



The William Ransom Orbit



Every day in a primary school is different!

There is something about being a headteacher of a primary school; you never know what each day is going to bring!

As I write this piece we have lizards, snakes, reptiles and meerkats in the hall as part of science week.

Yesterday I was talking to everyone about Abhishek; the little boy who lives in Nepal that we sponsor. We had received a letter from him thanking us for our card and we were thinking of ideas to raise money to help pay for his sponsorship!

On the same day we had a group of dancers performing in a dance competition at The Gordon Craig Theatre. I am sure many of you have seen the film of them dancing on the school website and were as impressed as I was with their control and poise in dancing on such a big stage.

The day before I was at The Royal Albert Hall to see a group of William Ransom pupils singing as part of the Hertfordshire Schools Choir. It was a fantastic experience for all of those involved.

Last week we had an amazing football match against Samuel Lucas, which we won, and has sent us through to the County round. By the time you read this we will know if we have made it through to the final round. Whether we do or not, the players were all superb. Their skill and passion for the game was evident and it is

a pleasure to watch them play.

Looking ahead in my diary things don't seem to get any easier! Tomorrow I am off to London to a meeting with Disney where I am writing some of the resources for the forthcoming production of Frozen; this is very exciting.

And Friday is Sport Relief Day! Let's hope we raise a good amount for Sport Relief which will benefit people all over the world.

As I said, 'Every day in a primary school is different' and today is no exception! Now, let me go and find a meerkat to hold!



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Mrs Driver

Thank you to **Michael Graham** for sponsoring this issue



Spotlight on ●●●

Mrs Gunn

By Helena and Arjan

Mrs Gunn has been teaching at this school since September last year.

She lives in Arlesey, a little town near Letchworth. Before teaching at William Ransom Primary School, Mrs Gunn taught at a school in Baldock. She has previously lived in Letchworth and Stotfold.

Mrs Gunn's favourite colour is dark red. Her favourite meal is fish and chips, yum! Something she loves to do is go to concerts by Rick Astley.

The reason Mrs Gunn started teaching was because she had been wanting to be a teacher since she was five years old! Mrs Gunn's favourite lesson to teach is English. Her favourite TV program is Columbo. Her favourite holiday she has ever been on was to the Cayman Islands because she got to swim with the tropical fish.



Happy Easter

from the Orbit Team

Welcome to our 10th Easter edition of The William Ransom Orbit.

Thanks to everyone who entered our fun Christmas Wordsearch competition. There were lots of correct entries which made the Tie-breaker question important. Congratulations go to Charlotte from KS1 and Will from KS2.

There's another exciting competition to enter this term - see below on page 3 for details.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Orbit and we wish you all a very Happy Easter.

The Orbit Team

Mrs Stephenson and Mrs Thorn

Science Week

Our theme for science week this year is 'Our diverse planet'.

Mrs Burr and Mrs Gunn launched Science week with an assembly which showed us how the ice cracks and then it melts as temperature rises.

All week we will be doing lots of experiments and every class will take part in a fun workshop.

Key stage 1 are having animal workshops where they get to meet unusual animals. The children in Year 1 are doing a water cycle investigation.

By Josh

Terrific Times in Reception

By Jovan

In September 60 new children joined our reception classes. They have settled into primary school very well.

The first two terms have been very busy and they have learnt lots! They have visited Wimpole Home Farm, they went to the Pantomime at Welwyn; Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, a lady from Stevenage Museum visited them with old and new toys and they went to the library in Letchworth on the train.

I interviewed a few children from Oak and Ash Class and they all enjoy school. Most of the children said their favourite lesson was Maths as they like numbers and counting. They also love the school dinners and like playing with their friends. I asked a couple of them what they wanted to be when they grow up: one wanted to be a vet, another a rock star, and another child wanted to be an engineer!



Sorting old and modern toys.



Looking at and drawing old and new toys.



Spring Photo Competition

This Spring we're having a Photo Competition!

