

Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School

MESSENGER

Thursday 28th March 2024



Dear Overleigh Family,

Wow! We have reached the end of the Spring Term already. We hope you are all ready and prepared for a lovely Easter Break and we look forward to welcoming you back into school on Monday 15th April.

We have had some amazing and informative class assemblies this half term and we are looking forward to some of our younger children sharing their learning with parents/carers after the Easter holiday. Please see the list of upcoming assemblies in our dates list. Maestro class' (Miss McFaul's Y3) re-arranged assembly will go ahead as planned on Thursday 18th April at 2.30pm in the school hall.

Our fantastic PTA held the Easter Disco event this week and it was really well supported with lots of children attending. Thanks go out to all those involved in the organisation of the disco. Our children and staff benefit so much from this voluntary support and it is much appreciated by all. Ziggy certainly enjoyed the event, although we have a suspicion that it was the array of food on offer that grabbed his attention more than the dancing. It has been said that he has two left feet but that is only a rumour.

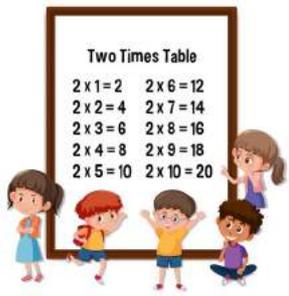


We are certainly looking forward to Easter and hope that our children and families enjoy the religious festival and the Easter egg eating! Likewise, there will be some of our school community celebrating Holi or Eid at this time and we look forward to seeing and hearing about the celebration of these festivals as well. Have a wonderful time whichever religious festival you are enjoying and don't forget to share some of your photos with us.

Later in the newsletter there is an update from St Mary's Church who have a range of events planned over Easter which you might like to attend and enjoy. Please see the list supplied by our church wardens.



Well done to our Year 6 children, who have worked so hard in their SATs boosters already. We realise that this involves earlier or later drop off and pick up times, however, the children attending have worked so hard and you can see the extra confidence and knowledge growing during the sessions which feeds back into their lessons. We look forward to continuing with these after Easter but for now have a lovely and well earned break.



In Year 4, we would ask all children to keep the times tables practice and facts going through the Easter holiday, even if it is just reciting or throwing quick fire questions at your child every now and again. Every little helps!

During our celebration assembly today we had the draw for the Rainbow Readers end of term award with a £20 Amazon voucher first prize and two additional vouchers of £10. Anyone who had completed the rainbow reading chart was given an entry into the draw.

Later on in the newsletter, you can see some photos of a range of extra events that have happened this half-term in school including images of our World War 2 day in Year 6, our Y4 visit to Chester Cathedral and a pirate invasion of EYFS. Alongside many other events over the weeks, these were some of the highlights of this half-term to share.

The teaching staff really enjoyed and welcomed the opportunity to see you at parent meetings in person. It was a pleasure to meet with you and share your child's work. We know that the children were looking forward to you seeing their books and sharing their work and the staff were appreciative of the positive feedback they received from parents regarding the opportunity to meet in person.

In staff news, we are sad to say that Ms Woodhouse is moving on to ventures new after Easter. She has been such a tremendous asset to our school over her 23 years of service, inspiring so many children with her expertise, empathy and care, having made a positive difference to so many children and their families. We wish Ms Woodhouse the very best for the future and she will always be both welcome and fondly remembered at Overleigh. Ms Woodhouse presented the school with some lovely parting gifts including some inspirational cushions for our KS1 classes and a lovely hanging plaque with inspirational quotes from the bible, which is just delightful.



In other staff news, Miss Harrison, one of our excellent teaching assistants, is getting married over the Easter break. We would like to extend everyone's congratulations in advance and we have no doubt that everything will go just as planned.

As ever, have a safe, healthy, happy and relaxing break and we look forward to seeing you back in school for a sunny Summer Term.

Have a great Easter,
Miss Emma Drew and Mr Colin Longworth

Key Dates:

Monday 15th April	First Day of Half Term - Values Day Wisdom
Monday 6th May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 13th May to	Y6 SATs Week
Thursday 16th May	
Friday 24th May	End of Half Term—usual 3.20pm Finish
Tuesday 4th June	Start of Half Term
Monday 10th June	Y1 Phonics Screen Test Begins (ongoing)
Tuesday 4th June to	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check
Thursday 14th June	
Monday 24th June to	Sports Days (Exact Year Group date to follow)
Friday 28th June	
Monday 8th July to	Health and Safety Week
Friday 12th July	
Tuesday 23rd July	Last Day of Half Term 2.15 Finish

Class Assembly Dates: All at 2.30pm on Tuesday (unless stated) in the main school hall.

