



Trafalgar Schools The Story of our Centenary

On 21 October 1905, the centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, the Trafalgar Schools' foundation stone was laid. On the same date 100 years later, we celebrated our centenary. In this book, we have recorded this special 100 years of history in pictures and the words of pupils, staff and friends of the schools, past and present. We hope that future generations of pupils will enjoy our story. Perhaps another book will be written recording the schools' bicentenary celebrations in 2105.

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With thanks to: All the staff and children of the Infant and Junior School for their memories and drawings. Phil Harrison and Richard Clemence for their photographs. Kate Gauvain for her important initial input into the planning of this book. Sally Hewitt for help with writing the book, Barbara Hume for reading through the proofs, Dan England for design, Helen Clark for editing, and Liz Wise and Richard Smith for co-ordinating the whole project. Printed and bound by Print Point Plus.

The first 50 years: 1905-1955

In 1904 Trafalgar Primary School was opened in temporary buildings. Drill and PE had to be held in the corridors while the new school was being built.

The new Trafalgar Schools were officially opened in August 1906: together, they were the first council schools to be built in Twickenham. There were seven classrooms for children in the Infant School. Girls and boys were separated in the Junior School, where there were seven classrooms for the girls and seven for the boys. Mr Cheers, the architect, was congratulated on the planning, design and construction of the building.



'Trafalgar Day. The children were present at the laying of the foundation stone to the new building and sang 'Nelson's Name', 'Rule Britannia' and 'God Save the King'. Each child was presented with a bun.'

21 October 1905 ~ from the School Log Book 1905-1915

'I remember May Day, when the whole school paraded through Twickenham to York House in our Sunday best and danced around the maypole. What a day!'

Emily Gould ~ pupil 1919-1928, and later mother of Trevor Gould, pupil 1952-1958

The day that the foundation stone was laid for the new school was a very special day: it gave our school its name, as it marks the centenary of one of the most famous naval battles in history, as well as the death of one of England's greatest and most respected naval heroes, Admiral Horatio Nelson.

2



1905

Einstein announces
theory of relativity

1914

World War I
begins

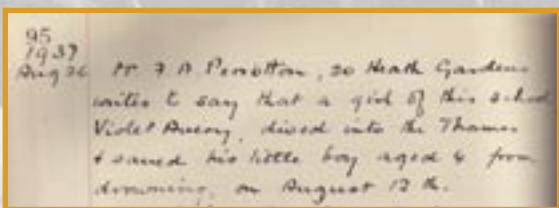
1928

Penicillin
discovered

Kathleen Crome was a pupil in 1933 when the photographs below were taken. Her great-grandson, Luca, started school at Trafalgar Infant School in 2003, seventy years later!



The crown bearer was upset. She wanted to be the queen!



26 August 1937 ~ from the School Log Book 1923-1968



'A machine gun shell was found in No 5 classroom this morning, it having pierced the roof and lodged in the floor during the air raid on the night of May 4th. It was unexploded and was placed in water.'

12 May 1941 ~ from the School Log Book 1923-1968



'In those days corporal punishment was still common practice in schools. One teacher always kept a cricket bat handy to apply to the bottom of an errant child. One day I messed up a papier mâché model made by another class and I was awarded six strokes of the bat for my naughtiness. I was foolish and tried to protect myself with my hand – so that the full force of the bat hit my knuckles. Ouch!'

Jack Earnshaw ~ pupil 1952-1958



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1937

BBC starts
broadcasting TV

1939

World War II
begins

1947

India gains
independence

1955

The second 50 years: 1955-2005

During their second half-century, the Trafalgar Schools continued to grow and succeed. At the beginning of the new millennium, rebuilding and modernising work began that led to the opening of the Early Years Centre on Meadway.



We commemorated our centenary with some fantastic art projects. The children worked with artists to produce semaphore flags and large-scale mosaics.



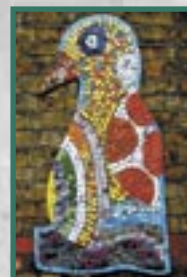
Artist Gordon Chilvers made us two stunning stained-glass windows.

