



Trafalgar Schools' Federation



Sarah Keefe, Headteacher



Sophie Riley, Chair of Governors

Golden Newsletter

Spring 1, 2023-24

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE Sarah Keefe – Federation Headteacher

We now have two confirmed '**GOOD**' OFSTED reports, putting Trafalgar Schools in a very strong position. As I often say to the children - 'Good enough just isn't.' and as a school we continually aspire to 'be the best we can be' and we will continue to build on our successes.

Our external SATs results last year put us securely in the top bracket when compared to all schools nationally for reading, writing and maths. Children make good progress from when they enter Trafalgar to when they move on to their chosen secondary schools. Our amazing range of clubs and extra curriculum enrichment enables the school to develop children's individual skills and talents.

We want to build on our strengths and will continue to keep reading as a priority. The teachers are determined that every pupil will learn to read, regardless of their background, need or abilities. We encourage all parents to supporting with regular home reading, including reading aloud to their child. The reading records have some good resources and help children to log their daily reading. At school reading assessments are kept by the class teachers. Thanks to the PTA and parent helpers, we have an updated library in each Key Stage, with many new updated books.

This year we are also focusing on writing, which is an area that the disruptions to schooling during covid has had the most impact on nationally. We will also continue to develop our wider curriculum subjects and ensure that the curriculum is inspiring and engaging. Next term we will be celebrating our multi-cultural community with our **International Week starting on 18th March**. We look forward to having many of our parents in school for this event.

Governors Message

It's been another exciting half term here at Trafalgar, with trips and competitions and lots going on at school. We were pleased to be able to share with you the Good Ofsted result in the Infants. A massive thank you to Mrs Keefe, Mrs Burton and all the staff for their continued hard work. And to the children and families for being so welcoming to the inspectors. Thanks also to the Governing Board for all their support.

Remember to book your parents meeting after half term.

Reception

Our topic this half term has been 'How things work.'
On Wednesday the 31st of January, we held a junk modelling challenge afternoon.



We have enjoyed a range of stories. One of our favourite stories was 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy.



We created lots of different machines that move, including trains, robots and recycling trucks!

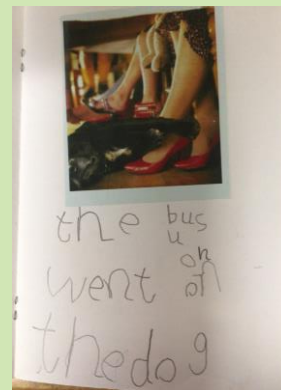
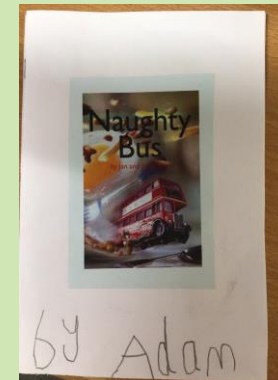
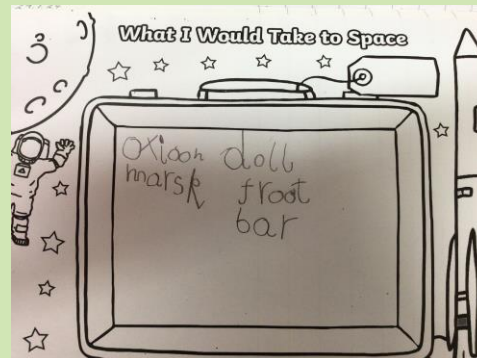
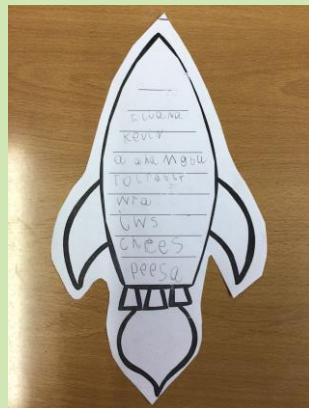


We read the 'Naughty Bus' and took our own toy buses on an adventure through baked beans and mashed potato.

