



Sarah Keefe, Headteacher



Trafalgar Schools' Federation



Sophie Riley, Chair of Governors

## Golden Newsletter

Summer 1, 2023-24

### HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of another productive half term, we wanted to share with you some exciting updates and upcoming events at Trafalgar Schools.

**Rights Respecting School Award:** We are thrilled to announce that our school is embarking on the journey to achieve the Rights Respecting School Award. This UNICEF initiative will help integrate children's rights into our school culture, curriculum, and ethos. We believe in empowering our pupils to become active and informed citizens, and this award is a step towards that goal.

**Y6 SATS and KS1/ Early Years assessments:** Our Year 6 children have completed their SATs with great determination and focus. We are immensely proud of their hard work and the efforts of our staff who have supported them throughout their journey. We eagerly anticipate the results that will reflect the commitment of our children and the high-quality education provided at our school.

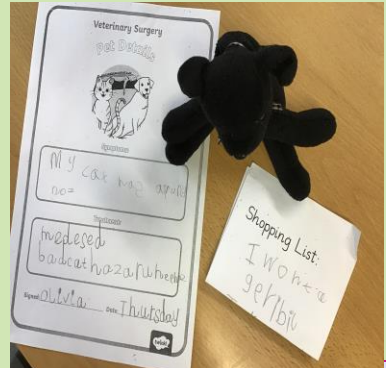
Looking ahead, after the half-term break, we will be conducting assessments for our KS1 and Early Years pupils. These assessments are important as they help us understand each child's individual learning journey and tailor our teaching to support their growth.

**School Journey:** Last week, our Year 5 students embarked on an exciting school journey, full of learning and adventure. They participated in a range of outdoor activities that not only challenged them physically but also promoted teamwork, resilience, and personal growth. The children returned very tired but with inspiring stories and memories that will last a lifetime. We are grateful to the staff and volunteers who ensured a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Thank you for your continuous support and cooperation. We wish you all a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready to learn.

# Reception

Our topic this half term has been 'Living Things.' Our role play areas were turned into 'A Farm Shop' and 'A Pet Shop.' The children enjoyed using real money to buy food and pets. There were lots of writing opportunities within these role play areas.



One of our focus texts was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We made caterpillar collages.



We learnt about the artist Marianne North. We looked at her paintings and then, using pencils and paints, made observational drawings of some orchids, palms and lilac.

We learnt the life cycle of plants and butterflies. We even planted our own beans. We were excited to watch them grow!

We decided on our favourite minibeast and made them out of salt dough. In our music lessons, we sang songs about wiggly caterpillars and hairy, scary spiders!



We made our own dandelion clocks and wrote a wish for when we blew the seeds away.



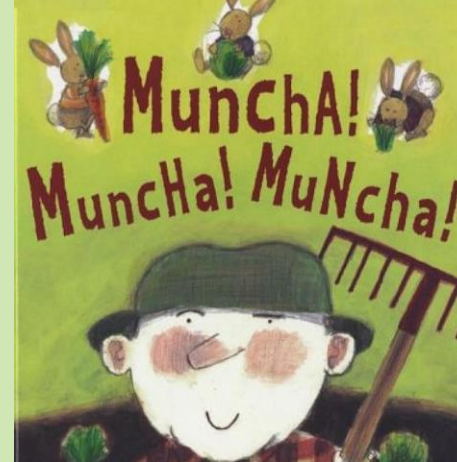
# Year 1

What a great start to the Summer term! Year 1 have loved learning all about 'Growth and Change'.



In Maths we have started exploring how to group objects. We have also been doubling numbers within 20, please help us practise this at home too!

In English we focused on the book's 'Oliver's Vegetables' and 'Muncha Muncha Muncha'. We wrote and designed our own seed packets, and we wrote and sent a letter to Mr McMeany (McGreeley).