<u>Thursday</u> 18th April:-	Y3 Maestro
Tuesday 23rd April:-	Y2 Melody
Tuesday 30th April:-	Y2 Glissando
Tuesday 7th May:-	Y1 Ballad Class
Tuesday 21st May:-	Y1 High Note Class

EAL

Our EAL children, who are working with Mrs Marti, have been looking at the story of Handa's Surprise and have enjoyed tasting some of the delicious fruits.



Easter Show

Our Key Stage 2 children enjoyed a fabulous version of the Easter Story retold through theatre. They thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful performance.

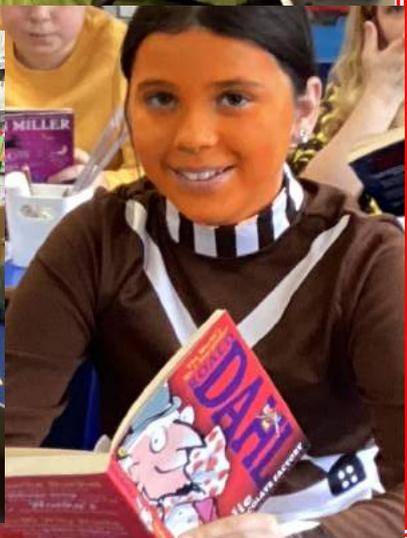




**WORLD
BOOK
DAY**



Drop Everything and Read



Keep on Running



We were delighted to hear that Heidi had been very successful at the recent West Cheshire Open Athletics Championship. She entered two sprinting disciplines the 75m and the 125m races.

Heidi achieved a fantastic standard winning the 75m sprint and coming 3rd in the 125m sprint.

Well done to all the other children from Overleigh who also took part in recent athletics competitions.



Thanks

A massive thank you for all your support with events during Spring Term 2. We are aware that there have been a lot of initiatives which have just fallen at a similar time during Spring Term 2 but it has been lovely to see the children support, in particular, awareness of Down Syndrome Day, Red Nose Day and World Book Day, alongside various curriculum activities including Year 6's World War 2 day.



P.T.A



Once again, our wonderful P.T.A. volunteers organised a fantastic event for our children this week in the form of our Easter Disco. Thank you all once again for all the support and kindness you show to our children and school in giving your free time to provide such opportunities. If you have got some time and enjoy organising or helping out with these style of events, then please let the PTA know and they would more than welcome your assistance.

Some Information

YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Here is some information that we have been asked to share with parents around examination times. You may find it useful if your child has any anxiety regarding assessments regardless of age.

Staying mentally healthy during exam time (Young Minds)

As we head towards the main exam time it's worth revising how we can support young people at what can be a very stressful time.

Young Minds have a series of support pages aimed to help with exam stress and anxiety. Their advice is available to help school staff, parents and carers and, of course, young people themselves. You can find this helpful advice at the links below:

[School staff](#)

[Parents](#)

[Young people](#)

Here are the links to the pages:-

Parents: [Parents' Guide To Supporting Children At Exam Time | YoungMinds](#)

Young People: [Exam Stress | How To Deal with Exam Stress | YoungMinds](#)



St Mary's Mail 177
24.03.24-06.04.24
"Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday"
UPDATE and Welcome to St Mary's Mail, no. 177

This is our first St Mary's Mail since our Rector, Rev. Dr R.P. Whaite, bid us farewell to move on to his new position as Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry for the Diocese of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Ric was installed as Canon of Newcastle Cathedral last Sunday 17 March at 4pm. You can still watch the service of [Choral Evensong](#) via the cathedral's YouTube channel if you would like to. We wish Ric and the family well in the next stage of their lives as we continue to hold them all in our hearts and prayers.