We became authors and wrote our own 'Naughty Bus' books.



This book inspired us to write about space.



Year 1

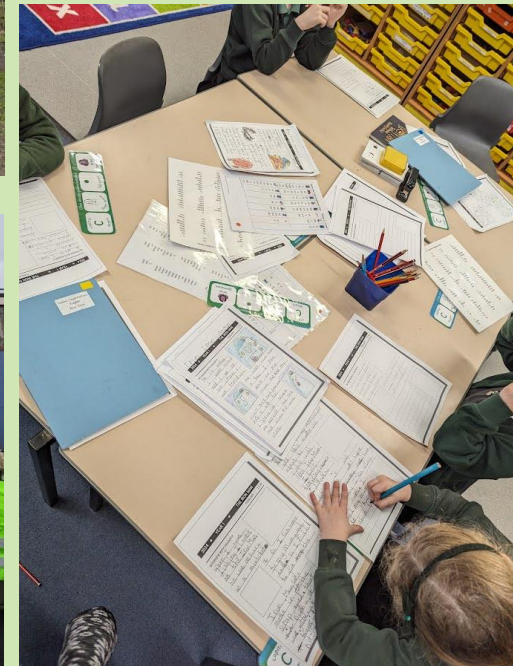


As part of our History/Art/DT and computing curriculum we have been learning lots about emergency vehicles and we were so lucky to visit our local fire station. Blue watch let us spray the hose, tour the station and we even got to wear helmets and get in the fire truck! It was such an amazing trip and we learnt so much.

WOW! What a brilliant half term we have had here in Year 1. We have been spending our English lessons writing an amazing newspaper report. We can't wait for you to read them.

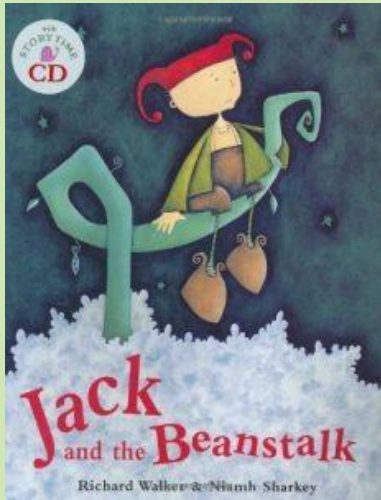


We also went on a trip to the wild wood at our Reception site so we could see the difference now that it is Winter! We will come back next term to see the wild woods in the spring.

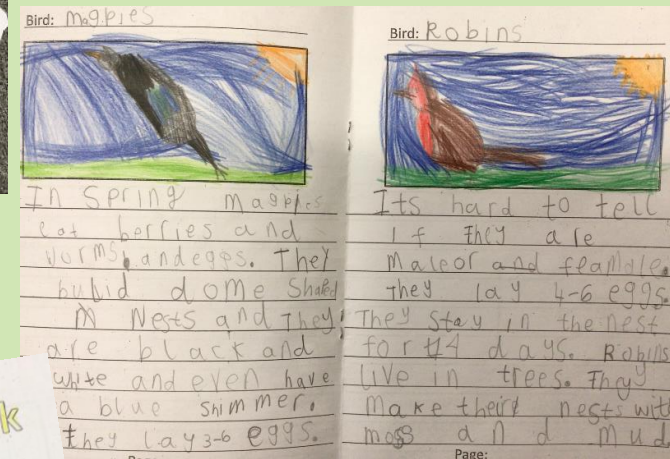


Year 2

In English we have been studying Jack and the beanstalk. We have retold the stories but changed the settings. The children have been very busy using ambitious vocabulary and expanded noun phrases to make it an interesting read. We have orally rehearsed our stories and shared them across the year group. The children enjoyed acting out the different scenes using the puppets they made.



In Art and Design, we have been experimenting with colour mixing! We have learnt to create secondary colours and used our colour mixing skills to paint diverse fairytale characters.