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'I remember making a dash to the outside loos in the rain and football training in the Hall with Mr Maidmen – the year we won the schools' double trophy. Wonderful!'

Trevor Gould ~ pupil 1952-1958



1957

Russia launches first satellite

1963

Beatles have first No.1 hit

1966

England win World Cup

1969

Men walk on moon for first time

'Head of Trafalgar Infant School, Lynne Thompson, celebrated with the children at the official opening of their Early Years Centre.'

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 4th July 2003



'My strongest memory of being at Trafalgar is taking part in festivities during Twickenham week. I had to dress up as a Victorian girl and, together with other classmates, we cheered on our decorated float all the way from Elmsleigh Road to the rugby ground.'

Katy Stannett ~ pupil 1976-1982

'One of my memories is marching around the playground waving my Union Jack on the 24th of May – also known as Empire Day. I can also remember summertime, sitting in our classroom with our windows open and the smell of strawberry jam wafting in from the jam factory at the back of the school.'

Heather Stannett ~ pupil 1952-1959



The theme of our stained glass windows is *Our Changing World and Schools*.

'I remember the frustration when the dinner ladies had to rush us all in for wet play if it was raining, interrupting our little world we were playing in. And of course Mrs Harrison's singing assemblies were great.'

Tom Grothier ~ pupil 1995-2002

'In the Infant School I remember performing nervously in one of the amazing Christmas productions – the only time I have been dragged onto a stage. In the Juniors I remember clearing up the River Crane for a Blue Peter episode.'

Dan Hughes ~ pupil 1985-1992



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1979

Mrs Thatcher becomes first woman Prime Minister

1989

Berlin wall comes down

1990

Nelson Mandela released

2001

World Trade Centre destroyed

2005

The great river race

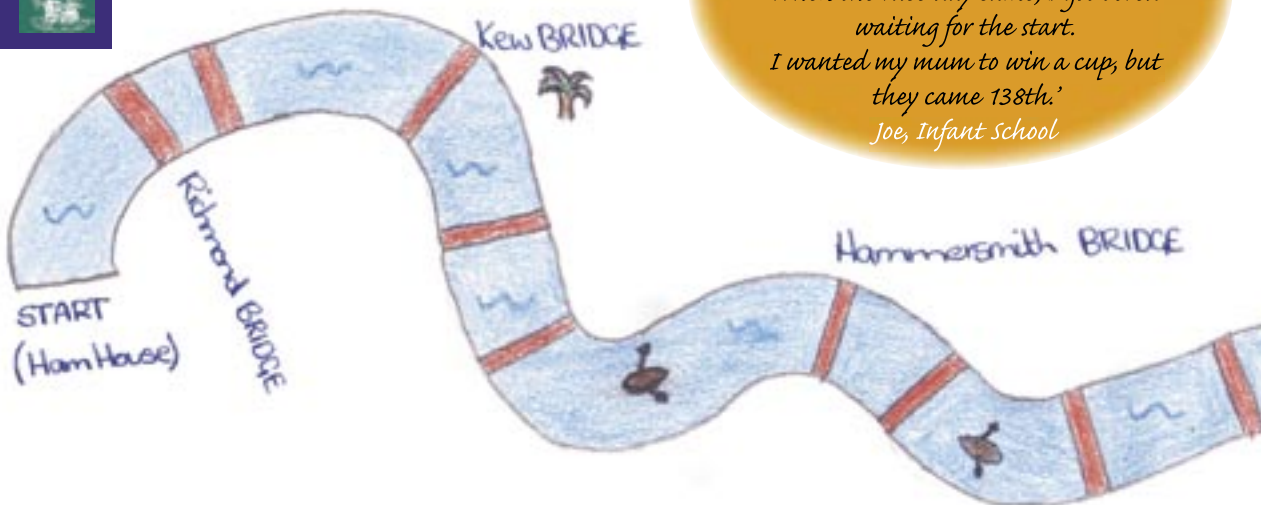
To launch our Centenary celebrations, we created a dragon boat team to take part in the Trafalgar Great River Race. The 16 foolhardy volunteers were mostly complete novices. They faced 22 miles down the Thames. We reckoned it might take four hours or so of hard paddling.