Holy Week begins this Sunday 24 March with **Palm Sunday**, as Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. Then we follow Jesus to the Last Supper on **Maundy Thursday**, to the cross on **Good Friday** and celebrate his resurrection on **Easter Day**. You are very welcome in person to any or all of our services, several of which will also be streamed live on our [St Mary's YouTube channel](#) (all details below).

UPDATE from Parochial Church Council

The PCC met on Monday 18 March and were joined by the Archdeacon of Chester, the Venerable Michael Gilbertson. We are delighted that Archdeacon Michael confirmed the Parish will be supported in our aim to find a full time replacement for Rev Ric.

[Further information from the PCC meeting available here](#)

We look forward to working with you all as we continue to develop our vision for St Mary's - without the walls - together.

The Churchwardens

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 24 March 2024

08:00 - Said service of Holy Communion on-site in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's

**10:30 - Sung Eucharist on Palm Sunday,
broadcast via St Mary's YouTube and on-site at St Mary's**

Participants on-site who wish to join in the procession are invited to go to the St Mary's Handbridge Centre next to the church at 10:20

Participants on YouTube will initially see a still picture and be able to read the first part of the service including the Gospel of the Palms in the service booklet. YouTube will then show the service from the point at which the Procession enters the church.

[The order of service can be downloaded here](#)

Tuesday 26 March

St Mary's open for private prayer from 10:00

Wednesday 27 March

St Mary's open for private prayer 10:00-12:00 noon

Maundy Thursday 28 March

10:00 - NO service this morning

18:30 - Eucharist with Footwashing

broadcast via St Mary's YouTube and on-site at St Mary's

[Service booklet here](#)

See pp.1-12

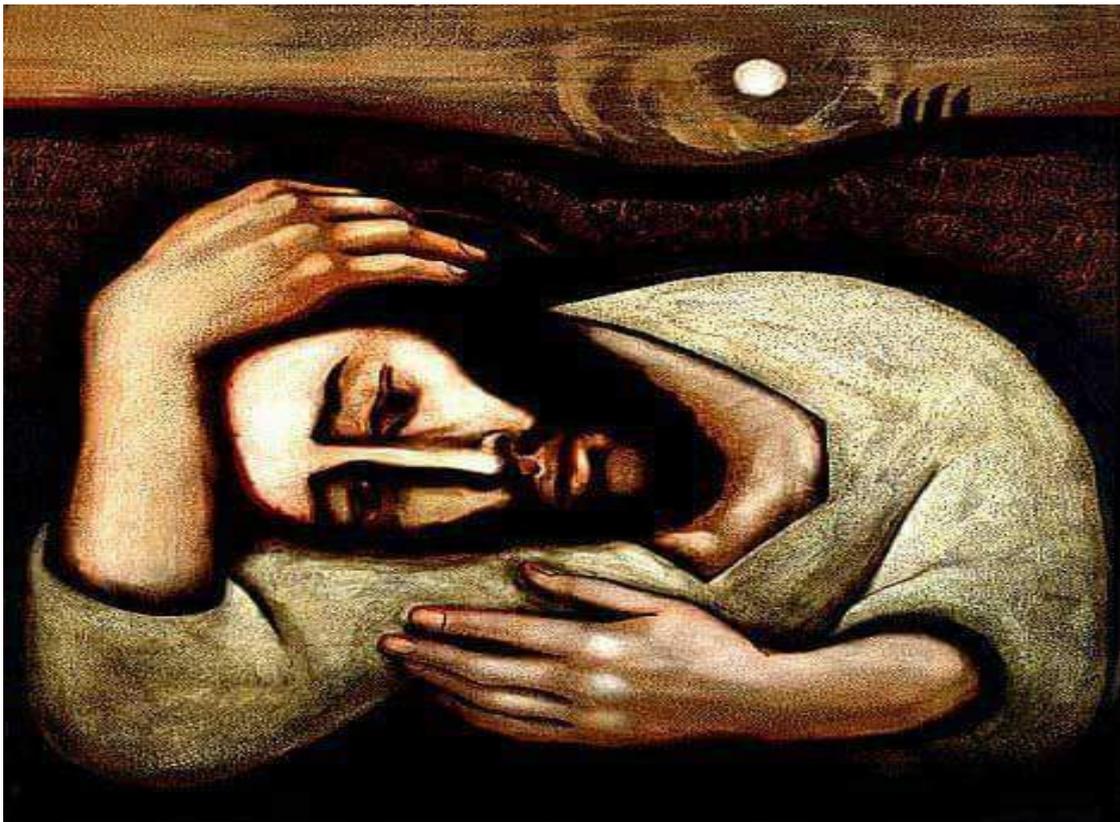
Good Friday 29 March

14:00 - Hour at the Foot of the Cross

broadcast via St Mary's YouTube and on-site at St Mary's

[Service booklet here](#)