All you need to do is take a photo and email it to l.thorn@wransom.herts.sch.uk

It can be anything to do with Spring.

Think carefully about colours, composition and focusing.

Exciting prizes for KS1 and KS2!

The deadline is Friday 24th April.

**Prizes
to be won!**



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Eco Club

By Charlotte and Rowan

The Eco Club is a new club, run by Mrs Hall, making the school a more environmentally friendly place. They also encourage students to feel passionate about this important matter by doing competitions and events.

They recently held a poster competition and here are some of the winners.



Congratulations to Manasvi (Key Stage 2 winner), Anna and Amelia (Key Stage 2 runners up), Gowri (Key Stage 1 winner) and a special thanks to Holly class for the most entries.

Eco Club are making the school better by ensuring that we are using green electricity, recycled A4 paper and clearing litter from the school's property. William Ransom is also a battery-recycling centre for the local community.

Some of the plans we have for the future are having more bird boxes to put in the school field and nature area, to plant more wild flowers, create recycling boxes for whiteboard pens for each classroom.

The Eco Club would like to hold an Eco-stall at the summer fete. Another improvement we are heading towards is becoming an eco-school. An eco-school means searching for environmental improvements that can be made and carrying them out.

Climate change and de-forestation are huge issues occurring at the

moment as they have many atrocious impacts on Planet Earth.

So what can you do to help? Here are some of our top-tips:

- Buy Palm oil free products**
- Reduce Re-use Recycle**
- Buy Fairtrade products**

Myrtle the Turtle

We were lucky enough to have Anna a student from Hitchin Girls School to come and present an assembly with Myrtle the Turtle who is made from recycled plastic. She told us many simple things we could do to help our environment such as using alternatives to single use plastic. After this special event, she invited us to apply to become a member of PLASTIC FREE HITCHIN to help our local community. We have accepted this offer and are planning to achieve many environmental improvements to our school.



Fire and Flooding in Australia

By Milly

Extreme global heat caused by green house gasses is creating extreme weather in Australia. This has caused the worst bush fires Australia have ever seen. It doesn't just effect humans it affects all types of animal life.

1 billion animals are said to have died and 480 million have been injured which is really sad. We all love to see a cute picture of a koala but soon there might not be any to look at. Koalas aren't the only animals suffering; Kangaroos, wallabies, possums, wombats and echidnas are all in danger.

Since February they have begun to have major flooding. This is also caused by



global warming. It poured down 1.4 metres of rain in less than

two weeks- That's double the rain fall in London per year!

All this rain has caused chaos. It has wrecked loads of homes and you wouldn't believe how much has been destroyed. Crocodiles have been seen climbing trees, which sounds like something out of a story book!

Although it all seems bad we can help. Use less water and try to use less plastic.



Housepoints

Saturn has been doing extremely well so far winning every term this year. This could be your house if you: do your homework, do outstanding work, tidy up the playground equipment after break/lunch, present a project in school well; these all can earn you house points to get your house in the lead.

Scooting is a hoot!

On Wednesday 12th February, the Year Two's had scooter training. One of the activities they did there was going in and out cones to help them when they are in the street and need to turn. They did many activities similar to this preparing them for when they are scooting places. One of these was insuring you stood on your scooter correctly with the brakes accessible at all times. They also played - if you brake by putting your feet on the floor you are out. They were told to wear helmets and florescent clothing in the dark.



By Charlotte



Botanic Garden

By Arjan,
Helena and
Charlotte

On the 5th of February, Maple class went to the Botanic Garden in Cambridge. They went on a coach which was an hour long.

Some of the activities were planting seedlings and learning about them, going on a scavenger hunt and visiting the glass houses. They had different sections such as desert plants, mountain plants and rainforest plants. During the scavenger hunt they found something soft, something hard, something beautiful and something smaller than your finger tip. After they had their lunch, they went for a tour around the gardens. They really enjoyed the trip and one of their favourite things was planting the seedlings.



