



Trafalgar Schools' Federation

Golden Newsletter Autumn 1, 2021-22

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our first Golden Newsletter. These newsletters will come out at the end of each half-term with the aim of providing all our families with a summary of the fabulous learning activities that have happened in the last half-term across the whole federation. We hope that you enjoy seeing what the children of Trafalgar have been busy learning.



Best wishes,

Mrs Keefe

RECEPTION

We are delighted with how well Gold class and Silver class have settled into Reception. Since starting school a few weeks ago children have enjoyed exploring the grounds at Meadway looking for signs of Autumn, as well as making, tasting and evaluating pumpkin soup after reading the story *Pumpkin Soup* by Helen Cooper. Reviews of the dish were almost all positive!



In Music the children have begun learning about the different instruments in the percussion family and using them in their songs. They have also been learning about the different types of musical sounds – long/short, high/low, loud/quiet, fast/slow.

The children are becoming independent learners choosing to participate in many different activities during free learning and have now been introduced to all 26 phonemes and some digraphs too. Their reading journey will continue as they bring home reading records and books very soon.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have settled into the Gothic Road site and their classrooms with such confidence, and their teachers are delighted. This ½ term the children have enjoyed learning about Autumn and on their recent autumn walk to Kneller Gardens they chose a tree to observe across the seasons. As part of our topic 'Families' the children have enjoyed learning about how we all belong to a family and all are part of our wider community and have been interviewing and painting relatives, creating their own family trees and reading stories about different types of family.

In Science the children have studied their senses and enjoyed conducting lots of 'hands on' practical investigations. In English they have been reading lots of lovely books, such as *Augustus and his Smile*, *Here Comes Frankie* and *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* as inspiration for their writing.



YEAR 2

This half term in Y2 we have been learning about ourselves and our world. We have explored the human body in science by learning about what helps to keep us healthy including a balanced diet, exercise and quality sleep. We even learnt a song called 'The Body Song' which listed all of our important body parts! We explored our local area by taking a trip to Strawberry Hill House and used our Geography skills to map our route. We drew amazing portraits of ourselves during our trip utilising the skills we had already explored during our art lessons on Pablo Picasso. In English we have learnt about expanded noun phrases, verbs and adverbs to make our writing more exciting and in Maths we have explored place value spending lots of time deepening our understanding of how numbers are made up from tens and ones. In Music we have been learning about music from around the world and composing our own Gamelan music. We have also been learning how to record this using music notation.



INFANT SPORTS

This has been a fantastic half term for PE and Sport in the Infants. Year 1 and Year 2 have both started the term with enthusiastic participation in PE lessons and the children have learnt new skills as well as progressing their skills from last year. Year 1 children have particularly enjoyed Golden Games with Coach Justin and have taken some trips to Meadway to access the field. A huge number of Year 2 have loved attending the football and netball clubs on a Friday lunchtime and have shown fantastic sportsmanship and fair play in their games. We have also loved welcoming back Real Runners who have worked with children in both Year 1 and Year 2 during their activity afternoons. We look forward to next half term when more children will be able to take part in this fantastic enhancement session.



YEAR 3

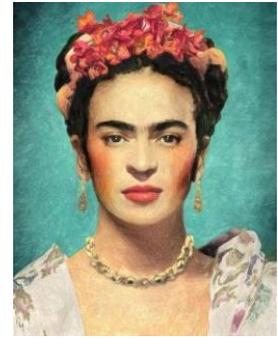
This half term Year 3 have been enjoying their start to the Junior school with strings lessons on a Friday! This wonderful opportunity is thanks to the Richmond Music Trust and the children have the chance to learn and play a variety of string instruments such as the violin, cello and viola. The Year 3s have also been enjoying their library story time sessions in the library where they can read and meet with some Year 6s. They have loved exploring different texts, enjoying the library and making friends with other children in a different year group. All of the Year 3 children have made an absolutely amazing start to the new school year and have been working really hard. Well done Year 3!



YEAR 4

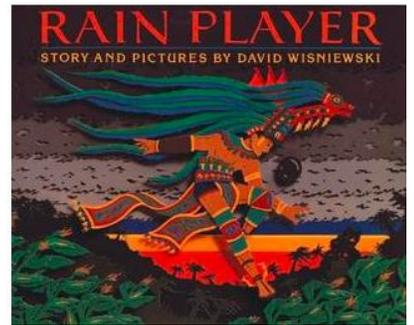
One of the highlights of the half-term for Year 4 was their Roman Day! This fun-packed day included; learning about Roman Numerals, making mosaic tiles, enjoying a Roman feast (yes, even stuffed dormice - well, white chocolate mice!) and taking part in Rainbow Theatre's Roman role play where we learnt a lot about the lifestyle, diet, bathing, gladiators and fighting the British tribes. We linked this to writing our own non-chronological reports about the Romans. A huge thank you to all for helping the children to dress for the occasion and for generously donating so we could make the day so fantastic!

The children also really enjoyed their science topic - electricity – where they worked brilliantly as teams to construct burglar alarms using the boxes which parents had kindly donated. Another highlight were the Frida Kahlo style self-portraits the children made in Art.