Before getting on the water, it's important to do a land warm-up. This increases body temperature and stretches each muscle group, preventing injury. It also gets us ready for action, both mentally and physically – a good team-bonding exercise.

'When my mummy said she was going to do the dragon boat race I felt proud of her because I never thought she would do that in her life. When the race day came, I got bored waiting for the start. I wanted my mum to win a cup, but they came 138th.'
Joe, Infant School

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We held a competition to design the best T-shirt for our Trafalgar Green Dragons to wear. This is the winning design by Luca.

We trained hard all summer, learning to work as a team. On the day of the race, 300 boats gathered at Ham House in the glorious September sunshine. We paddled past Big Ben and the Tower of London. By the time we had braved the scary waves at Greenwich, we were wet, exhausted, and on top of the world. We finished it in 2 hours 50 minutes!



Dean Rogers
Lindsay Brodin
Miraphora Caruso
Avril Horn
Solveig Findley
Nicky Jackson
Debra Flynn
Katherine Gardner
James Bowring
Ian Dickinson
Kirsten Brown
Maureen Fox
Anna Wise
Martin Pulford
Alex Novicky
Pavan Kalra
Erin Loudon

'It was strange seeing my mum beating the drum. Everyone was tired but she kept drumming and that kept them going.'

Joe, Junior School



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At the start of our training, many of us felt that we were attempting the impossible. While memories of our physical exhaustion are fading, we'll never forget the thrill of our achievement.



Our work throughout the year

Throughout the year, the children looked at how things have changed since Lord Nelson's times and since the school opened 100 years ago. We studied:

- ~ Nelson's life and times,
- ~ Toys,
- ~ Edwardian schools and homes.

The infant children really enjoyed investigating the past. They undertook lots of research about Nelson's battle 200 years ago. They took part in role plays and looked at the clothing, discipline and school work of 100 years ago. The school borrowed Edwardian toys from the Richmond Museum which the children loved playing with.



I saw the cannon balls.
I liked Nelson's medals.
I enjoyed looking at the guns.



'I drew a boat and painted a picture of Nelson. His hat was hard to do.'

Keri ~ Infant School

T R A F A

We worked on :

- ~ Computer pictures of ships,
- ~ Centenary mosaics,
- ~ Copperplate handwriting,
- ~ Story writing.

'We pretended to be Edwardian children. Our teacher was stricter than usual!' Jack ~ Infant School



The junior children loved working on their 'Centenary Books', which contain a record of all the special activities that took place. Some classes focused on Edwardian times and others looked at paintings over the last 100 years. Some have created pages on the computer, while others produced Edwardian 'copybook writing'.

'Some of our Centenary Book was hard. But it's a book I will treasure. It will be great to look back at it! I'm glad I was here during this special year.'

Edward ~ Junior School



You can really see how things have changed at Trafalgar!



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Junior trip to H.M.S. Victory

There was a real buzz in the air in the Junior School in the week beginning November 7 2005! Each day, a different year group made the coach journey to Portsmouth to visit Nelson's ship, H.M.S. Victory.

The exhibitions and audiovisual displays were very interesting but, for most of us, the tour of the Victory itself was the real highlight. The atmosphere below decks was fantastic and really helped us all to get an idea of what life at sea was like in 1805.



'We saw the place on the Victory where Nelson fell. It was amazing to be in such a special place and it made me think about what it might have been like in the battle.'

Yusef ~ Junior School

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On 21 October 1805 the British fleet under Lord Nelson defeated the French and Spanish fleets. This was one of the most famous sea battles of all time. It put an end to Napoleon's hopes of conquering Great Britain, but it was tragic for Britain because Nelson was killed.



'I loved going on H.M.S. Victory – I felt like a pirate! I loved the way you could see the inside of the ship. We even saw where Nelson used to sleep.' Callum ~ Junior School

'We found out about life on board Victory. The biscuits had maggots in them and tasted like blancmange. Some of the crew's food could be about one year old, but they put it in barrels with salt to preserve the meat. We found out that the English took ninety seconds to fire a cannon and the French took three to seven minutes, and this was one of the reasons we won. We saw a gold plate to show where Nelson fell and afterwards we saw the place where he died. When we went to the Trafalgar Experience, some of the children were frightened by the cannons because they moved! It was really lifelike! I really enjoyed my day – but I think those biscuits must have been horrible!'

