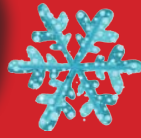




The William Ransom Orbit



MERRY CHRISTMAS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Teacher Spotlight - Page 2	World News - Page 7
Terrific Trips - Page 3	Focus on History - Page 8
Cool Craft - Page 4	Majestic Music - Page 9
Theatre Train - Page 4	Reviews - Page 10
Fantastic Festival - Page 5	Splendid Sport - Page 11
School News - Page 6	Competition - Page 12

As we draw towards the end of the Autumn term it is lovely to be able to reflect on a term that has started to see some return to normality.

For the past two years we have had interrupted schooling due to Coronavirus and so, for the first time in all that time, we have started to see a more normal approach to school. I know there are still some things we can't do, and all the Christmas shows will be on film again this year, but it has been lovely to sit in my office and hear football and netball clubs happening after school; to see other schools turning up for some friendly football matches and to see a return to our winning form.

Many other clubs have also started up again, the gardening club have started to think ahead to Spring by planting some bulbs, the Orbit have been busy here, putting a school magazine together and we have a mindfulness colouring club – I think I might join that one! However, I was intrigued when I heard we had started a Diversity club. At first I thought it was all about impressive gymnastics and tumbling tricks, but the members soon put me straight and explained it was a group celebrating the differences in all of us. This is a wonderful addition to the school and something I think is incredibly important. If Black History Month taught us anything, it is how important it is that we all value who we are and where we come from. The display in the entrance hall shows what a culturally rich school we are and it is important that we all learn from one another. Christmas is an ideal time for this. Not everyone celebrates Christmas but I am sure we all celebrate something. Find out what it is that others are celebrating and respect them for it.

Have a wonderful Christmas break, I hope Father Christmas brings you whatever you deserve and let's hope all of us have a prosperous and healthy 2022.

Mrs Driver

Merry Christmas to everyone at William Ransom



Merry Christmas

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Orbit, written by our new Orbit team. We've really enjoyed putting it together and hope you enjoy reading it too.

Don't forget to enter the Christmas Crossword competition on Page 12, for your chance of winning a prize!

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year!

from the Orbit team

Sponsor an issue

Would your company like to sponsor an issue of the Orbit? In return for the cost of printing, your company can advertise on the back cover. For more details please email I.thorn@wransom.herts.sch.uk



Spotlight on . . .

Mrs Rowley Jones



Mrs Rowley Jones was born in Ashwell. She lived in London until five years ago when she moved to Hitchin to teach.

Mrs Rowley Jones has a daughter called Liv who is three and a half years old. She loves spending time with her and taking her to Whipsnade zoo.

Before Mrs Rowley Jones became a teacher, she was an actress and a singer. She has been in Beauty and the Beast, Wicked and Sister Act. She has worked with Whoopi Goldberg and Idina Menzel.

In her spare time, she loves to do hot yoga where you sit in a hot room and do yoga. She also loves to go out running and read.

Her favourite food is cheese burgers but she also loves dark chocolate and Thai curry.

Mrs Rowley Jones loves teaching Willow class and she got in to teaching by teaching drama to other people. She loved spending time in a primary school, so she decided to become a teacher.



Terrific Trip

By Hannah

In October, Year 5 went to the Hari Krishna Temple as part of RE. In RE we are learning about Hindus. We went to Watford where the Temple is and we got sorted into three groups. The first thing we did was get on a carriage pulled by Oxen to go and feed some cows, since they are their sacred animal.

After that, we visited the greenhouses. In the greenhouses there are basil plants which are used for different reasons. The leaves are special because it means one of the gods and the wood is made into beads to meditate with.

Then we looked in the gardens and had to find lines of a song from the Beatles. The gardens were very pretty. Next, we had lunch which was very nice.

After Lunch, we did some Indian dancing before it was time to go home. Some people got to try on Indian clothing.



Year 4 trip to the

The Magical Museum

On Tuesday 5th October, Year 4 went to the Roald Dahl museum in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. First, Year 4 went on a little walk and found places where Roald Dahl got inspirations from. Then year 4 came to a nice room where they ate their lunch. After that, they went to the solo and boy galleries. In the solo gallery you could find out which Roald Dahl character you are as tall as. In the boy gallery there were lots of facts about Roald Dahl and you could dress up in clothes that people wore when Roald Dahl was a boy. In the afternoon, in the solo gallery, you had to match up old titles with his updated versions. It is safe to say that year 4 had an amazing day.