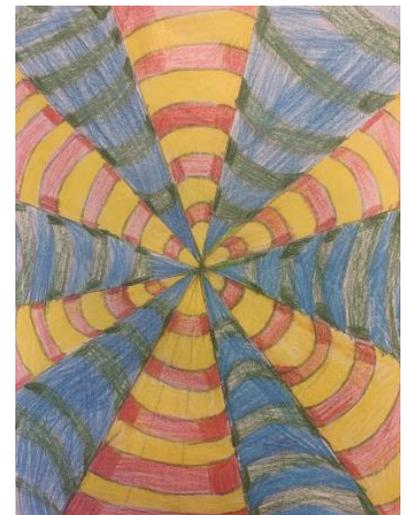


YEAR 5

Year 5 have been doing some wonderful cross curricular learning this half term about the ancient Maya civilisation. We have been using sources of evidence to find out what daily life was like and in English, we used our text, *Rain Player*, as a stimulus for some exciting writing. The book tells the story of a young boy who challenges the Rain God, Chac, to a game of Pok-a-Tok in order to bring about much needed rain for his people. We wrote adverts to persuade people to join Pik's team; diary entries imagining it was the night before the big match and then ended the book with a thrilling match report.



We then spent a week researching and answering the question: *What have the Maya done for us?* Quite a lot it turns out! We have the Maya to thank for chocolate, team sports, one of the first calendars and the introduction of farming techniques still used today. Finally, in Art, we have been developing our drawing skills by learning about perspective. We have used perspective to create optical illusions and drawn a Maya Temple with two vanishing points.



YEAR 6

The children of Year 6 have had a brilliant start to the year and we are so proud of them all! Our highlights have included: our Junior Citizen trip which involved meeting people from the emergency services and learning important information about keeping safe; a science investigation where we compared invertebrates found in the Meadway woodland and Kneller gardens; some brilliant artwork both in Art (landscapes) and in history; reading the super-exciting Alex Rider novel *Stormbreaker* and reading the fabulous writing inspired by it; and of course ALL the maths which the children have been working hard at!



JUNIOR SPORTS

There has been a lot of sport going on in the juniors, both in the rise in the number of clubs that we have been able to offer but also in sporting fixtures which we are all very happy to see back in the calendar! Full match reports will follow with the next Juniors newsletter but highlights include...

Year 3 Girls Tournament - a team of year 3 girls playing in the Richmond Football Festival where they won three and lost two before being knocked out in a close game. Most importantly, as Alice Jones said: *"It was an amazing day out and we had lots of fun playing football against other schools!"*

Year 4 Girls Tournament – as above a team of Year 4 girls played in the Richmond Football Festival where a record of 3 wins and 2 losses shows just how well the girls performed as they played together. Esme had this to say *"We showed great team spirit and togetherness today and im so happy we were able to represent Trafalgar at the festival!"*

Boys League Matches Vs. Archdeacon – we fielded two teams for the two games which were excellent games to watch, leaving us with a 2-2 draw and a 4-0 win. Thomas Hopkins had this to say about the victory: *"We played really well and pressed well as a team, I'm really happy with the win but wish I could have got my hat-trick!"*

Richmond Borough Tag Rugby Tournament – our Year 5 and 6s went to compete in the Richmond Borough Tag Rugby Championships where we won two, drew one and lost one, making it through to the knockout stages. Emilie Daniels had this to say: *"It was an amazing day, and it's something we will never forget from our time at Trafalgar Junior School!"*



MATHS

We are pleased to announce the winners for the ***Bond Busters maths challenge*** for this half-term. In the lower school, the classes that have made the most progress across the half-term are 3M and in the upper school 5J have made the most progress. A very well done to both classes in mastering their number bonds! The children in the winning classes will be rewarded with a class certificate and 10 minutes of extra playtime.

Maths Wizard Challenge - Hampton School welcomed young mathematicians from 15 local primary schools to battle it out for the title of Champion 2021. Teams of Year Five pupils put their mathematical knowledge to the test, tackling a range of tricky numerical puzzles in a bid to win the coveted trophy. The mathematicians took part in five rounds of problems ranging from the *Am I Odd?* round to Consecutive Numbers. In the Cross Number round, the young mathematicians were mentored by Upper Sixth Hamptonians and tasked with completing a challenging numerical crossword puzzle. The competition culminated in a final round, in which the pupils had to work together to solve some challenging maths problems. A very well done to the four Year 5 children who participated. They demonstrated great resilience, team work and number crunching skills!



READING

This year we introduced new Reading Records in which both children and parents can record what has been read at home, and we also enjoyed a visit from author Mel Taylor-Bessent (who used to run a writing club here). Both school will be taking part in the Spark Book Award later this academic year, and Mr Allen is very excited to be on the shortlisting panel for one of the categories!



To support children’s reading at home, particularly with the choosing of books, please see these [50 recommended books](#) for each Junior school year group. They are from a website called [Books for Topics](#) which is only one of many places to get recommendations from but this one is organized helpfully and also suggests books for reluctant readers and has genre lists, such as graphic novels, [Mental Health](#) and [Black British History](#). We do hope you find the lists and website useful.



PARENT DROP-IN SESSION TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER AT 2PM

Finally, a reminder that we are hosting drop-in sessions to allow parents and carers to have a listening ear, when they may not feel they want to make a formal meeting with the class teacher but need to seek advice on concerns relating to home or school. We are able to discuss potential support for the child or signpost parents and carers to external agencies where appropriate. Staff available on the day will be:

Mrs Kavanagh (Infant SENDCo), Mrs Bussiere (Junior SENDCo), Mrs Richardson (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant ,ELSA), Mrs Boulheouchat (Junior Pastoral Welfare and Mental Health First Aid) and Mrs Hartland-Ord (PPG champion)

During the session parents and carers are provided with an opportunity to discuss any concerns that they may have in an informal manner.

There is no need to make an appointment and tea and coffee will be made available.

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