted that our deaf instructor, Tina, is back in school this year leading deaf awareness sessions with the children. Tina is a deaf adult who communicates with the children via a BSL interpreter. So far, she has worked with Reception, Y1, Y2, and Year 4 classes. She will work with other classes later this year. Tina also leads deaf studies sessions with our deaf children.

Another first this week was the return of singing assemblies to Meridian! It was wonderful to fill the school with singing and to see all the children so engaged. We remain optimistic about being able to bring you Christmas Performances this year. More information to follow...

In the meantime, we would like to invite you into school for our Curriculum Open Mornings. This is a chance to hear about what the children have been learning throughout their Time Detectives topic and to see some of their work. Sessions will take place in the halls and if you have siblings in two classes with events on the same day, you can move between the two. Please do come along for roughly 20 minutes on the following dates:

Tuesday 23rd 9:30am - Year 4 and Nursery
Wednesday 24th 9:30am - Year 3 and Year 2
Thursday 25th 9:30am - Year 5 and Reception
Friday 26th 9:30am - Year 6 and Year 1

Best wishes,
Jo

Jo Graham, Headteacher

What have our children been learning about in their English lessons this week?

Nursery have enjoyed reading the poetry book *Stomp, Chomp, Big Roars! Here Come the Dinosaurs!* by Kaye Umansky and Nick Sharratt. After sharing verses from the poem 'Be a mouse', children took turns to role-play being a quiet, tiptoeing mouse or a loud, stomping dinosaur!



I'm a mouse on tiptoes!
Mikaela

I'm a Triceratops with three horns!
Truman

Reception have been learning new vocabulary to describe the distinguishing features of dinosaurs to use in their writing. During their visit to the Natural History Museum, they had the opportunity to match their new vocabulary to real life examples, such as the horn on a parasaurolophus' head! After studying the tools of a paleontologist, children developed their speaking and listening skills by discussing the process of unearthing a fossil.



Lana's writing about the triceratops



Bea's writing about fossils

Paleontologists find dinosaur bones.
Wangari

Having loved reading the book *Wild* by Emily Hughes, **Year 1** have been developing ideas for their own stories. Children showed great creativity when designing their own characters and settings, and they have worked hard to remember their capital letters and full stops when drafting their sentences!



Anthea and Alp's character drawings and descriptions

ffFoxee likes to pla
in the Sho it is cruche

Stingi lives som wer cold
IT IS gnoi And there is ice
on the growd.
STINGI He HAS COLORFUL WINGS and
He HAS to sting ers.

Year 2 have been busy producing some fabulous writing inspired by their Stone Age text 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. They did a fantastic job of using imperative verbs and adverbs to write clear instructions for how to make palaeolithic biscuits... which they then enjoyed eating! Children have also been developing their note-taking skills, which they applied to writing a report about woolly mammoths. Having recorded their facts clearly, they structured their writing using appropriate headings and developed sentences with interesting adjectives.



How to make Stone Age biscuits. Are you ready?
Wood, you like to meet all
sets to a dress costume
1. Ingredients
2 1/2 cups of flour
2 table spoons of Honey
1/2 tea spoon of lemon Juice
2 eggs
2 1/2 tea spoon of sea salt
Equipment
• Wood
• Baking tray
• Wooden spoon
• Baking paper
• Parchment
Instructions
1. Preheat your oven to 160 degrees
2. Carefully mix together the
flour, sea salt and baking powder
when this is all combined
you will make a ball.

Natalia's instructions

How do you wash a woolly mammoth?
Would you like to find out more? Read on to discover more about this fascinating creature!
The woolly mammoth has tusks which are to 15 feet tall. The humans hunted mammoth and other animals. Woolly mammoth got it die extinct.

Henry's fact file

Inspired by their historical learning about Ancient Egypt, **Year 3** have planned and begun to write an explanation text about the mummification process. After comparing an explanation to a set of instructions in order to identify the similarities and key differences between these two genres, they developed their plans using time adverbials for sequencing and conjunctions to show cause and effect. To check that their explanations wouldn't be missing any important steps, children then had great fun reenacting the mummification process in their classroom!