By Sartaaaj



Page 3





Cool Craft

How To Make a **TURTLE!**

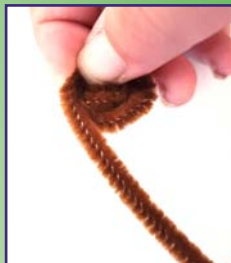
By Ayla



You will need:

- 2 brown pipe-cleaners
- 2 green pipe-cleaners
- 2 small googly eyes
- Pva glue
- Scissors

(Please have parental supervision while creating your turtle!)



First, take the two brown pipe-cleaners and curl them both into spirals.



Next, cut one green pipe-cleaner into four pieces (4cm) for the legs and cut another piece (7cm) for the head.



Start to bend and place everything together to get an idea of where to put your pieces.

Finally, glue your turtle together.



Your finished turtle would make a great gift!

Theatre Train

Theatre Train is a place where kids, aged 6-18, can have fun, meet new friends and express themselves. At Theatre Train you can do dancing, acting and singing!

When I joined I was six and was very eager to join Theatre Train. It helped me to learn more and to speak up and be more confident. We do large shows at the Gordon Craig Theatre and once we even performed at a London theatre! We also do mini shows at different places. For more information visit the website:



Fantastic Festival!

On Friday 24th September we celebrated Festival of Languages day. We did all sorts of thing to do with languages.

Year 6's even got to eat some yummy food such as Chorizo and Tortilla!!! Here are some of the countries that each class learnt about: Oak and Ash learnt about Russia; Holly learnt about the differences between Kenya and England; Hazel learnt facts about Germany; Elm played a Spanish game; Maple learnt their names in Sign language; Beech learnt the alphabet in Sign language; Lime made bookmarks with lots of languages on; and Cherry and Chestnut tasted some Spanish food!!!!



By Esmée



How To Make French onion Tart

You will need:

- 175g of grated cheese
- 4 onions
- 2 tablespoons of brown sugar
- Pack of pre-rolled puff pastry
- 2 tblsp white wine vinegar
- Milk



Step 1. Fry the onions with the brown sugar and the white wine vinegar for 10 to 15 minutes until soft.

Step 2. Unroll the puff pastry on a baking tray. Use a rolling pin so that it is the same rectangle shape as the baking tray.



Step 3. Prick the pastry with a fork. Sprinkle some cheese. Leave a border of 5cm around the edge.



Step 4. Spread on the cooled onion.

Step 5. Fold the pastry back inside to create a 2 cm raised border.

Step 6. Brush the edges/border with milk.

Step 7. Bake for 25 minutes in the oven at 180c.



By Esmée



Page 5





School News



Fun in the Sun

On Sunday 26th September 2021, we had a mini summer fete. It was the best. There were lots of stalls including the Orbit stall and the bowling alley. You could win prizes and buy games. I loved the hampers and the bowling alley. Lots of people bought sweets and toys. Thank you to everybody that came and supported us. William Ransom made over £3500.



Fruity Festival

On Wednesday the 29th September 2021, we celebrated the Harvest festival in school. Everyone brought in fruit and vegetables. They were made into hampers and then raffled off. We raised £479.40 which was donated to The Hitchin Partnership Hardship fund.



Supporting Macmillan

The teachers and teaching assistants took part in the world's largest coffee morning. The staff made cakes which they enjoyed during their breaktime. They raised £116 for Macmillan cancer support.



Mini Marathon

On the 7th and 8th of October, William Ransom took part in the mini marathon. Most people ran 2.6 miles which was 14 laps around the field. Every time you did a lap, the teacher made a hole in a piece of paper you got. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a child.



World News

By Hannah and Salman

United Kingdom

Darius, the massive, 4 foot 3-inch long Continental Giant, who has held the Guinness World Record for the “longest living rabbit” since 2010. He vanished from his back garden in the village of Stoulton on April 10, 2021. The local police are frantically searching for Darius, who was stolen from his enclosure overnight.

North Korea

North Korea has claimed that it successfully tested a new hypersonic missile called Hwasong-8 on Tuesday 28th September, the third missile test this month. They called the missile a “strategic weapon”, which has increased the nation’s capabilities for self-defence in every way.



Canary Islands

A volcanic eruption on La Palma has sent lava oozing through the streets of populated areas, setting fire to homes and destroying property. Around 10,000 people are being evacuated from the island. This happened at 6:30 in the morning on Wednesday 22nd September.

Antarctica

Global Sea Level Rise - Satellite monitoring shows that the overall rate of ice loss from West Antarctica has increased five-fold over a 25-year period. This one glacier - Thwaite's glacier - alone now accounts for 4% of global sea level rise.