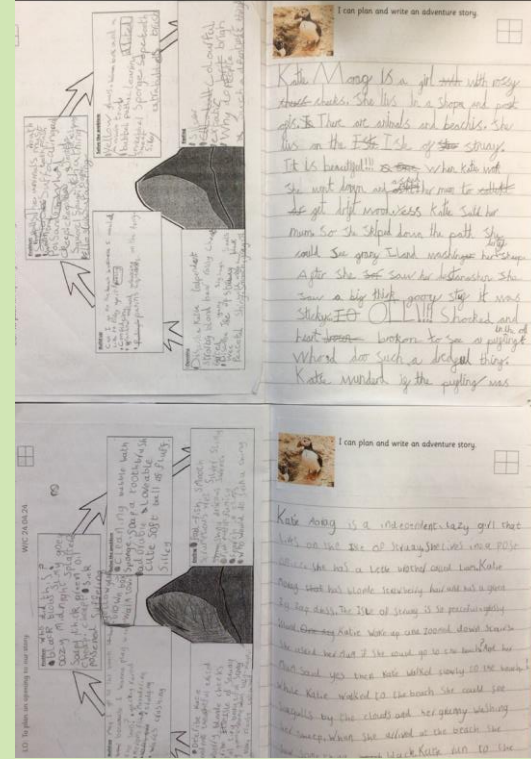
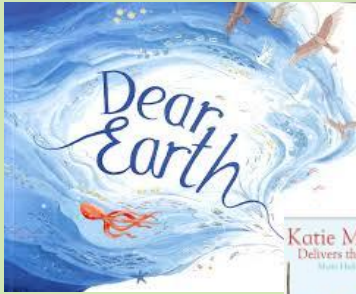
We have learnt lots about the artist 'Georgia O'Keefe' and have made amazing art inspired by her flower paintings using oil pastels and inks.

In Science, we have been growing our own Nasturtiums and Pea Plants, We have really loved watching them grow and labelling all the parts. We have also been learning all about life cycles, can you believe frogs can breathe in water and on land? Do you know what type of animal they are?



# Year 2

In English, we have written a fantastic new adventure for Katie Morag in which she rescues a puffling. We have also followed Tessa's footsteps and written a letter to Earth. We described the beautiful habitats we would love to explore more and what we would do to help protect the Earth.



In Computing, we have been learning about coding and developing our programming skills. We have used Bee Bots to create and debug algorithms and navigate our way around maps.

In art lessons, we have designed and created our own little clay houses. We took inspiration from the fictional *Isle of Struay* in the Katie Morag stories. We had great fun using our fine motor skills to explore the clay and have enjoyed using our imaginations to bring our designs to life.



Here are the highlights from another busy and exciting half-term in Year 3.

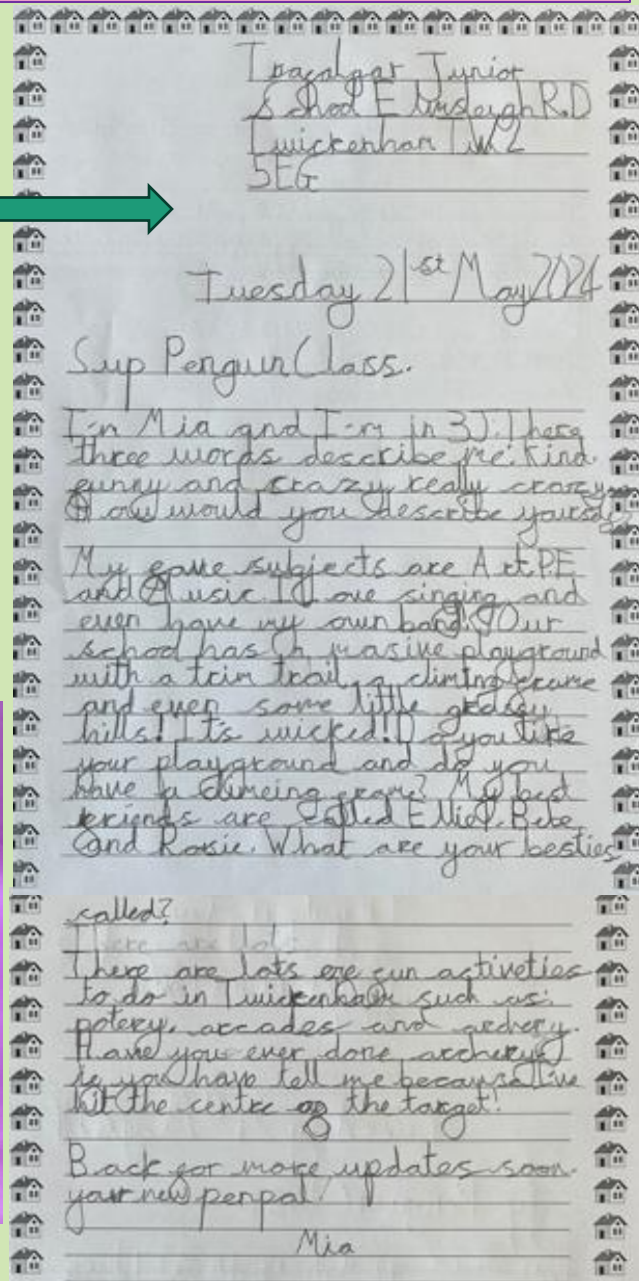
# Year 3

We loved our visit to Kew Gardens to learn about the variety of plants and how they pollinate. It also linked in with our learning about biomes.