It felt quite odd to become an Egyptian mummy, but it brought the process to life!
Allison



Making mummies

When people think about the Ancient Egyptians, they most often think about mummies. The process of mummification is very complicated but luckily for you, I know how to do it! Let me tell you how.



This week, **Year 4** have been working towards writing newspaper reports about Egyptologist Howard Carter and his famous discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb! They have thought about how they can vary their use of noun phrases to avoid repeating Howard's name, creating alternatives such as **the fearless archaeologist** and **the eager Egyptologist**.

If we repeat the same noun over and over, it can get really boring or even irritating to hear!
Séamus

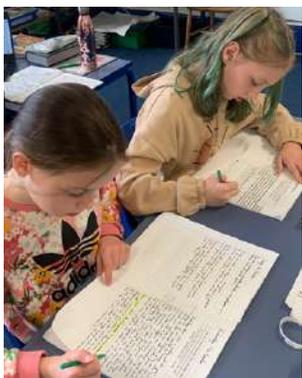


Building on their use of direct speech in their Marcy stories, children role-played as reporters interviewing Howard Carter and Hussein Abdul-Rasoul (the water-boy who discovered the steps to the tomb) and used inverted commas to quote their opinions.

"If you want the truth, it was Hussain, my Water boy, who, tripped on a smooth stone and we found out it was the tomb! revealed Carter!"

"I felt very proud that I found something that hasn't been stolen from Tutankhamun's tomb!" the brave Egyptologist told us.

Constant and Max's quotes



Throughout the Autumn term, **Year 5** and **Year 6** have thoroughly enjoyed reading about the suspense-filled adventures of Ancient Greek hero Odysseus in Hugh Lupton's *The Adventures of Odysseus*, a retelling of Homer's *The Odyssey*.

I loved it when Odysseus travelled to the Land of the Dead because it was like nothing I'd ever read before! It was so creepy and mysterious...
Leia, Y5

This week, they have been writing newspaper reports inspired by the end of the story when Odysseus returns to his palace in Ithaca in disguise as an elderly beggar. Having explored the key features of journalistic writing and considered how journalists can show bias in favour of or against a subject, they developed their reports by quoting the perspectives of different characters using direct and indirect speech.

Having been asked if he thought the beggar was Odysseus, Antinous replied frustratedly: "Go away. I am not answering anything."

Luke's direct speech



Jack, Y5, wrote:

A press conference has been held at the palace in an attempt to get to the bottom of all the wild stories. When asked if she was to remarry, Penelope (the queen of Ithaca) answered, "I would never willingly remarry, but the way things are going I might not get a choice."

Many are wondering what Queen Penelope is thinking right now. When asked what she thinks about the ~~sit~~ situation and if she thinks the old man is Odysseus, Penelope sighed, "He does not look like him that's for sure. But on the other hand, I do not know anyone else as ~~sturdy~~ as that."

~~Known~~ Having been ~~guzzled~~ ~~quizzed~~ how sturdy the beggar was, Antinous - the sutor who threw the stool - stated, "He was as stem as steel. He did not even flinch. It was highly unexpected."

Circé narrowed the mystery down a bit by explaining declaring how Odysseus did ~~did~~ in fact visit her island. Apparently Odysseus. We asked a ~~stander~~ ~~wondering~~ by ~~stander~~ what they think about the stories and they quoted, "Well I think it is not him because our courageous king would never be scared of ~~g~~ some sutors!"