Jack ~ Junior School



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Infant trip to H.M.S. Victory

With great excitement, the Infant School went to Portsmouth for the day to look at Nelson's ship, H.M.S. Victory. The children were amazed by the size of the ship and the cannons. They were fascinated to see a lock of Nelson's hair and his shiny medals, as well as to see where Nelson actually died.

'It took so long to get there.'
Sharmin ~ Infant School

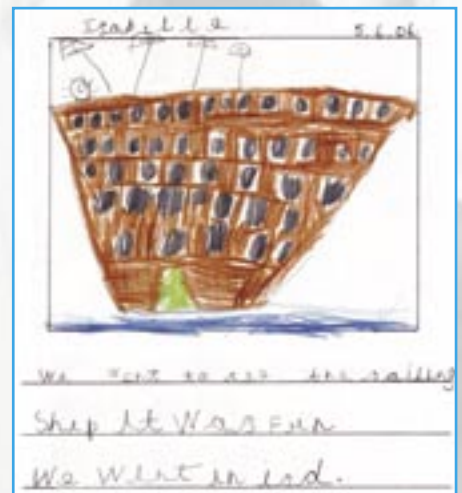
'It smelled on the ship.'
Rachel ~ Infant School

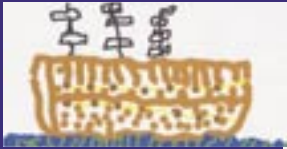
'It was really, really big.'
Emelia ~ Infant School

'I liked the deck. You could see quite far away and you could imagine fighting. You could see where Nelson died.'

Alexia ~ Infant School

'It was all dark and horrible on the ship.'
Amber ~ Infant School





'Lord Nelson lost his arm and he fell where the gold bit was.'
Nabil ~ Infant School

'I went to the Victory. I stepped down the stairs backwards.'
Olivia ~ Infant School

'I went to Portsmouth. I loved Lord Nelson's bed.'
Poppy ~ Infant School

'I liked the galley where they ate their meals.'
Rose ~ Infant School



TRAFALGAR INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS



Wednesday 25th January 2006
8pm
Junior School Hall

In our Centenary Year, Andrew Lambert,
Professor of Naval History at King's College,
London talks about Nelson.

Refreshments
Admits 1



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Andrew Lambert, Laughton Professor of Naval History at King's College, London, came to the school to talk to parents and staff about 'Nelson – a man of his time'. He also showed us how Nelson was ahead of his time. We learnt about important historical events before Nelson's life, as well as the impact that Nelson had on events after his death.



Celebrating 100 years

21 October 2005 was a very special day for the Trafalgar Schools. Staff and pupils dressed up in Edwardian costume and the schools were decked with bunting. The children arrived to rousing brass band music, playing nautical and patriotic tunes. Father Peter Bustin from All Saints' Church, Campbell Road, Twickenham, held special assemblies.

We made the day as authentic as possible, using slates and chalks, abandoning our computers, sitting in rows and standing to greet the adults who came into our classroom.



'I liked being dressed up and the way our teacher acted like an Edwardian teacher – she checked our hands were clean, made us stand up to answer questions and made us sit in rows.' Jessica ~ Junior School

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'I loved the work we did, like doing old-fashioned handwriting, and I loved the way everybody, including the teachers, dressed up and really made it feel like Edwardian times.' Jenny ~ Junior School





Mrs Harrison wrote and composed
'Nelson and Trafalgar' to commemorate
our centenary.

Nelson and Trafalgar

We're the children of Trafalgar School,
And we've got something to say
About the history that gave our name
And why we're proud today.
It all goes back 200 years ago from now,
A mighty battle on the open sea,
Nelson's plan to crush the enemy,
And his death upon Victory.