In science we have been learning how British garden birds stay alive. We have learnt to research and create our own fact books.



Year 3

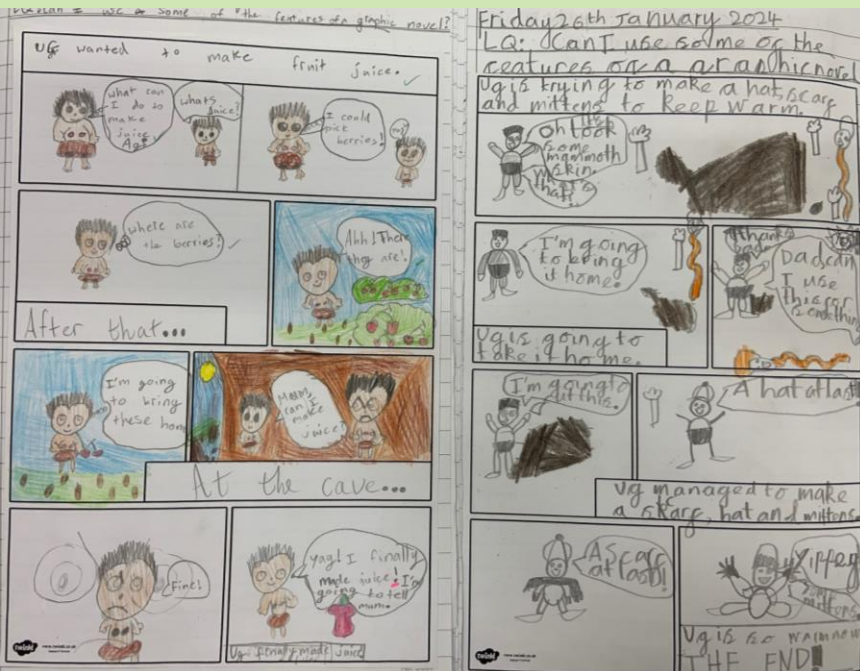
In English we have been studying UG by Raymond Briggs. We loved the humour and spotting anachronisms as we read. Children invented their own stone age games, writing some fabulous instructions. Best of all, they loved creating graphic novel pages about UG. We hope you enjoy reading them!



Dreams and Goals has been our topic in PSHE in Spring 1. The children shared their wonderful goals for the future. They also enjoyed the challenge of working as a team towards a goal – who could build the tallest tower using just spaghetti and blu-tack?!



In History, we have been learning about the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. The children were visited by Bhal – a real Stone Age man! The children loved discovering what Stone Age people wore, just how versatile a stone is and even how to escape from wild animals!



Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant start to 2024 and have been fully immersed in a range of different topics across our curriculum! Here's a snippet of our Spring 1 half term learning:

In History this half term we have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings! We applied our enquiry skills to analyse evidence left behind in recent excavations to see if our opinions of the Vikings have changed from the beginning of the unit to the end.



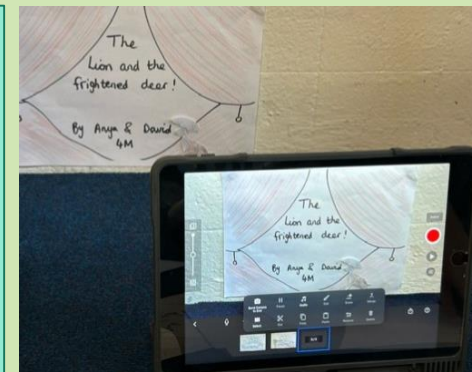
In Art and Design, we have been experimenting with collage & fine line drawing! We looked at artwork by Helen Hancocks before having a go at our own!



In RW we have been studying Sikhism. We have learnt all about Sikh ceremonies, Gurus and we even got to take a trip to a local Gurdwara to see their place of worship for ourselves!