In our Geography lessons, we have enjoyed learning about the physical and human features of Whitby. Here's an example of a letter we have sent to a class there. We are really looking forward to their replies.

The children have been developing their skills using clay in Art and Design. One of their favourite lessons was inspired by Anthony Gormly, resulting in our own installations...



Trojan Junior  
School E Mudgegh Rd  
Thirsk N25  
6EG

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Sup Penguin Class.

I'm Mia and I'm in 3D. There  
three words describe me. Kind  
funny and crazy really crazy.  
How would you describe yourself?

My some subjects are Art PE  
and Music. I love singing and  
even have my own band. Our  
school has a massive playground  
with a train track, a climbing frame  
and even some little green  
hills! It's wicked!! Do you like  
your playground and do you  
have a climbing frame? My best  
friends are called Elliot, Bebe  
and Rosie. What are your besties

called?

There are lots  
There are lots of fun activities  
to do in Thirsk such as  
pottery, arcades and archery.  
Have you ever done archery?  
If you have tell me because I've  
hit the centre of the target.

Back for more updates soon.  
your new penpal

Mia

# Year 4

Year 4 have had a super sunny and engaging half term! Here's a snippet of our Summer 1 learning:

In Science we have been learning all about living things and their habitats; we learnt about animal classification and the different types of habitats there are in the world, our local area and even in our school! We went on a habitat hunt around the playground, the pond area and the wildlife area to see what micro-habitats and creatures we could find!

In PE we have been taking part in either swimming, cricket or athletics! We have built on our existing knowledge and have been developing our skills!

In Geography we have learned about rainforests. We researched the different layers and what might live in each one.



In Art we have been focusing on photography; we looked at how angles and light can change the way a photo looks and we tried manipulating light using everyday objects. We also had a go at editing images on the iPads too!



# Year 5

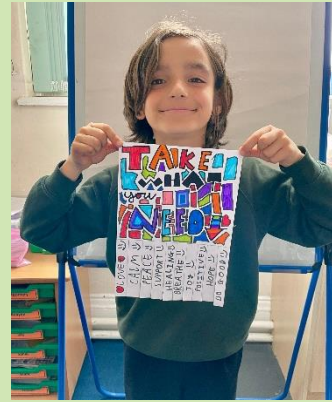
**English:** Year 5 has had another exciting and fun-filled half term. In English, we have looked at characterisation, written diary entries and identified features which create tension and suspense- which we then used when writing our own next chapter of Malorie Blackman's Robot Girl.



**Geography:** The children have been finding out about food miles as part of our Sustainability topic, in Geography. They were surprised at how far some fruit and vegetables have travelled to get to our supermarkets!

## Juniper Hall

What a fantastic trip! We all enjoyed exploring Box Hill and the surrounding area. We practised our compass skills, learned how to build a shelter in the woods, made nettle tea and toasted marshmallows around the campfire. We also learnt about the small mammals that live around Box Hill. Lots of fun was had by all.



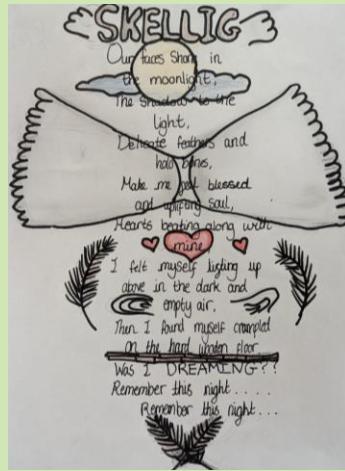
**Art:** The installation art topic has really captured the children's imaginations. Creating ephemeral art at Crane Park and making paper sculptures, enabled them to let their creativity flow. Thank you for your support with, and participation in, the 'Take what you need' artwork that they brought home.