Nelson, Nelson, Nelson and Trafalgar.
Nelson, Nelson, Nelson and Trafalgar.

He went to sea when he was 12,
Just a boy like you or me,
Became commander of the British fleet,
His duty to keep England free.
He was a fighter, lost an eye and then an arm.
He inspired men and won their trust,
And at Trafalgar as he paced along the deck
He was killed by a musket ball's thrust.

Nelson, Nelson, Nelson and Trafalgar.
Nelson, Nelson, Nelson and Trafalgar.

We're the children of Trafalgar School
And there is something we've learned
From the example Nelson set
And the respect and love he earned.
Although we cannot all be heroes, we can try
To do our best to play our part,
To be as brave and strong and fair as we can be
And today we can make a start.

Nelson, Nelson, Nelson and Trafalgar.
Nelson, Nelson, Nelson and Trafalgar.

The children had Edwardian lessons and even an
Edwardian lunch. All day, they could be seen chanting
times tables, practising copybook writing, drilling on
the playground, reciting classroom rules and working
on samplers and maps of the British Empire. Teachers
wielded canes and children were obedient! Everyone
enjoyed themselves but we were all relieved when
school went back to normal the next day.



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'I'm a tomboy and I didn't like wearing a dress.'

Leila ~ Infant School

'We had tomatoes and cucumber for lunch.'

Alex ~ Infant School

'I loved singing the Nelson song.'

Ysobel ~ Infant School



Official opening

At the end of the Edwardian school day on 21 October 2005, the official opening of the refurbished school buildings took place. What would the Edwardian staff and pupils say if they could see their school now! The red carpet was put in place and our invited guests started arriving. The hall was decorated with palms, flowers and balloons. After being entertained by the school choirs and speeches, everyone enjoyed a piece of cake and a glass of Bucks Fizz.



'It was scary to be singing in front of the Mayor, the M.P. and so many important people, but I enjoyed it and felt proud and pleased with myself.'

Abbie ~ Junior School





'We sang the Trafalgar song and I felt proud. The people were nice and friendly.' Katie ~ Infant School

'There have been great changes at Trafalgar since Terry was a pupil there in the 1950s. Our son Sam, saw a new Infant staffroom (designed by Terry) and Infant classrooms in the Junior school when he was a pupil in the 1980s. The recent alterations have virtually rebuilt the schools, giving them facilities appropriate to the twenty-first century: so many changes, but thankfully the spirit of the schools has remained unchanged - they are still a very happy place to learn.'

Jude Viscardi and Terry Smith ~ Pupils 1950s

'I have very fond memories of Trafalgar Schools since my eldest son, Paul, started school there when my family settled in Twickenham back in 1974. He was rather lost, coming to a new home in a strange city, but Trafalgar was welcoming and friendly. I was delighted to come to the centenary celebrations and see that, while the school is now modernised, the character of the old school has not been lost.'

Dr Vincent Cable, M.P.

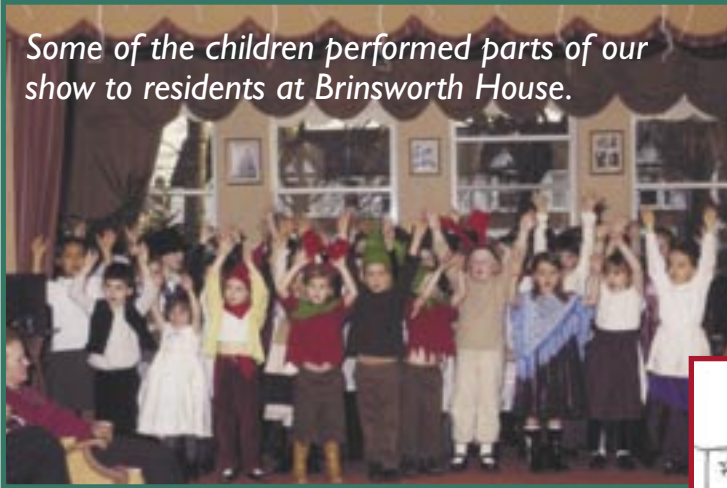


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Celebrating Christmas

For the infants' Christmas performance, we imagined what it was like that very first Christmas for pupils at Trafalgar. We went on a journey with an Edwardian family who visited an Old Time Music Hall, met carol singers and celebrated a traditional Christmas at home.