I have written my newspaper to show bias against Odysseus by using adjectives such as careless and foolish. Vivienne, Y6

Nicole, Y6

Reception's trip to the Natural History Museum

The big Tyrannosaurus rex model was cool! It roared at me. Amari

The T-rex had a big tail so it didn't fall over! Prudence

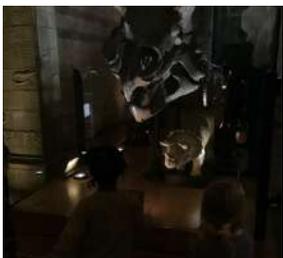
I know it's a Triceratops because it has 3 horns. Cyrus



The museum was so big! I liked the dinosaur models. Emi

Some dinosaurs had club tails to whack other dinosaurs! Oran

All the dinosaurs died because they had nothing to eat. Mark



Year 6's trip to Sir John Soane's Museum



The trip was great. My favorite part was seeing the massive statue of Apollo. He's my favourite god because he's the god of the sun, and I love it when it's sunny!
Eoin

My favourite part of the trip was probably when we got to design our own Ancient Greek temples - my columns had Doric capitals. It was dedicated to the god Poseidon, so I designed waves on the frieze.
Louie

Did you know there's a secret room of pictures? We were told that Sir John Soane wanted 119 pictures, but when we went into the room, there were only about 38. We wondered what was going on, but then we thought, 'Aha!' They pulled back the doors - there were doors inside of doors - and the secret room was revealed! They must have been very creative to come up with that!
Josh



Children in Need 2021

Dust off your **Pudsey** ears because it's that time of year again! On Friday 19th November, we are inviting everyone to **come to school dressed in spots** (or as Pudsey Bear himself!) to show our support for **BBC Children in Need**. During the day, children will take part in a **fun class challenge** organised by the School Council, and we are very grateful to the **FROMS** class reps from each class who will be busy organising **cakes** for each class!



We are suggesting a donation of **£1.50** to this event wherever possible. The money that we raise will go directly to charities that make a difference to disadvantaged children and young people in communities across the UK.

If possible, an online payment of your donation is preferred and would be appreciated. We have created a BBC Children in Need payment item on **ParentPay** which allows you to make a donation of any amount upwards of £1 (you are welcome to donate more if you wish!). If you have not yet activated your ParentPay account and need your login details, please let the school office know. We will also accept cash donations if necessary: please put your donation in an envelope and send it in with your child next Friday to give to their teacher.

Hopefully, with all your support, we will raise lots for a fantastic cause!

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 16th November - *FULL*
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](#).



Diary Dates 2021-22 School Year

Term dates are set for our school by the [Royal Borough of Greenwich](#).

The school allocates five training days (INSETs) and children do not attend school on these days:

Training days for 2021-2022 are:

INSET 1 - Wednesday 1st September 2021

INSET 2 - Thursday 2nd September 2021

INSET 3 - Friday 3rd September 2021

INSET 4 - Tuesday 4th January 2022

INSET 5 - to be confirmed

Key events:

Wednesday 17th November (after school) - Lantern Parade involving Y4 children and their families - see letter sent home this week

Thursday 18th November - Y5 visit Sir John Soane's Museum

Friday 19th November - Children in Need 2021

Thursday 2nd December -Y1 & Y2 visit The Museum of London

Thursday 16th December - last day of Autumn Term 2

Friday 17th December - Monday 3rd January 2022- Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 4th January 2022 - INSET Day 4

Wednesday 5th January - first day of Spring Term 1

Payments

Please continue to log into your Parent Pay accounts to pay any money owing on dinners, Play Club & Breakfast Club etc. Thank you.



The cost of school dinners for Autumn Term 2 (up to 16/12/21) is £93.50. Thank you for the payments received this week for dinners. Please can all remaining parents/carers make their payment as soon as possible. If you want to check your child's dinner account balance, please contact Sharon or Gemma in the office.

If regular dinner payments are not made, you run the risk of school lunches being withdrawn and you will need to supply a packed lunch from home instead. If you are having trouble making these payments, please talk to Jo, Jane or Sharon.

Please note that if your child is entitled to Free School Meals or is in Reception, Y1 or Y2 there is no charge for dinners.

Thank you for your continued support.

**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