See pp.18-22



Easter Day 31 March

08:00 - Said service of Holy Communion,
on-site in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's

10:30 - **Sung Eucharist for Easter Day**
broadcast via St Mary's YouTube and on-site at St Mary's

[The order of service can be downloaded here](#)

[The music for March can be downloaded here](#)

Other activities this fortnight:

Monday 25 13:00-16:00 'Warm Welcome Space' in St Mary's Handbridge Centre

Tuesday 26 19:30 'When God seems distant' meditation for Holy Week
(contact Jackie Hirst jgshirst@talktalk.net for a copy)

Wednesday 27 12:00 noon Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre

Wed 3 April 12:00 noon Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre

Thursday 4 10:00 Said Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) (in person)

Theatre at Queen's Park High School

**THEATRE DANCE
TRAIN ACT
SING**
Summerschool

5th - 9th August

Queen's Park High School,
Chester

www.chestersummerschool.co.uk

9.30am - 3.30pm

Includes a performance for families on Friday at 3.00pm

Ages 5 - 16

£30/day or £140/week

WONKA

MAMMA MIA

LEGALLY BLONDE

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

GLEE

Mon
Wonka

Tue
MAMMA MIA!

Wed
**LEGALLY
BLONDE**

Thur
**THE SOUND
OF MUSIC**

Fri
g ee

Easter and Spring Fun

On the following pages are some Spring/Easter activities that we have been asked to make you aware of.



FREE EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY



Everyone Welcome
Ideal For Families

Grosvenor Park, Chester
Wed 10th April
10am - 2pm

Friendly Help Available From 10am



April 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

FIND THE CHECKPOINTS USING YOUR PHONE
YOU CHOOSE THE ROUTE - YOU CHOOSE THE PACE

New Courses!

**FIND YOUR
WAY PROJECT**

Short



Medium



More info





TT Kidz gives 7-11 year old boys a great first experience in table tennis

Easter Holidays

Free Table Tennis for 7-11 yr olds

Friday 12th April, 12-2pm at EPSV

A fun introduction to table tennis

Coaches Mike Elton & L3 Aaron Beech

Further info: Mike Elton 07943548940

TTKidz to happen at EPSV later in 2024

FREE EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

FOR ELIGIBLE FREE SCHOOL MEAL CHILDREN

ACROSS WEST CHESHIRE

Funded by Department for Education



Booking is essential, please contact the relevant provider using our [interactive online map](#):



Keep up with all the holiday fun on our social media pages

Facebook: Cheshire West and Chester Council and EdsentialUK
Twitter: Go_cheshirewest and EdsentialUK #HAF2024



www.edsential.com/HAF



FREE HOLIDAY ADVENTURE CLUB

Does your child receive
benefits related free
school meals?

For 4 days during the Easter
holidays, we will be running
Forest Adventure Club sessions

Countess of Chester
Country Park
10am-2pm
Children 5-14 years

Meet at the Rangers
Cabin in the Countess
of Chester Park

contact@grow-wellbeing.com

April 2024
Monday 8th
Tuesday 9th
Wednesday 10th
Thursday 11th



Department
for Education



Cheshire West
and Chester

YEAR 5 ACTIVITY DAYS

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE • THURSDAY 20 JUNE



All Year 5 pupils are invited to join us at King's Senior School to experience a day in the life of one of our pupils.