Australia

Australia's Daintree, the world's oldest tropical rainforest, has been returned to its Aboriginal custodians in a historic deal. The Daintree borders the Great Barrier Reef and is one of Australia's top tourist sites, famed for its ancient ecosystem and rugged, natural beauty.



Focus on History

By Ayla and Esmée

Every class studies a different topic in History lessons. Reception begin by learning about the past and the present in everyday life. In Autumn term, Year One learn about the Great Fire of London and they had a day all about it. Year Two are learning what schools were like in the past. Year Three are learning about the Stone and the Iron Age, but unfortunately their trip to Celtic Harmony was cancelled because of Covid 19. Year Four have been covering the Romans and have learnt all about what they wore and why they were so successful. Year Five have been learning about the Tudors and the Kings and Queens from King Henry VII to Queen Elizabeth I. Finally, Year Six have been looking at World War I and have learnt how it all started. As we move through the school we build on the skills learnt in the previous years.

Fire! Fire!

Year One had a day all about The Great Fire of London. They designed and made houses and burnt them in the playground. (They used real fire!) They also made bread because the Great Fire Of London started in a bakery owned by Thomas Farriner who left the oven on at night.



Learning how a fire break works and how difficult it was to use buckets to put a fire out.



Stone Age Axes

Year threes made a paper maché axe from the Stone Age. They were originally made with stone and a wooden handle.



“ In History, I enjoy using quizzer! **Ali**

I like learning about what happened in the past to see if it still affects us.

Farah

I like History because Kings killed people in the past. **Alina**”



Majestic Music

Music has been a part of human life from pre-historic times. Nowadays there are different genres of music from calm and soothing to rock and jazz! Some songs are such timeless classics that we are not aware of the story behind it. One such song is **Happy Birthday**.

Did you Know...

Happy birthday is one of the most recognised English songs. It is actually translated into 18 different languages! This lovely birthday song is believed to have been composed by Patty and Mildred H. It was composed from 'Good Morning To All' made for the teachers to say good morning to their class.

Songs I Would Recommend:

Dance monkey
by Tones and I

Eye of the Tiger
by Survivor

Don't Worry Be Happy
by Bobby McFerrin

By Gowri

All About Piano

Useful things about learning to play the piano

Piano is a fun instrument to play. The piano has keys which are named from A-G a few times over. The key which is the middle C is the most common key to start a piece from. There are grades from 1-8. After each grade there is a test for all the things you have been learning in that grade and each grade gets trickier. You start learning from grade 1.

Interesting Facts About Piano

A piano has 88 keys. A piano uses the keys to move hammers that hit strings inside, making a sound. There are two types of piano: Grand pianos and Upright pianos. The piano was invented by Bartolomeo of Italy in 1709. Some famous pianists are Mozart and Beethoven.



Mozart



Upright Piano



Grand Piano

By Vihaan



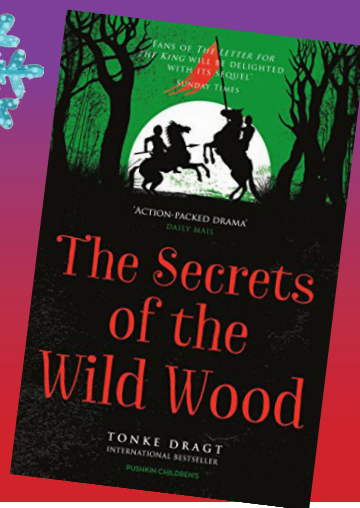
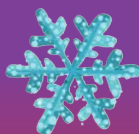
Secrets of the Wild Wood

Written by Tonke Dragt

Category: Fantasy Adventure ★★★★★

Suitable for ages 9+

In *Secrets of the Wild Wood*, a young boy called Tiuri comes across his enemy (as he is taken prisoner and plays chess games). His mission is to warn the kingdom the enemy is attacking. If you would like to read it you must read the **LETTER FOR THE KING** as that is the previous book. By Gowri



CATAN ★★★★★

A Board Game by Klaus Teuber

Catan is a German board game. Catan is a game where players settle in a new island and get resources to make settlements and cities.

You have two dice to roll to get resources from. The resources are brick, log, ore, hay and wool. You have to give resources to make settlements and cities. Each settlement and city equals one victory point and you need ten victory points to win. The more settlements and cities the more resources you get. There is also a robber who can steal people's resources.