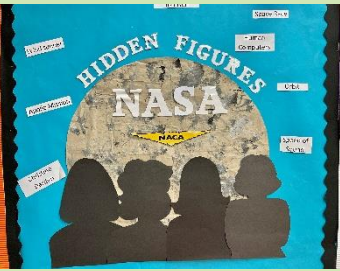
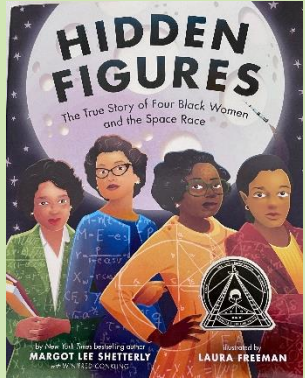
In computing we have been planning and making our own stop motion animations using the iPads!



Year 5

It might only be a 5 week half term, but we have packed in so much in!

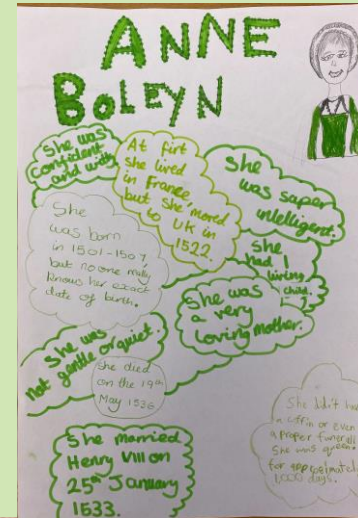
In English, we've been learning about Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson - 3 inspirational Black women who worked at NASA. We've written biographies, diary entries and reports. We've learnt about segregation and prejudice and how these women overcame discrimination to achieve greatness.



Our design topic, in art, has given us a chance to design hats, shoes, wallpaper... We have loved learning about Vivienne Westwood, William Morris, Jimmy Choo, Phillip Treacy...



In RW, we have been talking about peace and what it means to us and others.



We've been learning about the Tudors, in history. From Henry VIII's wives, and the break with Rome, to Elizabeth I's portraits and the Spanish Armada. On Tudor Day (see more on the next slide) we had a virtual lesson from Hampton Court Palace about John Blanke. We found out that he was a trumpeter, a favourite of Henry VIII and one of the earliest recorded Black people in the UK, after the Romans.



Year 5

Tudor Day



The children took part in a Tudor costume parade and a scavenger hunt about the lives of the rich and poor. They also enjoyed a Tudor banquet and made their own Tudor Rose. A great day was had by all!



Year 6 have been enjoying their history topic of World War 2 and the trips to the Imperial War Museum and, more locally, Kew National Archives where they 'Unmasked a Spy' and learnt about propaganda. They have also used the picture book, *The Island* by Armin Greder, as a stimulus for writing and as a means of exploring our attitudes to 'outsiders'.

Year 6



Safer Internet Day & Children's Mental Health Week



Safer
Internet
Day 2024 | Tuesday
6 February



This week has been Children's Mental Health Week which we have linked to SID, talking about healthy and unhealthy relationships with screens and how to make positive changes online. You can find some useful tips for talking to your children about mental health here...

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools/primary-age-activities/#resources>



file name: SID 2024.MOV
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At Trafalgar we always celebrate Safer Internet Day, but we know that
..... (scan the code).



My VOICE MATTERS

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say - and believe - "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week - to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

LOOKING FOR
ADVICE TO HELP
YOUR CHILD?
Parenting Smart, P
and carers, is full o
on supporting your
managing their be
their views.
PARENTING

Here's what children and young people told us they need

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' - sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling - it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, baseball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying - I don't always need answers (or lectures).
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me - I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open to feelings, this can help me.
- 9 Sometimes I do trust that I will grow up or I am ready. Some talk to some siblings, cousin teachers at school.
- 10 Sometimes I feel supported.

WHAT IS
CREATING
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My VOICE MATTERS

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR DAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST
THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR
LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR
ONLINE LIFE LIKE?