- Take part in fun lessons and hands-on activities
- Meet our inspirational teaching staff
- Discover our broad & varied curriculum and excellent facilities
- Experience our nurturing environment

Book now - [kingschester.co.uk/admissions/visit-us/](https://www.kingschester.co.uk/admissions/visit-us/)

If you have any questions, please contact the Admissions Manager:

Email - admissions@kingschester.co.uk

Tel - 01244 689 553

Friday Certificates 22.03.24



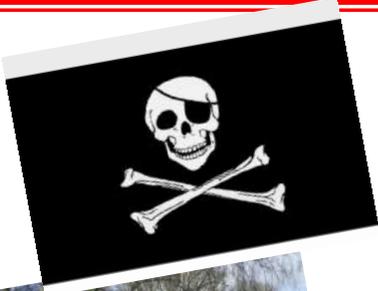
Class	Value	Comment
Crotchet Miss Evans	Wisdom	Lochlan - for persevering with his phonics sounds including his digraphs and trigraphs and his handwriting. He always tries his best and his fine motor skills have greatly improved. He always listens during the teacher input and has impressed his teachers with his development.
Minim Miss Burns	Love	Robin is a wonderful friend to all of her classmates. She has been spotted on more than one occasion being a kind friend to others when they need a little pick me up - not just this week but always. Robin makes sure everyone is included and helps others do the same, she treats everyone equally and we are so proud to have Robin in Minim class.
Ballad Mrs Birchall Mrs Barnes	Integrity	Jettson for an excellent attitude to learning. Jettson worked hard to develop his numbers to 50 skills. He used manipulatives to partition numbers skilfully. Well done Jettson, we are very proud of you.
High Note Miss Hunter	Respect	Myles has a fantastic attitude to learning and is always enthusiastic. He joins in every class discussion and contributes valuable ideas and questions. Myles has been showing respect by putting his hand up and sitting respectfully during carpet time. Well done for all your hard work and effort Mylo!
Melody Miss Morgan	Compassion	Lucia always listens and tries her very best in everything she does. However, Lucia has been working extremely hard on her independent writing recently and has made excellent progress. What a superstar! Keep up your hard work Lucia
Glissando Miss Griffiths Mrs Jones	Integrity	Stepan has had a fantastic half term and has made excellent progress in his reading and writing. He always shows integrity by listening and following instructions. Well done Stepan!
Harmony Miss Holdstock Miss Odunaiya	Hope	I would like to nominate Leonardo for the value of hope! Leonardo has had a much improved attitude to learning and has shown a greater level of engagement during lessons which has had a positive effect all round. You have tried really hard, Leonardo, and we are very proud. Well done!
Maestro Miss McFaul	Integrity	Daniel has been working extremely hard in English to use all his mastery targets independently within his writing. He engages in every subject and always has his hand up to join class discussion. Daniel's love of learning also extends to outside the classroom as well as he has enjoyed learning map skills and running the orienteering course at school during PE lessons. Keep up the hard work, Daniel!
Note Miss Noakes	Friendship	Clara for the Christian value of Friendship. Clara is a kind and caring friend to many children in Year 4. She is also always polite and respectful to adults in school. Well done Clara for being such a lovely and hard-working member of our class.
Maestoso Mr Mander	Wisdom	I am nominating Emilia for Wisdom. This week we have moved places and this has helped Emilia focus on her work. She is producing amazing writing and really impressive maths. Well done, Emilia.
Pizzicato Mr Pillow	Integrity	The nomination for Pizzicato class this week is Oli. He has shown an increased level of concentration and independence in class and is taking more responsibility for his work and other things in school.
Allegro Miss Axam	Wisdom	Finley has really impressed Miss Axam and Mrs Martell with his brilliant focus on his work, in particular in his English and reading. He is making really great progress because of this!
Joyeux Miss Jones	Service and Stewardship	Jess is always willing to help others and she will do this without being asked to even do it. Jess will always do this with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. She really has helped me a lot this year, and has certainly taken on the role of Librarian in our class reading area. Well done Jess, keep on being your helpful self!
Heptatonic Mrs McGoldrick Mr Skinner	Integrity	Please can we nominate Olly for Integrity. He listens so well and always wants to do his best in class. We love how confidently he explains his methods and ideas - especially in Maths. Well done Olly.
Finale Mrs Dickson Mrs Flanagan	Friendship	Alna is a very respectful member of our class who always uses her best manners. It has been wonderful watching her confidence grown over the course of the academic year and it was particularly lovely to see her helping her peers during our cooking lesson in DT last week!