Verulamium

On 4th February Beech class went to Verulamium museum in St Albans.

First, we got on the bus and set off, it took us half an hour to get there. When we arrived we learnt about farming, cooking and did some dressing up. They told us about the battles that the Romans had and how they invaded England.

After this we went to the Roman Baths in Welwyn where we saw the bath house and learnt facts. First they go to the cold room then, when they get really cold, they go to the warm room to warm up and when they warm up they go to the hot room but they have to wear their wooden sandals so they do not burn their feet! The hot room is heated by a fire three metres long.

I loved this trip as history is my favourite lesson.

By Jovan



Spectacular **LION KING**

On Wednesday 29th January, Cherry and Chestnut went to see the Lion King.

The Lion King tells the story of Simba, a young lion who is to succeed his father, Mufasa, as King of the Pride Lands. However, after Simba's paternal uncle Scar murders Mufasa, Simba is manipulated into thinking he was responsible and flees into exile. The play is based on Hamlet which is a play written by William Shakespeare.

Seeing the sights

We left school at 10:00 am and it took us two hours to get into London. The coach dropped us near to the Millennium Bridge. As we walked over the Millennium Bridge, we saw a man making drawings out of chewing gum! We passed the Globe Theatre and started walking towards a park where we had our lunch. We went to Convent Garden and saw a street entertainer balancing on a ladder, we then headed towards the Lyceum Theatre

ready for the show.

We were told to see how many circles we could spot during the show as the theme was the Circle of life. I thought it was clever how they showed the pride rock appearing out of the hole throughout the show and how they showed the wildebeests galloping in the savannah. The costumes/puppets were also amazing.

Spectacular

Overall it was a spectacular show and it was very fun watching the show. We also got to go backstage. It was amazing to see the creative costumes and the puppets. The puppets were operated by the actor's thumb! It took us quite a long time and we were exhausted when we got back. Finally the terrific trip had come to an end!

by Ishaan



Viking Day

On Tuesday 14th January, Willow Class were lucky enough to have a Viking come in to school!

First, we were taught about how they raided Monasteries and stole valuable treasures from the Monks. They also tried to take over England in The Battle of Hastings.

The Bayeux Tapestry shows how King Harold was defeated. Duke William saw that Harold had been shot in the eye and sent four of his best knights to kill him. They chopped their way through the guards until they got to King Harold. The first knight cut off his arm, the second his leg, the third cut his stomach open and the fourth got his head!



That wasn't all though. We all got to dress up as Vikings and choose Viking names like Kara or Heather! But those are only two examples.

Everybody loved it and went home knowing a lot more about Vikings than when we started.



The Book Revolution

By Milly and Ishaan

World book day is celebrated in over 100 countries and its mission is to give every child and young person a book of their own.

This year everyone had great costumes. Mrs Driver was Mr Bump, Mrs Mitchel was The Illustrated Mum and Mrs Burr was the Demon Dentist.

For the first time ever, every member of staff got given a book for world book day and, like other years, every child got a £1 book voucher to spend at Waterstones, you could get a world book day special or buy a book and get a pound off!



Our favourite books are: The circus of Adventure, The five children and it, A little Princess, The Beast of Buckingham Palace, Malory Towers, The Ice monster and Chestnut Hill. We recommend them!

The two reception classes visited the Letchworth Library. They went on the train, which they all loved. They got the chance

to look at the different books in the children section of the library. One of the Librarians read them a story and talked to them about borrowing books from the library. They were all given a book mark to take home.

The year 4s and 5s went to Waterstones and had a Harry Potter session. They had a great time and thought Waterstones was great!

Some of the costumes the pupils dressed up as were: Lyra from The Northern Lights, The queen of hearts from Alice in Wonderland, The Cat in the Hat, Harry Potter and Mary Poppins.

Everyone looked fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



PANCAKE DAY

One of the William Ransom traditions is a pancake race and this year Mars won!