WHO WOULD YOU TALK
TO IF YOU WERE FEELING
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT CAN I DO
TO HELP YOU?

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK



Our Y2 Digital Leaders visited Reception and talked to them about how to stay safe online. They taught them our mantra: 'turn off the monitor/turn over the tablet, stand up and put your hand up'.







Thank you, PTA!

KS2 - Here you can see our Y6 Reading Ambassadors proudly displaying some of the new books for our school library, all paid for by our wonderful PTA! We have been working hard to get them on to the library system so children can soon start taking them home to read. Over the half-term, if you find any of our library books at home, please do return them to us so we can maintain stock levels and give our children a wide selection of books to choose from.

KS1 – Here are our Reading Ambassadors sharing our new fluency books. The children love the stories and are excited to read them. A massive **thank you** to our PTA for their continued support with refreshing our book stock across the federation.



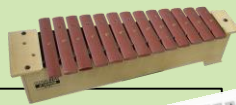
HOUSE POINTS!

Green	White	Yellow	Brown	Red	Blue
WOODPECKER	SWAN	GOLDFINCH	OWL	ROBIN	KINGFISHER
					



Here are the **Woodpeckers** enjoying their prize (disco and treats) which they won at the very end of Autumn 2. Although they won both Autumn 1 and 2, the prize for Spring 1 was won by... drum roll.... **Goldfinches**. At the halfway point in the academic year, the overall points tally remains very close, so it is very much all still to play for!

MUSIC



This term **Year 3 and 4** have been enjoying playing pentatonic music using xylophones and metallophones. They were inspired by the Chinese New Year celebrations and 'White Snow in Sunny Spring'; a beautiful piece of music played on a pipa.

Year 4 tried singing in Chinese – a pretty song called 'Mo Li Hua' whilst Year 3 enjoyed a song about Chinese New Year 'Gung Hay Fat Choi'.



$p \leq f$



Year 5 have studied 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst this term. This has linked beautifully with their Space topic. They have focused on the use of dynamics and tempo in each of the different movements in 'The Planets'. We focused on 'Mars' and how the relentless ostinato continues throughout the piece. It has 5 beats, which is unusual. We even discussed Star Wars and how John Williams must have been inspired by 'Mars' as 'The Imperial War March' sounds very similar.



Year 6 have been playing keyboards this term! They had a go at playing a simple 12 bar blues. We discussed morale boosting music of the war years performed by Vera Lynn and, the Big Band/ Swing music that was popular too. Elvis and Chuck Berry featured in our discussions about Rock and Roll music. Did you know that Big Mama Thornton recorded 'Hound Dog' before Elvis Presley made it famous and that Marty McFly gave Chuck Berry the idea for 'Johnny B. Goode'!?

MUSIC



This term in Y1 we have been exploring our voices. We have used them to make different sound effects and to create a human drum kit. We have also been using music technology to manipulate our voices.

Reception have been using hand help percussion instruments this half term. We have composed our own machine music and have also used the instruments to accompany a song about Chinese New Year.

In Y2 we have started to learn about Programme Music. This is music that describes something or tells a story without using words.

We are composing music to tell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.

We have learnt how to match instruments and sounds to words and actions.

The Giant saying Fee Fi Fo Fum – we are using a drum and playing the rhythm of his words

Jack climbing the beanstalk – we are using the xylophones, making our pitch get higher

Jack running down the beanstalk – we are sliding our beater down the notes on the xylophone.

Jack taking the cow to market – we are using coconut shells and cowbells.

You will be able to hear our finished compositions next ½ term





Richmond Borough Swimming Gala!