Certificates 28.03.24



Class	Value	Comment
Crotchet Miss Evans	Respect	Gigi - for always following our school rules and for always being ready, respectful and safe. She is able to apply her phonics sounds to her writing and start to write words independently. She has persevered with her tricky words and she should be so proud of her progress. She is a lovely girl and always has beautiful manners. Well done, Gigi.
Minim Miss Burns	Integrity	I am delighted to give Aariv the star of the half term award for the value of Integrity. Aariv has tried really hard this term to challenge himself and has gone above and beyond in his learning. Aariv always works as hard as he can and has started to re-read his brilliant sentences without being prompted to check that he has included each of our writing checkpoints. Well Done Aariv, I cannot wait to see what you bring to next term!
Ballad Mrs Birchall Mrs Barnes	Wisdom	Rueld has an amazing attitude to learning - he always sits beautifully on the carpet and listens well. He tries really hard in all his tasks and has worked particularly hard in Maths lessons where his knowledge of numbers to 50 is improving. Well done Rueld, you are a fantastic member of our class and we are very proud of you.
High Note Miss Hunter	Integrity	Olivia is a valued part of high note class. She listens intently, always tries her best in everything she does and is kind to everybody in our class and around school. Olivia always does the right thing and sets an example. Well done Olivia - you are amazing!
Melody Miss Morgan	Integrity	This termly nomination is to Linette for Integrity. Linette ALWAYS tries her very best to be engaged in every lesson and the result of this has been clearly seen in her work. She has such a love for learning and she is an outstanding representative of Melody class. You are a superstar!
Glissando Miss Griffiths Mrs Jones	Integrity	Bodhi has shown integrity this half term by ensuring that comes into school with a positive mindset and begins his handwriting straight away. He has also made huge progress with his writing and is producing a good quantity and quality of work each lesson. Well done Bodhi!
Harmony Miss Holdstock Miss Odunaiya	Hope	Brody has approached this half term with a more positive and open minded attitude when completing his work. He has developed an improved independence and 'can do' attitude which has had a positive impact on the work he is producing. Keep up the hard work. Well done, Brody!
Maestro Miss McFaul	Integrity	Leah is new to our school this year and she has approached her new school life at Overleigh with integrity and a smile. She always works hard to be ready, respectful and safe and I can trust her to do the right thing even when no-one is watching. She is determined to succeed and that is clear by her love of learning new things. Keep discovering, Leah! You are a superstar!
Note Miss Noakes	Integrity	Jack is a model pupil and a joy to teach. He is always doing the right thing and is respectful, kind and polite to everyone. Jack is an active participant in all lessons and is always eager to share his ideas. As well as this, Jack is a good friend to others and can be seen including everyone in games when playing outside. Well done Jack!
Maestoso Mr Mander	Integrity	My star of the term is Lucile for integrity. Lucile always works hard, giving well thought-out answers and doing her best in everything she does. She is always kind to others and helpful at all times. Well done Lucile!
Pizzicato Mr Pillow	Integrity	The reason for Millie achieving the nomination for this half term is because she has been working really hard in class, including taking on board advice on how she can improve, as well as consistently trying to be a good friend and help others.
Allegro Miss Axam	Wisdom	Rachel has consistently worked to her best standard for the whole term. Her work is always beautifully presented and I love sharing her books with other teachers. Rachel has also been extremely helpful around the classroom. Well done and thank you.
Joyeux Miss Jones	Integrity	Eashan is a fantastic pupil, who is always doing the right thing even when nobody is watching. He comes into school everyday and will put all of his effort into everything he does, he has a fantastic attitude towards his learning. Well done Eashan, you are an excellent example of a role model for our pupils.
Heptatonic Mrs McGoldrick Mr Skinner	Wisdom	We would like to nominate Maya for wisdom for this half term's badge. She always listens in class, focuses on what she needs to do next, and is keen to improve her work in all areas. As a result of this great attitude and her desire and motivation to do well, Maya has made great progress in all areas this term. What a superstar!
Finale Mrs Dickson Mrs Flanagan	Integrity	Maisie has grown so much in confidence this half term which has been lovely to witness! She is becoming a much more active learner, working hard to edit and improve her work independently and giving tricky tasks a good go. We are both very proud of her dedication to her work across all areas of the curriculum. She is becoming more high school ready with each passing week! Keep it up Maisie.

The Good Ship Nursery



The Pirates are Coming!