Dance Club

This dance club for Year 5 and 6 is run by Miss Vivian on Wednesday lunch times.

Many different styles of dance are included such as street dance and contemporary. They are mainly focusing on a contemporary style for their current dance but street is also included.

Performing at the Gordon Craig Theatre.



There is a competition called the Great Big Dance Off that they have entered and have fortunately gone through to the second round. For the first round, they had to send a video of their dance and for the second round will be performing at the Gordon Craig theatre in Stevenage.

Choir



Swimming

Swimming is fun and it is very easy to learn. When you are in Year 4 you get to go swimming at the Hitchin swimming pool and you learn everything you need to know.

5 weird Facts about Swimming! (*Some are pretty gross!!!*)

- Free divers can hold their breath for more than 10 minutes.
- There is enough water in Olympic-sized pools to take 9400 baths.
- Swimmers can flex their toes to the ground.
- The oldest stroke is the breaststroke.
- Swimmers sweat in the pool.

Swimming is a good all-round activity because it keeps your heart rate up but takes some of the impact stress off your body. Swimming builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness. It also helps maintain a healthy weight, healthy heart and lungs.

Hitchin Swimming Centre

We are lucky enough to have a swimming pool in Hitchin. The indoor swimming pool is 25 metres long with 8 lanes. The outdoor heated swimming pool is 50 metres long and is surrounded by a sunbathing terrace. There are many sessions on offer, these range from Aqua Fit classes to Adult & Toddler, AquaEd to Pool Parties. Or you can just go for a relaxing swim!

For more information visit the website:

www.sll.co.uk/hitchin

The William Ransom School choir performed at the Royal Albert Hall, singing as part of the Hertfordshire Schools Choir. An incredible experience for all involved.



Tag Rugby

The object of tag rugby is to score tries by running with the ball with the aim of touching it on the ground behind the opponents try line.

One of the most distinctive features of tag rugby is that all players wear special tag rugby belts or tag rugby shorts which have Velcro patches on. The team who has been chosen to play first, has the choice of choosing the direction they wish to play, and the opposing team will use a kicking tee to start the game from the centre of the pitch.

This year we had a Tag Rugby club. So maybe when you're in year five or six you could do the club if you want to. So why not try it!!!

A club you might want to try... **Taekwondo**

Taekwondo is a martial art. It helps you to protect yourself. Taekwondo was a world game between 1981-1993. It was in the Olympics since 2000. They first played it in South Korea in the 1940s and it originates in South Korea. As you may have seen people that do Taekwondo have to wear a particular clothes called Dobok to respect the master that is teaching us.

Here are some facts about Taekwondo:

- It is practiced by more than 70 million people
- It has a lower injury rate than mixed martial arts.
- The Taekwondo uniform is called Dobok.
- The place where Taekwondo instruction is given is called the Dojang.
- There are six belt colours in Taekwondo.
- The belts are: Yellow belt, Yellow with green stripe belt, Green belt, Green with blue stripe, Blue belt, Blue with red stripe, Red belt, Red with black stripe, Black belt. Then it goes 1st Dan, 2nd Dan, 3rd Dan and carry's on until grand master which is 9th Dan.

If you are interested in joining a local Taekwondo club visit

www.hsts.biz

Wix Cup!

The A team won the Wix Cup district final!!! On 6th March, the A team played Samuel Lucas in the final. Me (Josh) Joshua, Lily, Marley, William, Dylan, Callum, William S and Will played. We were losing 0-1 and then just before half time we scored to make it 1-1 at half time. It was really tense but then we scored to make it 2-1 to William Ransom. We were all waiting for the whistle for full time. About 2 minutes later the whistle went and we all went wild.

The Year 5/6 girls got to the Wix Cup Final in football. In the final they played Samuel Lucas and did really well. Sadly they lost 3-1 to them. They conceded a goal really early in the game but they stayed strong throughout the game.



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