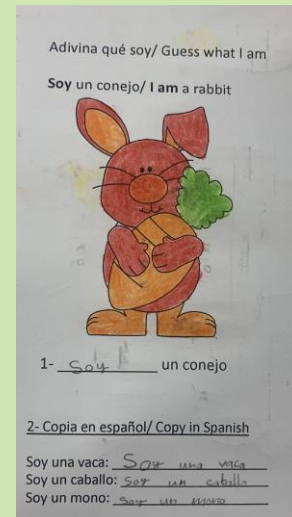
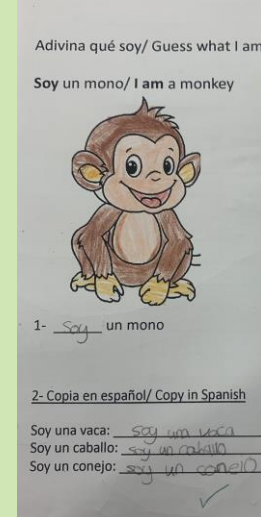
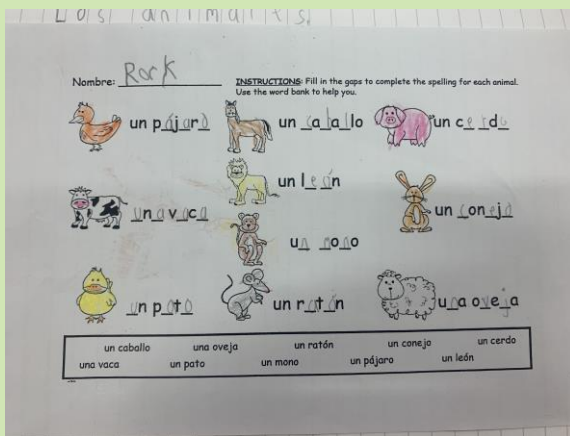
The Spring half-term was capped off with an amazing performance from our Trafalgar Swimming team. The team which included children from Year 4,5 & 6 won numerous ribbons and even some bronze medals as they competed against all the other 'large' schools in the borough.



Spring 1 Sports Round-Up

It was an incredibly busy half-term of sports for the Junior School. The half-term started off with the Indoor Athletics Borough final (Bottom Right) after winning their qualifier at Waldegrave back in December. The team put in an amazing performance which saw them finish second in the entire borough an incredible achievement and a good sign for the upcoming Summer athletics season. Our Boys Football team, Girls Football team (Middle Right) and Tag Rugby Team (Bottom Left) all clinched their places in the knock-out stages of the yearlong Richmond School Sport Leagues after brilliant victories in Spring 1. With our Netball team also just one victory away from also securing themselves a knock-out game! As we came to the end of the half-term, we also had 6 children attend the South London Table Tennis Championships (Top Right) in Croydon as the event saw Trafalgar students taking on children ranked in the top 100 in the country for their age! Everyone played superbly.





La vaca/ the cow
La oveja/ the sheep
El cerdo/ the pig
El leon/ the lion
El mono/ the monkey
El caballo/ the horse
El raton/ the mouse

Y4: La fruta

Una manzana, una pera,
una fresa, una naranja,
una cereza, un
melocoton, un platano



El padre/ father

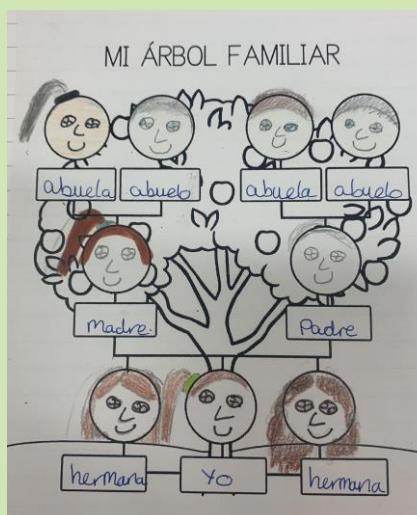
La madre/ mother

El hermano/a/ brother/ sister

El tío/a/ uncle/ auntie

El abuelo/a/

grandfather/grandmother



Y6: El tiempo/The weather

Hace frio/ It's cold

Hace calor/ It's hot

En el norte de España hace buen tiempo/ In the North of Spain it's good weather

Hace sol/ It's sunny