Some of the children performed parts of our show to residents at Brinsworth House.



'We talked to the old people and it was nice singing to them. They smiled and joined in because they knew the songs from the olden days.' *Tania ~ Infant School*

'I was the master of ceremonies at the music hall. It was fun that I got to play a big part and introduce all the different acts.' *James ~ Infant School*

'The 2005 Christmas show was eagerly waited for. We watched enthralled while the children performed. Not a dry eye in the house – it was beautiful!'
Matron of Brinsworth House



'I loved seeing the audience enjoying themselves as we energetically performed songs and dances.'

Lili ~ Junior School



The theme of the juniors' Christmas show was 'a hundred years of song and dance'. Our musical trip through the decades took many parents and grandparents back through their memories as we performed such favourites as 'Keep the Home Fires Burning', 'We'll Meet Again' and 'Rock Around the Clock'.



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Open days for former pupils and

We held three special open afternoons, two for former pupils and one for former staff of the school. They had a tour of the schools, revisiting old haunts, and were entertained by the infant and junior choirs.

'It was really exciting meeting people who had been at the school 60 years ago. They were really nice and chatty, and told us all about the changes that had happened since they were here.'

Anna ~ Junior School



'I read to a lady called Emily and it was fun because she was nice.'

Emily ~ Infant School

Emily Gould, pupil at Trafalgar 1919-1928, is read to by a younger Emily.

'It was delightful to be back at Trafalgar and the children were as unique as ever, hosting and singing in their own inimitable way. I enjoyed meeting old friends and discovering nothing had changed. The welcoming atmosphere and ambience must have been secret ingredients in the building of the Trafalgar Schools a hundred years ago. Long live Trafalgar.'

Bette Dexter ~ headteacher 1974-1993

'I liked it that we got to guide them around on our own.'

Louis ~ Infant School

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staff

*'My mum came to school here.
She liked looking around the juniors.'*

Georgia ~ Infant School

*'We showed people around our
classrooms and we
made the school tidy.'*

Nesta ~ Infant School



Infant School Councillors take former pupils Irene Benwell and Gladys Read (1920s and 1930s) on a tour of their refurbished schools.



The Headteachers of Trafalgar Infant and Junior Schools,
Lynne Thompson and Rick White
the governors, staff and pupils
invite you to an afternoon of celebrations in
recognition of your association with the
schools and our centenary.

1.30 pm Wednesday, 16th November, 2005
Trafalgar Infant School Hall
Elmsleigh Road
Twickenham, TW2 5EQ.

RSVP:

Liz Wise 020 8894 5729

or e mail: stra2001@rgfl.org.uk

or reply to above address

*'Being a single
householder, I look at the
costs of council tax and I
must say the charge under
'education', I question.
But after yesterday (16
November), I know it is
money well spent. The
beautiful children and the
refurbished school are the
answer.'* Mr A. Hancock ~
pupil 1927-1935



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Summer Fair

On one of the hottest and sunniest days of 2006, Trafalgar Schools held their Summer Fair. It celebrated the schools' centenary and was held in the middle of the 2006 World Cup. There was so much to do, from auctions, tombolas, bouncy castles, roller coasters and 'Beat the Goalie', to burgers and plenty of lemonade.



The infants paraded in their fancy dress costumes (there were a lot of football strips!) and the juniors sang 'Nessun Dorma' and 'We are the Champions'.



Lord Nelson officially declared the Fair open!





The BBC's Big Screen and Radio Five Live were set up in the field – their first ever appearance in a school. Football enthusiasts were able to watch Holland versus Serbia, Portugal versus Angola, and Mexico versus Iran.



Flamenco dancers, wearing dramatic black and red costumes, entertained the crowds.



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Another magical day for Trafalgar Schools and a lot of money raised.

Closing party

Adults and children alike celebrated the end of our centenary year in style. The children learnt circus skills, while the adults donned their ballgowns and black ties.