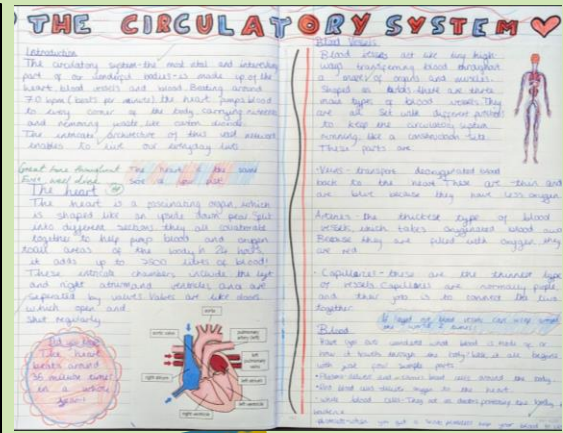
# Year 6



Our **English** text this half-term has been David Almond's **Skellig**. We have used this to explore motifs and imagery, as well as to inspire our writing, including some powerful poetry!



In other areas of the curriculum we have studied the **circulatory system** and international **trade**, thinking about how everything links up inside our bodies and in the world around us!



In the penultimate week of Summer 1, Year 6 had their **SATS** and we were all truly impressed by how hard they worked towards them. Results will come out in the children's end of year reports, so in the meantime we busied ourselves with a massive Golden Certificate in Friday's assembly and a picnic lunch up at Meadway, followed by an extra-long and well-deserved Golden Time. Each class has since had a **circle time** to discuss how to get the most out of the final half-term and all the wonderful things planned for them.





# MUSIC



We played claves, triangles, guiros and tambourines



We learnt that instruments can be played in different ways to create different sounds

In Music this half term Reception have learnt a selection of songs about plants and minibeasts and have been developing their rhythm skills by playing claves along to the music.

Y1 have been developing their vocal skills and singing different songs about how plants grow. We then matched different percussion instruments to the different parts of the song.

In Y2 we have been developing our understanding of pitch and looking at how this helps us to perform on different instruments. We have started to learn to play the keyboard and are using iPads to help us.



Year 1 & 2 Choir Performing at the Rose Theatre

# Music

## Year 3

This term Year 3 have been learning about pitch. They sang a simple round about the rain and re-wrote it using their own lyrics! They enjoyed Garage Band and playing stringed instruments. They even recorded their own voices, looping them to create fun effects.

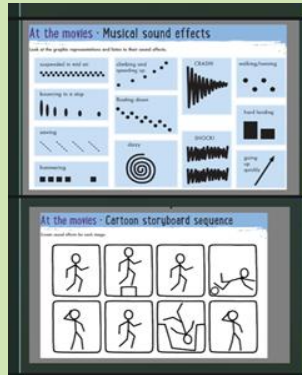
## Year 5

This term Year 5 have been creating musical effects. They watched clips from silent movies and discussed the importance of music for the audience. They used percussion keyboards to create an accompaniment to a story.



### Singing Assembly -

In honour of the Eurovision Song Contest in Sweden we sang a couple of Eurovision favourites this term: Waterloo and Spaceman!



## Year 4

This term Year 4 have been rapping! They rapped like a *Hip Hoppy Kid* and then using a backing track wrote their own raps. They worked on rhythm and rhyme, creating some very cool results. Using Garage Band they created their own backing tracks using live loops. They had fun including special effects to their track.

## Year 6

This term Year 6 have enjoyed playing the Boomwhackers. They have been following music and providing accompaniment for songs such as 'Thunder' 'Shake it off' and 'We don't talk about Bruno'



## Singing Festival 2024







Year 4,5 and 6 choir members performed amazingly at the Rose Theatre. I was so proud of their joyful singing and the way they represented our school. It was a very special day! A big thank you to all of them for their commitment and enthusiasm.

## Summer 1 Sports Round-Up!

Summer 1 was another jam-packed half-term of sporting action in Trafalgar Junior School. The half-term kicked off with our Year 5 Girls Football team winning the Battle Of The Boroughs Chalice trophy (Top Left) in nail biting fashion as they won a penalty-shoot out in the semi-final on their journey to glory. The Year 5 Boys football team also had an amazing tournament as they got to the plate quarter-finals. The half-term also started with some last second heart-ache for our Flag NFL team (Middle Left), as they failed on their quest to get to Vegas (Yes...that Vegas!) A last second interception was returned for a touchdown in a gut-wrenching semi-final defeat to Nelson who went on to qualify for the next stage on the road to Vegas. Following on with our theme of last second semi-final losses, the brilliant Year 5&6 Basketball team (Bottom Right) also lost at the buzzer to St James's in the West Richmond Basketball Championships. Summer 1 also had lots of Year 4 sporting action with 16 boys (Middle Right) representing the school at the Year 4 Borough tournament. Both teams had amazing journeys and lost narrowly in the quarter-finals, Mr. Allen said "The future of Boys Football is bright at Trafalgar with this much talent in one year group!" Year 4 also headed off to the Richmond Borough Tennis Champs (Top Right) and had an amazing day at Grey Court which saw us finish 3rd in the entire Borough. Finally, the Year 6 Borough Sports team (Bottom Left) won our local area practice event against St James's and Stanley! With Sammy Norwell and Bella Moffat taking home the Individual Boy & Girl gold medals. The team now moves onto the real Borough Sports at St Mary's University to try and defend our Shield!