Year R



Reception have been busy learning all about spring. We went for a walk to spot the early signs of spring, we made artwork inspired by artist Andy Warhol and wrapped eggs in different materials and dropped them from up high to see which would protect Hattie's eggs. In maths we have been learning to subitise to 10 and understand heavier and lighter with weighing scales.



Year 1



Y1 had the best time at our disco on Tuesday. We had fun dancing, visiting the sweet shop and even getting tattoos! What a great evening to celebrate the end of the term.

In Maths this week we have been learning how to measure length and weight. We love that our maths lessons are practical!



In Design and Technology we have been making sliders and levers alongside our learning all about castles.



Year 2



In science, we have been learning about the importance of a healthy, balanced diet and we designed our own healthy meal.

In art, we designed and created our own version of the African Kente cloth by weaving brightly coloured paper and then drew our favourite Adinkra symbols.

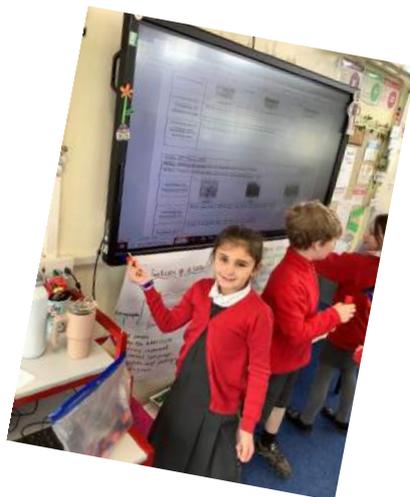


In music, we listened to different pieces of music and tried to show the dynamics through doodling.

Year 3



Our art unit this half term has been printing. We designed and made stamps based around London landmarks to link with our Geography topic of the UK.



In Science, we have loved learning about forces and magnets. The children went on a hunt for objects that were and weren't magnetic.

Year 4

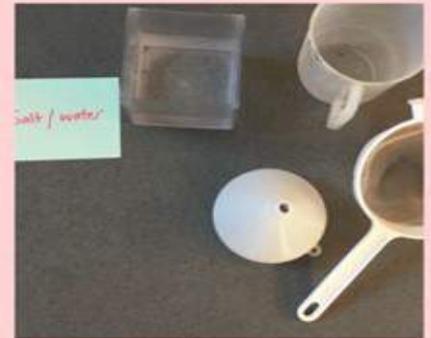
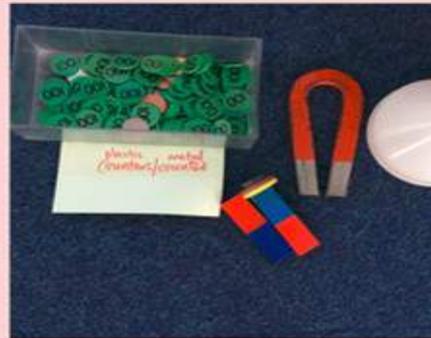
Year 4 went on a trip to Chester Cathedral and we're taken through the journey Jesus went on through Holy Week. We re-enacted the story, tried some of the bread they would have had and found lots of information about what happened. We had a great time.



In science this half term, we have continued to enjoy investigating sound. We made our own instruments to see if we could vary the pitch of the sound and used a decibel meter to measure volume.



Year 5



WALT: EXPLORE HOW MIXTURES
CAN BE SEPARATED



This term, Year 5 have been focussing on Properties of Materials. We have enjoyed lots of hands on investigations but last week was probably the messiest! We tried various methods to separate mixtures and decided on the most efficient. These included sieving, filtering and using magnets.

Year 6

In Science, we have been learning about classifying animals through their similarities.

On Friday, we used the classification system called the Linnaean System to order animals according to their characteristics and relationships with one another.



In Design Technology, we explored the original Woolton Pie recipe, then followed it to make our own. We developed our skills of peeling, chopping, measuring, cooking, mixing, rolling and baking! Finally, we tasted and evaluated our pie. Next... making the pies we have designed ourselves!



Year 6

We also had a fantastic WW2 themed day!

During the day, we became professional code breakers (inspired by Alan Turing) and made tricky codes for our friends to decipher! We also cooked our own Lord Woolton pie using our own recipes, building on prior skills in previous History and cooking lessons.



In addition to this, we created Blitz inspired art work. A fantastic day was had by all!