The playground normally alive with happy children playing and chatting, was turned into a stylish reception area with guests bedecked in ballgowns and dinner jackets. This set the scene for the beginning of the Centenary Ball.



Former pupils acted as waiters and waitresses.



'I have worked a long time here at Trafalgar, and this centenary year has embodied all the best qualities of our schools and our unity of purpose. I feel proud of such vibrant, active, enthusiastic and caring schools.'

Madeline Harrison ~ teacher



The infant school children learnt circus skills and discovered new talents.

'I nearly balanced the peacock feather on my chin.'

Kamran ~ Infant School

'I liked the ribbons because I could do big squirls and little squirls and it was easy.'

Charlie W. ~ Infant School



'I liked the plate spinning because it was hard but I managed to do it.'

Louis ~ Infant School



Year Six danced their way out of the Centenary celebrations!

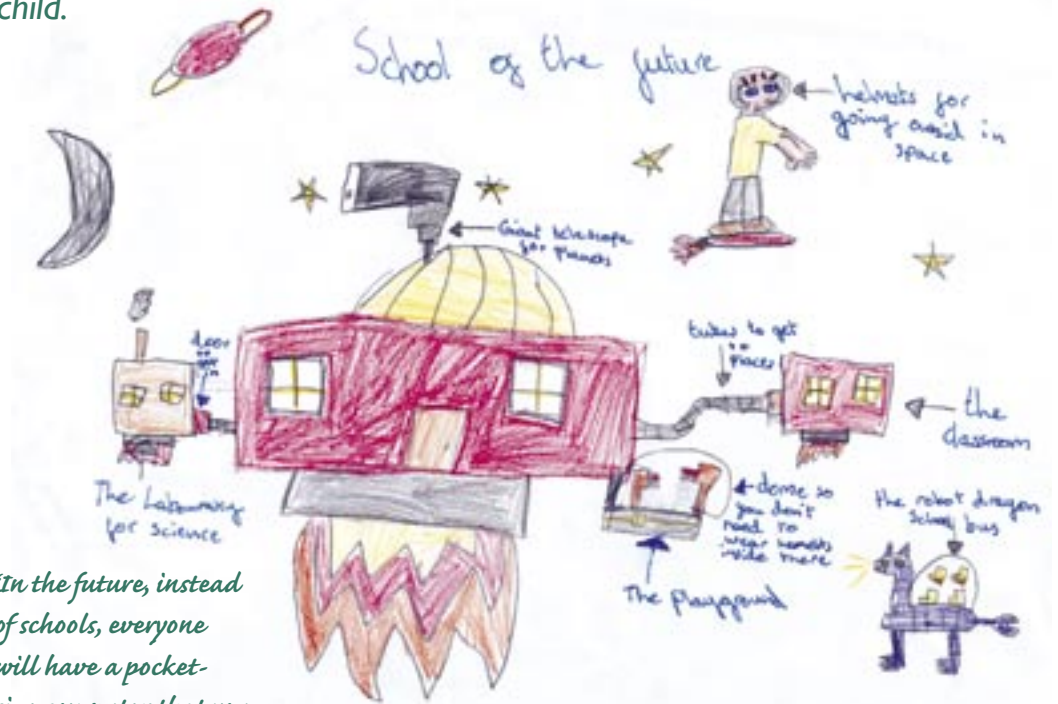


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Year Six marked the end of their centenary year in a number of ways. As well as a trip to the cinema, with a picnic in the park, they showed off their talents at the Year Six Cabaret, which featured magic, gymnastics, dance, singing, football skills and much more! On their very last day, they reminisced about their time at Trafalgar and teachers, parents and children said their farewells together at our Leavers' Assembly.

Looking back and looking forwards

This centenary year has afforded a marvellous opportunity to look back at the long and successful history of Trafalgar Schools. We know from former pupils and staff from the past decades that the schools have always placed great emphasis on providing not only high standards of education, but also care and concern for the individual child.