# KS2 HOUSE POINTS!

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

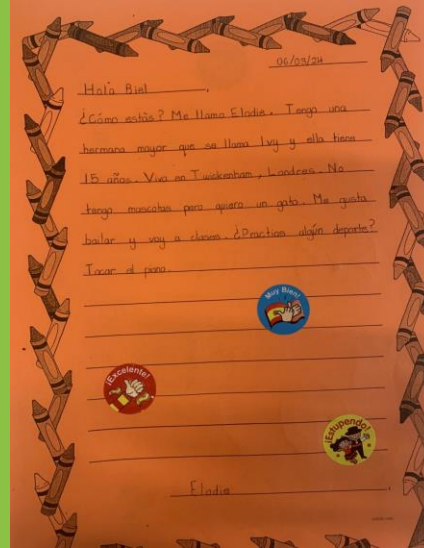
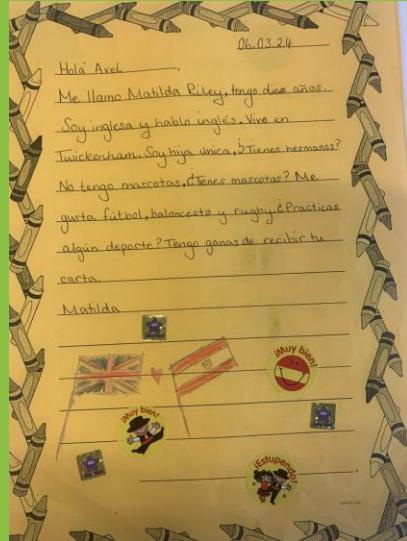
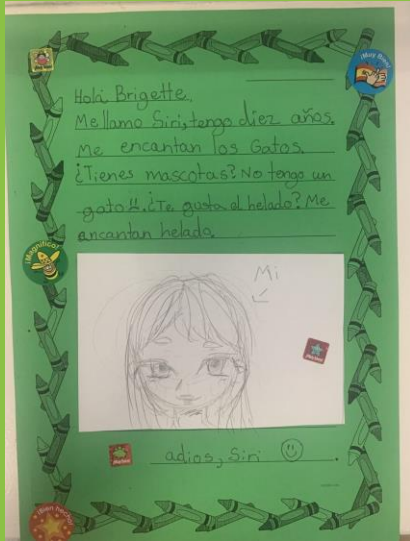


Here are the **Owls** enjoying their prize (extra playtime, a zumba class from Mrs B and treats!) which they won at the end of Spring 2. This half-term was won by... drum roll please... **SWANS!**

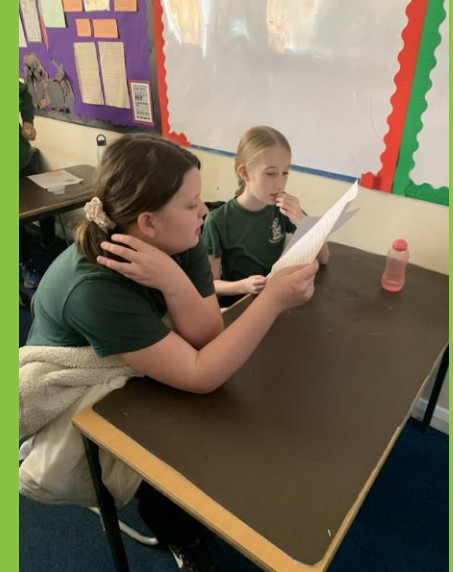
**One half-term to go before the winners of the year are announced! Who will it be?**

Hemos escrito cartas en español a unos niños de una escuela de Barcelona y hemos recibido las suyas en inglés

We have written letters in Spanish to a school in Barcelona and we have received theirs in English



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YEAR 6

PEN FRIENDS FROM SPAIN!