By Vihaan

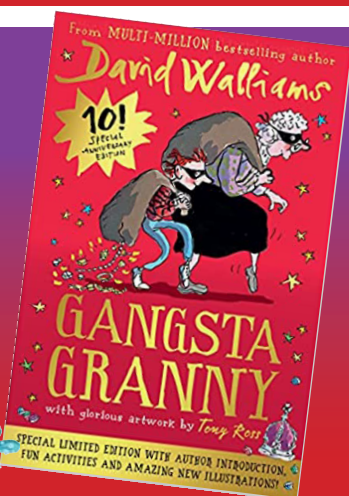


Gangster Granny

Stage show ★★★★★★

On Friday 5th November, Key Stage 2 went to a theatre in Milton Keynes to watch Gangster Granny. When we arrived we went up some stairs and it led us to the seats. The show was awesome and there were some incredibly funny scenes. In the middle of the show we had a little snack. In one of the scenes the boy called Ben did a hilarious dance. The show is based on a book by David Walliams.

By Sartaaaj and Vihaan





Splendid Sport

Fantastic Football

Football, one of the most popular sports, started again at William Ransom Primary School by us taking part in a tournament! In the first match, vs St Andrews we won by 4-0 and 5-0 to us. In the second match, vs Our Lady we scored 4-0 and 5-0 to us again! In the next match we luckily scored 1 more point than them (2-1 to us).

Since the first tournament we have had many other matches. Everyone had so much fun!

By Salman



Shoot for the Stars

Netball has started again in William Ransom Primary School too. Netball is a fun ball game played between two teams. There are lots of skills to learn including different passes, defending and shooting. Miss Hallahan and Miss Swinburne run the club. Lots of people have joined training and the team will be decided after the Christmas Holidays. It runs from 3:20 (end of school) – 4:15.



Lively Lacrosse

Lacrosse training is on Wednesday at lunch times. Sadly, lacrosse does not have that many people yet. It uses a lacrosse stick and a ball. The aim of the game is to pick up the ball and try to score it in the goal. Lacrosse is a team game containing ten players: a goalkeeper, three defensemen, three midfielders and three attackmen. Since it is training, they won't do matches against other schools but it is still lots of fun.





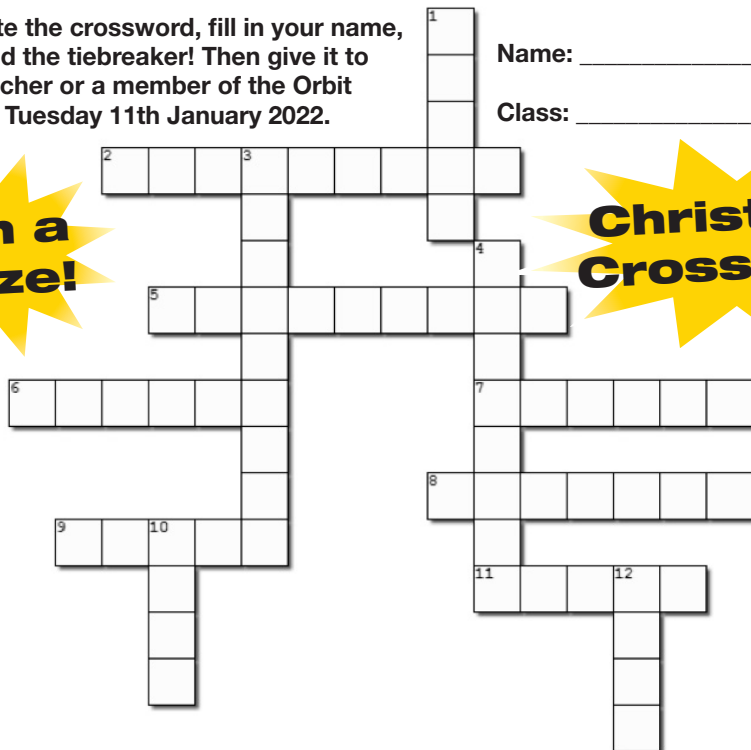
Complete the crossword, fill in your name, class and the tiebreaker! Then give it to your teacher or a member of the Orbit team by Tuesday 11th January 2022.

Name: _____

Class: _____

Win a Prize!

Christmas Crossword



Across

2. You leave this for Santa to eat when he comes by to deliver the presents.
5. These animals pull Santas sleigh.
6. The time that is leading up to Christmas.
7. Santa sits on this to deliver the presents.
8. You build this snowy person when it snows.
9. This person was born on Christmas day.
11. This old man delivers presents in the night on Christmas eve.

Down

1. These little creatures help Santa make the presents.
3. On this day you eat a roast dinner, open your presents and spend time with your family.
4. Santa delivers these in the middle of the night and puts them under the Christmas tree.
10. This thing is a bit like rain and when it falls you can make shapes.
12. You put it up and you hang baubles and put tinsel around it.

Tiebreaker question: What makes Christmas special for you?