'In the future, instead of schools, everyone will have a pocket-size computer that you speak into and it can teach you everything you need to know.' Alicia ~ Junior School

'I was so lucky that my last year here was the centenary year. It's been really special with loads of exciting things happening. I loved the trip to the Victory – I'd never been before – and the Edwardian Day was great fun. I love the things we were given too, like the special stamps on the first day cover and the whole school photo. I'll never forget it.' Year Six pupil ~ Junior School



'In a hundred years, I think that my school is going to be underwater. There will be metal tanks over the school.'

Rosie ~ Infant School

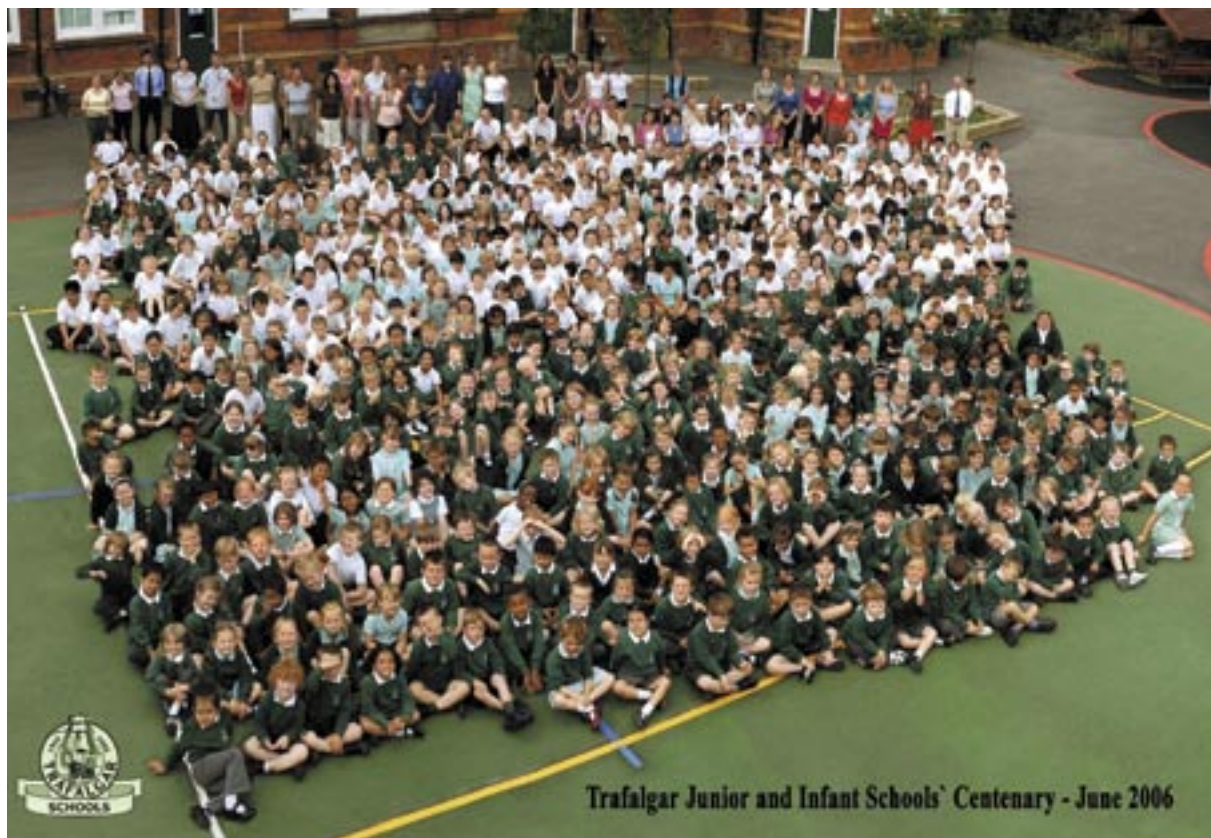
Our Recent remodelling gives us a firm foundation for facing the challenges of a technological future. We feel confident we can achieve this while still holding true to our long-standing aims. To quote from our school song:

'And we sing:

*Working together, learning together,
Every boy, every girl, helping one another,
Sharing with each other, caring for each other,
For our school, for our world.'*



*Rick White and Lynne Thompson,
Headteachers of the Junior and Infant Schools*



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